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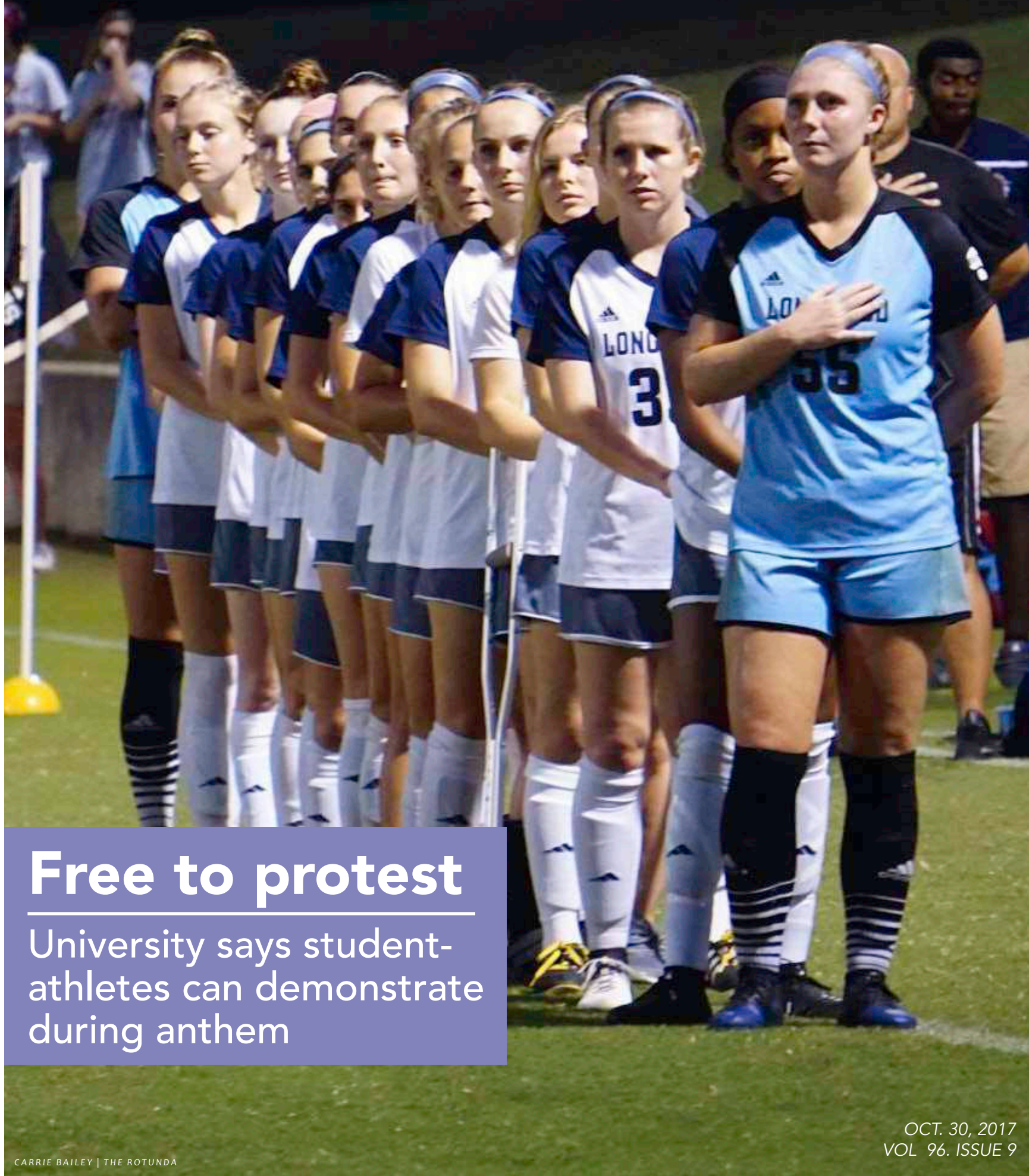
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The ROTUNDA

Eating too much candy since 1920



Free to protest

University says student-athletes can demonstrate during anthem

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EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Virginia 21 Representative Morgan Rollins spoke to the SGA senate about their trip to the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia and what they gathered from it.

by Rachael Poole | Opinions Staff | @rapoole17

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, Emily O'Brien, director of government relations, and Virginia 21 Representative Morgan Rollins presented a report about the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

According to its website, SCHEV is a coordinating body for higher education where representatives from most universities in the state come together to discuss common areas of concern. The goal of SCHEV is to make Virginia the most educated state in the country with a plan for access and affordability for all Virginia university students.

