

# The Cavalier Daily

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## Will you walk the Lawn?

*University administrators meet with student leaders to discuss 'creative' solutions to Rotunda renovation restrictions*



**Caroline Houck**  
Managing Editor

At a private meeting Monday afternoon, University administrators told several student leaders that the next phase of Rotunda renovations will impact Final Exercises for the Class of 2015 and potentially 2016.

Though graduating students receive their actual diplomas at separate ceremonies organized by their majors, Commencement annually takes place on the Lawn. Students gather on the north side of the Rotunda, process around the building, down its steps and south along

the Lawn to attend the ceremony.

Dean of Students Allen Groves, Vice President for Student Affairs Pat Lampkin and Assoc. Dean of Students Francis Laushway told the student leaders that the next phase of Rotunda renovations — set to begin in May — will be extensive enough to disrupt this process, multiple attendees said.

University spokesperson McGregor McCance confirmed that construction on the Rotunda will impact Final Exercises in 2015 and potentially the following year as well.

“The bulk and the primary work for the second phase [of renovations] will begin right after this year’s Final Exercises in May,”

McCance said. “It’s going to be a two-year project and the Rotunda will be a construction zone during that time.”

Saying the administration wanted the students involved in the conversation, Lampkin told the meeting attendees the class councils could find a way for the Lawn to still play a part in Final Exercises — just in a substantially different way.

“Lampkin reiterated it was up to students to figure out something, [keeping] in mind that a significant portion of the north side of the Lawn will be closed off — where students normally process and gather — so they’d have to get creative about what to do,” said

one student leader who wished to remain anonymous.

But even after the renovations conclude after two years, administrators said the changes to Final Exercises might be made permanent due to capacity issues with the Lawn, according to several meeting attendees.

“The administrators said they were [also] dealing with a growing student population ... and this might limit the family members students can invite — so that’s a problem in and of itself,” the student leader said. “Lampkin said

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# Vandal defaces student health center sign

*Racially-motivated graffiti sparks further debate about underlying tensions; message removed by mid-morning*

**Brendan Rogers**  
Staff Writer

An anonymous vandal scrawled the message “U.Va. hates blacks,” on a sign outside

of Student Health late Sunday evening or early Monday morning.

The message was written with white chalk and appeared to have been mostly wiped off by 10:30 Monday morning,

Dean of Students Allen Groves said. Groves was made aware of the incident early Monday morning, when a University student forwarded him a picture of the sign with the message written on it.

Groves expressed concern about the incident, both about the act of vandalism, as well as the ambiguity of the message itself.

“If [the vandal is] a U.Va. community member, there is first the issue of vandalizing the sign,” which would constitute a violation of the University’s Standards of Conduct, Groves said. “I would also want to talk to the student about what he meant when writing it. It could be interpreted in multiple ways.”

Racially-motivated acts of vandalism are not unprecedented at the University. A message was written on Beta Bridge last spring questioning whether a mural in the same location recognizing the life and death of former student Casey Shulman would have remained so long had she not been white.

“It’s definitely not surprising in the least,” said Joy Omenyi, president of the University’s Black Student Alliance. “It is very apparent that there is racial tension felt by some people in this space.”

Omenyi, a third-year College student, said increased discussion of race relations among University students could help to minimize the likelihood of incidents like this in the future.

“There’s action that needs to be taken and dialogues that need to be held to attempt to ensure that everyone at this University feels like they belong,” she said. “We are committed to making this a space where black students can feel that they belong.”

The incident has been formally condemned by the University in a public statement, but Groves believes going forward it is best to keep the matter out of the limelight.

“The University needs to swiftly condemn acts of vandalism when we see them,” Groves said. “You don’t want to give more air time to something that’s ugly than it should deserve.”

University Police are collaborating with the FBI to investigate the act and find the person responsible for writing the message, University Police Lt. Melissa Fielding said.



Jenna Truong | The Cavalier Daily

Early this week, an anonymous vandal scrawled a message in white chalk across a sign outside the Elson Student Health Center. University Police and the FBI are working to identify the person or persons responsible.

## Special election to decide power balance

*Wexton, Whitbeck, May vie for 33rd district seat following Herring election to attorney general post*

**Kathleen Smith**  
Senior Writer

The partisan balance of power in the state Senate hangs in the balance as a special election to fill the seat vacated by Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, is fast approaching. The 33rd district seat, which represents the majority of Loudoun County and portions of Fairfax County, could determine whether Republicans are able to gain a majority in the Senate when voters head to the polls Jan. 21.

Two seats planned special elections in January, Herring’s and that of Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, also a Democrat. An election for his seat was

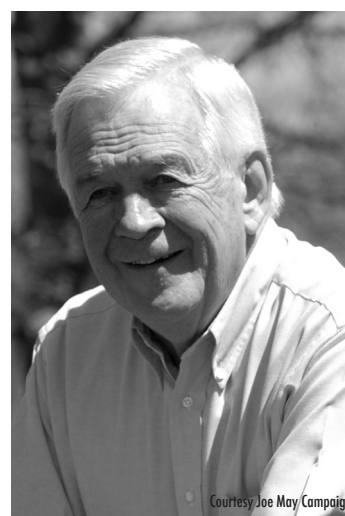
held earlier this month, and although a Democrat currently holds a razor-thin lead a recount is underway.

Notwithstanding the outcome of both special races, the Senate has 20 Republican members and 18 Democrats. If a Republican candidate wins one of the vacant seats, the GOP will retain control of the chamber. If Democrats fill both available seats, Northam will obtain tiebreaking authority in the chamber.

The upcoming race pits Democrat Jennifer Wexton, a former prosecutor and private practice attorney in Loudoun County, against Republican John Whitbeck, an attorney from Leesburg and state GOP official, and Independent Joe May, a former Republican who served in the House of



Courtesy Jennifer Wexton Campaign



Courtesy Joe May Campaign



Courtesy John Whitbeck Campaign

In the upcoming election for the Virginia 33rd district seat, Democrat Jennifer Wexton, Republican John Whitbeck and Independent Joe May will face off to secure a seat that could drastically alter the balance of power in the state senate.

Delegates from 1994 to 2014 before losing a GOP primary last year.

Center for Politics spokesperson Geoffrey Skelley said regardless of which party controls the Senate, there will probably be some degree of gridlock.

“The House of Delegates is heavily Republican — the GOP controls 67 of the body’s 100 seats — and the

governor is a Democrat,” Skelley said in an email. “It will be difficult for the House and Gov. McAuliffe to find common ground on a wide range of issues, particularly fiscal and social ones.”

Though this election is of particular significance, voter turnout in special elections is generally low and difficult to foresee. The last

time the 33rd district held a special election in 2006 — electing Herring to the seat he held before winning the Attorney General race — 11.3 percent of voters turned out. “Special elections typically have low to very low turnout,” Skelley said. “Voters are less engaged because it’s not a regularly scheduled election.”

# ROTUNDA | Construction likely to disrupt Lawn traditions

Continued from page 1

hopefully what 2015 will come up with [to address the closed Rotunda and the capacity issue] will impact what students will do down the line.”

The meeting also addressed the renovations’ impact on student life at the University. Though the living capacity of the Lawn will not be affected, administrators wanted the student body to be able to begin thinking about how to handle impacts to Lawn-centric traditions, such as Lighting of the Lawn and Trick-or-Treating on the Lawn.

“The meeting was all about the fact that they wanted students to know [and] to be involved and [have] student opinion on everything — with not only [graduation] but opening Convocation, and Trick-or-Treating on Lawn — all things that will be affected,” the student leader said.

According to the “Saving the Rotunda” page of the Jefferson Grounds Initiative website, the restoration will cost \$50.6 million, \$26.8 million of which was provided by the state and the rest of which will come from a donation campaign. The

two-year process will include “complete structural and infrastructural renovation; increased classroom, study, lecture and ceremonial use ... repair of the terraces and marble stairs ... [and] renovation of the Dome Room,” among other projects.

“As planned, the renovation will allow for the Rotunda to serve as not just a tourist attraction, but also as an extension of the Academical Village and a space for student learning, as was originally intended by Jefferson,” said another meeting attendee who wished to remain anonymous.

The University will hold a press conference Thursday morning covering the full details of Phase II of the Rotunda restoration beginning in May.

“We want to really kind of put the whole project in the big picture context for what it means to the University community [and] what it means to be a proper heritage site,” McCance said. “It’s a national landmark and as it’s been said back at the beginning of the campaign, the hope for the whole project is that the Rotunda’s going to be more accessible, more modern and more open to students, faculty and the community.”

*Grace Hollis contributed with reporting to this story.*



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O  
opinion

## Comment of the day

“Well, the vandal isn’t that far off...”

“Amanda” responding to Brendan Rogers’ Jan. 14 article, “Vandal defaces student health center sign.”

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opinion?  
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LEAD EDITORIAL  
Raising the bar

*The Virginia Supreme Court should provide transcripts of oral arguments*

Nine years after he left the University, former environmental science professor Michael Mann’s emails are still a topic of debate in Charlottesville and Richmond. Last Thursday, for the second time in as many years, lawyers for the University of Virginia found themselves in front of the Virginia Supreme Court arguing about the level of privacy to which academics at state-run institutions are entitled.

In 2010, then-Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli attempted to obtain Mann’s private correspondence using the Virginia Fraud Against Taxpayers Act. Cuccinelli, a climate change skeptic, sought grant applications prepared by Mann, a climate scientist who worked at the University between 1999 and 2005 (he now works at Penn State). Cuccinelli also demanded the release of emails between Mann and his research assistants.

The dispute made its way to the Virginia Supreme Court, which ruled in March 2012 that Cuccinelli did not have the authority to demand Mann’s records.

This year, the two attorneys representing the University faced off against a group called the American Tradition Institute, which filed a Freedom

of Information Act request in 2011 seeking the release of many of the same documents Cuccinelli had demanded. A circuit court ruled last year that Mann’s email correspondence was exempt from FOIA. The case went to Richmond after the American Tradition Institute appealed.

This year’s case seems like an instance of déjà vu: the same animus toward Mann, the same drive to discredit him by foraging through his private emails. The two cases, however, have something else in common: journalists, observers and friends of the University who wanted to hear the oral arguments had to go to Richmond to hear them. This is because the Virginia Supreme Court does not provide audio recordings, video recordings or transcripts of oral arguments. Mann’s right to privacy is what’s at stake in these two cases; we wonder, however, if the privacy of the state supreme court is a more pressing issue for citizens.

