One year later

A look at the disappearance of AJ Hadsell and the mystery of her death

AJ’s Disappearance

It’s been slightly more than a year since Anjelica “AJ” Hadsell went missing during spring break last year.
AJ was a freshman at Longwood University and involved in the club softball team.

AJ was last seen on Mar. 2, 2015, during spring break and was pronounced missing by Norfolk police the next day. A week later, Longwood University released a statement regarding their role in the situation, and the family offered a $3,000 cash reward for any information regarding her disappearance and whereabouts.

Police reported that before she disappeared, AJ sent unusual text messages to her parents, and AJ’s debit and credit cards were later found cut up. Police searched several areas, including the Chesapeake Bay, trying to find any trace of her.

During the investigation, Wesley Hadsell, AJ’s stepfather, was arrested on six charges: four felony obstruction of justice charges, possessing ammunition as a convicted felon and felony breaking and entering. Hadsell had broken into the home of someone he stated he thought might be involved in AJ’s disappearance and claimed he found AJ’s jacket rolled up behind a cushion on the couch in the home. Hadsell was later denied bond.

AJ was missing for a total of 38 days until April 9, when her body was found in the backyard of a house in Southampton County after Norfolk police received a tip.

A few days later, a softball tournament was held in memory of AJ, and her funeral service was held in Norfolk on April 18. Longwood University held a candlelight vigil in memory of AJ two days after her funeral.
Students who knew AJ spoke at the vigil which was also attended by members of AJ’s family.

In June, AJ’s cause of death was announced to be acute heroin poisoning and her manner of death was yet to be determined.

AJ’s Stepfather and the Mystery surrounding her Death

On October 7, AJ’s stepfather, Wesley Hadsell was charged with possession of heroin. Police had initially found drug residue in Hadsell’s hotel room in March, and the substance was later confirmed to be heroin, reported WAVY News.

As part of a plea agreement, Hadsell pleaded guilty to a federal ammunition charge on Nov. 6.

On Mar. 10, 2016, a new attorney was appointed to Hadsell after his attorney, Keith Kimball, withdrew from his case due to a conflict of interest involving a new witness.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
One year later

Wesley Hadsell after his arrest on Mar. 21, 2015 in the Norfolk, Va area.  
—CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The witness has not been confirmed, but has been speculated to be Amin Garcia with the use of anonymous sources, according to a report by NewsChannel 3.

According to NewsChannel 3, Garcia has been “telling jail inmates that he cut a deal with authorities where he will agree to talk about an alleged conversation he had with Wesley Hadsell while the two served time at Western Tidewater Regional Jail.” Garcia claims that Hadsell had told him he was involved in AJ’s death, according to the report.

Garcia is currently convicted of raping a former army officer in Kuwait, as well as raping a woman and her teenage daughter in Norfolk in 2008.

When Kimball dropped Hadsell’s case, NewsChannel 3 reported that the attorney cited it was due to a “conflict of interest.” and that the attorney also held representation for Garcia which might possibly be the conflict of interest in the matter.

According to a report by ABC 13, Kimball claims that “...his other client is cooperating with the government in hopes of receiving a reduction for 'substantial assistance' in the case.”

Hadsell’s new counsel has been announced to be Jason Dunn. Hadsell is currently scheduled for sentencing for one count of possession of ammunition by a convicted felon on June 24, 2016.

Continue to follow The Rotunda for any new information which may arise in the case.

APPLY FOR THE ROTUNDA

Applications due by March 30th at 5:30 P.M.
Expect to “eat more chikin” this fall. By the start of the Fall 2016 semester, the Chick-fil-A Express below the Longwood Landings plans to expand its store. This addition would provide more seating for dine-in guests, a larger serving counter and possibly a larger kitchen. The restaurant would also undergo a remodel on the existing interior and a new line of uniforms, changing the face of the Chick-fil-A Express as we know it.

Grant Avent, Food Services Director, hopes to start the expansion and remodel sometime during the beginning of the summer. Since the restaurant would have to close during the renovation, Avent hopes to spend only about four to five weeks on the project in order to get back to serving customers.

“It will be sad that it will be closed for those weeks,” said local resident Jessica Laferty. “But at the same time it will be a blessing because after the renovation it will be more beneficial to the students and everyone who lives in Farmville.”

Corporate Chick-fil-A requires franchisees to renovate their stores every six years in order to meet new codes and maintain the look of a new Chick-fil-A. The Farmville location was last updated almost six years ago, making it due for an upgrade.

Plans detail the expansion to take over the vacant suite to the right of the restaurant creating a new entrance and exit.

More space also means more seating. Chick-fil-a currently has only a dozen tables, making it difficult for customers to dine in at peak serving times. The new expansion would add almost double the seating so more customers can dine in and enjoy their meal.

“I can’t tell you how many times I’ve had to sit outside because it was too crowded on the weekends or during lunch hours,” says Longwood University student Lauren Walrond. “The line goes out the door sometimes.”

The register counter would remain in its spot, but would be expanded on one side to create an “L” shape. The new end of this bar would be used as a new pick-up spot. This is necessary due to overcrowding at busy times.

“I’m very excited about the possibility of expanding because it means we will be able to get more customers in the store during our busier times,” says Brandon Lucas, manager of the Farmville location.

