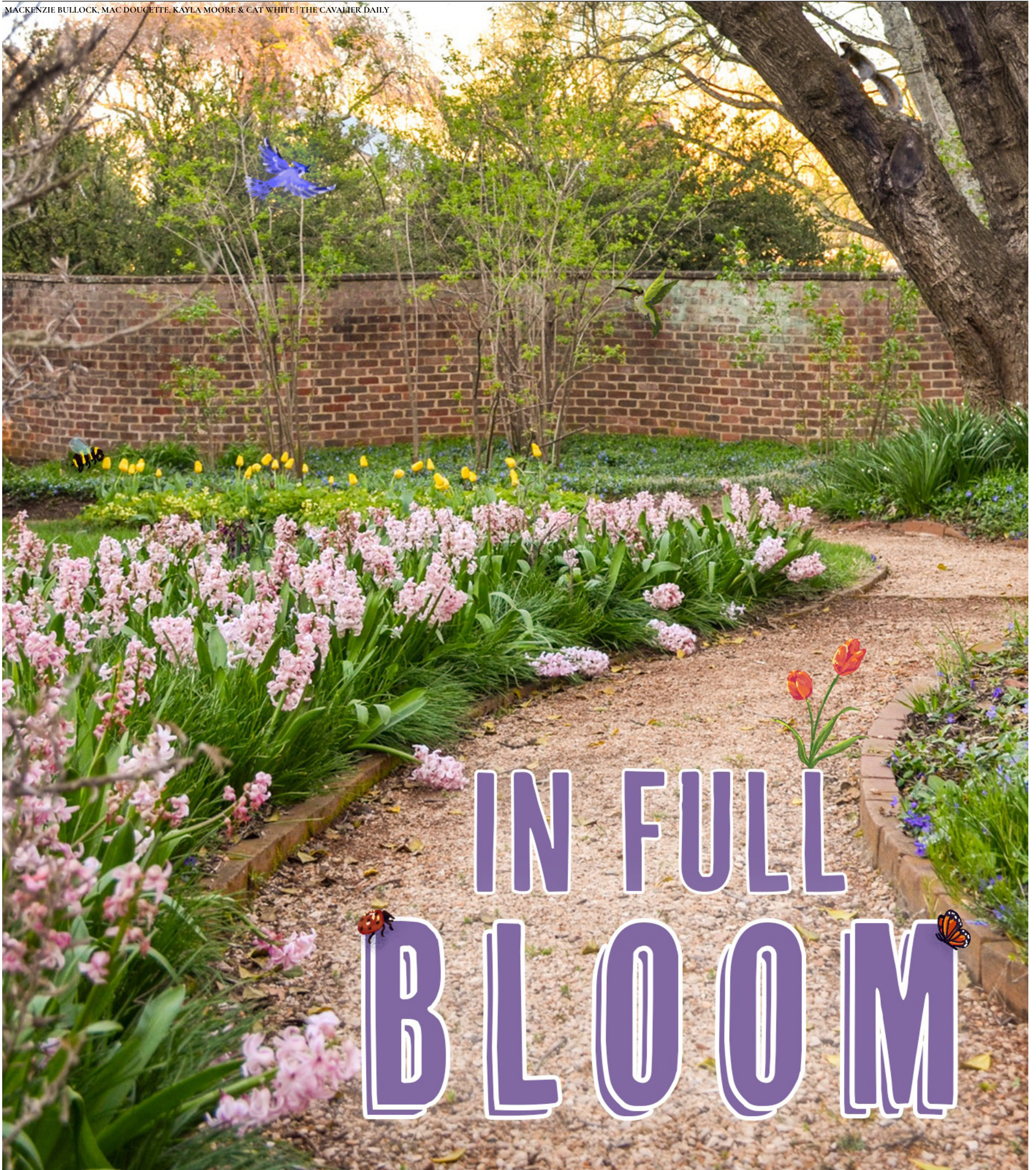


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MACKENZIE BULLOCK, MAC DOUGETTE, KAYLA MOORE & CAT WHITE | THE CAVALIER DAILY



NEWS

This week in-brief

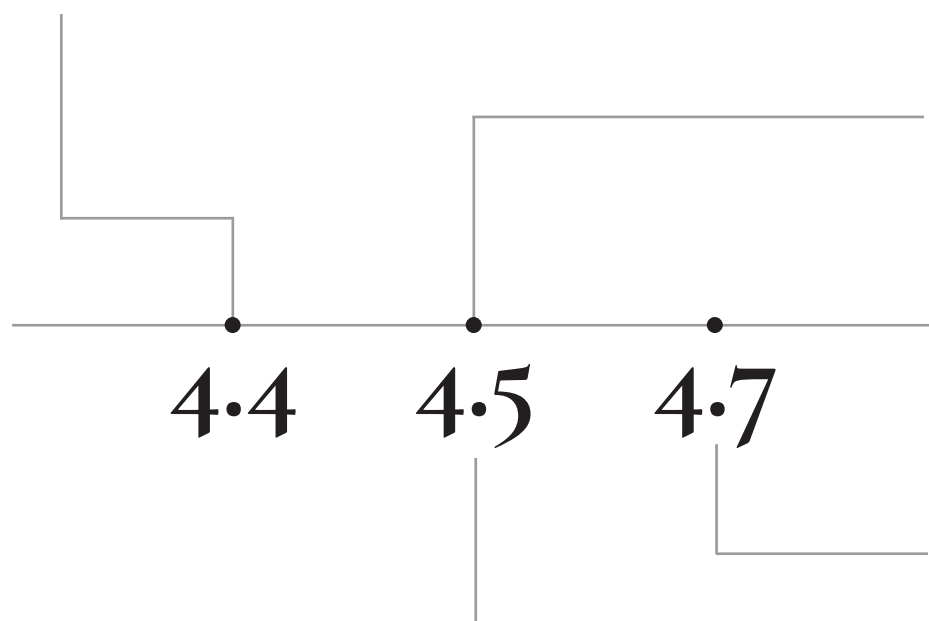
CD News Staff

UBE decision upholds Student Council presidential results

The University Board of Elections voted in a 2-1 decision to uphold the Spring 2026 Student Council Presidential election results April 1, affirming third-year Commerce student Michael Mitchell as the winner of the presidential race.

Micah Andrews, former Student Council presidential candidate and third-year College student, appealed the UBE's April 1 decision to the Judicial Review Board — a body housed within the Student Affairs Office with the jurisdiction to review appealed decisions of University bodies — April 2.

The majority decision and minority dissent documents, according to Ella Gilmore, UBE chair and third-year College student, will not be disclosed due to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, which protects the privacy of student education records.



Federal anti-DEI guidance struck down, U.Va. changes will remain

The University says recent federal court rulings striking down a major piece of the Trump administration's effort against diversity, equity and inclusion do not change its current course. The Board of Visitors' March 7, 2025 resolution dissolving the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Partnerships and directing a broader compliance review of University programs remains in place and continues to guide the University's DEI policies.

The Board voted unanimously March 7, 2025 to eliminate the University's central DEI office and require all programs, policies and practices to be reviewed for compliance with federal civil rights law. The Resolution explicitly cited several federal actions as the legal basis for those changes — including a Jan. 21, 2025 executive order titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," and the Department of Education's Feb. 14, 2025 "Dear Colleague" letter and a March 1, 2025 FAQ document — stating that University policies must align with federal civil rights law as interpreted through those directives.

The "Dear Colleague" letter and related FAQ guidance has since been blocked and invalidated in federal court, while the executive order remains in effect but is the subject of ongoing legal challenges.



UDems, state legislators urge students to support redistricting

Just over two weeks before voting ends in Virginia's contentious April redistricting referendum — where voters will decide whether to amend the Constitution of Virginia allowing Democratic legislators to pass a 10-1 congressional map in favor of their party — University Democrats gathered in Garden IX of the Rotunda for a press conference Friday encouraging students to vote for the proposal.

UDems — a Contracted Independent Organization at the University that advocates for the Democratic Party's policies on Grounds — has been mobilizing in support of the redistricting amendment since February. Members carried signs Friday that read "Students voting yes" and "Hoos voting yes" as members of their Executive Board, Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-11) and Del. Amy Laufer (D-55) delivered remarks to the press. Speakers said that voting for the amendment is important to "level the playing field" in response to Republican mid-decade redistricting in other states at the urging of President Donald Trump.



Finance Committee hears tuition increase proposals

The Board of Visitors Finance Committee hosted and livestreamed a tuition workshop and public comment session Monday morning, in which Jennifer Wagner Davis, University executive vice president and chief operating officer, and College at Wise Chancellor Donna Henry proposed tuition increases for the 2026-27 academic year.

Both Davis and Henry cited nondiscretionary expenses — including faculty salaries, financial aid and utilities — as reasons for the tuition increase. During public comment, fourth-year Engineering student Alexander Church spoke out against the proposal, noting the University's budget should be limited to mitigate the need to increase tuition.

For the 2026-27 academic year, the proposed tuition increases to the University include a \$113 to \$170 increase in mandatory fees. These include fees which go towards student services, including Student Health and Wellness fees, athletic fees and University transit fees. Additionally, there is a proposed 3 to 4.5 percent increase in undergraduate tuition and fees for the University. The College at Wise proposed a \$125 to \$190 increase in its mandatory fees, and a 2 to 3 percent increase in undergraduate tuition and fees.

School of Nursing to change clinical hours requirement

The decision was driven by a national shift towards competency-based education — aiming for students to demonstrate mastery of clinical skills and knowledge

Abigail Larkin | Staff Writer

The School of Nursing is changing its curriculum beginning this August, according to Sara Hallowell, associate dean of undergraduate nursing programs. Required clinical hours — time spent in real healthcare settings — are set to decrease from 700 to 658, a 6 percent decrease. Simulation lab hours — time spent in a controlled environment where healthcare situations are simulated — are set to increase from 84 to 105, or a 25 percent increase. The change will impact current second-year Nursing students, first-year Nursing students and future classes.

Hallowell said that the School of Nursing builds its curriculum around three key areas of study — didactic learning in the classroom, lab-based skills development and clinical learning. She emphasized that the future changes will not change the overall structure of the program, but rather the distribution of credit hours.

According to Hallowell, the School of Nursing made the change based on a national trend in nursing education to ensure that upon graduation, nurses are “practice-ready” with skills to deal with a range of clinical circumstances. Nursing students at the University have expressed mixed reactions to the curriculum change.

Hallowell said that at the University’s simulation lab, which is located in McLeod Hall, hours consist of simulations with patient actors and high-fidelity mannequins that can exhibit patient symptoms and events such as childbirth. On the other hand, clinical hours are supervised hands-on training experiences in different real world healthcare settings, such as pediatrics, psychology or labor and delivery. Significant time spent in both settings is mandated by the Commonwealth for pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs.

School of Nursing Dean Marianne Baernholdt explained that in the lab setting, the staff can control the simulation mannequins to demonstrate whatever healthcare situation they need, and she contrasted this ability with clinical hours that she said can sometimes be uneventful.

“If you go into labor and delivery [clinical hours], you may never see a delivery, because there was nobody that went into labor while you were there for those eight hours,” Baernholdt said. “Versus if you do things in the simulation lab ... you will, because that’s what it’s all about.”

According to Hallowell, the curricular changes are based on a national shift in nursing education to a more competency-based education over purely hours in healthcare settings. Hallowell explained that this national shift has occurred across healthcare, in areas such as medical education and physical therapy, and is in response

to a healthcare trend in which the patients that are cared for in hospitals are more complexly sick than ever before. She said that because a greater degree of at-home care is now possible, if patients are in the hospital, they are so sick that they can only be cared for in a hospital setting.

Baernholdt said that the decision to add more simulation lab hours to the curriculum was made in part to better provide opportunities for students to be able to learn to care for these complexly ill patients.

“Today, most [patients] in acute care settings, they are really, really sick. So when you come out [of nursing school], you have to be able to have basic knowledge,” Baernholdt said. “Because you can take a licensure exam ... that’s your knowledge base, but in terms of the actual skills, that’s the competency piece.”

Some students have said they are concerned about losing the “real life” exposure of clinical hours, and others have said that they appreciate that the simulation lab provides consistent opportunities for practice.

A second-year Nursing student, who wished to remain anonymous because she criticized the school, echoed Baernholdt’s sentiment about some clinical placements being uneventful, specifically citing the labor and delivery placement as an example. She said she appreciates that it is guaranteed in the simulation lab that a mannequin will “give birth.” However, the Nursing student said that the uneventful labor and delivery rotation is the exception, not the rule. She said that Nursing students consider other rotations to be much more active and allow for students to come into contact with more clinical settings, including “medical-surgical” and pediatrics.

