Remembering AJ

“Though the weight of this horrible prospect has loomed, today extinguishes our hope of AJ’s safe return and confirms our worst fear. Our thoughts are profoundly with her family. These past weeks, they have endured unimaginable anguish and uncertainty, and now they must confront the terrible grief of this loss.”

These words came from an email sent out to students Friday evening from President Reveley.

After 38 days of her disappearance, AJ was found.

The search for AJ began after she was last seen on Monday, March 2 at her home in Norfolk during spring break. The last time she was heard from was early Tuesday morning.

After initial searches began, AJ’s credit card was found cut up in the street of her neighborhood. Following this discovery, Norfolk police received a tip of a possible sighting of AJ on Virginia Commonwealth University’s campus. This tip led nowhere.

Billboards went up on March 9 with a notice of AJ’s disappearance and a physical description accompanying her photo. A Facebook page titled ‘Bring AJ Home’ was created on March 5 and provided any updates to followers. The page now has more than 14 thousand likes.

AJ’s father, Wesley Hadsell, remains behind bars after being arrested on six charges – four obstruction of justice charges, a charge of possessing ammunition following a felony and obstruction of justice charges, a charge of possessing ammunition following a felony and one charge of breaking and entering. Hadsell’s court date is set for April 29.

Around 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, human remains were found in the backyard of a house in Southampton County after Norfolk police received a tip. After the remains were medically examined, they were confirmed to be AJ’s on Friday, April 10. Norfolk police said that the FBI are now involved with the investigation.

Events have already begun to be planned and held in memory of AJ. Just two days after the remains were confirmed to be AJ’s, a softball tournament was held on Sunday in memory of her. According to The Virginian-Pilot, family and friends gathered together to play the sport which AJ had played both in high school and college.

“It (softball) was something she did and she loved. We know she’s with us right now and we want to see her smile,” Joshua Campbell, AJ’s boyfriend, told The Virginian-Pilot.

The tournament was attended by at least six teams and also helped raise money for funeral costs. The family’s team wore shirts with No. 6 surrounded by angel wings. The number was AJ’s jersey number.

“She made others strive to do better. Softball is AJ’s sport, and we just thought this would be the perfect thing,” Cassie Wright, one of the tournament’s organizers, told The Virginian-Pilot.

Moments of silence were held at all Longwood sports games this weekend, as well as at the beginning of Bandfest and the Citizen Leader Banquet on Sunday.

A group of students met on Monday to discuss formal plans for a commemoration of AJ. This group included the SGA, Club Softball, Sports Club Council and Larry Robertson, dean of students. Dr. Tim Pierson, the vice president for Student Affairs, said that the event would mostly likely take place early next week.

“I think it’s going to be an opportunity for those that are closest to her to make some statements. I suspect we’ll hear from the university president, and more of just an opportunity for reflection and time to think about that. We all think that, you know, that life just goes on, and life is full of changes and surprises. We don’t know from day to day, right? I mean, we hope and we expect we’ll be here, but things happen. I do think that’s the thing that really does touch everyone…” said Pierson.

Pierson said that AJ’s residence hall plans on meeting together for a time of reflection and time to think about that. We all think that, you know, that life just goes on, and life is full of changes and surprises. We don’t know from day to day, right? I mean, we hope and we expect we’ll be here, but things happen. I do think that’s the thing that really does touch everyone…” said Pierson.

Students from the Club Softball team, as well as students from AJ’s residence floor plan on attending her funeral service on Saturday, April 18 at 11:00 a.m. A post on the Facebook page ‘Bring AJ Home’ requested that those planning on attending AJ’s funeral to wear bright and colorful clothes. “She was never one for dressing up, nor dark clothes,” the post stated.

AJ’s family set up a memorial fund to cover funeral costs and said that any remaining funds would be donated to a charity in AJ’s honor.

If you have any information regarding the investigation, contact Norfolk Crime Line at 1-800-LOCK-U-UP.
As the campus mourns the loss of fellow Lancer, AJ Hadsell, the question of “could this happen to me?” seems to be present in the minds of some students.

With the events of the past year, this concern does not come unsupported. The disappearance and death of University of Virginia student Hannah Graham last September came as a tremor in the seemingly safe atmosphere students see their campus to be.

AJ Hadsell adds an even closer echo of safety concern for students on-campus.

This concern reverberated yet again with the short disappearance of Longwood student Hannah Fielder early Sunday morning. An email was sent from the Longwood Police Department around 1:15 a.m. Sunday morning and alerted students of Fielder’s disappearance.

The email stated that Fielder was last seen on Buffalo Street around midnight. The email continued to describe Fielder as “white, 5 feet 4 inches tall and wearing a cardigan.”

A later email was sent only 20 minutes later at 1:35 a.m. informing students that Fielder had been located and was with authorities.

Fielder had been missing for only about an hour and 35 minutes. Her short disappearance and quick discovery came as a relief to those searching for her.

A Facebook post on Fielder’s profile from Fielder’s boyfriend, Joe Achesinski, stated that she was okay and was “home safe right now and will respond to texts and calls tonight or tomorrow sometime.”

“In this particular case, it was very quickly, between the efforts of the Farmville Police Department and the Longwood Police Department, we were able to determine that this didn’t appear to be someone trying to be away, but that there were difficulties involved in how quickly she disappeared and so forth,” said Chief of Police Robert Beach.

After receiving the report of Fielder’s disappearance, the Longwood Police Department responded immediately by speaking with those who had reported her missing and others who knew her. The authorities also attempted to determine the circumstances of the situation.

“Obviously, if a person is deemed to be in some sort of danger or in a dangerous situation, then the resource demands and the protocol may differ a little bit. Once you’re an adult, it is perfectly legal for you to decide that you don’t want to be around people or let people know where you’re at. As long as we can determine that there’s nothing of danger to that person, we have to honor that,” said Beach.

