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RECLAMATION AND RECOVERY

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This week in-brief

CD News Staff

Beta Bridge vandalized with white supremacist slogan

A painted message by the Zeta Phi Beta sorority on Beta Bridge was vandalized Thursday by an unknown party with the words, “It’s OK to be white,” a phrase frequently used online by white nationalists. Zeta Phi Beta, a historically-black sorority, was honoring its national founding on Jan. 16, 1920. The bridge, located on Rugby Road, was defaced sometime around 1 a.m. Thursday morning, according to an email sent to The Cavalier Daily. Hours later, the graffiti was smeared and illegible. The phrase “it’s OK to be white” started on 4chan, an online discussion board, in 2017 and was co-opted by groups like the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist website The Daily Stormer.

“Graffiti and comments that are hateful or aimed to intimidate others are inconsistent with our shared values and have no place anywhere in our community,” University spokesperson Anthony de Bruyn said in an email statement to The Cavalier Daily. He added that the University Police Department did not receive a report of the incident and would not be launching an investigation into the matter because Beta Bridge is not a University-owned property. A spokesperson for the Charlottesville Police Department told The Cavalier Daily that its detectives are not currently investigating the matter.



JAKE GOLD | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The graffiti was smeared and illegible hours after the defacement.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

UBE chair Alex Smith-Scales spoke to prospective candidates.

University Board of Elections, student government gear up for 2019 elections

The University Board of Elections has begun preparing for its upcoming student election cycle, where candidates can run for positions on Student Council, Class Council, individual school councils, Honor Committee and the University Judiciary Committee. UBE, which oversees elections and vets potential candidates, is in charge of handling campaign violations, with violations transferred to UJC and Honor if necessary. Several restrictions are in place for campaigning, including those specifying poster size limits and chalking locations.

Alex Smith-Scales, fourth-year College student and UBE chair, said this year’s process expands the timelines for both voting and campaigning. Last year, students had

two days to vote, and this year, they have three. Last year, candidates had a week to campaign, and this year, they have eight days. Additionally, Smith-Scales said, there will be more polling stations available to students.

“We really hope that we can get the message out there better this year about voting and why it’s important to vote,” Smith-Scales said. “Our theme for voting this year is ‘Your Voice, Your UVA.’ We really want people to know that when you are actively voting, you are making a difference at U.Va., and you’re shaping the University for the better.”

Construction begins on Memorial to Enslaved Laborers

Construction on the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers — a physical commemoration of the slave labor used to build much of the Academical Village — is underway on the triangle of grass east of the Rotunda and Brooks Hall and adjacent to University Avenue. It is expected to be fully completed in early October 2019. The Commission on Slavery and the University was established by former University president Teresa Sullivan to lead efforts to reconcile the University’s history of slave labor with the present day, and has been tasked with research efforts, collaborating with peer institutions to discuss the history of slavery and college campuses and the memorial project.

The granite structure will form two concentric circles with an opening to create space for gathering and reflection. The inner walls of the memorial will feature 973 known names of individuals who were enslaved at the University, along with an estimated 4,000 placeholders for those whose names have not been discovered.

In August, the Board of Visitors approved funding for the project and endorsed University President Jim Ryan’s proposal that \$2.5 million be allocated from the Strategic Investment Fund in order to one-to-one match private donor gifts to the memorial construction fund through 2019.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Memorial to Enslaved Laborers will sit near Brooks Hall.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

U.Va. is still working on its exact policy on e-scooter parking.

U.Va. to enforce new electric scooter policy to promote safe riding on Grounds

Safety concerns regarding the addition of 200 Lime electric scooters and 100 Bird electric scooters have prompted the University to consider enforcing a new e-scooter policy. Currently, the University has encouraged students to park electric vehicles at existing UBike stations, such as those outside Clark Hall, Newcomb Hall and the Aquatic & Fitness Center. However, Deputy University spokesperson Wes Hester told The Cavalier Daily that the University is still working on creating a new policy on e-scooter parking and will release more information in the coming weeks. Hester also stated that the University requested through the City that e-scooter companies limit usage in “key sensitive

areas like the Lawn and sidewalks.”

The e-scooters and e-bikes — which have become a regular sight around Grounds, on the Corner and the Downtown Mall — are currently regulated internally by the companies and externally by the City and Charlottesville Police Department. Hester noted that the University is working with the e-scooter companies on safety issues. However, despite reports of scooters mounting the sidewalks, no scooter-related tickets have been issued by University Police since the scooters were introduced to Grounds last November, Hester said.

U.Va. to establish new School of Data Science

Proposed new school will offer doctoral and undergraduate degree programs

Nik Popli | News Editor

The Quantitative Foundation, led by local hedge fund magnate Jaffray Woodruff, has pledged \$120 million to establish the University's first School of Data Science, breaking a record to become the largest private gift in the University's 200-year history. University President Jim Ryan formally announced its plan for the new school at a ceremony in the Rotunda Friday morning.

The School of Data Science will become the University's 12th school and first since the 2007 creation of the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. The new school — which will be created in two to three years — is aimed at providing students with the resources to learn and conduct research on the field of data science, with a focus on addressing ethical, social and political issues related to technology.

"This is obviously a historic day because of the size of the gift and because of the fact that we don't open new schools every day," Ryan said in his announcement speech. "My hope is that we can build one of the most advanced and comprehensive

schools of data science in the world, focused on using data in service of the public good."

The gift will fund an array of research initiatives at the University, including education analytics to improve the student learning experience, as well as expanding current research on biomedicine and precision health.

Jaffray and Merrill Woodruff, the billionaire family behind the Quantitative Foundation, have donated to the University before. Both graduates of the University, the Woodruff family provided a \$10 million grant in 2014 used to establish the Data Science Institute, which will be integrated into the School of Data Science.

"I believe the decision to be [one of] the first — to elevate the Institute of Data Science to the level of a school — further emboldens this University to continue to be a leader in the field, which I believe plays a central role in shaping our future," Jaffray Woodruff said.

Woodruff has a diverse portfolio of business activities, including serv-

ing as CEO of Quantitative Investment Management — a Charlottesville-based hedge fund with more than \$2.8 billion under management today — and as an angel investor in the local startup and entrepreneurial community.

The foundation's \$120 million gift — which will be matched by funds from the University's Bicentennial Professors Fund and Bicentennial Scholars Fund for a total of roughly \$220 million — is expected to go towards a new 70,000 square foot building for the school, faculty and administration, doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships, and an endowed fund for visiting scholars from other schools.

The School of Data Science is currently in the design phase, according to Ryan. Before becoming an official school, the University needs approval from the Faculty Senate, Board of Visitors and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

Under the proposed plan, the school will operate as a satellite or center rather than a department.

The University hopes this will allow the school to collaborate with other schools on Grounds, including areas like ethics, policy and law, allowing faculty to hold joint appointments in various disciplines. The University has not chosen a site for the center.

Former University President Teresa Sullivan started the conversation about establishing a School of Data Science when the University created the Data Science Institute in 2014. In an interview with the Cavalier Daily, Sullivan said she now anticipates the University to see an increase in research expenditures that are consistent with most new schools.

"I think this school will push us even faster because every school benefits from it," Sullivan said. "Suppose you have a professor in McIntire who has a great database. Now he's going to have access to a data science PhD student. Think about the medical school where data is transforming the way medicine is practiced."

Ryan stated that the School of Data Science will offer doctoral and

undergraduate degree programs as well as certificate programs that can be combined with any major. He told The Cavalier Daily that he does not anticipate rising tuition costs associated with the addition of a new school, but does expect to see modest growth in the number of students applying to the University over time.

Phil Bourne, current director of the Data Science Institute, will serve as the school's acting dean. Bourne said that students will be eligible to apply for the School of Data Science in their third year of enrollment at the University.

Governor Ralph Northam (D-Va.) and Congressman Denver Riggleman (R-Va.) also spoke at the announcement ceremony about how they believe data science and technology will help grow the economy of Virginia.

New details emerge in hazing complaint against sorority

Sigma Lambda Upsilon filed a federal lawsuit against U.Va. in September 2018

Nik Popli | News Editor

The University suspended Latina sorority Sigma Lambda Upsilon last March for allegedly violating the University's hazing policy after a new member complained to a professor about pledging for the sorority while a student in their class. Nearly one year later, the organization remains suspended by the University.

SLU — also known as Señoritas Latinas Unidas — filed a federal lawsuit against U.Va. in September, claiming the University incorrectly identified a requirement to study 25 hours per week as a "serious hazing activity." Several University officials — including Pat Lampkin, Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer, Hal Turner, Asst. Dean and Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life and FSL Program Coordinator Caroline Ott — were named as defendants in the amended lawsuit, which was submitted Jan. 2.

Information obtained from the University in an open records request by The Cavalier Daily indicates additional details about the sorority's recruitment process that led U.Va. to suspend the organization. According

to the Office of the Dean of Students' hazing complaint from March, new members were expected to spend more than 50 hours per week with the sorority, to stay on Grounds for spring break without being told why and to stand and stare at a fixed point on a wall for unreasonable amounts of time, as well as studying 25 hours per week, as noted in the lawsuit.

"SLU new members were enduring physical, emotional, and mental stress directly as a result of many aspects of the SLU New Member Process," the complaint reads.

The University's Hazing Evaluation Panel determined the professor's report — which was received by the Office of the Dean of Students Feb. 14, 2018 — was credible and notified law enforcement and the Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Charlottesville.

The records also indicate that Turner and Ott met with the sorority to discuss the new member process and the requirements to pledge — including studying 25 hours per week, spending 12 hours per day on weekends learning about the sorority

and attending the sorority's national conference in New York during spring break. The report states that new members were not informed of the spring break trip because it was intended as a surprise.

New members indicated in meetings with FSL that they were each issued a daily schedule based on their academics and were "assigned SLU project time, structured study time, structured eating time and time that must be spent with sisters." The report adds that new members were expected to all dress in similar attire, such as a certain color scheme every day.

"All new members expressed emotional stress as a result of struggling to meet the time demands of the SLU new member process," the report reads. "New members also expressed sentiments of feeling supported by the chapter."

Under University policy, hazing is defined as an action taken or situation created by a student organization or athletic team toward members or prospective members occurring on University-owned or leased property or at University-sponsored functions that

"is designed to produce or does produce mental or physical harassment, humiliation, fatigue, degradation, ridicule, shock, or injury."

Examples of hazing the University lists in its policy include forced excursions, confinement, servitude, verbal abuse, forced consumption of any substance and sleep deprivation. Hazing is a Class 1 misdemeanor in Virginia.

"Based on the evidence obtained from written statements, and an evaluation of the perceived credibility of the relevant Sigma Lambda Upsilon witnesses, the investigators do find Sigma Lambda Upsilon responsible for violating the University's hazing policy," the report concludes.

The University spokesperson did not return a request for comment on the "perceived credibility" of the sorority mentioned in the report.

The sorority will remain suspended until they provide Fraternity and Sorority Life staff with a copy of all updated governing documents, including new member education plans and guidelines from the national headquarters.

SLU currently lists an anti-hazing

policy on the membership interest page of its website, which states the organization "does not condone and will not tolerate the hazing in any manner."

"Our new member education program is intended to foster and embody sisterhood," the policy continues.

Isabel Argoti, the National Director of Public Relations at SLU, did not respond to a request for comment.

The University temporarily sanctioned and suspended four Greek organizations for policy violations in 2018, including the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity for allegedly forcing alcohol consumption and head-butting during recruitment, the Alpha Chi Omega sorority for allegedly forcing drinking and the Lambda Phi Epsilon fraternity for allegedly encouraging sex, alcohol consumption, pranks or physical activity as part of the new-member process. All of these organizations — with the exception of SLU — have been able to resolve the complaints.

Student groups respond to President Ryan's working group

The working group recently identified seven issues it sees as critical at UVA. and in Charlottesville

Caroline Stoerker | Senior Associate Editor

The arrival of University President Jim Ryan on Grounds last August brought a number of initiatives to the University community, ranging from early morning runs throughout Grounds to a promise during his inauguration on Oct. 19 that in-state students from families with annual incomes under \$80,000 would be able to attend the University tuition-free.

