

The Cavalier Daily

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

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Sullivan ouster mirrors ODU dismissal

Rector's father helped to fire Old Dominion President Joseph Marchello in 1988 in similar fashion to University's June events

By Krista Pedersen
Cavalier Daily News Editor

Rector Helen Dragas' history with firing presidents runs deeper than her botched ouster of President Teresa Sullivan this June.

While serving on the Old Dominion Board of Visitors in 1988, her father George Dragas helped force the resignation of President Joseph Marchello citing poor communication with the Board and a general unease with the executive's management style, according to news reports at the time.

Marchello, an accomplished fundraiser, drew praise for his ideas but did not have a positive relationship with the state's legislators. He was also criticized at the time for having too decisive a leadership style, and "never seemed to bother with learning the finer points of politics Vir-

ginia-style," according to a 1988 Virginian-Pilot article. A general unwillingness to make strategic decisions was cited several times as a cause for Sullivan's ouster.

Similar to Sullivan's case, ODU Rector Richard F. Barry III did not convene the entire Board, instead conferring with

members individually to reach a consensus on forcing out Marchello.

The dismissal of Marchello, however, did follow other formalized procedures that the University's Board disregarded. The

Please see **ODU**, Page A3

Honor hosts integrity talks

University representatives, students discuss single sanction, 'community of trust,' Sullivan's ouster



Dillon Harding | Cavalier Daily

University President Teresa Sullivan joined faculty members and students in a dialogue hosted by the Honor Committee Tuesday evening to discuss jeopardized "community of trust."

By Abby Meredith
Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

The Honor Committee hosted a panel of roundtable speakers in Old Cabell Hall Tuesday to discuss the current state of the University and the honor system. The Committee said events this summer surrounding University President Teresa Sullivan's ouster undermined the University's "community of trust."

The panel was moderated by Dean of Students Allen Groves. The speakers were Sullivan, Faculty Senate Chair George Cohen, English Prof. Michael Levenson, fourth-year College students Hillary Hurd, the student representative to the Board of Visitors, and Honor Committee Chair Stephen Nash.

The panel discussion was jump-started by student-submitted questions, which displayed concerns with the repercussions of a single sanction system and attempted to ascertain how faculty play a role in the community of trust.

Against the backdrop of this summer's events, the audi-

Please see **Honor**, Page A3

StudCo introduces budget

Council to appropriate \$90,000; committees see upcoming year's funds slashed

By Emily Hutt
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Student Council introduced its 2012-2013 budget Tuesday evening, appropriating about \$90,000 for initiatives this year.

The majority of Council's funding — about \$70,000 — comes from the \$22 Student Activities Fee every student pays each semester. These fees account for nearly \$10,000 less than they did in last year's budget.

Many Council members expressed surprise at the decrease in available SAF funds. "We're supposed to appropriate that money and considering there are more students this year, I don't know how that happened," said Alex Reber, Council Chair of the Representative Body. Reber and other Council members plan to look into the

discrepancy.

Council also had to make cuts this year because of decreased non-SAF funds, said third-year College student Allie Mootz, Council's chief financial officer. Non-SAF fees are obtained through agreements with companies such as the University Bookstore.

"All the committees' budgets were cut this year because we're not getting as much non-SAF funds," she said. "But it was all committees not just one. We tried to make it as fair as possible."

One committee, that governing Student Affairs, stood out among all 13 Presidential committees as receiving the most funding in Tuesday's appropriation discussions. It will receive more than \$8,000 with about \$6,500 of this going toward funding the UVAir-

bus program, which provides transportation to students who need transportation to Dulles and Richmond airports during breaks.

The Academic Affairs committee is slated to receive about \$6,500 in funding, the second-highest appropriation. Nearly \$4,000 of the funding will underwrite "Look Hoo's Talking," an event inspired by TED talks that brings together University professors to discuss "big ideas" in the spring.

In its first year as an official Council committee, the Graduate Affairs committee will use its operating budget to hold graduate student mixers and research symposiums and organize social events to promote collaboration

Please see **StudCo**, Page A3



NEWS Olympians inspire students

IN BRIEF



Thomas Bynum | Cavalier Daily

Olympic athletes visited the University Tuesday to discuss their achievements.

Three Olympic athletes had a message for University students assembled Tuesday evening at John Paul Jones arena: Don't be afraid of failure.

Gymnast Jonathan Horton knows what defeat feels like. After a disappointing 13th place finish for team USA at the 2006 World Championships, Horton knuckled down and resumed training.

"I had to re-evaluate who I was," Horton said.

And it paid off — team USA won a bronze medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Cullen Jones, two-time Olym-

pic medallist, spoke of the extra effort and the many hours of practice he spent in the pool so that he could snag two silver medals in this summer's games.

"You don't just make goals," Jones said. "Until you map out how you're going to do it, it's just a dream."

Failure, however, is not the only source of motivation for these Olympians. Fencer Mariel Zagunis said pressures to repeat and defend earlier accomplishments bolstered her preparation for Beijing as a defending gold medalist from the Athens Games.

"When those opportunities come you will be ready to seize the moment," Zagunis said about winning a second gold in 2008.

Consulting firm Deloitte, a business sponsor of the United States Olympic Committee, helped organize Tuesday's event.

—compiled by Katie Lewis

Exemptions affect school enrollment

Religious exceptions remove 7,000 Virginian students from primary, secondary education

By Kelly Kaler and Olivia Patton
Cavalier Daily Staff Writers

A study released Tuesday by the University's Law School Clinic showed that more than 7,000 students in Virginia were exempted from attending primary or secondary school on religious grounds last year.

Virginia law requires a school board to excuse students who hold a religious belief that conflicts with the principle of classroom education.

Andrew Block, Director of the U.Va. Child Advocacy Clinic and an assistant Law School professor, spearheaded the report and said he decided to research the issue after working on a case through the clinic. Block and others at the clinic represented a 17-year-old woman who was trying to go to school for the first time, as she had previously not been

required to attend on the basis of her religious beliefs.

"Since that time I have always been interested in the statute and with the help of students in the clinic, finally had the time to investigate," he said. "And the more we looked into it the more we wanted to know."

To conduct the study, Block and a team of four Law students sent surveys to all 132 Virginia school superintendents. Youth-Nex, a research organization within the Education School, assisted with media relations and survey data collection.

"We got such great response and were very pleased — we would have been pleased if 20 [superintendents] responded, and we got 64," said Maryfrances Porter, the program evaluations leader for Youth-Nex.

Please see **Law**, Page A3



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A high pressure system will be centered around the Charlottesville area and remain in place through Friday. Expect comfortable temperatures in the upper 70s to lower 80s and nothing but sunny skies. We will briefly have a cold front pass through during the weekend until it is replaced again by another high pressure system.

To receive Cavalier Weather Service forecasts via email, contact weather@virginia.edu

ODU | Koch: Administrative restructuring often clandestine

Continued from page A1

ODU president received written performance reviews several months ahead of his forced resignation, and met with the rector several times to discuss methods of improvement.

To replace Marchello, the ODU Board tapped University of Montana President James Koch, an economist who resigned his former post to move to Norfolk. Koch himself said the circumstances of his predecessor's dismissal bore — at minimum — surface level similarities with Sullivan's dismissal.

“My understanding (I was not there!) is that several key officers and members of the BOV met with Dr. Marchello and presented him with their collective judgment that he had lost the support of the BOV and must resign,” Koch said in an email Tuesday. “He agreed.”

George Dragas, after becoming ODU's Vice Rector, led the search committee that eventually hired Koch out of three potential candidates. Koch's appointment, and his unapologetic candor about the circumstances surrounding his appointment, won him support from the ODU community, according to media reports.

A Virginian-Pilot features piece on the elder Dragas from June 1990 applauded his focus and devotion to ODU, but also highlighted his bottom-line approach toward seeking a president. Dragas said in that interview he would allow the president to set his own agenda before receiving any scrutiny from the Board. “I want to see what his thoughts are,” Dragas said of Koch. “The board will give him theirs. And hopefully, we'll reach a consensus.”

But later on in the piece, Dragas issued an ominous statement. “If a president cannot do it,” he said, “we either have to work with him — or replace him.”

The Dragas family has other deep connections to ODU: In the midst of the June debacle in Charlottesville, George Dragas attended a ceremony for a new building named in his honor on the Norfolk campus, and Helen Dragas is married to the son of a former Old Dominion president.

Helen Dragas surely observed this turn of events before she joined the University's Board — and saw her father win praise for his actions in ousting Marchello for Koch. The reception for the two rectors' actions, however, was quite different.

Marchello, who lost popularity for his “brusque” style and for changing the school's mascot, never inspired the uprising of popular support and outrage that Sullivan did. It was this upswell of community pushback that differentiated the attempted ouster at the University from the successful one at ODU, not the method in which they were conducted, Koch said.

Koch, who later became a consultant in higher education, added that university boards rarely call full meetings when they want to remove presidents.

“In nearly all instances, the critical events occur behind the scenes and soon thereafter are announced at a public meeting or press conference,” he said. “In the usual case, this minimizes negative publicity and avoids the potentially unpredictable and destructive dynamics of a public board meeting.”