A third-year Nursing student who also preferred to remain anonymous for the same reason as the second-year student, said that she believed one of the appeals of the University’s nursing program is the higher number of clinical hours in the curriculum — which is currently 700 hours — as compared to programs at other schools. She said she believed this higher amount of hours helps students get jobs after graduating and gain more exposure to the “real-world” and specialty areas of nursing.

Hallowell said that the Virginia Board of Nursing mandates 500 direct patient care hours over the course of the degree, and that even in the new planned distribution, the School of Nursing will exceed that mandate by approximately 31 percent.

Hallowell also emphasized the dual importance of clinical hours and lab time as critical parts of the curriculum. She said that competency could be built in ways other than in clinical



KAYLA MOORE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

McLeod Hall, photographed Sept. 3, 2025.

hours.

“Clinical hours are clearly an essential part of nursing education. They provide real-world experience for our students,” Hallowell said. “At the same time, we know that quantity of hours does not necessarily equal quality and does not ensure readiness to practice.”

The third-year Nursing student also said she was surprised that the School of Nursing had not officially informed the students of the planned changes. She said that she and others first found out about the changes from looking at the “plans of study” page on the School of Nursing website, where they noticed the amount of clinical hours required for the class of 2028 are now fewer than for the classes of 2026 and 2027.

The third-year Nursing student said that in her experience, nursing students who have heard of the news have largely not been happy to hear about a decrease in hours — students have especially expressed discontent if decreases occur in specialties in which nursing students are most interested in gaining experience.

Hallowell said that changes to clinical hours have been made across the board to a variety of placements, with no particular specialty areas being targeted. The curriculum requirement for clinical hours can be split across various specialties, including medical-surgical, pediatrics, obstetrics/labor and delivery, community/public health and psychiatric-mental health.

The third-year Nursing student discussed the general excitement among nursing students to partici-

pate in clinicals and to interact with patients in a real-life setting. She said clinical hours allow students to gain both practical skills and hone patient communication.

“Everybody is so excited to be there [getting clinical experience],” the third-year Nursing student said. “It’s the perfect opportunity to ... learn what life is like in the real world on a unit, and get to practice ... hands on skills, both physically ... and also your ... ‘soft nursing skills’ of patient communication and getting comfortable having difficult conversations.”

The second-year Nursing student described a similar conviction about the importance of clinical hours in building confidence in interacting with patients. She emphasized her belief that the confidence built in clinicals is especially important in helping nurses navigate their first year working post-graduation — a time she said she has heard is incredibly difficult.

“That first year [working after college] ... it’s a really big learning curve, it’s really important to have ... a baseline level of some confidence in your ability to interact with real patients ... before you go out into the real world,” the second-year Nursing student said.

The second-year Nursing student explained that because of her belief that simulation lab hours do not necessarily translate to confidence in performing technical skills on patients, she would like the curriculum to include more clinical hours and fewer simulation lab hours. She said that the 6 percent decrease in clinical hours does not concern her as much as the

25 percent increase in simulation lab hours. She said that in her experience, her Nursing student peers express more excitement for clinical hours, and more boredom over time spent in the simulation lab.

“People generally don’t love [simulation] lab ... it’s long and it’s just one room and you have to wait for everybody in your clinical group to go, and there’s a lot of sitting,” the second-year Nursing student said. “[Simulation] lab gets [boring] because it’s a lot of watching other people.”

A different second-year Nursing student, who wished to remain anonymous for the same reason as the first two students, provided a contrasting perspective on the simulation lab requirement, saying that the required simulation hours provided foundational experience. However, this student still expressed a similar appreciation for the unique practice acquired from clinical hours.

“I think nursing students like lab simulations because it builds those foundational skills. There’s ... always open lab times, which are really great for reinforcing practice and building confidence,” the other second-year Nursing student said. “But ... across the board, everyone agrees that being in the hospital is ... a whole new field ... there’s so many things that we’ve seen inside of the hospital that we never would have imagined.”

Changes to the curriculum will be implemented this August, and the current second-year Nursing class will be the first class to experience these changes.

Amid student housing surge, city residents feel overlooked

A surge in student luxury apartments in historically Black areas has concerned residents who claim they are being priced out

Luca Bailey | Senior Writer

For the more than 10,000 undergraduate students who live off Grounds, privately-developed “luxury student apartments” are among an expanding set of housing options. Examples include the Flats at West Village, built in 2014, the Lark on Main, built in 2016, and Yugo Crestline, constructed in 2018. All are located on West Main Street — roughly half a mile from Grounds. With total rent and fees ranging from anywhere between \$800 to over \$2,000 a month, these apartment options feature student-focused features such as fully furnished apartments with individual leases, and luxury amenities include gyms, clubhouses and pools.

Tucked away behind the six-story Yugo Crestline building sits the community of Westhaven — Charlottesville’s oldest public housing site. The city government built the 126 affordable apartment units in 1964 to house displaced residents of Vinegar Hill — a majority Black neighborhood which the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority demolished as part of post-World War II urban renewal efforts to revitalize American cities. Westhaven is also located within the broader 10th and Page neighborhood — Charlottesville’s largest continual African American community.

Joy Johnson, founder of the Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents, has lived in Westhaven for 43 years. She is among a growing number of residents expressing concerns with the onslaught of private student housing projects nearby. Johnson told The Cavalier Daily that the structures are imposing, encroaching into Westhaven and gentrifying the 10th & Page neighborhood — changing its character such that wealthier residents are attracted to the area, increasing the cost of living and forcing working-class residents to move.

“I feel like we have lost the 10th and Page neighborhood,” Johnson said. “It’s like UVA. is a cancer ... it just metastasizes[.]”

Concerns about gentrification in the city are not a new development. Amidst a city-wide affordability crisis, 10th and Page, Fifeville and other historically Black neighborhoods in Charlottesville have experienced rapid declines in their numbers of non-white residents.

Charlottesville City Council Member Michael Payne told The Cavalier Daily that he views concerns from community members about displacement as “very legitimate” and “important.” He explained how this “gradual economic transformation” of student-related gentrification occurs in the city. He added that the trend occurs when private student housing encroaches into the local neighborhoods and creates business incentives to cater to University students instead

of working locals.

“The highest and best business use will become things that cater to UVA. students,” Payne said. “You’ll see the price point and type of businesses change.”

In an interview with The Cavalier Daily, Charlottesville resident Ben Heller also pointed out that Charlottesville, like many college towns, has a population of students whose “spending power is disconnected from the labor market.” This means that higher-income students can support expensive housing projects that would otherwise struggle with a lack of demand.

“In a normal place, you live there, you work there, [and] if the wages don’t support the housing prices, [then] prices can’t be high,” Heller said. “[Charlottesville has] a lot of people who are retirees or remote workers ... or ... students, and none of these people are connected to the labor market.”

PHAR Executive Director Latricia Giles said that the presence of luxury student apartments near 10th and Page incentivizes landlords to drive up the cost of rent and increases property taxes in the neighborhood.

“[Residents] want to continue to live and pass down wealth to their families,” Giles said. “But many of them are concerned. How can I ... stay here with [even] the potential of our property taxes increasing?”

The Zoning Code

In 2023, the city underwent a rezoning process to tackle the housing affordability crisis. The new zoning code, which Council unanimously approved Dec. 18, 2023, effectively encouraged the development of missing middle housing options like duplexes and triplexes, thereby ensuring a greater variety of price points for buyers. It also increased the allowed housing density on particular lots.

While the new zoning code placed Westhaven in a residential district with a maximum build height of five stories, the community sits on the border of a Corridor Mixed-Use 8 district. CX-8 districts, as described in a 2023 City zoning rewrite module, are designed to encourage construction of “residential, retail, service and commercial” projects, which can be up to 11 stories tall and have unlimited density “by right” — which means they do not require Council’s approval.

In light of the upzoning — the relaxed regulations on density and height — plans for a private student housing project were filed near Westhaven in August, almost twice as tall as the Yugo Crestline. The proposal by LV Collective — an Austin, Texas based real estate development firm that specializes in student housing — would place an 11-story apartment in a parking lot next to Yugo Crestline.

Aside from its potential to contribute further to the displacement of residents, advocacy groups and residents have argued that the LV Collective proposal would block sunlight, as well as access to their neighborhood from West Main Street.

Giles and Johnson explained that they learned of the LV Collective proposal shortly after the community reached a consensus on the Westhaven Redevelopment plan — a plan crafted by 30 Westhaven residents over the course of three years to improve “the health and safety of the community” — in April. The plan will construct new senior and multifamily apartments, increase accessibility for disabled residents and create a health clinic, green spaces and recreational areas.

“LV Collective took that [work] and [decided] what they [were] going to build to block us in, and to me, that’s disrespectful,” Johnson said. “All they had to do was say, ‘Okay, we are proposing to build something there, let’s work with you and see if we can come up with some kind of community agreement.’”

According to Giles, representatives of PHAR met with LV Collective at the request of the Board of Architectural Review — which must certify projects proposed in the corridor for historical preservation purposes. Giles said PHAR and LV Collective are currently in talks to decrease the height of LV Collective’s proposal to eight stories facing West Main Street and six stories facing Westhaven. LV Collective did not respond to a request for comment on its community outreach efforts.

A similar project known as The Mark at Charlottesville — a proposed seven-story apartment complex that LCD Acquisitions submitted to the City Oct. 7 — will also be marketed towards students and would be built in the historically Black neighborhood of Fifeville under the 2023 zoning code. Unlike his neighbors in 10th and Page, Fifeville resident Paul Reeder expressed surprise that a private student housing project was proposed in his backyard, more than a mile from the Rotunda. Reeder explained that while Fifeville has experienced displacement pressures in the past, “student housing has not been a factor” in displacing his section of the neighborhood up until now.

Reeder said that if The Mark — which will house over 700 students — is constructed, he believes it will contribute to Fifeville’s displacement pressure in ways the community has not yet seen before. An example he pointed to was that The Mark will include roughly 250 parking spaces, leaving an increase in residents who will need to park within the broader neighborhood, which is already experiencing traffic pressures, according to

Reeder.

“What might have happened to date on displacement and gentrification ... is as nothing compared to what will happen with [The Mark],” Reeder said.

According to Reeder, The Mark’s proposed distance from the University illustrates a failure of protective measures of the code meant to help contain student housing and alleviate displacement pressures. These measures include the implementation of a “Core Neighborhood Overlay District.” The district includes Chery and Preston Avenue and mandates developers obtain a special permit to build projects higher than seven stories.

To more clearly delineate where the Council hopes to see the development of private student apartments, it also created a half-mile radius from the “main campus areas” of North and Central Grounds in which development projects can pay a discounted fee into the affordable housing fund. The specific dimensions of the radius are currently being litigated by Reeder in an ongoing Board of Zoning Appeals case, but he said he believes the intention of the policy is clear — to discourage the spread of student housing into neighborhoods like Fifeville, which it has failed to do with the development of The Mark.

“The half mile was passed in the first place, one assumes, to try to keep these kinds of developments out of the core historic neighborhoods,” Reeder said.

Payne, who helped craft the old zoning code, explained that while he voted for the proposal when it passed Dec. 18, 2023, which he called “an improvement” over the previous code, he believes its handling of student housing leaves much to be desired. He said provisions of the new zoning code are “flawed on multiple dimensions,” including the fact that private apartment projects marketed to students can be built outside the student housing radius. If built outside the radius, apartment projects are ineligible for a decreased fee, but otherwise are regarded as identical to non-student apartment complexes.

“I don’t think enough thought and care went into thinking through the implications of 11 stories of student housing in historic Black neighborhoods,” Payne said. “Student housing is one of the areas where we didn’t give enough time and attention to getting [things] right.”

Another flaw of the code, according to Payne, is the exclusion of Westhaven and the relevant portions of Fifeville and 10th and Page from the Core Neighborhood Overlay District.

Payne also argued that zoning districts of 11-story height effectively invite just the development of private student housing projects. When a pro-

ject such as the LV Collective proposal grows to more than six stories, the economics change — the developers must use steel frames instead of wood frames, doubling the cost of construction and leading to higher rents in those apartments. According to Payne, only apartments marketed towards students are profitable enough to recover from the increased cost of steel.

“So the issue is, anywhere we’re allowing by-right [development] above six stories, basically we’re saying the highest and best use is student housing,” Payne said.

Looking forward

A March 30 protest organized by the Low-Income Housing Coalition — a group of activists “deeply concerned” by the affordability crisis — that took place demonstrated continued pressure from residents and local organizations for City Council to amend the zoning code to explicitly indicate which areas of Charlottesville may contain student housing, create more stringent affordable housing requirements and to expand the Core Neighborhood Overlay District.

Payne said that he would be open to extending the Core Neighborhood Overlay District to include new portions of Fifeville and 10th & Page and creating a student housing overlay to which student housing should be restricted, while ensuring that other large-scale housing projects in the City will not be solely marketed to students.

