

THE CAVALIER DAILY

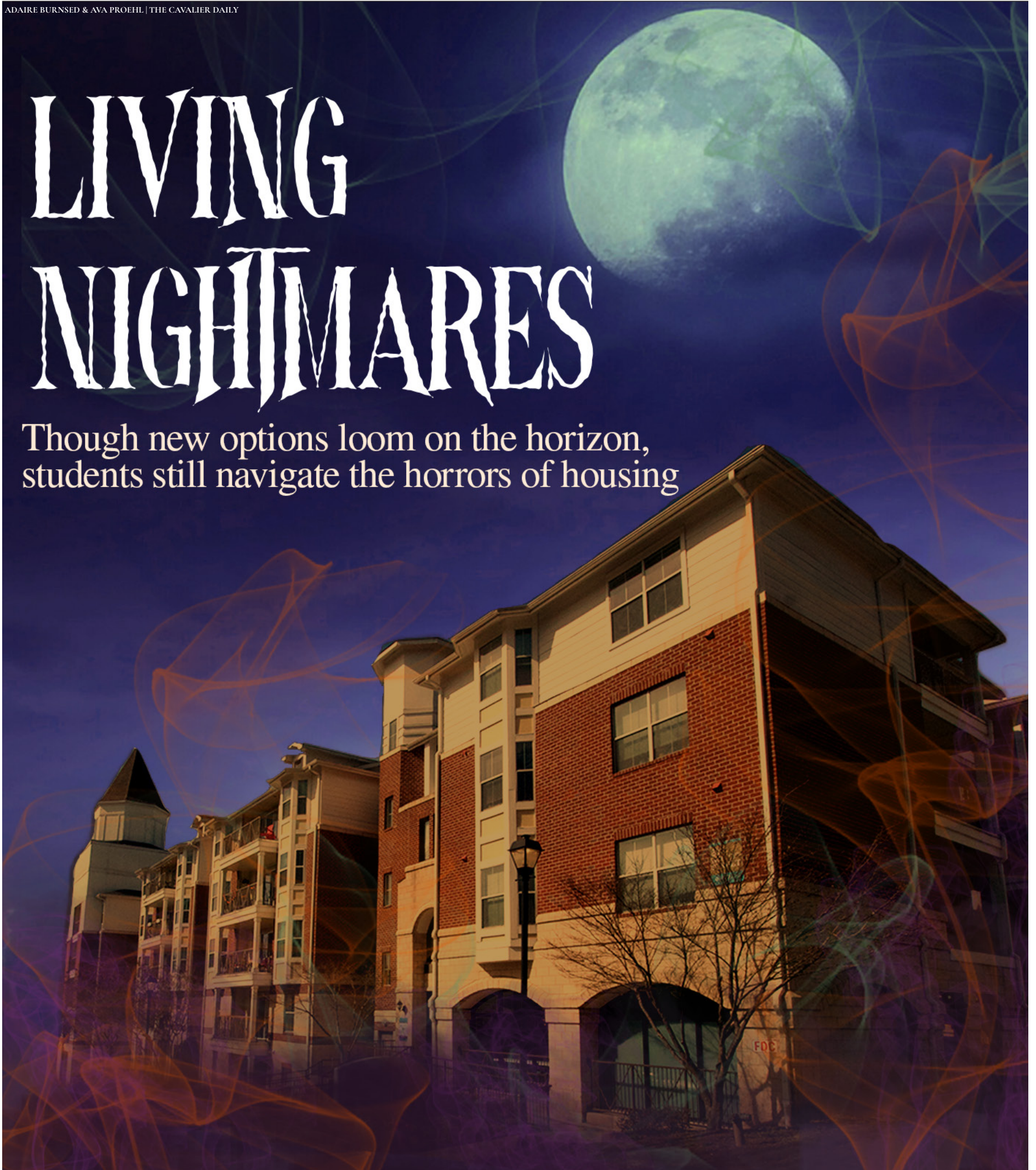
Vol. 134, Issue 5

Thursday, October 19, 2023

ADAIRE BURNSED & AVA PROEHL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

LIVING NIGHTMARES

Though new options loom on the horizon, students still navigate the horrors of housing



NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff

Student and alumni data subject to information security breach

Graduate students in the School of Architecture have been working with Cultivate Charlottesville, an organization that centers around combatting food inequality in Charlottesville, to design plans for a proposed community garden in Booker T. Washington Park. Students worked with community members throughout the design process to maximize local impact.

C.L. Bohannon, Cultivate Charlottesville board secretary and Landscape Architecture professor, developed the project along with Landscape Architecture lecturer Rebecca Hinch for their landscape architecture studio course. During the studio, which is a required course for the landscape architecture curriculum, students spent two and a half weeks working in pairs to design plans for the “Power to Grow” campaign.

Bohannon and Hinch’s course focuses on uneven geographies in development, and food insecurity served as an example of one of those inequalities. By partnering with Cultivate Charlottesville, Bohannon hoped his students would contribute to having a positive effect on local food access and health within the community.

“[The garden] can impact generations in terms of healthy eating, getting back into nature, being outside,” Bohannon said. “It was a no-brainer for us in terms of having a direct impact to help address the needs of residents in the Charlottesville area.”

As part of the project, students met with Cultivate Charlottesville members, performed background research on the history of Booker T. Washington Park and discussed the designs with community representatives from the neighborhood surrounding the park.

In the culmination of the project, Cultivate Charlottesville presented the students’ designs at the City Council hearing Sept. 19. Although the plans are not final, the designs served as a way for Cultivate to demonstrate the feasibility of the garden project to City Council.

10.11 10.12 10.17

Israel-Hamas war sparks activism on Grounds

In the days following Hamas’ devastating attacks on the Gaza Strip, heightened violence has continued to ravage Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. With an estimated death toll of over 2,000 individuals and a long war on the horizon, University groups have rallied around both sides of the conflict.

Hamas — an Islamist militant group — struck Saturday morning, firing thousands of rockets and entering 22 Israel towns and army bases where they took civilians and soldiers as hostages. Israel responded with reinforcements to the northern border along with airstrikes on Gaza, which hit hospitals, schools, homes and multiple mosques.

Israel formally declared war with Hamas Sunday. The ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict has left thousands dead over decades since the United Nations voted in 1947 to partition Palestine into a Jewish and Arab state.

The emotions of the conflict — fear for friends and family in the region, concern over both side’s stability and heightened political strife — extend into the University community. University President Jim Ryan sent an email Wednesday morning condemning Hamas’ terrorist attacks.

“There can be no justification for, and we must condemn, the actions of Hamas and the horrific violence that has taken place against civilians, including children,” Ryan wrote. “Sadly, the terrible war it has provoked will undoubtedly mean that more innocent lives will be lost. Like so many others, I fervently hope for a swift end to the violence.”

Ryan said teams in International Studies and Global Affairs have reached out to those traveling in the Middle East. Departments across the University are organizing events to educate students on the events and history of the conflict, and the Office of Student Affairs and Counseling and Psychological Services are available for support.



AVA PROEHL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

As part of the project, students met with Cultivate Charlottesville members and discussed the designs with community representatives.

Architecture graduate students collaborate on Booker T. Washington Park project

Graduate students in the School of Architecture have been working with Cultivate Charlottesville, an organization that centers around combatting food inequality in Charlottesville, to design plans for a proposed community garden in Booker T. Washington Park. Students worked with community members throughout the design process to maximize local impact.

C.L. Bohannon, Cultivate Charlottesville board secretary and Landscape Architecture professor, developed the project along with Landscape Architecture lecturer Rebecca Hinch for their landscape architecture studio course. During the studio, which is a required course for the landscape architecture curriculum, students spent two and a half weeks working in pairs to design plans for the “Power to Grow” campaign.

Bohannon and Hinch’s course focuses on uneven geographies in development, and food insecurity served as an example of one of those inequalities. By partnering with Cultivate Charlottesville, Bohannon hoped his students would contribute to having a positive effect on local food access and health within the community.

“[The garden] can impact generations in terms of healthy eating, getting back into nature, being outside,” Bohannon said. “It was a no-brainer for us in terms of having a direct impact to help address the needs of residents in the Charlottesville area.”

As part of the project, students met with Cultivate Charlottesville members, performed background research on the history of Booker T. Washington Park and discussed the designs with community representatives from the neighborhood surrounding the park.

In the culmination of the project, Cultivate Charlottesville presented the students’ designs at the City Council hearing Sept. 19. Although the plans are not final, the designs served as a way for Cultivate to demonstrate the feasibility of the garden project to City Council.

Encampment grows at Market Street Park

Unhoused people have begun camping overnight in Market Street Park, with the curfew set to go into effect again Oct. 21

Eleanor Jenkins and Finn Trainer | News Staff

A tent encampment of an estimated 30 tents and over 50 people has amassed in Market Street Park, located one block from Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. The settlement formed following Charlottesville City Manager Sam Sanders' decision to lift the park's closing time, allowing residents to stay overnight. The curfew, however, will be reinstated Oct. 21 — just one month after it was lifted.

Prior to Sanders' directive, Market Street Park was open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The curfew was initially lifted following an alleged violent encounter between unhoused park residents and Charlottesville Police officers enforcing the park curfew. The City's internal investigation later found that the claims were unfounded.

During a Charlottesville City Council meeting Oct. 2, Sanders said that the decision to lift the curfew was made in order to protect both Charlottesville Police and unhoused people. Despite criticism from some local residents, Sanders said he does not regret that decision.

"I don't apologize for caring about people — I won't apologize," Sanders said. "It is people and processes that I have repeatedly referenced as what matters to me most. The challenges

facing the unhoused population is a total community issue."

The only overnight shelter currently available in Charlottesville is run by the Salvation Army and only accommodates 50 beds. Additional shelters open during the winter months, but still only bring the number of beds in Charlottesville and the Albemarle area up to around 100. An estimated 260 Charlottesville residents are experiencing homelessness as of 2022.

The City has since said that its decision to reinstate the curfew was supported by the early reopening of a 50-bed overnight shelter through the People and Congregations Engaged in the Ministry group. While the shelter has historically opened Oct. 28 every year, its opening has been moved to Oct. 21 after conversations with the City. Charlottesville residents also expressed concerns about the lifting of the curfew, per Afton Schneider, director of communications and public engagement for the City of Charlottesville.

"We have received emails thanking us for lifting the closing hours of the park, but we have also received emails expressing concern regarding the length of time of this arrangement, the safety and health of both the unhoused

and other community members, and the long-term solutions," Schneider said.

While Mark Kavitt, president of the North Downtown Residents Association, said he has not personally had issues with the settlement's residents, he has received complaints from other residents who fear the settlement will become disorderly. In particular, some residents have pointed to the alleged stabbing near Market Street Park Sept. 27.

"The neighbors felt uncomfortable using the park and feel its use has been taken from them," Kavitt said. "The people of NDRA are concerned for the homeless, but some are intimidated in using the park and [fear] the situation getting out of hand."

The lifting of the curfew was originally part of a larger plan to address unhoused populations in Charlottesville. Sanders has divided the plan into short-term, mid-term and long-term initiatives.

The City is first seeking to identify the size and state of the unhoused population in order to pursue adequate housing accommodations. Longer-term goals include acquiring property for 24/7, 365-day homeless shelter services and creating more affordable

housing and public resources.

Matthew Dunham, who has lived in Charlottesville for three months, said he currently sleeps on the porch of a building near Market Street Park. He said nearby churches should work together to assemble funding and support Charlottesville's unhoused community.

"The homed need places to sleep, [and] the homeless need places to sleep," Dunham said. "Why don't we provide that to both?"