Any information which may be gathered, such as the student going through a recent breakup in a relationship, taking depression medication or suffering a recent death in the family, is considered by determining the circumstances of a situation.

According to Beach, these factors could generate a quicker response because of the consideration that the student could be a danger to himself, herself or others. No information was released regarding Fielder’s own circumstances.

Shortly after sending out the alert of Fielder’s disappearance, the Longwood Police Department received notice that Fielder had been located at the hospital.

Had Fielder not been located, Beach stated that search parties would have been a standard practice.

He also stated that the timeframe between someone’s disappearance and the organization of search parties would be determined based on the individual situation.

“It depends on the circumstances. Situations that are serious or have some threat or danger attached to them are going to be started immediately. But immediate may be four, six, 12 hours, depending on when resources can be brought to bear,” said Beach.

Beach stated that students should make sure they are never alone at night, always have someone they know with them and be alert to what is going on around them.

LiveSafe is an app available to Longwood students which allows the ability to make reports with location-tagged information and media such as photos or video clips. The app is available to both iPhone and Android users.
When House Bill 1897 was first announced earlier this year by del. Kirk Cox, journalists across the commonwealth wrote stories about how it would vastly affect multiple universities’ athletics programs in the state.

The Rotunda quoted Longwood Director of Athletics, Troy Austin, earlier this semester commenting that the cap would be “detrimental” to the department.

The legislation aims to put a cap on the amount of athletics funding that stems from a pool of student fees. Longwood athletics currently gains about 86 percent of its budget from student fees. But for schools like Longwood who are in the division one category without a football team, the cap is set at 78 percent.

According to the university’s Chief Financial Officer Ken Copeland, after deliberations with legislators resulting in the addition of new stipulations, Longwood falls way below the cap line.

Debt service, auxiliary funds and spirit groups were all pulled out of the conversation, putting Longwood at 68 percent of fees collected from students tallied in ordinance with the legislation.

The athletics department’s budget will still take in an unchanged amount of student fees, but a lesser amount of them will be counted with the bill.

“The argument schools had against this portion of the legislation was ‘okay General assembly, and specifically House of Delegates and House of Appropriations we hear you,” Copeland said. “But you already approved debt service on a bunch of our athletics facilities and you can’t hold us responsible for something you already approved’…so debt service got pulled out of the conversation.”

Copeland said when Longwood began to strive towards a division one program and conference affiliation in 2004-2005, officials knew they had to invest in facilities.

“We have borrowed money to do that,” said Copeland. “That debt service was approved by the legislature in times past.”

He continued, “Then the Commonwealth of Virginia allows indirect cost recovery and you can’t hold us accountable for the percentage that the state council for higher education says we can pull from auxiliary back onto the education in general side of the house…so that got exempted.”

Spirit groups, which include cheerleaders, pep bands and dance teams, will bring down Longwood’s percentage as well. The bill also has a delayed start date of July 1, 2016, so schools will have extra time to make adjustments.

He said though that there is some “play room,” the university still needs to be careful. “As we get closer to the 78 percent cap, as we spend more, we have to try to fund those expenditures out of a non-student fund.”

The main problem with the bill, according to Copeland, is that all schools across the commonwealth were “painted with the same paintbrush.”

“You have two big time schools, Tech and UVA. Then you have William and Mary, VMI and ODU are playing the championship subdivision. You have schools that don't play football at all,” he said, putting them in categories.

Copeland said that Longwood technically has the ability to raise fees with the stipulations, he doesn’t see that happening.

“I don’t have any reason to expect a jump,” he said. “There are some things we need to do to comply with the Big South Conference, but I don’t see that being close to 10 percent.”

Copeland said he thinks people across the state have gained more comfort with the bill as time has passed.

“We’re okay,” he said. “But what we've got to pay specific attention to is growth. Thankfully the arguments that were made were heard. With the three amendments, a lot of people got more comfortable with the legislation.”

The CHI Burning is an occasion that brings us together to commend students, faculty, staff and organizations who are Citizen Leaders on-campus and have truly exemplified the motto of CHI – “service to the whole, without seeking honor for thyself” – throughout the year. As next week’s CHI Burning draws near, please reflect on what the tradition of CHI is about.

Remember that the spirit of Longwood walks not just with the representatives of CHI, but more importantly, with each individual on our campus. Know that the symbols, banners, walks and bonfire are only outward evidences of the unrevealed purposes of the organization.

Curiosity is natural, but take care that it does not obscure the spirit and ideals for which CHI stands.

Never forget that CHI’s real purposes are deep and strong. To those students who compose its current working staff and to our alumni, CHI is more than an organization. It is an institution as old as the University itself, one of many traditions interwoven with the spirit of Longwood.

We hold this spirit close to our hearts, and realizing that its existence depends upon each student, we strive to keep its flame burning.

The purpose of CHI will never be published, but it will always be found in the hearts and minds of those who seek its real purpose.

As the year comes to a close, we thank everyone for making this a great year at Longwood. From Oktoberfest to athletics events, Relay for Life, Spring Weekend and our ever-present focus on our academics, it has indeed been a year to remember. Collectively, our community also pauses to reflect on the Lancers whom we have lost. To the graduating seniors, we wish you nothing but the best as you prepare to transition to your professional lives. Remember, whatever you do and wherever you go, to always keep the blue-and-white spirit in your heart.
Canvas not being used for all courses

By Victoria Walker
Editor-in-Chief

Even though Canvas is heavily promoted on-campus through the administration, many professors don’t utilize its various resources.

“The Digital Education Collaborative was created to help support faculty and students using all instructional technologies, including Canvas,” said Dr. Jeannine Perry, dean of College of Graduate and Professional Studies. “Training and one-on-one support is available for faculty and students.”

