It’s been 38 days since anyone has seen her—March 2, 2015. While on spring break, Longwood student AJ Hadsell vanished from her family’s home and with only 12 days of class left, the freshman has still yet to be found.

The most bewildering part of AJ’s story is that it’s been over a month, and still, no one knows where she is, where she might be or even if there was foul play involved.

Often times when someone goes missing, especially young people, there are absurd forthcomings that pull in others who know them best. This has been the case for AJ’s absence as well.

First reports displayed little detail of circumstances, as not many facts were known.

In the initial days, search crews were rampant looking for AJ and police were out in full force searching by ground, water and even air.

While thoroughly searching AJ’s neighborhood, a family friend discovered AJ’s credit card cut up, and family members say her phone has been turned off since her disappearance.

Just days after AJ was said to be missing, police received a tip pointing them to Virginia Commonwealth University, almost two hours from her Norfolk home. After questioning people on campus and searching the premises, nothing was found.

At the week mark, the Hadsell family began offering a $3000 reward to anyone with any information regarding the missing girl’s whereabouts.

The family later came forward saying their daughter was “on alert and scared of a certain person before her disappearance. “This person supposedly said that he wanted to hang out, and she said she didn’t think it was a good idea,” a family friend who had multiple conversations with AJ told WAVY. “She was more worried that this person would maybe do something, and this person is the kind of person we kind of suspect did something.”

The friend later said the talks with AJ about this individual left her in tears.

Where is AJ?

10 billboards funded by independent company ‘Adams Outdoor Advertising’ went up March 9 asking, “Have you seen AJ?”

According to WAVY, just afterwards, police got a tip leading them to Northside Park in Norfolk, but again they found nothing.

Following the search, Norfolk Police Department Spokesman Daniel Hudson told The Rotunda, “We still don’t know the circumstances, and haven’t ruled out any. We are doing everything we can to try and find her.”

As the saga began to unfold, more information from family and friends regarding logistics emerged. In a public interview, AJ’s father Wesley Hadsell reported that AJ had recently borrowed “a couple hundred dollars” from him before disappearing.

Around the same time, a neighbor came forward and admitted she saw AJ driving very quickly away from her home and being followed by a white car days before she vanished.

Police still continued that foul play was not a factor.

Support and social media

The Hadsell family has used 21st century technology and social media to their advantage. The Hadsell’s immediately created a ‘gofundme’ page—the site accepts donations from people who wish to give to a cause.

AJ’s page entitled ‘Bring AJ Home’ has garnered $6200 from 111 people—it has totaled over 1.3 thousand shares. But it has been a week and a half since anyone donated.

“My daughter, Anjelica “AJ” Hadsell has been missing since Monday, March 2. Her vehicle was at the house and phone is off. Please help us find her,” the page description says.

The family’s highest mode of communication has no doubt been Facebook. The page ‘Facebook.com/bringajhome’ has over 13 thousand likes and is updated daily, usually with pictures of AJ, as well as scarce new information the family would like to pass on.

#BringAJHome is the hashtag promoted by the family and used to link information on social networks. The hashtag has been trending multiple times on Twitter in the Norfolk area.

Longwood’s Role

The university put out a short statement on March 8: “The Longwood University community shares the deep concerns of Anjelica Hadsell’s family and loved ones and we hope she is located safely,” said university spokesman Matt McWilliams in the release. “As she was reported missing while in her hometown of Norfolk on spring break, Norfolk police are leading the investigation into her whereabouts; our campus police and other staff are assisting with all available resources as needed.”

The school followed up March 10 with an email to students from President W. Taylor Reveley IV, “Freshman student Anjelica “AJ” Hadsell went home to Norfolk over break and then was reported missing while in her hometown of Norfolk on spring break. Norfolk police are leading the investigation into her whereabouts; our campus police and other staff are assisting with all available resources as needed.”

Please help us find her.”

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Some people don’t understand—they just don’t get it. Control of things in life is something people want, but are not often granted. With the press, for some reason people think they have a chance with what is run, and it's bewildering to me. You even see it on the national level at times. People shout against censorship until they, or their company or someone they know are involved in a possible story.

Don’t get me wrong, I think people should hold a paper accountable just as it holds a community. People should demand truth and honesty from a paper. Communities should mandate relevant stories to be printed, order integrities and expect facts.

I know this is a tough time for journalism. People are questioning if journalism ethics even still exist. Papers mess up and get facts wrong all the time, most recently the Rolling Stone piece that’s been in headlines over the past six months for it’s failures.

The free spirit that a newspaper is powerful beyond gauge. But the power is only as strong as the trust people have in it. It has the power to change things, uncover things, show people what is proper and even perhaps upset a few people. I think a paper that reports well is going to make a mistake from time to time. Obviously not as bad as the Rolling Stone piece, but no one is perfect 24/7.

