

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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LEIGH BAILEY & KAYLA MOORE | THE CAVALIER DAILY



NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff

U.Va. among nine universities offered to join initiative led by Trump administration

The Trump administration has sent out a letter outlining a proposed set of operating principles for universities that would give select universities preferential access to federal funding in exchange for adhering to certain conditions, the Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday. The University is among the nine institutions the administration invited to join the initiative.

The proposal, called the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education,” lays out ten requirements to which participating universities would agree in exchange for what the administration described as “substantial and meaningful” federal support. According to the WSJ, institutions that sign on would receive priority for federal grants and invitations to the White House to meet with officials.

The compact’s conditions include freezing tuition for five years, prohibiting the consideration of race or sex in admissions and hiring, capping international undergraduate enrollment at 15 percent, requiring undergraduate applicants to take the SAT or other widely used standardized tests and limiting grade inflation.

It asks universities to maintain “institutional neutrality,” which includes restricting employees from making political statements on behalf of their institutions. At the University, a policy similar to this is already in place — employees are required to ensure they do not imply that any political positions are endorsed by the University. In September 2024, the University also adopted a “position of neutrality,” which advises leaders only to comment on political events when they directly impact the University.

Virginia Senate leaders express “unequivocal opposition” to Compact

The Virginia Senate sent a letter Tuesday to Interim University President Paul Mahoney and Board of Visitors Rector Rachel Sheridan relaying its “grave concern” regarding a Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education which the University received last week. The letter calls upon the University to immediately cease consideration of the Compact, and if not, the Commonwealth will work to negatively impact the University’s funding.

“This is not a partnership,” the letter reads. “It is, as other university leaders have aptly described, political extortion.”

The Cavalier Daily obtained the letter from an anonymous source, and University Spokesperson Bethanie Glover confirmed that the University received the letter. Senate Majority Leader Scott A. Surovell, D-Fairfax, signed the letter, as well as State Sens. L. Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, and Mamie E. Locke, D-Hampton.

Sheridan, Mahoney and Vice Rector Porter Wilkinson responded to the letter Wednesday. The response acknowledges that the compact raises crucial questions for the University and higher education more broadly, and it reiterated that the University’s decisions will be guided by founding principles of integrity and academic freedom.

The response said that the University has worked to address continuing challenges posed by the federal government while remaining true to University values.

“The University has steadfastly maintained its founding commitment. As the current stewards of that legacy, we have no intention of abandoning the University’s principles,” the response reads.

Governor stops reporting appointments to General Assembly, letters show

After months of dispute between Virginia Senate Democrats and the Youngkin administration over appointments to universities’ governing boards across the Commonwealth, the governor’s office now says it will stop reporting appointments to the General Assembly for consideration.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s Counsel Richard Cullen wrote in a letter Tuesday in response to Sen. Aaron Rouse, D-Norfolk, and Del. Cia Price, D-Newport News, that the governor would not provide reports to the General Assembly on his nominees because of the ongoing dispute over gubernatorial appointments.

The governor makes appointments to positions across the Commonwealth most Fridays, including boards for education, soybeans, labor and many others. These appointments are typically reported to the General Assembly for consideration every 60 days.

Youngkin was 13 days late to his report in August, but eventually submitted it. When he did not submit his report ahead of the Oct. 1 deadline, Democrats sent a letter asking for the reports promptly.

“Notably, this interpretation — that the reporting requirement applies during all periods between regular sessions regardless of special sessions — has been consistently followed by your administration since Governor Youngkin’s inauguration in 2022, and indeed by every Virginia governor preceding him,” Rouse and Price wrote.

Since the last report, Youngkin has made over 100 appointments to boards across Virginia, not just university governing boards. Surovell said those nominees are currently serving despite not being referred to the General Assembly for confirmation. Democrats have already taken universities to court over governing board nominees serving after being voted down by the Senate, and won in Fairfax County Circuit Court in a temporary decision. Now, that case has been appealed to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

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Faculty express concern over Trump Compact

Professors say the Compact would restrict the University's freedom of speech

Nina Broderick | Senior Associate

University faculty have voiced concerns that the Department of Education's "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education" threatens the University's core value of academic freedom. Specifically, several faculty have expressed fear of the federal government's overreach into a state institution and claim that signing the Compact would be detrimental to the University and future generations of scholars to come.

Interim President Paul G. Mahoney received the offer from the Department of Education Oct. 1 with a deadline of Oct. 20 to submit "limited, targeted" feedback. The Compact proposes principles such as freezing tuition, promoting a "marketplace of ideas," abolishing institutional units which "punish, belittle and even spark violence against" conservative ideas and screening international applicants for support of "American and Western values." In exchange for adhering to these principles, the University would receive preferential access to federal funding.

Beyond specific worries about the Compact's language, several faculty have expressed concern over the idea of the Compact itself. Many have claimed that it demonstrates extreme federal overreach from the Trump administration. MC Forelle, the chair of the faculty committee of United Campus Workers of Virginia's University chapter and assistant Engineering professor, said that beyond the language within it, the idea of the Compact itself is worrisome.

"The fact that the compact even exists is a concern, because it is a demonstration that the federal government and the Trump administration will not rest until they have control over the way the University functions," Forelle said.

In a statement to The Cavalier Daily, English Prof. Susan Fraiman further emphasized this concern over the exercise of federal power in a state institution.

"Many of us are wondering how we could do our jobs if the government subjects our teaching and research to an ideological litmus test," Fraiman wrote. "For the Interim President and [the Board] to accept any part of the Compact is to risk the future of the University as we know it."

Fraiman further wrote that agreeing to the Compact would mean the University ceding its freedom of speech.

Mahoney has created a working group to advise him on the University's response to the letter. The working group is under the leadership of Brie Gertler, interim executive vice president and provost, and Jennifer Wagner Davis, executive vice president and chief operating officer. University Counsel Cliff Iler is also part of the working group.

Asst. Global Studies Prof. Laura Goldblatt said, however, that there should be nothing to discuss on the issue, given the Compact's "stunning overreach" by the federal government. Similar to Fraiman, Goldblatt claimed that the Compact threatens the University's core value of academic freedom.

"A core provision of academic freedom is that faculty and students and staff are able to, in Thomas Jefferson's words, 'pursue truth wherever it may lead,'" Goldblatt said. "We're not supposed to be afraid of that, and that means that there can't be meddling by outside entities into what you can and can't study."

Specifically, Goldblatt expressed concern over the section of the Compact titled "Foreign Entanglements," which proposes more extensive screening of international applicants to the University.

"Federal permission for foreign student visas is intended to further America's national interest to the extent the selected foreign students exhibit extraordinary talent ... and the selected students are introduced to, and supportive of, American and Western values, ultimately increasing global understanding and appreciation for the United States and our way of life," the Compact reads.

Goldblatt specifically highlighted that the Compact uses antisemitism as an example of a "noxious value" brought to university campuses by international studies. As a Jewish faculty member, Goldblatt says she resonates with the concerns of antisemitism. However, she does not see the root of the problem to be international students.

"I understand the fears around antisemitism, but on this campus, our experience of that has been about homegrown antisemitism, not people coming from elsewhere," Goldblatt said. "I think this idea that foreigners are ... a threat to Jews is inaccurate [and] extremely dangerous."

Goldblatt also expressed unease about the Compact calling



CAT WHITE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Interim University President Paul Mahoney photographed at Faculty Senate meeting Sept. 5, 2025.

for universities to define "male" and "female" according to a biological understanding, claiming that this provision is another example of a threat to academic freedom.

"The idea that there are only two genders, or that the gender you're assigned at birth is the only true gender, these are all ideas that I think in any good academic institution should be subjected to inquiry," Goldblatt said. "Sometimes these ideas hold up, and sometimes they don't, but we certainly can't know if we don't start asking questions."

In her statement, Fraiman similarly expressed concern with the "strictly binary view of 'male' and 'female'" that universities would commit to by signing the contract.

The Faculty Senate passed a resolution at its meeting Friday opposing the Compact, where 60 senators voted in favor of the resolution, two opposed and four abstained.

"The Faculty Senate of the University of Virginia firmly opposes this Compact as written and calls upon Interim President Mahoney and the Board of Visitors to also reject this Compact outright as well as any similar proposal compromising the mission, values and independence of the University," the resolution reads.

Similarly, the College and

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Faculty expressed opposition to the Compact at an emergency meeting Monday. According to Erin Lambert, Arts and Sciences Faculty secretary, a statement prepared by the Arts and Sciences Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Ethics was supported by 94 percent of the College and Graduate School faculty.

"We ask that the Interim President, the Rector and Board of Visitors refuse to discuss joining the compact offered by the federal government," the statement reads. "Contents of the compact include matters of best practices in higher education with which we are always engaged. But the very existence of this compact is a threat to the values of academic freedom to which we are all committed."

Music Prof. Bonnie Gordon said that signing the Compact would impact not only current University students and faculty, but future generations of scholars to come. Gordon said that she hopes none of the nine universities asked to sign the Compact will do so.

"All of the universities should be simply saying, 'Not only will we not sign this, we will not consider it,' because it goes against academic freedom, it goes against the basis of what we do," Gordon said. "When universities go

down, so many other things go with it."

Similar to Gordon, Forelle, Fraiman and Goldblatt also shared strong hopes that the University does not sign the Compact. Forelle, however, voiced uncertainty over how the University will handle the situation.

"The Board of Visitors has been acting in really opaque ways [and] have been avoiding transparency," Forelle said. "There's some real concern that we will again, not get the transparency that we need. We will not get the opportunity to participate in shared governance that we need."

While the University considers the compact, Rector Rachel Sheridan and Mahoney sent an email to the University community Monday saying that Mahoney had formed a working group to advise him on how to respond. They wrote that it would be difficult for the University to agree to parts of the compact, and offered a link to a survey for community members to provide their feedback.

The University has a deadline of Oct. 20 to submit feedback for the Compact. The letter to Mahoney says that the Trump administration is aiming to have a signed agreement by Nov. 21.

Professors share their findings on the use of AI in research

How different professors across the University are utilizing artificial intelligence to enhance their research

Lidia Zur Muhlen | Senior Writer

As artificial intelligence is becoming a tool that many professors are utilizing as learning tools, several professors have begun studying the possible uses of AI in research. From economics to medicine to the humanities, professors are experimenting with AI to speed up tedious tasks, analyze patterns in data and even help to shape new topics of research. The uses of these different tools vary greatly depending on the discipline.

Assoc. Psychology Prof. Hudson Golino has been conducting research on how AI is being used at the University as well as how the University compares to 13 peer institutions. He found that in the past two and a half years across Grounds, schools and departments are increasingly using AI to help with research. Whether it be using AI methods to help them analyze data or help them to understand challenging concepts — AI has increased people's capacity to do tasks more efficiently.

