THE HUNT FOR HOUSING

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This week in-brief

CD News Staff

University Police Chief on paid leave

University Police Chief Tommye Sutton has been placed on paid leave, according to University spokesperson Wes Hester. The reason for his leave is unclear.

Sutton was named assistant vice president and chief of police August 2018, when he replaced interim UPD Chief Melissa Fielding.

U.Va. student groups co-host fourth annual ‘Disorientation’ event

Over 75 students, faculty and community members attended the fourth annual Disorientation event co-hosted by the Living Wage Campaign, Students United, PLUMAS and the University Monday night in Wilson Hall.

The event focused on problems new students face on-Grounds — such as navigating student organizations, understanding how the University functions and how to get involved with student activism.

Another focus was creating a more inclusive and accurate experience than the summer orientations incoming first-year students receive by including the history of activism at the University as well as touching upon the history of injustice and institutional racism, according to the organizers.

This discussion focused on power structures at U.Va., the history of radical activism at the University and ways to get involved.

President Ryan applauds new book about U.Va.’s history of slavery

The University of Virginia Press hosted a ceremony Thursday afternoon in the Rotunda Dome Room to commemorate its publication of “Educated in Tyranny: Slavery at Thomas Jefferson’s University” — a book about the history of slavery at the University and founder Thomas Jefferson’s involvement in bolstering pro-slavery, racist ideals.

The book was edited by Louis Nelson, University vice provost for academic outreach and professor of Architectural History; and Maurie McInnis, provost and executive vice president at the University of Texas at Austin. It features essays by Nelson, McInnis, James Zehmer, Benjamin Ford, Jessica Ellen Sewell, Andrew Scott Johnston, Thomas Howard, Alfred Brophy and Kirt von Daacke.

The book, which came out Aug. 13, tells the stories of the slaves who built the University, with maps and photographs of artifacts accompanying the text.

Reported robbery on Wertland Street

The University Police were alerted Saturday afternoon of a robbery that occurred at 2:30 a.m. Saturday morning in the 1300 block of Wertland Street.

Two University students said they were assaulted and robbed near the parking garage on that block. They reported that they and approximately seven unknown individuals were involved in the altercation, and that the suspects fled the scene in a green Toyota Highlander. Both students were injured and the suspects also stole one of their cell phones.

Charlottesville Police are investigating the incident. This is the second reported robbery in the span of a week, as a student was assaulted and robbed near Nau Hall on September 14.

Gloria Graham, associate vice president for safety and security, sent an email to the University community detailing the incident, and encouraged anyone with relevant information to contact CPD.
U.Va. may require second-year students to live on Grounds

The University may also reform the first-year roommate selection method

As part of the University’s 10-year strategic plan designed to make U.Va. the best public university by 2020, the Board of Visitors is considering a proposal to require students to live on Grounds for their first two years. Currently, all first-year students and 36 percent of second-year students live in University housing.

On Feb. 27, University President Jim Ryan told The Cavalier Daily that the University should “definitely be looking into” increasing housing options for second-year students. He suggested that the University consider requiring all second-year students to live on Grounds in order to help solve difficulties first-year students face finding housing for their second year, a process which typically begins as early as September due to the competitive housing market and shortage of apartments near the University.

“We do a really admirable job of bringing in a diverse group of students,” Ryan told The Cavalier Daily in an interview Sept. 3. “But because of our roommates selection system and because of our housing system, I don’t think we do enough to take advantage of that diversity.”

Ryan said requiring students to live on Grounds until their second year would allow students to have “the opportunity to meet people from all different walks of life” and increase the residential learning experience of students.

“I mean we’re losing an opportunity for students to learn from one another when they only have a year to live together,” Ryan said. “My hope is that this will connect to a broader initiative around creating residential communities for all communities. We can’t snap our fingers and create residential communities, but I think we can create residential communities that you’re apart of during your four years.”

University Spokesperson Wes Hester noted that this residential reorganization would not be ready for implementation for next year but instead is a goal that the University is trying to reach in the next couple of years.

“The second-year housing initiative is a long-term project that is still being developed,” Hester said. “We do not have a specific timeline yet.”

Ryan also said that the University is exploring the possibility of taking away the ability for first-year students to request their roommates — a move that several other colleges like Duke University and New York University have made because students tend to segregate by race, geography or socio-economic background, which undermines efforts for students to learn new perspectives.

For the 2018-19 academic year, 16 percent of incoming first-year students specified a preferred roommate on their housing applications, according to Hester. Housing and Residence Life was able to honor all mutual roommate requests that were submitted by the deadline, he added.

“We’re talking this year about having a different way of selecting roommates,” Ryan said. “I don’t know that we would go to a completely random or go to some kind of match (system) based on a questionnaire.”

“Some colleges do it in different ways, but a number of colleges have recently gone away from allowing students to select their roommates to either assigning them based on either an elaborate questionnaire or a pretty short questionnaire,” Ryan added.

Currently, on-Grounds housing options for second-year students include Rice House, Bond House, Brown Residential College, Copeley Apartments, Faulkner Apartments, Hereford and IRC doubles.

Second-year College student Kat Choi said that she has seen mice in her apartment since her arrival at U.Va., and has seen two or three mice where she lives. Choi also shared a video of a mouse that scurried under her stove.

“I do think it’s a potential way to increase the supply of housing for non-U.Va. students if more of them are moving on Grounds,” Ryan said in February. “The basic reality is if there are fewer U.Va. students living in off-campus housing that off-campus housing is going to be more available to people who are not U.Va. students, including those who work here.”

Sightings of mice continue in Bond House

Mice are among the issues faced by residents continuing to settle into the new upperclassman housing

Persistent facility issues continue in Bond House, as mice have been spotted inside the building and residents continue to report a host of challenges.

Second-year College student Uché Chima said that she has seen multiple mice in her apartment. Chima also shared a video of a mouse that scurried under her stove.

“I could not sleep knowing that there’s a mouse in a brand new apartment,” Chima said.

Chima also said that worrying about mice in her apartment was interfering with her overall mental state.

“You should be more focused on your work than killing a mouse,” Chima said. “We were not brought here to be exterminators — we were brought here to be students.”

Second-year College student Kar Choi, who lives on the second floor of Bond, has also seen numerous mice in her apartment, including one incident that resulted in the discovery of a mouse’s fecal matter in her silverware drawer.

“I’m just frustrated because they’re saying, ‘We’re working on it,’ but they haven’t told us explicitly what they’re doing to fix the problem,” Choi said. “If all they’re doing is a case-by-case basis, this seems like a much bigger issue than just a couple mice here and there.”

After Choi saw the first mouse in her apartment Sept. 8, she called Facilities Management and was told that they were out of mouse traps for the day. Choi and her roommates then went to purchase their own traps along with plastic storage bins to protect food that evening because Facilities was not able to come set traps until the next day.

“All Facilities said was to try to chase [the mouse] out of my room,” Choi said.

Choi said she sent a work order about the most recent mouse in her apartment to Facilities Friday, Sept. 20. She and her friends reported the mouse after they heard it moving behind their stove. Facilities came to set more traps, and during her interview Sunday, Choi said she believed that the mouse was still there.

Choi and her roommates were still dealing with the issue by lining the cracks under their doors with towels, storing food in sealed plastic containers and keeping traps out to minimize their fear of mice.

In an email statement to The Cavalier Daily sent Sept. 24, University Spokesperson Wes Hester said there had been no recent reports of mice in the past week.

“A few residents from the same area of the building reported mice even after growing in, and those small number of reports were handled by Facilities Management as received,” Hester said.

Second-year College student Aaron Entzminger said he has not seen mice, although his friends have. However, Entzminger has faced numerous issues in Bond, including the water never being hot and having to file numerous work orders.

“The bathroom door on my side of the apartment to this day has not been fixed even though we have submitted three or four work orders,” Entzminger said.

In general, Entzminger felt that the University rushed the construction process.

“What we’ve seen here for the past few weeks is just like constant construction and having to submit work orders for things that aren’t done,” Entzminger said. “We have people coming in and out of our rooms on a weekly basis, just fixing things.”

Entzminger noted that significant weather issues delayed the Bond project, and as a result, the project team had to make up a lot of time during the summer to ensure students could move in at the start of the school year.

Entzminger stated that he does not plan to live in on-Grounds housing next year. Currently, 36 percent of second-year students live on Grounds.

