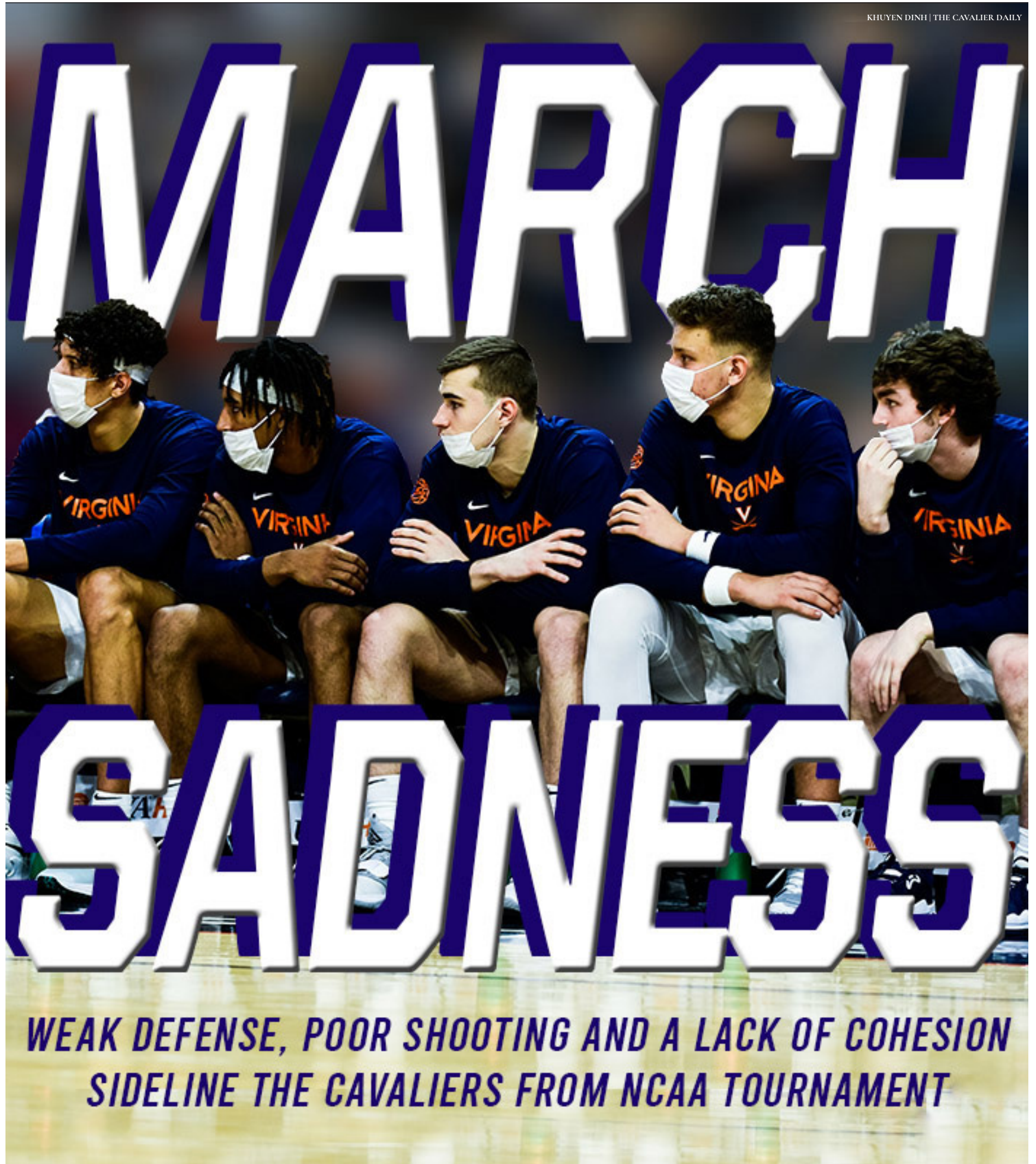


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KHUYEN DINH | THE CAVALIER DAILY



NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff



LUIS COLON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

After two years of virtual Days on the Lawn, the Office of Admissions intends to continue offering virtual programming in conjunction with in-person activities.

U.Va. to offer hybrid Days on the Lawn for Class of 2026 after two years of virtual programming

The University's Office of Admission announced a hybrid-style Days on the Lawn this year, with a virtual portion offered at the end of February and in-person events planned throughout April. Days on the Lawn is an all-day open house event designed for admitted students to explore the University prior to making an enrollment decision.

The event has traditionally included housing tours, information sessions for different schools and colleges within the University and opportunities to speak with administrators, current students and other admitted students.

The Office of Admission has offered virtual Days on the Lawn for the past two years due to the pandemic. Beginning in 2020, students were able to attend information sessions on Zoom for different undergraduate schools and colleges, as well as student life sessions. Parents could attend virtual information sessions as well.

First-year College student Olivia Conniff emphasized the significance of hybrid programming for different students.

"I think the most beneficial part of it would be for students who are uncomfortable with COVID-19," Conniff said. "Or maybe even students who live further away and aren't able to come for a visit."

According to Macy Lenox, associate dean of the Office of Undergraduate Admission, the events in late February follow two virtual welcome events held for students admitted through early decision in partnership with the Office of Orientation and New Student Programs. The February events will continue through early March and will include three virtual programs for students admitted through early action or early decision, and will discuss learning, living and leading at the University.

CDC lowers Charlottesville and Albemarle County COVID-19 community level from 'high' to 'medium'

The Centers for Disease Control reclassified Charlottesville City and Albemarle County's COVID-19 community level from "high" to "medium" on Thursday. The CDC uses three metrics to measure the community levels — new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents, total cases per 100,000 residents, both measured weekly, and the percentage of inpatient hospital occupant beds occupied by COVID-19 patients.

In Charlottesville and Albemarle, COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents over the last seven days have fallen below 200, low enough for the change in classification per the CDC.

While individuals in communities classified as "high" are advised to wear a mask indoors and in public — regardless of whether or not they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 — those in "medium" COVID-19 level communities do not have to follow these guidelines.

In total, there have been 10,067 cases of COVID-19 in Charlottesville since the Blue Ridge Health District began recording data. Of those cases, 192 have resulted in hospitalizations and 77 have been fatal.

Cases peaked on Jan. 11 this semester, when the seven-day average was 74.43 new cases per day. As of March 3 — the Thursday before spring break — there was an average of 9.14 new cases reported per day, per the University's COVID-19 tracker. The seven-day average positivity rate was 4.05 percent, while the number of active cases was 132 on the same day.

Following spring break, the number of new cases dropped to 2.29 as of March 15. The seven-day average positivity rate also declined to 3.25 percent, and the number of active cases dropped to 19.

University administrators announced Feb. 22 that it will lift the indoor masking requirement on March 21 for University-owned spaces — including office buildings, IM-Rec facilities and venues. The mandate will remain in place in classrooms, U.Va. Health facilities and University Transit Services.

3.10

3.11

3.14

University leadership asks community to take cybersecurity precautions, avoid business with sanctioned areas amidst war in Ukraine

The University is encouraging members of the University community to exercise caution on the web and ensure they are not giving or receiving services nor doing business in sanctioned areas as the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues into its third week. Currently, sanctioned areas include Russia, Belarus and the Luhansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine.

In an email to professors and researchers, J.J. Davis, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Ian Baucom, executive vice president and provost and Vice President for Research Melur K. Ramasubramanian wrote that sanctions and restrictions imposed by the United States and other nations do have an impact on the University.

Among the active sanctions, it is prohibited for businesses to provide services — financial and non-financial — to or from individuals and entities in the previously listed areas. As such, providers like Duo and Zoom — which the University contracts services from — will not be available in those countries.

Phillip Potter, associate professor of politics and public policy and director of the National Security Policy Center at the University, wrote in an email to The Cavalier Daily that the University is simply making sure that it is complying with government restrictions.

"The University must adhere to export control restrictions or potentially face serious consequences," Potter said. "This is something we track even in normal times... Increased restrictions on Russia mean that preexisting collaborations or relationships could become problematic."

University leadership asked community members to avoid opening malware and suspicious emails, to update their systems to limit the likelihood that they get hacked, to backup their data and to report any cybersecurity incidents to the University Information Security office.

University community anticipates easing of mask mandate

The relaxation of requirements comes after more than a year of masking guidelines

Merrill Hart | Senior Writer

Many members of the community are excited to return to a more normal University experience with the announcement that masks will no longer be required except in classrooms, transit services and UVA Health facilities. Students and faculty members expressed excitement about using gyms and interacting in person without a mask, while also noting the importance of respecting others' preferences.

University President Jim Ryan announced the partial lifting of the mask requirement in an email sent Feb. 22, citing slowed transmission of COVID-19 and reduced hospitalization, isolation and reported case numbers.

"Our goal has always been to impose as few restrictions on this community as needed to protect public health, and that goal will guide our decision making going forward," the email read.

As of March 16, the University's online COVID-19 tracker reports 19 active community cases — 9 of which are students — one percent of isolation beds occupied, and 41 patients currently hospitalized for COVID-19. The City of Charlottesville has additionally seen a 82 percent decrease in average cases reported since the last 14 days, with 50 percent of residents fully vaccinated.

Many members of the community have affirmed they feel safe with the new changes, including Associate Professor of Biology Dave Kittlesen, who said that he appreciates the objective data used to support the latest decision.

"I thought that was well communicated by [Ryan] and the Provost in their announcement," Kittlesen said. "They highlighted about half a dozen parameters that are measurable data that informs that decision."

Kittlesen does not foresee any large spike in cases as a result of the lightened protocol, and said that he remains hopeful that conditions will continue to improve so that students and faculty can safely remove masks within the classroom as well.

This decision comes two years after masking began in University classrooms in the fall of 2020 after a period of complete online learning during the spring before. Masks were required at all times indoors — except when in private spaces such as dorm rooms or apartments — and outdoors when six feet of social distance could not be maintained. Administration lifted the mask mandate on May 14 of that same year following CDC guidance stating that fully vaccinated people did not need to wear masks.

On Aug. 6, however, before the beginning of the fall 2021 semester,

Executive Vice Presidents Liz Magill and J.J. Davis announced in an email to students that the school year would begin with a mask requirement for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in shared indoor spaces, but not outdoors.

The message framed the fall masking policy as a temporary reaction to the Delta COVID-19 variant, with plans to continue reevaluating throughout the semester.

Although masks will be optional in many University-owned buildings, they will still be required within classrooms — a frustration for Kittlesen, who reported difficulties with face coverings in the classroom.

"It's harder to get to know my students," Kittlesen said. "It's hard-

from students.

"I think everyone's done with the masks," Solero said.

According to the update, faculty in dining and recreational facilities will continue wearing masks as a precautionary measure, but Solero remains hopeful that they too will soon be able to unmask.

"I'm looking forward to not wearing [masks] anymore, especially since they're really hot in the kitchen," Solero said.

In addition to dining halls, masking has been required in recreational facilities for over two years now. With the new change, many workers are looking forward to a new work environment.

Michael Shipe, director of mar-

hand sanitizer, as well as electrostatic sprayers and CO2 level sensors to monitor air quality.

Ryan affirmed the safety of the lowered requirement in the announcement, citing global trends of decreasing cases and the effectiveness of the University's COVID-19 policies.

"We are seeing encouraging signs that the global omicron wave is subsiding and our collective efforts as a community are effective in slowing transmission of the virus," Ryan said.

After almost two years of masking, many students are also looking forward to the lighter requirements. First-year College student Carly Nerger said that while she wishes masks were also optional in class-

returning to normalcy and moving away from a long period of mandatory COVID-19 safety measures.

"Over the last two years, I have adapted to wearing a mask while working out," Phan said. "However, removing the mask mandate... provides an inkling of hope that things may go back to normal."

Despite positive reactions from some students and faculty members, Student's Council representative body passed a resolution denouncing the University's decision to lift certain indoor mask requirements at its meeting March 1, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing issue.

"The University has made this decision with the threat of the virus to fully vaccinated, healthy individuals in mind with little mention of its threat to those who are vulnerable despite vaccination status," the resolution reads.

Second-year College student Tyler Busch co-sponsored the resolution along with Gabriela Hernandez, chair of the representative body and third-year College student. During the meeting, Busch expressed his discontent with the University's decision.

"The reason I'm bringing this resolution now is just because, for me, this idea of ... lifting some mask mandates indoors appears to be ableism, plain and simple," Busch said.

Third-year Commerce student Isabelle Nguyen said she thinks people should continue to mask if they want to, regardless of the mandate being lifted.

"I think the biggest struggle coming out of it is really just going to be accepting people from wherever they're at," Nguyen said. "Even though the mask mandate is down, if you want to choose a mask, that's totally your thing. We all should respect each other's boundaries."

Ryan's email concluded by thanking the community for "the enormous and constant effort we have all put into protecting each other on every step of this long journey" and stating that the policies will continue to be evaluated as the pandemic evolves.

After two years of masking requirements, the change in policy marks a turning point. Nguyen remembers a time before masking and looks forward to a return to true face-to-face interactions.

"I think it'll be good for all of us just to be able to see and recognize each other as people," Nguyen said.



HANNAH KETT | THE CAVALIER DAILY

er to learn and remember names. It's harder to read faces in the classroom in terms of understanding and questioning. So I think it really has a genuine negative impact on teaching and learning."

Now, over two years after the mask mandate was first established, the mask mandate will be reduced on Mar. 21 — a date chosen to create a buffer between the change in policy and students' return from spring break, with classes restarting Mar. 14.

With students no longer required to wear masks in dining halls, dining hall workers are also feeling relieved by the change — Sal Solero, executive chef at Observatory Hill dining hall, said that most staff members are excited for the change and relatively unconcerned about exposure

ketting and communications of IM-Rec sports, said that the many staff members are excited for the change, which has created an additional task for workers of regulating mask wearing in recreational facilities. Shipe also affirmed that the health and safety of the staff will remain a priority.

"Most staff seem to be looking forward to this [change]," Shipe said. "Of course, personal health and safety at work is something we take seriously, and we'll be working with our staff to ensure they have what they need to be at work and have peace of mind."

Although masking will no longer be required, staff will be continuing sanitation efforts to maintain safety. Shipe said that the staff will still provide sanitizing wipes and

rooms, she understands the reasoning and is particularly looking forward to going to the gym without a mask.

"People have the option to avoid the gym if they're worried about COVID-19 exposure, but everyone has to go to class, so I understand still wearing masks in that setting to protect the immunocompromised," Nerger said. "I'm really excited about the change for the gym though, because it's annoying to wear a mask while doing a hard workout."