Helen Dragas did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

Honor | Adversity, conflict highlight University values

Continued from page A1

ence was inevitably drawn to the controversy that dominated University news this summer.

“When one person might have violated that trust we all feel responsible,” Cohen said of this summer. “The values of open and honest debate had been compromised and that is one of the important values of any institution, but especially this one.”

Adversity and conflict can often act as a reminder of community values, Sullivan said. Framing the events this summer as a learning experience, she said honor, integrity and trust are now in the forefront of the University community's mind.

The dialogue also focused on the honor code in the wake of events the Committee in June called “inconsistent with the value of trust.” Participants sought to create a forum of discussion to help students actively understand the honor code and its single sanction policy and to provide opportunities for improvement and progress.

“We are trying to lay a foundation for understanding what students think,” Nash said. “Why do they have those opinions and how do we move from there?”

Although Sullivan and Cohen expressed an interest in exploring alternatives to single sanction including repentance and teaching others from their mistakes, Nash said the community benefits from the finitude of the system.

“Time after time students vote to uphold the system we have,” Nash said. “Our community is stronger when we have absolute commitment to do what is right.”

Despite differences of opinion, the members of the panel stressed the need to keep the dialogue going.

Levenson asked students to come to another discussion at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday titled “June Events and After” and to participate with him on an online forum to sustain the conversation.

“Dealing with certain kinds of ethical issues, there is a danger of ethical silence — a reluctance to talk about and discuss them,” Cohen said.

StudCo | Council to approve appropriations plans next week

Continued from page A1

between students from different graduate schools.

As the national presidential election draws near, the bipartisan Legislative Affairs committee plans to sponsor events which will involve students in the political process, including funding voter registration drives around Grounds and visits to the University by political candidates. Currently, the committee is in talks with the Romney campaign for a potential visit to Grounds.

Council also included a \$6,000 discretionary fund — a \$1,000 increase from last year — to allow “greater flexibility” in responding to unexpected costs and to allow them to better respond to the student body.

Until Tuesday night's meeting, Council had relied on remaining funds from the summer student activity budget. Summer funding covered events such as the Fall Activities Fair and Council retreat, as well as the free water-bottle initiative at the first two home football games.

Council is expected to vote to approve the budget next week.

Law | Block hopes policymakers reconsider statute, loopholes

Continued from page A1

“This tells us that [this issue] is compelling to superintendents.”

All information was collected on a confidential basis, meaning that those who responded to the survey questions were not identified by name or location, Porter said. “We [didn't want] the school division to feel like they were being targeted for some kind of intervention,” she said.

Ninety percent of the responding superintendents said that they had never denied a family's request for religious exemption from school.


With this new data, Block said he hopes legislators will make changes to the law, although he added he had no specific policy recommendations.

“I am hopeful that Virginia's policymakers and educators will be concerned because, as our report shows, we have a law that school officials can't follow,” Block said. “[This] subjects thousands of children a year to uncertain educational outcomes including the possibility that they receive no education at all.”

Sarah Oh, a research scientist in the Education School, said the decision to exempt a student from public education should be a collaborative effort between school officials, parents and the students themselves. “The school's place is to respect and work with [the families] — not to control them,” she said. “[Exemption] should be a last resort but it should be permissible.”


The law technically requires school officials to have a system in place for monitoring academic progress of students not enrolled in the public school system; however, the study suggests that this kind of checkup rarely occurs.

“Because so many children are exempted each year, I imagine that there is also some number of children that may receive nothing,” Block said. “And there is nothing that anyone can do about that under the current system.”



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Jeffrey Walker is the former Chairman and CEO of CCMP Capital (CCMP). CCMP is the \$12 billion successor to JPMorgan Partners (JPMP), JPMorgan Chase & Co's global private equity group with operations in North America, Europe, and Asia. Mr. Walker is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Management Accountant. He served on the board of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation for twelve years, serving as Chairman for three, and is Chairman of UVA Council on Foundations. He graduated with a BS from the UVA and an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

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The Cavalier Daily

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—Thomas Jefferson

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The Board of Visitors should include a faculty representative to ensure effective governance

Tuesday, in Old Cabell Hall, the Honor Committee hosted a roundtable: There were two students, University President Teresa Sullivan, Dean of Students Allen Groves and two members of the faculty. The faculty members – Prof. Michael Levenson, director of the Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, and Prof. George Cohen, chair of the Faculty Senate – have also organized a panel today at 4:30 p.m. in Nau Hall 101, co-sponsored by the organizations they head and featuring members of faculty. But there will be no faculty present when the Board of Visitors meets to discuss the University Thursday, and more than getting a chair in their respective department one faculty member deserves a seat at the Board’s so highly reserved table.

Events Tuesday revealed how valuable the faculty perspective could be, and how refreshing for students who seldom hear their professors speak after the lecture has ended. During the panel, Levenson said universities should still pursue “top-line” values such as free inquiry and the building of character; Cohen, for his part, compared single sanction to the death penalty. The two carried the most elegance — while others “raised” important questions the professors went a long way in answering them. It was not only here that the faculty appeared in good light alongside Sullivan; they also did in a comprehensive New York Times article published Tuesday about the president’s ouster.

It is easy to forget, given the conciliatory tone following Sullivan’s reinstatement, that not all faculty demands were met. Cohen joked at the panel that academics would always be willing to engage in more conversation, but at one point, the senate he led took action. The senate not only called for the reinstatement of Sullivan, but also asked that Rector Helen Dragas resign and that faculty have a seat on the

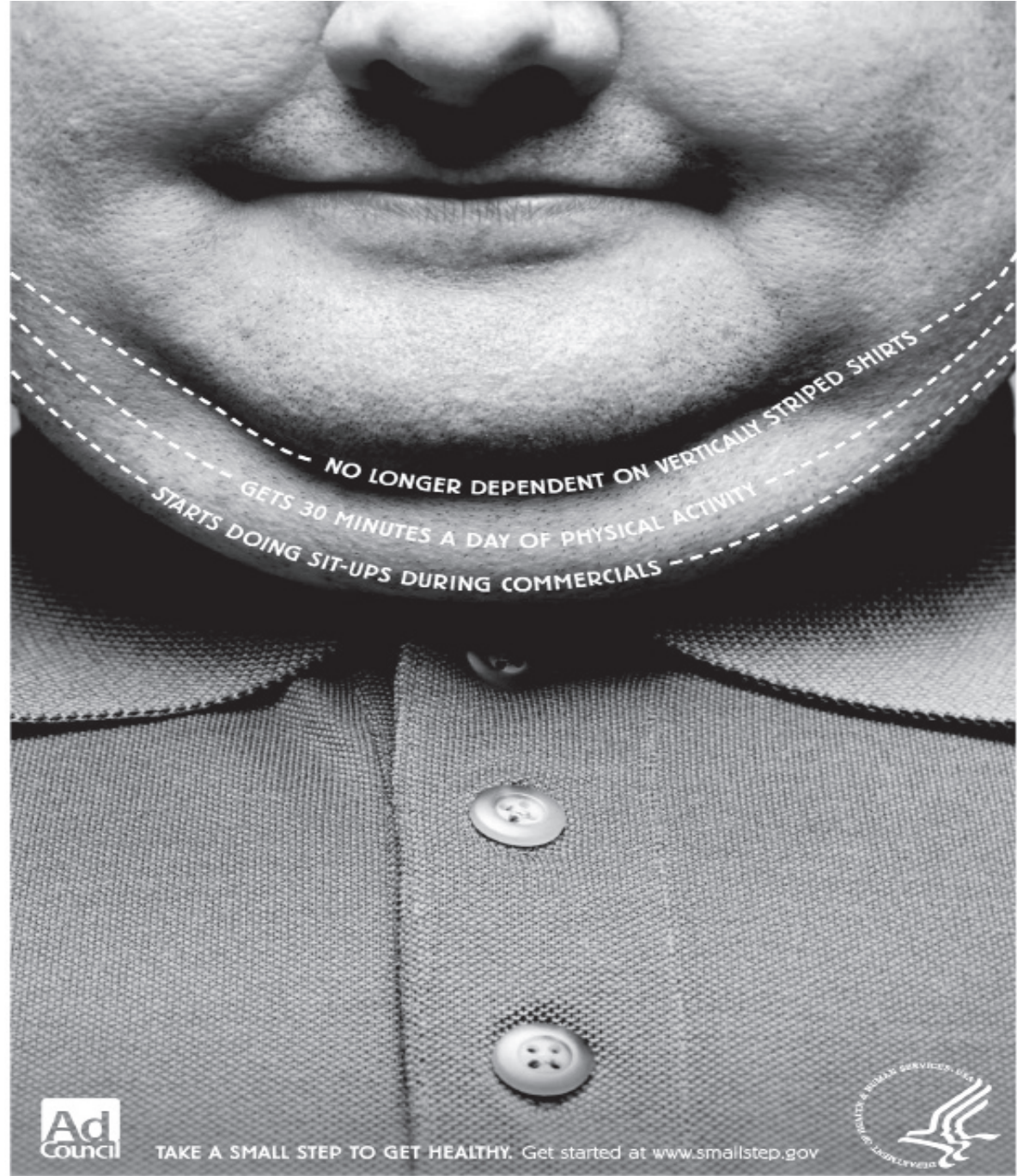
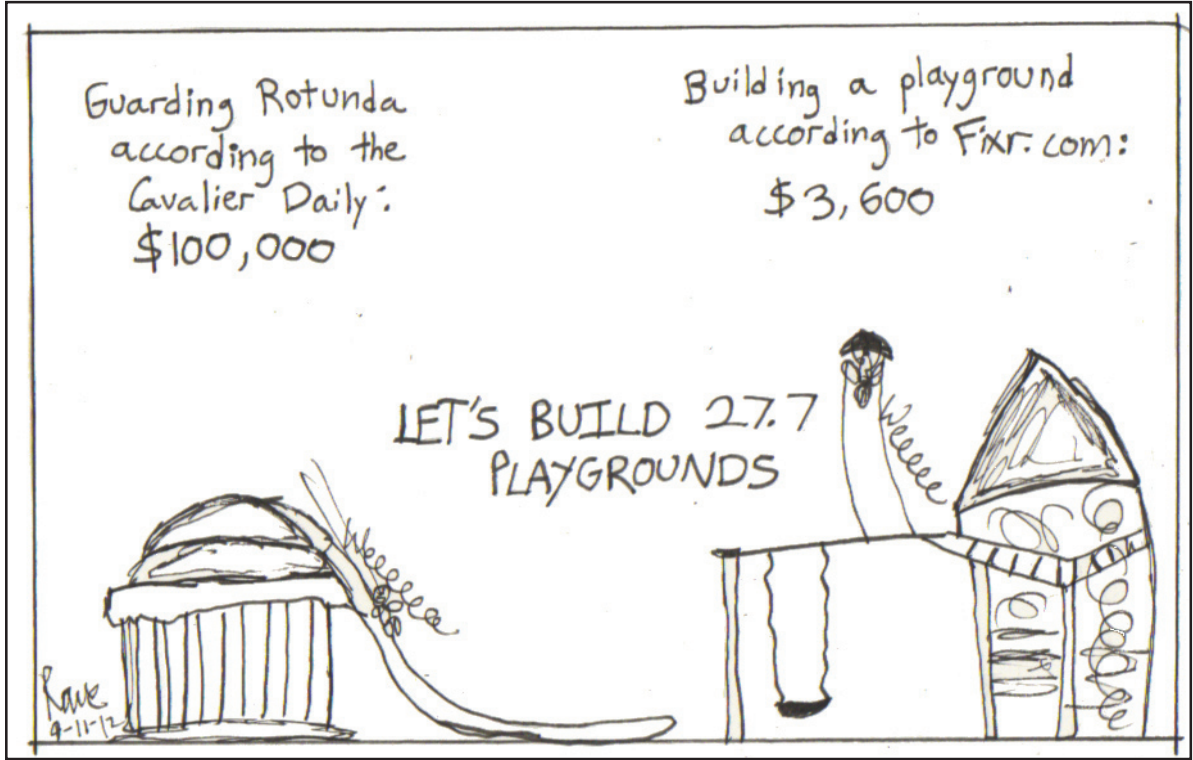
Board. Both of these are still good ideas and it is to the latter that we now turn.