But one of the largest initiatives of Ryan's presidency so far is his formation of a community working group. Created in October 2018, the group functions to strengthen ties between the Charlottesville community and the University — ties that historically have been strained — and identify the most pressing issues facing the region.

The 16-member working group, comprised of faculty members, community members and a Law student, has now identified seven main issues of focus — affordable housing, jobs and wages at the University, youth and education, law enforcement and criminal justice reform, public health care, transportation and institutional accountability at the University.

Juandiego Wade, Charlottesville School Board chair and working group co-chair, said that the working group drew from existing studies of needs in the Charlottesville area, as well as the varied experiences of the group members, to identify the issues.

"We had a short window to pull together a lot of information," Wade said. He added that the group generated the information from "the experienced background knowledge of the working group and the tons and tons of studies that have already been done."

Wade did not cite any specific studies the group used to draw their information from during the interview but did call the studies unbiased and complete.

Vilas Annavarapu, a third-year College student and the chair of Asian Leaders Council — an advocacy group on Grounds that has primarily worked towards increased representation of Asian/Asian Pacific Americans in the University's academic departments — said he appreciated the working group's efforts to identify where the University needs to build bridges with the greater Charlottesville community.

"For a long time, UVA. has utilized the Charlottesville community and has taken a lot of the resources Charlottesville has to offer without really giving back too much," Annavarapu said. "That exploitative relationship really needs to be challenged."

Annavarapu noted the identi-

fied need for affordable housing as one that is highly critical to address. Affordable housing has been on the radar of city officials for several years, with the greater Charlottesville area in need of over 4,000 affordable housing units in order to meet the demand posed by low-income residents. Recent efforts have been made in order to attempt to rectify the need, including a proposal of a \$50 million bond to facilitate public housing and affordable housing development in the area. No recent progress has been made with this proposal.

Natalie Romero, a third-year College student and the student director of the Multicultural Student Center, said that community issues often overlap with issues minority students face at the University, also citing a lack of affordable off-Grounds housing options as a problem many of these students encounter.

"Many of the demands that students have definitely overlap with community demands because our demands stem from the inequalities that both locals and UVA students of color/ low-income students face," Romero said in an email to The Cavalier Daily. "We have a hard time with housing because here it's so expensive, and then we know that UVA buys-out property and then displaces locals."

The Living Wage Campaign is another student advocacy group that has been working for over 20 years to implement a living wage — \$12.03 in Charlottesville for a single adult, or \$16.84 for a family of four — for all University employees. Todd Le, a fourth-year Engineering student and social media chair of the group, said during an interview with The Cavalier Daily that the Living Wage Campaign was in agreement with the working group about the critical nature of the identified issues, especially those concerning jobs and wages.

"The issues listed are definitely the ones we see as pressing and kind of paint a broader picture of the kind of struggles that a low-income person in Charlottesville faces beyond just wages and not having enough to pay rent," Le said.

Le said he hopes that the next steps of the working group and Ryan would be to generate solutions to the living wage problem at the University while being mindful of costs of living and inflation by the end of the school year.

"We would want them to increase wages without letting people off, as well as develop ways to make sure that wage number is maintained with inflation and future changes in cost of living," Le said.



SOPHIE ROEHSE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

University President Jim Ryan's recently established community working group has asked the community to provide input on seven key issues via a survey on the working group's website, which will remain live until the end of January.

"We can't predict what the future of living wage is, but we can build mechanisms into the way we build living wage to make sure it stays a living wage."

The working group has now asked the community to provide input on the seven issues via a survey on the working group's website in order to help determine which areas should be prioritized in the next five years. The survey — which opened mid January — will remain live until the end of January and offers brief descriptions of the identified issues, as well as space for individuals to rank three issues they see as most important to address.

According to Wade, over 1,000 responses had been submitted within only a few days of the survey's release, but Le said he felt the survey had not been well publicized to the University community.

Le also acknowledged that although the survey's instructions for individuals to rank their top three issues were necessary for prioritization, selecting only three felt "limiting."

"It's hard to say any one issue is more important than the other," Le said. "There's connections between each of them, and I feel like by addressing one, you will effectively need to address all of them."

Annavarapu is hopeful that the survey will be a first step in helping the University become more cognizant of the impact it has on Charlottesville.

"I would not say a survey by

itself would fully elucidate those issues, but it's probably a stepping stone to broader and more intentional and thoughtful outreach," Annavarapu said.

Romero believes that the working group has its own role to play in becoming more cognizant of the opinions of its students as well, expressing a need for clarity in its proceedings.

"I hope the group operates under full transparency instead of keeping things within closed doors because then we don't feel like nothing is happening and I hope they give us updates on things that they are in the process of or have gotten done," Romero said. "With transparency comes a sense of understanding."

To Annavarapu, University students themselves should be invested in what kinds of issues run through the veins of Charlottesville and the University, and he believes that they play a substantive role in shaping what occurs throughout Charlottesville.

"The responsibility of students at UVA. to be invested in the needs of Charlottesville is big, and I don't think that's a link that's been made to the degree that needs to be made," Annavarapu said. "Regardless of what your involvements are ... your existence sustains a type of relationship that the University has with the broader community."

Following the conclusion of the survey and the working group's direct conversations with community members, findings will be analyzed

and placed in a two to three page report for Ryan by the end of February. Wade said that at this point in time, the working group is unsure of what the report and the next steps will look like due to the group's current emphasis on public engagement. The group was available Jan. 20 to 22 in various places throughout Charlottesville — including a City Council meeting, Carver Recreation Center and Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church — to receive community input.

"We've been really focused on the public engagement part of it thus far," Wade said. "We feel comfortable that once we get this information, we'll know what to do with it."

Wade said that the working group will likely continue to identify issues following the completion of the survey and report.

"This is not going to be the last shot to address these issues," Wade said, later adding that "the University is committed to this for the long term, and it's not kind of a flash in the pan. If there are some issues that we didn't address, we want to know that."

Chris Raupp chosen for 2019 Special Olympics

Aramark employee Chris Raupp receives recognition for his success in athletics

Madison Masloff | Feature Writer

For 26 years, Chris Raupp has been known by his peers as a hard-working, dedicated and friendly staff member of Newcomb dining hall. However, most don't realize what his life consists of outside the boundaries of the University.

This past July, Raupp represented the state of Virginia in tennis at the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games held in Seattle, Wash., where Raupp won silver in singles, and he and his partner John Fried won the gold medal at the 5+ level — the highest of the competition. The Special Olympics games in Seattle was Raupp's second appearance at the USA Games. Raupp also qualified for the Games back in 2006 which took place in Ames, Iowa.

Prior to the USA Games, Raupp was notified that he was selected to represent the USA at the 2019 Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi as one of 14 tennis players in the United States' 220 person delegation. Raupp will play both singles and doubles — partnering with a player from California — in the week-long tournament.

When Raupp found out that he qualified for the world games, he was incredibly excited.

"This [will be] my first chance to go to the world games and it'll be my first visit to the Middle East," Raupp said. "I'm excited to represent the U.S. and wear the U.S. uniform."

A typical day for Raupp begins at 5 a.m. when he wakes up to catch the Jaunt bus from his group house to his job at Newcomb which begins at 6:30 a.m. His workday runs until 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Fridays. Presently, Raupp is in charge of the drink station at the dining hall where he serves coffee, milk and other drinks. He also performs other duties such as clearing tables.

Although Raupp's father Lloyd Raupp has never actually seen his son at work, he understands that Raupp's favorite part of the job is interacting with the students, especially the student athletes.

"Chris is well known at Newcomb for his friendliness and interest in the students, especially the student athletes," Lloyd Raupp said in an email. "Over the years he has run into a number of former U.Va. athletes at locations outside the local area. They all remember him."

Lloyd Raupp also believes Raupp's job at Newcomb keeps him mentally stimulated.

"I think it's the interacting with the students," Lloyd Raupp said. "He doesn't interact so much that he doesn't do his job, but you know it's a very positive environment for him that he's dealing with people on a daily basis and he's dealing with young people that are a lot younger than he is."

Every day after work Raupp goes to the gym or tennis practice at Boar's Head Sport Club to work with his current tennis coach Ron Manilla and his physical trainer Mitchell Frank. Manilla helped coach Raupp and his former doubles partner John Fried to victory in Seattle and will continue to be Raupp's coach, as Manilla was selected as one of the four USA tennis coaches for the World Games.

Manilla has known Raupp and his parents, Lloyd and Sue Raupp, for many years because of Raupp's involvement in the United States Tennis Association but began di-

rectly coaching Raupp only about a year ago.

"The nicest thing about all of this for me is I've grown close to Chris, and we've become good friends," Manilla said. "He's probably one of the most gracious sportsmanship players I've ever been around and that just says so much about him."

Special Olympic athletes are unbelievable, according to Manilla. He believes they're the kindest, friendliest, most outgoing and have the best sportsmanship that one could ever hope to see.

Raupp listed multiple reasons for his passion for tennis.

"I'm good at it," Raupp said. "It makes me focus. I've made a lot of friends playing social tennis as well as USTA tennis."

Special Olympics Area Three Coordinator, Rose Ann Gamma, also speaks to Raupp's high level of sportsmanship.

"He's not out for the gold — I mean obviously he wants to win — but he's not just out for the winning purpose," Gamma said. "He's out for the sport and to be there with the rest of his teammates."

Gamma has had the privilege to work with Raupp for roughly 10 years and not only seen him excel in tennis but also in the many other sports he plays. Like Manilla, Gamma was also a part of the Virginia Delegation that went to the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games this past July.

Raupp was also honored by Aramark CEO Eric Foss at an event in Boca Raton, Fla. as one of 200 employees out of 270,000 employees worldwide to receive the Ring of Stars award. Criteria for the award include service to the client base, dedication to the team and service to the community. In addition to naming Raupp as a

recipient of the award, Aramark headquarters also donated \$5,000 in his name to Special Olympics.

Heather Poulson, an executive chef of Newcomb dining hall, was the other honoree.

Outside of work and tennis, Raupp loves to support his favorite student athletes by attending University athletic events such as football, basketball and tennis. In fact, the Raupps have been long-time the University's women's basketball season ticket holders.

Through Raupp's work at the U.Va. dining hall and his outstanding performance on the tennis court, he has distinguished himself as a respected figure in the Charlottesville community.



Chris Raupp at the Xperience Tennis Invitational at the Boar's Head Sports Club.

COURTESY LLOYD RAUPP

Lawn resident's decor adds color and positivity on Grounds

Brightening people's days one sticky note at a time

Sierra Krug | Feature Writer



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Fourth-year Global Public Health student Dan Xia's Lawn room door is decorated with sticky notes ranging from positive messages to light-hearted doodles.

Walking down the Lawn, it is not uncommon to see bright, artistic decorations adorning the doors of the University's Lawn residents. One often sees flyers for upcoming a cappella concerts or advertisements for clubs to join. However, as anyone passing by can see, the door of Lawn room 10 is a bit different from all the others. Fourth-year Global Public Health student Dan Xia's door is embellished with over 800 colorful sticky notes, each with a personalized message from strangers who pass his room.

"Two semesters ago I was on a Semester at Sea, and we didn't have Wi-Fi, so my friends and I wrote Post-it Notes for our doors to plan where to meet up," Xia said. "I really liked the idea of using Post-it Notes as a means of communication, so once I got back here I decided I might as well stick a couple on my door. I left some for others outside, and it kind of blew up."

While these notes were initially intended to communicate and check in with friends, they have developed to become far more than a fun decoration. Xia notes the remarkably inspiring sentiment most of the messages radiate.

"Overall, it's been really good, a lot of people use the notes as a

means to spread positivity and encouragement, which is what I was hoping," Xia said. "I also try to respond. I'll write replies on the same post-it notes and have little written conversations with these people I've never met."

The content of these vibrant notes ranges quite considerably, but ultimately their presence on this now-famous door has grown to be loved by the University community.

Fourth-year College student Maddy Parker walks by Xia's colorful Lawn room almost every day on her way to classes.

"The notes have made me smile and laugh," Parker said. "They've made a bad day better and reminded me that I'll get through it."

As much as the notes entertain and motivate students, they also encourage Xia and serve as a avenue for outreach and spreading joy to others even outside of the student body.

