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NOVEMBER 3, 2022
VOL. 102 ISSUE 3

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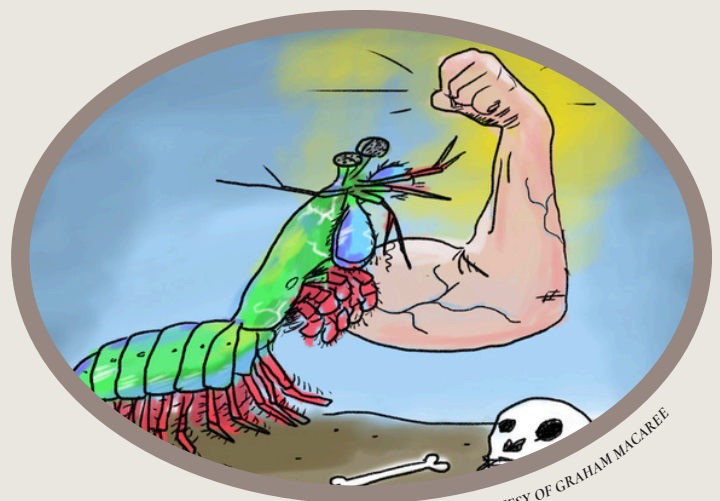
NAYLA TURPIN

ROBIN BYRD

DID YOU KNOW?

by Austyn Mann | A&E Editor | @longwoodrotunda

- This column was originally written by my aunt, Mattie Blewett, in the 1950s! You can find old editions of the Rotunda newspaper in the Digital Commons on the library's website.
- Joan-y on a Pony used to be located in The Colonnades, in between Rotunda Hall and French Hall.
- N. H. Scott Multicultural Center in Upchurch is named after Nancy "Cookie" Scott. She was the first black student to graduate from Longwood in 1972.
- Four sororities were founded at Longwood: Kappa Delta, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Zeta Tau Alpha and Alpha Sigma Alpha.
- The mantis shrimp can deliver a punch at 50 mph, strong enough for one of them to break the glass of its exhibit!



COURTESY OF GRAHAM MACAREE

THE ROTUNDA NEWSPAPER

NEWS - ENTERTAINMENT - OPINIONS

"BRINGING
LONGWOOD THE
NEWS SINCE 1920"

@LONGWOODROTUNDA

LUPD EARNS STATE GRANT FOR COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

by Savana Mullen | Contributor | @longwoodrotunda



DARYL CONNOR THOMPSON / THE ROTUNDA



COURTESY OF TOWN OF FARMVILLE

The Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) has earned a grant totaling \$25k through the Department of Criminal Justice Services to upgrade their handheld radios for communications between departments. The departments included are the LUPD, the Farmville PD, the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office, and the Hampden-Sydney PD. The grant is the only one available to law enforcement departments serving higher education institutions and recognizes LUPD's commitment to public safety on and off campus.

This grant enables the department to modernize their handheld radios from analog to digital signals, which are more secure, allow clearer transmissions, and are compatible with other law enforcement organizations. All this allows real-time communications during response situations among all three organizations and across multiple jurisdictions. The Sheriff's Office completed the transition, while Farmville PD is completing the process.

Lieutenant Stuart Raybold of the LUPD emphasized the importance of communication with the town of Farmville. "Most of us are sworn deputy sheriffs with Prince Edward County," Raybold stated. "[We] kind of need to be able to communicate back and forth with those agencies, and not just have a

common dispatch center for us in Farmville."

The Department of Criminal Justice Services, the provider of the grant, serves to "promote public safety in the Commonwealth" and find proper solutions to preserve and enhance public safety and maintain effectiveness throughout the criminal justice system.

According to Lt. Raybold, the grant was awarded due to the LUPD's special relationship with Farmville. "We're very unique, even in the state," Raybold reflects. "Most colleges only have authority for the police department on the campus roads adjacent to the campus...that got changed for Longwood years ago because the student body has such an impact on the town."

Raybold continues his reflection, stating, "We're actually dispatched to handle calls anywhere and have gone out in the county and been the first or second units on calls in the county. It's rare, but it happens."

Lieutenant Christopher Moss of the Farmville Police Department supported Lt. Raybold's claim, verifying that the LUPD "often backs us up on calls." He also explained that the equipment changes are a "constant upgrade," and this transition greatly improves the communications and coordination with all three partners. Emergency Communications Manager,

Jackie Gilbert, emphasized the importance of communication between the departments and police forces with the radio, calling radios the "most important tool" that both the dispatch center and the agencies have. Farmville's dispatch center has already made the switch to digital technology. This Department of Criminal Justice Services grant demonstrates the positive impact grants have on communities.

