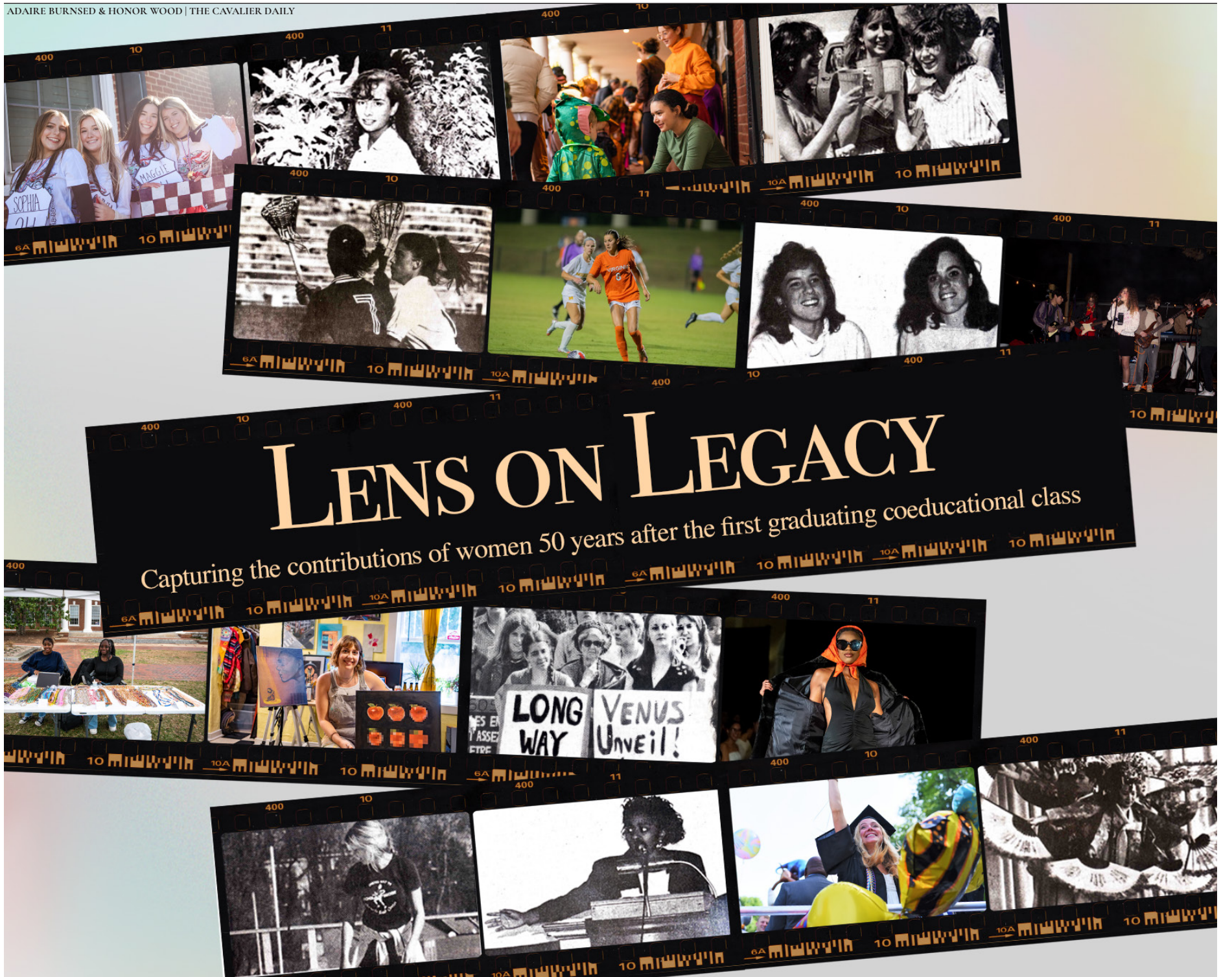


THE CAVALIER DAILY

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CHRISTIAN HALLER | THE CAVALIER DAILY

By God, I Think They're Here To Stay

The women are here. Nearly 450 young lovelies have moved into the previously male sanctuary (or monastery) of Alderman Road. Maupin and Webb are now completely female, while Lyle and Watson are half and half.

Everyone has been waiting for the momentous occasion, and now it has come to pass. But have things really changed? What have the women done to alter life at the University? So far, not too much. But what will women eventually do to the University?

The first and foremost change is that there will actually be girls around. Not a lot of girls, but a good sight more than has ever been seen around here before, with the possible exception of a big weekend. There will be girls eating lunch with you, girls walking down the street, up the street, on the grass, girls sitting on the lawn, girls living next door, girls living upstairs, girls standing on the corner, girls sitting on the wall at the Corner, girls alone at the movies, girls in your chem lab, your history class, your seminar.

The female presence is present. How will it change the attitudes of the males? Will coat and tie make a comeback, or will dress continue its casual trend? Will manners or language improve? Will half of the University be constantly on the make. Time and tribulations will tell the tale, but undoubtedly there are changes coming.

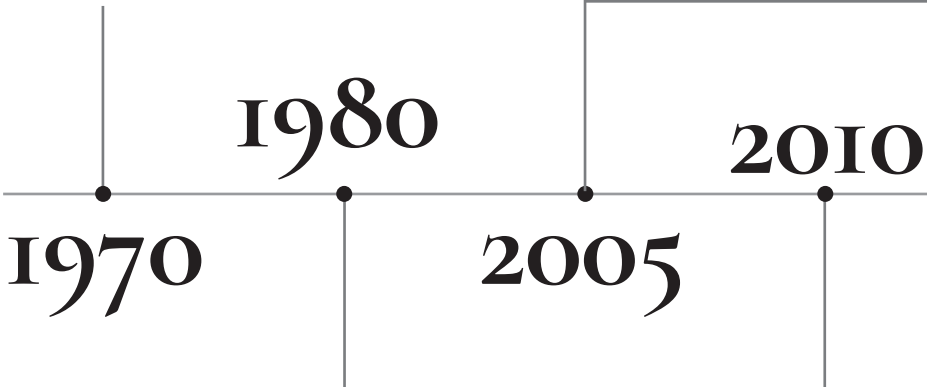
Report shows more females than males in higher education

Females outnumber males in higher education enrollment and in their attainment of associate and bachelor's degrees, as indicated by a report released by National Center for Education Statistics on Friday.

The report, titled "Gender Differences in Participation and Completion of Undergraduate Education and How They Have Changed Over Time," is an analysis of studies and surveys conducted between 1970 and 2001.

According to the study, enrollment of women in higher education has increased from 42 percent to 56 percent between 1970 and 2001 and is projected to increase to 57 percent by 2013.

At the University women have gone from being the minority to the majority, with women currently accounting for 54 percent of the student body. Enrollment statistics indicate that 1994 was the last year that women did not represent a majority of the student body, said George A. Stovall, director of the Office of Institutional Assessment and Studies.



Students rally against sexism

"One, two, three, four, we won't take it anymore!"

About 200 University students rallied on the Lawn yesterday afternoon to protest sexism at the University.

The People's Co-op to Stamp out Sexism (SOS), a "lightning coalition," sponsored the protest. According to rally co-organizer Rebecca Campbell, the week-old group was formed after the appearance of Decboy, last week's satire issue of The Declaration.

Wearing red and black and carrying banners proclaiming "Rape is an honor offense," and "Le Sexisme ne Passera Pas [Sexism Stops Here]," Campbell and a dozen other SOS protesters marched through the crowd chanting feminist slogans.

"Women at the University now have access to a better education ... But it still has a long way to go," according to Linda Wilson, National Organization of Women (NOW) representative.



HOWARD WEINBERG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

University welcomes new president

President Teresa A. Sullivan spent the first few days in Charlottesville familiarizing herself with Grounds, meeting local and University officials and unpacking many, many boxes.

The University's new president, however, had no trouble unpacking a precise agenda, outlining immediate objectives and long-term plans for the start of her term at a press conference with local and national news outlets earlier this month.

Sullivan was unanimously elected University president by the Board of Visitors in January. Of the eight presidents to serve, Sullivan is the first woman.

"I'm of the age that for most of my academic positions I was the first woman to do them. And so ... that's not unusual. What I would say is terrific for women of [this] generation, that won't be true, that won't be an issue anymore and I think that's a real sign of progress for us," she said.

University Democrats' divestment support sparks internal feud

The organization is one of several whose support for the U.Va. Apartheid Divest referendum has been criticized as not representing the views of all members

Arshiya Pant | Senior Writer

Several members of student political organization University Democrats requested their dues be returned after the group signed on to the U.Va. Apartheid Divest referendum, which advocates for the University to divest from companies “engaging in or profiting from the State of Israel’s apartheid regime and acute violence against Palestinians.” According to these members, the Contracted Independent Organization violated its own constitution by making the decision to take a public stance on the referendum without a general body vote. The organization’s executive board said that while dues cannot be returned, members are free to leave the group as they please.

The University Democrats was one of 29 student organization signatories featured in a social media post announcing the aims of the newly-formed U.Va. Apartheid Divest coalition. According to the account, 40 organizations comprising alumni, student and faculty groups signed on in favor of the divestment initiative. The initiative called on the University to submit itself to an external audit, which would determine the extent of its financial involvement with companies profiting from human rights violations, and to divest from any such companies if identified. The referendum ultimately passed with 67.87 percent of votes during the spring 2024 University elections.

Fourth-year College student Lauren Flum, who identified herself as a lifelong Democrat, has been a dues-paying member of the University Democrats for two years. Flum said the organization’s decision to sign on to the referendum did not follow standard procedure established in the University Democrat’s constitution, and that while she has given up on getting her dues payment returned, she no longer intends to be a participating member of the group.

“I mean, [constitutional bylaws are] certainly an important framework that [CIOs] need to stick to,” Flum said. “I think one of the important things here when we’re talking about the Israel-Hamas War is trying to promote educational events or talking about the war and I think that’s something that the executive board wanted to do. I think they just did it in a poor fashion.”

The University Democrats’ constitution — which they are required to have as a CIO per Student Council regulations — outlines the group’s purposes, elec-

toral procedures and endorsement guidelines. Members dissatisfied with the organization’s choice have alleged a violation of Article III section 8. The section states that the organization may adopt a position on any “question of public interest” through a three-quarters vote during any membership meeting.

Flum said to her knowledge, no vote regarding the organization’s support of the referendum was held during any general body meetings.

