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The Rotunda

Volume 89, Number 4

Honoring Those We've Lost since 1920

September 22, 2010

McCroskey Sentenced to Life in Prison



COREY MORRIS
News Editor

The man accused of killing four people a year ago in Farmville pleaded guilty Sept. 20 in Prince Edward County Circuit Court. Richard Samuel Alden McCroskey III, 21, pleaded guilty to two counts of capital murder and two counts of first-degree murder in the bludgeoning deaths of his girlfriend, Emma Niederbrock, 16, her mother and former Longwood University professor of sociology, Dr. Debra S. Kelley, 53; Kelley's estranged husband, Pastor Mark Niederbrock, 50; and Emma's friend, Melanie Wells, 18, of West Virginia.

The court was under the impression that a motion for a change of venue would be requested from the defense. Instead, McCroskey surprised the court by pleading guilty to two counts of first-degree murder of Kelley and Emma Niederbrock and two counts of capital murder of Melanie Wells and Mark Niederbrock. McCroskey said he understood the charges and was able to make the decision under his own power.

Judge Richard S. Blanton sentenced McCroskey to life in prison for the counts of first-degree murder and life in prison without the possibility of parole for the two counts of capital murder. He could have received the death penalty.

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McCroskey leaves Prince Edward County Circuit Court after a guilty plea. Photo By: Mark Gormus, Richmond-Times Dispatch

Open Forum on Campus & Community

LAURA BETH STRICKER
Copy Editor

On Mon., Sept. 20, a large number of students, faculty and staff gathered in Blackwell Hall for an Open Forum on Campus & Community Safety. The forum was organized in large part due to the recent spike in robberies and assaults on campus and throughout the Town of Farmville. There was a panel of six representatives that covered both the campus and the community: Student Government Association (SGA) President Ben Brittain, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson, Longwood President Patrick Finnegan, the Town of Farmville Manager Gerry Spates, Longwood Chief of Police Bob Beach, and Farmville Chief of Police Doug Mooney. These gentlemen all gave opening remarks, facilitated the panel and responded to all questions that were posed by those in attendance.

Each of the six representatives gave a short introduction or briefing to the audience. Finnegan said it was "both an individual and group responsibility to stay safe." Spates said, "I've been the Town Manager here since 1975. We've moved from 1,600 female students to over 4,200 students. Please raise any questions that you may have."

Beach reiterated he feels very strongly that Longwood is "the safest campus in the Commonwealth," but times have changed and we have entered a new era. He gave a short briefing to the crowd, beginning with an update on the assault on the male student outside of the Cunninghams Residence Hall on Sun., Aug. 29. One arrest has been made, with the person having been charged with assault by mob, which is a Class III felony. The police department has also interviewed one juvenile who has admitted to being involved in this incident.

Mooney echoed Beach's statements, as well as gave a short briefing. He assured the audience that "work is being done" to solve these cases. Mooney said, "After 22-plus years in Chesterfield County, you have a safe community here." He gave an update on Richard Samuel Alden McCroskey III, who entered a guilty plea agreement Monday afternoon in Farmville. He received four life sentences, two of which do not have the possibility of parole. McCroskey was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder in the cases of Emma Niederbrock and Dr. Debra Kelley, and two counts of capital murder in the cases of Melanie Wells and Mark Niederbrock.

Mooney also gave the audience an update on the more recent crimes that have occurred throughout the month of September. Charges have been filed in the robbery at gunpoint case on Park Avenue, which occurred on Wed., Sept. 1. Three men were apprehended following the Thurs., Sept. 9 incident involving the robbery of a Papa John's pizza deliveryman. In the most recent case, the Sun., Sept. 12 incident on Grove Street where a Longwood student was assaulted, there is a strong lead. Mooney emphasized for people to "keep your eyes open" and "walk in pairs or groups."

Brittain went to the podium and said he believes these recent incidents have "increased student awareness," but he wanted to stress that people "should not act on emotions." Brittain said, "Don't destroy the brotherhood and sisterhood at Longwood . . . and community trust. Call the police for the right reasons" and "Let's come together as a campus community."

After the briefings, the forum was opened up to the audience. The panel emphasized they wanted to focus on students because they are here 24/7.

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SGA Votes to Not Support Three 6 Mafia on Campus

NICOLE DALES
Editor-in-Chief

Concerns have been voiced about bringing the music group Three 6 Mafia to the campus for Oktoberfest. There is question as to whether the group should be brought to campus or not. During the Tues., Sept. 21 meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA), the Director of the Student Union and Mortar Board adviser Susan Sullivan came to speak about the issues at hand.

"I have met with Chief Beach numerous times about the concerns," Sullivan told the SGA. She explained they have heard concerns out in the community. She said the music group's agents are willing to do whatever they need to in order to make the situation safer. Longwood's Chief of Police Bob Beach also vowed to make the event as safe as he can.

"I can promise you this, if you decide to have it I can guarantee you . . . at the event itself we will do everything we can to make sure its safe and I think we can be pretty confident we can do it," Beach said. He went on to add that he couldn't promise the same thing before and after the event.

There is concern about the group of people Three 6 Mafia will attract to campus if they

play. Beach pointed out he cannot control what happens when the sun goes down and students move to place like Buffalo St. to gather and socialize.

The Black Student Association (BSA) representative for the SGA, Savannah Ducre, said her organization did not feel like it was the appropriate time to bring this group in. She added that maybe next year, when things calm down a bit, it might be something to consider.

Sullivan said there is a possibility the music group will be removed from the line up. Student representatives from SGA and Mortar Board, as well as administrators including Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson, Chief Beach, and Sullivan will meet to put together everyone concerns and figure out where to go from here. They will meet this afternoon (Wed., Sept. 22) to make a decision.

Sullivan explained what would happen if the group is canceled. Since the group has already been contracted, Mortar Board will still have to pay the over \$11,000 fee to Three 6 Mafia, even if they do not come. Sullivan also said canceling Three 6 Mafia would end the show around 8:30 p.m. on Saturday night.

In order to avoid the show ending early, Sullivan said they would like to fill that spot with another group. She said they

would need the support of the SGA because Mortar Board had already spent their budget for the bands. She said a headliner group would be around \$10,000, while other groups cost about \$5,000.


At press time, the issue had not been brought to Mortar Board as a whole.

"We are going to have to make the best decision with the best interest in the safety and security of our students," said Sullivan.


The SGA voted as to whether or not they wanted to support bringing the group to Oktoberfest. Seven senators voted in favor of bringing the group, and 17 senators voted against bringing the group. A letter will be written on the behalf of the SGA and sent to Mortar Board, stating the SGA does not support bringing Three 6 Mafia to campus.

Under the SGA bylaws and the SGA constitution, any information shared during an open meeting is public record. The request to make the information confidential was not made until after it was shared. The Rotunda editorial board chose to run portions of the debate and results of the vote because the vote was during open session by the elected officers of the SGA. Please check www.therotundaonline.com for updated information.


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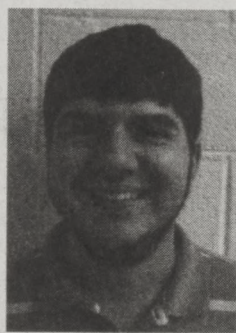
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Remembering What Counts

COREY MORRIS
News Editor



NEWS
COLUMN

When something happens, we often tend to forget. Think about it. Think about a loved one who passed away. Do you remember how you felt that day? Do you remember how you promised yourself you would never ever forget who they were or how they taught you to be a good person and to life to the fullest?

Too often enough when we are confronted with death in our lifetime, we do one of two things: Push it away or become consumed. The majority of us lie in the first, simply pushing away the thought of a loved one passing on a few weeks after the fact. We are able to move on with our lives and go about our daily business. We can wake up every morning and not be plagued with the thought of an aunt, an uncle, or a brother not being there to greet us to the day. We almost seem OK with that fact.

On the other hand, you have these "basket cases." I only say that because of society's stamp placed on them. You know who they are. They feel the same grief, the same pain, day after day, month after month, year after year. These people are trapped. They don't eat, they don't smile, and they don't live their life. The extraverts become introverts. The bubbly become dull. The impressive become depressed. The healthy become sick.

These two types of people share the same feelings. One is just able to let go a little sooner than the other. Sure, that's not to say that certain triggers, certain moments of life tend to wreck havoc on the ones we view as sane. But to say that they are like those who live each day wondering when the pain will go away is a long shot.

Perhaps it's not always the person though. Maybe it's the situation, the cause of the loss. Maybe it is how they were lost—whether it be horrific in nature or horrific in timing. For the majority, it is easy to cope with a loss when a loved one has cancer or Alzheimer's and has been going downhill for a number of years. But for those who kiss their loved ones on the cheek one morning and are burying them three days later, it's a different circumstance.

For those who have lost a family member or loved one to any cause, it is no doubt hard news to handle. You often feel alone and lost and questioning if that will be you at that age. But that feeling doesn't last. We don't think about it all the time. It may enter our wandering minds on occasion—a birthday, an event you know they would have loved to attend—but it is not a constant reminder. Instead, we over look the problems and just say "Bless Their Heart."

I've lost a fair number of loved ones in my twenty years, but compared to some, I am very fortunate. I can't complain. I didn't have to grow up without caretakers such as children who lost their family members to a horrible car accident. I didn't spend a lifetime with a brother just to watch him die of cancer. I didn't even have to endure the news of finding out one of my high school friends died at the hands of a drunk driver. No doubt, I consider myself blessed. And for that, I thank God each and every day for what I hold close to me.

But then there is the opposite party. They reside where the grass isn't so green. They look at a sky that's not so blue. And why? It's because they never knew. They didn't see it coming. Death is a nightmare, creeping in the darkness, not showing a shadow.

We can't stop the inevitable occurrence of death, but we can do something to make it better. We can join those who we overlook—those we see as the "basket cases." What they do is good, as long as it is healthy. They remember the loved ones who are long gone from this earth. But even though they may be gone, they still love them as if they walk the earth still today. While we know they can never come back, their spirits are still here and their love is lasting forever.

I do not wish death upon anyone nor do I ever wish anyone must deal with losing a loved one. However, it's a matter of fact that it happens. We can't control it and we can't stop it. It's God's will. But change this: Change how you feel and how you remember those gone. Think about how you felt when they left. Promise to never forget them and how they taught you to be a good person and live the best life you can. Just remember them. Even though they're gone, their memory still counts.

Mulligan's Change of Staff Causes Problems for WMLU Radio Station

JUSTIN CLATTERBUCK
Rotunda Reporter

Tuesday nights are a big deal for WMLU 91.3 FM, Longwood University's radio station. Last semester, students would gather at Mulligan's Bar & Grill on High Street, just across the road from French Residence Hall, and participate in Trivia Night. This is a game put on by the radio station where up to six people, Longwood students and Farmville residents alike, can answer questions in various categories and win money. Teams pay one dollar per person to play and they receive points for answering correct questions. The team that wins the trivia challenge gets the accumulated amount of money each team paid to play, with the exception of the second place team that wins its money back.

"The main plus about Trivia Night," says WMLU Trivia Night Director Darlene Rogers, "is that it not only benefits the station with getting knowledge out to the town and the Longwood community about our presence and about what we do for Longwood, but it boosts business in Farmville."

A new change in Mulligan's management could change all of that very soon. Carlos Holland, who was the manager of Mulligan's last year, left the business during the summer for a new venue in town. "I was not informed in any means of his departure," said Rogers.

The new manager, who was unable to be reached by press time, declined to allow anyone under the age of 21 to participate in the Trivia Night event. The change has put a damper on the station and plans for this semester's

Trivia Night.

Senior Sarah Hicks thinks the management's decision can be justified. "The management could have decided to stop the event possibly due to talk with cops because businesses get fined if they are found serving alcohol to minors. So if cops are aware that there are lots of minors at Mulligan's during this particular time and day and that beer is being served, that could cause problems for the restaurant which may have led to the under twenty-one rule being in effect this semester." Hicks alluded to the rule that requires those under 21 to use the patio area at Mulligan's during peak time of bar use.

Hicks said that a good thing about the location is "the short walking distance from the campus." She continued to say the team aspect of the event was something to remember. "It makes you feel like a part of something big."

With Mulligan's possibly out of the equation, WMLU now has plans to host the event at Grady's BBQ, located upstairs from Mulligan's. While Rogers said that it is not a big change of location, the event will be run a bit differently. "If we go to Grady's as planned, people of all ages will be able to attend as long as they are over eighteen, which shouldn't be an issue." She added that while it's just a simple walk upstairs from Mulligan's, the change in atmosphere would certainly be different.

Junior Allyson Johnson agreed with Rogers. "It will bring more people to the event and maybe people will be interested and want to come back again and again."

Longwood's Bookstore in a Changing World

IAN SHIH
Asst. News Editor

The Longwood University Barnes and Noble bookstore is a quintessential example of a traditional industry struggling to remain relevant in an era of digital revolution. The explosion of technology and e-commerce within the previous decade has dramatically altered the way Americans, especially younger generations, buy and sell goods. A recent report from Forrester Researcher found that online retail in the United States grew a staggering 11 percent in 2009 alone, with sales reaching over \$150 billion. Improved security and convenience have contributed to the growing willingness of consumers to purchase their goods online, but perhaps the strongest influence involves one of the most basic economic principles: lower prices.

Sophomore Brittany Hess said buying textbooks online was an easy choice; the prices for textbooks at the bookstore were simply "too expensive." Hess is not alone. For many students, buying textbooks online is more affordable than buying them at a university bookstore. Whether through established retailers such as Amazon.com, websites that list third-party sellers such as Half.com, or even rental companies such as Chegg.com, students can generally find textbooks that cost at least 50 percent less than the price of a new one at the bookstore.

Due to the sharp increases in textbook prices over the last few decades, the need to save money is not only more urgent, but the amount saved makes a bigger difference. A 2005 report prepared by the Government Accountability Office (GOA) found that from December 1986 to December 2004 textbook prices nearly tripled, in-

creasing at an average of six percent a year, a rate that was twice that of inflation (the Federal Government funds nearly half of all U.S. college students). The GOA targeted several practices of publishers, known all too well by current college students, as reasons behind the increases. The inclusion of rarely, if ever, used CD-ROMS, access codes for exclusive online material, bundling additional material, and a steady stream of new editions raise prices by making it difficult for students to return and buy used books. Such practices are known to be dubious by both students and faculty.

Dr. James Munson, professor of history, said, "What great discovery about the French Revolution in the world of academia could possibly require the need for a new edition every three years?"

But perhaps the primary reason publishers continue to raise prices is they know students have but few alternatives than to pay for textbooks their professors require. Short on expendable cash, students find themselves flocking to cheaper online retailers.

The trip down to the university bookstore taken by students at the beginning of each semester may soon be lost tradition, replaced instead by a trip to the university website. Facing fierce competition, traditional booksellers have seen their sales dry up and university bookstores are not immune. Citing changes in students' "buying patterns," particularly "the proliferation of online textbook e-tailers," Christopher Newport University announced in a press release last August that effective Jan. 1, 2011, there will no longer be a physical bookstore on campus. In place of the bookstore, CNU will create a website that will offer textbook services including

sales, rentals, and buy-backs of textbooks. CNU Executive Vice President Bill Brauer acknowledged in a statement, "The college textbook industry has changed dramatically and will continue to evolve into a vast array of non-traditional product offerings that no longer require a physical bookstore."

While Longwood's bookstore is unlikely to go anywhere anytime soon, there have been some changes. One behind-the-scenes change was in store management. The new store manager is Jamie Hillman, who oversaw her first textbook period this fall. In addition, she was also in charge of major change at the bookstore. The bookstore now offers textbook rentals, which has thus far been very successful. Recognizing that some students have no intention of keeping a textbook at the end of the semester, textbook rentals, according to Hillman, offer students "a lower level of investment." Not all books are available to rent, but those that are available cost roughly half the price of a new book, whereas used books cost roughly three-quarters the price of a new book.

