

4-10-2017

Rotunda - Vol 95, no. 22 - Apr. 10, 2017

Longwood University

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Longwood University, "Rotunda - Vol 95, no. 22 - Apr. 10, 2017" (2017). *Rotunda*. 2182.
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EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Ying Yang Twins, Bowling for Soup and tacos highlighted Longwood's Spring Weekend from April 7-8. Find a recap of Longwood's annual festivities in the "Features" on page 10.

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Walker's Diner making changes under new management

New hours, new menu and the addition of more outdoor seating

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar
News Staff
@longwoodrotunda

Walker's Diner is under new management, according to Loretta Graham. She, her husband Steve Graham and Rob Chapman purchased and started running the diner on Nov. 29, 2016.

The diner has already changed its hours, according to Graham, to include more breakfast patrons. He said they're open Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On Saturday, they open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Then, on Sunday, they open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The menu has also undergone several changes, according to Graham. As with the hours, several items were added to accommodate breakfast customers.

"We've added a lot of breakfast specials," said Graham.

According to her, more vegetables and lunch options have also been added.

"We have plate lunches. We have a lot of daily specials," said Graham.

According to Graham, the diner has also expanded its speciality goods and dessert options.

"We have plenty of dessert now," she said. "We also have homemade dog treats."

She also indicated that the diner hopes to utilize more of their space outside.

"We're adding more tables outside," Graham said. "We hope eventually to have a covered area for eating outside."

She also indicated the possibility of Walker's Diner hosting events in their space in the future.

"We hope to have events here in the summer, maybe in the fall," said Graham.

She said that diner is also looking to optimize its menu to the tastes of college students.

"We're catering to the college because they're a bigger crowd," Graham said. "They are the biggest



ANN POLEK | THE ROTUNDA

Walker's Diner is under new ownership since November, 2016.

group of customers."

The diner is also reconstructing its website, according to Chapman.

"We looking for someone to help us with the website," Chapman said. "One of the classes at Longwood may be helping us out."

The old website, walkersdiner.com, is no longer in use, and the hours listed online (through Google and Tripadvisor) are currently inaccurate.

"They're going to start working on it (the website) in May," Graham said.

Chapman is optimistic for the future of the diner.

"Things are going great, and we're looking forward to further improvements," Chapman said.

College democrats co-sponsor restoration of rights event

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar
News Staff
@longwoodrotunda

In an effort to assist convicted felons to petition to restore their voting rights, the College Democrats of Longwood University, the commonwealth's attorney of Prince Edward County and the Prince Edward Democratic Committee co-sponsored an event on Tuesday, April 3 at the Robert Russa Moton Museum.

Prince Edward Democratic Community chair Ty King Cooper stated the Prince Edward County Democrats spearheaded the event, inspired by friends and family members seeking to restore their rights.

"We were the lead organization for this event," Cooper said. "I have a number of friends who have been contacting me over the past few years about restoring their right to vote.

The College Democrats became involved with the event after outreach from the Prince Edward Democratic Committee.

According to College Democrats President Joe Hyman, a political science sophomore, they often work with the Prince Edward Democratic Committee.

"I am here today, at Moton Museum, to support a restoration of rights event for convicted felons to re-obtain their voting rights," Hyman said. "The college democrats work very closely with the Prince Edward County Democrats. They are the primary sponsor of this event, and they asked if we would like to sponsor it as well, which we said yes we will."

According to Hyman, the event will benefit the community as a whole.

"It's beneficial to the community as a whole because many of these people have gone through what I believe to be a broken prison system," Hyman said. "And giving them back their voice, to change the system they went through, is one of the best ways to do it."

According to Prince Edward County Commonwealth's Attorney Megan Clark, the event included government representatives who were available to assist convicted felons complete forms.

"A lot people think there is a particular form you can fill out and there is, and it goes to the governor's office," Clark said. "Representatives from the governor's office are here to assist with filing those forms out."

Gerome Booth, a convicted felon, made a point to file his during the event.

"I filled out the form personally when I came up here," Booth said. "I'm just here trying to get my rights back."

Booth said he believes that restoring his life will change

his life for the better.

"Voting means a life. I feel like one of my voice could have been one of the voices," Booth said. "I feel like I'll have more opportunities available to me."

According to Cooper, recent political events have generated more interest in restoration of rights.

"After the last presidential election we realized it was time to get back to the roots and helping anyone we possibly can to vote," Cooper said. "So, people are actually completing the applications today ... convicted felons are completing the applications to get their rights restored."

Additionally, individuals have taken forms for themselves or other members of their community to complete elsewhere.

"There's been 15-20 today. A number of people have taken back papers to their churches, their communities, town hall groups," Cooper said. "So hopefully by November, we will have restored the rights of over 100 people in the greater Farmville area."

Though the event was primarily for convicted felons, other members of the Farmville community came out to learn about the restoration of rights.

Dr. Abdul Bari Ansari, a Farmville local who is not a convicted felon, said he came to learn more and to bring forms back to members of his community who are.

"I came because I have friends and individuals I know who are felons, who would like to get their rights restored, and I wanted to learn as much about the process as I can to assist," Ansari said. "One of the things I found out is that the process is actually very easy. Individuals can actually do it online."

According to Khalil Latif, a local attorney, he came to learn how to further help his clients in restoring their rights, some of whom may struggle with literacy issues.

"Many of the individuals that getting their rights restored, I assist them with getting their rights restored," Latif said. "Some people feel the forms are too complicated, and want someone to explain it to them."