O'Brien opened the SCHEV presentation by explaining how Longwood's budget is approved by the Virginia General Assembly. Longwood receives \$26 million to \$27 million a year from the state in order to run the institution. Another \$4.6 million comes in for financial aid. O'Brien also explained how the various building projects on campus are also state funded.

Rollins informed the SGA of the concerns from Longwood students, such as affordability, political activism, Title IX changes, mental health services, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) access.

Hispanic Latino Association (HLA) Representative Brenda Pereira started a discussion on where political activism is headed on campus and asked how political organizations could get students more involved.

Senior Class President Praise Nyambiya said a civic engagement center may help increase the amount of activism that takes place on campus since it would be a place for all political organizations to work together.

Senator Joseph Hyman stated the university may also unintentionally discourage students from being politically active by having free speech zones.

During open forum, Hyman brought up the issue of how much it costs students at Longwood to have an internship. Hyman stated it is unfair to students to pay roughly \$7,000 for a non-paid internship that isn't affiliated completely with the school.

Senator Madison Lowry also talked about how in some majors, a student is not able to even facilitate their own internship. Lowry stated that if students were able to reach out for their own internships, it would make it less stressful on them mentally and financially.

SGA President Kevin Napier and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson, SGA adviser, stated the current internship policies are subject to change, but no details were given.

Kyle Rollins was sworn in as a senator.

The Neuroscience Club and Jewish Culture Club constitutions were approved during the orders of the day.

The next SGA meeting will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 3:45 p.m. in the Martinelli Board Room in the Maugans Alumni Center.

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Property owners Robert and Sherry Martin requested for properties at the intersection of Oak, Appomattox and High Streets to be rezoned to pave the way for a five-story apartment complex.



Walk2Campus Properties attempted to rezone several of their properties a few days after the Martins submitted their request.

Zoning proposals

by Steven Herring | Asst. News Editor | @Skherring

Two zoning proposals by Walk2Campus Properties and local residents Robert and Sherry Martin, which would have led to the development of at least one new student apartment complex, were tabled during the Town of Farmville's Planning Commission meeting on Sept. 27, according to Planning Commission Vice Chair John Miller.

Town Manager Gerry Spates said he proposed to table the rezoning requests because town officials want to review their comprehensive plan.

"We just felt that with all the concerns that the residents had, that we should re-look at our whole zoning ordinance and look at our comprehensive plan and just make sure that what we're doing is going to be compatible with that plan," Spates said.

According to Miller, the Martins submitted a letter to Spates on July 28, requesting to rezone their property. Then, Walk2Campus sent a letter to Spates on Aug. 1 requesting the same for some of their properties.

Two days before submitting the request, the Martins presented their plan to build a five-story apartment complex that could house an estimated 190 students on their property, according to the July 26 Planning Commission meeting minutes.

Spates stated rezoning the properties had zero cost; instead, tax revenue would have increased if the student complex was built, Spates said.

"We would have probably gotten more revenue from not only personal property tax and real estate tax but also from water and sewer tax fees," said Spates.

Walk2Campus Farmville property manager Michelle Donnelly stated Walk2Campus wanted the same zoning consideration as the Martins.

"As a company that owns a lot of properties in that same area, we wanted the same opportunities," Donnelly said.

Green Properties owner Charlotte Green said Walk2Campus CEO Matt King jumped on the Martins' request to rezone their property.

"It makes sense," said Green. "If the Martins want to get it then he also wanted to get it."

In response to the proposals, a group of Farmville residents organized to form, Farmville: This Place Matters, in opposition of the rezoning and removal of a town ordinance commonly called the density law to build the complex.

According to Spates, the density law allows for ten units per acre, according

to Spates. By removing the density law, the town council would set any density restrictions.

"If they were to remove the density law, which that's actually what they're proposing is just to remove it, that would mean that in any residential district from R1 to R5 anybody could put up any kind of large apartment structure because there would be no density limitations," said Longwood professor Julie Ross, a member of Farmville: This Place Matters.

According to Spates, Farmville has four business zones and six residential zones that range from and R1 to and R5. Each of these zones have certain restrictions, with R1 being the most restrictive and R5 being the least.