According to messages obtained anonymously by The Cavalier Daily from an internal group chat for dues-paying members, the organization’s executives responded to several students’ disappointment by stating that long-standing precedent has allowed University Democrats to take public stances without general body votes on several pressing issues in the past, including reproductive rights and gun control. In a social media post, the organization publicly advertised its participation in November’s End Gun Violence rally held Nov. 29, 2023, which was hosted by the U.Va. chapter of gun reform advocacy group Students Demand Action.

Additionally, the executives stated in the group chat that the decision had to be made in a short time frame, pointing to Article IV sections 3 and 5. Section 3 states that the executive board has “general supervision of the affairs of the University Democrats between membership meetings,” while section 5 states that the organization’s president reserves the right to publicly speak on behalf of the organization.

The University Democrats did not respond to The Cavalier Daily’s request for comment.

Flum said that she would have been personally disappointed in the decision to support divestment regardless of the process, but would have considered continuing her affiliation with the group had there been a formal vote or discussion with general body members.

“I think part of the biggest problem with how they handled this decision was ... they really gave no opportunity for members to speak on this,” Flum said. “If they came to the general body meeting and said, ‘Hey, we’ve been reached out to join this coalition ... we’d like to at least just hear your voices,’ then that could have been a totally different story.”

According to messages in the internal group chat, the University Democrats executive board

defended their support of the referendum by saying that they consulted Jewish students before making their decision. They added that Jewish Voices for Peace, a student group that describes themselves as a “diaspora [of] U.Va. Jews toward a free Palestine,” signed on as part of the coalition. The executive board also said in the group chat that an event called “Palestine isn’t Complicated” — which the organization drew criticism from some members for promoting — featured several Jewish speakers.

In the chat, executive board members also clarified that they felt the decision to support the referendum was consistent with the organization’s values of diversity, acceptance and action.

While a majority of student voters supported the referendum, some University administrators and CIOs have vocally opposed it. At the most recent meeting of the Board of Visitors, which oversees policy and budget decisions at the University and whose members are appointed by the Governor of Virginia, University President Jim Ryan stated that he would have voted against the referendum.

The Brody Jewish Center, which organizes programs and events designed to support Jewish students at the University, has also spoken against the referendum. In a statement, the organization wrote that the referendum presented “inaccurate and delegitimizing statements about Israel.”

Other students have expressed similar sentiments in response to public stances that CIOs have taken on the divestment referendum. One of these students is first-year Engineering student Brandon Werbel, who said navigating the values of student groups as a Jewish student has been difficult.

“There are no CIOs that I’ve seen that give equal support for both [the Israeli and Palestinian] sides,” Werbel said. “Which is just really, really sad for me because it means that either I’m in a specifically Jewish space which gives me the support that I need, I’m in a specifically Palestinian space which makes me feel othered and vilified or I’m in a neutral space where I just feel unseen.”

Werbel, who identifies as agender, said they joined the Queer Student Union hoping to get more involved with the organization in the future, but were disappointed in the group’s lack of response to Israeli and Jewish students’ concerns that the CIO was no longer a safe space for them to exist.

According to Werbel, QSU was



COURTESY UNIVERSITY DEMOCRATS

one of many groups to host or promote a teach-in on the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict. When Werbel attended, they said their questions pushing back against the presented information, which they felt were biased against Israel, were met with dismissal.

“I want to emphasize that I don’t fault CIOs for supporting Palestinians,” Werbel said. “What I fault them for is picking one side over the other in a very complex issue, especially when this isn’t their point ... as a queer Jewish student, I feel like I have to choose between being in a Jewish space or being in a queer space ... There’s no real space for me to be fully myself.”

Werbel said they felt that the University’s extension of resources and support to both Israeli and Palestinian students has been handled well. They added that while it has been disheartening to see few CIOs supporting students on both sides of the issue, the University as a whole has improved their management of the issue since last semester, citing the Karsh Institute of Democracy’s dinner series and several professor-led discussions as positive steps the University has taken.

Other students have also expressed that the public stances of their CIOs, especially identity- or culture-focused groups, are not representative of their beliefs or interests. One Reddit post criticized the University’s Asian Student Union for supporting the divestment initiative, as well as focusing advocacy efforts on collective liberation across other areas of the world — a view that the

author of the statement said did not represent all Asian students’ perspectives.

In the comments of this particular Reddit post, several other users said they felt that ASU’s support of the divestment initiative was unsurprising. One user said intersectional activism has naturally encouraged many groups on Grounds to branch out from their original purposes and become more involved in social, cultural and political issues across the board.

Contrastingly, prior to the referendum’s introduction, some students expressed sentiments that the University was unfriendly to pro-Palestinian speech. The referendum reflected this feeling by demanding that the University recognize Palestinian students’ identities, and provide them with further support and issue an official comment condemning suppression of pro-Palestinian speech on and off Grounds.

Despite being a non-binding referendum that does not hold authority over the University’s actions, the divestment initiative signaled a call for action from the majority of the student body’s voting population. While U.Va. Apartheid Divest has not announced specific next steps for its divestment initiative, the group has stated it will continue to ask the University for “transparency and divestment until [its] pursuit of liberation is fully realized,” per a social media post.

Board of Visitors appoints Lisa Kopelnik as student member

Currently serving as the chair of the University Judiciary Committee, Kopelnik said she hopes to advocate for civil discourse and diversity on Grounds

Thomas Baxter | News Editor

Third-year College student Lisa Kopelnik was voted in as the next student member of the Board of Visitors at their March 1 meeting. Kopelnik, who currently serves as the chair of the University Judiciary Committee, will also continue as a UJC representative for the College after her tenure as chair ends April 7. Though it is a non-voting role, the student member of the Board is tasked with representing the entire student body, including undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

Kopelnik, third-year College student and Jefferson Scholar, said she has had an interest in politics and law from a young age. As the youngest UJC chair in recent history, Kopelnik said that student self-governance's prominence at the University has stood out to her throughout her time on Grounds and was a main reason that she decided to apply to be the student member on the Board.

"In other [universities] ... students are turned away left and right in institutional policies and political conversation," Kopelnik said. "It struck me that at U.Va., that's not always the case, and more often than not the student voice is put in high value."

Prominent student self-governance organizations at the University include the UJC and the Honor Committee — who serve as judiciary panels overseeing trials for alleged disciplinary and honor-related infractions, respectively — in addition to Student Council, which represents student interests to University administrators and provides a range of services to support students.

During the application process for becoming the student member on the Board, Kopelnik said that the priorities she shared with the Board and the student panel that interviewed her centered around three values — political discourse, diversity and student health and safety.

Kopelnik said that political conversations with her parents, Ukrainian-Jewish immigrants with different political leanings, shaped her values and beliefs to prioritize civil discourse and free speech. She said she worries that polarization and an inability to have political discussions might threaten the existence of diverse student opinions and perspectives at the University.

"I worry that we're seeing a really polarizing and divisive



COURTESY LISA KOPELNIK

As the youngest UJC chair in recent history, Kopelnik said that student self-governance's prominence at the University has stood out to her throughout her time on Grounds and was one reasons she applied to be the student member on the Board.

environment that has spread on college campuses everywhere," Kopelnik said. "I worry that that will come at the cost of our values at U.Va., which is freedom of expression, but also academic inquiry, curiosity and respect."

Kopelnik also spoke to diversity as one of her priorities and said there is a specific need for more socio-economic diversity at the University, especially following the end of affirmative action in the college admissions processes.

"We're again at a pinnacle where we're deciding what admissions will look like and I think there needs to be a reenergized focus on bringing in diverse people from diverse backgrounds, especially in regards to class at U.Va.," Kopelnik said. "It's about not only doing targeted outreach, but also facilitating an environ-

ment at U.Va. that is accessible to low-income students."

Kopelnik's final priority centers around student safety at the University, as she said that she is concerned about the rise in mental health crises among students. Kopelnik said she hopes that she can help the Board enact different safety measures for students and also hopes to work more with community members, nonprofit organizations and the local police department to improve community safety.

Kopelnik also addressed concerns about the state of student self-governance organizations, as well as their relationship with the Board and the University administration. Within the University administration itself, there has been significant turnover in top administrative positions, leaving student self-governance

organizations with less time to develop relationships with administrative leaders. Despite the challenges that students in these organizations face, Kopelnik said she is optimistic about the future of student self-governance due to its growing support in recent years. She cited rising turnout in some recent student elections, including the Honor Committee's multi-sanction constitutional referendum last year, which replaced the centuries-old single sanction with a multi-sanction Honor system.

Kopelnik noted that student self-governance is an imperfect administrative mechanism, but she said that preserving its principles at the University is an important responsibility for University students.

"I think we need to be honest about the downsides and criti-

cisms that we face with student self-governance and recognize that we make mistakes, that we can make a wrong decision, but that doesn't necessarily undermine the principles of student self-governance," Kopelnik said. "We have the right, the obligation and the duty to serve the University and to control our experience with the University."

While Kopelnik's role as the student member on the Board will allow her to advise Board members on their decisions, Kopelnik will not be allowed to vote on action items presented during meetings.

Kopelnik will officially succeed current student member Lillian Rojas when the Board convenes June 6-7.

Sabato peers into his crystal ball ahead of presidential election

The Center for Politics director has paused teaching for the year to focus on analyzing and predicting election results

Ford McCracken | Senior Writer

As the matchup for the 2024 Presidential Election crystallizes — with Democratic President Joe Biden facing former Republican President Donald Trump — the University Center for Politics is gearing up for a rare rematch between two divisive candidates. With young voters voicing early pessimism about the choices, the Center's director, Larry J. Sabato, prepares for an election he calls "unprecedented."

Sabato is an active member of the University community, living on the Lawn in a pavilion and teaching classes at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. However, during an election year, his responsibilities ramp up. In addition to events at the Center, Sabato's Crystal Ball develops detailed, nonpartisan forecasts to predict the outcome of the November elections — often with accurate results.

In both the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections, Sabato's Crystal Ball newsletter correctly predicted the outcome in 48 of 50 states. In 2016, when forecasters — including Sabato — by-and-large incorrectly predicted a Hillary Clinton victory, the forecast still got 45 states correct. By 2020, the forecast's accuracy bounced back, as Sabato correctly predicted 49 of 50 states and the overall outcome of a Biden win.

To make these predictions and fully dive into the Crystal Ball, Sabato does not teach during presidential election years. Instead, alongside editors Kyle Kondik and J. Miles Coleman, he constructs the newsletter which forecasts the race for president, U.S. Congress and individual governorships across the country.