According to Clark, voting rights in Virginia are rescinded at the time of a felony conviction and can be restored through the governor's office after a felon's probation has ended.

"Once you have been convicted as an adult of a felony offense, your right to vote is taken away as well your right to possess and carry firearms. The right to vote, the right to serve on a jury, those civil liberties are taken away from you with the conviction," Clark said.

According to Lashawnda Singleton, communications manager for the restoration of rights department for the Commonwealth of Virginia, restoration of rights extends beyond voting to several other rights.

"I work under the secretary of the commonwealth," Singleton said. "What we do is assist returning citizens their civil rights, which is the to vote, the right to run for public office, the right to sit on a jury, the right to be a notary."

The process takes two to three weeks to be completed after the department is contacted.

"After they have received a felony conviction, they contact our office," Singleton said. "We assist them in filling out the application. The process takes two to three weeks. Once they have been approved, we'll mail them out the documents and then their rights will be restored."

According to Singleton, restoration of rights is one priority of the current governor of Virginia.

"It's something that Governor (Terry) McAuliffe talked about through his campaign when he was running for governor," Singleton said. "It was one of those things he felt was the right thing to do, and he really wanted to focus on assisting returning citizens' reintegration into society so it's as smooth as easy as possible."

According to Singleton, there were around 400,000 convicted felons at the beginning of McAuliffe's term whose rights had not been restored, but significant progress has been made.

"In the entire Commonwealth it was approximately 400,000. Right now over 152,000 have had their rights restored back," said Cooper.

According to Cooper, the Prince Edward Democratic Committee may host similar events in the future.

"We hope to grow off of this experience, next time have some assistance from local probation and parole and maybe the local jail to have them blast us out to their clients," Cooper commented.

Mock student debate sees new addition for second debate

Longwood for Liberty added to panel



ANN POLEK | THE ROTUNDA

On Wednesday, April 5th, two representatives from the College Democrats, LU for Liberty and College Republicans participated in a Mock Debate. Some of the topics that were up for debate included: reverse racism, immigration and a voucher system for our education.

by Shelby Massie
Asst. News Editor
@Shelby_Massie

As the second mock student debate hosted by the Longwood Politics Club, the stage now included a three-party panel rather than the original two-party debate right before the Vice Presidential debate. The debate took place on April 5 in Jarman Auditorium. In the first debate only the College Democrats of Longwood University and the College Republicans of Longwood University participated in the debate. For the second debate there was a third party added, Longwood for Liberty.

Many students were pleased with the addition to the mock debate such as Senior Jason Dryer, a history major with a minor in political science.

“I think it was a really great debate. I think having the Longwood Liberty club and providing them the opportunity and platform to be, was pretty cool because normally it’s just a Republican versus Democratic debate,” Dryer said.

On the panel for the Longwood Democrats were Junior Brenda Pereira, a modern language major with minors in both international studies and political science, and Junior Kyle Stone, a history major with minors in both political science and communication studies.

Debating for Longwood for Liberty were Senior Kyle Dobry, a political science major with a minor in history, he is also the President of Longwood for Liberty, and Senior Stewart Gosler, a senior political science and history major.

The two members debating for the Longwood Republicans

were Junior Dallas Looney, a junior History major and Freshman TJ Wengert, a communication studies major with a minor in history.

Each question was asked to one of the parties in which they were given one minute to respond to the question followed by the other parties getting 30 seconds to deliver their rebuttal. Each party was also allowed a one-minute opening statement and at the end they were given one minute for a closing statement.

Questions ranged from the College Republicans views on Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos’s view on the voucher system and the increase of education standards, which was a topic that got all three parties very engaged in the subject, to whether or not the College Democrats believed that Planned Parenthood should be defunded. There were also questions asked at the end that were sent in by the audience via Twitter.

All three parties were respectful of the rules set at the start of the debate, with only a few instances of interruption when things got especially heated during the discussion of certain topics.

The discussions were civil and that made an impression on those who were involved, such as Senior Christy Tagg, a political science major and president of the Longwood Politics Club.

“I think it went very well and I think it went even better than last semester because the debaters were all civil and

easy to work with,” said Tagg.

When asked if they would want to see anything changed pertaining to this event, the presidents of the clubs involved agreed that the event was successful. Freshman Megan Garrett, president of the College Republicans and who is a double major in political science and business, requested a change for upcoming mock student debates.

“I would like to see maybe more of the audience’s questions and more audience involvement into it, but other than that I think it is awesome the way it is,” said Garrett.

Sophomore Joe Hyman, a political science major, commented that the debate was civil and a lot of important issues were covered even if the parties did not agree with one another.

“They might disagree with them, but at least they’re actually talking about them, and they are having civil discussions unlike a lot of political America right now,” said Hyman.

Longwood for Liberty was declared the winner based on a ballot that was given to members of the audience as they walked in. They were asked to place their vote after the questions were finished.

According to Tagg, she hopes that this event will continue to be held every semester and if not every semester, then at least once a year.

SFC Report: April 6

by Shelby Massie
Asst. News Editor
@Shelby_Massie

Global Leaders

Allocation of \$335

\$130 would go towards the organization's banner.

\$35 would cover raffle prizes for casual participants.

\$170 would be used towards competitive runner prizes.

Global Leaders did not appear for their time with the Student Finance Committee (SFC) and no allocation was approved.