According to Ross, the biggest step in combating the proposals involved spreading the word and informing citizens about the possible zoning changes meant.

"We quickly realized that people didn't know that this was coming," Ross said.

Ross stated while the tabling of the proposals was a step toward the group's goal, both the Martins and Walk2campus have yet to withdraw their proposals.

"Until those proposals are denied or withdrawn, the issue is not dead," Ross stated.

According to Spates, the proposals don't need to be withdrawn as they are tabled.

"We've taken them off of our agenda, and they are going to have to be re-submitted," Spates said.

Spates said the new comprehensive plan could take 12 to 18 months to complete.

"We need to take a look at our zoning ordinance," he said. "It hasn't been updated in a long time and we need to see if we need to make some changes to those zones."

Spates stated the public could help develop the comprehensive plan. Ross said Farmville: This Place Matters plans to help as well.

"We are certainly going to monitor the progress of that to make sure the comprehensive plan looks very closely at zoning," said Ross.

Spates stated the comprehensive plan may eliminate the the proposals when it's finished.

Spates said, "Depending on what the zoning ordinance comes back and says, when they do the final, whether or not the project would still be a viable project in this zone."



LUPD plans to enforce pedestrian safety

West Third Street traffic light installed in response

New stoplights were put in at the intersection outside of Third Street Brewing Company and the Valero gas station.

RACHAEL POOLE | THE ROTUNDA

by Christine Rindfleisch | News Editor | @longwoodrotunda

With concerns for pedestrian safety brought to the attention of the Longwood University Police Department (LUPD), LUPD has worked with Facilities Management to add additional crosswalks to keep students and staff safe, according to LUPD Col. Bob Beach.

"In the last say three years I have probably gotten 40-50 complaints outside of my officers, who are always concerned and complaining about it, too, but the last one was actually (an) employee of the university who was coming down West Third Street and a student was crossing going down to the (High Bridge) lofts and really was doing the phone thing and stepped out and started to cross and she almost hit him," said Beach.

A pedestrian's right-of-way begins once they enter the crosswalk after taking note of incoming traffic, Beach stated.

"I see a half dozen (pedestrians not utilizing the cross walk) a day, but we are moving in that direction, and I can tell you that it is only going to get more intense as the congestion becomes more of an issue for us," said Beach. "Just because there is a cross walk and just because there is a light does not mean that you get to just step right out into the traffic and cause people to have to slam on the brakes."

In addition to the crosswalks, Facilities Management has installed black chains to funnel pedestrians to the crosswalks rather than stepping out into the street too early, according to Beach.

Beach emphasized skateboarders and longboarders cannot ride the boards in streets and crosswalks as it is a law.

In addition to the intersection at West Third Street, LUPD sees incidents with pedestrians occurring on High Street, Main Street and Griffin Boulevard, according to Beach.

When LUPD sees a pedestrian not utilizing the cross walk, crossing a road distracted from typically a cell phone, LUPD stops them and warns them, Beach stated.

"If we find that they are a frequent flyer

and keep on abusing it, there is nothing that prevents us (from) bringing them up on judicial charges, on charges internal to the campus by not following direction," said Beach.

With the addition of the High Bridge Lofts, owned by Walk2Campus, opening in Aug. 2017, the pedestrian traffic has increased crossing West Third Street, according to Beach.

"Pedestrian safety is also a great concern of ours," said Michelle Donnelly, property manager of Walk2Campus.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24 a new traffic light in front of the High Bridge Lofts was installed.

"We informed all of our new residents at High Bridge Lofts that there would be a traffic light and crosswalks installed as soon as the power company and town were able to get them in, so the number of folks expressing concern has been minimal," said Donnelly.

Conrad Brinkman, a junior communication studies major and current resident of the High Bridge Lofts, stated the addition of the traffic light will help crossing West Third Street.

"It's difficult crossing the street for my 8 a.m.s and when I come back around lunch time," said Brinkman.