The park, others have argued, provides shelter and access to resources that are not being afforded elsewhere. In a statement at the Oct. 2 City Council meeting, fourth-year College student Cady de la Cruz said the University has increased gentrification in Charlottesville by not providing more student housing. De la Cruz encouraged residents to first consider why the presence of unhoused people in the park makes them feel uncomfortable rather than immediately trying to remove them.

"Seeing our community members being forced to live on the street should make us uncomfortable, not because our unhoused neighbors are dangerous or because they pose us a threat," de la Cruz said. "The violence

we see in our community is because of the conditions that those in power have created."

The controversy surrounding Market St. Park's homeless encampment has spurred local activism, including the Housing Not Criminalization campaign, which has created graphics and an action toolkit with the aim of increasing advocacy against the reinstatement of the curfew. The group says the sudden curfew reversal will not provide enough time for Market Street's inhabitants to relocate to PACEM housing.

"The presence of camping tents does not produce violence in the community, it simply makes the sins of society visible," the statement reads.



MASATO TAKEDAI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The curfew was initially lifted following an alleged violent encounter between unhoused park residents and Charlottesville Police officers who were enforcing the park curfew.

ICA Farmville detention center faces calls for closure

Students are calling for a close to the detention center, whose contract expires this March

Ford McCracken | Staff Writer

An immigrant detention center in Farmville, Va., a town 60 miles south of Charlottesville, has received calls from students, undocUVA and other activist groups across the country demanding the center close, citing unlawful and inhumane practices. University students specifically have taken interest in the issue, spreading activist efforts outside the Charlottesville area.

Immigration Centers of America's Farmville division has made headlines over the years for poor conditions for those detained — a report arguing for the center's closure published by Detention Watch, a national group advocating for the closure of ICA centers across the country, alleges misconduct by ICA Farmville.

"People detained at the facility have been subject to harsh conditions, including use of force, solitary confinement, retaliation by staff, inadequate medical and mental health care, meager and barely edible food and limited access to counsel and family members," the report reads.

Controversy also arose over a lawsuit filed in August against ICA Farmville by the Virginia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union alleging three Central American men were

illegally detained in the facility after winning their immigration cases — the lawsuit was settled and the men were released later that month, but media attention thrust the mistreatment of detainees into activist spheres.

Allegations also include a history of health issues. In 2020, 93 percent of detainees contracted COVID-19 after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement transferred detainees from areas with high rates of the virus.

The outbreak ultimately led a federal judge to bar ICE from transferring anyone to the facility until July 2022. The center has slowly reopened since then, under increased restrictions. ICA Farmville went from having as many as 800 people to having only 60 as of this July.

UndocUVA — a student group focused on creating a safe space and advocating for undocumented students — organized a group to travel to a town council meeting Sept. 13 to express their views on why the detention center should be closed.

A student who spoke at the meeting said she and her family feel personally impacted by ICA Farmville because her own brother was detained in the facility. She said he got sick frequently

because of unsanitary conditions before ultimately being deported.

The student said she feared that other undocumented Virginians, including those at the University, could be at risk of detainment under poor conditions at ICA Farmville.

"There are undocumented students and staff at the best school in the state and number two public school in the nation," the student said.

Edward Strickler, Farmville resident and school of medicine alumnus, saw the students' self-insertion into the debate as "elite supremacy." Strickler said they failed to account for the center's importance for the local economy.

"In any case the conduct of elite university students — ignorant and/or careless of the social ecology of rural working class communities — is not at all surprising," Strickler said in a statement to The Cavalier Daily.

When asked about University students who spoke at the Sept. 13 town council meeting, Farmville Mayor Bruce Vincent says he's a firm believer in participation in democracy. Still, he acknowledged concerns about elitism by discussing the quality of the education at the University.

"There were a couple of those qualifiers in their introduction, which definitely caught the ears of multiple residents here," Vincent said. "You're in our backyard. You're in Longwood's backyard."

ICA Farmville's contract with the city of Farmville was initially set to expire Sept. 15, and the council chose to renew it for two more weeks to determine the center's future. The council then voted to take six more months to make a call on how to proceed.

Farmville would lose a significant amount of money from ending the contract — notably from lost jobs. A 2015 study commissioned by ICA Farmville found that the center provided \$8.4 million in economic output for Farmville and Prince Edward County. Wages of those employed by the center were 30 percent higher than the local average.

"You're in the middle of the budget year," Vincent said. "To then blow a hole like that in the budget, it's just not very fiscally responsible."

However, the contract may soon be out of Farmville's hands, with a clear path toward a direct contract with the federal government, according to Vincent. A direct contract would keep the ICA location in Farmville and still pro-

vide jobs to residents — a main concern of those opposed to closing the center — but would keep Farmville out of the finances.

Ultimately, Vincent says the issue is not Farmville's responsibility, arguing that broader immigration reform and de-politicization of the issue is the remedy. Immigration reform has been stalled in the U.S. for several years. A major bipartisan attempt to improve the hotly contested situation in 2013 failed, and no legislation has been passed since.

"Is it unfortunate that our immigration system is broken? Absolutely," Vincent said. "But until we lobby aggressively for national politicians to quit sitting on their hands, and advantageously using the immigration issue as a political football every election, this is the world we're gonna be in."

Notably, ICE officials say the contract's expiration would not automatically free detainees — they would simply shift to another facility.

The town's six-month contract extension will expire in March, when Vincent and the council will again be faced with a decision on how to proceed.

JPA student housing development gets preliminary approval

Developers aim to create a student-focused apartment complex called "The Verve" at 1709 Jefferson Park Avenue

Finn Trainer | Senior Associate

A proposal for a new student housing apartment complex on Jefferson Park Avenue has received both praise and concern — positive feedback for its potential to mitigate the pressure of University students on the Charlottesville housing market but concern from some students and community members who are worried about the project's impact on the affordable housing market and traffic in the JPA corridor.

The complex, called "The Verve" and located at 1709 Jefferson Park Ave, will be 8 stories tall and offer 27 units. The development will replace the 8 unit multi-family apartment complex that currently stands on the property. Charlottesville City Council recently granted the developers of The Verve a special use permit in a 3-2 vote.

The proposal for The Verve has received substantial support from local housing and environmental advocacy group Livable Cville, who published a letter of support for the project. Co-chair of Livable Cville Matthew Gillikin said that the new complex will reduce student-related housing

pressure in other parts of the city.

"Student housing is a major part of the Charlottesville market, and concentrating that housing in the JPA corridor makes it easier for non-students to access housing elsewhere in Charlottesville," Gillikin said.

The number of University students seeking off-Grounds residences has risen over the years, which has exacerbated Charlottesville's long-standing shortage of affordable housing. The University itself has also taken steps to address the issue, in some ways through the 2030 Plan, one pillar of which is requiring that all second-year students live on Grounds.

Some students living in the area, however, have criticized the proposal of a new apartment complex. Fourth-year College student Hanna Sun has lived on JPA for over three years and said the JPA corridor already has issues with speeding and parking availability — the addition of a new apartment complex would worsen the situation, according to Sun.

"I think putting another huge complex there is going to exacerbate

the issue," Sun said. "[The complex will] cause unnecessary harm to the students and other pedestrians."

While she does not live on JPA, fourth-year College student Grace Webb, a resident of Bond House, said building more student-centered housing is a good plan to combat gentrification in the Charlottesville area.

Webb also noted that expensive leases remain a barrier for students looking to live on JPA. The prices of units in The Verve have not yet been listed. Nearby, a four bed, two bathroom apartment at 2101 Jefferson Park Apartments is priced at \$3,650 per month, and a two bed, 1 bath at The Californian is priced at \$1,475 per month.

"The key word here is accessible," Webb said. "For the student housing to be accessible, it needs to be affordable, and that's a really critical issue here."

Per Virginia law, all developers must either build a certain number of on-site affordable housing units or contribute to the area's affordable housing fund — the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund was creat-

ed in 2007 to fund the construction of low-cost housing around the city and support local nonprofits working to address the issue. Donations or on-site units are dependent on the total number of units in the development.

City Councilor Michael Payne said developers almost always choose to pay into the CAHF because it is the cheaper of the two options. The developers of The Verve have claimed they will contribute 200 percent of the current required amount to the CAHF.

The development proposal comes after Charlottesville City Council released the most recent draft of its upcoming zoning ordinance, which plans to increase the number of multi-use properties in the city. Some Charlottesville residents have voiced concerns that the ordinance, which will also increase the city's residential density, will worsen gentrification and resident displacement.

Livable Cville co-signed a letter of support for the draft zoning ordinance in July. Some of the projects that may benefit from the money include the affordable housing project

at 501 Cherry Avenue and a public housing redevelopment at West Haven. The redevelopment in West Haven is expected to require at least \$15 million in funding.

Although the developers have obtained the special-use permit for The Verve, the proposal must undergo further review from the city and hire contractors for the project, with Payne estimating that construction may not begin for one to two years.

Charlottesville City Council discussed the project further at a Planning Commission meeting Tuesday, although no voting occurred. The next step for the developers of The Verve is to obtain a certificate of appropriateness from Charlottesville's Board of Architectural Review, after which they can seek approval for a proposed site plan.

Subtext Living, developers of The Verve, did not respond to requests for comment.

Ella Scandura contributed to this article.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Engaging the senses through abstract art

“Processing Abstraction” brings museum-goers into a world of discovery and teaches us how to slow down and observe

Charlotte Walden | Staff Writer

Stepping foot onto the second floor of The Fralin Museum of Art, one crosses the threshold between the stress of everyday life and the fluid, expressive world of abstract art.

This art has lived in the “Processing Abstraction” exhibit since its opening in February. Within, expansive abstract paintings assert themselves from wall to wall. These various paintings were created by renowned and stunningly innovative artists from abstract expressionist Joan Mitchell all the way to color field painter Sam Gilliam, who had ties to the Washington Color School, a famous group of abstract artists from the mid-20th century.

Although the paintings vary in context of production and technique, they all share a sense of dynamism, a range of swirling, striping and splattering colors barely contained by canvas. Within this world of color and texture, one has unbounded potential to explore and learn.

Violette Mercier, Fralin student docent and second-year College stu-

dent, said her experience with the gallery had given her a new entry point for connecting with art. Sheila Eaton Isham’s “Huan Dispersion Wind with Water” — a 1973 acrylic on canvas featuring vibrant hues of pink, red, purple and green — was particularly compelling for Mercier, who was prompted to consider tactical questions like how the painting would feel when she was moving through the exhibit.

“It was the first time I’ve ever had that kind of activity within artwork,” Mercier said. “Usually in museums, you’re supposed to be silent. There’s no [actual] reflecting on the work and saying what you think about it.”

Mercier noted how this process of deep reflection led to a discovery that all the senses can play a role in observing abstract art.

Mercier is not the only student trying new methods of observation in the gallery — Jade Devriendt, Fralin student docent and third-year College student, said that she has seen kids react differently to abstraction too, in-

terpreting paintings as anything from storms to tie-dyed pools.

“Some people might think it’s calm and others thought it was really chaotic,” Devriendt said. “Then, this one kid actually said he felt it was like both.”

No clear humanlike figures exist within the paintings at the “Processing Abstraction” exhibit — the paintings are instead meant to encourage viewers to find meaning in them, an idea Emily Lazaro, manager of docent and teacher programs at The Fralin and Class of 2008 alumna, expanded upon.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s a third grader or a college student,” Lazaro said. “People projecting their experiences, their ideas, the knowledge that they hold or the shapes or forms they recognize.”

