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Longwood purchases site for baseball field for \$6.7 million



by Shelby Massie
Asst. News Editor
@shel_byloved

During summer 2016, the Longwood University Real Estate Foundation purchased approximately six acres in downtown Farmville for the new baseball field and stadium. The university's 2025 Master Plan proposed the field's construction, but there isn't a set date for it to begin,

according to Executive Director of Campus Planning and Construction Louise Waller.

"We don't have an exact timeline for action right now. The first priority was to secure the property and then evaluate the planning process," said Waller.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Editor's Note: *The Rotunda* will be temporarily go online

There will only be three more physical editions in the spring

by Halle Parker
Editor-in-Chief
@_thehalparker

Loyal readers,

Due to unforeseen financial difficulties, *The Rotunda* will be limited to providing the campus with only three print editions for the rest of the spring semester. The necessary funds to print with The Farmville Herald, the sole printing press in town, for a full year were unfortunately miscalculated.

As Longwood's Student Government Association is facing a shortfall of their own this fiscal year, *The Rotunda* is unable to request for more money to be allocated to our printing fund. Therefore, the editorial board has chosen our three print dates: March 20, April 3 and April 24.

Nevertheless, we will continue to be Longwood University's weekly news source, pushing out online content and generating an E-Edition every Monday.

Online advertising is available if you want to call attention to our event through our website, which receives 2,000-plus views weekly. Print advertising will still be available for those three dates and space may be purchased at half price in the weekly E-Edition.

Despite any obstacles, *The Rotunda* will always be the voice for the Longwood community, and we have since our creation in 1920. Even online, our ink runs blue.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, feel free to email rotundaeditor@gmail.com.

CORRECTION:

In the Feb. 6 article, "Over 50 protest immigration ban in Farmville," *The Rotunda* incorrectly spelled College Democrats President Joe Hyman's name. In print, it read "Hymen."

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LU College Republicans at odds with Cumberland Republican committee

Disagreement stems from unconfirmed counter-protest rumors

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar
News Staff
@JesseKellar

Following an emotional response by the Longwood College Republicans via Facebook to unconfirmed claims of a counter-protest, Republicans from the surrounding community allegedly rebuked the college group.

On Feb. 4, The Farmville Herald's article originally stated, "The Longwood University College Republicans have said they plan to hold a counter-protest."

According to Longwood College Republicans President Megan Garrett, no such protest was planned and the College Republicans weren't contacted for confirmation.

"On Saturday morning, we began getting calls from people around the town and people around the campus suggesting that we had decided to do a counter-protest and I had no idea where they got the information from," said Garrett. "We definitely didn't plan a counter-protest, and I issued a statement on our Facebook page saying that we hadn't. Shortly after that I was sent the article."

The College Republicans' Feb. 4 Facebook statement attempted to address the rumors. It began, "As an organization, Longwood's College Republicans did not take part in the protests held in response to the peaceful protest organized by other organizations on campus against President Trump's actions."

The incorrect sentence was removed shortly after Garrett contacted The Farmville Herald by comment and email, and The Farmville Herald has since apologized to Garrett and is sending a letter of apology to the entire College Republicans organization.

"All of the College Republicans support the statement on our Facebook page, and I've gotten a lot of support from people who were at the protest," Garrett said. "The Longwood community has been very supportive."

College Republicans Public Relations

Chair Andi Tureson said, "An apology is enough."

The initial statement issued by the College Republicans, which is still available on their Facebook page, received negative attention from some local Republicans.

Members of the Cumberland County Republican Committee took offense to an error in the Facebook post regarding the Republican party's platform.

The post originally stated, "The wall and many other of President Trump's ideas are not platforms of the Republican Party, therefore, we have not and will not take any stances for or against these as an organization."

According to the Republican Platform 2016, the party stated it "... support(s) building a wall along our southern border and protecting all ports of entry. The border wall must cover the entirety of the southern border." The platform has included support for a wall along the US-Mexico border since July 2016.

"Well, my family and I saw the protest (on Feb. 4)," said Cumberland County Republican Committee Chairman Diana Shores. "We feel very strongly about the national security issues facing our nation, so we decided to go to the courthouse and offer a counter voice."

The committee organized a counter-protest on Sunday, Feb. 5, supporting some of Trump's initiatives in the courtyard of the Prince Edward County courthouse. The initial Feb. 4 Anti-Immigration Ban protest took place in the same courtyard. The College Republicans didn't participate in the Feb. 5 protest.

Shores addressed the post and said, "After seeing the original post made (by) the College Republicans, I wanted to correct the incorrect information about the party platform."

In Shore's Facebook comment on Feb. 5, she said, "If you cannot support the party

platform then it's perfectly fine to object and resign your positions of leadership in party offices. Please don't post that immigration issues aren't in the party platform because they are. In addition, please don't claim your club isn't taking a stance on the issues when you clearly are."

"I don't agree 100 percent on everything with Trump, but he is following the platform with his recent screening implementations and discussions of a border wall. As a Longwood graduate, who believes in free exchange of thought in a respectful way, I urge you to not censor comments here or delete relevant information."

The post was edited after the issue was brought to the attention of the College Republicans.

"A local Republican group from Cumberland (County Republican Committee) commented that we weren't supporting them and their counter-protest," said Garrett.

According to the College Republicans, Shores and others made "snide and condescending" comments about the College Republicans and their leadership in addition to their corrections regarding the Republican party's platform.