Giles and PHAR continue to advocate for greater access to housing for low-income residents as a solution to the affordability crisis, but Giles said that it must be affordable for all residents as opposed to “luxury housing” just for students.

“I cannot say that I logically ... understand luxury student housing when we have people sleeping on the downtown Mall,” Giles said. “[Even] the students that I know, that I’ve talked to, cannot afford [the luxury apartments] ... we want housing but we need deeply affordable housing.”

Residents also stressed that the University’s enrollment strategy and the number of students it houses on Grounds could play a major role for the future of affordable housing in the City. Reeder noted that the University has “espoused an ambition” to house second-year students on Grounds, pointing to its 2030 Plan, in which this is a goal.

“[The University] really should go, bolder than that,” Reeder said. “I think it should try to go for three years of housing on Grounds.”

Honor Committee Chair Genny Freed to expand outreach

Freed emphasized her desire to increase the Committee's transparency and efficiency in regard to the sanctioning process

Michael Racz | Senior Writer

Third-year College student Genny Freed officially assumed the position of Honor Committee chair Monday. She shared her priorities of increasing Honors' engagement with the student body, increasing the number of co-sponsorships and further integrating the ideals of the honor code in students' lives.

Freed became involved in Honor during her first year as an investigator/counsel and was later promoted to senior investigator/counsel in her second year. This year, she served as an Honor representative for the College and as the vice chair for sanctions. The vice chair for sanctions is responsible for sanctioning administration, completion and compliance.

One goal Freed has for her term is to ensure that honor is better integrated into students' lives — specifically, she mentioned focusing on shifting the perspective on Honor from being merely a disciplinary system to being a more prominent academic and ideological resource for students.

"[It is] really important for students to have a more complete understanding of Honor," Freed said. "I think the way to do that [is by] hav-

ing Honor be viewed by the student body, [as not just] punitive ... but something that can also be a resource for students [which can] help deter contributing factors to future honor offenses."

Freed outlined multiple strategies to shift the student perspective on Honor, with plans for the Committee to increase community outreach efforts with both the school representatives and with the vice chair for the undergraduate community. The vice chair for the undergraduate community is a position that is currently held by third-year College student Cody Scarce, who is responsible for overseeing the support officer educator pool. The support officer educator pool is the group of support officers whose primary responsibility is to educate the community on the ideals and processes of Honor.

Beyond the influence of the Committee on the University community itself, Freed also discussed her goals to make internal processes more efficient. She emphasized her priority to increase both the efficiency and the transparency of the case processing procedures.

"We can improve case processing efficiency by getting better statistics and increasing our transparency on where parts of the case process may be taking a little longer than they need to be," Freed said.

Freed said that she will increase the efficiency of case processing by reimplementing the position of investigation coordinator — a position that is permitted by the Committee's bylaws, who works to support the vice chair for investigations. The vice chair for investigations is responsible for overseeing all cases that are currently under investigation.

Freed noted the extra support from the investigation coordinator would be especially important due to the increased number of alleged honor violation reports the Committee saw last term. The Committee adjudicated 105 cases during the 2025-26 term, which was an increase from 78 cases in the 2024-25 term.

Another internal goal of Freed's is to further establish timelines and commitments students must follow while processing their cases, as she said this would make case processing more timely.

"Another issue we've seen this past

term was both student and reporter non-responsiveness," Freed said. "It would be helpful to create more explicit guidelines for the executive committee on how we're going to be making decisions on addressing potential consequences for cases where we are seeing repeated or consistent lack of participation."

Looking back to the way Honor can interact with the community, Freed said she wants to increase transparency in the case sanctioning process while still maintaining student and reporter confidentiality. She specifically mentioned her plan to publish more comprehensive resources for students regarding the Committee's case processing procedures, list of possible sanctions and the frequency with which those sanctions are utilized.

Freed said it is important to increase the transparency of Honor because of her belief that the biggest threat to the honor system at the University is a loss of trust between faculty and students. Freed said this loss of trust is in part due to the era of the single-sanction system and uncertainty in the years following the implementation of the multi-sanction

system in 2023. She said that community outreach is one way trust can be rebuilt between the Committee and the University community.

"Multi-sanction means ... we're saying that we trust students to learn and grow from their honor offense and meaningfully recommit to and contribute to life at the University," Freed said. "I think there's kind of this preconceived notion of honor, and I think for students, it can almost feel a little outdated at times and hard to relate to. I think multi-sanction reinvigorates [the notion of Honor]."

Looking at her upcoming term as a whole, Freed said she would find success in her time as chair if she feels the Committee has humanized itself to the University community.

"[To me, a successful term means] being able to look back and [feel] like the Committee has taken meaningful steps towards humanizing honor as a process, and also having broadened students' understanding of the expansion of the community of trust and ... [how honor] ... translates into a principle that is with you for the rest of your life," Freed said.

UJC Chair Zach Davidson to work for UJC sustainability

Davidson hopes to strengthen the relationship between the UJC and the student body, and he also aims to maintain the longevity of the UJC

Melody Yuan | Staff Writer

Zach Davidson, newly elected University Judiciary Committee chair and third-year College student, began his term April 1. As UJC chair, Davidson plans to prioritize teaching the University community more about the UJC, establishing a more collaborative environment within the UJC and sustaining the Committee for its future. Elected internally by the UJC representatives from each of the 13 undergraduate and graduate schools at the University, Davidson will serve as chair until April 1, 2027.

Before becoming chair, Davidson began serving in the UJC as a member of the First Year Judiciary Committee. He later held roles including counselor, co-chair of the Endowment and Alumni Relations Subcommittee and vice chair of the FYJC. Davidson said he chose to run for UJC chair because he wanted to be more closely involved with the UJC.

"[Through these roles], I've gotten the ability to see different sides of the UJC and understand different aspects of our process," Davidson said. "This past year, I decided that I really wanted to step up my commitment to the [UJC]."

Davidson also reflected on his initial motivation to join the UJC which

stemmed from his experience as a first-year listening to Lisa Kopelnik, 2023-24 UJC chair and Class of 2025 alumna, speak at opening convocation.

"I was really drawn to the UJC's philosophy of restorative justice," Davidson said. "[I] just fell in love with the work, fell in love with the people and have stayed involved in a lot of different capacities."

When running for chair during internal elections, Davidson campaigned with three key pillars and said he plans to work towards those through his term. Davidson said his first campaign pillar involved improving community education and student understanding of the UJC's work.

"One of the biggest problems the UJC faces is that most of the student body doesn't know what the UJC is," Davidson said. "I want to help educate the student community before they ever have to interact with the UJC."

To achieve this goal, Davidson plans to create a UJC-centered module that incoming and returning students would have to complete during the summer. According to Davidson, the module would detail the background of the UJC process and the University Standards of Conduct.

Davidson also said he plans to create a presentation for first-year and transfer students during their orientation sessions as a way to introduce new students to the UJC. Additionally, Davidson said other initiatives geared towards educating the greater University community include implementing weekly office hours for community members to speak with and ask questions to Davidson and updating the UJC website with clearer information on the UJC process.

The second pillar of Davidson's campaign as chair is engaging the internal UJC community, so that members within the Committee are bonded, and according to Davidson, that will make the work they do more efficient.

"The UJC does its best work when its members feel invested, heard and involved," Davidson said. "I want to do more to help create a more cohesive organization, so that includes more transparency between the [Executive Committee] and the UJC membership."

Davidson said he plans to achieve this goal by reinstating monthly "community comments," which is an opportunity for UJC members to present ideas and ask questions to the

Executive Committee. Davidson also plans to reinstate the UJC anonymous feedback form for both the UJC and University community.

The third pillar of his campaign is the overall sustainability of the UJC, Davidson said. Davidson was the first co-chair of the endowment and alumni relations subcommittee, and he said he hopes to now begin a "sustained" and "intensive" effort to fully fund UJC's endowment.

Davidson said the UJC will be launching a capital campaign next semester and that the endowment and alumni relations subcommittee has begun to compile a list of potential major donors for outreach and engagement. Another fundraising effort Davidson has planned for his term will focus on smaller-scale initiatives, like reaching out to recent alumni.

To achieve sustainability, Davidson said he plans to follow the release of semesterly statistics reports to the student body with an internal audit. He said the audit would be conducted by the senior data manager, who would identify areas of organizational inefficiency after the report has been created.

Davidson said his last goal in achieving sustainability is creating

standardized transition documents to strengthen institutional memory, update bylaws and procedures and assist incoming UJC members in adjusting to their new roles.

The creation of an alternative mediation process is a goal Davidson shares with his two immediate predecessors — Harper Jones, 2024-25 UJC chair and class of 2025 alumna, and Allison McVey, 2025-26 UJC chair and fourth-year College student. According to a previous interview with McVey, the alternative mediation process would provide an opportunity for students or organizations to informally resolve incidents that do not rise to the level of a standards violation, and Davidson said he looks to continue working on the initiative as its implementation has not yet been met. Davidson said the alternative mediation process is still being finalized, and he hopes the process will be implemented either during his term or the next.

Beyond the three pillars of his campaign, Davidson said he intends to utilize his past experience with the UJC as a member and part of the Executive Committee throughout his leadership.

SPORTS

HUFFMAN: In Odom's first year, Virginia quelled doubts

Given a clean slate, Odom and the Cavaliers laid the foundation for great things sooner rather than later

Emory Huffman | Sports Editor

Just over a year ago, in the weeks following Coach Ryan Odom's hiring, I wrote a column entitled "Ryan Odom's resume does not inspire confidence."

After 30 wins, an ACC Tournament run to the championship game and Virginia's first NCAA Tournament win since 2019, it's safe to say I was wrong. Dead wrong.

Odom was tasked with recreating everything that Tony Bennett accomplished in Charlottesville — the ACC titles, the NCAA Tournament success, the Virginia brand — from scratch. He was given three roster carryovers, just one of whom played minutes previously in orange and blue, and a brand new coaching staff.

From the rawest of materials, Odom indeed built a tournament team in his first season as a Power Four head coach. The season proved that Odom is made to win in the new era of college basketball, one defined by budgets and teambuilding above nearly all else.

The lack of any foundational pieces — no savvy veteran point guard, no strong interior piece, no solid perim-

eter shooter — acted as both a blessing and a curse for Odom. The new regime took the opportunity to pick and choose players to fit his playstyle.

Early transfer portal decisions inspired confidence as the talent level of Odom's first team came into focus, but they also offered more questions than answers — namely, who was supposed to take control of this team? The new group was seasoned, with several potential go-to guys primed to step into the limelight.

Instead, Odom's team demonstrated its unselfishness from the very beginning of the season. Scratch that — the Cavaliers thrived on unselfishness. Virginia passed nonconference tests with flying colors as different players took their turns front and center.

Freshman forward Thijs De Ridder made his presence known early, scoring 26 in a win over Northwestern. In a game where others struggled to find space, graduate guard Jacari White dropped 25 on 7-7 from deep against Dayton. Graduate guard Dallin Hall scored 20 — his season high — versus Maryland in Virginia's last major non-conference test. Five Cavaliers scored

double digits in a December drubbing of Texas.

It was clear at this point that Odom's team was better than projected. When Virginia shot well from three, competed for rebounds and limited turnovers, the Cavaliers were a serious contender.

However, Virginia's flaws became glaring as ACC play began. Just as the Cavaliers were capable of putting several players into double digits, so too were they susceptible to stagnant spells. Virginia lost in triple overtime to Virginia Tech on the road to open up ACC play — De Ridder and graduate guard Malik Thomas had to carry heavy burdens as the Cavaliers shot a dismal 10-45 from three.

The early loss put two issue areas in clear focus — perimeter shooting and rebounding. The Hokies posted 60 boards in the game as both of Virginia's centers struggled on the glass. Both teams shot poorly from beyond the arc, but Virginia Tech relied on it less. Both areas harassed Virginia well into the postseason.

Mostly, though, the Cavaliers just kept winning. They responded to the

loss with a road demolition of NC State, a clean homestand over West Coast opponents Stanford and Cal and gutsy road wins over then-No. 20 Louisville and SMU.

Virginia's final two losses of the regular season once again demonstrated the flaws. No. 1 Duke did everything better than Virginia, including dominating the rebound battle. Then-No. 22 North Carolina challenged the Cavaliers to play clean, efficient basketball, and they responded by shooting 8-27 from three and committing 11 turnovers.

It was a pattern that repeated itself in the most critical moments. Virginia bowed out of the ACC Tournament in the championship, going silent from beyond the arc and losing the rebound battle in the Cavaliers' second loss to Duke. In the NCAA Tournament, a physical Tennessee team downed Virginia.

Even as the same old issues beat the Cavaliers again and again, Odom displayed a continued willingness to try new things. That's how Virginia beat NC State thrice and Miami twice, a major challenge given the degree of

parity in the ACC — adaptability was the name of the game for Odom's Cavaliers.