The cost of living in a single in Bond is $7,850 per academic year. This is the same cost paid by students who live in single bedrooms in Copeley, Faulkner or Language Houses and by students who live in single apartments with private baths in the International Residential College.

“I just don’t think this is worth the money,” Entzminger said.

Choi also was unenthused about the idea of living on Grounds for another year.

“I also think I wouldn’t, because of this, recommending rising-second-years to live in Bond even if they do fix the problem, just basing off of how I feel like Housing is dealing with the situation,” Choi said.
Low-income students weigh price and convenience of housing

Lack of accessibility to affordable housing can limit options for students

By Jenn Brice | News Editor

With just a few weeks of classes under their belts, students around Grounds have begun organizing groups of roommates, going on apartment tours and applying for and renewing leases. Low-income students at the University, who are located in a city with a notable lack of affordable housing, weigh this decision carefully.

Fourth-year College student Dave Rodriguez-Gutierrez said he opted for an off-Grounds living arrangement that was affordable, though farther from Grounds than other options. However, Rodriguez-Gutierrez noted that low-income students do not have the privilege of making housing decisions based on what is ideal or most convenient.

“When I was looking for housing, I’ve tried to look for the cheapest housing possible and that will also offer me the greatest benefits,” Rodriguez-Gutierrez said. “Yes, I live a bit far — I have to drive every day, like five to 10 minutes ... So I guess I just have to settle with what’s in there, you know?”

Housing and Residence Life offers an off-Grounds housing guide for students looking to weigh options. The guide lists rates for off-Grounds options as starting at $577 per month for a 12-month lease, not including utilities.

University Spokesperson Wes Hester said that, according to surveys that gauge students’ satisfaction with housing, “distance from Grounds is one of the most significant factors in both satisfaction and price.”

For approximately 5,600 students who benefit from AccessUVA, the University’s financial aid program that guarantees 100 percent of an undergraduate student’s demonstrated financial need is met, housing costs of up to $6,720 are included in the cost of attendance covered by the program.

According to Hester, the University aims to make its on-Grounds housing accessible and competitive with off-Grounds rates. Housing and Residence Life submits proposed rates to the Board of Visitors for approval annually.

“Market studies are done to ensure on-Grounds housing rates are at or below comparable off-Grounds options,” Hester said.

On-Grounds housing options for upperclass students can range in rates from $64,480 to $5,780 per academic year, with the cheapest options being living in double rooms in the Hereford or International Residential Colleges. For the $5,780 rate, students can live in the newly-constructed Bond House, or in the Copeley, Faulkner or Language Houses, all of which provide single rooms.

Although the University prohibits living on-Grounds and is considering requiring all second-year students to live in on-Grounds housing in the future, this option also involves inconveniences for some low-income students.

Fourth-year College student Meghan Clancy doubles as a first-year student in Batter’s master of public policy program, which held a two-week summer orientation just before the start of the academic school year. When Clancy thought ahead to request early move-in to her on-Grounds living, the University did not list her master’s orientation program as one of the groups designated eligible for early move-in, while students on athletic teams or in the latest undergraduate orientation group were scheduled to do so.

It was not financially practical for Clancy to continue subletting her off-Grounds apartment in Charlottesville in order to attend the two weeks of orientation, but she was eventually granted permission to move on-Grounds one week early, during her orientation program, after applying through a special approval application.

“I think they need to take into consideration that I didn’t budget for another week of subletting... that’s a month’s worth of food,” Clancy said. “And I think that’s just saying, ‘Oh, well you don’t fit into an academic group or an athletic group, you don’t count.’”

Clancy faced a similar situation when she needed to find affordable housing arrangements for staying in Charlottesville over the summer because she knew she was unable to stay in her on-Grounds apartment.

“I was living on-Grounds during the academic year, but I knew that wasn’t really feasible for me in the summer,” Clancy said. “So it really came down to literally the week I was moving out on-Grounds housing, I secured a sublet. But if I hadn’t done that, I don’t really know what my option would be.”

The University’s efforts for support

During its June 7 meeting, the Board endorsed University President Jim Ryan’s 10-year strategic plan, “Great and Good: The 2039 Plan.” The Board then unanimously voted in favor of its official approval Aug. 2.

The first point listed under the plan’s key initiatives is SuccessUVA, which builds upon AccessUVA.

According to the plan, “SuccessUVA will go even further — significantly expanding our financial aid program to enable more low- and middle-income students to attend the University and engage in all that we offer.” The initiative also aims to bring more first-generation students and students of other underrepresented communities to the University.

Clancy said that her housing experiences bring attention to the fact that the University should support first-generation and low-income students after they have been enrolled.

“We get ourselves here on our own merits,” Clancy said. “It’s once we’re here where they need to start pushing their efforts.”

Fourth-year Curry student Kalea Obermeyer recently addressed the University’s Board of Visitors during its Academic and Student Life Committee meeting Sept. 12, advocating on behalf of first-generation and low-income students at the University. Obermeyer noted that the first-generation and low-income experiences are not monolithic and are unique to the individual, but that many shared challenges are rooted in a need for a sense of belonging, financial barriers and a lack of preparedness.

“During Kalea’s presentation, Derrick Wang, a fourth-year College student and student member of the Board of Visitors, noted that 8 percent of the student body is low-income, and half of low-income students at the University are first-generation,” Clancy said. “The University offers specialized support for low-income and first-generation students through the Office of the Dean of Students, and Housing and Residence Life and Student Financial Services offer information sessions for students looking to make informed housing decisions.

Clancy noted that these efforts by the University are well-intentioned but often lack the extra support necessary to guide first-generation and low-income students through the process, and she recalled being redacted back-and-forth between HRL and Student Financial Services.

“If the question is directed to Student Financial Services about housing, they will tell you, ‘Well, that’s really a Housing and Residence Life issue,’” Clancy said. “So there’s not an overlap between those two offices, where there really should be. [Or] people that are well informed about the obstacles that specifically first-gen and low-income students deal with here.

“For students who are first-generation, Clancy said not being able to relate with parents on the issue is an added burden when informational resources aren’t familiar with obstacles specific to first-generation and low-income students.

“Because they would [say], ‘Well, that’s really a Student Financial Services question’ or ‘That’s really something you just need to consider on your own or talk with your parents about,’ which brings in the first-generation aspect,” Clancy said. “If you don’t have parents that have had this experience of having to weigh those options, they’re not — even if they want to be — they’re not the best resource for that.”
Jody Kielbasa, director of the Virginia Film Festival and vice provost of the Arts, announced the lineup for the 2019 festival in a press conference Tuesday. The festival, which now begins on a Wednesday and lasts for five days, contains nearly 200 films and features many University professors and significant local figures. Kielbasa gave a sampling of the program onstage at the Jefferson Theater alongside Assistant Programmer Chandler Ferrebee and Senior Guest Programmers Andrew Rodgers and Iana Doncheva.

“Just Mercy,” the Opening Night Film and biopic of Bryan Stevenson (played by Michael B. Jordan), will screen Oct. 23. Kielbasa said: “This film, and a screening of “Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead,” which will feature a conversation with co-star Ethan Hawke. Ferrebee took the stage to highlight the screening of A24 drama “Waves” and “Jojo Rabbit,” Taika Waititi’s black comedy set in Nazi Germany. She also focused on the LGBTQ series of the festival, which will include “Gay Chorus Deep South” and “Trixie Mattel: Moving Parts,” a documentary following the life of the “RuPaul’s Drag Race” alum.

Rodgers mentioned several political documentaries, including a special screening of 1960s “Primary,” an account of the Wisconsin primary election between John F. Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey. The event will feature a conversation between political journalist Jonathan Karl and District 57 candidate Sally Hudson, moderated by Larry Sabato. Doncheva gave a preview of the festival to the rest of Charlottesville and the razing of old buildings to put up expensive luxury housing marketed to students both reinforce the idea that the University and Charlottesville are two separate entities. Ingrained in the architecture of the University, both past and present, is the exclusion of certain communities of people, sending a message that there exists a wide gap of difference, despite close physical proximity.