SGA Brief: April 4

Proposed SGA budget announced and dispelled feud between LP and WMLU



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

Lancer Productions, WMLU 93.1 FM, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Mortar Board, Black Student Association, and Interfraternity Council visited SGA on Tues. April 4. SGA meets every Tuesday at 3:45 P.M. in Martinelli Board Room.

by Cassandra Maddox
News Staff
@longwoodrotunda

In the April 4 Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, the SGA went over the first reading of the SGA budget, as presented by treasurer Dustyn Hall.

The reading consisted of going over the allocation process and tier system. It was stated in the reading that the tier system consisted of five parts. For instance, the first covering "Student/Campus Welfare" such as Lancer Productions (LP) and WMLU, and the fifth covering "Special Interest Groups" like the Black Student Association (BSA).

Hall mentioned that the 2017-18 proposed SGA Budget total was \$677,499.17.

Secretary Sarah Kensy stated that The Rotunda was in need of three new Mac computers to work on online content for The Rotunda's website. It was brought up by Kensy as the money that would contribute to new computers would derive from the SGA budget.

Morgan Rollins, executive senator for committee relations, added that The Rotunda currently has two Mac computers that are not working very well.

Senior Gretchen Gross, publicity chair and bandfest chair of WMLU, attended the meeting to discuss the amount of money contributed to the organization from the SGA. Gross mentioned that the SGA allocated \$0 for WMLU's budget.

Rollins stated that it was not the SGA's intention to allocate at that price, but also wanted to make sure WMLU would spend allocations effectively, especially for Bandfest on Friday April 7.

In regards to Bandfest, Gross stated that WMLU's mission is to bring artists and sounds to Longwood. It was questioned by Kensy on why WMLU prioritized on bringing more well-known bands to Longwood, like what Lancer Productions (LP) does, instead of small, local bands.

Gross replied that many students said that they wanted more well-known bands to perform, and that WMLU wanted to listen to their requests.

Gross and senior Rachel Hirsch, president of LP, reassured the SGA that there was no competition or feuds between WMLU and LP regarding concerts.

The allocation of \$33,000 from the SGA budget to WMLU for band compensation was approved by the SGA.

Deja Mills, president of BSA, and Jonathan Bland, treasurer of BSA, attended the meeting in request of the approval of the allocation of \$676. The allocation would go towards event planning, name tags and supplies.

The allocation was approved by the SGA.

The next SGA meeting will be on Tuesday Apr. 11 in the Martinelli Board Room in Maugans Alumni Center at 3:45 p.m.

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ROTUNDA

Longwood students participate in Model UN conference for the first year

by Miranda Farley
Features Staff
@mir4nd9

For three days, six Longwood students attended their first Model United Nations (UN) conference together in Charlotte, N.C. The group was assigned to represent the country Iraq.

The conference began Thursday, March 30 and ended Saturday, April 1. University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Flagler College, Pace University and Radford University were other colleges that participated alongside Longwood in the conference. The conference allowed for up to 12 people to attend from a single school.

Throughout the semester, the students at Longwood met prior to the conference in Ruffner Hall with their faculty adviser Dr. Cole, working together to gather the necessary information about their assigned country. They also met to discuss how they would write their discussion papers for the conference.

According to sophomore political science major Joe

Hyman, there were a few different topics for the students to discuss at the conference that were released to the students prior to the start. Each country was assigned to a different committee with a different topic and expected to argue their side as their country.

“We talked about different topics such as modern and sustainable energy, gender based sexual violence, sustainable housing and other topics that pertain to foreign policy,” said Hyman.

The Longwood students hope to turn the Model UN program into an independent study with a professor or remain as a student run organization next year.

“At this conference, we were able to get a perspective on how other countries interact, particularly with larger countries such as the U.S., but also provided an opportunity to network with likeminded students from across the country,” said Hyman.

Longwood received many compliments from the people running the conference on their level of performance especially for their first time, according to Hyman.

The organization seeks to recruit more students through interest meetings, word of mouth and promotion of Model UN through the politics club. Model UN participants plan to hold interest meetings throughout the rest of this semester and into next semester. According to Hyman, Model UN is a great opportunity even for students outside the political science major. He encouraged people who are not necessarily “politically minded” to consider giving it a chance.

“It (Model UN) definitely shapes your perspective of how you view other nations. It really makes you put yourself in other people’s shoes,” said Hyman.



Student Specials!

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- SVM2: Medium cheese & 16 Parm Bites
- SVM3: Extra-Large Cheese

All \$7.99 for carryout or Delivery!

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

“



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Humans of Longwood: Sebastian Lacoss

by Cassie Tagert
Copy Editor
@longwoodrotunda

“Being trans at Longwood ... I think this is a safer place to be trans because everyone around here is accepting – I’ve only run into one person who has not been accepting – and it’s even better because we have some other people who are also trans on campus who can help to mentor you.

It’s just a really big family around here, and if they have an opinion that differs from yours, they’ll keep it to themselves. They understand and respect that you need to be respected ... It’s one of those things where it’s such a big deal to deal with the dysphoria and be a man in a woman’s body or a woman in a man’s body, it doesn’t take over, but it’s certainly a big part of you because it does take up a lot of your day whether it’s in a bad way like dysphoria or in a good way like getting to educate people.

It definitely becomes a big part of you, but it’s all connected with everything else too. It’s not like breathing; it’s more like it becomes part of your personality ... We are just like everybody else. It’s not like we’re here to prey on you, I promise. We’re not trying to convert you to being trans. I promise that’s not what we’re trying to do. We’re trying to live our lives just like you.”