"It's just like introducing electricity in universities in the early 20th century. Everybody's using it," Golino said.

Compared to other similar universities, Golino found that the University ranks towards the bottom in measuring the impact of AI-assisted research. However, Golino said that the need for greater understanding of AI is not just University specific — nationally, the academic world is dealing with the same shift and adapting to use these tools to help make their research methods more efficient.

However, it is specifically within the machine learning-related research category the University excels. Golino believes that this is due to an early investment in that research through the School of Data Science. Similarly, he thinks the University needs to make the same kind of investment in learning about the applied work that can be done with AI tools.

Thus far, applied AI research at the University — projects that use AI to answer social questions or transform professional practices — has less reach compared to peers, according to Golino, who says it is important to allow researchers to focus on adapting to new advancements in AI.

"It's a gold rush," Golino said. "Everybody's investing in AI, everybody is using AI [and] everybody is developing things. So if you take time away from research because people need to create a new course, or because they need to teach large courses, you're not optimizing your talent."

In line with Golino's focus, other professors at the University are also beginning to experiment with AI and research in new ways. Economics Prof. Anton Korinek was recently named in Time's 100 most influential in AI and

has been teaching a graduate level course about how to make use of AI in research — ECON 8991, "Research Methods in Economics." Through this course Korinek urges his students to become more comfortable with using large language models, treating them as if they are a research assistant who is smart, incredibly motivated and eager to help, but also completely lacks the content of what you are doing.

In his research he has focused on how to utilize AI for economic research. For a previous study, Korinek reviewed the capabilities of AI in a variety of different research categories, including ideation and feedback, writing, background research, coding, data analysis, math and research promotion, and rated AI's effectiveness at completing these tasks.

Korinek has found that AI is highly effective at synthesizing and editing text, as well as writing and debugging code. However, tasks such as deriving equations or setting up models in mathematics remain experimental and require significant human oversight. By rating these capabilities, he aims to help researchers understand what AI can truly save time on and where human expertise is still indispensable.

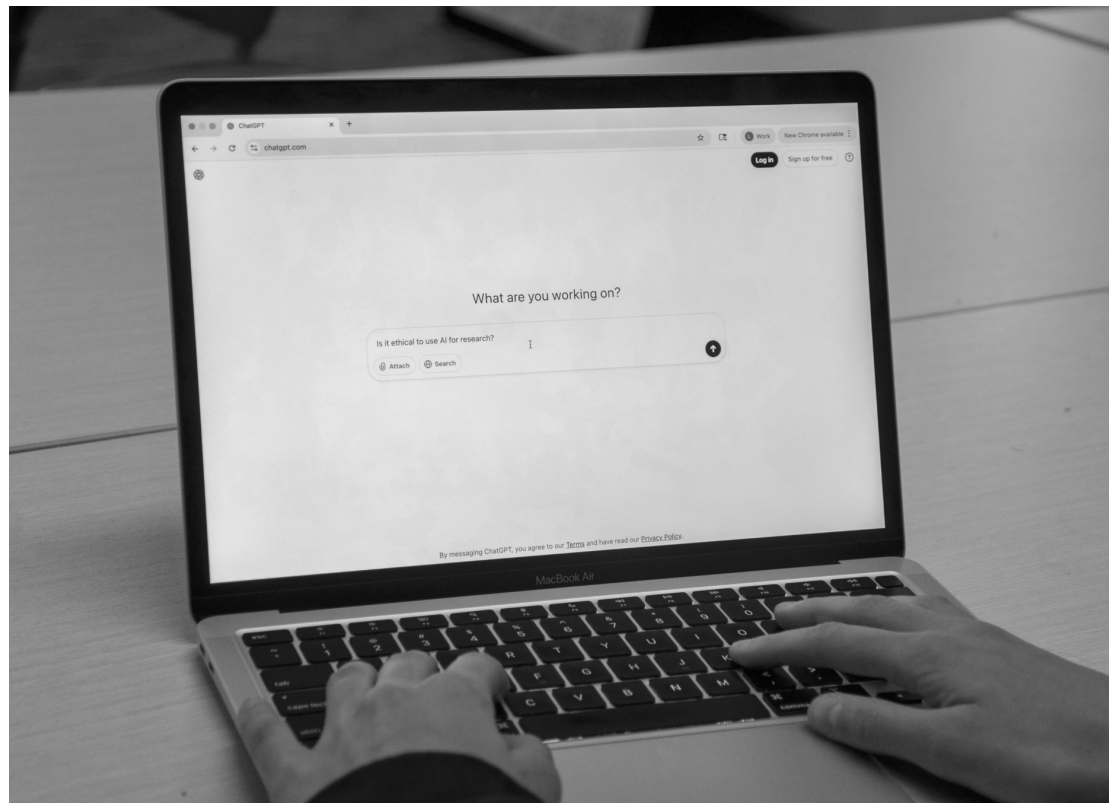
Although professors like Korinek are beginning to do more research to understand the best uses for AI, Golino said that part of what makes doing research with AI so experimental is the fact that many still do not fully understand how these models function.

"I'm using methods I developed to understand how human beings work, but now I'm applying these methods and, of course, adapting these methods to understand how these transformer models work," Golino said.

Golino has been able to translate his research focused on understanding how the human brain works and applied it to computational methods from psychology to AI to better understand how these models function, which is significantly different from the human brain.

Mona Sloane, assistant professor of Data Science and media studies, has incorporated AI tools like the search engine Perplexity into her lab's workflow as a way for students and researchers to learn through experimentation. She emphasized that disclosure is key — whenever AI has been used in her classroom or research, she requires that its use be acknowledged explicitly. In her view, part of preparing students for a future shaped by AI is ensuring they can critically evaluate both the benefits and the limitations of these tools.

"It's never going to be a silver bullet. It's always going to come with risks [as an] epistemic technology that



KAYLA MOORE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Questions around if it is ethical to use AI in research are now being confronted by professors and students alike.

reconfigures knowledge production," Sloane said.

Renee Cummings, assistant professor of practice in Data Science, also emphasized that understanding how AI models work is important to ensure that research is being conducted ethically. She also said that guardrails need to be put in place, because the creators of the systems being used don't even fully understand the limits of these systems.

"I just always like to think about — what's the diversity of perspectives?" Cummings said. "Is it just a Western perspective? Is it a modern perspective? Whose voices are being amplified by the AI and whose voices are being excluded?"

Cummings also encouraged both students and professors alike to ask the challenging questions when thinking about intellectual equity. For her, AI means going further than just being more efficient, it means ensuring that research aided by AI can still reflect a diversity of perspectives and does no harm.

While Cummings does not use AI to generate original research, she has deployed it as a comparative tool to scan for the missing pieces. She describes it as a way to catch the details that the human eye might miss. Moving forward, Cummings believes that research with AI tools needs to be approached with curiosity and accountability.

"A critical aspect of transparency

and disclosure is a documenting of the process, documenting the prompts that are used, the tools that are being used, or the tools that were used and

the sort of decision making steps that were used, almost like lab protocols," Cummings said.

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High costs at School of Law prompt questions about access

The School of Law relies on tuition and private giving, leaving some students to question whether the six-figure cost is feasible

Brendon Bordwine | Senior Writer

Since 2002, the University's School of Law has operated under a self-sufficient funding model, declining state support while remaining a public institution. And while that tuition is comparable to other law schools with similar prestige, some pre-law students say that approach may create a barrier to affordability at the Commonwealth's premier law school.

The School of Law is currently ranked fourth in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report, and charges \$106,670 for the 2025-26 academic year in total cost of attendance. Out-of-state tuition is only \$3,000 higher than in-state.

By comparison, according to the Education Data Initiative, the average annual tuition for law schools nationwide is \$46,029, and public law schools typically cost significantly less than private institutions. On average, in-state residents nationally pay about \$25,409 less for public law schools per year and \$76,227 less over a traditional three-year program.

The School of Law's move toward financial self-sufficiency dates back to decades of declining state support. As the Virginia General Assembly cut higher education funding through the 1990s and early 2000s — including over \$290 million in reductions after the dot-com crash and the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks — the School of Law sought greater stability.

In 2002, it adopted a self-sufficient model that ended direct state appropriations in exchange for full tuition and budgetary autonomy, while continuing to contribute a portion of its revenue to the University for administrative costs. Because it does not accept state funding, it also does not have to maintain a specified percent of in-state students — the School of Law's class of 2026 is majority out-of-state. Despite all of this, the Law School remains a public institution, as it is still part of the University and governed by the Board of Visitors.

Arising out of this agreement is the question of cost. Two decades later, students and alumni continue to debate the model and if it is worth the cost.

Elyse Stolpe, class of 2014 Law alumna, current senior assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Waynesboro and lecturer at the School of Law, said her own debt heavily influenced her early career choices.

Stolpe explained that this financial reality not only shapes individual choices — like choosing whether to work at a large law firm in a city, or “big law” — but also limits the pipeline of lawyers into smaller

markets.

“When you have taken out the student loans that are like big law, you need a big law salary to repay. It makes it harder to go into a smaller market ... we are hurting for lawyers in small jurisdictions,” Stolpe said. “I wish [students] could afford to ... but it's a barrier for being able to go into private practice in a non-big law setting.”

Mary Wood, chief communications officer at the School of Law, said the School of Law's tuition should be understood in the context of other top-ranked programs.

“Though the Law School is at the top of the national rankings, our tuition is below both the median and the average for the country's best law schools,” Wood said.

Among the top four ranked law schools — Yale University, Stanford University, the University of Chicago and UVa. Law — the University has the lowest total cost of attendance. The highest is Stanford, with a total cost of \$121,194 for the 2025-2026 academic year. UVa. Law is the only public university program among the top four.

Wood also emphasized that the tuition figure does not reflect the substantial financial aid the School of Law distributes to students each year, as it distributes around \$26 million in scholarships to its 950 students per year. She added that 10 percent of students at Law are first-generation college graduates and 25 percent are the first in their family to attend graduate school.

Students who plan to apply to law schools after finishing their undergraduate education say high tuition is an important factor, but one of many considerations.

Fourth-year College student Catarina Coelho, who is considering law school, said that cost does play a role when it comes time to decide on a law school, but notes that it is not just tuition that must be accounted for.

“I think cost is definitely a major factor because I don't think it's just about tuition, it's also about application fees or LSAT prep, deposits and the reality of living expenses for three years,” Coelho said. “For a lot of students, those upfront costs and the uncertainty around aid can make the process feel a little out of reach.”

Second-year College student Ying Lei Pham, who plans to attend law school, said that whether one should take on more debt or not is incredibly important when considering which law school to attend.

