

The Luck of the Draw: Students Receive Housing Lottery Updates

By: RYLEE MEADOWS

Radford Housing and Residential Life took a different approach to informing the student body of the space available for upper-classmen this year. An email was sent providing in-depth information about the on-campus housing application process for “non-obligated students” that includes most upper-classmen and some off-campus housing options. With the current projection of new students and continued residence hall renovations, Housing was able to provide a “priority deadline” that offered 200 initial housing spots. The applications were placed in a random lottery, giving every applicant an equal chance of receiving housing.

This time last year, Housing officials sent out an email implying to “non-priority” juniors and seniors that on-campus housing for the Fall 2025 semester could not be guaranteed. With a projected influx of new students and rising demand for residence hall space, the announcement created concern and confusion among upperclassmen. Many were put in a position to either jump into an off-campus lease or stay on the waitlist for on-campus housing.

“The housing process last year was really stressful, and a lot of people I know felt the same way. I have a lot of friends who signed a lease because they were



Original photo credit: abcnews.com

scared they wouldn’t have a place to live,” said junior Carmen Glover. This year, Glover said she filled out the application as soon as Housing emailed. **“I was a little confused about the lottery at first, but it wasn’t as confusing or shocking as last year’s email. I received housing already for next year, and I’m relieved that it wasn’t as pressuring.”**

On Feb. 23, a congratulatory email was sent to the students who received one of the 200 initial spots, but the waitlist for the “non-obligated” students is still open. Housing plans to release more information about room selections this month, and continuous updates at the beginning of each month through July 2026 about waitlist standings and on-campus housing availability.

Students with questions can contact the housing office in Heth Hall 226 or email housing@radford.edu.

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the Tartan Presents: The Club Corner

Upcoming Events:

Beginning March 23, you will receive an email invitation to participate in the **Healthy Minds Study**, this campus-wide survey is an opportunity for you to share your experiences as a student and help the university better understand what supports your success and well-being. Students who complete the survey will be entered into weekly prize drawings. **Each week, 50 students will be selected to receive a \$50 Amazon e-gift card, giving you 200 chances to win!**



Nominations for the **2026 Student Awards** are open til 9 p.m. March 22. Scan the QR code to nominate today!



Radford on Camera is holding their annual Spring Film Festival! The theme this year is comedy. Each film must be five to ten minutes long and the **submission deadline is April 15th and the screening event will be on April 24th.** Reach out to roc@radford.edu for more information or visit radfordoncamera.com.



The Commercial Music Ensemble is hosting **1985: An Immersive Rock & Roll Time Machine Experience**, on March 20-21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Artis Center's Black Box Theater. It is a public concert with free admission and 1980's attire is encouraged but not required. Check out our preview article on page four.

Reach out to tartan@radford.edu or visit [@rutartan](https://www.instagram.com/rutartan) on Instagram for interview/advertising inquiries

Conflict With Iran Threatens Global Oil Supply and Drives Price Surge

By: *NICOLAS LEON GUZMAN and BRANDON WHITAKER*

The Strait of Hormuz has long been considered one of the world's most important energy chokepoints. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, roughly one-fifth of the world's oil supply passes through the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman each day. The Disruption in the Strait of Hormuz has led to oil prices spiking to levels not seen since the start of the war in Ukraine.

For years Iran has threatened the blockade of this region. Since the U.S. and Israel struck Iran and began war, consequences of these actions have been felt worldwide. Iran has put pressure on the global economy by disrupting oil shipments. At least 16 ships have been attacked in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz since the conflict began, according to Reuters.

The truth is that we have never relied on oil more than right now. The world consumes 100 million barrels of oil per day, and we are at peak oil consumption. The immediate effect we will see from the slow down in oil consumption is in gas prices. According to the New York Post **the U.S. has already seen an increase of at least 70 cents at the pump since the war began.**

According to iea.org On March 11 the International Energy Agency's 32 member nations voted unanimously to make 400 barrels of oil available from their reserves to help stabilize the market.

We live in a very truck delivery based economy and with the prices of diesel rising this will make products more expensive as companies historically pass off the cost to the consumer. In an article from the Wall Street Journal they shared that diesel prices for truckers rose a record 96 cents a gallon last week.


