

10-9-2017

Rotunda - Vol 96, no. 7 - Oct. 09, 2017

Longwood University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/rotunda>

Recommended Citation

Longwood University, "Rotunda - Vol 96, no. 7 - Oct. 09, 2017" (2017). *Rotunda*. 2192.
<http://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/rotunda/2192>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Library, Special Collections, and Archives at Digital Commons @ Longwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rotunda by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Longwood University. For more information, please contact hinestm@longwood.edu.

The ROTUNDA

Coming together since 1920



VANDALISM

INSPIRES PRAYER

OCT. 9, 2017
VOL 96. ISSUE 7

EDITORIAL BOARD 2017

HALLE PARKER
editor-in-chief

JEFF HALLIDAY AND MIKE MERGEN
faculty advisers

NEWS

CHRISTINE RINDFLEISCH
editor
editor-in-chief pro-tempore
JESSE PLICHTA-KELLAR
staff
STEVEN HERRING
staff

BUSINESS

KIERSTEN FREEDMAN
manager
TREVOR HEATH
staff

FEATURES

DAVID PETTYJOHN
staff
RAE MUNDIE
staff
MEGAN GARY
staff

A&E

MIRIAM LOYA
editor
JACOB DILANDRO
staff

OPINIONS

PAULINA MARINERO
editor
VIVIAN GRAY
staff
SAM RINCHETTI
staff
RACHAEL POOLE
staff
DAVINA APPLEWHITE
staff

SPORTS

TJ WENGERT
staff
PATRICK SANDERSON
staff

ROTUNDA STUDIOS

PAYTON CONWAY
producer
ALAINA JACQUES
staff
NICOLE DEL ROSARIO
staff
NAAJAMAH JONES
staff
ELLIE STUCK
staff

LAYOUT

ERIN EATON
editor
LAURA GOTTSCHALK
assistant editor

PHOTO

ANN POLEK
editor
TAYLOR O'BERRY
assistant editor
EVA WITTKOSKI
staff
CARRIE BAILEY
staff

COPY

CASSIE TAGERT
editor
JORDAN BROWN
assistant editor
JOEL WORFORD
staff
CHARLEIGH KONDAS
staff
KAITLYN CROW
staff

EVENTS

EMILY NEIGHBORS
co-coordinator
ALEX KISZKA
co-coordinator

SOCIAL MEDIA

MIRANDA FARLEY
editor

CONTACT INFORMATION
therotundaonline@gmail.com
www.therotundaonline.com

This week in SGA

Meal plans were discussed



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Joe Hyman is sworn in as a new member of the Student Government Association Senate.

by Rachael Poole | Opinions Staff | @rapoole17

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting Brent Roberts, dean of the library, presented updates, which have happened in the Greenwood Library thus far in the year. Roberts discussed the new improvements in the library, including new interior design, new technology and new programs for students.

Roberts elaborated on the night count of students in the library during the week, stating the new extended hours are more popular during Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday than on Saturday and Sunday.

Executive Treasurer Dustyn Hall brought up the issue of inappropriate content being viewed in the library by the public.

Roberts responded that community members are not only to blame for this, as many incidents of technology misuse are by students and are taken to the Longwood University Police Department (LUPD). To combat this issue, the library is working to install surveillance cameras to the main floor.

Hyman also brought up the idea of decreasing the price of printing in the library or the option of a semester pass to students who use the printing option frequently.

SGA Advisor Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president of student affairs, said the Andy Taylor Childhood Development Center passed inspections and Gross Creek will be cleaned by "Goatbusters," a group of goats that eat the fungus and moss, next Monday, in order to preserve the waterways in the area.

Joseph Hyman was sworn into SGA as a Senator.

Open forum started with talk about Oktoberfest security and the

limitation on bags. Trish McGregor, fiscal technician and administration assistant, added that medical bags are allowed during the event and will be checked by LUPD.

Senator Madison Lowry asked Pierson why it is required for students living in Longwood Managed Apartments are required to purchase a meal plan with the use of a full kitchen in the apartment. Pierson said it has been overall very well supported but might change when there are more dining options on campus.

Hyman asked about extending meal plan swipe hours for the P.O.D. to after 10 p.m. President Kevin Napier said he would address meal plan hours and meal swipes not working for some students with Grant Avent, senior director of Longwood dining services.