Also finding the masking requirement to be a downside when using recreational facilities, first-year College student Victoria Phan sees the lifting of the mask requirement as an improvement to the University's recreational offerings as well as an important step towards

Honor: Looking back, looking forward

In the wake of a historic vote, the University community is left to wonder what is next for the Honor Committee

Lexi Baker & Lauren O'Neil | News Writers



AVA PROEHL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

There have been almost a dozen failed attempts to alter the constitution since 1977, with proposals ranging from a multi-sanction system to a jury system.

Students voted by a four-to-one ratio to pass a referendum to the Honor constitution in early March. This historic vote — which reduces the sanction of expulsion to a two-semester leave of absence — marked the largest change to the Honor system since its inception over 150 years ago.

It has not been a quick or easy road to change — this term, the Committee struggled with reaching quorum, internal debates and in-fighting and ultimately how to reconcile the past of Honor with the future of the Committee.

Looking back — expulsion and the single-sanction system

The first recorded Honor Trial in 1851 ended with expulsion, though a single-sanction expulsion system didn't officially exist in writing until the introduction of a written constitution in 1977. Between 1919 and 2017, 1,104 students were expelled by the Honor Committee. The Honor system stands in contrast to the University's other sanctioning body, the University Judiciary Committee. UJC utilizes a multi-sanction system that sanctions guilty students through various means ranging from written warnings to expulsion from the University.

Since 1977, there have been almost a dozen failed attempts to alter the constitution. In 2001, members of the Honor Committee

seriously considered a multi-sanction system, but it wasn't until 2006 that a student organization — Hoos Against Single Sanction — developed the first proposal that juries should be able to decide the sanction for a guilty verdict based on individual case details. The proposal failed by 62 votes.

In 2011, another significant event concerning the Honor Committee stirred contention among the community — Jay Perkins, who was then a Law student at the University, was detained and harassed without reason by officers of the University Police Department. At the urging of those close to him, Perkins published a column in the Law School newspaper describing the experience. After the Federal Bureau of Investigation's officer and two University Police Department lieutenants interrogated Perkins, he recanted the allegations. Shortly after this announcement, Perkins was charged with an Honor violation for allegedly fabricating a story about police misconduct.

Though Perkins' case ended with an acquittal, he told The Cavalier Daily that the case was brought without all of the facts available to the public and the trauma "scarred [him] for life."

In 2015, two Honor support officers put three referenda on the student-wide election ballot, one of which asked students to answer the non-binding question "should the Honor Committee consider

implementing a multiple sanction system?" When the time came to vote, 51 percent of students voting in the election voted in favor of the proposal.

The next push for significant reform came this term, with Andy Chambers, chair of the Honor Committee and fourth-year College student, running on a campaign that promised a multi-sanction system and constitutional overhaul. While Chambers' ideas resonated with members of the Committee, the group struggled consistently to achieve tangible results.

Last fall, a total of five proposals were proposed and deliberated by the Committee — the group landed on one drafted by Rep. Christopher Benos, third-year Law student, which would have extended the Informed Retraction period to up until the time of the trial and reduced the guilty sanction to a two-semester leave of absence.

The IR is a process through which any student can admit to a breach of the Honor code after being made aware that a report has been filed against them. Once the student admits guilt, they leave the University for two semesters.

Throughout the academic year, the Committee has struggled to reach quorum, which is necessary in order to vote on constitutional changes. In order to reach quorum, 19 members of the total 27 must be in attendance. Frequently through-

out the fall and early spring, between 14 and 18 members attended meetings. As of the meeting held on Feb. 27, the committee had not reached quorum since Nov. 3.

The proposal did come to a vote Oct. 24, a meeting at which 19 of the 27 Honor representatives were present. However, five members voted against the constitutional changes, including three vice-chairs and two representatives, and thus the proposal ultimately failed to pass within the Committee.

Benos thus authored a petition to the University Board of Elections to have the referendum put on the student-wide election ballot in early March. Any student can submit a referendum for a binding constitutional amendment to the student body if they can garner at least 1,250 signatures on a petition for the referendum.

Benos' petition went public Jan. 25 and ultimately received more than 1,600 signatures in under nine days. Once on the ballot, 10 percent of the student body must vote in favor of the proposed amendment and 60 percent of those voting must vote in favor for the amendment to pass, per the Honor Committee's constitution.

After three days of voting, the referendum passed with the highest voter turnout on the entire ballot in the spring.

Students and faculty express mixed feelings towards referenda's passage

When the referendum hit the ballot in March, 4,811 students voted in favor. Comparatively, two referenda were put to a student ballot in 2020 — neither pertaining to sanctioning processes, but both of which failed to meet the 10 percent student turnout threshold. Among those who voted in the election, some attributed their ballot to a belief that reform could create increased trust among students and faculty, while others voted against the provision for practical reasons.

Third-year College student Bridget Kennedy spoke in favor of the referendum at The Cavalier Daily's Honor Town Hall, held the night before student-wide elections began. Kennedy's support for the measure stemmed from a belief that expulsion as a sanction was too harsh regardless of offense, and that reformist measures would increase buy-in to the Honor system.

The ethics of expulsion have long been debated — while some favor a more rehabilitative sanction process, others uphold expulsion as a just punishment for those who vi-

olate the community of trust.

"I think that people might actually take some more time to report Honor offenses if they see reason for it [with the change], because their punishment won't be as severe," Kennedy said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily. "I think that some people might take the Honor system more seriously."

Kennedy was invested in the Honor system upon arrival at the University based on her impression of the system, even applying to serve as an Honor support officer her first year. However, Kennedy's impression of the system changed when she saw rampant academic dishonesty at the University go unchecked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As time went on, later, my impression of [Honor] changed especially over the course of the pandemic because I feel like seeing academic dishonesty became so much more common," Kennedy said. "There wasn't much reporting on it because of how stressful the situation of the pandemic and on-line school was and how extreme the punishment was if somebody were found guilty of an Honor offense."

Unlike Kennedy, Jack Stone, vice-chair for community relations and fourth-year Commerce student, campaigned against the referendum and talked about his decision as being influenced by practical considerations. Stone did not support the referendum because as it stands after the change, the sanction for filing an Informed Retraction is the same as for a student who is found guilty of an honor violation.

"Obviously, I think the students made the totally wrong decision, because the referendum didn't make sense to me," Stone said. "It definitely, I would say, reflects poorly on U.Va. and U.Va. students that they voted on this."

Still, Stone added that he was pleased by high student turnout in the election. A total of 6,010 — or 23.75 percent — students voted on the referendum, the highest turnout of any individual vote on the ballot this year.

For Assoc. Commerce Prof. Steven Johnson, an Honor system creates trust between students and faculty at the University — something that he hopes is maintained even with this change. Even so, a single-sanction system can impact a faculty member's decision regarding whether or not to report a suspected Honor violation, Johnson said.

"Even if there is a clear infrac-

tion, if it relates to something inconsequential for a course grade — for example, unauthorized collaboration on a simple homework — single sanction is a strong deterrent to reporting,” Johnson wrote. “Likewise, the possibility of a lengthy, time-consuming investigation and jury trial further deters reporting in all but the most flagrant and substantive violations.”

Honor investigations can take weeks or months, with due process rights for the accused ever more important given the high stakes of a trial with expulsion on the line — faculty have previously expressed complaints about this lengthy timeline.

Johnson recalled his experience at other universities that gave professors full discretion in deciding sanctions for cheating, and acknowledged that it can easily lead to preferential treatment and systemic inequities. At the same time, faculty discretion has the potential benefit of allowing for greater proportionality and mutual respect throughout the sanctioning process, Johnson said.

“An advantage of faculty discretion is it can align infractions and consequences in a more immediate and proportionate way,” Johnson said. “In some cases, it can also convert the process from being highly adversarial to one of mutual problem solving by faculty and students to identify root causes of cheating and to find ways to address those causes.”

During a Feb. 6 meeting of the Honor Committee, Chambers noted that he had recently been made aware of increased discussion among students surrounding the claim that Black students are more harshly penalized under the Honor’s current system — which might have driven further turnout.

The Bicentennial Report that Perkins contributed to after his accusation demonstrated disparities between the racial demographics of students at the University and those reported. Despite only making up 6 percent of University students, Black students made up 8.7 percent of reported students. Similarly, the Committee’s Statistical Transparency Reporting Portal shows that over the last eight semesters, Asian American students comprised 27.2 percent of all reports despite making up about 12 percent of the student population in the same period.

Discrepancies in the racial demographics of Honor cases are dictated by reports filed, Chambers said, which the Honor Committee itself does not control. Perkins expressed a similar sentiment, arguing that this reform does not go far enough.

“To be abundantly clear, UVa. students typically face Honor charges after being accused by faculty or other students — the race and nationalities of the students accused by these groups are dispro-

portionately Black, brown, and international — the recent Honor reforms don’t seem to appreciate this fact,” Perkins wrote, noting that the reform will not alter interactions between students and faculty members in any significant way.

Benos, however, hopes that the reform will begin to rebuild Honor’s legitimacy amongst community members in two ways — by signaling a readiness for reforms aimed at rehabilitation and by reducing the disproportionality of severe punishments.

“Removing expulsion first will build bridges to marginalized communities by ensuring that the most severe of outcomes cannot prospectively fall disproportionately on some students more than others,” Benos said. “Removing expulsion also rebrands Honor as a rehabilitative — not simply punitive — institution and will increase buy-in from students and faculty.”

Many incoming Honor representatives also voiced a commitment to future reform in written statements to The Cavalier Daily, with second-year Hamza Aziz specifically noting disparate reporting rates — rather than disparities in outcome — as an issue the next committee must address.

Looking forward — what comes next for the Committee

As outgoing representatives grapple with what to do in light of the momentous change granted by the student body’s vote, incoming representatives are preparing to take office. However, no Honor Committee meetings will be held for the rest of the term, per an email sent by Chambers Monday.

In the email, Chambers wrote he believes the group is a “lame-duck” Committee and that he plans to leave the task of passing appropriate bylaws to the newly-elected representatives in early April. As such, Chambers said he does not plan to call any additional meetings of the Committee before the end of his term.

“In the interest of dedicating all efforts the Committee can muster toward creating a range of bylaw options for the incoming Committee to decide upon, I will not be calling any more meetings for the rest of the term,” Chambers said in the email to outgoing representatives.

Currently, any student found guilty of an Honor offense will have their case placed on hold until bylaw revisions are consistent with the new amendment to the Constitution. Chambers instructed representatives to take down report information for any student accused of an Honor violation before the current term ends so that the next Committee can reach out and process cases when ready.

Before Chambers announced the cancellation of all meetings, Stone told The Cavalier Daily

that he did not believe the current Committee would have been able to meet quorum to pass any bylaws, and that he did not “see a point” in attending Honor meetings for the rest of the term anyway.

“I’m not going to give [Benos] this victory of getting these by-laws through,” Stone said. “It might sound like obstructionism — and it totally is. I will do all I can to prevent any bylaws this year from passing.”

In an email statement to The Cavalier Daily, Benos expressed disappointment with Chambers’ decision to cancel all remaining Committee meetings, adding that he does not plan to call a special session prior to the end of this term. Three representatives on the Committee can choose to call a special meeting at any point, and Chambers affirmed that he would send notice of any such meeting to the Committee. In the event that a meeting is called, quorum would remain at 19 members.

“[This] course of inaction is extraordinary, unprecedented and deeply irresponsible,” Benos said. “Our Committee is required to answer to the will of students ... Leadership is responsible for providing the tools — not the least of which is the foundation of a meeting — required to conduct legislative work.”

In the meantime, newly-elected representatives shared mixed reactions about the referendum and expressed hope that they will be able to address what they see as necessary changes to the system in their upcoming term.

Daniel Elliott, first-year Law student and incoming representative, wrote that he fully supported the referendum, noting that the change alters but does not weaken the Honor system.

“Changing the Honor System at UVa. to reflect the idea that no

one is beyond a second chance is a reflection of justice and of our values, not only as law students, but as a larger campus community that is dedicated to ensuring all students can learn and grow, regardless of their past,” Elliott said.

Elliott said he thinks the change is in line with the University’s tradition of student self-governance and will not ignore the historical significance of the Honor system at the University.

“It instead keeps alight the flame of self-governance that a student-run Honor System like ours holds dear,” Elliott said. “If we want to be a true embodiment of government over a campus that is by and for the students, then we must adapt to the values that the students adhere to, including redemption, second chances, restorative justice and fairness.”

Graduate student Rep. Kelly O’Meara, on the other hand, said he thinks the Informed and Conscientious Retraction reforms fundamentally altered the system to create fairer processes, and that because of these options he voted against the referendum. O’Meara will return to represent the University’s School of Architecture in the Committee’s next term.

“Students are given the opportunity to own up to their mistakes, do the honorable thing and make amends through time off, then be welcomed back to the University and the Community of Trust,” O’Meara said. “The referendum puts forth the same sanction without students restoring their own Honor, nor the Honor of the Community of Trust.”

Three incoming Honor representatives — O’Meara, fourth-year College student Lauren McDowell and Gabrielle Bray, vice-chair for hearings and third-year College student — said they hope to imple-

ment a multi-sanction system this year.

“I think the election results show a clear mandate for continued change, as voters I’ve talked to hoped this would be a push in a more progressive direction for honor, and I intend to follow that through to a multi-sanction system,” Bray said.

O’Meara said that a multi-sanction system that maintains expulsion as a sanction while also instituting various lesser sanctions would maintain academic integrity while reflecting what he sees as the will of the student body. While O’Meara would have liked to pass this reform before the recent referendum, he expressed that he has already spoken with other representatives about plans toward such a system.

“The only path I see forward is the full implementation of a multi-sanction system offering various penalties dependent upon the offense, with expulsion as an option as well as lesser sanctions for lesser offenses on the table,” O’Meara said.

As it stands, reworking the by-laws and the possibility of passing a multi-sanction system will be up to the new Committee when its term begins in early April — the group will elect a chair from the group of representatives, who will be responsible for guiding the Committee through any of these changes.

With the effects of a contentious term echoing in the trial room, it is certain that members of the Honor Committee are gearing up for what will be yet another historic year.



PROUD CHANDRAGOLICA | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The referendum — which was proposed by third-year Law student Christopher Benos — reduces the sanction of expulsion to a two-semester leave of absence.

LIFE

Bang! — A restaurant worth waiting for?