Tenured faculty are here longer than students, they are here longer than Board members and at the going rate here longer than University presidents. If anyone has a stake and deserves representation – it is them. Not to mention that faculty representatives exist on the boards of other Virginia colleges – including Virginia Tech, James Madison University and George Mason University – and there can be no talk of us “moving forward” when our governance structure remains so backward compared to these other colleges.

The faculty already has considerable influence in realpolitikal terms. Frozen faculty salaries were an impetus to the summer crisis, so much so that an impassioned letter from faculty members regarding their wages was interpreted by Dragas as “a cry to the board for help,” according to The New York Times. Sullivan, in her May 3 strategic memo, expressed concerns about academic turnover and said, “Virginia has achieved its rankings through strong teams of faculty.” Clearly, the well-being of faculty is central to the University’s success, and professors should be allowed to represent themselves in conversations largely about them.

The success of the Faculty Senate to organize and achieve progress during the summer is evidence that they would be equally competent to select a good representative. Faculty members represent the University when the media calls for an expert; they will represent the University to thousands of students online; they give much to us students in Charlottesville. But they are not allowed to speak on their own behalf, and until this is rectified there can be no pretensions to fairness, or honor or any of the other ideals we love to toss about.

Editorial Cartoon by Stephen Rowe



Featured online reader comment

“Perhaps there should be columns for ‘Wins,’ ‘Losses,’ ‘Ties’ and... ‘Not Lost.’ That game should not qualify as a ‘win,’ most fans would agree.

“Will” responding to Daniel Weltz’s Sep. 08 article, “Virginia storms back to beat Penn State 17-16”

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Our speaker-in-chief

In speaking at the Miller Center, President Sullivan continues her attempts for dialogue and transparency

THIS SUMMER, most University students, alumni and faculty were taken aback by the sudden resignation and subsequent reinstatement of University President Teresa Sullivan. The move by the Board of Visitors to oust Sullivan was one that nobody foresaw. As a result, there were many — and perhaps remain many — questions surrounding the proceedings. It is fortunate, then, that some issues will perhaps be cleared up soon.

Today, Sullivan is speaking at the Miller Center in an effort to elaborate further on the controversy surrounding her resignation, as well as to put the summer's events in a broader context. The Miller Center, for those who do not know, is an institute at the University that “seeks to expand understanding of the presidency, policy, and political history, providing critical insights for the nation's governance challenges.” The center holds a series of forums, each with a different featured speaker. Though the forums usually center around politics, Sullivan will instead be addressing the changing landscape of higher education in the United States.

ALEX YAHANDA
SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Sullivan is giving a talk titled “The Way Forward,” in which she will discuss the challenges that the University faces both at an institutional level and at the level of public universities in general. This is a well-deserved opportunity for the University community to hear more about what was certainly at the heart of Board meetings during the summer. Since most of those discussions went on behind closed doors, having the president herself openly discuss some of these issues is a welcome sign of transparency. What is also convenient about the Miller Center forum is that members of the University community everywhere can listen to what Sullivan has to say. If one is unable to make it, the forum will be broadcast on PBS channels around the country and will also be streamed live at millercenter.org.

Additionally, Sullivan will be taking questions, which people are able to submit either in person or via social media. This is the second time in two days that the president has opened herself up to the University community — yesterday she participated in

an roundtable discussion alongside two faculty members, the student Board member and the chair of the Honor Committee about the University's community of trust. The roundtable was itself a positive undertaking. Over the summer, many people believed that the Board had violated the community of trust by not being forthcoming or honest about the circumstances surrounding the resignation of Sullivan.

Beyond providing insight into what transpired over the summer, Sullivan's forum will give people an idea of the potential direction in which the University is heading. For instance, a weighty issue during the Board's decision to force Sullivan out was the initiative of online courses. The Board felt pressure because other preeminent universities around the country had already begun providing free online courses and some Board members felt the University

should follow suit. How providing the online courses will affect the reputation of the University down the road, though, is yet to be established. Hopefully, the courses will make the University's intellectual resources more open to the public while not diminishing the value of a degree from the school. The forum should help in clearing up the reasoning behind that and similar issues.

The University's place among other national universities is also something to be understood by the University community. It is not only informative to know what changes the University will be making in the near future, but why those changes must be implemented and whether other elite schools will be undergoing similar alterations. Will the University remain a top-ranked institution, and has President Sullivan sufficiently reconciled with the Board to ensure that the school does not fail to adapt

to changes in the academic landscape? Having President Sullivan speak about the state of higher education in general could help elucidate why the Board felt it necessary to have her resign, and whether her outlook for the University has in any way changed now that she has been reinstated.

It is fortunate that University organizations are promoting and facilitating such dialogue between University officials and students, the alumni and faculty. Putting on forums and discussions in which those responsible for the future of the University are present allows the University community to remain informed and involved in their school's operation. Members of the community need to be granted an opportunity to express their feelings about how the school is performing. They should to be allowed to question and even disagree with those in charge. The more dialogue initiated between administrators and the University community, the better.

Alex Yahanda is a senior associate editor for The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at a.yahanda@cavalierdaily.com.

Keeping up with (DOW) Joneses

Students should follow current events for both practical and personal interest

WHEN IT came time for me to sit down and write my column for this week, I was at a loss. I was surprised to feel that, two weeks into school, I had no big opinion regarding the University at all worth transcribing. President Teresa Sullivan's story had been covered from all angles, and I knew of nothing else going on, so I turned to local, national and international news and was startled at how much was going on in the world that I had missed since returning to school.

The Democratic National Convention went down this past week, and former President Bill Clinton got rave reviews for his speech in supports of President Obama. Tensions are mounting between China and other Asian nations as numerous countries stake claims in the South China Sea. Drew Peterson was convicted after the 2004 death of his

SAM NOVACK
OPINION COLUMNIST

wife, Kathleen Savio. A whole host of events is occurring here at home and around the world, and I have not been paying the least bit of attention. This past week has illustrated to me that I am not the only one.

Based on what I have seen since returning to the University, I would have to conclude that my generation is either apathetic about current events, or has lost track of things since classes started. More than half of my professors have made at least one inquiry in class about something they heard on the news, and those professors have been consistently met with blank stares — although this could be the reluctance for students to answer in class. The most frustrating part for me is that although I spent most of last year in-the-know, I have been just as silent as the rest. It was then that I realized I had lost

track of the outside world.

