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The  
**ROTUNDA**

*Supporting others' talents since 1920*



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**BRINGING  
THE CROWD  
TO THEIR FEET**

MARCH 18, 2019  
VOL 97. ISSUE 18  
EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA



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## In SGA: Continued discussion on Fraternity and Sorority Life proposal

Kurt Martin | Assistant Sports Editor | @lamKurt14

EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

**Senator Camryn Ridpath reminds SGA that the Out of the Darkness walk will be taking place on March 30 on Longwood University's campus.**

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, a proposal on the dissolution of the deferred recruitment policy was largely discussed.

Currently, a student must have 12 Longwood credits and a 2.5 grade point average (GPA) to rush for a College Panhellenic Council (CPC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) or Gamma Rho Lambda.

The proposal, presented by Fraternity and Sorority Life Representative Jessica Savas and Webmaster Mason Patrick, currently states first semester freshmen would need to have a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.8. All other Longwood students would need to have a minimum cumulative Longwood GPA of 2.5, and also go through a new member education process.

Also, Recognized Student Organizations (RSO) under the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life would have to communicate and ensure their procedures are worked in accordance with office policies, and all new members would complete a New Member Intake Packet and required Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) paperwork.

Courtney White, president of the Sports Club Council, said the Todd Miller Memorial Rugby Tournament will have its next installment on March 23 at the Lancer Park fields. Both men and women teams from the Longwood University Rugby Football Club (LURFC) will be taking part.

During the President's report, Junior Class President Haleigh

Pannell said the next town hall featuring Longwood and Hampden-Sydney College (H-SC) relations will take place on March 27 at Longwood.

Freshman Class Representative Payten Bovat said she had a meeting with Director of Residential Programs Monique "Moe" Bates to discuss a previous week's discussion on ice machines in dormitories.

According to Bovat, Bates said the implementation of the machines would be up to how many students want them. Per Bates, the prices will be high and the plumbing will have to be reworked, but it could be looked into upon student interest.

President Josh Darst said the water issues in Cox and Wheeler Halls brought up in weeks past are being called an anomaly according to the Town of Farmville. According to Darst, the town is working with students who initially reported issues.

Darst said the security camera packages for the Longwood Village have been ordered and will be addressed upon arrival.

According to Darst, there will be a tornado drill on Tuesday, March 19 at 9:45 a.m. which will last for 15 minutes. This is a drill that is done yearly and is not an immediate threat to campus.

H.O.P.E (Hold On Pain Ends), a club for suicide prevention was recognized as an official organization.

Sophomore Laura Wilcox was sworn in as senator.

The next SGA meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19 at 3:45 p.m. in the Wilson Chamber in the Upchurch University Center.

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# Longwood administration responds to town hall and protest

Longwood Village receiving cameras, communication policies under consideration and president to meet with student leaders

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar | News Editor | @JesseKellar

TAYLOR O'BERRY | FILE PHOTO

Christaan Oliphant, Patience Barnes, Destanie Smith and Norman Hurt Jr. stood in a line as they spoke to the crowd, Matt McWilliams and Chief of Police Col. Bob Beach about safety on campus.

Coming off of a Student Government Association (SGA) Town Hall on Feb. 13 and a student protest on March 1, Longwood University is considering changes to communication policies and increasing security camera coverage, according to Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president of student affairs. “(We) would start right away in some of that is evaluating a different communication in terms of not just the eminent danger,” Pierson said.

On Jan. 27 an individual, later identified as Malcolm Deon Leviege, was reported knocking on doors in Longwood Village with a gun. The Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) was called, but Leviege had fled the scene before their arrival. Per Pierson, the LUPD at the time deemed the incident not be not “imminent danger” to students and no campus alert was issued.

“When we put out a notice, it is (an) imminent danger,” Pierson said. “That means, you know, move right now. So them doing knocking doesn't qualify, not necessarily, and see when by the time the police got there, when they responded the guy was leaving.”

According to Pierson, had Leviege still been on the scene there would have been notification to students, at least to those who were living in the Village.

Pierson also said “the photograph of the person having a gun kind of changes the whole perception of what the issue was and what it potentially could have been” in reference to the picture a student had taken of the incident.

“Those (changes) would start right away in some of that is evaluating, a different communication in terms of not just the imminent danger,” Pierson said. “That's clear. We'll still continue to do that (regarding imminent danger) in the manner that we have, but there's also probably a greater sensitivity.”

Pierson said Longwood is currently considering what students will receive notification about but didn't describe a specific

policy.

In addition to the considerations Longwood is making regarding communication with students, Pierson said there will be security improvements.

“The other thing that, that came out in this, in this discussion and it was the need to equip (the) Longwood Village with a greater infrastructure of security,” Pierson said. “Those being the emergency lights, the Blue Poles that we have and also a video camera system out there too.”