Although this popular Asian fusion restaurant doesn't take reservations, the delicious food and ambient atmosphere make it worth the wait

Nicole Ryeom | Food Writer



EVA KRETSINGER-WALTERS | THE CAVALIER DAILY

In addition to their amazing food, Bang! is also known for having some fun and unique cocktails.

Located just outside the Downtown Mall, Bang! is an Asian-inspired tapas restaurant with a vegetarian, gluten-free and vegan-friendly menu that, unfortunately, does not take reservations. Well-known among students for its delicious food and unique drinks, I decided to visit Bang! to see if it was worth the wait.

Despite Bang!'s popularity among Charlottesville locals and University students alike, it is one of the local restaurants that does not accept reservations beforehand. On the night that I decided to go to Bang!, I was apprehensive about my chances of getting a ta-

ble, but when I showed up on a Friday night with a group of four friends around 6:45 p.m., we were seated within 10 minutes, starting the meal off on a great note.

Upon being seated, I quickly noticed the variety of people enjoying their meals — from families with children to couples on first dates and University students — the ambiance of Bang!'s atmosphere was warm and inviting, creating a comfortable and familiar environment for all of its patrons. Instead of a reusable menu, paper menus are placed on the table with pens next to it, as diners check off which items they want to order.

While the servers suggested ordering two to three tapas per person, my friends and I could not decide on only two dishes we both wanted, so we ended up ordering a plethora of items from the menu, ranging from firecracker shrimp to goat cheese dumplings. The dishes came out one at a time, giving us the opportunity to fully enjoy each of the flavors on its own.

The aroma wafting from the dishes as they were placed on our table was delicious, and each was just as flavorful and tasty as the last. My favorite two dishes were the firecracker shrimp and the flash fried brussels sprouts. The

firecracker shrimp was crispy and warm, served with a slaw that balanced out the richness of the garlic sauce, while the flash fried brussels sprouts were the perfect mix of sweet and savory, with a combination of miso mayo and sweet soy sauces.

McKenzie Mallory, fourth-year College student and manager of Bang!, has been working at Bang! for the past eight months, moving quickly from working as a server to the general manager position. Mallory thinks that Bang!'s unique menu and welcoming environment are what make it so appealing to students and locals alike.

"I love the tapas style," Mallory said. "[Bang!] is the first tapas-style restaurant I've been to in Charlottesville and I just fell in love with it. I also love the staff, [working at Bang!] is a very inclusive experience."

Bang!'s patrons clearly also feel the same, as there are regulars who frequent the restaurant. Bang! is not just a restaurant for a single occasion, it is perfect for all occasions and all groups of people, with an outdoor patio and upstairs and downstairs seating areas.

"We have a couple regulars that come in and they've been loyal for the last 20 years," Mallory said. "I think it's the people that create the vibe and I think they're doing a really great job of it."

Currently, Bang! has a different array of offerings than their usual menu because of Charlottesville Restaurant Week, which took place from Jan. 28 to Feb. 5. Charlottesville Restaurant Week is a week where diners get to dine at participating restaurants and enjoy three courses for just \$19, \$29 or \$39. During restaurant week, Bang! charged \$29 per person for three dishes, with \$1 of the proceeds from each meal going to Restaurant Week's selected charity. This year, the charity was the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank of Charlottesville.

However, the restaurant tries to keep some of its most classic and popular dishes on the menu at all times, such as the rich and creamy goat cheese dumplings. In addition to their amazing food, Bang! is also known for having fun and unique cocktails. Two tempting drinks offered are "Sin City" — a blackberry and pomegranate martini — and a new drink they've introduced called "Not Your Mother's Mule," which is a habanero tequila mule.

Overall, Bang! is a restaurant that is definitely worth the wait. The delicious food, ambient atmosphere and fun cocktails make it a unique Charlottesville restaurant that is likely to remain a favorite for years to come. Stop by Bang! for a casual dinner with your family, a celebration with friends or even a first date as it's the perfect place for any occasion.

Currently, Bang! is also hiring servers and bartenders. If you're interested, reach out to bangrestaurant@gmail.com.

Top 10 reasons missing March Madness is O.K.

The mind can justify anything if you try hard enough

Ben Rosenthal | Top 10 Writer

1. Potential for a 2023 redemption arc

Everyone loves a good comeback story. Think about it — what do Tiger Woods, the McRib, and former U.S. President Grover Cleveland all have in common? A triumphant return from the brink of obscurity, culminating in redemption on the national stage. Now, we have the same opportunity as all of our favorite adulterous golfers, questionable sandwiches and nonconsecutive two-term presidents. We're in truly good and great company.



MAYA KALIDINDI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

2. The team has more time to focus on their academics

Think of all the classes Kihei Clark would have missed to participate in March Madness. Think of all the discussion sections in which Armaan Franklin would have had to take a zero for participation. If you are anything like me, these thoughts have you shedding tears down your face. Well, cry no more. Our boys will be better able to tend to their studies. Honestly, I'd wager that they are relieved — no more players will have to miss improv practice to fly out to Minnesota. If any paragraph I have ever written is going to conjure up the hatemailers, it is probably this one.

3. No more obligation to put U.Va. atop your bracket

Okay, let's be honest — even if we had somehow snuck into March Madness this year, none of us would have done this, right? But we're all somewhat biased to our home team, and I can attest that I would have most likely given them a round or two bump over their likely finish had that been the case. Now, we can toss aside sentimentality for pragmatism and accuracy. Isn't that fun?

4. Why would we want to be part of an event that Tech attends?

I don't get it — if we hate Virginia Tech so much, why do we want to be part of a tournament in which they're participating? Wouldn't that make us guilty by association? I don't want any association with Virginia Tech. The second my younger sister accepted her admission to Virginia Tech, I kicked her out of the moving vehicle we were in. I don't know where she is. I don't care where she is.

5. Collective reductions in blood pressure for all

Coach Tony Bennett and the men's basketball team have left me with many amazing memories during my time at this school. My first year was during that championship run — and for those of you young children who weren't alive back then — every game was a nailbiter. We kept on inventing ways to take it down to the wire. It was incredibly fun — but also incredibly bad for my heart health. The team being out of the tournament will make my doctor happy, at the very least.

6. More spots for walk-ons — like me — on the team next season exercise

Look, I don't want to be critical of anyone on the team. I cannot judge any player's performance — mostly because I only saw maybe four games this season and should probably not be writing a March Madness piece at all. But if Bennett wants to make some roster changes to bring some energy into this offense, a poorer performance this season bodes well for my chances as a walk-on next year. Tony, I can dunk — I may need either a trampoline or a lowered basket, but let's not get lost in the details.



MAYA KALIDINDI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

7. The likelihood of reduced ticket prices next year

On a similar path of logic, one can safely reason that a lesser performance will lead to lower ticket prices next year. For impending graduates such as myself, this is an important issue. With gas prices on the rise, as well as the fact that I have no awaiting job offers and will likely have to sell my Pokemon cards to make ends meet, cheap guest tickets will be critical to my survival. I may need somebody to press the order button for me, however, as I will likely need to eat my fingers for free sustenance.

8. The National Invitation Tournament has more indie cred

March Madness is mainstream. March Madness is lame-stream. The National Invitation Tournament, which I just learned is apparently a thing, has much more underground credibility. The fact that nobody is talking about it means that everybody should be talking about it. When I'm on a tropical vacation, I don't look for the crowded, tourist-trap beaches. I look for the underrated gems. That's what the National Invitation Tournament is — a private beach. I think. I really don't know what this tournament is.



MAYA KALIDINDI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

9. We can kiss those UMBC jokes goodbye for a year

Yes, this was four years ago. Yes, we literally won the entire tournament the very next year. No, my high school group chat won't ever let me live this game down — in spite of the fact that I didn't even go here at the time. Every March Madness since then, they remind me of the UMBC 16th seed upset. Well, not this year. The benefit of irrelevance is ... well, irrelevance. Our prior failures won't be on anybody's mind, because we failed prior to the opportunity to fail again. The last loss was humiliating, but it was under-the-radar humiliation — unlike that fateful night.

10. More venue availability for Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live

In the spring of 2019, I was a lonely, miserable first-year. I had just failed a calculus test, said "this is a beautiful campus" in front of an attractive third-year student and — worst of all — witnessed a pack of squirrels get brutally run over by a bus. That very night, a friend reached out to me with the night's moves — a trip to John Paul Jones Arena for Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live. At first, I was skeptical, but I had nothing better to do. So I went. And I'm sure glad I did. For one hour and 43 minutes, I forgot all about the chaos of the world. I forgot about math, the government and the screams of those poor, poor squirrels. For the first time in years, I experienced pure, unadulterated joy. I have not been able to catch Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live since that fateful spring. But with Virginia out of March Madness, perhaps JPJ will have more availability. I sure hope it does. You all deserve to experience the same pure, unadulterated euphoria I did that night.

The insurmountable importance of expressing the truth

How our respective journeys from columnists to editors have strengthened our appreciation for truth and free expression in journalism

Cecy Juárez & Mario Rosales | Life Editors



LEXIE GAGNON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Journalism is ingrained in society. We may not always realize it, but journalism is an essential part of our day-to-day lives and we are inextricably bound to it. Whether that means reading The Cavalier Daily, skimming over news network notifications or watching the news religiously on television, we are all reliant on receiving information from the press. Most importantly, we rely on our media being truthful.

For several semesters, we have been practicing this ideal. We both began as Life Columnists, so you may be familiar with our writing. Cecy has been writing for The Cavalier Daily since October 2020 and Mario since the summer of 2020.

When we began writing for The Cavalier Daily, we both felt some anxiety — how were we, novices to journalism, supposed to deliver something that would convey our truths and morals? How could we relate something meaningful and honest to an audience of all backgrounds and generations?

After several columns, we

both eventually found our voices and the answer to these questions — writing authentically. That is, writing without fear of judgment, expressing our experiences without doubting their validity and speaking openly about what is meaningful to us. There are distinct experiences for each of us that speak to this transformative revelation.

Cecy wrote a column about how the Cinco de Mayo holiday imparts overtly racist overtones and undermines the Mexican population living in the United States. This column was a turning point for her, as it was a moment where she overcame her fear of speaking her truth — even when she knew she could be met with hostility. For a moment in creating this column, she was unwavering in her authenticity. After publishing, she realized her true potential in making an impression and opening people's eyes when she wasn't afraid to speak her mind. This column resulted in lively debate and remains one of her best pieces of journalism to date.

After writing about his experience of running and training for a marathon, Mario's confidence was stoked as a writer. The experience of such an arduous endeavor invoked so many raw emotions for him — from anguish and humility to triumphant satisfaction. The act of sharing such deep and intimate feelings, something he had not previously done, allowed him to find his voice and taught him to take more risks in his writing, as he openly expressed the gratifying highs and agonizing lows of the entire experience.

For both of us, writing as columnists was an illuminative experience, and we grew as individuals and developed a more introspective view on our lives because of it. However, once we became co-editors of the Life section, we took on more responsibility outside of ourselves, as we oversee all of the content published from the Life section. In stepping into these roles, we both quickly realized the greater potential of the newspaper. We came to understand the power

in our ability to feature so many unique and diverse voices — not just our own — and we recognized the good that we could do with it. We wanted to contribute to revealing the truth — no matter how big or small the story.

Concurrently, we also recognized that we must be cognizant of our privilege in being members of the press in the United States — the mere fact that we live here grants us the right to free speech via the First Amendment. Current events, particularly those unfolding in Eastern Europe, have reminded us that there are people across the world who don't get to wield this privilege. They cannot accurately express themselves or their realities because of censorship or total deprivation of free speech. Just yesterday, American filmmaker and journalist Brent Renaud was killed in Ukraine by Russian forces for reporting on the ongoing war. All of these events have been difficult for us to watch as journalists ourselves. This experience has, however, enabled us to gain a greater sense of ap-

preciation for just how valuable journalism is.

These events have reminded us how important this kind of work is and how we must not take our freedom of speech for granted. We must continue putting our best efforts into elevating people's voices and communicating truth, and we plan to do so for as long as we can.

We know we're just Life editors. We often publish lighthearted as well as insightful articles as a witness to the beautiful ways in which the Charlottesville and University community connect with each other to find shared meaning and purpose. It's an honor to be able to write about the events, relationships and sentiments that occur and develop within the University community. Most importantly, it's an honor to write about it truthfully, as we invite discourse and inspire discussion. Given all of this, we encourage others to not only continue expressing their voices, but also to appreciate the journalists who work toward conveying the truth every day.

SPORTS

Petey LaSalla breaks into the record books

LaSalla has played a pivotal role for the Cavaliers in both of their National Championships and is far from done playing in Charlottesville

Aidan Baller | Staff Writer

Senior Petey LaSalla became Virginia men's lacrosse's all-time leader in career face-off wins with his first face-off win against Syracuse Feb. 26, passing alumnus Jack deVilliers, who formerly owned the record with 604 wins.

"I didn't even know I was on track to beat it," LaSalla said. "Because of the COVID year everything washed away. But going into the Towson game, I saw something that I was coming up on it."

LaSalla was also named ACC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance that game, winning 19 of his 28 face-offs and scoring a goal in the 20-11 victory in Virginia's ACC opener.

Against Towson Feb. 19, LaSalla went 12 of 22 on face-offs to tie the record before breaking it against Syracuse. LaSalla's 605th face-off win — the record-breaker — was picked up by junior Danny Parker which led to a goal for junior Payton Cormier later that possession, seemingly a fitting way for LaSalla to put his stamp on history.

"It's cool to have the record now," LaSalla said. "But it wasn't something that was life or death for me to have."

The face-off specialist has his sights set on a third national championship and played an integral role in the last two. Despite being a freshman, LaSalla — propelled by a fearless and aggressive mentality — was extremely dominant on the way to the 2019 NCAA championship.

"Being a first year, it's kind of a good mentality because no one knows you yet," LaSalla said.

In Virginia's semifinal win against Duke during the 2018-19 season, LaSalla won the game's final eight face-offs and scored a key goal to propel them to a 13-12 double-overtime victory.

"After we won our Final Four game against Duke, I was happy and then I was like, 'Oh, God, now I gotta go against TD Ierlan,'" LaSalla said.

TD Ierlan was the face-off specialist for Yale at the time and ended his collegiate career as the all-time leader in career face-off wins and ground balls. The matchup would be LaSalla's toughest battle of the season.

"I have to play the best face-off guy that's ever played in college across history," LaSalla said. "But you kind of realize ... he's human."

