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THE ROTUNDA

Celebrating our students since 1920!



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OCTOBER
CAMPUS
EVENTS



- 10/12 - University Center and Student Activities: Mental Health Workshop
- 10/13 - University Center and Student Activities: Mental Health Workshop
- 10/14 - Lancer Productions: Sensory Night
- 10/14 - College Democrats of Longwood University: Voter Registration Drive
- 10/16 - Zeta Tau Alpha: Race for the Ribbon 5k
- 10/16 - Honors Student Association: Campus Cleanup
- 10/17 - College Democrats of Longwood University: Virtual Text Bank For Abigail Spanberger
- 10/21 - Lancer Productions: Comedian - Vik Pandya
- 10/28 - Lancer Productions: Haunted House

for more information about these events,
please visit lancerlink.org

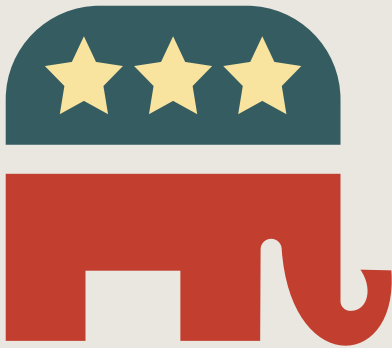
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NEWSPAPER

NEWS - ENTERTAINMENT - OPINIONS

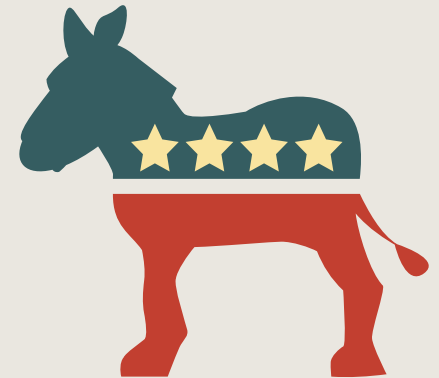
**"BRINGING
LONGWOOD THE
NEWS SINCE 1920"**

GETTING LANCERS TO THE POLLS

by Tyler Bagent | News Staff | @longwoodrotunda



COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY



For decades, young people have remained the least likely among citizens to register and turn out to vote. According to the Census Bureau, only around 59.8% of those aged 18-24 were registered to vote, trailing every other age group by at least ten percent. Many have asked why this is, with responses such as apathy, disinterest, or lack of opportunity. Others believe that their vote doesn't matter.

However, Dean of Student Engagement Cheryl Steele, Virginia21 Representative Katya Mayer, College Democrats President Emily Robertson, College Republicans President Kayleigh Winebarger, among many others are working to change that with a project called LancersVote. LancersVote is an effort modeled after groups on other campuses (ex. Hokies Vote, VCU Votes, etc.) to get students registered to vote. As the country barrels toward the Midterm Elections, there has been a rush on many college campuses to get youth voter turnout as high as possible, with Longwood being no exception. LancersVote is already making a large effort to get out the vote at Longwood, especially in a nonpartisan fashion. "We ought to be coordinating efforts," Steele puts it. "This is really about students

exercising their right to vote."

Both the College Republicans and College Democrats have gone all in on the project, combining their efforts to boost registration. Mayer, while discussing VA21 and LancersVote, said, "The big thing is that we're nonpartisan, so my goal and the community's goal is just trying to get campus informed."

While many Democrats and Republicans disagree on nearly every issue that faces us today, Robertson and Winebarger agreed on one main thing: youth voting matters. As put by Winebarger, "everyone has a voice and in order to make a change you have to use your voice."

Similarly, Robertson said, "It's really important for young people to vote because they typically don't. They have the power to change the trajectory of an election."

Steele, Mayer, Robertson, and Winebarger all remained optimistic about political participation, specifically regarding issues that will bring young people out to the polls. Topics such as reproductive and the right to an abortion were common themes, specifically as the nation reacts to this year's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. "These freshmen are really fired up, and it's really great to see."

Mayer says. With that said, she clarified that "we're not afraid to protest, but we just can't show up to the polls, and we have to change that."

Through social media advocacy, tabling on Brock Commons, and registration and advocacy competitions. LancersVote hopes to continue to push for student registration and turnout up to election day with efforts such as Motivote, a registration and advocacy competition between colleges in Virginia. Longwood has placed first twice in this civic engagement competition over larger schools such as Virginia Tech.

As LancersVote kicks off for the year, Steele stressed Longwood's commitment to "creating citizens for the greater good." She says, "if we can get more students to vote, and even think about it, that to me will be worth the effort. I'm an eternal optimist." She, along with student advocates and leadership, began the official charge for student registration on September 20th and will continue that until the polls close on November 8th. More information about Lancers Vote can be found at @lancers_vote on Instagram, and information about registering to vote can be found at <https://iwillvote.com/>.



COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

CAM PATTERSON: INTERIM VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

by Anthony Anderson | Editor-in-Chief | @longwoodrotunda

The office of Student Affairs works to create an engaging, diverse and inclusive community that positively influences student learning, development, and success. As of June, Cameron Patterson '10 has been the Interim Vice President of Student Affairs since Dr. Tim Pierson's retirement at the end of the spring semester.

A Lynchburg native and Longwood graduate Patterson has been a part of the Lancer family for over a decade. He credits his love for Longwood to the sense of community and family fostered on Longwood's campus.

Since starting at Longwood as a student in 2006, Patterson has been an active member of the Longwood community. Patterson was a member of multiple organizations, including Longwood's Programming Board Lancer Productions, Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, and Theta Chi Fraternity. He also served as the Student Government Association (SGA) President.

After graduating from Longwood in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Patterson didn't take long to return to Longwood. He returned the same year to work in the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), where he helped in the

reorganization process of the OMA. He then transitioned to the Office of Disability Resources, now the Accessibility Resources Office (ARO), where he worked to help better campus life as the Program Coordinator. Before starting his new position as Vice President of Student Affairs, Patterson's last position was as the Executive Director of the Robert Russa Moton Museum. During the same time, Patterson earned his Master's Degree in Counselor Education.

Patterson's ties to the community don't stop at the end of Brock Commons. Patterson is an involved member of the Farmville community as well. He helped plan a Prince Edward Board of Supervisors debate as a student. Patterson now serves on the Centra Southside Community Hospital Board of Directors. On a state level, Patterson is a member of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities Board of Directors.

When asked how he would fill the shoes Dr. Pearson left, Patterson said, "I hope to give my energy, give my all and do this job the very best that I can." Patterson said that even though this is now his office to run, he is grateful that Dr. Pearson is still on campus to give his advice.

When asked about the legacy left by Dr.

Pearson, Patterson said, "I think what Dr. Pearson leaves us is a legacy of valuing the input of our student leaders in a really strong way." Patterson went on to say that during his time as a student, he had the opportunity to work under Dr. Pearson and gained skills that he hopes will help him as he steps into the shoes left by Dr. Pearson.

When asked what he thinks the Office of Student Affairs embodies, Patterson said, "As you look at Student Affairs at Longwood, it is a collection of offices and initiatives and programs that support the development of students outside of the classroom." He also said that the Office of Student Affairs could not function without the other offices that affect campus life like Residential & Commuter Life (RCL), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and many more.

Patterson said, "supporting our students in this post covid reengagement within campus is something that I think about often." when asked what goals he has as the new co-advisor to SGA. He also talked about how mental health for students and faculty is another initiative he plans to tackle.

For information about the Office of Student Affairs, visit the office's web page at

<http://www.longwood.edu/studentaffairs/>

STOLEN PRINCEPS BANNER STILL MISSING

by Quincey Urban | Contributor | @longwoodrotunda



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

On Aug. 22, a ‘welcome back to campus’ banner made by Princeps was taken from the front of Upchurch University Center. The dean of student engagement at Longwood University, Cheryl Steele, saw the banner hanging from the third-floor balcony of the building and needed to take it down, as it was not approved to be hung from the balcony.

Princeps is one of three secret societies at Longwood University that encourages students to become citizen leaders on and off campus. One recent Princeps and CHI graduate said the group was formed in 1992 with the intention to “recognize leaders who may or may not be more visible on campus.”

The three secret societies on campus are Cahoots, CHI and Princeps. Each of these organizations has a specific mission. They incorporate their unique messages into banners, droppings and events they put on for students. Droppings are themed souvenirs from the organizations that include symbols for the respective groups. Across campus, these banners and droppings are considered to be good luck to find and are highly coveted items by many students.

As Steele went to take down the banner, it got stuck on the building. She and Paula Ellison, administrative assistant in Upchurch University Center, called facilities to safely take the banner down the rest of the way. But, when facilities arrived, the banner was missing.

Steele reached out to several organizations on campus, such as Peer Mentors, in order to locate the missing banner so it could still be shown to the rest of the students, but the banner has not been returned.

According to Steele, who is also the faculty advisor for Princeps, students have been harassing members of Princeps, taking more droppings than they should and disrespecting the tags on banners that indicate who can take them and when. She urges students to respect the wishes of the secret societies on campus.