"Some of my favorite moments are when I'm stepping out or coming in, and an Ambassador stops me and introduces himself to me," Xia said. "We'll talk for a while, they tell me that they like to read every single note, so it's super cool to get connected with that part of the University because not many

people actively try to connect personally with the Ambassadors."

Xia's door is covered with a massive spectrum of color, art, jokes, encouragement, facts and conversations. There's a note where a mother traced her son's hand and signed it from "Nathan Class of 2040." There's a drawing of the cartoon Snoopy. Some students even make an effort to communicate with Xia by writing questions for him to answer or even just checking in on how his day is going.

Although Xia is a fourth-year, he hopes the legacy of his Post-it Notes will continue to progress and spread smiles and happiness across the University and the Charlottesville community even after he graduates.

Xia and Betsy Brandon, another Lawn resident and fourth-year Curry student, have thought of expanding the project so people who stop by Xia's room can write notes to the nearby children's hospital.

"It would be a good way to connect with pediatrics here," Xia said. "I'm also trying to find sponsors to donate to UNa research or research for pediatrics for every note written. It's still in the works, but we're really excited for it."

Brandon elaborated upon the

significance of the potentially life-changing, heartwarming initiation she and Xia hope to cultivate.

"When my sister was 18, she was diagnosed with cancer," Brandon said. "So I know the toll it takes on your family and the difference it makes to be in a positive, uplifting environment with caring people and physicians. That is one of the reasons I kind of thought about doing this because these children are a group of people who can use a little extra love and support. They know they have it from people close to them, but to know people who don't even know them are rooting for them — it's very powerful."

Brandon and Xia's Post-it Notes operation is a work in progress, but they both share an undeniable passion for doing whatever they possibly can to help make the world a better place.

"I would love to think no matter what you do there's a place and a way that you can bring good into the world," Brandon said. "So, if you're doing what you're passionate about it's much easier."

Brandon has admired Xia's drive to make a positive difference in the community and is excited for what she and Xia can do with their children's hospital project.

Xia's enthusiasm for life and adventure doesn't stop with his innovative Post-it Notes operation. He is not only planning on going to medical school after he graduates, but he's set to begin an expedition to visit every country in the world. He loves working with kids, and ultimately, he aspires to become a global physician and start clinics in places lacking advanced healthcare.

Xia plans to keep some of his favorite and most memorable sticky notes in a scrapbook or on a poster board to constantly be reminded of the warm, inspiring messages that the University community joined together to share with Lawn room 10.

A completely unbiased ranking of excellent teas this winter

Now that the snow has fallen and the bitter wind is eminent, hot tea becomes a necessity

Elise Kim | Food Columnist

With January beckoning in formidable morning chills and frosty air, there is nothing more satisfying than gazing at the falling snowflakes from your place next to the crackling fireplace with a freshly brewed cup of tea in hand.

Sounds nice, right? I wish this was our reality as well. But as University students, if classes are still on even when the roads are slippery enough to be hazardous to pedestrians, you can catch us all begrudgingly making our way to class.

As the cold inevitably penetrates through your jacket, there is no better solution to warm you right back up than feeling the warmth of a hot cup of tea flooding through your body. As a self-acclaimed tea fanatic, I have collected and ranked my top three favorite teas — perfectly reminiscent of the aforementioned fireplace scene — in the hopes that these teas will make your wintery journeys around Grounds more bearable.

First, I want to give a shout-

out to peppermint tea. Perfect for those mornings when you are drearily stumbling around to get ready, this tea's sharp accents are sure to wake you up with a burst of freshly-brewed minty authenticity. For a particularly strong peppermint taste, I would recommend steeping some of Celestial Seasonings Peppermint Herbal Tea bags. If you prefer a more subtle note of peppermint, I would go for Stash's Peppermint Herbal tea instead.

I could not compile such a list without including one of my personal favorites — chai tea. The warm spices hit your nose first, already filling you with a flooding warmth of chai in all its goodness. I personally take to Tazo Chai Tea bags. Even though they are naturally decaffeinated, the cinnamon and cardamom are more than enough to boost your energy for the day. In my opinion, Tazo packs some of the biggest punches in terms of its teas' strong flavor, and this bag is no different. Each component — cin-

namon, cardamom, black pepper and spice — is equally discernible in this little tea bag.

For this last spot on my list, I must give it up to a more obscure option but notably refreshing all the while. Not many people are aware of the existence of Korean barley tea, pronounced with romanization as "boricha." Like some of the best herbal teas, it is composed of simple ingredients. In this case, roasted barley and water is all you need for this mild cup of tea.

You can find this tea at any Asian mart in the tea section, order it on Amazon for convenience purposes or simply brew it yourself from scratch. Though it would take a little while longer — upwards of 15 minutes to make it DIY-style — Korean Barley Tea is definitely an option I would recommend for both tea drinkers and non-tea drinkers alike this winter season. Its mild, nutty and slightly sweet flavor is both commendable and unique. This tea is most definitely



ELISE KIM | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Tazo Chai Tea packs some of the biggest punches in terms of tea flavor.

one of my favorites.

Like most teas, the health benefits for this tea are notable as well. Not only is it used by some Koreans for ease of digestion, particularly after meals, but it is also used to help with weight loss. Its iconic and calm earthy smell soothes the mind, bringing with it hints of a warm and homey atmosphere — perfect for those days where you find your-

self simply missing home.

Opinions may vary, but if this wasn't exactly your cup of tea — pun entirely intended — I still recommend you give a couple of these a try this month. Prepare to be enlightened in the best way possible.

Indulge in these decadent lemon shortbread cookies

Cookies so good you won't believe you just made them

Sadie Goodman | Food Columnist

My great aunt Barbara was a wonderful cook. She had a recipe box chock full of delicious home-made dinners and treats. One of my favorite recipes that my mom recently discovered while rifling through the box was her "Best Lemon Refrigerator Cookies" recipe.

These cookies are delicious, zesty and delicate. They are perfect for a gathering, go well with tea or coffee and are a great pick-me-up if you're having a bad day. The flavor is light and mildly sweet — I'll even eat them for breakfast if I have a fresh batch. The recipe is quite easy to make too!

To make a batch of Barbara's "Best Lemon Refrigerator Cookies" you need:

- 1/2 cup of softened butter
- 1/2 cup of white sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 cup of all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons of grated lemon zest
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt

To be added later:

- sesame seeds
- 1 lemon, juiced

Start by zesting one to two lemons — this should be plenty since a little zest goes a long way in terms of flavor. Make sure you remove any stickers and wash the lemons with soap and water to remove any pesticides or chemicals added to the peel. To zest a lemon, you can use a zester or a cheese grater. Take just the yellow surface of the rind — the white pith below is bitter and doesn't contain any of the natural flavor and oils of the yellow rind.

Combine your sugar, flour, zest and salt. Mix all the dry ingredients together in a large bowl and mix in the egg yolks, vanilla and butter. Your hands might get a little messy integrating the butter, but don't worry — it's totally worth it.

Once you have a good, sticky consistency, roll the dough into two logs. Make the logs as large or as small in diameter as you want, but I find the larger logs produce better cookies. The larger your log is, the larger your cookies will be. Take these logs and coat them in sesame seeds. This is an optional step, but it adds a nice nutty flavor and a fun texture to the cook-

ies.

Let the logs sit in the fridge for 15-30 minutes while you heat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. While the cookies are in the fridge, coat a baking sheet with a thin layer of butter to ensure the cookies don't stick. Remove the cookies from the fridge and slice them into thin medallions — the thinner the cookies, the crisper they will be.

Place the cookies on the baking sheet, and bake for 15 minutes. I suggest checking on them at around 10 minutes to make sure they aren't getting too brown. I also suggest baking your cookies on the top shelf of the oven to ensure they don't burn.

When the cookies are golden brown and fragrant they are ready. Take a spatula and loosen them from the baking sheet carefully while they are still hot and soft — this will make sure you can remove them later without breaking any.

Allow the cookies to cool and take the lemon juice from earlier and drip a few drops onto the tops of the cookies. This is also an optional step, but it enhances the

flavor and makes the lemon zing really pop.

This recipe makes a ton of cookies, but any unused dough can be stored in the fridge for up to a week! These cookies bake so quickly, and with the premade

dough you can whip out a fresh batch in no time. I hope you enjoy this recipe. It may take a few trials to figure out just how long you'd like to bake them, but I promise, it is worth it.



SADIE GOODMAN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

These lemon shortbread cookies coated in sesame seeds are delicious, zesty and delicate.

Top 10 ways to motivate yourself for a new semester

Here we go again

Grace Breiner | Top 10 writer

1 Don't dwell on the negative

Is it just me or is there a mid-academic year slump going on right now? Though winter break was about as relaxing as anyone could've hoped, I find myself still not willing to get back into the grind of classes and studying. One more episode of "Gossip Girl!" instead of starting on readings? Absolutely. Just because finals are the last thing we remember of fall semester before fleeing back home for recovery — or perhaps more accurately stated, hibernation — doesn't mean that spring semester will be a reflection of that. Whether finals were a total success or more of a "well I guess that just happened" kind of experience, spring semester is a new start. Time to focus on the good things that could happen instead of dreading the bad ... but maybe one more episode first.

2 Don't repeat last semester

Speaking of a fresh start, leave the successes and failures of last semester in the past. Each semester is a chance to be better than you were before. Embrace the newness and ask yourself what you would change if you could and then realize that you probably can change it. Totally your call, but remember you have a lot of people rooting for you, so why not give it a shot?

3 Take classes that excite you

I would like it on record that I love science. I really do. But after an entire semester of all science and math, I couldn't be more ready for some humanities classes. Taking classes just for fun is a hallmark of a good liberal arts education. Any classes that encourage new ways of thinking and your growth as a student is not a waste of time. So, get excited for that random class you signed up for just because you wanted to.



4 Start something new

To everyone's surprise, I started cooking. For someone who is a die-hard fan of snacking throughout the day and then feasting on Chick-fil-A at night, cooking is a whole new experience. I only know how to make three things, but when one of those things is waffles, who needs anything else? I've also been grocery shopping. I know — I sound like a well-adjusted adult. Who would've thought? Of course, grocery shopping may not be the pinnacle of success for everyone, so find something that makes you feel a little bit more capable and go for it.

5 Rededicate yourself to old goals

I know we're all always thinking of the next thing we should do or the next step towards our goal, but make sure to acknowledge how much you're already doing. Chances are it's above and beyond what you ever even dreamed for yourself. Recognize how much you're doing — all those credit hours, clubs and responsibilities — and continue to be amazing at it.



6 Embrace the caffeine craze

I embraced this one a while ago, but in case you're looking for that little extra boost, I'm here to tell you that there's nothing wrong with a little liquid support. If I didn't have my daily — or if I'm being honest, twice daily — caffeine boost who even knows how I would stay awake in class. Even my love of learning has its limits, and that limit is apparently one hour into a 75-minute lecture.

7 Celebrate the big and little victories

My friend recently got an internship in Belgium for the summer — I know, aren't you so impressed? Bonus points if you can guess what I made her in celebration. Whether it's getting a job you really wanted, getting the good grades you worked so hard for, going to the yoga class you told yourself you'd go to or simply making an interesting point in discussion, you're very much deserving of a little, or a lot of, celebration. Looks to me like everyone is winning in 2019 — finally, right?

8 Look for inspiration

Does anyone follow Jonathan Van Ness on Instagram? As far as I'm concerned everyone should follow him. Watching his complete enthusiasm for just about everything on "Queer Eye" is the motivational boost everyone needs in their lives. His one-liners alone are worth the watch. Not to mention watching him fulfill his lifelong dream of being a figure skater is the most purely inspirational thing I've seen possibly ever. If you find your inspiration elsewhere, I totally support you. Books — Lin Manuel Miranda's book of pep talks anyone? — cheesy Pinterest quotes and YouTube videos are also an excellent source of positivity. If you're finding it difficult to think positively for yourself at any time, the internet is really here to support you.