Classic and classist: U.Va. and Charlottesville architecture

What the outward appearance of the University says about community

Kate Granruth | Arts & Entertainment Editor

The architecture of the University is lauded and admired on an almost daily basis, with everyone from the University Guides Service, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the University itself connecting how the architecture of U.Va. reflects the ways in which its founder wanted to revolutionize the higher education system. The dual-purposed living and learning community of the Academic Village was designed to encourage learning from one another, and the Neoclassical style of Grounds indexes inspiration from the Greeks, the inventors of democracy Jefferson so admired.

There exists a twisted irony in the design of the University Grounds, the heart of which lies in its founder, a slave-owner who claimed freedom as a personal value and tenet of the University. Enslaved laborers built the University, a place meant for collaboration and inclusion, yet they were not only excluded, but actively exploited by it. The public gardens behind the Pavilions were once used to house enslaved people owned by professors, including the enslaved man known as Lewis — referred to by students at the time by the degrading nickname “Anatomical Lewis” — who was assigned to staff the infamous Anatomical Theatre.

The University’s outward appearance is characterized by a similar contrast, whether it be red bricks against white columns or the curvature of the Rotunda adorned by the sharp edges of a triangular pediment. These juxtaposing elements appear everywhere around Grounds, resulting in a look that is as cohesive as it is isolating, especially in comparison to the greater Charlottesville community.

The Neoclassical design mostly disappears a few blocks past the Corner, with the University Baptist Church essentially being the last sight of it. There are isolated examples in the area of the Downtown Mall, those being the buildings that house the Albermarle Charlottesville Historical Society and the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, both of which are results of donations from segregationist and University supporter Paul Goodloe McIntire. Perhaps this would explain the sudden presence of Jeffersonian architecture.

These buildings stick out like a sore thumb, the antiquated brick and traditional columns operating in stark contrast to the bustling pedestrian mall, indexing a distinct separation between the University and the community surrounding it. It’s as if the architecture of the University is encroaching where it does not belong, not building a connection but emphasizing a distinct difference between the two spheres of Charlottesville.

This idea of the University encroaching on the greater Charlottesville community is not new. In 1965, the historically black Vinegar Hill neighborhood between the University and Downtown was razed in the name of “urban renewal,” supposedly to make room for expansion of businesses and high-quality apartment options. The ongoing process of gentrification seen in Charlottesville today rings eerily similar, with several luxury apartment complexes and retail spaces cropping up on West Main Street over the past few years. These buildings are characterized by elements of the Modern architectural style, like floor-to-ceiling windows, pops of neon and geometric shapes — a prime example of all three is Lakr on Main, with its tiled, triangular exterior — but many new buildings in the area feature some or all of these architectural features. These apartment buildings mostly house students who choose to live off Grounds, luring University students in with luxury amenities like pools, coffee bars and gyms. These don’t come cheap, for those leasing or for the community surrounding the University, causing property values to rise exponentially and forcing lower-income residents out of the community.

The look of a place creates a sense of belonging, and in Charlottesville, the outward appearances of University buildings and housing options create a sense of who belongs where in this city. The University is characterized by two opposing architectural styles — the traditionalist Neoclassical and the hyper-Modern. Though the two may look to be antonyms of each other, one characteristic of the past and the other of the present or the future, they very much operate the same way. The stark contrast of the look of the University to the rest of Charlottesville and the razing of old buildings to put up expensive luxury housing marketed to students both reinforce the idea that the University and Charlottesville are two separate entities. Ingrained in the architecture of the University, both past and present, is the exclusion of certain communities of people, sending a message that there exists a wide gap of difference, despite close physical proximity.

Virginia Film Festival announces 2019 lineup

Ethan Hawke, Jamelle Bouie among guests and moderators for 32nd fest

Dan Golf | Senior Writer

Virginia Film Festival presented by the University of Virginia

EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY
The testimony of Álvaro Enrigue and his archive

“Sudden Death” novelist provides a generous glimpse at latest project during reading and craft talk

Elliot Van Noy | Senior Associate Editor

Álvaro Enrigue was everywhere Sept. 19. More literally, he was at the University Bookstore Mezzanine, where he gave a craft talk — which turned into much more of a swirling philosophical intervention into the archival work and authorship done by Carhickism at large — and a reading from his forthcoming work, currently titled “Now I Surrender.” The author spoke on his process and his history, and shared his disjuged thoughts — “Pope Francis then eats his fruit loops” being one of them — to students craving inclusion in his unique and vibrant perspective.

This writer likes to tell out-there stories. In “Sudden Death,” he writes of a violent and bizarre tennis match between Boruje’s painting master and the poet Quevedo, played with a nimbleness and clarity of the glory crafted in Enrigue’s vision of Mexico, and images like “yellow scorpion,” the size of a child’s hand, gave life to the Bookstore’s Mezzanine, a righteously inadequate space for the scope of Enrigue’s world. “The boy from Mexico City reading at the University of Virginia,” he revealed once standing behind the podium. He exudes comfort and humor, a wonderfully light and unpretentious writer who writes with talent deserving of permutation.

“Ostensibly a Western,” he said of “Now I Surrender,” which he chose to read from because, as he previously noted, he would have trouble keeping down his lunch if he read another word of “Sudden Death” aloud. Although about the author’s country of origin, Mexico, and the harsh valley life of the Apache, “Now I Surrender” is not Cormac McCarthy’s image of a faded cowboy. It is in conversation with the trope of the American Western white male McCarthy so adamently chagrin to in his work by reclaiming the narrative of the stolen ground.

“Geronimo was Mexican, not American,” Enrigue said when Arts and Entertainment inquired a characterization of the work. He responded with a sensitive thought on the reaction many are having to the changing of Imperial America’s depiction in history. He plays with the misconceived, violent nature of the Apache by charging his words with humanity for populations still so misunderstood.

“I begin to cook books decades before I write them,” Enrigue said. In the midst of his craft talk, he answered questions about his widening archive, while also providing his critical view on turning literature into an “SBO” series, voicing his frustrations on the simplification of good literature through television remixes. Think Virginia Woolf, he suggested. Atop each other, his suggestions during the craft talk became more a philosophy than considerations for aspiring writers.

“This is the worst craft talk,” he said, laughing. The audience laughed too.

Broadway Talks Back hosts Tony award winner Jessie Mueller

CIO brings theater professionals and students together

Caitlin Woodford | Staff Writer

Two years ago, fourth-year Commerce student Kristen Kelly went to see the award-winning Broadway musical “Waitress” on a trip to New York. Staying behind at the stage door, Kelly had the opportunity to meet actor Henry Gottfried — an encounter which served as the beginning of an ongoing conversation with him about the world of large-scale theater, everything from acting itself to navigating the industry.

For Kelly, this meeting sparked a realization — that her peers back in Charlottesville, particularly those studying theater, could learn a lot from having the same opportunity to speak with a current actor working in the industry. This led to the establishment of the CIO Broadway Talks Back, a student-run program which brings working professionals in the theater industry to Grounds to speak with students about their work, both on-stage and off.

Now, Broadway Talks Back has come full circle, kicking off this semester by hosting the star of the musical which started it all — award-winning actress Jessie Mueller, who originated the lead role of Jenna Rutheerson in the Broadway run of “Waitress.” On Sunday, in the intimate space of the Ruth Caplin Theater, Mueller hosted both a master class and a Q&A with students, speaking about her experience in the musical theatre industry and giving practical advice to those interested in pursuing the same career path.

For Kelly, hosting Mueller was a dream come true, as both a personal fan of her work and as the president of the organization. As the first visiting actor of such a high caliber — Mueller has a commitment to education and outreach — professionals who actively engage with students in their free time, and are willing to work in a smaller, more casual setting. The relaxed vibe of the room that Mueller created — both through her eloquent, easy Midwestern accent and warm enthusiasm during the Q&A — reflects this.

Kelly went on the role of avid theater enthusiast in her questions, which ranged anywhere from practical advice to personal stories, prompting Mueller to speak candid about her life and work. It was this honesty which was most striking, as Mueller had no qualms about speaking to the very real anxieties and darker sides of the theater industry. In regards to questions about her several Tony nominations, she said the memories being “absolutely terrified,” and the feeling that “they had made a mistake.” With easygoing charm, Mueller spent much of the hour-long talk reminiscing on the highs and lows of her substantial career, occasionally inserting valuable pieces of advice alongside the quirky anecdotes.