Longwood's Office of Research, Grants and Sponsored Projects (ORGSP) provides support to university faculty and staff interested in obtaining external funding for their research, scholarly and creative activities. The comprehensive support services ORGSP provides to the campus community for the preparation and successful administration of externally-sponsored projects include funding searches; proposal development and support guidance; proposal review and submission; negotiation and processing of awards; execution of contracts and sub-awards; interpretation of sponsor guidelines and requirements and grant training workshops.

If you would like more information about ORGSP, please call 434-395-2987 or email Dr. Alix Fink (finkad@longwood.edu) or Jim Wiecking (wieckingjw@longwood.edu).

COST OF OFF CAMPUS LIVING

by Bryan Spencer | News Staff | @longwoodrotunda

Rent in Farmville is not a concern for many of the college students at Longwood. The University's policy of mandatory dorm stays until senior year is quite unusual but may save someone from the rental market around Farmville.

According to the Fair Market Rent (FMR) established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) those in Farmville should be expecting rents below \$1,000 dollars for anything less than a 4-bedroom apartment. That, however, is not what you'll see in and around Farmville on websites like Apartments.com and Zillow. On sites like these listings for single bedroom apartments are around \$900. The HUD's market rent is said to be \$631, that is a 42% increase. For those aspiring to live in a multi-room apartment with a few friends the fair market rent for a 2 bedroom is listed as \$719, but online the prices are in the \$1000+ range.

The FMR posted by HUD is a guideline and not representative of all rental situations. Walk2Campus and Green Properties are popular choices for rentals in the Farmville area given their proximity to Longwood University. Though their website will not readily show you pricing, you must inquire about the rental directly. When asked about affordable housing through email, Green Properties responded with approximate ranges for their rent,



COURTESY OF DAWN MOYAR

“One bedrooms are \$725-850. Three bedrooms are \$950-\$1000”. There was also a two-bedroom available for \$875 a month. These prices are still well above the FMR outlined by HUD but they are also not the worst offenders in terms of pricing.

It is clear though that rent in Farmville is hard to justify for anyone but those with deep pockets or generous financial support. Most jobs in the Farmville area pay around \$11/hour and unless you work full time, it is unrealistic to expect your job to pay your rent. For financially independent students I recommend waiting for rents to fall, hopefully as soon as next semester if analysts questioned by the Associated Press are to be believed. Though since last year rents have been



COURTESY OF HILL STUDIO

falling in the Farmville area according to rental data on Zillow.com.

If you are brave enough to go forward with a rental, be sure to read the lease and its terms carefully. A common stipulation is for rent to be paid out in full if you break the lease. Meaning if you try to leave early for a more affordable situation elsewhere, you will end up paying the same as if you had stayed. A yearlong lease with a high rent is not going to be re-negotiated if rents fall and can lock you into a tough spot financially, especially given the limited amount of time us students have for work. So do your research and if you need housing fast but affordably try to rent from the surrounding areas, they usually have a better renting situation in terms of prices and areas like Crewe, Rice and Burkeville have previously had competitive rates on offer.



COURTESY OF HILL STUDIO

C.H.A.N.G.E'S OPEN LETTER TO LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

by C.H.A.N.G.E | Multicultural Collective | @lu_c.h.a.n.g.e

Recent events at the University of Virginia have highlighted the disparities for Black and Minoritized students not just within UVA but at predominantly White Institutions across this country, including Longwood University.

For years the administration and the student government associations' actions have made it appear to Minoritized students on campus that you care very little for us and the issues of racism, discrimination, and injustice which we face.

Last year you presented campus with the university Diversity Strategic Plan that for all intents and purposes has never been mentioned again. There is clearly a lack of transparency and accountability regarding the universities own proclaimed diversity solutions either through SGA or any administration communications. The plan cannot even be found on the Longwood University website.

Your actions speak much louder than your words ever have and as of late your actions have given minority students no evidence that you hear our concerns or want to be a part of the change we are no longer asking for but demanding.

To the SGA, you give off the impression that you have little to no regard for Minority students' needs and concerns. It appears to Minority students that you rush through and overlook the problems we bring to you to pursue personal interests of yours such as your pay rates, thousands of dollars spent on hammock groves, and tours of the unfinished convocation building during which one of your senate members could not even access the building due to the lack of accessibility.

Your actions have shown Minoritized students that the racism, prejudice,

and hate that we face in our lives do not matter to you. None of you can say that you're unaware of the issues minority students face. Look at the poor quality of "safe" spaces. Look at the long standing lack of diversity within staff and administration. Look at the lack of minority mental health services and the plethora of other serious issues that have all been brought to your attention and have yet to be changed.