I did some research into this topic, and found numerous studies that report findings of poor current-events knowledge among high school and college students. A 2007 study by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government found that only one in twenty teenagers, and one in twelve young adults, read the newspaper regularly. A 2009 study by IBM found that only 54 percent of people aged 18 to 24 had read even a single online news article in the past year. Why is this the case? I bet there are a good number of young people who are just too lazy or disinterested, but they, as well as those who genuinely care, can point the finger of blame, fairly truthfully, at the combination of the col-

lege workload, the social activities, the responsibilities and the general stress of day-to-day life. We are bombarded daily with book knowledge and finding time to seek additional knowledge is not an appealing prospect. When we are finally presented with a chance to relax, some of us may not want to turn on the news and catch up with what is going on — most of us are going to get on Facebook, or watch a few episodes of “How I Met Your Mother,” which has recently become my personal favorite method of slacking.

It is possible to keep up — I know a select few students who are always up-to-speed with the news. Our teachers are staying current, too. The rest of us can either look at college as

an island, disconnected from the world, or as the next step to actually being a part of that world. We will hold jobs in a market being defined by today's events, working in industries that government policies are altering. If we look past the few years we have at college, we have to take current events seriously, because that is where we will be soon.

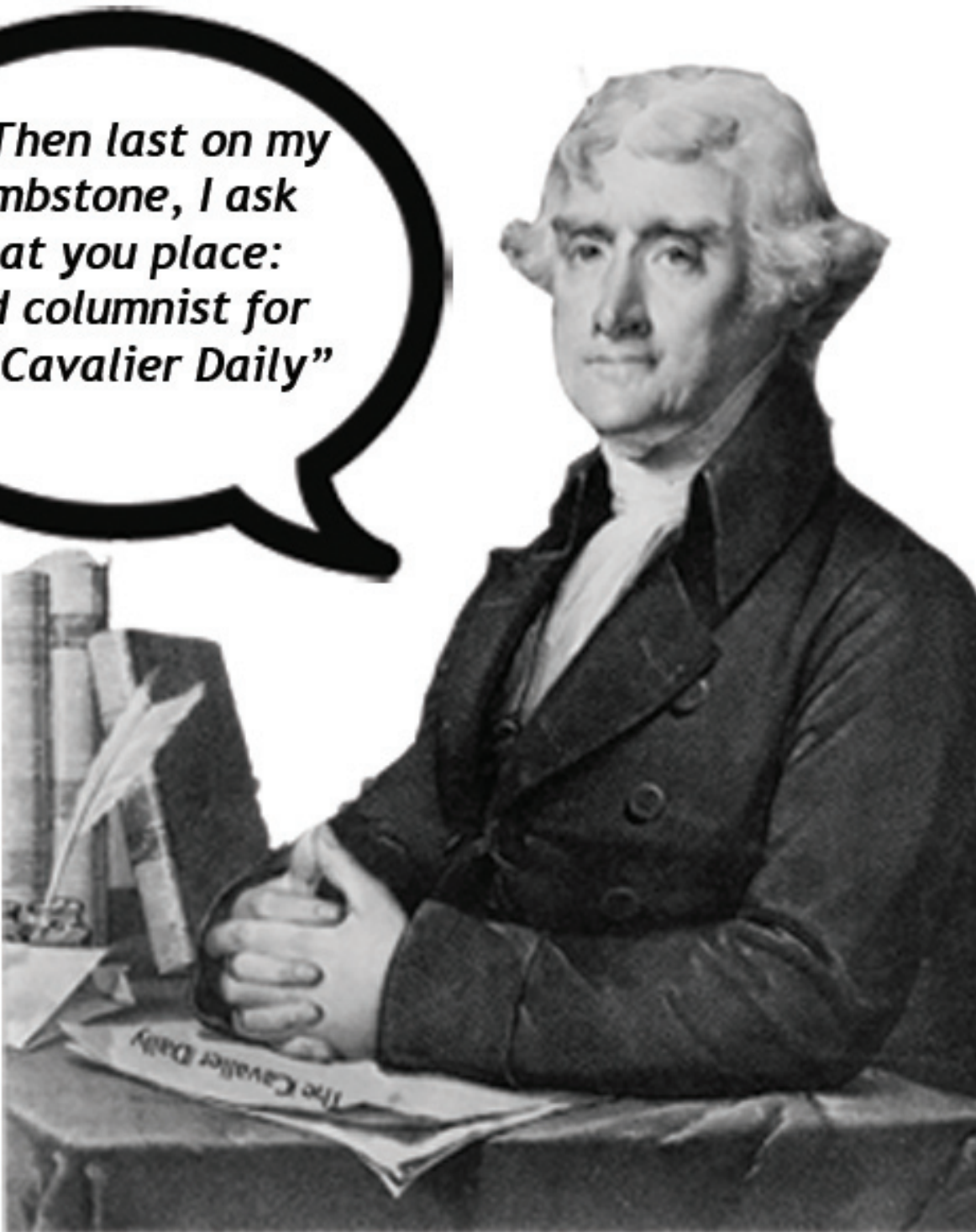
Only a few teachers will ever force their students to follow current events. This week, my teachers will more than likely ask the class this or that about Syria or the upcoming presidential election, and my goal is to have an answer. In the end, it is up to us as students to make the time to familiarize ourselves with what is going on in the world we are about to enter.

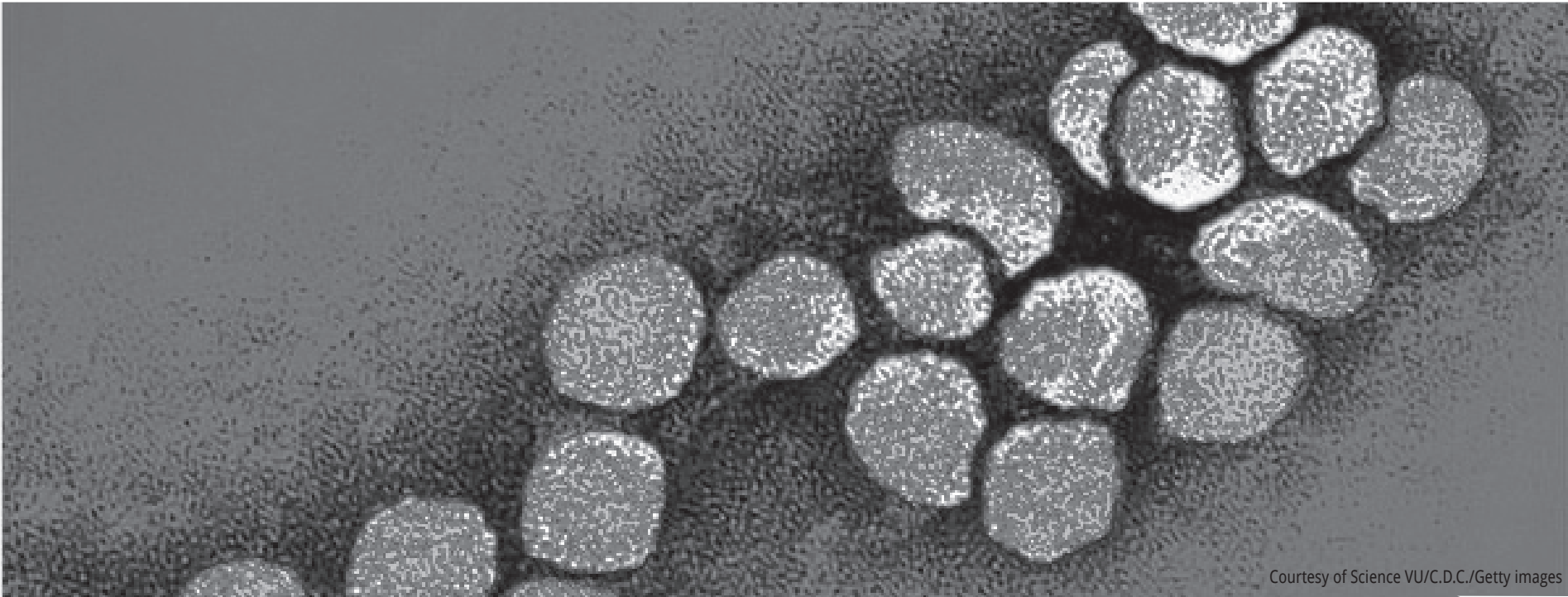
Sam Novack's column appears Wednesdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at s.novack@cavalierdaily.com.

Interested in being an Opinion columnist?

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Courtesy of Science VU/C.D.C./Getty images

The West Nile VIRUS

Mosquito-borne illness ravages United States; diagnosed cases reach record levels

By **ALEXANDER STOCK**
CAVALIER DAILY STAFF

When most Americans step outside for a summer evening stroll, they're not thinking of that walk around the neighborhood eventually leading to paralysis, tremors and vision loss. But this year a record number of Americans have experienced symptoms associated with West Nile virus, a cureless virus transmitted by mosquito bites that can cause these symptoms.

Of the 1,993 reported cases, 87 have resulted in death, according to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention.