Not everyone is ready to make the switch to online retailers. Adjunct professor Ronda Scarrow praised the bookstore, "[It has] always been absolutely wonderful." Waiting for books to ship from online sellers can be frustrating to some, especially if the book needed is right away. The bookstore is occasionally out-of-stock or may order the wrong book, but the shipping is free.

"Whenever you make a purchase at the bookstore, you are supporting your community," Hillman said. The bookstore employs students and a certain amount of the bookstore's proceeds go to the university.

SAFETY FORUM from Page 1

One of the first issues raised by students included concern of officers stopping students for no apparent reason. Both Beach and Mooney said they are trying to address these problems. Beach said, "If you're stopped, find out who the officer is." Longwood Police wears black uniforms, while the Town of Farmville police wear grey uniforms. Beach also said for students to ask the officer why they're being stopped. There is zero tolerance for racial profiling, and that many of these incidents are misunderstandings. Mooney said to pay attention to suspicious activity and report it. Many officers are usually responding to calls of service when they stop people. The officers are usually attempting to clear the suspected person(s), and trying to get to the bottom of the situation.

Another issue that was discussed

was the Lancer Park Bridge and how certain areas of off-campus housing are extremely dark at night. On the Lancer Park Bridge, Spates said the town is currently addressing the lighting situation. Beach reiterated to not walk alone, and to utilize the bus service. Pierson said improvements have been made to Buffalo St., while needs at Grove St. are being addressed.

The text messaging alert system was also addressed. Many students were concerned that students were not notified of the recent robberies and assaults via text message. Beach said the only reasons why a campus text message alert will be activated if it is an "imminent, verifiable, life-threatening event." Beach went on to say this applies to both future and past events on campus. If the alarm system is activated, Beach said the campus will hear "an alarm, an audible alert, then a simultaneous text message and email" and he wants everyone to "duck and

cover when it goes off"

Mooney and Beach emphasized the importance of sharing correct information so rumors do not circulate and spread fear and panic. Beach said the Longwood police have doubled its staff, all smart and understanding. They stressed to the audience to "properly utilize the resources we have."

Finnegan and other members of the panel believe these recent incidents have all been "crimes of opportunity." Therefore, they continued to emphasize the importance of situational awareness. One female faculty member held up her phone in the audience and stressed no one should text message and walk, or listen to your iPod at night. Another faculty member promoted the Rape, Aggression, and Defense (RAD) classes starting in November. Beach, responding to a question about security cameras, reported that phase I of an extensive surveil-

lance policy and upgrade has been completed. There are currently surveillance cameras installed in all residence hall lobbies. Pending more state funding, the other three phases include plans to transfer 45 other cameras to the IP network, and eventually install cameras on Brock Commons and in campus parking lots. Longwood officers are encouraged to stop in all residence halls that they walk by to talk to the desk aides and Resident Assistants.

Brittain wrapped up the 45-minute forum by encouraging students to come to the SGA with any other questions or concerns, and that we, as a campus and community, need to keep working together to ensure continued safety and unity among Longwood and Farmville.

Student Government Association Discusses Red Flag Campaign in Meeting

NICOLE DALES
Editor-in-Chief

At the Tues., Sept. 21 meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA), \$410.20 was allocated to the SGA for Red Flag Campaign walk, which they will sponsor.

The purpose of the walk is to spread the word out about sexual and domestic violence. The idea of the walk came from the incident that occurred at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Student-athlete George Hugely murdered his girlfriend Yeardeley Love, who was also a student-athlete. It was later revealed he abused her.

The walk is part of a national campaign to raise awareness at universities and colleges. If Longwood goes forward with the walk, it will be one of the first, if not the first university to have a full-fledged walk. Gov. Bob McDonnell just passed that every school can receive the campaign free of charge from the state budget. Abigail Phillips came to the SGA to ask for some monetary support to bring the walk to our campus. The extra money helps to cover what is not allotted by the state. Not only is the walk beneficial for supporting the cause, Longwood would be featured on the website to show others what the school

is doing.

Director of Lankford Student Union Susan Sullivan came to speak at the meeting about a possible change in the Oktoberfest line-up. More information can be found on the front page.

Last year the SGA approved money for the Student Secular Alliance to send a student to a conference. A representative came to the SGA today to speak about that experience.

Sophomore Paul Clamp said it was a very informative event. "One of the most important things I learned was that I learned a lot more about the National Secular Alliance and what they do," he said. Clamp went on to say that the group had come up with more ideas about what they can do and already have several events planned.

In order to clear up confusion he explained the club is similar to groups such as Chi Alpha and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, but the difference is this club has atheists, agnostics, etc.

During open forum, Senator Brian Reid brought up a complaint a student made about teacher evaluations. She was concerned about professors receiving handwritten evaluations, and wants them to only receive typed versions. Senator Keenan Crump will take it to the Academic Affairs committee,

which he is the chair of.

Another concern brought forward was the lack of lighting in Lancer Park. This is another issue that is being looked into, seeing as safety concern is a high priority at Longwood.

The Open Forum on Campus and Community Safety was touched on. SGA president Ben Brittain, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson, Longwood President General Patrick Finnegan, Town Manager Gerald Spates, Longwood Chief of Police Bob Beach, and Farmville Chief of Police Doug Mooney sat on the panel. See the front page for more information.

The second reading of the Judicial Board constitution was completed. They are trying to make the Judicial Board constitution and the SGA constitution for Judicial Board match.

The Geist chapter of Mortar Board is hosting a book drive for Prince Edward County Elementary School. They will be collecting donations through the week. Freshman elections for class council start on Monday on Blackboard.

The next SGA meeting will be held on Tues., Sept. 28 at 3:45 p.m., location TBD.

Obesity Focus of Latest Blackwell Talks

COREY MORRIS
News Editor

Cathy Roy, associate professor of exercise science, gave a talk on Mon., Sept. 20 as part of Longwood University's Blackwell Talks, a series that showcases faculty research in the Virginia Room of Blackwell Hall. Roy's presentation was entitled "Fearing Physical Inactivity More Than Obesity: A New Perspective," and is a field she has conducted research on for many years and "loves to discuss."

Roy, in her twelfth year at Longwood, began her presentation with a video from the popular television program "The Simpsons." The clip featured Homer Simpson, the overweight main character, at the doctor's office receiving a body fat check. To administer the test, the doctor jiggled Simpson's belly, a humorous scene that continued until the end of the clip and received laughs from faculty and staff in attendance.

The presentation was broken into three parts. The first focused on society's crusade against obesity. "Millions of Americans stepped on the scale this morning and that will dictate their day," Roy said. She explained media's role in the crusade and how fat is always portrayed as something bad. Roy discussed one of the newest procedures in the battle against the bulge, recently featured in

The Wall Street Journal, which involves freezing off fat from the body. Media's role isn't just limited to that, however. Recent ad campaigns have targeted meat eaters, soda drinkers, and depicted overweight people as whales, encouraging people to "save" them.

"We are also getting, unfortunately, a lot of contradictory and confusing messages out there," she said. Roy said the media is now telling consumers that exercise is not as good as professionals used to believe. Instead, products are promoted and diets are seen as the new fat buster. She took those in attendance through a visual history of fat-reducing tools and techniques through the years from fat belts to finger rings and all the way to tapeworms. She even had a shake weight to pass around.

Roy also spoke about some of the myths and misconceptions regarding obesity. She said the body mass index (BMI) is often misinterpreted. "Nowhere in [the BMI] does it take body fat into account," said Roy. Instead, the BMI scale simply measures the proportionality between a person's weight and their height. Obesity is simply the amount of excess body fat.

Part two of Roy's speech involved explaining how some of the ideas developed are sometimes not all they are cracked out to be. She talked about one of the most telling parts of her research—insulin sensitivity in the

body. She said in a 2005 study, subjects who gained body fat actually improved their insulin sensitivity by the same amount as subjects who lost weight through the study. The author of this study showed that exercise, not fat loss, was the key in maintaining a healthy insulin level. This breakthrough helps back those who say exercise is one of the most important parts to life and can help your body even if weight loss isn't immediate.

"I think there's enough evidence out there ... that we can normalize a lot of these health factors without losing weight," said Roy. She said the prevalence of obesity and dieting is positively related. In the 1960s, research showed about 15 percent of Americans were obese. Now, about a quarter are considered in that bracket.

In her conclusion, Roy proposed a need to refocus efforts, since diets aren't working. "It's all about being more active," she said. The true culprit to her is the fact that most people do not receive the proper amount of recommended moderate-vigorous physical activity. To increase those numbers, she called for intensity to be rediscovered and for people to stop relying on things such as technology. "In my opinion, it's the biggest obstacle placed in today's society. It's the biggest enemy."

The next Blackwell Talk will be Mon., Sept. 27 featuring Assistant Professor of English Casie LeGette.

Mortar Board Receives National Recognition

COREY MORRIS
News Editor

The Geist chapter of Mortar Board at Longwood University was among 77 other chapters that received an honor for excellence at the 2010 Mortar Board National Conference, held July 23-25 in Chicago, Ill. Longwood's chapter has received the Silver Torch Award for the sixth time. The award is presented to chapters meeting chapter management standards while exhibiting the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

Chapter President Jennifer Maynard and Vice President of Service Rachel Cipolla were on hand to accept the award.

The Geist chapter received the award in 2001 and from 2005-2008. In 2002 and 2006, they also received a Project Excellence Award from the Mortar Board National Chapter. "It's really good to stay on that track because we don't want to go behind that track," said Maynard.

Since Mortar Board's founding in 1918, the organization has grown from the four founding chapters to 228 chartered collegiate chapters, with nearly a quarter of a million initiated members across the nation. It serves as the premier national honor society for college seniors.

The Geist chapter at Longwood was chartered in 1993 and currently has around 38 members, according to Maynard. It is best known as the sponsor for Oktoberfest, an annual celebration of Longwood spirit.

Maynard explained some of the standards that are required to receive the award include paperwork submission, acceptable grade-point average (GPA) levels for all members and that the organization must be in good standing with the university and national chapter. She said not every chapter receives the award.

Acceptance into Geist requires a student to have at least a 3.0 GPA and be devoted to the organization's three main principles. "The thing that's different about Mortar Board is it is a senior honors organization," said Maynard when comparing Geist to other honor organizations on campus.

She said many new members relatively know anything about the organization and it is a "learn as you go" system. "Getting the award was an awesome feeling," she said. "I think everyone was very excited." Maynard said the organization received a certificate in recognition.

While the chapter has received numerous Silver Torch awards, Maynard said the next step is a Gold Torch, given to one school that exhibits outstanding and above average dedication. "That's our goal for this year."

Mortar Board is currently in the midst of their national project for this year. It's called the "Stuff the Bus" and it involves col-



Cipolla (left) and Maynard (right) accept their award.

lecting gently used books that will go to Prince Edward County Elementary School (PECES). Books or money may be dropped off in the Lankford Student Union and at other locations and events around campus and Farmville. The book collection will continue until Sat., Oct. 2, where they will be presented to the PECES school librarian and principal. It's the first year for the project, but Maynard said it will become an annual event.

She also discussed the organization's plans to honor retiring professors for next year. This spring, they plan to hold "Last Lecture" presentations, where a professor will give their last lecture to students, telling them what they have learned at Longwood and what they hope students have learned.

The biggest thing, according to Maynard, is making people know that Mortar Board is more than just Oktoberfest.

Senior and Mortar Board Secretary Callie Darling said, "It shows the new direction Mortar Board tries to head in." She said, "We are trying to prove that at our campus, we're just the people that organize Oktoberfest. It's a new mindset."

Mortar Board provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include distinguished politician Condoleezza Rice and Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees.

University's ITTIP Program Receives State Technology Award

COREY MORRIS
News Editor

In Longwood University's Institute for Teaching through Technology and Innovative Practices (ITTIP), with its partner the Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC), has received a technology award for its mutual learning opportunities for teachers and students in Southside Virginia.

The ITTIP was one of two winners in the Innovation in Higher Education category in the Governor's Technology Awards, presented Sept. 7 at the 2010 Commonwealth of Virginia's Innovative Technology Symposium in Richmond. The award was presented by Virginia Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling and accepted by Dr. Manorama (Mano) Talaiver, ITTIP director; Bill Wilson, SVRTC senior technology engineer; Dr. Denise Jones, dean of the College of Education and Human Services; and Dr. Ken Perkins, interim vice president for academic affairs. There were a

total of 13 winners in six categories in the Governor's Technology Awards.

The ITTIP, founded in 1999 by Longwood, is a K-12 educational outreach of the university that helps teachers integrate technology and distributes research-based best practices in schools. It is based in South Boston, Va., and housed inside the College of Education and Human Services on campus. It serves 35 school divisions in Central and Southside Virginia. The ITTIP since 2007 has worked with students, many from low-income backgrounds, to explore careers related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through game design. Longwood has been SVRTC's administrative agent since 2000.

The award was based on the ITTIP's and SVRTC's ongoing work of implementing and demonstrating the effective use of a wide range of technological tools and applications in needed and rural schools in the region. Such tools include in-

teractive videoconferencing, web conferencing; virtualization, Moodle, an open-source content management system; and Elgg, an open-source social networking engine.

The SVRTC, established in 1995 under the fiscal agency of the Dinwiddie County School Division, represents 25 school divisions located in Southside Virginia. These include Patrick County on the West to Franklin City on the East side, and up to Amelia County on the North side.

"Our mission statement charges us with identifying new and emerging technology and determining its benefit to education. Technology may then be piloted and, if proven to be successful in addressing a specific need, utilized in K-12 education," said Talaiver in an email.

Wilson said the consortium benefits thanks to the research performed by the ITTIP. The research helps "identify crucial areas of need within the K-12 system."

"The award tells us and that

others agree that we are on the right track and are making progress. Ultimately, that is our goal. Earning the Governor's award gave both our consortium and the ITTIP well earned recognition. Together the ITTIP and SVRTC have been awarded grants and conducted numerous projects, but all while operating on limited funding and staff," said Wilson. He added the two entities help represent a "cost effective" fix to educational problems in Southside.

Jones said, "We are honored to receive this award because it is symbolic of our strong commitment to provide services to the K-12 schools within the Southside region." Jones continued, "As a unit of the College of Education and Human Services, it is a very deliberate way that we contribute to the professional development in technology that is needed for educators as we strive to meet the needs of 21st century learners."

NEWS BRIEFLY

Longwood Summer Literacy Institute Earns Recognition

FARMVILLE, Va.—Longwood University's Summer Literacy Institute has earned a national commendation from The Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), according to a press release from the university. The program is one of only six that received recognition from the AASL. The commendation recognized the Institute's support of AASL standard and program guidelines and principles of their mission statement. The 2010 Summer Literacy Institute, now in its seventh year, attracted more than 170 educators from across the Commonwealth and covered topics including reading aloud, fluency, storytelling, oral tradition, and readers' theatre. The event is co-sponsored by the Literacy and Culture and School Library Media graduate programs in the College of Education and Human Services. Co-directors of the program are Dr. Church and Dr. Jeannine Perry, assistant dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies and associate professor and coordinator of the Literacy and Culture Program.

More Robbers Strike Near VCU Campus

RICHMOND, Va.—Armed robbers struck four times in a 15-minute period near the northwestern tip of Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Monroe Park campus on Sat., Sept. 18. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported two of the victims were VCU students, including a woman who was knocked to the ground and beaten. She was taken to Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital for treatment after assisting police in the investigation. The perpetrators are still at large. The latest robberies came two weeks after another VCU student was beaten and robbed on Fri., Sept. 3 on Grove Avenue. The male student in that incident was not seriously injured and an arrest was made. The university police department said no robberies have been reported on the Monroe Park campus since April and total Richmond robberies have decreased by eight percent this year. From Jan. 1-Sept. 16, 412 robberies occurred, down from 447 last year. In each of the VCU robberies on Sept. 18, the suspects demanded cash and cell phones. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (804) 780-1000.

