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LUPD finding marijuana while ticketing vehicles

Police have investigated nine cases in 2017, on similar track as last year



by Christine Rindfleisch
News Editor
@longwoodrotunda

Two arrests regarding drugs have occurred since students have returned from winter break, in particular marijuana charges, according to Col. Bob Beach, chief of Longwood University Police Department (LUPD).

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, possession or intent to

distribute marijuana is illegal, according to Beach.

"We are a member of the Piedmont Regional (Narcotic and Gang Enforcement) Task Force, and we aggressively go after that to make sure we are investigating drug cases and drug crimes so students should be aware of that," said Beach.

— "MARIJUANA," CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Column: *Rotunda* editor-in-chief addresses recent criticisms of Longwood men's basketball

by Halle Parker
Editor-in-Chief
@_thehalparker

Longwood men's basketball honored its two seniors on Saturday afternoon just before their final home match against the Charleston Southern Buccaneers. Guards Darrion "DJ" Allen and Isaac Belton belonged to the first freshman class in the new era of Jayson Gee.

The pair entered the program in 2013 with Damarion Geter, Curtis Rowser, Eric Shaw and Charlie Lockwood. Their class was supplemented by four transfers, including Longwood's eventual first All-Big South selection Lotanna Nwogbo and Leron Fisher, who recorded over 200 steals for the Lancers in three seasons. All were recruited by Gee.

Allen, Belton and Geter, who will play an additional year after redshirting during the 2014-15 season due to a torn labrum, have been with Gee since the beginning. They've seen the team during its highest and lowest moments since the energetic head coach from Ohio took over the program.

From rallying against the conference's top seed and making a run into the 2015 Big South semifinals to facing backlash when a player was charged with alleged sexual battery in 2014, Gee's seen a tumultuous first four years.

As *The Rotunda's* men's basketball beat writer for two years, I constantly watched their games, interviewed Gee and his players and wrote not only about their on-court results, but their individual stories as student-athletes and, simply, people. This included the brightest moments, like when former standout Shaquille Johnson was invited to the NCAA's dunk contest, to their darkest, like Jason Pimentel and Johnson's suspension following possession of marijuana charges.

As editor-in-chief, I continue to follow the team closely, and as a student-athlete on the women's soccer team, I continue to objectively evaluate situations from both perspectives.

Following public indiscretions, Longwood men's basketball has repeatedly come under fire from both the Longwood and local community. The pattern continued without fail following *The Farmville Herald's* report of the Prince Edward County commonwealth's attorney's decision not to pursue charges in a case that allegedly involved a fight between several Hampden-Sydney football players and Longwood men's basketball players on Dec. 4 at

Hampden-Sydney College (H-SC).

The identities of the parties involved are unconfirmed as the sole sources cited in the report included an interview with the father of an alleged victim from H-SC and an unpublished portion of the H-SC police's report from that night.

However, the report resulted in another wave of criticism through editorials and op-eds published in local media outlets, including a guest column in *The Rotunda*.

Questions circled around what, if anything, was being done to discipline the players. Dismay surrounded recruiting decisions. Attacks centered on the program's poor performance. Calls were made for Gee's firing.

The reactions paralleled those immediately after the alleged sexual battery incident, Johnson's dropped felony assault charges or the marijuana offenses. It's nothing new.

In fact, external criticism is almost routine for the coaches and players. In an interview with Gee, he said that, while the people expressing it are justified, now he just doesn't read it.

"Anytime you don't have success, you open yourself up to criticism," he said.

During our talk, Gee didn't shy away from the conflicts of the past and the issues that led to the negative gaze toward his program. He recognized that some players "haven't acted well" since he took over four years ago.

Even though he doesn't read the criticism, he said he feels like a culture has been created in the community "that it's just okay to punch on men's basketball." To him, it leads to the amplification of incidents.

As the program that receives the most funding through the athletics department, men's basketball is scrutinized more harshly than Longwood's 14 other sports teams.

Aside from their team affiliation, student-athletes are generally held to higher standards of conduct due to their elevated status. As players, they are viewed as extensions of the university and its brand, shortening their leash in comparison to the average college student.

— "CRITICISMS," CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

CORRECTION:

In *The Rotunda's* Feb. 20 article, "Homeless Shelter still without permanent location," it was incorrectly stated that the Board of Visitors voted to uphold the local Farmville ordinance. The Town of Farmville is run by a Board of Supervisors, not Board of Visitors. Board of Visitors is the governing body of Longwood University, unrelated to the town.

Old tobacco building renovated into new off-campus housing

High Bridge Lofts to host students starting August 2017



Walk2Campus apartments is currently renovating buildings along West Third Street, constructing new, luxury apartments targeting college residents.

ANN POLEK | THE ROTUNDA

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar
News Staff
@JesseKellar

The High Bridge Lofts are projected to be available to Longwood students in August 2017. The new off-campus housing, managed by Walk2Campus, will reside in the historic tobacco factory located on W. Third St. adjacent to the newly-purchased baseball stadium site.

The property is being renovated into housing in order to provide students with more off-campus options, according to Mychaela Stephens, leasing coordinator at Walk2Campus.

“We are redoing the old Southern States Building, we’re redoing that into loft apartments,” Stephens said. “It’s going to affect the students because it’ll give them more options once they hit their 48 credits hours to move off-campus.”

The decision was motivated by a desire for diversity in student housing options and to keep the old building’s aesthetic quality, according to Stephens.

“It’s really to give students more options and preserve the

community, keeping the building the way it was and it still matches with the downtown,” Stephens said. “It’s an old tobacco house, and we’re repurposing it.”

Stephens stated the big difference will be the setting of the housing, as the buildings are an older style and relatively preserved.

“The character will be the big difference. We’ve got the cookie-cutter, but these are going to be different,” Stephens said. “They have fourteen foot ceilings, nine foot windows. There’s nothing like that here.”

According to the Walk2Campus website, each floor plan includes hardwood oak flooring, 14 inch ceiling and nine inch windows, exposed historic brick walls, in-unit washers and dryers and modern kitchens including dishwashers and other appliances.

The pricing will be comparable to other off-campus and on-campus options, according to Stephens.

“The four bedrooms will be \$4,819 a semester per person, because we do our pricing comparable with Longwood,” Stephens said.

The 18 apartments will accommodate one, two, three and four bedroom apartments.

The offices of Walk2Campus will also move into the building, according to Stephens.

Additionally, the lofts will host a brewery on the lowest floor that is open to the public.