Beyond the visual exploration of the abstract art itself, The Fralin affords a valuable technical learning opportunity in “Processing Abstraction,” one that has allowed students to learn about painting conservation.

Since mid-September, Hirshhorn

Museum Conservator Scott Nolley has been coming into the exhibit to perform live conservation work on two Joan Mitchell paintings, “Untitled” and “Neige.”

The painting was dirty when it first arrived to be displayed but needed to be cleaned in time for the grand opening, which led to a unique opportunity to combine art and education.

“It’s important for an educational institution with a kind of cross-disciplinary mandate and the willingness to educate on all levels to sort of take these opportunities when you get them and use them to their best quality,” Nolley said.

Conservation of paintings is often a job that happens behind closed doors rather than something that is accessible to the public, Nolley said. In the case of “Processing Abstraction,” Nolley’s conservation is representative of how museumgoers are encouraged to engage with abstract art both visually and technically, holistically learning how to observe.

When it comes to visual observation and analysis of abstract art, really listening to one’s inner thoughts and feelings is important, according to Lazaro and Nolley.

“You get out of abstract and impressionist artwork what you bring to it,” Nolley said. “It’s really a reflecting pool, for feeling, for perception and energy.”

To try observing abstract art in this way, Lazaro recommends coming to the museum for a guided tour or a visit with friends. Her advice for approaching this exhibition is to come with a sense of flexibility and curiosity to see what unfolds in conversation.

The Fralin Museum of Art will have “Processing Abstraction” on display until Dec. 31, and tours can be flexibly booked on their website, allowing for an opportunity to explore these diversely made, vibrant paintings close to home.



MASATO TAKEDAI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Although the paintings vary in context of production and technique, they all share a sense of dynamism, a range of swirling, striping and splattering colors barely contained by canvas.

Jody Hobbs Hesler embraces the power of bad feelings

The local author's first short story collection "What Makes You Think You're Supposed to Feel Better?" encourages acceptance of the full scale of human emotion

Emily Pitts | Senior Writer

Longtime Charlottesville resident and acclaimed writer Jody Hobbs Hesler recently released a powerful first collection of short stories entitled "What Makes You Think You're Supposed to Feel Better?" The collection — which was released Sunday Oct. 15 — contains a wide-ranging plethora of fiction short stories, all set in Central Virginia. Through each of her characters' lives, she focuses on messages of moving through painful moments instead of remaining blindly positive.

Hesler's bundle of short fiction pieces, ranging anywhere from five to 25 pages, follow a diverse range of Virginian characters and stories. From guilty affairs to mysterious children to choices seeping with compassion and regret, the stories have a wide cast of characters, situations, emotions and realizations. The variety in her pieces is a bit of a new take on short story collections, which used to be much more uniform in storyline according to Hesler.

"For a long time short story collections were expected to be linked in

some way. They're all the same character doing different things," Hesler said. "That form didn't appeal to me as a writer. I like variety... so I didn't like the idea of a collection of stories being linked that tightly."

Hesler — who currently teaches at WriterHouse in Charlottesville — also writes longer novels, one of which will debut in November. She said that she considers both shorter and longer form writing important parts of her writing identity. Hesler also works on both forms of writing at the same time, which she considers to be mutually strengthening.

"Writing in different forms is like cross training is for an athlete," Hesler said. "If you run marathons, you make your muscles really long, so you have to do something else to strengthen them or keep them limber. You alternate between different [exercises] to make yourself healthier."

Though Hesler's stories have no common characters or plots, she did find through lines in the messages behind her words.

The title of her collection, "What

Makes You Think You're Supposed to Feel Better?" is a quote from a character in one of the stories in the collection. Without giving away too much of the plot, Hesler hinted at the deeper meaning behind these words and the moment where the story shifted beyond the situational context into a broader meaning of human emotion.

"[Writing this line] was the moment where this story became less simple," Hesler said.

According to Hesler, these pieces convey the dissonance between happiness and experiencing the necessary pain of life.

"There's such a focus in our culture on happiness as your constant state, as if that's what you're supposed to be like," Hesler said. "Every minute is supposed to be this bright, shiny moment...it's a lot of pressure on all of us to think we're supposed to always feel great...It's healthy not to feel up all the time, you know."

Hesler said she sees these feelings of her characters reflected in her life and the people around her, specifically through the process of parenthood.

"I think it really has been a function of raising children...somewhere in there the focus of what we're most worried about changes from what's gonna happen today to a bigger outlook," Hesler said.

Hesler is holding a book event for "What Makes You Think You're Supposed to Feel Better?" Oct. 27 at New Dominion Bookshop, which is free and open to the public. The event will feature a reading from one of her stories and a Q&A in conversation with Sharon Harrigan, another Charlottesville writer and one of Hesler's coworkers at WriterHouse.

Hesler said she hopes that University students and prospective authors will attend this event as a way of connecting with the broader Charlottesville writing community.

"We would love it if students come," Hesler said. "I would love for them to come, introduce themselves afterwards, and tell me about themselves...especially young writers that are curious about the process. It would be good to see what they had to say."

Regardless of writer aspirations, Hesler's collection contains powerful messages of working through the negative emotions that anyone at any age could benefit from hearing. Through Hesler's powerful character building and rhetoric, readers can internalize the important yet often overlooked mantra of "it's okay not to be okay."

"I think something that I've noticed in my life in the last 10 or 15 years is how difficult it is for people to be in any situation while a problem still exists while a bad feeling is still there," Hesler said. "If we could accept feeling bad first, we could get the idea that it's actually not a bad thing to have to feel through something to get to the other side."

Interested readers can now order "What Makes You Think You're Supposed to Feel Better?" on bookshop.org and the Barnes & Noble website. More information about the collection is available on Hesler's website.

Black Women Stitch celebrates sisterhood through sewing

This Charlottesville-based sewing group leaves its stitch on the continually growing tapestry of Black female artistry

Melanie Chuh | Staff Writer

In the heart of Charlottesville, a vibrant and close-knit community of creative souls gathers to celebrate the art of stitchcraft. Black Women Stitch, a local award-winning sewing group with over 20,000 followers on Instagram, stands as a testament to the resilience, creativity and cultural richness of Black women in the realm of textiles.

Black Women Stitch — "the sewing group where Black Lives Matter" as their slogan reads — offers both in-person and virtual events to cover the organization's local Charlottesville community as well as its national network. The organization was founded by Dr. Lisa Woolfork, English professor and sixth-generation sewist, in 2018 as a space where she could pursue needle art without "having to audition [her] humanity."

Woolfork has leaned on sewing as a creative outlet since her time in graduate school, so she turned to her previous sewing group for support after the "Unite the Right" rally. However, she was met with uneasy glances and ultimately rejection.

"What I wanted was a recreational space that could both be a site for archiving the Black creative experience while also providing a type of communal resource for people to learn more about the intricacies of Black creativity," Woolfork said. "I built what I needed in a time when I was looking for a type of peace, a way that I could step away from some of the demands of my daily work life."

And so, Black Women Stitch was born. From Sewalong events to the "Stitch Please" podcast, Black Women Stitch meets the unique needs of sewists with virtual events that allow sewists to craft in company and lively interview podcasts filled with crafting wisdom and advice. Anyone can access free guides, newsletters and events through the Black Women Stitch website, and Patreon supporters can unlock behind-the-scenes materials including videos of podcast episodes and excerpts from Woolfork's current book.

Inspired by an in-person event to continue the "camaraderie, sisterhood and solidarity" shared at

the event, "Stitch Please" sparks sisterhood through conversation, providing a meeting place for Black creatives to foster conversations and archive their stories. Among over 200 "Stitch Please" episodes is "A Sewing Chat with Rita Dove," featuring fellow English professor and accomplished sewist Rita Dove. Dove pointed out that her writing career and her sewing hobby intersect due to each realm's reliance on tension.

Woolfork enthusiastically recalled her findings from her conversation with Dove.

"Tension can sometimes hold poetic language together, and tension is absolutely necessary for any type of stitch," Woolfork said.

Woolfork said that revered academics like W.E.B. Dubois and Frantz Fanon have been using sewing and textile metaphors for years, such as "the fabric of American democracy." As language and needlework weave together, sewing reveals itself to be "a critical apparatus" that changes our perceptions of the world according to Woolfork.

Woolfork demonstrates that

stitchcraft and its surrounding community challenge modern understandings of feminism and equity. She points out the "gender distinction" between fine art and craft, meaning that handwork by men — such as culinary arts — is praised as fine art while the same work performed by women — such as cooking — is seen for its domestic functionality rather than its beauty.

"When someone's willing to pay \$17,000 for a quilt that hangs on the wall and wants to give you \$17 for a quilt that you made for your bed...that's how I think that sometimes gender can operate as a way to minimize and keep people poor," Woolfork said.

Woolfork and Black Women Stitch approach feminism with intersectionality, not just creating a space for women but uplifting Black female artists. According to Woolfork, sewing and textile arts have been marketed towards white women throughout American history, despite these practices being done by women of color for centuries.

She referenced the 1939 USDA

study, "Women's Measurements for Garment and Pattern Construction," which recorded the measurements of 14,698 white women to create sewing patterns that are still used today.

"If they had included other women of color...from the start, we might be in a very different position now with how our clothes fit," Woolfork said. "There's a Black feminist theory that states that when you center the most marginalized and make sure their needs are met, you have created a system that is more just for everyone."

Fueled by Woolfork's contagious passion for sewing, Black Women Stitch is the beating heart of the stitchcraft community, an inspiring and uniting force that proves that anyone can make anything. Woolfork explains her philosophy that powers both her own sewing journey and the growth of Black Women Stitch.

"Everything you have on, everything you are wearing was made by someone," Woolfork said. "Why not you?"

LIFE

Inventive Korean-Japanese American fusion at Umma's

The restaurant melds cuisines in unconventional yet comforting dishes

Kate Johnson | Food Writer

Umma's excites with bold, fresh takes on classic dishes. Relatively new to the Downtown restaurant scene, Umma's has served Charlottesville diners Korean-Japanese American fusion since 2022. Popular for their novel food combinations — like Southern collards over ramen noodles or caramel apple enveloped in Taiyaki pastry — Umma's is a great spot to visit with friends for innovative comfort food at a reasonable price.

Umma's is located Downtown on the corner of Water Street and 2nd Street SW — about a 25-minute walk from Central Grounds. They serve dinner from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and until 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. They also serve late-night bites from 9:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. Umma's does not accept reservations.

Umma's pays homage to the women in chef Kelsey Naylor's family, whom she credits for her love of cooking. It is her grandmother's gentle smile that graces the restaurant's logo. "Umma" translates to "Mom" in

Korean, a fitting name for a restaurant inspired by mothers.

Umma's dishes reimagine conventional Korean, Japanese and American cuisines. The dishes fuse food traditions — like the kimchi-making custom in Naylor's family — with the chefs' own food histories — like snacking on American cheese. The resulting Asian American menu is uniquely authentic to the chefs and their experiences.

My date and I walked to Umma's for a Friday evening dinner. We sat at a window with a view of their cozy outdoor patio decked with string lights. Inside, the space reinforced the East-meets-West theme. Traditional East Asian prints and hanging plants adorned the walls, while 1970s disco hits tinged the air with American nostalgia.

There is a lot to digest on Umma's menu — no pun intended. They serve several variations of their ramen and fried chicken, and they offer quite a few other plates and sides. Their menu also frequently changes to

highlight seasonal ingredients or to sample new concepts, so there is always something different to try.

We started our dinner with two skewers. The first was a roasted cauliflower skewer served with a smear of yuzu kosho, a citrusy chili paste. The zesty, creamy yuzu kosho nicely cut the bitterness of the charred cauliflower.