Busch Gardens Announces Two New Attractions

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—In an announcement Sat., Sept. 18, officials at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg said they are planning construction for two new rides for next year. WDBJ7-TV (Roanoke, Va.) reported the theme park, which has a sister park in Florida, has yet to release any details surrounding the replacement ride for the recently retired The Big Bad Wolf, except for the fact that it will be a "multi-launching, high-speed, electromagnetic" roller coaster. The area where the Wolf once was will reopen in 2010.

The Germany section of the park will open next year with a new ride, the Mach Tower, which will include a 246-foot drop. The attraction will feature 30 seats attached to a rotating ring that will reach 60 miles per hour on its return from the sky back to the ground. The ride will be the largest in the park.

Water Country USA, located beside Busch Gardens, will feature a new attraction as well in 2011. Vanish Point, a single tower that will have four water slides at 75 feet tall and 300 feet long will be one of the largest attractions at the water park.



The Big Bad Wolf was closed in July of 2009.

Students Protest Over Male on Homecoming Queen Ballot

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Va.—A student at David Crockett High School in Washington County put his name on the ballot for homecoming queen, the only position students elect during the annual celebration. The student, who has not been named, reportedly signed the ballot since the king position does not exist at the school. He said he did not want to simply be an escort picked by the female queen. Tricities.com reported Assistant Director of Schools for Attendance and Discipline in the county James Murphy said the department could not do anything about the student's name being on the ballot. He added the school's policy did not define the queen position as something held only by a female. The apparent loophole gave students an opening to protest the election for hours last week, declaring the position is meant to be for a female, even if it's not directly stated in the election rules. More than a dozen students participated in the protest. After the results were tallied on Friday, Murphy said the male student did not receive the number of votes needed to be homecoming queen. Murphy also said the protestors could receive punishment for disrupting the school day.

The R.A.D. Program Is Back at Longwood University

Rape Aggression Defense classes will be offered on campus teach women self-dependency

BROOKE BRENNAN
Features Editor

The R.A.D. program is taught at schools all over the country, including Longwood, through courses offered for women only. The official R.A.D. website said, "It is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women" who are faced in rape or abduction related cases. It also stated that the class instructors teach "awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance" and women eventually learn "the basics of hands-on defense training."

On Tues., Sept. 28, R.A.D. instructors will hold an interest meeting at 7 p.m. in the Lankford Student Union Ballroom for female students. Acting Sergeant with the LU Police Department, Ray Ostrander, and Jennifer Huddleston, apartment manager and LU alumnus will be two of the five R.A.D. program instructors at the meeting. Both strongly encouraged all females to go.

According to Huddleston, the program teaches you how to successfully defeat a perpetrator in an abduction or rape scenario and how to avoid these

situations in general. She said the key elements involved are learning "using your voice properly by yelling instead of screaming at a perpetrator and learning to be extremely aware of your surroundings," but that other basic knowledge and techniques will be taught in the beginning of the program.

The R.A.D. program will consist of three different phases: lecture, tactics, and simulation. Huddleston explained that the lecture portion will re-enforce essential tips to staying safe that are often times ignored: shutting blinds, closing curtains, locking doors and windows, walking in groups and well-lit areas, and many more. She said the simulation portion allows participants to apply the basic knowledge and techniques learned from the previous phases, in realistic replications of dangerous encounters.

During the simulation classes, Ostrander and Huddleston said students will dress in provided outfits, use bags for blocking techniques, practice kneelift kicks, and will have to go through different scenarios played out by themselves and the instructors.

Ostrander said, "It's an adrenaline

rush because it makes you feel like you're actually in the situation, and that's what it's meant to do. A lot of people realize they're stronger than they think." The simulation meetings will be held in the basement of French, where Ostrander said they have "wrestling mats on the floor and padded walls."

He added, "Students who have gone through simulation said that it's been their best experience," and the program can really help anyone. Although rape is not a widely reported topic, Ostrander encouraged women who have previously dealt with rape-related issues to "come forward." He said the program includes counseling services for those who need or want the confidential support.

One aspect about the program that most will find encouraging and helpful is the flexibility between all five instructors. Although the assigned courses are recommended, Huddleston and Ostrander stressed their willingness to create private lessons for different groups, separate from the designated courses.

Both Huddleston and Ostrander said, "If you don't feel comfortable attend-

ing a class with people you don't know, then get a group of girlfriends together and contact us. We'll arrange convenient class times for your group." Whether it's a group of your sorority sisters, an office department, members of a club, a mix of friends, or you and your hall-mates, the R.A.D. team will make sure you receive the separate lessons. Ostrander said, "With five instructors, we can help everyone."

Ostrander noted, "This year I want to encourage more female faculty staff members to take this class because we have some [faculty and staff members] who are here at all hours, late at night, and we want to encourage them to get together and take these classes."

After being through the program as an undergraduate, and taking lessons to become an instructor, Huddleston said, "I think every woman should take it. I know that the empowerment you get is amazing. It's very beneficial."

Huddleston and Ostrander are expecting the R.A.D. program to be a 12-hour course, and encourage participants to attend all lessons. However, Huddleston said, "At anytime if someone decides it's not for them, they definitely don't have to do it." They

both said the program will most likely consist of a class once a week for four consecutive weeks, and that each class will be three hours long.

The instructors are aiming to host the course from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., or 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., however these times are not set in stone. Huddleston said the program is offered in November, February, and March, but that more times could be added depending on the amount of interest shown at the meeting. The instructors want an even number of people in order to properly conduct the lessons.

There will be posters hanging around campus this week, instructors at the police department, as well as information on LU Police's Facebook page and on their homepage. Interested students can also contact Ostrander and Huddleston directly at ostrander@longwood.edu or huddlestonjm@longwood.edu.

Ostrander said there has been a lot of interest so far, and those who participated in the program last year "can come back anytime."

Recruitment: A Different Story

KEVIN GREEN
Rotunda Reporter

"Go Greek!" is a phrase that students see over and over again throughout their college career. The Greeks have become an ever-growing part of this campus. But, the question remains: How does one "Go Greek?"

The process actually varies for both fraternities and sororities. For example, most fraternities do not contain a quota. According to senior and Sigma Nu brother Tony Riley, it really does not matter. They are not really aiming for a number.

For fraternities it is a bit informal. Some chapters will host open houses, while others will use social functions. There is no one set way fraternities go about their business. Sophomore and Sigma Nu brother Aaron Taylor said, "We really like to get guys out and just hang out with us." It is up to the fraternities to recruit new members in the fall. This is largely due to the fact that freshmen cannot pledge until spring semester. Then the campus steps in and it is much more structured.

The numbers for all fraternity's fall recruitment were a bit down. For example, in Sigma Nu, they have only 17 participants this fall compared to the 25 they had in the spring of 2007. Some of it may be due to the lack of recruitment-related events in the fall. The one event held called "First Friday Back" showed little attendance. According to Riley, "No one came really. It was just [fraternity] brothers." It certainly was not a much-publicized event.

Despite this, Riley thinks it is getting better. He said, "You have to have better grades [to pledge]." Indeed, the GPA requirements for Sigma Nu have spiked a bit. It used to be a 2.25 and it is now a

2.5. Even still, both Riley and Taylor agree that there is more that can be done in the fall.

On the flip side, it is a completely different story for the girls. The College Panhellenic Council's (CPC) formal recruitment for girls is in the spring. In the fall, the whole process is structured even before everyone arrives for school. The VP of Recruitment for each CPC chapter meets with Associate Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Kathryn Planow, during the spring semester to schedule open houses.

Alpha Sigma Alpha President Samantha Steuber said, "They're set so far in advance to make sure that everyone knows there's enough time to advertise." Each chapter gets their own day and time slot so that girls have the opportunity to see everything. Due to this, Steuber said it is recommended that the girls keep an open mind.

As far as numbers, Planow stated that, "Total on this campus is 55." This means that the maximum number of girls a CPC sorority can reach is 55 in the fall. In the spring, they can exceed 55 only if it is by quota. Quota is a completely different thing. It is the total number of girls who finish the formal recruitment process divided by the number of CPC sororities (which is eight). If quota is met in the spring, then the total number of girls can exceed 55.

In the spring, recruitment takes place during one weekend. Planow describes the weekend as, "A process of mutual selection." Once again the girls visit all of the chapters and make a list of their "favorites." That list gets cut down until the end of the weekend. It is one big matching game. In the end, it is all about trying to get matched up. It is possible that girls receive one match or none at all. By contrast, girls can receive as many bids as possible in the fall.

Yellow Ribbon Campaign

JAMIE CLIFT
Asst. Features Editor

The small yellow card read, "3.7 percent of adults in the U.S. had serious thoughts, 2.3 million made a plan, and 1.1 million actually attempted suicide in the past year." These cards were handed out in the name of the Yellow Ribbon Campaign, an organization that supported its fourteenth National Suicide Prevention Week from Sept. 5-11.

Yellow ribbons, which could be seen pinned to several book bags and shirts around campus, were attached to cards and given to students. The cards also provided the numbers for Campus Police and the LU Counseling Center for those who might be contemplating suicide or felt that someone they knew was in danger of doing so.

The Student Health and Wellness Center sponsored the campaign. The office provided the cards and posted more information about the subject on its website in addition to the information that was posted in the Stall News as of Wed., Sept. 15. The site urges Longwood students to remember that they are not alone and to get help for themselves or their friends.

The site also provides shocking statistics about suicide and college students from the American College Health Association, "1 in 10 has seriously considered suicide." Almost half have reported "feeling so depressed that it was difficult

to function." The brief Stall News article provided similar information, in addition signs that a friend might be suicidal, including substance abuse, anxiety, withdrawal, and anger.

One of the people most responsible for making The Yellow Ribbon Campaign possible at LU is Longwood's Wellness Coordinator Sasha Gregory, who graduated from Longwood in 2005. Despite a very limited budget, and with the help of a few concerned students, Gregory was able to bring suicide prevention week to the attention of many Longwood students. She has encouraged the campus to wear their ribbons all month.

"Suicide prevention is important and needed in the community," said Gregory. "It has recently been an issue... and it is important to address it and show our support."

Despite the amount of help provided by Gregory, who actually donated the ribbons, as well as the Health and Wellness Center, which was the source of all of the ink and yellow paper that went into this project, it was the students who really made it happen. The Wellness Center is largely focused on student wants and concerns. It was because students cared about this issue that the campaign was possible.

"We need student support and leadership for these causes," Gregory urged. With so many important causes out there that deserve our attention, she and the rest of the staff at the Wellness Center can surely not do it all.

Five-Star Taxi ★★★★★

REBECCA LUNDBERG
Asst. Copy Editor

The bus may be free for Longwood students, but are the stresses of catching it on time and never knowing when you'll arrive at your destination worth it? If not, there's another affordable option that's a bit more reliable than the Farmville Area Bus (FAB) and much safer than hitchhiking.

PeeWee Baldwin's Five-Star Taxi began running in October 2009 and has been transporting Longwood students and locals all around the Farmville area ever since. The number five is a running theme in Baldwin's business; for just that many dollars, he will drive anyone anywhere in the entire town of Farmville. Where else can you find private, air-conditioned convenience for the same price as a Subway five-dollar foot-long?

Baldwin lived in Farmville throughout his childhood and never felt the desire to leave. "I love living in such a tight-knit community," Baldwin said, "But it's both a blessing and a curse. Everybody knows everybody. While I like walking down the

street and recognizing most of the people I see, word gets around fast. There isn't a lot of privacy."

The Longwood University Post Office, where Baldwin has been working since 2002, is the perfect escape from the small-town atmosphere. "I love working with students," Baldwin said. "It really keeps me young." His taxi helps him develop an even better relationship with the students. He loves helping them get around town because he feels that they are to thank for his success. "Without Longwood, I wouldn't be in existence," he admitted, "I am so grateful for the loyalty of the students."

But operating the Five-Star Taxi in addition to putting in hours at the post office isn't without its frustrations. Baldwin noted, "I love driving the taxi, but it's basically a one-man job." He said, "My fiancée [Ellen Masters] helps with the business side of things, which really helps. But weekends are busy and I know that I will have to expand my business in the future." Baldwin hopes to eventually buy another taxi and hire another driver.

Baldwin's busy schedule does have its benefits when it comes

to time management. "Time is more special when I have so little of it," Baldwin said. "Ellen and I are always happy to see each other." Baldwin and Masters plan to wed next month at Winterham Plantation in Amelia, Va. "We were looking for a place to hold the wedding and kind of found it by accident," he revealed. Baldwin said, "We called the owners and set up a tour, and as soon as it was over, we knew it was where we wanted to get married." The couple's friends from the local restaurant The Dutch Rabbit are catering the event. He said, "I feel so lucky to have such great people involved in my wedding." His coworkers and close friends from the post office have prime spots on the guest list.

The Five-Star Taxi runs from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Thursday, and 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. on weekends. Baldwin can always be reached at 434-547-3355. More information can be found on Five-Star Taxi's official Facebook page.

SPEAK OUT

What is your favorite athletic sport to watch on campus?



"Definitely basketball. A lot of students go to the games and get into them. You can really feel the energy from them."

-Jordan Maupin, junior



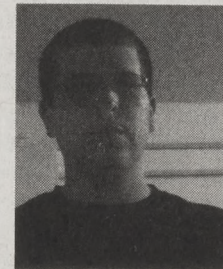
"Baseball! I grew up watching my brothers play ball and I understand the sport."

-Meghan Greene, junior



"Basketball, because I just enjoy watching it in general. I feel like more people here at school go to basketball games so they're a lot more fun."

-Emma Coombs, junior



"Probably rugby."

-Daniel Pennesi, sophomore

This segment features a Longwood-pertinent question answered by a random sample of students. Send suggestions to therotundaonline@gmail.com.

The Student Safety Service To The Rescue

Designated walkers help students travel safely around LU

JACOB BIGGS
Rotunda Reporter

With the recent spike in crime in the Farmville area, the Student Safety Service, formerly known as Night Walkers, is more valuable to Longwood's student body now than ever before. The organization is an escort service composed of student volunteers who work in conjunction with Campus Police. Members of the Student Safety Service strive to ensure the safety of students on campus between the hours of 6 p.m. and midnight each day of the week.

Individual escorts are equipped with a police radio and maintain constant communication with Campus Police. Escorts are instructed to

immediately contact police dispatch in the event of a crisis, and an officer will arrive at the scene as soon as possible. In order to guarantee students' well being, two escorts are assigned to each person who requests accompaniment across campus. This helps ensure that Campus Police will be notified during an emergency: two sources of communication are far superior to only one.

Thankfully, the majority of escort assignments run smoothly. Student escorts are restricted from engaging in physical confrontations, and there has been little occasion to do so. The call and response system that the organization operates under functions very well, removing the need for any physical con-

flict. According to Officer John Johnson of Campus Police, the faculty advisor for the Student Safety Service, student escorts serve as another set of cognizant eyes and ears that provide heightened awareness of threats around campus.

Campus Police is considering broadening the responsibilities of the Student Safety Service, although it has yet to be determined what such duties will entail. The primary motive for increasing the responsibilities of student escorts would be lessening the obligations of Longwood police officers. Doing so would provide for a safer campus because officers would be able to concentrate their efforts on major duties rather than dividing their attention among

small obligations (such as locking and unlocking doors after dark). The Student Safety Service is an integral aspect of ensuring safety at Longwood, and will continually become more active on campus as it accumulates greater amount of responsibility.

To request an escort from the Student Safety Service, contact Campus Police at 434-395-2091. They are willing and eager to help anyone who is concerned about their safety when traveling at night. Campus Police can also be contacted through the emergency phone system located at various points around campus. Activating one of these phones establishes a direct connection with Longwood police dispatch, and they will offer assistance in any way

possible. The phones are individually checked once per week to ensure their functionality.