Oil complications have already had an

effect on air travel. According to an article from Reuters the price of jet fuel has risen faster than crude oil, causing airlines to announce fare hikes, fuel surcharges and capacity cuts. The price of a barrel of jet fuel has risen from \$85-90 to \$150-200 since the U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran. According to the BBC, before the air strikes, the north-west European jet fuel price was \$830 per tonne. It has since spiked to more than \$1,500.

As tensions continue to escalate in the region, the disruption of oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz highlights just how fragile the global energy system remains. With transportation, manufacturing and air travel all heavily dependent on petroleum, even small interruptions can ripple across the world economy. If the conflict continues or the Strait becomes further restricted, consumers could see increases in fuel prices, air fares and everyday goods in the months ahead.

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SPRING CONCERT




A NIGHT OF HIPHOP/RAP ENERGY!

APRIL 10TH, 2026

PRESTON HALL AUDITORIUM

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM
CONCERT: 8-10 PM

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TICKETS & ARTISTS REVEALED MARCH 27TH!



Diversity Awareness
Programming



Radford Student Programming
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Hawks' "Magic City Night" Adds to NBA's Growing Image Problem

By: LUCAS BURTON

The Atlanta Hawks hosted the Orlando Magic on Monday in a game that was originally planned to feature a "Magic City Night" promotion. The event was set to include themed food, merchandise, and a performance by Atlanta rapper T.I. **The promotion was set around Magic City, a well-known Atlanta strip club that the Hawks described as an "iconic cultural institution."** According to the Hawks, the theme was intended to recognize the club's cultural impact on the Atlanta community.

However, the idea of a strip club-themed promotion did not sit well with many fans and others around the league. Luke Kornet, center for the San Antonio Spurs, wrote in response to Magic City Night that the promotion "would reflect poorly on us as an NBA community." Kornet also expressed concerns about "potential objectification and mistreatment in our society." Former Hawks player Al Horford publicly voiced his support for Kornet's stance.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver released a statement addressing the "Magic City Night" promotion. Silver said the league had received "significant concerns from a broad array of league stakeholders, including fans, partners, and employees." He added, **"I believe canceling this promotion is the right decision for the broader NBA community."**

The situation comes at a time when the NBA has already faced scrutiny over another controversy involving sports gambling. Several coaches, players, and former players have been investigated or arrested in connection with illegal betting activity, including Chauncey Billups, Terry Rozier, and Damon Jones, who have been speculated to have used confidential team information to place wagers for profit.

In response to the backlash, the promotion quickly became a larger conversation about the image the NBA presents to its fans and communities. While some supporters argued that Magic City is an important part of Atlanta's culture and entertainment scene, critics said the theme crossed a line for a professional sports organization.

CME's 1985 Concert Takes Students Back in Time

By: ANGELINA CAPOTS and LUCAS BURTON

Radford University's Commercial Music Ensemble, led by Dave Rivers and Sean Kotz of the CVPA, is giving audiences a two-night chance to relive the sights and sounds of the '80s. Rivers said the ensemble focuses on performing "notable, important and often historically significant popular music."

Rivers is a Grammy-nominated songwriter and producer, and also the director of the music business and commercial music program at Radford University. Rivers said the inspiration for this year's performance was the "Born to Run" concert the Commercial Music Ensemble performed last year. This year, the group wanted to do something "less intense and fun next."

The year 1985 was specifically chosen by Rivers and the group since it helped define the music of the '80s. **"Earlier in the decade, music was in the tail end of punk and new wave music, and the end of disco. Toward the end of the decade, we had rock and "hair" bands really taking off and heading toward grunge."** Rivers went on to say how the radio was "shared by all kinds of artists from R&B to rock to pop to early rap and hip-hop."

CVPA Communications Officer **Sean Kotz** said the performance **"harkens back to a simpler time when people had shared experiences and conversations in person. In other words, it was a real and visceral experience, and many people are missing that these days."**

This performance will pull from other forms of pop culture, like movies such as *Back to the Future*, which was released in 1985. When asked about possible ties to *Back to the Future* for the performance, Rivers said, "The Artis Black Box recently had a Flux Capacitor installed. You don't want to miss this!"

The concert will be played in the **Artis Center's Black Box theater on March 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free.**

Opinion: Why YOU Should be Watching Professional Darts

By: IAN GRECO

With the rise in online sportsbooks and gambling, more niche and underappreciated sports have gained popularity. One of the most entertaining examples is Professional Darts.