Last year I personally addressed the SGA and stated issues and solutions we wanted to see on campus. Since then there have been little to no substantial long-term changes that can be found anywhere on campus or within Minority organizations. In regard to Minority organizations, we feel unseen by SGA executive members due to your consistent absences from our meetings and events, the sharp and visible cuts to our budgets, and the overwhelming lack of racial diversity on your executive board despite calling yourselves a representative government.

To the administration, you have shown us your lack of care for our safety and well-being on numerous occasions. You fail to hold the SGA accountable for their promises of involvement with Multicultural and minority groups on campus. You allow them to push their responsibilities onto minority students and staff. You change the names of buildings on campus without explaining the changes or publicizing them past word of mouth. And you yourselves also never bring up the diversity strategic plan and its current standings. Your self-proclaimed focus on the future, gives you all an escape from the present that you happily take advantage of at every turn. Lastly and most painfully, there has been an injustice that has left a

resounding thud in the core of minority students, and that was the waving of a Confederate flag at the Heart of Virginia festival.

The HOV festival was advertised by Longwood as an event for Family Weekend. We recognize that the event was independent of Longwood in nature; however, by Longwood being a sponsor to the event and advertising it as though it was a Longwood-organized event, administration owed it to their minority students to address the hate-motivated flag and those waving it. It was flown in front of the Rotunda, a staple symbol for Longwood. This is not the first time the flag has been flown there. This troubling pattern of behavior sets a precedent on Longwood's behalf of acceptance and appreciation towards the flag. At the last Heart of Virginia festival, the same flag by the same organization was flown in the same spot right next to the Moton Museum booth, no less. One of the main symbols of oppression was flown proudly, casting its historically deadly shadow down upon Longwood minority students and their families. Might I remind you that the Longwood administration stood by and did nothing. You did nothing as we looked on in horror, you did nothing as we turned away in shame at being a part of this university, you did nothing when they shoved minority students out of the way if we got too close to their booth.

To the Administration: you showed where you truly stand in the battle minority students face. You did it publicly, proving to us that we are nothing more than marketing fodder for you. For that, we the Minoritized students of Longwood stand in solidarity with Black UVA and because **What Happens There Happens Here, We Do Not Trust You.**

WE, THE MINORITIZED STUDENTS AT

by C.H.A.N.G.E | Multicultural Collective | @lu_c.h.a.n.g.e

1. Full transparency on:
 - a. The plans to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus followed by a direct and detailed plan of action to enforce said plans.
 - i. Diversity Strategic Plan: What progress on this plan has been made? Why is it not available on the Longwood website?
 1. Must be up by Oct. 31.
 - b. The changing of the names of buildings. We deserve to know the reasons why the names of our historical buildings were changed.
 - i. This could be done by sending a mass email to students, faculty, and staff by President Reveley
 - ii. Send out this information by Oct. 31.
 - c. Any and all hate crime investigations occurring on our campus to ensure the safety of students.
 - i. Revisit Title VI policy to address incidents against students against faculty.
 - ii. Addition of Title VI to the list of resources that professors are mandated to put on their syllabus.
 - iii. Making information on Title VI and how to report hate crimes more widely available to students.
2. A university-wide town hall meeting that allows all students to express concerns and/or experiences that need to be addressed and heard, with the attendance of President Reveley, the Board of Visitors, Senior VPs, Provosts, Department Heads, Senior level Student Affairs Administration and Directors, Cameron Patterson, the Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid, and the Dean of Well-being from CAPS. We demand to be heard in this town hall no later than Oct. 27.
3. More awareness and availability of scholarships/funding for tuition and hiring opportunities.
 - a. Creating one scholarship application that applies to all applicable Longwood scholarships for students.
 - b. The addition of a scholarship tab for minority students in the Longwood Scholarship page.
 - c. Making scholarship information more available to minority students and in NH Scott/Clark House.
 - d. More hiring opportunities and making the hiring process clear for students.
 - e. Have this done by March 1, 2023.
4. Recruitment and hiring of people of color and underrepresented groups in faculty, staff, and administration, with an emphasis in CAPS.
 - a. Tenure track/instructional faculty, A/P Staff.
 - b. We want faculty, staff, and administration to reflect the demographics of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - c. VA demographics:
 - i. 60.3% White
 - ii. 20% Black/African American
 - iii. 10.2% Hispanic
 - iv. 7.2% Asian
 - v. 0.6% American Indian/Alaska Native
 - vi. 0.1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 - vii. 3.4% two or more races
 - d. By the year 2030, Longwood faculty/staff should be 30% people of color or from an underrepresented group. There should be at least 3.4% yearly benchmarks until the goal of 30% is reached.
 - e. This should be reflected at the VP level, Student Affairs, Deans of Departments, Academic Chairs, Athletics Administration etc.