The U.S. Supreme Court has faced criticism for its abiding refusal to permit video coverage of court proceedings. But at least the country’s highest judicial body provides both audio recordings and transcripts of arguments.

By contrast, members of the pub-

lic interested in the Virginia Supreme Court proceedings have to either trek to Richmond or hope a news outlet will give a case its due coverage.

The state supreme court installed audio recording technology in 2008, but the microphones were too sensitive and picked up private mumblings between the justices, prompting the devices to be removed, a court official told the Alexandria Gazette last summer.

Bad technology, however, is no excuse for keeping these public proceedings shuttered. We suggest getting more appropriate microphones (or having justices turn their microphones off when delivering pithy, private asides) or hiring a stenographer.

The release of transcripts and audio recordings would be good for journalists, law students and scholars, historians and engaged citizens. The Virginia Supreme Court’s decisions have ramifications for all Virginians, and citizens across the commonwealth have a right to know about arguments and judgments that affect their lives, families and businesses. The court should honor its public obligation by documenting its proceedings and making those documents accessible.

## THE CAVALIER DAILY

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# Hall of shame

*Baseball players who have abused steroids should remain in the baseball Hall of Fame*

**Alex Yahanda**  
Opinion Columnist

If you are a college-aged baseball fan like me, then you remember growing up watching a different game than the one seen today. Sluggers like Barry Bonds and Sammy Sosa ruled Major League Baseball (MLB), producing ridiculous offensive numbers. I vividly remember games from the early 2000s in which players hit towering home runs farther and more frequently than I and the other Little Leaguers thought humanly possible. And in some respects, we were right. We didn't know it at the time, but many of our childhood idols were taking advantage of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) — most commonly anabolic steroids — to boost their performances on the field. Now the time has come for those players to face Hall of Fame voting.

The rationale behind denying PED users a place in the Hall is simple: the users cheated, so they should not be granted baseball's highest honor. This is the stance taken by most of today's Hall of Fame voters. This year, only three players received votes on 75 percent of ballots, the threshold necessary to be inducted. Last year, nobody was selected. In both instances, the ballot included some of the greatest players in MLB history. Yet nobody

who was associated with PEDs was voted in.

In my opinion, the PED debate is not so black-and-white. There are a multitude of factors to consider, and participation in baseball's steroid era should not preclude a player from entering the Hall of Fame. And such a period of rampant steroid use is not the only morally dubious period in baseball history. But no other checkered periods in baseball's history have led to so many players being shut out of the Hall of Fame.

Cheating, or at least trying to gain an unfair advantage over opponents, has forever been an integral part of baseball, whether it comes in the form of stealing signs, physically altering baseballs, corking bats or changing home fields to throw off opponents. I'm not saying that these tactics or PED use should be accepted — I support efforts to clean up baseball. But major league baseball has always been plagued by questionable methods of winning.

Opponents of PED users argue that the players were cheating because they unfairly elevated their competition relative to other players. Athletes who used PEDs got a competitive edge beyond natural talent and hard work. But this argument could be extended to players from other periods in MLB history. Many of baseball's most celebrated names played before baseball's color

barrier was broken. Before 1945, only whites and the occasional light-skinned Latino were allowed to play in the MLB. Black and dark-skinned Latino players were relegated to what was called the Negro Leagues. Pre-integration players thus reaped benefits by limiting the MLB's talent pool in a way that is, in my view, more morally appalling than steroid use.

And it is well-known that players for many decades before steroids abused amphetamines as a way to keep energy levels high during the season's grueling long schedule. Mickey Mantle and other beloved figures became Hall of Fame members despite taking what would now be considered PEDs. Moreover, Gaylord Perry, a Hall of Fame pitcher, is known for his use of greasy substances to alter the spin of his pitches. Those against steroid users should remember that the Hall of Fame has not always elected perfectly clean players.

Finally, the MLB itself bears some culpability for the excesses of the steroid era. Between the late 1980s— when the use of testosterone, steroids and other muscle-enhancing products became widespread—and 2002, when routine drug testing began, home runs and RBI numbers spiked. The quality of pitching was not decreasing (in fact, a number of pitchers have also been linked to PEDs); rather, hitters were

becoming bigger and stronger.

Despite marked increases in performance statistics — looking at the numbers, it's clear something was up — the MLB did little to discourage a steroid culture. Congress banned many steroids nationally in 1990, and the MLB reminded players that they were not to take any illegal substances. Beyond that, no further restrictions were put in place.

This was no doubt because the steroid era was good for baseball. The MLB had been experiencing a decline in attendance before PEDs became pervasive. During the steroid era, however, baseball's popularity rebounded. People became much more willing to watch baseball when players were prone to hit home runs. According to many reports, the MLB knew that its league policy was probably being violated. If the MLB really cared about keeping the game drug-free, it had decades to implement stronger drug testing policies. By not doing so, it willingly allowed PED users to flourish.

Yes, PED use helped inflate some players' numbers. And those players probably could not have performed as well without chemical help. But why superstars from the steroid era are being held to a different moral standard than all other players in MLB history is arbitrary.

Hopefully history will be kind

to the great PED users of the last twenty years. While PEDs may have made those players more muscular or more quick to recover from injuries, PEDs do not alter the other components that go into making a Hall of Fame player. They cannot alter the exquisite hand-eye coordination, perfect fundamentals or high baseball IQ that are required to become great players. Look at Bonds, Alex Rodriguez or Roger Clemens — all known steroid users. Even without PEDs, every technical facet of their games would be nearly perfect. Indeed, those players could have become Hall of Fame candidates even without any drugs.

Most players who took PEDs have not generated the numbers necessary for the Hall of Fame. But those who have should be inducted. Even if they had a physical advantage, they used that advantage in ways that most players could not. The MLB should create a wing in the Hall for PED abusers. Voters can put asterisks next to all statistics produced by steroid users and can even label certain players cheaters, but they should not deny great players a place alongside baseball's best. Even PED users can deserve spots in Cooperstown.

*Alex Yahanda is a senior associate editor for The Cavalier Daily. His columns run Wednesdays.*

# Reviving Marx

*Marx's ideas are still relevant to discussion of political and economic issues*

**George Knaysi**  
Opinion Columnist

A new year begins, and Karl Marx remains a relevant albeit controversial figure. Though "Marxist" is often used as a slur in our current political climate, his work offers a fresh perspective on history and economics, as well as a useful analytical tool for digesting current events. And thanks to a new generation of young leftist thinkers, Marx is getting a makeover.

Marxism does hold heavy implications for what an ethical society should look like, but it is primarily a method of socio-economic analysis — a study of the relationships between history, class relations and capitalism. For more than 150 years, Marx's work, which includes "The Communist Manifesto" and "Capital," has proven a stimulating and useful method for understanding how society operates. For example, a now-classic Marxist study of medical care begins by discussing how

"the health system mirrors the society's class structure through control over health institutions, stratification of health workers, and limited occupational mobility into health professions."

Marx's brand of analysis leaves much open to interpretation about what constitutes a desirable society, and many interpreters (such as the notorious Joseph Stalin) have taken Marx-inspired ideas and reasoned their way to decidedly un-Marxist conclusions. Common American views on Marx are less generous than my own. We are all familiar with these attitudes: Marx and his work are associated with totalitarianism, prison camps, starvation and other failures of the "communist" experiments of the twentieth century. This mentality is perhaps more common in generations that grew up during the Cold War.

This past Thanksgiving, my family attempted to discuss Pope Francis's recent critique of capitalism, in which he warned the current system could lead to "a new tyranny."

When I made a passing comparison to a Marxist idea on class struggle, my 60-something uncle promptly boomed across the table: "Communism can't work. Just look at the Soviet Union. They tried it, and it was a disaster." Though there's a lot wrong with this statement—for one, the USSR was more state capitalist than communist — I found his reference to the Soviet Union unhelpful and unnecessary.

If you keep tabs on leftist thought, you might notice a resurgence of Marxist analysis in the past few years — and it is often millennials who are responsible. It seems that the end of the Cold War has freed a new generation of leftist thinkers (those too young to remember it) to find fresh meaning in Marxist analysis without the old stigmas and reservations.

Millennials, it turns out, have good reason to resurrect Marxist questions on class relations and capitalism. The older members of our generation began careers in an economic recession, one started by capitalism's crown jewel, the finan-

cial sector. For those of us who have yet to enter the workforce, we too will deal with job insecurity, student debt and decreased economic mobility.

The often Marx-friendly Occupy Wall Street movement of the past several years was largely a young people's campaign. And though it has mostly died down since it began in 2011, many political commentators predict that economic inequality will emerge as one of 2014's key issues.

The Left's Marxist resurgence is most visible in millennial-led publications. Consider my personal favorite: Jacobin magazine, founded in 2009 by the then 21-year-old Bhaskar Sunkara. In one recent article titled "Zombie Marx," the author warns against "embalming" the Marx of the 1860s and reverentially treating his work as "a fully-formed alternative to modern economics." He argues that in order to intelligently apply Marx's insights, we must account for the intellectual, historical and social differences be-

tween the political economy of the 1860s and that of 2013. Similarly inadequate is a "Frankenstein Marx pieced together from scraps of quotations." Publications like Jacobin, n+1, The New Inquiry, and the older (but now millennial-managed) Dissent have all found ways to introduce a stigma-free Marx to a new generation.

Leftist politics is an exciting but flawed arena. Though it is essential to learn from the mistakes of the past, we must acknowledge Marx's continuing relevance in thinking about current events. In our hyper-partisan political climate, referencing him does not usually inspire consensus or harmony. But for those who desire broad-minded and creative political dialogue, openly discussing Marxist interpretations can be an educational and even entertaining experience.

*George Knaysi is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily. His columns run Tuesdays.*



# Honest day's work

*Although cheaters can become successful, students can achieve their goals honestly, too*

**John Connolly**  
Opinion Columnist

Some who saw Martin Scorsese's latest romp, "The Wolf of Wall Street," might have dismissed it as a pornographic exaltation of hard drugs, an ode to excess, a glamorization of trophy wives and private jets and yachts and cocaine and the other trappings of wealth that Wall Street scammer Jordan Belfort (a brilliant Leonardo DiCaprio) so hedonistically relishes. Viewers with a more discerning eye, however, might find it a penetrating critique of the modern American dream, with the sobering implication that those who cheat are the ones who win.