According to Matt McWilliams, assistant vice president for communications, Longwood is in the process of installing security cameras at Longwood Village.

Per McWilliams, Longwood had no cameras or blue light phones in 2013 and now has over 300 security cameras installed and 59 blue light phones with an additional 21 cameras and three blue lights being installed in Longwood Village.

In addition to the increased security and considerations being made regarding communications, President W. Taylor Reveley IV is going to meet with student diversity leaders, according to senior Maria G. Reynoso, one of the protest organizers and the Hispanic Latino Association (HLA) president.

“Tim Pierson reached out to us on behalf of (President) Reveley saying they would like to meet with us to continue talking about these issues,” Reynoso said. “My issue with that was that I had been trying to set up a meeting with Reveley since late January, so that was frustrating but I am happy we are going to meet again.”

Per Reynoso, she and other diversity leaders met with President Reveley in October 2018, but have not been able to schedule a meeting since.

Reynoso said no future protests are planned at this time.

“I can't say for sure about more protests,

but if Longwood doesn't step up their game and start to take our voices seriously, I can't imagine another alternative,” Reynoso said.

According to Reynoso they will meet on Monday, March 18 with President Reveley and other campus officials to continue the discussion.

The LUPD declined to comment.

Follow *The Rotunda* for updates.

## SECURITY ON CAMPUS

Since 2012, Longwood campus security operations have increased each year, with more than **1.3 million** in additional funding allocated.

The operational budget has increased by **83 percent** since 2012.

In the last ten years, LUPD has gotten **5** new full-time police officers. LU has **19** full-time police officers, **8** is the national average for the same population size.

There is one officer for every **273** students on campus.

There are more than **300** security cameras. LU had **0** in 2013.

There are now **59** blue phones. In 2013 there were **0**.

More than **\$331,000** has been spent on lighting improvements in the last five years.

New construction will add **3** blue light phones and **70** cameras.

LUPD is in the process of adding **3** more blue light phones to the Village plus **21** more cameras.



# Farmville Pride finds their stride

Founder Stephen Marion started the organization with a goal of inclusivity

by Rachael Poole | Opinions Editor | @rapoole17

After getting hit by a car and getting extensive rehabilitation in Los Angeles, Stephen Marion began reflecting and decided to move back to his hometown, Farmville. Marion grew up in Farmville and graduated from Prince Edward County High School in 1999, then attended Bard College in New York.

Once he moved back, Marion realized there was no inclusive organization in the town, so he founded his own.

“After being away for 18 years, (I) was looking for an LGBTQ community to be a part of and I didn’t find anything,” said Marion.

In April 2018, Marion held his first meeting where only his parents came to the event. Then, the mother of Marion’s childhood friend spread the word around and during the next meeting, 12 people showed up.

Farmville Pride has now grown to see 17 people, with 40 people attending a barbecue held back in September.

“I’m so happy with how the group has grown. We have such a strong group, people are really supportive of one another,” said Marion.

Dr. Jes Simmons, assistant director of Citizen Leadership and Social Justice Education at Longwood and member of the Board of Directors for Farmville Pride, brought Marion to some Longwood PRIDE meetings and coming out rallies at the university after meeting him at Third Street Brewing.

According to Simmons, there are roughly a dozen openly transgender students on campus and about 50 openly LGBTQ+ students.

“I think for Longwood faculty, staff and students who are LGBT or allies, this is just one extra place to find your tribe, to feel safe, to feel comfortable,” Simmons said.

Member Adam Trimmer travels from Richmond every month to attend the meetings. Trimmer is known for speaking out against conversion therapy after experiencing it as a teenager, and later became involved with Farmville Pride at the launch of the General Assembly event with Equality Virginia back in January.

Trimmer went to Longwood for a year and a half, and was familiar with the area.

“I immediately recognized Farmville and Pride and tried to figure out how those two words were on a sign together, and I was so encapsulated,” said Trimmer.

Growing up Pentecostal, Trimmer and his family transitioned to a Southern Baptist church when he was 13. Trimmer said he felt conflicted as a closeted gay male, so he used his sexual identity to become more involved with the church.

After surviving a suicide attempt at 18 years old, a pastor recommended Trimmer try conversion therapy. Trimmer quit after eight months and now uses the experience to advocate against and raise awareness of it.

“It’s super important for anyone who has grown up Evangelical and who’s having that struggle of reconciling your identity, it’s super important to know you’re not alone, (and) there are resources out there for you,” said Trimmer.

According to Marion, the environment in Farmville has been very supportive but said he still has his fears.

“There’s always a little anxiety because people who disagree with the group could easily show up,” said Marion.

Marion added there’s also been no hate or backlash online through their social media.