9 Listen to music that makes you want to dance

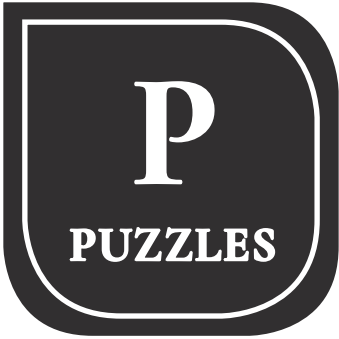
My friend and I each have playlists on Spotify that we listen to when we need to really get through some work. If you pass us in Starbucks or a library, you might see two girls vigorously typing on their computers and bouncing up in down in their chairs. Do we look crazy? Possibly. Do we care? Absolutely not.



MADDY SITA AND TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

10 Remind yourself of how lucky you are

I would say that we're all pretty lucky for getting to study at the University. This past weekend I went to a talk with Leslie Odom Jr. led by President Jim Ryan, and all I can say is I don't think I've ever been in the same room as so much talent, dedication and hope — kind of intimidating but mostly just awe-inspiring. To be surrounded by great people is to have something to aspire to. So, when you're hustling to class, remember to look up and realize where we are and what we're doing. Cool, right? Now get that nose back in the books.



WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Dan Goff | Senior Writer

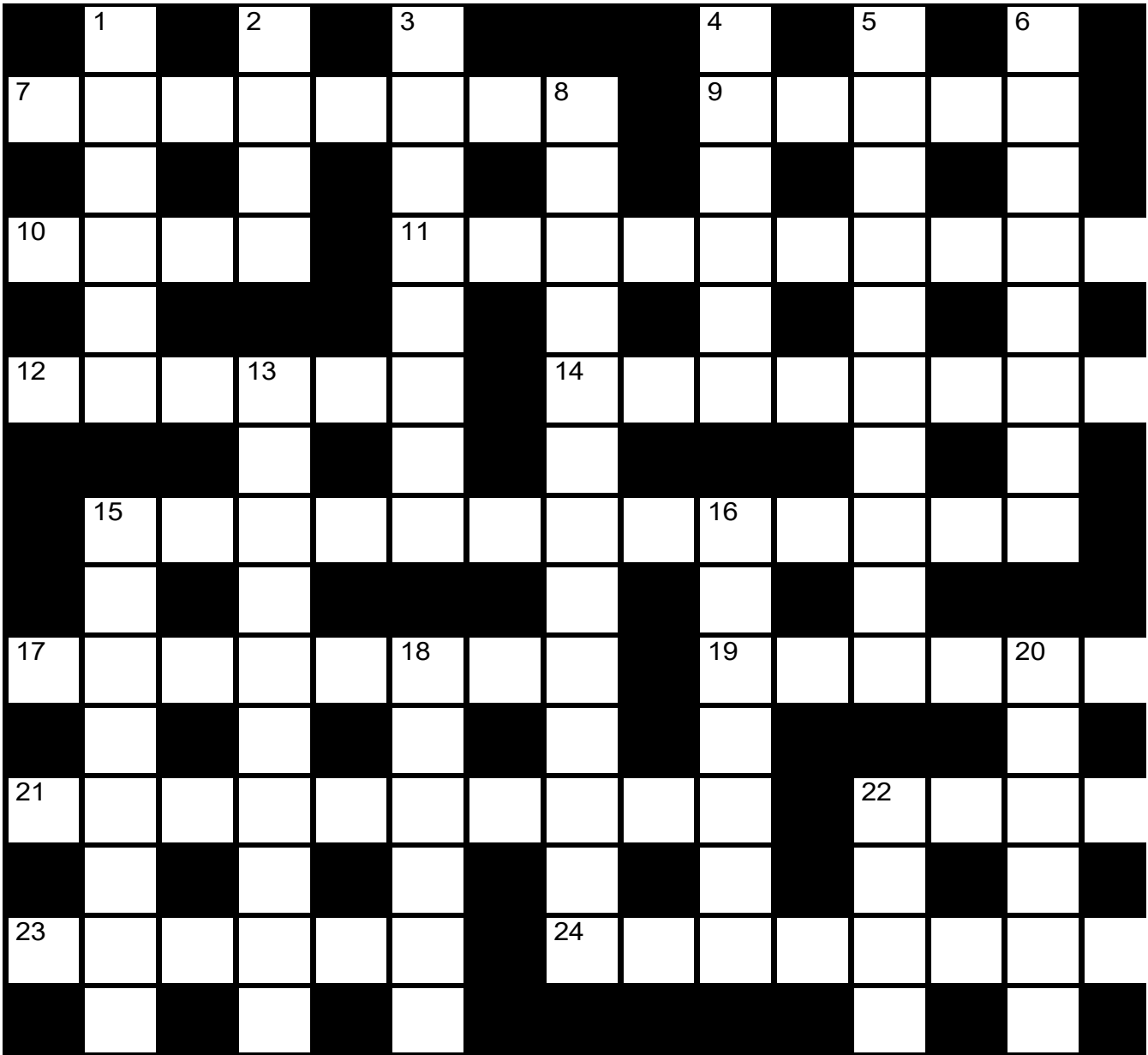
*THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Across

- 7 The man who spoke with 13-down last Saturday — two words
- 9 The reason 16-down was made possible
- 10 Louder than ---
- 11 Inflammation of a passage
- 12 Packs a ---
- 14 Pirates sail on the --- — two words
- 15 Fail to comprehend
- 17 Kid's toy that might feature Thomas — two words
- 19 It can help with swelling — two words
- 21 Lady Macbeth wants to get this off her hands
- 22 Violent, bloody
- 23 On land, as a boat
- 24 At summer camp, you'll probably --- — two words

Down

- 1 If you're good at cross-words, you might also be good at ---
- 2 Archaic Russian emperor
- 3 Person or thing vital to an enterprise or organization
- 4 Moving gradually away from or towards something
- 5 If you're performing the four-down action, you might be moving at a --- — two words
- 6 Candidate for ordination
- 8 If Kim and Kanye's daughter married someone with the last



name Ward and took the last name, her own would be ---

- 13 Speaker for the Arts last Saturday — two words
- 15 One who teaches or promotes ethics
- 16 U.Va. announced last Friday that they're building a new Data --- school
- 18 Set of things working together as part of a network
- 20 Opposite of 23-across
- 22 Water- or "Star-"

* SOLUTION FROM LAST ISSUE





Breaking down the 2019 football schedule

Cavaliers get a balanced but tough draw in 2019

Alec Dougherty | Sports Columnist

It has been quite some time since the Virginia football team has entered a season with such high expectations. After many years at the cellar of the ACC Coastal, the Cavaliers should now be a favorite to win their division after an 8-5 2018 season that ended with a 28-0 thumping of South Carolina in the Belk Bowl.

The Cavalier faithful got one of their first tastes of the 2019 season on January 16 when the team's schedule was released by the ACC. At first glance, the top-heavy schedule is unconventional, but it could give the country a quick sense of what to expect from the Cavaliers with some crucial early matchups.

With the schedule already having some people anxiously awaiting the first kickoff, I will break down some takeaways and expectations from the Cavaliers' 2019 slate.

The opener carries major weight

It's rare for a team to start the season against a division rival, but the ACC decided to schedule Virginia at the defending Coastal Division champion Pittsburgh for a showdown right out of the gate. The Cavaliers have not taken down the Panthers since 2014, most recently experiencing a disappointing 23-13 home defeat in a game that had key implications for winning the Coastal.

Pittsburgh coach Pat Narduzzi's run-heavy style of play seems to always give Virginia fits, and more of the same can be expected next year. With the Panthers pounding the ball, it will be an entertaining game for four-star defensive lineman Jowon Briggs to make his Virginia debut after a lot of hype as the jewel of Coach Bronco Mendenhall's 2019 recruiting class. The matchup will be a huge tone-setter and could have a major hand in deciding the Coastal.

The game will be Virginia's first season opener on the road since the 2015 season when it lost 34-16 at UCLA.

September is balanced but undoubtedly tough

The ACC continued to give Virginia an unconventional schedule in weeks two through five, flipping the Cavaliers between low-caliber opponents and powerhouses. The Cavaliers host FCS William and Mary, ACC Atlantic opponent Florida State and in-state foe Old Dominion before traveling to 2018 College Football Playoff participant Notre Dame.

Talent level disparities should give Virginia wins against William and Mary and Old Dominion, but it's hard to know what to expect from the other two matchups. Though historically a great program, Florida State struggled mightily in their first season under Coach Willie Taggart, failing to make a bowl game for the

first time in 36 seasons. Even so, the Seminoles have the recruiting power to be a force in the ACC once again, making it hard to predict how the team will fare in an important matchup at Scott Stadium.

The Notre Dame road trip will be Virginia's toughest of the season on paper, though the Fighting Irish were not as great as their 2018 record shows. Although they took down four ranked opponents en route to an undefeated regular season, a 30-3 beat down at the hands of Clemson exposed the Irish's lingering flaws. The team ended the season ranked No. 32 in offense and No. 30 in defense among FBS teams.

Starting with senior quarterback Ian Book, the Irish will have the players necessary to rebound as a national contender in 2019, and Notre Dame Stadium is one of the most hostile environments in the country. It will be a national statement if the Cavaliers can garner a win, but it will be incredibly hard to pull off.

October and November are must-win months

Whereas prior years saw Virginia's schedule back-loaded, the team has mostly winnable games in the final months of the season. The Cavaliers host a Duke team that will likely be trotting out a new quarterback on October 19 before facing a trio of ACC teams with new head coaches in Louisville, North Carolina and Georgia Tech.

Virginia looks like one of the most stable teams in the ACC for the first time in years. Not only has Mendenhall looked the part of an elite coach, but senior quarterback Bryce Perkins returns after a phenomenal debut year in Charlottesville with the potential to be a dark horse Heisman candidate. Thus, there's little excuse for the Cavaliers not to take care of business against their foes in transition, especially with a conference championship looming.

Virginia Tech could — this time — be the Coastal Division decider

There was a stretch of several weeks in 2018 where there was hype around the possibility that the annual rivalry tilt between the Cavaliers and Hokies would determine who would play in the ACC Championship, but both teams struggled down the stretch and allowed Pittsburgh to clinch the title.

In 2019, the Coastal Division looks like it may run through the state of Virginia.

Injuries and a back-breaking early season loss to Old Dominion derailed a promising 2018 season for Virginia Tech, but the Hokies should be somewhat back to form next year. Junior quarterback Ryan Willis played well down the stretch after being thrown

VIRGINIA FOOTBALL 2019		
Wed	Aug. 31	at Pittsburgh
Fri	Sept. 6	WILLIAM & MARY
Sat	Sept. 14	FLORIDA STATE
Sat	Sept. 28	at Notre Dame
Fri	Oct. 11	at Miami
Sat	Oct. 19	DUKE
Sat	Oct. 26	at Louisville
Sat	Nov. 2	at North Carolina
Sat	Nov. 9	GEORGIA TECH
Sat	Nov. 23	LIBERTY
Fri	Nov. 29	VIRGINIA TECH

MADDY SITA | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Virginia begins ACC play with a difficult opener against Pittsburgh and faces two other challenges early on against Florida State and away against Notre Dame.

into the starting role, and head coach Justin Fuente has a young defense to mold.

The teams will meet in a high-energy Friday night game at Scott Stadium as Virginia will look to finally break its 15-year losing streak in the rivalry. It will likely be the final game in Charlottesville for Perkins, star senior cornerback Bryce Hall and several other impact players on the

Virginia roster, and it will have many ramifications for the postseason, so look for an emotional thriller to cap off the regular season.

With its highest ceiling — and likely morale — in years, the Virginia football team approaches a crucial season to take the next step in building up its once-fractured program. A Coastal Championship and top bowl game could be in the cards if the Cavaliers

can start strong through their challenging first five weeks — perhaps by pulling off a tough win against Florida State or Notre Dame.

If the Belk Bowl was any indication, this veteran squad looks hungry to put up a statement season.

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‘Keep digging’: Mamadi Diakite’s journey to basketball

The Guinea native has played a crucial role for the Cavaliers this year

Zach Zamoff | Sports Editor



ANDREW WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

In addition to becoming a better scorer, junior forward Mamadi Diakite has significantly improved defensively this season.

Four of the five players in the No. 3 Cavaliers’ starting five have received significant national attention for the role they have played on this dominant team.

Junior guards Ty Jerome and Kyle Guy are both lethal three-point shooters and lockdown defenders. Redshirt sophomore guard De’Andre Hunter is a versatile wing with jaw-dropping athleticism. Senior center Jack Salt is a defensive enforcer whose ball screens feel like a brick wall.

