

The Daily Progress

Breeden family makes a lasting impact on Madison boys basketball

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United Way campaign connects struggling families with reliable cars

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Thursday, December 28, 2023

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HISTORY

Tide turns for Black cemeteries

Local Daughters of Zion Cemetery says 300-plus graves repaired, but still more resources needed

KOFI MFRAMA
Capital News Service

Hidden beneath the foliage at East End Cemetery are gravestones split in half, sunken into the earth and grave markers divorced from the bodies they honor. The Richmond cemetery is littered with fallen trees and debris.

East End is not the only cemetery to find this fate. Historically, Black cemeteries across Virginia have been neglected for years. The tide

is just now starting to turn.

Brian Palmer is the founder of Friends of East End, an all-volunteer nonprofit group established in 2017 that works to restore and maintain East End Cemetery. Manual labor, such as pulling up vines and removing trash, is only half of the work.

The group also documents found headstones and researches those

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The City of Charlottesville allocated \$80,000 for the restoration of the Daughters of Zion Cemetery off Oak Street in Charlottesville.

ANDREW SHURTLEFF, THE DAILY PROGRESS

UVA

COMMENTING BY COMMITTEE



CAL CARY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

University of Virginia President Jim Ryan speaks during a Board of Visitors meeting in the Rotunda at UVA on Friday, Sept. 15, 2023.

With other university leaders under fire, UVA's president has called for a committee to determine when and how he remarks on current events

JASON ARMESTO
The Daily Progress

Jim Ryan looked troubled. The University of Virginia president was meeting with his school's governing body, and he wanted guidance.

Days before, Ryan and much of the nation had watched as his counterparts at Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were called before Congress, where they were ques-

tioned for hours about the rise in antisemitism on their campuses.

"Does calling for the genocide of Jews violate [your university's] rules or code of conduct, yes or no?" asked Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York in the most memorable exchanges of the Dec. 5 hearing.

None of the three university presidents answered with a simple yea or nay.

Many found the carefully worded, academic responses of

the university presidents unsatisfactory. Some called for their resignations. That weekend, facing mounting pressure from donors, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, students and alumni, Penn President Liz Magill resigned.

"One down. Two to go," tweeted Stefanik, celebrating the news.

The hearing put the world of higher education on notice and raised questions about free speech

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SANTA FUND

DAILY PROGRESS STAFF

The Santa Fund, one of the nation's longest running newspaper-sponsored charities, collects donations to provide vouchers for families to buy shoes, clothing, school supplies and other essentials for children in need.

The fund was created in 1894 by The Daily Progress' founding publisher, James H. Lindsay.

Co-sponsored by The Progress and radio station WINA-AM, in conjunction with the United Way of Greater Charlottesville, the Santa Fund serves children in the city of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson and Orange.

You can donate online at TheSantaFund.org or by mailing a check to Santa Fund for Schoolkids, 200 Garrett St., Suite 1, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

You also can honor or remember a loved one by giving in their honor or memory. The Daily Progress will publish the names of new donors and designate in whose honor a gift is donated as collections are made.

Today's total: \$4,917.
Running total: \$96,471.10.
Goal: \$225,000.
To reach goal: \$128,528.90.

Today's contributions

- Joyce and Michael Holt: \$300.
- In memory of Anne and Whitney Stone: \$50.
- NARFE Chapter 135: \$100.
- In honor of my sisters and their husbands, John and Alison Grieg and Steve and Nancy Palm: \$1,000.
- Christine Fleckles and Edwin Rushia: \$500.
- In memory of Harold, Helen, Ronnie and EJ Leavel: \$100.
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church Simeon: \$1,667.
- In honor of my six grandchildren: \$200.
- In memory of Audrey Atwood and Jackie Hall: \$100.
- Mary Vanmiller: \$200.
- Martha and Steven Reilly: \$50.
- In loving memory of George F. Smith from Erlyne: \$100.
- In memory of Will, Mary, Jean, Tim and Bradley: \$100.
- Paula and George Stone: \$50.
- Maureen and James Finn: \$100.
- Edith and Hans Weber: \$100.
- In honor of Staci Wovie and in memory of Richard M. Morris: \$200.

