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Plans for Weyanoke to turn into hotel

BY BRIANA ADHIKUSUMA
NEWS EDITOR
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Although they haven’t officially been set in stone, there are current plans for the Weyanoke to be turned into a hotel.

The owners of the Weyanoke notified residents last fall of their decision to not renew leases to those residing in the building. The current leases end around the end of this semester.

“In order to fulfill that goal, that strategic plan of increasing foot traffic, having the Weyanoke, or having a hotel that’s in walking distance to the campus, whether it’s there or someplace else, is pretty critical, and it’s a big deal. So, restoring the Weyanoke into some fashion of what it historically looked like ‘way back when,’ that’s a desirable thing,” said Ken Copeland, vice president of Administration and Finance and a board member of the Longwood Real Estate Foundation. Copeland also served as the first executive director for the Foundation.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MBB: Lancers currently down five players

BY HALLE PARKER
SPORTS EDITOR
@HALLEPA_KE

Longwood men’s basketball continues to run a small, seven-man rotation. Gee noted the effect of tiredness on his team after their most recent 88-74 loss against UNC-Asheville on this past Saturday, Jan. 30.

“I thought our guys in the last six minutes of the game were just completely gassed,” Gee said in a press release on the Longwood athletics official website after the game.

“We were just unable to defend the way we needed to defend to win this game.”

Due to injury, Longwood has missed senior forward Shaquille Johnson for the past three games after hurting his ankle towards the end of their 55-53 loss at Liberty on Jan. 19. The team has also gone the whole season without redshirt sophomore forward Damarion Geter after his shoulder surgery.

Aside from the injured Johnson and Geter, senior guard Leron Fisher, freshman forward Chris Shields and sophomore center Victor Dorsey have been missing in action.

Neither Fisher nor Shields have played since their home game against UNC-Asheville on Jan. 31, while Dorsey has not stepped on the court since the team’s exhibition against Hampden-Sydney before the season officially began.

Fisher and Shields sit on the bench with the team, without participating in warmups. Dorsey was not seen with the team at the last home game on Jan. 27 against Radford.

When asked why none of them were playing after the 90-81 loss in Willett Hall, men’s basketball head coach Jayson Gee said, “We have made a coach’s decision on a couple of them, and one of them is redshirting.”

“Victor Dorsey is redshirting for developmental reasons,” stated assistant vice president of athletics communications Chris Cook, clarifying Gee’s statement in an email on Feb. 1. The official Longwood athletics website doesn’t list Dorsey as a redshirted player.

Before the Jan. 31 game, Fisher averaged 28.1 minutes per game and had started eight of 11; Shields had yet to start but earned considerable minutes, averaging 21 per game.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Construction on campus

A common sight and sound lately has been the construction equipment and noise all over different areas of campus.

Currently there are construction projects ongoing for new residence halls, Lankford Student Union and Iler Hall. In addition to these projects, there are two new projects that are getting ready to start such as the Willett facade as well as the Student Success Center.

The plans to reconstruct the front entrance of Willett Hall will be put into action this upcoming March as the basketball season wraps up. The entrance is set to be finished in time for the vice-presidential debate in the fall.

“(Willett Hall will) contribute to the long-term construction plan for Longwood,” said Jerry Jerome, facility planner and master plan coordinator for Campus Planning & Construction.

“Some of the larger projects are not something that are being done just for the debate,” said Jerome.

Also under construction is the new residence housing that is located directly in front of Arc Residence Hall which is easily seen from around campus. This new housing will allow more students to live on campus and is expected to be complete by the summer of 2016.

The Lankford Student Union is currently under construction for the purpose of finishing the fire alarm system as well as the balustrades which should be finished this upcoming March.

Construction is set to begin soon on the site of the new Student Success Center. This will include preliminary work, as well as breaking ground.

All of the current construction completion dates are weather-dependent.

New roofs were awarded contracts to replace the current roofs on Iler Hall. The installations of these new roofs are due to finish this April.

“Everything is on track right now,” said David Pletcher, director of Capital Design and Construction in regard to the timeline of the construction.

Pletcher remarked that these changes will accommodate for the debate in addition to the Longwood campus, and will help “show its charm and beauty” but they also require a fair amount of time and work.

Jerry added, “There’s several other things that we are studying but none of them have been turned into specific construction projects that we can turn into bids yet”.

In regard to how it will affect students and faculty, Jerome commented that “the implications for short-term changes around campus will be high, but at our level we don’t know the full picture yet.”
No flaming hoverboards allowed
University places ban on devices

By Christine Rindfleisch
Contributor

With the recent news of hoverboards randomly catching on fire, it doesn’t come as a surprise that the university made the decision to ban the devices on campus.

“There is no middle ground with this… it’s really a personal safety issue,” said Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president of Student Affairs.

The source of these random fires have been concluded to be an issue with the battery and charging. The issue with students charging their hoverboards is that the most convenient place to charge them is in their rooms. This poses an incredibly high risk of a fire in a residence.

Pierson expressed how having “a fire in a residence is one of the scariest, most dangerous things.”

There have been issues found with the hoverboards’ lithium-ion batteries which contain a flammable electrolyte. According to the National Public Radio (NPR), this electrolyte causes the hoverboards to overheat while charging.