According to Chief Robert Beach, the Student Safety Service is frequently utilized and has recently been growing in popularity, averaging six to eight escorts per night. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Student Safety Service, contact Campus Police at the number above. Applications are reviewed by both Campus Police and the Student Safety Service to select the best candidates. The organization needs as many members as possible to aid in the protection of the student body, so don't hesitate to apply if you want to help make Longwood as safe as it can be.

This Can't Be Happening

BROOKE BRENNAN
Features Editor



Recently I experienced my worst FML moment yet. Have you ever heard of a stinkbug?

They're about the size of a quarter with a brownish outer shell. They have lengthy legs and release an unpleasant odor when scared or crushed. The bug was not seen on the continent until 1998, when an accidental shipment from (supposedly) China brought them to Allentown, Pa., the place they were first spotted. Quickly, the bugs made their way throughout eastern Pennsylvania, and have inhabited many other states. I hate these creatures, and for a good reason, as they have infested my hometown (one of the Philadelphia suburbs) for the past four years or more.

Over the summer my friend from Charlottesville informed me of the bugs' recent migration to Virginia, and (with full intentions of scaring me) said it was only a matter of time before they arrived in Farmville. This came as a shock because I had always considered Farmville an escape from their everyday presence in my life. As I tried to hide my terror I responded, "I'll believe it when I see it."

While approaching my apartment a few nights ago at about 10:30 p.m., I noticed a stinkbug lurking outside of the building. I stared unfathomably at the bug on the wall and wondered if this was a joke. Before hyperventilating from disbelief, I managed to mutter those three words that make up the notorious saying: FML. As previously stated, I definitely did not "believe it" when I saw it; this was a nightmare to me, not a reality. (I did, however, scream and run away).

"While approaching my apartment a few nights ago at about 10:30 p.m., I noticed a stinkbug lurking outside of the building.

In an attempt to show you that I'm not completely insane, let me give you some background information. I've had to deal with stinkbugs for years, worrying about them everywhere I went. At first it was a mere annoyance because I would see them crawling on the walls in my house, hiding in lampshades, and burying in laundry baskets. I started to become more freaked out when they would appear in my car and land on me while I was driving. Eventually, the idea of them plaguing my home got to my head when I woke up in the middle of the night to one crawling on the back of my neck. I could not fall back asleep because I knew there were more (there were always more!) as made evident by the buzzing sounds heard around my room.

I live on the top floor of our house in a room with two large skylights. The windows face towards the sky and therefore absorb heat emanating from the sun's light. Since stinkbugs are attracted to warm, well-lit areas, they mistakenly claimed my bedroom as their hangout spot. At first I thought they were just really dumb, as they seemed to fly at my face with no sense of direction. Nowadays, I'm a firm believer that they have motives.

I used to let out a huge sigh of relief when I left home each summer; it was reassuring to know that (for months to come) I would evade the night-terror of finding a stinkbug under my pillow. However, this sense of serenity was crushed the other night, and I know it's only going to get worse. The fact that I recently saw another one climbing on the back of a student's shirt re-enforced this feeling. Besides that I never spotted one in Farmville until my senior year, there is no bright side to this situation; stinkbugs are here to stay. Good luck and watch your backs, literally.

The Black Column: Meet Latoya and Roberta



LATOYA MILLER & ROBERTA COLLIER
Rotunda Reporters

According to the Mer-Webster Dictionary the definition of the word black is "of or relating to any of various population groups having dark pigmentation of the skin". Also, the meaning of the word column is "a vertical arrangement

of items printed or written on a page," according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. For the purposes of Longwood University and The Rotunda, "The Black Column" is an outlet for the black and/or African American population of Farmville and Longwood University.

"The Black Column" will address the triumphs, programs, issues, etc. of the black community in the town of Farmville with emphasis of things happening on the campus of Longwood University. This column is the creation of two Longwood University seniors Latoya Miller and Roberta Collier; both are young black women and Communication Study majors.

Before Latoya and I start "The Black Column," we want to make sure people are aware of the foci of the column. We would also like to tell you all a little about ourselves, so you feel as if you know us and also think that we are credible sources for this column.

Latoya Miller was born on December 31, 1986; she was born and raised in Richmond, Va. She is a Rotunda Reporter and she aspires to be a TV show host that is considered as good, if not better, than Oprah Winfrey. She describes and/or defines herself as being loud, ambitious, hype and

outspoken.

I was born on August 6, 1989 and partially raised in Huntsville, Ala. I currently reside in the town of Gurley, Ala. I am a member of the B.S.A. (Black Student Association) and B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) Gospel Choir on campus. I am also a Rotunda Reporter and a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. I aspire to be an A&R (Artist and Repertoire) at a record label. I describe and/or define myself as a quiet, loving, God-fearing, and soft-spoken person that stands up for what I believe in.

It is evident that Latoya and I are polar opposites. The only things we have in common are our race, sex, major, and school. We represent two different types of young black women, and we are confident our differences will work out for the best of this article and allow our stories to be both interesting and factual in the same token.

We both have recognized issues and triumphs in the black community in the Farmville and Longwood area and we would like to inform the campus and the world alike of what our community is doing. Black people are a minority on this campus and Latoya and I want this column to be the voice of all types of black people. We encourage the black community to not just complain or share with each other. Latoya and I charge you all to let the world know what you do and what they can do for you as well. One of my teachers once said to me, "You can complain about issues, but if you just complain nothing is getting solved." So, be more proactive and contact Latoya or myself at TheBlackColumn@hotmail.com with any issue you believe needs to be discussed.

Yours Truly,
Roberta Collier

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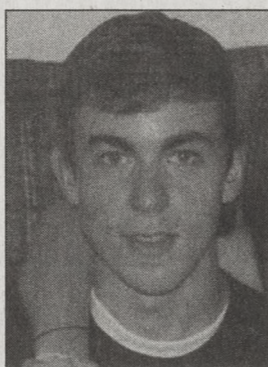
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Freshman Profile: Meet Ryan Makatura



AGE: 19

HOMETOWN: Richmond, Va.

MAJOR: Undeclared

HIGH SCHOOL: Deep Run

EDITOR: Ryan, why did you decide to come to Longwood?

RYAN: I didn't want to attend a school in an urban environment, and I had heard good things about Longwood.

EDITOR: Did you consider any other schools?
RYAN: VCU & George Mason.

EDITOR: What's your favorite thing about Longwood so far?
RYAN: The people I've met.

EDITOR: Where do you live on campus? Do you like it so far/not like it?
RYAN: Frazer. Compared to the other dorms I've visited, I think it's great. I wouldn't mind being on a lower floor though; it's inconvenient waiting for the elevators.

EDITOR: With your major, do you know what exactly you want to do yet?
RYAN: Since I'm undeclared, I really have no idea what I want to do.

EDITOR: What's your favorite sports team?
RYAN: Pittsburgh Steelers.

EDITOR: What do you hope to gain at your four years here at Longwood?
RYAN: A degree in the major I'm interested in and then hopefully soon after I can get a job.

Are you a freshman with interesting qualities, have a need-to-succeed attitude, or just want to be in the newspaper? Then you qualify to fill out a freshman profile, too! Let us know at therotundaonline@gmail.com, or email me directly at brooke.brennan@live.longwood.edu.

Humans vs. Zombies

JACOB BIGGS
Asst. A&E Editor

It's time again for Humans vs. Zombies. This event occurs each semester, when a small portion of Longwood students gear up for the ultimate game of tag. Nearly everyone on campus has witnessed students carrying Nerf guns, sprinting between classes, and exhibiting generally paranoid behavior. Well, there's good reason for their paranoia. Who wouldn't be fearful of a hoard of zombies out for brains and blood?

Zombies seek only figurative brains and blood, of course. Longwood students who partake in Humans vs. Zombies play to have fun, not to inflict injury. While there are dangers associated with playing the game, they are far from drastic. Players

"Zombies seek only figurative brains and blood, of course. Longwood students who partake in Humans vs. Zombies play to have fun, not to inflict injury."

understand that they may scrape a knee, but are willing to take that risk in order to play the real-life version of "Resident Evil." The game is a fun-oriented simulation of a zombie apocalypse, and has gained a greater fan base at Longwood.

Although Humans vs. Zombies (HvZ) generates much buzz among the student body, few people actually understand the nature of the game and how it functions. It is essentially set up as a giant game of tag, but also includes elements of sharks and minnows. Except for one randomly selected original zombie, each player begins as a human. The original zombie's objective is to tag as many humans as

possible in order to convert them into zombies, who then endeavor to tag more humans. Once converted, players' priorities immediately change: they seek carnage instead of survival. Humans are equipped with rolled-up socks and Nerf guns to protect themselves from "zombification." They can also take refuge in various safe zones located around campus and inside buildings; HvZ is played only outdoors.

Humans are assigned missions that they must complete in order to gain an advantage over their enemy. Such tasks typically include searching for a special item, conducting an escort mission, or defending a field against zombie invasion. Upon accomplishing these missions, humans are rewarded with items such as antidotes, which revive them if they are tagged.

Zombies attempt to foil human efforts to complete missions and convert as many players as possible in doing so. The game becomes increasingly difficult for humans as time progresses and more players are converted to zombies. Speed, stealth, and intellect are required to survive until the final mission, and only the most skilled players are able to do so. The game is stacked against humans in a true apocalyptic fashion.

HvZ is mostly played on college campuses around the country and continues to gain popularity. Colleges provide the perfect environment for game play because the majority of players reside on campus, allowing the game to function both day and night. HvZ has become increasingly popular at Longwood in the past few years, gaining more players each time it's played. According to junior and main game administrator Killian Le, membership has grown from 55 to 89 players since Spring 2010. The drastic increase can be attributed to the numerous freshmen who played the game this semester.

If membership continues to increase, HvZ will only become more fun and challenging. Longwood may be infested with zombies for time to come.

in SEX AND THE CITY Ville

TARA CARR
Rotunda Reporter

There are times in life when it pays to be in a relationship and there are times when it pays to be single! When you get invited to a wedding, it would be nice to have a date. When you get invited to a date party, it would also be nice to have a date. When you are sitting at Applebee's and the waitress is really selling that two for \$20 meal ... it would be nice to have a date. But when you're going out on the town with your best girlfriends (or guy friends for the fellas), that's when it really pays to be single.

When you think about it, going out is your chance to hang out with your friends and have a good time, whether you're in a relationship or not. If you want to boo-love, then you probably should just stay home. No one wants a party pooper, thinking about, talking about (or worse) calling his or her significant other while everyone else is trying to have a good time.

When you're in a committed relationship you have an obligation to that other person to let them know where you are, where you're going, when you're going to get there, and what time you'll be back. But when you're single ... you have so much freedom! You can leave when you want and get back when you want and not have to worry about remembering to text so-and-so on the way. If you're out with your friends and you all suddenly decide to go to Waffle House (or Huddle House in the 'Ville), it's okay! It's hard to have friendships when you're in a relationship. By the time you finish doing your homework, attending meetings, working out, and having some couple-time with your boo, there's no time for friends! You may see your friends at work or in class, but other than that, you just don't have time to kick it anymore when you're in a relationship.

Another good aspect of being single when you're going out is the fact that you can get as many numbers as you want GUILT-FREE! Theoretically you could give and get numbers when you're in a relationship, but then you have to go through the extra effort of hiding it. And that's no fun. That's just unnecessary work. When you're single you can talk to people and actually enjoy meeting new people. And you can dance! You don't have to just hold up the wall



ADVICE COLUMN

all night, but you can dance with whomever you like. It's perfectly fine and you don't have to worry about being tagged in pictures later and it getting back to your significant other.

The most important thing to remember, whether you're in a relationship, single, or somewhere in between, is to have fun. We're young and life is so not that serious at this point in our lives. Your twenties are for living life to the fullest and enjoying every moment. So from getting ready with the girls in the mirror to talking about how many numbers you got on the way home, just live and let live and have a great time.

TOP 10 REASONS BEING SINGLE SUCKS

1. You're single.
2. There's no one to cuddle with.
3. After a while, you just run out of people to text.
4. You don't have anyone to split the two for \$20 at Applebee's with.
5. Your friends feel sorry for you when you're the third wheel.
6. You eventually get tired of dancing to Beyonce's "Single Ladies."
7. Going to weddings alone ... epic fail.
8. You miss the frequent hugs and kisses.
9. When you have a terrible day, you have no one to complain to (who really cares).
10. You're single.

Here's What You Said on Twitter:
Is it better to go to a party solo or with a date??
Plug_McEnroe @sexinthecity "Solo...who takes sand to the beach?!"

2010 SIMKINS LECTURE
EST. 1979

GLOBAL FORCES and the U.S. SOUTH

Identities and Prospects
by Dr. James L. Peacock

7:00 pm
September 30th
in Hull Auditorium
Longwood University
with Reception to Follow

Dr. James L. Peacock is Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Dr. Peacock, who is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a recipient of the Boaz Award from the American Anthropological Association, has recently published *Grounded Globalism: How the U.S. South Embraces the World* (Univ. of Georgia Press, 2010).

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

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From Typecast to Freddie Mercury

COURTNEY JONES
Managing Editor

Whenever a movie is going to be made about a famous person, one would hope the producers could find someone who looks as close to said person as possible. Sometimes this is not the case. But sometimes it is.

Sometimes there is an actor who looks remarkably close, and then that actor is cast in the role. (Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter, anyone?)

Enter Sacha Baron Cohen. Cohen, 38, is a British actor and comedian who is best known for his portrayal of crazy characters like Borat, Bruno and Ali G. After each of the movies was released, Cohen announced to the public that he would no longer be using the title characters, which also saved him from being forever typecast. So now Cohen is like a lot of other actors that both look for and have work come to them. Guess who he also just happens to look like? Freddie Mercury.

That's right, Sacha Baron Cohen has inked a deal, confirmed by nearly every media outlet and entertainment news paper in the world, to portray British rocker Freddie Mercury in an upcoming biopic about the front man for the legendary rock group Queen. "Pirates of the Caribbean" actor



A&E
COLUMN

"It will be interesting to see how Cohen evolves into Mercury for the part, after being known for his controversial and enormously popular character films. No word on whether or not he will sing the songs himself, which will be interesting to find out since Mercury fronted what was one of the most popular bands of the 1970s and 1980s."

Johnny Depp was rumored for quite a while to get tapped for the part, but reports of Cohen being considered surfaced back in 2007, which were denied at the time. Coincidentally, Cohen appeared alongside Depp in 2007's "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

GK Films is producing the biopic about Mercury. GK Films' Graham King said in a statement, "Queen is one of the greatest rock bands of all time, and a music brand all unto itself. Freddie Mercury was an awe-inspiring performer, so with Sacha in the starring role coupled with Peter's screenplay and the support of Queen, we have the perfect combination to tell the real story behind their success."

Mercury died of complications from AIDS in 1991, but is survived by his band mates. According to The Daily Telegraph, "The project has the backing of Mercury's surviving band mates - guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor are both on board as musical consultants."

The Queen movie does not currently have a title, but production should begin in 2011, with Peter Morgan writing the screenplay, who was also responsible for "Frost/Nixon." It will be interesting to see how Cohen evolves into Mercury for the part, after being known for his controversial and enormously popular character films. No word on whether or not he will sing the songs himself, which will be interesting to find out since Mercury fronted what was one of the most popular bands of the 1970s and 1980s. There most popular hits were "We Are The Champions," "We Will Rock You" and "Bohemian Rhapsody."

I'll admit, when I first heard this news I thought, "Borat?! Freddie Mercury is going to be portrayed by the guy who did Borat?" Then I remembered that Borat is gone, and Cohen looks a ton like Mercury. So what was my next reaction? Sweet. Now this is what I call a spot-on casting.



An Exhausting Run on the Runway

KATIE REILLY
A&E Editor

Going on for its eighth season, "Project Runway" is the aspiring fashion designers' "American Idol." The show takes on an average of 16 designers that they select based on applications from all around the globe.