"Before (the traffic light was installed) with

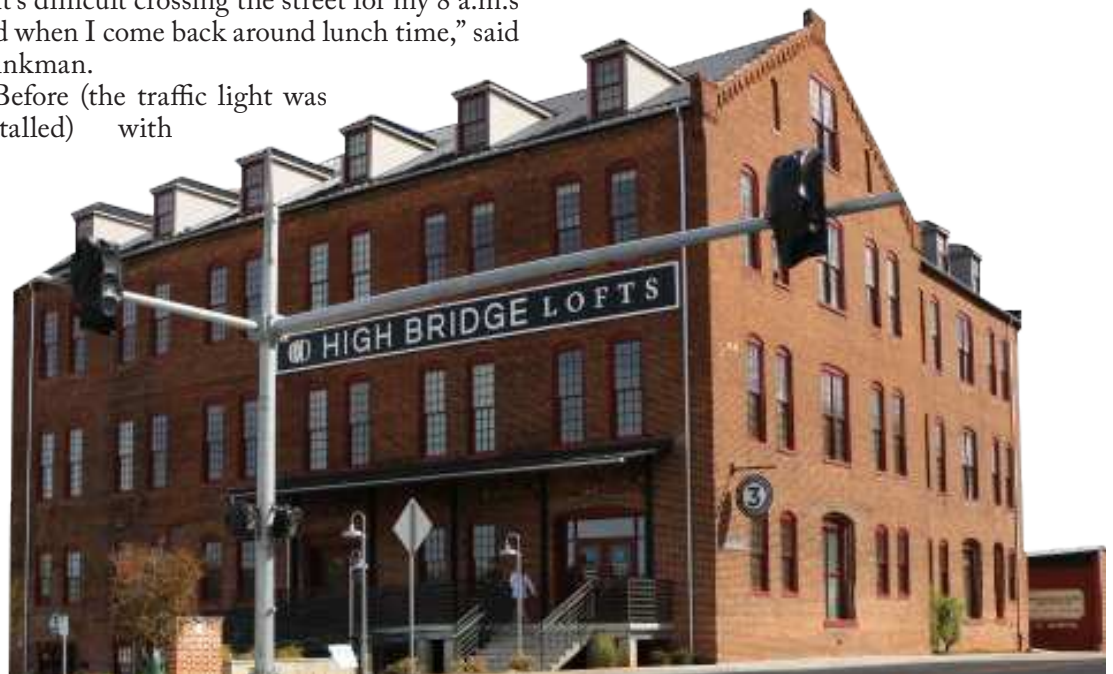
just the crosswalk, no one would stop and let people walk, which was dangerous and frustrating for students," said Megan Ginty, a junior liberal studies major who also is a resident of the High Bridge Lofts.

According to Beach, LUPD has worked with the Farmville Police Department for the past two years developing a plan to combat pedestrian safety.

"We have been talking about pedestrian safety for about a year and a half, and laying out a plan to address those areas where pedestrian safety becomes a factor, and establishing those secure crosswalks by putting lights up and marking the crosswalks," said Beach.

The safety of a person is reliant among themselves mostly in addition to law enforcement, according to Beach.

"There is an issue of respect involved in this too, respecting the other people that are out using the roads and using the resources of the campus," said Beach.



RACHAEL POOLE | THE ROTUNDA

Residents of High Bridge Lofts have voiced concerns about crossing West Third Street toward campus.

Survey: Meal Exchange

Received mixed reviews

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar | News Staff | @JesseKellar

In an effort to allow students to use meal plan swipes for more options other than Dorrill Dining Hall, Longwood University piloted its meal exchange program in the fall of 2017.

The swipes may be used at Outta Here in the basement of Dorrill Dining Hall, Greens to Go in the Lanker Student Union or the P.O.D. Market in Lancer Park, according to Grant Avent, the general manager for dining services. Under the program, there are three options at both locations.

The Rotunda recently conducted a small, non-scientific survey, and questioned 89 students on their opinions and usage of the program.

According to the survey, 42.7 percent of students use the program frequently, defined as three to four times a week. Another 30.3 percent do so very frequently, defined as five to seven times a week. The remaining 27 percent do so rarely to never, defined as zero to two times a week.

Additionally, the survey asked students their opinion on the options available. The average rating of the options available among those surveyed was 2.41 out of five. The most common rating was a three out of five, with 40.4 percent of students. An additional 19.1 percent rated the options a four, while 25.8 percent of students rated the options a two. The remaining 14.6 percent of students rated the options a one.

Sophomore Katie Kline rated the options a four.