“I think a lot of them are using second-tier battery sources which are going to have probably a higher rate of defects,” Jay Whitacre, a professor of materials science and engineering at Carnegie Mellon University told NPR. “These things have more lithium-ion batteries in them than most things because they’re used to move you around. It takes more batteries to get you the power energy to do that, and as such there’s just more energy in a small space, and so if something goes wrong, it’s a lot more catastrophic.”

Cheaper models of hoverboards have been found to have more occurrences of the fires. Some of the top retailers, such as Walmart, eBay and Amazon, market these devices between $200 and $400 depending on the quality of the hoverboards.

Some hoverboards even reach the price of $2,000.

“(The decision) came down to the cheap ones,” said Pierson.

If a student is found in possession of a hoverboard on campus, it would “depend on the situation in terms of failure to comply,” said Pierson.

Pierson also stated that there was “plenty of room to take action and not disciplinary action.”

The ban does not restrict only to riding the devices, but also the possession of them, even if they aren’t in use.

The bottom line of the matter, Pierson insisted, was that “(the) consequence would depend on endangering the health and safety of someone else by bringing it into a residence hall.”

Pierson felt the need to act on this very quickly as many other universities across the nation were already taking action, including those in the Commonwealth such as the College of William & Mary, George Mason University, James Madison University and the University of Virginia.

Bans have reached beyond college campuses with the news of several airlines such as JetBlue, Delta Air Lines and British Airways, which have banned the hoverboards based on their fire hazard. Some metro systems and the U.S. Postal Service have banned hoverboards.

According to CNN, hoverboards are illegal in the United Kingdom and have been banned in New York City.

Experts have stated that owners of hoverboards should be sure to use the charger which the hoverboard came with and avoid overcharging the battery.
Copeland also served as the first executive director for the Foundation. The Longwood Real Estate Foundation was created in order to aid with property acquisition for the university. The Foundation also owns all off-campus housing.

“The Real Estate Foundation is the developmental arm of Longwood for all non-general fund and auxiliary enterprises,” said Louise Waller, executive director of Campus Planning and Construction and the Real Estate Foundation.

According to Copeland, the plans for the hotel have been completely done through the owners of the Weyanoke.

“The only thing that the Real Estate Foundation has offered, and this is contingent upon approved financing, are room night guarantees. We basically will funnel our Board of Visitors people, our Alumni Board, our Foundation Board when those boards are going to be here.” Copeland added, “As far as the Real Estate Foundation is concerned, that’s the extent of (it), and that’s not even a done deal if, for whatever reason, the financing that the owners are pursuing for whatever reason doesn’t come to fruition.”

Waller believes that the plans ultimately will go through to conclusion.

“We haven’t been getting any signals that it won’t happen,” said Waller.

According to Copeland, the owners of the Weyanoke approached the university to see if there was any interest in the plans for the building’s change.

“The room night guarantees were something that we pitched out there as a possibility,” said Copeland.

There would need to be an addition onto the building for it to be able to successfully hold enough rooms. If the building is designated currently or sometime in the future as historical, this could bring potential issues as to how the building can be changed.

Copeland said he didn’t believe the plans were definitive yet on an addition, but that around 60 rooms were mentioned as a possibility during their last correspondence a few months ago.

“It’s not hundreds of millions of dollars, but it’s not likely single millions of dollars. It’s probably eight figures,” said Copeland on the potential cost of the change.

There still remains to be speculation as to why the owners made the decision to steer in the direction of a hotel.

“It indicates to me anyway that the potential for doing this project is greater than the current use of the building,” said Copeland.

Continue to follow The Rotunda for more updates.
Proposed Allocations:

$5,743.45 (Graduate Student Advisory Council)
- Funds toward food for graduate commencement after-party
- Bylaw would have to be overturned in order to grant funds
Motion was denied. (Members encouraged to come back if funds were unavailable through other alternatives.)

$41.85 (Longwood League of Legends Club)
- Funds toward a monthly subscription to a voice chat, which would improve conditions of game
- Club's current voice chat feature disrupts game
Motion passed to proceed to Senate for vote. Senate approved.

$1,356.95 (MLK Challenge)
- Funds toward purchase of t-shirts used as uniforms for event
- Original allocation was $1,500
Motion passed to proceed to Senate for vote.

Much discussion surfaced when one member of SGA shared their personal experience with the ice from the recent snowstorm that occurred this past Thursday, Jan. 28. This SGA member felt strongly about the fact that a student parking lot that contained ice patches had caused them to fall getting out of their car.

Arguments were made on both sides whether or not this issue needed to be addressed. Senator Mark Barham concluded that something better could have been done.

Outta Here became a topic of discussion regarding the options as well as the time constraint for students. Senator Maribeth Stotler-Watkins felt the needs of vegetarians were going unnoticed with the limited options they currently serve.

It was suggested by Senator Shawn White to have a to-go option allowing students to fill up as they please, making the process very convenient and fast for students.

SGA President Constance Garner added that according to Grant Avent, the senior director of Longwood Dining Services, the issue of theft has become a concern to Outta Here and has resulted in the use of only one door until further notice.

The SGA approved the constitution for Gamma Rho Lambda, a social sorority that is also a part of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) community. This newly founded organization plans to reach out to local high schools and middle schools to support kids in the LGBTQ community.