Informed by his experience of predicting and analyzing past elections, Sabato noted that this presidential election has a number of firsts. Biden will be the first major candidate for president over the age of 80 and Trump would be the first with over 90 criminal indictments. In reference to Trump's legal troubles, Sabato said this election is "unprecedented."

"I didn't think anything could surprise me after seven decades or more in politics, but this surprises and appalls me," Sabato said. "We've never faced this before. The voters are going to be given this choice and one of the two candidates could easily be sentenced to prison."

Given these complications, Sabato said that 2024 will be a tough election to forecast.

"Nobody knows when they're going to be held, or when a verdict could be reached or how long the appeals are going to take," Sabato said. "How do you predict an election when you don't even know if the trials will be finished?"

These unusual circumstances may be driving down voter enthusiasm. On March 5, just over 350,000 votes were cast in the Virginia Democratic presidential primary. That figure is down substantially from the over 1.3 million votes cast in the 2020 Virginia Democratic presidential primary. And while low primary turnout does not always correlate with low turnout in the general election, a recent Axios-Generation Lab poll showed that more than half of voters aged 18-34 are unsure if they will vote in November.

A lack of enthusiasm may prove decisive in a close election. Today, polls show a tight race between Biden and Trump, with Trump ahead in many state-by-state and national polls. One recent Morning Consult poll in Michigan showed Trump up six points with voters aged 18-34. Biden won voters under 30 by 24 points in 2020. If current trends continue, the shift in younger voters favoring Trump over Biden would be one of the most dramatic political realignments the country has seen in decades.

However, Sabato said it's still too early to use current estimates from the polls to come to any decisions about the final election result, as preferences can, and likely will, shift in the months leading up to the election.

"It's February," Sabato said. "Please don't forget that."

However, Sabato has provided some forecasting for how voters feeling unenthused by either candidate might act in November. As campaigning begins and more primaries are concluded, polling and research provide vague projections of the forthcoming election.

One possibility is that apathetic voters will stay home, creating relatively low turnout, according to Sabato.

"A lot of people look for an excuse not to vote," Sabato said. "It doesn't take much to keep some people home, and they can cite [dissatisfaction with the candidates] as what they consider to be a legitimate excuse."

Sabato cited his own personal voting experiences to show the importance of voting even when faced with barriers. He recalled

speeding down Interstate 64 to Norfolk when he was a student at the University so he could vote in the 1972 Presidential Election, as Virginia did not offer absentee voting at that time.

"The people who ran Virginia did not want young people voting. So they made it as difficult as possible," Sabato said. "Which made me more determined than ever not to be late."

Once they reach the polls, Sabato noted that instead of casting a ballot for Trump or Biden, voters have the option to vote for third party candidates. In 2016, third party candidates — including Green Party members and Libertarians — took a combined 6.1 percent of the popular vote — the highest share since 2000. Sabato points out, however, that third party candidates typically wane in their popularity as the election approaches.

"You get closer and closer to election day, and people get more

and more serious about their voting," Sabato said.

An outspoken Trump critic himself, Sabato said he questions if voters want to be held liable for electing Trump again if they vote third party.

"Would you want to be the next Jill Stein? Would you want to be the person that history blames for the second term of Donald Trump, which is bound to be far worse than the first?" Sabato said.

Stein, a member of the left-wing Green Party, took a notable percentage of votes in battleground states in 2016, which many commentators say helped lift Trump to victory. This time around, a number of third-party candidates are running, including Stein again and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who appeared at the School of Law in January in a controversial closed media event.

At the end of the day, Sabato concludes that many voters will likely stick with their polit-

ical party despite currently registering disapproval. According to 2020 exit polls, 94 percent of Democrats and Republicans voted for Biden and Trump, respectively. Instead the election was won at the margins, as Biden won independents by 13 points.

With variables like the age of the candidates, Trump's legal battles, the close poll numbers and the list of third-party candidates, Sabato says it is too early to start his official predictions on who will take the 2024 election.

"We're looking at it day-by-day," Sabato said. "You don't know [who will win], you couldn't possibly know. We don't even know if they'll both be standing above ground by November."

Until then, Sabato will remain in his dark corner, peering over his crystal ball and hoping to get all 50 states right.

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LIFE

For Sam Ezersky, puzzles are more than just a game

The editor of the acclaimed New York Times' Spelling Bee sparks joy and creativity with his puzzles

Miriella Jiffar | Features Writer

Sam Ezersky, a digital puzzles editor for The New York Times and Class of 2017 alumnus, experienced a whirlwind journey from being a puzzle staffer at The Cavalier Daily to editing puzzles in the Big Apple. Ezersky currently edits The New York Times' digital Spelling Bee, a game where solvers spell as many words as they can with only seven letters. A long time puzzle aficionado, Ezersky is passionate about making newspaper puzzles modern, fresh games for anyone to enjoy.

In his day-to-day work, Ezersky evaluates the difficulty, accuracy and style of Spelling Bee puzzles, and he also reviews hundreds of crosswords submitted for publication in The New York Times' Games section. He describes editing as a process of fine-tuning. Each time he crafts a crossword clue or tweaks a Spelling Bee grid, he strives for the Goldilocks zone — a puzzle that is not too easy nor too difficult — engaging puzzle solvers of any skill level.

"My overarching tenet ... is really keeping in mind our widespread audience," Ezersky said. "I truly want to be able to offer something for everybody."

Long before he became an accomplished editor, Ezersky was a child fascinated by the way words fit inside a grid. He remembers his earliest encounter with puzzles at age five. While waiting in a barbershop for his brother to finish getting his haircut, Ezersky picked up a magazine and stumbled upon fill-in puzzles — puzzles similar to crosswords, but with a word bank rather than a set of clues.

"[It was] truly love at first sight. I don't know if I did a particularly good job — I just remember diving right into it ... and being interested in how [puzzles] all come together," Ezersky said.

Ezersky's interest in puzzles continued to grow as he moved beyond merely completing puzzles and began to create his own. Ezersky sold his first crossword to The New York Times in high school, and he started competing in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament — the nation's oldest crossword competition where solvers tackle eight original crosswords over two days. Ezersky said that by then he had discovered the secret to solving

crosswords.

"The real secret of solving crosswords is [that] you see the same answers over and over again ... It's a lot of pattern recognition, rather than knowing a bunch of trivia," Ezersky said. "Puzzles have historically gotten the rap of being this erudite game. How smart are you? How cultured are you? But I think all puzzles are just a daily or weekly way to scratch your brain."

Between doing his mechanical engineering and economics homework, Ezersky created crosswords for The Cavalier Daily. His popular puzzles made him a local celebrity on Yik Yak — an anonymous social media app for college students — where his fellow students responded enthusiastically to his crosswords. However, puzzles were not on his radar as a potential career — instead, he planned to go into engineering.

Ezersky's perspective changed at the end of his third year when he came to a serendipitous crossroads. He reconnected with Will Shortz, crossword editor at The New York Times and Class of 1977 alumnus, after Shortz had delivered a keynote speech at the School of Law commencement ceremony in May 2016. The two had met before at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, and Ezersky took a chance to rekindle a conversation with his idol of the puzzle world.

"I decided on a total whim, YOLO, I just shot him an email," Ezersky said. "He came to my gross house off JPA with a six pack of Corona. He sat down and we just talked puzzles for hours."

The two kept in contact and would even solve puzzles together during Ezersky's summer and winter breaks. Ezersky eventually assumed a contractor position at The New York Times after he graduated in 2017, which quickly turned into a full-time position editing crosswords. In 2018, Ezersky spearheaded the digital reboot of the Spelling Bee game, the brainchild of Shortz himself, which had been running weekly in The New York Times Magazine since the mid-2010s.

Ezersky reflected on how the role of puzzles fits into journalism in his conversation with The Cavalier Daily.

"It is really cool to be able to contribute to media like this. You



COURTESY SAM EZERSKY

Ezersky touches the lives of millions of people around the world through his puzzles.

have your stories, your columns and your culture, and then you have a game to tie it all together," Ezersky said.

Ezersky touches the lives of millions of people around the world through his puzzles. Many readers now incorporate Spelling Bee and the Daily Crossword into their daily routines. University students are no exception — across Grounds, The New York Times' puzzles are often seen on laptops or phones, sprinkled across lecture halls and libraries. For Ezersky, the exponential growth of Spelling Bee's popularity in the past few years, especial-

ly during the pandemic, affirmed his long-standing passion for puzzles.

"As the goofy bashful teenager, this was my deep, dark secret," Ezersky said. "I was the kid sitting in the ... lecture, just working on crosswords in the back ... little did I know it would jumpstart me into the industry [that] I'm in now."

Ezersky insists that puzzles, regardless of their level of difficulty, can offer something for anyone. In the future, he hopes that varied perspectives and experiences among puzzle creators will help increase the reach and

accessibility of puzzles.

"If we want to be able to say that we're catering to some widespread audience, it all starts with actually having a bunch of widespread perspectives across the room," Ezersky said. "It's really beautiful to just see that happening in a sphere like puzzles as it continues to echo what's going on in the real world."

Wheeling, not walking, is the new commute

Although micro-mobility vehicles provide convenient transport for students, safety on the road remains a concern

Cynthia Jia | Features Writer

With the University spanning around 1,682 acres of land, walking to class is not always the easiest commute. Long routes, crowded sidewalks and vehicle traffic pose challenges for students who travel on foot. As a result, micro-mobility vehicles — which consist of low-speed, human- or electric-powered devices — have become popular alternatives to walking at the University. From traditional bikes to electric scooters and unicycles, students are traveling more efficiently on wheels, although some raise concerns over their safety on the roads.

For many students, especially upperclassmen who live off-Grounds, commuting with micro-mobility vehicles is more reliable and time-efficient than walking. Third-year College student Dhruv Dhawan used to walk 15 minutes from his apartment to central Grounds. Now, he frees up time by commuting to class with his electric scooter.

“I mostly wanted [an e-scooter] because I found myself spending several hours a week just commuting to classes,” Dhawan said. “I realized I could cut that down a lot if I had a scooter.”

Second-year College student Sydney Mannion shared similar senti-

ments to Dhawan. She spoke to the convenience of riding her bike as opposed to weaving through sidewalks as a pedestrian.

“It’s faster,” Mannion said. “I can spend more time doing other things rather than walking and navigating the crowds.”