But there is one player in the starting five who has been a very important piece of Virginia’s team this season that hasn’t received the same attention.

Junior forward Mamadi Diakite, who began starting consistently early this year, remains a relative unknown. On the court, the 6-foot-9 Diakite makes difficult plays with ease, stuffing shots from some of the best big men in the country, sinking hook shots and stepping back to drain threes.

However, Diakite’s journey has been anything but easy. He grew up in Conakry, Guinea, 4,444 miles away from Charlottesville. There, he had no dreams of playing basketball in a country where soccer is the main

sport.

“Growing up I was playing soccer,” Diakite said. “I didn’t know anything about basketball. I thought it was a weird sport that Americans played.”

Gradually, though, as Diakite grew taller and taller, it became clear that his athleticism might not be best utilized on the soccer field. So he tried basketball. His height and athleticism immediately made him a force on the court.

“I was very used to running a lot on the soccer field,” Diakite said. “So the transition for the soccer field to the basketball court athletic-wise wasn’t a big deal.”

In Guinea, however, there weren’t many ways for Diakite to take his game to the next level. The U.S. was the place where he could make that happen. Additionally, Diakite’s family — very focused on academics — believed Diakite could leverage his talent to receive a great education in the U.S.

“My dad was trying to find a way for me to get here because he thought it was a country where people have a lot of opportunities,” Diakite said. “But he didn’t know how to get me here.”

Therefore, because of a lack of traditional means to get to the U.S., Diakite — along with the help of his sister — made a page on Facebook showcasing his basketball talent in an attempt to attract attention from the U.S.

A Guinea native named Hassan Fofana, who played basketball at the DI level in the U.S., found Diakite through the Facebook page. Fofana helped Diakite find a home at the Blue Ridge School, an all-boys boarding school in St. George, Va., where he attracted attention from some of the nation’s top basketball programs.

Ultimately, Diakite chose to go to Virginia, where Coach Tony Bennett and the staff made Diakite feel at home, especially as an international player.

“I think UVA. is different from other teams,” Diakite said. “We accept people. The staff, the coaches, the fans — they don’t discriminate. That’s a big part of us feeling like home when we’re here.”

Diakite has taken advantage of the opportunity to play at Virginia and has improved significantly every year. He averaged 3.8 points per game as a freshman, 5.4 points per game as a sopho-

more and is averaging 6.6 points per game this year. The range on his jump shot has increased considerably, and he is shooting a career-best percentage from three.

More significantly, perhaps, has been Diakite’s growth on the defensive end. That’s where he has earned his minutes this season. Persistence and openness to feedback has turned him into a solid defender.

“Just slide your feet,” Diakite said. “Before, I used to not understand. I used to battle people and try to go find the contact, and I was getting in foul trouble.”

Bennett has been a great motivator for Diakite, who kept working hard even when he wasn’t logging consistent minutes. Persistence has been a theme for Diakite since he came to the U.S.

“[Bennett] always tells us to keep digging,” Diakite said. “Keep working hard. Even if it doesn’t work, keep sticking to what you know how to do, and one day, your time will come.”

This mindset has been especially important given the additional pressure Diakite feels as one of the players fellow Guineans look up to. He understands that beyond Virginia, his success can fuel the dreams of other

young players in Conakry, across Guinea and across the continent of Africa.

“It depends on all the Africans that are here,” Diakite said. “If they show them that’s something that’s possible, that’s doable, then I think it’s going to get bigger and bigger.”

Diakite knows that there is added pressure on him to deliver. He has converted this pressure into grit. His journey hasn’t been easy, and that is exactly what has motivated him.

“Sometimes you think, ‘wow, I can’t give up right now, I’ve got to show them if you stick to something you can always do it,’” he said.

As Virginia continues to grind through conference play, look for Diakite to continue to become a bigger piece of this team. From Conakry to Charlottesville, Diakite’s infectious smile, hardworking nature and undeniable talent have led him to great success, inspiring others in the process.

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LEAD EDITORIAL

Support inclusionary zoning in Charlottesville

The General Assembly must equip local leaders with tools to combat the affordable housing crisis

Each year, the Charlottesville City Council sends its legislative wish list to the General Assembly for consideration. Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, meaning localities like Charlottesville must ask the state for authority to enact certain policies, such as regulations on the use of guns and torches in public spaces. Since this restriction makes it difficult for localities to independently tackle local problems without state approval, the rule has also restricted the number of tools available at the City of Charlottesville's disposal to effectively address the affordable housing crisis.

Specifically, the City Council has for years included on its list for the General Assembly a request that it be allowed to utilize inclusionary zoning. Inclusionary zoning allows localities to require that developers keep a certain percentage of housing affordable when they build new projects. Such a policy has the potential to help our local government alleviate the affordable housing crisis in Charlottesville. However, the General Assembly has not acted to allow the City to imple-

ment inclusionary zoning, even as rents have continued to rise. In Virginia, several other localities, including Albemarle County, have been given permission to use inclusionary zoning — there is no reason Charlottesville should not be added to that list. In the future, City officials should continue to request the state grant it the power to implement inclusionary zoning as it would likely help Charlottesville combat its housing affordability issues.

It is likely that the power to utilize inclusionary zoning will be beneficial given the demonstrated success it has had in other localities across the country. Specifically, the National Housing Conference's Center for Housing Policy analyzed the effects of programs implemented in California and Massachusetts and found that inclusionary zoning can increase the number of affordable housing units that are built without significantly increasing price or decreasing supply in the housing market. Washington D.C. has also established its own inclusionary zoning program. While the program was tied up in legal battles for the first few years after its implementation, it

has become increasingly effective in producing more affordable units over time. Though some argue that the benefits derived from inclusionary zoning are modest, they have nonetheless led in some cases to the expansion of affordable housing.

Even small improvements would be welcome in Charlottesville, where we are currently experiencing an affordable housing crisis. One analysis showed that between 2013-2018, the average rent in Charlottesville increased by 18 percent. These estimates even indicate that Charlottesville needs to add an astounding 4,000 more affordable housing units in order to keep up with its population growth. This housing crisis is further exemplified by the fact that there are currently 1,651 households on the waitlist for public housing in the City. Given that this problem has shown no signs of alleviating over time, it is critical that local leaders continue to request from the state the ability to use policies such as inclusionary zoning to help provide some relief, no matter how limited its effects may be.

In addition, the need for more affordable housing availability has only grown with the University's recent announcement that it received a \$120 million dollar gift to create a new School of Data Science. This new school will likely attract more students and professors to the Charlottesville area, which in turn will likely increase competition over Charlottesville's already extremely limited affordable housing stock.

While inclusionary zoning would likely be helpful in adding affordable units in Charlottesville, there are some critiques of the policy. Some affordable housing advocates say that inclusionary zoning does not help the truly impoverished and may only serve moderate income households. It is also possible that this policy will incentivize some developers to not build housing at all, given that this policy may increase costs. These are valid concerns, ones which local leaders must examine if they get the chance to implement inclusionary zoning, so that the policy can help incredibly low-income families while also keeping in mind the needs of local developers. However, if

implemented effectively, inclusionary zoning will be able to help the City create more affordable housing.

Ultimately, inclusionary zoning is not a silver bullet, as it will not allow Charlottesville to completely solve its housing issues — it should be used in conjunction with a wide array of other policies by the City in order to make more affordable units available. However, with the affordable housing crisis only worsening in Charlottesville, local leaders need every tool available in order to combat it, and inclusionary zoning should be one of them. While only the General Assembly can grant access to these policy options, it is up to our local leaders to continue to pursue them so that the City will eventually be able to fight the affordability crisis more effectively.

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THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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STUDENTS CAN MAKE THIS COMMUNITY SAFE

The hatred in Charlottesville should not be tolerated by students, faculty or other members of the community

Charlottesville possesses an astounding amount of history. From the historic Downtown Mall to the various buildings around the University, members of the community have a glimpse into the past with every turn. However, this history is not always inviting. In fact, it is usually the opposite, as we are often times reminded of this history and its presence in our lives in the worst ways possible.

With the most recent vandalism of Beta Bridge, members of the University community are reminded once again that hatred still exists among us, often times frighteningly too close for comfort. Coupled with the memories from the Unite the Right rally, we are further shown how important it is to acknowledge the wrongdoings frequently overlooked in our own past. Therefore, it is crucial to bring awareness to these issues, which is exactly what the University is doing with its installation of a memorial to the enslaved laborers who built these Grounds.

By recognizing the University's own historical imperfections, it becomes possible to acknowledge how far we still have to go in the fight for equality and acceptance

both in and outside this community. And while some students at the University have a better understanding of this than most, as past events in Charlottesville have taught us, there is still a lot we have to learn.

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Students at the University possess both the historical knowledge and present power to make the changes needed in this community in order to truly make it a welcoming and safe environment for all.

However, instead of students simply looking at this as yet another reminder of the hatred around us, they should use it as a call to action. Students at the University possess both the historical knowledge and present power to make the changes needed in this community in order to truly make it a welcoming and safe environment for all.

From the tragic occurrences of August 2017 to the continuous resurfacing of hatred at our own University, the time to simply talk about it is long past, and it is time for students to demand the

change they deserve. Since University students making up a sizable portion of Charlottesville's inhabitants, they clearly have the potential to facilitate change. In other words, students are in promising positions of power that, with

sufficient drive, could wreak havoc on the hatred brewing within our community. Additionally, it is equally important for students to approach this problem with unapologetic devotion because as a community, we should be fed up. Students have been exposed to hatred and the violence that often accompanies it for far too long.

Of course, this is much easier said than done, as hatred has existed in this community far longer than we have. Yet, history shows us that students often possess more power than they realize. This can be seen when four college freshman

sat at a whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., evoking an uproar of civil activism from fellow students. It is again apparent in Malala Yousafzai, a teenage girl tackling educational equality after tragedy struck her own life,

and in America, where thousands of students walked out of schools in solidarity, protesting gun violence in our country. Each of these students have not only changed the world around them, but they have also inspired others to do so as well. Thus, much as these infamous student activists have taken it upon themselves to tackle the hatred seen in this world, it is the responsibility of University students to be the never-ceasing force of change this community needs to see.

Charlottesville is our home, and the University is our school

— and it is time that both of these places be forced to acknowledge their wrongdoings and make the changes needed to welcome each and every one of the diverse students, faculty and tourists looking to join the history of this community. Therefore, the students of the University community have a unique and humble place in this fight for equality and justice. It is time for students to make change, demand to be heard and relentlessly show the community that hatred does not have a place here. It is time for students to stand up and hold those spreading hatred in our community accountable for their actions. Whether we do this by attending city council meetings, protesting in the streets, giving speeches or mailing letters to our elected officials or sitting-in until we're heard, it must start with us. This is our home, and this is our fight.

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U.VA. MUST ADDRESS EXPENSIVE CVILLE HOUSING MARKET

The University needs to offer more and better on-Grounds housing to students

The price of off-Grounds housing in Charlottesville is a large concern for students and Charlottesville residents alike. In fact, Charlottesville has one of the most expensive rental markets in Virginia, leading many to believe that the City is in the midst of its own housing crisis. Affordable housing in Charlottesville has become so scarce that there are nearly 1,600 people on waiting lists for rental assistance programs. This shortage makes it especially difficult for low-wage employees in the City to find cost-effective housing. While the City is able to intervene and help those in need of housing, the University must realize the impact of student housing on Charlottesville's lack of affordable housing and take action.

City officials are actively working to remedy this crisis and there have been some positive developments. The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission will soon receive a \$100,000 grant to assess how to meet Charlottesville's specific housing needs. These funds will help in the process to build an adequate amount of housing for low-income families in the area.

However, the Charlottesville area is still currently in need of about 3,000 housing units, the sur-

rounding region requires around 11,000 housing options. Additionally, some estimates indicate that Charlottesville and the surrounding region will need 14,000 additional housing units by 2040.