Once infected, a person may develop flu-like symptoms including fever, muscle aches

and fatigue. Because the symptoms so closely parallel the flu, the actual number of cases each year is likely much higher than the recorded number. Less than one percent of the

time, the virus attacks the brain and can leave long-lasting or permanent cognitive damage. Patients 50 and older are most likely to suffer these extreme symptoms, but similar complications can also develop in otherwise healthy individuals.

Almost half of the cases this year have been in Texas. Virginia, on the other hand, has experienced just nine reported

“If things continue on their trajectory ... this will be amongst the biggest or the biggest outbreak that we have experienced in the United States.”

cases, and one death Tuesday. So far there have been no confirmed cases in Albemarle County — a single case in

neighboring Rockingham County is the closest to the University so far.

Although the ultimate toll of this outbreak will be unknown

for quite some time, this year is likely to be the worst the United States has ever seen, said Lyle Peterson, director of Vector-Borne diseases for the CDC.

“If things continue on their trajectory ... this will be amongst the biggest or the biggest outbreak that we have experienced in the United States,” Peterson said in a press release.

To slow the spread of the virus, mosquitoes’ breeding grounds — standing water in buckets, trash cans or stagnant ponds — must be eliminated.

Courtesy USDA Agricultural Research Service



At decisive moment, Obama refutes Romney's climate change attacks

By **KAMALA GANESH** | CAVALIER DAILY STAFF WRITER

In his speech before the Republican National Convention in Tampa, presidential candidate Mitt Romney made several jibes at President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign rhetoric about healing the planet and curbing rising sea levels. To the dismay of Obama's supporters, many of whom are concerned about climate change, Romney's remarks were greeted with thunderous applause.

Obama provided a sharp retort during his Thursday night speech before the Democratic National Convention. “And yes, my plan will continue to reduce the carbon pollution that is heating our planet — because climate change is not a hoax,” he said. “More droughts and floods and wildfires are not a joke. They are a threat to our children's future.”

These remarks came at an all-too-opportune time, as Obama has disregarded climate change and renewable

energy as centerpieces of his 2012 campaign, especially in comparison to the 2008 election. Notably, it was his 2008 remarks, and not his 2012 ones, that garnered Romney's attention.

Several University students at Obama's rally in Charlottesville last month expressed disappointment at his notable lack of focus on climate change.

But the president could just be concerned with more pressing issues, other students said.

“It's not one of our main issues: he is constantly attacked on the economy more than on climate change, so his rally seemed to be mostly a defense against those attacks,” second-year College student Jen Adesegun said.

Although these comments are indicative of the current nature of campaign politics, they woefully underappreciate the dangers of climate change. A

recent article published by Bill McKibben in Rolling Stone, “Global Warming's Terrifying New Math,” lays out a few reasons saving the planet requires legitimate climate change policies from the government.

His most gripping numbers?

“June broke or tied 3,215 high-temperature records across the United States. That followed the warmest May on record for the Northern Hemisphere — the 327th consecutive month in which the temperature of the entire globe exceeded the 20th-century average, the odds of which occurring by simple chance were 3.7 x 10⁻⁹⁹, a number considerably larger than the number of stars in the universe,” McKibben said in the article.

With the presidential election steadily approaching, it remains unclear whether Obama still considers the issue as important as he did four years ago.

U.Va. creates brain immunology center

Institution brings together various disciplines, researches neurological diseases

By **MONIKA FALLON**
CAVALIER DAILY HEALTH & SCIENCE EDITOR

The University Medical School is creating a new center for Brain Immunology and Glia that will bring together scientists from across the University to research and understand brain and nervous system-related diseases such as Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis.

Researchers at the center will study the interaction between the nervous system and the immune system — neuroimmunology. Failure or deterioration of connections between the two systems causes diseases such as Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis.

Neuroimmunology is an up-and-coming field, and one that could potentially have a significant impact on the ways doctors understand and treat patients with degenerative diseases, center Director Jonathan Kipnis said in a University Health System press release.

“It's very difficult to manipulate the brain directly, yet we can manipulate the immune system in many ways,” Kipnis said. “People are now looking more and more at target-

ing the immune system to defend a diseased brain.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that as many as 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and nearly half of Americans older than 85 risk developing it.

The funding for this new project comes from a variety of University sources, as well as the National Institute of Health, a U.S. medical research center.

Alongside the Department of Neuroscience, faculty members from five different departments will be working in the center, along with two new — as yet undecided — faculty members.

Although there are some researchers around the world currently addressing these issues, the University's center is one of the only institutions to bring together different scientific disciplines under one roof.

“I think this type of center has a unique opportunity to have breakthroughs.... There aren't a lot of centers around the world that are working on this,” said Kevin Lee, Department of Neuroscience chair.

“The Kid” Comes Up Big

Unknown fourth-string tight end becomes Nittany Lion-taming hero

By
Daniel
Weltz
Cavalier Daily Senior
Associate

Before he became known simply as “The Kid,” sophomore tight end Jake McGee had a decision to make. The football and basketball star at Collegiate High School could remain committed to his hometown Richmond Spiders or he could follow coach Mike London to the team he had grown up rooting for after his grandfather Robert lettered as a baseball player at Virginia in 1960.

McGee did not hesitate. He dialed London’s number and told his new coach he wanted to be a Cavalier. The decision has worked out pretty well for both of them.

Despite being listed fourth on the team’s tight end depth chart entering the season, the former quarterback prospect has been the most prominent figure in the team’s 2-0 start. In his first game of the season, McGee made highlight reels nationwide with a diving one-handed catch against the Spiders, the school he had once planned to attend.

Following the game, London discussed carving out a bigger role for the long, tall and athletic

matchup
n i g h t -
mare. McGee
had been burn-
ing veteran Virginia
defenders for weeks
in training camp with his
superb pass-catching abil-
ity, and his debut proved
his readiness.

“McGee is tough, because he’s bigger than a lot of defensive backs and he can run [better] than a lot of linebackers,” senior linebacker Steve Greer said. “Me and him had a little competition going on during training. We had fun with it. I think a lot of people are excited, but we’re not surprised with the catches he’s made, because he makes those in practice.”

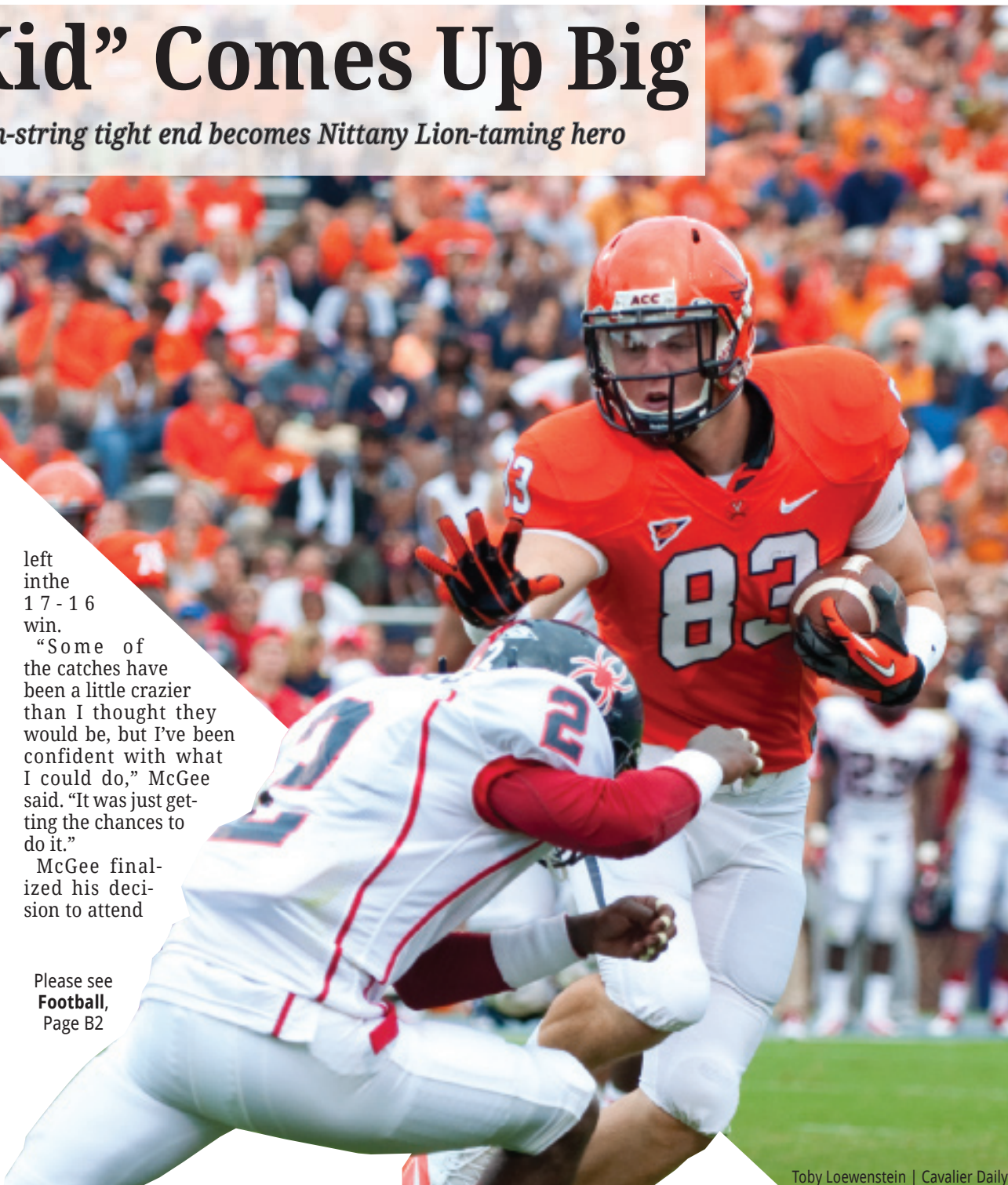
Against Penn State, it all came together in the biggest game of McGee’s young career. McGee made one of the most memorable catches in London’s tenure as head coach, hauling in a 44-yard reception on third-and-16 on the team’s final drive to set up his own go-ahead touchdown with 1:28

left
in the
17 - 16
win.