The show also inspired "Models of the Runway," a sequel based off the competition between the models that are paired with the designers. "Project Runway" encompasses the fashion-world, including people such as style icon Heidi Klum, famous designer Michael Kors, and editor of Marie Claire Magazine Nina Garcia; who act as the three main judges. Every week another judge, either in the fashion industry or a founder of such, is invited on as the guest judge of the week. Of course, like any competitive shows, the favorites and possible winners become apparent after the first challenge, and then there are the drama queens, the backstabbers, and the general sabotage that occurs between the contestants.

This week on "Project Runway," the challenge went from last week's resort look to sports-wear. The task was based around the iconic and very fashionable Jackie Kennedy, a First Lady that inspired sophisticated but active looks for her time period. It was also highly suggested that the designers stick to their aesthetic and design ideas, but mold them into something Jackie Kennedy would wear. As if it wasn't enough for the nine remaining designers, Tim Gunn sent them a curveball by requiring an outer-wear piece to accompany the look.

Some handled the idea well, though overall most

every designer seemed to have missed the key point: they were designing for a modern Jackie Kennedy. Andy South, a little more outlandish than the rest, ended up at a point of no return, producing a pair of parachute pants that looked like they could sprout wings, topped with a gymnastic-suit material top that pinched and pulled in all the wrong places. It was also apparent that other designers, such as Michael Costello and Michael Drummond, went too far in the opposite direction-- The outfits more resembled cocktail dresses with strange jackets to classify the general look as "sporty." Apparently, being a Michael this time around was bad luck. Not only did Michael Costello, already a norm in the bottom two, get waylaid by the judges, but also Michael Drummond was declared "out" by Heidi Klum, sending him packing with her signature cheek-to-cheek kiss. He was playing along the wrong lines when he produced a hideous pleated skirt that looked like something out of catholic school courtyard. The judges also were not impressed with Valerie Mayen's boring and unappealing look, landing her in the bottom two. I guess the judges felt that Andy's version of "sporty" was at least able to be classified as such, a point that shoved him out from the bottom by that much. In my opinion his design was the worst by far.

While I believe the judges sent the wrong person home, they had no trouble choosing the right winner of the challenge. This week's winner was Mondo Guerra, a man true to his aesthetic and a huge risk-taker. It was his first win of the season, and I believed whole-heartedly that he deserved it. His purple-plaid tweed high-waist skirt, stripped fitted tee, and black cropped jacket fit like a glove and embodied the image that they had been after all night. As Heidi said, "He had all these funky colors, and it still managed to look sleek." Yah, sleeker than Andy's parachute pants and Valerie's boring vest-over-jacket-grunge-- Good thing the judges exists to put fashions worst

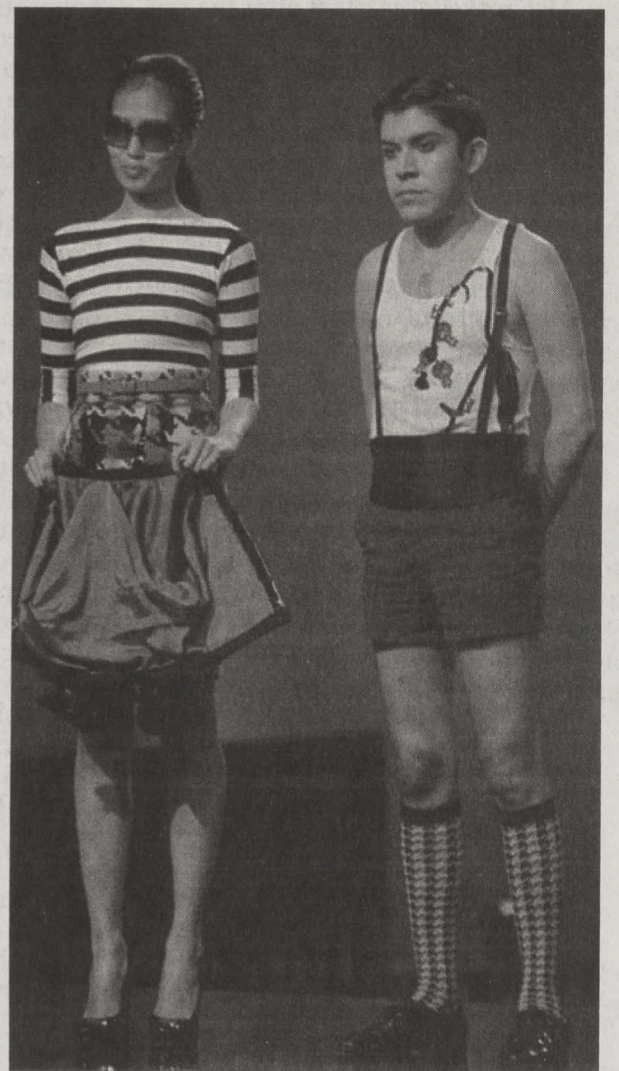


Photo Courtesy: mylifetv.com

Mondo Guerra takes home his first win.

in their proper places. Though I personally prefer Ivy Higa to Mondo, I have to hand him the trophy on this one. He delivered.



Season 3 of 'Castle' Starts Off With Several Bangs

LAURA BETH STRICKER
Copy Editor

So I'll admit I only got interested in ABC's "Castle" about a month and a half ago. I watched the March 29 episode titled "Boom!" when I was at my friend Liz's beach house in early August. I (sadly) haven't gotten caught up on Season 1 or 2, but I looked at Liz after the episode was over and said, "Why haven't I been watching this? It has Nathan Fillion in it AND it combines crime fighting with mystery writing?! This is my show!"

I knew I had to watch the season premiere to find out what season three was all about. And boy was I on the edge of my seat for the entire time. It starts out with Castle (Nathan Fillion) holding a gun in a mysterious mirrored room, then suddenly tons of gunshots go off. He

runs, ducking from the shattered glass until Beckett (Stana Katic) holds a gun up to him and yells, "Castle, down on the ground, now!"

How's that for a season opener!

It turns out that Castle hasn't been heard from throughout the summer, not even a peep. The first day in the episode is the autumnal equinox, as evidenced with the other detectives attempting to stand an egg upright on their desks.

The mystery and suspense built up as the team discovered a girl dead from gunshot wounds in a restaurant awning, having fallen multiple stories from her shattered apartment window. It gets worse when they go to investigate the dead girl's friend in Tribeca, and Castle is standing in the bedroom, gun drawn. Uh-oh, that is not good for Castle.

Beckett arrested Castle on murder charges. Though the scene was meant to be completely serious, Castle was conversational, as always. And Beckett, in true fashion, is terse, curt, and edgy. Their relationship is murky in terms of their personal lives, but working together they are almost a perfect match, even though Castle is always somehow getting into trouble.

I love how "Castle" has a mix of humor and drama in each episode. Comic relief from Fillion, Katic, Castle's mom Martha (Susan Sullivan), and his daughter Alexis (Molly Quinn) really helps relax the drama of the murders, mysteries, and tense relationships. It also makes the show very realistic, at least in my head.

The premiere literally flew by - I looked at the clock during a commercial break



Photo Courtesy: castlev.net

and I couldn't believe it was already 10:50. I greatly enjoyed the mix of humor, suspense, action and a bit of horror, and I hope it continues throughout this season.

I wasn't sure for a few minutes that the case would be solved - but Castle and Beckett finally started working together again. That's what helped solve this case, as well as clear up the tension and suspicion of Castle's

involvement. I'll have to keep watching to see what other antics and brilliant ideas Castle and Beckett come up with next.

In short, it was an awesome episode and a great season premiere. I don't know about you, but this crime show fanatic and fellow writer cannot wait for more Monday nights to watch "Castle" at 10/9c on ABC.



New Weezer Release: Creepy Picture, Great Album

THOMAS FLIPPEN
Rotunda Reporter

Weezer has been on the scene for a long time, and as with many bands, they have changed styles over the years. With Weezer's 2009 release "Raditude," the band took a turn towards a more mainstream pop sound, they even had a collaboration on one of their songs with Lil' Wayne. Many of Weezer's diehard "Blue Album" and "Pinkerton" era fans were extremely upset with the direction the band was going in. Almost a year later Weezer is back with "Hurley," their first record since their switch from Geffen Records to the indie label Epitaph Records. The switch in labels has really turned Weezer back in the direction of their earlier work or at least closer to the sound they had with the "Red Album" back in 2008, while incorporating some of their newer sound.

The album is fairly short, with ten songs that span just over a half an hour, but the album starts strong and ends strong with little break in the middle. "Memories" starts the album off and is the lead single from the record. The song is a straightforward rocker with a little touch of the pop sound Weezer was moving towards with "Raditude." The song also features Johnny Knoxville and the Jackass crew providing gang vocals at the very end. The song is just a feel good type of entry. The album continues with that pop-ish feel with "Ruling Me" which is the same 'rock with a pop tendency' song. The song is super-catchy, though.

"Trainwrecks" really gives the listener a look back to the old Weezer; it really feels like the "Green Album." The song is lyrically simplistic

and overdone, but it is somehow relatable. The music even feels familiar, but it's also refreshing, which makes this song one of the top three on the album.

"Unspoken" is hands down the best song on the album, not to mention one of the best songs Weezer has written since the 1990s. The song starts off acoustic and incorporates a flute piece that is similar to Simon and Garfunkel type of folk rock. The song finally breaks down at the end with a crashing wall of electric guitar and the full effects of a drum set. Best song on the album, period.



Photo Courtesy: hypetrak.com

"Where's My Sex" is a song about socks. That isn't a typo; it's really about socks with some mild innuendo that seems childish. The song is kind of clever though and the music has one of the catchiest hooks on the album. While lyrically not groundbreaking it's still a cool song. "Run Away" is super catchy and fits with the album while not standing out from the rest of the songs. "Hang On" is another interesting track because it features Michael Cera ("Superbad" and "Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World") on mandolin and backing vocals. The song is actually really good and different, making it one of the top three of the album.

"Smart Girls" reverts back to the pop side of Weezer and is a good song, but there isn't much special about it.

"Brave New World" is the most forgettable song on the album, but standing alone it is still a decent Weezer song. These two songs fit the album, but they really aren't single material.

"Time Flies" is the album closer and the lack of production is what makes this song. It really sounds like it was recorded in a garage, which in this case isn't a bad thing. "Cause even when I'm gone, this stupid damn song will be stuck in your head," really sums up this track.

"Hurley" is really a great album and it seems to be a turning point for the band. With so much of the music scene turning to screamo, emo, and other music styles, it is great to see a band that has established so much in their career still putting out albums that are different, while still keeping its familiarity. Weezer's new album has the ability to restore old fans' faith, while catching newer fans off-guard. I give it a well-deserved 5 out of 5.

Remembering the First Avenue Tragedy

Sept. 22, 2010

Longwood University

The Rotunda Page 8

Family of Victims Has 'Some Degree of Closure' After Sentencing

Continued from McCroskey Pg. 1

McCroskey was silent after the sentencing was read to the court filled with family members of the victims as well as police investigators who have worked the case. When he exited court Monday, he only showed a slight smirk.

Cindy Sams, director of victim assistance program for Prince Edward County, released a statement from Kelley's parents, Thomas and Margaret Kelley, as well as family members of Niederbrock and Wells, after the hearing. The statement reads, "We are thankful that the trial of these cases is over and that we may now have some degree of closure. While we will never forget our loved ones or the circumstances of their deaths, we hope to move forward and begin the healing process." They went on to thank the Farmville Police Department and the Virginia State Police for their efforts.

Defense attorney Cary B. Bowen said his primary objective was to minimize McCroskey's sentence and "serve our client's interest the best we could." Bowen said McCroskey expressed remorse and understood the severity of what he did. The attorney described his client's mood as "solemn" on Monday. "He said how bad he felt about it," said Bowen. "He's

left families without their loved ones. We have four people dead here. He's not proud of that."

Bowen said McCroskey allowed his anger to get in the way. "This became an issue regarding his perception that his girlfriend wasn't being loyal to him." Bowen said there was a "deterioration" of the relationship between McCroskey and Emma. He said McCroskey plans to write a statement for the victims' families sometime this week.

"Four bodies is pretty compelling evidence," said Bowen when asked if the evidence wasn't convincing enough to allow McCroskey to plead not guilty. Bowen said the decision to accept the plea was McCroskey's, and it was made after all the evidence was reviewed.

"As a participant in the criminal justice system, I am pleased," said Bowen.

Prince Edward County Commonwealth's Attorney James Ennis said McCroskey's fading relationship with Emma most likely led to her murder. He said when McCroskey was asked why he killed the additional three instead of only his alleged girlfriend, he replied, "Wrong place, wrong time."

Ennis described McCroskey as a "closed-off individual." He said there was no history of violence or bad acts in McCroskey's life. He thanked police

for their hard work in filing search warrants and collecting evidence.

McCroskey did not speak to authorities until two weeks ago, according to Ennis. He said the plea agreement came about within the last eight weeks. "Over the course of the last eight weeks, we've met with the various family members and went through the case with them." Ennis said members of the victims' families supported the decision to reach the plea agreement, instead of going to trial and seeking the death penalty. Ennis said the family played a large role in going over the specifics of the case.

"He's going to be in prison for the rest of his life," said Ennis. "What it really means is death in prison."

Ennis said, "Hopefully it will bring some measure of closure to the family. It won't go on for years in the appellate system with no resolution in some of their lifetimes."

McCroskey, who recorded "horrorcore" music with lyrics that spoke of murder and violence, had been in an online relationship with Emma for about a year before he traveled to visit her in September of last year, Ennis said. He described the timelines of the homicides, three of which occurred on Sept. 15 at approximately 3 a.m. in the morning.

Kelley and Mark Niederbrock took Emma, McCroskey and Wells to the "Wicked" horrorcore music festival in Detroit, Mich. a few days before the homicides. Ennis said McCroskey was angered by some text messages Emma sent from her phone during the festival. The group returned home, and McCroskey became more angry about the failing relationship, said Ennis. "I think he had a certain expectation of what that relationship with Emma Niederbrock was going to be like after a year on the computer. It did not turn out to be what he had imagined it was going to be."

Ennis explained on the evening of Sept. 14, 2009, or early Sept. 15, McCroskey drank beer, smoked marijuana and might have taken painkillers for a migraine headache before he killed the three female victims in their sleep. Ennis said that McCroskey first killed Wells, who was asleep on a sofa located on the first-floor of the home. He then walked upstairs into Kelley's office, killing her, and made his way to Emma in her downstairs bedroom. He struck each with an eight-pound wood-splitting maul multiple times in the head. "No one awoke," Ennis said. He added there were no defensive wounds on the victims.

Mark Niederbrock arrived at the home Sept. 17 around 5 p.m. Mc-

Croskey hit him with the maul in a living room as he walked through the door, Ennis said. McCroskey later moved Mark Niederbrock's and Wells' bodies into Emma's room. Afterwards, he attempted to clean up the blood-covered den. McCroskey told authorities he did not move the bodies until after the first welfare check to the home, of which there were three.

McCroskey stayed at the home and contemplated suicide after the homicides, according to Ennis. He used a digital camera to record a video of himself saying he knew he had to pay for what he had done. The camera was recovered from McCroskey's backpack with him at Richmond International Airport the day after the murders. He was awaiting a flight home to Castro Valley, Calif.

Ennis said McCroskey called police to check on noises in the basement because "Mrs. Wells told him to." He explained during one of the many conversations he and Wells' mother had, which often involved fictitious stories of where her daughter and the family members were at, she told him to call the police since he felt uncomfortable.

Ennis said McCroskey will go to a diagnostic facility and will likely be detained at Red Onion State Penitentiary in Wise County.

Remembering Associate Professor of Sociology Dr. Debra S. Kelley

SEMEL WASHINGTON
Asst. Features Editor

On Sept. 18, 2009, as many students began their college lives and were still unfamiliar with Longwood's setting, an event disturbed their seemingly-stable environment. Four bodies were found in a residence not far off-campus and later identified as the remains of Longwood University Criminal Justice Professor Dr. Deborah S. Kelley, her husband the Rev. Mark Alan Niederbrock, their daughter 16-year-old Emma Niederbrock, and 18-year-old Melanie Wells, a family friend from Inwood, W.Va.