Another possibility with the expansion and remodel would be a larger menu. The Express location currently does not carry soups, chicken salad, frozen lemonade, spicy nuggets or parfaits, all of which are beloved staples of Chick-fil-A.

The Express location is also in need of a larger kitchen and more storage space, though the blueprints are still being worked on.

The makeover would also include new uniforms for employees. Chick-fil-A’s corporate office has come out with a new uniform style for employees, labeled “TeamStyle 3.0”. This uniform consists of a bright red polo shirt with charcoal gray pants, and a red baseball cap to match.

“I think the uniforms will give our store a more professional look and maybe appear a little more inviting,” explains Mary Kate Sinclair, an employee at Chick-fil-A.
Fraternity inducts boy with cerebral palsy as an honorary member

Joshua Bolt made a brother in Phi Mu Delta

By Briana Adhikusuma
News Editor
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“When he was born, he didn’t breathe at all, so he had to be incubated. His lungs collapsed and he nearly died. He had a brain injury from that lack of oxygen at birth. It’s commonly called cerebral palsy. There’s a whole range of how much you can be affected by cerebral palsy similar to how there’s a whole range of how you can be affected by autism. So the condition that he has, it mostly just affects his motor control, so his muscles throughout his body. His brain and the muscles don’t communicate as they should. Luckily, he’s still very intelligent,” said Jennifer Bolt of her 14-year-old son, Joshua Bolt.

Joshua is the local philanthropy for the Phi Mu Delta fraternity and was inducted into the fraternity during a short ceremony on the afternoon of Sunday, Mar. 20.

“He was beaming. I’ve never seen him so happy, being so accepted and part of the group. It was really beautiful,” said Bolt.

Daniel Parrish, the president of Phi Mu Delta, described an honorary member as “someone we believe holds our values. If they were a college student here at Longwood, they would be able to join our organization. Sometimes it’s given to family members of brothers who are kind of involved with things the fraternity does…” An honorary member is given the title and fraternity letters to wear.

According to Parrish, Joshua was able to sign his name into a book where all the brothers have signed their names.

After the ceremony, Joshua posted photos from the ceremony on his Facebook page, along with the caption, “Yesterday, the wonderful friends of mine in the Phi Mu Delta fraternity at Longwood University inducted me into their organization as an honorary brother! Phi Mu Delta ROCKS! I also have friends and volunteers from other Longwood organizations. They are really nice, too. Thank you, Phi Mu Delta brothers, and everyone who helps and is my friend. I love all of you.”

When Bolt was approached by Phi Mu Delta member Chad MacDonald with the idea of Joshua becoming an honorary member, Bolt said she was “caught off guard. I was really blown away by it. I didn’t even know that was a possibility. I was honored, but of course I had to check with Josh to see how he felt about it. I think the only hesitation he had was to make sure the other volunteers from fraternities and sororities that helped him weren’t offended by him accepting the honorary membership in Phi Mu Delta.”

Bolt said that the fraternity members have become friends to Joshua during their time assisting with his kinesiology exercises.

“One the guys started helping, that I think, was a turning point for Joshua. He felt like (he) had real friends,” said Bolt.

According to Bolt, Phi Mu Delta began working with Joshua around three years ago and was the first all-male fraternity to work with him.

“He’s so strong now. The exercises that we do are more active, and we need the muscles... He’s pushing against us, and we’re pushing against him to make his muscles stronger where they need to be stronger,” said Bolt.

The fraternity regularly assists with these kinesiology exercises throughout the week.

“I think the big thing is the encouragement. They’re so good with him. They don’t talk down to him. They speak to him with respect for who he is. He’s not just some disabled kid. He’s their friend. That’s really special,” said Bolt.

The fraternity initially painted Joshua’s walking square two and a half years ago. The walking square is an outdoor area where Joshua can work on his mobility. The square is structured with monkey bar-like bars to assist him with walking.

Phi Mu Delta is currently partnering with other organizations to gather funds for a new roof over Joshua’s walking square.

Bolt said Joshua has developed friendships with the fraternity brothers and often talks to them through messages on his iPad.

“He has really made some special friendships with the Phi Mu Delta brothers. They have been so open and understanding with him,” said Bolt.

Bolt said that Phi Mu Delta has been essential in Joshua’s development, and that “it’s totally changed my viewpoint of what fraternities are all about.”

Although the organizations involved with Joshua have provided assistance, Bolt said that they still need more volunteers to help with his kinesiology exercises and other tasks.

If you are interested in volunteering with Joshua, you can contact Bolt through the group “Joshua Needs You!” on Facebook.
This week’s Student Government Association (SGA) was started off with a moment of silence for Brussels, Belgium and all of their losses from yesterday’s terror attacks.

Other important matters discussed included a new diversity statement that would hold the same weight as the current Honor Code at Longwood University. SGA approved a motion to support this statement. The next step in the process is to have regulations put on the statement as well as tweaking the statement as a whole. New Lancer Days, held for incoming freshman, will also incorporate the diversity statement into their programs for students and their parents.

The Constitution for the Rotunda was approved by the SGA that specifically adds a position as app manager. This position will include posting about the app on social media to obtain more followers on the app. The app manager will also be in charge of reaching out to local businesses to inform them about advertising on the app.