A lot of the difficulty in finding

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As the largest employer in the City and nearby counties, the University must do more to make Charlottesville more accessible for the low-income population.

low-income housing stems from the influence that students have on the Charlottesville housing market. Neighborhoods that were once convenient for low-income families, such as Venable, have seen an increase in student housing in the recent past. Students who live in areas such as these subdivide the apartments which allows them to out-bid low-income families. As a result, many low-income families can no longer afford to live in these areas. In fact, Laura Goldblatt, a postdoctoral fellow in the global studies department, said that the University is a contributor to low-income housing instability and that there is insufficient on-Grounds housing for students.

Additionally, new housing complexes in Charlottesville cater

to student needs, rather than the needs of those who are having difficulty finding affordable housing. Luxury housing such as the Flats and the Standard offer no affordable housing units and take up space that could otherwise potentially

serve the housing needs of many low-wage employees that work at the University or surrounding businesses.

Although not all students live off-Grounds, there is a significant lack of appealing University housing options for students. The 61 percent of students that live off-Grounds is indicative of the undesirability of the housing options that the University provides. Many University housing options do not offer many of the amenities that make off-Grounds housing options more appealing. For example, many of the University housing options that offer single bedrooms require applications, such as the Lawn, the International Residential College and Brown Residential College. Single room University housing

options that do not require an application, such as Copeley and Faulkner, are a thirty minute walk from Central Grounds. Alternatively, off-Grounds options feature more flexibility regarding both rooming situations and proximity

to Central Grounds.

Even though many may find off-Grounds options to be a better choice, University housing rates can still range between \$6,280 and \$7,580 for a nine month lease. Many comparable off-Grounds options have a similar or less expensive monthly rent, which may drive more students to dismiss University housing. Perhaps a larger and more practical selection of on-Grounds housing could help create more available housing for non-student, Charlottesville residents.

The University's new student apartments on Brandon Avenue opening in the fall of 2019 are a good step in the right direction. The complex is only about an 11-minute walk to Central Grounds and

have single rooms with full-sized beds, which is extremely appealing to students who want the privacy of their own room while still living in close proximity to classes.

The University has a major impact on the well-being of the greater Charlottesville area. Thus, it has a responsibility to make Charlottesville a better place to live for both its students and employees alike. As the City of Charlottesville continues to tackle this issue, the University must actively work to reduce their impact on the crisis. As the largest employer in the City and surrounding counties, the University has the power to do more to make Charlottesville more accessible for its low-income population. Both Charlottesville residents and students may struggle to find housing in such an expensive market, and providing more convenient University housing options may work to both relieve pressure on the housing market and ease the stressful housing search process.

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H

HUMOR

Ghosts of border wall past and present visit Trump

It was a dark and stormy night. One whose conditions practically elicited the visit of a very scary yet wise and well-meaning ghost. This night, however, was not typical by any means. Indeed, it was unique in that it was longer than any previous storm or night in U.S. history. The scene was bleak. White men were arguing. Government employees were on the brink of bankruptcy. And through all this carnage, Donald Trump peacefully slept, albeit with intermittent cries of "Give me my money Schumer! Pwease daddy pwease!"

Suddenly, Trump was awoken by a blinding light that resem-

bled the inside of a tanning bed he frequented, and a delicate whisper dripped its way into the depths of his ear, "I'm the ghost of border wall past." In an instant, Donald stood facing the concrete barrier of the Berlin Wall. The ghost of border wall past watched as he tenderly stroked it with his teeny hands. "Gross," she said. "Forget it. I'm out of here." Perfect, Donald thought. With her gone, it was just him and the wall...

Donald's reverie came to a very quick end as he was transported to a dank, wood-paneled bedroom, which by the looks of it was presumably the former site of a low-budget porno. An incredibly sculpted hunk with a man-bun who identified himself as the ghost of border wall

present now stood beside Donald. They both looked over the shoulder of a woman with hair so big, it would've inspired Stephen Miller to spray paint an extra inch on his head. She appeared to be maxing out the last of her savings on a GoFundMe page supporting Trump's border wall. Huh, he thought. This doesn't make any sense. Why can't she donate more? Where is her money? She's white and racist like me — how is she not privileged? And that's when it hit him. What the ghosts of border wall past and present were trying to communicate to him. Many of Donald's voters had struggled to feed their families, and when someone promised to "drain the swamp" of the government that had caused much of their strife,

they had little choice but to trust him. Donald saw that his incendiary rhetoric affected these people greatly — of course that caravan was filled with animals who would steal their jobs. They needed some explanation as to why they weren't succeeding in the way they should've been. This was America after all, the land of equal opportunity.

To his supporters, Trump was like a preacher of the prosperity gospel. They trusted him to bring jobs and opportunities that had been evading them for years. But Trump would have them sowing their seeds — going to rallies, spitting "fake news" at sources with high ethics codes, cashing out their savings on a border wall that would never solve their problems — forever. All they were

truly buying into was his ego, and they were victims all the same. Wow, Donald thought, feeling transformed. These ghosts must be huge fans. They came back from the dead just to show me what a great influence I am! Donald felt pretty comfortable now that he knew the border wall ghosts weren't trying to teach him a lesson. "So, how did you die, ghosty-man?" Donald asked. "Did an illegal kill you?"

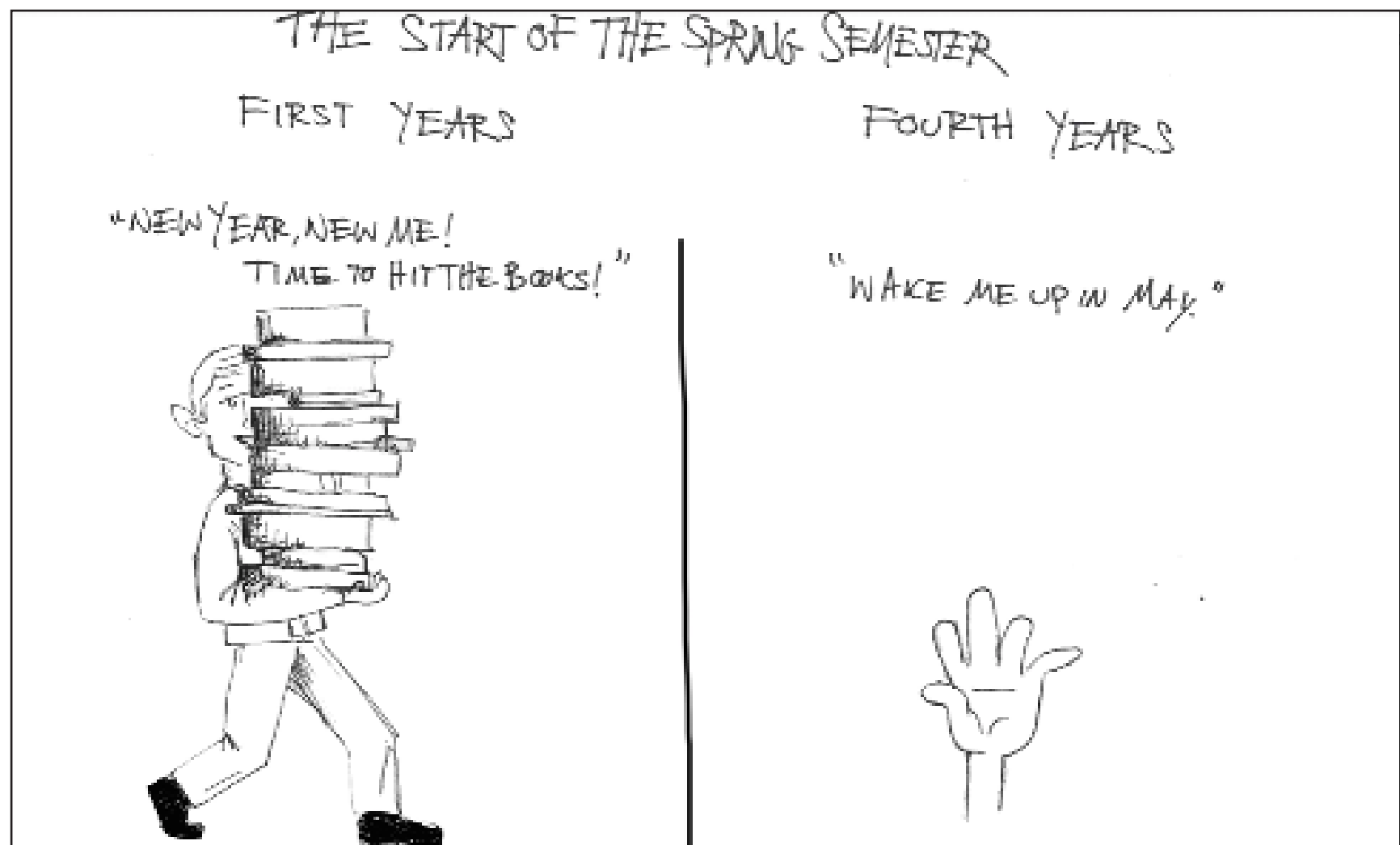
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C

CARTOON

The Start of the Spring Semester

Walter Sharon | Cartoonist





Embracing inclusivity through design

Fourth-year Arthur Brown explains how his team's architecture celebrates the ideals of MLK

Max Patten | Staff Writer

In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s 90th birthday, the University's School of Architecture is hosting "In the Mindset of Martin," an exhibition in Campbell Hall showcasing the work of both graduate and undergraduate teams tasked with designing and building community spaces in the inclusive spirit of King. Before the exhibition opened, Arts and Entertainment sat down with the president of the University's National Organization of Minority Architecture Students chapter, fourth-year Architecture student Arthur Brown.

Brown led a team of undergraduate students last year in a nationally held contest to design an environmentally sustainable, community-oriented train station for Chicago's Woodlawn district, the destination of the soon-to-be-opened Obama Presidential Center. The design concept came to be known as Sapling Station.

Brown discussed the inspiration from MLK on the project, the benefits of diversity and minority voices in design, the difficult balance of accommodating complex urban issues like gentrification and the unique perspective being a minority design team in Charlottesville has on the team's mindset.

The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Arts and Entertainment: What makes architecture and designing spaces a field where you think diversity should be embraced?

Arthur Brown: We historically have not catered to minorities too well. And we as architects and designers design for everyone and we should not be exclusive in that we should consider the needs of minorities, marginalized groups, women, children, people with disabilities because everyone is affected by what we do.

AE: And how does the Sapling Station project fit into that?

AB: So we first consider our location and our position in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago ... we need to have housing, a community center where people can come and learn, and we have places where small businesses can open up and again bring back or help to promote that renaissance that Woodlawn is trying to promote, as well as create housing there that is not seen as an afterthought but as an integral part of the design.

AE: What makes [the exhibit] unique for this year? How does Sapling Station kind of fit into these design principles? How does that connect to Martin Luther King?

AB: Sapling Station sits at an intersection of a bunch of different things and quite literal intersection of the L train and the axis of the Presidential Obama Center. We were told that we should think of it as a gateway, which is what Martin Luther King Jr. was, definitely like a firebrand. He opened up so many gates for minorities — not just black people all minorities in the sense that black civil rights [were] the onset [for] a bunch of different groups in America to say, "Hey, we're done being like second-hand citizens. We're going to start advocating for ourselves and we're going to be treated like the everyday American." So, I want to say that Sapling Station like before is the continuation of the Woodlawn Renaissance. It's also a continuation of that idea that you do not need to be marginalized in order to enjoy luxury.

AE: Do you think [the complex history of Charlottesville] gives [your team] an advantage, or is that a challenge? What kind of unique perspective does that give you that like other teams might not have in their design



MAX PATTEN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Arthur Brown's "In the Mindset of Martin" exhibit is currently featured in Campbell Hall.

concepts?

AB: Yeah, I definitely think that's an advantage. I mean as horrible as it is, there are people who just will not experience what we've experienced here. And although it is horrible and a lot to take in as someone who is still developing mentally and like finding out who they are — I'm not just speaking for myself, I'm speaking for everyone, like in the University at large — it helps to see and understand what the worst possibility is, you know, to an extent. ... But I do think it does give us some sort of insight on what is the most negative response you could get to this, or what is, what can we do to keep people safe? What can we do to show that we are better than that kind of response? I think we've definitely have learnt a lot from being in Charlottesville.

AE: What's it like to be a part of [this exhibition], to have your team and the work you've done for months being displayed here

with that theme?