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY, DEMAND:

5. Multicultural newsletter sent out twice a semester by the administration in an email to students and alumni. This newsletter will have information about multicultural organizations on campus, including meeting times/locations, events, heritage months, etc. The first newsletter should be sent out by April 2023.
6. Making demographic information/data of students, professors, faculty, staff, and administration public and easily accessible on the Longwood.edu website by Dec. 2, 2022.
7. Hiring a Chief Diversity Officer in addition to the Title VI office.
 - a. The university needs to hire a chief diversity officer at Longwood ASAP.
8. DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) training for professors/staff.
 - a. Have this as a Canvas module/course that all staff and student staff, exec. boards of orgs should be required to take before the school year starts.
 - b. There should also be in-person and interactive DEI training for professors/staff as well.
 - c. Have the Center of Academic Faculty Enrichment involved.
 - d. This should be completed by Fall 2023.
9. A reoccurring university-wide survey where students can voice their concerns and comments on discrimination, bias, and insensitivity experienced on campus.
 - a. Have this sent out in formal surveys at the beginning of the fall semester, at the end of the fall semester, and at the end of the spring semester.
 - b. This should be implemented by the beginning of Fall 2023.
10. A new multicultural building on campus with proper accessibility.
 - a. We want a building that will serve as a gathering place for all students of color, minority students, and multicultural organizations on campus.
 - b. A new multicultural building is necessary in order to provide students of color, minority students, and multicultural organizations a safe space where we can gather and congregate freely and hold our club meetings and events.
 - c. This new multicultural building will serve to create an environment that provides support and resources to students of color and minority students at Longwood in order to increase their sense of belonging and increase engagement/retention of these students at Longwood.
 - d. We suggest Wygal Hall as the location for the new multicultural building after it has been renovated.
 - e. We want to meet with Cameron Patterson, President Reveley, and Russ Carmichael in order to discuss and plan the creation of this new multicultural building by at least April 2023.
11. More attendance, presence, and support from those serving on the executive board of SGA, including executive senators, at club meetings and events held by multicultural organizations.
 - a. We want this to happen immediately whenever club meetings or events by multicultural organizations are held.
12. Have monthly meetings between CHANGE and President Reveley to uphold the strategies/plans of action currently in place (i.e. Diversity Strategic Plan) and to uphold these demands.
13. A written commitment from President Reveley to agree to have these demands met by the deadlines that we have given.
 - a. We want this written commitment signed by President Reveley as soon as possible.