It was brought to the attention of the SGA by a member of the audience that in a personal experience the audience member's Lancer card had been dropped and used in the amount of $25.00. When the card was given to an RA on duty, no information was taken when the person who found the card stated to have had the card for three days prior to when the card was turned in. This would have tracked down who used the money on the card.

Multiple members of the SGA felt that all places that take Lancer cards need to verify that the person is who they say they are before allowing a purchase to be made.

It was mentioned how in the case where a card was noticed to be lost or stolen that the cardholder should then report the card as lost/missing either online, at the Lancer card center or to police.

Susan Sullivan, director of the University Center and Student Activities, attended this week's SGA meeting to discuss the upcoming event, the fifth annual Social Justice in Action Leadership Summit titled "Meeting at the Crossroads: Intersectionality and the Politic of Identity." This year's topic of discussion is focused on gender identity. This summit will take place Feb. 20.

Following this, Senator Sarah Kensy brought up the ongoing water issue regarding no hot showers in Wheeler residence hall. Kensy mentioned also how it had been several days without hot water in the showers since the recent pipe burst in neighboring Cox residence hall.

Dr. Tim Pierson brought attention to Mar. 23 and how it will mark the anniversary of the 25th amendment passing in 1971, which changed the legal voting age from 21 to 18. Pierson added that there will be speakers to commemorate the event.

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On Jan. 30, Uptown Café proudly hosted local band, Joel Worford and the Old Souls. The band, which comprises current Longwood students Joel Worford and Josh Burtner along with Longwood alum Chip Hale, performed during the café’s weekly live music session for their first gig this past Saturday.

Well before the band played, Uptown was packed both with locals looking for a good meal and new music to listen to, as well as college students supporting their fellow friends and classmates.

“I’m so proud of him,” said Amanda Patterson, Longwood student and friend of Worford, “He did a tremendous job and I thought he did a great job interacting with the audience.”

The band played with such passion and camaraderie that it would seem the trio have know each other for years. However, they were perfect strangers just a little over a year ago. Guitarist, lead vocalist and songwriter Worford met drummer Burtner while working on Longwood’s theatre production of “Evil Dead: The Musical.” Soon after they began working on Worford’s debut solo EP titled “Where the Heart is.” The EP features seven original songs written by Worford and was released Feb. 24 of last year. Not long after, Worford met Hale while performing at Uptown and since then the three have bonded over their love of music and formed Joel Worford and the Old Souls.

The band, according to Worford, plays soul and neo-soul music with jazz and blues influences mixed in. They cite Jimi Hendrix and D’Angelo as inspirations for their music, while Worford names John Mayer a big influence in his guitar playing and Jeff Buckley as his favorite artist. All of these influences were heard in Worford’s originals, which included, “Justified,” “Peaceful Calm Sunday” and “Passing Time.” In addition, the group performed some covers such as John Mayer’s “Slow Dancing in a Burning Room” and “Gravity” and The Red Hot Chili Peppers’ “Under the Bridge.”

In preparing for the event, Worford mentioned that the set took about five months to prepare and their dedication to the preparation of it showed through their performance. The music was also well received by the crowd. People could be seen bopping their heads, tapping their feet and swaying to the music. After the show, the band was bombarded with applause, congratulations and even tips from those in attendance. The band was very grateful to all who came out to listen and support them.

“The turnout was like everything I had dreamed,” said Worford, “It was cool seeing so many friends and then, I felt like there was a good number of people who hadn’t heard my music before there so, I could kind of reach some new people.”

Joel Worford and the Old Souls’ next performance is still up in the air as to when and where however, Worford will be performing solo on Feb. 14, in Lynchburg, Virginia.
Humans of LU: Harrison Samaniego

Out of the 5,000 plus students here at Longwood University, who would have thought that among them is a professional polo player?

A native of San Diego, California, Harrison Samaniego is a junior photography major and a professional polo player.

His interest in the sport started with his mother, who played polo during her time at University of Virginia. Harrison began to play when he was just four years old.

He competed in interscholastic competition throughout middle school and high school. After high school, Samaniego took a break from school and joined the United States Polo Association (USPA), the national polo team. While playing for the USPA, Samaniego traveled to Wellington, Florida, where several prominent polo tournaments are played and Sheridan, Wyoming.

In the fall of 2013, Samaniego took a big step and moved across the country to attend college at Longwood. Though he can’t fully dedicate himself to polo now as a full time student, he manages to play whenever possible. He played with USPA during the winter breaks of his freshman and sophomore year. During his summer breaks, he plays with the Virginia Beach Polo Club. This past summer, however, he trained in Akon, South Carolina with USPA team and coaches, two of which during their polo careers were the best rated U.S. players.

One might question why someone would leave the sunny and warm beaches of California for the unpredictable weather of Virginia. With his mother’s family residing in Virginia, Harrison had been to the East Coast previously for visits.

“I just ended up really liking it here (Virginia), so I kind of had it in the back of my mind that once I turned old enough to move out on my own, I’d come here,” said Samaniego, “I thought going to school here would kind of get me established.”