Illiterate Light bringing 'something magic' to NYE show at the Jeff

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Weather
Partly sunny
High 60 • Low 42
FORECAST • A8

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Hector Manuel Ruiz**February 19, 1928 - December 19, 2023**

Hector Manuel Ruiz of Charlottesville, Virginia, died on December 19th at age 95.

Hector was born in New York City and grew up in the Bronx. He was preceded in death by his wife Luz Maria Ruiz (née Serrano), his parents Abdón and Perfecta Ruiz, his brother Frank Ruiz, and his sister Milagros Corsi.

After graduating high school, Hector joined the army and served in the occupation of Japan following World War II. He often commented on the kindness of the Japanese people during that time, despite the extreme difficulties they were suffering post-war. This quality of kindness along with a positive approach was an attribute he carried forward and showed to all who knew him. Following his service in the army, Hector worked for the U.S. State Department and was stationed in Morocco. He married Luz Maria, whom he met through his sister. His marriage to her started a beautiful relationship that lasted 69 years, but also ended his State Department career. His position did not allow him to be married.

Hector studied at Queens College and became an accountant. He worked over 30 years for the Sperry Marine Corporation that later became Northrup Grumman. This led him to assignments at Sperry facilities on Long Island and in Charlottesville. He rose to the position of comptroller. After retiring in 1985, he moved back to Charlottesville.

Hector enjoyed biking, visiting family, and helping Luz Maria. He served faithfully as her art assistant framing her many paintings. Hector was tireless and worked on his property far into his elder years. His family remembers one day when an 80+ year-old Hector decided to cut down a large tree in the backyard. He tied an elaborate pattern of ropes to the tree and to the bumper of his car which he had somehow gotten into the backyard. After some chain sawing of the trunk and a little final tug from the car, the tree fell exactly where he wanted. Despite this success, the family permanently retired Hector from further yard duties.

Hector is survived by his children Mary Anne Pace (Michael) of Charlottesville, Paul Ruiz (Katie) of Dubuque, Iowa, and Frank Ruiz (Regina Naegele) of Cupertino, California. Hector was devoted to his ten grandchildren: Nicholas, Zachary, Dominique, Mitchell, Nathan, Natalie, Sara, Juliana, Brendan, Sam, and one great granddaughter: Nora. They will remember his teasing, whistling, and happy disposition. We will all forever cherish the memories of him, especially the encouragement and love he imparted.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas on Saturday, December 30, 2023, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that memorial contributions be made to St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hillandwood.com.

**Della Cochran Booth****October 30, 1924 - December 20, 2023**

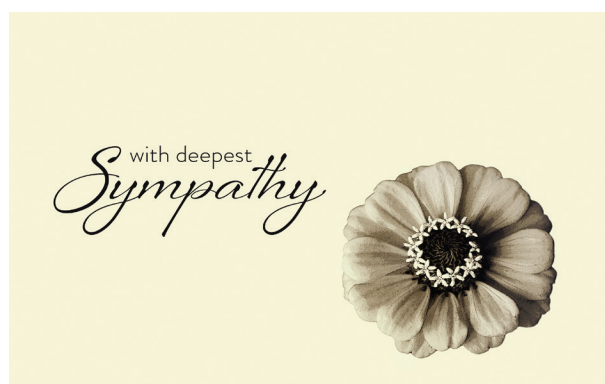
Della Cochran Booth, age 99, passed away on Wednesday December 20, 2023. Born on October 30, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Bertrand H. Cochran and the late Louise L. Schaaf. Della was preceded in death by her husband Robert A. Booth, Sr. Survivors include her children Carol B. Fussell and Robert A. Booth, Jr. (Betsy); grandchildren David Fussell (Inga), Michelle Morris, Rebecca Booth, Matthew Booth; great grandchildren Hayley Knowles (DJ), Sage Martin; great-great grandchildren Sophia Knowles, Levi Knowles. Affectionately known to all as Nannie.

Della lived a full and active life, from breaking wild horses, to learning how to fly an airplane, to affectionately being know as "Annie Oakley" in college for her marksmanship. Della was also the first woman to graduate from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor Degree in Agronomy.

Della spent a rewarding career teaching in the Fairfax County school system before retiring to the Charlottesville area with her husband.

The family would like to express their appreciation to the staff of the Colonnades Assisted Living for the loving care given to Della during her stay.