“When people are already in debt from undergraduate education and you're looking to further your education, I think that cost plays a real-



BENVIN LOZADA | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Students walk outside the School of Law Oct. 8, 2025.

ly, really large role, not only for me, but for a lot of students,” Pham said. “You have to consider what else can you take on? Can you take on more debt? Will the outcome or the future career outweigh the cons of paying for that?”

According to a survey conducted by the National Association for Law Placement, an association of over 3,000 legal career professionals who advise law students, lawyers and law schools, the median salary for first-year associates in private law firms is \$155,000, while entry-level public interest or legal services lawyers often earn in the \$60,000–70,000 range. Pham said this creates a strain for those seeking careers in the public sector.

To ease that strain, many graduates rely on two programs — the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which forgives loans after 10 years of qualifying public service payments, and the School of Law's Virginia Loan Forgiveness Program, which provides direct assistance to graduates earning under \$100,000. The University's program, funded largely through alumni donations, can cover most or all of a graduate's monthly loan obligations under income-driven repayment plans.

Stolpe said the program was essential in her own decision to leave a Washington law firm for a position in prosecution, as her monthly loan

burden shifted dramatically once she qualified for assistance by taking a \$100,000 pay cut, with her student loan repayment shifting from \$300 to \$500 a month instead of \$2,500.

“UVa. Law has an assistance program ... which is huge and very valuable and rare, because that is helping their graduates fill a need for some of these smaller jurisdictions or underserved legal areas to be able to go in and take those jobs despite having student loan debt,” Stolpe said.

Wood, the Law spokesperson, also pointed to the Law School's career outcomes, arguing that strong employment prospects help graduates manage debt regardless of sector.

“After graduation, most students go into private practice, where the base starting salary is \$225,000 per year,” Wood said. “The Law School supports graduates pursuing public service careers through scholarships, guaranteed funding for every student in a summer public-service job, postgraduate fellowships and loan forgiveness.”

Some students believe that because the University's School of Law is highly ranked nationally, that the prestige outweighs the cost, including second-year College student Evangelia Karoussos.

“[The law school] is top four in the country. I'm not gonna sit here and say that the price isn't a lot,”

Karoussos said. “But I do think that the name of the school and the quality of education I'll receive will make it worth it”

Stolpe added that the prestige is tied not only to its national reputation but also to the support it offers students after graduation.

“UVa. is unique in that it provides so much support for students who are looking to go into public interest after graduating, and if it had been another law school that did not have [that], I probably would not have been able to afford to go into public practice,” Stolpe said.

All students agreed that a law school should support first-generation and low-income students.

“I think that for first-generation students and lower-income students, those high costs narrow those paths, even though scholarships help, I think there's definitely gaps that can leave students juggling living costs and other responsibilities,” Coelho said. “Even though access sometimes is possible, I don't think it's so much equally felt across the field.”

As students weigh cost and return on investment, the School of Law continues to navigate the balance between prestige, accessibility and financial independence, a model that has defined its identity for more than two decades.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Feature twirlers bring fiery spirit to football games

The Cavalier Marching Band's five feature twirlers combine performance, artistry and acrobatics to showcase their skills and spirit

Claire Seigler | Staff Writer



COURTESY DANIEL FISHER

From the glow of stadium lights to the roar of the crowd, game days at the University are full of sound, color and motion. The marching band energizes the audience with its pregame show as Scott Stadium comes alive with fans pouring in before kick-off. And at the center of the band are the feature twirlers, sparkling in their sequin uniforms and tossing their batons high into the air.

Baton twirling is a sport that involves tossing and spinning one, two or three batons while incorporating dance and gymnastics to create a coordinated performance. At the University, the feature twirlers perform during the marching band's pregame and halftime shows at football games, as well as at basketball games and other athletic events on Grounds.

This year's feature twirlers are fourth-year Nursing student Madison Salber, fourth-year College student Gia Singh, third-year College student Ishita Bakshi, second-year College student Lauren Sykes and sophomore Piedmont Virginia Community College student Ivoire Shelton. All five of the twirlers started when they were in elementary school and have dedicated much

of their lives to performing and competing.

"I was kind of born into it," Singh said. "I started when I was three years old, and ever since then I've competed and wanted to twirl for U.Va."

Singh and Shelton first picked up a baton because twirling ran in their families. Salber, Bakshi and Sykes were inspired as little girls after seeing older girls twirl at summer camps and talent shows. Their early start means they have spent more than a decade perfecting their skills which allows them to handle the complexity of college-level performances.

Becoming a feature twirler at the University involves a three-part audition process. Interested candidates must first submit a biography detailing their twirling background with a video demonstrating a wide variety of baton skills. This is followed by an online interview and later an invitation-only, in-person interview and audition. The live auditions are adjudicated by a panel comprised of the twirling coaches, the Director of Bands and former feature twirlers and coaches.

"When I got the email that I got a callback, I was extremely excited," Sykes said. "It was really stressful because it was

such a long process. It was fairly emotional when I did make [the team]."

Between classes and rehearsals with the marching band, twirlers pour hours of their own time into practicing new tricks, choreographing an individual routine or rehearsing more complex group routines. They rehearse with the marching band every Tuesday and Thursday and on Friday nights before home football games, but those extra hours put in beyond scheduled rehearsals allow them to flawlessly perform on game days. For Bakshi, the best part of performing at football games is the support of students and fans.

"It's definitely really energizing when the student section is there and is loud and engaged, I feel like we kind of feed off their energy," Bakshi said. "The environment that the students bring is what makes it feel so special to me."

Each twirler choreographs their own feature that lasts approximately two minutes and showcases their unique abilities. They may incorporate dance movements, high tosses with multiple batons or a skill called a roll, which involves rolling a baton around their body while

maintaining constant contact with the baton.

The choreography they perform as a group, however, is synchronized and includes tricks they cannot do alone, such as exchanges where each twirler simultaneously tosses a baton and another twirler catches it.

Fire baton is perhaps the most iconic aspect of the twirlers' performances. Twirlers soak each end of the baton in fuel and set it ablaze, requiring both skill and courage as they spin and toss the baton. Performances with fire baton usually require two additional rehearsals to ensure the twirlers feel confident they can safely perform their routine. Despite the difficulty, twirling fire baton is a favorite for the feature twirlers and fans alike.

"I also love twirling fire, that's just a given," Shelton said. "It gets my adrenaline pumping. It doesn't matter how long the show is, I'll always be hyped for fire [baton]."

The feature twirlers not only perform at football and basketball games, they can also be seen at national twirling competitions that take place over the summer hosted by the National Baton Twirling Association and United States Twirling Association.

Last summer, Salber, Shelton, Singh and Sykes individually competed, and they all placed in the top 12 across various events. Salber and Shelton represented the University in the collegiate categories where Salber placed 12th in the collegiate solo finals, and Shelton placed 12th in the collegiate stadium performance finals. Shelton then went on to earn a silver medal in artistic twirl in the senior division at an international twirling competition, as well as two other top-10 finishes.

Now, with football season fully underway, the feature twirlers are just getting started. Three more home football games lie ahead, followed by basketball season and national competitions in the summer.

"Since it's my fourth year, [I'm] just soaking in all the memories," Salber said. "I'm excited for [basketball] performances, and then competing at nationals again will be really fun."

Each performance is a chance to share their passion with others. Their routines may last only a few minutes, but with every toss and spin, the feature twirlers carry forward a tradition of artistry, athleticism and school pride.

A&E Book Club: Four books to get you into horror

With Halloween approaching, these books will not only get you into the spooky spirit but also open your eyes to the different subgenres of horror

Darya Bartol | Staff Writer

As the weather gets colder and fall comes into full swing, there is nothing better than curling up with a hair-raising horror novel. However, while many shy away from the genre due to its perceived gruesomeness, horror is multifaceted.

This list blends history, fantasy, dystopian and classic slashers all into the overarching genre of horror, allowing for anyone to find a subgenre they like. With Halloween creeping closer and closer, these four books are certain to get even the scariest of cats reaching for a horror novel.

“The Glutton” by A.K. Blakemore

The 2023 novel “The Glutton” set in Versailles, France, reimagines the story of Tarare, an actual historical figure, who is said to have an insatiable appetite. A nun watches over a dying Tarare as he states that his appetite has led him to eat a golden fork. Rumors follow Tarare at every turn that he has eaten the unthinkable — another human.

Blakemore weaves an interesting

tale of how this larger-than-life, historical figure could have existed. From exploring Tarare’s childhood with a prostitute mother and stepfather who leaves him for dead to swallowing live animals for the entertainment of French nobles, Blakemore describes each stomach-curdling feast in gripping detail.

As his desires, and hunger, grow deeper and darker, this book is ultimately not for the faint of heart. If you desire a dark and twisted historical story, however, this book is perfect for morbid curiosity.

“Rouge” by Mona Awad

“Rouge,” published in 2023, follows Belle, a young woman obsessed with skincare and beauty tutorials, after her estranged mother suddenly dies. Belle is forced to go back home to California and grapple with what her mother has left behind. In doing so, she uncovers her similarly beauty-driven mother’s obsession with a cult-like spa. As she becomes more and more intertwined with the spa, the novel begins to blur

reality, fantasy and horror elements.

The book is a gothic fairytale with real-life critiques on the beauty industry and our pursuit of perfection. Awad shows that horror can contain bizarre plotlines and societal critiques, all while remaining entrenched in traditional genre tropes as well. For fans of a mind-bending, messed-up fairytale, “Rouge” checks every box.

“The Final Girl Support Group” by Grady Hendrix

Riffing on iconic slasher films, the 2021 horror thriller novel “The Final Girl Support Group,” follows the life of final girls — the last girls to survive in a horror movie — after their horrific experience. Lynnette Tarkington attends a secret support group with women who have survived massacres in order to regain some semblance of normalcy. However, just as the women think they are out of the woods, a terrifying slasher begins to stalk the group.

Having survived the worst of the worst before, the women are not go-

ing to give up without a fight. Each final girl is targeted with harrowing moments of pure violence mixed with tongue-in-cheek dark humor.

Hendrix rewards classic slasher fans with easter eggs throughout the book. For fans of ‘80s slashers, this book is a treat — for those who are not, the humor littered throughout the violence makes for a unique reading experience.

“Tender is the Flesh” by Agustina Bazterrica

Published in Spanish in 2017 and translated to English in 2020, the dystopian horror novel “Tender is the Flesh” explores a future where animal meat is inedible. After a virus contaminates all animals, governments turn towards institutionalizing cannibalism. Humans begin to be bred like livestock referred to as “heads.”

Marcos, a vegan who works in a slaughterhouse, is gifted a woman “head.” Refusing to eat her based on morals, he instead keeps her in his home. As the novel follows Marcos

and the dichotomy between his job at the slaughterhouse and how he treats the “head,” the novel delves into themes of state-sanctioned cruelty in repulsive detail.