One of the most notable moments of the talk came from Mueller’s memories of the 2016 Tony Awards — which she playfully dubbed the “Hamilton year.” Jumping off from a question about working with Sara Bareilles on her performance, Mueller sidetracked into a thoughtful reflection on the attitude of everyone backstage that night, just hours after the news broke of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Fla.

“It very quickly was not about awards,” Mueller said. Everyone was “heartbreak” in hearing of an act of violence against a community that the theater has embraced for so long.

I her thoughts on this night, spoken of with delicate care and empathy, were a testament to the compassion and determination of the theater community — ideas which Mueller brought into all of her advice through her talk. Speaking often and with great enthusiasm about the brilliance of the people she works with, Mueller advocated for open-mindedness and trust in yourself and in others. She focused less on her own accomplishments than her love for the creative process, emphasizing the importance of working hard, even in the face of doubt — sentiments reflected by Kelly when considering her own advice to anyone with an idea similar to her vision for Broadway Talks Back.

“You have to have an idea, and believe in it, and balance the love with the business plan,” Kelly said, putting into words the broader theme of the event that enthusiasm is a force for growth in any sphere — whether that be theater, business or, on a smaller scale, founding a CIO at the University.
Sophomore swimmer Connor Killon knows what to expect from his stringent schedule — morning practice, class, afternoon practice, homework — but the pea plants were an unusual surprise. The first-grade students at Venable Elementary were always energetic when Killon arrived for his hour-long shift as a volunteer through the Athletes Committed to Education program, but he remembers a day in the garden with particular fondness.

“I got to go outside with the kids, and they planted pea plants, which was really cute … it was just an hour out of the week, but I still thought that was perfect because as athletes you find it hard for free time,” Killon said. “This was just a complete escape from sports, school, everything college. You just go be with these little kids, you get to interact with them, and it’s really unique.”

The Virginia Athletics department launched ACE as a way to connect student athletes with volunteering opportunities in local elementary schools. Currently, the program has almost 70 athletes, and last fall, the program teamed up with Madison House.

Rachel Clark, Class of 2019 alumna and one of Madison House’s 2018-2019 community engagement interns, began the process of reorganizing the program with help from the athletics staff.

[Madison House] has resources, we have recognition, so it’s a way to get student athletes’ foot in the door when it comes to getting involved with the University’s student community, as well as the Charlottesville community, too,” Clark said.

ACE sends volunteers to Cale, Jackson Via, Johnson, Venable and Walker Upper elementary schools and Burley and Jack Jouett middle schools. However, the program’s basic purpose — to connect local teachers with University students that serve as classroom aides — is not unique within Madison House programming. The well-established Cavs in the Classroom program operates in a similar way. What sets ACE apart is its total dedication to student athletes, including a method of pairing teachers and students that defers more to the athletes’ inflexible schedules.

Under Clark’s leadership, ACE made it easier to send athlete volunteers into the classroom. She streamlined the process for athletes through checking their general availability first, and then coordinating days and times teachers were available.

Moreover, because student athletes tend to have similar gaps in their schedules, the program offers a chance for them to work together. Beau Bradley, a junior midfielder on the Virginia men’s soccer team, thinks that Madison House’s volunteer carpools are a useful way to meet and spend time with classmates from other teams.

“I think it’s a really good way to get to know other student athletes,” Bradley said. “You’d think that we would all know each other by now, but it’s actually a really big population, and it’s been a good way for me to get to know other student athletes.”

Bradley joined ACE as a first-year student. He was assigned to Cale Elementary, where he has volunteered with the general afterschool program and an afterschool class for ESL students. Though his weekly shift only lasts one hour, he emphasized the personal importance of expanding his relationships with students beyond the school’s walls.

“I have had kids that I’ve volunteered with that I’ve spoken to … and then I’ll talk to their parents, and I can give them tickets for games,” Bradley said. “I think U.Va. does a fairly good job of connecting with the greater Charlottesville community, but I really do think there’s still a lot of room for improvement, to get them to the games is great but maintaining that relationship outside of school is what I think is most important.”

Women’s rowing junior Grace Comerford also took on multiple roles at Cale Elementary, helping to organize gym activities for the afterschool program as well as tutoring students in math and writing. More recently, she has volunteered with first-grade students at Venable Elementary School. Some ACE participants, including Comerford, have used the program to fulfill the classroom experience requirements for education courses, like “Intro to Teaching.” The curricular connection helped her find pride in her successes as a tutor for ACE.

“I was working with this boy, and we were just learning multiplication with multiple digit numbers, and I think I had been explaining to him how to do it for the past couple weeks, and then he was doing a worksheet and actually got them on his own … It was really rewarding to see that, and I was glad to see he was actually learning it,” Comerford said. “I was really proud of him.”

Comerford joined the ACE program after its move to Madison House last year and credits it for helping her find service opportunities like those she enjoyed in grade school.

“I have a deep appreciation for the program because it has exposed me to the greater Charlottesville community,” Comerford said. “It’s … allowing me to continue to do the service that I’ve been doing since I was little.”

This fall, ACE has five new program directors — each is responsible for coordinating volunteers at one of the five elementary schools. Building on Clark’s work, they aim to increase the scope and impact of the program. Bradley, now the director for Cale Elementary, is focused on expanding ACE’s volunteer base and encouraging participants to bring in other teammates.

“I want to make more of an impact with that school specifically, but also I think that student athletes not only should volunteer, but I think it really is their responsibility to get involved in the community because we can have a really large impact on young impressionable kids,” Bradley said. “I really want people to have the same experience that I’ve had and enjoy it in that same way because it’s been so great for me.”
Building community at the Handball House

Virginia's Team Handball Club benefits from having a home both on and off the court

Ben Kilpatrick | Sports Columnist

If you walk into Slaughter Recreation Center on a Sunday at noon, you'll likely find a few people in the weight room or a couple climbing the new rock wall. Other than that, it seems empty. But when you open the door to the gym, Slaughter comes alive. Shoes squeak and balls fly. These aren't basketballs, though — there aren't any pickup games. This is a team handball practice.

Virginia's Team Handball Club plays in the Northeast Team Handball League, competing against the best collegiate and adult teams in the country. Because there is no professional team handball league in the United States, this is the highest level of domestic competition. But the club is about more than success on the court. While most time is spent practicing at Slaughter, members of the team say that they enjoy time with teammates more than it's spent at a house on 14th Street — simply called the Handball House.

Ultimately, a club sport like team handball is emblematic of its name — it's just as much a social club as it is a competitive sport. Because of this social aspect, the club has a house for its members that gets passed down to teammates each year. Sometimes the house has as many as 12 members, while other years it has just a handful. Sometimes there might even be a resident who isn't on the team. Regardless, the point is to provide a collective space to build a community.

Lincoln Ambrose, third-year Batten student, vice president of the Handball Club and a resident of the Handball House, points to the social aspect of the team as one of the reasons he keeps playing.

"There are a few reasons why I like handball," Ambrose said. "But the first is to have a community. I think a lot of club sports have this as one of their main perks."

A house provides an environment for building relationships among teammates somewhere other than on the court, but that isn't to say that there aren't any competitive benefits. Establishing a fun social environment can build team chemistry and increase retention, maximizing the chances of keeping top talent around.

"Having a space to hold events helps to build ... community that fosters dedication to the team," Ambrose said. "Building a community is the best way to get people dedicated to the sport."

For a sport like team handball, which isn't as well known in the United States, retention can be a significant issue, as most students don't have an emotional attachment to the sport that comes with playing it during their childhood, like they might with soccer or basketball. New members may become interested in other organizations and might even leave the team before they experience their first inter-collegiate competition.

Because of this, the club prioritizes holding events at the beginning of the semester to increase new member engagement. A team's fun social life can be just as appealing to new members as the sport itself.

"One of the most difficult and most important aspects of having a club sports team is getting new members to stick around and actively participate on the team," Palas said. "The house creates more opportunities for the team to get together, which in turn leads to a closer team with a higher retention rate of new members."

Unfortunately, a smaller, less popular club like team handball may have difficulty maintaining and passing down a house due to the competitive student housing market. For example, the Handball House consists of residents across three different school years, as there wasn't enough interest from team members in a single grade level to fill the house. One resident isn't on the team but was needed just to ensure the lease could be signed.