International student spotlight

by Megan Gary
Contributor
@longwoodrotunda

Marija Venta transferred to Longwood University this past semester. She didn’t transfer from NOVA or Virginia Beach, though. Venta hails from Slovenia, a country whose capital is a cool 4,554.47 miles away from Farmville. The flight from Slovenia to the Richmond International Airport would take approximately 12 hours and 30 minutes.

To put that in perspective, that’s the equivalent of sitting through 15 50-minute classes. Add in the fact that it’s a boring and tedious trip. So imagine 15 50-minute math classes. It also costs over \$2,000 to make that trip. That’s the monetary equivalent to over 230 meal swipes into the dining hall.

Venta said she had never been to the United States before, and initially when she got to the U.S., she found there were many aspects of life here that she had to adjust to. This applied to even the little things like how she talked to people.

Venta said in the U.S., people are much more “gentle” in how they talk to each other.

“Everything here is sugar-coated and nicely put,” she said. But, Venta says, in Europe people generally are straight forward, just as a matter of course.

“Here, I could say something that would go unnoticed at home. Here, (however), people are like ‘hahaha, oh you’re being so straightforward’ and I’m thinking ‘no, I’m not!’”

Venta hears one question frequently from her fellow students: “Oh, why would you come to such a small school in the middle of nowhere?”

Her journey to Longwood started with her passion for tennis, and an email she received from her now coach. Longwood had offered her a place on its tennis team. Even with this initial concentration on the sport she had been playing since she was four, Venta’s interest in Longwood had everything to do with learning.

“(I’m) still learning a lot of lessons (here) that maybe I wouldn’t have learned somewhere else,” said Venta. “For me this whole experience is about (building) on my life lessons.”

ROTUNDA MEETINGS

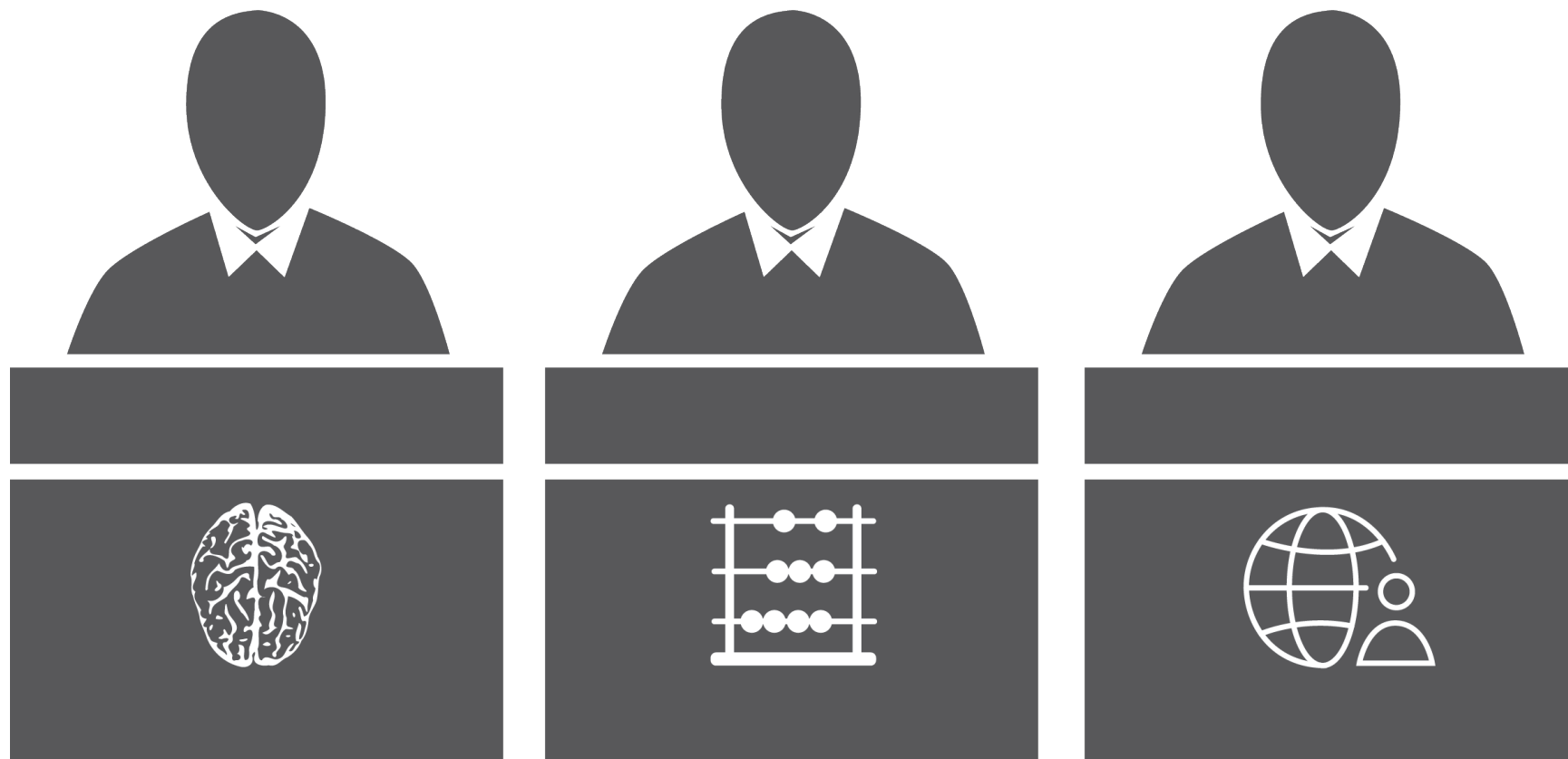
WHEN: Mondays at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Bedford Room 106.