In regards to the problem of students and alumni taking too many droppings for themselves, CHI and Princeps Alum No. 1 said, “I think the intention is always for all kinds of people to find droppings, and then sometimes people go hunting and try to pick up all of them. But that’s not what it’s about.”

Alum No. 1 and another recent CHI and

Princeps alum suggested if someone already has a few droppings, leave some behind for more people to find them or give them to someone you know who does not have any. Alum No. 1 said, “Especially for new students, if they find that, it can include them in the tradition versus if a bunch of upperclassmen take them.”

Alum No. 2 said people frequently go to him asking how many droppings is too many, “If you’re questioning it, that’s where the line is drawn.”

Alum No. 2 also said there is a fine line with what members of the secret societies can do when they know people who are taking too many because they cannot tell them to stop without revealing themselves.

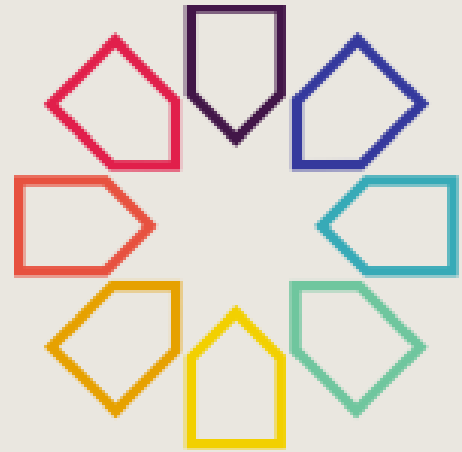
“There are individuals in these organizations whose privacy is always in danger because of technology nowadays: locations, people’s Snap Maps, things like that... You have to be on your guard at all times... It’s nerve wracking,” said Alum No. 2.

To read the rest of this article, please go to www.therotundaonline.com.

*Alum No. 1 and 2 wish to be anonymous due to their previous affiliations with CHI and Princeps

NEW MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE AT LONGWOOD

by Delaney Snead | Contributor | @longwoodrorunda



COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Just think...is there something that has been stressing you out lately or making you anxious or depressed? If so, download the newest interactive self-help app at Longwood. WellTrack is designed to help you understand your mental health and provide you with the help that you need right now. It offers a suite of online tools and courses and uses aspects of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to help you identify, understand and address issues that you are experiencing.

Since COVID-19, mental health awareness has become much more prevalent, especially on college campuses. All student, faculty, and staff here at Longwood can access the app using their Longwood email to sign up. WellTrack can provide resources to the user without having to physically make an appointment with a psychologist. One student user commented, "This app has brought

comfort and peace of mind during times I needed to talk to someone but was too scared to actually open up." WellTrack also allows the user to assess their stress, anxiety, and depression daily. Furthermore, students can opt to share their mood/mental health results with a counselor or psychologist at CAPS in order to identify patterns and keep tabs with progress. All WellTrack information is kept anonymous unless you decide to share it with a counselor.

Regarding the stigma surrounding mental health and seeking professional help, WellTrack is a great alternative to provide more discreet self-help options to those that may find themselves wanting or needing assistance. Various courses are provided to inform the user of their mental health state and to aid in self-help practices, such as Anxiety & Stress, Depression, Public Speaking, Resilience

Skills, Healthier Sleep, Mindfulness, and Purpose & Meaning. The app also includes additional tools for well-being, including The Zen Room, Thought Diary, Cognitive Distortions Quiz, Fun Achievement, and Activity Scheduler. Academic, Financial, Sexual Violence, Addiction, Health & Wellness, and Safety & Security resources are also provided and are specific to Longwood's campus.

Students can also use the app's click-to-call Longwood's 24-hour mental health crisis support line. WellTrack provides an easy access button and with one click you will be directed to speak with a counselor any hour of the day if you are experiencing distress or a mental health crisis. WellTrack and the mental health crisis support line are partially funded by a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant secured by CAPS.



WellTrack

Interactive Self-Help Therapy

COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

OUTSIDE CHICHESTER:



THE COST OF DEFENSIVE EVOLUTION FOR CICHLIDS

COURTESY OF LIVE FISH DIRECT

by Emma Leighton | Features Editor | @longwoodrotunda

Animals who fall victim to hosting another species' offspring are in a constant evolutionary battle with their parasitic foster children. While most brood parasitism in vertebrates can be seen in species of birds, The cuckoo catfish (*Synodontis Multipunctatus*) has also dipped its evolutionary toes into taking advantage of another fish's good parenting. Female African cichlids (*Pseudotropheus*) raise and care for their babies in a special pouch in their mouths to protect their offspring from being eaten while they get big enough to eat things for themselves. This form of parenting is a good strategy for ensuring that a large number of the eggs get to become baby fish and eventually big fish. Cuckoo catfish lay their eggs in the same place as the cichlids, causing them to accidentally be picked up with the cichlid eggs. The cuckoo eggs hatch faster than the cichlids and eat the biological eggs, all while the unsuspecting mother lovingly protects them from becoming snacks for other fish.