The so-called bench mob played as many or as few minutes as they were asked to play, a testament to the team's selflessness. Odom relied on freshman center Johann Grünloh and senior center Ugonna Onyenso increasingly over the course of the season, culminating in dominant defensive performances across the ACC Tournament.

It is fair to expect even greater things in the future. Odom has demonstrated his savvy as a teambuilder — now, he will operate with some degree of continuity. Freshman guard Chance Mallory, De Ridder and Grünloh will all return in 2026-27. That would be three of five starters returning for a second year in Charlottesville.

With the full trust of Virginia Athletics, a few critical building blocks returning with postseason experience, a proven track record and — perhaps most importantly — a hefty NIL budget, Odom's Virginia appears primed for great things in the years to come.

MCNIFF: The unique risks of prediction markets

The rise of Kalshi and Polymarket has potential to exacerbate already-existing issues for college athletics

Ben McNiff | Senior Associate

Last November, the Citadel Securities Conference had a panel hosted by Kalshi — a self-proclaimed "marketplace of ideas." One particular moment during the interview, featuring CEO Tarek Mansour and co-founder Luana Lopes Lara, generated significant media attention.

"The long-term vision is to financialize everything and create a tradable asset out of any difference in opinion," Mansour said.

Kalshi and the similar platform Polymarket fashion themselves as "prediction markets," which act as hosts for users to bet on anything — Kalshi, for example, has markets for the highest temperatures in New York City or Miami on a given day.

Despite the breadth of possible wagers, bets on sports markets account for 90 percent of Kalshi's volume during the peak of football season. For all the talk of being a "marketplace of ideas," the activity on these prediction markets seems to indicate more similarity to a diversified and deregulated version of DraftKings or FanDuel than the stock market.

An understanding of Kalshi and

Polymarket as deregulated sportsbooks is important because of the specific bets these platforms allow users to make. In December 2025, Kalshi made federal regulators aware that it "self-certified" itself to host markets trading on student-athlete transfer portal decisions — allowing them to proceed in this endeavor is untenable, as it would add to the already-present risks sports betting poses to both student-athletes and the integrity of college sports.

These markets' potential impacts on college sports is undeniable if only for the transfer portal's growing centrality to college athletics. It is worth noting the particular effect transfer wagers could have on Virginia, as Virginia Athletics is heavily reliant on the transfer portal to fill out its rosters, particularly in flagship programs.

The 2025 Cavalier football squad, which broke the school record for wins in a season, was built on a roster including over 30 transfers, a number which appears set to repeat for the 2026 roster. Virginia basketball, who advanced to the Round of 32 in the NCAA Tournament before losing to

Tennessee, filled seven of its 15 roster spots with transfers during the last portal cycle.

The NCAA and outside observers have already seen sports betting in college athletics' effects on student-athletes — unregulated markets based not just upon their play, but their personal decisions concerning their futures would exacerbate these dangers in the transfer portal and NIL era.

The first impact of sports betting which transfer markets could exacerbate comes in the form of negative reactions from gamblers after losing their wagers — a 2025 NCAA study found that one-third of Division I men's basketball players experienced social media harassment from disgruntled sports bettors. There is high potential here for threats and abuse against athletes because a 19-year-old made a decision about their future that caused bettors to lose their wagers.

The second impact does not just affect athletes, but the very integrity of college sports. This past January saw charges brought by a U.S. district attorney against a network of per-

sons alleged to have participated in a point-shaving scheme which involved more than 39 NCAA Division I basketball players and 17 different programs.

Point-shaving in sports, in essence, is a form of insider trading — the logical leap here, in regards to the consequences of allowing Kalshi to offer wagers on transfer decisions, is more of a hop than a leap. Just as a player can intentionally score underneath their betting line for points, a student-athlete could inform others of an unexpected transfer decision prior to an official announcement, creating an unfair market advantage.

NCAA president Charlie Baker sent an official petition to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in January, urging the independent federal regulator to suspend all "collegiate sport prediction markets" indefinitely. Included in the petition was a request for the prohibition of college player props from betting platforms at a state level — this essentially would prevent bettors from placing wagers on outcomes specific to individual athletes, a move which could preclude

Kalshi from offering markets on transfer portal decisions.

The rise of sports betting has already done enough damage to the world of college athletics, and legal opposition to prediction markets has grown across the country as of late — Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes filed charges March 17 against Kalshi for 20 different wagers. Allowing platforms like Kalshi to establish transfer portal markets and other opportunities to wager on individual athletes would only serve to exacerbate these already-substantial issues.

Although the Arizona misdemeanor charges represent a slap on the wrist, legal action and legislation like these are necessary to mitigate the challenges unregulated prediction markets present. Additional legislative or state-level action can lay the foundation for more reform in the future — any increase in governing authority over prediction markets, at any level, lays a brick on a protective wall around student-athletes and the integrity of college sports.

@hill4hoos is Virginia's budding elementary analyst

With a lucky shirt and a math-focused mind, one young fan is proving that sports analytics has no age requirement

Eleanor Lynch | Senior Writer

Framed by a wall of Virginia memorabilia that could put the most dedicated season-ticket holder to shame, a young boy with blond hair leans into the camera. Behind him, an orange and blue pennant, a 2019 National Championship poster and a photo of football Coach Tony Elliott line the walls. It is a shrine to Cavalier tradition, but his content is anything but a standard fan tribute.

The origin of @hill4hoos began just a few months ago, during the large snowstorm that hit Virginia. Trapped inside with nothing but time on his hands, he hit record.

When he begins to speak, there is no script — instead, there is a clinical and nuanced dissection of defensive efficiency and transition play executed by the Virginia men's basketball team. This is Hill, the analytical engine behind @hill4hoos, the Instagram account with over 900 followers and 40 videos. Whether it is a pre-game preview or a post-game recap, he looks for important factors that a casual observer might miss.

His passion for the University and ability to notice these details — ones that his family and friends around him did not register as quickly — are large reasons that Hill decided to start his account.

"I love U.Va. sports so much that I didn't feel like I was doing enough," Hill said. "And I was just sitting around waiting for the next game to happen, so I just wanted ... to start something new and create an Instagram where I talked about U.Va. sports."

While many kids might spend Tuesday nights leveling up in video games, Hill is leveling up his reports. Math is his favorite subject, and he has discovered that a basketball court is essentially a series of high-stakes equations waiting to be solved. As his parents noted, he uses his math skills to learn the language of data and analytics, and then — almost effortlessly — he talks to his audience with the poise of a seasoned pro.

"I was already a huge fan," Hill said. "But I think knowing more about stats and ... about the team we're playing just gets me more fired up ... when I'm watching games."

His ultimate goal is not to be a social media star — it is to eventually be the one holding the clipboard, much like Hill's dream interviewees, former Coach Tony Bennett and Coach Ryan Odom.

"I really want to be a coach when I grow up," Hill said. "Probably college, if I could get to that level."



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But even a future Hall of Famer has to deal with the realities of being a kid. There is the persistent challenge of his school schedule — which Hill cites as his biggest professional obstacle — and the eternal rivalry with his dad, Hunter. While Hill is convinced he holds the title of the household's biggest Virginia fan, Hunter would beg to differ. It is a crown that Hill might have to wait a few more years to officially seize, maybe once his requests to leave school early to watch the ACC Tournament are no longer met with "no."

Hill's takes are as sharp as anyone would hear on a postgame radio show. Evaluating the roster ahead of the ACC Championship, Hill immediately pointed to senior center Ugonna Onyenso as a standout player.

"He controls the glass and he's so physical," Hill said. "He's already a monster on defense with his shot blocking and he's starting to work on offense which I love. I could see that in his 16-point game against Virginia Tech."

Like any true analyst, Hill is not afraid to be critical — he keeps a close watch for the cold streaks, too, noting when players

might be struggling, while always looking for the silver lining.

"Sometimes [graduate guard Malik Thomas] goes cold and can't shoot as well, but he still keeps shooting, and sometimes he doesn't share the ball as much," Hill said. "But when he is playing well ... He is definitely the best player on the court."

He speaks about 2019 hero Kyle Guy not only as a legend, but as a case study in psychological fortitude, citing Guy's iconic Final Four free throws as a lesson in composure.

When The Cavalier Daily told Hill about the intricacies of being a student sports reporter — the post-game interviews, the chance to pick a coach's brain, access to the field — his face lit up. He is a student of the game, already picturing himself with a press pass.

Despite the fame — one of his videos recapping a loss to Duke earned over 52,000 views — Hill remains a kid at heart, fueled by superstitions in a way that haunts all super fans. He wears the same shirt to bed before every Virginia basketball game and clutches a lucky charm during tense moments. And, perhaps the most re-

latable of all, he has a wary eye on his mother's impact on the game.

"I believe whenever my mom watches the game it always goes into overtime," Hill said. "So I don't really want her watching it for a tight game at the end."

When asked to describe the Virginia spirit in a single word, Hill did not hesitate — "pride."

"When I go to games ... I feel like everyone's so connected and I just feel at home and like everyone's cheering for the same team," Hill said. "And everyone can root for different sports. I just love that."

If he were to attend the University, Hill would be a sixth-generation Cavalier. His parents met at the University and the family's roots in Charlottesville run deep, as his grandparents live in town. Hill is taking decades of family tradition and transferring it to the next generation by making it his own.

"It's a platform for him to be able to share this love for sports and natural talent that he has," Hill's mother, Kiki said. "It started out as something just for fun, and it's really cool to see what it's become."

In a digital landscape often filled with negativity, Hill is a reminder of the purity of the game. He is a kid who sees a basketball court as a place of belonging and a series of variables to be solved. Whether he is on the steps of the Rotunda or standing on the sidelines at Scott Stadium, Hill is proving that the next generation of Cavaliers is not just watching the game, but ready to lead it.

The next time your algorithm produces a young fan in a Virginia jersey breaking down a ball-screen defense or predicting a weekend sweep, take a moment to listen — it might just be the takes of the future head coach of the Cavaliers' men's basketball squad.

While he might still have to worry about getting his homework done before tip-off, Hill keeps his eyes firmly on the prize — a Virginia victory. In the world of @hill4hoos, every game is an opportunity, every statistic is a story and every fan is part of the family.

"I just love having people cheer me on," Hill said.

LIFE

DOTL to give admitted students a glimpse into University life

The event connects current and prospective University attendees to authentically showcase the student experience

Charley Thomas | Staff Writer

Each spring season, thousands of admitted students flock to Charlottesville wondering whether they can see themselves on Grounds for the next four years. The sounds of the Cavalier Marching Band and the clamor of families filing into folding chairs on April mornings echo the University's welcome — Days on the Lawn.

Since the early 1990s, the University Office of Undergraduate Admission has collaborated with DOTL student co-chairs to organize DOTL, an event connecting potential new students with each other and the University community. While many undecided students utilize DOTL to guide their final college decision by May 1, it is also highly attended by students who have already committed to the University. The program consists of four separate day-long glimpses into life on Grounds, and with roughly 80 student volunteers and admission interns each DOTL, it seeks to authentically represent the student experience from the perspective of those who live it.

The University will host this year's DOTL from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 10, 13, 18 and 20. Admitted students and their families begin by watching performances of the Cavalier Marching Band and various a cappella groups on the Rotunda steps. After a few announcements and welcoming remarks from a current student, Nicole Hall, senior associate vice president and dean of students, Greg Roberts, associate vice provost for enrollment and admission and Associate Dean of Recruitment Rachel Schlachter, attendees head to academic information sessions based on their intended school at the University.

In the afternoon, programming becomes more flexible. Admitted students can tour facilities such as the Aquatic and Fitness Center, drop by an "Ask a Hoo" stand outside Peabody Hall with any questions for current students and attend a student social on the Peabody Lawn, among other activities.

Hayley Judge, DOTL student co-chair and fourth-year College student, said that contributing to this University tradition is a full-circle experience for her. It was at her own DOTL as a senior in high school, Judge said that she realized she had found her place at the University.

"Days on the Lawn is not just a show-and-tell," Judge said. "Some admitted student tours are just show-and-tells — it's like, 'Here's this and here's that.' ... But Days on

the Lawn really allows you to immerse yourself in the whole experience and feel what it's like to be a student here."

In addition to helping people decide whether the University is the best fit for them, DOTL is a time for both admission deans and admitted students to relax after the whirlwind of application season. Schlachter emphasized that admitted students should feel very proud of their invitations to join the class of 2030 amidst a record-breaking year of applications.

"It's a day for celebration and excitement," Schlachter said. "The college application process is stressful for students, and we have now spent months reading their applications. It's so fun when we get to meet with students who we might have seen at a college fair or a high school event in early fall. Now, they're admitted to U.Va., they're interacting with us and they might say 'yes.' That's super exciting to us."