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From the time I came to Longwood in the fall of 2011, I was always told the newspaper was it’s own entity. Yes, Longwood’s paper receives funding from the Student Government Association, but no matter what, it’s going to say what it wants and no one should put their hand over it’s mouth.

It’s a two way street. News outlets need you, and you need news outlets. Without readers, any paper would be pointless to print, and without news circulation, one could argue a community would be ignorant.

But the newspaper (especially a student-produced one) should do what the newspaper wants to do, not what someone else wishes they do.

If a newspaper or outlet never upsets someone, it might be because they aren’t doing their job, or are scared to. But that doesn’t mean someone should try to stop an outlet from writing something they don’t like.

You never should call a reporter, tell them how you feel about what they wrote and request they change it—that’s not only bad ethics, it’s bad protocols.

When The Rotunda published articles by infamous author ‘Candy Cane’ last spring, many people called The Rotunda’s office, or emailed our editor expressing their disgruntlement.

Though I personally didn’t find the articles tasteful, I would fight tooth and nail for The Rotunda’s right to publish them—that’s what the paper wished to do.

The Rotunda has done it’s job all year. People have been held accountable, whistles have been blown and hard stories have been written. Mistakes have occasionally been made, and people have been pissed off.

But we expected all of that, and look forward to telling your stories in the future.
missing there,” said Reveley. “We had hoped she might return to school with the resumption of classes—but the start of classes now is passing by. We remain hopeful.”

There have been no specific events on campus regarding AJ, or anything in her honor, but the Longwood Student Government Association has passed out ribbons at other events and the club softball team has been selling bracelets to raise funds.

**Father Fiasco**

Almost three weeks after AJ disappeared, on March 21, her father Wesley Hadsell was arrested on six charges—four obstruction of justice charges, one charge of possessing ammunition following a felony and one charge of breaking and entering. In an article published by WRIC on March 16, Hadsell was quoted saying, “My daughter is missing and it’s destroying the family, as far as our emotions.” He added, “It’s not over yet. It’s not going to be over until she’s home.” Incidents he was arrested for stem from March 6 to March 8.

“When you have an arrest and everybody wants to deal with that and I understand that, but at the same time, you can’t always just focus on one thing,” Hadsell’s sister, Wendy Hadsell-Stokes, recently told WTKR. “AJ is still out there somewhere; we have got to find her,” she says.

Hadsell was denied bond based on a request from the prosecuting attorney, and will remain in jail until his preliminary hearing on April 29.

AJ’s family has recently attempted to reflect coverage of her father’s situation, and get the focus back on her.

**Hadsell family call police**

“Please respect our privacy and leave us alone,” said AJ’s mother, Jennifer Busby Hadsell, shouting to Hampton Roads news outlet WTKR from her front porch. “I will call the cops. I am not playing. At Hampton Roads news outlet WTKR from jail. WTKR said this request is what led them to the property.

“AJ’s mother obviously didn’t agree. She declined comments about her missing daughter, and did eventually call the cops on the station. WTKR, of course, did nothing wrong, so nothing came from the call.

The outlook

AJ’s grandmother expressed concern within the past few days that police weren’t doing anything, or enough, to find her granddaughter.

Katherine Hadsell told ABC News she wishes police would, “give us more insight into what they’re actually doing, because to us, it seems like they’re doing nothing.”

Last Friday, Norfolk Police Detectives followed up on a tip, which directed them to route 258 and Joyner’s Bridge Road in Isle of Wight. According to police, they searched the area, exhausting all leads.

Norfolk police say they are working hard to find AJ, and committing all of their resources to the search.

“We are continuing the search for missing teenager Anjelica "AJ" Hadsell,” spokesman Daniel Hudson said in an email to The Rotunda. “The investigation into the circumstances surrounding her disappearance, is continuing. We have not ruled out any possibilities, and we are pursuing all leads.”

As the investigation goes forward, and the days grow, many concluded thoughts of her resurfacing to have grown dire, forward, and the days grow, while family friends and the Longwood community, remain hopeful.

There are over 100 total cases of missing girls, who cases remain unsolved, in Virginia.

Police ask anyone who has information about AJ’s whereabouts to call the Norfolk Crime Line at 1-888-LOCK-U-UP.

**Car engulfed in flames**

A red Ford sedan caught fire on Monday afternoon in a Sunchase apartment complex parking lot. The Rotunda believes the owner of the car to be David Van. Van isn’t a Sunchase resident and was visiting a friend who lives in the complex.

“From what we understand, it was an engine problem the owner of the car had,” said Lindsay Hagstrom, Sunchase Marketing Associate. “He managed to get it into the parking lot, went to turn it back on, (it) wouldn’t turn on and then when he went to go see a resident, he saw the smoke.”

According to Hagstrom, Van said, prior to getting to Sunchase property, his car stalled out.