“We’re really excited what it’s going to bring the community, it’s going to have a brewery in the bottom too. So that’s going to be another point of interest for students, and it’s still within walking distance (of campus), and the whole reason we’re here,” said Stephens.

Follow *The Rotunda* for more updates.

— “MARIJUANA,” CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

In relation to last year from Jan. 1, 2016 until Feb. 20, 2016 Beach added:

“We (LUPD) had eight calls to go check on cases of possible drug use,” said Beach.

Beach then noted the potential incidents between Jan. 1, 2017 and Feb. 20, 2017.

“We (LUPD) had nine calls to go check (on cases of possible drug use),” said Beach.

LUPD has been called more to investigate the possible use of marijuana, but have left without opening an investigation, according to Beach.

A common occurrence has been finding marijuana while ticketing vehicles, according to Beach.

“When we are giving a parking ticket, we look inside, and there’s marijuana in the car. We go get a search warrant, and we recover the illegal drug, and we continue investigation and go forward with it,” said Beach.

Beach disclosed that LUPD works closely with Residential and Commuter Life (RCL) when dealing with drug situations.

“If we get to a room and we smell significant odor(s) and we can determine that there’s an odor from it, we will knock

on the door and talk to the people involved. ... if we feel we develop enough probable cause, then we will ask if them to do a search. And if they say no then we secure them in a room and go get a search warrant and come back and search and we charge them criminally - that’s the process,” said Beach.

A full search is conducted when a call is received by LUPD, according to Beach.

“When you look at the overall issues of drugs here at Longwood, drugs are not the catastrophic issue that they are in other places, opioid abuse in other places are much more a concern for the community at large than in the culture at large.”

When a student is involved in a marijuana case, determining if a case needs to be brought to the attention of the Student Conduct and Integrity office is determined by LUPD, according to Jen Fraley, associate dean of conduct & integrity and university Title IX coordinator.

Depending on the circumstances of the situation, students can participate in both the administrative process through the Student Conduct and Integrity office and

also the criminal process, according to Fraley.

According to Fraley, the simultaneous situation a student may face is not considered to be double jeopardy.

“We (Longwood) also in our policy have some minimum guidelines for how we adjudicate other drug violations once those have been determined to be violations and minimum sanctions on how we proceed with communicative and educational sanctions might be attached to those,” said Fraley.

Every drug case is different in context and situational awareness, according to Fraley.

“We do have a first offensive and second offensive for use of drugs unlike the criminal code we don’t delineate out in our code of conduct different policy violations for things like possession as opposed to use,” said Fraley.

All cases are reviewed by the Student Conduct and Integrity office and are considered alleged violations, according to Fraley.

Fraley adds that if a case is determined to have sufficient evidence then the case is

evaluated by one of Longwood’s hearing bodies, according to Fraley.

“(The hearing bodies) make recommendations in terms of responsibility and if there is a violation of the code of conduct or the honor code, also recommendations about sanctioning,” said Fraley.

Once one of the hearing bodies reviews the case, it is sent to the Student Conduct and Integrity office to ensure the due process elements were followed, which are defined in the student handbook.

“Our goal is that we (Longwood) want you to learn from this particular experience, reflect on your actions, the impacts for you and the community and how that will affect you and this community forward and really learn from that experience so that you can develop strategies or whatever the case may be, move forward in a productive way to be successful here,” said Fraley.

In depth explanations about Longwood’s drug and alcohol policies can be found in the Longwood Student Handbook.



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We also have several group/party order specials and always our 7.99 large carryout and 5.99 mix and match deal!

SFC Report: Feb. 23

by Shelby Massie
News Staff
@shel_byloved

Student Union Advisory Board

Reallocation of \$642.60
Funds will be reallocated for a trip that did not occur
Funds will be used for a trip to the Washington D.C. Zoo
The Student Finance Committee (SFC) approved the reallocation of \$642.60

Longwood University Politics Club

Allocation of \$799.98.
Funds will be used for three hotel rooms for two nights for a conference for six members
The SFC approved the allocation of \$799.98.

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ROTUNDA**

SGA Brief: Feb. 21

New Diversity Discussion Project mentioned, four allocations approved, one constitution approved and SGA bylaws revised



MADDI CARMACK | THE ROTUNDA

SGA Vice President Tristan Hobbs, SGA President Dillon Yonker and SGA Secretary Sarah Kensy (left to right) attended the Feb. 21 meeting.

by Cassandra Maddox
News Staff
@longwoodrotunda

In the Feb. 21 Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, junior Lexus Stephens was sworn-in as the representative of the Student Diversity Inclusion Council (SDIC).

Cheryl Steele, assistant director of student engagement, Jonathan Page, director for citizen leadership and social justice education and Onie McKenzie, assistant vice president for student affairs for assessment and professional development, attended the meeting to share results via PowerPoint from student and faculty discussions regarding diversity on campus.

McKenzie, Page and Steele previously held a facilitated group discussion regarding diversity and discrimination on campus during the SGA meeting on Oct. 18. Page stated that further discussions reached to around 341 students.

It was observed from discussions and surveys that there was an increase in comfortableness with interacting with students of differing sexual identity, race/ethnicity and religion, but a decrease in treating others equally, according to Page.

Steele encouraged the SGA to provide feedback and improvements about diversity on campus when able to.

McKenzie stated that freshmen and seniors can take the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) regarding overall educational programs and coursework at Longwood.

Three \$50 and one \$150 LancerCash awards will be given to those who take the survey.

The allocation for Phi Epsilon Kappa was approved by the SGA in the amount of \$3,301.92 for an upcoming conference.

The SGA approved the allocation for Alpha Phi Alpha in the amount of \$675 for the registration fee of a conference.

The allocation was approved by the SGA for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) in the amount of \$6,860 that the SGA is required to allocate.

The SGA approved the allocation for the Lancer Student Investment Fund in the amount of \$1,300 for an upcoming conference.

Sophomore Cole Roberts, treasurer of the Scooter Club, attended the meeting in request of approval of the club's constitution from the SGA.

The club will meet once a month and all are welcome to join. Roberts stated that 28 people signed up and scooters will not be provided.

The constitution was approved by the SGA.

Secretary Sarah Kensy requested the approval from the senators in regard to the edited by-laws for the SGA mentioned during the SGA meeting on Feb. 14. Such laws that were revised pertained to SGA hours and dress codes.

The edited bylaws were approved by the SGA.

The next SGA meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 28 in the Robert Russa Moton Museum at 4 p.m. for the senate retreat.