Bazterrica is not hesitant to describe the process of preparing human livestock for consumption or the depraved acts that would be done unto these livestock humans. The novel confronts the reader with the question of what would the government do if food sources were suddenly unavailable. “Tender is the Flesh” will delight and nauseate any fans of dystopian, bleak futures that turn a mirror on our own reality.

Though the Sunday scaries may seem horrifying enough, as the season for spine-chilling reads arrives, these books are sure to send a shiver down your spine. Whether you are a fan of historical oddity, fantastical cults or classic slasher meets dark humor, there is something for everyone within the horror genre.

Musical anatomy of a spin class

How Pürvelo workout studio in Charlottesville uses music to build community

Alice Oakey | Staff Writer

At Charlottesville’s beloved cycling studio, Pürvelo, they aim to cultivate a positive and energetic environment for riders of all experiences. A large part of building that excitement during class are the instructors’ curated playlists. From house and electronic dance music to pop and musical theater, these playlists offer something for everyone.

Spin classes are a group workout experience where riders, led by an instructor, ride stationary bikes at varying speeds and resistances. At Pürvelo, cycling classes can range from 30 to 90 minutes, but the most common class is the standard 45 minute class. Maxine Clifford, Pürvelo Charlottesville and Pürvelo Athens owner and instructor, said that around half of the classes have a musical theme.

“[Theming classes] help create a community experience in the room, because there will be riders attending class that are following along with whatever moment or festival or film is being highlighted, and it creates conversation. It creates connection,” Clifford said. “It’s a fun way to bring like minded individuals together ... and it adds a special flair to that specific class.”

Some of her past classes have been

artist-focused with Addison Rae and Lana del Ray playlists, while others take inspiration from popular musical soundtracks like “Wicked” or “Hamilton.” She curated one theme entitled “POV: You’re a college freshman in 2015” that featured iconic 2010s era music like “Trap Queen” by Fetty Wap and “Doses & Mimosas” by Cherub. Clifford said instructors have also themed classes around timely musical events like Coachella or the Super Bowl Halftime show to draw relevancy to their themes.

While instructors are planning their classes, they are coming up with their own unique themes that they put onto the schedule, which according to Clifford is an exciting challenge. Madison Calvo, Pürvelo Charlottesville studio manager and master instructor, said that these themes can help an instructor create an exciting environment that drives the class and gives riders the best experience on the bike.

“When an instructor is really pumped about the theme ... they’re very prepared for it,” Calvo said. “They can come into the class with more confidence. Confidence allows them to put more energy into it without necessarily taking up mental space stressing about the actual mechanics

of the class.”

Georgia Webster, frequent Pürvelo rider and third-year College student, commented on how these musical themes are essential to her experience on the bike.

“The music is especially important around the third-quarter complete part when you need to distract your mind from being tired and push through to the end of the workout,” Webster said.

At Pürvelo, themed or not, every instructor curates unique and constantly evolving playlists for their classes. Calvo said instructors constantly have their ears to the ground listening for new music to incorporate. Often, they find songs off social media so that their riders can be familiar with the music and tune into the songs to keep them motivated.

Not every instructor at Pürvelo has the same music taste, but the variety is part of what makes each class distinct. Despite their differences, every song is picked with Pürvelo riders in mind, carefully matched to the energy and pace of each portion of the workout.

“If you think about the rider experience, there’s different times in class where they’re going to be heavy, there’s times in class where we’re moving re-

ally quickly and there’s times where we’re moving on an in between,” Clifford said.

Clifford, who has been with Pürvelo for nearly 10 years, explained that there are three general formulas that determine when riders are sprinting or using heavy resistance. Each of these formulas have their variations in workout choreography — the way riders move on the bike — that instructors can adapt. After an instructor designs their class, they choose the music to match the energy and speed level at each section.

Millie Cole, instructor and fourth-year College student, said she downloads SoundCloud mixes to her computer and incorporates classic songs that have good beats per minute for spin — around 120 to 150 beats per minute.

“I have songs that I love, and they obviously have to fit with the spin model where it can’t be too fast, where people are really burnt out or really tired,” Cole said. “It also can’t be too slow, or they get bored and tired.”

For Calvo, picking the right music is about tapping into the riders’ intuition and letting the beat drive the ride.

“I really love a lot of house music, the EDM stuff that has that really loud

defined beat that allows the rider to lock into that beat and not really think about anything else, because it is intuitive at that point for them to ride to the beat of the music,” Calvo said.

Calvo said matching the beats per minute and vibe of the music to the portion of the class where riders are sprinting or working with heavy resistance is integral in creating a positive environment for riders. Clifford echoed this idea, noting that every song is chosen with purpose to mirror the workout’s rhythm and drive the energy in the room.

Pürvelo’s instructors complete the workout alongside the class’s attendees with carefully curated music to make the experience as positive as possible. This creative freedom, whether it be a fun theme as motivation or letting the riders tap into their intuition, is integral to the studio’s welcoming environment.

“My hope for a lot of the riders of Pürvelo is that it’s a positive part of their life, and not something that they do to check a box or to try to cancel out other behaviors, or anything that doesn’t come from a place of self love and wanting to care and take care of themselves,” Clifford said.

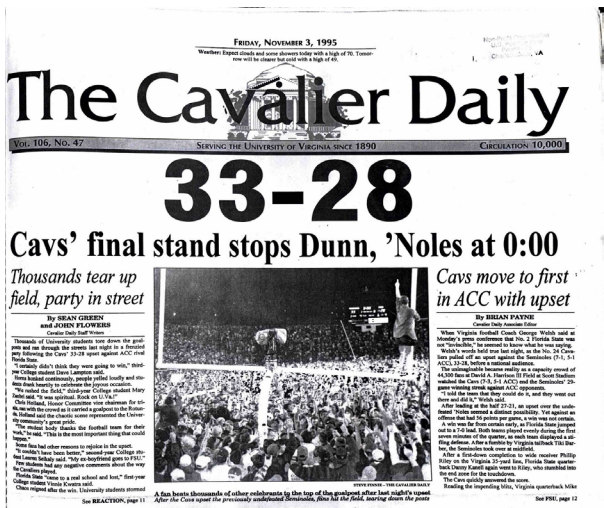
30 Years On, Delirium and Deliverance

Cataloguing Virgina's monumental win Sept. 26 over Florida State

CD Sports and News Staff

Cavs' final stand stops Dunn, 'Noles at 0:00

In 1995, the Cavaliers pulled off one of the biggest upsets of all time by beating second-ranked Florida State. The game ended in dramatic fashion, with the Cavaliers stopping the Seminoles just inches from the endzone as time ran out. The fans and students could not hold their excitement and rushed the fields, tore down the goalposts, and carried them all the way to the Rotunda. The game gave Florida State its first ACC loss ever, after 29 wins, and Virginia a moment for posterity.



A titan conquered, a field stormed: Inside Virginia's electric celebration

The very second Florida State surrendered the game-clinching interception to seal a Virginia win, thousands of students charged David Harrison Field at Scott Stadium. There were smiles and cheers abound. Even Virginia Athletics representatives, who knew \$50,000 just went down the drain, were cheering and high-fiving. Athletic Director Carla Williams prayed. As the Cavaliers' fourth quarter lead dissipated into overtime, Williams stood with her hands behind her head. Thousands of other attendees did the same. It ended with pure pandemonium. John Freeman, the "Voice of the Cavaliers," put it best — "all heaven has broken loose."

The yellow goalpost that could

The people poured onto the field like water from a knocked-over jug. In their glee, they swallowed the grass and all the players on it and mobbed at midfield after Virginia's 46-38 win over No. 8 Florida State. Then a couple of them, though their mission was doomed to fail, looked up. "First thing I'm thinking is, 'Oh my god, we did it,'" fourth-year College student Joey Burch said. "The second thing I'm thinking is, 'Wow, this goalpost has to come down.'" But read the manual, kids. Take it from the old-timer. Goalpost Takedown 101, from someone who became an almost regular goalpost climber back in the day.



Tonight, Virginia is for Victory — Cavaliers conquer Seminoles in primetime thriller

As an excruciatingly long ESPN TV timeout wound down, The Killers' "Mr. Brightside" blared from Scott Stadium's speaker system. Fifty thousand fans sang along with the track. But as the music faded and Virginia's offense took the field once again, those fans kept singing. Just four plays later, graduate running back J'Mari Taylor broke away. He found the endzone on a 26-yard rush. The Hill, at capacity, had a front row seat to the bellcow rusher's celebration. Rarely do teams put together game-saving drives before they enter the locker room for halftime. When battling a top-10 opponent, however, the usual goes out the window.



One week on, some students are still recovering after a field storming hospitalizes 19

One student, who preferred to remain anonymous because of their experience, was carried out on a stretcher after being pinned in the rush and unable to stand. The student later described the storm as "being crushed into a human pretzel under the weight of all these students." "My left leg just felt like hell, like it was really painful, especially my knee and upper thigh and then my foot too. I couldn't move it at all. Trying to move it caused intense pain. So I had to be put in a stretcher and go into the ambulance," the student said.

How Virginia football took down a national powerhouse

"[Senior kicker Will Bettridge] prepared, and he believed," Elliott said. "Protection wasn't great ... but the operation was intact." Bettridge's kick travelled straight through the uprights, tying the game at 38. "He hit it when we needed it," Elliott said. With Bettridge's made kick, the contest headed to a second overtime. One rushing touchdown from graduate quarterback Chandler Morris and a second Prevard interception later, the field no longer held just players and coaches. But the Cavalier faithful will long-remember the plays that took their team to victory — how Virginia took down a national powerhouse.



Virginia football has stayed true to Elliott and Williams' vision

Patience and persistence turned the program's rebuild into a renaissance

Aimee Crosbie | Staff Writer

On a warm August day in 2022, Coach Tony Elliott stood on the Lawn, handing out ice cream from a cardboard box. He smiled through the awkwardness of chasing down strangers for a favor — to come to Scott Stadium and support the football team at its next game.

Three years later, on a muggy September night in 2025, Elliott witnessed Scott Stadium erupt as underdog Virginia upset No. 8 Florida State in double overtime. The same coach who once begged for student attendance witnessed the 4th Side at full capacity. Off the back of this monumental win, Elliott was named national coach of the week, and the now-No. 19 Cavaliers have taken firm residence in the national rankings for the first time since 2019.

This may have been a first-of-its-kind game for the current student body, but for Elliott and Athletic Director Carla Williams, it was the culmination of something bigger — belief stacked on belief.

Williams was hired as Virginia's athletic director in late 2017, vowing to rebuild the football program for long-term success after former Coach Bronco Mendenhall stepped away from the University.

Williams had accepted the job before ever setting foot on Grounds and entered an anomalous situation — a Power Four school with a proud tradition of athletic excellence but the only one among the major conferences with no dedicated football facility. In short, Virginia did not have the resources to achieve what she envisioned for the program.