Some students have explored less traditional forms of transport. After riding a bike his first year, third-year College student AJ Nye opted for an unusual transport device — an electric unicycle. While the balancing skills made the e-unicycle harder to pick up than bikes or scooters, he found a thrill in learning how to ride the device.

“I thought it was a very fun method of transportation,” Nye said. “It’s harder to learn, but it’s much more enjoyable in the moments once you ride it.”

Like Dhawan and Mannion, Nye said his wheels reduce the effort and time needed for his commute. For him, an e-unicycle makes navigating the University’s hilly areas nearly effortless, although staying balanced still requires a lot of core strength.

“The issue with a bike is that UVa. has too many hills to be able to traverse without an electric vehicle,” Nye said. “I decided that for the sake of

time and speed and convenience, it’s much easier to ride an electric vehicle.”

The convenience of micro-mobility vehicles can come with a cost, however. Mannion discussed some wheeling difficulties she has experienced, from helmet head to popped tires. She also once dealt with unexpected issues with her bike lock.

“My bike lock just would not open ... [and] facilities could not cut my bike lock for me when it was stuck,” Mannion said. “So I had to go out and buy a pair of bolt cutters to free the bike. It was sitting at Clark for like two weeks before I got around to doing that.”

Wheelers also worry about their personal safety on the road, especially in the wake of recent car and micro-mobility vehicle accidents on Grounds. Students act accordingly by being cautious about surrounding traffic and wearing helmets. Nye said he wears a motorcycle helmet when he rides on his e-unicycle.

“I worry about my safety I would say, but no more than any other vehicle that’s like a bike or scooter or skateboard,” Nye said. “But it is why I wear a helmet, like a motorcycle helmet, as I’m worried about head collision damage in the worst event ... I am worried

about head trauma.”

Dhawan, Mannion and Nye agree that University roads lack adequate bike lanes. Without bike lanes, students using micro-mobility vehicles end up fighting with cars for space, which puts their safety at risk. Dhawan talked about this problem as it pertains to traffic near the Corner.

“I think it gets a little messy when it comes to the main road, Main Street, because when we’re on Main Street, [there’s] no bike lane anymore at that point,” Dhawan said. “So you have to be on the main road, but then all the cars get frustrated.”

Nye said more bike lanes should be built to promote safer commutes. He said that bike lanes make it easier for motor vehicles to navigate the roads alongside cyclists and scooters, allowing drivers to anticipate where the wheelers will ride.

“[Bike lanes] make it easier for cars and other other vehicles to traverse the route,” Nye said.

Despite challenges with micro-mobility vehicles, many students have gravitated towards these more efficient modes of transport, and the University has responded with other forms of infrastructure. Nye has no-

ticed that some walkways on Grounds are designed for people to carry bikes and scooters — and the occasional unicycles — while they climb stairs. He pointed out such a staircase on Jefferson Park Avenue leading to Engineering Way that he frequently uses.

“I noticed that the staircase has a little groove on the other side that lets you walk a bicycle up it,” Nye said.

Mannion said she appreciates the additional micro-mobility infrastructure in and around new construction at the University. Though she too would like to see more bike lanes, she applauds the University’s ongoing efforts to accommodate all the Wahoos on wheels.

“I think it’s pretty good with all the new buildings that have been made, like [Shannon Library] — how they built bike racks outside,” Mannion said. “I think [the University is] definitely supportive of having space for bike racks ... They’re definitely discouraging cars, which is good for the environment and is good for me.”

The artistry of Mona Lisa Pasta

Artisan Italian dishes straight from the deli and wood fired pizza oven

Evalina Caruccio | Food Writer

As someone who grew up eating Italian food homemade by my Nonna, I’m pretty hard to impress when it comes to my native cuisine. Even so, the food at Mona Lisa Pasta earns my praise. I grabbed dinner from the locally-owned Italian deli to bring home to my five roommates for under \$35. The cozy take-out shop is perfect for any Italian craving, with affordable prices and flavorful dishes.

Mona Lisa Pasta is located on Preston Avenue, a 15-minute bus ride or 30-minute walk from central Grounds. They are open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. I suggest calling ahead so that your food is ready for pick up — I experienced a 45-minute wait on my Friday evening order.

Mona Lisa Pasta was founded in 2001 by Charlottesville local Jim Winecoff. His eatery strives to emulate the traditional Italian deli, using local ingredients to produce the best taste possible. The shop has fresh, homemade pasta packaged for customers to easily prepare at home, as

well as made-to-order lunch and pantry goods. The aisles are stocked with Virginian and Italian wines and artisanal dry goods, while an abundance of cured meats, cheeses and olives are on display in the deli cases.

The small store’s Italian flair was immediately apparent when I walked through the doors. There were at least five Mona Lisa pictures on each wall. A brick pizza oven was featured at the center of an open kitchen, ablaze to prepare pizza “old world style” — with thin crust and fresh ingredients, cooked on hot brick. Atop the full deli cases by the cash registers were mounds of handmade pasta, artfully arranged in piles to present the various flavors. The bustle in the open kitchen and behind the counter reminded me of being at my Nonna’s, with the chatter among the employees and the smell of basil wafting through the air.

Mona Lisa Pasta does not have a dine-in option — they only sell grocery items and take-out dishes. This appealed to me as a first-year without easy access to a kitchen as I could

grab ready-made food to go. I was a little disappointed, however, that they did not serve cooked pasta. I instead ordered a sampling of dishes among their sandwich, pizza and dessert offerings.

I started with the Da Vinci Sandwich, which piled Genoa Salami and Sopressata — dry-cured pork salami — atop provolone, tomato and a mountain of mixed greens on a baguette. The flavorful combination of meat and cheese was delicious, but it was overpowered by what felt like a whole salad’s worth of arugula. The baguette was smeared with a delectable sun-dried tomato pesto that I wish there was more of, but it too got lost in the salad. For \$6.99, the sandwich included high-quality ingredients for an affordable price. The flavors worked beautifully together, but the proportions of the ingredients were not exactly proportional.

My roommates and I needed to try Mona Lisa Pasta’s fresh brick oven pizza for ourselves, so I also ordered a 16-inch large pizza and split it into two flavors — half Margherita and

half mushroom and pesto. The enormous pizza was \$20 and had enough slices for all five of my roommates to eat multiple pieces. The Margherita half was exquisite, with fresh tomatoes adding a sweetness to create harmony with the mozzarella and buttery pine nuts. My favorite part of the whole pizza were the basil leaves hidden beneath the layer of cheese, which elevated the dish with that warm, familiar basil flavor.

The mushroom and pesto half of the pizza had an earthy basil pesto base, complemented by a sprinkling of sweet caramelized onions. Sautéed savory mushrooms balanced the milky blend of provolone and mozzarella, pine nuts added a delicate crunch and rosemary brought a woody taste that rounded out each bite. The mix of flavors and textures made it my favorite slice of the night, especially as a person partial to pesto-based pizzas.

The only way to eat dessert in true Italian fashion is with a cannoli, so that is exactly what we did. The small cannoli from Mona Lisa Pasta was

worth every cent of its \$1.75 price. The creamy ricotta filling was heavenly, with sweet chocolate chips that melted into the cheese. The fried dough was baked to crispy perfection, crumbling into the most delightful bite.

The food was not only tasty, but it also traveled well, which is important for a shop that only does take-out. Through the rain, wind and our bumpy bus ride, we carried the food safely to our dorm in perfect condition. The sandwich never got soggy, the pizza never got hard and the cannoli shell stayed crispy. The hardest part of transportation was resisting the urge to open the boxes and start eating before we got home.

The impeccable flavors and low prices make Mona Lisa Pasta a new staple of mine for an Italian-style meal. The small menu allows the chefs to hone their craft on a few quality offerings, elevating each dish to satisfy any palate. I will definitely return for my next picnicking pizza or the next time I crave a cannoli like my Nonna makes.

SPORTS

Previewing men's basketball in the ACC Tournament

Assessing Virginia's chances in the ACC Tournament

Connor Lothrop | Staff Writer



COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Virginia's key contributors prepare for a crucial contest.

Virginia men's basketball has had an uncharacteristically streaky season in 2023-24. The Cavaliers (22-9, 13-7 ACC) won nine of their first ten before dropping four of their next six. Then, to start off the academic semester, they won eight games in a row, then dropped four of seven, only to close out the regular season with a quality 72-57 win against Georgia Tech. The win against the Yellow Jackets clinched the No. 3 seed for Virginia in the ACC Tournament.

With the double-bye presented to the top four seeds, Virginia can only play a maximum of three games in the conference tournament. However, the Cavaliers need to perform well to secure a bid in the upcoming NCAA Tournament. Advancing to the semifinals or finals would give them breathing room, but an early exit in the quarterfinal could doom Virginia's NCAA Tournament hopes.

Assessing Virginia

Virginia is playing one of its worse stretches of basketball this season. Since surviving 80-76 at

Florida State in mid-February, the Cavaliers have lost four of seven games — and none of those losses have been close. In their last four losses, Virginia's average margin of defeat was 20 points, and in three of those games, Virginia failed to score 50 points. The Cavaliers' slow-paced blocker-mover offense rates just outside the top 190 teams nationally in efficiency over the course of the season and has stagnated further against great defenses.

While the offense has struggled, Coach Tony Bennett's pack-line defense has continued to be one of the better defenses in the nation, ranking third in the country in average points allowed and seventh in the country in efficiency. The Cavaliers held Miami to their lowest offensive output in decades and have prevented six different teams from scoring 50 points in a game. Senior guard Reece Beekman and sophomore guard Ryan Dunn are both potential NBA players off of the strength of their defense alone.

The Cavaliers have the defensive chops to beat anyone in the

ACC, but they also have the offensive potential to lose to anyone, too. As the ACC Tournament commences — the first round began Tuesday — these are the teams Virginia is likely to face in each round.

ACC Quarterfinals

Virginia will face Boston College in the quarterfinal. The Eagles (19-14, 9-12 ACC) are the 11th seed and upset Clemson March 13 in a comfortable victory. The Cavaliers played Boston College once this season, winning 72-68 on the road. The Eagles are led by graduate center Quinten Post, averaging 17 points per game in the regular season. Standing over seven feet tall, containing the versatile Post will be a priority.