Virginia 21 Representative Morgan Rollins brought up Title IX changes and how students should make themselves aware of the issue at hand. Historian Emily Moran recommended that a list of major changes be made for students on campus to help educate them on the issue at hand.

During the orders of the day, a new PRIDE constitution was approved. The new constitution involves new member requirements, new executive and non-executive representatives and a new SGA representative.

The meeting ended with Executive Secretary Lucas Hobson announcing that Longwood organizations raised over \$2,000 in Hurricane Relief between the SGA, faculty and CareFest.

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

INTERESTED IN THE ROTUNDA? JOIN US

MONDAYS @ 7PM IN BEDFORD 106

In a state of emergency

Officials explain protocols

by Steven Herring News Staff @Skherring

As national mass shootings have come to the attention of Longwood officials, Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president of student affairs, stated Longwood has various protocols in place that ensures student safety for all levels of threats and events.

"The process that we do here is a continual effort of evaluating not only what is going on in the town of Farmville, and in central Virginia, but what is going on in the world, and in the country, and in the commonwealth," said Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) Chief Col. Robert Beach.

There is an incident-action plan for every major event on campus, according to Beach.

"We've got one for hurricanes, we've got one for tornadoes, we've got one for a chemical spill, we've got one for active shooter. We've got all of those processes," said Beach.

"Every event has its own unique features to it, but we have some basic levels of protocol that we do," said Pierson.

Pierson said that for level one emergencies, such as a thunderstorm, the campus

"I am as confident that we are as prepared as we possibly can be,"

community will be informed of general information through an email or text message. In level two emergencies, such as an armed person being sighted near campus, individuals will be urged to practice caution until the situation is handled. A level three emergency, such as an active shooter situation, requires immediate action.

Longwood depends on a network to help bring in resources Longwood may need according to Pierson. Part of this is the concurrent jurisdiction that Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) shares with Farmville Police Department (FDP). According to, the concurrent jurisdiction is a must.

"It's a necessity out of the need for resource and the need for working together," said Beach.

First level responders are police, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and fire safety. If the

situation is a dangerous chemical spill then Hazmat might be called in as well, according to Pierson.

According to Pierson, depending on the nature of the event, someone would also be communicating the next steps and who else needs to be involved.

Every new FDP officer works with the LUPD for two shifts, according to Beach.

The same works for new LUPD officers as they work with FDP for two shifts Beach said. Also twice a month officers from other areas come and have an hour tour of the campus with LUPD Beach stated.

Beach stated the LUPD officers are doing threat assessments constantly of what's going on with the intent of deploying resources and plans on what to do if something bad happened.

Willett Hall also serves as a designated emergency shelter in the sheltering network run by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) according to Beach. This allows students from other universities to come and stay if

an emergency event is happening at their university.

Beach described how the blue emergency phones on campus help students if they see something concerning. He said that the phones are not just there for emergencies but also for information or concerns. "When you push that button, the light goes on on top and it immediately connects to our communications center," said Beach.

The LiveSafe app is another resource students can use to report suspicious activity Beach said. The app allows students to send in messages which go directly to the emails of supervisors and Beach himself so they can see what is concerning the student.

"It's a way to chat with a dispatch and pass on information," said Beach.

As for the possibility of an emergency event happening, Beach stated that Longwood is prepared. "I am as confident that we are as prepared as we possibly can be," Beach said.



LEVEL 3

AN ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE:
Requires immediate action



LEVEL 2

ARMED PERSON NEAR CAMPUS RESPONSE:

Campus urged to practice caution until the situation is handled



LEVEL 1

THUNDERSTORM RESPONSE
Campus alerted of general information

GRAPHIC BY LAURA GOTTSCHALK



A community united

Prayer organized after mosque vandalized

HALLE PARKER | THE ROTUNDA

People gathered for a community prayer vigil led by the local Interfaith collective on Oct. 1 in response to vandalism written on the walls of the Prince Edward County Islamic Center.

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar | News Staff | @JesseKellar

In response to the Sept. 27 vandalism of the Prince Edward County Islamic Center, the Interfaith Collective of Farmville held a prayer vigil on the lawn on the Prince Edward County Courthouse on Sunday, Oct. 1.