The adage that nice guys finish last is hardly new. But at the University, we like to think that our peers who succeed do so honestly. We assume that students who ex-

cel academically earned their A's while obeying the honor code. We assume that students who win elections win them fairly. In my experience with the University, this has been true. Yet the possibility exists that someone could cheat to attain success. Someone who violates the honor code without detection could theoretically achieve success, both in academics and extracurriculars, and could do so at the expense of people who pursue success without recourse to cheating.

"The Wolf of Wall Street" is about someone who scams others to get ahead. Belfort is a wickedly fun character, but he is also a wicked character. Early in the film, Belfort instructs his loyal band of misfit salesman on the finer points of duping investors, taking delight in his victims' stupidity. And what rewards it brings. Belfort's ill-gotten wealth buys him satisfaction at every turn: hookers, drugs, planes,

boats and not to mention the strange and often sadistic — yet, somehow, simultaneously hilarious — office stunts. To be frank, it looks like fun. The viewer will probably find himself rooting, in some form, for Belfort's caper to continue.

Belfort's activities attract the attention of the FBI, and while I will not spoil the finer details, his life does take a turn for the worse. Nonetheless, as viewers of the movie and people familiar with Belfort's real life story will recall, he retains much of his wealth, and now tours the world as a motivational speaker. Perhaps the most devastating reality of the movie (from an ethical perspective, anyway) is that Belfort wins. The dogged and honest FBI agent trailing Belfort, played smartly by Kyle Chandler, is last seen riding a dingy, unpleasant subway, looking particularly unhappy, while Belfort speaks to a rapt and eager audience, anxious

to learn his path to success. Belfort might be morally degenerate, might have scammed honest investors of their money, but his is a twisted, modern American success story. He cheated, and he won.

Belfort's success appears indicative of many success stories in modern America. Steven Cohen's famed hedge fund, SAC Capital Advisors, pled guilty to an insider trading charge and paid a \$1.2 billion dollar fine. Prosecutors lacked the proof to convict Cohen himself, although he personally signed off on many of the illicit trades. Cohen's fortune of approximately \$10 billion remains intact.

Students from this University who see "The Wolf of Wall Street" should enjoy its hilarious hijinks and exploits, but should also be cognizant of this movie's implications. Cheating and scamming, this movie seems to say, comprise the foundation of the modern

American Dream. If you want to get ahead, cheating is the best way to do it, the movie's final scene suggests.

The code of ethics that the University seeks to instill in students — most of all through its honor code — resists the fatalistic view that cheating is the best path to success. The world can be grateful to institutions like the University that promote a strict code of honor and ethics in their students. As students become graduates and move into the "real world," the world of Jordan Belforts, I am confident that they will act in a manner that resists the movie's conclusion, and proves that success in America can still come through honest hard work.

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*John Connolly is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily. His columns run Wednesdays.*

# Make it rain

*A universal basic income should be the next front of the war on poverty*

**Gray Whisnant**  
Opinion Columnist

In his 1964 "Great Society" speech delivered in Ann Arbor, Lyndon B. Johnson launched a series of initiatives that would come to define American politics for the next half-century. Programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps and Head Start dramatically improved the standard of living for millions of Americans. Between 1967 and 2012, the Supplemental Poverty Measure—a method of evaluating poverty that takes into account government programs that assist low-income families not included in the official poverty measure—fell from 26 percent to 16 percent. (<http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/06/the-war-on-poverty-at-50/>). The Census Bureau estimates that antipoverty programs kept 41 million people, among them 9 million children, out of poverty in 2012 and that the poverty rate would be double what it is without the safety net.

Despite these achievements, the War on Poverty hasn't been an unqualified success. In response to a conservative backlash, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton pared back much of the welfare state Lyndon Johnson helped build, and today around 47 million Americans live below the poverty line. In order to eliminate most of the poverty in this country, policymakers must adopt a new strategy that takes

our complicated patchwork of programs and transforms them into a more coordinated and comprehensive approach.

The cornerstone of any new approach ought to be a universal basic income (UBI). The UBI has been endorsed by everyone from Martin Luther King Jr. (<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/08/martin-luther-kings-economic-dream-a-guaranteed-income-for-all-americans/279147/>) to conservative luminaries like Milton Friedman and F. A. Hayek, would have the effect of both radically redefining citizenship and dispensing with some of the worst elements of public sector bureaucracy. With the government sending a check for a poverty-level income to every adult American, the incentive structures of safety net programs that sometimes punish job-seekers would be eliminated. The poor would no longer have to weigh whether or not signing up for a job is worth it because of the loss of crucial benefits; the UBI stipend would remain the same regardless.

As a consequence, the labor market would be redefined to become truly voluntary. People would no longer be forced into undesirable jobs because of dire financial straits. With this new shift of bargaining power to workers, corporations would have to make those jobs more attractive by offering higher benefits and wages that better reflect social value produced by

those jobs. It's easy to imagine the salaries of sanitation workers, for instance, going up dramatically to attract workers to the positions.

Such a system would also empower working-class women. Childcare workers and housekeepers today, whose occupations have traditionally been seen as "women's work," are some of the lowest paid and most vulnerable participants in the labor market (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Personal-Care-and-Service/Childcare-workers.htm>). A universal basic income would send the message that society values their work and would provide them with negotiating power they previously lacked. As such, poor minority women, especially single mothers, would perhaps be the biggest winners of a UBI, and the gender wage gap would collapse.

Framed another way, the UBI can be seen as a small-government conservative reform. The current system of means-tested welfare programs is wasteful, uncoordinated, duplicative and too often distorts market incentives. Upon enacting a universal basic income, we would see food stamps, WIC, heating assistance, cash welfare, public housing vouchers, unemployment benefits and numerous other smaller programs written out of existence, with their purposes being superseded by one simple yearly payment. A post-UBI federal government would be streamlined, more efficient and much easier to manage and monitor. The govern-

ment could still provide health insurance through Medicare and pensions and disability benefits through Social Security, but other means-tested programs would be eliminated along with the perverse incentives that keep too many people in poverty.

Beyond making employers offer more worthwhile work, protecting working poor women, slashing poverty rates and streamlining the federal government, a universal income would remake our society by dramatically changing attitudes toward certain types of work and certain groups of people. It would increase social solidarity by making the poor harder to demonize for getting a benefit the middle class doesn't, because everyone from hedge fund managers to the homeless would receive the same amount. It would encourage creative work by spurring people to quit their dead-end jobs and pursue the musical or writing career they've always dreamed of. It would eliminate the worry about the negative side effects of automatization by allowing businesses to pursue technological efficiency without their employees' livelihoods being jeopardized. As such, the UBI is perhaps the only welfare reform that is capable of producing results that the left, right and center would appreciate.

There's no doubt that guaranteeing every American a basic standard of living would have a price tag. Though proposals that have

ranged from setting the amount anywhere between \$10,000 and \$35,000 per household, there are several funding sources that could be adjusted accordingly to pay for the plan. The federal government spends about \$212 billion on social welfare annually (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/01/12/no-we-dont-spend-1-trillion-on-welfare-each-year/>), and that money would largely disappear with the arrival of the UBI. Cuts in the \$729 billion military budget could also redirect revenue away from defense contractors and to all Americans. Beyond that, new revenue would certainly be needed, such as through a financial speculation and/or a value added tax, but the sum required isn't impossible to reach.

In 1969, no less a radical leftist as Richard Nixon proposed a guaranteed income of \$10,160 in today's dollars with his Family Assistance Plan as a conservative spin on the War on Poverty. Though the Republican Party and the country have changed a great deal since 1969, a universal basic income should become the end goal for antipoverty efforts on all sides of the political spectrum. As Lyndon Johnson said of the War on Poverty, "The richest nation on Earth can afford to win it. We can not afford to lose it."

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*Gray Whisnant is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily. His columns run Wednesdays.*

# Undeserved outrage

*Jennifer Wexton's campaign advertisement does not equate her political opponents with rapists*

**Dani Bernstein**  
Opinion Columnist

During our brief hiatus from school, a special election took place to fill Lieutenant Governor-elect Ralph Northam's now-vacated state Senate seat. Another one is set for Jan. 21 to fill Attorney General Mark Herring's spot.

Jennifer Wexton, a former Loudon County prosecutor, is the Democratic candidate running to fill Herring's seat on the 21st; she faces one Republican and one Republican-turned-independent candidate. The Republican Party of Virginia has recently attacked Wexton for a 33-second ad she put up lauding her work prosecuting rapists. Republicans are crying foul and claiming the ad strives to compare rapists to Republican politicians, which at best is an exaggeration and at worst completely made up.

The Republican Party of Virginia has released statements condemning Wexton, essentially

for accurately describing her professional history. Lisa Caruso, an attorney from Dinwiddie County Commonwealth, is quoted on the Republican Party of Virginia's website saying that "comparing political activism to rape is simply beyond the bounds of decent behavior." She calls for Wexton to withdraw from the race; the chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia, Pat Mullins, believes that in the ad Wexton suggests "that her opponents are on the same level as rapists."

This Republican claim, not Wexton's ad, is what's offensive. Wexton begins the ad by describing various attacks against women, goes on to recount her work prosecuting criminals in-

cluding rapists, and concludes by saying that in the state Senate she will continue to work to protect women, but this time in the area of policy—"against Tea Party Republicans" who are pro-life even in cases of rape and incest. In no way does she insinuate that either

her support for women's health-care and abortion rights in the case of incest and/or rape, attempting to contrast this with the stances of her opponents.

It is worth noting that no statement from the Republican Party suggests that Tea Party state senators, or John Whitbeck, the Republican candidate running against Wexton, have a good record on women's issues. That is the most powerful part about the party's reaction to Wexton's ad. Her charges that Virginia Republicans don't support women's health issues are being tacitly verified by the party's style of response. By focusing on a made-up claim that Wexton has gone over the line of acceptable campaign rhetoric, the Republican Party is attempting to divert voters' attention from the fact that her claims have merit.

In response to the Republican Party's statements, Wexton's campaign manager Mitchell Norton has rightly said, "The real outrage here is that both of Jennifer's Re-

publican opponents have voted for these types of laws that would have prevented victims of rape and incest from seeking quality health care or exercising the right to choose."