WHY: Come meet *The Rotunda* staff and learn about opportunities to join the organization. Plus there will be free pizza!

**Contact rotundaeditor@gmail.com with questions.
Be there or be square.**

Students decide which department survives at Longwood's annual Raft Debate



GRAPHIC BY LAURA GOTTSCHALK

Dr. Robert Marmorstein, an associate professor of computer science, organized the raft debate where three professors debated about the importance of their area of study.

by Rae Mundie
Features Staff
@rjmundie

Multiple professors put together a debate each year at Longwood as a way for students to experience real world problem solving. The debate is about which professor should survive the fictitious shipwreck they went through, now only one professor can survive on a raft with enough supplies to get away. On April 4 four professors came together to debate on who should survive on the raft. The four professors were: Dr. Eric Moore, philosophy representative, Dr. Catherine Franssen, representing psychology, Dr. William Abrams, representing mathematics, and Dr. Julian Dymacek, the devil's advocate.

"I have been (to the debate) in the past," said junior Joshua Lancaster, computer science major. "I found it to be very entertaining, one of the computer science teachers set it all up, so we hear a lot about it beforehand."

The debate started with an explanation of the rules and the introduction of each contestant, a professor from three general studies: natural science, humanities and fine arts,

and social science. Last year's winner, Dymacek, was given the opportunity to play devil's advocate this year, his job was to turn the students against the idea of letting one profession go free on the raft.

"Since last year's winner was a computer scientist, we wound up with two scientists on the raft," said Dr. Robert Marmorstein, associate professor of computer science. "However, the winner of the debate, Dr. Moore, is a philosopher and represented humanities. He might be amused to be described as a scientist."

Each contestant gave a fifteen-minute lecture on what their department specifically does for society, specifically what the department does for college students. Abrams brought up the point that technology popular for students would not be available without mathematics. Dymacek, the devil's advocate, pointed out the flaws in the debate, including that students weren't given enough details about the situation. He told students he wasn't actually playing

devil's advocate, but being the devil in the details.

"I thought it was pretty funny, I liked all the humor that was put in along with actual facts," said sophomore Amy Sivills, communication science and disorders major. "I would be interested (to see) if they put some out of the way majors in that no one really knows about."

The debate is meant to be entertaining for the students as well as educational, each year there is an attempt to have diverse candidates for the debate. In past years, there have been representatives from business, education, economics, anthropology, biology, and english. This year, the candidates did admit that it would be more important for their department to survive rather than the individual; which Dymacek pointed out as another reason to sink the raft, because the department was not at stake.

Marmorstein said, "If you take the time to think about it, you can see that the Raft Debate actually focuses on a very deep question: do the liberal arts have merit?"

Review: 10/10, would listen again

by David Pettyjohn
A&E Staff
@PettyjohnDavid



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Bandfest's lineup consisted of CADE, Dead 27s, Marc Scibilia, Love and Theft and Cheat Codes.

Each year, Longwood University hosts Spring Weekend and Bandfest, two events that mostly focus on music. It also allows student organizations to promote themselves. Bandfest took place this past Friday and Spring Weekend was held on Saturday. Bandfest is the work of WMLU 91.3, Longwood's student-run radio station. Spring Weekend is hosted by Lancer Productions, Longwood's event planning organization.

This year, the Bandfest lineup consisted of CADE, Dead 27s, Marc Scibilia, Love and Theft and Cheat Codes. This lineup gave a variety of genres to be heard. CADE is a pop trio, Dead 27s is a rock outfit hailing from Charleston, South Carolina, Scibilia a solo pop rock artist, Love and Theft is a country band and Cheat Codes is a trio of electronic music artists. There isn't much to say about CADE, Dead 27s and Love and Theft's acts other than the performances were all solid.

Scibilia and Cheat Codes were a bit more exceptional. Scibilia's music was focused on love songs and his Tennessee upbringing. A good narrative to the stories he told helped draw the audience in. Cheat Codes made a satisfying performance, as well, combining humor and lyrics for a fun musical ride. In between these acts were a DJ from WMLU who performed while the next artist was setting up their instruments.

This Spring Weekend featured a larger cast of musicians, some of which were Longwood students. In between each artist was a performance by the DJs from Cruz Productions,

a music business by Longwood alumnus Joel Cruz. The performances started at noon with Longwood's own artists: Pitch Perfect (Longwood's all-female a 'Capella group), the Longwood Company of Belly Dancers, BASIC Gospel Choir, Blue Heat Dance Team, High St. Harmony (the men's choir), FIERCE Hip Hop Dance Team, Lady Joan's (another all-female a 'Capella group) and the Longwood Company of Dancers.

Later productions came from other musicians, starting with the violinist Josh Vietti. Next was Anthem Lights, a Christian rock band from Tennessee, who brought a fun atmosphere to the school.

The Ying Yang Twins, a hip hop duo from Georgia, brought their own rap style and a fun party atmosphere.