Secretary of Farmville Pride, Tatum Standley, said the support from the town has been “surprising”.

“I found this group when I needed it and to see it grow and to see the community really embrace us is sort of wild,” said Standley.

As the goal for the organization, Marion said he would like to see a diversity center in Farmville. Marion added a pride parade in the town would be a good way to show how Farmville has progressed over the years.

“I think (a pride parade) would be really great for the town because the town is known for division with the closing of the schools,” said Marion in reference to the closing of Prince Edward County Schools in 1959 after being forced to integrate. “To show that Farmville’s really progressing and it really accepts and loves everyone.”

The organization is coming up on one year, holding a celebration at Wilck’s Lake Island on April 20 where all are welcome to attend.

Farmville Pride meets the third Saturday of each month at Third Street Brewing from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

Farmville Pride met this month to discuss the organization's new Board of Directors, participating in a pride parade, a one-year anniversary event on April 20 and more.





Sydney Hughes sings a powerful ballad that leaves the audience in awe.



Peter Godfrey showcases one of his karate routines with an American-themed twist.



ABOVE: Jordan Cintron plays a soulful ballad on the piano accompanied with his singing to win over the crowd.



Hannah Prem shows off her advanced jump-roping skills with her light-up jump rope.



Christaan Oliphant, widely known as "Pure Knowledge", has the audience on their feet as he performs his original rap.



LEFT: Lewis Jackson IV leaves the audience in laughter with his enthusiastic and comical song and dance.

# LONGWOOD'S GOT TALENT

by Eva Wittkoski | Assistant Photo Editor | @longwoodrotunda

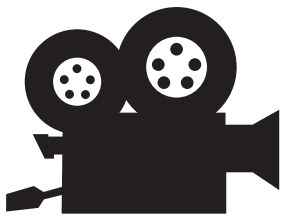


Garrett Reese leads Route 15, an on-campus acapella group, in an upbeat song that is accompanied with their high level of energy.



Abby Lichy sings her heart out on stage as she hits the high notes and leaves the audience wanting an encore.





# THE REEL LIFE

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
PARAMOUNT ANIMATION,  
NICKELODEON MOVIES,  
ILION ANIMATION STUDIOS  
AND PARAMOUNT PICTURES.

Considering their involvement with one of the most successful children's networks, it's surprising that Paramount Pictures doesn't have a well-established animation studio. Now they have "Wonder Park," the latest film from their revamped Paramount Animation.

Animated mainly by the Madrid-based Ilion Animation Studios, with Paramount Animation handling the story, editing and voice cast, "Wonder Park" is a definite visual wonder. The lighting is incredible with the film's various multicolored sets and contraptions are quite detailed.

Virtually every scene has some sort of visual magic going on, whether it's the multitudes of tiny Chimpan-Zombies running around or a cascade of sparks and lava during an action sequence, it's a movie tailor-made to show off 4K TVs at home or in Best Buys. A sequence halfway through at a fireworks ride is without a doubt one of the most gorgeous of the year so far. Although, it is accompanied by a bizarre fish eye lens zoom effect for the first act. Which is unfortunate because that's really all that "Wonder Park" has.

The voice cast consists of Jennifer Garner, Matthew Broderick, Kenan Thompson, Ken Jeong, Mila Kunis, John Oliver, Norbert Leo Butz and Ken Hudson Campbell. The list can't even dredge a muddled and mediocre script back from the brink.

However, you cannot mention the voice acting without also bringing up newcomer Brianna Denski, who absolutely kills it as the young June. While she has a few smaller credits to her name, Denski makes her big-budget debut, and she goes above and beyond to make the best out of an inconsistent script.

To be fair, none of these actors are delivering top-notch work, but they aren't awful. In fact, Broderick is a warm and enjoyable father figure for main character June. Oliver is funny

enough and he's the only consistent stream of comedy that isn't flat. Leo Butz and Hudson Campbell, as Boomer and Peanut respectively, are the only ones who seem to be putting any effort in. Both of their characters provide nice gooey centers of emotional support, and Peanut ends up being a legitimate surprise in terms of emotional vulnerability.

It's a shame that vulnerability isn't put to good use though. About 95 percent of the plot is rehashed ideas from past animated ventures. The sick parent, the child who loses their imagination, a mysterious "darkness," etc. None of it is particularly awful. It's just so incredibly bland and lifeless, seeming even more so when accompanied by the gorgeous animation.

However, credit where credit is due, it does try to incorporate some new ideas into its lazy script. There's a thinly veiled metaphor for depression that has an admirable conclusion. The logistics of the theme park itself, and where it fits into the film's lore are also supremely interesting, especially regarding its creation.

There's also a fair amount of effort put into heroine June's characterization. She's extremely smart, but never in a way that annoys like other movies with smart young protagonists. Her ideas, inventions and intuition save the day for most of the movie, and she's a confident creator at that. It's a welcome role model for the young kids, especially girls, who'll see her in this flick.