The second skewer distilled the essence of Japanese Nikujaga, a traditional dish of stewed meat and potatoes. Smoked potato wedges were drizzled with a rich beef sauce flavored hint of sweet soy. Each bite was hearty and warm, akin to spoonfuls of a homemade stew.

Next, we tasted one of Umma's signature dishes, their "Korean Fried Chikin" drenched in "Mamabird's KFC sauce." The thick batter on the chicken wings delivered a satisfying crunch, and the sweet, tangy sauce stuck to our fingers. Fresh daikon, a crisp Japanese root vegetable, provided a hydrating complement to the chicken. This was a great dish to share

— my date and I giggled as the sauce dirtied our faces.

Perhaps the clearest illustration of Umma's fusion concept came from the Miso Paitan ramen. Pork rind, noodles and an onsen egg grounded the bowl in Japanese flavors. But there were distinctly American additions — pork belly and collards rendered the classic Southern pairing of ham and collard greens, and a slice of American cheese melted over the thick chicken broth. The dish produced an unusual profile of savory, salty and bitter that intrigued my tastebuds.

My favorite bite of the night came from the Kimchi Carbonara Teokbokki, a delicious twist on the Italian pasta dish. Chewy rice cakes were tossed in a cream sauce with grana padano cheese and smoked bacon. The carbonara was piled atop mild kimchi and garnished with seaweed and a fried egg. The dish effortlessly melded two cuisines, delivering Italian with Korean touches and textures.

For dessert, we ordered two Age

Taiyaki, dense fish-shaped waffles stuffed with different fillings. The first was filled with smooth red bean paste, which was delightfully earthy and sweet. The second, their fall special, was filled with miso caramel apple. The miso enhanced the classic American apple pie flavor with pleasant umami. The Taiyaki concluded our meal with yet another inventive fusion of Asian and American culinary traditions.

I enjoyed the novelty of Umma's, and I think many others in Charlottesville share the sentiment — a line of waiting patrons snaked around the patio when we left. I'd recommend arriving at the restaurant early, especially on weekend nights, to secure a table.

With dishes ranging from hefty ramen bowls to little skewers, Umma's is the perfect place for either a big, filling meal or just a few bites with friends. As such, diners can make Umma's very affordable with smaller orders. Our dishes ranged from \$3 to \$18.

Not your typical Friday night

A spotlight on the student bartenders who work behind the scenes to make weekend nights on the Corner memorable

Alexandra Holmes | Assistant Managing Editor

On a college campus, few things are as sacred as a Friday night. As the week slips into the weekend, students here in Charlottesville slip out to the Corner, which offers a variety of restaurants and bars to unwind and de-stress at with friends. At 5 p.m. on a Friday, then, the Corner is often bustling — but for student bartenders on the Corner, their work is just beginning.

Bartending shifts that start in the early evening can easily run into mid-morning — leaving the bar at 4 a.m. is not uncommon for these student bartenders. On top of late nights spent at the bar, student bartenders must also balance college classes, assignments, extracurricular activities and other priorities.

Krystian Kinsey, a bartender at The Biltmore and graduate Education student, is also a wrestler on the Virginia wrestling team. He underscored the difficult task of managing a bartending job in addition to other time-consuming commitments.

"You balance it with a lot of caffeine and a lot of grit," Kinsey said.

The compromise is worth it for

these students — the Corner may be their office, but it is also a place where they have found tight-knit communities that have become vital parts of the college experience.

The Corner is home to an eclectic mix of bars and restaurants, each with its own distinct atmosphere. Places such as Boylan Heights cater towards audiences looking to watch Virginia sports games over a pint, while places like Coupe's are known for their live music from local bands. Despite these differences, Carolyn Grimm, bartender at Boylan and fourth-year Batten student, said that bartenders at these different establishments still share a common bond.

"Being a bartender on the Corner, you kind of get tapped into the network of other bars on the Corner," Grimm said. "I never really knew a lot of other people who worked at other bars and now I feel like I know a ton, which is kind of cool."

Apart from offering a community of friends, bartending is often just fun for students. Jie Lu, a bartender

at The Biltmore and fourth-year Commerce student, started bartending as a way to explore a fun hobby during her last year at the University while also earning some money.

"It doesn't feel like a job, especially if you're listening to music and vibing and talking to your friends behind the bar," Lu said. "I think that it's just something fun to do on a weekend...[and] you're also making money."

Nights spent at the bar are not always so relaxed, however. While weekday shifts are relatively slow, weekends at the bar can be particularly crowded, as University students look to maximize their time off. According to Grimm, this can make what are usually fun shifts somewhat stressful.

"If it's a busy shift...it can be very hectic and be really loud," Grimm said. "It can be fun. [But] it can be a little overstimulating sometimes, especially when there's so many people and so many bodies in one space."

With this dynamic bar environment also comes a creative element of bartending. Ethan Weatherspoon,

bartender at The Biltmore and graduate Education student, said that student bartenders sometimes invent drinks on the fly during busy shifts — drinks that may even become popular enough to be added to the menu.

In addition, they also are asked to provide input on ideas to improve the bar from a student's perspective. The Biltmore's ongoing revamp, which includes an expansion of their staff, an extended food and drink menu and the promotion of a new general manager, was heavily influenced by suggestions from student bartenders.

To Weatherspoon, the opportunity to provide feedback while bartending is particularly enjoyable.

"It's cool that now we kind of get to be a part of the revamp," Weatherspoon said. "And also when we leave that's going to be the imprint that's left of us."

In a bar setting, feeling part of the establishment and its community is especially important. Rowdy or intoxicated customers may threaten their own safety or the bar staff

themselves — accordingly, bar staff are trained to recognize and appropriately handle a situation in which a customer is causing or involved in unsafe conditions.

Additionally, Weatherspoon said that the bartenders on shift, along with bouncers and other bar staff, support their fellow employees to keep each other safe.

"If I'm bartending and [my coworkers] feel unsafe...I will stop what I'm doing because obviously my coworkers come first — that's no problem," Weatherspoon said.

Long nights, noisy customers and sometimes a lack of tips can make bartending difficult for students on the job. However, the community, friendships and fast-paced nature of the position far outweigh the occasional drawbacks for these student bartenders. Grimm says that it's the unique experience of bartending while being a student that makes the job special.

"Out of all the jobs you could have in college, it has its pros and its cons, but I really love it," Grimm said.

The horrors of off-Grounds housing

Students find the current Charlottesville housing market to be an increasingly stressful and difficult process.

Lindsay Lian & Abby Snowdon | Features Writers



ADAIRE BURNSED | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Covered housing in prime locations such as 14th Street and Jefferson Park Avenue have rental processes that start only weeks after students arrive on Grounds — and can fill up just as quickly.

After working tirelessly to obtain admission at one of the nation's top universities, undergoing the tumultuous process of registering for classes, finding a roommate and adjusting to their first year away from home, many University students do not have time to take a breath before they have their next mountain to scale — looking for off-Grounds housing.

With most upperclassmen at the University living off-Grounds, finding adequate, affordable housing can be a competitive, stressful experience during the fall semester. Covered housing in prime locations such as 14th Street and Jefferson Park Avenue have rental processes that start only weeks after students arrive on Grounds — and can fill up just as quickly.

Class of 2023 alumna Liz Wilding works at Management Services Corporation, which manages over 50 properties in the Charlottesville area. Wilding has been on the administrative end of multiple leasing seasons and said that residencies nearest to the Corner and on Jefferson Park Avenue run out the fastest, with the application process starting as early as September.

Tight deadlines and short turnaround time makes selecting a place to live stressful and particularly intense for first-year students. Current second-year College student Bree Bonner, said securing her current residence at the Pointe, an apartment complex adjacent to the corner, was just as competitive as Wilding outlined.

"It was super challenging and diffi-

cult at the beginning of first year, right when we got to school," Bonner said.

The stress for housing is not limited to first-year students, though — upperclassmen deal with similar issues on timing, especially if they do not plan on resigning leases or want to move to a different area or with a different group of people. Bonner, for example, is in a sorority, and her housing situation for the following year is still uncertain as she awaits a decision about living in her sorority house.

"I'm still worried about housing because my sorority doesn't determine who lives in the house until November," Bonner said. "I'm hoping to live in the house. But if I can't live in the house, I don't really have a backup plan for where I'm gonna live."

The search for housing can also be overwhelming for students who are new to navigating application processes or house hunting — especially as processes vary from leasing company to leasing company or complex to complex. The Pointe and some other properties, for example, allow tenants to "pass down" their apartment to peers in coming years without going through the typical application process.

This is especially true for some students in Greek life, where apartments are passed down through generations of members. While Bonner secured her apartment through the typical application process, according to Wilding, about 20 percent of MSC properties are pass-downs.

A lot of this information, both of-

ficial and unofficial, is difficult for students to tap into. While the University hosts an Off-Grounds Housing Fair during Family Weekend in early November, this resource is available for students long after many apartments reach capacity. According to Bonner, the dissonance between when off-Grounds accommodations become available and when the University provides support to students seeking off-Grounds living demonstrates a lack of real support from the University.

"When UVA. is telling people 'oh, don't worry about it, you're gonna be able to find somewhere to live,' but at the same time, there's this external pressure that everyone else is putting on you to sign a lease — you don't really believe them," Bonner said.

The housing situation not only has implications for University students, but for the greater Charlottesville community as well. As affordable housing becomes increasingly less available, student-focused off-Grounds housing prevents many permanent Charlottesville residents from finding economical housing.

As an employee at MSC, Wilding has seen these effects play out firsthand, noting how the skyrocketing cost-of-living has impacted students and Charlottesville citizens alike.

"It's no surprise that UVA. housing has completely pushed out Charlottesville natives — they can't afford to live here anymore," Wilding said.

According to Wilding, MSC's rent pricing has gone up consistently for

each property for each of the three years she has worked there. Whether by \$15 each month, or \$100, renters will likely see an increase in their cost of living, inconveniencing both students and Charlottesville residents alike.

One pillar of the University's 2030 Plan aims to address housing pressures for both students and Charlottesville residents. To cultivate a more vibrant community on Grounds, the University plans to require that all second-year students live on Grounds. Currently, however, students still face a variety of daunting challenges and deadlines that make the process of securing a place to live a significant added stressor to college life.

As an educator and community member, Professor Charlie Gleek in the Catalyst Program maintains a keen interest in housing both because he is both a homeowner and because it is a concern of the young people he works with.

"When it comes to second-year housing, my personal belief is that the more students we can have on Grounds, the better the University will be," Gleek said. "The goal is to have more people living here — and not just because it's cost effective, but it's better for students. It's better for the University community."

While the 2030 Plan's projected impact on these increasing rent prices is contested, Gleek calls community members to action to continue to fight for fair prices. As Gleek explained, the University and Charlottesville commu-

nity must advocate for equitable, fair housing to achieve that goal.

"I think [the 2030 Plan] is useful, but it's not something that will immediately solve it," Gleek said. "We need advocates, policymakers, practitioners, people getting involved in the local government community and community engagement to ensure that anything that we do."

Henry Schutte, former assistant manager of a Charlottesville housing complex and Class of 2023 alumnus, has a more pessimistic view on the impact of the 2030 Plan. Schutte said he is wary of the lengthy timeline since the changes won't take effect for a while.

"It may be years, right? You start that program with second-year housing in 2030, you're not gonna see a dip in prices until 2033 — and it's not gonna be much," Schutte said.

In the meantime, many students remain feeling overwhelmed and stressed about the process of trying to secure a place to live. Second-year College student Meadow Sadeh, who is currently renting an apartment off Grounds, said that it feels unjust to have young students make such impactful decisions so soon.