Wexton is right to end her ad by showcasing her intent to protect women while in the state Senate, since out of the three candidates running she seems to be the only one with some background in women's issues and the only one with an agenda that focuses on maintaining women's rights. Instead of feigning outrage at an ad that correctly calls Republicans out on their lack of support for women's issues, the Republican Party of Virginia needs to adjust its platform and prove it can be a party that represents women's interests, thereby making ads like Wexton's irrelevant.

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



**By focusing on a made-up claim that Wexton has gone over the line of acceptable campaign rhetoric, the Republican Party is attempting to divert voters' attention from the fact that her claims have merit.**

of her opponents are similar to rapists; she does, however, insinuate that they don't support policies that are favorable to women, and that is a perfectly acceptable claim to make during a campaign. She concludes her ad by declaring



**There is little in the scientific literature to suggest that dehumanizing a person is an effective way of reforming him, and rare is the prison in the U.S. that does not belittle, demean or isolate its inmates.**

Rehabilitation isn't an excuse to give inmates flat-screen TVs or make our penitentiaries luxury hotels. It's a critical look at the ways in which prisons change those who enter them in profound and irreversible ways, generating anti-social behavior, minimizing dignity and doing little to correct the habits that led them to be locked up in the first place. Where possible, we should fight these effects.

# Mississippi blues

*Conjugal visits can be used as a way to help rehabilitate prisoners*

**Russell Bogue**  
Opinion Columnist

On Feb. 1 of this year, the Mississippi State Penitentiary plans to officially end the practice of allowing married prisoners to spend time alone with their spouses. These brief "conjugal visits," which were introduced in the Jim Crow south under the racist assumption that the passions of black men would be tamed through sexual intercourse, are a rarity in the United States. Only five other states allow inmates to have time alone with their spouses: California, Connecticut, New Mexico, New York and Washington. Officials in Mississippi, uncomfortable with the idea of a child being conceived by an inmate, plan to end what they see as a wasteful and indulgent privilege. They are wrong to do so.

More than 650,000 ex-convicts are released from prison every year. Presumably, we would want to do everything in our power to ensure that those who commit crimes will not do so again upon leaving the walls of

the penitentiary. One might say that the entire purpose of prisons can be summed up with a simple idea: they exist to prevent crime. Yet, considering our national recidivism rate of 52 percent, it is clear our prisons are failing at this fundamental duty. Yes, prisons should punish; those in the U.S. satisfy this requirement abundantly. But they should also reform and rehabilitate. To prevent more than half of those 650,000 released inmates from turning back to crime, we should seek to set them on a new path during the time they are secluded from society.

The motivation behind efforts to end — or prevent — conjugal visits is typically based on an antiquated idea of effective punishment. Thanks to modern psychology, the work of numerous sociologists and years of observation, we now know that traditional methods of imprisonment tend to cause more problems than they solve. There is little in the scientific literature to suggest that dehumanizing a person is an effective way of reforming him, and rare is the prison in the U.S. that does

not belittle, demean or isolate its inmates. This is through no fault of the prison guards or superintendents. Our entire system is set up to serve a primarily punitive, rather than rehabilitative, function. Politicians who wish to be seen as "tough on crime" support longer and harsher sentences and fewer privileges for inmates. The logic is simple and intuitive: they broke our laws, we take their rights.

Rehabilitation isn't an excuse to give inmates flat-screen TVs or make our penitentiaries luxury hotels. It's a critical look at the ways in which prisons change those who enter them in profound and irreversible ways, generating anti-social behavior, minimizing dignity and doing little to correct the habits that led them to be locked up in the first place. Where possible, we should fight these effects.

And thus, the conjugal visits. Although relatively uncommon in the U.S., they are widely practiced abroad, and for good reason: they allow prisoners to feel human again. They reinforce bonds of love and companionship, strengthen family ties and

most isolated members of society to continue to foster the few positive relationships and connections they have left. It strains credulity to argue that we should seek to isolate them further.

This argument should not be confused as one that is easy on crime or overly forgiving of those who break our nation's laws. It should go without saying that prisons should also be places of punishment. We err, however, when we fail to acknowledge their rehabilitative role as well. In purely selfish terms, we do ourselves a disservice by having jails that foster or exacerbate inmates' criminal tendencies. Once you consider the malleable and complex human lives that are contained within the walls of our nation's jails and prisons — there are millions — the argument for rehabilitation becomes even stronger. Mississippi, learn from our nation's failures. Your citizens and your prisoners deserve better.

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

# HUMOR

## Just for wits.

Charlotte Raskovich  
Humor Columnist



Shout out to taxi drivers who tell you stories about eating iguanas to survive in Khmer Rouge Cambodia while they drive you to the airport. You are a garden of life experience and I am but an aphid gnawing on your leaves.



Shout out to the guys who illustrated 1960s science fiction book covers, you're all probably dead and definitely rad.



Shout out to cashiers who don't put the change on top of the dollar bills.



Shout out to cashiers who put the change on top of the dollar bills. Customers who complain about this are being babies and you don't owe them diddly squat.



Shout out to all dogs everywhere.



Shout out to people who do a really good job of keeping their retainers clean, we are the future of America.



Shout out to all my girls who wanted to bang Milo from "Atlantis" back in the day.



Shout out to geodes. If someone were carrying rock and were okay with the rock but then they dropped the rock and it turned out to be a geode on the inside, there is no way that they would not be pumped about that turn of events.

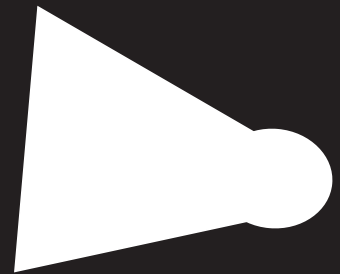


Shout out to bonobo apes, you're a bunch of nonhierarchical sluts and it truly bums me out that the Facebook page for the Bonobos clothing brand has more likes.



Shout out to the Google image results for "lizards wearing Polly Pocket clothes."

# SHOUT OUTS



Shout out to anyone I've ever kissed. You're all cuter and nicer than I am and I know this is true because the Raskovich clan doesn't date down.



Shout out to the thing where a hamster runs too fast and he spins around in his wheel like it's a salad tosser.



Shout out to my mom for cleaning my vomit out of the minivan carpeting. Mom, I purposefully spun too fast on our church's tire swing so I wouldn't have to do my fifth-grade English homework. You were too loving to see through my mendacity and make me towel up my half-digested pie myself.



Shout out to my dad for getting into arguments with pastors until we joined a religion that has no authoritative figures and calls church "meeting."



Shout out to Quakers for inventing root beer in the 1800s, contributing to the civil rights movement in the 1960s and covering their Priuses in bumper stickers today.



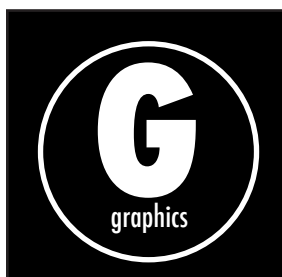
Shout out to the bumper sticker that taught me hate is wrong. Shout out to the Dunkin' Donuts on the way home from the meeting-house. You were the sole source of fuel for my devotion to God.



Shout out to the guy who played harp at Sunday school. My memories from before the Dunkin' Donuts closing are that you had a beard and were very soft-spoken.

*Charlotte Raskovich is a humor columnist for The Cavalier Daily.*





## MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN



## THE ADVENTURES OF THE AMAZING &lt;THE&gt; A-MAN BY EMILIO ESTEBAN



NO PUN INTENDED BY CHARLOTTE RASKOVICH



SOLE SURVIVOR BY MICHAEL GILBERTSON



**The New York Times**  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1225

<b>ACROSS</b>		<b>36</b> "___ is not a lasting teacher of duty": Cicero	<b>59</b> Sport not played officially in the Olympics since 1908
<b>1</b> Punched-out parts of paper ballots	<b>38</b> Senseless	<b>64</b> "Me neither"	<b>65</b> Devastation
<b>6</b> It's difficult to see through	<b>40</b> ___ vie	<b>67</b> Fuming	<b>68</b> "Yikes!"
<b>10</b> Writes as a postscript, say	<b>41</b> One set of gifts in "The 12 Days of Christmas"	<b>69</b> Not new	<b>70</b> Christmas tree decoration
<b>14</b> Monsieur ___ (Jacques Tati role)	... as suggested by the shaded squares?	<b>71</b> Godsend	<b>72</b> Memory Stick manufacturer
<b>15</b> It's east of Europe	<b>44</b> Hint	<b>73</b> Anatomical sacs	<b>DOWN</b>
<b>16</b> Quite an achievement	<b>45</b> Ukraine and others, once: Abbr.	<b>1</b> X X X	<b>2</b> Offended
<b>17</b> Cara of "Fame"	<b>46</b> Nuts and fruit, in part, for squirrels	<b>3</b> Sheltered, at sea	<b>4</b> Gift recipient
<b>18</b> Senseless	<b>47</b> Rebellious region of the Caucasus	<b>5</b> ___ Artois (beer)	<b>6</b> Shock of hair
<b>19</b> Prefix with present	<b>49</b> Method: Abbr.	<b>7</b> Seize	<b>8</b> Backboard attachment
<b>20</b> Stronger and harder	<b>51</b> Sellout sign	<b>9</b> Japanese dance-drama	<b>10</b> Raised above?
<b>22</b> Hullabaloo	<b>52</b> Via ___ (main street of ancient Rome)		
<b>24</b> Common desk shape	<b>54</b> The Big Apple, for short		
<b>25</b> Tea type	<b>56</b> Second-highest peak in the Cascades		
<b>27</b> Barn ___			
<b>30</b> Locale for an ibex			
<b>32</b> Error			

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

T	W	A		R	A	F	T		R	O	B	B	E	N
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71					72					73				

PUZZLE BY JACOB STULBERG

<b>33</b> North African capital	<b>48</b> Hubristic flier of myth	<b>58</b> Florence's river
<b>34</b> Lawn tool	<b>50</b> Ancient Mideast language	<b>60</b> Humorist Rooney
<b>35</b> Sauce made with pine nuts	<b>53</b> Bizarre	<b>61</b> Downturns
<b>37</b> Downturn	<b>55</b> Not subtle, as humor	<b>62</b> Typesetting direction
<b>39</b> E.R. figures	<b>56</b> Hardly the hoi polloi type	<b>63</b> Sushi fish
<b>42</b> Suggest	<b>57</b> Syllables from Santa	<b>66</b> Tour grp.
<b>43</b> "This I Promise You" group, 2000		

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

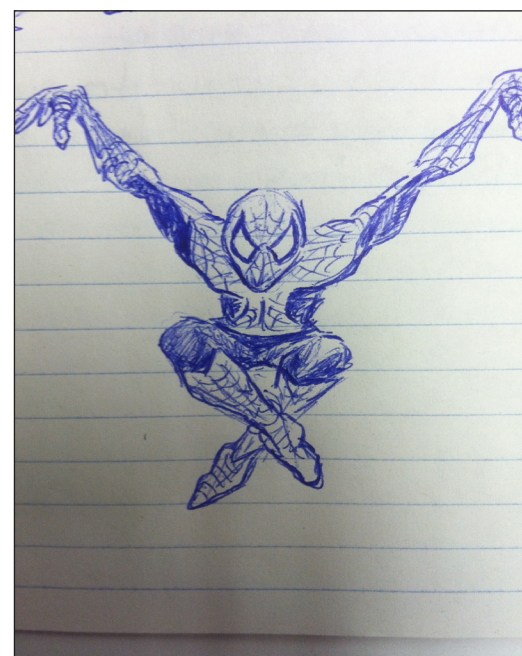
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Kelsey Grant | The Cavalier Daily

Sophomore guard Malcolm Brogdon has scored in double digits in each of the past four games and leads the team with 28.6 minutes played per game.