It was predicted that 25 percent of professors didn’t utilize Canvas, but that number was skewed.

Record low tuition increase once again

Examining how Longwood was able to do it

By Travis Lyles
Investigative Reporter
@TravisLylesnews

As the University of Virginia’s colossal 11 percent tuition hike was up in lights last month, Longwood officials were able to come through for students for a second straight year.

The current school year’s tuition was raised in historically low fashion last spring by a 2.1 percent mark, while it was followed up with a minimal 2.8 percent increase.

For in-state undergraduates carrying a full course load in 2015-16, tuition will be $11,910 per year—tuition and fees are the mandatory 2.8 percent increase.

With the average increase in tuition from year to year in the commonwealth being around seven percent, how exactly was the university able to keep the boost so low?

“There are a lot of variables,” said Ken Copeland, Longwood’s chief financial officer. “We looked long and hard at what we could do and tried to be as lean as we could, knowing that the trends show that our enrollment is moving in the right direction.”

“It will be one of the lowest, if not the lowest in the state,” he added. Copeland works in close contact with the president and the “academy” or academic departments on-campus to see what’s feasible before moving forward.

Then he and the administration put a tuition and fees proposal in front of the Longwood Board of Visitors and get it approved. Once that’s done, they use that number to prepare the next year’s operating plan.

Copeland said bolstering enrollment among other things have played significantly into the schools ability to keep tuition down.

Because of the recent increase in enrollment, the school brings in more money and has the capability to minimize an increase in fees.

“Three years in a row we’ve brought in around 1100 kids,” Copeland said. “The class about to graduate is the smallest freshman class in the last four years. We’re anticipating the next class to be of the 1100 student ilk. We grow enrollment right there.”

He added, “If we have more students, we are collecting smaller incremental tuition, but we’re collecting from more people. We are trying to build this budget on scale, and not just on the backs of students.”

According to Copeland, an increase in student retention percentage over the past few years has also helped enrollment numbers, and in essence, helped keep fees low.

“We are keeping more students than we once did. Our retention rates are moving into the eighties. There was a time when our rates were in the 77-79 percent range. We are seeing fewer of those students not come back. We’d like to see it get to the mid to high eighties. It’s in the low eighties now,” Copeland said.

Another factor could be faculty and administrative salaries on-campus. Longwood has some of the lowest payrolls in the state, which possibly plays into the school’s ability to keep prices low.

“I’m not saying this, but you could certainly argue as an independent third party reviewer of these (tuition) facts that Longwood’s got low salaries because they have low tuition increases,” said Copeland. “That we are more about trying to help students manage debt…that’s not what I’m saying, but you could make that argument.”

According to a report released and based on the 2013-14 school year, Longwood has the lowest average salary in the state of Virginia of reporting schools, and the second lowest compared to like universities based on SCHEV groupings.

But Copeland said viewers of that data might want to take it with a grain of salt.

“We are different than any other state school in Virginia,” said Copeland. “We are small and liberal arts, and we make no apology for that. Some of the schools we are compared to have medical schools, engineering schools and architecture schools.”

He added, “Do I wish our salaries were higher? Yes, no question. Are we making progress? Yes, we are. But Rome wasn’t built in a day.”

The university had a study done and published in 2012 that focused on annual compensation. The study showed Longwood was 3.3 million dollars in base annual compensation below the mid-point of the market for all classifications.

“We have internally funded three salary adjustments since 2012, and we needed to do it because we are behind,” said Copeland. “Are we there yet? No. There is nothing we are more dedicated to.”

When asked if drastically raising tuition would be Longwood’s sword against low salaries, Copeland said he doesn’t see that happening.

“Tuition could possibly be the answer,” he said. “But we have made a great effort to hold tuition down the past two years. How disingenuous would it look if we raised it astronomically next year?”

Copeland said the university’s goal each year is to make tuition affordable. “These dollars are important to people,” he said of Longwood families. “And our goal is to do our best every time to keep them low.”
SGA began with the Student Finance Committee report from Treasurer Jessica Darst. Darst made a motion to allocate $10,250 to CPC, IFC, NPHC and LP for an Educational and Skills training Programs.

“This allocation would allow 15 students or staff to get certified in ‘Psycho-Geometrics,’” said Jessica Hamilton. “We are up in the air on how to select students, so leaning towards professors so that they can take advantage of the five year license.”

Senator Hamilton explained how this program allows you to learn about five different personalities and how to work best with each different personality so you can communicate better.

“[This can take the place of retreats since we don’t fund them],” said Darst.

Darst discussed how this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. is the last Student Finance Committee meeting of the year.

Following the SFC report, the ROW Award was awarded to Senator Dillon Yonker by Senator Bailey Rice.

In open forum, Senator Worden discussed a parking issue involving Longwood Police and suggested clarification between parking services and the police.

Worden brought up the library’s many announcements about closing times and how it causes disruptions when librarians ask 20 minutes before closing if the individual is “finishing up” and asked if the issue could be addressed.

Orders of the day with President Joe Gills began with Gills thanking Senate for a great year and informing everyone that next week the new executive board will be taking over.

Gills made remarks on how the last interview for the SGA’s new fiscal technician took place today. The announcement will come later this week.

According to Gills, members of SGA and BSA went to Longwood Faculty Senate last week in hope to receive assistance in response to the curry hate crime.

Senator Garner went to the meeting with the President of BSA and the President of the NAACP along with SGA executive board members.

“They really well received,” said Garner. “They immediately wanted to help with programs. Their biggest comment is that we make sure that this extends into next year.”

According to Gills, President Reveley is meeting with members of BSA, SGA and other organizations this Thursday on how the university can truly address the racial issue.