"You really have to start from the sub-surface and build up that infrastructure, change the culture," Williams said on her podcast series. "You have to stack years on top of each other to build something that is sustainable at a special level."

From her first week in Charlottesville, she pushed football to the center of Virginia Athletics' priorities — not at the expense of the Cavaliers' Olympic sport success, but rather in service of it.

"Football is the engine that drives the entire department, which drives the community, which allows us to have all the other sports and allows them to thrive," Williams said on the podcast.

In Williams, Virginia had found an athletic director who was willing to invest all means necessary into the football program — the only piece left was choosing who to lead it. In December 2021, Williams found the coach she believed would align with her vision — Clemson offensive coordinator Tony Elliott.

"After talking to Tony, it just became clear that he was the right per-

son," Williams said.

That sense of fit was mutual.

"When I finally made my decision [to take the job] I felt like there was an alignment between myself and Dr. Williams," Elliott said. "[Williams and former University President Jim Ryan] believed in who I was as a person, not just the success that I was associated with."

Elliott presented a lofty ambition at his introduction.

"My vision," Elliott said, "is to become the model in college football."

A key piece in that pursuit manifested in the \$80 million Hardie Football Operations Center, unveiled in June 2024 — a facility that finally looks and feels like the standard for an aspiring ACC champion program. It centralized the program's necessary facilities and signaled to prospective recruits that Virginia intended to compete.

"I knew that the facility was in the works and Dr. Williams said, 'I'll make sure within two years that it's done for you,'" Elliott said. "And she fulfilled that promise."

Despite this influx of resources, the early years of the Elliott era were characterized by unprecedented adversity. His first campaign was cut short by tragedy, when Lavel Davis Jr., D'Sean Perry and Devin Chandler were fatally shot on Grounds in November 2022. Virginia canceled the remainder of its games that season as the larger University community came together in a moment of grief.

In 2023, the Cavaliers went 3-9, the third-worst record among all Power Four teams. In just the statistics, it was the kind of performance that often leads administrations to seek a change of head coach.

And yet, Williams never wavered in her support for Elliott, despite a record which gave her every reason to. She believed the same patience required for the building of new facilities also applied to the build of a program recovering from unimaginable tragedy.

The program began to spark flickers of hope after upsetting No. 10 North Carolina in October 2023.

"What you saw," Elliott said postgame, "is just a group that believed."

Many within the Cavalier fanbase did not share this same patience. After a 55-17 loss to Virginia Tech, which marked the end of the program's 2023 season, claims such as "Fire Tony Elliott" began to circulate in online echo chambers. Local columns torched Elliott's postgame "this one's on me" refrain and questioned whether anything would change under his watch. Message board threads on Williams' performance as athletic director racked up hundreds of scathing replies, blaming her department's



AHNA HAMPTON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

spending priorities and lack of direction and communication.

Still, Williams and her staff continued to quietly chip away behind the scenes — hiring new coaches, implementing new programs and expanding the recruiting trail.

Boosters must have been galvanized by the multitude of investments during Williams' tenure — by 2024, a fundraising pool and donor matches reportedly added around \$30 million to the football roster budget, allowing the program to effectively pursue highly-touted recruits. But Elliott was not done.

"Now's not the time to let up on the gas," Elliott said, reflecting on their 2025 fall camp. "We see the light at the end of the tunnel, and we've got to sprint through the finish line."

This tunnel needed more than just a vision — it needed players. That facet came with a transfer portal haul before the 2025 season that ranked 26th nationally, infusing new life into a struggling roster.

"We're finally at a place where we should be, and need to be, not just for our football program, but for our entire athletic department to thrive," Williams said.

Now this cohort of Cavaliers is sitting at a 5-1 record, just one win away from bowl game eligibility with six left to play. Three of these games will be at Scott Stadium with the Cavalier faithful in attendance, following the crowd of 50,107 that attended the Florida State game.

So, belief begot facilities, facilities begot recruiting, recruiting begot competition and competition led to renewed belief. Williams' and Elliott's

plan carried a large bill, but that Friday night was the payoff, where for a few glorious hours, Charlottesville felt like the center of the college football universe.

As fans stormed David A. Harrison III Field, Williams took a knee in the far endzone. This was the vindication that both she and Elliott needed,

dreamed of, prayed for. Together they built the culture, the facilities, the roster — but most importantly?

"At the end of the day, it's all belief," Elliott said. "The heart of a champion doesn't mean you're perfect ... but you believe beyond your circumstances."

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Accounts from the Hill reveal safety risks

The University's handling of the Hill during the Florida State game raises concerns, some say

Ben McNiff | Senior Writer

When fans crashed onto the field Sept. 26 after Virginia upset No. 8 Florida State, most of them came from the Hill. It is Scott Stadium's signature student section and, uniquely, is without a barrier between the fans and the field, allowing for the rapid speed of the field storm.

But as much as the students were running toward the field, they were also fleeing a place in which many had been almost trapped for around four hours.

The Hill, since Oct. 2, 2024, has operated on a capacity basis. Once it reaches capacity, access or re-entry is granted on a one in, one out basis. Under this policy and in a packed game like the one against the Seminoles, leaving the Hill could mean missing the equivalent of a whole quarter, something which fourth-year College student Daniel Sitrin experienced.

Knowing that, many students remained on the Hill for the game's entire four hours — closer to five

if they had arrived early — afraid that if they left to get water or go to the bathroom, they, like Sitrin, could miss a significant chunk of the game.

"I was also unsure if I'd be able to get back in, because it seemed like there was a long line to get back into the Hill, even at halftime," fourth-year College student Landon Jones said. "So I just decided not to risk it and just stay there and power through."

Jones said he had multiple friends relieve themselves in empty water bottles. For second-year Engineering student Jacob Peters, the lack of water access on the Hill, combined with the lengthy wait times, led to dehydration.

"I didn't want to leave the Hill," Peters said. "I knew I wouldn't be able to get back on due to capacity ... I think all of that probably accelerated the dehydration."

His friends ended up helping alleviate his dehydration by finding another student on the Hill with

some lemonade. Peters suggested there should be steps available to prevent the possibility of dehydration, and he offered the potential solution of a small water vendor setup at a location that does not require leaving the Hill.

Second-year College student Jonathan Notis also said he suffered from dehydration and the need to go to the bathroom.

"When we thought we were going to win in the fourth, they immediately started signaling everybody to pack in the Hill, like we're about to rush it," Notis said. "And then we stood there for another two overtimes until we actually did rush it."

The Hill was an entirely open, general-admission space until the beginning of last season. A fence was installed before Virginia's first game of 2024, with entry points that limited entry to students, Virginia Athletics Foundation membership card holders, season-ticket holders, mini-plan ticket holders, Cavman's Crew and other designated groups.

The new policies, including a capacity cap and re-entry through a sticker system, received significant attention in the form of student backlash, mainly centered around the sticker system. That ill-fated policy did not last long and was removed halfway through the year. The "one in, one out" system was installed.

That has been the policy since, with Hill access this season — except for the season finale against Virginia Tech — open to all fans on a first come, first served basis. But no game had truly tested the limits of this policy until the Friday night showdown with Florida State.

That night, 19 students were hospitalized — and more were likely injured — during the wild field storming at the end.

When asked about the student experience on the Hill during the Florida State game, Scott Fitzgerald, a program spokesperson, referred a reporter to a forthcoming community message about safety.

That message, released Tuesday with the subject line "UVA Athletics Fan Safety and ACC Policy," focused on the field storming and did not mention the Hill.

Virginia's next game is an Oct. 18 date with Washington State. That particular matchup, against a team that does not have any Power Four wins and has allowed nearly 60 points twice, is unlikely to bring similar chaos to the Florida State game. Most likely, the University's Hill policy will not be tested again until the final home Nov. 29 showdown with Virginia Tech.

Jones, unscathed if not unshaken, felt the overall experience was worth it.

"It was very hard still on the Hill the entire time with no bathroom breaks and being a little dehydrated," Jones said. "But I think it was all worth it to see that lovely game. Didn't want to miss a beat."

Nilou Lempers has found her confidence

Virginia field hockey's goalkeeper has had a long and winding road to success

Cassey Reims | Staff Writer

Junior goalkeeper Nilou Lempers stands in goal, isolated. She is the last line of defense for her team, yet also plays an entirely different game altogether. She wears a different jersey, abides by different rules. Her job is not easy.

As a goalkeeper, Lempers is no stranger to pressure. Instead of being broken by it, however, Lempers has grown from it. Having denied over 88 percent of shots this season, she boasts the second-highest save percentage in the nation, serving as the defensive backbone for a No. 2 Virginia team with championship aspirations.

The goal is to "put a ring on my finger at the end of this semester," according to Lempers. A national championship would be fitting for the keeper — not only would it mark the team's rise to dominance, but also affirm her personal journey to a new country and etch her name into the program's history books.

Born and raised in Amsterdam, Lempers experienced a world different in language and culture from the rest of her Virginia classmates and teammates. Landing at the University, Lempers quickly

realized her transition would have plenty of obstacles lying in wait.

"It was a little different and really chaotic," Lempers said. "I signed really late, so I had some problems with my visa. I missed the whole preseason my first year, and even the first week of school."

Since the beginning, Lempers' journey both on and off the field has been far from a linear one. She played in just two games her freshman year and five in her sophomore year. Lempers posted a below-average save percentage of 67 percent, and the team went .500 in her four starts. All the while, she was still trying to navigate an entirely new country.

"The little things are different," Lempers said. "I never used to bike with my helmet. I was like, 'Oh yeah, I have to wear a helmet here,' but it's so normal for me to just step outside and grab my bike in the Netherlands and just ride."

Much like a bike ride, the beginning of Lempers' journey was the hardest. She spoke little English, making social interaction and communication with teammates difficult. As the goalkeeper, she serves as the organizational hub

for the defense, constantly dictating and leading the players around her. But in her first year, silence became the new normal. She preferred saying nothing, rather than risk a slip-up.

"I was scared to make mistakes in English, or that people would be like, 'What is she saying?' I also didn't understand jokes, and I didn't know how to make jokes," Lempers said with a smile. "So, I think I was a little boring in my first year."

She found stability and comfort in Coach Ole Keusgen. Keusgen, born in Germany, was promoted to head coach in 2023, the same year Lempers joined the team, after spending the previous five serving as assistant coach for the squad. Having undergone a similar transition to the United States, Keusgen made sure to keep an eye on Lempers. He kept his office open at all times for her, always reminding her that he was in her corner.

"I really appreciate Ole," Lempers said. "He always checks on me ... Even when I'm not really good at talking, especially not about my emotions, even when I didn't tell anybody that I didn't feel great, he

was the only person that saw it."