GALLERY

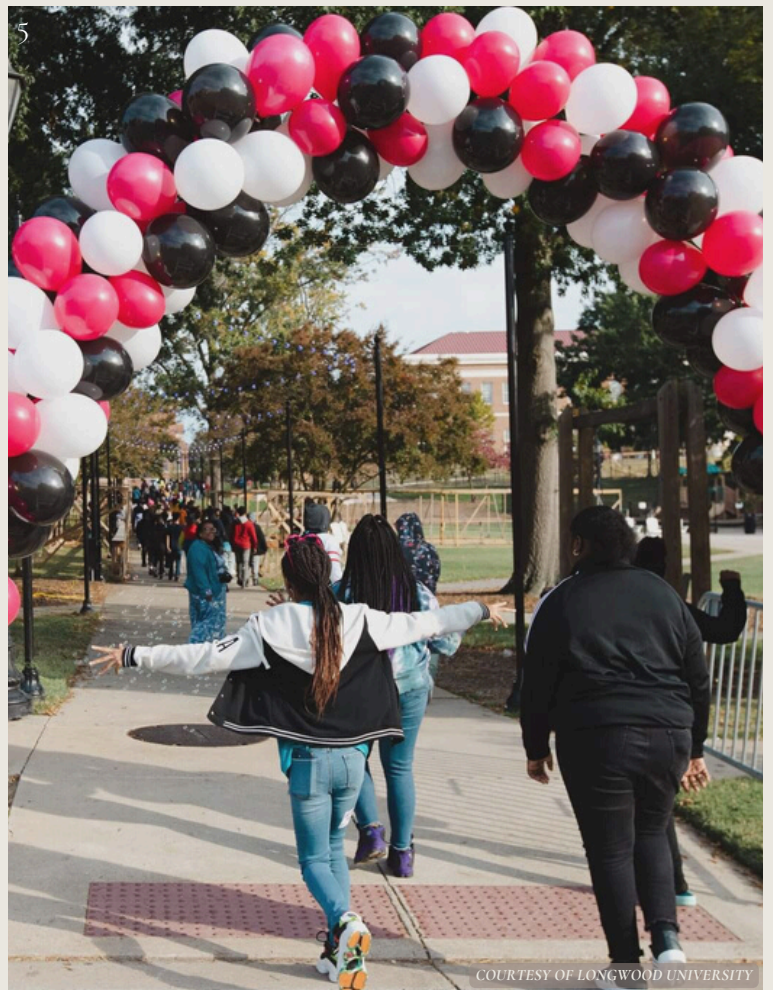


PHOTO GALLERY

- 1: COLOR WARS
- 2: BATTLE OF THE BANDS
- 3: OKTOBERFEST BOOTHS
- 4: LONGWOOD'S FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIDERMAN
- 5: VIRGINIA CHILDREN'S
BOOK FESTIVAL

GALLERY



6

COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY



7

SAVANNAH BARTLETT | THE ROTUNDA



8

ANDREW EDGHILL | THE ROTUNDA



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BRYAN SPENCER | THE ROTUNDA



10

ANDREW EDGHILL | THE ROTUNDA

PHOTO GALLERY

- 6: ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE
- 7: CAREER WEEK NETWORKING EVENT
- 8: COLOR WARS
- 9: OKTOBERFEST PERFORMANCES
- 10: OKTOBERFEST KLOWN DANCE

OP-ED: SGA, LET STUDENTS WITH ARO PICK THEIR OWN REP.

by Tyler Bagent | News Editor | @longwoodrotunda

ARO, the Accessibility Resources Office, has been fantastic in my experience. I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm registered with ARO due to my anxiety. I appreciate the staff in ARO more than I can put into words, especially through their 'ARO Empowers' and their work to get students comfortable on campus. The students registered with ARO make up an incredible, diverse community, including those with both visible and invisible disabilities. However, you wouldn't think that if you watched the Student Government Meeting on September 27th. The SGA decided last year that it needed an "ARO Representative," someone who is supposed to represent students with disabilities campuswide. That said, this person is neither selected by the students

registered with ARO nor by ARO Staff. The representative is appointed by the Student Government. This is an organization that is largely able-bodied and presumably neurotypical. In what is perhaps either an act of ignorance or infantilization, the Student Government has not entrusted the students of ARO to pick their own Representative. Now, the Student Government is seeing the consequences of this decision. Students of color registered with ARO are now represented in the Student Senate by a Representative who denies that the Confederate flag is a symbol of hate. A large and diverse community of students, including LGBTQ+ students on campus, is represented by someone that not only wasn't elected by them but who actively questioned and sought to deny the trauma

faced by them. In this attempt for representation, the SGA has, in turn, allowed a sizable group of students to be horrifically misrepresented by someone who does not represent his constituents. The situation does not stop there. The SGA, at first, made absolutely no attempt to stop him from making these reckless statements. It was not until a student asked them repeatedly if his statements represented those of the SGA Executive Council did they denounce the statements and made clear that Senators were to be put on the docket before speaking. While the Executive Council cannot necessarily prevent someone from exercising free speech during the Senate meetings, their ignorance allowed the misrepresentation of students with accessibility needs during the September 27th meeting.

While the SGA will likely not remove him from his position, there is one thing they can and absolutely should do. Let those registered with ARO pick their own representative. The SGA harms every student registered with ARO by forcing a representative on them. The current representative's comments, while harmful on their own, are amplified by the fact that he represents both students of color and LGBTQ students.

The students registered with ARO need you to stop infantilizing us. We are capable of selecting our own representative, one that will seek out opinions from students with accessibility needs and properly represent the large and diverse community that ARO serves. If we cannot select a new representative by the end of the year, we must be allowed to pick our own for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.



DARYL CONNOR THOMPSON / THE ROTUNDA

EDITOR'S NOTE: The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of the author.

DEAR SGA SENATORS AND EXECUTIVES,

by Nayla Turpin | Contributor | @longwoodrotunda



Thank you for all of the hard work you put into Longwood to make sure the voices of students are heard. However, we have a lot of work to do before that becomes a reality.

Following the events from the 13 demands proposed by

student-run multicultural collective Community, Humanity, Allyship, Networking, Grace, Equity, or C.H.A.N.G.E, and the conversation had at the last meeting, whenever constructive criticism is brought up, that criticism is met with dismissive responses. In no way am I or others trying to attack anyone on or off of the board, the goal of any criticism brought up at the meetings is to foster communication and promote a constructive environment. I do not feel represented by SGA because it's missing this communication. Part of this feeling is a result of a lack of self-awareness within SGA, how SGA handles external conflicts, as well as how people within SGA are represented.