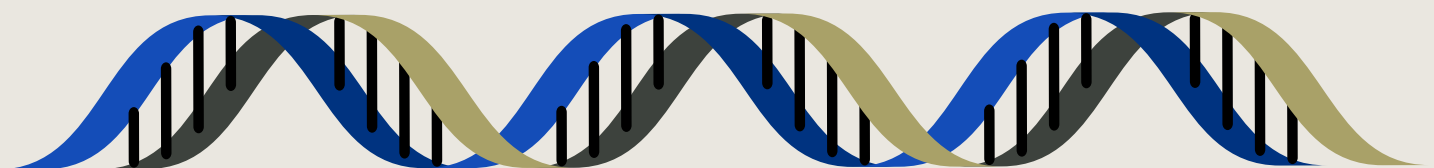
Researchers at the Institute of Vertebrate Biology aimed to find out how effective the catfish were at infecting the broods of the cichlid species that had experienced this invasion compared to species that had not.

The scientists imported 20 Cuckoo catfish from Lake Tanganyika and let them reproduce until there were 100. A breeder supplied 4 species of cichlid, one of which (*S.diagramma*) was native to the same lake as the Cuckoo catfish. When the cichlids and catfish were sexually mature, each species of cichlids was partitioned into breeding groups and housed with male-female pairs of cuckoo catfish. The researchers counted the number of cichlid and catfish eggs in the brooding cichlid's mouths and counted the number and type of rejected eggs. The team then recorded how many of each species hatched and survived to determine which species was more immune to brood parasitism.

They found that the Cichlids that had previously experienced catfish parasitism

were more likely to reject the broods that had been infected with the catfish eggs within the first day than the Cichlid species that came from surrounding lakes. The inexperienced cichlids were more likely to retain all of the eggs and, in turn, hatch more surviving catfish when infected. When the cichlids reject the imposter Cuckoo Catfish eggs, the Cichlid eggs go with them. Since the experienced cichlids were better at rejecting the infected broods, the number of surviving Cichlid offspring also suffered.

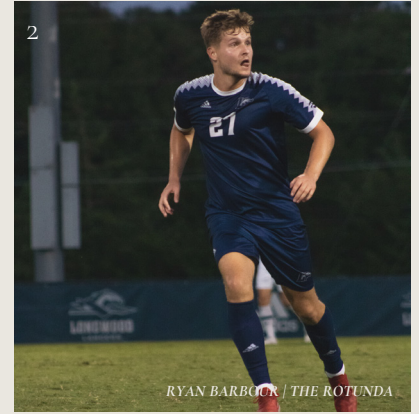
While all cichlids that are taken advantage of by the cuckoo catfish experience losses in their numbers of babies, the *S.diagramma* cichlid has evolved a strong eject mechanism to rid themselves of parasitic catfish eggs within their brood. While the *S.diagramma*'s defenses against the cuckoo catfish are strong, they unintentionally neglect their offense, and their babies are lost in the evolutionary fight.