The mosque, along with two other structures in Farmville that haven't been released, had the words "F*ck God and Allah" spray painted along its wall and a symbol with two circles and the letters "IC." The symbol has yet to be identified, according to local religious leaders Patsy Watson and Khalil Latif, who organized the vigil.

The Farmville Police Department (FDP) logged the vandalism on the 300 block of West Third Street at 8:36 a.m. on Sept. 28. On the same day, the police activity log reported two other instances of vandalism were reported at 100 block of High Street at 10:09 a.m. and Appomattox Street at 11:14 a.m.

According to Watson and Latif, the vandalism was reported to the police by community members and the investigation is ongoing.

Watson said the Interfaith Collective was made up of people with different faiths who seek to learn about each other. At the vigil four different prayers were recited by leaders from different religious communities.

The first prayer was done by Allison Crews of Natural pHuel, a new age spiritual group. After introductions by Watson, Crews used a prayer bowl to conduct a rhythmic song.

After the song, Watson spoke again, emphasizing respect for others and prayer.

"In these times of discord, I personally feel that three words are important: love and respect and redemption," Watson said.

Watson also told those gathered to look for commonalities with other people and traditions and urged others to learn about different faiths.

"While they differ in their beliefs, they have some commonalities and one of those is a sense of community, that's what binds people together. They come together to celebrate in

some way, shape or form," said Watson.

Calling for the acceptance of "nonbelievers," she added, "When we respect someone else's religion it doesn't mean we agree with their faith, it just means we love them enough to allow them to express their faith or lack of faith in their own way."

Additionally, Watson discussed redemption and conducted a prayer with the group.

"It's difficult to move past something that has been said or done to us or even those that we love," Watson noted. "We must move past it because holding a grudge only harms ourselves."

Before praying, she asked the audience to keep those affected by the vandalism in mind.

**"We could not decipher whether it was an act against us, per se as Muslims, or whether it was against us as a faith community."
- Khalil Latif**

Watson, who is Baptist, then asked those gathered to follow along in their own tradition of praying while she recited a prayer of the Christian tradition.

After Watson's prayer, Latif thanked the town for "painting over the ugliness" and law enforcement for their "timely and fast" response. He is the imam of the Prince Edward County Islamic Center.

Latif then discussed the vandalism itself and praised the community's response to the incident.

"Looking at the ignorance that was put there, we could not decipher whether it was an act against us, per se as Muslims, or whether it was

against us as a faith community," said Latif.

Then, Latif commented on unity with the Farmville community and learning about other's cultures.

"It's one thing for you to know what you know but the thing that unifies is what you know about yourself, but also to learn those things about others and the things that we share so we can concentrate on the things that we share," said Latif.

Afterwards Latif recited the El Fatiha, usually translated as "the opening" prayer, in Arabic, and then in English. After the prayer, Latif discussed finding unity among different people.

"If we begin to look at it from the perspective that all who stand here that are believers in God we are the descendants of Adam, we all are descendants of Adam, hence we share a lot," Latif said. "If we look at it from that perspective the piece of unity becomes all the easier."

Latif then thanked the community again for its response.

"As we as Muslims strive to be good neighbors, so have you been," he said.

Rector of John's Memorial Episcopal Church Nancy Meck led a brief prayer next.

"I'm sorry for what has brought us together, but I'm so blessed that we could come together as a community as people of faith and as people who respect the dignity of every human being," she said.