"They left some really nasty comments and were angry we didn't counter-protest and that we 'didn't support the party platform,'" said Garrett. "The chair of their group told me that if I objected to the party platform I should resign. I'm not going to resign."

Dallas Looney, a member of the College Republicans, said, "The chairman was the one who formed the counter-protest and commented on our post."

Garrett said she felt it was necessary to remove the comments made by the group on the College Republicans Facebook page.

In regard to the removed comments, Shores said, "We felt as though the CRs

(College Republicans) were censoring public discussion and blowing off the correction."

"I in no way was trying to be negative," Shores said. "My comments and the comments of the other party leaders were deleted originally, which then made matters worse."

The College Republicans maintained that the comments themselves were the issue, and wish to see a further acceptance of variation with the party in the future.

"I'd like to see the older Republicans out there accept a divergence of ideas from the younger generation of Republicans," said Garrett.

Garrett said the College Republicans will write a letter to the editor in The Farmville Herald. "They said they'd publish that," said Garrett. "We're going to do that."

The Farmville Herald didn't respond to The Rotunda's emails or calls in time for print.

Follow *The Rotunda* for more updates.



COURTESY OF THE LONGWOOD COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

College Republicans recently won an award for the Most Improved Chapter from the Federation of College Republicans of Virginia. College Republicans President Megan Garrett is on the right.

— “BASEBALL,” CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The site was once home to Buffalo Shook Co. Inc., located on West Third St. The land was purchased for \$6.7 million dollars, according to Waller.

The goal of the 2025 master plan is to expand the campus to host 6,000 students by the year 2025. The current student population of Longwood is 5,096 students. Of the 5,096 students, 4,579 are undergraduates and 522 are graduates, according to Longwood’s website.

“It’s exciting to imagine spring or summer nights at the ballpark in downtown Farmville, with families from throughout the region watching a Longwood game, or perhaps even a minor league franchise the community might attract,” said President Taylor Reveley IV on the

master plan website.

According to Waller, the softball fields will also be relocated to the area near Green Front Furniture in the near future. Waller said there aren’t any negotiations in progress for purchasing the new softball field space.

Along with the baseball and softball fields, Longwood has soccer, field hockey and lacrosse fields located on Johnston Drive near President Reveley’s residence. Due to the planned softball and baseball fields’ migration to downtown locations, the fields on Johnston Drive will make a move as well, according to Waller.

“The plans are to be able, once we are able to relocate the softball and baseball fields into the downtown Farmville

area, because the softball field will be closer to the Green Front area, we would move our fields from Johnston Drive area down to the south side of campus,” Waller said.

Waller said moving the fields into downtown Farmville near the High Bridge Trail will be beneficial for the student body and the town.

“Having our baseball field right on the High Bridge Trail, in the Farmville downtown area will be a wonderful addition for our students and our community,” Waller said. “I think it’s one of the most exciting aspects of our master plan.”

Follow *The Rotunda* for more updates.

Honors College out of funds for study abroad programs for 2016-17 year

Funds will be replenished on July 1 for 2017-18 year

by Christine Rindfleisch
News Editor
@longwoodrotunda

The Cormier Honors College is unable to give scholarships to honors students who are currently looking to study abroad in the 2016-17 year due to late notices from the students.

“The students that apply for a scholarship get a scholarship. So if someone comes in February they might not get anything because we may not have anything to give, and that’s why it’s so important that when we send out the intent to study abroad, that even if you don’t know the particular program you want to go on but you’re anticipating that you’ll study abroad, so we can hold money for you,” said Jessi Znosko, coordinator of student support and advising for the honors college.

Honors students often seek financial help from the college since they are ineligible for nearly all support from the Office of International Affairs, according to Dr. Alix Dowling Fink, dean of the Cormier Honors College and an associate professor of biology.

“The issue is not that we don’t have money, it’s that we have already allocated it to the students that have applied

for it,” said Fink.

Fink explained that students looking to study abroad in the 2016-17 year might feel the affects of this since the money was allocated once all intent forms were submitted by the Sept. deadline.

“In 2016-17, we have invested to date a total of \$54,315 in study abroad scholarships,” said Fink.

Of that amount, funds were awarded to four students for full semester study abroad programs, six with affiliate programs and 25 in Longwood faculty-led programs, according to Fink.

Honors students are required to complete a Longwood approved study abroad program, eight honors courses, maintain a 3.25 overall GPA in regular course work as well as in Honors coursework and have a senior level e-portfolio, according to the Longwood honors website.

Most honors students choose to partake in winter, spring and summer study abroad programs, according to Fink.

Fink claimed that rewarded amounts vary depending on the length of the study abroad program. Those students

who are participating in full-semester programs receive larger funds. Students with high financial need also receive larger scholarships from similarly priced programs.

In 2015-16 the college awarded \$57,535 to students intending to study abroad. Funds allowed for two students to attend semester-long programs, seven students in affiliated programs and 31 in faculty-led programs at Longwood, according to Fink.

The college receives funding starting on July 1, the start of the fiscal year for Longwood, in which they start distributing funds to the honors students, according to Fink.

“We have a set process every year in which we ask (honors) students to submit their intentions for study abroad in the fall and if they know what program they are going to do,” said Fink.

“The honors college ends every year with no money left because we invest every dollar that we have in our (honors) students,” said Fink. “Our goal is to provide as much support to (honors) students as we can.”