AB: I think it's amazing. Like, far too often as an undergraduate student you kind of feel overlooked because of the graduate students in their work, but to be acknowledged for what you've done — even if we weren't the ones to win the competition, we still did pretty well, we got a lot of great feedback from what we did do and I feel so honored and so taken aback that we are being seen and we are being acknowledged for it because yeah, it took a lot of time and effort.

AE: In the future years [of the University], what do you think the main shift in perspective is going to be? Especially on issues like this where there is still very much relevant today — issues of race, issues of diversity and topics like that?

AB: I think we need to walk into things with an open mind that this is always going to be a discussion. ... I also think that it is imperative to have these dis-

cussions in the classroom. Far too often do we talk about issues of gentrification in the architecture school without explicitly saying that or what's the implications of that or the consequences. I think it is important for us to stop thinking of things hypothetically and start talking about what is actually happening or what has happened historically and what were the effects. I think it's especially important because if we don't do that people will not understand what the reality of it is, especially in America today. There are a lot of students who [think] things like this don't affect [them] ... on a major level. But I don't think that that excuses the lack of education on these topics.

In the Mindset of Martin and featured displays from the Sapling Station concept will be on display through Feb. 1 in Campbell Hall.

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RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Leslie Odom Jr. is the latest to visit Grounds as part of the President's Speaker Series for the Arts.

Leslie Odom Jr. speaks on the importance of acknowledging racism as the President's Speaker for the Arts

Kate Granruth | Arts & Entertainment Editor

Leslie Odom Jr. was never a student at U.Va. — to commandeer a line from previous Speaker and University alumna Tina Fey's movie "Mean Girls," he didn't even go here. And yet, his question-and-answer session with President Jim Ryan at John Paul Jones Arena, held on a rainy Saturday just hours after Odom and his team drove hours through the night to get to Charlottesville after a cancelled flight, felt deeply personal to Charlottesville, resonating with a community still trying to heal centuries-old wounds.

The event began with two performances from musical groups on Grounds. First, Broadway-pop fusion group Hoos in the Stairwell performed a medley of songs from artists like Ed Sheeran and Fall Out Boy blended with tracks from "Hamilton," the pivotal show that rocketed Odom to critical acclaim and household name status.

While this was an impressive performance, the next group that performed truly set the tone for the afternoon. Black Voices Gos-

pel Choir first performed the soulful "Ride On King Jesus," reminiscent of the group's founding in African American tradition and Christianity, but it was their next song, a performance of Bill Withers' "Lean On Me," that truly captured the ethos of this event.

The line "I'll be your friend," simple as it may be, mirrors the sentiments that draw Odom to the University time and time again. When performing as a musical guest at the Bicentennial celebration in October 2017, Odom praised the University for its efforts in acknowledging its white supremacist history — a history forced into the public perception by the tragic events of Aug. 11 and 12. Standing on the very Lawn that was terrorized by violent white nationalists, just blocks from the Downtown Mall where Heather Heyer was murdered, Odom proclaimed his admiration for the University and Charlottesville. "Your community has really touched me and moved me on this trip," he said. "You have a friend in me forever

and ever."

The question-and-answer session began with lighthearted banter between Odom and President Ryan, who opened the event by asking, "First, a quick question, Mr. Odom — is it okay if I call you Leslie? I'm a little starstruck." Odom responded with a yes, then quipped, "Can I call you Jim?" The joking continued when Ryan asked, "But you know, I think there are many who would say your single finest performance was at our Bicentennial celebration last year. And I'm wondering, would you agree?"

Despite the jovial nature of the question, Odom used his answer to further delve into his recent devotion to the University, and said, "Jim, I would agree, and I'll tell you why. What was so astounding about it ... I came expecting only birthday party vibes. For you guys to open with the Native American blessing and for you to have the section that went deep on the painful history of slavery in this country, that stuff I just was not expecting at all I was just so impressed

with this community and with that program."

Odom went on to describe the period of time after Aug. 11 and 12 and before the Bicentennial when his decision to perform at U.Va. was called into question. Many celebrities hesitated to come to town, most notably Future and Lil Yachty, who cancelled their Welcome Week performance in the days after the riots citing safety concerns. Odom had a different response.

"People asked me, 'Aren't you going to Charlottesville, are you still keeping that date?' And I couldn't wait to get here," Odom said, turning from Ryan to address the audience. "Because I couldn't wait to meet you, I wanted to see who you were, face-to-face like a lot of people did, and you guys showed up I couldn't wait to come back and really see how you guys were doing, how you're healing, if the conversations have continued I just came back for a check-in with your town."

For a while, the conversation turned to Odom's start in show

business — a love for the iconic musical "Rent" fueled his entrance into the theater world. Odom then relayed to the audience how he learned the power of saying "No" early on, when he made the decision — influenced heavily by the wishes of his family — to turn down a role in a Broadway play in order to pursue an education at Carnegie Mellon.

Inevitably, the conversation turned to "Hamilton," the epochal musical that told the story of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, with the added element that the majority of the main cast of characters were played by people of color. Odom was able to see "The Hamilton Mixtapes," the early version of the now-iconic musical, at a showing at Vassar College. It was during the fourth song of the show, "The Story of Tonight," that Odom knew he was hooked.

"I had never in my life — as a fan of the form, as a fan of musical theater," Odom said, "I have never in my life seen a song with four men of color on a stage singing a song about friendship and

brotherhood, in my life. To me, that was the revolution.”

Talks of revolution continued as a video question from second-year College student Nia Williams was shown. She asked, “What was it like as a black man in America taking on the role of a white Founding Father, and if you had to reconcile the two characters in any way?”

Odom’s answering to this question was undoubtedly the most serious and emotional part of the entire conversation. His response was slow and deliberate, and he clucked his tongue to fill the space as he thought. After a few moments of trying to start his answer, Odom said, “What I recognized was we were dabbling in things that we didn’t completely understand.” He gripped the table and took a breath before continuing. “And I’ll say this — when you have a deeply spiritual experience ... they’re hard to talk about.”

“As a descendent of chattel slavery in this country,” he continued, and then he paused for several seconds. “To, to take the story and tell it how I wanted to. To wrap my arms around the neck, the throat of that story, and wield it how I wanted to, there’s something about that exchange that the audience is feeling, that Americans are feeling. They’re feeling that — that audacity. And it’s doing something.”

Odom then took the opportunity to discuss the writings of Ta-Nehisi Coates, author of “Between the World and Me” and one of the most prolific writers on the subject of race today. “He writes when he teaches his son about slavery. He’s like, ‘Do not ever talk about it in broad strokes. Those are individual lives, every single one of them was an individual life. That was a person that God only knows what they could have been. And that person was snuffed out you destroyed that person, you destroyed their lineage, their future, and you erased their past because you literally erased their past.’ So that’s nothing to toy with.”

John Paul Jones was so silent as he spoke that it was impossible to imagine that the arena was ever home to thousands of screaming basketball fans. This moment drew out the heart-wrenching truth of the United States’ — and certainly Jefferson and the University’s — painful history. We speak about slavery at the University in the broad strokes Odom condemns. From the popular term of “enslaved laborers,” to the cemetery of unmarked graves on McCormick Road, full of nameless men, women and children only a few hundred feet from a monument that laments the fall of the Confederacy, to the commonplace ex-

cuse for Jefferson that “everyone had slaves,” we as a school and a community erase the individual completely. Slavery and racism are not simple talking points or passive occurrences. They are people and experiences the University has only barely begun to grapple with, through projects like the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers being constructed on Grounds.

That is why Odom’s appearance as the Speaker for the Arts is so monumental — Odom is a black celebrity, a public figure made famous for his role in a cultural phenomenon centered around inclusivity, and he chooses to support a university community that has been flawed since its founding. Odom recognizes this — his message isn’t at all the colorblind mantra of “this isn’t who we are,” which flooded social media after the events in August 2017. Rather, Odom has become a symbol of the mentality that this rally was not a fluke but a symptom of who Charlottesville, the University and the nation are. But that doesn’t mean there is no hope.

“Listen,” Odom addressed the crowd. “Healing can’t even begin until you acknowledge where you’ve come from.” The statement harkens back to his words at the Bicentennial celebration. “Seeing a community rally like this,” he said to the Bicentennial crowd, “take ownership of their past and lay claim to the future, I’ve never seen anything like it.

You are rising to the occasion.”

There are moments where it’s hard to believe that the world will get better, that Charlottesville and the University will get better. And then, there are moments like this Speaker for the Arts event. At very end of

Odom’s appearance, he sang a few lines of Bob Dylan’s “Forever Young,” changing the last line of the “and may the game be won,” referencing the men’s basketball game between Duke and U.Va. His voice and the gesture brought the arena to its feet all

at once, a moment of unity in a town characterized by division. What Odom gave us was more than a fun few hours — he gave us permission to hope for a brighter Charlottesville, a brighter University and a brighter world.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Odom Jr. closed the event by singing a few lines of Bob Dylan’s “Forever Young.”



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

President Jim Ryan hosted a question-and-answer session with the “Hamilton” star.



Medical social workers give support to patients

Medical social workers discuss their roles in the University hospital

Zoe Ziff | Section Editor

Helping individual patients with health crises, learning about the constantly changing field of healthcare and being with patients' families in times of emotional stress are a few reasons why University Health System medical social worker supervisors Chris Popish and Lisa Repaske are drawn to their work. Popish, Repaske, and medical social worker Fayola Kojo recently spoke to The Cavalier Daily about social work — or aiding clients who have social or psychological concerns — and its current role in patient recovery. Medical social workers perform a wide variety of tasks, including connecting patients with social resources, communicating with the patient's family members and offering counseling.

Medical social workers are integral parts of the hospital and oversee much of the non-medical aspects of a patient's recovery. Their duties include assessing the social and psychological states of the patient, leading counseling and group therapy sessions, working with loved ones on a plan of treatment after discharge from the hospital and referring patients to community resources.

At the University hospital, each social worker is assigned to a specific unit — such as surgery and trauma, pediatrics or psychiatry. With each new admission into the unit, they look through the patient's medical history for indicators that a social worker needs to be involved in their case. A few of those indicators include

mental health history, a poor prognosis, a history of substance abuse, homelessness and history of child or domestic abuse.

"Social workers get involved from the beginning," Repaske said. "Even if we're not called in to see every patient, we are assessing by a high risk indicator need Could everyone benefit from a social worker? Absolutely."

A social worker will meet with a patient and conduct social and psychological assessments if the patient has an indicator on file or if the social worker simply feels the need to.

"I'll meet with the patient," Kojo said. "I'll let them know what my role is, why I'm seeing them, pretty much just like as a brief check in. It builds rapport with them, and then eventually, I let them know that it's part of an assessment that we just want to make sure that their needs are being met. Ideally by the end of the assessment, we've identified what they need assistance on, and then, we work with them during their admission in order to reach those goals."

Kojo is a "float" social worker, which means that she is able to work in a wide range of units. On any given day she could be overseeing anywhere from five to 15 patients. Although the medical procedures differ from unit to unit, Kojo said the psychological and social concerns remain similar among patients. Many times, medical social workers also assist with the patient's financial mat-

ters in relation to treatment and the terms of the patient's health insurance.

"No matter what unit you are in you can still see patients with the same needs," Kojo said. "Just because you're in the [intensive care unit] doesn't mean that you won't have ... financial issues or a history of homelessness, substance abuse, depression."

In the intensive care unit — where Kojo has recently spent much of her time — medical social workers have the added responsibility of helping families cope emotionally with the conditions of their loved ones, especially when the patient is coding or unable to communicate. They also lead patients and family through end-of-life conversations and sometimes collaborate with the chaplain.

Throughout their stay, patients can ask medical social workers questions related to their social standing or mental health and participate in counseling sessions.

"Social workers are known as community resource experts, but that changes and evolves all the time," Repaske said. "Knowing your resources and staying in tune with that is something that social work does very well."

One current change the social work department examines is the recently-expanded Medicaid program in Virginia. Those who are eligible could enroll in the beginning of November with coverage starting in January. Although social workers do not complete

Medicaid applications, they are responsible for educating the patient and family on health coverage options — including cases where the patient does not have health insurance — and supporting the patient and family through that process.