Embracing the underdog mentality, LaSalla went on to score two



TESS GINSBERG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

LaSalla picked up his 605th face-off win against Syracuse to become the new all-time record holder for the men's lacrosse team.

goals against Yale en route to a 13-9 victory for Virginia's eighth men's lacrosse National Championship.

In his second national championship game, LaSalla scored one goal and picked up an assist for a 17-16 win against Maryland. That year, he finished first in the nation with 277 face-off wins and was named a Second Team All-American by United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.

In between the team's two national championships, the NCAA made two rule changes to the face-off position, no longer allowing players to take a knee for face-offs and banning the "motorcycle grip" technique — a grip in which the stick is held with both palms down.

LaSalla trained with Tommy Kelly, who currently plays in the Premier Lacrosse League, and was taught the traditional "knee down, motorcycle grip" technique. This rule change completely changed the complexion of the face-off —

the intention behind it being to reduce the number of stalemates reached in faceoffs — now forcing players to utilize the standard neutral grip where the palms face in opposite directions. Some players were frustrated, but the rule change came at a good time for LaSalla, who suffered significant wear and tear under the previous rules.

"In the 2020 season before it got canceled, I had pretty bad knee pains, just from always banging my knee on the ground," LaSalla said. "So I was happy, you know, that we didn't have to go on [our knees] anymore. It kind of saved my knee a bit."

LaSalla learned the new technique and returned to dominating the face-off X in 2021, but he has always been more than the typical face-off specialist.

A face-off specialist's role for a team typically starts and ends at the face-off — exiting the field right after the face-off is complete,

but LaSalla is much more than that. Unlike other face-off specialists, he is able to stay on the field, playing as an offensive midfielder, which also forces the opposing face-off specialist to remain on the field.

"They don't know the defensive schemes and they don't really know how to slide," LaSalla said about opposing face-off specialists. "We try to expose that either by dodging, playing off the ball, cutting or setting picks because the opponent's FOGO can kind of mess up the whole defense's slide game."

Last season, LaSalla scored 10 goals and dished out seven assists. This season, LaSalla already has five goals and through six games he has won 63.5 percent of his face-offs compared to a 62.4 winning percentage last season.

"Much of my career, I've been a one trick pony, just really focusing on my clamp and my hand speed," LaSalla said. "So in the offseason,

just working on another secondary move if I don't win the clamp."

His work in the offseason was demonstrated against Syracuse this season. After allowing senior Jakob Phaup to go 44-60 last season against Virginia, in their rematch LaSalla only allowed Phaup to go 11-32 with help from sophomore Gable Braun, Virginia's other face-off specialist.

Now in his fourth year on Grounds, LaSalla is chasing his third title with the Cavaliers.

Having already broken the all-time career face-off record, LaSalla plans to return for a fifth season after being accepted into the M.S. in Commerce program.

"I think everyone thinks about it a little bit," LaSalla said when asked about potentially playing in the Premier Lacrosse League. "I mean, it's really not on my mind as much because I'm coming back for another year next year."

LOTHROP: Why Virginia missed the ‘Big Dance’

Breaking down the flaws that led to Tony Bennett’s first tournament miss in nine years

Connor Lothrop | Sports Columnist



KHUYEN DINH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

For the first time since 2013, Virginia faithful will not be able to root for their Cavaliers in the NCAA Tournament.

Since Virginia basketball’s two-year peak between 2017 and 2019, the program has been in a steady decline. During those two seasons, Kyle Guy and company carried the Cavaliers to a pair of ACC regular-season titles, victory at the 2018 ACC tournament, No. 1-seeds in both 2018 and 2019 NCAA tournaments and the 2019 NCAA championship.

Downfall ensued. In 2019-20, Virginia struggled early but won their last eight regular season games, finishing second in the ACC before COVID-19 canceled the postseason. They won the ACC regular-season title in 2020-2021, but withdrew from the conference tournament due to COVID-19 and were upset by 13-seeded Ohio in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Statistically, Virginia fell off in those two seasons. Using Ken Pomeroy’s Adjusted Efficiency Margin, a measure of overall team performance, Virginia was first and second in the nation during its peak in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons, but dropped to No. 42 and No. 19 in the following 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons, respectively.

The bottom has fallen out this season. The once-mighty Cavaliers are now merely an average program for a power conference. Virginia has lost as many games this season as they did

in the seasons between 2017 and 2020 combined. Coach Tony Bennett’s squad lost at home to welterweights Navy and at James Madison — No. 190 and No. 231 in AdjEM, respectively. Overall, the Cavaliers’ 19-13 (12-8 ACC) record and No. 84 ranking in AdjEM led to the team missing the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2013.

This begs the question — what went wrong for the Cavaliers? Why are they bound for the National Invitation Tournament instead of March Madness?

Scoring Droughts

The common thread of Virginia’s losses is a toothless offense — specifically, long runs without scoring. In almost every one of their 13 losses, the Cavaliers had a stretch where they just couldn’t put the ball in the basket.

In the loss to Navy, Virginia tied the game at 55 with 8:45 to play, then failed to score until junior guard and Indiana transfer Armaan Franklin sank a three-pointer with 15 seconds left. In the humiliating loss against JMU, the Cavaliers went 12:41 with only a single free throw towards the end of the first half. Facing elimination against North Carolina in the ACC tournament, Virginia failed to

score for over seven minutes and an eight-point deficit became 22. Most of these enemy surges came in the second half with Virginia in contention. All of them ended with a demoralized Cavalier squad down and out of the game.

Poor Shooting

These poor runs were exacerbated by the Cavaliers’ terrible shooting. Virginia attempted 15.5 three-pointers per game, No. 350 in the country, and only made 32.2 percent of those threes, No. 259 nationally. Of Bennett’s seven-man rotation, only senior guards Kihei Clark and Kody Stattmann shot better than 35 percent on a combined six attempts per game — Franklin and senior forward Jayden Gardner — a transfer from East Carolina — both shot less than 27 percent on 5.5 combined attempts per game.

Compare this to the national championship season, when Virginia made 39.5 percent of its threes — albeit from behind a shorter three-point line, but still good for seventh in the nation. That season, four rotation players — Ty Jerome, De’Andre Hunter, Jay Huff and Guy — shot 40 percent or better from deep.

With the team shooting poorly, teams packed the paint and made life rough for inside presences like

Gardner, junior center Francisco Caffaro and sophomore forward Kadin Shedrick, gumming up Tony Bennett’s preferred blocker-mover offense.

As a result, the Cavaliers had trouble getting the ball inside and attempted only 14.8 free throws a game, No. 314 in the nation. Even when they got to the charity stripe, Virginia shot only about as well as the average Power Five team.

Threes, layups and free throws are the most efficient shots in basketball. Virginia had trouble even taking these shots — let alone making them.

Breakdown of the Pack-Line

Under Bennett, the Cavaliers have been famous for running the Pack Line defense, a system that packs the paint and slows the tempo to suffocate opposing offenses. At its peak, Virginia ran the system flawlessly and rode it to easy victories. But the Pack Line relies heavily on teamwork, communication and five smart defenders playing hard defense, every second of every possession.

The Cavaliers were unable to muster that high-level of cohesion and hence missed this peak in 2022. After ranking No. 2, 1, 5, 1 and 36 in defensive efficiency over the last five years, the defense plummeted to No.

67 this season.

The Pack Line relies on one small, quick defender harassing the ball-handler while four players form an arc a few feet inside the three-point line and barricade the paint. While Clark and sophomore guard Reece Beekman have mastered the on-ball role, the unit behind them has faltered, often letting teams into the paint with too much ease or failing to contest three-pointers.

This may be a direct result of weak 2018 and 2019 recruiting classes from Bennett. While his systems have always been sound, recruitment has come and gone. Bennett has had to rely on transfers like Gardner and Franklin, who, while serviceable on offense, have been subpar on defense. They’ve only been learning the intricacies of the Pack Line for a season, whereas past starters had years of experience. This learning curve may be why the defense has been so leaky.

Pure Talent Deficit

I can talk about the numbers behind unlucky shooting, bad spacing and incoherent defense all day. In the end, though, Virginia regressed this year because of a talent deficit. The peak was the Guy-Jerome-Hunter trio. After that, Mamadi Diakite, Jay Huff, Trey Murphy Jr. and others came through the program and led a charge to the tournament. But this season’s crop of players just doesn’t have the same juice. Clark can’t shoot, pass or lead as well as Guy. Franklin shoots as much as Jerome did, but with worse results. Caffaro doesn’t measure up to the bigs that came before him. I could go on.

The players didn’t play well enough to make the NCAA tournament, but that’s not necessarily their fault. Tony Bennett had an all-time team for two seasons but flubbed the succession plan once the golden age ended. The following three seasons, Bennett’s classes ranked an average of 43rd and half of those recruits have transferred out.

This gives the next recruiting class a tall order — to be the talent that refuels the tank for the Cavaliers. 247sports rates Virginia’s incoming class as the ninth best in the country. However, they won’t play until November. For now, we must suffer through something worse than a tournamentless March — the NIT.

The sixth-seeded Cavaliers kicked off their quest for a third NIT title Wednesday night at 7:30, when they hosted third-seeded Mississippi State in the first round.

Why March Madness still means a lot to many

The world of sports betting has changed the way the NCAA Tournament is viewed

Ben Anderson | Senior Associate

As the final buzzer sounded Thursday night in Brooklyn, N.Y., what Virginia basketball fans hoped would never become reality finally was set in stone — for the first time since 2013, the Cavaliers would not be heading to the NCAA Tournament. With that being the case, it would be completely understandable for many Virginia fans to become less interested in the finale of the college basketball season — or March Madness, as it has been branded.

Yet for some Virginia students — including third-year College student Max Pilloff — March Madness has become an even more valuable period due to a law that went into effect in January of 2021. Though sports betting was previously illegal, those over the age of 21 can legally gamble on sporting events in the state of Virginia, and there is perhaps no more important time for gambling than the NCAA Tournament.

“There’s just a plethora of games to bet on that are exciting and matter,” Pilloff said. “There’s no other time in the year where you have that many games that matter in such a short amount of time.”

Virginia is not the only state that has passed laws allowing its residents to bet on sporting events. As of February 2022, more than two dozen states have passed laws legalizing gambling, though a few only allow in-person activity to occur. Some states — most notably New York — have done so within the past year, leading to projections for the 2022 NCAA tournament gambling amounts to skyrocket given the increased accessibility.

Bennett Conlin, a sports betting reporter who works for Better Collective, a sports media company, says that March Madness is one of his team’s most popular events of the year in terms of content and coverage.

“I think you get a lot of casual fans and casual bettors who maybe don’t follow the entire college basketball season but once March madness hits you have people who are filling out a bracket, ousting some bets down on games,” Conlin said. “It’s certainly a popular time of the year. The Super Bowl’s the biggest, but March Madness is up there for sure.”

A psychological impact plays

a part in what makes betting on March Madness so popular as well. For Economics Prof. Terence Johnson, who teaches a course on game theory at the University, the single-elimination style of tournament that March Madness uses is what he thinks draws attention to the sport.

“Imagine that you used a Round Robin Tournament instead, where each team played all other teams, and the teams are ultimately ranked by their overall win-loss record,” Johnson said. “Luck would be less of a factor across many games.”

Pilloff has seen an increase in

easy it is to create an account on all of these books,” Pilloff said.

One aspect that makes gambling on March Madness unique is how large the gap of talent is between the typical powerhouses of the sport and teams from smaller conferences. Because of the amount of money the larger schools make — in 2019, Duke spent nearly 10 times the amount that CSU-Fullerton, its opponent, spent on men’s basketball — the level of play is typically enormous, and leads to teams being large favorites in the first and second rounds of the tournament. This leads to headaches

above and beyond better than their competition, then I’m willing to bet on them.”

Conlin was able to provide some insight into how sportsbooks such as FanDuel or DraftKings are able to create lines that are seemingly accurate almost every time and can cause immense frustration, especially with first-time bettors.

“Sportsbooks have their own internal people also analyzing the spreads,” Conlin said. “They’ve done a good job setting the lines and understanding the market and reacting to how the market views things.”

over all facets of life — from a friend group to an office. Therefore, Pilloff feels like the new gambling aspect in a way isn’t so different from what he’s already been doing.

“I was always in a ton of bracket pools, so I always felt like I had money riding on the tournament games, even before I was sports gambling,” Pilloff said. “But now I just care more about the blowout games because I wanna see if the team’s gonna cover the spread.”

Conlin agrees with Pilloff, citing some of the early-round games between very high and very low seeds that — while likely ending in blowouts — will have eager bettors watching until the very end.

“Duke doesn’t care whether they win by 15 or 25, they’re just trying to advance to the next round, so it’s a situation where late in the game, they’re up 23, they can put in their backups and walk-ons for a minute or two and CSU-Fullerton is able to cover,” Conlin said. “So there’s certainly a story within the game that I think bettors like, too.”