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SGA Brief: Feb. 7

Pierson recognized marchers, Rotunda allocation approved, one student inducted

by Cassie Maddox
News Staff
@longwoodrotunda



The Student Government Association discussed issues that have arisen on campus, such as concerns regarding the smoking area behind the dining hall.

In the Feb. 7 Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president for student affairs, recognized the students and staff who participated in the march against President Donald Trump's Immigration ban on Saturday, Feb. 4 in front of the Prince Edward County courthouse.

Pierson added that he was pleased to see the level of cordiality each side demonstrated toward the other. He ensured that Longwood would remain a safe campus without any form of hate speech or bias.

Christine Rindfleisch, news editor for The Rotunda, attended the meeting in request for the allocation of \$1,906.69 for three students to attend the ACP Conference in San Francisco, Calif.

The allocation was approved by the SGA.

SGA President Dillon Yonker discussed the 2017 Legislative Preview processed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) located in Richmond with the senators. The preview consisted of bills that may affect higher education in Virginia, such as requiring students to complete a three credit hour course in Western Civilization or U.S. History in addition to requiring institutes to validate completed credits from American Sign Language related courses, according to Yonker.

The progress of the bills mentioned in the 2017 Legislative Preview can be located at the Virginia General Assembly website.

Senator Lucas Hobson addressed concern over students who were bothered by smoke from those who smoke by Dorrell Dining Hall by the rear entrance near Iler Field.

Pierson stated, in regard to the issue, that it should be addressed but also acknowledged there are locations behind the dining hall that allow for those to smoke as they please.

Communication studies junior Christine Venier was inducted into the SGA.

Venier stated campus should have more outdoor lighting during later hours as there were complaints that students did not feel safe walking in the dark.

One senator encouraged the SGA to attend the event Building Bridges on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. in the Moton Museum, along with attending the Social Justice in Action Leadership (SJAL) event regarding the discussions of diversity and acceptance on campus on Saturday, Feb. 18 in the Blackwell Ballroom.

There was no Student Finance Committee (SFC) meeting on Feb. 9, but SFC will resume on Feb. 16 in the Amelia Room of the Lankford Student Union.

The next SGA meeting will be on Tuesday Feb. 14 in the Martinelli Board Room in Maugans Alumni Center at 3:45 p.m.



ANN POLEK | THE ROTUNDA

The Student Government Association inducted Communication studies junior Christine Venier.



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Humans of Longwood: Chris Wells



ANN POLEK | THE ROTUNDA

by Miranda Farley
Features Staff
@mir4nda9

For freshman Chris Wells, transitioning into college opened his eyes to self-belief. Wells didn't enjoy high school. As a victim of bullying and an athlete plagued by sports injuries, Wells viewed high school unfavorably. Now, he says he takes pride in his time at college, growing as an individual while majoring in business.

"If you don't like something about yourself, if you don't like anything or how it's going in life, change it for you," said Wells.

Wells decided to apply to Longwood with the hope of settling down with a fresh start and studying to become a

CEO one day. He said he looked forward to attending school in a small town with a good sense of community. Most Wednesday nights, Wells said he finds himself at Charley's Waterfront Cafe enjoying pasta night with his girlfriend and close friends.

Before attending Longwood, Wells competed in several sports, including football, baseball, basketball, soccer, track and field, motocross, mixed martial arts and hockey. Wells added to the long list when he came to Longwood, joining the club rugby team.

Personal health is an important aspect of Wells' life. He said he makes an effort

to go the gym every day to stay healthy. When he doesn't make it to the gym, he works out in his room.

"It's mostly just to make sure that I am healthy and able to live a long and satisfying life," said Wells.

Wells said his mom played a big role in supporting him emotionally over the years. When Wells felt like an outcast in middle and high school, he said his mom was one person who was always there for him.

"She's been there pushing me to do my best at whatever it is that I'm doing," said Wells. "She's always supported me even if I didn't feel like she was at the time."

Tori Murden McClure ventures to Longwood

by Rae Mundie
Features Staff
@rjmundie

"Explore and get out of your comfort zone," said Tori Murden McClure.

McClure traveled across the Atlantic Ocean not once, but twice on a 23-foot-long, six-foot-wide homemade rowboat. On her first trip in 1998, McClure completed 3,000 miles before she was stranded for days in Hurricane Danielle; the rest of the trip was cancelled due to the injuries sustained by McClure after she capsized at least five times in the storm.

"To be human is to be helpless," said McClure.

On Friday, Feb. 9, McClure visited three groups of students, then had lunch with students and faculty before giving a presentation in Blackwell Ballroom. Throughout each session, she discussed her adventure and her book, "A Pearl in a Storm, How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean."

After her first attempt to cross the Atlantic, McClure said it was difficult to go back to hanging out with her friends and being a part of everyday society. She said she couldn't decide whether or not to try the trip again until she started working with famed boxer Muhammad Ali the next year. Rather than go her original route from North America to Europe, she chose to use Christopher Columbus' route from Africa to the Caribbean.

Ultimately, she succeeded, and became the first woman to row solo across the Atlantic on Dec. 3, 1999.

Junior Austin Daisey said McClure was "very, very humble; she would be a nice person to learn from, a mentor."

Throughout her presentation, McClure discussed her own struggles. She told the audience it isn't tragedies that make people special, it's their reaction to such tragedies. Her stories credited mentors and friends for being there to help her up when she was down, and how she would do the same for anyone unless they refused to help themselves.

"People only ask you why you're doing something when they don't approve of it," said McClure.