"Like many others, we always struggle to fit the deadlines of Charlottesville housing," Ambrose said. "It's notoriously early for when you need to sign. Obviously, we want to pass this house down, but it's tough to get people ready in September every year because thinking about next year seems so far away. From experience, a lot of club sports have had this issue where you know you're going to have the house but filling it early enough is always difficult."

As the only third-year in the house this year, Ambrose is still searching for other teammates to join him on 14th Street for next school year. This situation represents that of many students across Grounds this time of year. Most housing decisions for next year have not yet been made, creating an air of uncertainty and anxiety.

Other difficulties exist, as well. Sometimes roommate conflicts can carry over to practices or even games, driving a wedge between teammates instead of strengthening their bond.

That being said, the Handball House plays an important role in fostering community among teammates. While difficult to acquire and retain, the house helps strengthen teammates' relationships both on and off the court.

Virginia Team Handball Club practices and plays its games at Slaughter Recreation Center.

Interested in becoming Catholic? Are you already Catholic and missing the sacrament of Confirmation? Or maybe First Communion too? If yes, please consider participating in this year’s Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish on Alderman Road. Weekly classes start August 28, and are from 7:00-8:30 in classrooms 2 and 4 at the church. For additional information please contact Deacon Tony at tditolve@gmail.com.
PUZZLES

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across
1 In mathematics, these are arguments for statements
4 Pieces of fabric to be wrapped around the head or shoulders
8 Two-word, traditionally yellow transportation
9 Will Hunting's job, initially
11 "First Reformed" actor to be featured in the 21-across event
12 Cold version of a drink
13 So long, farewell
14 Jewish Orthodox schools
16 Two-word necessities for 12-across
19 Latin for "nothing" — add "-ist," and you've got Tyler Durden or Marcel Duchamp, arguably
21 The first F of VAFF
22 To get the themed answers, you'll have to read my article, which is pretty ___ of me
24 Take one's clothes off
25 One who works with diamonds, gems, etc.
26 Affirmative Jim Carrey movie
27 According to Andy Samberg in "Threw It on the Ground," this is what you can't fight

Down
1 Braid
2 Popular animals to make in this form are cranes and turtles
3 Type of vivid memory formed during a radical, important time
5 If this is "dry," you don't actually throw up
6 Director Taika to have a work featured in 12-across
7 This formative LG-BTQ+ event celebrated its 50th anniversary recently
10 Amiss
13 Fancy way to say "hill"
15 Respectful signoff
17 When not referring to memory, three-down can also be a type of these
18 "Everything but the kitchen ___"
20 Two-word phrase for where you sit when you're in trouble
22 Venomous snake native to Asia and Africa
23 "It was all just a ___ " (copout movie ending)
SAT, AUG 31 2PM-9PM
ZALTANDI WORLD DANCE FESTIVAL

SAT, SEP 7 NOON-11PM
LOVE FEST: FREE LOVE

SAT, SEP 14 1PM-9PM
BLACK BUSINESS EXPO

SAT, SEP 21 NOON-9PM
CVILLE SABROSO LATIN MUSIC & CULTURE FESTIVAL

SAT, SEP 28 2PM-9PM
ROOTS MUSIC & LOCAL FOOD

SAT, OCT 5 2PM-9PM
VIRGINIA BLUES FESTIVAL

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Coping with embarrassment at a gas station
Pumping my own gas for the first time was a highly stressful experience

Hanna Preston | Life Columnist

It happened the day after I moved into my apartment this semester. The day began on a good note — I was excited to have my car and live in an apartment rather than a dorm. I moved in my furniture and decorations, and the place really started to feel at home. The next step was to do all of the housekeeping tasks to make the place livable such as going grocery shopping for the basics, making a Target run for dishes and lamps and stopping at Best Buy to buy a modem and router to set up the WiFi.

Driving through Charlottesville was a bit nerve-racking with its winding roads compared to the relatively straight highways and Manhattan grid I was used to, but it was nothing I couldn’t handle. Harris Teeter, check. Target, check. Best Buy — wait, what was that noise my car just made? A loud single beep startled me and led me to look at the dashboard where I saw a big, yellow light telling me I was almost out of gas. And then I panicked.

Some background information — I’m from the suburbs of New York City, and my hometown is a 30 minute drive to Manhattan with no traffic and a mere 15 minutes from the New Jersey border. My high school was even closer to the border, and the nearest gas station was just over the border. Adding the fact that gas prices are cheaper in New Jersey than in New York, you can clearly see why I would always go to New Jersey to get my gas. Any long-haul drive I’d make would just be down the Garden State Parkway to the Jersey Shore. If I was going any further, my family and I would fly, effectively making it so that the only place I ever got gas was in New Jersey. Here’s the thing — it is illegal to pump your own gas in New Jersey. I had never pumped my own gas before.

When I saw the gas light on my dashboard and connected the dots, I did what any person in my situation would naturally do — I burst into tears. After realizing I couldn’t just stay in the middle of the road crying, I pulled into the first gas station I saw. So far, so good. I turned the car off, did everything I thought I was supposed to, put the nozzle in the fuel tank — and then no gas came out. I tried again. Nothing. After trying a few more times and pressing some buttons, the screen displayed, “Go inside to cashier.”

Turning bright red with smudged mascara under my eyes, I realized that I would have to go into the building to the cashier and explain that I didn’t know how to pump my own gas. I went inside, walked up to the woman and man standing behind the counter and told them that the fuel pump said to come inside. I paid for the gas at the counter and then stood there, bright-red, for what felt like an eternity — it was only around three seconds — and carefully chose my words — “Um, I’m from New Jersey, and this is my first time with a car in Virginia.”

Blank stare.

“Uh, we’re not allowed to pump our own gas in Jersey. I don’t, uh, know —”

The man chuckled, and the woman smiled and said it wasn’t a problem at all. She explained to me in explicit detail how to use the pump and then wished me good luck. I went back outside to the pump and fidgeted with it for a few minutes. I hesitantly put the pump in the car and pulled the lever. To my somewhat disbelief, it actually worked. I was in fact getting my own gas — all by myself.

Aside from learning how to pump my own gas, I also learned that I made a huge deal out of a tiny problem in my head. All I had to do was ask for help. Yes, I was incredibly embarrassed. And terrified. And did I mention embarrassed? But more often than not, the thing you’re self-conscious about is not nearly as big of a deal as you make it out to be.

Everyone has their little bits of inexperience, and many of us lack some sort of common knowledge. It’s OK to not know how to do something, and it will be okay when you ask someone for help. And no one will comment on your bright red face and smudged mascara.

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Students share the scoop on living in residential colleges

Residents of Hereford, Brown and the IRC give a sneak peek into their day-to-day lives

Anna Grace Chang | Feature Writer

The University has three residential colleges called Hereford, Brown and the International Residential College.

Thomas Jefferson’s ideal for the academical village is to extend learning beyond the classroom and into the home, particularly illustrated in a unique housing option for students — residential colleges, which are meant to be combined spaces for living and learning for both peers and faculty members. The University has three residential colleges — Hereford, Brown and the International Residential College — each with their own theme and central focus.

Hereford Residential College is made up of two hall-style dorm buildings, Norris and Whitchurch. First-year residents typically live in double-occupancy rooms, while upperclassmen live in single-occupancy rooms. Hereford is located at the top of Observatory Hill, and its theme is encouraging sustainability, mindfulness and cultural diversity. Second-year College student Chyna Brown lived in Hereford her first year and explained the many ways in which she saw Hereford and its culture impactful.

“Sustainability was a big thing,” Brown said. “So you were supposed to bring your own cups, plates and silverware to the events because they didn’t want you to throw away plastic.”

Avoiding single-use plasticware is just one of Hereford students’ attempts to live sustainably. According to its website, residents also organize low or no-waste events and regularly practice composting. In addition to its sustainability efforts, Brown also mentioned that Hereford hosts several mindfulness retreats each year — these can involve learning about meditation, a trip to a nearby farm or some other event that allows students to recharge from the hectic school year.

Brown also spoke very highly of the community that Hereford provided her first year. She described several events that Hereford students can attend, such as a cookie night every Thursday night in the Hub — a shared space in one of the Hereford houses — viewing parties for the University’s sporting events and the Hereford Cup — a football game played between the two houses. Brown also noted that she found community simply by meeting others on her hall.

“Even if you don’t go to the events, it is very easy to bond with your hall,” Brown said. “There are hall dinners and all sorts of things like that, so I’m still in contact with a lot of people on my hall. They are some of my best friends.”