“The police were able to get here immediately,” said Hagstrom. “The fire department got here shortly after them, and Hampden Sydney police department showed up shortly after they did.”

Hagstrom said it took less than 30 minutes for the departments to get the fire under control. The car was completely damaged and all of Van’s in-car belongings were tarnished.

“He said his computer, schoolbooks...everything was destroyed in it,” said Hagstrom.

She added, “So I guess it’s up to insurance from there, to decide what to do, but his car I believe was gone.”

The Rotunda reached out to Van for comment, but he hadn’t responded by the time of publication.
Treasurer Jessica Darst began with the FCC report. $781.86 was allocated to Lambda Pi Eta for their Southern States Communication Association Convention in which extra money was needed for hotel fees. $187.76 was allocated to SGA for a reception following the Building Community event.

Re-allocation of $40 was passed to fund staff shirts for Lancer Productions.

Re-allocation of $475 was passed to fund catering for BSA’s “All that Jazz” concert series.

Historian Ellen Kensy opened her report with a request by Art majors to start an organization within the Art department. The motion failed as concerns were brought up that cited only those who have taken a particular ceramics course are allowed to join the art organization, as those that do not constitute being open to all students. Senate questioned the selection process that requires a course. A representative estimated around 10 people expressed interest in the club and to work on projects. Motion was called to question in the second time, before the motion failed.

Kensy moved to approve the Hispanic Latino Association to begin on-campus. Senator Chyanne Trowell added the importance to have diversity organizations on-campus, and could help lead to increased diversity on SGA’s senate board. Motion passed.

A motion passed to amend the Constitution for Longwood Ambassadors.

Senator Leighan Worden presented and discussed changes in the new process of SGA’s bylaws.

President Joseph Gills stated that senate members had expressed interest in the discussion of Title IX. During open forum Jennifer Fraley, Title IX coordinator, spoke to answer the senate board’s questions.

Fraley discussed that there is a 92 percent compliance rate regarding the completion of MyStudentBody. Fraley also encouraged active bystanders to report any cases or incidents to the Title IX office.

Gills mentioned many student concerns about the Title IX component in Athletics regarding recent news reports of athletics, and questioned where Title IX is taken into account.

Fraley commented that “student-athletes are students first and foremost,” and that under that, Title IX works on a case-by-case basis.

Dr. Tim Pierson also added, “every student falls under all policies,” and that students are notified of all policies that they are responsible for in the student handbook sent out at the beginning of each academic school year.

Fraley added that Title IX “can’t talk about certain cases,” however, Fraley clarified that different sanctioning is put in place for what is appropriate in each particular case.

After the senate questioned what constitutes who can be an athlete or not under Title IX infractions, Fraley commented that is a question for the Athletic department. Trowell clarified a senate member’s question that under the Athletic department, if the student is not convicted of a felony, they are permitted to continue to play in games.

Dr. Pierson also discussed that it is important to look at the AD’s enrollment levels on “how up to date individual institution is” under Title IX and are all mandated to take correct steps under Title IX.

Fraley also stated that Title IX works to educate students throughout the year, not just in the beginning of the academic school year in MyStudentBody.

In open forum, a Criminology major student was admitted for the Masters program in Sociology last semester, but the program was cut. The program cut seems to be unfair for many other majors have various programs. Dr. Pierson questioned that the decision was already made, and wasn’t sure if the issue could be revisited. Senator Chelsea Caroll commented on behalf of the Student Council for Higher Education that “Criminal Justice was not making the numbers,” as to why the program was cut, and stated, “unfortunately, there is nothing we could do.”

Carroll encouraged the student to continue to meet and discuss the issue with the student council.

A recent issue regarding ethnicity discrimination was brought to the senate board, Gills reminded students to fill out incident bias forms first and foremost.

Gills also discussed BSA’s concerns over the recent hate crimes. The SGA executive board met with BSA’s executive board to talk about events and ideas to bring awareness to campus. Gills and President-elect and Senator, Constance Garner, wrote a letter to President Reveley in response to BSA calling attention to the issue. The letter concerned a lack of diversity on-campus and a call for continued education on the subject.

Gills moved to amend the bylaws, adding Diversity and Social Justice Committee to SGA’s constitution. “This will always be a priority from here on out,” said Gills.

Senator India White added that the committee would want to have an event partnering with Lancer Productions and will have more information in the fall semester.

The Committee has also been working with Curry Residence Hall for an event on Diversity, including a button campaign that will serve as a reminder of education on the subject. The final date will be released sometime next week.

The Police Brutality Open Forum is at 5:30 p.m. in Wygal today.

Next week’s SGA meeting, Tuesday, April 14, will look to be held outside the Student Union.

