‘Call me Nubs’
Sophomore club baseball player inspires his teammates by doing the impossible

“I wanted to prove them wrong,” said Michael Branca, a history major at Longwood University, as he reflected on his decision to pursue the sport of baseball. Branca was born without his left hand and at the age of six, he taught himself how to play baseball.

“It was a sport I didn’t think was possible to play,” he stated. “A lot of people said it was going to be hard.” Branca learned by watching retired MLB player Jim Abbott, who pitched for teams like the California Angels and the New York Yankees during his career. Abbott was also a one-handed player, born without his right hand.

When Branca was seven, he joined a machine pitch league and has been playing ever since. According to the Little League Baseball’s official website, a machine pitch league is a division of a minor league for ages seven to eleven, in addition to “coach-pitch” or “player-pitch” divisions.

When Branca was 12 years old, his mother talked to Sports Illustrated about Abbott’s influence on Branca’s dreams to pursue baseball and how Abbott’s famous glove-switching technique made it possible for young Branca to play.

Abbott and Branca aren’t the only ones born without two, fully-developed hands. According to the Boston Children’s hospital’s website, one in every 32,000 children are born with this condition.

A sport like baseball requires the extended use of both hands, which makes it difficult for someone with only one. Though Branca has owned a prosthetic for a few years, he only uses it when he goes to the gym. Individuals like Branca or Jaide Bucher from Gatorade’s “Win from Within” feature last year showed disabled kids that they can be just like anyone else, if not better.

Jaide Bucher is a high school softball catcher out of Denver, according to the Los Angeles Times. She was also born with one hand and got to meet Jim Abbott as part of her journey with Gatorade’s spotlight piece.

“He’s a great outfielder. He’s got one of the strongest arms on our team too,” said fellow club baseball player and junior, Mitchell Martin. In his two years on the team, Branca has five hits in 15 at-bats with three walks and two RBIs.

“You rarely see anybody with a disability like Michael has, using one hand... being able to play a sport and not letting that get in your way, I mean, it has to have some level of inspiration attached to it,” said Eric Woodard, club baseball’s president.

“People have been calling me Nubs since I was in middle school I just got used to it. Now, I just tell people to call me that. I play outfield, and I have a system where I catch the ball, pull off my mitt and drop the ball into my right hand and throw it back. It took a lot of practice, but it works for me and allows me to play a sport that I love.”

BY TAYLOR O’BIER
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—CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
Longwood University has announced an increase of 2.77 percent in tuition and mandatory fees for the 2016-17 academic year. This increase will bring a charge of $12,240 per year, a roughly $330 increase from the 2015-16 academic year charge.

The increase was approved by the Board of Visitors during their meeting on Saturday, Apr. 2. This is the third year in a row the university has increased tuition.

According to a press release, this decision “made Longwood the first Virginia institution in more than a decade to approve cost increases of less than 3 percent for a third consecutive year.”

In 2014, in-state tuition and mandatory fees was increased by 2.1 percent, which was the lowest increase the university had in 14 years.

In 2015, the increase rose to 2.85 percent for undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees. The amount charged to students for a full course load rose to $11,910 per year.

“We have a moral obligation, working with our partners in state government to ensure college remains affordable for families and not just a luxury good available to the fortunate few,” stated Reveley in the release. “We are doing our part, which is made possible by focusing on efficient operations, philanthropy and most importantly ensuring students stay on track to graduate, which benefits the Commonwealth, our students and our financial strength.”
The announcement of the Longwood Golf Course’s closing to the public this summer has brought controversy between the university and the community. The 9-hole course will be continued to be used by the men’s and women’s golf teams for practice, as well as the cross country teams and physical education classes. However, the public will no longer be able to use the golf course after June 30 this year.

There are two other golf courses in the area, the 9-hole Farmville Municipal Golf Course and the 18-hole Manor Golf Club. The President of Longwood University, W. Taylor Reveley IV, stated that the closing of the Longwood Golf Course was a consideration for years. The decision was ultimately made by the Board of Visitors and Reveley.

As far as the reason for closing the course, Reveley said that the main reason was because of the course’s diversion from the focus of the university.

“The biggest thing is, if you look all across the country, there are about 2,500 four-year institutions of higher education colleges. Of those 2,500, only about 50, so only about two percent, of all colleges and universities, public or private, operate a golf course. That’s the biggest reason. It’s just not the type of thing universities tend to be in the business of doing,” said Reveley.

Reveley explained that a particular factor, which was taken into consideration was the fact that lawmakers and public policy makers in Washington and Richmond would not see the upkeep of a golf course to be necessary for the university’s primary public focus.

“They don’t see that as a good thing. They see that as not quite being focused on the core of our public purpose. So that’s what’s really going on. It’s true that the Longwood Golf Course does not break even financially...but even if it did, from a public policy standpoint, this would still be a decision that we would be making,” said Reveley.

There are currently 93 members at the Longwood Golf Course. Of these 93, only 12 are students and 15 are faculty and staff. “We certainly paid attention to student use of the course and the fact that it’s not robust right now. It hadn’t been robust for a long time,” said Reveley.

Although there are other options for courses, members of the Longwood Golf Course from the community have stated their opposition to the course closing.

Dr. James Kidd and Dr. Jim Simms, both retired Hampden-Sydney College faculty and members of the Longwood Golf Course, felt the reasoning behind the closing of the golf course is not sufficient enough for a complete closing.

“I love the sense of community, the sense of a family. It’s very unpretentious, it’s not ‘country club’ atmosphere. It’s convenient and in town. The price is right. It’s a beautiful course. It really fits my limited game very nicely,” stated Kidd, who has been playing at the course since 1981.

Simms explained that both Kidd and himself felt that the other courses in the area “didn’t stack up to it (Longwood Golf Course).”

“It’s (the Manor golf course) too difficult for me to play. I mean, I play it, but it’s too difficult for me to play. There are too many carry’s, you have to hit the ball too well. For an old man now, I hit a lot of shots that aren’t quite so good. That course (Longwood Golf Course) fits me up here,” said Simms, who has been a member at the course since the 1970s.

According to Reveley, the golf course currently has a revenue of roughly $90,000 and costs around $150,000 to operate.

Simms stated that he and other members of the course wrote a letter to the Board of Visitors, which was sent along to Reveley. The letter contained an offer for the members to increase the amount of membership dues they pay, as well as collecting funding in order to assist in keeping the Longwood Golf Course open.