# Cavaliers look to rebound

*Brogdon's development spurs 3-1 conference record ahead of Saturday tilt vs. FSU*

**Krishna Korupolu**  
Senior Writer

The Virginia men's basketball team, coming off a heart-breaking loss to Duke, will take on Florida State Saturday at home. The two teams faced off two weeks ago in a game the Cavaliers (12-5, 3-1 ACC) dominated, 62-50, even with an early injury to senior Joe Harris that limited him to three minutes of playing time. In the previous matchup, the Cavaliers blitzed Florida State and jumped out to a 28-13 lead. Since that loss, Florida State (11-4, 2-1) has beaten two tough teams in Clemson and Maryland.

"They're playing good basketball," Coach Tony Bennett said. "You got to be at your best to play against them. We're not going to take them by surprise."

Since a shockingly lopsided 25-point loss to Tennessee, the Cavaliers have opened up 3-1 in the ACC and sit in third place in the conference. During that run, Virginia is averaging 70.3 points per game, an improve-

ment to the 64.8 they were averaging before that span. The emergence of sophomore guard Malcolm Brogdon has been a big reason for the team's improvement. Brogdon tied a career high 17 points in Virginia's loss to Duke and has scored in double figures four straight games, tying another personal best.

"He's played well, certainly has the last few games," Bennett said. "He's had a nice start to the ACC and we'll need that."

Brogdon, who redshirted last year, has made strides across the board this year. He is second on the team in both points and rebounds per game.

"[He's] a little more seasoned as far as him sitting out here watching the game, processing it," Bennett said. "He's a better, improved player in a lot of areas."

And for a Virginia team that has struggled from the free throw line, Brogdon's 90.7 percent success rate provides much-needed help. In fact, if Brogdon can keep the free throw percentage up, he will

break the current school record of 88.4 percent set by NBA sharpshooter Roger Mason, Jr. in the 2000-01 season.

Brogdon, however, is far from satisfied.

"I'm back to where I was, at least," Brogdon said. "Not where I want to be at. I feel like I have a lot of work to do. A lot of areas to improve, and consistency is a big factor for me that I need to focus on and get better at."

The Cavaliers' perimeter players have not been able to produce as they did last season, with sophomore guard Justin Anderson the only one to increase his scoring average. Brogdon's ability to post consistent stat lines will be key for Virginia as it faces a tough ACC schedule in the coming weeks.

"A lot of Malcolm's game is off the dribble, he's strong, gets to the line," Bennett said. "He's an important part; we only have so many perimeter guys. He's got to be a solid part of it."

Tip-off for the game against Florida State will take place at noon.

## Franklin channels idol Kobe

*Passion for defense, basketball pedigree distinguish veteran Virginia star*

**Matthew Morris**  
Associate Editor

Ataira Franklin's favorite player and standard for hardwood excellence suits up in royal purple and gold. He competes most nights at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles, and once partnered with Shaquille O'Neal, Phil Jackson and company for three consecutive NBA championships.

Franklin, Virginia's leading scorer and a senior captain, hails from Bowie, Md., plays most of her ball in college gyms before college crowds, and has yet to reach the NCAA Tournament in three tries. The Cavaliers' gritty, smooth-shooting guard, however, has more in common with the Lakers' Kobe Bryant than one might initially think.

"I am the biggest Kobe fan in the world," Franklin said. "I love Kobe. Love, love, love him. Just everything about his game, his attitude, just his approach."

The parallels certainly extend to the court, where both couple an uncanny knack for scoring the basketball with an intense desire to shut down the opposition on defense. Franklin knows that even when her

offense sags, she can contribute by making a standout play on the other end of the floor — like when she took a charge from All-American guard Kayla McBride midway through the first half on Sunday against No. 2 Notre Dame. While Bryant owns the hardware — nine selections to the NBA's All-Defensive First Team — Franklin has the trust of Virginia coach Joanne Boyle, who calls her one of the Cavaliers' "best defenders" in the matchup zone.

"When I first came here, then I earned my time by playing defense," Franklin said. "So, I just have a really strong defensive mindset, and I honestly feel that you can affect the game even when you're not scoring."

As with Bryant, Franklin's intense desire to compete has fueled her battle back from recent injuries. Franklin showed such determination Sunday, logging a team-high 37 minutes against the Fighting Irish despite her persistent knee trouble. After the game, both knees wrapped in ice, Franklin signed autographs for kids and teenagers, smiled big for camera-toting fans, and talked about playing her heart out every time she steps on the floor, especially with her college career almost at an end.

"I would just say, approaching each game like it's my last," Franklin said. "That's just the mentality I try to have ... just leave it all out there on the court, don't have any regrets."

If Franklin and Bryant got their love for the game from anyone, it may well have been their respective parents. Kobe's father, Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, teamed with sky-walking wing player Julius Irving for the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers and twice scored 53 points for Pistoia, a professional team in Italy's Serie A. Franklin's parents, Anthony and Lakita, both played basketball for the University of Chicago at Illinois, and Franklin said she owes her trademark jump-shot to their guidance.

"Just lots of work with them," Franklin said in explaining how she developed her shot. "It's kind of been an advantage having two parents who understand the game and both also had pretty sweet strokes."

Franklin's buzzword for game-day preparation is "focus;" she prefers to listen to music before a game and rather than chat with teammates. In this respect, she resembles her other hoops favorite, Kevin Durant, whose reserved demeanor prompted an advertising campaign



Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

Senior guard Ataira Franklin leads the roster in points, assists and minutes played per game.

built around the slogan, "KD is not nice."

Franklin may share Bryant's basketball obsession and basketball bloodlines, but she is her own player, talented and dogged by injury, indispensable to her team and in search of her own hardwood narrative. She prefers transition three-pointers to fade-away jumpers, great opponents to average ones, chasing a loose ball to watching it roll away. For all her likeness to the Lakers'

prime-time player, one thing is certain: Ataira Franklin is not Kobe Bryant, and no other player is quite like Ataira Franklin.

"She's a veteran," Boyle said. "She's been there. She's a calming factor on the floor. She's won games for us with big shots. She's one of our best defenders in the matchup. ... We're just getting her healthy and putting her in the best position we can so that we're getting the most minutes for her this year."





Courtesy Virginia Athletics



Courtesy Virginia Athletics

# Fast freshmen fuel talented women's squad

*Smith, Simon, Jones embrace Busch, excel in pool; teams open conference schedule this weekend*



Courtesy Virginia Athletics

Freshmen Kaitlyn Jones, Laura Simon, Leah Smith are thriving for the No. 7 Virginia women's swimming team.

**Robert Elder**  
Associate Editor

When a heralded recruiting class comes together, it is customary for many of the top recruits to meet and perhaps share a dinner the summer before they arrive on campus. But the three headline recruits for the Virginia 2013 women's swimming and diving class, freshmen Leah Smith, Laura Simon and Kaitlyn Jones, shared a particularly memorable experience during the summer when they traveled together to Germany to watch the FINA Swimming World Cup.

The trio all met on a recruiting trip last September, Smith said. She and Jones were the first to commit, and they then talked with Simon to convince her to do so as well. Once all three had promised to join the Virginia ranks, they were off to Berlin.

This bonding experience was the start of something special for the Virginia swimming program. Along with the other members of what is widely considered a top-five recruiting class, Smith, Simon and Jones have taken the pool by storm.

Smith, the No. 6 rated recruit by collegeswimming.com, has already set the school record in the 500 and 1,000 yard freestyle races just halfway through her first year. The German-born Simon, meanwhile, already holds the school

record in the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke. Finally, Jones, the No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2013, has flourished in the individual medley, backstroke and freestyle disciplines.

"That's what talent gets you," Coach Augie Busch said. "It was absolutely a top-five recruiting class — just those three alone are a [top-]five class. That just speaks to their talent."

The class was in danger of never coming to fruition. After the sudden departure of former coach Mark Bernardino, who recruited them, the current freshmen recruits could have scampered to other schools. However, they were impressed enough by Busch to honor their commitment to Virginia.

"There was definitely some uncertainty because I had never met him before," Smith said. "I was just a little scared because it was a different coach, but I think everything worked out perfectly. I probably would have been interested in Augie if he were coaching somewhere else. I think it worked out great."

Busch is very grateful that he and his assistants were able to inherit a class with not only talent but also fun, lighthearted personalities.

"We are very fortunate," Busch said. "They are all awesome people too. This goes for the entire freshman women's class. None of them are really stuck on themselves. None of them are really arrogant or brash. They just want a fun experience [and] good teammates. They are really enjoyable to work with."



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

Along with the rest of the team, the freshmen women must now transition back into race mode as they prepare for this weekend's meet at Virginia Tech, their first since November. To do so, Busch took the team to train at Florida Atlantic University for a week during the winter break. They completed strenuous workouts twice per day in the open, outdoor air. Busch said he not only feels the trip will pay dividends in shaving critical seconds off times down the stretch, but that the team's psyche was strengthened as well.