Humans of Longwood: Lucas Hobson



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

by Miranda Farley
Features Staff
@mir4nda9

When Lucas Hobson's mom adopted him from China and moved to Charlottesville, Va. at age eight, it marked his final year at an orphanage. Hobson said he recognized that he left behind some peers who have not received the same opportunities. Now, he is pursuing a double concentration in management and marketing as a freshman.

While Hobson is interested in the fields of marketing or entrepreneurship, he hopes to eventually return to his orphanage and help in any way possible, fueled by his passion for service.

This summer Hobson plans to study abroad in Thailand. One of the services he will participate in will be at an orphanage in a women's center. He will help the orphanage by teaching people English.

As Student Government Association (SGA) freshman class president, Hobson spends about three hours a week dedicated solely to SGA. He also works for the alumni office, serves on the

presidential advisory committee and is a member of the Joan of Arc Leadership Program.

"I have a passion for helping other people," said Hobson.

He said part of what inspired him to serve others was the help he received in his transition from the

orphanage to life in

America.

"I'm in the Phi Mu Delta brotherhood and we go to Josh Bolt's house which is our local philanthropy. He has cerebral palsy and I go with them a couple of times a week to help him with his physical therapy and babysitting

"Being adopted at such an older age of eight years old, I've really experienced a lot in the orphanage and that transition to America," said Hobson. "Like how thankful I am for the opportunities that I got to go and get an education and be able to have a better-looking future than some of my peers that are still in the orphanage."

his younger brother," said Hobson.

In the midst of Hobson's dedication and service to Longwood and the community, he encouraged students to make the most of their time.

"Don't take your time for granted," said Hobson. "Be in the moment with your time. I feel like as millennials we're kind of always on the go."

Lancers love Longwood

by David Pettyjohn
A&E Staff
@PettyjohnDavid

This past Tuesday, Feb. 21, was "Love Your Longwood Day," an online 24-hour event designed to raise money for the university. "Love Your Longwood Day" is just one of a week-long series of fundraising events for Longwood from Feb. 21-28.

"Love Your Longwood Day" featured two spots for collecting funds from donors; one in the Dorrill Dining Hall and one at the Ruffner Fountain, alongside the website.

The Ruffner Fountain area had a tent with two members of the Longwood faculty, Jill Manning and Jennifer Conkwright. Manning is the Office of Development's leadership gift officer, while Conkwright is an administrative assistant of institutional advancement.

"This is the second annual 'Love Your Longwood Day,' and it will become an annual day of giving," said Manning.

However, Manning clarified that this event was not about

finances, but participation.

"We do not have a financial goal for this day, but we do have a participatory goal," Manning said.

In reference to the year that Longwood was founded as the Farmville Female Seminary Association, the university has a goal of 1,839 donors participating in "Love Your Longwood Day".

Manning and Conkwright both agreed they had already surpassed last year's participation rate by 2 p.m. that day.

Each year, the school specifically raises money for different initiatives, they said. This year, it was the College of Business and Economics along with the junior class. Last year, there was no specific initiative beyond just raising money for the school in general.

"I think we're almost at 30 percent of our (funding) goal already today," Conkwright estimated.

The fundraiser was turned into a competition between

various groups. For example, the green class, students who came to Longwood in an odd-numbered year, and the red class, students who came to Longwood in an even-numbered year, competed against each other to see who could raise more money.

Several academic departments, such as the psychology and anthropology departments, had challenges for people to beat as well. The junior and senior classes and various faculty members also had challenges. People were able to watch the progress of the fundraiser in real time on Longwood's website, on the love.longwood.edu subdomain.

At the end of the fundraiser, 1,405 donors contributed to the campaign, according the website. This resulted in a sum of \$126,000 for the school. The red class won with 511 donors and \$33,003, compared to the green class' 417 donors and \$27,246.

'I'm in Love with Words'

The Longwood Author Series presents Teresa Svoboda

by Rae Mundie
Features Staff
@rjmundie



Teresa Svoboda read parts of her biography and poems to students and faculty on Feb. 20.

TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

Poet and author Teresa Svoboda dropped in on different classes to talk with students during her four-day visit last week. On her first day, Monday, Feb. 20, she held a presentation in addition to her classroom discussions at 7:30 p.m. in Wygal Auditorium.

"I'm really a poet, I'm in love with words," said Svoboda during the presentation.

In the introductory class of fiction writing, taught by associate professor in creative writing Dr. Steven Faulkner, Faulkner said she shared short excerpts from two of her new stories - one short story, one novel. He said she demonstrated the different

approaches toward introducing conflict and characters into a story.

"I was glad Teresa Svoboda stressed the need for revision. She even called it fun to revise, which I agree with," said Faulkner. "I hope students will take that away from her visit, along with the possibility as a writer to branch out into new genres as she has done."

During her presentation, she shared a variety of works with the audience, including novels, books of poetry, a memoir and short stories. In some cases, she detailed her inspiration for some of the pieces.

"I've always admired her writing, even

when I didn't fully understand it. She's very direct, emotion-wise, and lately she's begun playing with language almost like a musician," said Dr. Craig Challender, professor of modern American literature.

Svoboda asked students for the difference between life and art, smiling as she listened to the different answers from each student. Some had a similar theme, revolving around art as a reflection or expression of emotion from an individual's perception of a situation or society.

"Art has consequences," said Svoboda.

She explained the importance of writing fearlessly, saying she believed anyone could

write, but not everyone has the perseverance to stay with it. While pointing to her forehead just below the hairline, she told the audience how her mentor emphasized that she always had a story in her.

"Just need to tip your head forward and let the words write themselves," Svoboda said.

During the question and answer period of each presentation, stories were told by both audience and author, some were already inked stories while others were life experiences. Students would ask for advice on their writing and how to make it better. Svoboda replied by telling students that they should love their first draft, that each word was their own and that in itself was significant. Admitting that she herself was "always madly in love" with her fresh first drafts or words just written on a page.

"I also like how she writes in so many different genres, and how she sometimes mixes them together—e.g., the 'little play' in the middle of her recent memoir," said Challender.

Svoboda, who was ready to answer questions, said writing is entertaining for her. She said she didn't know what she was thinking about until she started writing. She encouraged the audience to start writing without an idea, explaining that the hardest stories to write are ones a person already has an idea for. Nevertheless, she said each writer needed to do research when appropriate and understand their own feelings toward any situation chosen as a subject for their pieces.

"I thought that she talked in a very energetic way," said senior and economics major Brett Chandler. "She also got very personal in her stories and connected them with her own life."