“Some of the catches have been a little crazier than I thought they would be, but I’ve been confident with what I could do,” McGee said. “It was just getting the chances to do it.”

McGee final-
ized his deci-
sion to attend

Please see
Football,
Page B2



Toby Loewenstein | Cavalier Daily



Courtesy of Virginia Athletics

Senior forward Will Bates scored twice on headers and once on a penalty to become the newest member of Virginia’s top-10 all-time goal scorers.

MEN’S SOCCER

Virginia cruises to win

Bates joins program’s all-time scoring leaders with hat trick to lead 6-1 romp against Mount St. Mary’s

By Ben Baskin
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The Virginia men’s soccer team won in unusual fashion Tuesday night, as the Cavaliers finally secured a win without one of the down-to-the-wire results that have become the team’s signature.

After each of the team’s first four contests were decided by a lone goal — including two that went into overtime — the Cavaliers (3-2-0, 1-0-0 ACC) coasted to a home victory, defeating Mount St. Mary’s 6-1 at Klöckner Stadium.

Senior tri-captain and forward Will Bates made his first start of the season, completing his recovery from a devastating knee injury late in the 2011 season. The veteran forward missed Virginia’s first game this year entirely and had played limited minutes off the bench in the previous three contests.

The insertion of Bates into the starting lineup exemplified the Cavaliers’ concerted effort to push the pace on the attacking

Please see Men’s Soccer, Page B2

ZACK BARTEE

Cavs in the Pros

As the NCAA commercials tell us, most collegiate athletes turn pro “in something other than sports.” Although that statement is certainly true, Virginia has produced its share of athletes among the professional ranks. Ever wondered which former Cavalier stars are still excelling on the gridiron, diamond, court and elsewhere? Read on.

NFL Veterans

Ronde Barber: A true iron-man of the NFL, Barber made his 200th consecutive regular season start Sunday, the longest streak in NFL history for a defensive back. The Buccaneers’ defensive captain made his debut at free safety after moving from cornerback, a position he had played for Tampa Bay since he was drafted in 1997. The 37-year-old Barber’s game did not appear diminished in the slightest, as he was credited with five total tackles, one sack, two passes defended and an interception of Cam Newton, which he returned 24 yards, in the Bucs’ win against division-rival Carolina.

Matt Schaub: After ending last

season on the injured reserve with a foot injury – courtesy of then-Buccaneers defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth(less) falling on him – Schaub opened the season by orchestrating a 30-10 win against the Dolphins, completing 20-of-31 passes for 266 yards, one touchdown and a 102.4 passer rating. Houston rewarded Schaub after the game with a four-year contract extension worth \$62 million. Maybe he’d like to make a donation to his alma mater?

Kevin Ogletree: Arguably the MVP of the Cowboys’ Wednesday night season-opening 24-17 victory against the division-rival New York Giants, Ogletree became an instant sensation with a breakout game. The former undrafted free agent

outperformed Dallas’s primary receivers, Dez Bryant and Miles Austin, by hauling in eight passes for 114 yards and two touchdowns, all career highs.

Heath Miller: After a quiet pre-season, the former Pro Bowler hauled in four catches for 50 yards and one touchdown in the Steelers’ 31-19 loss at Denver Sunday night.

D’Brickashaw Ferguson: The three-time Pro Bowler and starting left tackle for the New York Jets anchored an offensive line that did not give up a sack and helped the offense rack up 48 points against the Bills.

Chris Cook: After a 2011 campaign plagued by injury and domestic assault charges, which were later dropped, the starting cornerback for the Minnesota

Vikings was credited with five tackles, one sack and two passes defended in the Vikings’ 26-23 overtime win against the Jaguars.

Ras-I Dowling: Cook’s former mate in the Cavaliers’ defensive backfield suited up for the New England Patriots and recorded four total tackles in a 34-13 victory against the Titans.

Chris Long: The starting defensive end for the St. Louis Rams with a Littlejohn’s sub named after him did not record any defensive statistics in a 27-23 loss at Detroit.

Ahmad Brooks: The 49ers outside linebacker, coming off his first full season as a starter, recorded two tackles and a sack

Please see Bartee Page B2

QUOTE OF
THE WEEK

“It’s a big win. It shows everybody in the ACC we’re serious. We’re a young team, but we’re serious. You know we’re going to be competitive.”

—Sophomore midfielder Chris Somerville on Virginia men’s soccer defeating Duke 1-0 Friday night

SPORTS

IN BRIEF

Cavaliers take down Tribe, 2-0

The No. 9 Virginia field hockey team handed William & Mary its first loss of the season Tuesday night, defeating the Tribe 2-0 on the road.

Sophomore forward Rachel Sumfest scored both goals for the Cavaliers (6-2) and freshman goalkeeper Rebecca Holden chipped in eight saves to earn the win.

The Cavaliers' first goal came just one minute into the contest when Sumfest was assisted by senior back Phoebe Willis. The teams then played to a stalemate for nearly the remainder of the game. But with fewer than three minutes to play, Sumfest found the net again on an assist from redshirt senior midfielder Michelle Vittese. The goals were Sumfest's sixth and seventh of the season.

Holden recorded an impressive eight saves in the first half alone against 14 first half shots by the Tribe (5-1). Sophomore

goalkeeper Jenny Johnstone took over for Holden with 25 minutes remaining in the game, also keeping William & Mary off the board. Sophomore back Maddie DeCerbo contributed with a defensive save.

The Cavaliers were not flawless, as they were outshot 15-9 and were unsuccessful on their three penalty corners. The nine shots were the team's lowest total this season.

The game was Virginia's third consecutive road game and second straight against an undefeated opponent. The Cavaliers dropped three spots in the rankings this week after a loss to Northeastern, but they now return home with a pair of victories in hand.

Virginia will play at home for the first time in nearly two weeks this Saturday when it faces Miami of Ohio.

—compiled by Matt Comey



Courtesy Virginia Athletics

Redshirt senior midfielder Michelle Vittese (9) recorded an assist in Virginia's 2-0 win at William & Mary, while junior back Elly Buckley (18) led the defense to a shutout.

Football | McGee catches old rival Rocco's passes

Continued from page B1

the University while on a recruitment visit with current Cavalier junior quarterback Michael Rocco, whom he roomed with on the trip. Like McGee, Rocco was a Virginia-native and quarterback prospect wrestling with the decision of reneging on a commitment to another school — in Rocco's case, Louisville. The pair had developed a mutual respect while battling against one another in high school basketball and football games, including the 2009 Virginia Independent Schools championship football game, in which McGee's seven touchdowns led Collegiate past Rocco's Liberty Christian Academy.

"We've become good friends and we talk about [those games] a little bit," McGee said. "We laugh about it because we both played well, but I got him in football and basketball. I can

only say so much or the ball might not come my way."

Within a few weeks after the visit, Rocco made his decision. He too would join London at Virginia in the hopes of one day earning snaps under center for the Cavaliers, apparently pitting him once again against his former high school rival McGee.

Two practices into his career at the University, however, McGee acquiesced to his coaches' prodding and agreed to switch to tight end. The basketball star had rare natural ability at the position with his lethal combination of height, strength and explosiveness. Two games into what is promising to be a breakout season for McGee, both London and Rocco are glad he did.

"I just knew it would be best to do it earlier than later in the process," McGee said.

McGee still has work to do in learning to be a consistent pass

blocker, but the sophomore is not shy in his aspirations to become a complete and dominant player in all facets of the game, telling offensive coordinator Bill Lazor upon switching positions that he wanted to emulate legendary former Cavalier tight end Heath Miller.

McGee demonstrated his progress toward that end goal last weekend, earning Virginia's special teams player of the week award for his coverage on punt returns against Penn State in addition to earning the offensive honor.

By coincidence, McGee wears the same number, 83, that Miller now dons for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL. Miller also came to the University as a quarterback prospect and adopted a catchy two-word nickname, "Big Money," for his play-making abilities.

McGee, on the other hand, got his nickname for his constant

trash-talking while playing FIFA videogames with teammates. He and Rocco often get the better of junior center Luke Bowanko and senior tight end Paul Freedman, McGee said. When a game is going well for McGee, he playfully refers to himself in the third person as, "The Kid."