Planning logistics for the celebratory event starts a year in advance — with securing space on Grounds, parking spots and shuttles taking top priority. The Office of Admission selects its DOTL dates around high school spring breaks in Virginia, so the University can maximize attendance.

Schlachter noted that while admitted students have always valued academics, recent classes have sought more scholastic specificity. This trend is part of why DOTL devotes the entire morning block of programming to school-specific information sessions, enabling students to inquire about their unique academic goals.

"In the time that I've been here, there's always been a strong connection to academics, but we've seen it shift more and more towards students wanting to know exactly what they can do here," Schlachter said. "They want to double major. They want to do research right away. They want to study abroad. They want to make sure they can get an internship at this company or that company. [Students today] tend to be really forward-thinking players."

To provide admitted students with authentic answers to their many questions, DOTL also includes an "Ask a Hoo" booth. Admitted students and their families are encouraged to drop by midday to get any information they may need about the University experience straight from the source — current students.

"I think being able to share that



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Since the early 1990s, the University Office of Undergraduate Admission has collaborated with DOTL student co-chairs to organize DOTL, an event connecting potential new students with each other and the University community.

perspective with students is something you're not able to get on a [standard] tour [or] an online pamphlet," Kline said. "But you will be able to get [that] when you talk to students who are invested in you, in your family and in your experience of figuring out what college looks like for you."

A key opportunity for current and admitted students to interact with one another in a less formal setting is the student social in the afternoon. Outside Peabody Hall and over light refreshments, DOTL volunteers and staff encourage admitted students to attend without their families so that they can connect with their future classmates. Suraj Gangar, DOTL student co-chair and fourth-year College student, said that the student social event is his favorite part of the day.

"[Coming into college] can be intimidating, but I feel like the student social breaks all those fences and barriers down," Gangar said. "It's only incoming students, and [they] can talk just about what you like to do in high school and what you want to do at U.Va."

While some student social conversations stick to small talk, others are deeply influential for everyone involved. As someone staffing DOTL, Kline recalled talking to a

former high school classmate who had to decide between multiple schools, which the two were able to discuss in detail.

"I was like, 'Well, what's keeping you from U.Va.?' and he said, 'Honestly, it's just really close to home, and I don't know if I feel it is far enough away for me to really be independent and grow as a person,'" Kline said. "Then I was like, 'Well, I can tell you about all the growth that I have been through.' So I started explaining all my major changes, the ways I have changed socially, the friends I have made and the activities I bought into."

According to Kline, this peer-to-peer connection and genuine appraisal of nuanced aspects of life on Grounds gave this admitted student confidence in his difficult decision between the University, Stanford University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"[He] and I started looking at each other and getting emotional ... and then I walked with him over to the table with his parents where he put down his deposit to go to U.Va.," Kline said.

Whether attendees have a particularly fruitful discussion like this one or simply make a few new friends at the social, Judge said that interacting with their future class-

mates at DOTL helps admitted students understand the University's culture and the day-to-day life for students. The student social also holds a special place in Judge's heart since she met her first-year roommate attending the event four years prior.

"When I was choosing what college I wanted to go to, it was very much not just about what the campus ... and the buildings looked like or how highly-ranked the programs were," Judge said. "For me, it was really important to get a feel for my fellow classmates and see if I could see myself attending school with those people."

From lasting connections to information about the many academic avenues offered on Grounds, DOTL showcases what life on Grounds could be like for admitted students. Whether or not admitted students decide that this experience is right for them, the DOTL team takes pride in knowing that they add clarity to the process.

"I love telling my tour groups that ... my goal of this tour that I give is that at the end of this, you know what your college experience should or should not look like — and what you want it to be," Kline said. "That's exactly what Days on the Lawn is for."

Black students find belonging on and beyond Grounds

Exploring how Black students navigate belonging within the University and the broader Charlottesville community

Phoenix Banks | Staff Writer

For many students, the quintessential vision of the University experience involves crowded house parties, late-night conversations with new friends and enjoying the newfound sense of freedom that comes with living away from home for the first time. While this experience may be the reality for some, Black students at the University often navigate social spaces that come with additional complexities.

From the University's robust Greek life scene to that of lecture halls, many environments require adjusting to predominately white settings and social dynamics. In these spaces — both on Grounds and within the broader social scene of Charlottesville — Black students may encounter challenges that shape their University experience.

Black students already make up one of the smallest groups at the University — with approximately 13 percent of the University's student body identifying as Black or African American. First-year College student Chloe Smith noted how being one of the few Black students in the classroom can make group discussions become uncomfortable quickly, causing her to fear that other students will not fully understand her perspectives or opinions.

Smith described an awkward situation in one of her classes where her teacher assigned groups and encouraged students to discuss prompts amongst themselves — only for her to be completely ignored by her all-white male group members.

"The beginning of the semester was really hard because I was in a lot of collaborative group work in a lot of classes, and I got put in a group in my Engagements [course], with an all-white guy group [and] they would not acknowledge me," Smith said.

Smith said that while these instances of dismissal were not new, they had a profound impact on her self-esteem. She explained how this interaction was one of the many at the University that has made her feel ostracized and ignored by her white peers.

"It was actually super difficult, because I just felt like I was constantly being belittled, even though I'm at the same place you are, in the same class you are," Smith said.

For some Black partygoers, these imposed feelings of inferiority from the classroom can translate over to the nightlife scene. Rugby Road and 14th Street are staples

of University culture and active hubs for fraternity functions and bars. According to Smith, Black students often have difficult experiences attending parties on Rugby Road or 14th Street.

Smith recalled a particular moment in which she and her friends were waiting for an Uber after leaving a party on Rugby Road. Already uneasy because of how far the party was from Grounds, their anxieties quickly escalated when Smith and her friends were targeted by hidden assailants.

"These guys started shooting Nerf guns at us," Smith said. "They were mocking us a little bit in the bushes, and so we literally moved across the street ... We could still hear them."

According to first-year College student Carlin Miles, actions like this can deter students, especially Black students, from attending parties and participating in nightlife on Rugby Road. Miles said certain racial transgressions often made her friends feel unwanted and unsafe at these events.

"I know [my friends have] had poor experiences on Rugby Road, where they've been called the n-word, or they've been mocked and degraded," Miles said. "I know that for them, that makes them more hesitant to attend white parties or parties in the Rugby area."

This discriminatory behavior can create an environment where many Black students feel unwelcome and excluded from spaces that are widely regarded as cornerstones of the University's social scene. In turn, some Black students who are interested in nightlife say they look to other avenues to access the social experiences they desire.

For instance, some Black students find that parties hosted by Black fraternities are more accessible and welcoming. Black fraternities and sororities are colloquially referred to as the Divine Nine. These spaces are known to provide Black students with a sense of solace and community that can be harder to find in other social settings.

According to Miles, at parties of these fraternities, Black students are surrounded by a community that understands their struggles and experiences. For Miles, she said she feels as if she is in safer hands if an incident were to happen at Black fraternity parties.

"I personally just feel more relaxed in the Black frats," Miles said. "Not only because that's my people, but also because I feel like there's more of a safety net when



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it comes to overdosing [on] alcohol and things like that."

However, there are limitations to Black Greek life on Grounds. Since none of the Divine Nine organizations at the University have a house on Grounds, Black fraternities typically host events by renting out white fraternity houses for monthly parties. Consequently, the lack of permanent housing makes them unable to host parties or events every weekend, which can leave many Black students without comfortable and consistent spaces for nighttime entertainment or socialization.

According to second-year College student Jaden Brown, the complexities of the nightlife scene for Black students like himself serve as a harsh reminder of Charlottesville's history. From the University's own past with slavery and eugenics to the 2017 'Unite the Right' rally, Charlottesville has historically served as a microcosm for racial tensions in American society writ large.

Brown said he notices this tension when he ventures off Grounds to places such as the Downtown Mall. He said he often finds himself carefully monitoring his actions and surroundings when he goes into the general Charlottesville area because he never knows when simple interactions can become dangerous.

Similar to Rugby Road and the Corner, many Black students report that areas such as the Downtown Mall often make them feel vulnerable to awkward and often-

times racist exchanges, leaving students like Brown uncomfortable, unsafe and confused.

"Going outside of U.Va. ... I don't want to say it's a risky thing per se, not to make it seem like this area is a threat for African Americans, but [Charlottesville is] definitely an area where you can't be as comfortable as you are [on Grounds]," Brown said. "You can't walk around with your AirPods because there is a chance that someone probably doesn't like you for something you can't control and is gonna come up and try to start something."

Despite all of this, Brown said he finds spaces on and off Grounds, such as house shows that feature alternative music instead of traditional fraternity parties, that make him feel most comfortable.

Outside of nightlife, many Black students also find community in Black-led Contracted Independent Organizations such as the Black Student Alliance, Black Girls United and the Organization of African Students. The Office of African American Affairs also hosts its own events, such as Bridge Friday, a weekly block-party-style event that allows Black students to socialize with their peers while providing music, games and food. Many Black fraternities outside of the party scene also host professional workshops and performance showcases. These organizations provide spaces for students to meet other Black students by engaging with Grounds outside of a typical party environment.

"If [Black organizations and Greek life] are hosting something, maybe, you should go to it," Brown said. "It doesn't always have to be a party. It could be performance or something like that. That's one of the few times we actually get to interact with our community directly."

While the nightlife and social scene at the University may still be intimidating to some, Black students are finding ways to navigate its challenges and enjoy the festivities and connection it offers. The challenge of finding spaces where they feel comfortable has led many Black students to form new friendships and connections, experience different forms of entertainment and become involved in Black CIOs on Grounds.

Whether it be participating in organizations beyond typical fraternity parties, exploring new entertainment scenes or finding parties that make them feel safest, it is clear that Black students create the spaces they need to relax and have fun at a University that was not designed with them in mind.

"I think, alongside just being Black at a [predominately white institution], there's a really big sense that, when you have a break, take your break," Brown said. "Do what you want, hang out with your friends, enjoy that time to relax, because as soon as you lose it, it's so much harder trying to get back."

Corner Juice refuses to cut any corners

Fresh ingredients and family roots keep this corner staple thriving

Lucy Larsen | Staff Writer

On any given afternoon on the Corner, hordes of students and locals shuffle in and out of Corner Juice for a quick bite. Since their doors opened in 2017, Corner Juice has become a staple for University students, faculty and Charlottesville residents alike, offering a variety of healthy food choices including smoothies, sandwiches, par-faits and coffee.

Behind the busy shop are founders and University alumni Joseph Linzon and Julie Nolet, and James Madison University alumnus Kevin McConnell. Together, they opened the storefront with the goal of bringing healthier, more convenient food options to the Corner — a mission shaped by their own experiences with the lack of health-conscious food in Charlottesville.

“[Charlottesville] was a ghost town for healthy [food] back then,” Nolet said. “I think the only thing that we had was like a green vending machine.”

Linzon first began working to bring healthier food options to Charlottesville in 2015, when he founded

Roots Natural Kitchen with three of his fraternity brothers. Roots’ success solidified the need for healthier food options on the Corner, and Linzon and Nolet got to work immediately.

While Roots has since expanded into a national chain with 22 locations, Corner Juice remains a smaller, family-run operation. They have two locations in Charlottesville, including the Corner and the Downtown Mall.

Linzon and Nolet said they have always wanted Corner Juice to feel like more than just a place to grab food. They even refer to the seating area as the “living room,” reinforcing their goal of making the shop feel more like a comfortable place to spend time rather than just a restaurant.

For many customers, including second-year College student Katie Frick, these welcoming efforts are part of what keeps them coming back.

“[The staff] know my name,” Frick said. “Every time I go to pick up my order, they [know] that I [am] Katie, and they almost always had my order ready for [me].”

At Corner Juice, the idea of wellness extends beyond creating a welcoming space. Their business is guided by the motto “food is medicine,” and their menu is built around simple, natural ingredients without added sweeteners.

“There is a stigma that healthy food doesn’t taste good. So that was our goal from the very beginning, to keep it simple,” Nolet said. “We don’t need to get crazy and have 15 ingredients in one item.”

Nolet and Linzon said they try to source as many ingredients locally as possible, working with nearby farms whenever they can. Because of their focus on fresh and local ingredients, however, some students said the higher prices can make Corner Juice more of an occasional stop.

“The portion size is a little disproportionate to the cost,” Frick said. “Marketing yourself as someone that has all organic ingredients, that gives students [access to] fruit and vegetables ... that’s a rarity, so they can charge pretty much whatever they want.”

In addition to using fresh ingredients, Corner Juice offers options for a wide range of dietary needs and allergies. Like many patrons with dietary restrictions, Frick said she often returns to Corner Juice because she knows there will be options that fit her gluten-free diet.

“It was really hard to find places that had good gluten-free sandwiches, especially for lunch,” Frick said. “I struggled, even in the dining halls. There weren’t very many options, and if there were, the quality was bad.”

