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The

ROTUNDA

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SGA SHOWDOWN

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TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

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CONTACT INFORMATION
therotundaonline@gmail.com
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Farmville's SOUP

Event awards \$2,500 worth of grants

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar | News Staff | @JesseKellar

With a goal to receive community feedback, the Farmville Downtown Partnership hosted its third annual SOUP event on March 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with about 190 people, according to John Burton, program manager for the Farmville Downtown Partnership.

According to Burton, the SOUP program was based off a model originally from Detroit, Michigan. "We first started three years ago with one of our volunteers," Burton said. "We thought that it would be a great thing to enhance the community and really get a lot of community driven feedback."

During the event, community members and teams proposed ideas for community improvement, according to Jen Cox, vice president of the Farmville Downtown Partnership's board. The proposals were sent to the partnership ahead of time and four of the ten were picked to be presented at the event.

"We had 10 proposals this year, from those we were able to choose four," said Cox. "They were able to present and we were able to award two grants and were pretty excited about the turnout this year."

Out of the four proposals who presented, two received grants, according to Burton. The first place went to Central Virginia Young Authors with a grant of \$1,500 and the second grant gave \$1,000 toward building a butterfly garden. The money for the event and grants come from sponsors and the Farmville Downtown Partnership's budget, according to Burton.

The soup itself was donated by

Aramark at Longwood University, according to Cox.

Burton said the Farmville Downtown Partnership planned to continue holding annual SOUP events.

The proposals can come from anyone in the community, according to Burton and Cox.

"We hope that since it's such a community-driven event, we can see Longwood representation here. I would like to see more student proposals," said Burton.

Cox added, "I think the main goal is to make sure the community comes together and feels empowered that they can help projects they want to see in our community."

According to Cox, the event was run mostly by volunteers.

"We had a committee of about eight people, plus we had a lot of volunteers the night of to help us with set up and clean up," said Cox. "Part of our goal with Farmville Downtown Partnership is that we're using volunteers at lots of different events all year depending upon what you're passionate about."

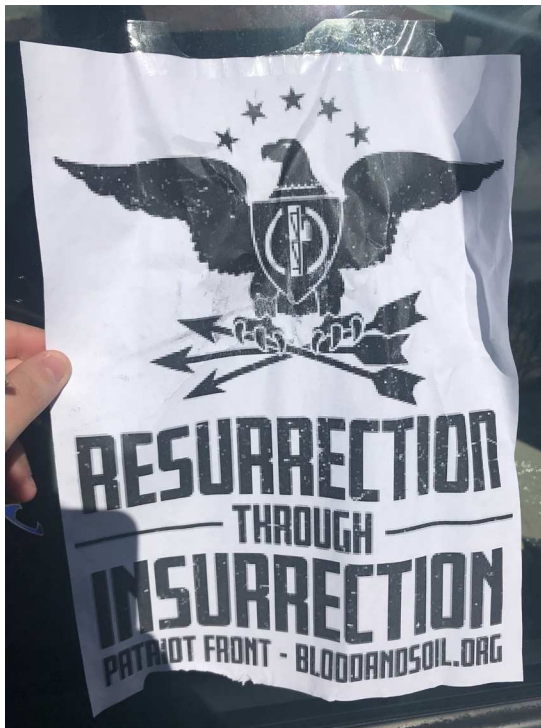
Beyond SOUP, the Farmville Downtown Partnership tries to foster a revitalization of the town's historic downtown area and develop its "commercial and cultural heart" by hosting a variety of events throughout the year, according to its website.

The Farmville Downtown Partnership's next events will be "Players at the Plaza," according to Burton. Musicians will be hosted by the plaza with the train caboose by High Bridge Trail in April, May and September.



JESSE PLICHTA-KELLAR | THE ROTUNDA
Central Virginia Young Authors receives the top grant with \$1500.

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COURTESY OF SAMANTHA RINCHETTI



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

White Nationalist posters were found near front of Ruffner and the Landings entrance on Main Street.

Several versions of white nationalist flyers were found in the Midtown Landings and outside of Ruffner Hall by students and a Longwood police officer March 22 and 23, according to Longwood Chief of Police Col. Robert Beach.

When asked about any previous signs of white nationalist material, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson said unapproved flyers have been “left in the library or around campus” in the past. Pierson didn’t confirm whether the unapproved flyers were white nationalist-related.

One flyer was reported to the Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) by a student who found one in the parking lot at Midtown Landings, and an LUPD officer discovered another flyer taped to the Ruffner Hall sign alongside High Street.