"I think it's really unfair to put these 18 [or] 19 year olds who just started a crazy life experience and force them to find out who they want to live with for the following year with such steep prices," Sadeh said.

GUEST ARTISTS

OVER 100 FILMS IN 5 DAYS

OCT. 25-29, 2023
VIRGINIAFILMFESTIVAL.ORG



JON BATISTE
AMERICAN SYMPHONY



AVA DUVERNAY
ORIGIN
(KOURY ANGELO/GETTY IMAGES)



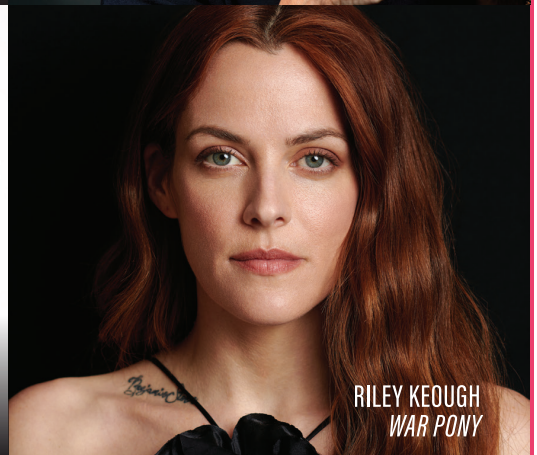
NIKKI GIOVANNI
GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT



KAZU HIRO
MAESTRO



CORD JEFFERSON
AMERICAN FICTION



RILEY KEOUGH
WAR PONY

FREE TICKETS FOR UVA STUDENTS




SILK THAI RESTAURANT
COMING SOON
2210 Fontaine Ave. Charlottesville VA 22903



MASHUMEN

MASHUMEN SUSHI - RAMEN - JAPANESE
2208 Fontaine Ave. Charlottesville VA 22903
434-400-9007

\$5 off \$25 COUPON
Tear Off and Redeem In Restaurant

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL: Stop the rumor mill

In light of increased crime rates, the University must work to increase communication with students

As any student here could attest to, we are all too familiar with the words “community alert” popping up on our phones, so we learn to tune it out. It becomes just another notification, often the butt of jokes on Yik Yak. But the attempted abduction earlier this month cut through all of that. To the victim, the Editorial Board offers our support and empathy. For the rest of the University’s community, this incident added to an ever-growing list of horrific crimes near Grounds. If this most recent alert exemplified anything, it is that for many of us, we just don’t feel safe in our homes anymore.

Our goal is not to shame the University, which has long demonstrated a commitment to safety. In recent years, however, the University, like other higher education institutions, has had to deal with rising crime rates. Admirably, leadership has not shied away from this issue. After five gun related homicides in Charlottesville between the beginning of 2022 and April 2023 — including

the shooting last November which took the lives of D’Sean Perry, Devin Chandler and Lavel Davis Jr. — the University partnered with the city of Charlottesville to combat crime. They doubled the police presence and created the Community Safety Working Group. While these actions indicate the University’s undeniable commitment to safety, increasing police presence is not the kind of solution that makes every student feel safe on Grounds. There is more work that the University can do, and this begins with increased communication and transparency.

The current system of notifying students of crime is the community alert system. After a crime occurs, the University applies a set of criteria to determine the threat to the community — a community alert email is sent to all of our University accounts depending on the results of this threat assessment. The emails can, and often do, come hours after crimes take place. With nothing but hours of silence from the University,

rumor and conjecture spread quickly — we all hear the sirens, and social media platforms quickly devolve into speculation.

While we recognize that the hours after a crime are hectic, the University needs to make informing its students a top priority, especially when the suspects of these crimes often remain at large in the area. Utilizing the existing infrastructure of text message alerts with more condensed information in the immediate aftermath of a crime would allow students to stay up-to-date with accurate information essential to their safety.

Aside from the email notifications, the University publishes a yearly report every October — the Fire Safety and Security Report. While the report is undoubtedly comprehensive, it is not easily digestible for students who want to get a complete picture of crime at the University. Instead of just a 160 page report published annually, it would be better to meet students where they are. A monthly email, for example, displaying

the very same information in a more digestible format would increase how accessible the information is to students.

After last Spring’s shooting on Elliewood, the University held a virtual town hall where concerned community members could hear directly from administrators on crime and safety. These types of meetings help foster a transparent relationship between University leadership and those in the community. Increasing their regularity would allow for students to more easily express their concerns directly with the people who can do something to address them.

In addition to informing students when crimes occur, the University can do more to prepare students for their occurrence. The same way that we do training modules about hazing and sexual assault, the University should create a module teaching students about ways to stay safe around Grounds. The module could also serve as a way for the University to

inform students about its safety policies and procedures. Crafting safety modules will allow the University to take proactive steps to promote student safety while simultaneously increasing transparency and communication between the administration and the University community.

We are not naive. We know this doesn’t fix the issue. As President Ryan said, there is no “silver bullet” that will solve an issue as complex and multifaceted as crime. Simply put, the current system leaves too much room for rumors and confusion to spread. The University owes it to its students to keep us as safe as possible, and that begins with proper communication.

THE CAVALIER DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD is composed of the Executive Editor, the Editor-in-Chief, the two Opinion Editors, their Senior Associates and an Opinion Columnist. The board can be reached at eb@cavalierdaily.com.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Cavalier Daily is a financially and editorially independent news organization staffed and managed entirely by students of the University of Virginia.

The opinions expressed in The Cavalier Daily are not necessarily those of the students, faculty, staff or administration of the University of Virginia. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial board. Cartoons and columns represent the views of the authors. The managing board of The Cavalier Daily has sole authority over and responsibility for all content.

No part of The Cavalier Daily or The Cavalier Daily online edition may be reproduced in any form, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the editor-in-chief.

The Cavalier Daily is published Thursdays in print and daily online at cavalierdaily.com. It is printed on at least 40 percent recycled paper. 2022 The Cavalier Daily Inc.

HAVE AN OPINION?

The Cavalier Daily welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns. Writers must provide full name, telephone number and University affiliation, if appropriate. Letters should not exceed 250 words in length and columns should not exceed 700. The Cavalier Daily does not guarantee publication of submissions and may edit all material for content and grammar. Submit to opinion@cavalierdaily.com or P.O. Box 400703, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4703

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

To better serve readers, The Cavalier Daily has a public editor to respond to questions and concerns regarding its practices. The public editor writes a column published every week on the opinion pages based on reader feedback and his independent observations. He also welcomes queries pertaining to journalism and the newspaper industry in general. The public editor is available at publiceditor@cavalierdaily.com.

MANAGING BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Ava MacBlane

Managing Editor

Lexi Baker

Executive Editor

Nathan Onibudo

Operations Manager

Ava Proehl

Chief Financial Officer

Charlie Healy

EDITORIAL BOARD

Grace Duregger

Dan Freed

Ava MacBlane

Nathan Onibudo

Songhan Pang

Naima Sawaya

Shaleah Tolliver

JUNIOR BOARD

Assistant Managing Editors

Claire DiLorenzo

Alexandra Holmes

(SA) Emma Carpet

(SA) Hailey Chung

(SA) Isabella Gattuso

(SA) William Hutchens

(SA) Karen Shin

(SA) Lydia Sweeney

Assistant Operations Manager

Honor Wood

(SA) Mary Kurbanov

(SA) Alexa Mosley

News Editors

Avery Donmoyer

Merrill Hart

(SA) Finn Trainer

Life Editors

Miriella Jiffar

Cecy Juárez

(SA) Elizabeth Parsons

Sports Editors

Ben Anderson

Jacob Tisdale

(SA) Ben Istvan

(SA) Alexa Mosley

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Olivia Garrone

Tanner Rowe

(SA) Jamie Jeong

Opinion Editors

Grace Duregger

Shaleah Tolliver

(SA) Dan Freed

(SA) Naima Sawaya

Humor Editor

Camila Cohen Suárez

(SA) Wardah Kamran

Cartoon Editor

Kaileigh Proctor

Photo Editors

Adaïre Burnsed

Albert Tang

(SA) Tess Ginsburg

(SA) Kate MacArthur

(SA) Alison Pike

Design Editors

Lexie Gagnon

Mix Rudolph

Video Editor

Olivia Winesett

Social Media Managers

Covonna Bynum

Ceili Canning

(SA) Halle McCormack

(SA) Walker Williams

Translation Editors

Marina Peebles

Shuqi Ye

Analytics Managers

Bella Binder

Irene Si

Finance Manager

Wilson Simmons

Advertising Manager

Mason Lewis

Website Manager

Rhiannon Staley

Archivist

Grace Franklin



FOLLOW US @CAVALIERDAILY

WWW.CAVALLIERDAILY.COM



Want to respond?

Submit a letter to the editor to opinion@cavalierdaily.com



SAWAYA: Personal essays no longer ensure diversity

While the personal essay has long been a way to better understand college applicants, it is no longer salient or applicable in an era of Chat GPT

The University's early decision and early action applications close Nov. 1. The Office of Admission then reviews these applications holistically, meaning that algorithms are not used in the decision making process which takes into account a range of factors. Ultimately, such a process should produce a richly diverse incoming class whose variety of life experiences further the institutional mission and stated values of the University.

However, this year, the entire higher education community is confronting a twin set of issues — the legal ban on affirmative action and the rise of ChatGPT — which appear to complicate the entire basis of the holistic admissions process. Despite the clarity of the new challenge, we have no proof that the University is adequately equipped or prepared to handle one, let alone both of these problems simultaneously — their response to the ban on affirmative action is entirely undermined by the presence of ChatGPT. The admissions office must act proactively to address this threat in a way that accounts for the unique intersectionality of this problem.

At the end of June, the Supreme Court banned race-based admissions

decisions, claiming that affirmative action policies violate students' 14th Amendment right to equal protection under the law. The University, like other institutions of higher education, has instituted a fairly straightforward approach to the issue of affirmative action — a new essay question has been added to the application, asking for applicants' life experiences and how those experiences have impacted their

which was once a unique window into the thought processes and expression of prospective students, becomes a complicated site — which may no longer be entirely genuine. Not only is it easy to find tips on how best to use ChatGPT for outlining, drafting and writing, the use of it is also becoming more prevalent including in contexts which require a high degree of emotional intelligence — Vanderbilt Uni-

ly failed to provide applicants with any guidance regarding AI platforms. This lack of guidance means that prospective students have no clarity on the permissibility of using AI to brainstorm or even write their essays. Consider the admissions FAQ page — none of the questions and answers even allude to artificial intelligence platforms. This is clearly antiquated and out of touch with the realities that

came more specific upon giving more directives. It would be easy for students to add their own examples into a piece inspired by AI platforms — not only does AI compromise the integrity of college essays, it is also cognizant of what appeals to admissions officers.

It is not in my purview to do the admission office's job for them and provide a solution to the interconnected dilemmas of the affirmative action ban and the prevalence of artificial intelligence platforms. This is not an easy problem, and its solution will not be straightforward. The University's complete and utter neglect of the presence of ChatGPT means that its policies will not only fail to achieve its stated goals of diversity but also comprise the efficacy of our school's holistic admissions process. The admissions office must begin living within this new reality — it must find proactive ways to safeguard campus diversity while counterbalancing the prevalence of AI.

NAIMA SAWAYA is a Senior Associate opinion editor who writes about Academics for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

“It would be exceptionally short-sighted for universities to ignore the threat these platforms pose to their holistic admissions process.”

worldview. In a vacuum, or even in the 2022 admissions cycle, this change would be sufficient — today it is not.