In addition to offering fresh and accommodating menu options, Nolet and Linzon said their ability to respond to customer demand has been key to their success. They explained that many of the shop’s changes have come directly from customer feedback, helping the business grow while staying relevant to the Charlottesville community.

Students not only shape the culture of the shop as customers, but also as members of the Corner Juice work team. While some of their family

members help run the shop, Linzon and Nolet said about 50 percent of Corner Juice’s employees are students.

Linzon and Nolet said that creating a strong connection with the Charlottesville community has been central to Corner Juice’s mission.

“We love to give back to [the University] community, whether it’s with sororities, with fraternities or with the UVA hospital, these partnerships are a big part of who we are,” Linzon said. “Without this community, we wouldn’t be anything.”

Over eight years after opening, Corner Juice has become part of the daily routine for many University students. Linzon and Nolet said the shop has grown alongside the student community, becoming a place people return to throughout their time in Charlottesville.

“It’s not just about the food. And that, to me, is really special — that people feel like this is a safe and fun and welcoming place,” Nolet said. “That was my goal from the beginning.”

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A closer look at the intentionality of Campbell Hall’s additions

The School of Architecture building’s 2008 additions were designed by Architecture professors, providing an elevated learning experience for students

Aya Leone | Staff Writer

From the Woodshop, laser cutters and the studio spaces, Campbell Hall houses the complex, adventurous and dynamic work and design of the School of Architecture. The School of Architecture presents a unique opportunity for students to receive a deeper, more immersive education, as the spaces they learn in were designed by their own professors.

Campbell Hall was originally designed in 1970 by design consultant Pietro Belluschi, Sasaki Associates and Rawlings, Wilson and Associates. Additions to Campbell Hall in 2008 were important to accommodate the program’s growth — both in the student body and in its coursework.

Professors and architects W.G. Clark and Bill Sherman designed the East and South additions of Campbell Hall, respectively, which were officially completed in 2008 after construction started in 2007. Clark, designer of the East Addition of Campbell Hall, is a School of Architecture Class of 1965 alumnus and an internationally recognized designer who has taught at the University since 1988. Sherman, who designed the South Addition, is also a practicing architect in addition

to working in academia for 45 years at several universities across the United States, as well as in several different positions at the University since his arrival in 1994.

The East Addition includes a series of project review rooms where students present their studio projects to professors or guest critics and is also used as a collaboration space. The review rooms in Campbell Hall absorb many avenues of light and reveal the room’s natural composition, presenting a refreshing take on review rooms, which Clark said are notorious for having no windows and a lack of ventilation. The glass walls provide an outlet into the building, showing to the public the work that occurs inside Campbell Hall, supporting and fostering a space where artistic conversation can take place.

“So you’ll notice that the east facing wall is completely glass. Nowhere to pin up drawings. It’s just for the transparency of people looking out and people looking in,” Clark said. “It was important that the materials be exposed so that students of architecture could see how things are built, not how things are covered up with

sheet rock.”

Sherman said that the South Addition considers connection to seasons, cycles of nature, Grounds and student-faculty relations. These innovations are facilitated through faculty office spaces, outlets to the outdoors and a stairwell that combines both practical and creative design elements. Sherman’s stairwell is an iconic space for students to take photos of their models, as the sliver of window that breaks up the concrete walls acts as a sundial and creates unique lighting that is ideal for highlighting details within the models.

Third-year Architecture student Amina Fall reflected on what lessons the additions have taught her about light in design.

“I think both the additions are extremely uniform and orderly, but how they play with light and integrate it into the space makes them shine,” Fall said. “They have that in common, which I think is really interesting, though they were designed by different people.”

According to Sherman, the faculty offices connect students and faculty in a new way, with the offices located

near student workspaces instead of on separate floors. Groups of three to four office rooms are connected by a shared outdoor patio — providing a channel of fresh air and sunlight for faculty.

The dynamic explored between students and faculty in this addition pays homage to the Academical Village and the Pavilions. The faculty offices balance nature and academia as one side faces the garden and the other faces into the studio spaces — similar to how the Pavilions face into both the Gardens and the Academical Village. The office porches form small clusters that encourage collaboration between faculty which is reminiscent of the upper outdoor pathways connecting the Pavilions on the Lawn.

“This idea about using the building as a way of connecting back to the Grounds ... to make that all part of the daily life of the building is very different than a building which primarily closes you off from all of those relationships that so many of our buildings do, internally focused,” Sherman said. “So the building was designed as a place to connect you to the world beyond.”

Beyond the confines of the class-

room, the additions are an emblematic feature of the School of Architecture where students have a place to generate dialogue about their designs among professors and peers alike. Fall said that she found a unique appeal to the building’s structure, finding utility in its Spartan design.

“I’m someone who tends to go for ... less ornate designs and really focus on how the space feels, without having to kind of inject a bunch of walls and random things,” Fall said. “I think that both the additions are very practical and represent [a] really functionalist design approach.”

After almost 20 years, the additions continue to be integrated into student education through lessons on light, materiality and spatial orientation. The Architecture buildings complement these lessons by integrating them into both the Architecture curriculum and within the structure of the buildings themselves. Architecture students are granted a unique, additional layer of immersive education in which they learn from the designers of the spaces around them.

The revival of needlepoint — crafting calm in a digital age

Once seen as an old-fashioned hobby, needlepoint is becoming a popular outlet for University students seeking mindfulness and community

Julia Prevost | Staff Writer

In a fast-paced and increasingly digital world, some University students are choosing to unplug and slow down one stitch at a time. Needlepoint — an embroidery style involving stitching across a colorful canvas — has recently gained popularity among younger generations. What was once considered a “grandma hobby” has become a trend on social media, a thoughtful gift option and a popular way for students to step back from academic pressure towards something grounding and mindful.

In recent years, the needlepoint industry has seen a nationwide resurgence, with a rise in independent designers, “stitch clubs” and TikTok trends like “Work in Progress Wednesdays.” The growing trend has led to the opening of more retail shops dedicated to needlepoint nationwide — including one in Charlottesville.

Founded in 2019 and located on the Downtown Mall, Poppypointe is a colorful, whimsical needlepoint shop offering a wide variety of threads, finishing services and accessories. Store owner Lauren Ryan transformed the establishment into a dedicated needlepoint space after purchasing a former custom stitching store when its previous owner retired.

Poppypointe hosts beginner needlepointing classes, offers a variety of canvases catering to a range of skill levels and carries more than 150 thread lines in hundreds of colors. The shop features everything from hand-painted stockings and personalized key fobs to intricate ornaments, allowing stitchers to create projects that are both decorative and meaningful.

Ryan has collaborated with local designers — including a part-time University faculty member in the School of Nursing whose line “Cabell Stitchery” is now sold in over 125 stores — to bring unique canvases to her shop, contributing to the growing fiber arts world in Charlottesville.

For Ryan, what began as a hobby inherited from her grandmother

turned into a prominent business and a mindful practice. A trained social worker in trauma recovery, Ryan sees needlepoint as an activity that requires focus and presence while producing a tangible, creative result.

“You have to focus on what you’re doing,” Ryan said. “You have to kind of ground yourself and look at the colors and not be distracted by something else. So there’s something very grounding about it.”

The needlepoint process itself reflects its broad appeal by combining relaxation, creative expression and the satisfaction of producing handcrafted pieces. Artists design intricate canvases before stitchers select threads and finished works are transformed into pillows, ornaments and other keepsakes. For Ryan, this combination of mindfulness and artistry is why needlepoint resonates with students.

“Being a UVA student, there’s a lot of pressure academically to get into the school, to stay in the school, to find a job, find an internship,” Ryan said. “It’s a good way to practice self-care, and a store can give you a safe space.”

Many students at the University credit local resources like Poppypointe for making it easier to sew themselves into the hobby. Second-year Commerce student Anna Roth, for example, said that she frequents the store and finds it especially useful when introducing friends to the practice.

“I always take my friends there, and they love to go,” Roth said. “[Poppypointe is] really helpful with picking stuff out for beginners, and they’ll also teach you how to do it.”

Among these students, needlepoint has become a way to step back and focus on something tangible. Another needlepointer — first-year College student McKenzie Goltermann — said that needlepoint has allowed her to take a break from social media and the constant distractions of everyday life.

“It’s very calming,” Goltermann said. “With TikTok and Instagram,



ELIANNE BOBER | THE CAVALIER DAILY

our attention spans are just so short that I can now do something productive rather than going on my phone.”

In addition to its therapeutic qualities, the hobby brings communities together as they share individual artsy creations. While the in-person communities of needlepoint include stitch clubs and classes, the online needlepoint communities — especially on sites like TikTok — have been especially influential on students at the University, according to both Roth and Goltermann. Roth said that an online resurgence drew her to the hobby once again, after she had been introduced to it by family at a young age.

“I kind of said that I was into it before a lot of other people were, just because my mom had taught me how to do it,” Roth said. “And then, definitely, I’ve gotten a lot more into it since the whole social media craze has started.”

Beyond increasing its popularity and making the hobby more accessible, online communities have allowed students to improve their creativity and craft as a whole. Goltermann said that others’ shared works often inspire

her own.

“[Social media] definitely has given me ideas on what to make next,” Goltermann said. “If I want to do a smaller project but don’t want to do another ornament, [TikTok is a really great place] for giving ideas like that.”

The growing online presence of needlepoint also reflects the larger trend of the craft being redesigned to appeal to younger audiences, according to Roth. For many, the combination of creativity, social connection and stress alleviation is part of what makes needlepoint so enjoyable.

Some stitchers turn their canvases into heartfelt gifts for their families. Goltermann said that she once made her dad a flask cover, highlighting the personal nature of the hobby. Similarly, Ryan has crafted 17 stockings for her family members, along with ornaments and other items. Ryan spoke to the sentimental value of these carefully curated pieces.

“When I make something like [the stockings], I put a lot of thought and love into it ... There’s something really special about having that connection,”

Ryan said. “It’s really special what people can create and make for others.”

This flexibility and ease of entry is part of what draws younger stitchers to the craft, allowing them to experiment without pressure and walk away with a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment. Needlepoint can be done in short increments and in a variety of settings, and canvases are available in a range of sizes, designs and price points. These qualities allow beginners to experiment with the craft, according to Goltermann.

“I’m not a particularly creative or crafty person, but needlepoint is very fun and easy,” Goltermann said. “My roommate has said that I’ve inspired her to start.”

Needlepoint allows many to unplug, explore creativity and craft something personal and meaningful. What was once seen as an old-fashioned pastime has become a creative outlet for a new generation to express themselves, connect with others and form a lasting personal hobby one stitch at a time.



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A&E Book Club: Middle-child stories for the mid-spring month

In honor of April being the ‘middle child’ of the spring triad, here are a few works of literature with prominent middle-child characters

Carly Smith | Staff Writer

Nearing the end of the spring semester, students are finally able to feel the warmer weather after months of snowball fights, puffer coats and icy roads. With the spring equinox March 20 and summer officially starting in June, March, April and May are a triad of spring and, by default, April is the “middle child” of the three.

The common saying of “April showers bring May flowers” cements April’s status as a neglected month, especially relative to its spring siblings. It is not the beginning of spring, nor the end. It is not a stepping stone to summer, but rather a reminder that final exams are approaching. This list features three popular stories that can relate to April’s spot in its spring family — tales with prominent middle-child characters who, much like the month of April, tend to be less of a focal point in their respective families.

“Little House in the Big Woods” by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Published in 1932, “Little House in the Big Woods” is the first in the nine-book series of “Little House on the Prairie” novels, widely known for their themes of resilience, family

and change. Laura Ingalls, the book’s primary protagonist, is based on the author, Laura Ingalls Wilder, who drew primary inspiration for the series from her own childhood experiences. The family also consists of Ma and Pa, the girls’ parents, Laura’s older sister Mary and her baby sister Carrie, making Laura the middle child of the family.

Throughout the first book — and the entire series — there is an evident sibling rivalry, specifically between Laura and Mary. Since Laura is the middle child in her family, she feels a sense of inferiority compared to her older sister. Laura constantly tries to mirror Mary and prove herself to Ma and Pa without being categorized alongside the immaturity of Carrie, emphasizing the angst and discomfortability of Laura’s role as the middle child.

There is a character with whom many readers can identify with in the “Little House on the Prairie” series, whether that be an oldest child, a youngest child or an April-esque middle child like Laura, whose relatability is amplified by her drawing the focus of the novel’s perspective.

“Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets” by J.K. Rowling

Most people who have been introduced to Harry Potter are familiar with the Weasley’s, the family of eight eclectic members with bright red hair. Ron Weasley, Harry Potter’s best friend and a prominent character in Rowling’s books, is the fifth of seven siblings, making him one of several middle children. In the second book in the series, “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,” Harry spends the summer with the Weasley’s, allowing readers to see their family dynamic, with Harry fitting in as an additional middle child alongside Ron during these few months.