Senator Mark Barham brought up the idea for Longwood to close the university on November 8 in the fall to allow for students to make voting a priority. Barham reflected on his personal experience that in previous years, the voting process can take up to one hour at a time that wasn’t busy.

Dr. Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs, added how the polls are open from typically 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., that is a large range for students to vote when is most convenient for them. Pierson also added that in previous years, Longwood has held extra shuttles for students that go directly to the polling stations.

Senator Liz Greenwood suggested creating the same effect that Reading Day has, where clubs and organizations cannot meet on that day to free up more of the students time to participate in voting.

Senator Shawn White touched on the recent tragedy in Brussels with the attacks and how with the Vice Presidential Debate coming up in the fall if Longwood had a plan in place for if something along the same lines were to happen during that time. White also suggested that a drill be put in place to give students an idea of what the safety measures would look like.

SGA elections will be starting this upcoming Thursday, March 24 lasting for a week. President Constance Garner added that in order for the election to count 1/6 of campus must participate.

Lastly, Garner mentioned and elaborated the success of Relay for Life this previous Friday, with the total amount of funds raised hovering around $77,000.

Financial Column

Spotlight: Valeant Pharmaceuticals (VRX)

This is a company that many of you probably have never heard of before, but if you follow the financial news, Valeant Pharmaceuticals was a big name recently.

On Mar. 14, Valeant was trading at $69.04, but by Mar. 18, was down to trading at $26.98. This dramatic change is something we typically do not see in the marketplace, and since Valeant’s beta was at .15, it was even more shocking.

With such a low beta, they typically do not move very much on an average day trading; however, there was big news which broke that sent them plummeting.

Valeant has failed to file its annual results, and this signaled to the market that it could be defaulting. So, people went running away from the stock, and it dropped by more than half of its market shares.

It is now currently looking for a new CEO. It has hope for the future, but the damage has already been done.

One simple act of not filing the annual reports, whether intentional or not, has cost them and their stockholders billions of dollars. The important lesson to take away from this is that the actions of a few people in a company can have shockwaves that affect people and institutions throughout the world.

For Valeant, the future might be able to turn around, but until then, they have some serious making up to do.
Farmville welcomes new restaurant to Longwood Landings

BY KIERSTEN FREEDMAN

Spring has sprung and with it comes the newest restaurant to the Longwood Landings. Right next to Chick-Fil-A is The Hot Dog Bar, co-owned by father and daughter duo Louis Anderson and Ashley Campbell, locals of Amelia County.

The Hot Dog Bar features specialty and build your own hot dogs, as well as a popular dessert called the Lollywaffle, a waffle on a stick that comes in varieties such as Red Velvet with cream cheese drizzle; Belgian with strawberry sauce, Nutella or whipped cream; Pizza and the wildly popular Cinnamon Bun with cream cheese drizzle.

The “Top Shelf” menu features the Coney Island, which comes with the house chili, chopped onions and cheddar cheese; the Bacon BBQ Blue, with chopped bacon, crumbled blue cheese and barbecue sauce; the Rueben, topped with warm sauerkraut, Swiss cheese and Thousand Island dressing; the Hawaiian, with chopped bacon, pineapple salsa and your choice of teriyaki sauce or teriyaki mayo; the Chicago Dog, topped with pickle slices, tomatoes, relish, chopped onions and mustard and rounding out the specialty menu is the Waffle Dog, which is a hot dog wrapped in the house waffle with the sauce of your choice.

Recently added to the menu are the Chili Slaw Dog, which is, true to its name, topped with chili and coleslaw, and the Lancer Dog, which comes with crispy onions, cheddar cheese and your choice of sauce.

Campbell noted, “The Waffle Dog is a healthier alternative to a corn dog that students can conveniently take on the go.”

The Hot Dog Bar proudly uses all beef hot dogs in both the skinned and skinless varieties. Hot dogs with skin, as Anderson stated, “have more of a snap and remind you of the ballpark franks that you get on the streets of New York,” whereas the skinless hot dogs are the “nostalgic hot dogs that your mom used to make when you were little.”

Vegetarians and vegans, fear not, for The Hot Dog Bar offers a meatless, vegan hotdog.

Anderson is a fourth generation small business owner and Campbell is the fifth generation business owner in her family. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, they quit their jobs as a digital media project manager and as a contractor, respectively in hopes of opening a small business close to their family’s home. After reaching out to the small business committee, they came to the conclusion that a hot dog restaurant is what the town needed and students would want for their convenience. They chose the location because of Chick-Fil-a’s popularity and the amount of foot traffic coming from the proximity to Longwood.

Customer Eric Simmons commented, “I like that I can eat for cheap and the food is really good. I’ve already been twice and I plan on going back again.”

Campbell strongly advocated that they “cater to their customers and all suggestions are welcome. We’re looking to mold our business to what the customers want to eat.”

In the future, The Hot Dog Bar looks to add ice cream to the menu. The restaurant is currently open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and accepts Lancer Cash.
Bacalis, who has been involved with Relay for Life since high school and continued to participate throughout her time at college, talked about just how important Relay is to her. “It’s really a passion for me. I lost my grandfather to cancer in high school, which kind of got me involved and while I was here at Longwood, I realized that I wanted to work for the American Cancer Society and be in the non-profit world,” said Bacalis.