But goodness gracious, does this film play a tonal tap-dance. What starts out as a fun meditation on imagination then turns dark with the previously mentioned "parent got sick" plotline, before derailing into a territory populated by tiny destructive

Chimpan-Zombies and multiple cute and cuddly mascots uttering the words, "We're at war!" Its virtual tonal whiplash in the first act, and while things eventually settle to a more consistent level, it takes half the movie to get there.

"Wonder Park" also plays an interesting balancing act that, if it were intentional, might seem like an achievement. It is somehow ridiculously hyperactive in its animation and dialogue, with some sequences moving so blazingly fast they seem like they are missing frames, yet some sequences move normally. It's as if someone chopped the movie up and put random scenes on fast forward.

This is not a film devoid of any creativity or fun. The stuffed-toys-turned-Chimpan-Zombies are amusing as they run around committing acts of destruction while spouting cheery theme park catchphrases. There are the aforementioned attempts to make the plot something deeper, and, to reiterate, this movie is beautiful.

Things even manage to pick up in the third act, often where most mediocre animated films fail. The last 15-20 minutes are satisfying, bringing the film full circle in a clever way, and showing what could have been with a more focused vision to match the gorgeous look of the film.

At the end of the day though, beauty can only get a movie so far. Especially one that is clearly trying to present deeper ideas to its audience. A few committed voice actors, a gorgeous display of visuals, a great third act and a well-intended, but flawed depth can't set "Wonder Park" apart from its own poor tonal work and blandness. It's like a balloon from a theme park. It's shiny and pretty, but there are a million others like it.



2/5



# Lancers receive postseason bid for first time in program history

## Head coach Aldrich announces tournament bid, opponent and location not yet revealed

by Patrick Sanderson | Sports Editor | @psanderson20

A week following their elimination from the Big South tournament, Longwood men's basketball head coach Griff Aldrich announced the team's first-ever Division I postseason tournament bid in a March 13 press release.

Longwood will host Southern Mississippi on Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m., after the College Basketball Invitational (CBI) official Twitter page tweeted out the entire field of 16.

The Lancers first-round matchup will occur next week between March 18-20, the press release stated.

Their bid extends off their historic year in Aldrich's first season at the helm, including a program-best 4-0 start, a team record for three-pointers made, and the biggest team turnaround among of all 55 newly hired Division I head coaches. The team finished the season with an overall record of 15-17, their second-best record since making the division jump ahead of the 2004-05 season, and won a program-best nine games inside Willett Hall. Aldrich was also nominated for the Joe B. Hall National Coach of the Year award earlier this week.

"We are thrilled to continue our season by playing in the postseason as it presents our players and program with a tremendous platform to continue to build a championship-caliber foundation and culture," Aldrich said in the release.

He continued, "As we continue to seek to establish a strong foundation for this program, being selected to play in the postseason is a special milestone."

Aldrich, following their final game against Hampton in which they were eliminated, said the team still had a chance at the College Basketball Invitational (CBI) tournament or the CollegeInsider.com

Tournament (CIT), mainly postseason tournaments for mid-major programs. The other postseason tournament aside from the NCAA Tournament is the National Invitational Tournament (NIT),



Head coach Griff Aldrich secured the Lancers' first-ever postseason tournament bid, leading the team to a 15-17 record in his first season.

which includes regular season conference champions and at-large teams who didn't qualify for the NCAA tournament.

Both tournaments Aldrich brought up, the CBI and CIT tournaments, allow

a bid, they are charged a fee.

The fee to host a CBI tournament game, last updated in 2016, is around \$40,000 to \$50,000, and would increase to host quarterfinal and semifinal games, jumping from \$50,000 to \$75,000, respectively. However, the host schools keep 100 percent of any additional sales and profits, including parking or concessions. Additionally, the CBI, since 2016, is under contract with ESPN to broadcast the best-of-three championship series on ESPNU. Tournament games ahead of the championship are expected to be available to stream online.

The CIT postseason tournament is also a pay-for-play tournament, but is exclusively intended for mid-major programs. The fee to host a first-round CIT tournament revolved around \$38,500 as of 2016; however, the CIT tournament does not accept teams with losing records to participate.

"To play in the postseason in our first year is a true testament to their hard work, commitment and desire to improve every day," Aldrich said in the release. "We look forward to continuing to take another step forward as a program."



Junior guard Shabooty Phillips made his presence felt in his first season, averaging 13.7 points-per-game and leading the team in minutes played heading into a postseason tournament.

for teams to reject or accept bids. The CBI is a 16-team tournament including both power conference and mid-major programs. This tournament is a pay-for-play tournament, meaning if teams accept





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