"I think it's awesome that Greens to Go takes meal swipes now," Kline said. "It makes it super quick and easy to grab a meal if I don't want to

eat at D Hall."

Freshmen Crystal Rosenbaum and Junior Judy May stated they would prefer more options.

"Add more vegetarian options and fresher fruits and vegetables," Rosenbaum said.

A lunch or dinner at the dining hall without a meal plan is currently \$8.50, according to the Dorrill Dining Hall website.

"Options could include the other options within the Stu, more options within the P.O.D., and also select options at Chick-fil-a and Moe's (Southwest Grill)," May said. "I wish I could use this fun new opportunity more, but I do not enjoy the meals that are included. I'm not sure why the salads could not include that (are the) customized ones. I do not like the salads included, so I've only done the meal exchange twice."

May also brought up the lack of options at Longwood Village.

"Please bring some sort of food option to the village. We are required to buy a meal plan, yet we have no food in the vicinity that uses the plan," May said. "Even a convenience store in the clubhouse would be so great. But it is so unfair that we're required to purchase this without any options closer than a ten minute drive."

The survey also inquired about the technical aspect of the swipes. Only 11.2 percent of those surveyed said they had logistical issues with



Students can now use meal swipes to get meals from the P.O.D. in Lancer Park and Greens to Go in the Student Union.

the meal exchange.

"My card had to be reset and it took over 20 minutes, I wouldn't have waited but they took my ID so I couldn't leave," said Senior Kelsi Forehand commented.

The survey also inquired if the program should continue, to which 85.4 percent of students said yes and 14.6 percent said no.

Overall satisfaction ratings averaged 3.05 out of five.

"I think that there are many students who love it," May said. "I also think there are many students who wish that they could use it, but don't enjoy the options included."

Junior Taylor Titi voiced additional concerns about the meal periods.

"There should not be meal periods," Titi stated. "I pay nearly \$1,800 on meal swipes. I should be able to use them how often and how many times I want during a day."

Continue to follow *The Rotunda* for more updates.



Students can now use meal swipes to get meals from the P.O.D. in Lancer Park and Greens to Go in the Student Union.

EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Social media for the better

Dr. Josie Ahlquist visited campus



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Josie Ahlquist talks to students about womans' positive and negative encounters on the internet.

by Rae Mundie | Features Staff | @rjmundie

To better understand the relationship women have with the internet and social networks, Longwood's Digital Education Center (DEC) brought nationally renowned speaker Dr. Josie Ahlquist to talk to students about technology and how to better themselves over social media.

As the keynote speaker for the university's Digital Citizenship Week, Ahlquist led the discussion on Wednesday evening in Blackwell Hall.

"My approach to educating students on social media is one of empowerment and empathy. I throw out past attempts that include what not to post, shame or scare tactics around social media - because who wants to be scolded and talked down to for an hour," said Ahlquist.

Using personal stories to connect with the students at the event, Ahlquist's

presentation titled, "Being a Chick in Cyberspace," opened the eyes of attendees who didn't realize the effect social media can have.

"Social media affects people, you don't really think about it, but it does," said senior nursing student, Celeste Truban.

Ahlquist examined relatable social media platforms frequented by college students, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Bringing in her own background as a blogger and higher education consultant, Ahlquist said she started her business using Twitter. She encouraged the audience to take advantage of connecting through social media with popular hashtags or following businesses and people in order to find jobs.

"Let your values fuel what you post, so your digital reputation is exactly what you want the world to know about you," said Ahlquist.

Much of the crowd contained

students from sororities that required their members to attend the talk. While the presentation focused on women, the overall message of making one's social media more useful carried weight for the whole audience.

"There were times it was more for females, but she did also give advice for the guys," said Marshall.

Being able to find a job by using one's favorite social media wasn't something anyone expected to hear about at the presentation. Dustin Pechart, a junior in liberal studies concentrating in elementary education, said the event should be something mandatory for the campus, not just the fraternities and sororities on campus. He found the event to be helpful for using technology, as well as for working alongside women in his career and understanding their perspective.

DIGILab opens

by David Pettyjohn | Features Staff | @PettyjohnDavid

The Greenwood Library at Longwood University now has a new addition to its facilities. The DIGILab, first unveiled in September this semester, brings new supplies and equipment to students using the library for projects. The lab is run by Longwood's Digital Education Collaborative (DEC), which is the information and technology support group on campus.