GALLERY



ANTHONY ANDERSON | THE ROTUNDA



RYAN BARBOCK | THE ROTUNDA



DARYL CONNOR THOMPSON | THE ROTUNDA



ANDREW EDGILL | THE ROTUNDA



COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

PHOTO GALLERY

1: LANCER PRODUCTIONS
FLOWER POWER FITNESS
EVENT

2: MEN'S SOCCER

3: FAMILY WEEKEND MUSIC
DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE

4: HEART OF VIRGINIA
FESTIVAL

5: THE G.A.M.E. MARCH

GALLERY



COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY



DARYL CONNOR THOMPSON | THE ROTUNDA



COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY



RYAN BARBOUR | THE ROTUNDA



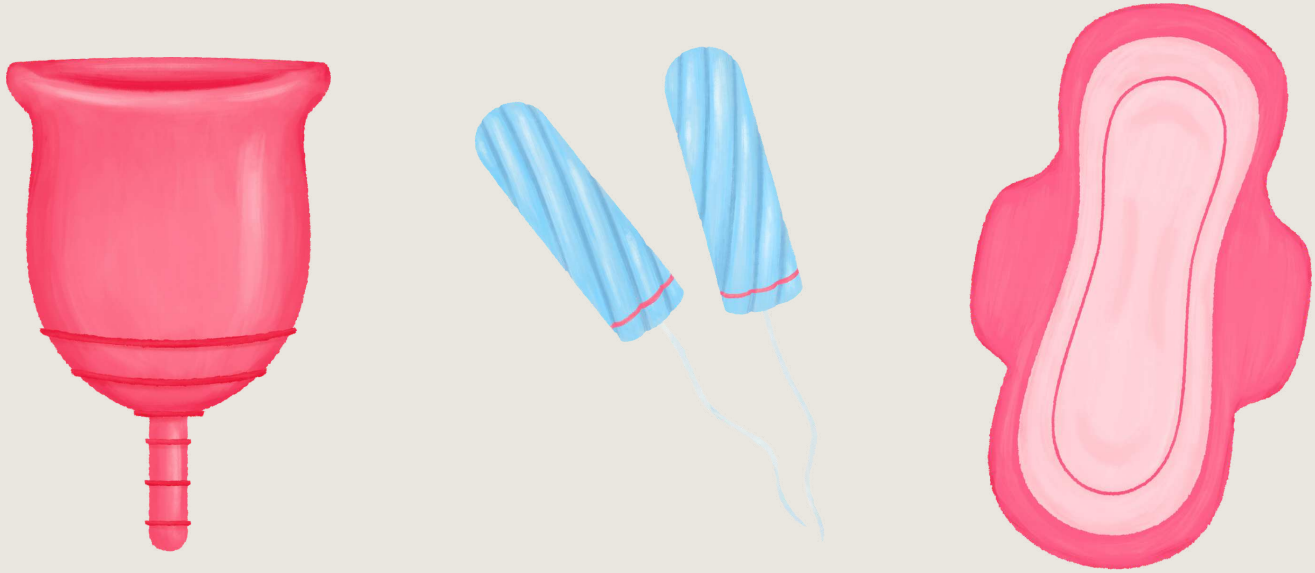
DARYL CONNOR THOMPSON | THE ROTUNDA

PHOTO GALLERY

- 6: FAMILY WEEKEND PAINTING EVENT
- 7: SOLIDARITY WITH U.V.A. PROTEST
- 8: CONVOCATION
- 9: WOMEN'S SOCCER
- 10: FAMILY WEEKEND MUSIC DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE

LONGWOOD'S MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PROBLEM

by K. Austyn Mann | A&E Editor | @longwoodrotunda



COURTESY OF CANVA

Speaking as a woman, there is one week I loathe more than any out of the month. Realizing that that week has begun when I am unprepared is horrifying.

When I reach into the pocket that I usually keep my menstrual hygiene products in and find that I have forgotten to restock, it feels like the floor has dropped from underneath me. When I look outside the stalls for any aid, there is none.

None of the bathrooms I have been to on campus have menstrual hygiene products provided by the university.

Longwood University, being a previously all-female school, has an overwhelming population of women. Longwood reports that about 70% of the student population is female.

The buildings that have bathrooms I have used are Grainger, Wygal, Allen, Dorrill Dining Hall, and Upchurch University Center. While that is only a small portion of the buildings on campus, it is baffling to me that neither the dining hall nor Upchurch, both highly trafficked areas on campus, offer an emergency

source of pads and tampons.

Some faculty have taken it upon themselves to stock the bathrooms. In Grainger, the small yellow bucket on the sink used to hold a few tampons for anyone who needed them. That stash ran out in a matter of weeks and was never replenished.

Above the sink is a sign that states “free feminine hygiene products at Elwood’s Cabinet,” the emergency food pantry for Longwood students. While Elwood’s Cabinet offers an excellent service, if I am in desperate need of a menstrual product, the sign is almost a taunting message that comfort and cleanliness is far out of reach. College students already struggle with money, and the average person who menstruates will spend \$13.25 per month on menstrual products. It’s a body function that happens naturally, and yet we are forced to spend over \$6,000 on it in our lifetime.