Considering his family’s historical ties to Virginia, it would appear him moving to Virginia and coming to Longwood was destined. His great-great grandfather on his mother’s side is John Tyler, the 10th president of the United States. His family still owns all of the late president’s house and property, including Sherwood Forrest Plantation in Charles City, Virginia, where Samaniego lives. His family is also part of Longwood tradition as Julia Gardiner Tyler Wilson, the granddaughter of the President Tyler, is one of the four founders of Kappa Delta, Longwood’s first sorority.

Comparing living on the West Coast to the East Coast, Samaniego states that while the cultures are very different, he prefers living in Virginia, as it allows him more opportunity to hunt and fish. Most of time he is fishing for bass in ponds, but he really loves to go deep-sea fishing for tuna, marlin and dolphin. Still, he states that he does miss his friends from back home as well as surfing after school, since the beach was only 10 minutes away from his home.

For Harrison, when his time at Longwood is finished, he really hopes to play internationally with USPA or use his degree in photography for hunting photography or photographing polo.
“The Seventh Seal” takes place in 14th century Sweden and follows a knight (Max Von Sydow), and his squire (Gunnar Björnstrand) on their journey home after fighting 10 years in the Crusades. Europe is in turmoil, the bubonic plague is at its peak, and Death has claimed the lives of millions.

The Knight has seen killing in the name of God and now sees the people pray to God for deliverance, but the sick keep dying. He begins to question his faith and meaning by asking, “Is it so terribly inconceivable to comprehend God with one’s senses? Why does he hide in a cloud of half-promises and unseen miracles? How can we believe in the faithful when we lack faith? What will happen to us who want to believe, but can not?”

We first meet our hero, Antonius Block, on a beach where he is encountered by Death, who is portrayed as a bald man in a black cloak. Antonius, in an attempt to save himself and buy some time, challenges Death to a game of chess. As long as the game is in progress Antonius lives, and if he wins the game, he will truly have cheated death. The game is paused because Death is busy with the bubonic plague, but he follows Antonius on his journey where they continue the game.

When he isn’t playing, Antonius lays witness to Christians scourging each other and burning a witch all in the name of God, hoping that He will forgive them and end this plague. As the movie progresses Antonius realizes no one can cheat death.

The movie was directed by nine-time Academy Award nominated Swedish director Ingmar Bergman. The actors in this movie may be unheard of to a younger generation due to their age. Although Max Von Sydow, two-time Academy Award nominated actor who played Antonius, had a cameo in the opening scene of Star Wars: The Force Awakens playing Lor San Tekka.

The Seventh Seal, released in 1957, was met with critical acclaim from audiences across the world. It currently has a rating of 8.2 on IMDb, and 92% of critics on Rotten Tomatoes have given it a positive review. The movie is a classic because Antonius’ honest struggle with faith and his search for meaning in the face of death spans all continents, generations, sexes, governments and will continue to do so until the end of endless time.
Bruce Speas sat in Longwood’s small black box theatre surrounded by signs of construction. The floor was completely covered with large wooden platforms that, no doubt, were destined to become part of an ornate set. In the distance, the sound of not-so-faint drilling could be heard underneath the sound of some theatre tech’s pop punk playlist.

Speas explained that the set was currently being built for “Twelfth Night,” a Shakespeare classic that Speas hopes will draw large crowds to Longwood’s Jarman Auditorium, a much larger space than the generally used black box theatre in CSTAC.

Speas spoke about his upcoming production with passion and real concern. It was obvious he wanted the hard work of both the actors and the crew to pay off with a large audience. He was so excited to discuss “Twelfth Night” that it was difficult to get him to talk about himself and his own personal history. When he did go into his own theatrical timeline, it was clear that Speas has lived and breathed every aspect of the theatre world for most of his life.

“I went to New York to become rich and famous as a star, I quickly realized... well that’s gonna take a while.”

Speas went to New York in his 20s to live the kind of life that many young artists dream of living. He was able to explore acting, directing and playwriting, as well as learn what it’s like to live in a very expensive town.

“When you’re young and you’re in the arts, the arts or theatre, being broke is always a problem, but everybody’s broke, so (when) you have 20 bucks, you’re like rich.”

To supplement his income, Speas took a regular gig on the popular daytime soap opera “One Life To Live.” He played a warehouse foreman that popped up with a line or two whenever one of the main characters had a scene at his work place. He enjoyed being able to pay his rent and he said working on the set was always a great time as well.

“My standard joke is if I’d done more then I wouldn’t be here,” said a smiling Speas; however, his true passion was directing and playwriting. One show that he wrote in New York was picked up and performed in LA. The show did so well that Speas moved to LA for a few years and continued to write.

“I think my ideal would be to have a nice place on a Greek island somewhere. You wake up in the morning and do three or four hours of writing, and the rest of the time you just kind of enjoy the place.”

While Speas hasn’t made it to that Greek island yet, he has seen many years of success as a director and as a professor. He did some quick math and calculated that he has directed about 15 shows here at Longwood. When asked to pick a favorite, he named a few, but ultimately couldn’t decide.

What he did gush about was the time he has spent teaching Theatre 101, an introductory class that a large majority of Longwood students take. Speas was really affected by the experience of getting to know such a large range of students in so many different majors. At one point when he was teaching three or four sections of the class, he was in contact with one quarter of the entire student body.