The lack of diversity within the SGA is another reason why I do not feel represented by this association. This makes it even more imperative that the voices of marginalized communities that SGA represents are heard during the weekly meetings. These groups do not only include minority ethnic groups but also those with disabilities and those who belong to the LGBTQIA+ community.

To executive Jones, everyone appreciates the continued effort that you put into your position and I hope that we can continue to make strides for better communication and progress related to an action plan. The goal of collaborative communication should be leading to productive action, talking about issues is the first step, taking action is the part that makes a difference.

I do not doubt the compassion that you hold for our communities, but along with continued dialogue, appropriate representation is imperative to constructing a safe space for ALL students.

Please understand that this letter comes from a place of not only frustration but also a place of love. I want SGA to be a place where ALL students can have their needs heard and met and this cannot happen without self-reflection and uncomfortable but necessary conversations. The challenges faced by minority students are important and uniting on our common goal of a more inclusive and respectful Longwood community should be the priority. Thank you.



COURTESY OF CANVA

FIVE WEEK DANCE COURSES OFFERED FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER

by Emma Mae Leighton | Features Editor | @longwoodrotunda



With the final scramble to register for next semester's courses, students that are looking for a fun, active class that will engage their cerebellum should check out these dance courses. These classes are now being offered for any student looking to add a class for their major, minor, or aesthetic expressions pillar. After 15 years of instructing dance at Randolph College, Professor Malone Dudley has started to teach these high-energy courses here at Longwood starting this spring in 2022. These three classes are beginning social and recreational dance, jazz dance, and modern dance technique.

The first class offered is beginners social and recreational dance. For those looking to jump into the world of movement through social dances such as the Virginia reel, Ukrainian folk dance, swing dancing, or Latin dance. These beginning social dances include many types of popular dance throughout history.

During this 5 week dance flurry, students

can look forward to enjoying connection through movement by learning these historical social dances together.

Beginners jazz dance focuses on learning jazz and jazz vocabulary with elements of musical theater incorporated into some combinations. Each class starts with stationary warmups. The class continues with movement across the floor and technique instruction. At the end of each class, combinations, or short dances, are taught to apply the techniques and include musical theater which often goes hand in hand with jazz.

For us non-dancers, Malone Dudley explained that modern dance means anything that is not ballet, jazz, contemporary, or hip-hop dance. She defines the modern dance umbrella, born out of a period of historical rebellion, as a "rejection of classical dance," not to be confused with the dances we commonly do today.

Now that these courses have returned to

Longwood with the arrival of Malone Dudley, students looking for a full brain and body workout should consider dance classes at Longwood. In 5 weeks undergraduates can learn many social dances, be given an in-depth introduction to jazz technique, or start to learn the ins and outs of modern dance. For one credit each, students can choose to take one, two, or all of these classes each semester.

While these classes are offered for beginners, more seasoned dancers can continue their learning of the dance language through practice, and continued instruction on technique. Malone Dudley encourages new and returning dancers to enroll and enjoy the art of movement no matter their skill level, rejoicing that "people need to move, and people need to dance." Whether you find yourself in one of the 15 seats for each of these classes or just blast music in your dorm room, be encouraged to get out there and move.



MUCH ADO IS EVERYTHING

by Travis Bridgham | Opinions Staff | @longwoodrotunda

COURTESY OF LONGWOOD'S DESIGN LAB

Longwood's theatre production's 1930's Chicago twist on the Shakespearian masterpiece *Much Ado About Nothing* is everything one should expect from a production and more. With spectacular performances from the actors and wonderful staging from the production crew, the most recent production put on by Longwood Universities Theatre Department was a blast, full of laughter and sorrow, with a flair for the dramatic.

Praise must be given to all the performers for putting on such a wonderful show, but special praise must be given to four individual performers for the sheer effort and quality put into their performances. Isabelle O'Keefe gave a fantastic performance as the character Beatrice, forcing one to not only see but feel all the ranges of emotions the character felt, from restrained surprise to pure unbridled anger. The first-year actor Junior Franks did a fantastic job, not only when portraying the lovably confident Don Pedro but also the high-pitched no-good Conrade, and Longwoods ready to see how far he is going to go. Then there's Frank Anthony Cardella's performance as Claudio was not only great overall but sent chills down one's spine when he sang his sorrowful song near the end of the production. Lastly praise must be given to Natalie Masaitis for their performance as both the devilish Don John and the lovable Dogberry. Praise must also be given out to the production crew for lighting, sound, costumes, choreography, and set design. The costumes, which were designed and managed by Leslie Cook, were specially picked for the theme of 1930s Chicago. The scenic design was managed by Scott

William Shakespere's
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING!