"Just because you pass a bill, and you have it out there doesn't mean people really understand how that's gonna benefit them. It's a big social work role," Repaske said. "So as leaders, we have to go and do that throughout the hospital and ... make sure it's really touching the patient, the family."

Another social work supervisor at the University, Chris Popish, spoke about social workers' role during the violent events of Aug. 11 and 12 last year, when white supremacists rallied in Charlottesville.

"Staff are there with the families and having to break bad news, and then trying, we were trying to link the families with the patients," Popish said. "It was really hard because it was chaotic, and it was the first time we ever had to do something like that here Everyone pulled together."

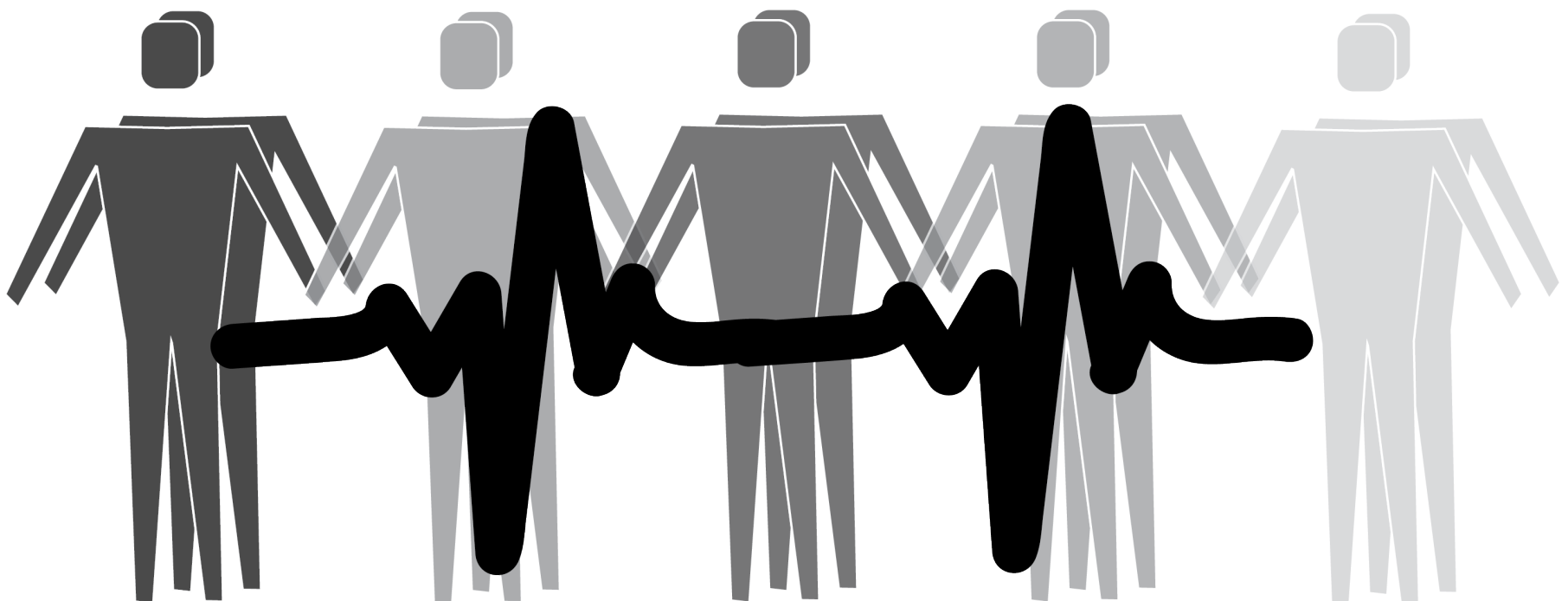
Because their work is highly emotional, social workers are strong advocates for self-care. The department will often have debriefings and huddles to discuss current cases, help each other problem-solve and simply talk about their day. In addition, the department is able to bring in outside support and therapy for

the social workers and often refer individuals to a therapist who specializes in counseling people who work in healthcare. Some social workers have certain self-care rituals outside of work, such as meditation or exercise.

Both Popish and Repaske worked in non-academic institutions before their tenure at the University. While Popish said he found the University has a more collaborative environment than his previous experience, Repaske said there is more bureaucracy when working in academia and taking away administrative layers would stimulate out-of-the-box thinking.

At the University Health System, in addition to overseeing patients, medical social workers teach residents and medical students how to react to patients and families in high-stress situations. The medical social work department offers internships for graduate students to gain experience in the field as well. However, those students do not usually come from the University.

"We have to go to Richmond or other programs to get students to come here because U.Va. doesn't have a school of social work," Repaske said. "I have never worked in a large academic setting that didn't have that That to me is a missing element here."



Medical social workers provide support to patients.

TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Company to treat Albemarle County farms with biosolids

Synagro Central LLC requested a permit to spread biosolids on thousands of acres of farmland

Cecily Wolfe, Mahima Reddy, Tina Chai | Staff Writers and Senior Writer



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Biosolids, the organic byproduct of treated wastewater and sewage, have begun to play a role as an organic fertilizer in Virginia.

Synagro Central LLC, a company that works to transform domestic sewage and wastewater into crop fertilizer, recently applied to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for an expanded permit to treat 2,447 acres of land on Nutmeg and Greenmont Farms in Scottsville. Synagro specifically utilizes biosolids in areas with low-quality and nutrient-poor soils.

Biosolids are the organic by-products of treated wastewater and sewage. University Environmental Science Prof. Aaron Mills said this organic material bears little resemblance to the solid waste that initially arrives at treatment facilities. It mostly consists of solid residues that have been dried following the purification process.

“It’s all organic,” Mills said. “The bulk of it is the bacteria involved in the decomposition of input materials, as well as undigested vegetable residues and plant materials. That means most of the input organisms and material are removed.”

Mills also mentioned the potential for biosolids to act as reservoirs of nutrients that foster plant growth and cited the product of Milorganite — a fertilizer made of biosolids regularly sold in Milwaukee — as a success story.

Biosolids have also begun to play a role as an organic fertilizer in Virginia. From 2008 to 2013, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality oversaw the administration of an average of

220,000 dry tons of biosolids on 65,000 acres of land per year. As a result, the DEQ instituted a request process to regulate biosolid administration.

Specifically, all wastewater treatment facilities and contractors must apply to receive a permit for biosolid application, and the DEQ must then review the source of biosolids and the potential site of use. A public meeting addressing the proposal and draft of the permit in the local paper follow, with the DEQ allotting a 30-day comment period, during which locals can request a public hearing. The DEQ will then make a final decision as to whether or not to grant the permit.

Synagro was one of the companies that applied for and was approved for the introduction of biosolids in the past. Since 2015, Synagro and Recyc Systems Inc., a company focused on agricultural uses of biosolids, received permits from the DEQ to treat approximately 4,000 acres of farmland with more than 6,000 tons of dry biosolids in states including Arizona and Maryland. The most recent proposal from Synagro includes treating farmland with the treated and dried sewage sludge from water treatment, food waste and industrial facilities in an effort to enhance crop growth.

“We do the last step in wastewater treatment,” said Layne Baroldi, vice president of Technical Services and Government Affairs at Synagro. “When things are put

down the drain, they go through municipal governments’ systems where they treat wastewater and solids, as well as manage residuals. ... We do the last step of reclaiming biosolids for beneficial use or disposal.”

Founded in 1986 and based in Baltimore, Synagro works with municipalities, waste and wastewater treatment facilities and other industry partners to develop effective residual management processes, from efficient facility designs to disposing of organic waste material in environmentally friendly ways of incorporating it into biosolid solutions.

“We’ve been in the business decades and have a lot of people who are subject matter experts within biosolids business, as well as a thorough technical services and compliance group that manages biosolids of customer,” Baroldi said.

Nevertheless, some local residents, including Ann Mallek, chair of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, oppose the spreading of biosolids in most contexts. Mallek expressed concern regarding the uncertainty about the contents of biosolids, especially after having witnessed incidents in which the application process was poorly managed.

“Biosolids are basically presented to communities as something that is great, as free fertilizer for farmers that can help the soil, but you cannot put me in yes column because we don’t even know what

we don’t know about those materials,” Mallek said.

Mallek also said that as a farmer herself, she would not put biosolids on her own farm and that the people who buy beef from her do so because they know she does not use biosolids that may contain traces of heavy metals, pharmaceuticals and other contaminants on her land. While she did concede that biosolids could be beneficial in flat places far from water and with poor soil, Mallek also cited the need for citizens to have a greater role in the decision to apply biosolids.

In response to others with similar views, Baroldi emphasized the idea that the biosolids Synagro uses are highly treated material and that a large body of evidence in the scientific community points to improved soil health, reduction of irrigation needs in arid climates and carbon sequestration benefits that could help counteract climate change.

“We need to work closer with municipalities that we serve and regulatory authorities to help with outreach to the public and providing the science that supports biosolid use,” Baroldi said. “Biosolids really can act as a biogenic fertilizer that is extremely environmentally sensitive and, when managed in compliance with rules and regulations, actually protect human health and the environment.”

When asked for his opinion, Mills concluded that if government officials and contractors

went about spreading biosolids in a careful manner, then there most likely would be few issues that would persist. If not, issues like respiratory problems due to wind-borne particulate matter, or harmful solid and liquid particles in the air, could arise.

“I think it’s one of those things that if you pay attention to the recommendations and follow the rules ... it’s pretty harmless and you shouldn’t have a problem,” Mills said.

A public informational meeting was held on Nov. 13, 2018, at the Virginia Department of Forestry, after which the public permit was drafted. According to Anita Tuttle, DEQ permit writer for Synagro LLC’s expansion application, the permit is currently undergoing internal review.

The Environmental Protection Agency released a report titled, “EPA Unable to Assess the Impact of Hundreds of Unregulated Pollutants in Land-Applied Biosolids on Human Health and the Environment” on Nov. 15, 2018. Neil Zahradka, manager of the Office of Land Application and permit manager of Synagro LLC’s application, said the DEQ is evaluating the contents of the report, but have not drawn any conclusions relating to how the report could affect permit passage. If there are a significant number of requests, the DEQ could hold a public hearing in the future.



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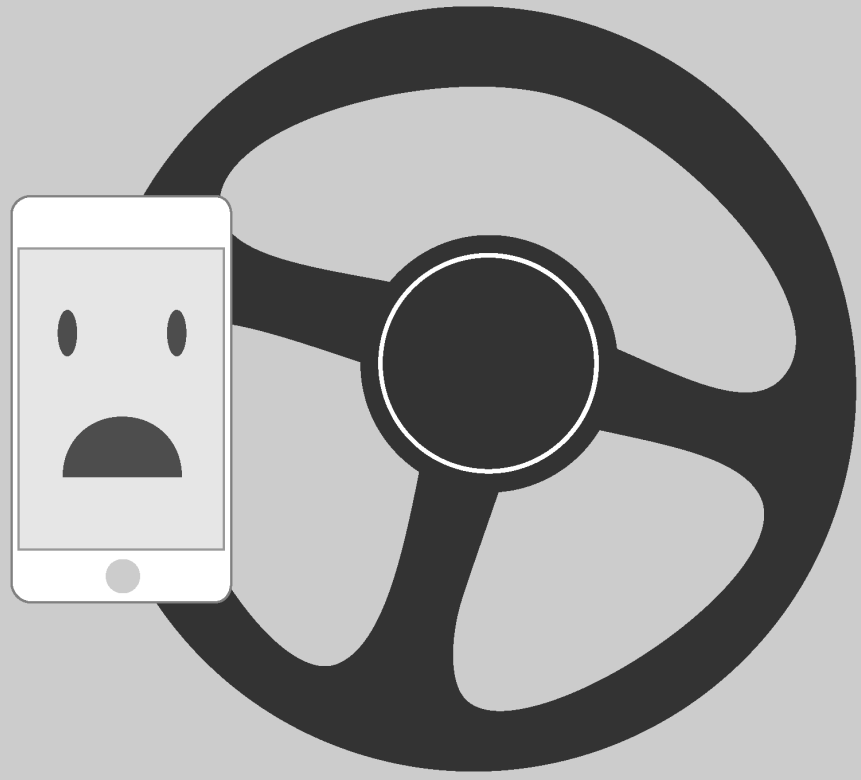
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