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**Financial Column**

*By Justin Parker and Manny Dwyer, contributors*

Albert Einstein once said, “Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it, he who doesn’t, pays it.” According to Investopedia, compound interest is, “Interest calculated on the initial principal and also on the accumulated interest of previous periods.”

Essentially, what this means is the interest is continually growing on the previous interest, as opposed to interest only gained on the initial investment. This compound interest can be one of the most beneficial tools to any investor, and can allow for some incredible gains on initial investments over time.

Let’s assume that the average person starts saving when they are 30 years old, right out of college, and save $5500 a year for 43 years until you retire at 65, with the same annual returns of 10% percent with compound interest, you would have $3,258,200 when you retired.

This is a $1,767,600 difference, and you would only be sacrificing an extra $44,000 of your own money. This example truly shows how powerful compound interest is, and how investing as soon as possible can help you reap the benefits down the road.

The main point of compound interest is to use it to your benefit to invest as smart as possible. The younger that you get started, the more you can make, as you can see, and our personal advice would be to start saving for the long term as soon as possible. The longer you hold onto your investments, the larger they grow incrementally.

Start saving for either a house, a car or for your retirement as soon as you graduate from school, and your future self will be thanking you.
There were lights, no cameras, a lot of cheering and incredible talents. The Kappa Delta sorority hosted the Miss Longwood, with junior Aubrey Duignam and sophomore Amanda Varnes MCing it.

The money donated and raised will go towards their local philanthropy, Madeline’s House. They also have other philanthropies including Girl Scouts of USA, Children’s Hospital, Prevent Child Abuse of America and Orthopedic research.

The cheers of the crowd can be heard all throughout Jarman Auditorium, as nine ladies competed against one another in the 11th annual Miss Longwood Pageant on Wednesday, April 1.

Duignam, who organized the event, along with her assistant Shamrock chair said the event takes almost a year to plan. “We plan at the beginning of the school year and then two months into the spring semester we start organizing it,” said Duignam. “We don’t have committee’s, but with the help of my assistant and the help of my sisters, it came together nicely.”

The nine ladies that competed were first-year students to seniors, and are a part of various sororities and organizations across campus that include:

- Ally Marcus, Alpha Sigma Alpha
- Brianna DeWulf, Delta Zeta
- Abby Snell, Zeta Tau Alpha
- Brittany Smith, Alpha Delta Pi
- Shelby Furman, Alpha Sigma Tau
- Krysta Jewette, Honor Students Association
- Kassidy Webb, Sigma Kappa
- Shelby Morton, Anime Club
- Abbie Swanson, Sigma Sigma Sigma

Each contestant started out the event by dancing and introducing themselves, which was then divided into different sections, from the talent portion to the question and answer.

Junior Brittany Smith was the first to begin the competition, belting out a remix of Taylor Swift’s “Blank Space” with her love for Longwood, as well as junior Shelby Furman who sang “Not about Angels.”

Other contestants did a variety of different talents—including finger painting.

Freshman Linae Morton blew the crowd away with finger painting in under five minutes and Junior Abby Snell did a unique hula dance that made the crowd go wild.

Sophomore Ally Marcus did a Taylor Swift mash-up dance with her fellow back up dancers, while Senior DeWulf did a contemporary dance piece to Sia’s “elastic heart.”

Freshman Krysta Jewette played her clarinet while Kassidy Webb danced to “Sweet Home Alabama,” which had her sisters singing and dancing within their seats.

Senior Abbie Swanson performed the song “Blue Hair” from the musical “Black Suits” wearing suspenders, glasses and pigtails.

Throughout the pageant, there were contests regarding the raffle tickets one gets once being admitted. The winner of the contests would be getting their very own “Miss Longwood t-shirt.”

During the question and answer portion, the contestants were asked a variety of questions regarding life, a favorite Longwood memory, which person impacted you and advice you would give incoming freshman.

An overall consensus from the contestants stated, “getting involved is the best way to make the best memories and moments at Longwood.”

Snell stated in her response, “Get involved, how you make Longwood your own is what you put yourself into—do everything and anything, but manage your time.”

Once that was over, Duignam and Varnes asked the audience to give change to their favorite contestant for penny wars.

The crowd went crazy and within minutes people were on their way to the front of the stage to drop their donations.

The winner of penny wars was Ally Marcus and, overall, Kappa Delta raised $108.00 in just pennies.

When it came time to decide the winners, the crowd was antsy and could not wait any longer.

Miss Congeniality winner was Linae Morgan who was taken by surprise and she cried tears of joy.

Second runner up was Abbie Swanson with Brittany Smith coming in as first runner up.

The winner of the 2015 Miss Longwood Pageant was Abby Snell who won the crowd with her hula dancing.

Overall, the sisters of Kappa Delta raised a whopping $1,268 in donations that will go towards their philanthropies.
French team wins sixth annual Iron Chef Competition

The Modern Language Club hosts an international cook-off

Featuring dishes from all over the world, students and faculty were treated to a one of a kind feast Thursday evening.