The cost of living in Hereford for a single is $6,690 per academic year, while a double costs $6,640 per academic year. Students seeking to become one of the 300 living in Hereford must fill out an application on the Housing and Residence Life website with questions about why they want to live in a community with Hereford’s ideals.

The next and the oldest of the three residential halls is Brown College. Brown is located the most centrally out of the residential colleges on Monroe Hill and consists of 12 interconnected buildings, housing about 260 students. Most residents in Brown live in suites made up of a single room connected to another single. First-year suites typically include one single connected to a double. Each suite is connected to at least one other suite via a common bathroom. Regardless of the room set-up, the cost of living in Brown for each academic year is $7,500.

Residents of Brown — also known as “Brownies” — have been described as “the interested and the interesting,” according to the residential college’s website and third-year College student Austin Rhea. Rhea has lived in Brown for all three of her years at the University. She admires the tight-knit community that Brown can provide within the sea of students at the University. Rhea also noted that the residential college makes funds available to all residents, which allows them to express their interests and put on their own events.

Like the other residential colleges, living in Brown is meant to provide a space for residents to express themselves and grow closer together. Incoming Brownies are assigned only one mandatory task — they must all enroll in a Brown-specific class for their first semester as a resident. According to Rhea, its purpose is centered around meeting fellow Brownies and hearing from guest speakers.

Among the many annual events at Brown College is the popular Hauntings on the Hill, a fall event which Rhea helped to coordinate last year. Hauntings on the Hill is a haunted house in Brown that University residents and community members can visit. All proceeds from ticket sales go to local Charlottesville charities such as The Haven, which aids the homeless, and the Sexual Assault Resource Agency, a non-profit that advocates against sexual assault.

Brown hosts many other charitable events such as the Brown Art & Music — also referred to as BAM — a spring festival in which student groups from the University can put their art, music and other talents on display alongside Brown residents themselves.

“I think Brown is kind of unknown, and there might be some misconceptions about it,” Rhea said. “But I would highly recommend just taking a tour or talking to a Brownie about their experience living here because it really has been a formative part of my time at UVA.”

The Brown College application is linked on the Housing and Residence Life website. It includes a couple of questions written by current and former Brown residents about the prospective resident’s interests and personality traits. These questions, according to Brown’s website, are a little outside the realm of stereotypical application questions, and they are advertised as even being enjoyable to complete.

The third and final residential college is the International Residential College, a hall-style building on Emmett Street across from Memorial Gymnasium. According to the HRL website, the 300-plus IRC residents are comprised of 60 percent domestic and 40 percent international students. These residents are spread throughout four dorm buildings — Mary Munford, Yen, Roberta Gwathmey and Hoxton House. Between these four houses, residents can choose to live in singles, doubles or suite-style rooms. The cost of living in a single in the IRC is $7,500 per academic year, while the cost of living in a double is $6,480 per academic year.

Second-year College student Richarda Tah moved into the IRC this year after living in first-year dorms last year, and described how the IRC provides her with ample opportunity to meet many new people with backgrounds different from her own.

“I chose to live in the IRC because I wanted a different community than I had my first year living in regular dorms,” Tah said. “I wanted one that I could meet a variety of different people — exchange students and just other people I probably wouldn’t have any exposure to otherwise.”

Like the other residential colleges, the IRC hosts many events in order to help their residents get to know each other, though none of these are mandatory. Tah noted that her favorite part of living there so far has been the breakfast events hosted three days a week — Monday Muffins, Petite Dejeuner and Friday Bagels. She also mentioned that her building, Munford, has a table on the first floor called “The Potlatch” where residents often leave snacks and other goodies for anyone to enjoy.

“Every week we are getting emails about dinners with professors and stuff like that,” Tah said. “And there are different trips you can go to — I know in a couple weeks they are going to [the National Museum of African American History and Culture] in Washington, D.C.”

Beyond the dimmers and trips, Tah mentioned events such as “The Week That Was” meeting, in which both residents and faculty meet to discuss current events and mingle with their peers. IRC residents also have access to exclusive study abroad programs, namely the IRC in London and Oxford program.

Students seeking to live in the IRC complete an application on the HRL website with questions about why they want to live in a multicultural community, as well as about their general interests.

Although the three residential colleges have different themes, they are all designed for students who want to bring learning into the home and grow alongside their peers, whether that be in pursuit of environmental, cultural or creative knowledge. Students looking to apply to these residential colleges can find their respective applications on the HRL website, though acceptance rates will vary based on the number of rooms available. Rhea shared some encouraging advice for students checking out residential colleges.

“Embrace it,” Rhea said. “Don’t be one of those people who only lives in a residential college to get out of first-year dorms and never participates. They have so much to offer, and you should definitely embrace the opportunities that come up no matter which you pick.”
Moving out — from dining halls to apartment kitchens

You survived the mini fridge, but what's next?

Maddie McNamee | Food Columnist

After first-year, dorms are in the past, and it is time to move on and out. Moving out of a dorm means moving away from the mini-fridge lifestyle. That’s right — it’s time for the big leagues, and by that, I mean a normal-sized refrigerator, equipped with a freezer and all. You’ll also get a full kitchen with an oven and stove top, so microwave meals are in the past. Will this finally be the year you learn how to cook?

But just because you’re a big baller now, you have to stay grounded, and remember you’re still a college student, which means you’re most likely going to have to ball on a budget. Do you get a meal plan? What is the most efficient way to acquire food? If you’re a first-year signing your lease now, you still have a year until these issues become a reality. Before you have to leave the comfort of your dorm, study up on your career, so you don’t have to worry about wasting swipes like you might at the dining halls. This is also convenient for off-Grounds living because the restaurant locations are likely much closer to your new home than the dining halls are.

Moving on from first year might mean moving off — off-Grounds. While this may seem like a scary transition that’s full of responsibility, it doesn’t have to be so tough. Use this as an opportunity to advance your culinary skills or maybe just eat ice cream for every meal. Either way, there’s no parents to judge, and the dining halls can’t hold you back anymore. Finally, adult life — kind of.

So you've got places to store your food, but what about cooking it? The aforementioned frozen meals are great, but you should probably learn to cook at some point, and there’s no better time than the present. I recommend getting a recipe app or check out “The New York Times” cooking section for some delectable eats. Paprika is a smartphone app where you can share recipes with friends, which is great for if you ever want to do a family-style type dinner. It’s also convenient for off-Grounds living because the restaurant locations are likely much closer to your new home than the dining halls are.

For second semester, either
HSC encapsulates the essence of Navratri on Grounds

Hoos gather for Hindu Student Council’s Garba Night to celebrate traditional Hindu festival

Elise Kim & Sierra Krug | Life Editor & Feature Writer

The event was filled with catered vegetarian Indian food from Milan and plenty of dancing from the near 40 attendees.

Blurs of colorfully patterned skirts spun fervently about the front of the room, embodying the excitement and enthusiasm tangible throughout the Student Activities Building. Both popular Bollywood and traditional songs played overhead, signaling choreography shifts to the rows of dancers as one ended and the next began — the Hindu Student Council at U.Va.’s annual Navratri celebration was well under way.

The HSC held this annual event Sunday afternoon to celebrate Navratri, the most celebrated Hindu festival with roots in the Indian subcontinent. Literally interpreted as a nine-night festival, Navratri is traditionally held over the course of nine days, the latter representing the worship of the nine avatars of the Hindu goddess Durga. Durga’s restoration of Dharma is the over evil in reflection of the goddess individually letting good reign for this celebration, as well as striving Durga.

The HSC’s Garba Night was thrown this past Sunday afternoon to celebrate Navratri, the most celebrated Hindu festival with roots in the Indian subcontinent. Literally interpreted as “nine nights,” it is customarily held over the course of nine days, the latter representing the worship of the nine avatars of the Hindu goddess Durga.

Garba, an Indian folk dance native to the subcontinent’s state of Gujarat, is traditionally performed during Navratri celebrations. HSC invited HooRaas — a competitive and co-ed garba dance team organized independently from the University — to showcase this style of dance in a unique performance, one of the highlights of Garba Night.

This past Sunday afternoon was third-year College student Subani Adhikari’s third consecutive time attending Garba Night. She spoke about how this event holds potential to provide an atmosphere reminiscent of home for certain attendees.