When asked how she taught herself nautical skills for her two trips across the Atlantic, McClure stated it was from books and her own experiences. Now president of Spalding University, she is a huge advocate for learning and doing one's research.

Before her second trip across the Atlantic, she studied hurricanes to avoid the same situation she ran into the first time. Along with being the first woman to row across the Atlantic, she was the first woman to directly experience the first hurricane going from east to west, Hurricane Lenny.

Daisey said, "The fact that she had the mind to go through



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

Author of "A Pearl In The Storm", Tori Murden McClure spoke to faculty and students on Wednesday night Feb. 8th.

with this, the motivation."

For the presentation in Blackwell Ballroom, it started with a video on a musical about McClure, then went onto a few readings from the book itself, before the floor opened up for questions. While some asked about the trip itself, others asked about how she felt about the trip now or what her reasons were to go.

"Always do your homework because no one does it," said McClure. "It's almost like cheating, almost like taking an unfair advantage."

Guiding a pathway to success

Disability Resources has accommodated students and faculty since the '90s

by Miranda Farley
Features Staff
@mir4nda9

Serving Longwood since the 1990s, the Office of Disability Resources has assisted students, faculty, staff and visitors, doing everything from providing disability-based housing to ensuring accessible parking. According to Director of Disability Resources Lindsay Farrar, about 10 percent of the student body is formally registered with the office and the number of registered students has doubled over the years.

"We are able to successfully fulfill our mission and vision to increase awareness, remove barriers and promote an inclusive environment where students are empowered to be successful learners, self-advocates and citizen leaders," said Farrar in an email.

For example, the program helps students academically by enabling students to share notes if a fellow's classmate isn't physically able to take them during class. An able student in the class may copy notes, then leave them in the Disability Resources office to be picked up and used by the student unable to record the notes.

The office, located in Graham Hall, provides services like academic accommodations, alternate format services, assistive technology, and interpreting. According to Farrar, Longwood's Disability Resources stays up-to-date with best-practice methods in the field and constantly expands the program to improve and successfully accommodate the student body and faculty.

"Additionally, our campus-wide programming and partnerships benefit all students, regardless of disability or being registered," said Farrar.

The program is staffed with three full-time professional staff members and two student workers during the academic year. Student workers can be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs to qualify. Farrar works alongside associate director Dana Kieran. The program's 2016-17 Student Resource Team includes Graduate Resource Assistant Hunter Reese and Student Resource Assistant Stephanie Miller.



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A look at local music: Gary Hickman 'The Heart of Farmville Music'



ANN POLEK | THE ROTUNDA

Gary Hickman at his shop, Buffalo Creek Guitar Company, located off of East Third Street, right next to the Post Office. He has operated this store for over 10 years.

by Joel Worford
Copy Staff
@joel_worford

If you've ever ventured up East Third Street and into Farmville's local music store, Buffalo Creek Guitar Company, you were probably met with a warm welcome from the shop's owner Gary Hickman.

Hickman opened Buffalo Creek in May 2006, and has since become the Town of Farmville's main reference for instrument repair and music lessons. While most locals know Hickman for his devotion to cultivating and encouraging local musicians, his personal music journey started years before he arrived in Virginia.

When asked about his musical background, Hickman traced back to the '70s, when the music scenes and popular tastes were much different than they are now.

"When I first started playing music, I was more into big band and jazz," said Hickman, who was once a trombone player before trading the horn for a guitar.

"That was also the time when the folk scene was coming in," he said with a smile.

This emerging folk scene had a lasting impact on Hickman, who defines his favorite music genre as Americana.

"Songwriters are really my favorite thing. I want to hear

original music," said Hickman.

Hickman is a songwriter, and was once a part of an acoustic Christian band, playing music that aimed to "lift us up."

Hickman's music career was highlighted by having two of his songs recorded by the British rock band, The Zombies, known for their hit single "Time Of The Season." Unfortunately, the group disbanded before Hickman's songs were released; however, such an experience is still a testament to Hickman's songwriting ability.

While Hickman's personal music accomplishments would rank high on anyone's list, the most significant moment in Hickman's career wasn't a performance or a recording opportunity.

"My greatest experience was sitting in a room with Willie Nelson." Hickman smiled as he recalled sitting in a hotel room with the iconic country singer and friend as they "passed a guitar around" and talked for three hours. To this day, Hickman still has the guitar, where Nelson's signature is scratched in along with other famous singers such as Guy Clark, who Hickman called his "hero."

At one point in his career, Hickman settled into Fayetteville, Ark., which was home to a vibrant artistic community. Hickman acknowledged how the people he met there served as inspirations for when he opened his shop in Farmville.

"An old fellow had a music store about the size of my store," Hickman said. "All day long there was music going in and out of the place, and this old guy, he was having a great time. It's amazing how some little place like that can just imprint your brain."

Hickman wants his guitar shop, Buffalo Creek, to have a similar atmosphere.

"One of our reasons for being here is to try to encourage musicians to play music and to give them someplace to do it," he said.

Along with the shop, Hickman also runs the open mic at Uptown Coffee on Thursday nights from 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.

"It's been fantastic," said Hickman in regards to the open mic. "Seeing the growth of young musicians, that's been really rewarding."

'I Decided' is Big Sean's best album to date

On his fourth studio effort, the rapper conceptualizes a rare second chance in life



"I DECIDED" OFFICIAL ALBUM COVER

by Richie Kamtchoum
Asst. A&E Editor
@richiepbm

Living up to the hype is a pressure few can overcome. With that being said, pressure makes diamonds, so if the hype is surpassed, praises are due. That's exactly the situation Detroit based rapper, Big Sean has found himself in with the release of his fourth studio album "I Decided."