“Give us the chance to make it work. That’s the thing they’re not doing. They’re not saying ‘Well, okay. We’ll think about it. Go ahead and try.’ They’re just closing it,” said Simms of the university’s decline of their offer.

Reveley stated that keeping the course open would still not be ideal for the focus of the university, regardless of any philanthropy.

“Two things: one big and one more focused. Even if we had a huge amount of philanthropy pour in to support the course, that still cuts against the grain of all the public policy considerations that lawmakers in Washington or Richmond would have. That’s the biggest reason….the other thing is that it’s much easier said than done to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in a year. Especially given the number of people who seem to be particular active on this run,” said Reveley.

The Rotunda reached out to the Office of Administration and Finance, but were declined comment.

The current cost of membership with The Manor is $1,000 for an initiation fee and $175 for monthly dues. The Longwood Golf Course currently charges members $400 for membership, according to the university website.

As far as how the golf teams will be affected, both Kevin Fillman, the head men’s golf coach, and Shannon Briggs, the head women’s golf coach, stated that losing a golf course would be a disadvantage to the teams, but that the move to The Manor would ultimately bring positive benefits.

“As someone who wants the game of golf to grow, especially in the younger generations, losing a facility as a whole will hurt on the public side of things,” said Fillman.

Fillman stated that the landscape, terrain and overall designs of the courses were different and allowed players to practice of different types of courses.

According to Fillman, the golf teams currently pay $7,500 out of the team budget in order to play at The Manor. Fillman did not anticipate a rise in cost when the teams made the complete move to The Manor.

As far as the difficulty of the course, Briggs stated that there were several tees which players would choose to play from. Several tees are placed at each hole in order to provide different points from which players could play a game. These tees mark the level of difficulty of each specific course path.

As far as closing the course, Fillman and Briggs were not involved in the final decision.

“I would have definitely liked to have been involved in it, and been involved in the meetings, and given my perspective from the golf side of things,” said Fillman.

Briggs stated that she believed communication was important in order to keep the community involved and more positive about the closing of the course.

“Theres definitely a loss there. We have to be sensitive to those individuals, not only coaches and team members at Longwood, but also this is a huge community impact that I think needs to be recognized, so that we can kind of communicate the overall plans, so they don’t feel left out or in the cold with the severance of losing the course. I think communication is key,” said Briggs.

One of the ideas which has been proposed for the use of Longwood Golf Course in the future has been botanical gardens or an arboretum. Reveley assured that these were simply ideas and nothing had been decided on or fully discussed.

“It’s not that there are elaborate plans of what it’s going to become. This golf course which has served really notably and has this great history….We’re at a point in the life of Longwood, at a point in higher education where running a golf course is just not core, not central to what a university in America in 2016 does,” said Reveley.

Although Reveley stated that there was a possibility that another golf course could be built in the far future, he emphasized that it would be unlikely to happen due to the uncommon nature of universities owning golf courses.

Reveley stated, “This is a decision that I’ve given lots of thought to, that’s been in the air at Longwood for years, some would say even decades. It is sad to see something that has played a really important part of the university’s life, see that chapter close. But I do think this is the right decision now.”
Virginia Senator Tim Kaine visited Dr. Harbour’s American Foreign Policy class this past Thursday and discussed many topics relating to the class curriculum.

Formerly the governor of Virginia, Kaine was elected into the Senate in 2012, where he took on roles in the Foreign Relations Committee, Budget Committee and the Armed Services Committee, which is a position close to his heart, as his son serves in the Marine Corps. Kaine emphasized that it’s not only that, but Virginia is the “most military state, and one in nine people is a veteran.”

Kaine’s main point was that “we have O(perational) plans, but no strategy. We have a plan for what to do if North Korea were to move across the border into South Korea; we have a plan for what we would do if Putin decided to move Russian troops into a NATO allied country. We have plans for all these eventualities, but we don’t have a strategy.”

Kaine asserted that the United States needs to refer back to Winston Churchill’s “Sinews of Peace” speech, more commonly known as the Iron Curtain speech, and the Truman Doctrine. He mentions that the Truman Doctrine, “the last comprehensive foreign policy that the United States has had,” has its flaws, designating too much money to defense, which takes away from the money going to education and getting students to college.

Kaine followed up his speech by taking a series of student questions.

“Poland has a far right, Putin-style movement, but it’s democratic. Should we support all democracies, even ones that are going against what we believe in in terms of dealing with Russia?”

Kaine started off by stating that the United States is a liberty protected democracy and being in a democracy can be a pretty scary place if you’re a minority.

“What if you’re in a pure democracy and you’re a religious minority, ethnic minority or racial minority, and the majority says ‘we don’t like you?’ We are a liberal democracy; we protect the liberties of the minority and their rights,” stated Kaine. “So, you’re right, democracies are no guarantee that the public will do what we will do, but democracies are preferable to authoritarian nations and so with a nation like Poland.”

According to Kaine, Poland’s been a very good ally of the United States since the Soviet Union fell.

“So, when you see far-right parties that tilt a little towards Russia, we have to be realistic that Russia’s next door (to Poland). We’re thousands of miles away. We can’t say, ‘don’t have any relationship with Canada. They’re right next door,” said Kaine. ““We have to acknowledge… the area they live in, where it becomes more problematic is if they become anti-Semites or something like that.”

Kaine emphasized that when this happens it is the sign of a democracy moving into more of an authoritarian state, using Turkey as an example.

“What advice would you give to the public about diplomacy?”

Kaine addressed the importance of reinvigorating diplomacy and making more creative efforts and how it is possible for countries to be at war and then become allies, giving Japan and the United States as examples.

Lastly, Sen. Kaine mentioned “I’m so happy that (the vice presidential debate) is going to be here. In fact, the Virginia delegation, we weighed in on the vice presidential debate commission on Longwood’s behalf... because the history of the college, it’s one of the oldest one hundred colleges in the United States, and the history of Farmville and this area is powerful. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the school and Farmville to show off.”
In this week’s Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, Dr. Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs, shared the newly announced information that Longwood University will once again not raise tuition by more than 3 percent. Pierson also added how Longwood’s increase remains one of the lowest in Virginia.

SGA President Constance Garner put this figure into perspective by stating that the University of Virginia (UVA) increased the previous year’s tuition by 13 percent.

Much discussion surfaced when one SGA senator brought up the topic of the petition involving the vice presidential debate taking place at Longwood, focusing on the facilities students will not have access to leading up to the debate.

Garner insisted that if any members of the SGA knew anyone who was seeking answers to report directly to her or other executive senators so they could address their concerns.