Whenever McGee sees the mural of "Big Money" Miller at the McCue Center training facility, he sees everything he wants to become — a complete player, fan favorite and constant competitor. "The Kid" may have work to do to match Miller's storied career, but his recent play has at least ensured that when Miller returns to Scott Stadium Oct. 13 for a ceremony retiring his collegiate number, 89, McGee will be more than just a fourth-string tight end.

"His role will increase because he has demonstrated performance and production, and that's what we are trying to

find," London said. "To get a tight end back in this offense, back as a feature or go-to guy, he's demonstrated that in the last two games. He's done it in practice time and time again. So you'll see more of him for sure."

McGee is likely to be a focal point of opposing defenses in the coming weeks. Saturday, that will mean matching up against the schemes of former Virginia coach and current Georgia Tech defensive coordinator Al Groh, who did not seriously pursue McGee in his final season before being fired in November 2009.

"He was a Division I-A prospect, but that's what happens sometimes," London said. "Some young men, they get overlooked or the numbers just don't quite work out for the schools to have those slots and those scholarships that are available. It just happened that when we came to Virginia, that there were slots and a scholarship available."

Men's Soccer | Somerville strikes twice to cap easy night

Continued from page B1

end Tuesday. Virginia racked up 13 total shots in the game.

"The tempo of the games we've played to date have been hard and fast and furious," coach George Gelnovatch said. "We're used to that pace, and we came out [that way]. I think they [Mount St. Mary's players] weren't used to that."

Virginia did not waste much time getting on the scoreboard against the overwhelmed Mount (1-4-0, 0-0-0 NEC), as they found pay dirt off a set play in the 13th minute.

A quick throw-in to sophomore midfielder Eric Bird yielded a short, accurate cross into the box to a waiting Bates. The veteran forward, who was inexplicably unmarked, calmly jumped to meet the ball with his head and easily placed it into the back of the net to give the Cavaliers the early lead.

It didn't take long for Bates to strike again. In the 20th minute, freshman midfielder

Scott Thomsen sent a corner into the box aimed toward the near post. Bates, streaking in from the top of the box, again soared high above the defense to head the ball past the keeper off the bounce.

"I have a big head," Bates said, jokingly. "Big target for those guys to hit."

The second tally marked a milestone for Bates, as it was the 37th in his storied career at Virginia — good for inclusion among the top-10 goal scorers in program history.

"It's special," Bates said. "It's a great program and it has been for a long time. To be up in the names with the guys who have done that, it's obviously an honor. But I have to give a lot of credit to everybody around me."

The Cavaliers were not finished there, however, as they continued their relentless attack. In the 28th minute, a good run by freshman forward Darius Madison — who had threatened on goal mul-

multiple times in the team's first four games without reward — ended with Madison making his way into the box with only one defender to beat.

As the defender stepped, Madison feigned a cross only to pull his foot back, causing the defender to crash into him, and drawing the penalty kick. The freshman then lined up and, with full composure, ripped the penalty shot into the top-right corner of the net, giving him his first career goal.

"[Darius' strong attacking play all season] is why we let him take the PK," Gelnovatch said. "Just getting himself on the score sheet is going to go a long way for him."

Virginia earned another penalty kick in the 37th minute, again sparked by Madison. The forward attempted to fire a low, hard pass across the box to sophomore forward Ryan Zinkhan, but a Mount St. Mary's defender got a foot on the ball. Senior Peter Steve, the Mount's goalkeeper, then

tripped Zinkhan while the two raced to recover the ball.

Freshman midfielder Todd Wharton took the ensuing penalty kick for the Cavaliers but had it blocked. Bates, however, showed great awareness and instinct, as he was perfectly placed for the rebound and fired it into the net to give him the hat trick and send Virginia into the break with a 4-0 lead.

Virginia earned a third penalty kick in the 70th minute after sophomore midfielder Chris Somerville was hip-checked to the ground in front of the goal. Somerville softly placed his shot from 12 yards out into the left corner to give Virginia its fifth goal.

Somerville then struck again in the 89th minute after finding himself free on a breakaway. With only the keeper to beat, Somerville deftly touched the ball past the diving Steve and tapped the ball into an open net.

The Cavalier defense held up their end of the bargain as well,

allowing only two shots in a dominant first half. The Mount did manage to break through in the 80th minute when sophomore Zoncher Dennis — the team's leading scorer and NEC Rookie of the Year last season — found himself clear on a counterattack and buried his chance.

With the outcome never in doubt, Gelnovatch capitalized on the opportunity to rest some starters and give others valuable playing time. Several Cavaliers took the field for the first time this season, including defenders redshirt junior Shane Cooke, redshirt freshman Will Hare and sophomore Kyler Sullivan, junior forward Cameron Chavira and redshirt junior goalkeeper Matt Mischione.

"It's great for our team to get guys in," Gelnovatch said. "I'm still looking at guys, so that's important. But also [it's big] to give our starters a run and then to be able to get them off in the 60th minute."

Bartee | Zimmerman, Reynolds seek MLB playoff berths

Continued from page B1

in San Francisco's 30-22 win against Green Bay, a matchup billed as a potential preview of the NFC Championship.

NFL Rookies

Chase Minnifield: Projected to be selected as high as the second round of the 2012 NFL Draft, the former All-American cornerback went undrafted because of injury concerns and later signed with the Washington Redskins. Minnifield caught coaches' eyes with standout performances during offseason practices, but he reinjured the knee that kept him out of the Chick-fil-A Bowl and was waived-injured by Washington. After clearing waivers, Minnifield currently remains on the Redskins' injured reserve.

Cam Johnson: After becoming the only Cavalier selected in this April's draft, going in the seventh round to San Francisco, the linebacker is currently a member of the 49ers' practice squad.

Rodney McLeod: The backup free safety for St. Louis recorded two tackles in his NFL debut. McLeod earned a spot on the Rams' 53-man roster a week earlier despite being undrafted.

MLB

Ryan Zimmerman: The starting third baseman and undisputed leader of the MLB-leading Washington Nationals, Zimmerman boasted a 14-game hitting streak entering Tuesday night's game, the longest active streak in the NL. After a subpar first half of the season, Zimmerman has come alive recently, spurring the

Nats to a 6.5-game lead in the NL East. The Z-Man is having a stellar season offensively, batting .286 with 82 RBIs, 21 homers, 51 walks and 53 extra-base hits. Zimmerman's leadership will be especially key as the majors' second-youngest nears the franchise's first postseason berth.

Mark Reynolds: The power-hitting first baseman for the Baltimore Orioles, Reynolds ranks third on the team in home runs with 21 and first in walks with 64. In last week's four-game series against the Yankees, who entered Tuesday night's game just one game ahead of the Orioles in the AL East, Reynolds went 3-for-12 with four RBIs and drew three walks. All three hits were home runs, including a two-homer, three-RBI performance that powered the Orioles past the Yankees 10-6 Thursday. The O's will depend on Reynolds

as they attempt to make the postseason for the first time since 1997.

Javier López: The lefty sidearm reliever for San Francisco has pitched 2.1 innings in September, allowing three hits, a walk and an earned run, while fanning one batter. López is 3-0 this season with six saves, 15 holds and 2.41 ERA. He could play a key role as the Giants look to capture their second World Series in three years.

NBA

Mike Scott: The Virginia fan favorite officially inked his contract with the Atlanta Hawks last Thursday. A second-round pick in the 2012 NBA draft, Scott signed a two-year contract for the rookie minimum. Hawks GM Danny Ferry reportedly texted the Atlanta Journal-Constitution,

"Mike will be on the team this year."

Tennis

Somdev Devvarman: The 2012 Olympian competed in men's singles at the U.S. Open, falling in four sets to Spain's Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo in the first round.

Treat Huey and Dom Inglot: Huey, Devvarman's former doubles partner at Virginia, and Inglot advanced to the second round of the men's doubles bracket at the U.S. Open before being eliminated.

Perhaps not everyone can turn pro in sports, but plenty of Cavaliers sure do.

For weekly updates on these athletes and others, check out the new Cavs in the Pros blog at cavalierdaily.com.



A Bite of Sichuan on the Corner

By Sunny Peng

New Corner dining option Ginkgo had an official opening ceremony last week, treating their guests to authentic Sichuan food. The restaurant, named after an iconic Sichuan tree, took over the former location of Ni Hao Café on Wertland Street and started serving the Charlottesville community earlier this summer.

As a Chinese southern gourmand who is very hesitant about the so-called “Chinese food” found in the United States, this new Sichuan restaurant both satisfied my cravings for my favorite cuisine and heightened my homesickness.

The new owners’ son, Paul

Chen, graduated from the University in 2010, which partially explains the restaurant’s decor — a creative blend of school spirit and Sichuan nostalgia. Chinese traditional instruments and pictures of landmarks of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, hang on University-orange walls.

Co-owner Yan Yang Chen also used to be a faculty member at the University, so the family isn’t just interested in starting a business in Charlottesville, they also have an emotional attachment to the community here.

“I want to spread Sichuan culture and Chinese culture here,” Yan Yang said. “I [also] want

to build a home for Chinese students at U.Va. They used to be pearls of their parents at home, but now they would feel that no one cares for them, being thousands of thousands of miles away from home.”