Two constitutions were approved in the Historian’s Report: the Quiz Bowl Constitution and the Harry Potter Club Constitution.

According to Senator Burns, the “Quiz Bowl” is an academic quizzing club where a four person team competes with other schools in an academic trivia competition.

Harry Potter Club will be getting involved in the community by raising money for local children.

This week’s SGA meeting was concluded with President Gills’ Executive Charge.

Worden moved to adjourn at 4:28 p.m.

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**Financial Corner**

By Justin Parker and Manny Dwyer

Contributors

Theodore Roosevelt once said, “Risk is like fire. If controlled it will help you, if uncontrolled it will rise up and destroy you.”

In today’s world, this quote explains the financial markets well. If you can use risk to your advantage, you can make some significant gains, but if you take an approach that is too risky and it doesn’t pay off, it can come back to haunt you.

There are multiple ways to both increase your risk, as well as to minimize your risk. By finding the right balance that fits your lifestyle and your needs, you can maximize your financial gains, while feeling comfortable doing it at the same time.

Determining the right level of risk is different for every individual. In order to determine what is the appropriate amount of risk for yourself, you must first understand the many different investment instruments and their given level of risk.

There are many options to choose from such as bonds, stocks, mutual funds, CDs and many others.

Certificate of Deposits (CDs) are a deposit you can make to a bank that is not withdrawable until a specified date set by the bank. This is a great choice for the risk adverse investor because it is guaranteed to be paid back with interest. The downside to investing in riskless assets such as CDs is the return can be very low.

Bonds are a great investment for the investor who is looking to slightly increase their level of risk and reward from that of a CD.

Bonds are also a low risk investment strictly because they are backed by the federal government. They work by paying the government in increments of $1,000.

Once an investor does this, the government will pay the investor a low return until the date of the bond expires, then the investor will get their $1,000 back while also getting to keep the payments they collected during the year.

The returns for bonds are higher than those of CDs, but generally lower than those of stocks.

 Stocks are shares of publicly traded companies that anyone can buy. You can buy these directly through the company or through investment services such as Scottrade, Fidelity or many others.

Stocks are unique because once you buy a stock in a company, you actually become a part owner in that company. These are some of the most risky investments, but also some of the most rewarding.

According to Observations and Notes, the average return for a stock the past ten years has been 7.2 percent per year.

This return is much higher than that of your average investment, but this return is not guaranteed. A number of things can happen that can either make a stock jump up or drop down significantly, so investing wisely is of the utmost importance.

After describing just a few of the investment opportunities that are out there, it is up to you, the investor, to make smart and well informed decisions on how to use these to your advantage.

We suggest looking more on your own as to which investment decision most benefits you and how to spread out your wealth.

While you are young you can afford to be more risky as you have more time to make up for any mistakes, and as you grow older, you should consider investing more conservatively.

It will be up to you to choose how you want to diversify yourself between these different investment instruments so that you are not exposed to too much risk and may reap the benefits of being a savvy investor for years to come.
Spring Weekend 2015

(Top Left) Chiddy Bang takes the stage and looks out over the crowd of Longwood Students, faculty and Farmville residents.
(Top right) An enthusiastic audience storms the stage to get closer to Chiddy Bang during his performance. (Bottom left and right) SoMo captures the audience in the grand finale of Spring Weekend.
It’s that time of year again

BY STEPHANIE MENDOZA
FEATURES EDITOR

It’s that time of year again where food, booths, live music and the company of great friends takes over Longwood University’s campus.

Spring Weekend came and went from the music to the traditions, such as everyone’s favorite Oozeball sponsored by the Longwood Ambassadors, to the picnic-style food that was catered by the Dorrill Dining Hall.

It was definitely a great weekend for Longwood, not to mention one of the busiest. The event is free and open to the general public, including the town of Farmville.

Students, faculty and staff members were all very eager to begin their Spring Weekend Friday at 4 p.m. with Bandfest and end it with performances, food and booths the next day.

Saturday began with the student organization booths, which included sororities, fraternities and other clubs selling handmade products around campus including WMLU selling record bowls and the Math Club selling pies.

Other organizations sold raffle tickets and prizes, including Alpha Gamma Delta who were selling tickets for $2 in a 50/50 raffle. Half of the money that was raised was given to the winner.

Freshman Kelsey McCormick enjoyed her first Spring Weekend with her friends. When asked what her favorite part was, she couldn’t decide.

“I loved spring weekend cause it was a more hype version of Oktoberfest,” said McCormick. “The best part was seeing all my friends get covered in mud, and of course the best part was seeing SoMo’s performance—best first spring weekend ever.”

The performances were even better than the booths, with the Blue Heat Dance Team coming in hot, as well as the Longwood Company of Belly Dance, F.I.E.R.C.E. and BASIC.

Junior Blue Heat dancer Madison Alford told us that it takes hard work and dedication for it to all come together.

“Our spring weekend performance takes weeks for us to learn and perfect,” said Alford. “We use the theme to create a dance that is usually different than our style of dances at basketball games.”

The Blue Heat Dance Team performed a couple of songs meshed into one incredible dancing experience.

“We work so hard to give an exciting performance to campus and honestly. It’s my favorite performance of the year!” said Alford.

Once the student entertainment was done with, the Saturday line-up began, which included performances by Cloudwalkers, The Middle Ground, Chiddy Bang, a DJ and the big headliner this year, SoMo.

When SoMo hit the stage, every girl in the audience was in awe, and once he played his hit single “Ride,” the crowd went wild.

After the performances, students had the opportunity to take pictures with Chiddy Bang, SoMo and other artists.

Freshman Tiffany Ward enjoyed her first spring weekend, “It’s a fun filled time with friends and making memories that will last a lifetime. I can’t wait for these next three years and being able to experience it all.”