Pierson informed the SGA that the largest issue students have with the debate is that the gym will be closed for a portion of the fall semester, and in response a temporary location will be in place. Pierson also added that he does not have the authority to share the information regarding the temporary location yet. Pierson also added that the disruptions to campus are to be expected with an event of this magnitude.

Senator Morgan Rollins stressed that the “Q & A” sent out by Pierson was helpful and cleared up a lot of unanswered questions around campus that have been brought to her attention.

Senator Tonisha Pitchford mentioned to Pierson that when sending out emails containing important information such as the debate “Q & A” that it should contain a banner that will bring more attention when students are scrolling through their emails. Pierson replied that he would look into it.

Treasurer Jessica Darst raised an issue with the Big Event that took place this past Saturday regarding a need to scope out the sites where students will be helping in advance to ensure that safety is a priority.

Senior Class President Natalie Joseph also spoke on her personal experience in the event and felt that the group sizes needed to be more regulated. Joseph also suggested in years to come to partner with Hampden-Sydney College to have more men participate.

Garner spoke on her experience meeting with the Board of Visitors recently and brought up new information that there will be changes added in terms of the general education program.

Joseph also brought up that there will be a professional photographer in the Stubbs large meeting room on Thursday from 10-2 to take free headshots for students for their LinkedIn accounts.

Treasurer Darst did not need the approval of the SGA to reallocate funds in the amount less than $500 as she passed them herself.

Garner added that the swearing in of new members for the upcoming school year will take place on April 22 at 4 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom for those in SGA, Honor and Conduct Boards.
SOUP event comes to life
Winning proposals are awarded grants

The Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) was packed with friends and families, all sharing conversations over soup and bread while sipping on drinks from the cash bar for the Farmville Downtown SOUP event. People from all over the community engaged in light conversations while waiting to hear what the five proposals had to offer. Meanwhile, those in attendance could enjoy artwork from children of all grades, who simply expressed themselves through portraits, designs or just ideas that fancied them at the time. The SOUP event was held on Friday and was swarming with Farmville residents who participated and supported family and friends on their proposals.

The SOUP event gave residents of the Farmville community the ability to gather around and vote on which proposals they felt would best benefit Farmville. The five proposals presented included, “READ Farmville,” “Project Farmville Bistro,” “Bicycle Parking,” “Another ‘Art Attack’” and “LU/HSC School Spirit Paw Project.”

Although, the five proposals were very well presented and well thought-out, only three out of the five received grants to bring their projects to life.

The first place winner of the SOUP event was “Bicycle Parking” presented by Charles Repp. The goal for this proposal is to place ten or more bicycle racks around the downtown area, which can encourage people to take part in the environmentally friendly activity. The bicycle racks can be easily placed on the existing parking meters and parking one’s bicycle in the rack will be completely free.

Being a resident of the Farmville area since the summer of 2015, Repp stated, “It feels great to have gotten a grant for this proposal and feels very affirming to know that lots of other people in the community share the same vision for downtown Farmville.”

Repp was granted $2,500 to put toward this proposal and to make these bicycle racks a reality in downtown.

Organizer of the event, Joseph Gills, who is a resident of Farmville and a 2015 Longwood alumni stated, “The bike proposal will really benefit downtown Farmville. I think people really enjoy biking and the idea corresponds with the High Bridge Trail.”

The second place winner was “Project Farmville Bistro” presented by Kerry Mossler, another Longwood alumni who has lived in Farmville for over 20 years. The project was granted $1,500. Mossler was “very happy to be part of the winning proposals.”

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The inspiration for “Project Farmville Bistro” came from a trip to visit her daughter in her Brooklyn neighborhood.

The proposal will bring even more life to Farmville by providing chairs and tables for all to enjoy; simply giving the small town a little bit more charm. Mossler believes this project can be completed before the vice presidential debate in October and she plans to get in contact with Green Front Furniture in order to purchase the bistro tables and chairs locally.

Gills stated, “I’ve heard more people say that they want more sitting areas downtown, and it’s always nice in the spring and fall to go outside and sit.”

Lastly, “READ Farmville,” a proposal presented by Juanita Giles whose goal was “to inspire people of all ages to read more by bringing a portable book cart to the community,” took third place.

“READ Farmville” was granted $1,000 to make the proposal a reality.

Gills stated, “‘READ Farmville’ is an awesome project, and I think it’s really going to benefit our community to have books available for people to enjoy while they’re out and about.”

The SOUP event was a great way to bring the community together to hand pick proposals that will benefit the downtown area. All three proposals that were selected will be beneficial to businesses, residents and all in the community in its own unique way. The proposals that were not selected in this SOUP event can be entered in the future.
Beyond the labels: “The Same Sky Project”

Longwood student brings educational musical to campus

With a musical format paired with a colorful and authentic cast, “The Same Sky Project” came to Longwood University to spread the message of both tolerance and awareness.

Longwood students came out to Jarman Auditorium Saturday afternoon to see the musical, which was brought to campus by sophomore Madison Lowry and sponsored by the Longwood Parents Council.

“The Same Sky Project” is an original musical with a message of understanding and avoiding the labeling of all people, especially those who have disabilities or life struggles. Throughout the performance, cast members informed the audience of their life stories and how with the help of music they refuse to let their struggles define them. The musical helped shed light on multiple disabilities such as obsessive compulsive disorder, Tourette syndrome and autism. Physical ailments such as cerebral palsy, diabetes, cancer and Lyme disease were also discussed to further spread the knowledge of how they can impact a person. The musical wasn’t just informational. The performers truly tugged on the heartstrings of the audience by telling their struggles and pleading for people to remember to see them for more than just their labels.

“I just really get a feeling of inspiration. All of these kids have faced numerous things throughout their lives and many of us can’t even comprehend or relate to at all,” said Lowry. “I get stage fright still and I feel very confident in myself and for them to go up and go against what everyone else thinks, because they really believe in the message that they’re sending and it’s inspirational and it’s absolutely contagious.”

After the performance, the cast sat down with the audience for a brief Q&A session. It was during this time that Amy Stone, one of the performers who has cerebral palsy, explained that she came up with the idea for the musical.

“I sat through a bunch of assemblies and I was like ‘Hmm, maybe this could be a thing.’ Someday we could get a group together to share a bunch of stories... Did I think it was gonna be this big? No.”

She further added that her cast mates were the real reasons as to why the play has become the success that it is.