Rather, today is a world complicated by the very real presence of artificial intelligence platforms such as ChatGPT which make plagiarism easier than ever. All the signs suggest that AI will be hugely impactful for how students navigate the admission process, and therefore should alter how admissions policies are developed. In this new milieu, the personal essay,

university used it to write a statement following the Michigan State University shooting. It would be exceptionally short-sighted for universities to ignore the threat these platforms pose to their holistic admissions process of which the written personal essay is a dominant feature.

It is not simply that the University has not considered how to revamp their admissions process in a way that is cognizant of AI technologies — the Office of Admission has complete-

applicants are experiencing during this application cycle.

This is especially concerning given that the University is entirely relying upon essay responses to produce a diverse class of students. ChatGPT is more than capable of answering the new University admissions question in a sufficient and nuanced way, as my brief experimentation with the platform proved. While the original answer I got from ChatGPT was exceptionally vague, the response be-

IYER: Redistricting has disenfranchised Virginians

The creation of districts that combine rural and urban areas causes inadequate representation for all Virginians

From the wineries of Nelson County to the haystacks of Pittsylvania, Virginia's 5th congressional district represents the diversity of the central and southern parts of Virginia like no other. In Charlottesville and throughout the district, however, that diversity is threatened by congressional leaders like Bob Good who exemplify a zero-sum mentality that seeks only to serve those in his party. The heavy congressional redistricting that has taken place over the past few years has left residents without adequate representation, and the committee formed to address these problems — the Virginia Redistricting Commission — has failed to address this issue. With clear examples of how redistricting has failed our community seen in our district's latest congressional pick, future commissions must be truly independent to transcend partisan politics, provide adequate representation and protect the voices of minority voters.

A federal court blocked Virginia's congressional map in 2015 because it put too many Black voters in one district and attempted to give Hampton Roads and Richmond, two areas that are far apart geographically, the same representatives. By doing so, Black voters' voices

were kept out of other districts, thus protecting — usually Republican — incumbents and white majorities of voters elsewhere. This trend of placing rural counties and minority communities in the same district often fails to secure a representative that reflects specific, regional inter-

“Ensuring that Virginia's congressional district map is fair and created without partisanship at the steering wheel is essential now more than ever.”

ests and is seen throughout Virginia even today.

The problem is not that Republicans seem to be on a winning streak in Virginia. Rather the concern is that congressional maps are drawn with party interests in mind and reflect intentional gerrymandering to ensure that some win and some lose, and that some never get their voices heard.

To prevent Virginia's history from repeating itself, the Virginia Redistricting Commission was formed in 2021 to address the partisanship that clouded the congressional map making process. In reality, however, the commission failed because it was composed of eight

legislators and eight citizens divided evenly among the political parties — the Commission became stuck in stalemate after stalemate. Neither side of the political aisle was willing to budge on what they thought best preserved their influence in the state, and in the end, the Virginia

Supreme Court resorted to drawing the map itself. This resulted in minority communities throughout Virginia having their voting power watered down. In this way, court ordained districting has been less than effective in remedying these inequitable trends in the crafting of voting districts.

For future redistricting efforts, Virginia needs a truly independent commission. Virginia should look to other states for what true non-partisan action looks like. For instance, Colorado's committee has an equal number of Democratic and Republican members while also having an equal number of members unaffiliated with any party. Even more so,

commission members are selected firstly by a random pool, which is then narrowed down through a series of channels so that legislators play a part in the selection process without partisanship having the final say. While Colorado's solution is not perfect, it is far more progressive

than what Virginia has now.

Democrats and Republicans will most likely never draw the same lines on congressional maps, but the focus should not be on these parties — it should be on the citizens whom they represent. Having an independent commission composed of citizens that are not directly affiliated with one political party or another more effectively allows voters' voices to be heard and actual compromise to be reached. One way to achieve truly non-partisan commissions is to leverage the independent nature of our court system. Thus, future independent commissions in Virginia should be court-appointed to ensure conflicts of interest are mitigated while

also prioritizing the protection of majority-minority districts' votes.

Ensuring that Virginia's congressional map is fair and created without partisanship at the steering wheel is essential now more than ever. With Governor Youngkin's plans in education and reproductive health showing the extent of his willful ignorance of the needs of Virginians, the state risks falling back on the progress made during the former Terry McAulliffe and Ralph Northam gubernatorial administrations. A citizen's redistricting commission, composed of voters and reviewed by the courts, will allow for a constitutional and non-partisan system. With these changes, Virginians can reclaim the redistricting process, push forth map proposals that reflect their interests and create a legislature that is equipped to work for communities for which it has not traditionally worked.

ARJUN IYER is a Viewpoint Writer who writes about Politics for The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

HUMOR

The fastest mode of transportation on Grounds

The Veo — it is every college student's magic carpet, minus the singing and flying. You see them everywhere in Charlottesville. They are our equivalent of the Hogwarts broomstick. But as everyone quickly learns, mastering a Veo? Not as easy as it looks. It's all fun and games until you're trying to dodge squirrels while texting. Any regular Veo user knows there is a fine line between making your 8 a.m. and becoming a contestant on "Wipe-out."

Let's talk joy — cruising down McCormick Road on a Veo, wind in your hair, phone dangerously in hand, Air-Pods blasting, trying to Snapchat the experience. It is like you've suddenly become a crowned royal of Grounds. On a scooter, you don't just ride the sidewalks — you own them.

And let us not forget about the efficiency. With the sprawling nature

of Grounds, walking from one end to the other can feel like a marathon. But with a Veo, you can cover that same distance in a fraction of the time. Need to get from Nau Hall to the Physics Building in five minutes flat? No problem, just hop on a Veo. You'll be there in a flash.

But with great scoot-speed comes... the inevitable slapstick comedy. Because let's face it, a speedy Veo and a narrow sidewalk can turn any college kid into a makeshift stunt double. Between the hustle of the crowds, that one pothole you always forget about and those squirrels with their daredevil tendencies, you're bound to have a few close calls.

Picture this — you're zipping along, feeling invincible, when suddenly a student steps out from behind a tree, phone glued to their face, completely oblivious to your presence.

You swerve to avoid them, nearly colliding with a nearby trash can. "Crisis averted," you think to yourself, until you hear the unmistakable sound of a car's screeching break. Heart racing, you take a deep breath and carry on.

That is not the only danger Veo riders face. With the hills and valleys of Grounds' topography, going downhill on a Veo can be exhilarating — but going uphill can be a challenge. And while the Veo's electric motor can help with the heavy lifting, sometimes it's just not enough. You find yourself panting and sweating as you push the Veo up the hill, wishing you had gone for a more traditional mode of transportation — like walking.

Then there is what I like to call "Veo Duo Deluxe." You have seen them, post-weekend antics, two students trying to save a buck by playing a live-action game of Tetris on a single

Veo. It is like watching a tightrope act at a circus, only way less graceful and 10 times more panic-stricken. They oscillate between looking like they're about to take off and faceplant.

And don't even get me started on the "Hunger Games — Veo Parking Edition." Sure, there are "designated" Veo parking spots, but good luck finding one that is not already occupied by an army of scooters having a tailgate party. You would think squeezing into those spots would count as a college credit. And the circling? It's like a nature documentary — you, the hopeful vulture, spot a space opening up, only for a sneaky jackal — or a fellow student, same difference — to zip in and snatch it. May the parking odds be ever in your favor!

Yet — amidst the high-risk game of "Will I or Won't I Topple?" — the Veo craze at the University is still

alive and kicking. Why, you ask? Well, it's the unmatched thrill, the wind in your hair, the momentary delusion that you're in a low-budget superhero movie — navigate smartly, and the world, or at least Grounds, is your speedy oyster.

Next time you spot a flock of Veo riders sweeping by, perhaps reenacting a scene from "Fast & Furious: Scooter Edition," don't just see the near misses and acrobatic saves. Recognize the sheer joy and audacity in their eyes. Maybe you will get the itch to join in. Just a pro-tip — squirrels? They are the true road warriors here. Give them their space.

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

CARTOON

What Do You Mean My Words Have Consequences?

Ada Malpani | Cartoonist

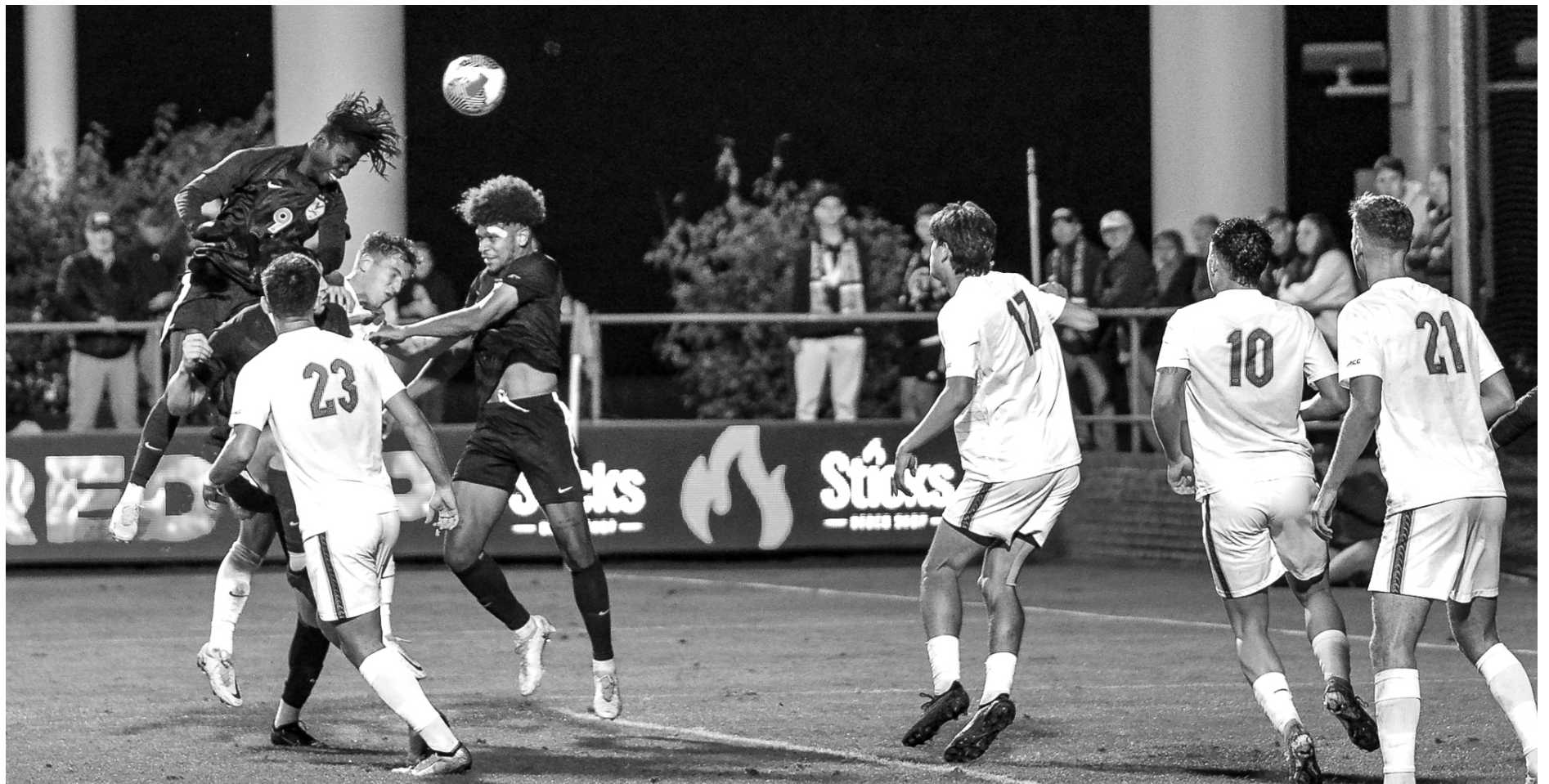


SPORTS

Stephen Annor Gyamfi is flipping over the competition

The Cavaliers' striker has proven to be one of the ACC's best, but it wasn't a smooth road to success

Peter Kratz | Staff Writer



MASATO TAKEDAI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Catching a men's soccer game at Klöckner Stadium this season usually means you'll see Gyamfi airborne — either while scoring or in celebration

Freshman striker Stephen Annor Gyamfi has burst onto the ACC men's soccer scene this season as an explosive goal-scoring threat for Virginia. Gyamfi has tallied an impressive eight goals and four game-winning goals in the Cavaliers' (7-3-3, 3-2-1 ACC) opening 13 games. He seems to be enjoying it, too.