The next author brought in by the Longwood Author Series will be novelist and short story writer, Danzy Senna, on March 30. She is the winner of this year's Dos Passos Award for Literature, one of the biggest Literary Awards presented by the university.

Juggling, jokes and magic tricks

Performer Chris Ruggiero entertained an audience with his various talents and humor



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

Hired by Lancer Productions, Chris Ruggiero performed juggling and magic Friday night during his One Man Variety Show.

by Miranda Farley
Features Staff
@mir4nda9

Popular hit songs played through the speakers of Wygal auditorium Friday night, welcoming an audience of about 40 students. Chris Ruggiero immediately took the stage filling the room with high energy as he began his One Man Variety show that was hosted by Lancer Productions. Ruggiero made his first visit to Longwood, from Los Angeles.

Ruggiero started off by fitting his body from head to toe through a stringless tennis racket, then transitioned to a high-speed juggling act to impress the audience. He continued to switch between juggling and magic tricks throughout the hour-long performance. His magic tricks mostly included card tricks and guessing games. His witty sense of humor and talent were accompanied with the audience's laughter and cheers, although he often joked that it was slightly delayed.

When asked, several students volunteered to join him on stage to help with some of the acts. For example, two nervous students balanced spinning plates atop metal sticks they held in their hands for a lengthy period of time as

instructed by Ruggiero.

Sophomore Ryan Bultrowicz and junior Madison Arlett witnessed Ruggiero's high energy before the show and both had the opportunity to volunteer in different acts.

"He had a lot of energy; we saw him jumping around backstage before the show, just jumping around doing some stretches," said Bultrowicz.

Bultrowicz and Arlett have seen different magicians come to Longwood and, according to Arlett, they saw some of the same tricks Friday night as they have seen done by other magicians.

"I haven't seen anyone ride on a unicycle though," said Arlett.

His last two volunteers helped by competing against each other in different acts and tightly tying Ruggiero up with rope in a chair for him to escape with ease, surprising the audience. These volunteers helped him steady his unicycle as he climbed to the top for his final act. They both were thanked with copies of Ruggiero's book, titled, "Just Go" and five dollar bills inserted as "bookmarks."

Ruggiero wrote his book as he traveled around the country. He said it's about "getting started before you feel like you're ready."

Ruggiero explained to the audience that his father took him to magic shows when he was little, and he eventually became obsessed with magic and juggling.

"One of my favorite venues is actually casino crowds, so I perform at casinos but there is something really fun about the college shows because we have this like energy and excitement," said Ruggiero.

Ruggiero's father taught him the basics of juggling and he decided to take it to the next level by adding nuances to his tricks and eventually becoming a professional, performing at colleges and different venues across the country. Almost all of his tricks are self taught. He said he never had proper training or went to circus school. He has performed his One Man Variety show for 10 years and is starting to make more TV appearances.

Review: 'Get Out'

By Jacob DiLandro
A&E Staff
@spongejay1



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND BLUMHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

Jordan Peele, one of the creators of the comedy sketch show “Key & Peele,” as well as an alumni of the sketch comedy show “MADtv” and a writer and star of the 2016 comedy film “Keanu,” is writing and directing his first solo feature, the horror film “Get Out.” With a comedy writer and actor taking on the horror genre, the transition was certainly interesting.

First and foremost, the film is technically a horror movie, but often times it feels more in line with the thriller genre. It is creepy and at times scary, however, most of the fear comes from expertly built tension and menace. There isn't a séance or a masked killer. Instead, Peele takes the moments of awkwardness that would normally be in a film like “Meet the Parents,” and turns it up to eleven.

The cast is excellent, with Catherine Keener and Caleb Landry Jones, as well as Daniel Kaluuya standing out the most, but the true star of the film isn't even in front of the camera. Peele works wonderfully by subverting

expectations with what this film is, what is happening and why it's happening. The writing is top notch, with moments that might seem stupid or illogical in another horror film addressed as stupid and illogical in “Get Out,” adding layers to its horror.

Given his previous background with “Key & Peele,” Peele manages to place great moments of humor and satire as well. From the awkwardness of the previously mentioned parent meetings, to amusing situations with Chris's TSA agent buddy back home. However, they don't all work out.

A few humorous moments seem to be placed to help prevent the film from being nothing but horror and help add to the satire. However, most of these scenes tend to drag on. This would be fine, except that the movie feels a bit too long. It isn't too long in terms of its runtime, clocking in at a reasonable one hour and 43 minutes. These extended scenes that drag make it feel longer, though.

Music is used greatly as well, although it doesn't seem

fully utilized. The opening and closing scores are great uses of African styled instruments. The rest of the score abandons this though, using plucked strings instead.

Some plot points, although nothing huge, are never tied up. They don't damage the film, but when they are first introduced, they are focused upon so much and then abandoned. It causes confusion as to why they were even introduced at all.

“Get Out” remains a strong debut for Peele as a writer and director. It feels like the kind of horror film that people usually make as their fifth or sixth film. With layers of twists and tension, a sharp satirical script and sound performances, “Get Out” capitalizes on its premise greatly with only a few stumbles. After all, a fantastic premise is a terrible thing to waste. 4/5



Review: Happiness is seeing “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”

by Megan Gary
Contributor
@longwoodrotunda



ANN POLEK | THE ROTUNDA

Students of Longwood put on the performance of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” each evening of Wednesday through Sunday. Some of the stars included senior Allen Coates as Charlie Brown, sophomore Garret Reese as Snoopy and junior Randall Linkins as Woodstock.

One could call the Longwood Theatre’s production of the play, “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” an undisputed success looking at the box office sales alone. Tickets were sold out for every showing and waitlists were made for the overflow of people who still wanted to attend.

An audience of all ages watched the Sunday matinee, ranging from small children to adults in their seventies and eighties, all drawn in by their love for the classic cartoon. While waiting during the brief intermission, a group of older adults in the front rows discussed their distant memories of watching the show growing up and their favorite characters.

After the show, one little girl around four years old, accompanied by her mother, said she liked “the blue girl” the best. Her mother smiled and clarified that she meant Lucy. “(She) already asked when she could come back,” said her mother.

Hard work, talent and love brought these beloved characters to life for the Longwood and Farmville communities, making this play a success beyond the box

office. Longwood freshman and ensemble member Mason Patrick said the cast members were all good friends just like the characters themselves, helping them bring the characters to life.

Assistant Director Gracen Jones brought her own bout of excitement to the production, stemming from the opportunity to help direct a play as a freshman. “Charlie Brown” was the first production she has directed at Longwood.