The entire environment of the Weasley household is extremely busy and chaotic, with each of Ron’s older siblings representing distinct, strong personalities. Ron’s brother, Percy, is a prefect at Hogwarts and Fred and George — Ron’s twin older brothers — are extremely mischievous and comical. Ron also has two other brothers — Bill and Charlie — who are older than Fred and George and are less present in the books, but their age and wisdom further draw the family’s attention away from Ron. Moreover, Ron’s younger sister, Ginny, is the only girl in the family, making Ron feel the need to earn

his place amongst his siblings. Ron’s role relative to the rest of his family is one of a quintessential middle child, often overshadowed by older and younger siblings, making the need for him to make his presence known in a large family filled with dominant personalities.

“To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” by Jenny Han

Han’s novel introduces readers to the character of Lara Jean, a hopelessly romantic 16-year-old trying to deal with the pressures and social expectations of high school. Also well-known for writing “The Summer I Turned Pretty,” the author crafts the story of the Song Covey family, with Lara Jean being a middle child in her family of four. The book begins with Margot, the eldest sister, going to college, leaving her father — a widower — alone to take care of her two siblings.

Since Lara Jean is the middle child, still at home with her younger sister Kitty, Kitty feels comfortable interfering with Lara Jean’s personal affairs and feelings. Lara Jean has to deal with the repercussions from Kitty’s decisions, while also taking on more responsibility in the household with Margot away at college.

Lara Jean wants her father to see her like an adult, able to think and make decisions for herself, but her immature decisions make it hard for those beliefs to surface as she navigates the line between childhood and adulthood. Han writes the novel in the first-person perspective, allowing readers to feel as if they are personally on this intense journey with Lara Jean. For anyone looking to revisit their inner 16-year-old self, this book is the perfect opportunity.

April may be a month full of rain and apprehension, as students approach the end of the academic year without having reached the finish line quite yet. Still, the April showers are necessary in order to produce the May flowers. April is a crucial period of growth, providing time for the season to fully develop and for individuals to distinguish their own identities. One should never underestimate the middle child, in any medium, because they have meaningful and important messages to share, using their strengths — and even their insecurities — to impact the people around them.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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PUZZLE

Max Goldberg | Puzzle Editor

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

ACROSS

- 1 A bit wet
- 5 Very little, in recipes
- 10 "U.V.a. was chartered in 1819," for instance
- 14 Cookie with creme
- 15 Nuzzled
- 16 The 411
- 17 Dinner scraps
- 18 Closing time for many Corner bars
- 19 Chimney substance
- 20 Evolutionary response to mortal danger
- 23 C-ville institution for many solvers of this puzzle
- 24 Whatever
- 25 2006 Amy Winehouse hit
- 28 Date on many perishable items
- 30 "Today is a gift. That's why it's called the _____"
- 32 Clemson football coach Swinney
- 33 Like a lime
- 35 Cold and blustery
- 36 Piece of equipment

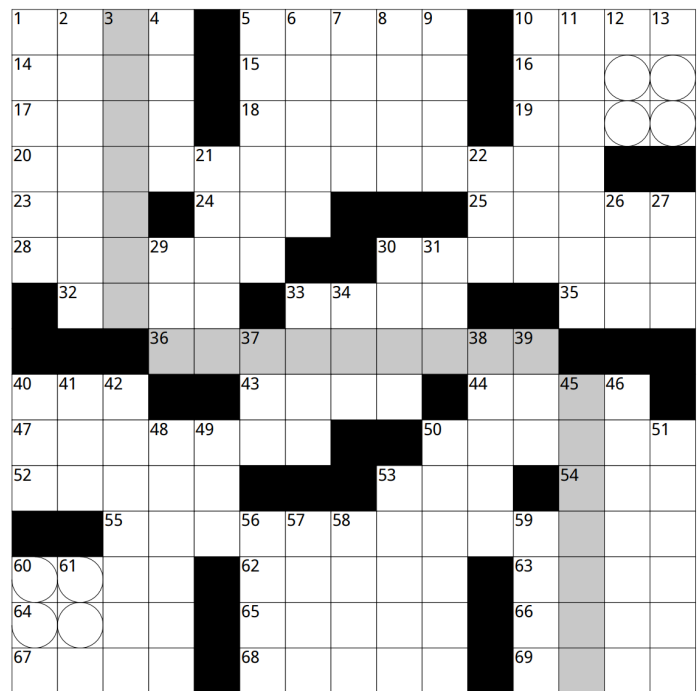
- religiously used by male athletes like Tom Brady and Shohei Ohtani
- 40 Slender fish
- 43 The number one weather-related killer in the United States, according to the National Weather Service
- 44 Fashion statements worth checking?
- 47 Scottish city
- 50 Grit orders
- 52 Word repeated three times in an ABBA song title
- 53 The solver of this puzzle
- 54 Tolkien tree-man
- 55 Requirement for understanding niche online references ... or, more literally, 3-Down, 36-Across and 45-Down
- 60 Animal on the California flag
- 62 One end of a battery
- 63 Swagger that might be farmed by Gen Z

- 64 Aide, for short
- 65 The last time Virginia Tech won a team national championship in any sport
- 66 Do readings 10 minutes before class, maybe
- 67 Plays a part
- 68 Hands out the cards
- 69 Brewed beverages

DOWN

- 1 One who walks into a glass door, perhaps
- 2 Final word in GPS directions, ideally
- 3 Annual event with a 2026 theme of "Fashion is Art"
- 4 Fit for a king
- 5 Cleopatra's lover
- 6 Bridal estate
- 7 Starting on
- 8 Circus pool performer or diploma feature
- 9 TV cable port
- 10 Angles?
- 11 "One Battle After _____" (2026 Best Picture

- winner)
- 12 Shahnoor Chaudhry, for The CD
- 13 Trike rider
- 21 Social no-no
- 22 Test for a future Ph.D.
- 26 De Armas of "No Time to Die"
- 27 Texter's segue
- 29 President after JFK
- 30 Short stroke, at Birdwood
- 31 Telugu-language hit film of 2022
- 33 Distort, as data
- 34 Female 60-Across, in Mexico
- 37 Closest airport code to 23-Across
- 38 Run _____ of the law
- 39 Snap story upload
- 40 Quiche ingredient
- 41 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
- 42 Severely criticize
- 45 Words embroidered into every NFL pigskin
- 46 Wine and fruit juice drink

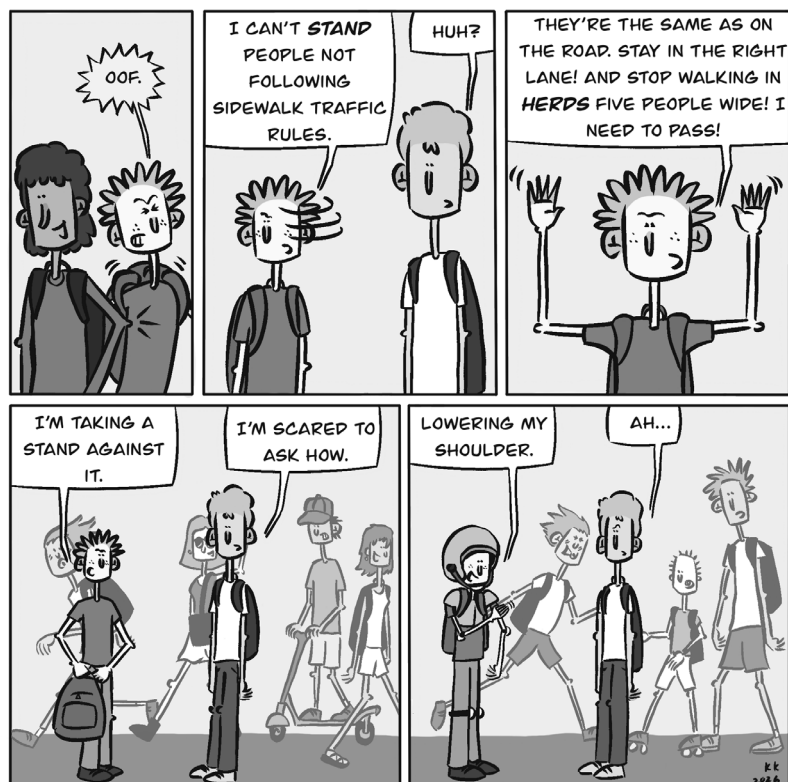


- 48 Common sense
- 49 Hair goop
- 50 Lawn cutters used by Facilities Management
- 51 Cooks over boiling water
- 53 Sing in the Alps
- 56 Get, as an internship
- 57 Body part that's often scraped
- 58 Home for many students at 23-Across
- 59 Sunrise direction
- 60 Sheepish sound?
- 61 Fi neighbor

CARTOON

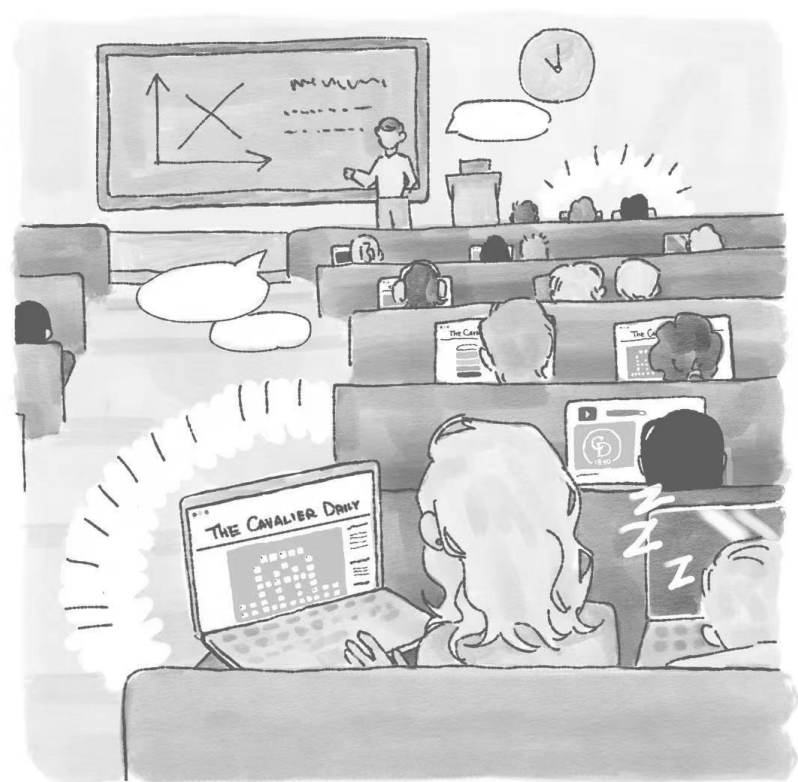
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Peak Productivity

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OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL: Inclusive governance comes to fruition at last

Senate Bill 494, recently passed by the Virginia General Assembly, promises to remedy the holes in University governance — so long as the follow-through is substantive

Upon the election of Gov. Abigail Spanberger, The Cavalier Daily's previous Editorial Board argued that Virginia's politicians should prioritize institutional stability in making decisions about Virginia universities. Five months later, there is the potential for great progress towards this goal of stability — Senate Bill 494. The benefits of this bill are clear — reduced political polarization, clearer confirmation processes for Board of Visitors nominees and strengthened stakeholder access to pertinent deliberations. Yet, while this essential ream of law heads towards Spanberger's desk, it is worth expounding on the greatest promise of this bill — the promise of clear, codified stakeholder governance across Virginia's universities.

The last year exposed several inadequacies with the leadership of the boards of Virginia universities. At our University, the Republican-appointed Board of Visitors contributed to the ouster of former University President Jim Ryan, and shrouded the following months in secrecy, thereby eroding shared governance. In addition, multi-

ple universities faced the risk of their boards being unable to meet quorum. This risk came as a result of former Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's contentious attempt to maintain board appointments that had been blocked in the appointment process. This threatened to preclude boards from making decisions when expedient action on countless issues was critical.

The bill offers prudent solutions to these issues. The term limits for a board member will be changed from four years to six, ensuring that no single gubernatorial term can wholly alter the composition of a university's governance. Boards will thus become places of consensus-building around actions, rather than one-sided imposition onto university stakeholders. Further, the bill clarifies the process of board appointments, stating that rejection by the Virginia Senate or House Committee on Privileges and Elections constitutes rejection by the General Assembly. This will prevent the controversial and legally incoherent claims of Youngkin from being espoused again. Through this clarified

appointment process, there is greater assurance towards the security of board operations.