As founder of a viable Criminal Justice major at Longwood and Lambda Alpha Epsilon (LAE), the school's Criminal Justice fraternity, Kelley had directed the lives of many students until they graduated or were on the eve of their senior year. Her close involvement with students may have contributed to her winning the 2002 Maude Glenn Raiford Award for Outstanding Teaching and Service. However, due to graduation, her memory with the students is all but lost. The only current record of Kelley at the school is through her colleagues. Due to their long tenure at the school, they lend an unbroken idea of how Dr. Kelley was in her days at work.

In 1994, Professors Dr. Lee Bidwell, Dr. William Burger, Dr. Jim Jordan, and Dr. Lawrence Hlad were presided over the interview of a PhD graduate from the University of Illinois. This new associate professor, Dr. Deborah Kelley, was hired for specialization in statistics in criminal justice for predicting social phenomena, and later developed an interest in violent offending, murder, and police work. Based on her credentials, the decision was unanimous. Her reputation became one of "substantial scientific rigor," setting a high standard for both Kelley and her students. Kelley was described by Burger, a professor in the department since 1988 and department chair at the time of her hiring, as having "a compassion for students ... a zest in the classroom." He added, "She would always take the time to talk to students ... tried to understand ... had a system" and furthermore, "she loved to teach." When entering Kelley's office, Burger said, "She'd give you as much time as you needed."

As Burger described her professional hopes for a future Longwood, he said she would like more university faculty members. "She talked about interaction," Burger said, observing that with

more professors on hand, "the student/faculty percentage would be even lower," and this would allow for closer relationships with individual instructors.

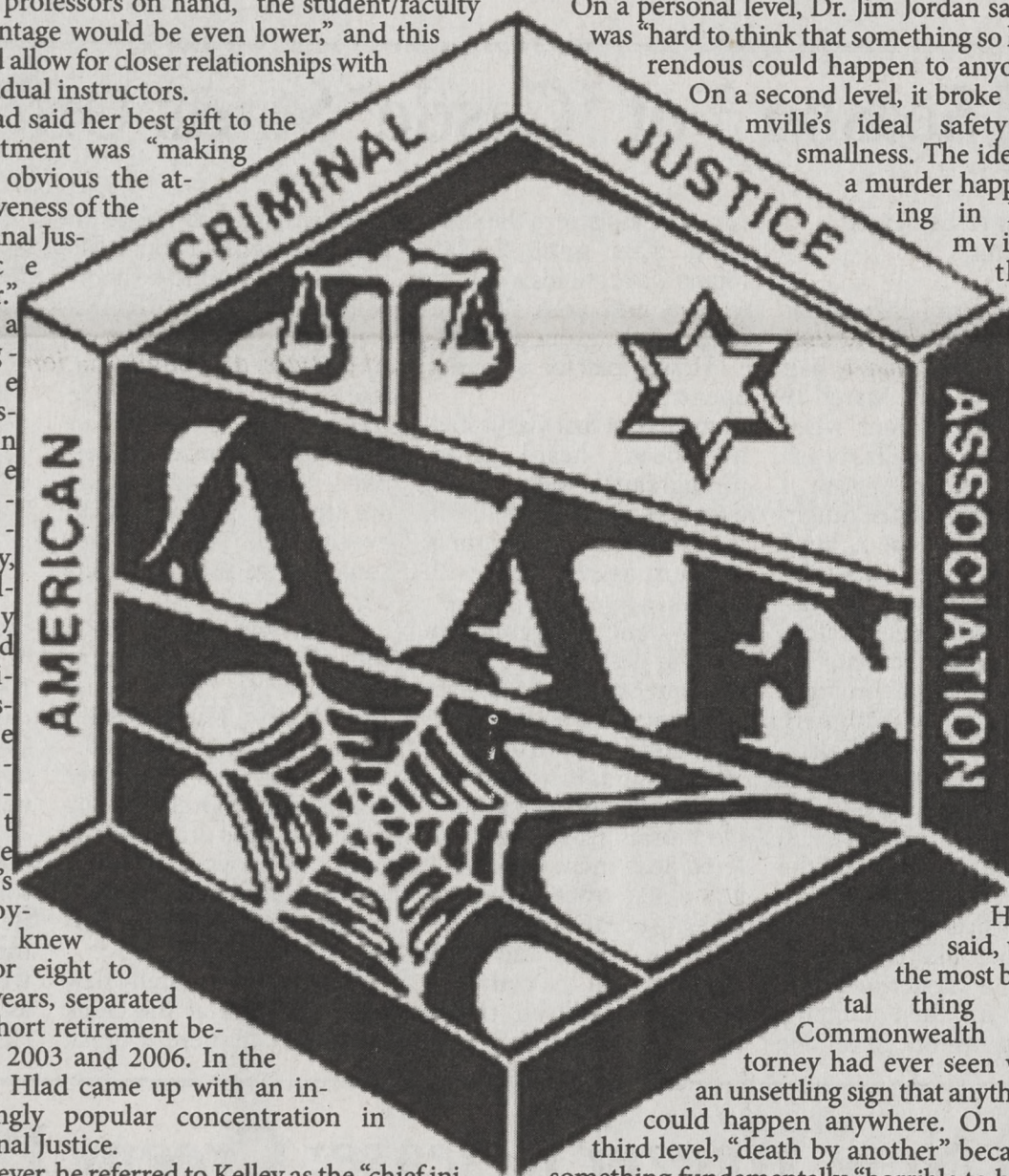
Hlad said her best gift to the department was "making more obvious the attractiveness of the Criminal Justice major." Hlad, a long-time professor in the Anthropology, Sociology and Criminal Justice Department before Kelley's employment, knew her for eight to nine years, separated by a short retirement between 2003 and 2006. In the 1980s, Hlad came up with an increasingly popular concentration in Criminal Justice.

However, he referred to Kelley as the "chief initiator" of Longwood's Criminal Justice major and deserving of a "great deal of credit" for its existence. Though not a "good friend" of Kelley, Hlad said "she was always a warm and congenial colleague to me" and found in her a "research savvy" and an ability to "work data as she received it" without an agenda.

Since Kelley's employment, Hlad said, "It would be fair to say that this baby has grown in volume and maturity." Hlad also said, "Basically, she would love to see the major prosper in growth, enrollment, and professional recognition."

On a personal level, Dr. Jim Jordan said it was "hard to think that something so horrendous could happen to anyone."

On a second level, it broke Farmville's ideal safety in smallness. The idea of a murder happening in Farmville that, as



Hlad said, was the most brutal thing the Commonwealth Attorney had ever seen was an unsettling sign that anything could happen anywhere. On the third level, "death by another" became something fundamentally "horrible to happen to a human being." However, Jordan hinted at all these levels coming not in progression, but all at once. He called the event "a monument in my life" that "stands out on the horizon." Jordan said he "may never know how it affected him."

Burger said Kelley "left a void that was hard to fill" and "what happened to her shouldn't happen to anyone." He felt it was a tragedy, but they could only wait for a decision to be reached on her murder suspect, Richard Samuel Alden McCroskey III. Hlad mentioned the shock to the community and the anguish of students. "How could this have happened?" was a general reac-

tion with to the four-person homicide that exceeded normal domestic disputes, taking on a

"As founder of a viable Criminal Justice major at Longwood and Lambda Alpha Epsilon (LAE), the school's Criminal Justice fraternity, Kelley had directed the lives of many students until they graduated or were on the eve of their senior year."

much "larger scale."

In addition to those who knew Kelley on a collegiate and neighborly basis, Rev. Sylvia Meadows added her family's religious history. As one of her pastors, Meadows called the actions of McCroskey evil, citing what dangers people can involve themselves in. She had much more, however, to comment on the lives of her former church members. She was personally involved in Mark and Emma Niederbrock's baptisms, but left for eight years to fulfill another appointment. She returned to find the family's condition had changed. Mark had become a pastor, preferring to go into Presbyterian ministry. Emma usually went to her father's church and Kelley no longer attended consistently. Meadows recalled Kelley's business-like demeanor and that she had been brought up in the church.

In the end, Meadows conducted Kelley's funeral. She said, "Someone else could have done it," but shouldered the duty because of Kelley's name on the church roll. When considering the murder, Meadows said it was "horrific," "tragic," and "deeply upsetting on many levels." She said it was also "a wake up call to churches" and they should "take seriously reaching out to others." If anything, she hoped something beneficial could come out of Kelley's murder, that other's lives could be saved and a "community of love and support" created.

However, it is clear to everyone involved decisions must be made to move on. There is natural pain for each person in the event of a murder. Yet it cannot be avoided that Kelley's work continues to be progressive, living through the lives of the Criminal Justice students, faculty, and the brothers of LAE.



McCroskey Trial Date Timeline



SEPT. 19, 2009:
McCroskey arrested at Richmond International Airport.

SEPT. 21, 2009:
McCroskey appears in court via video conference.

JUNE 22, 2010:
McCroskey's trial date is postponed.

SEPT. 20, 2010:
McCroskey pleads guilty to killing four people and sentenced to life in prison.

Remembering the First Avenue Tragedy

Sept. 22, 2010

Longwood University

The Rotunda Page 9

Petition Made a Point According to Founder

COREY MORRIS
News Editor

In March 2010, The Rotunda spoke to Jessica Hintz who, along with husband Scott, created a petition asking Prince Edward County Commonwealth's Attorney, James R. Ennis, to refrain from seeking the death penalty for Richard Samuel Alden McCroskey III. McCroskey, 21, was sitting in Piedmont Regional Jail, outside of Farmville, awaiting a court appearance when the petition was created in January 2010.

The petition reads, "Our request in no way diminishes the heinous nature of this crime and we will fully support an alternative sentence of Life in Prison without the Possibility of Parole." Hintz said in an email that the petition was created primarily to honor the life of Kelley and her beliefs. Kelley was a strong opponent of the death penalty.

"The first thing I felt was shock and disbelief in the first few moments after learning about the murders of Dr. Kelley and her family, and within minutes I realized that it had the potential to be a capital case and I feared that their killer would be sentenced to death, a thought that weighed very heavily on my mind," said Hintz, former student of Kelley's and 1996 Longwood graduate.

"I really didn't know what to expect as far as support for the petition," said Hintz. "We ended up with about 140 signatures from all sorts of people who knew the victims and who knew McCroskey." In March, only about 15 signatures were on the petition.

"I don't know what effect the petition had, if any, on the case. This plea was the resolution I had been hoping for." She said the feeling of loss will never go away even though the case may be over.

She said neither McCroskey's defense, Cary Bowen, nor Ennis have contacted her since the petition's creation. Ennis said after McCroskey's hearing Monday that he viewed the petition when it had ten signatures. "It held no weight," he added.

Hintz said it is difficult to think about what happened a year ago this past Saturday. "Debra's dedication to knowledge and her drive to keep questioning is a gift and inspiration to myself and to anyone who had the pleasure of knowing her and that is what I will never forget," she added.

Hintz said, "I have never been an advocate of the death penalty. I believe that it is a barbaric and unjustifiable punishment. My beliefs are grounded in my own personal sense of morality and have nothing to do with politics or the academic arguments for or against capital punishment." She called Kelley both a "mentor and friend." Hintz added, "I created the petition because I felt that her beliefs should be known and honored in this case."

"My thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the victims," Hintz said. "I hope that the resolution of this case will bring them closer to a sense of closure and peace as they continue to heal. Our loved ones never really leave us. They live in our memory and in our hearts and connect us to one another."

Lambda Alpha Epsilon Remembers Former Adviser

COREY MORRIS
News Editor

In a project initiated by the Longwood criminal justice fraternity, Lambda Alpha Epsilon (LAE), two trees were planted April 21, 2010 on each side of the entrance to Ruffner Hall. The trees serve in memory of Dr. Debra S. Kelley, former Longwood University professor of sociology slain in September 2009. Dr. Kelley was responsible for the formation of LAE.

Misty Watkins, president of LAE, said the hollies were chosen because they will always be there and be green all year around. The trees replace two lost in the Great Fire of Ruffner in 2001.

She said last year after the homicides on First Avenue, that took the life of Kelley; her estranged husband Mark Niedebrook; their daughter Emma; and her friend Melanie Wells; the fraternity couldn't fully comprehend what had happened. "We were all very

upset." She said, "I guess it just hit us harder than anyone else in the school because Dr. Kelley was our adviser."

A formal ceremony held last April was attended by Chrissy Ferguson, then president of LAE, faculty members and students from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Studies; Dr. Charles Ross, dean of the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences; and members of the Sociology Club.

The trees are Nellie Stevens Hollies and were purchased from Hudgins Nursery in Chesterfield County. The business gave a discount after learning what the trees would be used for. The purchase of the trees was funded by donations to the Longwood Foundation for the Debra Kelley Memorial from colleagues, friends, former students, and LAE.

Watkins said the group worked closely with Facilities Management staff, who helped install the tree. Kelley, 53, asso-

ciate professor of sociology, had taught at Longwood since 1994.

"I can't say we've gotten over it because I'm not entirely sure it's something you can get over," said Watkins when asked how the fraternity is coping since the murders.

"It's weird for me because the day she was killed, she was on campus with her daughter. I saw them and I said hi." Watkins said the fraternity is happy with McCroskey's sentencing on Monday. He will serve four life sentences for the murders. "We've read the statement from the family and we know that they're happy with the decision the judge made." She said part of the coping process involved the fraternity dedicating the trees to Kelley.

"All we can do is move forward," said Watkins. "We can't go back."

The Owl and the Butterfly: a poem dedicated to Debora, Mark and Emma

Copyright 2009 Jessica S. Hintz

The owl and the butterfly,
Two souls united by their narrow escape from hell,
Began a story that is difficult for me to tell.

The owl was wise of mind,
The butterfly quiet and kind.
To each other they vowed to be true,
What was coming for them,
They never knew.

The owl lived her life in the sky,
Teaching others to fly.
The butterfly remained close to the earth,
Searching for his destiny's perch.

As days descended quietly into night,
They were haunted by a demon they used to fight.
Vigilant they were as it knocked at their door,
Determined to allow him in no more.

Their savior came in the form of a bird from above,
For to them was born a beautiful dove.
For her they lived and devoted their lives
To showing her what it meant to fly.

The dove grew beautiful and bright,
Unique and unlike the others of her kind.
Restless she was, having yet to take flight,
She thrashed her wings and was eager to soar.
Nurturing her spirit was an overwhelming chore.

The innocent dove felt confined to a world
which she did not belong
And her parents knew they could not hold her for long.
They warned her to remain close to the shore,
That her wings were not ready,
Nor her heart prepared
For what beckoned her into the open air.

Now, the owl and the butterfly understood
what their daughter did not,
Having both lived and survived in the darkest of places,
Where night engulfs all light as it falls,
Where fear and hate creep into the empty spaces
When we allow our demons to call.
Protecting her from this is what they
were determined to do,
While allowing her to live freely too.

Well, time did its job and in its wake,
Were revealed the separate paths they each would take.
The butterfly finally found his home,
Putting his faith in the Promise of light.
He spent his days with the Sun,
It's beauty shining on him and through him
As he reached out to share it's
warm embrace with everyone.

The owl too sought the light,
Drawn towards the flame of Truth,
Which could only be found in the dark.
Swift and keen, she spread light through the night,
Dispelling the mystery of the shadows,
Illuminating the minds of others with a mere spark.

Though the owl and the butterfly loved the dove well,
in each other's wings they could no longer dwell.
So, apart they lived, forever bound by the dove,
Guiding her and helping her find where
she fit into the world above.