The story is similar for Books. The junior, who has been involved with Relay for Life since first grade, admitted that when she first got involved didn’t really understand the event’s importance, but soon the cause hit close to home. In middle school, her best friend’s mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. Around that time, her grandmother was also diagnosed with breast cancer, as well as several melanomas and eventually passed away from lung cancer. The moment that really hit her was when she her mom’s best friend passed away from stage 4 cancer.

“That just touched me a lot because I knew it was bad, but I thought that she’s not going to pass away. It’s going to be different this time she’ll make it,” commented Books, “So that’s when I kind of realized how unforgiving cancer can be and I realized that (Relay) meant a lot to me and that I wanted to raise as much money as I could and try to find a cure.”

While Books was nervous about being co-chair for Relay this year, she said that it was definitely worth all the work to see everything come together. “It was awesome … Everybody did so well and we had a lot of people stay ‘til the very end, which was awesome. And we had a lot of fun events this year and I think that people were engaged the whole night.” While there was plenty of excitement and fun moments throughout the night, a speech from Catherine McCormick, who lost her older brother, Will, a Longwood student, to a form of brain cancer, as well as the Luminaria ceremony helped remind everyone that the night’s purpose was to help find a cure for cancer, which has touched everyone in some shape or form.

Melanie Books stated, “I think that’s something that’s really touching about cancer that it brings us all together, because we’ve all known somebody with cancer, family or friends. So it’s nice to bring the whole campus together so that we can fight back as one.”

Humans of Longwood: Karyn Barb

“My pottery is based on function. I just want to make cups and bowls that look nice that you can still use but also says ‘Ooh, look at this nice little piece of art.’ Today, I started working on flower vases and a cake stand for my wedding. I’m making our own centerpieces and that’s my big project right now. We’re getting married this August. My fiancé: he cracks me up, he’s such a little dork, and he does a lot of work with his hands. He does a lot of metal work, he works with cars, but he also loves pottery. When I get my own studio, hopefully, someday, we’ll start working on that together, and we hope to open a business where he’ll do woodworking, and I’ll do pottery, and we can collaborate. We’re hoping to relocate back to the Hampton Roads area; that’s where he’s from. It’s just a beautiful area, and that’s where we’d like to go, and plus, it’s kind of like an artsy community.”
Like compact, glossy, white machines of the future, Viannes Clausse’s abstract pieces quickly catch the inquiring eye of anyone passing by the working artist studio in Bedford. Clausse is laboring away this month as his LCVA showcase with Longwood seniors draws near in May. After being welcomed into the studio, he began to explain about how his current artistic style had come to be and what it means to be a marketable artist in 2016.

Clausse went on to say that what he is doing is actually considered a post-bachelor program, which is a bit longer from a typical artist residency program as most residencies are for four to six weeks. Before leaving the university, Clausse will have worked for seven months and have created five pieces to be shown at the LCVA. In 2009, after receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in France, Clausse began to pursue a Master's in Art History before moving to Quebec for three years to receive a Technical Degree in Ceramics.

This degree focused on creating series of pieces and learning about practices in professional craftsmanship. Clausse said he was motivated to get this degree because he “wanted to learn better technique to support my designs and be able to make better work.” Even during the one year in which he worked towards his Master’s in Art History degree, ceramics continued to call his name. Clausse said that every Sunday he would take one-on-one ceramic classes with a teacher, and if given the freedom on an assignment, he would always choose to write his essays on anything related to ceramics or pottery. He said, “I just loved the material, you know?”

Clausse’s accent gave him away as French as he described how he found Longwood. He said, “In my last year in Quebec, I met Dan Molyneux, who was doing a residency at my school.” For those who may recall, Molyneux was the working artist at Longwood in Spring 2015. During the same year, Clausse and his classmates raised money to go to the National Council of Educational Ceramic Art conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At this conference he met up with Molyneux and met his friends including Adam Paulek, Longwood’s ceramics teacher, and that’s how he learned about the Farmville-based university.

Although Clausse has had his fair share of college education, he said that he was never taught enough about the business side of art. “I was never taught to register myself as an artist,” he said. This is vital in order to be a professional artist to proclaim themselves in a way the government in their country recognizes. “Artists are like businessmen in general. This job requires a lot of skills in various fields,” he said as he explained that he had to learn firsthand how to accurately price his own artwork and recognize the expenses of displaying work in galleries, many of which take 50% of the artists’ profit after a piece is sold.

In description of consistencies within his art, Clausse responded, “Recognizable.” With brightly colored lines that at moments resemble symbols spread across his relatively large ceramic pieces. “I took seven years of Chinese calligraphy,” said Clausse, and this longtime hobby now shows itself in the surface design of his pieces. Clausse had a friend whose house was near a Chinese Friends Association, a place to help Chinese students make friends and adjust to the culture. He said he has been drawing since he was a kid, and clay is also another surface on which he can draw using various techniques like the Japanese technique mishima in which you carve into the surface. “My pieces are busy and talkative. I'm abstract I would say” said Clausse. “I like that border,” he said about the border between what the artist draws and how all people perceive it differently in abstract works. “I don’t want to be completely responsible for what people see. I want people to find their own things in my work.”
The Life of Pablo Review

BY RICHIE KAMTCHOM
CONTRIBUTOR

The Life of Pablo, Kanye West's seventh studio album, is not a masterpiece like he proclaimed it would be. Rather, it is a bit of a mess, sloppy at times, and not as cohesive as past albums, but an act of marketing genius.