Directed by Bruce Speas

MAINSTAGE

September 28th	...	7:00 p.m.
September 29th	...	7:00 p.m.
September 30th	...	7:00 p.m.
October 1st	...	7:00 p.m.
October 2nd	...	2:00 p.m.

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design by
Design
Job
fall 2022

C. Chapman and the stage was managed by Phoenix Turner. Both aspects were terrific. The lighting and sound, managed by Bailey Hobbs and Brandon Cobb respectively, were always on point. The choreography, which was managed by Kelly Malonewas, was phenomenal and deserves special recognition for the remarkable dance sequences throughout the production, Dudley. Lastly, praise must be given to the director of the production, Bruce Speas, where without him, none of the wonderful performances would have been possible. The only real criticism one would have of the production would be the distinct confusion between locations and act changes. Except for the scene at the church, there would be no distinct set changes to portray that the characters are in different locations. For example, the characters would switch from the Grand Hall in the house of Leonato to Leonato's

Orchard, but there would be no real change in the set to portray the change in locations. This made it incredibly hard to keep track of the acts and scenes to recognize the change. Having a set change that could help distinguish between locations, like the window used for the church scene, would help those who are not as familiar with Shakespear's work to understand the scene change.

Except for the small problems, the Longwood production of *Much Ado About Nothing* is truly everything one would want out of a college production and much more. Congratulations should be given to all performers and staff who worked on the production and allowed such an experience to flourish. Longwood's next theater production, *Crimes of the Heart*, will take the stage February 15th to the 19th and is highly anticipated. *Much Ado* really was everything.



4.5 / 5

BATGIRL AXED: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE DCEU?

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

The new CEO of Warner Brothers Discovery (WBD), David Zaslav, canceled the upcoming *Batgirl* movie, the next installment in the DCEU, earlier this year. *Batgirl*, which was supposed to be a HBOMax streaming exclusive, was nearly completed when Zaslav's announcement was made that the film would be axed as a tax write off (sources differ on the exact cost of the film, but it firmly rests between 60 and 90 million)

Zaslav has defended his decision, stating in a company call for WBD that "We're not going to launch a movie to make a quarter and we're not going to put a movie out unless we believe in it." After *Batgirl*'s cancellation was announced, rumors circulated that suggested the film was canceled because of poor testing with audiences, though the rating was hovering in the 60s, similar to the reactions for both *Black Adam* and *Shazam's* upcoming sequel before their respective directors could film reshoots and polish their product.

WBD has also gone on record to say that their reasons for canning the film had nothing to do with the performance of the actors or the director, and that they look forward to working with them again, assuming that WBD hasn't burned their bridges with the involved parties. Along with Leslie Grace, the film's cast included stars J. K. Simmons as Commissioner Gordon, Brendan Fraser as Firefly, and Michael Keaton's return as Batman.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

Batgirl is not the only property owned by WBD that has faced the executioner's ax; Multiple television programs have been pulled from HBOMax's archives, including *Infinity Train*, *Close Enough*, and over a hundred episodes of *Sesame Street*. Furthermore, WBD has gone back and purged their official social media accounts of any posts dedicated to or referencing any now removed media. While WBD's animation department has suffered from Zaslav's recent shakeups, other projects have received more attention. *House Party* and *Evil Dead Rise*, two HBOMax exclusives, have now been given theater release dates as part of Zaslav's pledge to focus more on theater releases.

Batgirl is not the only DCEU project to face executive meddling; the *Shazam* and *Aquaman* sequels have had their release dates pushed back several months, reportedly to avoid competition with *Avatar: The Way of Water* and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. The delay of these movies indicates a lack of faith in the DCEU from Zaslav, especially in contrast to Matt Reeves' *The Batman*, which has a sequel in the works and a Penguin spinoff. Though *Aquaman* and *Shazam* are facing pushbacks, *The Flash* is expected to be released as planned (June, 2023), and according to IGN Entertainment, Ezra Miller has returned to set to do reshoots for the film.

Despite a year-long slew of incidents (including assault accusations), WBD has continued to put faith into Ezra Miller and the *Flash* solo film. *The Flash* causes concern for the future of the DCEU as leaked information suggests that it's a reboot of the DCEU, and that a major inspiration of the film is the "Flashpoint" storyline that led to a reboot of the comic's universe, meaning that previous movies' events could be swept away, causing concern for fans of the franchise.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

SENTRY

by Robin Byrd | Contributor | @longwoodrotunda

Her phone buzzed. The default text tone, so it wasn't someone that she talked to frequently. She had customized all the vibrations and tones of the people that she talked to frequently, so she knew who was messaging her before she even picked up the phone. This was just one solid "vvvv."