“Our main goal for this event is just to have people come here and feel like they’re at home because I know that a lot of people celebrate [with] garba ...at home,” Adhikari said. “But when they come to U.Va., they don’t get to do it as often, so I hope this will be like a home for them.”

The HooRaas’ celebrational performance was followed by open participation of garba by the event’s attendees. This was a time where students — all donned in various forms of traditional Indian dress — were either learning new dances or in some cases, experiencing garba for the first time.

Fourth-year Engineering student Revathi Mohan helped host Garba Night this year. She spoke on what this cultural immersion in garba was like for attendees at this point in the event.

“You see everyone start to look confused in the beginning because they’re trying to learn the dance,” Mohan said. “But eventually ... they’ll be a line of people just doing this really cool dance, and you’ll see them running across [together]. It’s really fun.”

“This inclusion — regardless of familiarity with Navratri — was what helped to make attendees like second-year College student Valencia Lagbo feel welcomed. The HSC’s intention to provide a community for students wanting to celebrate Navratri — despite being away from those they are accustomed to celebrating among — is strong but not alone. There’s an undeniable element of inclusivity — a voluntary willingness to introduce and share the Hindu Navratri tradition with others at the University.

Although she doesn’t traditionally celebrate Navratri, Mohan conveyed the openness that the event offered to attendees in similar circumstances.

“Garba Night is an event that’s been here since my older sister went to U.Va. back in 2007, and it’s overall ... an event that has brought the community together through dance and music,” Mohan said. “So that’s what we are trying to do here — give these attendees a chance to make great memories and have fun dancing.”

HSC’s Garba Night was thrown for this celebration, as well as striving to individually let good reign over evil in reflection of the goddess Durga’s restoration of Dharma. The event was filled with catered vegetarian Indian food from Milan and plenty of dancing from the near 40 attendees.
LEAD EDITORIAL

Second-years shouldn’t be required to live on-Grounds

The Administration’s current plan would have a negative impact on student life

President Jim Ryan’s 10-year strategic plan includes a proposal to require all first- and second-year students to live on-Grounds. This initiative intends to “establish a series of residential communities … and provide ways for third- and fourth-year students to stay connected to their residential communities.” While this plan could lead to a much needed increase in on-Grounds housing, the proposal is associated with its implementation outweigh the perceived benefits.

Currently, student housing does not have the required capacity to house all first- and second-year students. As of a 2013 student housing analysis conducted by the School of Architecture, the University offers 6,300 beds. The class of 2022 consists of 3,840 students, while the class of 2023 consists of 3,927. This makes for a total demand of 7,735 beds if both classes were to live on Grounds. Although the 2013 analysis does not include updated housing data, it is likely these options will not be sufficient to meet demand. This is especially true considering the record-setting increases in first-year class sizes. Furthermore, if the University would continue to offer on-Grounds options to third-years, fourth-years and graduate students, it would put pressure on UVa’s already limited housing stock.

As shown by the construction on the Bond House apartments, the University has a history of not being able to keep up with increasing student housing demands. The University requires all first-year and second-year students to live on-Grounds, they would be pro-rated for their needs. Moreover, less competition between on- and off-Grounds housing options for second-years could prompt the University to increase prices for student housing.

REQUIRE MORE THAN A FEW STUDENTS TO LIVE ON-GROUNDS?
Increase tax exemptions for universities

About three years ago, it was revealed through a Senate initiative that 56 private universities with endowments of $5 billion or more were receiving massive tax exemptions on the property they possessed, including Harvard, Brown and many other notable institutions. This sparked controversy, with some claiming that these unfair exemptions should be removed in order to increase tax revenue for local governments and level the playing field with other universities that did not receive such privileges. But, given the current college tuition and housing crises that are plaguing students across the country, I believe it would be in the best interest of local governments to increase the scale and scope of these exemptions, rather than crack down on them.

The most significant argument in favor of broader tax exemptions is the fact that colleges — and the students that they host — are already incredibly strapped for cash. Current college loan debt in our country comes out to a staggering $1.5 trillion. Coupled with the nearly 40 percent projected default rate by 2023, and a consistent three percent increase in annual tuition costs these past few years, it is clear that this is a problem that will likely get a lot worse before it gets better.

Lessening the tax burden of these colleges may decrease government revenue, but it could also lead to lower tuition rates and fewer financial difficulties for students, who often end up borrowing money from the government anyway. For instance, according to one 2022 analysis the University receives roughly $4.5 million in property tax exemptions annually, which would amount to a significant tuition hike if the cost had been instead been passed on to students.

Property taxes also directly affect the affordability of student housing in many cases, which is another rampant problem in both our local communities and society at large. According to a study by the Hope Center, homelessness affects 18 percent of American students, as well as 14 percent of students at four-year institutions, and nearly half of respondents said they experienced some degree of housing insecurity. This isn’t just an issue exclusive to lower-tier colleges or those in poor areas either, as there are reported cases of homeless students struggling to get by at our very own University, as recently as earlier this year.

Attempts are being made by state legislators to formulate a solution to this crisis, and removing property tax exemptions from universities at this juncture would only exacerbate the problem. These added costs would likely be passed on to students, potentially driving up exorbitant housing prices even further, which are already extremely prevalent on Grounds. Expanding rather than contracting prop-

“I believe that expanding rather than contracting property tax privileges would have a positive effect on the issues of both tuition and housing on college campuses”

There has been significant positive change to make the lawn room more affordable for low- and middle-income students

Students Since the late 1960s, applications to live on the Lawn opened up to high-light students with outstanding efforts in both their academic and extracurricular lives. Lawn rooms are praised as one of the highest achievements a students can attain, attracting hundreds of applications every year. I am lucky enough to be one of the students chosen to occupy a Lawn room, but was initially rather shocked about the room’s high-priced cost of living — $5,270 for the year. What followed was a Twitter rant about the high price of Lawn rooms, which served as my attempt to prompt a conversation about the accessibility of Lawn rooms for low-income students.

After those tweets, I met with many administrators, asking questions about the price of Lawn rooms and ensuring they need to make them more affordable — these meetings changed my outlook about the affordability of rooms. There has been significant positive change to make the Lawn more affordable for low- and middle-income students, reforms that should signal for their Lawn room rent. This is a great initiative and will hopefully signal to students that there are ways to make Lawn rooms more financially feasible. If selected to live on the Lawn, students can work with the Office of the Dean of Students to subsidize their rent. Dean of Students Allen Groves will work with the student to help cover the cost not covered by aid award with the money from the Seven Society’s fund. This initiative shows that students can get help with paying for their small kitchen appliances. Before the furniture for the rooms was provided, Lawines not only had to furnish their rooms on their own, but were often pressured to buy the old furniture from the previous resident of their room, which was often passing them for many years and could be very expensive. Now that cost is eliminated, which lowers the overall cost of the Lawn rooms even more.

There are other hidden costs associated with living on the Lawn as well. If you’ve taken a notice of the possibility of the price being an issue, the SR of the Lawn now includes a section in the robe order form where Lawines can indicate if they are in need of financial assistance for a robe and can also indicate if they are able to help pay for a fellow Lawine’s robe. To further eliminate this cost, one donor created an endowment to pay for Lawines of students who cannot afford them, and those funds are likely to be available for robes during the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, even the smaller hid-

Lawn rooms are accessible for all

There have been significant positive changes to make the lawn room more affordable for low- and middle-income students

Ellie Brascachio is a fourth-year student in the College and currently serves as the President of Student Council.
How to get ‘OK’ housing your second year

Oh, to be a first-year. Waking up at 8:50 a.m. for your 9 a.m. Swiping into dining halls six times a day. Living in a hall with a bunch of cool, new people. Not having your own bathroom. Spending time with your roommate who sounded cool over Facebook Messenger and claimed to be “moderately clean” but spreads his dirty clothes all over the room. Hiding your shenanigans from your RA. I get it — right now, you want to be “moderately clean” but spreads his dirty clothes all over the room. Hiding your shenanigans from your RA. I get it — right now, you want to live in your dorm for all four years. But unless you want to sacrifice your sanity and apply to be an RA, you’re going to have to find somewhere else to live. Lucky for you, I’m about to walk you through the trials and terrors of finding housing at U.Va.!

Finding a roommate and dating are very similar — your first time is always the worst of finding housing at U.Va.!