The audience experienced many of the side plots from the cartoons, such as Lucy’s (Lorin Hope Turner) undying love and pursuit of piano prodigy Schroeder (Harrison Runion), Linus’ (Aaron Burstein) struggle to give up his blue security blanket and Snoopy’s (Garrett D. Reese) daydream of becoming a fighter pilot and taking down the infamous “Red Baron.” Some of the other Peanuts members were present as well, such as Patty (Olivia Pedigo) and Woodstock (Randall Linkins).

However, the main plotline centered around the many failures and disappointments in the life of the block head

himself, Charlie Brown (Allen Coates). Poor Charlie Brown searches for happiness and meaning in life during the play in ways familiar to anyone who watched the cartoons or read the original comics. Yet at the end he still finds happiness, despite all his disappointments, through the love and support of his friends.

The play “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” was directed by Dr. Rhonda Scarrow, originally written by Clark Gesner and based upon the comics of Charles M. Schulz. The production was warm and familiar to all who grew up watching the shenanigans of the Peanuts gang. However, it was also funny and relatable to those who weren’t as familiar with the cartoons.

The cast made even the most mundane failures and disappointments of childhood humorous and interesting to children and adults, alike. It also recognized how much power the support and love of friends can have on the confidence and happiness of all, even a block head like Charlie Brown.

To live a life

Recapping the 89th Annual Academy Awards

by Jacob DiLandro
A&E Staff
@spongejay1

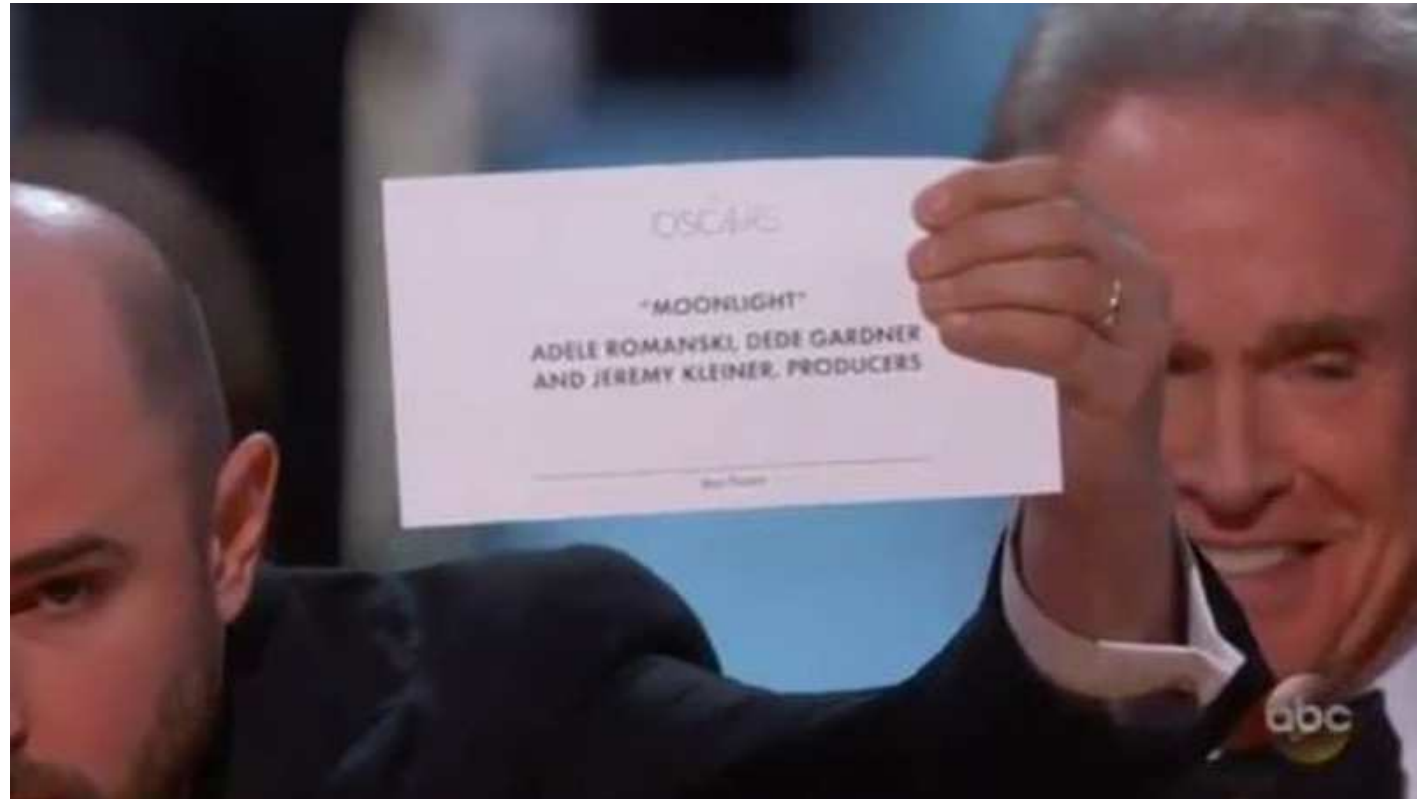
It's over. The lights were dimmed, the speeches were given and the comments were political. Oddly enough, most of the actual speeches avoided political comments. Host Jimmy Kimmel made the most political comments, with lines like, "Doctor Strange is nominated tonight for 'Outstanding Visual Effects and secretary of Urban Housing and Development.'"

The night's most memorable moments came from some great surprises, from Kimmel bringing his feud with Matt Damon to the Oscars, and the real-life Kathrine Johnson, portrayed by Taraji P. Henson in the film, "Hidden Figures," briefly stepping on stage to say "thank you" to the audience.

In terms of winners, there were some surprises and snubs. We now have the Academy Award winning feature film "Suicide Squad," while movies like "Moana" and "Hidden Figures" went home empty-handed. "La La Land" was the biggest winner of the night, with six Academy Awards, including Best Original Score, Song, Actress and Director.

Some charming moments helped punctuate the night. Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone took to the stage to give a short speech about the art of the movies; shortly after, small bags of candy floated down to the audience on parachutes. Auli'i Cravalho also sang, "How Far I'll Go" from "Moana" to a simple backdrop of cloth dancers. It was a night of simpler pleasures, the opposite of the typical bombastic and showstopping Oscar set pieces.

It was a big night for most. Kevin O'Connell won his first Academy Award after 21 nominations for Achievement in Sound Mixing for "Hacksaw Ridge." Viola Davis also took home her first Oscar for "Fences." A tour bus of people was surprised as well as they were shuttled through the front row of the Dolby Theatre during the Oscars. Don't worry it was planned.