Three teams, French, German and Spanish, faced off against each other in a culinary cook-off. They showcased not only international gourmet cuisine, but also a love and appreciation for a unique culture. Each team not only had to prepare and cook their dish, but also had to present it in their respective language.

The dishes up for approval were the French team’s crepes stuffed with egg, cheese and ham, along with a butternut squash soup. The German team’s chicken schnitzel and Berlin potato soup was next, and the Spanish team’s empanadas came served with a vegetable soup.

The Sixth Annual Iron Chef Competition was hosted by the Modern Language Club and took place in the Nance Room of Dorrill Dining Hall on Thursday. Asst. Dean for Academic Services, Dr. Joanna Baker, Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Tim Pierson, and Professor of Economics, Dr. Melanie Marks, judged the evening’s cultural competition.

The event was not only composed of the competition, but a silent auction as well. Those in attendance bid on items that included a tea and coffee basket, handmade clothing and even fresh vegetables from a few professors’ gardens.

All of the proceeds went to fund Doctors Without Borders, a humanitarian organization where doctors treat those worldwide who can’t afford it.

Several other items like homemade cupcakes and coupons to Chick-Fil-A and Moe’s were raffled off during the evening, Abbey Stanzione, a freshman at Longwood University, was the first lucky winner of the raffle.

“It was really interesting. Everybody came and presented in all their different languages,” Stanzione said. “Which was cool to hear everybody speak, and then the food was delicious.”

After the judges tasted each of the dishes, those in attendance got the chance to taste them for themselves. “My favorite was, hands down, the empanadas,” Stanzione said.

Throughout the competition, the judges applauded the work of all the teams, and in the end, announced the French team as the winners.

The French team consisted of: sophomore Kaitlyn Chandler, freshman Courtney Cauthorn, junior Emily Weldon and freshman Cassie Tagert, all of whom were extremely excited by their win.

“(We’re) very excited! The Modern Language department is such a small department anyway, and then when you even break it up into the languages, they’re so, so tiny. So to have us be recognized for our department, it feels really great,” said Cauthorn.

“It was really interesting, you know, being able to present a dish in French, and it was really cool, like the atmosphere here with all the different world languages,” said Chandler.

According to Chandler, this competition causes people to learn a lot about the dishes and the culture of each group.

“It was stressful being in the kitchen at some points and messing things up and trying to re-do them,” said Weldon. “But it didn’t even feel like a competition, ‘cause it was really fun and I think all of us got along really well, not just French people, but the Spanish and the German too, so it didn’t even feel competitive.”

According to Cauthorn, the president of the Modern Language Club, she had hoped that the turnout for the event would help spread the word about the club and the annual event.

“Just hope that people will know that this is a thing… Hopefully people will be aware of how fun this event is and want to come out in years to come,” said Cauthorn.
Dogs wag and walk through Brock Commons

The Longwood Athletic Trainers’ Association sponsored their annual Wag and Walk event in order to benefit the local South Side S.P.C.A.. The event filled Brock Commons with plenty of dogs and their owners from the Longwood and Farmville communities Thursday, April 3. Each walker who participated paid 20 dollars per walker and dog. The event included contests and door prizes for dogs, as well as owners. All proceeds from the event went to the local animal shelter that helps rehabilitate animals and find them homes.
Youth art month at the LCVA

In celebration of youth art month, the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts hosted the artwork of area students. From pre-k to high school seniors, over 1,500 students got a chance to see their artwork displayed proudly, and patrons got the opportunity to see the work of some very talented young artists.

As Farmville residents drove by the LCVA, they were treated to a colorful display by the students of Prince Edward County Elementary School. The students focused their art projects on Australian aboriginal art. The students contributed a mix of drawings and large scale papier-mâché pieces that were all beautifully done. This collaborative project is a true celebration of an ancient culture through the work of these talented young artists.

The rest of the exhibit consisted of hundreds of creations that filled the walls of the bottom floor of the LCVA. From photographs, portraits and graphic design pieces, the variety of art was staggering. A couple of young artists spoke on what went into creating their masterpieces.

“I drew this picture from a magazine, I copied it, I drew from it. Then I took it from that sheet of paper and pressed it onto another. Once I did that I outlined it pretty dark so I could see it. Then I cut out pictures with different colors and filled it in,” said Michelle Williams, a fifth grader at Prince Edward County Middle School. Her piece titled “Strike A Pose” was a collaged picture of women that she says was inspired by her love of fashion. “My favorite part of making this was picking out the different colors for her clothes,” said Williams.