Next was Small Pools a relatively new indie pop band formed in 2013. They continued the atmosphere that the Ying Yang Twins created, leading to the final act, Bowling for Soup.

Bowling for Soup is an older rock band and amongst the more well-known acts compared to the others. They played several of their songs, including the title sequence that they recorded for the Disney channel show "Phineas and Ferb." I did not expect nearly that many college students to know the lyrics to the show's theme song, but they did. Bowling for Soup's delightful songs and jokes were an excellent way to close out the night, even if they were a little older than most of the other artists.

SPEAK UP!

When: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 19

Where: Ruffner Fountain

What: Tell *The Rotunda* your thoughts on national and campus news, get information from other student organizations and learn about joining the staff, all while jamming to music from WMLU.

Contact: therotundaonline@gmail.com

All AmeriKKKan Bada\$\$ Album Review

A step in the right direction for the young rapper

by Richie Kamtchoum
Asst. A&E Editor
@richiepbm



OFFICIAL ALBUM COVER

In the midst of Donald Trump's presidency, there was bound to be an even greater amount of socially conscious political music. 22-year old rapper Joey Bada\$\$ (stylized as Joey Bada\$\$) has always had a conscious message behind his music, but upped it to another level with his second studio album "All AmeriKKKan Bada\$\$" or "AABA."

Actively known on the hip-hop underground scene since 2012, Bada\$\$ recently saw his profile rise with the Gold-certified single "DEVASTATED." As a lyrical, heady rapper that seems beyond his years content wise, the hype for "AABA" reached a tipping point with a presumed head to head release date with Kendrick Lamar on April 7.

Lamar didn't release his album that day, instead just announced a release date. However, Bada\$\$ delivered a 12-track LP, packed with fiery rhymes, poignant messages and nimble yet distinct hip-hop production.

The album deals largely with anti-establishment, afrocentric and progressive themes. One thing Bada\$\$ does do on this project is remain consistent. Across all 12 songs, the young rapper is mad about the state of the world for

black people. He directs that anger towards figures such as Donald Trump, institutions like the prison system and religion.

As a follow up to his debut album, "B4DA\$\$," "AABA" is much more adventurous musically. Perhaps a direct result of Chance the Rapper's ascendance in 2016, the album showcases Bada\$\$ singing, albeit with autotune, more glossy beats and the use of live instruments in the production.

Content wise, each song except the lead single "DEVASTATED" has a direct reference to the state of America, who he personifies as a woman several times. That personification is most notable on "Y U DON'T LOVE ME? (MISS AMERIKKA)," perhaps the best song on the album and the most creative lyrically Bada\$\$ has been in his young career.

Which brings the most frustrating thing about this album. It's obvious Bada\$\$ wants to get a lot off of his chest, vehemently directing his anger towards America. It would just be more enjoyable if he were to be more creative in his message, perhaps taking a cue from the aforementioned

Lamar.

Some of the songs are rough around the edges, with messy hooks, bland production despite being more musical and extremely dull verses. Bada\$\$ cares, but would be better served working with more collaborators that could potentially make the album more expansive. With such a powerful album name and cover, one would assume the project would be more forward-pushing instead of remaining one dimensional.

Make no mistake though, as a rapper, Bada\$\$ is amongst the best of them. Some of the lyrics on the album, most notably "AMERIKKAN IDOL," are vivid, important and impressive. The album is necessary and his message is clear, it just could have been bigger and better.

As a body of work, "AABA" is good. Bada\$\$ is growing as a rapper and a musician, taking the necessary next step in his career. Despite the few letdowns, the overall message of the album was consistent and concise and something everybody should listen to.

THE REEL LIFE

{movie reviews by Jacob DiLandro}

"Going in Style"

by Jacob DiLandro
A&E Staff
@spongejay1

Most actors reach a point in their careers where they do one of two things; star in a series of unfunny comedies that pale in comparison to their earlier works ("Little Fockers," "Parental Guidance," "Daddy Day Care") or they star in a series of smaller, independent films, allowing them to stretch their acting legs ("Everything Must Go," "Broken Flowers").

Starring three celebrated, yet old, actors: Morgan Freeman, Alan Arkin & Michael Caine and with a talented director (Zach Braff, star of "Scrubs" and director of seven "Scrubs" episodes, "Garden State" and "Wish You Were Here"), can the heist comedy "Going in Style" break the streak of bad films by older actors? Or is it just stealing your attention?

The plot is simple. A remake of the 1979 film, it follows three elderly friends who decide to rob a bank after their place of employment takes away their pensions. This simple premise is lived up a bit by some small moments of detail that add a more personal aim to their goals.

Its three leads, Arkin, Freeman and Caine all bring a level of charm to the movie that no other group could. Arkin dispenses his typical snarky attitude, while Freeman wishes his family across the country would visit. The clear star is Caine. He brings the most bravado, he comes up with the plan and he takes charge for most of the film.

Charming is the word to describe the

film and its cast. Everyone has this kind of happy go lucky attitude that is sorely missing in cinema these days. The movie has no real malice or hate at its core. It just wants to see these people end up happy.

The problems start to come into effect around a third of the way in. The plot slows considerably and jokes start to fall flat. In the modernizing of the film, plenty of subplots were added. They are all written and acted fine, but they just drag out the pace and very few have any real meaning in the grand scheme of the film.

Seeing how the heist is played out is exceptionally tense and wonderful; it's easily the best part of the film. "Going in Style" does suffer from multiple ending disorder, where you think it will end and then doesn't. Not that its bad, the characters and the actors portraying them are charming, just a bit annoying.