ACC Semifinals

Realistically, there is only one team Virginia is likely to face in the ACC Semifinals — second-seeded Duke. This is unfortunate, as the Blue Devils eviscerated the Cavaliers in Durham 73-48 March 2. Virginia was helpless in

that game, with Duke leading 40-18 at the half and dominating the interior. Sophomore center Kyle Filipowski did most of the damage, amassing 21 points, seven rebounds and three steals.

If Filipowski is kept in check, the Cavaliers could pull off an upset on neutral ground without the raucous Cameron Indoor Stadium crowd behind Duke, but the odds are slim. Virginia would need to recover their midseason form to find a way to keep up with the Blue Devils.

Alternatively, Duke could lose in the quarterfinals, giving Virginia a shot at NC State — a team that the Cavaliers went 1-1 against earlier this season. The Cavaliers were routed in the first matchup, but fought for a close win in the second matchup. The Wolfpack are a tough opponent, but significantly easier to beat than the vaunted Blue Devils. However, this scenario is unlikely considering that Duke is the nation's No. 11 ranked team.

ACC Championship

If Virginia manages to run the gauntlet to the ACC Championship, they will almost certainly see North Carolina there. The Cavaliers played the Tar Heels (25-6, 17-3 ACC) at home late in the regular season, suffering a close loss. Despite holding North Carolina's two stars, senior guard RJ Davis and graduate forward Armando Bacot, to just 5-21 from the field, Virginia could only manage to shoot 27.6 percent as a team and 2-14 from three-point range.

Virginia's defensive prowess and the neutral court environment in Washington, D.C. will likely keep each of their games close. However, a recently stagnant offense will need to make some magic if the Cavaliers plan to capitalize on those tight margins. If Virginia's offense shows up like it did in the regular season finale, the Cavaliers could surprise many in the nation's capital.

Representing Charlottesville, Henry Ford is built tough

The towering freshman infielder is already breaking out as the next Virginia baseball superstar

Xander Tilock | Sports Editor



COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Ford is proving to be one of the best freshmen in the country.

Some of the best athletes to play for the University are homegrown talents from Charlottesville. Graduate attackman Connor Shellenberger of men's lacrosse and freshman guard Kymora Johnson of women's basketball instantly come to mind as leaders of their respective programs. Completing a trifecta of local legends, enter Henry Ford, who has been playing baseball in Charlottesville for over a decade.

"Henry Ford is the little league legend around Charlottesville," Coach Brian O'Connor said. "He's kind of like the movie 'Sandlot.'"

Standing at a towering 6-foot-5 and 220 lbs., Ford fits the mold of an ultra-strong first baseman. However, his origins are diverse. His father, Ryan Ford, was a standout pitcher for William and Mary and his uncle, Kevin Ford, played four years for Virginia at third base. Coming out of high school, Henry Ford was listed as a shortstop — ranked as fourth-best in the Commonwealth by Perfect Game. Regardless of positional fits though, Virginia was

always the dream destination for Ford — he has been committed to the Cavaliers since the eighth grade.

"I've been going to [Virginia] games since I was two months old," Ford said. "I wanted to go [here] since forever. I mean it is pretty incredible to be honest. Dream come true."

Ford spent his first two years of high school baseball playing at St. Anne's-Belfield, which also happens to be Johnson's alma mater. Then, he transferred to the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn. playing with another future Cavalier star, sophomore infielder Henry Godbout. Ford hit .431 across two seasons with the Baylor School and was named a First Team All-American during his senior season.

After high school and before suiting up for the Cavaliers, Ford returned home to play for the Charlottesville Tom Sox — a Valley League summer team — alongside graduate catcher Jacob Ference and sophomore utility player Aidan Teel. Ford's .316 batting average led the

Tom Sox, highlighting his readiness for the collegiate level.

Across all Perfect Game prospects, Ford ranks in the 96th percentile for exit velocity — highlighting elite power at the plate. That power has been on display so far, as his mark of six home runs leads the Cavaliers. His statline of 24 runs batted is a close second behind sophomore outfielder Harrison Didawick. Ford also has a perfect fielding percentage so far.

Ford's stellar resume, both in high school and college, was not going to guarantee a starting role. Ford can play first base or designated hitter, but junior utility player Ethan Anderson was already a mainstay at first base. Anderson also offers quality play at catcher or designated hitter, so he and Ford have coexisted — splitting time between first base and designated hitter. With multiple options for first basemen, Ford had to prove his value to earn a spot in the lineup. Not only has he done just that, but — 17 games into the season — Ford has proven to be one of Vir-

ginia's best players both in the field and at the plate.

In a grimy contest against Wichita State Feb. 23, the Cavaliers trailed throughout the entire game but managed to fight into extra innings in the midst of over three hours of rain delay. The hard work paid off, and, in the bottom of the 10th, Ford smacked a double off of the center-field wall for a walkoff victory.

After two of the greatest players in school history, junior infielders Jake Gelof and Kyle Teel, were selected in the 2023 MLB Draft, Virginia's significant offensive production was suddenly missing. The Cavaliers have sorely needed a star to step up and replace lost production. Ford was considered a candidate to fill this niche, and his play thus far has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Among hitters to start every game so far, Ford leads the team in hits and is second in slugging percentage as well as third in on-base percentage. He has primarily hit fourth — the cleanup spot, responsible for driving in runners from the

top of the batting order — and is the fourth freshman to ever receive that designation under O'Connor, who has been observing Ford's talents since the early days of little league baseball.

"The first interaction I had with [Coach] Oak was I played his son and I hit three home runs in one game and then the next day he pulled up in his car next to me and was like 'Hey take it easy on him today' and I was so excited," Ford said.

As for the present, Ford is firmly in contention for a spot on the Freshman All-American team. Considering he is already a key contributor in his first season, he may go on to finish his career in the same tier as Gelof and Teel. Fans of Virginia baseball should be sure to look for the key freshman infielder to lead the Cavaliers back to the College World Series in June, proudly representing his hometown team.

Assessing Virginia women's basketball's 2023-24 season

The Cavaliers finished disappointingly, but their performance this season was a large step forward for the program

Ben Istvan | Sports Editor

Virginia women's basketball watched its season come to a crashing conclusion in the ACC Tournament March 6. The Cavaliers led by 11 points over Wake Forest — holders of the No. 14 seed out of 15 and a 2-16 conference record — heading into the fourth quarter, only for Virginia to miss 14 of its first 15 field goal attempts en route to a shocking 58-55 defeat. However, despite a disastrous end to the year, the 2023-24 season should be viewed as a success for Coach Amaka Agugua-Hamilton and her Cavaliers.

Virginia played to expectations on paper, ending up 11th in the ACC — the preseason poll projected them to land in 10th — and tallying a 15-15 record for the second straight campaign. But the Cavaliers' 15 wins this season were significantly more impressive than the year prior, sparking a newfound confidence in the team's ability to hang with the country's best.

Virginia knocked off four ranked opponents in 2023-24, all coming in conference play. The Cavaliers shook off a six-game ACC cold spell Jan. 21 with a thrilling 91-87 road victory over No. 15 Florida State, marking the program's first top-25 road win since 2011. Virginia did it again a little over a month later, taking down No. 20 Louisville on the road in comeback fashion. In between, the Cavaliers throttled No. 20 North Carolina 81-66 at John Paul Jones Arena.

But the crowning achievement of Virginia's season was its fourth and final triumph over a ranked foe, which came in the Commonwealth Clash March 3 against No. 5 Virginia Tech. The Cavaliers entered the game on a five-game losing streak against the Hokies, but finally got over the hump in a program-building 80-75 win.

Virginia's slew of top-25 wins is particularly eye-opening because the Cavaliers entered the 2023-24 campaign with a 1-39 record against ranked opponents in their last five full seasons. Virginia finished an impressive 4-6 in that category this year. For half a decade, the Cavaliers were helpless when matched up with the nation's toughest competition, but in an 180-degree turn, Agugua-Hamilton's team became one of the most dangerous Davids in a conference of Goliaths. The wins show tremendous growth and should instill excitement among Virginia fans about the team's trajectory in fu-



ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Sophomore guard Paris Clark provided a spark on both ends of the floor for Virginia this season, averaging 9.9 points and 1.4 steals per game.

ture seasons.

Much of that promise lies in the hands of freshman guard Kymora Johnson, a Charlottesville native who took the ACC by storm in her first season in blue and orange. Johnson was phenomenal all year — to the tune of a team-leading 15.6 points, 5.4 assists and 1.8 steals per game — but she was particularly instrumental in the Cavaliers' aforementioned quadruple of upset wins. The freshman averaged a blistering 24.8 points and six assists on 56.3 percent shooting from the field in those games, which included a 35-point performance against the Seminoles.

Johnson picked up All-ACC Second Team honors — becoming the first Virginia freshman to do so since 2002 — as well as a place on the All-ACC Freshman Team for her efforts. Proving to raise her game to its highest level when the competition is fier-

est, Johnson will have Virginia in good hands for the next three seasons.

Other notable Cavaliers in 2023-24 included fifth year forward Camryn Taylor — who averaged a career-high 14.9 points and team-high 6.2 rebounds per game — and sophomore guard Paris Clark, who provided a spark on both ends of the court for Virginia after transferring from Arizona last offseason.

Despite Virginia's success against the top 25, the Cavaliers ran into trouble when they encountered more winnable games. Virginia won only three of its seven ACC contests against teams with conference records below .500, which included the recent season-ending loss to the Demon Deacons, a road stifle against Georgia Tech and dispirited home defeats to Clemson and Pittsburgh. The Cavaliers finished with an equal or better

ACC record than all four teams and held fourth-quarter leads against three of them, leaving many questioning the team's ability to fend off lesser competition.

Those questions will certainly bleed into next season and must be answered by Agugua-Hamilton and company if Virginia is to take another step forward in 2024-25. The Cavaliers will be losing three of their top five scorers — Taylor and graduate forwards Sam Brunelle and London Clarkson — in addition to graduate center Taylor Lauterbach. Virginia also has three seniors who have yet to make a decision about their extra year of eligibility, taking the team's potential losses to seven players.

But in the present, the Cavaliers are trending in the right direction. Virginia won two conference games in 2021-22, four in 2022-23 and seven this season. They won more games

against top-25 teams this year than they had in their previous seven campaigns combined. The Cavaliers finished with a .500 or better road record for the first time since 2015-16, and their 72.8 points per game is the team's most in a season since 2008-09.