As the album was being played, one particular line from the song “Famous” stood out instantly: “I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex. Why? I made that b**** famous.” The controversial line quickly garnered a lot of publicity and based on the initial reactions to the line, feedback was mostly negative.

In regards to the quality of the music on The Life of Pablo, it is clear that West made this album as a work in progress. The track “Wolves” has been updated, along with updates to “Famous” and a promise from West that the album will undergo further changes. The track list cohesiveness falls off after “Wolves.” In fact, the album would have fared a lot better had the album come to a close after that song. Instead, West opted to add songs such as “No More Parties in L.A.” and “Facts (Charlie Heat Version)” that come off as loose ends. The production on the album was fascinating, vast and perfectly arranged for the majority of the album.

The major flaw in The Life of Pablo is West and his team of writers' songwriting. West raps brilliantly in songs such as “Real Friends” or even the throwaway “No More Parties in L.A.” Other songs such as “Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1” leave the listener wanting for more, as the constantly experimenting West has finally reached a point where he has stretched himself too thin. West vocals on the album are either minimal singing or brief lackluster verses. The inconsistencies in the lyrical content made for a disjointed body of work. West tries to capture gospel, trap, motivational themes and a semi-conscious approach all while inviting numerous artists to join the party.

The features on this album, strongly curated, probably bested West on The Life of Pablo. Chance the Rapper steals the show on “Ultralight Beam,” probably the best song on the album. Designer essentially lends his hit song “Panda” for a mini makeover in “Pt. 2.” Ty Dolla Sign delivers twice on “Real Friends” and the outro “Fade.” Chris Brown dominates the awe-inspiring “Waves” and even Young Thug provides good backing vocals on “Highlights.” West was more of an arranger than the featured artist on The Life of Pablo.

With a constantly evolving track list, a public life that has truly exploded into a media frenzy and a slightly below great album, it is clear that all these things encompass The Life of Pablo. After all, the album is named after Paul the Apostle, Pablo Escobar and Pablo Picasso, three historical figures that influence the album in their own way: the religious theme, the self-glamorization/bravado and the beauty of art. Kanye West made an evolving album that has marketed Tidal on a higher level, as the only legal way of acquiring Pablo is to purchase the app. His life, the life of Kanye, is just a marketing tool to push an album that fits the narrative.
Broad City review

Broad City, a show on Comedy Central about two girls living in New York City, busted back on to the small screen with its season three premiere this Wednesday. The opening sequence was a special treat as audiences got to see what their favorite off-beat heroines have been up to since last we saw them. Of course, in Broad City’s typical style their opening catch-up montage was not one that consisted of swelling music and clichéd clips of single gals in the city trying to have it all, but rather a quick and dirty montage of Abbi and Ilana’s last years’ worth of bathroom activity.

With strange sex, intimate shaving and the occasional duet, the opening clip made sure we knew that our girls hadn’t gotten it together, thank goodness. The plot of “Two Chainz” jumps right into the action. We get a classic Broad City storyline, a simple task needs to be completed (buy new shirt, attend gallery opening) and through a series of seemingly random missteps it becomes comically impossible.

Never one to take itself too seriously, Broad City showcases feminism while still poking fun at its millennial leading ladies. For instance, whenever Ilana gets mad at another female on the show she usually compliments her, like the brunch hostesses that she calls “pretty girl” while saying she will be taking her business elsewhere. A far cry from the woman on woman crime that happens on most television shows. Still, the characters here are real enough that they miss the mark just as often as they hit it, like when Ilana candidly states that she was so upset about a documentary she watched on Saudi women that she had to masturbate her frustrations away as some sort of privileged protest.

What Broad City does so well is create a New York that is simultaneously realistic and fantastical. It doesn’t sugar coat it for you. It shows you the pop up sale brawls and the terrible roommates. Yet, somehow you still want to live in this silly patchwork world of beautiful weirdos. As long as Abbi and Ilana are your guides, it seems like it would be a wonderful, weed fueled, place for adventures.
Don’t vote for Hillary

As we come closer to the end of March, the leading candidates for the Democratic and Republican parties are Hillary Clinton with 1,670 delegates and Donald Trump with 739 delegates. On the Democratic side of the primaries, when it comes down to choosing a candidate, you should not vote for Clinton, and here’s why.

Her charity is sketchy. The Clinton Foundation is a charity that’s meant to raise money and awareness for certain issues like lowering the cost of HIV medications. A lot of the money for the foundation comes from donations from foreign countries such as Kuwait and Qatar, which were just trying to improve their relations with the US government. A conflict of interests is also created when the countries that donate to the foundation have beliefs that clash with beliefs that the foundation stands for. For example, the Clinton Foundation accepted a $500,000 donation from Algeria to help Haiti after the earthquake in 2010 even though the Algerian government is reported to have human rights issues, which was not approved under the rules of the Obama administration. Basically, they skirted the rules, and their own moral code.