Kristin Williams, a sixth grader at Prince Edward County Middle School, got to see her art work displayed proudly as well. Her piece was an oil painting of a picturesque ocean scene. “It was by another artist, but we copied it and drew it and filled it in with oil pastels,” said Williams. “I liked using all the different colors, but it was also the hardest part because we had to blend the colors to make the reflection from the boat. We used our fingers to blend the colors, but you have to be really careful because if you mix them too much it just turns out brown.”

Walking through the large room and admiring all of the creations arranged by the age of the artist, it is amazing to see the progress that children make with the help of their school’s art programs. The exhibit comes to a close on April 18, don’t miss your chance to admire the talent of these Picassos and Rembrandts in the making.

Calendar of Events

April 9-11:
A Midsummer Night’s Dream, 7 p.m. & April 12, 3 p.m. CSTAC

April 10:
WMLU Bandfest 2015, 4-11 p.m. behind Student Union

April 11:
Point of Departure: Senior Show Exhibition Opening Reception, 5 p.m. Longwood Center for the Visual Arts

April 12:
Darnell Royster Senior Voice Recital, 4 p.m. Wygal

April 12:
Michelle Shin Piano Senior Recital, 7:30 p.m. Wygal

April 14:
Wind Symphony & Jazz Ensembles Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m. Jarman Auditorium
Modest Mouse on the decline with new release

Modest Mouse is one of the top indie rock bands of the last decade. Since their lengthy-titled debut, "This Is a Long Drive for Someone with Nothing to Think About," to their acclaimed 2007 album, "We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank," Modest Mouse has built up a reputation of releasing quality indie jams like "Float On" and "Dashboard" that routinely dominate alternative radio stations.

Unfortunately for Modest Mouse, newly released "Strangers to Ourselves" features the band venturing into uncharted territory that they probably shouldn’t have explored in the first place. There are some surprises in "Strangers to Ourselves" that work, but just as many that don’t.

"Pistol (A. Cunanan, Miami, FL. 1996)," the fourth track on "Strangers to Ourselves," sounds like a horrible rendition of a Lonely Island song that they tried to turn indie. Whether the band meant for the song to be a parody of a cheesy gangsta rap tune or not, that's what it sounded like, except not funny or enjoyable to any degree.

As for a surprise that actually does work, "Sugar Boats" provides a bouncy Humpty Dumpty beat introduced by a rather creepy piano segment, but leads perfectly into the song’s first verse. It’s a little weird, but it’s so Modest Mouse.

Although Modest Mouse tried out some new styles on this record, “Strangers to Ourselves” does include a few songs that sound like the classic Modest Mouse from the mid-2000s, “Lampshades on Fire” being one of them. The album’s lead single, “Lampshades On Fire,” feels like something from 2004’s “Good News for People Who Love Bad News” and “The Ground Walks, with Time in a Box.” It is also reminiscent of one of the band’s biggest hits, “Dashboard.”

“Strangers to Ourselves” shouldn’t hurt Modest Mouse’s reputation, mainly because the good songs on the record really are fantastic, but the bad songs are just so unimpressive that it makes this album potentially the worst Modest Mouse record released in the band’s history. Nonetheless, Modest Mouse will still be considered one of the powerhouses in today’s indie rock scene, whether they’re on the decline or not.

My rating: 6/10

Spring Weekend Schedule

**Friday April 10th, 2015**

4pm
Oozeball Begins
Stubbs Volleyball Courts

4:30pm-6:30pm
Dinner Picnic
Madison Plaza next to the Student Union

4:00pm-4:25pm
The Best Mistake
Longwood Stage

4:30pm-5:00pm
Moosetrap
Lancer Stage

5:15pm-6:15pm
No BS Brass Band
Longwood Stage

6:30pm-7:15pm
Three Legged Fox
Lancer Stage

7:30pm-8:30pm
CBDB
Longwood Stage

8:30pm-9pm
DJ Joel Cruz
Lancer Stage

9pm-10:45pm
Reel Big Fish
Longwood Stage

**Saturday April 11th, 2015**

9:00am
Oozeball resumes
Stubbs Volleyball Courts

11:30am-1:30pm
Campus Picnic
Madison Plaza next to the Student Union

12:00pm-6:00pm
Booths are open
Stubbs Mall

11:30am-1pm
DJ
Lancer Stage

12pm-4pm
Novelties
In Front of ARC

1pm-2:45pm
Student Entertainment
Lancer Stage

2:00pm-8:00pm
Beer Garden
Lankford Mall

2:45pm-4pm
DJ
Lancer Stage

4:15pm-5:15pm
Cloud Walkers
Longwood Stage

4:30pm-6:30pm
Dinner Picnic
Madison Plaza next to the Student Union

5:30pm-7:00pm
The Middle Ground
Lancer Stage

7:15pm-8:15pm
Chiddy Bang
Longwood Stage

8:15pm-8:45pm
DJ
Lancer Stage

8:45pm-10:00pm
SOMO
Longwood Stage

*The times for the bands are subject to change.*
And the Feastivities continue

**Bites of local food culture in spoon-sized blurbs**

**BY JASON TSAI**
**OPINION STAFF**

The Bakery in Farmville has an established, renowned reputation for serving up some of the most decadent creations in town. While owner Philip’s hearth-baked bread and flaky pastries are common fares, Synthia and her staff also make fresh cheese and vegetable spreads in house: tapenade, chicken & tuna salads, goat cheese, vinaigrette, pesto, traditional Greek olive and more. Afternoons in downtown Farmville are hardly complete without trying one of The Bakery’s newest cafe paninis.