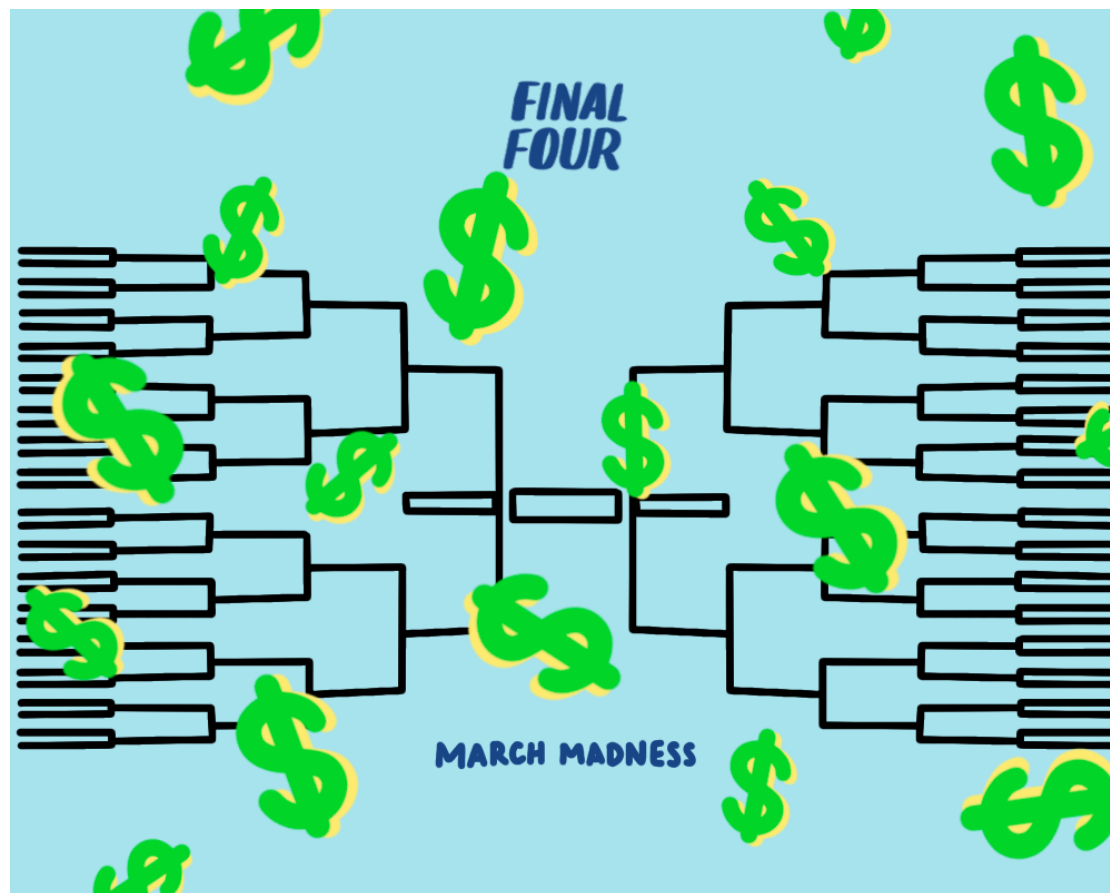
Because Virginia did not make the tournament, gambling provides University students such as Pilloff the opportunity to still feel connected to the event, since it has — for better or worse — been an expectation that the Cavaliers will be playing come March every year. With real money tied up in games, Pilloff has even more incentive to be watching closely.

“For me, it just adds excitement,” Pilloff said. “It just makes the game more interesting and makes me a little bit more emotionally invested in what I’m watching.”

Johnson agreed with Pilloff’s sentiment, noting the buzzer-beaters and Cinderella stories that ultimately give the NCAA Tournament its nickname.

“Every branch of the bracket and every team in the tournament suddenly matters,” Johnson said. “It can’t be exciting without uncertainty, and the March Madness design does its best to maximize uncertainty.”

Even though no one will see any Cavalier uniforms this year in CBS’s tournament ending-montage, Virginia students like Pilloff will still be watching March Madness just as intently as ever.



MAYA KALIDINDI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

popularity among his own friends as well, whether at the University or back home. With a combination of him turning 21 and sports betting becoming legal in the state of Virginia, he felt like it was the perfect time to take advantage of the most popular collegiate sports tournament in the country.

“I think it’s pretty popular, especially with the legalization, just how

for sports bettors, since both the talent level and schedule disparity makes it hard to judge how good a team really is.

“It’s hard to judge, especially in these early-round games with teams from small conferences who haven’t played anyone,” Pilloff said. “I generally just go by the eye test, which probably isn’t the most scientific way, but if a team looks like they’re

Another unique trait of March Madness is the quasi-gambling that already happens every year in the form of filling out brackets. Through sites such as ESPN’s Tournament Challenge, anyone can predict every single game of the tournament for free, and the winner this year gets \$100,000 from the parent company, Disney. In addition, it is extremely popular to set up bracket pools



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OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

Dangerous rhetoric is not entitled to a platform

Speech that threatens the lives of those on Grounds is unjustifiable

Here we are again. The University is no stranger to contention surrounding the issue of free speech. Last year, a student was harassed after posting a sign on her Lawn room door critiquing the University. This sparked a debate over free speech, which was reignited this fall when an event entitled “In Defense of Mr. Jefferson” received backlash for its attempts to glorify a known enslaver who exploited Black labor to construct the University. Just last month, an event hosted by the Federalist Society on abortion drew criticism for being one-sided and platforming a transphobic speaker. Most recently, a University student made national headlines for lamenting the state of free speech at the University. More often than not, this speech was defended by claiming a need for intellectual diversity. In looking at each of these instances, we as an Editorial Board found ourselves questioning what should be protected under the premise of “diversity of thought” and more importantly, what values we choose to accept on Grounds. For us,

the answer is simple. Hateful rhetoric is violent — and condoning it is impermissible.

A student organization recently announced its plans to host former vice president Mike Pence this April to speak in Old Cabell Hall. For Pence, gay couples signify a “societal collapse,” Black lives do not matter, transgender individuals and immigrants do not deserve protection and the pandemic should not be taken seriously. Nevertheless, the University has accepted Pence’s visit as an “opportunity to hear from, and engage with, leaders and experts from a wide variety of fields and perspectives.” So-called “perspectives” should not be welcomed when they spread rhetoric that directly threatens the presence and lives of our community members. The LGBTQ+ individuals Pence has attacked, the Black lives he refuses to value and the successful stories of immigration he and the former president hope to prevent — these very people are our peers, our neighbors and our community members. We refuse to condone platform-

ing Pence.

The University’s silence is deafening. Do not mistake this for neutrality, however. To be silent in the face of those like Pence is a choice — in this case, a choice to fail to protect the lives of those on Grounds who Pence blatantly threatens through his rhetoric and policies. To hide behind a sentiment that celebrates engaging with “leaders and experts from a wide variety of fields and perspectives” is to actively undermine the values of diversity, honor, integrity, trust and respect that the University purports to celebrate. Silence in the face of a homophobic, racist and transphobic politician only makes room for such “perspectives” at our University.

While Pence’s stop at the University may be part of a lecture series, it is undeniable that his presence means something fundamentally different here than on other college campuses. Pence plans to “take a stand for America’s founding.” Given recent history, this should sound warning bells. Four years ago, hundreds of white suprem-

acists flocked to Charlottesville to express their racist and violent beliefs. While they descended upon the Downtown Mall in a violent and deadly rally, we must remember — their first stop that weekend was here. We cannot forget this fact — the first place white supremacists felt comfortable expressing themselves was through a torchlit march on our Grounds. Let us be clear — we must seriously consider the environment that wish to cultivate at the University. Let us not forget that for four years, Pence served alongside the man who called those same white supremacists “very fine people.” Pence’s presence on Grounds signifies a tolerance of rhetoric that has already harmed our community — in fact, the very building that Pence will speak in was constructed to hide Black citizens so as not to disrupt the landscape of Grounds. Though Pence’s language may not be as overt as the white supremacy expressed during the events of Aug. 11 and 12, we must all be concerned about the message his rhetoric could imply we accept.

Simply put, there is a blatant dichotomy between the values that Pence and the University hold. Once so-called politics turn into transphobia, homophobia and racism, they are no longer mere political beliefs — but rather bigotry that threatens the well-being and safety of students on Grounds. The Cavalier Daily’s Editorial Board does not condone platforming an individual that not only denies the existence of our diverse community, but participates in the violent rhetoric that perpetuates harm against these individuals. To our administration — we implore you to do better. Protect your students. To our fellow students and community members, particularly those who have been adversely affected by Pence — we stand with you.

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THE CAVALIER DAILY

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THE CAVALIER DAILY

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Truly changing Honor requires a new perception

Statements from University leaders highlight that if we truly want to improve our Honor system, we have to change the way we think and talk about honor itself

Two weeks ago, students at the University made the decision to restructure the antiquated single sanction the Honor Committee has used since its inception. With unusually high turnout, the resolution to reduce the penalty for committing an Honor infraction from permanent expulsion to a two-semester leave of absence passed with more than 80 percent of the vote. Where students stand is clear.

However, the lack of support by University administration hinders the more complete progress that must be made to support the referenda. Despite the fact that University administrators do not have the power to affect Honor itself, there is no doubt that their voices can be influential in swaying the beliefs of the student body. When University administrators fail to support the new referenda — and along with it, a more rehabilitative Honor system — they discourage students from making the changes necessary to supplement the referenda — by laws and updated critical case documents, for instance.

Until recently, it wasn't clear where alumni or University leadership stood. Just before voting opened in the spring elections, University President

Jim Ryan and Whittington Clement, Rector of the Board of Visitors — both University alumni — released indecisive statements. These statements tried so extensively to appeal to competing interests that they failed to say anything meaningful about the merits of the resolution at hand. However, on the last day of elections — speaking to the Board of Visitors who would later go on to extend his contract — Ryan

torically guided our institution. This is simply wrong.

Ryan's rhetoric demonstrates the work that must be done to change the way we engage with discussions surrounding Honor. While this past week was a critical step in the right direction, it must be just the beginning of our journey towards a more humanistic understanding of what it means to be an honorable member of the

in the very real context of human imperfection. When people fail to meet the high standards the community of trust has set for them, who are we to deem them unworthy of reentry into the very same community that is imperfect in and of itself?

We like to pretend that by building this oasis where no one lies, cheats or steals, we are free to act in ways that we couldn't otherwise act. But the real-

case, we are a community of flawed people pretending to be something better — something holier.

We must demand that our leaders reject the urge to simplify what isn't simple. We must also demand more from the Honor Committee itself. Again, the single sanction is incapable of recognizing the complexity of the “core values” referenced in the statements from our leaders. Unfortunately, this referendum only leaves us with a revised single sanction. The student body must continue to push for an Honor system that is dynamic and multi-faceted. We need an Honor system that is both reactionary and preventative. This latter point is crucial — Honor shouldn't only work to punish students once they are convicted of an Honor offense, but it also should be more involved in the process of promoting honorable behavior across Grounds. We can achieve all this in a variety of forms, but whatever form it takes it is a crucial next step in our push for a more honorable Honor system.

NATHAN ONIBUDO is a Viewpoint Writer for *The Cavalier Daily*. They can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

“The student body must continue to push for an Honor system that is dynamic and multi-faceted.”

said that if he were voting, he would not do so in favor of the referendum, adding that “this is maybe the epitome of student self-governance.” Ryan's statement underscores the undertones of condescension that has marred all of the messaging I have seen from leadership regarding this referendum. Their official position seems to be that our choice to step beyond the chains of our unfortunate past means we fail to understand the “core values” of truthfulness and fairness that have his-

University community. Collectively changing the community's perception of Honor requires that we challenge those who refuse to move beyond simplistic notions of honor and justice. When our leaders make statements that construct a debate in terms of “core values” versus student self-governance, they obscure the significant fact that the core values of Honor have much more complexity and nuance than a single sanction can respect. Further, these lofty ideals must be placed

ity is we can never create a community where no one is going to lie, cheat or steal by simply banishing those who we catch. Our social obsession with punishing people after they do something wrong blinds us to the reality that true change can only come once we address root causes. At the end of the day, we simply cannot punish our way to perfection. To ignore this fact is simply to disregard the fact that we are a community of humans — a group of flawed people. Unfortunately, in our

U.Va. fails mid-year transfer students

The University has the resources to smooth the transition, but fails to employ them

Starting a new school is quite a universal experience. We've all been there — the nervous jitters on the first day, trying and failing not to get lost and attempting to orient ourselves to a new environment while surrounded by many new and unfamiliar people. Likely the last time most University students experienced this feeling was during First-Year Orientation. For those who handed in their last final in May, those feelings were probably a faint memory. However, these sentiments are more poignant and last much longer for transfer students, especially mid-year transfers. Mid-Year Orientation should be a more extensive program and include resources that meet transfer students' specific needs.

I transferred to the University this spring from American University, making me a mid-year transfer student. Transferring to any college is a huge transition, but such struggles are exacerbated by the competitive social and academic culture of the University. In my experience, the University has done little to help. While COVID-19 squashed their in-person plans, Mid-Year Orientation has other issues separate from the pandemic. It fails to meet the unique needs of

transfer students and ignores important social activities that might help new students meet their fellow transfer peers.

To start off, Mid-Year Orientation was only two hours long. While COVID-19 forced the University to move orientation online after a surge in cases, administration could have found more productive uses for this program. For

plan? What are the best places to study on Grounds? How many organizations should I join? How do I deal with all the applications for them? I felt like we had been given a swim lesson but only taught how to kick — not how to use our arms to keep us afloat. And then we were thrown into the water.

Mid-Year Orientation was not the only program that proved to be

several events and presentations spread across a few days could lead to stronger connections with other transfers and more in-depth knowledge of the ins and outs of University life. I know it's not everyone's favorite thing, but orientation can be helpful to alleviate some of the stresses that come with a transition like transferring to a new school. There's certainly a lot

an afterthought. It is unclear why they are not provided, but I think TSPAs would be a great resource for us. Starting in the spring is arguably more confusing than starting in the fall, when first-years are also trying to acclimate themselves. TSPAs would help smooth the transition.

In short, this transition has been more of a sink or swim experience than I had anticipated, but I don't think it has to be that way. The University has more than enough resources to make the transition smoother for mid-year transfers — it just needs to implement them. It should schedule a longer orientation with more events to increase in-person exposure to the University and everything it has to offer before classes start. TSPAs should be a resource available to all transfers, even the ones who enter during the spring semester. Implementation of these programs as part of the Mid-Year Orientation process would make the transition an easier, more gradual experience rather than one that throws transfer students in the pool.

RILEY LORGUS is a Viewpoint Writer for *The Cavalier Daily*. They can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

“The University has more than enough resources to make the transition smoother for mid-year transfers — it just needs to implement them.”

example, facilitators spent a lot of time asking us to visualize what we liked about our previous institutions and what we wanted to get out of our University experience. In breakout groups, we discussed what we visualized and wrote notes on a PowerPoint. The most helpful part of the Zoom meeting was at the very end when we had a student panel.

We spent too much time with well-meaning but ultimately unhelpful visualization exercises. I left the meeting wondering a lot about student life. How do I use my meal

unhelpful in my transition to life at the University. On the whole, I received little information that was useful. As a student in the College, I completed an orientation module on U.Va. Collab, but watching short videos on life at this school does little to actually prepare one for reality.

I think there are several things that the University could have done differently to better orientate mid-year transfers and help us get accustomed to life here. For one, orientation could be a longer process. Instead of just a few hours,

more to life at the University than just two hours worth.