Sean recently admitted to himself that he's had a story-book artist archetype and one in which he hadn't fulfilled his potential, until recently. He rapped in front of Kanye West at the age of 18 to secure a record deal, when thousands of musicians get approached by aspiring musicians for a chance. He then was given the chance to be under the tutelage of West, gaining inside access to studio sessions that produced some of the most acclaimed albums this side of the millennium.

Despite these opportunities, Sean's own career hasn't been as smooth. Following a handful of decent to good mixtapes known as the Finally Famous series, the 28 year-old rapper released his debut album "Finally Famous" in 2011 with a lukewarm response. Producing hits was never the problem, as there has been a hit song on each of his albums, "Dance" on his debut, "Guap" on his sophomore effort and perhaps his biggest song to date, "IDFWU" from "Dark Sky Paradise."

Before "Dark Sky Paradise," those hit

songs felt like they lived in vain. A catchy single placed in the middle of an album littered with fluff seemed to be the narrative of Sean's career. After "Dark Sky Paradise," Sean finally began to receive all the things he raps about, acclaim, notoriety and sales, with the album going platinum.

Sean continued his growth with his best body of work to date in "I Decided." The album is about an old man getting to the end of his life with a load of regrets, not pursuing his dream job, letting his true love go, straining relationships with family and not doing enough to inspire the youth from his old neighborhood. A rather vague concept but one that is accentuated through the skits and formatting of the album.

In the first portion, when Sean decides to recognize his own potential, we get the most notable song from the album in "Bounce Back," a simple yet relatable message; everyone has to bounce back in life. The album's best song, "Jump out the window" proceeds in the second portion, creating a run of tracks that gives hope for the album being one of the best this year.

As always though, Sean's album begins to lack towards the middle, where he tries to expand on the concept of letting a true love go, but ends up sounding like a retread of current R&B stars like Bryson Tiller. Besides that mid-album lull, Sean picks back up in the latter portion of the album, where his relationship with God and his mother are expanded upon.

In particular, Sean's budding potential that he admittedly is still trying to reach becomes crystallized on the outro, "Bigger than me" featuring the Flint Chosen Choir. He comes to grip with his status as an influence in his native Michigan and gives a voice to Flint, Mi. after the water crisis they are still dealing with.

Big Sean may not be the best rapper, although he's certainly in the discussion, but what he does provide is a listenable journey of personal growth and self-value that should never be taken for granted. He's continued to evolve and has significantly improved along the way, close to being the diamond he envisions himself as and for that, praises are certainly due.

'Built to last'

by Jacob DiLandro
A&E Staff
@spongejay1

After the mega-success that came from 2014's critical and commercial darling, "The LEGO Movie," it seems like the world of LEGO could do almost anything. The creators of the original film are back with a solo film based around their brooding, heavy metal and self-obsessed version of Batman.

The immediate best part of the film is, as in the first LEGO movie, the animation. The world crackles and pops with plastic goodness, showing the scratches and finger print smudges on Batman's face as he stares and broods in the dark, LEGO and pop culture filled Batcave.

Will Arnett manages to channel plenty of emotion into his seemingly one-note version of Batman, showing us his darkness and why Batman is who he is. The rest of

the cast is excellent; Michael Cera may well be an excited puppy as he voices young Dick Grayson, Rosario Dawson channels her inner hero as Barbra Gordon and Ralph Finnes delivers deadpan glory as Alfred the Butler.

Zack Galifinakis deserves acclaim all his own, bringing an original kind of energy to The Joker and a whole new kind of undertone to the film. Let's just say 'entendre' is the name of the game here, and it's just one level of the film's glorious humor.

Chris McKay, a writer from the first film and alumni of the adult parody show "Robot Chicken"- directs this LEGO outing. His signature stylings show with frenetic humor and fast paced action shining throughout the film. The humor isn't just as deep

cut as the C grade villains shown. With everything from George Michael tributes, to jokes about past Batman costumes and their "cultural insensitivity."

The filmmakers have realized that we kind of know what to expect with a LEGO film now and cranks the nerdy fever dream that is "The LEGO Batman Movie" up to eleven. Without spoiling anything, the villains and characters that pop up aren't just limited to Batman and you very well may find yourself in the theatre with your jaw on the floor.

From the very first moment the film begins, Batman tells us how to open a good movie. The humor is clearly on point, with jabs at everything from the most laughable D.C. villains, to romantic comedies, like "Must Love Dogs" and "Serendipity."

While not as unexpected as the first films, the emotional core is still rock solid here. Batman is a lonely guy, as shown in every one of his past theatrical excursions, and the writers explore this, giving the weirdest version of the Caped Crusader his best emotional arc yet.

"The LEGO Batman Movie" has the potential to alienate those with some truly out their nerdy concepts, but the movie not only expands on the LEGO Cinematic Universe and the emotional stakes of these plastic bricks, but it shows that we don't know what to expect from the LEGO films anymore. The only thing we can expect, is the unexpected - the amazingly good unexpected.

5/5 stars



Review: 'Fifty Shades Darker'



"FIFTY SHADES DARKER" OFFICIAL MOVIE ART

by Emily Neighbors
Co-event Coordinator
@emmmm_13

Contrary to the title, "Fifty Shades Darker" is a lot less dark and messed up as the first of the book-based trilogy, "Fifty Shades of Grey." While there were a few scenes that keep you on the edge of your seat, most of the film was simply a romance film with a seemingly normal relationship between two adults.