Ashlyn Honor is an instructional technological specialist at the DEC, and also the primary staff member for issues related to the DIGILab. She described the DIGILab as being a "makerspace."

"This is a space that students can come and use technology and equipment that they might not have regular access to elsewhere. There is a 3D printer, sewing machines, vinyl cutters and more."

Though the larger library itself has its own 3D printers, the DIGILab has a wider selection of appliances that students might need in order to complete their projects. The DIGILab is also the only makerspace in the library, and students can use this equipment free of charge.

The DIGILab operates on a different schedule than the rest of the library. The DIGILab is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and the operating hours on those days are much more limited than those for the general library. The DIGILab is also available on Tuesday and Friday, provided that the student arranges an appointment in advance.

Honor said that the DIGILab "is staffed by (herself), two graduate assistants, and an undergraduate intern."

These are the primary staff members at the DIGILab, though Honor added that there are other employees from the DEC that work there, as well. The Instructional Technology Collaborators (ITC) also work at the DIGILab.

The ITC are undergraduate students who provide technical support for faculty, staff and students at Longwood. They are different from the Residential Technology Assistants, who provide tech support services for residential students at the university.

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Panty Styles



Classic Briefs



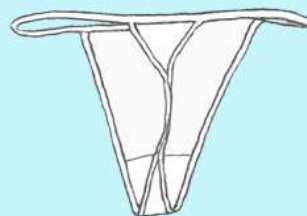
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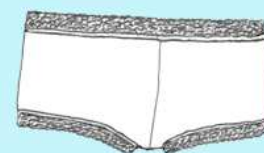
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High-Cut Briefs



Thong (Rear View)



Boyshorts

Beauty Community

Silk panties with a twist of nightmare

by Paulina Marinero | Opinions Editor | @MarineroPaulina

COURTESY OF WIKI

Preference on underwear could be based solely on the design, the occasion or how it fits your body just right. While it's fun to hunt for underwear during the Victoria's Secret 7 for \$27 deal, you need to keep in mind the type of fabric and pressure you may be applying to your vagina.

This is imperative to the health and happiness of your womanly parts. How can you possibly keep your vagina from becoming your worst ex-best friend?

Silk underwear in any form - bikini, thong or hipster - can suffocate your vagina, inhibiting moisture from leaving your vagina throughout the day.

An article written by The Huffington Post featured woman's expert Dr. Donnica Moore speaking about the common mistakes women typically aren't aware of while choosing their underwear.

"Silk and synthetic fabrics are not breathable, which increases the risk of moisture being trapped and retained, which can create a yeast or bacterial infection," said Moore.

The logic behind this doesn't seem so far-fetched. Naturally, our womanly part is an average 3-4 inch hole facing down. It's completely normal to have discharge throughout the day. In fact, it might be what's healthiest to keep old discharge from growing in your vagina for days.

With discharge being a healthy and natural form of washing your

vagina out, silk underwear can prevent old discharge from even leaving. Silk is comprised of a dense fabric restricting anything past its barrier, keeping bacteria smothered and circling your vagina bound for an infection. Fungus is a natural supplement in our body that stays dormant and unnoticeable until it grows excessively from a large amount of moisture created by things like dense silk. Common side effects of a yeast infection, according to Planned Parenthood medical advisors, are itching, burning sensations while you pee, redness and in extreme cases, sores that grow around the skin of the vagina.

Not to mention with dense fabric-like silk, it can be pressed tightly around your skin cutting off circulation and increase the chances of irritation due to friction. Picking your wedgie (vagina-wedgie) can be an awkward scene in public when the irritation turns into a stinging sensation. Avoid those situations by wearing comfortable and breathable underwear!

To prevent silk from ruining your private party, shop for underwear that holds a cotton liner underneath the vaginal area. Yes, you can wear silk panties as long as there is a cotton liner but keep in mind the most important part to protect is the circulation of moisture flowing in and out. Even if you think your cotton liner is wrapped too tight, take it off and try a size bigger.

In a Self Health online article, UCLA Assistant clinical professor Alexander Chiang, specializing in gynecology, said, "Generally, cotton underwear is recommended since it has a natural moisture wicking and drying effect. And it's cheap."