The material advertised the group Patriot Front, displaying their website on the bottom.

Patriot Front’s official manifesto stated, “Our mission is a hard reset on the nation we see today - a return to the traditions and virtues of our forefathers. The same spirit that urged our ancestors onward to create this nation will once again be brought to light, and new America will be built within its current dilapidated, shameful iteration.”

One version of the flyer makes several references to Nazi Germany with the slogan, “Blood and Soil,” as well as its eagle symbol. The eagle is referred to as the German Eagle, used in Nazi propaganda, according to Dr. Melissa Kravetz, assistant professor of Modern Europe.

According to Beach, the department is investigating, but no criminal act has occurred.

“We actually have some surveillance footage that we have some leads on the person whose been doing this,” he said.

The suspect hasn’t been determined to have a connection to Longwood or Farmville, according to Beach.

Beach said he wants to discuss the intent behind the flyers with the suspect as well as the posting policies for Longwood and the Town of Farmville.

“The most significant thing for me is to make sure it is done legally and peacefully to support their right for the freedom of speech but also the right of the rest of the population to be able to live a peaceful life and get their education,” said Beach.

Kravetz said she called the police about the flyers on Friday, March 23 after she was informed about them from one of her former students, whose name was not provided. She said she wanted to “make sure they were handling the situation seriously.”

Kravetz then emailed history major students instructing them to inform LUPD of any fliers they see in or around Ruffner Hall and to not tear them down for evidence purposes.

“I just wanted to make our students aware of it but also mostly not to scare them but mostly say look if you see another one of these posters it is not a Longwood approved poster,” said Kravetz.

Beach said, “If they see someone doing it or they see this material first of all don’t touch it, don’t take it down or remove it just call the police and let us know where it is at.”

Beach said LUPD is documenting all flyers and removing them if not on a public posting area.

Communication studies junior Samantha Rinchetti said she found a flyer on Thursday, March 22 and tore it down without reporting to police. Instead, she posted on her personal Twitter and Facebook accounts after previous instances she felt the situation was ignored.

“I don’t need any more emails saying all posters have be approved by Lankford posting,” said Rinchetti.

Rinchetti said she felt anger when finding the poster.

“Rip those things (flyers) down they don’t have any place here and will never have any place here,” said Rinchetti.

Beach said he wanted to emphasize that if students see something to say something and can do so anonymously to LUPD.



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

DARST AND HYMAN FIGHT FOR SGA PRESIDENT

by James Spence | News Staff | @longwoodrotunda



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

Student Government Association (SGA) presidential candidates Josh Darst and Joe Hyman debated on March 27 at 4 pm in Blackwell Hall.

As the Student Government Association (SGA) election polls opened on Tuesday, March 27 both SGA Presidential candidates Joe Hyman and Josh Darst debated at 4:00 p.m. prior to the polls opening at 5:30 p.m. in front of about 70 people. Jonathan Page, director of citizen leadership and social justice education, moderated.

Both candidates are rising seniors, have served on the SGA executive board and felt strongly about the role of SGA in the Longwood and Farmville community, the relationship between students and the Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) and the budget for student

organizations.

In his opening statement, Joe Hyman said if elected he would “encourage Longwood to be open minded and to include all students regardless of identity and to rid ourselves of stereotypes”.

Josh Darst began his opening statement by thanking those that were gathered and telling them some about himself. As a longtime member of SGA, as well as one of its executive members, he felt that only the executive members seemed to be the one with a voice. If elected, Darst pledged that he would “remove the stigma around SGA”.

Darst said he would like to see “a higher retention of candidates, as well as many new faces and a higher quality from those serving” on SGA.

With that Darst also included his plan of live streaming all SGA meetings through Facebook to add transparency. He also said he wanted to hold office hours so students could talk to him personally about issues they were seeing on campus.

Both candidates wanted to see campus exercise their first amended rights further.

“I’m a political science major, so I know the ins-and-outs of politics,” said Hyman. “I want to protect student’s first amendment rights, everyone has a voice.”

“There are a lot more restrictions now and some are justified. SGA is outside of politics, it’s really more like a business,” said Darst.

When it came to the budget, Darst wanted to see more emphasis on balancing the budget while Hyman wanted to see the five tiered system changed.

“We need to emphasize fiscal responsibility. It’s a balancing act and we need to balance

needs. It’s not a perfect science and the pot of money is not getting bigger,” said Darst.