She’s a liar. One of her strongest fields of expertise as a candidate is supposedly foreign affairs, but that seems hard to believe. In 2008, she claimed to be “instrumental” to helping bring peace to Northern Ireland, but really both Unionists and Nationalists from Northern Ireland have revealed that her aid in the country was minor. Also, while she publicly identifies as “just like” the average American, financially speaking, due to the massive amount of debt her family had accrued after leaving the White House, she’s not “just like” us. As of January 2016, she had made more than two million dollars through giving speeches for her presidential campaign. Obviously, she can understand how hard it is to make ends meet.

She recently changed her political views. In her 2008 campaign, she wasn’t supportive of gay marriage, didn’t believe that illegal immigrants should be able to get a driver’s license, and supported free trade. At the beginning of the 2015 campaign, she announced that she changed her views on all three of these subjects. Why? Because these three issues could cost her votes. It doesn’t mean she actually believes these views or intends to support them as a candidate.

At the end of the race, no matter which side wins, the future president needs to be someone we can trust. It’s hard to justify voting for Hillary Clinton when it’s unclear what views she actually stands for and whether or not she will put the good of our country over making herself look good.

... Or Trump

Alright my loyal readers (yes all three of you), ready yourself for the most amazing and awe-inspiring reading experience you will have in the next five minutes. Today, I shall go stupidly where many writers have gone before, into the deep dark rabbit hole of political opinion. Specifically, a one Donald J. Trump, the top candidate for CEO of America and lord of the pumpkin people. I have done extensive research (a YouTube video) on the Trumpster (rhymes with dumpster) and I am ready to learn you a thing or two about our top Republican apprentice … em, candidate.

The Cheeto-dusted businessman is currently, and rather worryingly I hasten to add, in the top spot to receive the nomination from the Republican Party. Not to mention the fact that, as his odds of winning continue to grow, other Republicans are dropping from the race faster than contestants on a reality TV series. (Come to think of it, the presidential race is basically just that.)

“Just how has hurricane Donald been able to take the country and news media by storm,” you ask? It may be, perhaps, because 32 million people in this country are illiterate, or because he is indeed so radically different from any other candidate. His supporters cite his self funded campaign, business expertise and his willingness to say whatever the Hell pops into his wispy, gold head. All of these seem like admirable qualities, until you decide to look a little closer.

Many people are attracted to the oft publicized idea that the walking bottle of spray cheese has self funded his campaign. According to the BBC, although $17,000,000 of the Trumpinator’s campaign is self financed, 69% of that is really just a loan, which will have to be paid back to the real life annoying orange at some point. In reality, Mr. “Art of the Deal” has only contributed about $250,000 to his campaign. That’s practically Trump (haha!) change for a man (creature) who is supposedly worth billions.

Are you wondering just how valuable the human bullhorn is? That’s a good question, my intrepid reader. Trumpelstiltskin himself values his net worth somewhere north of ten billion dollars, according to his website. However, there are many protests to this claim, with even Google saying that he is only worth 4 billion. I mean ten is kind of close to four, I suppose.

According to the human Dorito, the most valuable part of his brand is his name, which has affixed to multiple buildings and business ventures around the world, earning him a reputation as a savvy and enterprising business man. However, it is important to note that many of these ventures have folded. Have you ever heard of Trump Steaks? (They were sold exclusively at The Sharper Image because reasons.) He also does not own many of the buildings that bear his name, he just licenses them to builders because that way, “you don’t put up anything.”

Forrest Trump’s other big selling point in his run for the White House is his willingness to say whatever he is thinking. This is one point about the sausage-fingered orangutan that I can’t protest, he certainly does say anything regardless of whether or not its true. According to Politifact, around 76% of the living wig’s statements are false. That’s a lot, even for a politician. Not only that but many of his statements are ignorant and offensive: The idea of banning all Muslims from entering the United States and completely walling off the Mexican border, just to name a few.

No matter what you think of Trump, one thing is for sure. Should he be elected, we will all have toupee the price. (buh-dum-tiss)
The Longwood softball team (12-8) returned to winning ways at home with a three-game sweep over Campbell University, and junior pitcher Elizabeth McCarthy moved into second place on Longwood’s career strikeouts list.

The Lancers came into the series on a five-game losing streak, but improved during the March 18 doubleheader, taking the first game 7-2, before winning the nightcap 6-1. The home side then won 10-4 the following day to cap the weekend.

“I think we’re barely starting to scratch the surface on what we can do as a group,” Riley said on the official Longwood athletics website. “Our best softball is still out in front of us. We’re still a couple weeks away, but I did see better swings, and people were more comfortable at the plate.”

Although deadlocked at 1-1 early on, Longwood took the series opener behind an offensive outburst in the third inning. The Lancers racked up five runs off seven straight hits in the inning, including a two-run single from junior outfielder Justina Augustine.

Freshman Sydney Gay (4-3) picked up the win in relief of McCarthy, giving up just one run on two hits, with a pair of walks and a pair of strikeouts in 3.2 innings of work.

In the second game of the day, the Lancers capitalized on three Campbell errors in the fourth inning to take a 3-1 lead. Then, in the sixth inning, the hosts capped off the win with back-to-back home runs. Freshman outfielder Mariah Ellis collected her first career hit with a two run home run before sophomore first baseman Kelsey Sweeney followed up with a solo shot of her own.