A memorial service will be conducted at a future date not yet determined. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Olivet Presbyterian Church.

TEAGUE FUNERAL SERVICE**Cemeteries**

From A6

vandalism in the 1960s during the Civil Rights Movement as it was in a predominantly White neighborhood during that time.

"They just toppled stones, they broke stones, they did so much dam-

age to the area, and that's when the cemetery really started to go down," Johnson said.

The wrought iron that surrounded family plots and entrances to the cemetery, as well as urns and shells honoring the deceased, were taken. Currently, the cemetery is dealing with flooding issues because of its low

Illiterate Light

From A3

The band's fans stay involved, too, which delights Gorman.

"With some bands, the show is kind of the backdrop for fans to party," Gorman said. "For our shows, everybody is really watching the show and engaged with the performance. When we really play for the people who believe in what we're doing, people are focusing on the show and waiting for something magic to happen."

Working without a net has its advantages, and one of them is getting rewarded for taking musical chances.

"I've gotten so comfortable with taking risks and succeeding and failing," Gorman said. "We're really going out there, just the two of us." Although, in a sense, "we're kind of naked" with-

out bandmates to fill in at times, Gorman said, "Now I like going out there and being bold and taking a risk."

Fans can consider themselves invited to join the party and see where the music takes them.

These days, Illiterate Light "will have a few things planned out" before a live show. "And, after that, we just want it to be an adventure."

"Music can be so many things," Gorman said. "It can be comforting to a lot of people, but I also want it to be pushing into a new territory." On New Year's Eve, listeners can expect to ring in a new year with a show that is "going to push the edge and be exciting."

Tickets for the all-ages event, which is presented by WNRN, begin at \$25. Get details, and tickets, at jeffersontheater.com.

Jane Dunlap Sathe(434) 978-7249
jsathe@dailyprogress.com**Bookmarks**

From A3

goats, sheep, pigs, llamas and alpacas in rural Louisiana.

There will be question-and-answer time, and books will be available for purchase and signing after the program. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be available. For information, call (434) 589-1400.

The Library of Virginia, in partnership with William & Mary Librar-

ies, is accepting nominations for a new award that will honor excellence in the field of children's literature that has a focus on Virginia.

Nominations for the 2024 Children's Virginia Literary Award will be accepted through March 31, 2024, at <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/litawards/nominate.asp>.

Up to five finalists will be announced in July, and the award will be presented at the 2024 Virginia Literary Awards on Oct. 19.

Ryan

From A1

an institution," Sheridan said. "Obviously it can be institutionally harmful, as we're seeing play out this week, and what's happening with miscommunication or direct communication by presidents are harming reputations of universities, period."

It is not the first time an institute of higher education has grappled with this question.

In 1967, as students across the country were protesting the Vietnam War, the University of Chicago created a committee charged with preparing "a statement on the University's role in political and social action."

In slightly more than two pages, the committee's report effectively said, "Shut up."

"This is a document that was drafted to support those people who thought that

**Katz**

institutions ought to be completely neutral with respect to public issues that weren't the immediate concern of the university," Princeton University professor Stanley Katz, who teaches public and international affairs and previously taught at the University of Chicago Law School, told The Daily Progress. "So the university can speak on issues that affect, for instance, labor relations at the university, because that's a university issue. These principles would say it should not express an opinion about abortion."

Ryan referenced the report, christened the Kalven Report after Chicago law professor Harry Kalven who chaired the committee that drafted it, during the Board

of Visitors meeting, noting one line in particular: "The university is the home and sponsor of critics; it is not itself the critic."

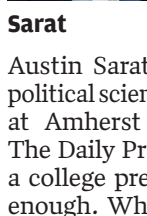
In other words, it is not the university's place to weigh in on matters that do not directly affect it.

"If you're asked how do you feel about the rights of Palestinians, the Kalven Report is quite clear. Don't touch it. That's not a UVa issue," Katz said, adding that while there is nothing inherently conservative about the Kalven principles, it is often conservatives who appeal to them.

"On our campus, when colleagues think that the university president is being too forthcoming about a public issue, they cite the Kalven Report and tell him he shouldn't be doing it," he said.

What Ryan has proposed is not much different from the Kalven committee's mission.