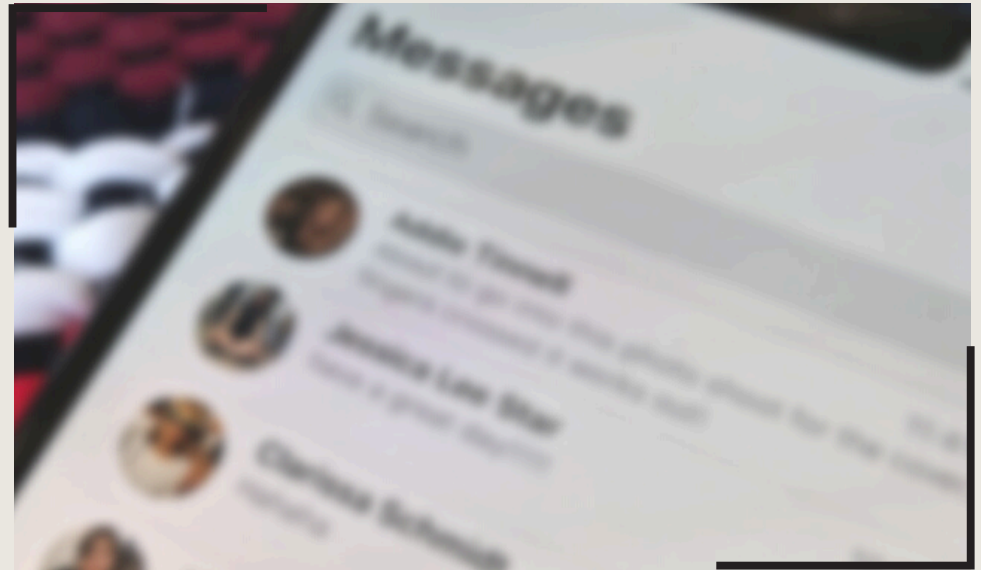
She picked up her phone, and the screen lit up automatically, responding to her movement. It was a number she didn't have in her contacts. Recognizing her face, her phone automatically unlocked.

Opening the texting application, she saw the conversation screen, showing all her recent messages. The unknown number's message appeared at the top with the message preview reading "Photo Message."

Odd, she thought. Rarely did she receive spam messages with pictures, and even rarer did she receive wrong number messages with just a photo.

She opened it.

It took her a moment to register what she saw. But once she had, her heart, which had settled back to a steady rhythm after her hike from the parking lot to her apartment, began to pound in her chest.



COURTESY OF GADGETHACKS

A wave of heat swept over her body, and with the heat came panic. Her knees buckled beneath her, and she only barely saved herself from hitting her head against the corner of the table.

Everything in the picture was familiar, just at an angle, she wasn't familiar with. That was her couch, that was her TV, and that was her kitchen table. And that was her front door, standing ajar, with her just having come through it wearing the exact clothes she was wearing at that moment.

Her phone slipped out of her hand and fell to the floor, screen side down, with a harsh smack. Wide-eyed, her head snapped to look at every corner of her apartment, searching for anything out of place. She crawled towards her kitchen counter, her entire body trembling, and quietly opened a drawer, feeling around for the handle of her biggest knife. She grasped it as tightly as her trembling fingers and sweaty palm would allow her.

Across the room, her phone vibrated again.

Vvvv.

She froze. There was no question in her mind that it would be from the same number. She debated long enough for the phone to buzz again, a gentle reminder of her own terror.

She crawled on all-fours back over to her phone and, still tightly gripping the weapon in her hand, picked the phone up.

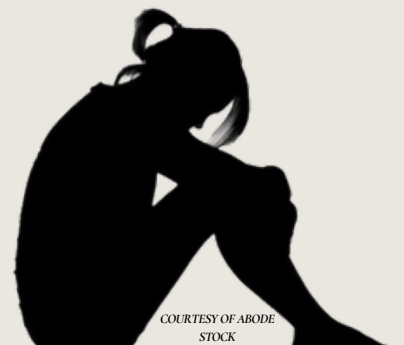
Same number.

When she opened it, the screen still showed the conversation where she had left it when she dropped it. The first picture had been pushed up, replaced by another one from the same angle: a photo of her reaching into the drawer for the knife.

As she held the phone in her hand, the number messaged her again. This time, it was a text. She began to sob. Ugly, deep sobs struggled up every inch of her throat. *That won't do you any good.*



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