Do your research. A pair of lace V-string panties from Victoria's Secret can cost you up to \$16.50 while Fruit of the Loom, a clothing company specifically in the manufacturing of underwear, offers six microfiber and cotton panties for just \$12 that you can purchase online or at your local Walmart.

Good news, you don't have to throw away all the sexy, silky lingerie you may have stored in your closet for those special occasions. Wearing silk underwear every once in awhile hasn't been proven to be a bad thing either, moderation is key.

Go ahead and strut your stuff in

those panties you decided to treat yourself with. A healthy body is a happy mind, and a vagina being put through misery can be the definition of an internal nightmare. Let yourself breathe up top and down below!



COURTESY OF K-MART

Trending

Budding jewelry designer grows on campus

by Vivian Gray | Opinions Staff | @50shadesofgray3

Over the summer, psychology sophomore Dyllan Gowin, a Mechanicsville native, started her own jewelry business on Longwood's campus and ever since the first week of school, her business has been booming.

Girls all around campus have been rocking Gowin's hand-made wrap style necklaces. Gowin started making her necklaces in August after gaining inspiration from Richmond's popular and well-loved local jewelry company On U.

However, the On U. necklaces that inspired Gowin are priced from \$30 to \$140. As a college student, purchasing expensive clothing and jewelry is difficult when living on a tight budget, balancing school, books and food. Instead, Gowin's trendy and affordable necklaces

The simple necklaces are meant to provide a quick, easy and versatile option for spicing up an outfit.

start at \$7 for single wrap necklaces and \$10 for double wrap or metal necklaces.

Though she loves wearing jewelry and trying out new trends, Gowin said she didn't want to drop an immense amount of money on one necklace. Therefore, she started crafting her own necklaces with supplies - metal string, colored beads and pendants - from Ben Franklins, a reasonably priced crafting store in Mechanicsville. As she began to wear her creations, clients rolled in.

"I started doing them all the time then one person asked to buy one from me then when I finally got to school everyone started asking me for them," said Gowin.

She said she had around 20 customers in the past month, despite the size of campus and timing in the semester, earning around \$100. However, designing her necklaces aren't just her business but one of her

favorite past times.

"It gives me extra cash to do things, and it's my hobby I like doing it, so I really don't mind making them for people," said Gowin.

In the future, Gowin said she felt like she could eventually grow her business on campus, excited to see other women wearing her jewelry and meet new people as her jewelry becomes more popular.

"My close friends will text me and say that one of their friends saw my necklaces and that they want one. People come up to me on campus and say I want one of your necklaces," said Gowin.

If you decide to order a necklace, you can customize it to suit your needs.

Gowin offers a range of colors for beads, pendants and strings. For Gowin's wrap style necklaces, the wearer wraps the unclasped necklace around the neck before closing it by connecting a bead on one end of the necklace through a small loop at the other end of the necklace.

The simple necklaces are meant to provide a quick, easy and versatile option for spicing up an outfit. One day you can wear the necklace as a choker, another as a longer necklace or even as a bracelet - dressing an outfit up or down.

Gowin constantly updates her necklaces, thinking of more styles and keeping up with trends. I usually style Gowin's necklaces with a baggy over-sized t-shirt and running shorts to class, and it even ties my outfit together on casual days. You can also style these necklaces with any dress, romper or even over a sweater with jeans.

If you are interested in purchasing a piece of her jewelry, you can contact her via Instagram, @dyllgo.



VIVIAN GRAY | THE ROTUNDA

Sophomore Dyllan Gowin's different styles of necklaces are ready for sale.



RILEIGH GLASCOW | THE ROTUNDA

The Rotunda's Vivian Gray rocked Gowin's black double wrap string necklace paired with a light pink sweatshirt perfect for fall weather.

"We won't limit that right"

As the NFL protests, Longwood athletics says student-athletes can demonstrate freely



CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA

Longwood women's soccer stood during during the national anthem ahead of a home match. Director of Athletics Troy Austin said Longwood athletics stated student-athletes are allowed to protest during the national anthem, though they are encouraged to discuss it collectively first.



THOMAS J. RUSSO | USA TODAY SPORTS | REUTERS

The Cleveland Browns team stand and kneel during the National Anthem before the start of their game against the Indianapolis Colts at Lucas Oil Stadium, Sept. 24, 2017.

by Patrick Sanderson | Sports Staff | @psanderson20

Amid ongoing controversy surrounding protests during the national anthem in the NFL, Longwood University chose to permit any similar demonstrations by student-athletes, according to Director of Athletics Troy Austin.