The traditional pub game from England has become more mainstream in recent years, with the surge of popularity coming from its country of origin. The 2023/24 PDC World Darts Championship brought in a peak of 3.71 million viewers on Sky Sports, the second most-watched non-soccer event in the U.K. network's history. With its recent viewership numbers, professional darts has now become the fourth most popular sport in England as of 2025.

When looking at the origins of darts, it's no wonder it surpassed the standard of a recreational game. The first world darts championship came in 1927, with the organization of the National Darts Association in 1925 to standardize and regulate the sport and its major competitions. Even with these official rules, organizations and competitions in place, **the perception of the sport as a game for drinkers still persisted** until further rules and deals were enacted for professionalism such as banning alcohol during competition, a viewing rights deal with Sky Sports and mandatory selection of walkout music for each player before they hit the stage.

Now that the game has begun to evolve into a more mainstream sport, the allure and prize money for the professionals has become more lucrative. The winner of the PDC World Darts Championship, the most illustrious trophy in the sport, earns a sum of €1 million (\$1.161 million). The most recent champion, **Luke "The Nuke" Littler**, has dominated headlines due to being one of the youngest in the sport. Littler appeared in his first World Darts Championship in January 2024 at age 16, reaching the final (where he lost to Luke Hum-



PDC players Stephen Bunting, Gary Anderson and Luke Littler Photo Credits: pdc.tv

phries 7-4). In January 2025, at age 17, Luke won the World Darts Championship, repeating the feat this past January to win back-to-back world championships.

With matches happening nearly every week and intriguing storylines featuring players such as Littler, professional darts has become entertaining television. The appeal extends even further through the fan experience.

Before each match, each player has a boxing match-esque walkout where they high-five and sign memorabilia for fans on the way up to the stage to compete. They do so with their own chosen song alongside cheerleaders and pyrotechnics that make it a spectacle viewers both at home and in-person can't keep their attention away from. **My own personal favorite walkout comes from Stephen "The Bullet" Bunting, who walks out to "Titanium" by David Guetta ft. Sia.** The whole crowd goes wild with energy for the self-proclaimed "people's champ", especially when he sings and gestures along with the crowd to hype them up before his matches.

If there was any up and coming sport to buy into, I would 100 percent recommend darts. With events happening in Virginia as well as overseas, weekly events to stream and electrifying walk-ons, this sport should surely be a target to watch for the future.

A Tour de Toilette Vol. 2: Ranking Radford's Bathrooms Again

By: JOHN RATLIFF II

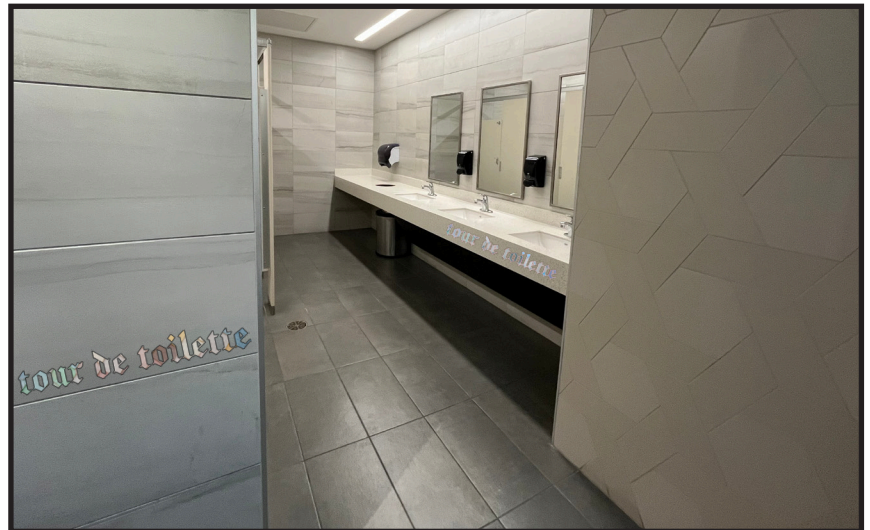
In 2024, students were informed of the highs and lows of the Radford University restrooms across several on-campus locations. This year, we're bringing it back! These ten bathrooms were ranked on the aesthetic, cleanliness, smell, and capacity between male, female, and all-gender bathrooms. The sample restrooms were chosen based on closest proximity to first entrance because the number of restrooms exceeds the limit of my bladder.