To maintain the authenticity of the food, Yan Yang said she hired all of the restaurant’s cooks from the Sichuan province.

And when the opening ceremony began I could see the effects of Yan Yang’s decision. The dumpling and noodles served as appetizers lived up to expectations, as did the following performance by the a capella group the Virginia Gentlemen.

The evening’s entrées, spe-

cially chosen to create “an authentic Sichuan experience,” included crispy duck in sweet and sour sauce, spicy Sichuan beef with sweet potatoes and eggplants, Sichuan sweet and sour fish, Kung Pao chicken, boiled beef in hot and spicy chili sauce, eggplant with spicy garlic sauce, Ma Po tofu and “jumping fish”— boiled fish with rice noodles in hot and spicy sauce. The Chens also served two of co-owner Nianyong Chen’s signature dishes: Ginkgo pork platter with garlic sauce and Ginkgo steamed chicken.

All of the dishes tasted exactly like traditional Sichuan food, although not quite as spicy as you’d find in China — a nod to

Americans’ palettes, Nianyong said.

“I have traveled in China for a long time and have been to many places, but southern cuisine — this kind of spicy food is my favorite,” said Parke Muth, former Associate Dean of Admissions, after dinner. “You get great food and a good atmosphere of relaxing here.”

Taking a look at the prices on the menu, you realize that, yes, Ginkgo is slightly more expensive than Ni Hao: Ginkgo’s lunch specials are about \$7 per dish. But the sheer authenticity of the Sichuan cuisine and the atmosphere form a unique cultural experience right on the Corner — one which is well worth the extra dollar or two.



Photos courtesy of Daniel Garner

A Football Fantasy

Reality Check



EMILY CHURCHILL

Growing up, I considered myself a regular tomboy. Looking back, I suppose this was mostly attributable to the one miserable afternoon I spent watching NASCAR with my dad and the plethora of worn jerseys passed down from my cousin.

With this warped self-image came a lot of false confidence in areas that I cannot claim to have any real knowledge. My afternoon of NASCAR-watching made me feel like an expert on the sport, though in reality all I know is that they drive in circles. Or are they ovals?

I thought of myself as a fishing master, though I could never get over my squeamishness enough to bait the hook. After a few times of crying about hurting worms and fish alike, I gave up on the activity entirely.

But there was one athletic endeavor that, until recently, I felt I actually had some claim to: football.

It was a tradition for my father to drag my brother and me, wailing and protesting, into the living room to sit in

on in my life that would have made me realize I wasn’t really the expert that I thought I was. An ideal way to experience this revelation would have included a beneficent angel kindly informing me that I was making myself look like a fool with my ignorance of the sport.

Alas, no such angel came to visit, and I was left to confront my foolishness face-to-face this year, when my current friend group initiated me into a new aspect of the sport. You see, everyone around me is interested in an online battle that seems to override all other aspects of life. They call it “Fantasy Football.”

Until now, Fantasy Football was something that I had heard of in passing, but never really understood. It was an urban legend, something highly suspect in authenticity, like the Easter Bunny or making it to class at 9 a.m. on Fridays.

When I heard that “everyone was doing it,” I blithely assumed it was something that would be a side note,

dejected lumps as he shouted at the television. This was repeated throughout my childhood until Stockholm syndrome kicked in and I willingly planted myself on the couch each Sunday. It wasn’t long until I was shouting along with my father, getting riled up about plays I didn’t understand and bemoaning indistinguishable calls.

There should have been some incident sooner or later that would have made me realize I wasn’t really the expert that I thought I was. An ideal way to experience this revelation would have included a beneficent angel kindly informing me that I was making myself look like a fool with my ignorance of the sport.

Now, observing these friends while they watch football games shows me how little I truly understand the sport. They approach games with more planning than the mission to Mars. Laptops open to a bazillion different webpages, streaming statistics and play-by-play accounts; televisions switch constantly between channels to keep tabs on players’ performances; online calculators are launched to calculate and recalculate scores of their teams and their opponents. Just like the sport itself, these Fantasy competitions are completely out of my league.

Though I tried to follow along for the first couple days of Fantasy activity, before long, my ignorance became glaringly apparent. My boyfriend took pity on me and tried to explain, but what started as a simple explanation soon spiraled into the territory of the unknowable, leaving me disoriented. My blank looks told him all that he needed to know, so he pityingly patted me on the head and deemed me a lost cause.

In the end I have to accept it: I am not a football buff. I will never completely figure out this game or its Fantasy counterpart. In this way at least, I can conform to one U.Va. norm: that of a girl in pearls in the stands on Saturday afternoons, a role I truly enjoy — and also the closest I will ever come to fitting in, where football is concerned.

Maisie the Lazy Bird

I have a nickname from childhood, coined and used solely by my immediate family. I’ve probably mentioned it before: Maisie. It’s derived from Dr. Seuss’ “Horton Hears a Who.” Maisie, the lazy bird.

And I am a lazy bird. The bird that feels like she does not have the time or energy to sit on her nest. The bird that will not wake up before the sun pierces her defiantly shut eyelids.

But I’ve been waking up earlier lately. And by early, I mean before 10 a.m., which really is a feat for this self-described narcoleptic. And I’ve noticed a few things whilst I’ve been roaming in those early daylight hours. People. I usually feel like some kind of perverse alien creature at U.Va. when I compare my sloth-like tendencies to the near-psychotic ambitions of the people around me. Work hard, play hard. Like any good college kid, most of us try to follow this mantra, which is looming constantly overhead as we run imaginary races against our peers. Even I, as the queen of the lazy birds, will have spurts of working hard and playing harder. It’s a lifestyle we’re too busy following to ever question.

And yet everywhere I look I see something lacking. I see something missing from the highly-caffeinated, highly-competitive students around me. What could it be? Surely not a flaw in the work-hard, play-hard design? Surely no one following this fool-proof plan could ever be described as a “lazy bird.”

But we are guilty of laziness. We are all guilty — well, most of us anyway. We are lazy in the one area of life that we really cannot afford to ignore: taking

care of one another.

I talked to my mother on the phone last night, and in between the dramatic soliloquies of me, myself and I, I mentioned the present I had picked out for my father’s upcoming 61st birthday. For the first time in a long time I have money that is my own, and I can afford to drop a few bills for

a very cool present. My mother choked up a little when I described the gift to her, and I was happy that she was both happy and impressed. I was being thoughtful, gracious — a good daughter. But at the end of my phone conversation, I realized I was also being lazy.

In what way could my actions be described as lazy? A month ago I had big plans to write my father a long letter, a letter thanking him for funding my study abroad trip, a letter thanking him for his endless support, a letter wishing him the happiest of birthdays.

But spending two paychecks on a super neat gift was easier. Writing a letter, straining over my abysmal handwriting, going to the store to buy stamps and pathetically asking my sister how to address an envelope — all of this seemed like too much to accomplish. A few clicks online and a credit card number was so much more appealing. And he would love it. So did it really matter that I had not spent a chunk of my precious time creating it?

What I’m trying to say is that it does matter. It always matters. And we forget that. I forget it every day and maybe this is the first time in a long time that I am reminding myself. It is so easy to move through life working hard and playing hard and forgetting

Trial and Error



MARY SCOTT HARDAWAY

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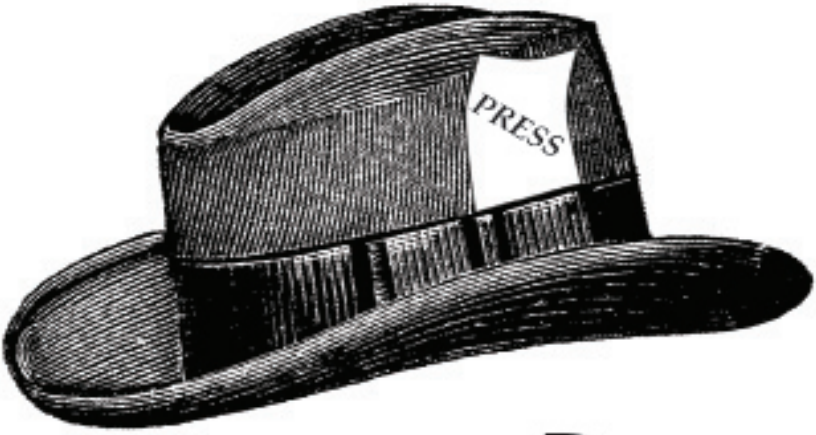
Please see **Hardaway**, Page B4

Hardaway | University culture encourages lazy interaction

Continued from page B3

about all the people around you who would maybe like a letter every once in awhile. A quick sideways hug and a “we need to catch up” as you’re running to class or to the gym or attempting to conquer the world does not count. It does not mean anything. Even if you are sincere, your words fall away, and all the person you’re talking to can see is your faint form, receding into the distance.

We are being lazy with each other. We are all letting each other off the hook so that we can be let off the hook as well. But it’s my last year at this University, and I don’t want to be the lazy bird who can’t take a second out of her day to tell someone he or she matters. Because as much as I’d like to think I can, I cannot live up to the expectations set for me — for all of us — without some others helping me along the way. We need to make time for each other. Time not spent on reading or on drinking or on working out. Time just lounging, ignoring our nests or our responsibilities — even if just for a little while.



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