COURTESY OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS & SCIENCES AND ABC

"La, La Land" was mistakenly announced as Best Picture. Ultimately, "Moonlight" won the category.

What wasn't planned was a huge misstep by Best Picture award presenter Warren Beatty, who read the wrong film. Apparently, he was handed the envelope for Best Actress by mistake, which prompted his long pause and stare before reading, "La La Land." In the middle of one of the producer's speeches, "La, La Land" producer Josh Horowitz took to the stage to announce the mistake. "Moonlight" is the real winner.

Though the ceremony was lengthy, one quote stood out from the whole night. The inspiring words were uttered during Viola Davis's acceptance speech for Best Supporting Actress for "Fences."

"There is one place that all the people with the greatest potential are gathered ... and that's the graveyard. People ask me all the time, what kind of stories do you want to tell, Viola? The stories of those people who dreamed, big, and never saw those dreams to fruition," she said. "I became an artist, and thank god I did, because we are the only profession that celebrates what it means to live a life."

Well said, Viola. Well said.

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ROTONION

{Pronounced: row • ton • yun (noun); a ridiculous argument column}

IT'S QUESTION TIME!?

His answers

by Austin Berry
Layout Editor
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Hello Rotionioners, and welcome to this week's question and answer column!

Last week the questions were a bit dry, if I'm being honest. However, it seems as if you beautiful readers have heard my cry, because we have some interesting question nuggets to chew upon this week. Are you excited? I'm excited. Let's get started!

Q1: "Would you rather poop at a party knowing that you'll clog the toilet and everyone will know that it was you, or go in the bushes outside instead?"

Umm, wow. Has...has this happened to you? Do you expect it to happen? What on earth did you eat to where these are your two best options?

Well, I am certainly confused and concerned, but let's break this question down and see if we can't find an answer.

It seems as though your first mistake is pooping at a party in the first place. You never poop at a party, ever. Don't even use the bathroom at a party if you can help it. Let's be real about this, you just don't know what horrible things have happened in that bathroom.

Maybe, contrary to popular belief, pooping in the bushes would be the better option. It's arguably a cleaner, more pleasant experience, and if people ask you about it, you can always blame it on the dog or just say that you thought the bushes needed more fertilizer. On the downsides, you will have to bring your own toilet paper, and possibly a shovel to bury your misdeeds.

In the end, just shit before the party.

Q2: "Do you think crabs look at fish and think of them as how we humans think of birds?"

This is actually really interesting, and it's something I've never really thought about. Personally, I tend to think of birds as annoying sky mice who shit on my car only after I've cleaned it. Crabs probably don't have this problem because I assume they are largely unaware of both mice and cars. But I do wonder if they get mad about fish shitting all over the place, I certainly would.

To give you a more definitive answer to your question, I think crabs look at fish like humans look at birds, if birds were both bigger than us and more abundant. See, crabs are pretty small on the scale of ocean life, and they have literal whales flying above their heads. That would be like us walking outside, only to find out that there is a flock of wild 747s roosting in tree in the front yard. So no, I don't think crabs look at fish like we look at birds. I also think that you are perhaps vastly overestimating the cognitive abilities and self-awareness of crabs.

That was fun! Thanks for the weird questions, and keep them coming!

Hopefully next go round, I'll spend less time talking about shit.

Her answers

by Cassie Tagert
Copy Editor
@TheRotonion

Q1: "Would you rather poop at a party knowing that you'll clog the toilet and everyone will know that it was you, or go in the bushes outside instead?"

This is a great question! This happens to me all the time. I have an addiction to \$5 burritos at El Patron, and \$5 burritos + a party eight hours later = a whole lot of trouble.

Now, I could change my ways and stop eating burritos before I go to a party. I could also choose to stop going to parties and continue to eat burritos. But, what would be the fun in that?

I need to do both. Every single week.

So, how do I handle these situations, you ask?

Easy. I don't want to clog the toilet, and I don't want to go outside, lest I get caught. So instead, I take puppy pads with me to parties. I spread them on the floor of the bathroom, and I do my business there. Then, I crumple it up and throw it out the bathroom window. I've been doing this for three years now, and I've never been caught. I've also never had to bring my own toilet paper to a party, so it beats using a bush.

I'm confident in saying it's foolproof at this point.

Q2: "Do you think crabs look at fish and think of them as how we humans think of birds?"

In short, no.

Let's break this down, shall we?

Say you're a crab, and you're busy scuttling around in the sand underwater with your

crabby friends doing crabby things. One of your friends points toward the sky with their little crabby pinscher. The sun's beaming down in your eyes, but you can vaguely see the shadowy outline of a creature above you. All of a sudden, it swoops down and grabs your friend in its mouth and EATS THEM right before your eyes. Then, you're in the middle of mourning for your friend when a strange, five-appendaged creature splashes into the water, grabs you, puts you in a tank, takes you to an unknown place and eventually drops you into a vat of boiling water.

Now, I don't know about you, but I've never seen a bird – whether blue jay or hawk – swoop down and eat my friends. So, there's that.

To my other point, crabs are not like humans. Humans eat crabs. Crabs don't eat humans. So, I don't think they see anything the way we do.

The Beauty Community: Rihanna debuts beauty line

by Paulina A. Marinero
Opinions Staff
@MarineroPaulina

After signing a \$10 million deal with Louis Vuitton (LVMH) last April, singer and songwriter Rihanna will launch her new beauty line with a complete makeup collection this upcoming fall online and in Sephora's. If that doesn't make you want to save your money, I don't know what will.

Let's see how Rihanna's new cosmetic line, Fenty Beauty, is taking the internet by storm.

Diana Espino, LVMH global president of marketing, said at their press conference, "What she produces has the authenticity of a fashion icon and an entertainment trendsetter. She is really a developer."

Rihanna is the recipient of eight Grammys and 12 Billboard Music Awards, the youngest solo artist to

complete these at 28. Recently, Harvard University named Rihanna Humanitarian of the Year 2017 for promoting human rights back home in Barbados. It's no wonder Rihanna manages to make waves in all aspects of entertainment.

Rihanna has also already been exposed to the makeup world with her limited-time collection with MAC Cosmetics, "RiRi Hearts MAC" in 2014. Her ongoing perfume collaboration with Parlux Ltd. is now on its seventh launch since fall 2015, profiting almost \$75 million, as well. To say Rihanna is an amateur in the beauty industry would be a flat-out lie. She clearly knows what she's doing and continues to keep us running back for more.