Kyle Hall: 3/5 Stars. Dirty business here. Not a very private place. The bathroom was quite tight and shaped diagonally. The green walls, colored tile floors and windows set it apart from other, more lazy restrooms. The men's stalls had rectangular-shaped cutouts on the bottom wall. The women's bathroom had three stalls, with the middle one being locked from the inside, missing the handle.

Hemphill Hall: 4/5 Stars. Skipping past Starbucks, we found the main bathrooms. What's horrific about these bathrooms is how narrow they are. Their sheer length highlights the missed opportunity. The men's restroom wall on one side looks about as empty as my research essay. Could definitely use more décor or toilets. Very clean though.

Waldron Wall: 5/5 Stars. Very nice. Painted in brick maroon. Everything was clean and stocked well. Bathrooms are welcoming to the guests sitting in the lobby, even including step stools for children to wash their hands. The women's room even had flowers! While they had paper towel dispensers already, they included extra tabletop paper towel dispensers with the thickest and softest paper I've ever felt on campus.

Artis Center: 5/5 Stars. Quite artsy. Stalls included some color and even an LED-lit mirror in the ladies' room. The men's room was



very tight and only had two stalls and no urinals. However, what really carries Artis's restrooms are the all-gender ones. They are very spacious, clean, smelled great, and felt very personal. Bonus points for the one bathroom that includes a shower.

The Bonnie: 3/5 Stars. The most common restroom, proven by our long wait for people to exit before our investigation. Most urinals and stalls were unflushed, and full of paper towels. What the Bonnie bathroom lacks in cleanliness, it makes up for with capacity. Plenty of room for students to take refuge when the Chick-fil-A lines lead out into Hissho Sushi and Student Choice.

Dalton Dining Hall: 1/5 Stars. An overpowering chemical scent plus dingy yellow lights make for a deadly combo. By far the worst bathroom I had seen. The women's restroom wasn't so bad and had many stalls, but the men's was far worse. Horribly unclean, but stocked well.

Peters Hall: 3/5 Stars. Nothing too noteworthy, as they felt like an average school bathroom. Surprisingly larger capacity of toilets and sinks than expected, with separate mirrors per sink, individualizing the experience. I would not recommend the urinals for short guys as the one shorter urinal is between two taller ones, so remember the bro code in there.

Curie/Reed Hall: 4/5 Stars. Very modern and overall looks pleasant, both in aesthetic and cleanliness. The paper towel dispensers are on the farthest side of the counter, instead of by the doorway. Not very practical. We also found a lot of paper towels on the floor, maybe the result of some kind of frustration.

Cook Hall: 2/5 Stars. With the Esports center close by, we had anticipated an odor around the men's restroom, but the inside smelled ok. The entry was like stepping into a walk-in closet. Some trash on the floor, but tame for a bathroom. However, the women's room was reported to have an atrocious odor, lacked toilet paper, paper towels, and clean toilets

Young Hall: 3/5 Stars. The women's restroom had stalls on both walls, creating a hallway of porcelain thrones to claim. "Very clean and bright" were the descriptions reported. The men's side however has only 1 stall and urinal with a dull green design on the sink counter. A giant window in the stall that was completely opaque. Okay? You are also locked at a 72-degree Fahrenheit thermostat in the room. This year Waldron and Artis share the crown for highest ranked restrooms. **We did the dirty work for you, and don't worry, we washed our hands. Don't agree with these rankings? reach out @rutartan on Instagram and let us know your thoughts.**

The People Want to Dance: A Review of Harry Styles' "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally"

By: RYLEE LYONS

Harry Styles released his 4th album, *Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally* on March 6, 2026. The project was highly anticipated following Styles' three-year hiatus after the end of his *Love on Tour*, which ran for nearly three years itself. The album came following many blips of songs, a lead single, "Aperture," and a 'one-night-only' show in Manchester where Styles played the album in its entirety for over 20,000 fans.

This album was delightfully captivating from front to back. Inspirations from the disco and dance-pop genres were blended cohesively into a lovely sound that was unlike anything Styles has produced before. It may not have been an intense delve into the world of dance-pop or disco, but I believe the beauty of these infectious melodies is better found in their subtleties.