McCarthy (6-5) earned the win, giving up one run on three hits with five strikeouts in four innings. Junior pitcher Jenna Carnes gave up no runs and no hits over the inal three innings to record the save for the Lancers.

Longwood finished the sweep over their Big South rivals on Saturday with another hitting explosion, notching a season-high 13 hits and scoring in all but one inning.

Freshman catcher Kaylynn Batten led the way with four RBI, along with three runs from senior second baseman Carly Adams. McCarthy (7-5) got the win once again, with 3.2 scoreless innings in relief of Gay. Her seven strikeouts within those innings propelled her into second place on Longwood’s career strikeouts list with 414, behind only Brianna Wells, with 572.

Riley praised the performance of her entire four-man pitching staff: McCarthy, Gay, Carnes, and redshirt sophomore Sydney Mundell, who collectively hold a conference-leading 2.16 ERA.

“Right now, I feel we may have the best one-two combination in the conference,” said Riley on the official Longwood athletics website. “But I think we certainly have the best four-man pitching staff in the league. We have a lot of confidence in all of them right now.”

The Lancers will look to continue their good form as they face off the University of Virginia in a home doubleheader on Wednesday, March 23, ahead of a three-game road trip.
The Lancers (11-9, 1-2) couldn’t take advantage of a series-opening 5-2 win Friday afternoon, dropping the next two games and the series 7-2 and 11-2 to No. 22 Coastal Carolina (13-8, 2-1).

The threat of weather moved Longwood’s weekend series with the Chanticleers to a double header on Saturday, followed by a Saturday morning finale.

“I thought we did a really good job in game one and I was pleased with our effort in all aspects of the game,” said head coach Ryan Mau on the Longwood athletics official website.

A strong start from senior captain pitcher Travis Burnette and timely hitting propelled the Lancers to their first conference win of the season; it was also the third all-time win over a ranked Division I team since the Lancers joined the Big South Conference in 2013.

Senior outfielder Colton Konvicka delivered a two-run single in the fourth inning to give Longwood a lead they wouldn’t surrender the rest of the contest. Konvicka was one of three Lancers to pick up multiple hits in the double header.

Burnette struck out a season-high eight batters and spread out seven hits over 5.2 innings of work to earn his third all-time win over a ranked team since the Lancers joined the Big South Conference.

“In singles, I kept up the momentum and was able to keep up with (Gardner-Webb’s Rokia Sacko), but I started to get around in their next match against George Mason on March 26 in Fairfax, Va.

The second game of the double header got off to a quick start as senior third baseman Zach Remillard hit his Big South-leading eighth home run, a two-run shot in the top of the first. Remillard’s home run was the first of five extra base hits that the Chanticleers used to take the nightcap 7-2.

Longwood brought it to a 4-2 contest entering the ninth frame, but a solo home run from Big South Preseason player of the year Michael Paez, followed by a two-run passed ball helped the Chanticleers create enough separation.

“I thought (Farkas) did a great job competing and he gave us a chance to stay in the game,” Mau said on the start from freshman pitcher Steven Farkas. “He’s really doing an excellent job in that role as a freshman.”

Farkas went 5.2 innings allowing four runs, three earned in his first loss of the season after receiving no-decisions in each of his first two collegiate starts.

Game three saw Coastal Carolina use a nine-run second inning to overcome a one-run deficit and blow the game wide-open. In the top of the second, the Chanticleers used four walks, one error and one hit batter to push across their nine runs.

“We gave them too many free passes in that second inning,” Mau said after the loss. “After that inning, it made things very difficult to overcome.”

Starter Luke Simpson took the loss after allowing six runs in 1.0 innings. Junior Tyler Wirsu came in relief and tossed 4.2 innings to keep the Chanticleers at nine runs until the eighth when they added on two more.

“I thought Wirsu did a great job in a difficult situation,” Mau said. “He kept us around by not allowing Coastal Carolina to add on to the lead.”

Longwood is back in action on Tuesday, March 22 as they play the VCU Rams in Richmond for the second game of a home-and-home series. Following Tuesday, the Lancers welcome defending Big South champs Radford to town for a three-game series starting Thursday, March 24 at 5 p.m.
Senior leadership gives way to new talent

Gee’s, Lane’s takeaways from 2015-16 men’s basketball season

In a November press release by Longwood athletics, Gee called the combination of Munoz and Smith “the perfect storm” for Longwood men’s basketball. He felt Smith could have joined BCS programs, but chose Longwood instead, and Munoz was ranked as the No. 6 point guard in North Carolina when he signed on Nov. 5.

After having over a week to take a step back and let the emotions plateau, the head coach viewed the season ending 10-23 overall and 5-13 in the Big South positively. “We obviously want to win more games,” said Gee. “(We) know that our program is in a much better position today, than it was last year and certainly when we first took over.”

The Lancers hit program milestones as they achieved their highest finish in the conference standings as the eighth-seed and landed their first All-Big South First team selection in Nwogbo since being a part of the Big South.

“It’s only people around our campus that aren’t amazed at what we’ve been able to accomplish,” said Gee, commenting on the positive feedback he’s received from other recruiters. “We feel good about where we’re at and what we’ve been able to accomplish, and we’re striving to do better every day.”

They also faced external criticism as Johnson and former teammate Jason Pimentel faced initial charges dealing with marijuana and indefinite suspensions before the season began.