“The Same Sky Project” has been in production for the past six years and has been touring around local Virginia school systems and other venues including the National American Music Therapy Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The musical is put on by the non-profit organization, A Place to Be, which uses music therapy as way to help young people overcome all different types of challenges whether they be physical, emotional, developmental, social or life challenges. The cast members are all students of the organization, but one of the performers has a very special connection to Lowry.

“My younger brother, Ryan, he was diagnosed with autism at a very young age, and he has fortunately been blessed with savant qualities and characteristics. So, he really took to the arts, taught him himself how to play the piano, and that’s how we met Tom Swietzer,” recalled Lowry.

Swietzer is one of the practitioners of A Place to Be and director of “The Same Sky Project.” Since meeting him, Lowry’s family has been greatly involved with the organization and that helped spark her passion for bringing the performance to the Longwood community. After receiving a $2,000 grant from the Longwood Parents Council last semester, Lowry single-handedly made the performance at Longwood possible.

Lowry stated, “I was really passionate to bring it to Longwood’s campus, and so I hope that how I feel about it can resonate through everyone else who came and saw it, and the word can spread.”

“I hope that they can gain more education about disabilities and what that really means to people,” added Lowry. “All of us are different from each other. We’re all unique snowflakes, all of us are different, and we all have our own sack of rocks to carry, and people just need to recognize that, and we don’t always. I’m a victim of that, everyone is a victim of that, and sometimes it just takes things like this to truly realize (that).”

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The Big Event 2016

Longwood students come together at the annual event to help affect the Farmville community in a positive way by offering their services and time to help nurture the area around them.
It’s pretty easy to get in such incredible physical shape when your school’s gym has been named one of the best in the country.

Recently, Longwood’s Health and Fitness Center was ranked as the eleventh best gym out of the twenty top contenders for small colleges in the United States. According to Great Value Colleges, the organization that released the report, the Health and Fitness Center “is proof that small colleges do not always have small gyms.” To support its award for Longwood’s Health and Fitness Center, Great Value Colleges cites the rock climbing wall, as well as the 74,683 square feet that the building covers, among other points of interest.

Gus Hemmer, the Associate Director for Campus Recreation at Longwood, explained more about how the contenders are rated. In addition to ranking student activity centers such as Longwood’s, the organization also ranks the best deals among the colleges, such as how much it costs per year to go to the school. He says that these scores are combined with other factors, such as the size of the school and the size of the fitness center, as well as the amenities. The center plans on hosting some exciting and new events in the future.

“One of the key reasons we got (this recognition) is, even though Longwood is considered a small school, the amount of services we offer, the diversity in the programs and services we offer, the different types and ways to get involved in recreation and in your own fitness. We got to keep that going, keep that selection going, so there’s something for everybody here.”

Hemmer has been working at Longwood University for seven years and has been the associate director for four years after working his way up through the ranks.

“We have our Late Night at the Rec program, where we stay open a little bit later and we bring in all different kinds of activities, sometimes inflatables, sometimes laser tag, all different kinds of things. We have a fun time, it should be packed.” Late Night at the Rec will be on April 29, and is produced through a partnership with Lancer Productions.

However, the Health and Fitness Center was not always of such high quality. “I got here the year after we opened,” Hemmer recounted. “The year before we opened, the workout facility was tiny. It was over at Iler, you had to share it with athletics, so you didn’t have much time to get in the weight room, not much time there at all.”

He says that the amount of equipment was “very limited, the amount of time available, very limited, the amount of programs you could run out of there, very limited.”

He chuckled as he remarked, “At the time, Longwood was in a bad ranking, the most unfit colleges. So we open(ed) this place, and eight years later, it’s completely changed.”

Hemmer stated, “eighty percent or more of the students, have some kind of contact with campus recreation, and that’s added to their personal wellness, their personal fitness, they’re choosing activities that are positive … It’s really changed the campus.”

“Students that come know that this is such a great deal to be included as part of your student fees; what you get for what you put into it is great, and it’s much better than what you get at certain other universities,” commented Hemmer.

He added that many universities you already know are too small as soon as they are built, since they are constantly packed as Longwood used to be.

“We have our busy hours,” admitted Hemmer, “but we still have room to grow, they built this Fitness Center thinking about the growth of the university.”

In terms of how he plans to expand the Fitness Center, he says that he is looking at programs outside the Fitness Center. Longwood already does this to some extent, he says, such as with yoga and a group fitness class at a satellite site, but he says that this will continue to grow. Fitness equipment is another way they hope to expand because the equipment is forever changing and improving.
Lil Yachty, otherwise known as Lil Boat, is a rapper making waves in 2016 with the release of “Lil Boat the Mixtape.” As silly as his performance names are, Lil Yachty has garnered a considerable amount of buzz thus far.

With the popularity of his single “1Night” thanks to Vine and Soundcloud’s streaming accessibility, the rapper has gone from virtually unknown to overnight sensation. The rapper is a culmination of new age technology, sound style and image clashing in an artist’s rise.

As previously mentioned, Yachty greatly benefited from a popular Vine, which in turn allowed the free Soundcloud single to accumulate streams like Bryson Tiller’s “Don’t” and Post Malone’s “White Iverson.” Yachty’s style screams Young Thug meets IloVemakonnen, two eccentric styles that rely on production and sing-song rap.

However on “Lil Boat the Mixtape,” Yachty delivers a cohesive tape that suggests his creative output can ascend past the trap Atlanta output. Along with the internet’s boost and a sing-rap style that relies on auto-tune, Yachty has captured attention for his unique image.

Although many artists in today’s culture try to craft a unique part of their image, Yachty uses a bright aesthetic that correlates with his music. The bright-red braids and clothing paint Yachty as an enigma in today’s music scene, a “fashionista” with a bravado not unlike some of Hip-hop’s more hardcore rappers.

Whether modeling at Yeezy Season 3’s Madison Square Garden show, or dancing joyfully in the “Wanna Be Us” video, Yachty is curating a poster-boy image for late-90s babies and their versatility in fashion, style and visuals. Unfortunately, the music does not quite match the wonderfully created aesthetic yet. “Lil Boat the Mixtape” is well sequenced and cohesive for a new artist, but the production carries the tape too much.

Yachty opts for beats that sound like they were created primarily on internet software programs, which benefits the theme of the tape. A lot of the production on the beats sample popular content such as “Intro (Just Keep Swimming)” using a “Finding Nemo” sample and “Run/Running” using a Game Boy sound effect.