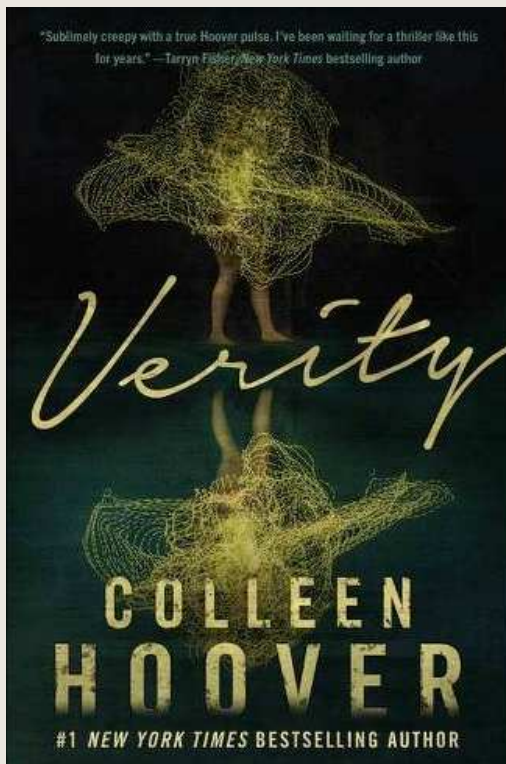
Boston University has been making efforts to make period products more accessible to students since 2018. One of

the issues they ran into is that the supplies would disappear quickly, though likely not as quickly as that little yellow bucket was depleted. The menstrual hygiene products placed in bathrooms are not meant to be a student’s sole source of menstrual products but more for emergencies.

Finding the correct dispensers would be the key to solving that problem. If it gives just enough security where you can’t grab them by the handfuls in combination with the signage already in the bathrooms providing information about Elwood’s Cabinet, students are given not one but two easily accessible resources to help them.

With definitions of gender expanding, it might not be a bad idea to put some in all bathrooms, not just the ones marked female.

If Longwood would do this, it could avoid bringing its citizen leaders public humiliation as a consequence of the smallest amount of forgetfulness or miscalculations.



COURTESY OF SIMON & SCHUSTER



4/5

BOOK TALK: "VERITY" BY COLLEEN HOOVER

by Jenna Lathom | Social Media Editor | @longwoodrotunda



COURTESY OF SIMON & SCHUSTER

The novel *Verity* by Colleen Hoover hits a new level of psychotic, but in the best way possible, and here's why. As a reader who is a novice to the book world, I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I began reading this book.

With that being said, I would still have to say that this is the best and worst book I've read in literal years. I say it's the best because of how well the story flows and the excitement it made me feel while reading, and I say it's the worst due to the amount of anger and confusion on how a person could think of such inhumane topics to put onto paper.

The plot takes so many unexpected twists and turns that by the end, I had no idea what to believe or think anymore, and I felt like I was just as confused and freaked out as the main character was.

Before I say any more of my thoughts on the novel, I should explain the overarching plot of the suspense-driven thriller, which goes as follows; narrator Lowen Ashleigh, who is a struggling,

no-name author, gets a once-in-a-lifetime offer to complete a very well-known and beloved book series. The author of the popular series, *Verity Crawford*, mysteriously becomes unable to complete her last three books. Her husband, Jeremey Crawford, is left with an office full to the brim of manuscripts and papers that are just screaming to be looked through. Once Lowen is left alone to begin her research for *Verity's* last three novels, she finds a hidden piece of writing that was never meant for anyone to ever find. But meanwhile, each day, Lowen slowly but surely develops romantic feelings for Jeremey, which leads to many tension-filled nights and many more questions that remain unanswered.

Although the end plot when it came to Lowen and Jeremey's relationship was somewhat easy to predict from the first few chapters, I still physically couldn't put the book down and wanted to know what was going to happen next.

While reading each chapter, I felt every

emotion possible and was just waiting for the next psychotic twist that would unfold next. One thing that I can't deny about Hoover's writing style is that it is very easy to follow and very easy to get lost in.

You can't help but feel for the characters and feel like you're there with them in the made-up world, especially in this book. As I noted earlier, after finishing this book, you will probably feel very internally conflicted and not want to believe anything you had just read. You won't know for sure who is a sane individual and who is not, but the answer is probably both.

As a way to close out this review, I'll say one more thing, if Colleen Hoover's main intention for writing this book was to get people to gasp out loud, then she is an overachiever. Lastly, if you're a fan of psychological thrillers that had a love child with a twisted romance, then you will want to read this book!

*Writers Note: I am Team Manuscript for those who have read the novel already.

GET WELL SOON: AN ALBUM REVIEW

by Samuel Creel | Opinions Editor | @longwoodrotunda



COURTESY OF PITCHFORK



4.5/5



COURTESY OF PITCHFORK

Kenny Beats has truly carved his own lane as a producer in the internet age. Where many are reduced to a tag on a beat, Kenny has diversified so far that it seems hard to believe he started as an EDM DJ for raves. Having his own clothing brand, his own YouTube show that pulls artists as big as Doja Cat to underground legends like Danny Brown, and doing Twitch stream after Twitch stream, it is hard not to admire Kenny's drive and passion.