Kendo, a Sephora affiliation with Fenty Beauty seeking

to develop and advertise the brand, has been on the hunt for world-class makeup artists to join the team of Fenty Beauty. Erik Soto, global educator in beauty, posted a "help wanted" on Instagram calling all makeup artists to come out to New York City, Dallas or Los Angeles locations to audition for the chance of a lifetime, Feb. 24-28. Anyone down for a road trip?

Rihanna's new line, Fenty Beauty, revealed its first product - a holographic lip stick. This clear and shiny formula was inspired by her Fenty x Puma Spring show from early 2017. Although LVMH hasn't released any other news regarding her collection, we're dying to see what Rihanna has in store for us crazy fanatics.

Stay tuned to The Beauty Community for updates.

— "CRITICISMS," CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Though when Gee looks at his players, he strips away that status. Gee said he has a team of "young people," and, as a group, young people are known to make poor choices.

"We have made some poor decisions, but we also feel that the whole story hasn't been told," he said. "Unfortunately, it can't be. So, there's only one narrative."

Gee is referring to the restrictions placed on information and what's allowed to be public versus private. In the private realm, individual testimonies sit there, unable to be provided to the press for greater context on the limited explanations of court databases and university crime logs.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) protects journalists' ability to receive a minimum amount of facts; any additional information is at the discretion of parties involved in the incidents, whether it's law enforcement officers, plaintiffs, defendants or witnesses.

In the case of the university's disciplinary proceedings and incident reports, all information is immediately confidential and protected from FOIA under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

As the coaching staff and players consider all of these factors when choosing whether to comment, the notion of transparency comes into play. It raises the question of how much should the public trust that a program is making the right disciplinary decisions based on unknown team rules.

While Gee didn't disclose his team's rules, he explained the team had its own disciplinary procedure. Sometimes consequences are handed down by Longwood Director of Athletics Troy Austin. Typically, those punishments include practice and competition suspension or team expulsion.

Outside of games and training, Gee said they also put their players on "dawn patrol," where they get the players up at 5 a.m. to run.

But as Vice President of Athletics Communications Chris Cook noted, who was also in the room during the interview, there's only so much he's capable of doing.

"There's a threshold for the severity of punishment a coach can issue, (he has) only so much power as a basketball coach," said Cook.

Therefore, if Gee only has so much power to discipline a student-athlete once he's in uniform, one may ask why he doesn't recruit less risky players. Gee detailed some aspects of his recruiting process, and what he looks for in potential Lancers.

According to Gee, his coaching staff visits recruits with the potential to receive scholarships at least seven times before bringing them on campus to visit. He said he talks to their counselors, peers, coaches and family to try to get a well-formed image of each recruit.

"It may look like we've made mistakes, maybe we have," said Gee. "But not intentionally."

Once players do arrive, the men's basketball team has programs in place to work with its student-athletes outside of discipline. Gee said he created a mentor program and life skills program for his players as part of his "commitment to the total person."

The mentor program pairs every player with people in their future career, aiming to give them guidance during their time at Longwood and connections post-graduation. Gee said when the student-athletes are undecided, they are typically paired with a Longwood faculty member for a character mentor. He provided Jonathan Page, director of the Office of Citizen Leadership and Social Justice Education, as an example.

"Many (players) come from an underprivileged background," said Gee. "It's about having someone else on their team."

He said his players also attend speakers regarding life management with character and professional perspectives. Topics range from sex education to financial literacy.

To Gee, the issues his players have been criticized for are "a reflection of young people, not a reflection of men's basketball."

As a reporter, I have covered the men's basketball program from all sides. As a student-athlete, I recognize the complexities involved in the inner workings of a sports program.

The public continually expresses its frustration toward the slow progress of Longwood men's basketball and the negative perception they've created due to the actions of a few members.

Over the past four years, Gee has coached 35 players. Of those 35, he recruited 26. Of the 26, four players - Charlie Lockwood, Victor Dorsey, Jason Pimentel and Shaquille Johnson - were responsible for the public offenses that led to community outrage.

Twenty-two of Gee's recruits haven't been involved in assault, drug or golf cart-related scandals.

While I recognize the cloud grows over Longwood with each public display of immaturity, I can respect Gee's determination to love and commit to the players he recruits. Gee said he made his own mistakes as "a young person," and had a coach who never gave up on him and ultimately changed him. Probably drawing from his own experience, Gee likely models his disciplinary decisions after one of his coaches.

As a coach who began with such fiery optimism despite the program's poor history, Gee remains dedicated to building the Longwood men's basketball program one young man at a time. I believe we should let him.

Once overlooked, Spradlin shines

by TJ Wengert
Contributor
@Rotunda_Sports

Botetourt, Va. native Kate Spradlin is a redshirt freshman on Longwood's women's basketball team, and has gone on a rollercoaster journey from high school to her current role as a key starter for the Lancers.

Spradlin is well known by her teammates for being unselfish, caring, passionate. However, most important to her is her constant work ethic.

"I think the only thing I would take out of it is my work ethic. That's one thing that if people noticed me for anything, I would want it to be that," said Spradlin.

Spradlin was a high school standout at Lord Botetourt High School, averaging 14.5 points, 7.5 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game in her senior year. She was a team captain,

a team MVP, a conference player of the year, a two-time first-team all-district and first-team all-conference following her senior year.

But she didn't receive any Division I scholarship offers after high school due to a late start to recruitment as well as the small size of the conference she played in, according to Spradlin.

"I was looking for them, and I wanted to play at a high level. I had some Division II offers, but I really wanted to challenge myself and prove to myself that I could do it."

Spradlin's confidence and motivation kept her from settling for the Division II offers.

"I knew other people going to play Division II, and it was

a personal thing because I knew I could do better. So, I wanted to play at a higher level."

Now the Lancers' third-highest scorer, Spradlin added, "It's been a long journey, but at the same time it feels like it's gone by so fast that you have to look back at it and see that it is a little impressive."

Majoring in business, Spradlin graduated high school with a 4.2 GPA and last year earned a perfect 4.0.

She wants to continue on the business path upon graduating, saying, "My mom is a financial adviser, and I think I want to do that or be a stockbroker."

Finnlay Wyatt signs with Richmond Kickers

by Stephanie Roberts
Sports Staff
@stephroberts07



Longwood midfielder and 2016 first-team All-Big South honoree Finnlay Wyatt will continue his soccer career professionally with the Richmond Kickers of the United Soccer League (USL). The Sheffield, England native was a senior midfielder for the Lancers this past season, finishing his career with 50 starts out of 53 total appearances.