In addition, Transfer Student Peer Advisors would be a great resource for mid-year transfer students. For incoming transfer students in the fall, TSPAs are “enthusiastic, approachable, and knowledgeable about University resources,” according to the orientation website. They are a person to turn to when you have questions about anything related to the University. However, TSPAs are not provided for spring transfer students. This leaves us feeling like

HUMOR

On 'Emma' and self-censorship

An avid Jane Austen fan since I could self-profess it, I was excited to see an Austen course offered in the English Department this spring. I immediately enrolled when class registration began, eager to tackle these beloved novels — “Mansfield Park,” “Sense and Sensibility,” “Persuasion” and my personal favorite book, “Emma.” My professor said no “Pride and Prejudice” or “Northanger Abbey.” I was okay with this, as I possessed enough of those former traits and was quite well-versed in the latter — “Northanger Abbey” being a tale of a young woman declaring herself victim to creatures that don’t actually exist.

Starting the course with “Emma,” I made many keen observations about its titular heroine, Emma Woodhouse. Emma is “a mind delighted with its own ideas.” At the novel’s start,

she is simply selfish. Emma perceives the elations of her dearest friends to be direct attacks on herself. Emma schemes and plots — she expresses ideas distasteful to our contemporary tastes, often speaking in places she was not invoked to do so. I have no particular qualms with this behavior. Indeed, free speech should give a platform to the voices of the most marginalized. And amongst the company of Harriet Smith, a poor, uneducated and abandoned girl, and Mrs. Weston, friend yet longtime servant to Emma, Emma very much should be the voice to be heard first and foremost, as an affluent, privileged character.

To my great chagrin, however, I discovered this class would not manifest my joys in ways exactly conducive to my expectations. During the first class, I raised my hand, but my professor

did not see it. Thus, I was forced to self-censor and stay quiet. During the second class, my professor did see my hand, but immediately called on someone else, who spoke on another issue not of my interest or concern. I was shocked to be self-censored again. During the third class, I expressed the belief that Emma was correct to meddle in others’ romantic lives. Yet again, I was self-censored, as another student proceeded to disagree with me.

This self-censorship was so horrid — and yes, I insist it is horrid, truly horrid — that I knew I had to speak out. Thus, I took to this very paper, a free resource to all students that publishes their beliefs in guest columns if they’d like to see their voice easily presented to others. But make no mistake — editors did their best to self-censor my opinion. They asked me to add

hard evidence. They asked me to clarify vague points in my argument. They even asked me to delete all the Oxford commas from my article. I’d never be so self-censored in my life — or so I thought.

After about a week, my article was finally published. I was never as self-censored as the day every last person at the University had to hear my voice. It hurt — it really did. People told me I was wrong about Emma. People presented hard evidence to counter my article. Worst of all, people told me to shut up. I know every opinion columnist writing for this paper gets told to shut up by random people on Facebook, but for me, it was different. For me — even though I easily published my opinion in a school newspaper run tirelessly by students for students — it was self-censorship.

To all my readers, I hope you

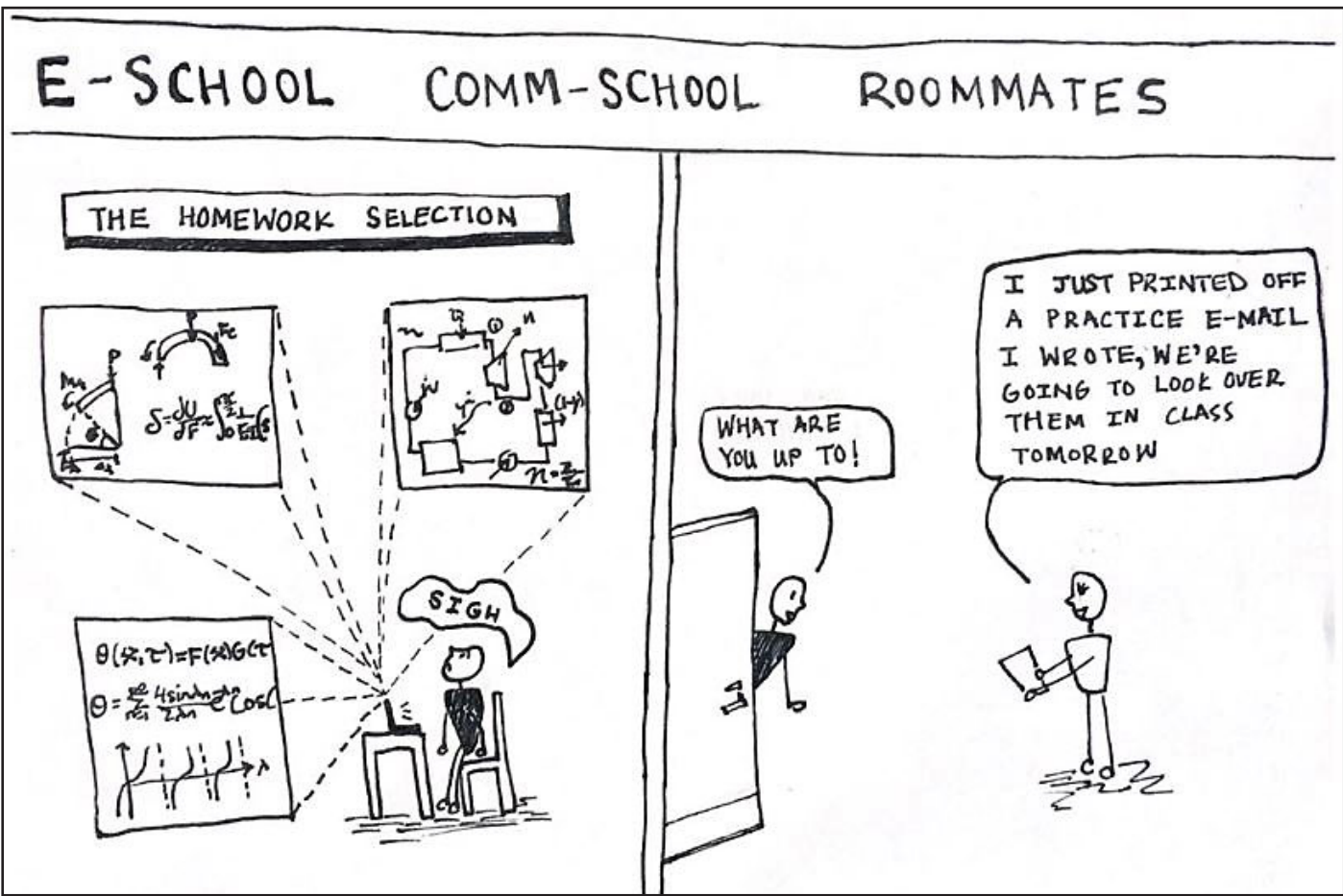
never have to face the horrors I’ve gone through. This experience has only rooted me further in my beliefs on Austen. I think with greater firmness now that Mr. Wickham was correct to elope with Lydia Bennet in “Pride and Prejudice.” I take great inspiration from Sir Walter Elliot’s reading of the Baronetage, a book that makes him feel powerful even though his title really means nothing, in “Persuasion.” And I relate entirely to “Emma” — at least its beginning, as its ending, in which Emma begins to learn her wrongs, is less to my tastes. No one shall ever self-censor me again, for I am unyielding in my cluelessness.

BRYCE WYLES is an Opinion Editor for The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

CARTOON

E-School Comm-School Roommates

Nicole Piatko | Cartoonist



PUZZLES

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Teresa Michael | Puzzle Master

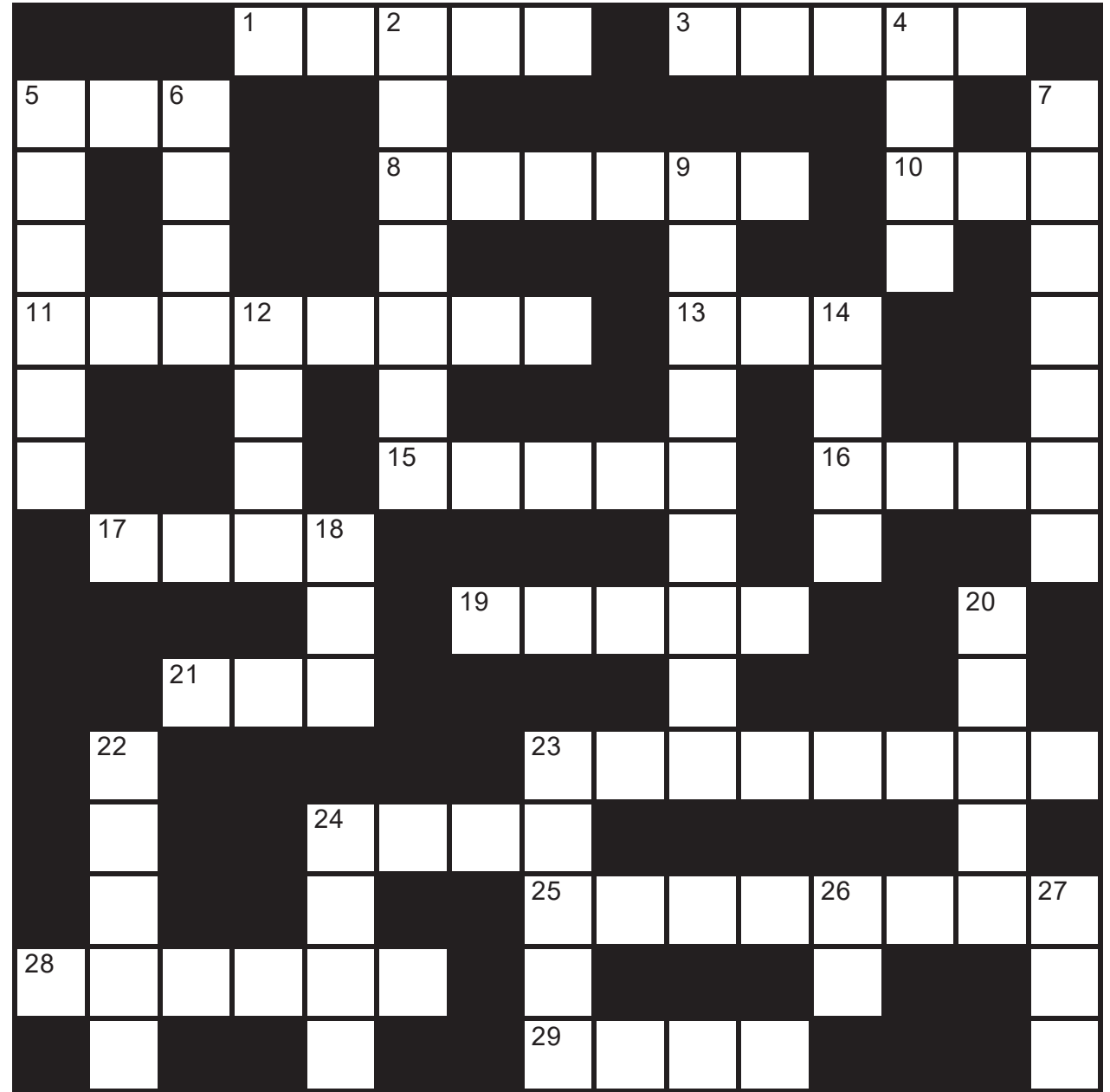
* THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Across

1. ____ let me be your ____
3. ... the man of my dreams would be just out of ____
5. Feel like ____ on my skin, so this is love I know it is
8. I've been having ____
10. Talking to ____ moon
11. ____ boy
13. Snap girl, I think you dropped something. My ____
15. Hey Hey Hey ____ you don't have to be a star
16. 24 trophies fly off the rim like ____
17. ____ your eyes, they're all over me
19. It's all in the way she ____
21. I'm at an ____ time low
23. Put your head on my ____
24. I think this is an obsession that doesn't ____ anyone
25. I love you for ____
28. Nothing like I've ever seen, it's just a thing of ____
29. And it went ____

Down

2. So I'm addicted to this. Not in the literal, ____ sense
4. Hey you, don't you think it's kinda ____
5. Boy, you just my ____ link
6. Still don't know my ____
7. Shut your mouth, Baby, stand and ____
9. Ay-ay-ay, me gritan "____"
12. I miss the ____
14. In the morning when I ____
18. ____ mama, I love the way I see you dance
20. Bag ____ major bag ____
22. Look at me like I'm ____
23. ____ don't know my name
24. and I ____ you for what you did
26. oh ____ oh ____ oh ____
27. And when we look to the future there ____ are





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* SOLUTION FROM LAST ISSUE



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dua Lipa confronts copyright infringement lawsuits

Lipa is the latest musician to be swept up in a legal environment that weaponizes similarities between songs

Kartik Chugh | Staff Writer

Dua Lipa, Ed Sheeran, Katy Perry and Robin Thicke. At first glance, these names look like a list of some of the highest-paid singers at one time or another. But if you were to ask certain copyright lawyers working in the industry, they might tack on a slightly more controversial label — a group of shameless plagiarists looking to make a buck off someone else's work.

Dua Lipa was hit with another copyright lawsuit March 4 over her 2020 dance anthem “Levitating,” making it the second complaint of infringement against the song this month. A few days prior, reggae band Artikal Sound System had filed a suit asserting infringing similarities between the respective choruses of “Levitating” and their 2017 song “Live Your Life.” Now, songwriters L. Russell Brown and Sandy Linzer are alleging that Lipa lifted her song's opening melody from their 80's tracks “Wiggle and Giggle All Night” and “Don Diablo.”

“Defendants have levitated away plaintiffs' intellectual property,” lawyers for Brown and Linzer wrote in an unusually jocular court filing. “Plaintiffs bring suit so that Defendants cannot wiggle out of their willful infringement.”

The duo's legal team is arguing that Lipa's desire to invoke memories of the 70's and 80's on her album “Future Nostalgia” led her to copy-protected works. The legal storm surrounding “Levitating” is the latest in a wave of lawsuits targeting chart-topping pop hits, which tend to draw on a relatively limited set of chord progressions and melodic patterns.

In 2015, a unanimous jury awarded the Marvin Gaye family \$7.4 million in damages after finding that the drum beat to Robin Thicke's “Blurred Lines” bore substantial similarities to that of Gaye's “Got to Give It Up.” The verdict drew scorn from musicologists, and over 200 musicians around the world — Hans Zimmer, Linkin Park, Train, Fall Out Boy and Rivers Cuomo of Weezer among them — argued in a “friend of the court” brief that inspiration is at the heart of all creative work and demands ample legal protection.

Despite the group's efforts, the landmark “Blurred Lines” ruling opened the floodgates for other multimillion-dollar law-

suits staking out even more inventive legal claims. One such lawsuit against Ed Sheeran for “Thinking Out Loud” articulates a questionable theory of “functionally equivalent” chords, asserting ownership over not just a single chord arrangement, but others that provide similar harmonic backing.