Lempers praised the connection between Keusgen and his squad. A team must have trust in their coach in order to succeed, and there is no shortage of that for the Cavaliers. Lempers believes this tight connection is a key to the team's success. She even credits her teammates with shaping her into the person she is today.

"Now, the team is making fun of me in a good way, so even when I say something stupid, we can laugh about it," Lempers said. "I think what is really helpful is that we are not only close on the field, but also off the field."

While Lempers made progress adjusting to her new team, she also needed to adjust to a new university. In Amsterdam, she remarked, school was always secondary behind sports. With no academic requirement in place to compete, Lempers recounts how people would do the bare minimum to get by in school. One of the biggest cultural shifts in coming to America was the higher academic standard upheld for student-athletes, especially at a top-tier school like Virginia.

Yet, even off the field and in academics, Lempers' competitive spirit pushes her forward. She has a clear desire to not just keep up but instead lead the pack in every aspect of life. Her school work, which initially began as a competition against those around her, has become a competition with herself.

"Here, I have the feeling that everyone wants an A or an A+, so I'm like, 'Okay, now I need to get that as well,'" Lempers said. "I want to beat myself every time and be better every semester."

Her hard work has paid off — Lempers has been named to the ACC honor roll every year thus far in her collegiate career. Despite English being a secondary language for her, Lempers has not let that stop her from achieving success both academically and athletically. Yet with the complexity of life surrounding her, her mindset has remained simple and focused.

"I perform the best if I don't think too much," Lempers said. "If I just have fun with the team, enjoy what I'm doing, then I will be at my best."

HUMOR

New Center for the Arts exposed as future fraternity house

A memo from the U.S. Department of Justice, mistakenly sent to Nau Hall Friday instead of Board of Visitors member John Nau III, has revealed the shocking truth about the University's future Center for the Arts. According to the memo, the center was never intended to host galleries or performances — instead, in a move aligning with national trends of defunding arts and culture, it will serve as a state-of-the-art house for the Alpha chapter of the new Alpha Rho Tau fraternity.

On Sept. 11, the Board triumphantly approved the design for the 220,000-square-foot Center on Ivy Road — a facility meant to house the new Fralin Museum and the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, in addition to the Tessa and Richard Ader Performing Arts Center and the University's department of music. Students and faculty largely supported this move, an expected outcome given the University community's recent history of complete, total and unequivocal agreement with the Board's decisions.

"For once, I thought the Board

actually implemented the Academic Village's values of a learning environment that extends beyond the classroom, instead of just using it as the backdrop for their infamous meetings," second-year College student Artiestu Dent said.

"I was like, damn guys, good job. I literally can't make fun of this one," Dent said.

However, that same week, an anonymous student employee at Nau Hall discovered the Justice Department's memo, labeled "Nau, U.Va." in a random drawer stuffed between a stack of abandoned Contracted Independent Organizations flyers.

The misdelivered letter turned out to be part of a federal remediation plan. According to the document, the fraternity house construction marks "Step Six" of the plan. The passage above it reads "Step Five — Remove Jim," complete with a neat little box checked off next to the line and a miniature skull dotting the i. Directly beneath it comes strict instructions for the Board to "maintain the facade of arts investment until Step

Six is activated to avoid institutional backlash," making clear that the promised arts complex was never meant to exist at all, only to disguise the fraternity house plan until construction begins.

Step Six then details a "facilities blueprint" for the Center. The original Performing Arts Center is instead described as "America's largest chapter room with alcohol-resistant flooring." The music department's supposed wing was slated from the onset to be a "themed mixer annex" and the spaces where the Fralin's galleries were supposed to be are designated as "foam pit rooms complete with industrial-grade fog machines."

The Justice Department memo also mentions "removing the last segment of WOKE and DEI" from the University, describing how art museums like the Fralin "force students to reflect on oppression and brushstrokes when they could be learning about brotherhood."

According to the memo, some of the Fralin's historical exhibits and the Kluge-Ruhe Collection "make visitors feel guilty about history," while fraternity houses

provide the "healthier alternative of feeling guilty only the next morning."

Finally, the letter ended with a line about the expansion of Greek Life being "a future-focused beacon of promise and hope across the country."

News of the memo provoked outrage from faculty members, many of whom had been anticipating the opening of the Center. Art History Prof. Colin Palette lamented that years of careful curatorial planning were now wasted.

"We were preparing a landmark exhibition on modernism," Palette said. "Instead, I'm told the walls will display a permanent installation of empty drink cans?"

Likewise, many students have protested the news of the memo.

"This was supposed to be a once-in-a-generation cultural hub," fourth-year College student and Student Council Arts Committee chair Libby Arts said.

"It's hard to argue for shared governance when the DOJ literally turned the future of arts at U.Va. into a Rugby Road basement with

better lighting," Arts said.

Not all community members were upset over the changes. Recent University alumnus Monty Cello expressed optimism for the new house.

"U.Va. doesn't need any more culture or history, students get that from classes," Cello said. "Museums like the Fralin are overrated anyway. I would know — I went to a museum when I was like 6."

Board members refused to comment on the leaked memo. However, according to an anonymous source, billionaire beer baron Nau III was recently seen wedged behind the pillars outside the Rotunda's basement, making a phone call about reacquiring Silver Eagle Beverages. The source reported that Nau III said to the person on the other end,

"It's time to ramp up production of our Busches."

NIKITHA PRABHU is the humor senior associate for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com

CARTOON

Crying over Spilt Milk

Agnes Zhou | Cartoonist



Hold your Sleigh Bells

Sophia Lee | Cartoonist



LIFE

Pumpkin spice weaves into fall on Grounds

From lattes to baked goods, pumpkin spice flavor stirs up opinions and traditions for the University community

Malaika Rehman | Senior Writer

Appearing in dining halls, coffee shops and local bakeries around Grounds each autumn, pumpkin spice has become a recurring aspect of student culture. Whether the flavor is truly loved, secretly hated or just a tradition that never dies, pumpkin spice is arguably the unofficial mascot of this special time of year.

Once a mere limited-time coffee add-on — with Starbucks' 2004 Pumpkin Spice Latte often credited as the spark — pumpkin spice has grown in popularity over the last two decades. Today, the flavor has expanded far beyond coffee, showing up in baked goods, candles and even body-care products.

On and off Grounds, pumpkin spice makes an especially prominent appearance in coffee shops. Starbucks on the Corner is ringing in fall with a variety of menu items, including the Pumpkin Spice Latte, Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew, Iced Pumpkin Cream Chai and Pumpkin and Pepita Loaf. The seasonal menu at Saxbys currently serves the ever-popular Pumpkin Matcha, Pumpkin Lattés and Milk & Pumpkin Cold Brew.

While there is certainly no pumpkin spice scarcity for University students and faculty, it seems that their personal opinions on the flavor vary.

Commerce Prof. Jill Mitchell has a pretty neutral opinion on pumpkin spice. While she admitted that she generally skips over the seasonal spreads of pumpkin items at cafés and bakeries, she said that she will enjoy the occasional pumpkin item when the opportunity presents itself.

"The whole pumpkin spice trend is a little silly," Mitchell said. "I'm not a big candle person, and I wouldn't necessarily go to a cafe to get a pumpkin spice latte, but I will say I do like to get the Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Latte from the grocery store."

Still, Mitchell acknowledged the role pumpkin spice plays in seasonal rituals, so she ran a quick poll in one of her accounting classes to get a clearer read on sentiment. She received 120 responses — 55 students said they like pumpkin spice, 17 said they dislike it and the remaining 48 were neutral or preferred other fall flavors like apple. Mitchell said that the steep number of proponents came as no surprise

to her, as she often comes across the remnants of students' festive drinks.

"I've definitely seen a few pumpkin spice latte cups left in class," Mitchell said. "[Pumpkin spice] feels like a small autumn ritual that follows students into the classroom during the busy weeks of exams leading up to the fall reading days."

Behind the counter at Saxbys, the pumpkin debate plays out in real time. According to Luciana Tovar Arteaga, Saxbys barista and second-year College student, the demand for pumpkin-flavored drinks has been steady each day. Their menu features drinks like lattes, matcha and cold brew made with their homemade pumpkin-spice sauce. However, students' favorite item may be surprising.

"I think that people prefer [the] pumpkin matcha the most," Arteaga said. "We make so many matchas every single day."

Though she has not tried the drinks herself, Arteaga enjoys making them and says the aroma alone signals the new season's arrival.

The pumpkin spice craze has become so deeply woven into seasonal trends that fourth-year College student Taylor Wreath said that, after a lengthy stint on the flipside of the argument, she has come to enjoy pumpkin spice flavors and associates them with the transition to fall time.

"I used to be a big pumpkin spice hater and would never participate," Wreath said. "But I had one [pumpkin spice latte] this year to give it another chance [and] I kind of loved it. It's crazy how you can connect a taste so vividly to a season of the year."

On the other hand, third-year College student Aneesah Rasheed is a long-time fan of pumpkin spice, so much so that the flavor has spurred a special family tradition.

"At the beginning of fall, me and my cousin go to get pumpkin spice lattes," Rasheed said. "I also love to make pumpkin bread ... I'm not very good at baking, but that's the one thing I can make."

While students like Rasheed embrace the pumpkin spice craze, not everyone shares that same enthusiasm. According to third-year Engineering student Erik Polasek, the flavor has overstayed its welcome.



NOELLE VALDINOTO | THE CAVALIER DAILY

"To be honest, I'm not a huge fan [of pumpkin spice], and I think it has no impact on culture whatsoever," Polasek said. "I just don't care for it at all, and I think we should just get rid of it."

For many students and faculty alike, though, the true magic of the season transcends the pumpkin flavored treats. Even though she does not fully participate in the pumpkin spice craze, Mitchell still appreciates its seasonal charm and how it signals the shift to fall.

Whether a comfort, cliché or simply a seasonal marker, pumpkin spice has carved out its place in University culture alongside the apple orchards, crisp fall mornings and a Lawn flecked with red and gold.

"As soon as you taste [pumpkin spice], you're like 'Okay, it's fall,'" Mitchell said. "Ready for football, ready for crisper weather, ready for sweaters."

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Working overtime — officiating U.Va. Intramurals

Aaryan Saxena details his work within the sports community on Grounds, from University Intramurals to NCAA Division I events

Adair Reid | Staff Writer

For third-year Commerce student Aaryan Saxena, an extensive journey in refereeing started at just 13 years old.

Wanting to drum up some extra spending money as a young teenager, he noticed one of the only jobs available was refereeing youth soccer games. With a pre-existing love for the sport and interest in earning his own allowance, it was an easy decision to study for the required exam and pay the fee to begin his career.