"When it's cold and you're constrained indoors, it's refreshing psychologically [to swim outside]," Busch said. "There was nothing to

do or worry about besides training. I think just going on a 15-hour bus ride is a bonding experience. It was a great week of training. We came out of it a lot better."

From here forward, both the men's and women's teams will race every weekend against conference rivals until the NCAA Championships begin in March. Though some coaches might be intimidated by the daunting task at hand for the swimmers, Busch is embracing the challenge and focusing on the winter months that matter most.

"I have never experienced this much racing in this little time," Busch said. "It's maybe one more meet than I would feel ideal, but I think it's going to be fun to navigate it. It's going to be fun to strategize with how we rest some people here and there."

This weekend, the No. 7 Virginia women will face Miami, Wisconsin and Virginia Tech, while the No. 18 Virginia men will compete against No. 24 Harvard, Wisconsin and Virginia Tech in Christiansburg, Va. Although both the men's and women's Virginia squads are always seeking a win, they say facing their in-state rival Virginia Tech provides an extra spark of motivation.

"We'll definitely be hoping to win," Smith said. "I think we have a pretty good chance. Anytime there's a rivalry we try to step up. I hoping to showcase some of the hard work we put in in Florida this past week so I'm excited for it."

## Four revelations from a trip to Cameron Indoor

### 1. This place is different.

For a sports cathedral, you realize, it hardly makes a show of itself.

It takes a few seconds to register that the unassuming brown brick building you gaze upon is indeed Cameron Indoor Stadium, mausoleum for the hopes of countless vanquished foes. One of America's iconic sports locales, the Duke arena's exterior looks more like a history department than a college basketball Mecca.

A faint apprehension permeates the crisp winter air at "K-Ville," the grassy field adjacent to the stadium where students grill and enjoy cheap American beers in the hours before Virginia's men's team tips off with Duke. The Blue Devils have dropped two of their first three ACC games to Notre Dame and Clemson, with freshman phenom Jabari Parker starting to cool after a sizzling start and coach Mike Krzyzewski fiddling with his starting lineup like a high school junior fiddling with his bow tie at prom. Meanwhile, you surmise, the surging Cavaliers represent the Duke students' least

while watching the players warm-up. You can't help but feel a little smaller.

### 2. They have mastered the art of effective exasperation.

Though awestruck, soon enough you are also annoyed. And that's the infuriating genius of Cameron.

You glanced at the school's "dirt" sheet, and object not to its existence but to its quality. In addition to taking a few potshots at the University's quirky terminology so bland they would embarrass even Dane Cook, the "dirt" it spills — including pictures of senior forward Thomas Rogers' girlfriend — seems more weird than damaging. You're still intimidated, but you seethe at the complacency of it.

Then the game finally starts, and the Cameron Crazies begin what Duke's athletic website euphemizes as "creative harassment." Their synchronized chants and intrusive armpits never cease to harass referees and Virginia players alike. You can see the players' eyes widen, and sense the hopes for a Cavalier victory dwindle in a disorienting blur.

Through the haze, however, you see that the Cavaliers seem to be losing primarily for basketball-related reasons. They pound the paint against Duke's undersized interior defenders, but miss open shots. They limit Parker's offensive game to passive jumpshot-vomit, but allow Rasheed Sulaimon and Amile Jefferson to morph into Jay and Shelden Williams. And though the players are clearly doing their best to tune the crowd out, the atmosphere is weighing on them. One player in particular.

When senior forward Akil Mitchell's emphatic two-handed slam is disrupted only by Rodney Hood's vicious undercutting foul

with 13:36 to go, the deafening "You Can't Dunk!" chants represent the height of injustice and ignorance. But Mitchell's eyes turn into saucers. He clanks his two free throws. On his next trip to the line, he leaves his second foul shot about 5 feet short, meaning a gleeful and uproarious "Air-Ball" chant fills everyone's ears whenever he touches the ball. That it was objectively dumb to criticize Mitchell for missing the dunk in the first place hardly mattered.

Like any other fanbase, the Cameron Crazies can be unfunny or unfair or insulting. But their relentless capacity to annoy — as well as their sheer proximity to the court — ensures that they get under your skin. By the time you have to tell yourself to ignore them, they usually have already won.

### 3. Sports work when they don't make sense.

Then, with six or so minutes left in what is sure to be another easy Duke victory at Cameron, the world turns upside down.

Since you can barely hear yourself think, anyway, you can only watch transfixed as Virginia mounts a crowd-silencing 22-8 run. A glimmer of hope emerges when Justin Anderson hits a 3-pointer and an absurd "and-one" tip-in to close the gap.

When Joe Harris swipes the ball and lays it in at the other end to cut the lead to three, the smattering of Virginia fans in attendance erupt, pent-up frustration melting into unbridled giddiness.

Finally, after Malcolm Brogdon coolly sinks two free throws to grant the Cavaliers a 65-64 lead with 37 seconds to play, you can do nothing but shake your head in amazement while 9,000 others share theirs in disbelief. You know you will always remember the childlike look on the Virginia players' faces saying, "Wow, we might have really pulled this off!"

You marvel at the resolve of the Cavaliers in a situation where you, and nearly everyone else, would have conceded defeat. You're grateful that even in Cameron Indoor, things can get this wacky. Most of



**You acknowledge that basketball is not really a religion, Cameron Indoor not really a church, your experience not really supernatural.**

all, as you watch Sulaimon's game-winning attempt bounce off the rim, seemingly off the mark, you think to yourself that college basketball is a beautiful thing.

### 4. You just lost your perspective — and enjoyed it.

The dream ends abruptly. Sulaimon's ball bounces up but right back into the net, completing a brilliant 21-point outburst from the reserve guard and sending the Cameron Crazies into a tizzy. On the next possession, a rushed Mitchell pass leads to a fatal turnover. You watch Jefferson ice the game with two more free-throws.

As fans file out, the fantasy that enveloped you for the last two hours dissipates. Minutes after a basketball game seemed like the only thing happening in the world, you place the game back in its proper context. It is a frustrating loss for Virginia, but just one loss, and one indicative of a team that can thrive in the ACC.

You talk and laugh with the same Duke kids who seemed so villainous a few minutes ago, and remember that JPJ boasts a frenetic, hostile atmosphere of its own.

Later, you read a story from David Teel of the Daily-Press about Coach K, the face of the "enemy," coping with the recent loss of his beloved brother. You chill out a bit, and worry about things more worrisome than the outcome of a game.



**Even with a slightly anxious Duke fanbase, you can't help but feel the supernatural at work while watching the players warm-up. You can't help but feel a little smaller.**

favorite type of opponent: unglamorous to defeat, but good enough to make things difficult.

When you walk through the doors and glimpse the famous blue court, however, any notion that this game will lack Duke's famous mystique quickly evaporates. As you carve out a spot in the middle of the blue-clad student body just feet away from the court, you reckon that this little nondescript building is a temple of college basketball.

Even with a slightly anxious Duke fanbase, you can't help but feel the supernatural at work



**FRITZ METZINGER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

## THE SKINNY

*What: Virginia (8-8, 1-2 ACC) at No. 3 Duke (16-1, 3-0 ACC)*

*Where: Durham, N.C.*

*When: Thursday at 6:30 p.m.*

The Virginia women's basketball team will have its hands full against the Blue Devils, who average 83.5 points per game and have already rolled to 10 wins by 20 points

or more. Last season, when Virginia and Duke squared off at John Paul Jones Arena, the Cavaliers finishing with a season-low 41 points despite Franklin's well-rounded line (15 points, 9 rebounds and 5 steals).

Duke, however, comes into this meeting reeling from the unexpected loss of floor general Chelsea Gray. The senior point guard, a two-time All-America, fractured

her right kneecap in the Blue Devils' week-end win over Boston College, an injury similar to the dislocated kneecap that ended her junior season after 25 games. Gray, a reigning Co-ACC Player of the Year, was sixth in the country with 7.2 assists per game.

In her absence, the Blue Devils will lean on junior center-forward Elizabeth Williams, another twice-recognized All-America

and the ACC's Defensive Player of the Year the last two seasons, as well as senior starters Tricia Liston, a sharpshooter at guard, and Haley Peters, a rebounding and scoring guard-forward. For Virginia to stay with Duke, the Cavaliers may need to put on their best defensive performance of the year. Just don't expect much appreciation from the Cameron Crazies if they do.



# Sizzling Cavs prepare for weekend double

*After demanding early schedule, matmen face Duke, Old Dominion as heavy favorites*

**Andrew O'Shea**  
Senior Writer

Virginia looks to continue its successful season with two road matchups in the next three days. Friday, the Cavaliers (11-2, 1-0 ACC) will play at Duke before travelling to face Old Dominion two days later. Virginia is currently riding a four-match win streak, with the last win coming against No. 14 Edinboro.

The Cavaliers, currently ranked No. 12 in the nation, have already faced four ranked teams and sport a 2-2 record in those games. This includes a win against rival Virginia Tech, who was ranked eighth when the two teams played.

"Our guys are tested from tough battles throughout the season and they are thriving," Virginia coach Steve Garland said, "We are where we want to be right now."

Virginia has beaten Duke (3-5, 0-1 ACC) eight consecutive times and shut the Blue Devils out last year, 38-0. While the Cavaliers aim to beat them a ninth straight time, Duke is a better team this year, having won its last two matches. The Cavaliers cannot afford to overlook them.

"Past results are meaningless," Garland said. "This is a new year and a new team, and we need to be ready to go out and battle or we could have some problems."

18 Wisconsin and lost to No. 14 Edinboro by just one point. The Monarchs have sophomore Chris Mecate, who is No. 4 in the nation at 141 pounds.

Virginia's success this season

Redshirt sophomore Blaise Butler has been particularly important for Virginia. In his first season as a starter, Butler is ranked No. 12 nationally at 157 pounds. Against Virginia Tech, with the

Garland said. "Last year he was good, but this year he is on a whole new level."

Redshirt junior Nick Sulzer has also been one of the best for Virginia this year. An All-American last year, he is ranked No. 2 at 165 pounds and has won 22 out of his 23 matches this season. He was named the ACC Wrestler of the Week for last week's matches.

Other key Cavaliers have been redshirt senior Stephen Doty at 174 pounds and redshirt junior Gus Sako at 149 pounds. They are both ranked and have records this season of 18-6 and 14-1, respectively.