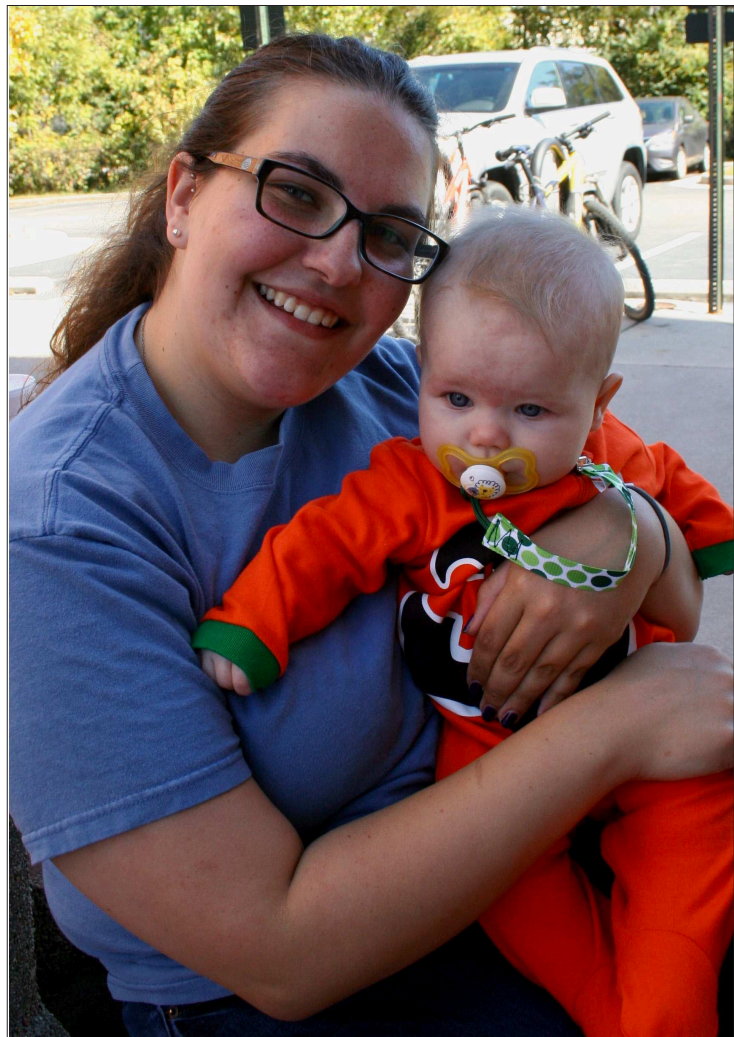
She explained her prayer came from a book of Episcopal prayers meant for interfaith gatherings before she read it to the audience.

The gathering concluded with Watson asking those in attendance to love each other unconditionally as human beings, regardless of any differences they may have.

Anyone with information regarding the mosque vandalism can contact FDP at (434) 392-3332.

Sarah Eggleston: full-time student and mother

by Megan Gary | Features Staff | @longwoodrotunda



EVA WITTKSOKI | THE ROTUNDA

Sarah Eggleston takes a break from classes to take care of her daughter, Joyce Wood. She balances the responsibilities of being a student and being a mother on a daily basis.

As the communication sciences and disorders students straggle out of phonetics class on Tuesday, junior Sarah Eggleston was easy to pick out. Of all of the students, she was the only one pushing a stroller.

Eggleston's daughter, Joyce, was born in April. When most of her peers were overwhelmed about finals, Eggleston worried about the impending arrival of her baby girl on top of exams.

"We didn't plan it (the pregnancy), we didn't anticipate it," Eggleston said after checking on Joyce sleeping in the stroller next to her. "We ultimately decided that this was a good thing. It wasn't planned, but she is the best thing that has ever happened to me."

Eggleston continued with school up until the end of her pregnancy and completed her finals aside from one she waited to take during this semester. Toward the end of her pregnancy, she balanced an hour and a half commute to and from school as well as a doctor's appointment once a week.

She said the love and fortitude of her parents and Joyce's father, long-time boyfriend Jacob Wood, allowed her to continue taking classes.

"(Wood is) incredibly supportive and helpful with allowing me to focus on school work while he watches her," she said. "His mother and step-mother, as well as my mother, are great about watching her as well."

Despite her own acceptance and ultimate excitement about her pregnancy, Eggleston said not everyone she encountered felt the same way.

"Some of my friends have kind of just dropped off the map since they found out I was pregnant and definitely since I've had Joyce," Eggleston explained.

She also said she received many "strange and disapproving" looks while pregnant, as she was still a teenager at the time. Eggleston disagreed with the stereotype that goes along with teenage pregnancy.

"There are plenty of teenage moms ... that love their child the same and provide just as much," she said.

Eggleston now lives off-campus with Joyce and Wood, and the couple hasn't slept through a full night since entering parenthood. Nevertheless, Eggleston still manages to maintain a normal course load and almost never

misses classes.

While her college experience differs from the norm, Eggleston said she doesn't mind. She may have never joined a sorority, gone to parties or taken part in any extracurriculars, but she values putting her time into someone else.