As a growing chorus of industry observers are warning, similarities between works are inevitable considering the immeasurable number that exist in the world and the fundamental quality of music as rooted in existing patterns, rather than con-

ing their “busiest years ever” due to the sheer number of lawyers hoping to build a case. But some music enthusiasts are leveraging online platforms to push back against the winds of litigiousness.

Adam Neely is a bass player, composer and YouTuber whose videos on high-profile copyright controversies receive millions of views. One video essay titled “Why the Ed Sheeran lawsuit makes no sense” takes a deep dive into the history of Western music, documenting a tradition of borrowing and reworking basslines that spans from medieval hymns to 20th-century jazz. The notion

would be a dotted eighth note for “Moon” and sixteenth note for “-light” followed by a rest. “Levitating” by Dua Lipa and “Live Your Life” by Artikal Sound System share this rhythm and several notes, which is what makes a mashup of both so seamless. But yet another uncannily close match can be found in Outkast's “Rosa Parks,” which was released in 1998, roughly two decades before the two songs in question. Following the logic of Artikal Sound System's lawsuit might lead one to conclude that Artikal's song infringes on Outkast's intellectual property.

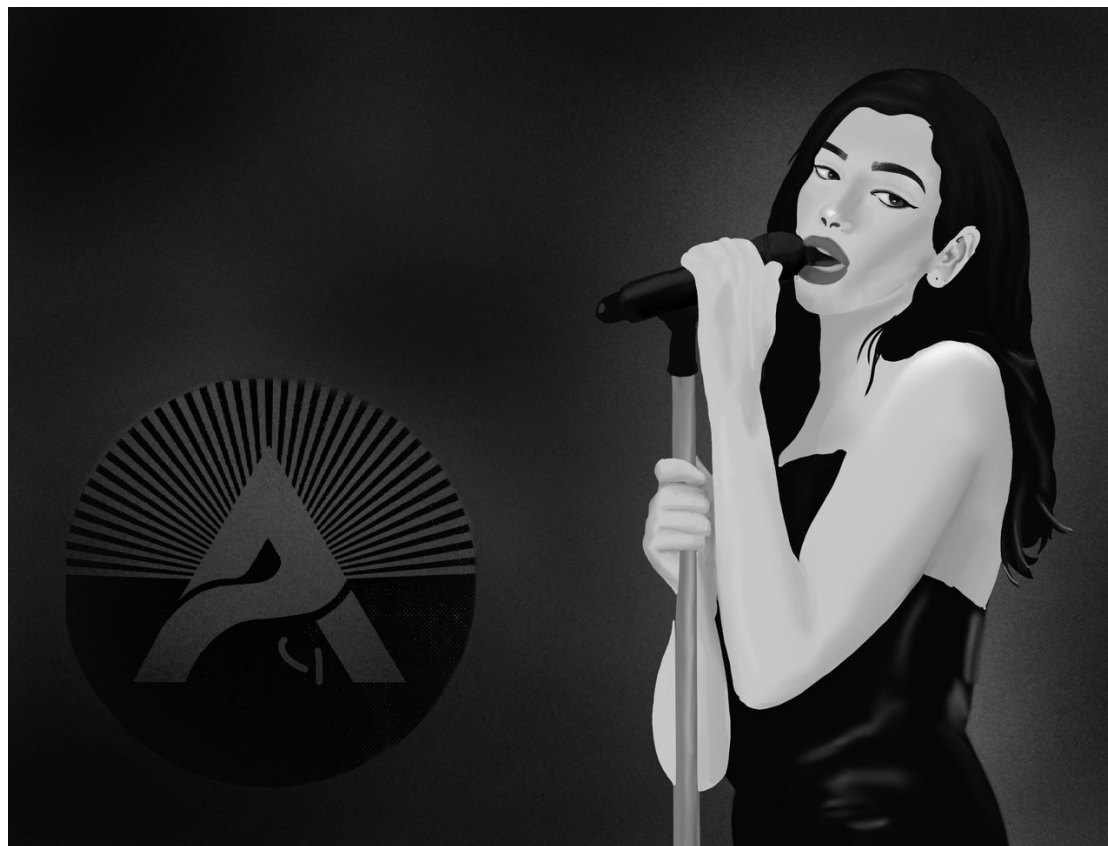
similar to “Levitating.”

Until copyright reform is won through the courts or Congress, the music industry is coping with a legal environment that weaponizes faint resemblances between works. In a lecture uploaded for his Media Law class, Media Studies Prof. Siva Vaidhyanathan commented on how this environment reverses copyrights' intentions from supporting artists to restricting them.

“I had always assumed that copyright was important to protect artists, to make sure that people aren't selling illegal copies of their work on the sidewalk,” Vaidhyanathan said. “But I started thinking, ‘Wait, copyright goes deeper? It goes down into the song? It restricts elements of the song? It restricts how people might do a new version of the song?’”

Some artists are getting ahead of even tenuous copyright claims by voluntarily granting writing credits — and thus, a cut of royalties — to potential litigants. “Mob Ties” by Drake credits rapper Nas for an instrumental melody inspired by “Affirmative Action,” despite significant differences in notes, key and mode, instrument choice and timbre. And last summer, Olivia Rodrigo added the songwriters of Paramore's “Misery Business” to the writing credits for “good 4 u,” leading one artist to conclude that “any optimism that a post-‘Blurred Lines’ chill might be thawing...is dead.” Other creators are going further, reportedly changing parts of their songs that “feel like something else.”

But these workarounds only highlight the unprecedented chilling effect costly lawsuits are having on artists struggling to create new music. After all, copyright is intended to protect and encourage innovation by rewarding the unique intellectual contributions of creators. But it has the exact opposite effect if it suffocates the authentic expression of musicians who build on top of the contributions of those that came before them — and are laying new foundations for those that come after.



LEXIE GAGNON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

cocted from scratch. Advances in technology have exacerbated the issue by enabling rights holders to scan entire databases of songs for close matches. University Law Prof. Dotan Oliver notes this problem in a published work, writing that “music and film industries [have] started employing unprecedented measures to fight piracy, such as technological self-help measures.”

As a result, forensic musicologists — experts trained in the analysis of music from a legal lens — are reportedly experienc-

ing that transforming existing melodies is stealing someone else's work, instead of extending it, is the relatively novel brainchild of media conglomerates who have lobbied and sued for tougher copyright restrictions.

Neely's recent video on “Levitating” dissects the structure of the song's chorus, specifically the words “Moonlight / You're my / Starlight.” He identifies a recurring, pop-flavored twist on what is known in jazz as the “Charleston rhythm.”

In music theory terms, this

Recordings from early studio sessions of “Future Nostalgia” appear to show Dua Lipa arriving at the song chorus and opening through improvisation, which may be another piece of evidence for her defense against Artikal and separately, Brown and Linzer. If the two cases go to trial, jurors in each will have to resolve legal questions including what elements of the plaintiffs' works deserve legal protection, whether Lipa could have had access to the works and if a reasonable person would find them substantially

The Kids Are Alright: Charlottesville band Beezin

Beezin talks about the origins of their band and gears up for a busy month of March

Lauren Dalban | Staff Writer

On a Sunday night, in the basement of the University Records house, surrounded by an assortment of instruments, amps and colorful tapestries, fledgling band Beezin practices their new original songs. The group is preparing for several upcoming gigs this March.

Indeed, the band has a jam-packed schedule with a gig at Crozet on March 17, as well as a show at a WXTJ event and a planned performance in the philanthropic Battle of the Bands March 19. As they set up instruments and talk, their laughs reverberate around the dark room, creating a warm atmosphere on a particularly cold winter night.

The band was initially brought together by guitarist and occasional singer Reza Mirzaiee, fourth-year College student. Mirzaiee was neighbors with independent artist Kimball Roberts, the band's pianist, when they discovered they were both "band hungry," as Mirzaiee described it.

Eventually, Mirzaiee decided to contact guitarist and fourth-year College student Caleb Barnes, whom he knew from a previous band venture. Together, they found bassist and lead singer Julia Ball, third-year College student, through a University Records group chat.

Charlottesville native Alex Szeptycki, the band's drummer, was the last to join Beezin — they met him on the first weekend of "Groovin' on Grady," a two part house show put on by Indieheads — a music-focused club on Grounds — in early September of last year. Despite their vastly different interests, this eclectic quintet came together early last semester to form Beezin, aiming to perform "niche pop, funk and rock stuff."

Beezin performed its first gig at the University Records house on Grady on a warm summer evening at the beginning of fall semester. At the time, they were going by a different name, evidently so embarrassing that the band requested to strike it from

the record. As the band began to set up their instruments in the front of the house, they noticed a bees' nest in one of the cracks underneath the makeshift stage.

Unbothered, they continued to set up. Barnes, who was setting some of the amps, suddenly became surrounded by bees that had flowed out from under the crack in the stage. He was stung twice on the hand. As Barnes described it, he felt "like Nicholas Cage in that one movie" — referring to a scene in "The Wicker Man" wherein someone pours a container full of bees on actor Nicholas Cage's head as he shouts with fear. Through this experience, the band finally found a suitable name — "Beezin" — even though it was temporarily at the expense of Barnes' hand.

Not only did he inspire the band name, but Barnes also writes the bulk of the band's original songs. Barnes often starts this process by reading a line or a concept in a book that gets him thinking.

"I will then start to play with that in my head, and then I get a melody from it," Barnes said. "After that, I just grab my guitar and work out the chords."

Roberts and Mirzaiee, who also write some of the band's songs, depicted their songwriting process quite differently. The two of them have occasional jam sessions in which a particular melody sticks out, usually from Roberts' piano playing. Then, one of them will start mumbling into the mic in order to create the illusion that it is already a finished song in order to invite inspiration for the rest of it. Ball also described how they occasionally write songs as a band.

"Often, somebody will play something in a jam session that we all like and then we just layer things over it," Ball said.

Aside from original songs, the band also covers a wide variety of different music, from funky songs like Bill Withers' "Use Me," to classic soul like Stevie Wonder's "Superstition." The members of the band have quite

distinct music tastes, which they cite as the reason for their wide range of covers.

Roberts enjoys classic R&B artists like D'Angelo, Ball leans towards alternative indie music vibes, as seen in the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Barnes appreciates country and folk musicians like Jason Isbell. The band, they say, cannot be pigeonholed into any particular genre of music. They are indefinable, and wish to remain that way.

The group's favorite gig was a late summer show at the local

bar Coupe's — jokingly adding "R.I.P. Coupe's," as it has since closed for repairs after a kitchen fire.

Between shouts of laughter, they recounted their most memorable gig at a Reverend's birthday party in Culpeper, V.a. They talked of being forced to join a prayer circle and being asked to perform a Spanish song that they had never practiced. But the redeeming quality, according to Ball — "we still had good eats for dinner."

Charlottesville's Beezin feels

poised for their band's next chapter, which guitarist Mirzaiee believes is getting their sound on Spotify, and pianist Roberts argues is "world domination." Whichever ends up being the band's ultimate end, they look forward to their next slew of gigs, and hope that other members of the University community do too.

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HEALTH & SCIENCE

Daylight savings time upsets the body's internal clock

Researchers give strategies for how to cope with the disruption to circadian rhythms

Claire Huchthausen | Staff Writer

Although frequently attributed to Benjamin Franklin, daylight saving was actually adopted by the U.S. in 1918 so that natural light could be used later in the industrial day, ostensibly to conserve fuel during World War I.

Assoc. Biology Prof. Ali Güler, who researches misalignment of our bodies' clocks, said that daylight saving time is motivated solely by industry, without a basis in biology.

"The natural sunset and sunrise is what you have evolved as a human for thousands of years," Güler said. "That is the healthiest for your life."

Daylight saving is a conventional — not a natural — shift. First-year College student Ploi Sripoom is from Thailand, a country that does not observe daylight saving time.

She was intrigued by the phenomenon the first time she experienced it.

"It's pretty cool that you move the time forward, and then move the time backward," Sripoom said. "But now I feel like it has complicated my life more than [benefiting it]."

Daylight saving time interferes with the precisely timed cycles of slightly longer than 24 hours called circadian rhythms on which our bodies operate. Our sleep-wake cycles, hormonal cycles and temperature cycles are all circadian rhythms. Daylight saving time forces our bodies out of these natural cycles.

In its healthiest and most natural state, a person's body aligns itself with the cycle of the sun. Because our circadian rhythms are slightly longer than the astronomical day, they must be resynchronized every morning by light detected in the eyes. Light is detected by the photoreceptors rods and cones, which allow us to see, but also by the photopigment melanopsin, which detects light for purposes other than vision, especially for adjusting the biological clock.

Biology Prof. Ignacio Provencio discovered melanopsin in 1998, and his current research explores the impacts of the neurons containing melanopsin, which are known as intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells, or ipRGCs.

This light information is sent to a small brain region in the hypothalamus called the suprachiasmatic nucleus, or SCN, the body's primary clock. Almost every cell

in the body has its own biological clock, but the suprachiasmatic nucleus is, in Provencio's words, "like a conductor of a symphony that ensures that [each cell] is playing in synchrony."

The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology was awarded to Jeffery Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael Young for identifying some of the genes underlying this master clock. These three researchers are former members of the National Science Foundation's Center for Biological Timing, an international hub of

have shown that people who work the night shift are predisposed to cancer, cardiovascular disease and metabolic diseases like diabetes.

Both Güler and Provencio emphasized that our society is chronically misaligned. Our clocks have been screwed up ever since we screwed in the first light bulb, which first allowed us to do things at night — out of sync with our natural rhythms. The problem has been exacerbated by the rise of digital technologies.

"Everybody around the world

four hours' sleep.' That's nonsense. That person needs eight hours' sleep and they're barely surviving on four hours' sleep ... That's just not natural. I think we as a society have to recalibrate how we think about sleep."

To demonstrate the magnitude of our circadian misalignment, Provencio cited the fact that the point of mid-sleep before the lightbulb was around midnight. Today, it's closer to 4 a.m.

"We've already screwed up our clock," Provencio said. "And then

for example, the hour difference between central time in Chicago to eastern time in Charlottesville. In reality, Güler pointed out that the daylight saving time shift is much harder, because one's body is forced to change its clock without the change in sunrise and sunset times brought by time zone changes.

"When you travel from Chicago to Charlottesville, what's happening is that the noon time is changing," Güler said. "In daylight savings time ... the information that is coming in is not changing."

Sripoom made a similar observation from her experiences adjusting to a new time zone.