"Its job was to articulate principles — which sounds like what is going on in Charlottesville — to determine when and if a university should make what were then called 'political statements,'" professor

**Sarat**

Austin Sarat, chair of the political science department at Amherst College, told The Daily Progress. "Being a college president is hard enough. When you add to it that the college and university then has to be willing to speak about events in the wider world that don't have a direct and immediate tie into its central education mission, then the question is when does the president speak?"

For Stanley Fish, the answer is "quite simple."

"Never," the dean emer-

**Fish**

itus of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago told The Daily Progress.

Fish, who has taught at universities across the country and currently is a professor at the New College of Florida, said his stance on the matter is unwavering. University presidents, he said, should not be commenting on affairs that don't directly affect their institution, in part because they are not qualified to do so.

"The fact that you have an advanced degree does not give you eternal wisdom. It just gives you something like wisdom in your field, the one you've been studying in and writing about for years," he said. "But having an advanced degree doesn't mean you are then an authorized commentator in worldly affairs."

The UVa committee, he expects, "will be saying a lot of things I would consider mistaken."

His advice for future committee members?

"Go home and do something more useful," he said. "But if you get a committee together, it'll talk for hours because there's nothing we academics like more than the sounds of our own voices."

**Mackey**

Peter Mackey has worked in communications for multiple universities. Today he runs a consulting firm, Mackey Strategies, that advises colleges and universities.

"I think it's entirely legitimate for UVa to do this, and it may end up being

very useful to them as a guide point, not only for leadership of the university but for their community to understand their approach to these matters," Mackey told The Daily Progress. "It seems to me a wise idea to come to an understanding of what would be the basis for making a statement or determining you shouldn't make one as a matter of principle and a matter of philosophy, rather than deciding each matter as a one-off decision."

Ryan's proposal could be especially useful in the age of social media, in which a controversy on campus can explode into national headlines. Mackey said, in some ways, universities are laboratories for some of the most consequential matters of society, with a tension between younger students and older faculty and alumni.

"There's this generational interplay of ideas that makes it sort of inevitable that there will be a conflict between right and wrong, between ideas on a rolling basis as the culture evolves," he said. "You add social media into the mix, and you've sort of ratcheted up the likelihood of temperatures rising. Because any given campus matter through the prism of social media can quickly become a national matter."

The role of university presidents has changed significantly since the mid-20th century, when, according to Sarat, colleges were viewed as parents and protectors of students, issuing rules on such matters as whether students of the opposite sex could cohabitate in a dormitory. That changed in the late 1960s, when college students began to be treated as adults and universities as institutions providing guardrails and infrastructure.

In some ways, universities today have gone "back to the

altitude, a common issue with many historical Black cemeteries, according to Johnson.

The group is waiting for a grant from the city to help alleviate the issue.

Mismanagement will only continue unless community members see saving their local, historic cemeteries as a reason to contact their representatives and

demand collective action, Johnson said.

"My grandfather told me, if you put your ear to the shell you can hear the sea," Walters said. "When you die, the seashell will take you back home. That was an old tradition."

Conch shells used to be scattered around the cemetery, Walters said. There are only two left.

[Ryan] in a much better position. And I think that's better for the campus, because it guarantees that there is some agreed-upon general principles."

But it's no panacea. Ryan could always be challenged by elected officials in Richmond or Washington, just like his counterparts at Harvard, Penn and MIT.

"Those three presidents were dragged in front of Congress because Rep. Stefanik wanted to get them. And if there's a reason why she or somebody else wants to get Ryan, nothing will protect him. That's politics. That's not principle," said Katz.

It could be some time before the committee comes together, and the university doesn't yet have details on how its members would be selected. But Ryan at the Board of Visitors meeting referenced the Committee on Free Expression and Free Inquiry, which he said took roughly a year to draft a statement that was adopted by the board in 2021. Ironically, one of the appointees on that committee was none other than Liz Magill.

"These topics, once you dig into them, unless everybody's going to agree you, should never say anything, period. They take a little bit of time," Ryan said.

The wait could be worth it. If and when the committee comes together, Sarat will be cheering for its success.

"I think it's extraordinarily important for the future of higher education in the U.S., and I expect that what UVa does will be to this generation what the Kalven Report was to the generation of the 1960s," he said. "I, for one, can't wait to read their report."

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