The project dances between more driving, dance-worthy tracks such as "Pop" and "Ready, Steady, Go!" and more intimate, mellow tracks like "Taste Back," "Coming Up Roses," and "The Waiting Game." The standout (and favorite) track for me was "Dance No More," a moment on the album that felt the most 'disco' to me, with a funkier, more expressive feel to it. Many critics have

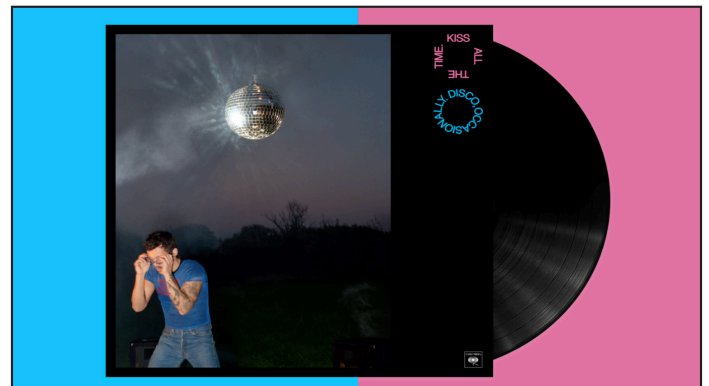


Photo Credit: Mikayla Grimes/The Brock Press

noted the lack of lyrical depth in this record, but I believe this could have been an intentional element of the album to create the impression that it was more about mood than lyrical meaning.

This album was a testament to how Styles' sound has developed over the years; it is quite evident that this was a project led by creative freedom. The tracks blended to create a project that was bright and danceable, but still had a gentle hum of ambience behind it. Though I understand where some may see missing corroborative pieces between the imagery that Styles created for the promotion of the era and the finished product itself, I found the album to be lovely throughout. I believe that for most, this album was pleasant all the time, but for fans, it was amazing occasionally.

Highlander Highlights

By: BRANDON WHITAKER



Men's & Women's Basketball Big South Basketball Championships Recap

Radford's basketball programs made their way down to Johnson City Tennessee once again for the 2026 Big South Basketball Championships March 4-8. The women's team played Charleston Southern in round one, besting the Buccaneers 86-67. **Radford's all conference duo of Joi Williams and Georgia Simonsen combined for 29 of Radford's 54 points in the first half. The Highlanders tied the record for scoring output in a single half in Big South Tournament history.**

The next day the men's team faced Presbyterian in round one. Radford maintained a lead for the majority of the contest but things shifted at the end of the second half. The Highlanders held a six point lead with 38 seconds left, forcing PC to play the foul game to get back in. With eight seconds left the Blue Hose found the opening they needed after Radford split a pair of free throws. With 3.5 seconds and the score 74-77, **Presbyterian guard Carl Parrish took the ball just beyond the halfcourt logo and banked in a three to send the game to overtime.** Despite never holding a lead in regulation, the Blue Hose held on in overtime to secure the win.

Next the women's team faced Longwood, a rematch from their second round game a year ago. The Highlanders were stout on defense, holding the Lancers to less than 15 points in each of the first three quarters of the game. **Freshman forward Georgia Simonsen notched her fourth straight 20 point outing becoming the first Radford freshman this century to accomplish this feat.** She propelled the team to an 81-58 win and the team's second championship appearance in three years.



Radford women's basketball players and cheer squads in Johnson City TN Photo Credit: Brandon Whitaker

On Sunday March 8 the Highlanders faced No. 1 seed High Point for the chance to punch their ticket to the NCAA Tournament. Radford started slow, going down 0-8 early. The High's would go on a 14-2 run to get back in the game with ten of their 14 coming from **Joi Williams**. Radford led by three at halftime but the third quarter is where the Panthers made their money. High Point outscored Radford 27-13 holding the Highlanders to just 6-20 shooting, and gaining a lead that they would never relinquish. **To read the full championship recap visit www.rutartan.com.**

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For additional information, please visit radfordoncamera.com

Contact us - roc@radford.edu

Upcoming **Radford Athletics** Home Games: **Softball vs Marshall** March 17 @2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. | **Baseball vs Queens** March 18 @6:00 p.m. | **Baseball vs VMI** March 20 @6:00 p.m. | **Women's Soccer vs Concord** March 20 @7:00 p.m. |