The cafe has been featuring a menu of sandwiches named after some of its most loyal customers. Of its many selections, the staff has reviewed the Esteban and a classic hot Brie with fig spread:

### The Esteban

Grilled for a precise four minutes on the panini press, the hot baguette made fresh every morning carries a signature bite of crispy outside and pillow-soft inside. Packed between every bite is a layer of shaved deli turkey. The cured breast meat is tender and juicy, its salt complemented by the melted smoked Gouda. To offset the savory meat and cheese, quince paste is spread between the layers to make for a thick citrusy balance.

This is a versatile sandwich for a late lunch. Perhaps best served with Ezra Pound’s imagistic poetry and other light verse. Also pairs well with any beverage, hot or iced tea.

### Hot Brie with Fig Spread

Also on a hot baguette, the hot Brie sandwich is a classic. Instead of Black Forest ham though, this cafe favorite is vegetarian friendly. The rich creamy cheese carries an equally rich bite through its soft, taut rind. Spread like thick ribbons on the hot bread too, is the Mediterranean favorite fig fruit. This sweet and creamy combination carries no resemblance to store bought fig cookies: this is a hot gooey mess dressed in decadence, and a filling one at that.

Highly recommended with a hot cup of Earl Grey tea to offset the acidity - and perhaps some poetry by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

### Dear Video Games,

**BY CARLY SHAIA**
**OPINION EDITOR**

Dear Video Games,

You’re a great way to relieve stress, make friends around the world and get sucked into amazing storylines and graphics. However, you also cause us to throw away thousands of dollars. I don’t think you understand, Video Games, that there are so many stereotypes you promote that I could write my senior thesis all about you.

First of all, stop demonizing female video game characters. Street Fighter Cammy doesn’t need to fight in a thong. Where’s the protection in Samus’ Zero suit, or World of Warcraft’s dark elves armour? Sexualizing a character like Bayonetta doesn’t make her any tougher. You should stop creating princess characters while you’re at it, Video Games.

Princess Peach has the slowest car in Mario Kart and Zelda can’t stop getting captured by Ganondorf. It’s clear that gamers clearly prefer tough girls like Ellie from The Last of Us and Fetch from Infamous Second Son: First Light.

On top of that, I shouldn’t have to be identified by my sex. Whether I am a female gamer or not shouldn’t matter, I can still shoot zombies better. My gender shouldn’t give your male players the opportunity to toss rude comments my way with online gaming and X-Box Live.

On the other side, being a male in your world isn’t so easy either. If a male character isn’t buff like Ryu from Street Fighter, then they must be the fat, goofy type like Wario. You’re clearly making it difficult for young men to choose their character, Video Games.

Some of your best male characters, like Link, are silent. I’m sure he has plenty to say about being told to cut the grass in some random person’s lawn, or having to deal with cucco’s again. Male gamers also carry around a harsh stereotype, playing you is what causes them to be violent. Reporters often pin the blame on you for what can cause men to turn into mass shooters. They also carry the hindrance of being told that they are anti-social for playing games.

These stereotypes, however, are put grossly out of proportion. Playing you is a way for people to connect with each other. Making those connections put a real hurting on my wallet though. You’re really expensive!

With money making principle games from apps to Pokemon, some games require the purchase of other goods to play. Take Skylanders for example. A child has to beg their parents to buy more expensive characters to win your game, or take subscription fees to online accounts; that monthly fee adds up.

The same could be said about app games. Although your app games are more likely to be played by casual gamers, they also are most likely to spend the money to speed up their dragon hacking in DragonVale.

Casual gamers haven’t developed the patience like other gamers. All the more reason to get rid of your fees, Video Games. Sure, the initial cost of a game is all fine and well; I’m happy to pay franchises like Ubisoft for making great games. After all, one has to pay for HD television series, so why not pay for great game graphics? It’s the other fees and random expenses that don’t make sense, video games.

Oh, Video Games, I love you. You’re the best way to end a rough day. You’ve come a long way from your 8-bit days, but you still have much to learn.