"Yeah, I have fun playing," Gyamfi said. "After I cross the white line, I don't have any fears, I don't think of anything else. I love playing soccer."

It has certainly been a fun season for Gyamfi this year as he filled up opponents' nets for Virginia, racking up accolades and hype after each stellar performance. Behind all the glamor, goals and even an ACC Offensive Player of the Week honor, Gyamfi's journey to come play in Charlottesville has not been without challenges.

He left his hometown of Accra, Ghana to play at Montverde Academy in Montverde, Fla. when he was just 16 years old. Montverde has a

reputation as a high school soccer powerhouse, giving Gyamfi competition on a roster that boasted eight other Division I commits. It was an adjustment that he describes as the toughest moment in his career.

"My first year in Florida I didn't play really [well]," Gyamfi said. "It's a different environment."

Chasing his dream of playing professionally has brought Gyamfi away from the people he loves — he has not seen his family since he left Ghana for Florida.

"I talk to my mom every single day," Gyamfi said. "I miss Ghana, it's a sacrifice. I came here to play and have fun, but it's a sacrifice."

The difficult move to Montverde eventually paid dividends as Gyamfi blossomed into a top collegiate recruiting target. He had offers from virtually every part of the country, so choosing Virginia was a hotly contested decision. Fortunately, Gyamfi settled on the Cavaliers, and it was an instant match.

"I felt like in my heart," Gyamfi said when describing how he felt

about Virginia during the recruitment process. "My body felt it."

The decision has been a success for both parties, as Gyamfi's goal-scoring is opening up space for his teammates and putting Virginia ahead in close games. One staple of Gyamfi's play is his aerial ability. He is the frequent target of crosses into dangerous areas in the box, which he credits to Polish native and Spanish powerhouse FC Barcelona striker, Robert Lewandowski — one of Gyamfi's inspirations.

"I love jumping, I love scoring with my head," said Gyamfi, "Seeing Lewandowski scoring a header goal, it looked cool — so I practiced my headers in Ghana so I could be good in the air."

Gyamfi's breakout freshman season is full of highlight-reel moments, including an outstanding brace in a 3-1 victory over NC State. After gently slipping a ball past the approaching Wolfpack keeper for his first goal, he later crashed the box for an acrobatic header to put an exclamation point on the victo-

ry. Fans at Klöckner stadium erupted as he broke out into his patented goal celebration — a cartwheel and subsequent backflip.

Gabonese striker Pierre Emerick Aubameyang is also famous for flipping after he scores — albeit a front flip in comparison to Gyamfi's backflips. However, Gyamfi insists that he started doing the flips by himself.

"I learned it when I was a kid at the beach," Gyamfi said. "I scored my first goal in Ghana and I did it. I used to do backflips when I scored a wonderful goal. That's what I did — backflips. Now I gotta do it every time I score."

With his penchant for scoring, Gyamfi evokes the memory of former Cavalier striker Daryl Dike, who left after the 2019 season. Dike went on to play professionally in the MLS, English EFL Championship and even represented his country on the United States national team. However, when watching both these talented strikers play, their playstyles are unique. Gyam-

fi chooses to make inventive runs into the box while Dike relies more upon his strength to win one versus one duels.

Gyamfi will most likely be following Dike to play professionally, though we can only imagine where Gyamfi's goal-scoring prowess will take him. It may be unclear exactly what the future holds for the Cavaliers' talented striker, but it is abundantly clear that while he has fun celebrating on the pitch, succeeding at Virginia and playing professionally are his current goals.

"I want to be the top goalscorer of Virginia," Gyamfi said. "I came here to break every record...then the goal, my dream is to play professionally."

As the Cavaliers enter the gauntlet of ACC play, and the ACC tournament, Gyamfi will be key to their success. Spectators and fans will be flippin' glad that Virginia's striker is bagging goals at a high volume on the big stage.

"I don't do extra," Gyamfi said. "I just do me. That's all I can say."

New faces, same standards for swimming and diving

With new additions, the loss of key point-scorers show no signs of slowing down the Cavaliers

Tanmayi Patil | Staff Writer

Over the past six years, Virginia swimming and diving has emerged from relative obscurity to a national powerhouse under the guidance of newly minted Olympic Women's Coach Todd DeSorbo. They are now the favorite to sweep the NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships next March.

This season will feature new faces on both the women's and men's teams — multiple stars on the women's side have chosen to sit out of the 2023-2024 NCAA season to train for the Olympics. An influx of recruits, both from the high school ranks and the transfer portal, provide the Cavaliers with just as much talent as the national championship squads of years past. A strong performance from the newcomers against a national powerhouse in No. 7 Florida Friday proves that Virginia is here to stay.

While the Cavalier women are still by and large expected to beat out their competition and take home a fourth consecutive NCAA title, the margin for victory is not anticipated to be quite as substantial as the 127-point lead over runner-up Texas that saw them clinch the 2023 national title.

This is in large part due to the fact that the Cavaliers have lost their highest point-scorer, with Virginia legend and graduate student Kate Douglass forgoing her final year of NCAA eligibility to train for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics. In the 2023 NCAA Championships, Douglass was the top individual point-scorer, contributing 60 points to the Cavaliers' 541.5 point total. The Cavaliers felt another key loss in recent graduate Lexi Cuomo, who contributed 15 points to last year's championship run.

Although some hoped that sophomore Stanford transfer Claire Curzan would fill in the gap Douglass left behind, the high-impact recruit will also not be playing a role in the Cavaliers' national title run this year — like Douglass, Curzan will be taking an Olympic redshirt year. Curzan was the fifth-highest point-scorer at last year's national championship, amassing 51 to-



ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Cavaliers look to earn their fourth straight national championship on the women's side of the sport.

tal points for the Cardinal. As a result, questions about the depth of Virginia's team emerged as the opening matchup of the season drew near.

However, the Cavaliers did not disappoint, as the No. 1 ranked Virginia women got their season started in the same dominant fashion that has become the norm over the last three years, sweeping the meet with a 164-136 victory over the Gators. The No. 15 men's team did not fare as well, suffering a 202-93 loss.

The matchup saw several new additions shine, the first of which was freshman Cavan Gormsen, who won the women's 1000 yard freestyle in a time of 9:42.49 and placed second in the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 4:42.37.

Gormsen was the No. 4 recruit in the class of 2023 and is an incredible asset to the Cavaliers. Her best time of 4:36.34 in the 500 yard freestyle would

have been enough to win the 2023 NCAA title, and her personal best of 1:57:20 in the 1650 yard freestyle is an NCAA scoring time. She is a contender for an individual national title at the upcoming NCAA championships, and fills an important gap for Virginia — since the loss of junior Emma Weyant after her transfer to Florida, the Cavaliers have lacked a standout distance freestyler.

Another standout performer was Tess Howley, who won the 200 yard butterfly in 1:54.75. Howley was the No. 5 recruit in the class of 2023, and was recently named to the 2023-2024 United States National Team. Howley, much like Douglass, is a star butterfly and backstroke specialist. Her best time of 1:52.76 can earn her an "A" final at the NCAA Championships, and her 100 and 200 backstroke times are just out of scoring range.

Other high-impact additions are freshman Lainey Mullins, an individual medley and butterfly specialist, freshman Maggie Schallow, a butterfly specialist and graduate Northwestern transfer Jasmine Nocentini, a breaststroke and freestyle specialist. Nocentini's personal bests in the 50 and 100 yard freestyle and 100 yard breaststroke give her excellent scoring potential this season, working well alongside Howley's strength in the other two strokes.

On the men's side, while suffering a blow from the graduation of Jack Wright and Matt King's redshirt year, both key point-scorers, incoming high-impact recruits will act as a salve.

Texas sophomore transfer Anthony Grimm is set to have the biggest im-

pact for the Cavaliers. Grimm was the No. 1 recruit in the high school class of 2021, and has incredible versatility as a sprinter.

Freshman recruits that are in a good position to make an impact are Jack Madoch and Hayden Bellotti, coming in as strong sprint freestylers and butterflyers. Bellotti was ranked fourth in the 2023 recruiting class in the 100 yard butterfly, and finished third in the event at the Florida dual meet with a time of 48.40. There is ripe opportunity for development as they join a Virginia sprint squad that set the 200 yard freestyle relay American Record last year.

While much of the recruiting class adds to a deep Virginia sprint team, UNC Wilmington junior transfer Sam O'Brien looks to fill in the gaps in men's distance freestyle. O'Brien's strength in the 500 and 1650 yard freestyle events will allow him to act as a reinforcement for the Cavaliers after the graduation of Wright, a key Virginia contributor in the 500 yard event.

After a tough year that saw the men fall to 15th in the 2023 NCAA championships, the Cavaliers are on the rise — their latest recruiting class is ranked eighth in the country. While none of these recruits are currently clear picks for NCAA scoring, they are getting close, with Grimm right on the brink.

A strong recruiting class could be just what they need to begin to bridge the gap between the women's team. While it has yet to take effect, as seen in their loss to Florida, a combination of new talent and the development that is likely to occur under DeSorbo's coaching suggests definite potential.

The upcoming season will feature a great many dual meets against key conference players as well as Virginia's toughest competition, particularly for the women. Next weekend will see the Cavaliers stay in Charlottesville to face off against Texas, one of their toughest rivals and one of the best teams in the nation, ranked No. 2 on the women's side and No. 7 on the men's side. For the women, it should be an early sign of how they will fare in their national championship run in March.

The final meet this calendar year is slated for Nov. 15-17, which is another dual meet against Tennessee, who currently stand at No. 6 in the country on both the men's and women's sides. In 2024, the Cavaliers are set to compete against Virginia Tech Jan. 13 and NC State and North Carolina in an ACC clash Jan. 19-20. The annual Cavalier Invite will take place Feb. 9-11.

These tough matchups will lay a great foundation before the ACC Championships slated for Feb. 20-24. With the usual ACC powerhouses in the mix — NC State, Louisville, Virginia Tech and North Carolina — the event will almost certainly be just as challenging of a test as any the Cavaliers will face.

This is all excellent preparation for an NCAA championship — set for March 20-23 for the women and March 27-30 for the men — that looks to be more closely contested than previous years. With the addition of high-impact athletes, the men's team seeks to make its way back up and the women look to cement their spot at the top.

ADVERTISEMENT

THE END GAMES

Hosting weekly events, leagues, and tournaments

FROM COLLECTIBLE CARD GAMES TO FAN FAVORITES

Magic the Gathering, Pokémon, Disney Lorcana, Yugioh and more

Dungeons and Dragons, Gundams, Plushies, Games Workshop, Dice and Accessories, Board Games and Miniatures

Present this for 20% off one regularly priced item!