"He is a guy that takes care of business on and off the field, exemplary in the classroom, exemplary on the field. Just a model student and a model athlete," said head men's soccer coach Jon Atkinson.

Wyatt owns 11 career goals, including two game-winners, and 13 assists during his time at Longwood. He signed his first professional contract with the Kickers, a team he has been a part of since the age of 14. The Kickers finished last season in seventh place in the Eastern conference of the USL, one tier below the top division, Major League Soccer (MLS).

"I have known I wanted to play professionally pretty much since I was born. I have grown up playing it (soccer), and been around it since I was young," said Wyatt. "I played for some of the youth professional teams when I was a lot younger, and ever since I thought about it."

Wyatt moved to Midlothian, Va. at the age of 14, and he immediately began to play with the Kickers through their youth teams and academies. When he reached the age of 16, Wyatt began to train with the first team and got a chance to play in a few reserve games. Once he came to school he would go home every summer and jump in with the team for training sessions.

"College is the step from going from high school and club academy, to the next level. Longwood got me through and gave me the experience and exposure, and allowed me the opportunity to show my skills, give me the best chance possible to make it to the next level," said Wyatt.

MBB: Big South Championship preview

by Tristan Penna
Sports Editor
@colourlessbeige

With the Big South men's basketball tournament set to tip off on Feb. 28, *The Rotunda* is taking a look at what to expect and who to keep an eye on.

The opening round sees the bottom four sides facing off, starting with No. 7 seed Campbell hosting No. 10 seed Presbyterian. Expect the Camels, fresh off their upset win over Radford, to move on to face No. 2 seed UNC Asheville two days later.

Meanwhile, No. 9 seed Longwood travels to No. 8 seed Charleston Southern with a match between No. 1 seed Winthrop at stake. The Lancers head to Charleston, S.C. in ice-cold form following 15 straight losses, but senior guards and captains Darrion Allen and Issac Belton remain confident in their teams' abilities.

Allen, speaking after the Lancers' 86-78 senior day loss to Charleston Southern, said, "We've just got to forget the past, totally different mindset. Everybody's 0-0 going into the tournament, it's win or go home. Everybody's going there, coming at everybody's necks."

"The key is to hit on all cylinders to start," added Belton. "It starts with defense. Once we started playing defense this second half, we got back in the game."

The Buccaneers should still advance over the Lancers, but expect top-seeded Winthrop to

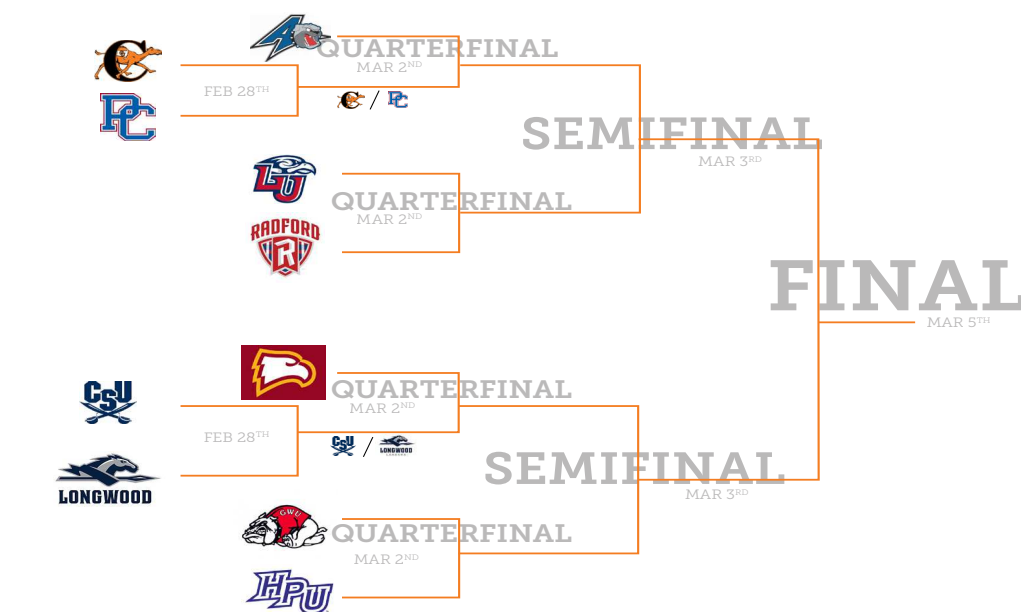


ILLUSTRATION BY AUSTIN BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

breeze past either team in the quarterfinals.

On the same side of the bracket, No. 4 seed Gardner-Webb takes on No. 5 seed High Point for the second time in less than a week. The Runnin' Bulldogs won 88-86 on the road on Feb. 25, and they should come out on top in a neutral venue on Thursday.

The final quarterfinal matchup is the most intriguing of the group, as No. 3 seed Liberty squares off with No. 6 seed Radford. Liberty may be the higher seed, but the Highlanders' sophomore forward Ed Polite, Jr. can exploit the Flames' rebounding weakness. Polite, who leads the conference with 14 double-doubles, may be the tournament's breakout player.

Following a grueling

regular season campaign, the tournament will further test the stamina of these teams, with only six days between the opening round and the final. It applies particularly to the Lancers, whose struggles with injuries have left the remaining few players working overtime this season. But both Allen and Belton view the tournament as a blank slate for each of the teams.

"It's all or nothing, so we can't really think about it (the fatigue), you just got to power through," said Belton. "You never know what game's going to be your last, so you got to leave it all out on the floor."

"In the tournament, you just got to be real disciplined on everything," said Allen, who became Longwood's sixth player to score 1,000

career points this season. "On defense, we can't press as much as we want to, because of the depth we have. We can't play too aggressive because we don't want to get in foul trouble."

While Winthrop and UNC Asheville are heavy favorites to earn the automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, the Lancers' senior captains are bullish on their chances, viewing anything short of a tournament win as a disappointment.

"A successful tournament, for me? I don't care how many points I score, taking home a championship, that's successful right there," said Allen.

When asked for their favorites to win it all, both Belton and Allen had only one pick.

"Us," the pair said, without hesitation.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

BASEBALL

Sunday, Feb. 26
vs. Albany L 13-6

SOFTBALL

Sunday, Feb. 26
@UNCG W 4-0

LACROSSE

Sunday, Feb. 26
@ Mount St. Mary's W 13-10

MEN'S TENNIS

Friday, Feb. 24
vs. West Virginia Wesleyan W 9-0

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Saturday, Feb. 25
@ Gardner-Webb L 6-1

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