This time around the Grey train, the audience gets to see a much happier and smiling Christian Grey via Irish actor, Jamie Dornan. The audience can tell that throughout the time since Anastasia Steele, played by Dakota Johnson, left him at the end of the first movie he has really been working to become more "vanilla" (Christian's term from the non-BDSM-ers) for Ana.

"Fifty Shades Darker" also gives us a better look into Christian's past life. Throughout the movie we see small flashbacks of Christian's childhood with his birth mother, Ella. Most of these flashbacks we are able to see are through nightmares he has at night. A lot of the flashbacks you see are things that we already knew from Christian's past, but never actually visualized firsthand.

Most of familiar faces have returned for the second movie in the Fifty Shades film series. All of Christian's family has returned as well as Ana's friends, Kate and Jose. A new character with a minor role but a major impact to the storyline is Leila, Christian's last submissive before Ana stumbled into his life.

After Ana meets Leila and sees a picture of Christian's mom in his room, she begins to notice and uncanny resemblance between herself and the two other major women in his life.

We are also introduced to a character that had a big part in making Christian who he is today, Mrs. Robinson. In the first movie we got to hear so much about her from Christian, but in "Fifty Shades Darker" Ana and the audience are able to come face to face with Christian's longtime friend and business partner.

The second movie in the Fifty Shades film series is all about Christian's past and his past relationships and his and Ana's relationship moving forward. He is finally starting to let his boundaries go and let Ana in more. While there was

a fair amount of drama between the two, there was a lot less of an up and down relationship between them compared to the first movie.

For those of you who read the book before the movie, the film also followed the book pretty closely, staying true to the plot. However, the movie left out and changed some small parts from the book, most notable leaving out the minor character of Kate's brother, Ethan.

Overall, director Sam Taylor-Johnson did a great job of casting, matching the actors with characters and maintaining who they are from the book. Similar to the first movie, "Fifty Shades Darker" ended with an intense cliffhanger. Luckily, "Fifty Shades Freed" is set to release Valentine's Day 2018 so fans will not have to wait another two years to find out what happens next in the long a tumultuous story of Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele's relationship.



4/5 stars

ROTONION

{Pronounced: row • ton • yun (noun); a ridiculous argument column}

IT'S QUESTION TIME

His answers

by Austin Berry
Layout Editor
@austinoburrito

Hello all five of you beautiful people who read this week after week. (I appreciate you.) This week, we are still answering your questions, because it's easier than coming up with our own topic and no one has told us to stop yet.

Any who, without further ado, here is our first question this week:

Q1: "I'm bad at keeping in contact with people from my home town while I'm at school. I'm bad at keeping in contact with people from school while I'm home. I'm bad at keeping in contact with people in general. How do I improve?"

This is a great question, whoever you are, and it's something I believe resonates with many people. Friendships are hard work, and maintaining connections takes effort. In fact, there is a theory about how many people human beings can maintain meaningful relationships with - called Dunbar's Number. Basically stated, human beings can only have about 150 or so friends before they run out of steam. The more you know.

But that wasn't your question was it? You asked how to be better at keeping in contact with people, not how many people you can remain in contact with.

Personally, I think carrier pigeons are a fantastic way to keep in contact with people. Not only are they smart, but they are also adorable and don't require a cell phone plan! They do require food however, so you will have to weigh that option. You could also use smoke signals, morse code, flags, yodeling, secret codes (look up numbers stations - creepy stuff) or you could just

like, text people.

I'm just a dude writing a column no one reads, what do I know.

Q2: "How do I stop procrastinating? Every time I sit down and start to make a plan, I decide that I'll finish it later."

This is something I, myself, struggle with. I always find it hard to make myself sit down and finish projects, especially before the last possible moment. Luckily for you, I have some life changing advice on how to beat procrastination!

-note to self- don't forget to finish this later...

Her answers

by Cassie Tagert
Copy Editor
@TheRotonion

Q1: "I'm bad at keeping in contact with people from my home town while I'm at school. I'm bad at keeping in contact with people from school while I'm home. I'm bad at keeping in contact with people in general. How do I improve?"

This is a great question! Many people struggle with staying in communication with their friends while they are away from them. It's a scientific fact that humans have attention spans shorter than that of a goldfish (source: The Google), and so, when we are away from each other for longer than however long that is, we instantly forget everything we once knew and become new people.

It's tragic, but it is the cause of many ended friendships.

So, how can you stop from forgetting about the existence of your friends, you ask? It's simple. First, limit your friends down to about four. You really only need four friends to begin with, and it's impossible to expect anyone to remember more than four people anyway. Then, find your nearest "SORRY!" game board. Take out one of each of the different colored pawns. Then, label each pawn with the name of your friend. For example, the green pawn can represent Andrew or Julia or whoever you decide to keep in your life. Last, place these four pawns on top of your dresser. This way, every morning when you wake up, you will be reminded of these four lovely people in your life.

If this doesn't suit you because it's only four people, your expectations are too high. Otherwise, you can just try to remember

as best you can like a normal person. Everybody forgets things sometimes.

Q2: "How do I stop procrastinating? Every time I sit down and start to make a plan, I decide that I'll finish it later."