While Longwood President W. Taylor Reveley IV hasn't issued a public statement regarding the protests, Austin said he has met with Reveley and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson to discuss the issues internally.

"It's not an area we take lightly because it affects so many people, our student-athletes and our constituents," said Austin.

Their discussions concluded student-athletes can demonstrate freely, as long as they know what they are protesting and are aware of any criticisms they may receive.

"The ability to protest is an area of free speech, and we won't limit that right," said Austin. "But we also know this is an environment of higher education, so if you plan to protest, understand what you're

doing, why you're doing it, what the repercussions could be and what other opportunities you may have to deliver your message."

Austin said he reached out to other Big South institutions on how they're handling the issue, saying they all are approaching it differently depending on their situations.

In August 2016, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick sat down during the national anthem before a preseason game to protest against racial injustice and police brutality. After a former US Army Green Beret Nate Boyer met with Kaepernick to discuss his concerns, instead of sitting, Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem before his first regular season game to mirror the way a soldier kneels before a fallen soldier's grave.

In a campaign rally for Alabama Republican Senator Luther Strange on Sept. 22, President Donald Trump called on NFL owners to fire players for kneeling for the national anthem.

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He said, “Wouldn’t you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, ‘Get that son of a bitch off the field right now?’ Out. He’s Fired!”

On Sept. 23, the president followed up on his comments by denouncing Kaepernick’s protest on Twitter, calling further attention to the issue, resulting in players and owners around the league to drop to one knee before and during the national anthem in support of their right to free speech.

More players around the NFL joined the protest. They even prompted teams, including the Pittsburgh Steelers and Seattle Seahawks, to stay in their locker rooms for the duration of the anthem.

His comments caused many professional athletes around the sports world to speak out against Trump’s remarks, including NBA star LeBron James.

“For him to use this platform to divide us even more is not something I can stand for and not something I can be quiet about,” James said on Uninterrupted, a podcast and video outlet for professional athletes.

Though the protests during the national anthem at professional

sporting events garnered more attention, Austin compared them to the average pregame routine.

“Everyone has set up pregame routines, and while this is a more volatile issue, it’s no different,” said Austin. “Like any type of pregame warm-up, it’s pretty ritualized.”

No side is perfect. I think all humans can learn from one another.

– Bryan Gee, men’s basketball

Austin said he urged teams at Longwood to have conversations about this subject, saying it could become a distraction if people are not in agreement. He specifically pointed to programs with a larger platform, such as the men’s basketball team.

The men’s basketball team carefully considered both sides and discussed as a team the issues regarding the protests during the national anthem, according to redshirt junior

guard Bryan Gee.

“We sat down as a team and kind of tried to figure out what we were going to decide to do and didn’t want anybody raising their fist or kneeling without talking about it first. We wanted to all be a team about it.” Gee said.

After some discussion, Gee said they decided it was in their best interest to not demonstrate any protests during the national anthem this season.

“I feel like our men’s basketball brand doesn’t have a true foundation yet, and we all as a team collectively felt like that type of attention just wasn’t necessary to bring towards ourselves,” said Gee.

Austin said he encouraged teams to collectively make decisions on any potential protests during the national anthem. Though teams as a whole conducted the conversations, he said individuals are still permitted to demonstrate themselves.

Even though it is unlikely protests will be held, Gee said he believed the discussions helped better understand the issue and viewpoints from opposite sides.

Gee said, “No side is perfect. I think all humans can learn from one another.”



TIM IRELAND | ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) kneels down with teammates before the U.S. national anthem was played ahead of an NFL football game against Miami Dolphins at Wembley Stadium in London, Oct. 1, 2017.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

MEN’S SOCCER

Wednesday, Oct. 25

@ Radford T 1-1

Saturday, Oct. 28

@ Gardner-Webb L 2-1

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Saturday, Oct. 21

@ Gardner-Webb T 1-1

Friday, Oct. 26

vs. Charleston Southern W 3-0

FIELD HOCKEY

Saturday, Oct. 21

@ Kent State L 3-2

Sunday, Oct. 29

@ VCU L 0-1

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

Friday, Oct. 28

@ Big South Championships

10th

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

Friday, Oct. 13

@ Big South Championships

10th

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