“I understand the tier five system for organizations, but I think it’s wrong. Tiers are wrong, if one organization is more active on campus than they will receive more money,” said Hyman.

In reference to off-campus organizations Hyman said, “It is unacceptable to negatively refer to other groups...we need more organizations on campus.”

“One group is sanctioned, another is not, what we’re doing is not working. We need to encourage IFC (Interfraternity Council) to make change and to have a voice,” said Darst.

While both candidates emphasized the need for a better relationship between students and LUPD Darst stated “students often feel at odds with LUPD”.

Darst said he wanted to see parking tickets decrease in price from \$50 to \$25.

“We’ve made a lot of progress on LUPD being responsive,” said Hyman. “Ultimately LUPD’s responsibility is to protect and serve. Behind the scenes parking and ensuring students are safe late at night is still an issue.”

Hyman proposed a cookout where students could interact with LUPD outside of their normal work hours and see them with their families.

In his closing statement, Darst reiterated his desire for transparency with SGA as well reinforcing the importance fairness and service in the organization. He believes that his experience and skills make him the ideal candidate for SGA president.

“We agree on many things but do we need a new look, a new lens, a new way,” said Hyman in his closing statement.



Some of the topics discussed were campus safety, unrecognized Greek organizations, and the future of SGA.



LU & HSC FEEL THE HIGH HEEL PAIN FOR SEXUAL ASSULT & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JACOB PUTERKO | THE ROTUNDA

In an effort to bring awareness to rape, sexual assault and gender violence, Walk A Mile in Her Shoes requires all participants, even males to wear high heels and walk one mile.



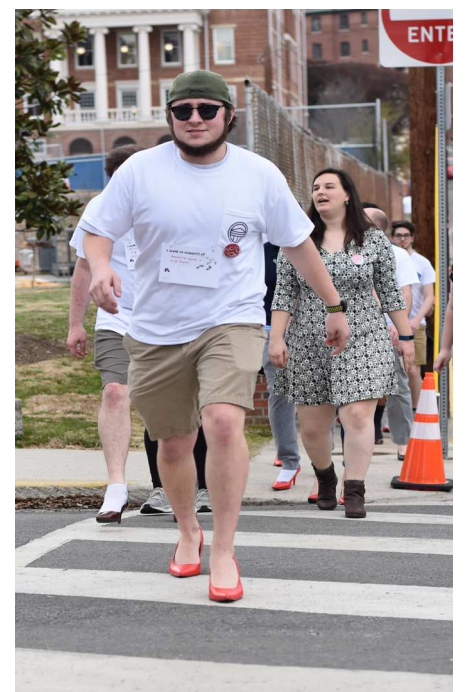
After the walk, participants check their worn heels.



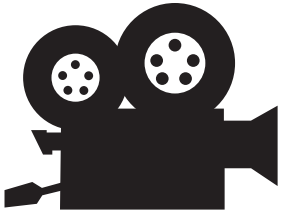
Isaiah Wiggins of Gamma Psi struggles to keep his balance while wearing the heels.



Social Justice Education, Diversity & Inclusion hosted the event.



Participants walked in front of French Hall after circling around campus.



THE REEL LIFE

Movie reviews by Jacob DiLandro | A&E Staff | @spongejay1

"Ready Player One"

Ernest Cline's pop culture mecca that is the novel "Ready Player One" would seem impossible to adapt for most filmmakers. While most of it has made the transition to the screen, much has also been altered with Cline on board to help write the film. And if any director can get the pop culture rights and pull off such a bizarrely over the top adventure, it would be Steven Spielberg. How close did he get to the top score?

The biggest hurdle would immediately seem be the digital world of the Oasis; the online virtual reality world that everyone lives, eats, parties and works in. Visually, it's absolutely stunning. Thanks to a mixture of particle effects, pixilations, and a purposefully cartoony sense of style, the visuals maintain a pleasing look throughout the film without dipping into the uncanny valley.

Characters have this kind of day glow, chunky appearance to them. Everything looks, appropriately, like it would in a video game. The entire world is brimming with unique colors, effects, and small details put there to make it simply a joy to look at. Spielberg also makes sure to continue to shoot the film like a film even in its digital moments, maintaining a consistency in terms of cinematography and style that keeps things from feeling disjointed.

Blending real-life film-making and the digital world are nothing new, but some of the unique ways

cinematographer Janusz Kamiński and production designer Adam Stockhausen do this are just jaw dropping. Keep an eye out for the first scenes in the Halliday Journals in particular.