With all of my combined three weeks' worth of experience with writing an advice column, even I have not yet found the answer to this question. I procrastinate writing this article every week (usually it's two days late). I procrastinate putting on my glasses each morning and end up walking to class blind half the time. I even procrastinated telling my roommate that I used his toothbrush to clean the toilet once, and let me tell you, it was not pretty.

So, here's my advice. Just don't stop. Everyone knows that the need to do things in a timely manner is just a social construct. And sure, maybe it's more respectful of others' time to be punctual and do things in a timely fashion, but if everyone procrastinated, who would care? Not me. Not my poor vision. Not the guy who hits me with his car after I couldn't see him when I crossed the street. He would be understanding because he would procrastinate too. Everyone would be able to live in harmony.

Truly, it's the key to world peace. Maybe everyone is so up in arms about societal problems because they have become accustomed to people treating them with consideration. We should just lower our expectations of ourselves and each other.

In other words: Just suck it up and finish your plans.

The Beauty Community: Batiste dry shampoo, hot or not?

by Paulina A. Marinero
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COURTESY OF BATISTE HAIR ONLINE

Dry shampoo is a lifesaver for those of us who live off of second, third or even fourth day hair. I don't know where I'd be without a bottle of dry shampoo lying around in my

dorm room. A quick spritz at the roots can magically refresh your hair in a matter of seconds, leaving you with that "fresh out of the hair salon" feeling.

As I hunted for the most affordable and efficient dry shampoo in the market, I stumbled across the Batiste dry shampoo at Ulta Beauty. The dry shampoo comes in different scents, ranging from "Floral and Flirty" to "Coconut and Exotic," and in both a white and dark powdered form; a 7.73 oz. bottle currently sells for \$7.99.

I tried both powder colors since I have dark brown hair and wanted to see how well both fared. But surprisingly there was a huge difference in my hair!

Commonly used dry shampoos are only offered as white powder, and it didn't work well with my hair, in my experience. It's always hard to blend the white powder into my roots, almost looking like dandruff.

Luckily, the dark powder easily blended into my hair while sinking into my roots; it appeared natural and fresh at the crown of my head. As an overall observation and dry shampoo tip, the color of your hair matters when using the powder form.

In terms of its longevity, I wasn't very impressed. I mistakenly tried out my

Batiste dry shampoo on a long night out, and my hair looked incredibly greasy by midway through the night. On days where I went out casually for roughly four to six hours, my hair remained intact.

If you're trying to look on fleek all night, I wouldn't recommend using this dry shampoo. But if you're going on afternoon errands and aren't too concerned about your hair, this dry shampoo could be a daily necessity for you!

On casual days, I'm definitely leaning toward my dark-haired dry shampoo. I wish the dark-haired bottles came in all the scents of the white powder bottles, but unfortunately, there's only one smell, "Clean and Classic," right now.

On Batiste Hair online, customer reviews gave the miracle in a bottle a 4.6 out of 5 stars. In my opinion, it's a pretty hot product, and it won't break the bank. Not only is dry shampoo basically essential if you don't wash your hair every day, the scent and wispy feeling it leaves in your hair is remarkable.

Open letter to someone I barely know

by Cassie Tagert
Copy Editor
@TheRotonion

This is a letter to Franklin, my step-father's cousin's uncle's brother. Franklin, I want you to know, on behalf of me and everyone else who knows someone (but only just barely), I am disappointed in our lack of communication.

I saw you at cousin Merkle's wedding that one time. You were dancing to the Electric Slide, wearing Birkenstocks, and I just knew that one day I would need to write a letter to you when my university's newspaper was low on content.

As one of many girls in the world who (sort of) knows someone, I need more Franklin in my life. I need you to read through these 500 or so words and be inspired to change your ways, but only until you scroll onto the next thing on your Facebook feed.

I wish you would call me. You, and all the other Franklins

in the world, take a moment to think about your extended, super removed family members, especially the female ones.

Females need extra attention for their common relationship problems. That's why we write these open letters in the first place.

So, think of that female family member in your life. Message her on Facebook, send her a message on Snapchat or, even better, write her an open letter in response to her open letter and submit it to a local newspaper or The Odyssey.

I hear women love that.

At this point, I know what you're thinking.

"Should I message/snap/write a letter to my extended male family members as well?"

The simple answer here is, no. Not because there's a double standard between genders, but actually because they are less likely to want their electric-sliding-Birkenstock-wearing step-father's cousin's uncle's brother to message them.

To be clear, I'm not implying that men are less responsive to random, estranged family members. I'm just trying to make my word count.

So, to sum up my feelings toward you, Franklin, I want you to know that I'm thinking of you, that you matter. I want you to know that I, and many others like me in similar situations, want more contact between our distant relatives. I also want you to know that I got an incriminating video of you urinating behind Merkle's wedding cake. Gotcha.

WBB: Lancers earn first Big South win

by Tristan Penna
Sports Editor
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In a frantic, end-to-end contest at Willett Hall, the Longwood women's basketball team emerged victorious over Winthrop, 83-78. The Feb. 11 win was the first conference win of the season for the Lancers, who improved to 4-19 (1-11), while the Eagles dropped to 2-22 (1-11).

"I told them (the team) in the locker room, it felt like a 10,000-pound gorilla jumped off our back," said head coach Bill Reinson. "We've played some good basketball, haven't played 40 minutes of basketball. Today we had some lulls, but it just feels great to get number one."

"It feels like a weight has been lifted off our shoulders. Honestly, we've been waiting for that and waiting to put together a good game," said junior guard and captain Micaela Ellis, who finished with a school-record 15 assists along with 13 points. "It just felt like a lot of things came together today."