Hiding your shenanigans from your RA. I get it — right now, you want to be “moderately clean” but spreads his dirty clothes all over the room. Hiding your shenanigans from your RA. I get it — right now, you want to live in your dorm for all four years. But unless you want to sacrifice your sanity and apply to be an RA, you’re going to have to find somewhere else to live. Lucky for you, I’m about to walk you through the trials and terrors of finding housing at U.Va.!

Finding a roommate and dating are very similar — your first time is always the worst of finding housing at U.Va.!

Choosing between on-Grounds and off-Grounds housing is like asking whether you’d rather be shot or poisoned. For those who like to gamble, on-Grounds may be the choice for you. If you get lucky, you could get Bond — the newest building, in the best location, which only has a MINOR rodent problem right now. If you strike out, you’ll be stuck with either Bice — whose smell will remind you of the good old days of middle school gym — or Lambeth Commons, good luck asking anybody to make the trek to visit you. You could always try for one of the language houses, too! Immersion has been proven to be the best way to learn any language, but you’ll probably never forget your high school Spanish teacher had taught you how to say “We’re out of toilet paper.”

But — and an institution with a $9.5 billion endowment of just $9.5 billion is where it’s at. Plus, if you’re an international student, I’m pretty sure you’re legally obligated to live in The Standard. There’s plenty of luxury apartments that come with everything you could expect — flat screen TVs, full gyms, super-fast Wi-Fi, vomit-filled hallways, littered Busch light and White Claw cans and deafening music from Thursday to Sunday. But let’s be honest, if you’re living on the Corner, you’re probably contributing to this.

While housing can definitely be a big problem at U.Va., we really can’t complain. Do we really expect a premiere institution to concern itself with trivial matters and provide its students quality housing or improve its dining halls? What is this, Virginia Tech? Besides, President Ryan is a BUSY man — we can’t honestly expect him to sacrifice his Thursday morning runs for this!

ESHAAN SARUP is a Humor Columnist at The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com.

CARTOON

It came from the shower drain

Audrey Lewis | Cartoonist
Protestors demand the University address climate change

Hundreds gather to protest fossil-fuel dependence and to shed light on communities most affected by climate change

Zoe Ziff | Health & Science Editor

Over a hundred students, faculty and community members gathered near the Rotunda Friday to join the Global Climate Strike movement, in which people worldwide struck to demand that the United Nations take serious action to mitigate climate change during its Climate Action Summit Sept. 23. At noon, the participants walked to the Downtown Mall to join the hundreds who attended the concurrent Charlottesville Youth Climate Strike, organized by local seventh-grader Gudrun Campbell.

The Virginia Student Environmental Coalition hosted the strike on Grounds and invited various climate and social activists within Charlottesville to speak to the crowd. Joyce Cheng, fourth-year College student and organizer of the University strike, also read aloud a list of demands directed towards the United States, the Commonwealth and the University. The goal of the strike was to shed light on those most affected by climate change, demand a divestment from fossil fuels and call for the University to commit to a 100 percent carbon neutrality plan, echoing the petition published by Wahoos for Sustainability. The event cost around $400, paying for paint and materials for signs as well as a megaphone.

In between VSEC-led chants, the series of speakers all voiced the need for the youth to take charge of the fight against climate change, the importance of voting for politicians who will advocate for the environment and the fact that that underprivileged populations bear the brunt of climate disaster. According to Cheng, VSEC wanted to invite speakers that would represent the perspective of communities often unheard in the global environmental discussion.

“Climate change is going to affect every single community in the world,” Cheng said. “We want to make sure … we have representation from [communities] who are going to be most affected in the future.”

Karishma Srikanth, Charlottesville Alliance for Refugees president and third-year College student, shared at the rally that those who least contribute to carbon emissions are affected by climate change the most and called for the international protection of climate refugees.

“Climate refugees by and large come from communities of color,” Srikanth said.

Caroline Campos, second-year College student and PLUMAS member, also explained to the crowd that the climate movement needs to collaborate with social justice movements and an improved immigration system.

“Fight for today and those who have been historically marginalized,” Campos said. “I call you to listen ... and listen very closely.”

Anthony Malabad, fourth-year College student and the president of the Native American Student Union, was also a speaker at the University strike and told the crowd that the people who currently hold political power are not making decisions for the benefit of the planet. Erik Patton-Sharpe, fourth-year College student and U.Va. Students United member, agreed with Malabad’s statement and added that young people cannot wait for government officials to respond to climate change but rather need to be the ones to create change.

Alexis Zeigler, owner and designer of the Living Ener-
Organized by local seventh-grader Gudrun Campbell, the Youth Climate Strike Friday was the third strike of this year.

Students voiced the importance of voting for politicians who will advocate for climate change.

Students walked to the Downtown Mall to join the hundreds who attended the concurrent Charlottesville Youth Climate Strike.

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Shobe and Phoebe Crisman, director of the environments and sustainability track of the global studies major, also called on young people to take the lead on mitigating the climate crisis.

“Despair is not called for,” Shobe said. “We know many affordable pathways to solutions. [Young people] are the ones who will put the nail in the coffin of the climate disaster.”

The strike at the Rotunda also featured Richard Walker as a speaker, a resident of Union Hill and founder of Bridging the Gap in Virginia — a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting people struggling to find employment and to addressing climate justice. Walker advocated for the divestment from Dominion Energy and pipeline-supporting businesses, and he recounted how his house is in the direct pathway of the currently developing Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

“If it is time for us to stand and continue to stand,” Walker said. According to Campbell, pipelines were also a main point for the Charlottesville Youth Climate Strike. Through Friday’s strike, Campbell and her mother, Elizabeth Stark, wanted to bring attention to Dominion’s planned and current pipelines that run through Virginia.

“We’ve invited people that are on the ground doing this work to try to bring this story to Charlottesville and help people understand that this pipeline is devastating,” Stark said.

Recently, Campbell traveled to a town hall meeting in Union Hill to learn more about how a compressor station might damage the wildlife and human health in that area.

“The residents love Virginia because of its clean air, and you can go outside, and you can roll the windows down when you’re driving places,” Campbell said. “The compressor station would take all that away from them.”

The Youth Climate Strike Friday was the third climate strike seventh grader Campbell has organized this year. She is inspired by other young activists, like Nobel Peace Prize-nominee Greta Thunberg and New York City activist Alexandria Villaseñor. Campbell said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily that she is encouraged by the support she receives from the Charlottesville community and hopes to make her future strikes more accessible to young people by contacting schools and organizing transportation to and from strikes.

Sarah Bryan, fourth-year College student and financial coordinator for the on-Grounds Climate Strike, explained in an interview that VSEC has also been involved in trying to block the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley pipelines from being built and in encouraging the University to divest from fossil fuels, although the University “has not been very responsive.”

Cheng agrees. She believes that U.Va. Sustainability is indeed making the University more eco-friendly — especially with the recent announcement that the University is six years ahead of its carbon reduction schedule — but also thinks that it could do more if the University allocated more resources to the office and if the Board of Visitors were more dedicated to the issue of reducing the University’s carbon footprint.

“I believe that the Board of Visitors is ... the organization or group of people who’s preventing U.Va. from taking greater strides in sustainability,” Cheng said.

Cheng and Bryan hope the strike not only pushes the University to meet VSEC’s list of demands, but also shows how students are committed to the idea of sustainability. Although the organization is not planning another rally this semester, it will continue to educate its members and the community on local environmental issues and demand University divestment from fossil fuels.

“I think U.Va. has a responsibility to do more in terms of climate change and sustainability,” Cheng said. "Hopefully the administration sees how much we care and takes stronger action."
learn more before you commit to next year’s housing!

HOUSING SEMINAR
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM | ALUMNI HALL

OFF-GROUNDS HOUSING FAIR
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 | 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM
NEWCOMB SOUTH MEETING ROOM

HOUSING INFORMATION SESSIONS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | NEWCOMB 177
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM | O-HILL FORUM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29 | 5:00 - 6:00 PM | RUNK GREEN ROOM

FAMILY WEEKEND STUDENT HOUSING FAIRS
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 | 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM
UPPERCLASS STUDENT HOUSING FAIR NEWCOMB COMMONWEALTH ROOM
OFF-GROUNDS HOUSING FAIR NEWCOMB SOUTH MEETING ROOM