Musically things are largely positive. Alan Silvestri keeps things light with a score that mixes cues from famous 80's movies like "Back to the Future" and electronic beats, while also putting the requisite popular songs in place for montages. However, some sequences in the first act lack music when it seems like they should have them. It's possible it's a stylistic choice, but it seems odd nonetheless.

The film's biggest problem is its first act. Not that it's entirely bad, but it overall feels far too rushed. Things do pick up, though, and the pacing evens out to a much more manageable degree. A handful of the film's side characters also don't see much use, but the time that they are on-screen is amusing and well done.

Tye Sheridan's performance in the film could also be compared to the film's structure. He's talking too fast initially but he eventually grows. Olivia Cooke and Lena Waithe are the absolute standouts as Art3mis and Aech, respectively. Ben Mendelsohn's villainous Nolan is a deliciously evil bad guy who fits all the perfectly over the top stereotypes without ever making them too clichéd.

Despite the film not featuring any central character in the traditional sense, the cast



manages to grow and become likable due to their interactions with each other. It keeps things from feeling stale, and manages to bring a lot of great lines and moments of humor to the table.

One of the film's best aspects is one seemingly impossible to pull off for a film juggling so much pop culture. While there is the sheer joy that comes from seeing things like the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles fighting alongside Chucky and Master Chief, or Akira's bike weaving in between the legs of the Jurassic Park T-Rex or King Kong, these items are never window dressings. Even in the simplest of moments, they serve as methods for the plot to progress, focusing on them for a short time before moving on.

It all manages to come together in such a wonderful mixture of heart, action, and humor that truly feels like something only Spielberg could have done. It takes a deft hand to balance it all, and he's done so excellently, leading to not only some moments of watery eyes, but moments of genuine cheering as well.

It is bizarre though that for a film with such a large scope and visual detail, that the opening logos of the film and its end credits are so disappointingly bland. No, it doesn't impact the film, but it's a bizarre decision nonetheless.

"Ready Player One" overcomes its rushed first act and the few underused side characters, as well as the woes of those dismayed by the marketing to deliver a solid action spectacle film with the same level of engaging characters, devilishly great villains, jaw dropping visuals and emotional through lines that only Spielberg can bring to the table. Bursting at the seams with splendor, "Ready Player One" is a treat for every sense and every dimension.



4/5

WTEN LANCERS LOOK TO CONTINUE GROWTH DESPITE YOUNG ROSTER



Freshman Kaori Terunuma hits the tennis ball across the net during practice.

CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA

by Kurt Martin | Sports Staff | @lamKurt14

The Longwood women's tennis team is the closest example of the dictionary's definition of a young team from experience.

This season, the Lancers have zero upperclassmen, relying on a roster consisting of two sophomores and six freshmen. For second-year head coach Maria Lopez, the transition's stumbles are clear.

"I think it's been pretty challenging for our team when the majority of the players are coming in as freshmen. The way that you play as a junior coming into college is very different than the experience you will have competing at the collegiate level," Lopez said.

She added, "We are somehow showing some signs of maturity in some positions, but we are struggling to really understand what the environment needs to accomplish more."

Sophomores Jamie Breunig and Marija Venta are the players on the roster with the most experience and look to use it for the team's benefit.

Breunig said, "We're trying to show them the lessons we learned last year before they have to experience it themselves, and were just using all of our knowledge to help them out."

Venta said the pair learned from last year's seniors, Paloma Altorre, Anna Pelak and Mason Thomas.

"They gave us a lot of knowledge, so we are trying to do the same with our freshmen, but of course we don't have as much knowledge as they (seniors) did," Venta said. "We're doing the best with what we know."

The team, however, has faith in its coach that she will lead them in the right direction.

Venta said Lopez relates to the student-athletes off the court "as people," and shares her tennis knowledge on the court. "(Lopez) gives us a lot of chances to become better," she said.

Breunig said, "She (Lopez) really puts her whole heart into this team, and she makes us her priority and goes out of her way to do extra things for us. Whenever we need help or extra time we can just go to her office, or she is always out on the court if we need extra time."

Lopez said she has grown in her time here at

Longwood, transitioning from an assistant to head coach mentality.

"This year, I am lucky enough to have Rodney (Duncan) help me because in my first year I was by myself," she said. "It's definitely challenged me to make some tougher decisions on an everyday basis than an assistant may not be exposed to."

"Last year, I had a more mature, older group and some of those tougher decisions I had to make were not shown as much, and this year they have been highlighted a little more, and it's definitely made me wiser and stronger with having to come up with solutions, and certain things we need to work on as a team, and I hope they can see that as players," Lopez said.