434-973-2205 <http://www.theendgames.co> Follow us @TheEndGamesVA

390 Hillsdale Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22901

SPORTS

Virginia XC hitting its stride behind Coach Vin Lananna

Ahead of hosting this year's NCAA Championships, the Cavaliers are emerging as a force behind Lananna's experience and wisdom

Sam Chun | Staff Writer

There is something special brewing on the roads, trails and tall grass of Charlottesville — as their regular seasons come to a close, Virginia's men's and women's cross country teams find themselves ranked 10th and seventh, respectively, in the USTFCCA Coaches' National Poll. The mastermind behind it all is Vin Lananna, Virginia director of track and field and cross country. Lananna is a legend of the running community, with perhaps the greatest coaching resume in collegiate athletics, elite recruiting and talent development abilities and a clear vision for the Cavaliers' program.

"It's pretty simple what I envision happening," Lananna said at Saturday's XC23 College & Open Pre-Nationals at Panorama Farms in Charlottesville. "I envision us being a contender for every NCAA Championship."

Lananna recently signed an extension to remain Virginia's Director of Track and Field and Cross Country through 2028. He took the reins for the Cavaliers in 2019 after a nine-year hiatus from collegiate coaching spent with Team USA and has gradually moved the program towards his ultimate goal. Lananna has instilled a strong team culture and drawn national attention to Charlottesville in his tenure with the programs.

"Vin has done an excellent job of advancing our track and field and cross country programs since joining our staff in 2019," Athletic Director Carla Williams said upon the announcement of Lananna's extension. "He was instrumental in bringing the 2023 NCAA Cross Country Championships to UVA and has taken a holistic approach in recruiting and developing talent across each track and field discipline."

Upon his arrival, Virginia cross country initially got off to a slow start for Lananna's standards, in part due to a delay in recruitment due to COVID-19. With Lananna's first full class coming in last year, both the men's and women's sides began to pick up the pace, qualifying for the NCAA Championships, where the women achieved their first top-10 finish since 2013. Now with another year of training and experience under their belt, the team appears to be inching towards greatness — evidenced by their top 10 rankings in the national polls.

While Lananna's goals for the Cavaliers may seem lofty, he is perhaps the most experienced and decorated coach of all time and is fully capable of bringing hardware to Virginia. He is tied for the most Men's Cross Country Coach



ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Under Lananna's guidance, both men's and women's cross country teams have earned top 10 rankings in the national polls this year.

of the Year awards with six across head coaching stints at Dartmouth, Stanford and Oregon. He was awarded this title at all three schools, a feat no other coach has accomplished. He has represented Team USA as a coach over the course of six World Championships and Olympic Games. Perhaps the greatest title Lananna holds is President of USA Track & Field, a position he has held since 2016.

His collegiate resume already includes six national titles — four with Stanford and another two with Oregon. Towards the end of his illustrious stint in Palo Alto, Calif. Lananna worked to create the highly competitive Payton Jordan Invitational, boosting recruiting and program success for the Cardinal for years to come. Lananna played a role in similar endeavors at Oregon, advocating for their hosting of the World Championships and Olympic Trials while helping renovate the Ducks' state-of-the-art Hayward Field.

Now, in year five at Virginia, Lananna's vision of bringing the same prestige to Charlottesville is becoming realized — beginning with the selection of the Cavaliers' own Panorama Farms as the host site for this year's NCAA Championships thanks to his efforts. Virginia has not hosted the meet since 1987, when the race took place at the historic Foxfield Races course.

"He's always talked about making Charlottesville the running

capital of the East Coast," fifth-year senior Jacob Hunter said on Lananna's passion for growing the community.

Virginia's steps toward this season's success can be attributed to hosting highly competitive races on their home course, such as the Virginia Invitational and Pre-Nationals, against some of the fastest teams in the nation. Regular season meets such as these reveal how elite teams stack up head to head against each other, and Virginia proved that they can hold their own with the best.

"These meets this year have been a lot more beneficial for us — in previous years we haven't had as much competition," Hunter said. "It definitely prepares us for NCAAs."

Amidst the hype, national attention and events drawn in by Lananna, the talent of the runners on the men's and women's sides should not be overlooked. The 10th-ranked men's squad is led by breakout star sophomore Gary Martin. Martin showed great potential last year, coming to Charlottesville as one of the nation's fastest recruits. He threw down impressive times during the cross-country and track seasons, but his outdoor postseason was cut short due to illness. Martin appears to have returned hungrier than ever, finishing as the Cavalier's first runner in both races he has run in this season.

This is a change for Virginia, as

they ran well as a group last season but lacked a consistent number one runner. The Cavaliers seem to have maintained their strength in the pack, though, as Martin has been followed very closely by fellow sophomore Will Anthony and junior Nate Mountain.

It is clear that Lananna is impressed by Martin but expects his teammates to keep pace.

"[Lananna] is all about the pack mentality," Hunter said. "And he's sort of preached that all his years here."

On the women's side, a developing story has been the pleasant surprise of junior Jenny Schilling. The team, trying to build upon their top-10 finish at NCAAs from last year, has shoes to fill as they saw two of their top five leave last season. Schilling walked on to the team this fall after not running her freshman year and then training and racing on her own and with Virginia's running club. Schilling's hard work was displayed in her first two Division I races, as she inserted herself as the number three runner on a very talented Virginia team.

"Jenny is obviously a really talented young woman who is just beginning to look at what this is like on Division I," Lananna said. "She's really risen to the occasion. She's a great competitor. She trained hard, and she's been a welcome addition."

Schilling has worked well with

junior Margot Appleton and senior Anna Workman, who have finished first and second respectively for Virginia in each of their races.

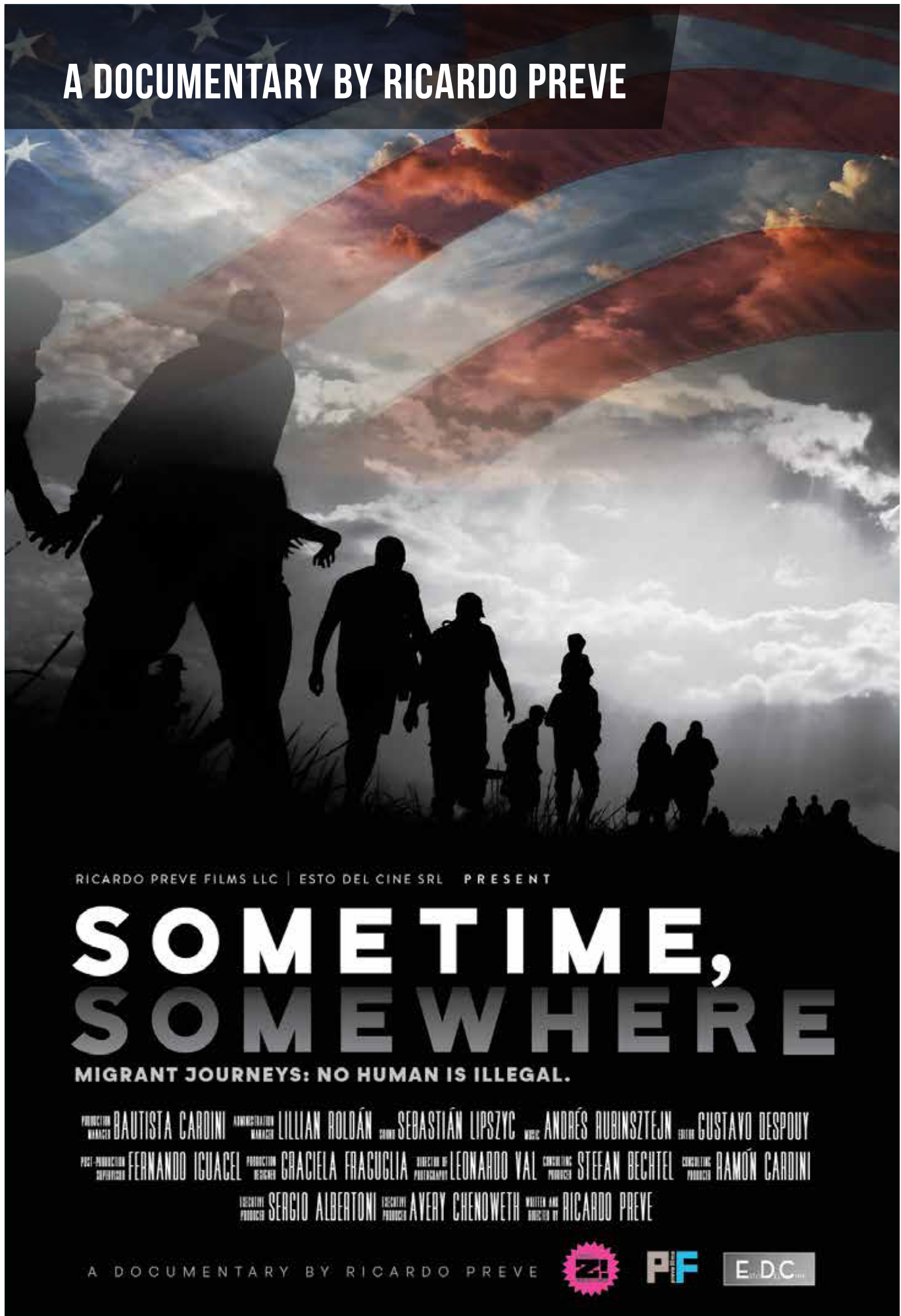
The speed is evident on paper, but for both teams the X factor is the chemistry they have built both on and off the course.

"I think if you ask any guy on the team, one of the first things they'll mention is how close we are and the team culture," Martin said. "We work out in big groups, we race in big groups and I think it's what really helps us get each other through the hard parts of races."

Schilling stressed how having girls around her while running has made her transition to the team so seamless, crediting the team's fall break trip to building a strong bond.

"We had a lot of deep conversations and I feel like we've all gotten a lot closer this season," said Schilling.

Lananna's impact thus far is not merely his strong recruiting and work securing prestigious meets in Charlottesville — his impact can be seen in the bonds and culture he has instilled in Virginia's cross country teams. Lananna has brought tremendous success to every running program and community he has been a part of, and it is clear that he has the tools in a supportive town and an elite unit of runners to inject Charlottesville with the same magic.



A DOCUMENTARY BY RICARDO PREVE

RICARDO PREVE FILMS LLC | ESTO DEL CINE SRL PRESENT

SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE

MIGRANT JOURNEYS: NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL.

PRODUCTION MANAGER BAUTISTA CARDINI ADMINISTRATION MANAGER LILLIAN ROLDÁN EDITOR SEBASTIÁN LIPSZYC MUSIC ANDRÉS RUBINSZTEJN EDITOR GUSTAVO DESPOUY
 POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR FERNANDO IGUACEL PRODUCTION DESIGNER GRACIELA FRACUCLIA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LEONARDO VAL CONSULTING PRODUCER STEFAN BECHTEL CONSULTING PRODUCER RAMÓN CARDINI
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SERGIO ALBERTONI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AVERY CHENOWETH WRITER AND DIRECTOR BY RICARDO PREVE

A DOCUMENTARY BY RICARDO PREVE



VIRGINIA
FILM FESTIVAL
A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

SCAN HERE
TO BUY YOUR
TICKETS



U.S. PREMIERE

OCTOBER, 28TH
3 PM, CULBRETH THEATRE.

TO ORDER YOUR TICKETS GO TO
WWW.VIRGINIAFILMFESTIVAL.ORG/FILMS/SOMETIME-SOMEWHERE