The entire album plays like a cartoon-ish trap saga. A lot of listeners will be deterred from the Spongebob persona Lil Yachty seems to frequently use. Lyrics such as “So for everyone talking down, Anybody who makes you frown/Let them know that’s its possible, Oh its possible” read like story time at a elementary school, and Yachty’s premature voice does not help his case. Yachty hardly does any actual rapping, rather he uses melody to “rap.”

When he does rap, “Intro (Just Keep Swimming)” and “Up Next 2,” Yachty does not necessarily disappoint delivery wise, but lyrically, he is a long way away from being mentioned as a top-tier rapper. Instead, Yachty plays to his strengths, a cohesive production team and a knack for well-crafted melodies to deliver a solid debut mixtape. If you are into rapping in any serious capacity, chances are you are going to absolutely hate Lil Yachty and his debut tape, “Lil Boat the Mixtape.” His preteen content, his videogame samples and a voice that is, at times, intolerable does Lil Yachty no favors. Where he will continue to garner more fans is being unafraid to use a child-like creativity and a neat aesthetic; just check out the cover for the mixtape as evidence. Eventually though, Yachty will have to grow-up and deliver better content or he will likely never be taken seriously. For the time being, enjoy the youthful brilliance that is “Lil Boat.”

“Into The Woods” brings fairytale...
**The Dude Minds**

Like drinking coffee but want to take it to the next level? Enjoy this twist on the classic White Russian from everyone's favorite classic movie The Big Lebowski.

**Spirited Ingredients:**
- 4 oz Kahlua or another coffee liquor
- 2 oz whipped cream vodka
- 2 oz Bailey's Irish Cream
- 1 oz Godiva liquor or another chocolate liquor
- 1 oz cream or milk
- 1 oz caramel sauce

**Virgin Ingredients:**
- ½ cup of cold coffee
- 3 oz chocolate syrup
- 2 oz whipped cream
- 1 oz cream or milk

Fill the glass with ice cubes and combine the following:

**Steps**
- Rim and/or paint the inside of the glass with the caramel sauce
- Add in the coffee or coffee liquor
- Add in the whipped cream vodka
- Add in the chocolate liquor or the chocolate syrup
- Add in the cream slowly
- If you're making the virgin drink, top it off with a big mountain of whipped cream
The Longwood Theatre Department’s most recent performance was “Zero to Sixty,” the department’s tenth annual playwriting festival. This set of performances featured various student-directed plays, some of which were written by the students themselves. One of the final performances in the 2015 to 2016 semester, it featured the shows “A Game of Life and Death,” “The Breakup,” “Inside,” “Water Works” and “It’s Candy.” Not all of the writers and directors were students, a couple were Longwood alumni.

The first show was “It’s Candy,” a bizarre show about a man at a bachelor party who pays for a stripper to come over to his house. His fiancé is upset about this when she finds out about the stripper because she got home before him. Freshman Gabby Burner played the stripper, Candy, and this was her first show at Longwood. Though, she had been in many shows throughout high school. She did not feel that there was anything especially difficult about the role. She noted that the voice she does in the show was not that hard to do, and she did it in the auditions. The show’s director, Caitlin Mazura, asked her to do “a Harley Quinn voice.” Burner admitted that she is not much of a Batman fan, but she went with a voice that she thought was “Jersey-ish,” and I think that it worked. In order to prepare for the role, Burner said that she “watched a lot of videos of strippers online, trying to get the kind of swagger that they have.” Other than her own show, her favorite was tied between “Inside” and “A Game of Life and Death.” The latter, she said, “raises a lot of interesting points, and it’s kind of one of the darker, serious shows, and I appreciate that, as much as I love a good comedy… ‘Inside’ is just really cute, and I also think it’s really sad towards the end.” “It’s Candy” director senior Caitlin Mazura said that the hardest part of making her show was writing it. “It’s actually written so there are no actors onstage. So, it’s just the answering machine,” she explains. This was because for her playwriting class the prompt was to write a play as if only an answering machine was onstage. “So, figuring out how to have the actors onstage, but still keep that… ‘no-one’s onstage’ kind of thing was probably the hardest part.”

The second show was “Waterworks,” a comedy featuring a husband and his pregnant wife. Logan, played by Cameron Potter, is obsessed with organizing the pantry to the point where his wife becomes exasperated. He cannot even choose a name for the baby until he is finished, and the situation becomes more extreme as the show continues.

The third show “Inside” portrayed a couple, Jeff and Sydney, studying for and exam. While studying, they discover an upside-down cup with the phrase “don’t open unless you plan to kill it.” What followed was a hilarious, but sad, series of events as their relationship deteriorated.

The next play was “Bad Doctors,” a comedy by Mary Beith. Mr. Jones, played by Ryan Bultrowitz, goes to the doctor’s office for a check-up, but his doctors are less helpful than he would have liked. The first doctor, who was played by Baylee Holloran, refuses to give him any helpful information, and instead tells him that he has cancer, then tells him that she was joking. This conflict made for a very fun absurdist show of two incredibly unprofessional doctors and their frustrated patient. “ ‘Bad Doctors’ was my favorite, including my own!” said Mazura.

“Inside” was the second to last show in the lineup and featured the end of a strained relationship between Grace, played by Kennedy Mehfoud, and her boyfriend Drew, who portrayed by Noah Blakeslee. Grace knows that they are going nowhere fast and wants to let him off nicely at a coffee shop. Drew, however, cannot take a hint. As Grace stumbles over her words, Drew begins to think that she wants him to come over to her parents’ house for Christmas dinner, and the situation gets more and more hectic. This was another great and very funny play, if a little sad.

The last show was “A Game of Life and Death,” written by sophomore Josh Fried. As one can guess, this show was a little darker than the rest. It portrayed the conflict between the anthropomorphized Life and Death, two card players that play “Go Fish” for eternity in order to determine if people in life-threatening situations live or die. The game is supposed to be played without any bias towards saving or killing the humans, though neither play by the rules. Life tries to find excuses to save people, though she pretends she is playing fairly. Death is more upfront about her inclinations, and tries to convince Life to sacrifice some in order to save others. It was very exciting to watch as both try to skirt the rules. Fried said that the idea for his show came from when he was “watching an episode of “Scrubs” where J.D. was talking to Death and playing a game of Connect Four with him, and I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be funny if… Life and Death were literally playing a game over who lived and who died,’ and it just sort of went from there.” He said that “it turned out darker” than he originally intended, but he was “happy with the result.”