“I run into so many students in Richmond and other places and they tell me they enjoyed the class, that to me is nice.”

Speas truly believes that getting a theatre degree is not only applicable to a future as a performer, but a successful future in many career paths. The drive, as well as the ability to speak clearly while in front of large crowds, is something that makes an employee valuable. Those are skills that he tries to instill in all his students. Never too serious, Speas joked that, “I guess that’s what they tell them in English as well.”

At the end of the day Speas feels that what makes him a great director and professor is his experience in both fields. He loves teaching because the feeling of being a theatre student is something that is not difficult for him to recall.

“I still know what it was like to be a student, so I think that’s one of the reasons I enjoy it. I remember what it was like to be a student, it hasn’t left me. I have empathy when I talk to a student, I know what they are going through. It must mean I was supposed to do this.”
Waterworks Players bring “Luau at Acorn Acres” to Farmville

Last Friday, January 29, at 7:00 p.m. Richmond’s Bifocal Players brought their hilarious and fun show to the Waterworks Players in Farmville, Va.

Titled “Luau at Acorn Acres,” the small theatre production written by Richmond playwright Margie Langston centers around Acorn Acres, a senior living facility that is struggling to fill vacant apartments and stay afloat.

As the cash flow problems increase, however, the residents still get to plan a fun event for themselves, choosing a luau.

The play begins with four residents discussing how they ended up living in Acorn Acres. Despite all being sassy and funny, each character has a deep and unique story that led them to the senior living facility including the death of a wife, a chance to move closer to family and love.

Irma, a popular and rather grumpy Acorn Acres resident, who also happens to be in charge of planning the luau, shares that she came to the facility after her sister, who was also her long-time roommate, got married and left her to travel the world with her new husband. Irma goes on to tell her friends that she and her sister have not spoken in 11 years.

This leads to the most interesting aspect of the production. When the luau’s hula dancer cancels on the party, they must scramble to find a new performer to replace her. After calling many other options, the manager of Acorn Acres can only find one available hula dancer to teach the residents at the luau, and she happens to be Irma’s estranged sister, Vivian.

Vivian arrives at the senior living facility and by chance, the two sisters happen to avoid one another after one of Irma’s friend’s takes her on a tour of the home. But, when they finally come face to face with one another, the pair shows their long running emotional dislike for each other, and the duo refuse to speak about their issues.

But after being forced to discuss their almost decade-long issues, both find common ground by reminiscing on good times, and as Irma soon discovers, Vivian’s husband had passed away and left no place for her to live. She later informs Vivian that there is a vacant apartment at Acorn Acres where she can live She accepts the offer and happens to fill the last vacancy the senior living facility needs to stay afloat.

This hilarious and heart warming comedy, starring only 6 people, all 50 and above, proves that “aging in mandatory … acting your age is optional.”

This production marks the third time Richmond’s Bifocal Players have taken the stage at the Waterworks Players. The Waterworks Players’ next production is Edward Albee’s Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf on Feb. 12, 19 and 20 at 8:00 p.m. and Feb. 13 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are $12.
44 Presidents

Adams  Madison
Arthur  McKinley
Buchanan  Monroe
Buren  Nixon
Bush  Obama
Carter  Pierce
Cleveland  Polk
Clinton  Reagan
Coolidge  Roosevelt
Eisenhower  Taft
Fillmore  Taylor
Ford  Truman
Garfield  Tyler
Grant  Washington
Harding  Wilson
Harrison
Hayes
Hoover
Jackson
Jefferson
Johnson
Kennedy
Lincoln

THOMAS WISE
A&E CARTOONIST

M AR LISHA S T EW A R T
PHOTO STAFF
“Your parents don’t look alike . . . how did that happen?”

I remember hearing that inquiry my first day here at Longwood University. I remember laughing off that question, thinking it was a joke. Then I was asked, “What are you?”

These types of questions have become a sort of novelty for me during my time here. I never really paid much attention to the fact that my parents have different skin colors. I recognized it, and it became my own sense of normalcy. My mother is a naturalized American citizen that immigrated here from across the world, and my father comes from a Yankee state that has never really impressed me.

I grew up hearing different languages being spoken in public and eating incredible food from different countries. As a matter of fact, where I am from, many of my friends were biracial like me, having parents coming from different ends of the world. Trinidadian and German, Puerto Rican and Cherokee, Filipino and Irish, you name it, my city had people identifying with any ethnicity and any combination.

Coming to Longwood has led me to experience something that I never experienced before living in Virginia: culture shock. I always thought that culture shock happens when traveling abroad, but instead it happened here in this quaint little town. I always thought that the rest of Virginia was like back home; a true melting pot in every sense of the word. However, from listening to my peers and colleagues, I have learned that some have come from homogenous communities.

I remember saying that I spoke a little Tagalog during a self-introduction, and one of my peers asked what that was. I remember feeling surprised when they asked. I know that Filipinos are among the largest immigrant groups here in America, I thought that it was common for people to know what language is commonly spoken among that group of immigrants. Then I realized, I could possibly be the only person that they know that can speak that language.

Likewise, I have been confused by some of the southern sayings my peers have said and have learned new things about the vast land of Virginia. I grew up in a community where people had different ethnicities and spoke English as a second language (ESL). Here, I was surprised to notice the homogeneity of the Longwood community, an overwhelming majority of people have similar hair colors and skin tones. Many of my friends had taken speech classes and ESL, a large portion of the Longwood community has not.