Agugua-Hamilton has Virginia women's basketball in a position to vault up the ACC standings in the coming years, and the 2023-24 season proves that. It may have ended on the lowest of lows, but with more consistency and continued high-quality recruiting classes, the Cavaliers will soon return to the NCAA Tournament — a destination the program has reached just one time since 2010.

HUMOR

Holidays to celebrate post-spring break

As I stared at my Google calendar, finally awake after sleeping for my entire spring break, I realized something heartbreaking. There are no damn breaks from here on out. I went week by week in March, April, May, and not a single dark green “Holidays in United States” graced any of the days. No excuses for missing class, no club meetings to blow off — the months were turning into a government-mandated second semester speedrun and me, a runner with a broken leg. I could tell administrators had made a massive oversight about the spring break to finals calendar.

But I could fix this. Greta Thunberg’s war on plastic utensils was nothing compared to my war on the lack of joy on college campuses in the United States. I resolved to find holidays for that weird part of the year where you sort of see the sun setting but not enough to get a good photo. And before you do, don’t say

“there’s St. Patrick’s Day,” because that only proves we were so lost for ideas that we stole a holiday from another country. Of course, there’s Easter, but most of us aren’t down to deal with grown men in bunny suits, religious obligations — or objections — aside. Daylight Savings exists, but I don’t sacrifice my morals to endorse fraud. In light of these overwhelming options, I came up with a few of my own holidays for those of us who need something to celebrate, or at least an alibi for skipping class, and whose friends were selfishly unwilling to change their birth certificates to “any day in March.”

Mythical Woodland Creature of Your Choice Day — March 27

First off, don’t say “this is just bootleg St. Patrick’s Day” because it’s completely different. In keeping with the Honor Committee’s ideals, I only steal on a case-by-case basis, and this is a case of selective bor-

rowing. Sick of leprechauns getting all the attention when they don’t really contribute to society except by annually dyeing the Chicago River green? So is everyone else. Where’s the love for gnomes, unicorns, dragons or orcs? We need a day to celebrate the gremlins of the world that doesn’t involve comparing them to that kid who never shuts up during a way-too-early discussion section. All I’m saying is it’s time to show some respect to those creepy little yard figurines grandmothers keep on their lawns. Do a favor for the habitual victims of newly licensed drivers running up curbs — if you see a garden gnome, move it a few feet back.

Beyoncé’s Birthday — April 4

Before you say anything, I know Beyoncé’s birthday is in September, but I had to take some liberties with scheduling. This author is not supportive of Jay-Z, but I was searching desperately for another holiday, so

his and Beyoncé’s anniversary will be celebrated as her second birthday. Although it has been a lovely year of Swiftie appreciation, football season is over, and now 2024 is just another year without a national holiday for the Queen. Who have we become? If she can’t be president, she’s at least getting her face on some form of currency... right? I’d steal that 2016 Album of the Year Grammy from Adele’s residence, but the average celebrant can just stream “Lemonade.”

Flat Earth Day — April 22

There are two things that are important to me in this world — the Earth and wacky people. On Flat Earth Day, you get both in a package deal. Before you tell me “this is too wild of a holiday,” there is a T-shirt being sold on Amazon with four glowing reviews that contradict your point. We need a little weirdness to call attention to our precon-

ceived notions about spheres. We live on a globe because that round plastic object in your room with the continents slapped on it said so? Really sounds like what they want you to think. On April 22, find the nearest CD — if you’re old enough to know what that is — and reconceptualize Pangea as the ultimate cosmic frisbee.

Whether you love post-spring break or feel like this is your personalized circle of weather hell, these new holidays can help bridge the gap and provide some positivity during this trying time. It’s not like we have to study for midterms or anything. Wait—

ADAIR REID is a Humor Columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com

CARTOON

Run with Jim

Conwell Morris | Cartoonist



Hoo’s Spelling

Isabelle Tindall | Puzzle Master

welcome!

LEVELS

Wa: 5

Wahoo: 12

Wahoowa: 20

WahooWOW: 26

Average: 11

RULES

Always using the center letter, make as many words as possible from the letters provided (repeated letters allowed). The words must be four or more letters long. No proper nouns, slang, epithets or slurs are permitted.

CREDITS

Puzzle by Isabelle Tindall
Design by Sarah Elder
Words from <https://www.sbsolver.com/s/Launchq>
The solution to this puzzle will be published online

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

Put our holistic admissions process to the test

With many schools re-implementing standardized testing, the University should cautiously follow suit

By April 1, the University will release decisions for the remaining class of 2028. For Yale, Brown and other universities, this admissions process marks the final cycle before returning to testing requirements. One year ago, the 134th Editorial Board urged the University to maintain their no-testing policy indefinitely — citing the test's problematic origins and its ineffectiveness at evaluating prospective students. While we do share concerns voiced by the previous Editorial Board, our moment is different. We believe that standardized testing has a place in the future of college admissions, provided it is considered within the larger context of an applicant's abilities and circumstances.

Debates around standardized tests have lingered in academic circles for years. Critics of testing have pointed out that scores often run along socioeconomic lines, with wealthier students possessing the resources necessary for private tutors and prep-classes. But it was not until the pandemic that real change occurred. COVID-19 left

many students unable to reach testing locations, and as a result, colleges and universities took their first steps away from standardized testing, shifting to test-optional policies. While the impetus for the change may have been convenience, test-optional policies became a matter of equity that transcended the pandemic.

With test-optional policies in effect, admissions offices relied more on other factors, including GPA, college essays, extracurriculars and recommendations. While these may have seemed to provide admissions officers with less biased means of evaluating candidates, these methods have manifested the same equity problems that were found in standardized testing. Consider GPAs — facing pressure to maintain their staggering matriculation rates into top universities, wealthy high schools skewed grades by grading more leniently. Moreover, GPA has been acknowledged as an unreliable factor in predicting success in college. Next, consider college essays — much like how students could

hire tutors to prep them for the exam, wealthier students can choose their pick of essay advisors. The college essay has been further discredited by artificial intelligence which may assist students in writing college essays. These are prime examples of how the tools with which admissions offices make decisions have become ineffective in predicting student success and are also imbricated in systems of privilege.

It is not that GPA and college essays should be scrapped from the admissions process. However, the problems that admissions offices sought to solve by extending test-optional policies are as prevalent as ever. In fact, getting rid of standardized testing has enabled admissions offices to deflect criticism about other methods of evaluating applicants. Universities have neglected the manner in which the college admissions process is systematically structured to give students with more resources a leg up. If it is our goal to make college admissions equitable, then admissions processes must take all factors into consideration — that

includes standardized testing.

By no means are we advocating a return to pre-pandemic admissions processes. But what has become clear is that much of the problem with pre-pandemic standardized testing was located not just in the test itself but also in how the test was used by admissions. Standardized tests were hailed as an objective measure of scholarship. But this process took numbers at face value and, as such, was never a truly objective process. A successful return to standardized testing is contingent on how testing is re-implemented into and evaluated during the admissions processes.

This means that comparisons must be made between similar applicants. For example, Dartmouth College, one of the first colleges to bring back standardized testing, considers scores in the context of a student's environment. In short, admissions offices must take into account socioeconomic and geographic score discrepancies in order to gain a nuanced understanding of an applicant's aptitude. Pro-

vided that tests are implemented in this way at the University, they could become one of the more reliable predictors of student success.

New conversations suggest that admissions offices have a chance to re-implement standardized testing in a way that increases accessibility and critically engages with the nature of university admissions and the contemporary problems it faces. The reimplementation of standardized testing should be recognized as a single step towards a more holistic and equitable admissions process. For this step to be more than a superficial change, admissions offices must use standardized tests as a way to begin addressing the more systemic issues that undergird the entire admissions process.

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THE CAVALIER DAILY

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Financial accessibility matters — even post-grad

Late and inadequate graduate student payments must be solved in order to ensure affordable access

For years, graduate student workers at the University have protested delays in the reception of their stipends. The United Campus Workers of Virginia, a local chapter of a union which represents higher education workers, regularly advocates for wage and stipend raises. But at our University, this union has not been able to advocate for raises because the more pressing problem is the all too-frequent absence of stipends. Stipend checks received weeks late and thousands of dollars short are particularly unacceptable for a university that regularly boasts about its financial accessibility. In this way, such systemic problems at the graduate level undermine the institution's proclaimed support for diverse financial backgrounds. The University must restoratively respond to these failures, locating tangible solutions to a system that continues to mistreat and undervalue the graduate student community.

Graduate student workers are situated in a precarious financial position, and stipends are a needed lifeline. Unlike wages, which are given in exchange for a graduate assistantship, a stipend is an amount of scholarship money paid to a graduate student to

support their research. These are given by either the student's department or school and end up covering some — but not all — living expenses. In many instances, stipends are the only way that many graduate employees can secure housing in Charlottesville. Even then, the UCWVA notes that the combination of wages and stipend are about \$8,000 below what would be needed to live in this increasingly ex-

pensive city. To the University's credit, it did create a Graduate Stipend Task Force after a series of late stipends in December 2022. But the results emerging from this task force were hugely disappointing. When the task force evaluated the administration's extreme failures with timeliness and transparency, two excuses emerged. Firstly, the administration blamed temporary vacancies in relevant departments for causing confusion in the distribution of sti-

“Even if undergraduates have not fully understood the importance of graduate employees, the graduate struggle for financial accessibility is the undergraduate struggle as well.”

pensive city.

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pend. Rebutting this excuse, graduate employees attest to these vacant positions actually being filled throughout the entire period of time, leaving no excuse for bureaucratic drowsiness. Secondly, the administration admitted issues in the communication of deadlines for stipend checks — an embarrassment for an institution who sets the deadlines themselves. As these weak excuses suggest, the University's

chaotic bureaucracy harmed a group of students that historically struggle to make ends meet. Additionally, this uncompassionate treatment of graduate employees systematically ignores the massive role these students play in upholding the basic mission of the University. Graduate students are responsible for teaching undergraduates and assisting professors in research, in addition to advancing their own groundbreaking work. All of our almost 8,000 graduate

students are the invisible faces behind our education, and these late payments directly threaten their ability to assist with the University's functioning and academic excellence.

Even if undergraduates have not fully understood the importance of graduate employees, the graduate struggle for financial accessibility is the undergraduate struggle as well. The ongoing extreme mistreatment of

graduate student workers is particularly worrisome because it fundamentally impedes some graduate students from being a part of the University — not all graduate students have a financial support system upon which to fallback when payments are late. The failures of the stipend payments not only present an issue with the bureaucratic payment system, but also point to a structural inability to accommodate students of different socio-economic backgrounds.