"Going in Style" may be unoriginal and not the funniest comedy, but it survives on its simplicity, its charming cast and its generally good natured core. There's a big sweet heart at the center of the movie, kind of like a delicious hard candy, enjoyable, just not particularly memorable.

★ ★ ★ 3/5

"Smurfs: The Lost Village"

by Jacob DiLandro
A&E Staff
@spongejay1

Recently, many cartoons have found themselves receiving live action film adaptations from Hollywood. "Alvin & The Chipmunks," "The Smurfs," "Marmaduke," "Yogi Bear," "Fat Albert," "The Last Airbender" "Jem & the Holograms" and "Underdog" are all examples of purely awful adaptations of great source material. Could Sony Pictures Animation save The Smurfs by making this adaptation of a cartoon into a... cartoon?

Thankfully, "Smurfs: The Lost Village" is better than its live action counterparts. Though, that isn't saying a lot, and it isn't better by much. The good ideas begin with deciding to make this a story about Smurfette.

While easily the most unique character in the Smurfs, that's chalked up largely to the fact that "she's a girl," and the movie decides to play with that idea. However, ideas seem to be all the film really has, with little to no effort put into making them happen.

From the first moments, something seems off. The camera is pulled in way too close to the characters, making for an uncomfortable viewing experience. We then see Smurfette, who is charming and well voiced by Demi Lovato, and the rest of the cast is great as well. Mandy Patinkin, Julia Roberts, Ellie Kemper, Jack McBrayer, Michelle Rodriguez are all great.

Problems arise the moment Gargamel appears. Not only is this scene a haphazard setup for the plot, but this Gargamel, voiced by Rainn Wilson, is annoying, stupid and has almost no redeemable qualities to him. He's an annoyance every moment he's on the screen.

The visuals also seem surprisingly

downgraded. While they ditch the realistic look of the 2011 and 2013 films, they lack a true sense of imagination or wonder. When first encountering the magical land beyond their own, Smurfette exclaims "wow" as the camera pans to a shot of a sunset that is not even close to 'wow' worthy.

Overstuffed is the name of this story, as there seems to be anywhere from four to five different conflicts happening at once. There's a plot about identity, protectiveness, making your claim in the world, whether or not some people are really good or bad. Half of these are introduced and then resolved in 20 minutes, leading the audience to wonder why they were introduced in the first place.

Couple that with a hyperactive first two thirds and a slow as molasses third act, and "The Lost Village" begins to grate on nerves. Although, when our four heroes do reach the village, the film becomes enjoyable, for a bit. The village is the best part, as it seems to feature the most fleshed out part of the story, characters and part of Smurfette's character arc.

"Smurfs: The Lost Village" is an overstuffed and annoying animated film. It shows some signs of greatness with a plot centered around female identity and empowerment, but its lazy animation, poorly written plot and haphazard pacing can't be saved by an interesting concept and good cast. While not as bad as the live action films, this village should have stayed undiscovered.

★ ★ 2/5

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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Q1: “I’ve seen this tremendous douche around campus and he has a ‘T’ around his neck. What does it stand for? I’d ask him myself but he’s kind of a music hero.”

I wish I could say that I understood this question, but I just really, truly, do not understand the hell you are talking about. I’m way too tired from spring weekend to deal with this crap, but let’s break down this question and see what we can come up with. I am, after all, your loyal columnist.

So, you’ve seen this tremendous douce around campus with a “T” around his neck. Is this a necklace with a “T” pendant? Or does he actually somehow have the letter “T” warped and wrapped around his neck? I am going to assume it’s a necklace, because that is more convenient and I’m tired.

What does the “T” necklace stand for you ask? Perhaps it stands for “tremendous douche.” Just a thought.

Finally, you say that you are too afraid to ask him because he is a “music hero.” Well obviously he isn’t because I’ve never seen him.

Q2: “How long will the love between the sun and the moon last?”

This is a great question, and normally I would give you some kind of bullshit answer about how the sun is cheating

with the moons of mars or something. However, since I love space, I’m going to answer your question with A SCIENCE.

Let’s start with the moon. It is in a tidally locked orbit with the earth, meaning one side always faces us. For the moon to be able to break earth’s orbit and fly out into space, leaving both us and the sun high and dry, it would have to accelerate by an insane amount, an amount that isn’t possible without some extreme outside intervention. So, unsurprisingly, the moon is both figuratively and literally the rock in this relationship.

The sun is much more unstable. Having used about half of the hydrogen fuel in its core, the sun has only about half of its life left. About 5 billion years. This is not a problem for our relationship with the sun, but It does create a problem for the moon. Once the sun uses up its remaining hydrogen, it will begin to expand, swallowing up everything in its bath, including earth, and yes, the moon.

So to answer your question, the love between the sun and the moon will last about 5 billion more years, until the sun dies and completely absorbs the moon. It will end the way most romances do, slowly but violently.

I hope that answers your questions, and tell that music hero to screw off.

Xoxo Gossip Austin

Her answers

by Cassie Tagert
Copy Editor
@longwoodrotunda

Q1: “I’ve seen this tremendous douche around campus, and he has a ‘T’ around his neck. What does it stand for? I’d ask him myself, but he’s kind of a music hero.”

This is an interesting observation! It’s completely understandable that you’d be nervous to ask him yourself, especially if he is one of those music heroes with women all over them, one of those sexy guitar players.