Hugs and Kisses,
Gamers

**PROPS AND DROPS**

Props to:
- + Easter candy
- + Fountains turned back on
- + Random inspirational notes
- + The snooze button

Drops to:
- - Bad allergies
- - No AC in the dorms
- - Drowning in stress
- - Lost umbrellas
One winning streak snapped, another begun

Softball’s weekend series wins separated by a 2-1 loss to Camels

BY HALLE PARKER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
@_HALPARKER

After a three game series over the past weekend, including a double-header on Saturday, Longwood (17-19, 11-4) finished the weekend with two wins and one loss to Campbell (20-20, 3-11).

“It’s big for us to take two-of-three this weekend,” said senior catcher Megan Baltzell to the Longwood Athletics official website. “It’s one of our goals every year to win each conference series.”

The 2-1 loss after Saturday’s second game ended the Lancers eight game winning streak.

Despite earning the irst run of the game off of Baltzell’s home run in the fourth inning— the team was 5-4 going into the game when they scored a home run— Campbell returned with two homers of their own in the fifth and seventh innings from freshman left ielder Chandler Patterson and senior third baseman Bruce.

“I thought we came out flat today,” said Head Coach Kathy Riley to the Longwood Athletics official website. “I felt we were fortunate to come out with a win in the first game, but we just didn’t get enough hits in either game.”

Over the course of the weekend, Baltzell added another two homers to her total, putting her within two of the all-time career record set by urtherfield/shortstop Jessica Moore of Liberty in 2006. She also tallied five runs and four RBIs.

Sophomore utility Justina Augustine also earned two home runs, one in each win, giving her three RBIs overall.

Her contributions, along with those of senior urtherfield Chelsea Sciacca in Saturday’s first match and freshman second baseman Kelsey Sweeney on Sunday, each with one home run and four RBIs apiece, gave Longwood the edge.

“I knew they were pitching to me on the outside part of the plate, because that’s all they had been throwing to me,” Sciacca said after Saturday’s game to the Longwood Athletics official website. “I just tried to sit back and drive it to the left side.”

“It was really important for me to step up and help my team get a big win today,” Sweeney said after Sunday to the Longwood Athletics official website. “I was struggling a little in the series, and it was really important to me to step up and get it done.”

In both wins, Campbell out-hit the Lancers, irst 8-4 then 11-7, led by Patterson.

“I feel fortunate for us to win two-of-three games, especially since we were out-hit in all three games of the series,” said Riley to the Longwood Athletics official website. “We were able to come back in several critical situations that earlier in the year we didn’t come back from, so we’re starting to see some growth in that area.”

Coming off throwing her second no-hitter of the season against Liberty, the series saw sophomore pitcher Elizabeth McCarthy throw 20 straight innings. Sunday marked her sixth complete game of the season.

Her first game Sunday ended with her one strikeout shy of tying her season-high (10). Building from that game, McCarthy threw 17 strikeouts in total and earned a 3.44 ERA over those three games.

McCarthy finished the weekend giving up 24 hits, 10 runs and 10 errors.

Longwood will face the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill on April 8 before hosting their next conference series this weekend against the Runnin’ Bulldogs of Gardner-Webb University.

(Left) A Longwood batter keeps her eye on the ball in mid-swing. (Right) Katie Shinrock high-fives her coach in excitement during the game.
Lancers defeat the Big South Conference’s No. 2 offense, Campbell

Longwood takes first Big South win

The Lancers were able to take an 8-1 run to victory as they defeated the Fighting Camels of Campbell University, 10-6. Longwood (3-9, 1-1) took on Campbell (3-9, 0-2) Monday, April 6 at the Longwood Athletics Complex.

After the Camels scored the first goal of the game, with just over 26 minutes left in the first half, the Lancers were led by junior attack Katie McHugh-who scored four of her five goals- in the eight goal onslaught that ensued. With just under 21 minutes let in the game, Campbell got back on the board under 21 minutes let in the irst half, the Lancers were able to take an

In the end, Longwood's senior goaliekeeper, Christian Acker, took home her third win of the season as she saved 10 shots-on-goal, while allowing six goals.

Along with McHugh's five goals, she added one assist to lead the team in points (six). Following her was Arndt, who dished out two assists with her two goals.

The Lancers will now travel to Presbyterian Blue Hose (3-8, 2-0) Friday, April 10. Presbyterian Communications Director, James Davis, confirmed they were not coming.

“As the conference tournament nears, Elston said he has hope they can move on from the senior day mishap. “The rule is that if you have a contract and the other team doesn't show, it's a forfeit. The caveat to that is if you don't have a contract, but you have proof that both teams agreed upon having the match, it's a forfeit,” said Perry. Perry stated he was searching for another university to fit into the schedule prior to the conference tournament, in order to give the seniors their senior day opportunity.

As the conference tournament nears, Elston said he has hope they can move on from the senior day mishap. “Even though our season hasn't been great so far, we've been close in every single match. We have a nice chance.”