Spring Weekend at Longwood is a time of many festivities. Students come out in the beautiful weather to dance, play ozeball and participate in the buying and selling of various crafts. It gives students and Farmville residents an opportunity to have a good time.
What is love? Love is an intense feeling of affection; you can’t help whom you love, it sort of just happens.

Love has no gender, no disability, no race and no age. It is just about two people who care deeply for one another.

Longwood University’s Student Diversity and Inclusion Council recreated the infamous video that has gone viral, “Love has No Labels,” on April 8 on Brock Commons.

The video is a way to allow people to recognize that love is love no matter what assets are at fault, and for people to also recognize the truth about bias and prejudice.

According to Emily Grandfield, one of the Public Relations chair, “It was a good turnout... We had a good mix of people who had planned to come, but also people who walked up.”

The reason SDIC decided to proceed forward with the video was to allow for people to recognize that prejudice hurts, and people have a tendency to experience bias first hand.

Skyler Carpenter, the co-chair for SDIC was the one who had the idea to make the video.

“I felt that something as influential and informative as that video should be shared throughout campus where it could directly affect people, rather than just being shared on social media sites,” said Carpenter.

In regards to the Longwood community, Carpenter felt very strongly that the campus and its students should be aware of these issues.

“I believe it’s necessary for Longwood students to be aware of issues regarding diversity, stereotypes and labels associated with different groups of people.”

She continued to mention that their mission is to “promote and integrate these principles” on Longwood’s campus.
"A Midsummer Night’s Dream" takes audience on a gleeful romp

BY EMILY HASWELL
A&E EDITOR

"A Midsummer Night’s Dream” has been done before, in fact, it may be even more performed than Romeo & Juliet due to its lack of dead teenagers. Luckily, under the direction of Bruce Speas, the Longwood University theatre department was able to breathe new life into an old story.

With a combination of modern day and classic costumes, fun choreography and actors with great comedic timing, this interpretation of a classic play managed to feel brand new. Add a creative lighting design that was more Tron than it was Globe Theatre, and you have a recipe for a truly fresh and fun interpretation.

Maggie Williams played Hippolyta/Titania; having her play both roles was a very smart move.

Not only did it aid in telling the story, but Williams also has the talent and undeniable stage presence to pull it off. Williams played both characters with a kind of regality and subtlety rarely seen in young actors. Her prowess as a dancer did not go unmissed during scenes in which choreography was used. Plus, her ability to play it straight during more comedic used. Plus, her ability to play it straight during more comedic scenes made them all the more hilarious.

Trent Williams played Theseus/Oberon, again the double casting proved to be a wise choice.

Trent is clearly a talented comedic actor, as showcased through his role in not only this production, but also in his hilarious role in the theatre department’s past production of “Evil Dead: The Musical.” However, his true talent lies in his ability to personify a character through movements. Watching Trent portray Theseus versus Oberon was a truly captivating transformation.

Lori Johnson pulled this off and stole the audience loses interest. Abbie Swanson managed to pull this off beautifully, playing a Helena that made the audience laugh, but also made them genuinely feel for her. When fate finally smiled on Helena, Swanson made you genuinely root for her.

Lysander and Demetrius were played by Corwin Donnell and Jimmy Mello respectively. The chemistry they had with their female co-stars was sufficient, but the chemistry that they had with each other was what really stood out. The scenes in which Donnell and Mello had to play bitter enemies was like watching two Disney princes duke it out. If ever Longwood decides to put on "Into 'Ihe Woods," these are the guys that should be called on to perform Agony.

Puck is a fairly iconic role and Jordan Howell certainly did the part justice. Though there were a few missed opportunities for laughs, for the most part Howell kept the audience in stitches with her version of the mischievous fairy creature.

The entire group of talented actors who played a group of not so talented actors in "A Midsummer Night’s Dream" were an absolute joy to watch. The final scene in which they get to perform their subpar play in front of a captive audience had some of the funniest moments of the entire performance. The oversized sword used in the faux-death scenes should be nominated for a Tony for best supporting actor. However, no performer quite stole the show like that of Alex Johnson in his role as Bottom.

Johnson was truly the comedic stand out in the show, mostly due to his level of commitment to the jokes. It is no easy task to make audiences laugh hysterically all while speaking in old English and wearing a giant donkey mask. Johnson pulled this off and stole almost every scene he was featured in.

The culmination of the hard work put in by the cast, crew and creative team of "A Midsummer Night’s Dream" makes it a performance that should not be missed. From the obviously intense behind the scenes work to the actors on stage, it is a show that will be remembered long after you leave the theatre.

MUSIC REVIEW

BY RYAN QUIGLEY
A&E STAFF

Tyler, The Creator, has built himself as one of the most criticized rappers in the game. Since his 2009 debut album, “Bastard,” people have been borderline afraid of his music, which showcases Tyler explicitly rapping about violence against women and routinely using homophobic slurs. Tyler also has a talent for making the abstract thrillers that has made him who he is in the first place. It’s hard to protest against that.

"Cherry Bomb" is one of the more accessible songs on "Cherry Bomb," but just as you start to think that things are all rainbows and unicorns, "Find Your Wings" fades gently into the title track, one of the least listenable songs on the album.

"Cherry Bomb" kicks off with "Deathcamp," which sounds like a N.E.R.D B-side. As Tyler raps, "I don't like to follow the rules, and that's just who I am, I hope you understand," the handclaps and the foreground of distorted guitars work tremendously as the album's clean lead-off (for Tyler's standards).

Following the opener is "Buffalo," which absolutely screams Tyler, The Creator. The beat, along with Tyler's flow, is reminiscent of Tyler's hit "Yonkers" from his second album, "Goblin." It also showcases the obscure material that has been a staple of Tyler, The Creator since his rise. This is the kind of music that can scare off new listeners, which obviously isn't doing Tyler any favors.