Eventually the time came when the dove took to the sky,
Pushing the limits with her very first flight.
She found herself soaring away from the light.
Drawn towards the deep cover of night.
She found kindred spirits and acceptance there.
Upon her parents, inflicting pain and frustration.
She was bewitched by the worship of
darkness and damnation.

It's just a phase, a brief infatuation,
Prayed the butterfly for his daughter's salvation.
It's an expression of freedom,
A temporary miscalculation, an error of navigation,
Hoped the owl with much trepidation.

Now, here was the dilemma that all parents face,
Especially ones blessed with a child of extraordinary grace.
Should they chain and repress, risking a loss,
Or should they support and accept, no matter the cost?
For the soulful sake of the dove,
They gave her freedom and watched her with love.

But, the world of shadows had her under its spell,
Never frightened was the dove by her proximity to hell.
She wandered through the spider's lair,
Opening her heart to the faceless friends she met there.
It was here that she found him, the wounded bird,
with his promise of devotion and empty words.

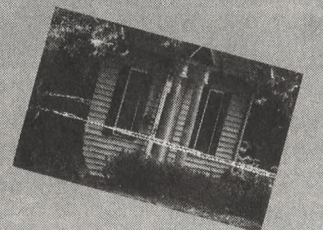
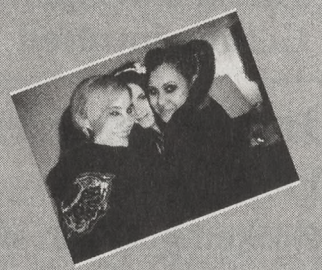
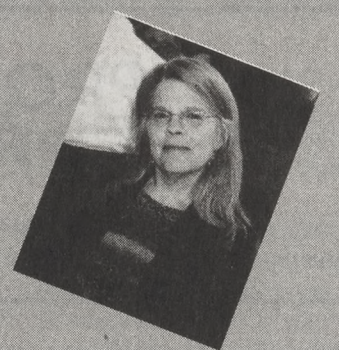
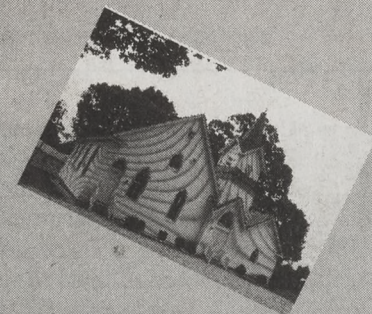
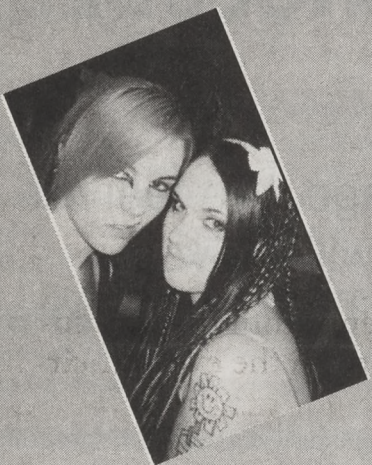
She put her trust in him but was blind,
To the twisted and wretched state of his mind.
He too was once a dove born innocent and free,
But was now haunted by demons no one could see.

They had but to listen to the toxic song that he sung,
To know that he'd been poisoned by the serpent's tongue.
The demon within was eager to feed,
And set him upon an evil deed.
When upon the winged family he came to call,
He violently devoured them all.

The owl and the butterfly were my beloved friends you see,
And their beautiful child was once dear to me.
This tale is devastating but true,
And there is a reason why I am recounting it to you.
The friends whom I mourn were deeply spiritual and kind,
And they never believed in an eye for an eye.

To be sure, the black dove has sealed his own fate,
And his demons will haunt him the rest of his days.
Someday he will have to answer for his despicable ways,
But do not confuse justice with hate.
We are not the keepers of that gate,
And we have no right to snuff out his light.

On behalf of the owl and the butterfly and their dove,
I ask that we remember them with love.
I beseech thee,
Do not dishonor their memory,
By adding another life to this tragedy.



A New Year That Brings Change and a Very Bright Future

COURTNEY JONES
Managing Editor

Welcome to the fifth week of the 2010-2011 academic year at Longwood. We have all had time to get back to our regular school routines (or find routines if you're a freshman). The schoolwork is slowly beginning to pile up, and normal weekend activities like going home have resumed. If you haven't already, now is also a good time to get involved in campus activities.

According to the Longwood website, there are over 173 student organizations and more are being added every week. There is pretty much a club or organization for anything you could possibly ever want to be a part of on Longwood's campus. From media outlets like *The Rotunda* and the radio station WMLU 91.3 FM to politically-charged clubs like the SG&A and religious clubs such as InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. There are even sports clubs, foreign language clubs and many types of Greek organizations, such as social or academic. There are new clubs springing up all the time, and if they are being created, the clubs in existence are evolving into bigger, more efficient organizations. *The Rotunda* just had the privilege of expanding its editorial staff significantly.

It has been an exciting week for *The*

Rotunda. We held an election for open positions on our editorial board last Sunday, and we added nine editors to our staff. We filled the positions of Arts & Entertainment Editor, Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor, Assistant Features Editor, Assistant News Editor, two Assistant Copy Editors, Assistant Business Manager, Assistant Ads Manager, and Assistant Online Administrator. Welcome to *The Rotunda* Katie, Jacob, Jamie, Ian, Becca, Chelsea, Tamika, Amanda, and Katlyn! We now have 25 editors, which is a first for Longwood's campus newspaper. We don't all fit into our own office anymore for editorial board meetings.

When I first arrived at Longwood in the fall of 2007, I wanted to get involved but I wasn't sure what organizations I wanted to be a part of. I became friends with Laura Beth Stricker, who is now the copy editor, and we both went to a *Rotunda* meeting that semester. There were only a handful of people at the meeting, and there were only three editors on the staff: AJ Karidis, Lauren Boehnlein, and Tim Holmes.

I wrote my first article that week about the controversy over the cell phone policy in classrooms. It was a pretty awful piece that ended up being just over three hundred words and had no interviews. The article ran in the paper and I thought it was cool to see

my name in print. The next semester I submitted an application to be a part of *The Rotunda* editorial staff.

The next year, the staff grew to the point where every section had an editor. The numbers of pages of *The Rotunda* grew as well, since more people were continuously writing for the paper each week. Last year, *The Rotunda* staff grew again to almost 20 editors and every section also had an assistant. We had a group of students who regularly took photos for the paper, as well as an Ad Manager and Layout staff. Our weekly Thursday newspaper meetings attracted bigger groups of people as time went on. Professor Jeff Halliday's media writing courses began having a requirement to have stories published in *The Rotunda* for course credit.

The Rotunda ended the last academic school year with 17 editors and it was shaping up to be another successful year for the paper. Then, over the course of the past five weeks, there were a plethora of freshmen who began attending our weekly meetings and our open houses, and suddenly we had nine applications, and six of them were from freshmen.

For the past few years, the freshmen class at Longwood has gotten larger and larger, breaking the record for the amount of incoming freshmen. That means that more and more students are attending Longwood each year, so

more and more students can get involved in campus activities. Things should only get better from here for the student organizations at Longwood.

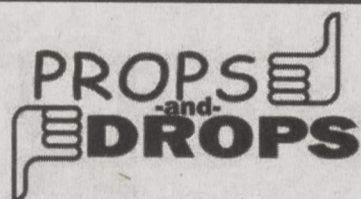
"As a senior looking back on my college career so far, I'm glad that I chose to get involved with campus organizations right away, and I've joined more as time went by. I'm one of those people that just hates knowing I missed out on something, especially if I had the opportunity to be a part of it."

To put it bluntly, just get involved and make a difference for the campus and for yourself, and meet some new people along the way. Yes, academics are very time consuming and they should be the main priority for anyone attending university, but don't forget to have fun, too. You could join the

paintball club because it's a hobby of yours that you like to do on the weekends. If you like to ride horses, join the Equestrian Team and meet some new people who enjoy riding, too.

As a senior looking back on my college career so far, I'm glad that I chose to get involved with campus organizations right away, and I've joined more as time went by. I'm one of those people that just hates knowing I missed out on something, especially if I had the opportunity to be a part of it. I don't remember as many people getting involved when I first got to Longwood and it could have been that I just didn't pay much notice, but I'm definitely noticing now.

I'm excited for the future of *The Rotunda* this year with our new staff. I'm glad that people are continuing to get involved across the board of organizations. Seeing the growth and expansion first hand has revitalized my interest in all the organizations I am involved in on campus. I was feeling down because it's my last year here and I'm going to miss all the activities I'm involved in once I graduate and move on. But I am going to live in the moment and enjoy the time I have left to work with all these wonderful new people, and remember how far we've come.



The Rotunda would like to encourage anyone and everyone to submit props and drops to therotundaonline@gmail.com

Props to:

- + Good pens
- + A feel-good playlist
- + Cocoa and Reese's Puffs
- + Delayed school projects
- + Free dinners
- + Parent's weekend
- + Getting involved

Drops to:

- Procrastination
- Broken glass on sidewalks
- Migraines
- Computers crashing
- Sinus infections
- Spam e-mails

CALENDAR PAGE NO LONGER INCLUDED

We've chosen to no longer include the calendar page. We feel like this page can be utilized more efficiently. Not only will it give us more space for our reporters to get published, but it will bring more content to our readers.

You can now find Speak Outs in the features section, but all other aspects of the calendar page have been removed, such as weather, events, and "This Day in History."

We feel as if this decision will benefit both our readers and our reporters.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

The Rotunda offers full page, half page, and quarter page ads. We also offer classifieds. Thousands of students read *The Rotunda* every week; that could mean thousands of more customers or clients for your business.

Contact our ads manager Crissy Field at therotundaonline@gmail.com if you're interested in advertising with *The Rotunda*.

Rotunda Editorial Policy:

Editorials, Letters to the Editor and/or Online Comments are viewed by *The Rotunda* editorial board before publication. All are encouraged and become property of *The Rotunda* upon reception. Submissions from anonymous sources MAY be printed with approval of the editorial board after analysis. Letters or comments that distastefully attack individuals or organizations, or use excessive inappropriate language will not be printed. Determinations are made solely by *The Rotunda* editorial staff and faculty adviser(s).

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Jeff Halliday

The Rotunda is a student volunteer organization aimed at informing you (the students) on the issues going on in and around the campus of Longwood University. **GET INVOLVED!**

To inquire about a position with *The Rotunda* please e-mail us at therotundaonline@gmail.com or attend a weekly Thursday Night meeting at 7 p.m. in the Lankford Student Union "B" Room.

Want to be HEARD? Submit your opinions via e-mail in a Word document to *The Rotunda* Editorial Board each week by 9 p.m. Friday night for review for the next week's issue. The staff encourages student participation!



PIGSKIN PICK 'EM WEEKLY FOOTBALL PICKS

**BEN MAITLAND: (9-3)**

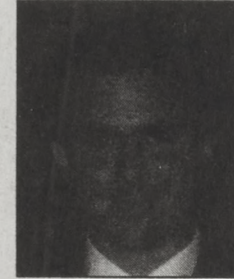
-No. 1 Alabama over No. 10 Arkansas: The Razorbacks have shown promise ranked in the Top 10, but Saban's boys are on a roll with the addition of Mark Ingram.
-No. 3 Boise State over No. 24 Oregon State: Kellen Moore may sound like Barney from "The Simpsons," but he is an effective leader in the locker room. BCS title game, anyone?

-No. 22 West Virginia over No. 15 LSU: Noel Devine leads the way on the bayou. After the scare against Marshall a few weeks back, WVU needs to make a big statement.
-Indianapolis over Denver: Peyton finally got his boys going last week against baby brother. The Broncos haven't proven to me they can sustain momentum just yet.
-Miami over N.Y. Jets: The 'Fins are on it, coming off big win on the road in Minnesota. I think both defenses make this one a shootout, however.
-Green Bay over Chicago: Aaron Rodgers has proven an effective replacement for Brett Favre and this heated rivalry will bring out the best in him on Monday night.

KEENAN CRUMP: (6-6)

-No. 1 Alabama over No. 10 Arkansas: 'Bama's defense, experience and the return of Ingram will propel them to victory on the road.
-No. 3 Boise State over No. 24 Oregon State: Boise St. will continue push towards BCS with victory over their last big test of the season led by Kellen Moore.

-No. 15 LSU over No. 22 West Virginia: WVU enters hostile environment that they are unfamiliar with in the Big East and LSU thumps them in "Death Valley."
-Denver over Indianapolis: Denver uses home field advantage and a newly effective offense led by Kyle Orton to win in a "Mile High Shootout."
-N.Y. Jets over Miami: Victory over Patriots serves as a confidence boost for Mark Sanchez as balanced offense and good defense wins it in Miami.
-Chicago over Green Bay: Chicago's high flying offense shocks Green Bay on Monday night and shows that the Bears start is no fluke.

NATHAN EPSTEIN: (7-5)

-No. 1 Alabama over No. 10 Arkansas: Arkansas keeps it close, but too big, too fast for the Crimson Tide.
-No. 3 Boise State over No. 24 Oregon State: Playing in Boise and Boise St.'s offense is too well-refined for Oregon St.
-No. 15 LSU over No. 22 West Virginia: Noel Devine gets his yards, but a night game in "Death Valley" is too much.

-Indianapolis over Denver: Denver's defense has given up too many points in two weeks and is not enough to stop Peyton Manning.
-Miami over N.Y. Jets: Mark Sanchez's first road game of the season ends in defeat in South Beach.
-Green Bay over Chicago: The Pack's offense has looked stellar and spotless this year.

**GUEST: SARAH SCHMADER**

-No. 1 Alabama over No. 10 Arkansas: Mark Ingram is going to tear apart Arkansas.
-No. 3 Boise State over No. 24 Oregon State: Boise clobbered Wyoming, now they can do it to Oregon.
-No. 15 LSU over No. 22 West Virginia: No Pat White, no problem.
-Indianapolis over Denver: Indianapolis has a stronger passing game and defense.
-Miami over N.Y. Jets: Miami's defense is doing really well; the Dolphins are a more together team.
-Chicago over Green Bay: They're both playing equally well, but Chicago's coming off a hotter week.

**Wounded Warrior Project a Success On and Off the Field**

BEN MAITLAND
Sports Editor

The Wounded Warrior Project was held this past Friday and Saturday at Longwood University. The women's soccer team kicked things off Friday, Sept. 17 with a rout over visiting Elon University, winning the match 6-0. Sophomore Lindsey Ottavio posted her first career hat-trick for the Lancers with three goals during the first 34 minutes against the Phoenix. Over 400 people attended the match.

Longwood scored early and never let up against Elon as Ottavio tallied her first goal in the fourth minute when she took a nice through pass from freshman Kelsey Pardue down the left side of the field and shot successfully into the lower right corner at 3:27. Ottavio

scored again at the 20 minute mark when she did it alone while beating several defenders and the keeper with a shot to the upper right and a 2-0 advantage. Ottavio and Pardue teamed up again in the 34th minute as Ottavio received a pass and shot to the lower right at 33:41 and the Lancers led 3-0 at the intermission.

Longwood continued with its momentum in the second period as junior Mackenzie King, senior Jessica Varela and sophomore Lindsey Booth tacked on three more goals.

It was the most goals scored by Longwood since the 7-2 win over Howard University in 2006. Ottavio is on fire right now, leading the team with a team-best ten goals this season. She entered the match ranked fifth in Division I goals scored. Pardue leads the team with five assists. Varela's goal was her first of the year, while King and Booth each scored their first career goals.

The match marked the beginning of the Wounded Warrior Weekend to honor members of the military wounded in combat. On Saturday, Sept. 18, a 5K run/walk was held at 9 a.m., drawing in dozens of participants. A soccer contest on Saturday

evening at 5:30 p.m. featured a Longwood faculty and staff team against friends of fallen university alumni and family members. The faculty and staff team included Dr. Tim Pierson, Dr. Jake Milne and Dr. John Miller, and was coached by baseball coach Buddy Bolding and President Patrick Finnegan.