Late stipend checks are more than an inconvenience to graduate employees — they constitute a complete failure to value graduate student employees and are a slap in the face of financial accessibility. No other universities in Virginia seem to struggle with adequately compensating graduate student employees, so it is unclear why it is so hard for our university to fix its errors. There is absolutely no excuse for the University to renege on its responsibility to address the systemic bureaucratic problems which have precipitated this crisis. Immediate action is necessary because affordable access cannot just be a term on a brochure, and excellence cannot be accomplished in a university that overlooks its human foundations.

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City Council should truly adhere to a Housing First policy

Housing First initiatives have many benefits, and with the purchase of a downtown property, City Council has the opportunity to replicate this solution

Recently, Charlottesville City Council has allocated funds towards transforming a few downtown properties into housing assistance for people without shelter. This signals an important step towards a Housing First approach. In contrast with short-term assistance programs geared towards alleviating the effects of homelessness, a focus on housing — not shelter — aims to provide lasting support so participants can focus on self-sufficiency. However, the property acquisition is but a step in what must be a sustained effort to respond to the homelessness epidemic. Housing First approaches promote this sort of long-term housing solution and, in the process, engender fiscally responsible welfare programs.

Housing First is a strategy that emphasizes permanent housing for people without shelter as a jumping off point into employment and food stability. By not having to endure a financially and mentally taxing housing search, people are more able to find work and deal with mental health issues. Focusing on long-term housing instead of temporary shelter has led to 72 percent decreases in urban homeless populations across the coun-

try. It has also been shown to be the most efficient in regards to tax money versus community benefit. For example, in New York City, every person in a housing program saved the taxpayer about \$10,000 per year in money that would have been used in the cyclical tempo-

“Housing First programs are more efficient and helpful than their short-term counterparts, and Charlottesville must begin to acknowledge that.”

rary shelter programs. Housing First programs are more efficient and helpful than their short-term counterparts, and Charlottesville must begin to acknowledge that.

It is clear that the Council's current programs are failing to end homelessness, as proven by a 25 percent increase in the unhoused population. Moreover, even those who do have housing are at risk — 50 percent of renters are described as financially unstable. Clearly, something is not working at a policy level. One reason for this is the Council's use of proclaimed Housing First initiatives such as The Haven and The Crossings. The Council claims

that these organizations provide long-term housing relief, but they end up not actually adhering to their advertised guidelines. The Crossings only provides housing to those who have an income, not those on the street. Similarly, The Haven provides supplies needed

to stay alive, not the foundation of security that a home brings. Despite large expenditures on these programs, homelessness is not shrinking in Charlottesville, and thus, dedicating money to such programs is woefully inefficient.

These programs play a vital role in helping those without money receive basic necessities. However, it would be a mistake to assume that a switch to Housing First would eliminate these resources — it would only add to them. Instead of merely receiving survival goods, recipients of the Housing First policies would be able to benefit from potential long-term stability while also having their immediate

needs supported. Additionally, as people need to spend less money on housing, they will be able to support other aspects of their lives without money from the City. This sort of future self-sufficiency, the end goal for any policies that attempt to address homelessness,

is simply not possible in the current system. Thus, we have an obligation to try something different — Housing First.

Proof that focusing on Housing First is beneficial is further evidenced by the fact that many of the shelter assistance programs in Charlottesville falsely claim to adhere to it. Additionally, the differences in Houston and San Diego's respective homelessness policies provide an interesting case study in program efficiency. Both cities had received over \$26 million in federal grants to address homelessness. San Diego dedicated it to short-term programs and saw a 19 percent decrease in its homeless-

ness population. In comparison, Houston dedicated its funding to long-term, Housing First programs and saw a 55 percent decrease in its homelessness population. Both programs worked hard to help those who need it most, but one was objectively better at it, saving the city money in the long term while also — and more importantly — helping more people.

Charlottesville City Council should be applauded for their property purchase and should be pushed by the community to emphasize the distinction between the current solutions it employs and permanent solutions such as Housing First. We should leave behind traditional shelters in favor of long-term housing. Thus, all residents of Charlottesville, including students, need to heavily push for implementation of the practical solutions that Housing First works to create.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Empowered Players helps youth grow through free theater

Founded by University alumna Jessica Harris, the organization provides accessible arts education to rural Fluvanna County

Thomas Hodgkins | Senior Writer



COURTESY JESSICA HARRIS

With Empowered Players, Harris said she seeks to provide access to the arts to children of all backgrounds and abilities by making the classes free.

Eight years ago, Class of 2019 College and Education alumna Jessica Harris — at the time still in high school — founded Empowered Players, a nonprofit in nearby Fluvanna County that facilitates free arts and theater classes for children in grades K-12. Since then, Empowered Players has grown and continued to spread love for the arts and empower youth throughout Fluvanna County.

The organization — which is financed through donations, ticket sales and grants — offers a diverse variety of programs in the fall, spring and summer that are free of cost to its students. These programs teach a variety of skills and take on numerous forms, from hip-hop dance workshops to technical theater design classes. In the classes, children can not only hone specific artistic skills like improvisation and playwriting, but they also have the opportunity to be a part of a theater cast and put on a show. This semester, Empowered Players is putting on productions of

“Into the Woods Jr.” and “Willy Wonka Jr.”

According to Harris, the organization serves around 100 students per season, and each class contains up to 35 students. Classes usually take place once a week during the school year, while the summer camps meet daily for around a week. Harris says she organizes and leads each class with the help of several instructors and volunteers.

While Harris is a Fluvanna County native, she also identifies Charlottesville and the University as her homes. Harris is a “double Hoo,” as she attended the College of Arts and Sciences for her undergraduate studies and the University’s School of Education and Human Development for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Heavily involved in the Drama department, Harris earned an interdisciplinary degree in Arts Administration, Youth and Social Innovation and Drama.

Growing up in Fluvanna, Harris said she had access to artistic

outlets, but she realized that not every young person had the same access to those outlets as she did. With Empowered Players, Harris said she seeks to provide access to the arts to young people of all backgrounds and abilities by making the classes free.

“A lot of times programs are great, but they cost a lot of money, or it can be hard to afford the gas money to travel,” Harris said. “So by making it free, we hope to eliminate those barriers.”

By providing widely accessible classes to children in Fluvanna, Harris said she hopes that Empowered Players’ will help kids find their passion for the arts and that she thinks of her classes as spaces where young people can grow artistically and personally.

“I think the arts are really important primarily because they [can] become students’ passions,” Harris said. “Anytime a student has something they are passionate about, it provides so much meaning and purpose and possibility in their lives.”

Harris added that Empowered

Players’ classes not only cultivate students’ artistic skills, but also teach them useful life skills. She said that the act of reading a theater script can also improve a child’s reading proficiency. Even skills like empathy, collaboration and critical thinking are honed by acting in an ensemble cast, according to Harris.

“We think students have in themselves all the tools they need to thrive and to express themselves and be creative and be a part of a community,” Harris said. “What we hope to do is give them the platform and the space to hone those skills, to reach for the stars and to feel that they have a community behind them that’s supporting them while they blossom.”

Harris said that she has seen how theater and the arts can impact young people, especially when they experience it for the first time. She recalls a specific example where one student expressed his newfound sense of belonging in theater. When the student was asked what he learned

in class, he responded that he learned that anyone can do theater, including himself.

Empowered Players has a retention rate of 85 percent, reflecting its popularity among its students. Harris said many of the kids involved in the classes and camps have been around for several years and she has enjoyed seeing them return after their first experience.

Overall, Harris says Empowered Players is a place for youth to explore their passions, experience the arts and feel supported by a community. For her, seeing the tangible differences she can make in a young person’s life through theater means the world.

“If there is even a handful of students who found something that spoke to them and touched their heart and touched their spirit in a way that is going to stay with them forever,” Harris said, “that is the best.”

Niamh Kierans' "Precipice" captures the feeling of change

In her second album, the first year tells a story of identity, insecurity and love, underscored by the theme of personal change

Kenneth Do | Staff Writer

Amid a steady guitar strum, a warm, full voice delivers the lyrics, "She sees a chance in her reflection on the wall / No matter the humidity or height of the paywall / 'Cause she's pretty in passing and I'm better for some time."

These vocals describe a girl who, according to the songwriter, is effortlessly beautiful. For her, maintaining her appearance requires little more than a passing glance in the mirror. An uneven rhythmic pulse supports these lyrics, stumbling as if to emphasize some insecurity in the speaker. Such a nuanced composition might be commonplace for a track by a professional musician. Rather, this song titled "Insight" belongs to "Precipice," the latest album by first-year College student Niamh Kierans.

"Precipice," released March 1, is composed of eight songs with a total running time of just over 30 minutes. The album cover depicts sand falling through an individual's hands against a reddish-orange backdrop.

Kierans's musical journey began well before the release of "Precipice." She got her start with classical singing lessons, and then learned to play the ukulele when she was 10 and taught herself the guitar two years later. After practicing these instruments, she sought to explore more contemporary

music styles and her passion for songwriting grew from there. To further pursue this interest, Kierans started lessons at Sound House, a music school in Remington, Virginia that mentors aspiring musicians, when she was in the eighth grade.

There, Kierans met and studied with Maddi Mae, a professional folk songwriter and musician and the owner of Sound House. According to Kierans, part of Mae's lessons included the opportunity to record song demos, which proved invaluable as she began to develop "Precipice."

"I didn't know what direction I wanted to go in for my song 'Ha'aretz' and so I took it to her at one of my lessons, and I thought we would just figure out some guitar, but we ended up recording the whole song," Kierans said.

Led by her affinity for songwriting and valuable mentorship at Sound House, Kierans released her debut album in 2021 titled "Self and Destruction." A collection of 10 songs, the name of the album captures its central themes — "ponderings of the self and the ways people hurt each other," according to Kierans in an interview with "The Bern Block."

While it is Kierans' compelling writing, vocals and guitar playing that allows her albums to shine, creating

songs is not a completely independent endeavor for the musician. In addition to Mae, Kierans collaborates with two producers, Nico Arouca and Carly Flatau, who mix and master her music and create instrumentation to complement Kierans' vocals and strumming.

According to Kierans, Arouca and Flatau are a crucial part of her music-making process, particularly due to their willingness to adapt to Kierans' musical vision.