Both sides raced out from the opening tip, trading blows back and forth. Reinson's side went on a 16-4 run at one

point in the first half, but Winthrop's senior guard Erica Williams kept the Eagles in contention, down 38-35 to the hosts at the half.

"I don't think we understood the concept of keeping the ball out of her (Williams) hands. So, we'll have to improve that," said Reinson. "Honestly, she banked in a three at the end of the game. At some point, it's just that shots go in."

The second half brought more of the same, as Ellis and the Lancers tried to outpace the effort of Williams, who finished with a remarkable 35 points. Longwood pulled away with a 14-0 run late in the fourth quarter, punctuated by a trio of three-pointers from redshirt freshman guard Kate Spradlin, each one assisted by Ellis.

"On the assists, a lot of it goes to Kate, honestly. She just came up and hit a lot of big shots," said Ellis. "It was just a lot of us having confidence in our shooters and letting them do what they do."

"When I hit the first couple and they started telling me

to shoot, I felt that they had confidence in me, and I was able to let it fly," added Spradlin, who collected all of her 21 points from beyond the arc.

Spradlin and Ellis were two of five players in double figures for the Lancers. Senior forward Eboni Gilliam notched 19 points, sophomore forward Kemari Jones scored 10, while sophomore guard Ashlee Jones pitched in with 13 points off the bench.

"It's very rare, unfortunately, that we have four or five people show up at the same time. We'll have two people have a great game, two people playing so-so. Today, we had four or five people," said Reinson.

Now with their first win in 2017, the Lancers will host Radford on Feb. 14, giving Reinson's squad a chance to build a winning streak.

"Radford plays excellent defense, so we're not going to score 83," said Reinson. "So, our defense is going to have to be better than it was (today)."



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

(Left) Sophomore guard Ashlee Jones scored 13 points off the bench in Longwood's 83-78 win over Winthrop on Feb. 11. (Bottom) Redshirt freshman guard Kate Spradlin went 7 for 14 on three-point attempts, as she finished with 21 points.

LU hosts first Special Olympics powerlifting meet

Sports performance department plans to continue event annually



Eight athletes competed in Longwood's first annual Special Olympics powerlifting competition, organized by the sports performance department of Longwood athletics.

HALLE PARKER | THE ROTUNDA

by Halle Parker
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"Let me win, and if I can not win, let me be brave in the attempts," opened the powerlifting meet on Saturday.

Eight athletes gathered within the walls of Iler Gym, energized by cheerleaders and the small crowd of spectators. Each approached the weight racks in turn, beginning with the back squat.

Their red and black unitards stretched as they slowly lowered into a seated position, parallel to the ground before exploding upward, carrying the weight on their back with them.

The feeling of competition was nothing new. They pushed through the three powerlifting events, back squat, bench press and deadlift, three sets each round.

As spectators entered and exited, the table banners blew around, ruffling the words, "Special Olympics VA."

Longwood hosted its first-ever Special Olympics powerlifting competition on Feb. 11, organized by the sports performance division of the university's athletics department.

"It's a really good feeling to be able to put something on for a group that may not be able to get as many opportunities, so the big thing for me was to do the best event that I could for them," said Assistant Sports Performance Coach C.J. Roth, the event's main coordinator.

The competition was modeled on Olympic powerlifting, but they opted against creating subdivisions due to the

number of participants. Each athlete differed in weight and height. Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Performance and Leadership Rick Canter judged each set.

Plans for the meet began in November, as Roth said he collaborated with College of Education and Human Services Dean Dr. Paul Chapman on the initial idea. Chapman and the college helped fund the event, paying for the athletes' lunch and medals.

Working with Grayson Mullins, a coordinator for Nottoway County's local Special Olympics group and Special Olympics Virginia Piedmont Region Director Lisa Wimbush, Roth set a date, was given any necessary equipment Iler lacked and spread the word.

"The Special Olympics community is very tight-knit, so it makes it easy to get the word out," said Roth.

According to Mullins, the open Longwood meet was one of the first in a powerlifting season that lasts until June. The athletes train two hours a week for competition. He said they have three more events planned before the state meet in mid-June.

"C.J. (Roth) was great to work with, and we worked together. I was able to do some things that he couldn't, and he could do things that I couldn't, and the two of us have put on a great event so far," said Mullins.

As a father of one of the competitors, Mullins, while looking at his son, Thomas, taking a photo with a few

spectators, said, "Just look at him. It's the happiest day of his life."

"Just thank Longwood so much for their graciousness of giving us the place to have this event," he added.

Each athlete had different goals for the day. Sitting on an empty bench between sets, Darron Miller said he felt a little nervous, but had competed before. He said each time he lifts, he's just trying to get stronger. Miller aimed to hit 500-pounds on deadlift.

To his right, Chris Smallwood said he was "on cloud nine," as he explained how excited he was to compete.

"It feels wonderful to come out here and show these fans what we we're all about," said Smallwood. "This is what I dream for every year that I come and compete."

The event also presented a chance for women from a Lynchburg group home to cheer alongside Longwood cheerleaders for the athletes. "Really for them it's an opportunity to get out, get on campus, have some fun and really let loose," said Roth.

Because it was an open meet, the athletes were mainly competing against themselves. Each were awarded a medal during halftime at the Longwood women's basketball home game a few hours later.

According to Roth, the sports performance department plans on growing the event and continuing it next year.