When he arrived as a first-year student at the University, he visited a job fair at the Aquatic and Fitness Center and ended up being hired as a student referee for U.Va. Intramurals. Two years later as a third-year student, his passion has taken him from the AFC courts to Division I games and even to Europe. While officiating on Grounds, however, Saxena takes the lead on managing equipment, overseeing athletic facilities, keeping raucous playoff environments contained and maintaining a safe and fun environment for fellow students.

During his tenure at the University,

Saxena has advanced at U.Va. Intramurals to serve as an Intramural Sports Supervisor, where, beyond officiating games, he has trained and advocated for more than 80 student hires.

Though most student referees view the job as a way to make money and stay involved with sports they love, for Saxena, officiating takes on a different meaning.

“I really appreciate the responsibility and the turbulent environment of officiating in a high-stakes situation,” Saxena said. “It [is] an adrenaline rush that you just can’t buy anywhere else.”

Even in a sports culture where blaming the black-and-white stripes is a national pastime for viewers — with vitriol trickling down from professional to fraternity leagues — referees of all sports have a primary responsibility to uphold the rulebook.

But Saxena takes the pressure in stride, respecting the regulations while simultaneously balancing positive relationships with players.

“You learn a lot about communication, what to say, how to say it, how

to manage people in very difficult situations and de-escalate them,” Saxena said.

Still, he recognizes that the position is not a good match for everyone. Saxena said that the environment requires a strong ability to mediate between groups without backing down. Although it has its share of difficult moments, he notes that the energy from fans and players — even when directed against him in tense playoff or championship matches — is one of his favorite aspects of the job.

Though he has already accumulated a laundry list of accomplishments, Saxena’s almost decade-long stint is nowhere near approaching a halt. He has aspirations of pursuing refereeing professionally and has even written an unpublished book on the subject. Titled “The Politics of Officiating,” the book details Saxena’s unique philosophy — that refereeing is ultimately a consumer service, even at a professional level.

Although the salary for a professional referee relies on abiding by and

enforcing a rulebook, their decisions often determine fan experience. On top of the usual emotional investment from die-hard supporters — made even more intense by the expense of attending professional sports games — Saxena said that a sharp increase in sports betting adds another layer of stakes to the work referees do.

“A lot of money could be riding on single pass interference ... it’s a very multifaceted profession at higher levels,” Saxena said. “There’s a lot of nuances that go into the work that we do as officials, and it’s more than just making the right calls or wrong calls.”

Beyond intramural games, Saxena has worked up to officiating NCAA Division I soccer games in the Sun Belt, Atlantic 10 and Big South Conferences. Further experience in the United Soccer League and Major League Soccer NEXT shows Saxena has plans to keep advancing.

Looking ahead, Saxena notes that pursuing professional refereeing is a steep uphill climb. For the NBA, potential referees undergo a lengthy

training process. For professional soccer leagues like FIFA, the training process can last over a decade, with similar timeline requirements for major global tournaments such as the World Cup. Relationships between referees are no less important than passing fitness and game rulebook training sessions, and upward movement can be extremely daunting.

“It is certainly an industry where you can be the best ref and still not move up,” Saxena said.

For now, he will settle for being a familiar face for students who frequent the AFC and intramural athletes. Despite the job’s complexities and stressors, Saxena says there’s no place he would rather be.

“No doubt [refereeing] has been the greatest time of my life, these last eight years, and especially the last three years here at U.Va. as an official,” Saxena said. “It’s been absolutely fantastic.”

Feast! — the market that turns eating into an experience

House-made staples and rotating treats create a true “feast” for the senses

Evelyn Maxwell | Staff Writer

Just a short walk from Grounds, Feast! is a one-stop shop for thoughtfully prepared staples that are perfect for upgrading your school-year menu. Locally owned and operated since 2002, the market is a Charlottesville icon that combines neighborhood charm with a deliciously curated selection of food — from pre-made dips to fresh soups and salads. Recently, I ventured out to Feast! in search of a delicious array of snack items.

Tucked along West Main Street just before arriving at the Downtown Mall, Feast!’s quaint brick storefront greets visitors with playful window doodles and hand-scrawled specials that draw passersby inside. Outside, the modest cement patio may seem understated, but as I crossed the threshold, the space came to life as a cozy market-meets-café.

Casual wooden tables anchor a warm seating area near the entrance, inviting customers to linger. Just beyond, the pick-up counter hums with the steady rhythm of pre-orders waiting for grab-and-go. For customers dining in, steaming soups and sandwiches emerge on parchment-lined trays straight from the kitchen.

Continuing straight ahead through the dining space, I made my

way between metal shelves, which showcased local finds alongside gourmet snacks — everything from pantry staples to indulgent treats, like Milk Chocolate Maple Bourbon Pecans and Keogh’s Truffle Butter Potato Chips. On the right, the cheese and deli counter glows as a focal point, staffed by employees eager to offer a taste or guide you toward the perfect pairing. For the truly indecisive people like myself, Feast! offers free daily samples — on my visit, a Vermont Cow’s Milk White Cheddar paired with Hot Plum Chutney — a touch that captures the store’s imaginative spirit.

While each indulgent section I passed bore endless culinary possibilities, the back of the market stole the show for me. The refrigerated case brims with a constantly rotating selection of house-made dips, seasonal salads and comforting prepared foods. Each neatly packaged container seems to be designed with students in mind — practical for a dorm fridge yet still effortlessly appealing.

After browsing the variety of delectable pre-assembled offerings, my friends and I purchased our snack spread at the checkout counter and headed back home for a mid-study

tasting journey.

We commenced with the Greek Goddess dip, a vibrant introduction to the lineup that proved, fittingly, to be nothing short of divine. Packed with bold herbs and a vinegar-forward brightness, the fresh flavor struck an impressive harmony. A hint of mayonnaise peeked through, but the use of Greek yogurt kept the profile light and delivered a silky consistency, equally well-suited as a veggie dip or sandwich spread.

I opted for a classic crudité pairing, the crisp crunch playing beautifully against the smooth dip. At just \$6.95 for a half-pint plastic container, adorned with a sleek label that channels an upscale, gourmet grocer vibe, the Greek Goddess is a budget-friendly must-try for students.

Next came the Artichoke and Parmesan dip, which surprised me at first with its strong cream cheese focus. Almost too rich for my taste — mirrored in its \$7.95 price tag, just a dollar above the Greek Goddess — the cream cheese notes actually grew on me after a few bites, especially once paired with a simple base. For this, I recommend the Mi Niña tortilla chips, which you’ll also find in Feast!’s pantry. The dip’s smooth

puree, flecked with tender artichoke bits, melted on the tongue, while nutty parmesan and bright scallion rounded out its character. My friends unanimously labeled this their favorite.

To refresh our palates, we tasted the newly-released Asian Cucumber salad next, featuring cucumbers sliced just thinly enough to soak up the tangy marinade while still retaining a satisfying crunch. Cilantro added a fragrant lift, and ribbons of red onion brought just enough sharpness to balance the acidic-sweet interplay of vinegar and sugar. Selling for \$3.95, this light and lively salad served as a perfect interlude between the richer spreads.

We closed our sampling with the Herbed Hummus. Olive oil lent depth, lemon kept it citrusy and roasted garlic fell softly into the background without sharpness. The result was a velvety dip with layered notes and a less dominant chickpea role than in traditional versions of hummus. Paired with Laiki crackers that we also purchased from the pantry, this combo was endlessly snackable and around \$10 in total.

As someone with a gluten allergy, I especially appreciated the black

rice crackers, which were pillowy and full of buttery crunch, unlike some gluten-free options that can feel dry or bland, making them the perfect vehicle for the mellow hummus. For me, it’s rare to find a market where gluten-free options feel plentiful and every bit as exciting as their traditional counterparts.

Feast!’s dips and prepared foods also impress with their shelf life. Even several days after my visit, the containers I’d tucked away in my apartment fridge were just as fresh and flavorful, making them the perfect fallback for nights when groceries run low or cooking is simply too much effort.

More than just a market, Feast! is a celebration of all things delightful, a place where snacks become small luxuries and food becomes a way to connect. Each visit offers the chance to discover something new, for both busy students and Charlottesville locals alike, making it a destination worth returning to again and again.

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

Some ‘limited’ feedback on the Compact

The Compact offered by the Trump administration risks furthering institutional instability if critical concerns of University community members are not considered

An offer that would change the nature of higher education has been sent to our University, gift-wrapped with promises for our institution's betterment. This Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education, received by our University and eight others from President Donald Trump's administration, offers preferential treatment for federal funding in exchange for a nine-page list of institutional requirements. These demands range from general concepts like encouraging civil discourse to more absurd requirements like mandating that the University define gender in biological terms or screen all international students for anti-American sentiments.

The Trump administration's letter allows universities to provide “limited, targeted feedback” on the tenets of the Compact by Oct. 20. Since then, various stakeholders have provided different levels of feedback — the Faculty Senate passed a resolution that condemned the Compact's overreach on University independence, the Student Council Executive Board shared

a cautionary statement regarding the Compact's range of impact and Rector Rachel Sheridan sent students a form requesting their input. This Editorial Board's feedback for the Compact echoes that of the University community — anything but limited.

In offering this deal, the Trump administration treats academic excellence as something achievable only through federal intervention, as opposed to institutional autonomy. Indeed, the enforcement of these demands jeopardizes the fiduciary stability and academic freedom that the University should hold independent from the federal government. Financially, the Compact unprecedentedly allows contributions from private donors and the federal government to be returned upon request — two massive streams of financial stimulus.

Further, by mandating academic and political norms from the top-down, the Compact challenges the autonomy and academic freedom which are so vital to any institution of higher education. This Compact plants the seed for

further federal interference in student affairs and free speech, and it threatens to cancel all federal funding should the University sign the Compact and fail to adhere to its demands.

One striking facet throughout the document is its ambiguity. Standards are set neither for what constitutes a breach of contract, nor for what adherence entails. The document also fails to define or guarantee tangible benefits for the University, vaguely promising federal partnership and research funding in return for complete federal surveillance. Both standards of enforcement and guarantees of benefit in the Compact could vastly change after being signed.

In this way, buzzwords in the Compact, such as a “marketplace of ideas,” risk becoming a Trojan horse — without clarification on what a violation would entail, there is a great risk that one contractual misunderstanding might incite the president's wrath on all those at our University. Especially coming from a president who has repeatedly gone back on prior agreements and

turned away from established relationships, ambiguous language creates an opening for the Trump administration to similarly manipulate our University in the future. Therefore, it is crucial that any Compact critically clarify the regulations it seeks to impose, as well as the quantifiable metrics upon which these regulations will be measured.

This clarification is particularly important given the actions of the federal government over the past few months, actions which produced several Department of Justice investigations and led to Ryan's resignation. These actions have consistently challenged the stability of our University and endangered the trust upon which traditions of shared governance rely. There is no reason to believe that the Compact, as it stands, would do anything but further endanger institutional stability and engender distrust among stakeholders. In fact, in signing onto the Compact as presently offered, the University would be agreeing to permanent interference and financial instability.