This turned out to be a really amazing set of shows. I especially liked that the ones that leaned towards the tragedy genre were also comedies in their own way. “Inside,” “The Breakup” and “A Game of Life of Death” were all funny in their own way, despite being dark and somewhat sad. Fried’s idea that it would be funny to see a personified Life and Death play a game to determine people’s fates paid off very much.
I MADE IT. Hello, fellow Longwood students. I know many of you don’t know me, so here is a brief biography. My name is Thomas (Tom) Lanigan. I am 64 years old, and I have been a Farmville area resident since moving from Richmond to Pamplin with my girlfriend, Betty in 1974.

A few years after graduating high school in 1970, I moved to Richmond, Va. and early family obligations prevented my going to college after high school. During my life, I had several work related accidents that left me with broken ribs, punctured left lung, crushed left hand, broken left leg, broken collar bone, broken right wrist and with my right arm amputated at the shoulder and I lost my right eye. I had surgery on both knees twice, and I have chronic bursitis and degenerative arthritis in my left shoulder, which severely limits the range of motion.

I truly enjoyed being the “non-traditional” student; 60 plus years old, with multiple physical disabilities, in class with 17-24 year old students. I will treasure my time as a student for the rest of my life. Longwood’s Office of Disabilities Resources (ODR) is, in my opinion, a department that all other schools should follow.

ODR Director Lindsay Farrar and her staff are personnel that Longwood and the Farmville Community can be proud of. They go the extra step to make sure every student registered with ODR has all the necessary accommodations to ensure their success in the class, as well as enjoying college life outside of the classroom.

The faculty members that I had courses with are a true credit to Longwood and the community as well. They are educators that truly care about their students and want to see them succeed in life. All encourage their students to use their office hours and make appointments as well. All have true open door policies, where students know they are welcome when they walk in.

I owe three professors in my major my sincere thank you, as they have made it a point to push me just as hard as they would any other student while making sure I was comfortable and had assistance. These professors are Jeff Halliday, Laura Farrell and Naomi Johnson. Thanks to their guidance, I always had friends who helped while working on computers, handling expensive news broadcasting cameras, working with computer editing software and assignments where the use of both hands were necessary.

All have taken time to make sure ODR and IT had formatted computers with me in attendance to make sure the clarity and visual effects were adjusted so my use of them would not cause undue strain on my left eye.

And my classmates? Hey, when you are tagged with nicknames like “the antique Lancer,” “Grandpa Lancer” and my favorite, “the recycled teenager” what can I say? Longwood students live up to their being “in a class all their own” and are truly among the best in the nation and the world.

I would like to mention some of my classmates that have stepped up to offer their time to make sure I had everything I needed to feel at home in the class room and around campus. One student, Victoria Walker, who was one of the first students I met in my first class has been a true friend and has helped me since day one, needs a special thank you. Other students special to me are: Jessica Darst, Carly Shaia, Shannon Pilgrim, Abbie Early, Natalie Joseph, Morgan Edmonds, Emily Haswell, Briana Adhkusuma, Tayloe Clements, Emily Barksdale and Paloma Alatore. I am sure I left out some names, as every one of my classmates have been ready to offer any help and assistance.

I met the softball head coach Kathy Riley and assistant coach Kayla Miller around 15 years ago. During my time supporting the softball team, meeting different players and parents, somehow the talk of me going to Longwood and getting my degree in Communication Studies with a concentration in Mass Media was always the topic of discussion.

I would be brain dead if I didn't offer my most sincere thanks and appreciation to the Longwood softball team and coaching staff for their role as the catalyst that started my becoming a Longwood student. This, of course, includes those who have graduated and whose spirit remains with me. One former student and softball player, Brittany Matthews, is one that I must credit with getting everything started.

After four years of hard, tenacious work, ‘the recycled teenager’ is graduating with honors, an abundance of positive experiences and even more friendships that I am sure will last forever.
Dear Batman, you’re such a Joker

By Cassie Tagert
Assistant Copy Editor

It's hard to put into words how sick I am of you, Batman. I've been a fan of yours for as long as I can remember, but lately, your behavior has been nothing short of ridiculous. You're a Joker, and I'm not the only one who's noticed.

I, Superman, am the everyman. I'm the one who shines in a crowd, but I blend in. I'm just average. You may think of me as kind or average, but I'm extraordinary. I have my weaknesses, but you're a HUMAN. I could snap your neck with just my pinky toe if I wanted. Not to mention that your worst enemy is a clown. You can save the city from criminals, but God forbid a child's birthday party gets out of hand, Gotham City might be out of luck. And don't even get me started on that guy who impersonates a sack of straw.

Here's the question we've all been dying to ask: why does Batman partner up with that pimple faced adolescent? You'd think you would have dumped him when he started that “Holy every-word-imaginable” thing.

Let's be real, the actual reason everyone loves you is that they think you're everyday. You're the hero that people write of as kind or average, but really, I'm extraordinary. You may shine in a crowd, but I blend in. I'm just like everyone else. I'm the everyman.

Sincerely,
Superman

Superman vs. Batman

Dear Superman, you’re super lame

By Austin Berry
Layout Editor

You're the white bread of superheroes, the blue collar to my Megalodon. You built yourself up with that pimple faced adolescent. You're the hero that people write about as kind or average, but really, I'm extraordinary. You may shine in a crowd, but I blend in. I'm just like everyone else. I'm the everyman.

Dear SuperDork,

I'm sitting here in my bat chair, in my Bat-study, with a warm Bat-fire crackling, writing you this Bat-letter on my Bat-book Pro, because I'm Batman.

I'm sure that you're aware that our new movie has been getting less than awesome reviews on the Bat-ernet. Now it goes without saying that this can only be your fault, because I'm awesome, because I'm Batman.

You're the white bread of superheroes, you can literally do anything and nothing presents an obstacle. There is no challenge, no excitement. Not to mention that your biggest weakness is a stupid rock. You don't even have cool gadgets! What's even the point?

When I fight crime, I actually fight. I have to work to protect the citizens of Gotham, it's exciting because it's a challenge, because I am a man doing extraordinary things. You are an alien, who destroys entire cities. Seriously have you seen your own movie? Do you know how many people you probably killed at the end of “Man of Steel”? You are the reason Donald Trump hates immigrants.

Speaking of our movies, I have an issue with your “Man of Steel” flick. You are not me, you don't have a cool costume (more on that later,) you don't have cool gadgets, or a cool car and most of all, you are not a broody hero with a dark past. Stop acting like it! Being dark and brooding all the time is my thing, and it's why my “Dark Knight” movies did so well, but you are a Boy Scout from space, it doesn't work. Find your own style man.