"When I moved back to Thailand, what really helped my body adjust is the natural sunlight, but when you do daylight savings time, the amount of sunlight you get is still pretty much the same," Sripoom said.

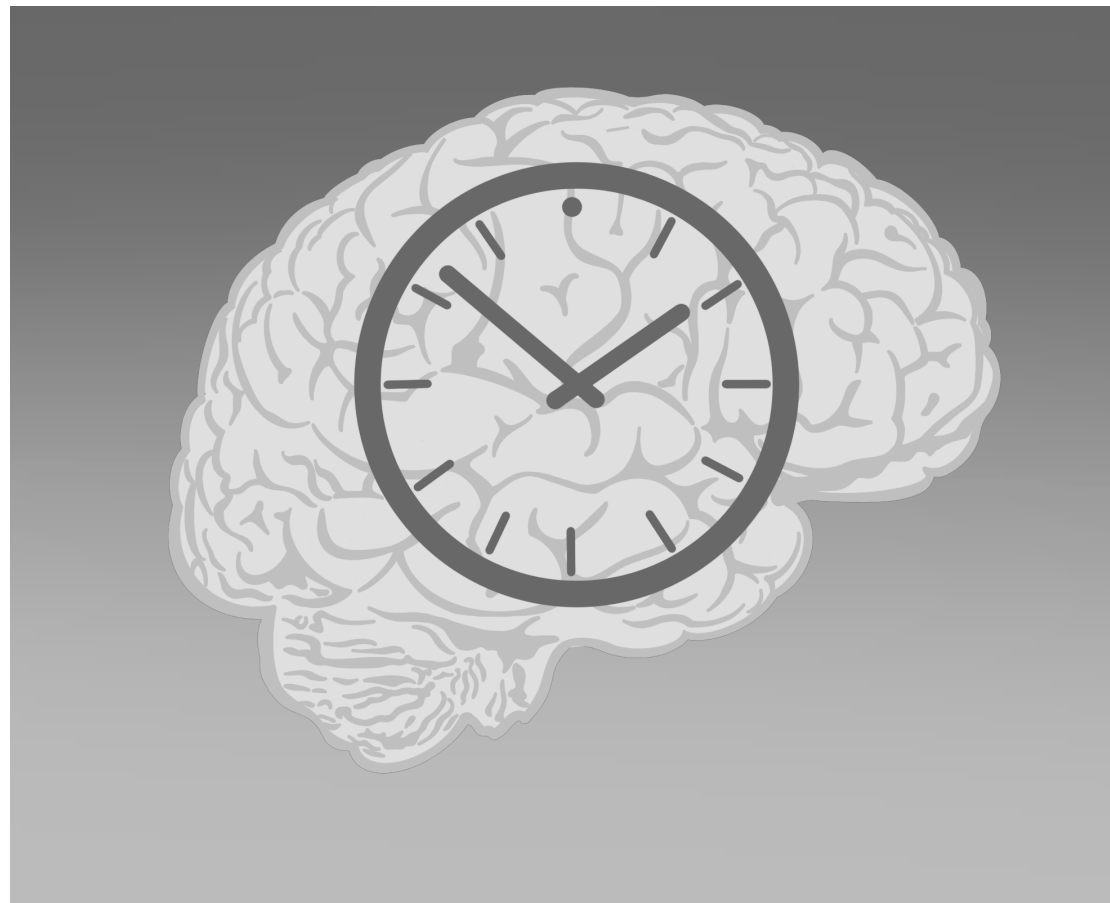
The switch to daylight saving time has observable harmful effects even besides the struggle to shift our bodies' clocks. More heart attacks occur immediately after both the spring and autumn shifts. It is estimated that the spring shift is responsible for approximately 28 fatal traffic accidents per year.

Despite the scientific arguments against it, Americans still have to find ways to cope with daylight saving time.

"I would just throw away my alarm clock and just live my way," Güler said. "That's one approach. But if you have to do things in the outside-world time, then you should be trying to get as many cues as possible that fit that new time zone ... You need to eat, exercise and sleep at the right time."

Provencio suggested going for a walk outside first thing in the morning if it's light out. If it's still dark, Güler recommended reading on an iPad or other electronics. The light from screens resets one's clock in a similar manner to daylight, activating the melanopsin-containing neurons found by Provencio. Preemptively shifting one's eating and sleeping schedule to the new time over five days, by 15 minutes a day, would also make the shift to daylight saving time easier.

"It will be hard no matter what you do," Güler said. "It is not natural. I'll say it again. Daylight saving time is evil."



MAYA KALIDINDI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

circadian research headquartered at the University from 1991 to 2002.

In addition to light, other cues that help reset the body's clock are food, exercise and social interactions. If these cues are received by the body at unnatural times, this can result in circadian misalignment. Güler's research focuses on the relationship between these cues and circadian misalignment.

Staying up too late produces short-term effects of circadian misalignment such as disorientation and cognitive difficulty, but long-term circadian misalignment can have more dangerous adverse effects. According to Güler, studies

tries to steal from their sleep as much as they can so that they can do stuff," Güler said. "Or even inadvertently, you might be [misaligning your clock] by looking at your iPad or iPhone at night ... You cannot tell your body that this light is not the same light as sunrise. The light is still activating the part of your brain that thinks it's daytime."

Our society's mindset towards sleep also harms our circadian rhythms.

"We as a society look positively among people who sleep deprive themselves," Provencio said. "Like, 'Wow, that person only needed

we further exacerbated that by adding daylight savings time. So we add another hour of error onto that."

Standard time is not perfect. Noon shifts throughout the year due to the earth's axial tilt. However, daylight saving time artificially shifts noon an entire hour away from what is perceived as natural to our bodies.

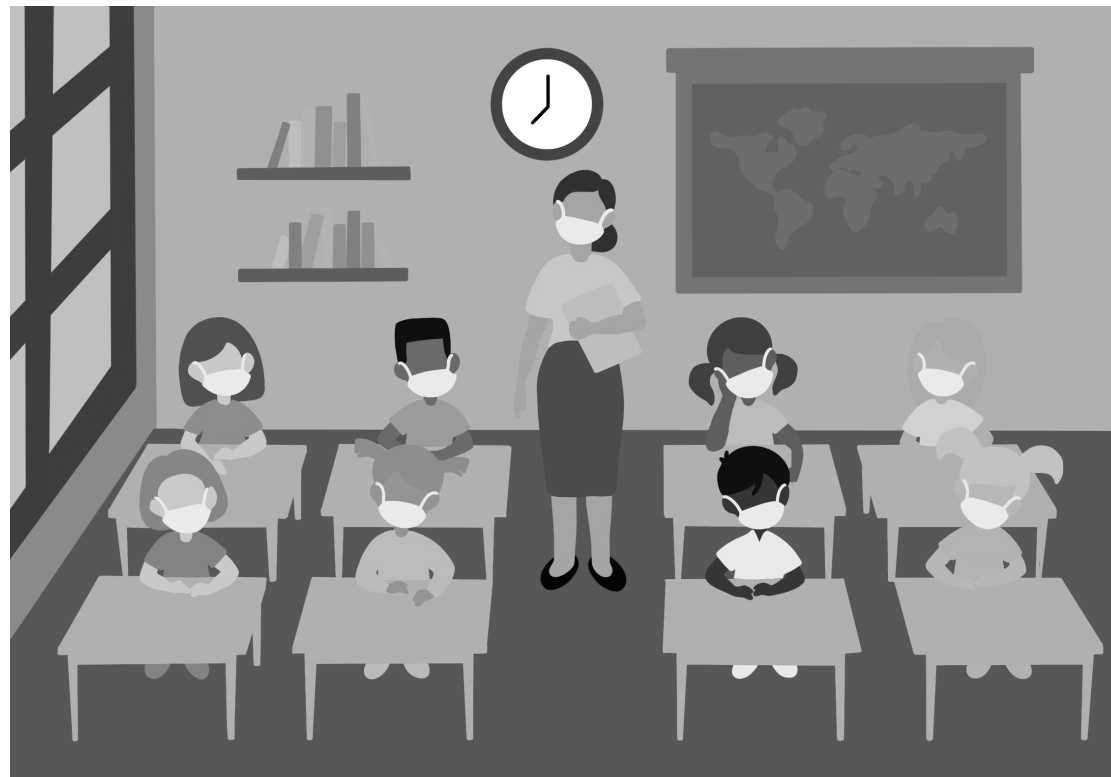
"I am a [night] owl," Provencio said. "So emotionally, I love daylight savings because I get light in the evening, but intellectually I just can't justify the hour shift."

Daylight saving time has been compared to shifting time zones,

Charlottesville parents navigate life with unvaccinated kids

While vaccines remain unavailable for children under five, parents juggle uncertainties and restrictions to keep their toddlers safe

Sophia Jang | Staff Writer



MAYA KALIDINDI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

As the pandemic continues, vaccines remain unavailable for children aged 5 years and younger. In February, the Food and Drug Administration delayed approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for infants and children between six months and four years of age, citing that more data was needed. While a vaccine may be available within the next couple of months, parents continue to assess risk as mask and vaccine mandates also remain uncertain for the near future in Virginia.

Pfizer and its partner BioNTech first conducted early trials in December for two low doses of the vaccine, which showed that the two doses produced a lower immune response in 2 to 4-year-olds compared to 16 to 25-year-olds in previous clinical trials. In order to strengthen the two-dose vaccine, Pfizer-BioNTech began clinical trials for a three-dose version and submitted their results for FDA approval Feb. 1. The FDA intended to approve the vaccine in time for production to begin Feb. 21, but they have since stated that they expect to continue collecting data until April before authorizing the vaccine in order to ensure the vaccine is effective enough.

As Charlottesville parents continue to await a vaccine ensuring certain immune protection for their young children, continual challenges arise. Currently, the CDC states that unvaccinated individuals such as young children must stay home and quarantine for at least five full days after an exposure to COVID-19, and must

continue watching for symptoms until 10 days have passed. Similarly, if these unvaccinated individuals test positive for COVID-19, the CDC advises that they isolate for at least five full days even if nonsymptomatic, and that they remain cautious until 10 days have passed. Meanwhile, fully vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine unless they are symptomatic, although they are advised to follow the same isolation guidelines as unvaccinated individuals.

For Charlottesville speech therapist Matthew Gillikin, who is fully vaccinated alongside his wife, 10-year-old child and 6-year-old child, these discrepancies in quarantine periods can be significantly disruptive to his children's education.

"It would mean that my daughter would have to come out of daycare for the entire period that one of us was sick and considered symptomatic," Gillikin said. "So she's in a situation where if one of us gets sick with COVID, she will miss at least two weeks of school — if not three — and that's in a scenario where she doesn't get sick."

These sudden quarantine periods are also difficult on parents, who must arrange childcare while working at home or at their workplace, especially for those who do not have the local support or connections to guarantee assistance in case of an emergency.

Veronica Katz, research faculty in the School of Education, has a 3-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old

son who have had to quarantine four or five times since the beginning of the school year. While Katz is able to work both from home and in her office, she has to juggle caring for her children while they quarantine with her own schedule, especially when she cannot readily call someone to assist.

"I was having to make up work either late at night or early in the mornings, or coordinate with my husband and sort of try to steal a couple hours here and there, but it's really, really challenging," Katz said. "I don't have backup care right, I don't have somebody else I can call on to come watch the kids when they are home from school."

From a community perspective, staying within bubbles and adhering to isolation and quarantine measures is isolating for young parents as well.

Tayyab Safdar, postdoctoral researcher in the Politics and East Asia Center, works from home. However, he and his wife moved to Charlottesville shortly before the pandemic began, and while their child is in daycare, they hold ongoing concerns about having local support in the case of quarantine or illness.

"We don't have the same sort of roots," Safdar said. "That's an ongoing thing, you know, with not having any family around and without having that sort of support."

Since the FDA decided to delay authorizing the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-years old and younger, the General Assembly of Virginia passed a bill banning school mask mandates Feb. 14. Gov. Glenn

Youngkin successfully added a provision to the bill requiring schools to comply by March 1 rather than July 1. Gov. Youngkin also continues to seek a federal exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for healthcare workers out of concern for staffing shortages.

Within Charlottesville, Charlottesville City schools still require masks to be worn on buses, but not in schools. Prior to the change in COVID-19 guidelines, some members of the community expressed concern about changes in mask mandates in schools.

Lindsey Tessada, head of volunteering and community group Hot Moms of Cville, provides a place for fellow moms to vent and share positive moments, while hosting free fitness classes over Instagram and leading monthly initiatives.

"[Teachers] are doing such a great job, and my friends that are educators within the school, they are all scared right now," Tessada said. "They are so scared that this removal of the mandate is going to come into Charlottesville."

On Feb. 22, President Jim Ryan announced the lifting of the University's indoor masking requirement effective March 21, with exceptions for classrooms, health facilities and University Transit.

At the University, some faculty expressed confidence in the University's policies prior to Ryan's announcement. But with heightened precaution for their unvaccinated children, they remain watchful of evolving policy. As a faculty member, Safdar expressed concern about a lifted mask or vaccine mandate at the University.

"I haven't come across anyone who doesn't wear the mask while in class over the two semesters that we've had in person," Safdar said. "But of course if the mandate is completely removed, there could be greater numbers of people who will not get vaccinated."

However, since Ryan's announcement and the passing of Gov. Youngkin's amendment, Katz expressed gratitude for the masking policy remaining in classrooms.

"I am glad masks will still be required in classrooms, as this is where I am most exposed to people," Katz said.

While mask and vaccine mandates may continue to change in the coming months, parents will still face ongoing risk assessment as their young children cannot be fully vaccinated. For these parents, the future of Charlottesville and its COVID-19 policies remain uncertain as a whole, but the need for community remains strong.

COVID-19 Vaccine Timeline

12/11/20: The Food and Drug Administration issues an Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer vaccine — which individuals aged 16 and older can receive.

4/18/21: Over half of adults — ages 18 and older — in the U.S. receive their first dose of the vaccine by this date.

5/10/21: The FDA expands the EUA for the Pfizer vaccine to adolescents ages 12-15 years old.

10/29/22: The FDA authorizes emergency use of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11 years old.

11/19/22: The FDA approves Pfizer booster shot for all adults who are six months out from their second dose.

3/17/22: After delaying the approval of the Pfizer two-dose vaccine for adolescents ages six months to 4 years old, the FDA will wait for data — expected to arrive in April — from a three-dose series trial that may show more effective immunity.



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