However, despite his many years in the spotlight up to this point, he has only ever produced for other people. Now, this isn't altogether surprising. The era of auteur producers releasing beat tapes, à la J Dilla's *Donuts* or DJ Shadow's *Endtroducing*, has long passed. *Louie*, stylized as LOUIE, is a beautiful return to that standard of before.

Louie may be a debut album, but it is not amateur. Every beat is methodically crafted, every vocal line carefully placed, and the mood is perfectly bright. It may be an instrumental album, but with a runtime

of only 33 minutes, you'll be wondering why it isn't three times longer. *Louie* sounds like its album cover. It sounds like a beautiful date in the park. It sounds like a perfect day for a walk. It sounds like well wishes from an old friend.

"Parenthesis" kicks off the album with an upbeat but relaxing start. The stuttering percussion would sound strange anywhere else, but here it seems to only bring a smile to the face. If you aren't dancing across the room by the time the horns come in, then honestly, this album isn't for you. "Hold My Head" comes next, sounding just as sunny as what came before, but this time the drums are replaced with deep bouncy bass and an energetic hidden feature from Pink Sifu. "So They Say" sounds like the world's smoothest jazz drumming solo, and I could go on. Nearly every song is as beautiful and bright as the last, and it's hard not to tap along. Save perhaps "Get Around" and "That Third Thing," which are a bit too mellow and repetitive for their own good, nearly every beat feels

perfectly crafted and placed. And although the music is more than enough to stand on its own, it is the story behind it that solidifies it as a must-listen for me.

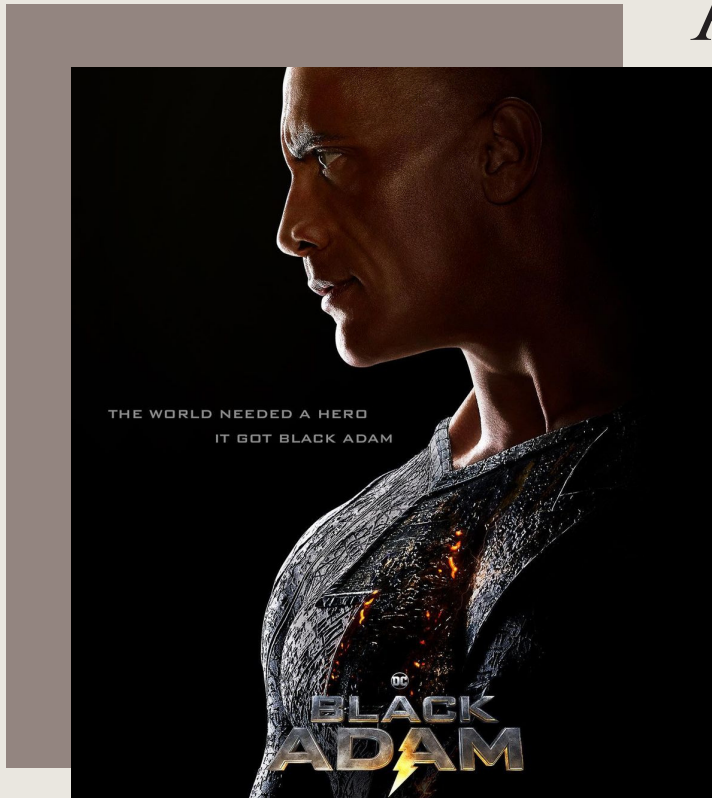
Kenny Beats' father was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Trained as a professional radio DJ, it is clear the apple didn't fall far from the tree. It was listening to the old mixtapes his father created that spurred him to finally make an album. You can even hear snippets of the two talking, from the present and past, all over the record. *Louie* is not just the sound of a producer flexing their immense skill, it's a tribute to the man who inspired him. It's a "Get Well Soon" card in audio form. The darker tone of the final two tracks, "Rotten" and "Hot Hand," are the flickers of his fear and doubt, but it is clear that he has hope.

Kenny Beats' debut album is touching, groovy and overall, just an absolute blast to listen to. Do yourself a favor and check it out.

Favorite Tracks: Still, So they Say, Moire, Hot Hand.

BLACK ADAM: THE DCEU'S NEWEST "HERO"

by Benton Parker McFadden | A&E Staff | @longwoodrotunda



COURTESY OF ThePrint



In June of 2022, DC unveiled the official cinematic trailer for Black Adam. The character had been teased in 2019's "Shazam!" as the previous champion before his imprisonment, but the upcoming film will be the live-action debut for the titular character.

While The Rock has been promoting the film, many DCEU fans may be unfamiliar with the character Black Adam and the film's supporting cast.