Now speaking of style, let’s talk costumes. Everything I wear, while also being extremely cool, serves a function. My cape helps me glide, my suit is armor, and the “pointy ears” you refer to, allow me to communicate with Alfred, errr I mean my Bat-cave. You, on the other hand, wear your underwear overtop of your pants. Now, I know you aren't from around here, but that's not how it works. Also let’s be real, the S on your chest does not stand for “Hope” or even “Superman,” It stands for “Sucks.” Also, your disguise? Glasses, really? You don't even need glasses!

Now, to confront you on you final point: You are not the everyman, you aren't even a man! Repeat after me, you are an alien. I am a real man doing things that need to be done, for the good of my city. You just fly around in a spangly cape pretending to be a beacon of hope.

I'm the best, because I'm Batman.

Sincerely,
Batman
Branca & baseball

Branca said throughout his childhood, he always learned to adapt and keep up with the pace of his peers, with few difficulties. His greatest challenge was learning how to play sports with his disability, but that didn’t stop him from competing in baseball and football all through high school.

According to Branca, he didn’t deal with a lot of bullying or insolence growing up. “I did the same things they did, some probably better than they did, so I got a lot of respect off of that,” said Branca. Although, it seems like Branca was always in on the jokes.

“That was the first thing he said was ‘call me nubs,’ ” said Martin. Branca revealed that in sixth grade the nickname stuck with him and that’s what he prefers his teammates call him, even though Martin said they occasionally refer to him as the “One-handed Bandit.”

Branca said people are always shocked at his unique ability to play baseball despite his circumstance, but that never deterred him from joining the club baseball team when he arrived at Longwood. Senior club baseball coach, Scottie Lafferty, stated, “He pushes everybody harder, ‘cause he’s out there competing right along with us.”

Woodard added, “Without him on the team, it wouldn’t be the same.”

Longwood sophomore club baseball player Michael Branca taught himself how to play baseball, despite being born with one hand.

Column | The tale of two sports

BY RYAN QUIGLEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Think about the differences between men’s and women’s lacrosse for a few seconds.

In men’s lacrosse, each team has 11 players on the field at a time. They wear a decent amount of padding, including helmets, and are allowed to hit their opponents to make a play for the ball.

Women’s lacrosse, however, is a very different game. Different enough that it could be considered a completely different sport.

In women’s lacrosse, there are 13 players on the field at a time, no helmets - aside from the goalkeeper - just mouth guards and face guards, and physical contact is not promoted in the women’s game.

“It’s just two different sports. Two different sticks, two different sets of rules; it’s just different,” said Elaine Jones, head coach of Longwood’s women’s lacrosse team. “When women’s lacrosse started, you weren’t going to put the helmets on, and that’s what differentiates the women from the men and that the men do wear the pads, and there is more hitting involved.”

You look at a rougher sport like ice hockey, however, and the differences between the men’s and women’s game are minimal. So what gives? In a world where gender equality is so important, one could fairly assume that both men’s and women’s lacrosse would be played approximately the same way, but that’s not the case.

“I guess that does put a different perspective on it when you think about it like that,” said Longwood senior midfielder Sarah Butler. “I’ve always just grown up playing the women’s game, obviously, and my brothers grew up playing the men’s game, and we were always like, ‘Women’s is the best, boys is the best.’ It doesn’t really feel like, ‘Oh, well that’s unfair because I’m a girl.’”

To Butler, a resident of New Zealand, it feels natural for her to have a different spin on the game she’s played for most of her life. It’s what she’s used to.

As a member of her national team, Butler could be a part of New Zealand’s Olympic women’s lacrosse team. There’s just one small issue: Lacrosse isn’t included in the Olympics.

According to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), a lot has to happen for a sport such as lacrosse to be entered into the games:

“To make it onto the Olympic programme, a sport first has to be recognised: it must be administered by an International Federation which ensures that the sport’s activities follow the Olympic Charter. If it is widely practised around the world and meets a number of criteria established by the IOC session, a recognised sport may be added to the Olympic programme on the recommendation of the IOC’s Olympic Programme Commission.”

Lacrosse is a sport constantly growing in popularity, especially at the high school level in the United States. So, what is keeping it from being included in the Olympics?

“It’s the differences between the men’s and women’s game,” said Butler. “That’s one of the reasons that I’ve heard that lacrosse isn’t in the Olympics because the men’s and women’s game is so different, so that’s what I’m thinking about. I’m thinking about the Olympics, not about the ‘Oh, well it should be the same because we’re equals.’ My sport isn’t the same and that’s why we’re not allowed to be in the Olympics.”

If men’s and women’s lacrosse were played the same way, Longwood University could have an Olympian on its campus. Instead, both variants of the game are vastly different, which, in turn, keeps both Butler and the game itself out of the Olympics.

Even though the game is so different between men and women, the women’s game has plenty to offer that is harder to find in the men’s game. While men’s lacrosse is more physical, women’s lacrosse is more technical. Without the contact, strategy and pinpoint calculations are what set the women’s game apart.

To Butler, that’s enough to make her happy. “I like how technical the women’s game is,” said Butler. “I wouldn’t want to wear all the pads, the helmet. No way, I don’t want that on my head.”

Ryan Quigley, a Longwood senior majoring in communication studies, covered Longwood’s lacrosse team for a communication studies sports journalism class.
**Baseball falls to victim to fatigue**

Fourth game in four days too much for Longwood

BY DERRICK BENNINGTON
SPORTS STAFF
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The Longwood baseball team had a quick turnaround against the North Carolina Central Eagles on Tuesday, April 5 after a rain-extended weekend at Big South foe Charleston Southern.

A five-run second inning was enough to lift the Eagles (14-17) to a 7-4 win and snap a four game losing streak, as well as the five game winning streak the Lancers were riding.

Junior designated hitter Alex Lewis led the Lancers at the plate finishing 2-4 while extending his hitting streak to 13, as well as notching his 13th multi-hit game, the most of any Lancer this season.

John Ortiz paced the Eagles with two RBIs on his two-run double in the second inning to get N.C. Central on the scoreboard. Ortiz was one of seven Eagles batters to pick up a hit in the win, five of those seven finished with multi-hit games.

The Lancers were able to bring the potential tying run to the plate in the sixth, seventh and ninth innings but were unable to cash in.

Senior captain C.J. Roth got the Lancers back within striking distance with his two-out, two-run single in the fourth inning, and sophomore Michael Osinski added an RBI-infield single in the sixth to cut it to a 7-4 game.