I have heard numerous stories about my peers riding dirt bikes and hunting in the rural areas of Virginia, something that is hard to find back home. My classmate was astounded and bewildered that I never rode a dirt bike before and jokingly asked if I was even “a Virginian.”

I grew up eating chicken adobo and menudo with rice, a common staple in my home. I immediately felt homesick in the area of dining here on campus “D-Hall” doesn’t offer many international foods, much less authentic international foods. At first, I felt like a bit of an outsider here on campus – with my dark hair and Eurasian features.

I still have a lot to learn about rural Virginia and the backgrounds my peers were raised in, and I’m still trying to figure out what “let-er-rip tater-chip” means. But I feel comfortable now, I now even embrace my differences with more pride, striving to teach my peers about my experiences and cultures, as much as they have taught me theirs.
An issue inflamed

BY CASSIE TAGERT
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

Each year during university closings due to snow, students will crowd around a couch and watch it burn in anticipation of a day without classes. While I'm sure that there is some amount of thrill that comes with the destruction of a piece of furniture, it's a really bad idea.

Burning a couch is considered arson, according to the Code of Virginia, and committing arson is considered a felony charge. Setting a piece of personal property on fire can result in a prison sentence between 12 months to 10 years depending on that piece of property's value. This by itself is a huge reason not to set couches on fire. Usually, college students participate in couch burnings to have fun, and they aren't intending on hurting anyone. Despite their intentions, if caught, their actions would have serious consequences.

Aside from legal ramifications, committing arson is dangerous. Whether it's a couch or a building, someone could get hurt. All it would take is for someone to stand too close to the fire for their clothes to catch flame. The last thing someone needs during their college career is to be seriously burned or deal with the guilt that comes with causing someone intense pain.

Also, committing a crime like this, which requires police response, uses up valuable public resources. During inclement weather, the necessity for emergency responders increases with traffic accidents and other problems. When the fire department has to go out of their way to put out a couch fire, they are unable to help others who may need it during that time. With this in mind, couch burning is not only dangerous, but it's also inconsiderate.

If you're not convinced by the potential harm it could cause, consider the fact that it's really wasteful to burn a piece of furniture. College students aren't known for their plethora of wealth. Maybe use the couch for sitting or sleeping instead. If it's a crappy couch, donate it so that someone less fortunate can use it, but for god's sake don't burn it.

University closings are definitely cause for celebration for the stressed-out college kid, but burning couches is not a good way to celebrate. It can be dangerous and hard on a community when people cause public disturbances like this. And seriously, do you really want to have to call your parents to explain to them that you were arrested for lighting up a couch? Have fun, but use your brain on snow days.

Fire at will

BY AUSTIN BERRY
LAYOUT EDITOR

So we've all heard the stories before. It's the same deal every single year. "Oh deary me, those darned hooligans burning couches are putting ketchup stains on Longwood's tuxedo shirt" or whatever. The idea behind this tradition is that to celebrate the first day of no classes due to snow, students will burn a couch. I'm told this is a bad thing.

Although, I'm not sure why everyone is crying over spilled ketchup. Perhaps we should just stop wearing white shirts when playing around with dangerous condiments.

One of the biggest issues with the whole couch burning phenomenon is the legality of the thing, as it falls dangerously close to the realm of arson. However, after doing some research, (a very quick Google search because I have a short attention span) I'm not sure this qualifies. Now, fair warning, I'm about as good at reading legal as I am at writing intelligently worded and researched columns, which is to say, not at all. However, from what I can decipher, as long as the couch is the property of whoever is burning it, and is not being destroyed with malicious intent, then it's no different than a regular bonfire. Now if this is the case, then there really is no big deal right? I mean you don't see a bunch of people getting mad at kids for destroying firewood. Now, just to cover my own ass here, I am just a graphic design major, writing this column while simultaneously stuffing my face with cold pizza, and am in no way qualified to offer legal advice or, god forbid, permission to burn couches, this is just what I found and understood of the arson laws from a quick Google search. I don't care what you do with your time, just don't say The Rotunda columnist told you to do it. Cool? Cool. I'd much rather not have to flee to Mexico.

Now, as far as the relative safety concerns of burning couches go, burning an oblong chair isn't any more dangerous than a bonfire. There is, of course, always the chance of catching a stray spark on your pants or melting the sole of your shoe, however, if you are operating with even the slightest amount of common sense, then this shouldn't be a problem. Remember kids, fire hot!

Anyway, let me wind down my rant to actually try and get to some sort of point. If you're the lazy person who is just skimming this column, this is the part you should skip to. What I'm getting at is not that couch burning is necessarily the best way for students to spend time or to celebrate an off day from school, but that it's not something that needs to be the big deal that we turn it into. It's just college kids having fun, like all college kids at all colleges do, so who really cares? This town is half furniture stores anyway its not like we don't have an excess of couches going around.

Whatever it is you do to celebrate being off from school, be safe, have fun, and if you like to participate in couch burning, don't mention my name. Thanks.
Performing through the pain

Lotanna Nwogbo is The Rotunda Student-Athlete of the Month

A congested, 6-foot-8, 255 pound men’s basketball red-shirt senior sat on a couch, eyes squinted upwards trying to recall the number of hours he spends on his sport per week.