Beyond these targeted reforms, there is a greater ideal present in this bill — the duty for boards to “adopt... shared governance.” While the term shared governance may sound amorphous at first, it is an essential characteristic to any effective leadership strategy — it ensures that key stakeholders are involved in the actions that directly affect them. Shared governance is applied constantly throughout the bill, mandating a “staff representative” on boards and reaffirming the largely self-selecting process of student and faculty representatives. After a year where these stakeholders were repeatedly sidelined, this move to codify shared governance is critical to ensuring that the lack of transparency is never again repeated at our University or others in Virginia.

The bill also requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to produce policies on shared governance for boards of Virginia universities over the next nine months,

creating an organizational structure that safeguards shared governance. To fulfill this promise, the Council should look to the examples of other universities. James Madison University formed a task force that issued recommendations on shared governance in 2023, which ensured that key changes were passed with “sufficient time for collaboration and feedback.” The Council should form recommendations that mirror these examples for all relevant stakeholders, thereby securing shared governance.

Some would argue that shared governance is a fallacy. Yet, those who argue this fundamentally misunderstand the current crisis of distrust and disempowerment felt by stakeholders. At Old Dominion University, faculty expressed no confidence in their university leaders after the length of many online classes were cut in half without faculty input. Shared governance does not risk triggering “unilateral entitlement,” as the Jefferson Council claims, but rather it protects against stakeholders being thrown out of University discussions — literally, in the case

of a statute whereby the faculty and student members of the Board could be removed from discussions on any matter. By codifying shared governance, Senate Bill 494 ensures that key stakeholders will be able to participate in and identify with the decisions of their institution.

In this increasingly sclerotic age, it is rare that a period of tumult can result in genuine reflection and change for those harmed. Senate Bill 494 not only responds to some of the specific causes of crises, but it also holds the potential to shift the culture at Virginia's public educational institutions towards shared governance. This can only be achieved through the Council using its empowerment in the bill to form clearly structured recommendations. Virginia has made the leap — now, it must stick the landing.

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HAWKINS: The ‘assault firearms’ ban is nonsensical

Banning vaguely-defined assault firearms will not reduce gun homicides in Virginia, but it will make it incredibly difficult for law-abiding citizens to defend themselves

In the wake of several mass shootings, politicians have resumed calls for gun control legislation. Amid widespread trepidation, emotions run high — but fear seldom translates to sound policy. That fact, however, has not stopped Virginia Democrats. As the clock ran out on the 2026 legislative session, Senate Democrats voted to advance a proposal to ban the sale of so-called “assault firearms” under the guise of safety. This is shortsighted. Not only will the proposal likely fail to make a dent in gun homicides — it is also hopelessly incoherent and will inflict a cascade of pernicious ramifications that will far outweigh any supposed benefits.

At the outset, an assault firearm is a nebulous term. It is not colloquially understood by firearm manufacturers to describe a class of weapons. While an assault rifle is a specific class of select-fire rifles that are already illegal in all 50 states, an assault firearm is a political term of opprobrium likely intentionally conjured to obfuscate reality. When states purport to restrict assault firearms, the laws tend to target firearms with cosmetic or ergonomic features like pistol grips and folding stocks, not core mechanical capabilities. Conclusively,

Virginia Democrats' approach to gun policy is an arbitrary classification that is not grounded in safety — it is grounded in hysteria.

There is a general level of conceptual disarray among gun control advocates concerning assault firearms. Famously, former President Joe Biden's nominee for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, David Chipman, could not even

inspect automobiles for contraband.

To understand how ill-conceived the proposed law is, consider how it would operate in practice. Take a standard AR-15-style rifle with a detachable 15-round magazine. Under Virginia law, this is not an “assault firearm,” but add a folding stock or a second handgrip to the same rifle, and the gun becomes illegal. Duct-tape a Sharpie perpendicular to the

barrel, and voilà — it becomes an “assault firearm.” What makes this distinction problematic is that each of the features triggering legal reclassification are largely convenience-oriented, rather than functional in any meaningful sense. Likewise, the difference between a 15-round and 16-round magazine is marginal to the point of arbitrariness, yet it serves as a bright-line threshold for legality.

The classification of a rifle equipped with a folding stock or second handgrip as an “assault firearm” is

simply ridiculous — but it gets worse. The legislation's definition of “assault firearm” collapses these relatively superficial modifications into the same category as military-grade features such as literal grenade launchers. The result is a regulatory scheme less concerned with materially distinguishing levels of danger and more concerned with capriciously restricting non-lethal external modifications. By treating

minor features as defining characteristics of “assault firearms,” the law casts an unnecessarily wide net that ensnares ordinary Virginians. The effect of this law, therefore, will be to block law-abiding Virginians from acquiring the means to defend themselves, despite the well-documented prevalence of defensive firearm use. AR-15-style rifles are in many cases the ideal weapon for this purpose. In a confrontation against an armed intruder, a rifle can incapacitate a threat quicker than a

handgun. Limiting the firearms that citizens may access for self defense only serves to benefit criminals. These are life or death situations, where more government regulation only exacerbates the danger.

Tragically, Spanberger is unlikely to break with her party and will presumably sign the bill within the coming days, undermining not only individual liberty, but the right to personal protection. The good news is that although Virginians cannot trust the General Assembly to stay faithful to the Bill of Rights, they may yet have a recourse. The Supreme Court in recent years has shown itself willing to safeguard the rights of gun owners. In an opinion last June, Justice Brett Kavanaugh signaled that the Court would address the AR-15 question within the next year or two. If the Supreme Court remains steadfast in defending the Second Amendment, then this intellectually vacuous law may not see the light of day.

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“By treating minor features as defining characteristics of ‘assault firearms,’ the law casts an unnecessarily wide net that ensnares ordinary Virginians.”

OPINION

FRANKLIN: Students and faculty deserve a seat at the table

Without voting power on the Board of Visitors, student and faculty representatives remain optional roles for inclusivity, rather than essential to University decisions

Over the past year, trust in the Board of Visitors has been strained. Student and faculty frustrations regarding a lack of transparency, proper governance and political partisanship have run rampant since the Justice Department forced former University President Jim Ryan to resign last summer. In the months that followed, the Faculty Senate, nine University deans, 181 faculty members and numerous student groups, including the Student Council, spoke out, entreating the Board to pause their search for the University's next president until community concerns could be addressed. The Board's decision to proceed despite these protests suggests that the existing student and faculty advisory roles on the Board are not sufficient in ensuring community representation is met. To correct this, student and faculty representatives on the Board must be given voting rights.

Since 1983, the student role has existed on the Board to serve as the voice for its respective communities across Grounds. The faculty role was created in 2015. However, until the signing of Senate Bill 494, neither of these positions can vote on the Board, and should the Board wish to exclude either representative from discussions, regardless of subject matter, they are within their rights to do so at any time. Furthermore, the Board is not

even required to elect a faculty representative at all. In these ways, the current structure of the Board allows it to claim inclusivity while retaining full control over outcomes, regardless of representative opposition. This is a significant failure at a University that prides itself on student self-governance and empowering students to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives.

“

Students and faculty can speak up, but the Board is not required to listen.”

Students and faculty form the core of what makes this University great. Without them, there would be no world-class research to advance, classes to teach, intellectual community to sustain, traditions to protect or even athletic records to break. They are the stakeholders most affected by Board decisions — decisions that shape everything from tuition and housing rates to safety policies, environmental sustainability and allocating funding across all University schools.

But when students and faculty lose that trust, they have no recourse. The current structure of University govern-

ance does not require that their voices be given consideration, even as they invest their labor, tuition and futures in the institution. Students and faculty should have a real voice and power in the room where the most consequential decisions are being made. Currently, however, the Board is made up of individuals who do not necessarily have to experience the consequences of their decisions. Students and facul-

ty do. Their perspectives should carry the most weight in a room of Board members who are insulated from the outcomes they determine.

Making the faculty representative role permanent and providing both student and faculty representatives with voting power would improve confidence that the Board meaningfully considers community interests in its decisions. Voting power would transform student and faculty input from consultation into a formal contribution that must be addressed — when disagreements arise, the Board would be required to either persuade

these representatives or justify overruling them. Either way, this would prevent community concerns from being summarily dismissed without discourse. These reforms would represent a substantial investment in the University's self-governance structure at the highest level, but they would also foster greater community support and a sense of shared ownership over the institution itself.

voting student and faculty members would dilute the expertise of gubernatorial appointees or undermine the governor's appointment power. However, the Board consists of 17 voting members, meaning two additional votes would maintain the governor's appointees as an overwhelming majority while ensuring that community perspectives are considered in the decision-making process. Rather than undermining the Board's expertise, student and faculty votes would complement it, providing insight into how policies actually affect those living and working under them.

The past year demonstrated that the University's commitment to self-governance remains incomplete. Students and faculty can speak up, but the Board is not required to listen. The former proposal in the Virginia Senate offered a clear path to move forward. Granting student and faculty representatives voting power would ensure that the Board must genuinely engage with community perspectives rather than simply dismissing them.

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HUMOR

‘I don’t go here’: The story of U.Va.’s most committed auditor

Why would I pay to go here when I can just show up to all of the lectures anyway?

Editor's note: This article is a humor column.

If you are reading this article, odds are that you are paying tuition to attend the University. Perhaps you are on financial aid, or maybe even here on a scholarship. Regardless of the amount of debt you'll have after graduation, you'll be astounded to know that I require none of these things — I have been a humble auditor at this university for the past two years.

Wikipedia defines an audit as “an educational term for the completion of a course of study for which no assessment of the performance of the student is made nor grade awarded.” I have taken over 80 credits in such a manner, and by my estimations, I maintain a GPA of 3.92.

I have the privilege of auditing a double major in Commerce and Prophetic Dreams, the latter being a major of my own creation combining classes in the neuroscience and Religious Studies departments. I'm even auditing a minor in technology ethics!

You may ask, “Why the hell would

anyone ever do that?” Well, I come from a long line of Charlottesville Wahoos. They say we may even be descendents of CavMan himself. But alas, upon applying early decision to the University, I was rejected. A deferral would have given me hope that I would eventually be accepted like my great uncle Newcomb was after he was deferred from the University!

Maybe it was because I gave up on my SAT and started drawing Kyle Guy shooting his winning free throws. Maybe it was because I wrote my Common App essay about why Thomas Jefferson would have beaten Alexander Hamilton in a UFC-style mixed martial arts match — had they had those back then. Regardless, I could not lose Honor™ in the eyes of my family, so I hatched a plan to fake my acceptance.

I told my parents they need not worry about moving me in, and with nothing but a bandle on my shoulder, I made the walk from our estate to Jefferson's Academical Village.

I spent much of Wahoo Welcome week looking for a building offering

food, comfortable furniture and vibes — this is how I discovered the humble Shannon Library, my home for the first year of college life. I'd sleep on the “Harry Potter Room” couches when I could. When worst came to worst, I'd simply spend the night at the family mansion and work as a commuting auditor.

While I had no meal plan, the wealth my father inherited from the family whaling business was more than enough to pay for Saxbys, Bodo's and the occasional Trinner. Thus, I was able to spend my first year in comfort, attending classes and football games like any other student. Having to actually buy tickets to stand on the “4th side” was a bit exorbitant, but I made it work — whaling is a very profitable industry.

I remember during my first year when some Tootsies — fools who pay tuition — asked me where I was living and I told them, “Shannon.” We planned a pregame to go out, but they never did show up that night. This is how I learned of Shannon dormitory. From then on, I'd tell people I lived in

Brown College. I was never asked to host a pregame again.

Later that year, I decided to rush a fraternity and ducked registration with the Inter-Fraternity Counsel. I didn't want any of their silly bureaucratic stuff like “credit-hour requirements” or “risk management protocols” to get in the way of my having a good time. My father and his father before him — and probably CavMan, if you go back far enough — were brothers at St. Anthony Hall fraternity, so that was my dream house going into rush. My drouse, if you will.

However, once again, I brought shame unto my lineage. I only got a bid from St. Elmo Hall fraternity. Such a shame, a shame! Reluctantly — and lying to my parents once again — I accepted that bid and became a pledge. They did nothing bad to me at all that semester! Nope, nothing but the joys of brotherhood, you know? That's Elmo's world!

Anyway, that was the price I paid to find housing, and I moved onto Sesame Street for the second year of my auditing journey. Living with the

Bert and Ernie chapter of Delta “Snuff-leupagus” Phi has certainly been an improvement over Shannon Library, though the “Harry Potter Room” couches do make that comparison fairly close.

But yeah, life is good. Trained in the fires of Instagram comment sections, I got into the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society by responding to their arguments with non-sequitur GIFs that I pulled up on my phone. Impressed by my debating skills, they overlooked the “@gmail.com” tag trailing my computing ID and guided me through the membership process.

As a rising third-year from humble beginnings, I am now the front-runner for the Society's Lawn Room 7, an accomplished double major and a member of St. Anthony Hall fraternity — if you ask my parents, that is. I'll cross that whole “diploma” bridge when I get there.

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