More scrutiny arose mid-season when freshman forward Chris Shields and senior guard Leron Fisher sat out, ultimately missing the final two thirds of the season on a coach’s decision.

“We still had everything we needed, you know even with injuries, even with disciplinary issues, I think we just allowed those things to affect us too much,” said redshirt-sophomore Khris Lane. Lane played in all 33 games, averaging 6.2 boards and 8.2 points per game, and will return next season with three years under his belt with Longwood, including his redshirt year when he sat out due to NCAA transfer rule.

According to Lane, the team had trouble with keeping a stable emotional climate. “I think a lot of times what hurt us was when we had bumps in the road or had injuries, we let that take us down. And when we had a win or were feeling good, we let that get us too high. We just fluctuated too much,” he said.

Moving forward to next season, Gee cited depth and experience as important factors from this season that will continue to play a role in the future. Lane felt although “the senior leadership” provided by Nwogbo, Johnson, White and Fisher will leave, the rising true senior duo of Darrion Allen and Isaac Belton, alongside himself and future redshirt-junior Damarion Geter will fill their shoes as they each have at least three years of experience in the program.

“We’re losing a lot of rebounding, a lot of scoring, so obviously on the outside of it we’re losing a big part of last year,” said Lane. “I think along with me, Geter, D. J. (Allen) and Ike (Belton) will be basically the leaders of the team and be able to take up that leadership role and basically pick up what Shaq (Johnson) and them left off.”

Emotions ran high as another season of Longwood’s men’s basketball came to end. Three-year head coach Jayson Gee and two of his most impactful players, seniors Lotanna Nwogbo and Shaquille Johnson, sat in the post-game press conference after their quarterfinals finale, falling 89-78 to top-seeded High Point.

Tears welled in Gee’s eyes as he spoke on the senior pair’s praise of his coaching and recruiting, and then flowed discussing the sacrifice they made by transferring to Longwood “before anyone knew about Longwood” with their caliber of talent. In those moments, the conversation turned away from the game or season statistics, landing on the relationship Gee develops with his players.

“I’m probably the worst coach in the league, but I’m probably number one at loving our players and getting them to love us,” he said in the press conference. He noted how the graduating class of Nwogbo, Johnson and Tra’Vaughn White paved the way for the program, allowing Longwood to draw in recruits like incoming freshmen Juan Munoz and JaShaun Smith.

The Longwood men’s tennis team competed in tight sets, but ultimately fell to the Winthrop Eagles, the defending Big South champions, in a 7-0 loss at home over the weekend.

Three of the singles matches went to the third set, but the championship caliber Eagles prevailed, simultaneously picking up their first conference win and snapping a three-match losing streak.

For the Lancers, sophomore Alfonso Castellano and junior Florian Uffer both won their first sets 7-5 and 7-6 before dropping the last two. Freshman Julian Farthing took his second set 6-4, splitting Winthrop senior Michael Chen’s set wins at the No. 1 spot.

“Playing the Big South defending champs is never an easy thing to do, but we definitely showed them the improvements that Longwood men’s tennis has made over the past seven months,” said Longwood head coach Pierre Tafelski on the Longwood athletics official website. “The guys competed extremely hard and pushed them to the brink at Nos. 1-3 in singles. We believe in ourselves, which doesn’t stop us from competing against the top teams in our conference.”

The men’s tennis team hits the road on Tuesday, March 22 for three consecutive matches after back-to-back home matches.

MTEN: Eagles top Lancers 7-0

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After a year of preparation, planning, and fundraising, another Relay for Life at Longwood University will go down in the books as a success.

With the theme, “Paint your world purple,” over 1,000 people from both the Longwood and Farmville community participated in the 12-hour long event. During the event alone, $5,644 was raised, making the total amount of money raised for the year, $77,644, surpassing the committee’s goal of $75,000 for the year.

The annual event was held in the Health and Fitness Center from 5 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Saturday. The basketball gym was used for the main stage and booth area as numerous campus organizations set up shop, selling snacks, henna tattoos, raffles for goodie baskets, shirts, bracelets and a variety of other items. To keep participants entertained, there were several activities for people to do: a Buffalo Wild Wings eating contest, a volleyball and air hockey tournament, a Cruz Productions rave, as well as morning Zumba and yoga.

In the early hours of the event, the local business, Outer You Salon provided haircuts for those who wanted to donate their hair for Pantene Beautiful Lengths where they make wigs for cancer patients. It takes 19 ponytails to make one wig. Last year, 42 people donated their hair, but this year, 55 donated their locks equaling 76 ponytails, which means 4 four whole wigs can be made from their donations.

Working along with the Longwood Relay for Life committee was Emily Bacalis, a 2012 Longwood alum and Senior Community Manager for the American Cancer Society. She acted as the staff partner to the committee, mentoring and giving support in during the preparation for the event.

“We’re really trying to take the idea of using what you’re good at and painting the Relay with that,” said Bacalis. “So not necessarily, literally painting everything purple, which would be great spreading purple around for awareness and recognition of the Relay brand, but also if you’re good at cooking, using that to fundraise for the American Cancer Society or if you’re good at certain crafts, using those as a fundraiser and just taking what you’re good at and spreading the Relay word.”

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