“Well, with travel, film, practice, meetings, all that stuff, I just know it’s a lot,” said Lotanna Nwogbo.

“I can’t even estimate a number. It’s a heck of a lot.”

Outside of team-mandated practices and meetings, Nwogbo still spends his free time continuing to improve himself, as ongoing injuries and pain have reduced how much he can work in practice this year.

“Whenever I have free time, I try to just come and shoot some free throws because I’ve been battling a couple of injuries this year so I haven’t been able to practice as much as I wanted to,” he said.

The amount of time Longwood’s go-to big man spends in Willett Halls shows much as I wanted to,” he said.

Along with his success in basketball, the kinesiology major has maintained a GPA near 3.0 while balancing the time demands of a student-athlete. After reviewing both his athletic and academic performance, the Georgia native is The Rotunda’s Student-Athlete of the Month for December and January.

“Basketball is a full-time job and of course school is almost a full-time job as well, so it’s hard to balance, honestly,” said Nwogbo.

Nwogbo is on the team because he loves basketball. He recognizes his own role on the team as both a statistical leader and captain.

Acknowledging his ability to contribute to the team every game, in spite of injuries, he said, “I just try to do the best I can to help the team give themselves the best chances to win. I’ve just accepted my role and tried my best to stay consistent.”

After being forced to miss his junior season after breaking his thumb and recovering from a foot surgery over the summer, Nwogbo performs despite the pain. While his thumb injury was less difficult to return from physically, he admitted it was “a little mentally hard.” More of his pain this season has resulted from his foot.

“My hand has been fine since then, but I also had foot surgery this summer that a lot of people don’t know about. That’s where I’m still battling with right now. But it’s getting to the point where I don’t really feel the effects of it,” said Nwogbo.

A lot of Ibuprofen?

“Yeah, a lot of Ibuprofen.”

As a team captain, Nwogbo approaches the role from less of a competition standpoint, focusing more on the connection between team and coach.

“As a fifth-year senior, people, I’m not going to say they look up to me, but they come to me for advice, and I’m like a bridge between the coaching staff and the players,” he said.

In his kinesiology classes, he learns about topics that apply to his life as a student-athlete, though that’s not necessarily why he chose it.

“I’ve gotten some more knowledge about how to take care of myself,” said Nwogbo.

“I just like knowing about how the body works and how to exercise properly and the benefits of exercise.”

The Big South Preseason All-Conference Second Team pick in his last year of eligibility has visions of continuing his sport after post-graduation.

“I want to continue basketball as long as I can,” he said.

Even with that thought in his head, Nwogbo doesn’t have any solidified plans in regards to playing after college.

“I’m not trying to look too far into the future, honestly,” he said. “I’m just trying to focus on finishing out my senior season.”

On Monday night, Feb. 1, Longwood women’s basketball traveled to play the Presbyterian Blue Hose inside the Templeton Center. Longwood tried to catch their fourth conference win but fell short and lost 75-49.

Longwood (6-15, 3-9) played close the first half, holding a 20-19 lead over Presbyterian (13-8, 9-3) at one point. Nearing the end of the half, Presbyterian started to gain momentum and pulled away from the Lancers enough to enter the locker room with an 11-point lead. A strong second half start continued to increase their lead.

Presbyterian’s victory sparked from freshman guard Taylor Petty, who scored a game high of 26 points. She is now tied for second for the most amount of points scored in a single game for Presbyterian in their Division 1 record books. Petty scored 10-of-17 from the field, six of which were three pointers.

The Blue Hose tallied a total of 14 three pointers throughout the game, with sophomore guard Janie Miles tagging on another 4 to Petty’s 6.

Longwood freshman guard Ciara Bennett made great efforts to cancel out Petty’s points by contributing 19 points herself. Bennett put up the most points for the Lancers, the only one to finish in the double digits. She scored 6-of-14 from the field and 6-of-8 from the free throw line.

Senior guard Deborah Headen added another 9 points, sinking 3-of-6 three pointers.

Longwood heads back to South Carolina on Saturday, Feb. 6 to face Charleston Southern (10-11, 5-7). The game is set for 2 p.m.
- Missing Lancers

Continued from front page

Before Johnson's return to the team and senior guard Tra’Vaughn White’s recovery from a broken hand, Fisher was one of the lead scorers on the team after serving his four-game suspension for early in the season. The four-game suspension was “team-issued” after “a violation of team rules,” according to Cook in the Nov. 6 press release. In 11 games this year, Fisher has had two 18-point games and averaged just under 10 points per game.

Shields averaged 6.6 points after earning minutes in 11 games. The two players combined make up approximately 16 of Longwood’s points, and in the six losses since the decision not to play them was made, the point deficit averages to a 7.3 point gap between the Lancers and their opponents. None of the six teams won by over 14.

In the eight games since the Lancers have been down by at least four people, redshirt senior center Lotanna Nwogbo has averaged 31.1 minutes per game, and White takes it a step further, averaging 33.1 minutes. Both have had at least one 39 minute game since Jan. 31 - White has played two.