While it is unclear if there is any

version of this Compact which would be acceptable to the University, transparent safeguards would at least provide a modicum of protection from the threat of legal and punitive ambiguity.

It is unclear why this Compact was dangled in front of the University, but what is clear is that the power rests in the hands of the Trump administration and their ability to financially and politically disarm this University. The Compact cannot be met with open arms or with paralyzing fear. Considering the deadline of Oct. 20 to submit feedback on the Compact, we deliver this feedback with the intention that our University administration will negotiate for this institution and will recognize what massive and dire consequences lie ahead of uncritical compliance.

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The College Republicans' letter dishonors the University

Their letter advocating for the suppression of speech is squarely at odds with the principles Thomas Jefferson intended for the University to uphold

The shameful assassination of Charlie Kirk has brought out both the best and the worst of political conversation in America. Politicians on both sides have used the reprehensible event to urge political unity and to denounce political violence. On the other hand, Gov. Glenn Youngkin and President Donald Trump have used Kirk's killing to advocate for the censorship of political disapproval. Choosing to follow in their footsteps, the College Republicans sent a letter to Interim President Paul Mahoney and the Board of Visitors pushing them to punish those they believe have justified Kirk's killing. This letter to University administration is an affront to open discussion at the University. The CRs thumb their noses at the Jeffersonian principles of free speech that this University was founded to defend.

The force of the CRs' letter is undermined both by the ironic nature of its content and the fact that it comes from an organization rhetorically dedicated to Jefferson's teachings. It demands that the University discipline those who have "justified or called for violence" in the name

of "free speech and democracy." While supporting violence is certainly repugnant, being able to openly speak about the death of a public figure is permitted speech. The CRs should be able to see the absurdity of advocating for government intervention in the name of open dialogue.

The University has long worked to champion the prin-

ciples of free speech and open expression. Thomas Jefferson proclaimed that "this institution will be based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind." If speech is forbidden, claims cannot be tested, and knowledge does not advance. The CRs' letter advocates for the easy shortcut to this uncomfortable process — instead of affording speech the chance to be scrutinized, their letter pushes the University to silence it.

The CRs should be able to see the absurdity of advocating for government intervention in the name of open dialogue."

Kirk's public espousal of controversial views often left many

ing content and audience size, the unattractiveness is precisely what makes it permissible.

Open dialogue cannot exist at the University when speech that one side finds objectionable is curtailed. Republicans used to grumble about the "cancel culture" liberals created. Yet, when afforded the opportunity, Republicans have found the exact same appeal in the practice. Their rebranding of it as "consequence culture" does not make it any less laughable as an example of political hypocrisy.

This insincerity is understandable for politicians — it is something of a cliché in today's world. Yet, Republicans at the University are not politicians — they should be wary of falling into lockstep with politicians' views on sensitive topics. At a University where honor and integrity are at the forefront, students should feel able to practice

the University 21st out of 257 institutions — in 2024, the University was first. The CRs' letter embodies this fall into disrepute. Instead of asking the University to engage in more self-destructive behavior, the CRs should be fighting for the University to regain its status as a bastion of free discussion.

Charlie Kirk proclaimed the value of free speech more than anyone. His campus visits had at least the resemblance of honest political debate. And while his assassination should be deplored on a moral level by all, using his killing as a pretext to suppress discussion flies in the face of all Kirk claimed to support, and that the University should uphold. At an institution founded on time-honored traditions of free speech, the least the CRs could do is pretend to advocate for the Jeffersonian principles they preach rather than asking for the University to betray its basic tenets.

MICHAEL KING is a senior associate opinion editor for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

U.Va.'s new privacy policy should be welcomed — and expanded

The University is in the process of adopting a comprehensive privacy policy for all its students, and its implementation comes just in time as data breaches continue to rise

In their September meeting earlier this year, the Board of Visitors' Audit, Compliance and Risk Committee laid out a proposal for the University to retire its discretionary privacy rules and replace them with a single, comprehensive privacy framework. This step is significant for all stakeholders — elevating privacy from scattered provisions to a coherent framework is more than administrative housekeeping. Rather, it is a step toward safeguarding student autonomy in an era when it is most at risk.

Higher education is a target for data breaches, and incidents cost millions while exposing students to safety risks. That risk is extended to U.Va. Health, where breaches can threaten patients' safety. Prior to the changes, the University relied on piecemeal rules that differed across departments — PROV-005, for example, covers how course recordings are used — but there has not been one University-wide standard. This has created a patchwork where thousands of employees and part-time workers touch sensitive information without a unified standard.

The ambiguity of federal and state legislation compounds this is-

sue. Federally, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act governs access to education records, but it has not been meaningfully updated since 2011 — and it still does not spell out what standards of encryption schools must use. In Virginia, the Consumer Data Protection Act sidesteps public

The devil is not in the lack of values, but in the lack of practical details. The University must treat the new framework as a starting gun, not a victory lap."

institutions. At educational institutes, Virginia's Student Online Personal Information Protection Act limits data sharing with outside parties, but the language lacks technical provisions, and its application is spotty. All of this suggests that the laws protecting students' data are outdated or lack clear rules, leaving uncertainty about how our data is stored.

This question of data storage is high stakes in the current political climate — this summer, the Internal Revenue Service announced that it would expand data sharing with immigration authorities, stoking fears that tax data

linked to the Free Application for Student Aid could become a back door to immigration enforcement. Schools must be firewalled from immigration enforcement — education must never rely on a person's status, and a campus must remain a haven for those pursuing academia. Companies

like Pearson have faced data breaches as recently as March of this year. This makes it painfully evident that we need effective privacy protection, and we need it now.

Standout institutions include the University of California system, which does not rely on department-by-department rules. Instead, they set a university-wide baseline standard for privacy. Moreover, they require outside parties to prove data privacy and publish plain-English guidance so students and staff understand rules. This is the kind of lift the University must follow.

The plan from the September meeting does just that. It pulls from various privacy protections by aligning with TrustArc's 13-point plan, guidelines from an outside firm that helps organizations handle data while complying with legal requirements. The changes provide a framework to

demonstrate compliance with regulatory standards and the tasks completed to meet them, as opposed to a no man's land of internal bureaucracy that may delay action. Nevertheless, a key vulnerability remains.

Following the meeting, the University published a website sketching the initiative's goals. However, the site is more scaffolding than substance — signaling intent, but light on the details, which would give students a look at what policies are being put into action. A unified standard clarifies responsibilities, curbs arbitrary decision-making and helps students

understand how their information is used. But that only works if stakeholders have the tools with which to understand their privacy rights and protections. We need clear, concrete explanations of how their data is used. The devil is not in the lack of values, but in the lack of practical details.

The University must treat the new framework as a starting gun, not a victory lap. Students want protection, but often are not aware of their rights. The University can address this by introducing recurring privacy education for everyone, adopting explicit data-governance rules — covering technical requirements — and publishing them in clear language for student understanding. Contracts with vendors should also forbid the sale of student data to other third parties. Moving quickly on these specifics is not bureaucracy — it is a values test that the University should want to pass.

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PUZZLE

Joe Stern | Puzzlist

Answers are available on the digital version of this puzzle which is published at www.cavalierdaily.com.

ACROSS

- 1 ___ Guessr
- 4 Climbing rope action
- 9 Disarming agreements?
- 15 Greenskin, à la Warhammer 40k
- 16 Seed used to flavor biscotti
- 17 Trigonometry function
- 18 Backyard construction project
- 20 “Immediately!”
- 21 Freud’s second psychosexual stage of development
- 22 “___ a bird! ___ a plane! No, ___ Superman!”
- 24 Wrestling winning position
- 25 You could go out with one?
- 27 Jesus’ earthly method of transportation
- 29 “Twisters” movie antagonist, say
- 31 Pelvic bone
- 33 South Dakota capital
- 35 Famous Ben
- 36 Iowa State athlete
- 38 “___ Wiedersehen!”
- 39 “At ____, soldier!”
- 40 Scott Stadium occurrence ... or a hint to 29-Across, 36-Across, 47-Across and 55-Across
- 43 HIV-related disease
- 46 What one might quaff in a stein
- 47 Subject of a tropical Shakespeare play
- 51 Anger
- 52 Fancy word for “lazy”
- 54 Word with master or case
- 55 _____ Siam, Charlottesville Thai restaurant
- 57 Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” has sold the most of these
- 59 Bitty partner
- 60 Gary, for example
- 61 See 5-Down
- 63 Apt name for a baby born on Christmas
- 65 Opposite of casual

- 67 Moves awkwardly or clumsily
- 71 Baltimore slugger
- 72 Girl in Wonderland
- 73 UVa. frat with lions in front of their house
- 74 Spanish queens
- 75 Neon Trees song “Everybody _____”
- 76 Where one may find cucumber-eyed people

DOWN

- 1 “___ milk?”
- 2 To mess up
- 3 Fictional airline on “Lost”
- 4 ____ Men (“Who Let the Dogs Out” group)
- 5 With 61-Across, plane that dropped the first atomic bomb
- 6 Kill Bill actress Lucy
- 7 Saintry place?
- 8 To throw carelessly, in modern slang
- 9 Flight security org.
- 10 Injured an ACL again, say
- 11 Most recent Women’s March Madness winner
- 12 One of Bach’s 200
- 13 Writes in secretive text
- 14 Place to start
- 19 Swallows
- 23 Walked confidently
- 25 Common pen brand
- 26 Gold medal-winning gymnast Raisman
- 28 Bee activity
- 30 “Are you friend _____?”
- 32 “L’État c’est ___”
- 34 UVa. department with concentrations in Chinese or Japanese
- 37 “Awesome!”
- 39 Removed the contents of
- 41 “Gloria in Excelsis ___”
- 42 Three letters preceding “Titanic”
- 43 Tries to achieve
- 44 Minecraft object smelted in furnace
- 45 Roman coins
- 48 Go on a cut
- 49 Pull up a chair
- 50 Touchdown equivalent

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- in rugby
- 52 “Très sexy!”
- 53 Charybdis counterpart
- 56 One who says, say
- 58 Crept stealthily
- 62 “___ lot of good that’ll do ...”
- 64 Washingtons
- 66 “___ Misérables”
- 68 Rockefeller source of
- wealth
- 69 Lil Uzi Vert genre
- 70 “Moby Dick” setting

THE CAVALIER DAILY

¹ C R O S S W O R D

SOLVING COMPETITION

When: Friday, October 24th at 2pm

Where: On South Lawn outside Old Cabell Hall

FASTEST SOLVERS WILL EARN A PRIZE!

SLOANELAB

Wilson Hall 325

10/29

6:30-8:30pm

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Space is limited

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