"I get to practice with the best every day," Sulzer said. "We all get to wrestle with and benefit from each other, and I think that is really important in a strong lineup."

Duke has sophomore Conner Hartmann ranked at 197 pounds. With no one else ranked, the Blue Devils are clear underdogs on paper. Besides Mecate, Old Dominion has three others who have been ranked at some point this season, at 125, 149, and 157 pounds.

Virginia's redshirt junior Joe Spisak has the toughest matchup, as he will face Mecate. Spisak ranks No. 16 at 141 pounds. Butler and Sako will wrestle two of the Monarchs' other top wrestlers, so they will need strong performances for the Cavaliers to win.



Emily Gorkman | The Cavalier Daily

Redshirt junior Nick Sulzer wrestles his opponent in a match earlier this season. Sulzer is the reigning ACC Wrestler of the Week.

Although Old Dominion's record is not great, the Monarchs (3-7, 0-2 MAC) have shown the ability to compete with better opponents. They beat No.

has hinged on the middle and heavier weight classes. The Cavaliers currently have wrestlers ranked nationally at 141, 149, 157, 165, 174 and 184 pounds.

Cavaliers down a point, Butler pinned his opponent to give the team the lead.

"Blaise is one of the most improved athletes I have ever seen,"



Jenna Truong | The Cavalier Daily

Sophomore Stephanie Nauta, above, teamed with fellow sophomore Maci Epstein for a 6-0 doubles victory against William & Mary Wednesday night.

## No. 13 Virginia steamrolls Tribe 5-2

The No. 13 Virginia women's tennis team began its season in dominating fashion, trouncing William & Mary 5-2 Wednesday. Both squads were missing star players in the contest, with Cavalier sophomore Julia Elbaba and Tribe senior Jeltje Loomans sitting out. Each player contributes immensely to her team's success, with Elbaba checking in as the ninth-ranked singles player in the nation and Loomans forming half of the No. 7 double's team in the country.

William & Mary (0-2) was

unable to fill the void left by Loomans, and Virginia (1-0) started the match strongly by easily securing the doubles point with wins on the second and third courts. Sophomore duo Stephanie Nauta and Maci Epstein set the tone with a swift 6-0 victory, and the tandem of freshman Rachel Pierson and senior Caryssa Peretz quickly followed suit with a 6-2 win on the third court.

Virginia continued its strong play in the singles portion of the contest, with No. 58 Nauta easily

winning her match 6-2, 6-1. The Cavaliers got solid performances out of all three of its newcomers, as Pierson, fellow freshman Marie Faure and sophomore Florida transfer Danielle Collins all earned convincing victories to ensure the season-opening win.

The Cavaliers will return to Charlottesville this weekend for the individual U.Va. Winter Invite tournament, which begins Saturday and runs through Monday at the Boar's Head Sports Club.

—compiled by Ryan Taylor



## Twerving Out 2013 Top five pop culture moments

Robin Yeh

1. *Anything Miley Cyrus did*  
No celebrity captured our attention and manipulated our minds more than Miley Cyrus. Her bizarre music video for “We Can’t Stop” had us scratching our heads, but it was her controversial, twerk-filled Video Music Awards performance with Robin Thicke that officially signified the end of Disney’s innocent child star.
2. *The Royal Baby*  
Sorry Kimye, but Prince William and Kate Middleton had one of the most talked about babies of all time. Prince George’s birth in July set off a media frenzy as hundreds of reporters skipped silly stories, like the actual news, and spent weeks staking out London hospitals for a glimpse of England’s future king.
3. *“Harlem Shake” goes viral*  
DJ Baauer’s 15 minutes of fame arrived in the form of thousands of 30-second videos produced by virtually anyone with a camera and a YouTube account. Thankfully, the ridiculous, overrated phenomenon ended before Spring arrived, and we can only hope it doesn’t return.
4. *“Breaking Bad” breaks records*  
After five seasons of gripping cliffhangers, sociopathic villains and awkward family breakfasts, Vince Gilligan’s twisted, tragic, but ultimately terrific saga about a high school chemistry teacher turned drug lord came to a satisfying end. Regardless of your investment in the series, it was difficult to escape the buzz (and spoilers) surrounding Walter White’s send-off.
5. *Beyoncé rules*  
From a knockout Super Bowl performance to a surprise visual album, Queen Bey reigned over 2013 in spectacular fashion. Despite criticism over a lip-synced performance at Obama’s inauguration, she didn’t stop pleasing adoring fans and proving haters wrong.

## Top five songs

Catherine Jessee

1. *“Get Lucky” - Daft Punk*  
The delightful guitar riff alone makes this the song of the year, and “Blurred Lines” just got boring. Daft Punk’s approach to “getting lucky” is so much more mature, and it will age beautifully.
2. *“We Can’t Stop” - Miley Cyrus*  
We can’t stop listening to Miley, and however much we praise, condemn or intellectualize her VMA performance, this song is electric.
3. *“Retrograde” - James Blake*  
James Blake hauntingly deconstructs of a piece of melody inspired by Sam Cooke’s “Troubled Blues,” underlaid by a vaguely hip-hop inspired beat and overlaid by a series of synth chords.
4. *“Royals” - Lorde*  
Lorde, who doesn’t have the history of Beyoncé or the eminence of Miley, proves she doesn’t need either to create a song as perfectly catchy as “Royals.”
5. *“XO” - Beyoncé*  
Uplifting and upbeat, this is a song with heart — deeply humane and lovely in every way.

## Worst five songs

Riley Panko

1. *“Blurred Lines” - Robin Thicke ft. T.I., Pharrell Williams*  
Between all the well-founded controversy over the song’s message, listeners can easily forget how bad this tune sounds. Despite ripping the beat off ‘70s Motown artist Marvin Gaye, Robin Thicke couldn’t even come close to recreating the suave style of the soul legend.
2. *“Roar” - Katy Perry*  
This sad attempt at an empowerment anthem is the definition of cookie-cutter pop.
3. *“Accidental Racist” - Brad Paisley ft. LL Cool J*  
Look at the title. Look at the two artists. I say no more.
4. *“Sweater Weather” - The Neighbourhood*  
This dreary and whiney indie hit somehow managed to crawl into the Top 40 recently. I wish it had stayed with the hipsters.
5. *“Stay the Night” ft. Hayley Williams - Zedd*  
Featuring Hayley Williams shrieking some of the most mindless and uninspiring lyrics in recent pop history, this forgettable dance track makes me cringe.

## Top five artists

Katie Cole

1. *Beyoncé:*  
Like this was even hard. No one, and I mean no one, casually releases a secret album and gets away with it...except Beyoncé.
2. *Lorde:*  
Sixteen and already holding a hair full of genius secrets (a la Gretchen Weiners), this young star has a bright future, and I can’t wait to see more.
3. *Imagine Dragons:*  
They’ve been around for a while but really broke through in 2013 — hit after hit.
4. *OneRepublic:*  
After quite the hiatus, OneRepublic took radio by storm and has definitely made it’s place at the top.
5. *Demi Lovato:*  
So...maybe not the best artist of 2013 but she is really producing some major music and has come a long way as an artist...and I didn’t want to put Miley Cyrus because she really doesn’t need more press.

## Worst five artists

Vondrae McCoy

1. *Justin Bieber*  
Justin has had quite a year. From drug use and fighting with the paparazzi, to his on-again, off-again relationship with Selena Gomez and even insulting Anne Frank — the list of grievances against this young superstar is endless.
2. *Chris Brown*  
Chris Brown has never fully recovered from his domestic violence charges back in 2009. The albums he releases seem to get worse and worse as the years go by. While being an extremely talented guy, he seems to be living in the shadow of his severe anger issues.
3. *will.i.am*  
Not surprisingly, will.i.am used 2013 to prove once and for all that he is here only to make senseless dance tunes. His lyricism is beyond terrible, and after his album released earlier in 2013 to much controversy over sampling issues, I completely lost hope for him.
4. *Lil Wayne*  
This rapper has been on the scene for some time now. He’s had a long, great run of awesome rap (and a few rock) hits, but after his latest release last March, it’s clear that this long revered rapper is no longer in his prime.
5. *Britney Spears*  
Shockingly, Britney took 2013 to delve deeper into trashy electronic music that distorted her voice almost beyond recognition, and accentuates the fact that she just can’t move like she used to.

## Worst five fashion trends

Candace Carter

1. *The Crop Top:*  
They are everywhere. They have invaded. They have taken over! There is a crop top monopoly in all the most popular stores for young ladies — Forever 21, Charlotte Russe, you name it. Why can’t fashion trends be more versatile and flattering for women of all shapes and sizes?
2. *Denim:*  
Denim jeans are an absolute staple, yes. But just because denim dresses, vests, and tank-tops were acceptable in the late 1970s, does not mean they are today.
3. *The Slouchy Pants:*  
These pants are purposely ill-fitting and loose from the hips to the knees, where they tighten again in strange ruffles. I’ve yet to see them paired with a shirt that is crafted to match well. Because the pants slim down in such a short space, any sort of shirt throws off the proportional cohesion of the whole ensemble.
4. *Patterned Leggings:*  
Certain patterns are absolutely fabulous and work well with soft, neutral colors, like simple floral prints. Other patterns, like the anatomically correct musculature of a human leg, are gross and offensive.
5. *Toe Shoes:*  
These shoes are normal in most aspects of design and similar to the exterior of Puma tennis shoes: streamlined, athletic-looking, and physically flexible. The only difference is the five individual toe slots that shape the shoe’s point. They give the illusion of webbed toes, a trick that should be reserved for those dressing as ducks on Halloween.





# Digital Love

Spike Jonze's "Her" melts hearts with quirky cast, stellar script

Conor Sheehey  
Senior Editor

"The machine does not isolate man from the great problems of nature but plunges him more deeply into them," the great French poet Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote in his 1939 memoir "Wind, Sand and Stars." This issue lies at the heart of "Her," the latest cinematic effort from writer-director Spike Jonze.

The film, which blurs the line between romantic comedy and heavy drama, showcases the terrific power of technology in helping us to cope with trauma and create human connections, but it also emphasizes the limitations of systems and machines in offering a rich and sustainable lifestyle.