I must admit, I’m not completely sure what the “T” stands for, but we can go through the possibilities.

It’s possible the ‘T’ stands for tremendous douche. I know that seems too obvious, but some people think they are intellectuals and ironic when, really, this man is indeed a tremendous douche.

If this man is one of those meta-spouting-English-nerds, it could stand for “Timothy” or “Taylor” or “Tony,” which could be his name. It’s also possible that he needs it to remember his first initial, like a name tag, but he only needs help remembering the first letter.

Maybe the necklace means “titillating” or “tantalizing,” as he is a music hero, and probably has a big ego and thinks about cheating on his girlfriend all the time.

Then again, it could just be a religious symbol this musician wears around his neck to feel closer to the big G, but who knows, really?

Note: This article makes reference to a previous Rotonion question, which you can find the answer to here: <http://www.therotundaonline.com/opinion/let-s-a->

[some-qs/article_3e3d8954-e650-11e6-bf8c-e77cab5163e6.html](http://www.therotundaonline.com/opinion/let-s-a-some-qs/article_3e3d8954-e650-11e6-bf8c-e77cab5163e6.html)

Q2: “How long will the love between the sun and the moon last?”

You know, some would say the sun and the moon aren’t ‘in love,’ but instead, the Earth is held in constant revolution around the sun due to its huge gravitational pull. And as the moon is revolving around the Earth for the same reason, it is subsequently also revolving around the sun.

Those people are misinformed.

Allow me to explain how this really works:

A long time ago, a man living in the sky, all by himself, was very lonely. As he was all-powerful and bored, he decided to create things to live in the sky with him so he wouldn’t be lonely any longer. He mustered up his magical powers and created a giant ball of light, which he named the sun. The man and the sun lived together in perfect harmony until the sun became sad because he wanted more friends.

So, the man in the sky created the moon, which is basically a big, useless rock. The rock and the ball of light spent so much time alone that they fell in love, and as they are celestial beings, their love is everlasting and will continue until the sun grows larger and larger and eventually swallows up the moon in a fiery explosion.

That’s why the man in the sky created planets and people. He didn’t want to be a third wheel anymore. Honestly, I don’t blame him. Being a third wheel is the worst.

SAAC stands for inclusion



The student athlete advisory committee hosted a tabling event on Friday, April 7, promoting inclusion on campus.

COURTESY OF JENNA TOMAYKO

by Stephanie Roberts
Sports Staff
@stephroberts07

Over the course of the semester, New Order propaganda appeared around Longwood University's campus. New Order is an organized group of white men and women who believe that there is a "better way of life," which calls for a "rebirth of racial idealism" and reverence for the eternal laws of nature, according to its website.

Some of the New Order messages have included "white lives matter," "close the borders," "racial purity is American security," "stand up for your race before it is too late" and racial slurs.

Jonathan Page, the director of the Office of Citizen Leadership and Social Justice Education, was the first person to bring the New Order propaganda to the athletics department.

Page spoke with Hannah Ledger, the director of student athlete enhancement, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) adviser. Ledger said she would seek help from the organization.

"Since athletics is one of the most diverse group on campus, as far as having males, females, and people from other countries, we thought that athletics would be a great place to start the diversity campaign," said

Ledger.

After SAAC heard about the propaganda, they decided to take a stand and take action. SAAC president Jenna Tomayko helped to start a diversity campaign to fight back against the racial slurs and propaganda that appeared on campus.

"Jonathan Page and I had a conversation about the propaganda and it all sparked from that. Jonathan has been handling it on the university side, and so we decided to help out with it on the student side," said Ledger.

The diversity campaign began by producing a three-part video series publicizing the cause and released them on the Longwood Lancers website. The videos were of different students from all organizations explaining what it means to be a Lancer, according to Tomayko.

"It originally started as just using a hashtag, but we decided to then turn it into a video, and then it evolved into a three-part series," said Tomayko. "We came up with the two hashtags, #WoodURespect, and #WeWood, because we didn't want to take away from it being a campus-wide stand against the propaganda."

The goal for the videos was to get the information out and get everybody motivated. They then released a snapchat filter later in the week displaying the hashtags from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, and held a photo booth on Friday displaying the phrase. The filter and booth were put into action to express that Longwood is a place of diversity where students are treated equally.

"(We wanted to) get the word out that Longwood is a place of equality and if there are people here who don't agree with that then they are not typical Longwood students and that is not what we want to represent," said Ledger.

Tomayko and SAAC paired up with other groups including greek life, Black Student Association (BSA), the LGBT community and religious groups to express how the need to be tolerant and respectful of these diverse backgrounds.

"We need to encourage acceptance of diversity and that we are all Lancers regardless of our background. We really aimed to bring to the forefront that the behavior is not acceptable and we aren't going to tolerate it," said Tomayko.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

BASEBALL

Friday, April 7

vs. Gardner-Webb L 4-2

Saturday, April 8

vs. Gardner-Webb L 4-3

Sunday, April 9

vs. Gardner-Webb L 7-2

SOFTBALL

Saturday, April 8

vs. Gardner-Webb W 8-0

vs. Gardner-Webb W 8-0

Sunday, April 9

vs. Gardner-Webb W 4-0

LACROSSE

Saturday, April 8

@ High Point L 19-8

MEN'S TENNIS

Sunday, April 9

@ Norfolk State W 6-1

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Saturday, April 8

@ Radford W 4-3