But Tyler contradicts his edgy, standoffish style later on with "Find Your Wings," where the dreamy jazz trumpet and gorgeous piano waves hit you like a truck. The song is absolutely beautiful and is a complete 180 from the aggressive, hostile "Buffalo" from just a few tracks prior. "Find Your Wings" is one of the more accessible songs on "Cherry Bomb," but just as you start to think that things are all rainbows and unicorns, "Find Your Wings" fades gently into the title track, one of the least listenable songs on the album.

"Cherry Bomb" starts off with a Run-D.M.C. "It's Tricky"-style bass pedal that leads into a horribly distorted and completely unpleasurable core that sounds like a loud, migraine-inducing thunderstorm of every awful sound you've ever heard in your entire life. "Cherry Bomb" is likely just an experimental piece for Tyler, but it was so unlistenable that it made it hard to get back into the album.

"Find Your Wings" is one of the more accessible songs on "Cherry Bomb," but just as you start to think that things are all rainbows and unicorns, "Find Your Wings" fades gently into the title track, one of the least listenable songs on the album. The beat was sick and almost gave a bit of a luxurious feel. Finally, Lil Wayne jumps in and spits his cheesy, but impressive rhymes, closing the track in style.

Tyler, The Creator is a very bold artist. He's a rebel. He's going to do what he wants and he's not going to listen to anyone's criticisms. He hasn't yet, so why should he start? There are plenty of things that Tyler can improve on, especially on "Cherry Bomb," but at the end of the day, he's going to keep on making the abstract thrillers that has made him who he is in the first place. It's hard to protest against that.

My rating: 5/10
**Point of Departure: Senior visual art students present their final work**

BY NATALIE JOSEPH
ASS. A&E EDITOR

Food, drinks, friends and art. On the Saturday of spring weekend, the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) was packed with people to enjoy Point of Departure: Senior Thesis Opening Reception. Saturday, April 11 was the kick off event to what will continue to show Longwood University senior art student’s final artwork from April 11 until May 6, 2015. It was sponsored by the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences.

Senior graphic design major Dylan Roach said, “Showcasing at the LCVA, or any gallery space, has been a desire of mine since I came into the program four years ago. It was extremely meaningful to have coworkers, friends and my fraternity brothers there supporting me and my yearlong project.”

Starting at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, the LCVA was crowded from the time the doors opened until when they closed at 8:00 p.m. that same night. The reception was an open event, in which everyone could come to experience the art exhibit, which included graphic design, photography, handmade paper books and ceramics.

Every year at the LCVA, Longwood University senior visual arts majors showcase their completed projects that show the culmination of what they have learned at the university, and add them to their portfolios after they graduate. This year, the theme of the event was Point of Departure: Longwood University Department of Theatre, Art, and Graphic and Animation Design 2015 Senior Exhibition. This theme was chosen to exemplify the next steps in their life’s journey as life-long learners and citizen leaders.

When asked about his senior thesis art project Roach said, “I created a campaign called “Turning Point Tantrums,” which served to educate caretakers of children (parents, babysitters, daycare employees, etc.) on better ways to handle children’s tantrums. I made three posters (one for child tantrums, one for adult tantrums and one for both parties growing from the tantrum), a tantrum kit that contained a children’s book (for an intimate moment during/after the tantrum for caretaker and child) and an informational accordion brochure for caretakers to read prior to a tantrum occurring.”

Some of the artwork is also available for people to purchase by using the Self-Serve Art Kiosk that is located at the LCVA. The kiosk, which is managed by the Kappa Pi International Honorary Art Fraternity, is giving 10 percent of all sales to Farmville’s local food bank, FACES.

Also, when you visit the LCVA to see the art, Frame of Reference, a complementary art exhibit to Point of Departure, can be seen. Frame of Reference is a ceramics exhibition by the year-long visiting artist Daniel Molyneux.

Participating artists include: Kayla Anzur, Holly Backer, Ashley Beerbroer, Krystal E. Boelter, Justin Owen Brady, Caleb A. Briggs, Meagan M. Brit, Eamon Brockenbrough, Kyle Butto, Sunni Cahoon, Jillian Ruth Ewell, Caitlin Foster, Lucas Goss, Lindsay Graybill, Zelda Halterman, Samantha Hedger, Amber Huckaby, Gabrielle Klenzmann, Shannon Lindemann, Christine Nowicki, August Osterhout, Austin Polasky, Brendan Pritchett, Dylan Roach, Alexa Sears and A. Jade Smitherman.

Roach said, “It was also a very surreal moment for me because it finally hit me that I’m leaving Longwood in May. Being surrounded by all people (mentioned above) made it one of my favorite highlights during my time at Longwood.”

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**Bandfest 2015**

Hosted by WMLU, the 2015 Bandfest featured seven bands consisting of The Best Mistake, Moostrap, NO BS! Brass Band, Three Legged Fox, CBDB, Cruz Productions and the headliner of the night, Reel Big Fish. Bandfest began Friday, April 10 at 4 p.m. and lasted until 11 p.m. behind the Lankford Student Union.
Point of Departure

A final exhibition

Longwood students, faculty, staff and Farmville residents visit the LCVA to see Longwood’s senior art student’s work and their mastery of the crafts.
**LOVE you | A SELF-ESTEEM CAMPAIGN**

We are not that different on the inside, stop listening to what you hear on the outside.

**enough is enough.**
**Feastivities**

Bites of local food culture in spoon-sized blurbs

**BY JASON TSAI**
**OPINIONS STAFF**

That Farmville sandwich life though.