Offering profound and nuanced commentary on this front, the film excels as both intellectual exercise and entertainment piece. Without ever resorting to heavy-handed tactics or sentimentalizing, Jonze and his team of talented filmmakers and actors have created an honest and captivating tale of love, loss, heartbreak, personal passion and every other term likely to appear in a trailer for the latest Nicholas Sparks sobfest.

"Her" tells the story of Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix), an ailing soon-to-be divorcee who makes a living off of writing (or rather, dictating) love letters and greeting cards for individuals and couples looking to express their love in particularly eloquent ways. Unfortunately, despite his apparent knack for

capturing other people's emotions and desires on paper, Twombly proves less than successful at communicating his own feelings and coping with the messiness inherent in human relationships. Twombly's story takes a turn, however, when he meets Samantha (Scarlett Johansson in a voice-only role), an operating system who manages Theodore's life and offers insight and companionship.

Samantha is like Siri on steroids. When Twombly falls hard for her, the feeling appears to be mutual. Despite lacking a body, Samantha seems to provide the perfect partner for Theodore, at least until a deeper and more complex emotional state begins taking root within her, burdening the relationship with the same issues that hinder and often sever conventional human bonds, along with a host of other complications created by Samantha's status as a machine.

Some of the film's humor begins to fall away as Twombly and Samantha are forced to come to terms with their limitations, flaws, desires and dreams, but "Her" refuses to obey cinematic conventions and clichés. Its plot proves unpredictable yet consistently plausible, as we come to understand and sympathize with a love affair between a man and "his laptop," as Twombly's ex-wife Catherine (Rooney Mara) quips.

Importantly, there are no heroes or villains here, and every character and

perspective in the film receives respect and attention from the filmmakers. When Catherine, for instance, chastises Twombly for his inability to work through problems and cope with real emotions, we see her point and question Twombly's decision to flee from humanity and cling to technology. The brilliance of the film is that even as we agree with Catherine, we also identify with the highs and lows of Twombly and Samantha's relationship, and we viscerally feel Theodore's pain and struggles throughout the film, in part thanks to Phoenix's



"Her" may make you think twice about your bond with Siri and the voice inside your GPS, but more likely than not, it will also move you and challenge your view on human bonds.

expert performance.

The acting on display in "Her" is nothing short of mesmerizing. From the leading man to the smallest bit player, every performer involved in the production brings warmth, sincerity and nuance to the project. The performances make the film's relationships, whether major or minor, come across as frighteningly real. Phoenix, often prone to mumbling or scenery-chewing his way through his roles, gives a career-best

performance as Twombly, whom he imbues with both imperfections and charm. As Samantha, Johansson is almost as good, doing more with her voice alone than most actors can accomplish with their entire bodies.

Still, the film's standout turns come from Rooney Mara, Amy Adams and Chris Pratt. Rather than play Catherine as a shrill shrew or a disinterested straight-shooter, Mara brings passion and charisma to the role; she makes us believe that Twombly could have fallen for her years before the film takes place, but an undercurrent of sadness and volatility within her also allows us to understand why the marriage fell apart. In more humorous roles, Adams and Pratt elicit both laughter and sympathy as Twombly's best friend and his coworker, respectively.

Beyond the film's acting, the exquisite art direction, stunning cinematography and stellar score come together to create a quirky atmosphere that, while never drawing attention to itself, both hints at the film's futuristic timeframe and offers an intriguing setting for even the most trivial of moments. "Her" casts a suspicious gaze on technology and its claim to free us from our human struggles, but through its own formal beauty, the film also showcases the awe-inspiring sights and sounds of both the natural and the artificial worlds.

"Her" may make you think twice about your bond with Siri and the voice inside your GPS, but more likely than not, it will also move you and challenge your view on human bonds.

Courtesy slate.com

## “HUSTLE” FLOWS WELL

DAVID O. RUSSELL'S LATEST FILM OFFERS EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT



Ryan Bedsaul  
Staff Writer

“American Hustle” is all about the thrills: the show, the fireworks — the hustle. As a loose adaptation of the early 80s ABSCAM operation, the film showcases cons and feds playing dress up for congressmen, investors and, at one point, the mob. Everyone is vulnerable, and everyone gets taken for a ride. Hell, the film itself attempts to hustle its audience to some extent. As an opening slide tells us: “Some of this actually happened.”

What’s really going on in “Hustle” is all inside the mind of director David O. Russell.

Hot off his last hits “Silver Linings Playbook” and “The Fighter,” Russell brings life to the film with his invasive camera maneuvers and two-minute combover takes. You can feel his touch throughout, focusing audiences in on the little details that make his characters the broken individuals you see onscreen.

Working with a script that appears largely more interested in what happened between these characters than staying faithful to the real life story, Russell is supported by a spectacular acting ensemble.

Christian Bale, dynamic as ever, plays the street-smart Irving Rosenfeld, packing depth into a character who cons for a living. Jennifer Lawrence is fantastic as usual as Irving’s wife Rosalyn, sharing one of the film’s tensest scenes with Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams). Add in Bradley Cooper as Richie DiMaso, Jeremy Renner as the do-gooder politician Carmine Polito, Louis C.K., and a cameo to die for, and the result is one of the best films of the year.

In one scene, Rosalyn flutters her polished red fingernails around the dinner table, asking everyone to take notice of the garbage-like smell the prime nail polish gives off. It’s the same stench that permeates throughout the exaggerated style of the movie — and it’s wonderful. Go see it, and let it sweep you off your feet.



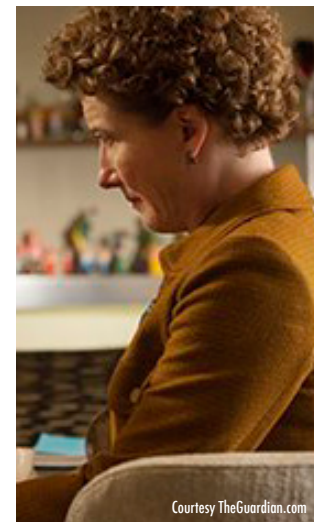
Jamie Shalvey  
Associate Editor

The Disney that many of us knew as children was a magical, fairytale factory from which instant classics came. What we never saw was what went on behind the scenes of our beloved films. “Saving Mr. Banks” serves as a backstage lens into the making of “Mary Poppins” with the collaboration between Disney and the writer of the original novel, P.L. Travers.

The film, created by Disney, lends itself to criticism about how accurately Walt Disney and his corporation are portrayed. Can the film’s sugarcoating of the writing process, the company as a whole and Walt Disney himself be called self-promotion? On some counts, yes, but the film undeniably succeeds.

Tom Hanks creates a Walt Disney with an air of arrogance and stubbornness, continually referring to P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) as “Pam” instead of

## “Saving Mr. Banks” delivers spoonful of sugar-coated delight



her preferred “Mrs. Travers,” and offering up pre-signed cards to fans at Disneyland rather than signing autographs. Disney has his own ideas in mind for “Mary Poppins” and has a difficult time collaborating with Travers.

The film places its focus on two weeks of time in the early ‘60s, when Travers travels from London to Los Angeles, hesitantly meeting with Disney and his team to discuss adapting her beloved novel into a film. Travers is adamant about keeping animation and the sparkling, Disney fairy tale quality out of her beloved story, and wants to stick to her original vision as much as possible. Only through a series of flashbacks does the audience learn that Travers’ attachment to the original work stems not from stubbornness but a personal connection.

Throughout the film, viewers travel back to Travers’ childhood in rural Australia, witnessing the writer’s relationship with her father — a man whom she looks up to but who struggles with alcohol

abuse and frequent job changes — who serves as the basis for George Banks in “Mary Poppins.”

After seeing this film I was eager to re-watch the classic that I had almost completely forgotten, so I popped the tape into my old VCR and relived the magic, only with a new perspective. I noticed similarities between Travers’ childhood and the experiences of the children, Jane and Michael, but mostly I was moved by the portrayal of Mr. Banks. “Saving Mr. Banks” puts emphasis on the creation of the father more than on the children or even Mary Poppins. As Mrs. Travers puts it — “Mary Poppins didn’t come to save the children.” As we find out, she came to save their father.

“Saving Mr. Banks” may have come from a less than impartial source, and some may view the way it pulls at the audience’s heartstrings as self-promotion, but overall, the film works. Just like “Mary Poppins,” this movie is one that can be watched for generations.

## Scorsese delivers cinematic high

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During an epic three hours of sex, boozing, goldfish eating, drug use that would leave Tony Montana’s head spinning and a record breaking 506 uses of the F-bomb, it’s safe to say that Martin Scorsese’s “The Wolf of Wall Street” bites. It’s over-the-top and entertaining as hell.

Good ol’ Leonardo DiCaprio is as watchable as ever in his role as Jordan Belfort, a bright up-and-coming Wall Street stockbroker-turned-greedy, sex-crazed and drug-addicted founder and CEO of the Stratton Oakmont Company. The film is essentially a chronicle of his rise and fall on Wall Street, with a “Goodfellas”-esque vibe. But unlike the



story of Henry Hill — a character who primarily acts as our liaison into the wise guy ring — in “Wolf,” we get more of a handle on the character of Jordan Belfort, perhaps thanks to DiCaprio’s livewire performance. You can’t take your eyes off him. Just wait for the late scene in the film in which Belfort and partner-in-crime Donnie Azoff (played by the always-hilarious Jonah Hill) pop expired Lemmon Quaaludes to reach a legendary high. When the Quaaludes don’t take effect right away, the two decide to pop a few more, only to discover a delayed reaction time of 30 minutes resulting in cartoonish, near-death experiences for the both of them.

In a sense, that’s what the whole movie boils down to: a fixation on the present and the immediate satisfaction of a moment. Belfort gets so caught up

in his outlandish lifestyle that he loses himself to it. He buys a multi-million dollar yacht, pilots his own helicopter, wrecks an entire floor of a Vegas hotel that charges \$2 million in renovations for the insane bachelor party, makes dirty deals with the Swedes and shags on a bed of cash with sexy trophy wife Naomi (Margot Robbie in a breakout role).

Some people won’t like the world Scorsese drags us into, but no one can deny his mastery in creating it. At one point, Scorsese essentially holds a mirror up to his audience, as Jordan Belfort one-by-one asks a crowd full of people to sell him his pen. Are we all suckers for this lifestyle — for the “American Dream”?

With “Wolf,” Scorsese crafts a movie high that’s hard to come down from. There’s nothing else like it.