Black Adam, alternatively known as "Teth-Adam," first appeared in 1945 in Fawcett Comics' *The Marvel Family* #1 before being absorbed into the DC universe in the 1970s. In his first appearance, Black Adam was champion of the Wizard Shazam in Ancient Egypt before being corrupted by power and sealed away for thousands of years.

Upon his release, Black Adam found himself in conflict with Shazam, which resulted in his death. When DC licensed Fawcett's superhero characters in the 1970s, Black Adam was resurrected from the dead by Dr. Sivana in the modern era,

allowing him to become a recurring villain. After becoming part of the DC Universe, Black Adam, possessing the same powers as Shazam, would go on to fight the modern-day champion of magic, Superman, and the Justice League. Unlike his original incarnation, where he hailed from Egypt, Black Adam's home nation was changed to Kahndaq, a fictional nation on Egypt's border. In the early 2000s, Black Adam's role in the DC Universe shifted from villain to anti-hero, joining the Justice Society for a period of time. During his anti-hero incarnation, Black Adam brutally enforced his brand of justice.

From what has been teased by DC so far, this is the attitude Dwayne Johnson's interpretation of the character will reflect as opposed to his original, purely villainous incarnation. In "Shazam!," Black Adam was revealed to have been sealed away after using his powers for revenge against his oppressors. In the June trailer, Black Adam laments the death of his son at the hands of his tormentors,

helping to add context to Black Adam's rampage in the past, showing more evidence that the DCEU's version of the character will reflect his anti-hero era. Black Adam is not the only heroic protagonist of the film. Dwayne Johnson's mystical champion shares the silver screen with four other superheroes. In addition to Black Adam, the film features Dr. Fate, the helmeted master of magic, Hawkman, a winged reincarnation of an Egyptian prince, and a modern-day archeologist, the Atom Smasher, a metahuman with the ability to grow to enormous size with the strength to match, and Virginia's own Quintessa Swindell, a hero with the ability to generate wind and fly.

Together, these four heroes make up the Justice Society, which was the world's first superhero team, both in publishing history and in DC lore. In multiple continuities, the Justice Society served as mentors to members of the Justice League. The five protagonists will likely unite to combat an ancient evil, as suggested by tie-in material and toys.

FRESH START TO A FRESH SEASON

by Madison Gregory | Sports Editor | @longwoodrotunda



ANTHONY ANDERSON / THE ROTUNDA

With the release of the Men's and Women's basketball schedule earlier this month, fans are excited to see what this season will hold. As the new season approaches, team members, junior Brooke Anya, senior Anne-Hamilton Leroy and new head coach Erika Lang-Montgomery shared their feelings about this season and how they have prepared for this upcoming season.

After last year's incredibly groundbreaking season, there is a lot expected from the team this season. But Lang-Montgomery says, "I don't feel any pressure at all because this is a new season and a new team. And I'm excited to lead them." Teammates Anya and Leroy shared their feelings and the feelings of the team going into this season saying, "I think there's a lot of excitement, because, of course, what we accomplished last year, but also like Coach E was talking about just writing our own story as this new team," Anya then says, "On top of that, we're all different, and we're entering into different roles. So that's gonna be even

more exciting with these new groups of women."

After last year's season the team only consisted of seven girls. After recruiting, the team has added six girls to the roster, leaving the team with 13 girls for the upcoming season.

With the schedule coming out early in September and the first game set for November 7th, Lang-Montgomery says that the team will approach this season the same as they always do, "We don't look ahead to the next [game]. We focus on the one that's right in front of us."

Leroy adds, saying, "I think a lot of it too, like Coach E was saying is in our preparation, too. For a lot of us, we've seen these opponents before." But Leroy says that won't stop their new recruits this season either, "From their previous experiences and how they've played, bringing that to our team, will make us best approach the conference schedule."

Lang-Montgomery says she expects her players to come in the right mindset and be both mentally and physically strong, "The

mental approach... being ready, before you're ready...you know I expect them to be in great shape, conditioning is really a big part of the game."

Lang-Montgomery also believes that teamwork is going to play a big role in a successful season. She says, "This summer, we spent a lot of time together, and we had a lot of fun getting to know each other and learn about each other. And becoming a great basketball team."

As the new season grows closer and closer, Coach Lang-Montgomery is nothing short of thrilled for the season to begin saying, "I'm really happy to be here. I'm excited about the upcoming season." Lang-Montgomery goes onto describe her experience as "going to an amusement park, and you just have fun all day long, and then you go home and you're just exhausted. But then you have so much fun the day before that you want to go back to the amusement park. And that's kind of every day."

The Rotunda will continue to stay up to date with coverage of the season.



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