The Lancers currently sit at a 5-7 record overall with a 0-6 record in the Big South conference. With the home stretch before the Big South Tournament approaching, the team isn't focused solely on winning, looking to build consistency and "keep growing," said the head coach.

"We talk about how we need to trust the process and not really focus on the outcome of the match," Lopez said. "We've spent a lot of time over the past few days getting back to the basics and understanding what we need to do in order to get results."

The team will take to the road for its next two matches against Hampton on March 30 and Maryland Eastern Shore on March 31 before ending the season with five straight home matches.

Venta said, "The two most important things for the upcoming matches are: just doing what we know because we already know a lot of things and just following through with what coach tells us to do, and we also need to be more confident because we are lacking that a little, so that everyone believes in their game, and perform the way they need to."

Jamie Breunig hard at work during practice last week" or "Jamie Breunig hair swings in the wind as she prepares to serve the ball across the net.



Tanja Skalda practices hard for the upcoming match between Liberty University, Tuesday April 3 at Longwood.



CLUB VOLLEYBALL LOOKS TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES IN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

by Patrick Sanderson | Sports Editor | @psanderson20

The Men's Club Volleyball team takes a quick break from practice to pose for a group picture

CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA

All it takes is a group of dedicated college athletes, money and a call for students to “#RushVB” to live out a dream of competing in a national tournament.

Last April, Longwood men's volleyball club made history by attending their first-ever national championships event in Kansas City, Mo. Club teams from different colleges around the nation flock by the hundreds to the epicenter of the tournament each year, with Longwood adding their name to the list.

The team is back for more this year, entering their name into the 2018 NCVF Volleyball Championships held in St. Louis, Mo.

According to the official NCVF championships website, this year's event is “record setting” with over 450 teams from around the nation participating. This number narrowly beats out last year's turnout, with just over 440 teams.

Men's volleyball club president and business senior Brian Craven said he recently had a meeting with Associate Director of Campus Recreation Marissa Musumeci to discuss the trip plans. Craven said although the tournament runs from April 12-14, they plan on leaving April 10th to manage their time better than last year.

“We're changing how we did it before, rather than driving through the night, we're going to drive halfway, get a hotel, and then finish in the morning,” Craven said. “It'll be a little more money, but it'll be safer.”

According to Craven, in his last year being club president, the process of entering the tournament requires a great amount of paperwork, including an enrollment verification form which ensures their status as a full-time student at Longwood.

Financially, Craven said the total amount for the trip will cost about \$3,000, which includes the hotel, gas, food, and entry fee

expenses. Although they have not reached the total expenses goal yet, Craven believes they will exceed the needed amount by creating a “Go Fund Me” page.

“We don't need too much (money) like we did last year. We're only, like, \$500 short, which we can definitely make up in a Go Fund Me,” said Craven. “I think we'll make a little bit more than that which will be good ... that way we don't have to pull out of pocket, and go out to one big team dinner.”

According to the club treasurer and Elementary Education sophomore Alex Flickinger, the money received by winning the Club Cup will help pay expenses for the total trip.

“With winning Club Cup every year, we get a little bit of extra money from the sports club council, which helps us with the fundraising for nationals,” Flickinger said.

The Club Cup is a points-based system, rewarding teams for their performances and extracurricular activities they do off the field or court. The points add up until a team is declared the winner at the end of each year. After winning the Club Cup, men's club volleyball has received a certain amount of money for their performances.

By attending the national championships for a second straight year, physical education and health junior Aaron Campbell hopes it will draw attention towards their program as they continue to see players graduate.

“Hopefully this will give us more funding to go out and do more tournaments, get more involved on campus, and get more people to join,” Campbell said. “Our team is dwindling in players, and with most of our starting team graduating, it'll be tough for us next year.”

With the season winding down and coming to a close, they have already planned to hand down the president role to Campbell, and vice

president position to Flickinger. Currently, the vice president role belongs to therapeutic recreation senior Coleman Paz.

After finishing 35th in the Division II group last year, they have their sights set to improve this year, as they believe their team this year is much stronger than last year, knowing they are able to compete at a high level.

“This is definitely one of the best teams we've had since I have been here,” Campbell said. “We might as well push to win it.”

The team plans on making the trip to nationals a yearly tradition, continuing a legacy started by a spontaneous idea last year.



CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA

Dajour Ashlock “DJ” sends the volleyball flying over the net during practice last Wednesday night in preparation for Nationals.



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