What is this “Farmville sandwich life?” The honed adage of being what we eat is evident in our culture. Our culture also defines what we eat. It’s a tug-of-war of meaning. What we do as a college town defines local favorites, and in turn what local businesses offer on their menus.

This week, instead of serving up another food review, let’s end this semester, and this writer’s final food column in this esteemed publication, on a reflection of how Lancers and Farmvilleans eat.

Let’s begin with the obvious. Every food item heretofore reviewed has been sandwiches. They are the most prominent menu item in every restaurant. Be it a classic Chik-fil-A sandwich, a café panini, an Aramark on-the-run food truck chicken salad sandwich or a Hindenburg at Macados and other sit-down diners, sandwiches are the norm here.

Yes, sandwiches are more cost-effective and, more importantly, conducive to efficient, expedient customer experience.

College students, townfolk and furniture shoppers, or even visiting parents and family, prefer our watering holes to be gathering places.

A fork and knife affair is reserved for truly special occasions like a graduation celebration, church brunch, engagement parties, an important date with lovers and clients, etc. The mighty sandwich is a versatile medium for everyday conversations, for live music, for respites from our busy lives.

This is just to say, the sandwiches can be hot or cold. Farmville and campus dining alike are not lacking in culture or diversity just because of the sandwich life. If anything, the charm of our life as college students and Farmville residents is reflected in this sandwich life.

Every bite of the right amount of melty meat and cheese or vegan sandwich patties is a miracle. If this writer can impart any meaning in this column project now, it is to highly recommend the priceless experience of savoring every bite when the reader goes out next time, and to not take another sandwich for granted.

**It only happens once**

**BY CARLY SHAIA**
**OPINIONS EDITOR**

Even though One Hit Wonder Day is technically September 25, here is a composition of song lyrics. The poem features songs from artists you probably don’t remember like Metro Station, Daniel Powter and even Ester Dean.

“In 525,600 minutes- how do you measure, measure a year?”

“I bet cha neva heard it like this before”

“Drop it low”

“Before we get too old”

“Shake, shake, shake, shake, shake it”

“For the dudes who don’t know me”

“I’m awesome!”

“Just when you get on a roll”

“All it takes is some time”

“Finding myself making every possible mistake”

“They tried to make me go to rehab”

“I’m feeling more alone”

“Hate me tomorrow”

“You got me beggin’ you for mercy”

“Tell me: It’s not all in my head”

“Don’t tell me I ran out of time”

“I’m still alive…”

“No, it’s much better to face these kinds of things with a sense of poise and rationality”

“It’s not an illusion”

“…my whole day is ruined”

“According to you I’m stupid, I’m useless, I can’t do anything right”

“Don’t know who I’m kidding”

“I know where I belong”

“Listen to your heart/there’s nothing else you can do”

“…I won’t live to see another day/I swear it’s true”

“T’ve just the girl next door”

“Through the hard times and the good”

“…You called me your best friend”

“You had a bad day”

**PROPS & DROPS**

Spring Weekend
Bandfest
Oozeball GoPros
Quick thinking

Sunburn
Forgetfulness
Parking meters
Labels
Longwood opened Sunday’s game with six runs in two innings, shutting out the Gardner-Webb Runnin’ Bulldogs for four consecutive innings after allowing an early run, ultimately carrying them to a 9-2 win.

The game completed the second conference sweep of the season, following a double-header on Saturday.

“A sweep is really important, just in a sense of building that confidence and trust in each other and that’s what we’re after right now,” said softball Head Coach Kathy Riley.

Five different Lancers scored runs during Sunday’s game; senior Megan Baltzell and sophomore utility Justina Augustine earned three runs each.

“I’m just glad we won the series, that’s our main goal. Just get three wins and just keep on progressing for our championship season,” said Baltzell.

Baltzell continued to compete for holding the new Big South career home run record as she tied Coastal Carolina senior third baseman Kory Hayden again with another home run, totaling 59 in the Big South. The sixth inning home run (two RBI) picked up the pace for Longwood, after going an inning without a run.

“I did ask (Megan Baltzell) before we got up to, ‘hey let’s start picking the pace up a little bit. See if we can hit some balls, square up to some,’ I said, ‘because it seems that we lost a bit of that momentum,’” said Riley. “So she actually went up there with the thought process of let’s get some things going so it was really nice to see her come through in that situation.”

Baltzell currently ranks No. 3 nationally with 19 home runs this season.

Alongside Baltzell, Augustine hit two home runs of her own this weekend and finished with six RBI, same as the senior, and a .305 batting average.

“If you really talk about development, (Augustine’s) development in the last three weeks has just been tremendous, and so if you put all that together then I’m really happy with what she’s doing,” said Riley. “She’s not only committed to her game in her spare time, but she comes out and give us an effort every day at practice and really has a sense about her to really care about her teammates and the game.”

This was Augustine’s second straight conference series scoring a pair of home runs.

“I’ve been putting in a little extra work, I’m glad to see it pay off, but I’m just glad that as a team we could pull out the win,” said Augustine.

Sophomore pitcher Elizabeth McCarthy threw 12 strikeouts over the weekend and one complete game. Fellow sophomore pitcher Jenna Carnes threw a season-high of two strikeouts to close Sunday during three innings on the mound.

“(McCarthy) has definitely been hitting her spots, doing what she’s supposed to do. She just needs to keep on throwing them and let her defense work for her,” said Baltzell.

Longwood will travel to Charlottesville, Virginia to play the University of Virginia Cavaliers tonight, then visit Norfolk State University tomorrow to play the Spartans; both games begin at 5 pm.

“The key for us will be to just score runs ourselves. I think if we score runs ourselves we’ll be in the ball game,” said Riley. “Our primary focus each day is each player getting better collectively as we get towards the conference tournament so we really feel like a stronger club. It’s just keeping our foot on the gas pedal, making sure we’re getting better.”