There was not a time limit provided on the coach’s decision not to play Fisher or Shields, so they could put on their jersey and step onto the floor at any point. Possibly, at their next home game against Campbell University on Wednesday, Feb. 3. Until then, the Lancers’ smaller rotation stands at least until Johnson heals and adds another competing body to the cause. Johnson was able to practice on Feb. 1, “a positive sign” two days before the Campbell game, according to Cook.

Cook said Johnson’s current playing condition is a “game-time decision.”

MBB: Lancers outplayed in Asheville

Lancers fade in second half as UNC Asheville coasts to comfortable 14-point win

BY TRISTAN PENNA
CONTRIBUTOR

A bright first half was not enough for the Longwood men’s basketball team, as UNC Asheville cruised to an 88-74 victory on Jan. 30. The Lancers started strongly but faded in the second half, falling to a 6-17 record this season while the Bulldogs improved to 15-8.

“We just got overwhelmed by a very good basketball team,” said Longwood head coach Jayson Gee on the official Longwood athletics website.

The Lancers came into Asheville looking to end a three-game losing skid against the Bulldogs, but were forced to do so without star senior forward Shaquille Johnson, who missed his third straight game with an ankle injury.

Although the Big South-leading Bulldogs were heavy favorites ahead of the game, the Lancers held their own in the opening period. Ten points from redshirt sophomore forward Khris Lane, and the team averaging 45.2 percent from the field helped keep the Lancers close at halftime, down 36-33.

Despite only being down by three at the break, Longwood was unable to keep up in the second half. UNC Asheville displayed the talent that has them atop the Big South and comfortably pulled ahead of the visitors, never trailing after halftime.

The home side broke out offensively, scoring 52 points and posting an astounding 56.7 percent from the field, including shooting 3-of-8 from beyond the arc. The Bulldogs improved defensively in the second half as well, outrebounding the Lancers 20-17 and racking up 5 steals after the break.

Twenty-one points from Ahmad Thomas and 20 points from Dwayne Sutton led the way for the Bulldogs. All five starters for the Bulldogs reached double figures in scoring, and the home side shot 52.5 percent from the field.

“We had a really big commitment on Dylan Smith, and I thought we did a decent job on him, but we let Thomas really hurt us around the basket,” said Gee on the official Longwood athletics website.

A pair of 19 point performances from redshirt senior guard Tra’Vaughn White and center Lotanna Nwogbo, who also collected eight rebounds, were not enough to offset the Bulldogs’ onslaught.

21 points from Ahmad Thomas and 20 points from Dwayne Sutton led the way for the Bulldogs. All five starters for the Bulldogs reached double figures in scoring, and the home side shot 52.5% from the field.

Though the Lancers had a solid offensive performance, their defense was lacking. They were unable to maintain the same intensity into the second half, and as the team ran out of steam, the defense suffered.

“I thought our guys in the last six minutes of the game were just completely gassed,” Gee said on the official Longwood athletics website. “We were just unable to defend the way we needed to defend to win this game.”

The team hopes to have Johnson ready for their next matchup at home against Campbell University on Feb. 3. They will look to end their four-game losing streak against the Camels, who have an 8-13 record and sit at the bottom of the conference standings.
When the Carolina Panthers take the field against the Denver Broncos this Sunday, more than just a championship will be on the line.

On one side of the field is an all-time great quarterback in the form of Peyton Manning, and the other is young-gun MVP candidate Cam Newton.

Despite his subpar regular season that was shortened by injuries, Manning has found a way to get back to the big game and now has an opportunity to retire as a champion. In doing so, he would join the likes of his superior John Elway, who won back-to-back Super Bowls in 1997 and 1998 before hanging up his cleats.

For Newton, he has the chance to silence his critics and put himself into the running as one of, if not, the best quarterbacks in the National Football League.

How did they get here?

As mentioned, Manning missed numerous games in the regular season due to injuries, forcing backup Brock Osweiler to take the reins. Osweiler was able to make just enough plays to set the Broncos up for a potential No. 1 seed in the postseason with the help of the best defense in the league.

After struggling down the stretch to the playoffs, Broncos head coach Gary Kubiak was forced to bring Manning in as relief in the regular season finale against division rival San Diego.

Manning’s presence was enough to get the team back on track as they took care of business in the first two rounds of the playoffs with wins against the Pittsburgh Steelers and the defending champions, the New England Patriots.

For the Carolina Panthers, the word to describe their season is dominance. Cam Newton proved that you don’t need the best receivers in the game to rack up wins and stats. After losing their top receiver Kelvin Benjamin during the preseason, Newton had to take the weight of the offense in order to make the team successful. You could say he responded well.

The Panthers ended the regular season at 15-1 with the league’s highest-scoring offense, and continued their dominance in the playoffs with wins over Seattle and Arizona, two of the best defenses in the NFL.

Could this be the last we see of Peyton Manning?

Most people believe so, and there have been reports of Manning telling friends and family that he will retire no matter what the outcome is. Nonetheless, it is obvious how much of an impact he can have by leading an underachieving offense to the Super Bowl when his return to the field was in doubt down the stretch of the regular season.

Whether Manning goes out on top or not is one story, but there will definitely be a passing of the torch from one future Hall of Fame quarterback to the quickest rising star in the NFL after Sunday.