Junior right-hander Christian Gonelli got the win after five innings of seven hit and three run baseball. Longwood junior righty Cameron Trichka took the loss after allowing five runs in an inning and a third of work, surrendering seven hits and a walk as well as plunking a batter.

With the loss, the Lancers fall to 14-5 at home on the year and will have Wednesday and Thursday off before taking on the High Point Panthers with a chance to move into the top two in the Big South standings. Longwood enters the weekend as the third-seed with a 6-3 conference record behind only Coastal Carolina and High Point, who are both 5-1 in conference play.

**Lancers split doubleheader with Liberty**

McCarthy and Gay each throw complete games

BY TRISTAN PENNA
SPORTS STAFF
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The Longwood softball team split a home doubleheader against rivals Liberty University on Apr. 5, losing the opener 2-1, before rebounding to take the second game 3-1. The Lancers now sit at 20-12 and 2-1, before rebounding to take the second game.

The opening game was a pitcher’s duel between Liberty’s Julia Dimartino and Longwood’s Elizabeth McCarthy. Both pitchers were in top form, each going the distance across the seven innings. In the end it was freshman Dimartino (7-7) who came out on top with the win, while junior McCarthy (11-7) suffered the loss despite a strong performance.

But Dimartino outshone her counterpart, giving up just one run on six hits. Dimartino picked up five strikeouts along the way, and Longwood head coach Kathy Riley spoke about the home side’s struggles against Dimartino.

“In the first game, I thought they did a real nice job of keeping us off balance,” said Riley on the official Longwood athletics website.

The Lancer’s lone run came in the fifth inning when redshirt freshman third baseman Karleigh Donovan laced a triple to right field to drive in freshman Jordan Clark.

Donovan’s triple cut into the Flames’ lead after sophomore third baseman Alexia Taylor knocked in Liberty’s only two runs with a single in the top of fifth inning. It was one of five hits given up by McCarthy, who also struck out seven batters in the loss.

The strong pitching continued into the nightcap, as freshman Sydney Gay (8-4) matched McCarthy with a complete game of her own. Gay gave up just one run and one hit over her seven innings, and Riley hailed her performance.

“She spotted the ball real well, and I never felt like she was in any trouble,” said Riley on the Longwood athletics website.

The Lancer’s offense came to life in support of Gay, grabbing a two run lead early on, scoring in both the second and third innings. Senior shortstop Emily Murphy capped the night with a solo home run in the sixth inning, her second of the season.

Longwood will look to take the series over the Flames on Apr. 6, before heading on the road for a three game set with Auburn beginning Apr. 8.

**Tolton nabs first-place finish**

BY HALLE PARKER
SPORTS STAFF
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Junior Courtney Tolton left the Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate women’s golf tournament with a new feather in her career cap - her first individual win.

A two-under par performance on the par-72 course in Morgantown, N. C. was clinched by a birdie on her final hole. Women’s golf head coach Shannon Briggs said the play was critical for her to finish one hole ahead of the two-way tie between Appalachian State - the top team finisher - sophomore Savannah Wood and Gardner-Webb junior Taylor Dodson.

“I didn’t go into today thinking about a victory. I was pushing myself to post a solid score and get inside the top-five. The momentum coming off these last two tournaments has really boosted my confidence heading into conference, and I’m hoping I can continue that momentum,” said Tolton on the Longwood athletics official website.
With the vice presidential debate approaching in nearly six months at Longwood University, many rumors have surfaced on campus as to how students and faculty will be affected.

**The Petition**

There are 146 current signatures on an online student-created petition titled “Petition: Longwood believes that its name recognition outweighs the health and personal concerns of its paying students. Help us let President Reveley (know) we are NOT okay with this” in the hopes of bringing their voices to light with the rumors surrounding the debate being hosted at Longwood.

The petition addresses the rumors of the deprived use of some of the facilities around campus during the time surrounding the debate, such as the Student Health & Wellness Center and Willett Hall. The petition also claims that students will not be able to live in the new residence halls currently under construction in front of Arc Hall in the fall of 2016 in order to instead accommodate for debate and media personnel.

“Hosting the vice presidential debate will have an impact on the campus. There isn’t any question about that,” said Dr. Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs.

To answer some of the rumors described in this petition, as well as word of mouth around campus, Pierson sent out a mass email to all students providing clarification with a link to the university’s debate website connected to Longwood’s homepage.

Through the website, students are able to submit any questions they may have about how the debate will run and what will be affected.

“As more clarity unfolds in terms of the exact amount of disruption, there will be, I think, more people will get more comfortable with it,” added Pierson.

**Fitness Facility**

According to the university’s debate website, there will be a temporary fitness facility that will allow students to be able to work out. Those employees who already work at the gym will also not lose any work hours due to this change.

“We will not miss a beat on any day of having facilities open for every fitness machine that we have over there,” said Pierson.

**Residence Halls**

No students will be forced or asked to move out of their residential rooms. The two new residential halls are starting to approach the finishing point in time for the debate. Pierson has confirmed that one of the two buildings will host students in the fall, while one is set for debate-affiliated personnel. Pierson assures the students that the residence occupied by the debate will be open to students to reside in for the spring semester.

According to the university’s debate website, Dorrill Dining Hall is still in question of whether or not it will remain open during the debate.

“The overall impact of this, we hope, will bring greater awareness of a political process for one and what it means to be citizen leaders that is embedded in our mission statement,” said Pierson.

**The Cost**

Longwood expects to spend a few million dollars in costs for hosting the debate. Expenditures will not come from student’s tuition but from cash reserve funds. Most of the cost for hosting the debate originates from upgrades to campus infrastructure that has already begun, according to the university’s debate website.

Schools that have hosted the event in years past have reported that the economic impact has exceeded $10 million. In addition to the $10 million, the global publicity can be expected to hover around $50 million, according to the university’s debate website.

In 2012, there was reported to be 50 million people to have viewed the vice presidential debates, according to the university’s debate website.

**Previous Hosting Schools**

Pierson added that Longwood staff have met with other institutions which have hosted such events to discuss the planning which goes into hosting a debate.

Longwood staff have spoken with Hofstra University in New York and Centre College in Kentucky about what to expect with this debate. According to Pierson, both academic institutions share the similarity of being smaller campuses.

The debate is set to take place in Willett Hall on October 4, 2016. Any questions about the debate can be submitted through the Longwood debate website at debate.longwood.edu.