Longwood currently holds the No. 2 spot in Big South standings, two conference wins behind No. 1 Coastal Carolina University with four conference games until the Big South tournament.
Lancers hit stride before Big South tournament

Seniors, team shutout Bridgewater

The Longwood men's tennis team continued a run over the past week, starting with a default win over North Carolina A&T. Following the forfeit, they beat Norfolk State, Virginia Wesleyan College and Hampton University, dropping three total points over the course of those matches.

Seniors Daniel Elston and Steed Johnson led the team during the four match win streak, their longest of the season, which brought the overall record to 7-15. The Lancers find themselves with the No. 3. Overall, the team finished with a 7-0 win, improving their record to 7-15.

Going into singles, the Lancers had a 1-0 lead on the Eagles. Longwood was led by the dominating play of their two seniors as both earned straight set victories, giving Elston a 13-7 overall record in singles this year. The closest match in singles was Elston's match as he won 6-2, 6-1. Afterwards, Castellano, Uffer, Sankar and Ilchev all won in straight sets.

The shutout win gives them five straight victories and sends the pair of seniors off with a victory. "(Elston and Johnson) have both set the bar high for future team leaders and have made a significant impact on current team members. Both will be missed for years to come," said Perry to the Longwood Athletics official website.

The shutout win gives them five straight victories and sends the pair of seniors off with a victory. Longwood outshot Gardner-Webb 41-9 overall, finishing over half of their opportunities. Gardner-Webb freshman goalkeeper Raygan Hall tallied 10 saves.

Runnin' Bulldog freshman midfielder Monique Martin caused five of the team's 11 forced turnovers.

The game was lacrosse's second straight game with over 20 points scored. The No. 4 Lancers will host top seeded Winthrop University (12-2, 4-0) for their next conference game on Friday, April 17, which is one of the last three games before the Big South conference tournament.

BY BLAKE COLE
CONTRIBUTOR

Three game win streak, three games left

Lacrosse dominates Gardner-Webb by over 20 points

Three different Longwood (5-9, 3-1) players added five goals to the dominating 24-2 performance against Gardner-Webb University (0-13, 0-4) on Saturday, extending their three-game winning streak.

"It was a great team effort today," said lacrosse Head Coach Elaine Jones to the Longwood Athletics official website. "Both our offense and defense played well, which really helped us control the pace of the game. Our success in those areas and our transition give us confidence as we move towards our final crucial conference games."

Junior attacker Katie McHugh scored within the first minute of the game, assisted by senior defender Sara Jacobson, one of her three.

McHugh earned Big South Offensive Player of the Week honors after her five goals against the Runnin’ Bulldogs increased her count to 18 across three games.

Her fellow junior midfielder Sarah Butler also added five goals, along with three assists and two ground balls.

The beginning of the second half saw senior attacker Sarah Arndt come alive with three goals after the first five minutes of play, the first two within 40 seconds of each other. Adding to her two in the first half, Arndt was the third player with a five-goal game.

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Two records and a loss

Senior pitcher Aaron Myers breaks, ties different strikeout records in Friday’s performance

BY NICK CONIGLIARO
SPORTS STAFF
@NICK_CONIGLIARO

Going into Friday's game, senior pitcher Aaron Myers was only three strikeouts from breaking Longwood's all-time record (258) set by former head coach Brian McCullough in 2007. It took Myers two innings, four batters and 19 pitches to take the record for himself (259). If that's not enough, he went on to tie the single-game strikeout record (14) set by Steve Mozucha in 1995. With all of this, Myers recorded a loss.

"What an outstanding record to hold," Head Coach Ryan Mau told Longwood's official athletics website. "It's a tribute to all the hard work he's put in over his entire career. It was great to see him get that ovation from his teammates and the fans."

The Friday night contest against the North Carolina A&T (4-30), with senior Brian Poag, then 0-4, began well for Myers and the Lancers as they took an early 1-0 lead. Myers was dealing early as he fanned the first five of six batters he faced.

In the third inning, Myers was unable to hold onto that streak as he allowed his first hit of the game to the leadoff batter. This led to a two-run inning for the Aggies. Longwood responded in the bottom of the third with a run of their own, tying the ball game 2-2.

In the third inning, Myers was unable to hold onto that streak as he allowed his first hit of the game to the leadoff batter. This led to a two-run inning for the Aggies. Longwood responded in the bottom of the third with a run of their own, tying the ball game 2-2.

After the third inning, the bats were silenced on the Lancers’ side of the field, as the team—as a whole—went on to record two more hits, three strikeouts, five pop-ups, seven ground outs, two double-plays and drew one walk.

Myers pitched 6.1 innings, allowing four runs (three earned), five hits, allowed four walks, as well as 14 strikeouts, tying the single-game record, on 116 pitches. In his last five full innings pitched (second through sixth) Longwood recorded no hits and three walks.

The Lancers also didn't do a great job of taking pitches as Poag pitched a complete game, earned his first win of the season and did it all while throwing 100 pitches (11.1 pitches-per-inning).

"I'm disappointed in the way we came out tonight,” said Mau. “I thought we lacked focus and obviously lacked execution offensively."

Myers was not made available to comment on his performance.

The Lancers went on to take the rest of the weekend from the Aggies as they won Saturday 8-3 and Sunday 6-2.

Last night’s game against North Carolina Central was cancelled due to weather; the game will not be made up.

Now the Lancers (16-18, 4-8) look forward to Friday, April 17 when they host in-state rival Liberty University (23-13, 9-3) at 6 p.m.. The Lancers are heading into this game as the Big South Conference No. 10 seed, while the Flames are coming in as the No. 3 seed.