"They're willing to let go of things that they put in there," Kierans said. "They're willing to change things about it for what I want it to be, and that's really necessary. And that makes a really great producer."

Kierans' persuasive artistry and the effort of her collaborators paved the way for the release of her second album, "Precipice." According to Kierans, "Precipice" was initially conceived as a "from-the-vault" album — a collection of tracks that she wrote at various stages in her life — a vision that ultimately shifted. As work on the album progressed, Kierans realized that she had written many of the songs during periods of significant personal change — some during her final year of high school and others just as she was meeting her significant other.

"A lot of them are sort of, whether I knew it or not at the time, leading

up to this huge moment of change," Kierans said. "And then I wrote the second half of it, when I had just met my current boyfriend ... I really liked that idea of things leading up to this precipice. And then after, you fall — in love."

"Precipice" begins with the contemplative track "Ha'aretz." In the song, Kierans states, "I've got homelands not home to me," an expression of her Jewish and Irish identities and the extent to which she belongs to each. This song shines in no small part due to Kierans' collaboration with Mae — Mae's instrumentation and mixing creates a sonic environment that is both warming and unsettling, apt for the album's central motif of change.

"Chasing Whispers" follows the opening track. The song features the lyric, "You're doused in pride / And I'm left in the dust," a biting remark that reminds the listener thematically of Kierans' first album. The piece also stands out because of when it was written — Kierans composed the song when she was 14, hence her initial planning of "Precipice" as a "from-the-vault" piece.

"A Desperate Race" arrives in the middle of the album. A reflective piece about what it means to be authentic, Kierans broods, "I just wanna know /

The essence of it all / A moment where I'm human and not faking it all." The album concludes with "This Time Around," an earnest love song to embrace the listener following the change and insecurity depicted in "Precipice."

While "Precipice" chronicles a rather recent period in Kierans' life, the album in many ways represents a symbolic distillation of her musical journey. From her lush vocals, to her guitar strumming to the refinements made by her collaborators, the work is a composite of various stages in artistic progression — one that is certainly not at a precipice, but bound to blossom indefinitely.

According to Kierans, her most meaningful songs are those in which the ideas are universal, allowing audiences to connect with Kierans regardless of their personal backgrounds and circumstances.

"If you can listen to a song and be like, 'oh, yeah, I know what that's about,' [even if] you don't know what events I'm talking about ... what person I'm talking about or even what time, but you can relate it to an experience in your own life — I really, really love when my songs can do that," Kierans said.

Music fans can listen to Niamh Kierans' album "Precipice" on Spotify or Apple Music today.

Fair Verona: a standout all-girl band at U.Va.

The band talks representation, inspiration and the supportive University music scene

Emma Herold | Senior Writer

Among a plethora of student bands, from fraternity bands to cover bands, one made entirely of female musicians sets itself apart from the rest — Fair Verona. Fairly new to the Charlottesville band scene, the only all-girl band at the University — according to Emma Gorman, drummer and fourth-year College student — consists of four members who are united by their love of indie pop/rock, performing and the University's music scene.

The band was born during the Fall 2023 semester when Isabel Xiao, bassist and second-year College student, and Megan Clancy, former vocalist and third-year College student, had the idea to start an all-girl band. They contacted Gorman, who said joining the group was an immediate yes.

"I was in [an all-girl band] in high school and loved it and missed it. So as soon as I got that text message, I was like, 'Absolutely,'" Gorman said.

Fair Verona is currently made up of Xiao, Gorman, Whitney Edgerly, electric guitarist and fourth-year Col-

lege student and Carina Velocci, vocalist and third-year College student. While the girls did not join musical forces until last semester, the band's members had already known of each other from their respective time spent in the University's music scene as performers in other bands and as spectators at house shows — musical concerts usually presented in a basement or a backyard.

While the members said they have gained inspiration from other bands they see play at the University, they also said there is a noticeable gap in the representation of women as performers in the larger University arts scene. Gorman described an eye-opening experience she had just two years ago at a house show where she noticed that out of 12 featured performers, there was only one woman.

Gorman described some qualms with the identifier of a "girl band." She noted that the term can serve to celebrate novelty where there should, in theory, be none.

"We exist as a girl band for a reason. But also, a group of men can just be in a band, and it's not a guy band ... It's just a band," Gorman said.

Despite these struggles, Fair Verona said they're grateful to be able to continue such a rich, storied and crucial history of women musicians. One of the ways that the group does this is by only performing music that features female artists, especially music from all-girl bands, at their gigs. The group prefers to play indie pop or rock and says they try to feature newer female artists whose work might have been overlooked by other bands in the current University music scene, like Lana Del Rey or Phoebe Bridgers.

Their recent set lists have included Mitski, The Runaways, Blondie and Boygenius. The band has also shared that fans can expect songs by Bikini Kill, beabadoobee, Sir Chloe and No Doubt in their upcoming shows.

"Coming together to play music by women is just really cool to do," Velocci said. "It's just so much fun, and it's

like an energy that wasn't there."

In addition to being able to pay homage to the female artists that have come before them, the band said they also enjoy playing for the University community because of how supportive it is. The band specifically highlighted Indieheads and University Records when describing the uplifting nature of the music community here at the University. The two on-Grounds student groups frequently set up house shows and create opportunities for students to perform in order to support the tight-knit student music scene.

"You get to know people, and then you join bands and then you go support your friends," Edgerly said. "It's sort of like this cycle a little bit. Everybody knows everybody in some form or another."

The band highlighted how this cycle of support and community through music is beneficial to everyone involved. They explained how being a spectator has helped them hone

their craft as performers.

"It is a huge inspiration and help to watch other people perform because it shows you what works and what you want to emulate," Velocci said.

Edgerly agreed, sharing that the group is happy to be part of a community with such immense talent.

"I find it so inspiring to be in a population of people who are so musical. You get to see other people work on their craft, have so much fun together and see these friendships form," Edgerly said.

Fair Verona plans to play at more house shows this semester, supporting and participating in the University's thriving live music community while representing music by women. Their next Indieheads show is set to take place March 16. Updates, upcoming shows and performances can be found on their Instagram, @fairveronaband.

PUZZLES

Quinn Connor | Puzzle Master

THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON WWW.CAVALIERDAILY.COM

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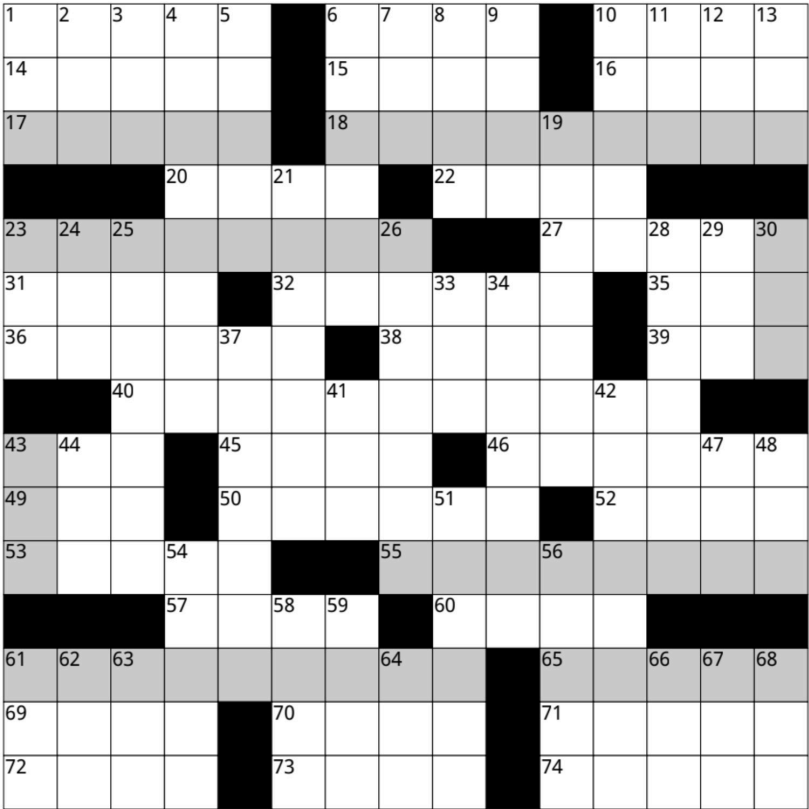
- 1 Like dry bread or conversation
6 Company wide message
10 Five films make up the “Twilight” one
14 Internet destinations
15 Loads
16 They’re up magicians’ sleeves
17 Brickowski of “The Lego Movie”
18 Cabinet member?
20 Paper unit
22 Kardashian matriarch
23 Elected council member
27 “Deck the Halls” or “Jingle Bells”
31 Garden annoyance
32 Tone’s partner in the salon
35 1860s presidential nickname
36 Spicy condiment
38 Singer Yorke of Radiohead

- 39 Apt dessert for mathematicians
40 Like one with good survival skills...or an asset to solving the highlighted clues
43 Rage
45 Particularly particular
46 What some drinks and bars supply
49 It can be ind. or dep. in an experiment
50 Scatters
52 Rodriguez of “Jane the Virgin”
53 Stanley cup competitors?
55 ----- Shake: Specialty March dessert
57 It has 13 hearts!
60 “Me as well!”
61 Local presidential locale
65 Scrum sport
69 Purple “superfruit”
70 Soothing succulent

- 71 Preceder of skating and climbing in Olympic events
72 Writes down
73 Steals from
74 “¿Como -----?”

Down

- 1 Pitt. to U.Va. direction
2 Cook with Apple?
3 24/7 bill dispenser
4 Ogled
5 Dean of Barden University?
6 Badger or hound
7 List ending letters
8 Make fun of
9 ---- about (circa)
10 Savory Central Asian pastry
11 “yes, and?” singer, familiarly
12 Truck co.
13 Inquire
19 “Mom, I am a -----” - Cher
21 Like background music
23 “2 cute!”
24 Michelle of “Glee”



- 25 Final course
26 Irritates
28 Migos or Fugees
29 ----Wan Kenobi
30 Directors Ang or Spike
33 Spa sounds
34 Attacks
37 Tubas and trombones

- 41 Corn unit
42 Organizes again
43 Poison ---
44 TikTok star Addison
47 Big inits. in protein powder
48 Pull trig, say

- 51 Fors counterpart in coding
54 Elba of “Thor”
56 Code name
58 Scorch
59 Letter between Juliett and Lima in the NATO alphabet

- 61 Upper limit
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63 Managed
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