"A year ago, our Longwood University women's soccer family lost a brother, Andrew McConnell," said Associate Head Coach Steve Brdarski. "It was amazing to see all the people who took this project on. This year, we raised money and we raised awareness. The plan is to keep honoring Longwood and this service group who take care of our servicemen and women."

"It's always great to play for not just yourself but for a bigger cause," said Lauren Trizna of the women's soccer team. "It motivates you more and gives you more momentum, and it's always better to help bigger causes out. I see us being more involved. Hopefully in the future we can help out a little bit more and do whatever we can throughout the entire year."

The women's team then got its first road victory against Radford University on Sunday, Sept. 19 defeating the team 2-0. The team plays again on Friday night, Sept. 24, hosting another Big South school and in-state rival Liberty University at the Athletics Complex in Farmville beginning at 7 p.m.

Men's and Women's Basketball Schedules Released

BEN MAITLAND
Sports Editor

The men's basketball schedule for 2010-11 was released by the Athletics Department last week after several months of deliberation and speculation as to which teams the Lancers would be facing. The schedule includes 31 total games, stretching from the second week of November to the final week of February. The Lancers will be going up against teams from all around the country, including some big-name opponents. The Lancers will begin this season playing on the road at Kansas of the Big 12 Conference. The game is scheduled for Fri., Nov. 12. The men's team will also play on the road against ACC members Virginia Tech and Maryland, along with Big East Conference schools Marquette and Seton Hall. Longwood will also make the trip out West to compete in the in IBSN Sports Las Vegas Classic that includes games against New Mexico and Colorado. The Lancers will look to build upon their 12-19 record from last season; boasting 14 home games on the schedule. The two highest-profile home matchups will come against CAA in-state opponents James Madison University (JMU) and William & Mary.

Kansas' men's team is the defending Big 12 champion and was the top seed from last year's NCAA Tournament before being upset by Northern Iowa. The Lancers play on the road against the Hokies for the third consecutive year on Sat., Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. and at Maryland for the second-straight year on Wed., Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. For the first time in school history, Longwood will play at Marquette on Sat., Dec. 4, and at Seton Hall on Mon., Dec. 13. One of the stipulations of playing at Seton Hall this season was that the school plays in Farmville next November during the 2011-12 season. Seton Hall is a member of the Big East conference.

The home game against JMU in Willett Hall will be held on Wed., Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. It will mark the sixth game against the Dukes over the past seven seasons. The Lancers lost to JMU 96-86 in Harrisonburg this past February, but defeated JMU 79-76 at home two years ago. Longwood holds its home game against the William & Mary Tribe in Farmville on Wed., Dec. 29, at 7 p.m. It will be only the fourth game ever held between the pair. The Tribe won last year's game in Williamsburg by a score of 84-65. Overall, the Lancers were 9-3 at

home last season and are 22-5 during the last two seasons combined. The Achilles heel for Longwood has been its play on the road, as the men's team was just 3-14 away last year.

In a press release on longwoodlancers.com, Head Coach Mike Gillian expressed his enthusiasm about the upcoming season. "We're very excited about all the facets of this year's schedule," said Gillian. "Like we normally have, there is a mix of high profile opponents, a significant number of home games, and the continuation of some rivalries we are building with in-state opponents. This schedule presents some great challenges for us, but nothing we haven't faced before."

The schedule for the women's basketball team was also released yesterday. The Lady Lancers will play 30 games total, 13 of which will be played in Willett Hall. Seven games for the women's team will be held against in-state opponents. The in-state matchups include games against JMU, Liberty and Virginia. Longwood opens the 2010-11 campaign by hosting the Lancer Classic on campus in Willett Hall on Fri.-Sat., Nov. 12-13. This is the first time since the 2005-06 season that the tournament will be held on opening weekend. Longwood will go head-to-head with Campbell on Fri., Nov. 12, and will face Marshall on Sat., Nov. 13. The Lancers beat Campbell 72-55 in Willett Hall last season.

The ladies take on ACC-opponent Virginia in their first away game of the season Sun., Nov. 21. The women's team will also host JMU at Willett Hall on Thurs., Dec. 2, the night after the men's team plays against the Dukes. The Liberty Flames of the Big South Conference will make the trip down Route 460 on Fri., Jan. 14 to play in Farmville as well. The Lancers have road games scheduled both at Maryland on Sun., Jan. 30 and at Virginia Tech on Thurs., Feb. 10. Longwood hosts High Point on Fri., Nov. 19 and Gardner-Webb on Sun., Dec. 5. The Lancers beat High Point 76-68 on the road last season. Longwood will also play at home against Davidson of the Southern Conference Fri., Jan. 28 for the NCAA "Pack the House Challenge."

Further information about the men's and women's schedules can be found at longwoodlancers.com.

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Men's Rugby Handles W&M for Second Win

JOHN GRAHAM
Community Submission

It has been a few years since Longwood played the College of William & Mary (W&M). This year's game had a fired up W&M team ready to do battle. Playing in Williamsburg, Longwood was slow coming out of the gate and was almost immediately behind after three minutes when W&M scored (conversion failed) to lead 5-0. Inconsistent refereeing made it very difficult to get into a rhythm of the game but at the 20-minute mark Captain Preston Leep pushed in a try and TJ Van Petten converted to give LU a temporary lead 7-5. Poor discipline by LU gave W&M several opportunities to put points on the board but on they could only convert two of four penalty kicks. Van Petten responded with a Longwood penalty and Longwood found itself trailing 11-10 as the half was nearing the end. In the final five minutes of the first half, freshman Fullback Eric Minor collected a long W&M clearing kick and returned it 55 yards to score. Minor converted his own try and the half ended 17-11 in favor of LU.

What the long run by Minor did was expose the weakness in the rear guard of the W&M defense. During the second half, Longwood focused on not making as many penalties and putting the Tribe wings and fullback

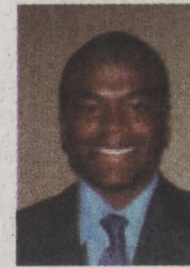
under pressure with precise kicks and fastball movement to the outside. The result was consistent pressure and domination and three second half tries, two by Dan Waite and one more by Leep and seven more points from Van Petten for a 24-point onslaught. A late try by W&M made the final score 39-18.

This game was a better performance by LU than the previous week's victory over Christopher Newport University (CNU). Chris Boykin helped LU win the majority of lineouts, and several substitutes for injured players had very good games. Freshman Center Mike Allen made a positive defensive impact while veterans Frost Salem, Patrick Parker and Bradley Rogers controlled the game up front. TJ Van Petten was named man-of-the-match for his 12 points and overall contribution as flanker.

This week's Family Weekend game is against a much-improved Hampden-Sydney College (H-SC) team. H-SC is looking to reverse a recent trend of lopsided defeats at the hand of Longwood. H-SC and LU are tied for first place in the Virginia Rugby Union (VRU) standings with two victories apiece, and this game will prove pivotal in the overall final season standings. The game is at the First Avenue Field at 1 p.m. The women's rugby team opens its season against UVa at 11 a.m.

A Fairytale Farewell?

KEENAN CRUMP
Rotunda Reporter



SPORTS
COLUMN

As a lifelong Atlanta Braves fan, I was shocked and saddened when I heard the news that this season would be manager Bobby Cox's last at the helm of a franchise that owes so much of its success to what Cox has been able to build and develop since his return to the organization in 1990. Bobby Cox is surely a first ballot Hall of Fame manager despite critics pointing to the fact that he only has one World Series championship with Atlanta. However, with the 2010 season nearing its end, Cox is in once again in position to add one final championship to his name this October.

After leading the Braves franchise to 14 consecutive division titles and experiencing one of the most successful runs in sports history, Bobby Cox and his team have not reached the postseason since 2005. It was fair for some to even ask if the Braves would ever win a division title or reach the playoffs again under Cox, considering the recent resurgence of division foe Philadelphia and the sudden success of teams like Colorado.

Nevertheless, the skipper with the most ejections in Major League history was cool, calm, and collected in the Braves' dugout, waiting for the right time to once again challenge for the National League East crown and ultimately another shot at the World Series. That time appears to be now. The Braves are back contending for a National League pennant, leading the NL Wild Card and are still locked in a tight race for the NL East title with the Philadelphia Phillies.

This season has by far been one of the toughest of Bobby Cox's career as a Major League manager. While many felt the Braves were right on the cusp of relevance once again at the start of the season, Bobby Cox and his squad were still plagued with questions about the lack of a true run-producing bat in the middle of the lineup as well as concerns about veterans on the team whose best days are behind them.

These questions did not faze Atlanta's skipper, and he has been able to lead his team into contention two weeks before the end of the season despite losing the face of the franchise, third baseman Chipper Jones, to what many thought was a career-ending knee injury earlier this summer. He has had to put a team on the field that is both young and old without

"The Braves are back contending for a National League pennant, leading the NL Wild Card and are still locked in a tight race for the NL East title with the Philadelphia Phillies."

truly knowing what the results would be. He was also forced to work around a season-ending injury to the leader of the team and one of the most recognizable faces in Braves' history, Chipper Jones.

Needless to say, things seem to have worked out this season for the Braves. The Braves were in first place of the NL East for nearly four straight months out of the season before the surging Phillies surpassed them in the past two weeks. The rookie phenom Jason Heyward has lived up to monster expectations in right field by hitting .287 with 18 home runs and 71 runs batted in at the plate this season, all leading or near the top for Major League rookies this year.

Starting pitcher Tim Hudson, just over a year since undergoing Tommy John surgery on his right elbow, has put together one of the best seasons of his career going 16-8 with a 2.61 earned run average, good for fourth in the NL. Also, All-Star game Most Valuable Player Brian McCann has shown leadership and consistency with his bat and his glove in the absence of Chipper Jones while veteran closer Billy Wagner has quietly had a dominant season from the bullpen, converting 35 saves for the Braves in the final season of his career. While Bobby Cox has shown trust in younger players and confidence in his veterans, he has also managed to field a team as deep as any in the Major Leagues this season.

With about two weeks left in the season and a tight pennant race featuring the Bobby Cox-led Atlanta Braves underway, it feels like the 1990's again. As a Braves fan, I hope you can deliver the fairytale ending to the legendary career of Bobby Cox, but he would be the first one to tell you that the game of baseball is played on the field and not at the fingertips of even the best screenwriters Hollywood has to offer.

Field Hockey Gets Second Win Against La Salle



REPRINTED FROM LONGWOODLANCERS.COM

The Longwood University field hockey team ran past visiting La Salle University 6-1 on Saturday afternoon at the Athletics Complex in Farmville. The Lancers scored four goals during a seven-minute stretch in the second half to put the match out of reach. Freshman Stacey de Grandhomme scored three goals in her collegiate debut, while senior Lauren van de Kamp added one goal and one assist.

"It feels good to get the monkey off our backs," said third-year Head Coach Iain Byers. "We've been working on scoring all week in practice. Stacey had a great debut with three goals. Now it is time for us to aim for consistency and repeating performances like this."

Longwood fell behind after a goal by Neelam Kumar to put La Salle (2-5) ahead 1-0 in the seventh minute. de Grandhomme scored her first collegiate goal four minutes later from the right post to tie the match at 1-1. Sophomore Brittany Diaz added her first collegiate goal in the 26th minute on a deflection on the right post off a pass from junior Olga Knop. Longwood out-shot La Salle 12-2 in the first half and had an 8-1 advantage on penalty corners.

The Lancers put the match out of reach with a four-goal flurry in the

second half. van de Kamp took a pass from Knop and scored from the left post in the 45th minute to push the lead to 3-1. de Grandhomme scored her second goal of the match after taking a pass on a breakaway from junior Amanda Babineau and taking a diving shot by the right post that slipped behind the goalkeeper. de Grandhomme added her third goal of the match on a hard shot that came after a corner. van de Kamp sent the ball to junior Sarah Bietsch, who set the ball up for de Grandhomme who sent a rocket-shot through the Explorers' defense. Sophomore Taylor Bender took a pass from senior Andrea Bastiaanse and scored her first goal of the season in the 51st minute to make the final score 6-1.

Longwood out-shot La Salle 19-5 and had a 13-5 advantage in penalty corners. Sophomore goalkeeper Kaye Goulding had one save and allowed one goal in 49:18 before sophomore Amy Lewis entered to play the final 20:42 of the match. The Explorers' Emma Ruth gave up six goals.

Longwood (2-5) returns to action today, Wed., Sept. 22, when it travels to Harrisonburg to take on James Madison University (JMU) 7 p.m. (All information from longwoodlancers.com)

Men's Soccer Free Falls to 0-6 This Season

BEN MAITLAND
Sports Editor

Longwood University's men's soccer team is still caught in the midst of a miserable start to their 2010 season. The team dropped two matches against Towson and North Florida to fall to 0-6 on the year.

The match against Towson was held on Wed., Sept. 15 in Towson, Md. The final tally against Longwood's Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) opponent was 3-1. Sophomore Michael Tegler scored his first goal of the season as the second half got underway.

Longwood fell behind 1-0 early on in the 13th minute after Towson's Zach Hoffer scored a goal from 30 yards out that slipped past the goalkeeper for the Lancers. The Tigers, who were a perfect 5-0 coming into the match, scored the second goal in the 63rd minute on a breakaway by Kay Banjo. Liam Maloney

added yet another goal in the 64th minute to put the lead even further out of reach. Tegler scored his first goal in the 86th minute off a cross from the far post from freshman Chandler Tulin.

The Lancers had several great scoring opportunities but were stifled by the Tigers defense. Sophomore Adel Sarras sent three shots wide in the first 15 minutes of the second half, while sophomore Parker Arnold had a one-on-one with the goalkeeper which did not find the net. Freshman Nick Surkamp had a brilliant header attempt grabbed by the Towson goalkeeper in the 69th minute of the match.

Longwood's junior goalkeeper Joel Helmick made three saves during the match, while Angelo Viteritti tallied five saves. Towson out-shot Longwood 18-12, but the Lancers had a 10-8 advantage in the second half. The Tigers held a 2-1 edge in corner kicks.

"At times we played some of the best football we've played all season," said Head Coach Jon Atkinson. "The biggest difference during the game that we saw was maturity. They were more of a seasoned program. We conceded some awful goals through one individual and one collective team error. It's hard to win games when these errors exist. We're thoroughly disappointed that this game slipped from our grasp."

The men's soccer team was then defeated at the hands of the University of North Florida 1-0 on Sat., Sept. 18 in Jacksonville, Fla. The Lancers had opportunities early on with a pair of corner kicks in the first eight minutes. Junior Zack Mahon had a shot on goal in the seventh minute that was saved by the Osprey goalkeeper.

North Florida scored the lone goal of the match in the 42nd minute when Ricky Lawrence intercepted a pass from a defender back to Longwood's keeper Helmick. He sent the ball into the open net uncontested. It was another costly error in a string of mistakes that have plagued Longwood so far this season.

Longwood tallied six shots on goal among ten shots overall. North Florida tacked on 11 shots with five shots on goal. The Ospreys held the Lancers in check with a 7-5 advantage on corner kicks. Helmick had four saves during the 90 minutes while Tyler Willets had six saves in the shutout for North Florida. Sophomore Vinnie Llana led the Lancers with three shots, including two shots on goal.

Atkinson said the most frustrating thing about the 0-6 start has been the repetitive mistakes.

"0-6 is not a position that neither we nor the school want us to be in. The guys are thoroughly frustrated and disappointed that they are not able to represent the school in the right light. They have to add a bit more experience to the game to get themselves out of this hole," said Atkinson. "There are no easy games at this level."

Longwood returns to action tonight, Wed. Sept. 22, when it hosts another tough opponent in Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The match is at the Athletics Complex in Farmville at 7 p.m.



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7 p.m., Auditorium, Jamman Hall

Tuesday, November 2
President Patrick Finnegan will address "Honor and Integrity."
7 p.m., Auditorium, Jamman Hall