"I'd rather put my time into my daughter now," Eggleston said.

She said she's surrounded by family and friends who love her, happy that her daughter has these people around her as well.

"It takes a village when women are younger and have children. To me, that's perfectly fine. It provides my daughter with more exposure to different types of people, more scenarios, and she has more people that love her," said Sarah.

Eggleston found that raising her daughter has been just as much of a learning experience as the classroom.

"It's incredibly satisfying to watch Joyce grow and learn new things. She's incredibly attentive and curious." Eggleston paused, searching for the right words. "I feel whole and I didn't realize I didn't before. I have a boyfriend who I love and an amazing daughter."

Walking for a cure with Sigma Kappa

by David Pettyjohn | Features Staff | @PettyjohnDavid

Alzheimer's, often referred to as senile dementia, is the sixth most prevalent cause of death in the United States, according to the statistics published by the Alzheimer's Association. Each year, the Delta Nu Chapter of the Sigma Kappa Sorority at Longwood University holds a Walk to End Alzheimer's to raise awareness for this ailment.

Behind Lancaster Hall was a "Promise Garden" holding spinning plastic flowers that the marchers picked up to carry with them.

"I don't think (the Promise Garden is) necessarily a promise to end Alzheimer's, but a promise to not stop until we find a cure for Alzheimer's," said O'Brien. "Each flower represents your connection to Alzheimer's."

Longwood students, alumni and members of various organizations outside of the university came together this past Friday to walk a lap around the campus, making a loop from behind Lancaster Hall at the southern end to Lancer Field at the north.

The annual event is a joint effort organized by Sigma Kappa's Delta Nu Chapter and Longwood's Mortar Board. Rachel Pata is the Walk to End Alzheimer's Chair at Mortar Board, and Katie O'Brien is the vice president of philanthropic services for Sigma Kappa; both of them have been sisters in Sigma Kappa for two and a half years. Pata is a senior, and O'Brien is a junior.

Pata, O'Brien and their colleagues worked to plan this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's since the spring semester, registering teams to reserving space to spreading the word into the local community.

At the time of the interview, the organizers didn't know the number of people who would attend. However, the 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's saw at least 100 attendees, according to O'Brien.

There is a color-coded system for each color of flower in the Promise Garden. Yellow stood for knowing someone with Alzheimer's, blue is for the patients themselves and purple is held by people walking for a world without the disease. An orange flower meant someone was lost to Alzheimer's.

This was the Delta Nu chapter's only Alzheimer's-related event this year, but there are other events on the horizon. On Tuesday, Oct. 31, the sisters will hold a spirit night at Moe's from 5-7 p.m. Proceeds from that event will go toward the Sigma Kappa Foundation, which helps Sigma Kappa sisters around the country with scholarships.

Illyria Theatre Company presents: "The Fisherman and His Wife"



The Illyria Theater Company showed a performance of "The Fisherman and His Wife" to elementary schoolers on Tuesday.

LUCY KLINGER | ILLYRIA THEATER COMPANY

by Alex Kiszka | Co-Event Coordinator | @longwoodrotunda

On the morning of Oct. 3, over 400 elementary school students gathered in Jarman Auditorium at Longwood University to watch Illyria Theatre Company (ITC) put on a performance of Claudia Haas' adaption of the Brothers Grimm story, "The Fisherman and His Wife."

Teachers, students and parents from the Longwood, Farmville and surrounding communities gathered to immerse themselves in the theatrical production. Schools including Appomattox Elementary School, Eureka Elementary School and Fuqua School brought bus-loads of kids which, for many, are being introduced to theatre for the first time.

ITC Artistic Director and co-founder Chris Klinger said the theater wanted "to create magic" with the introduction of children's theater.

"Luckily, a child's imagination is infinite in possibility, so we try to invite them into the experience and show them nothing but possibility," said Klinger.

The play follows a fisherman named Jonner, who meets an enchanted fish, Scatfish L'adore (Scat), while trying to get food for him and his wife Maura. When Maura learns of the enchanted fish, she grows greedy and entices Jonner to ask Scat for numerous requests,

such as a bigger house, jewels, servants and, eventually, power. Scat tries to teach Jonner the repercussions of greediness through the humorous and interactive children's play.

While the stage only held a table, two chairs and trees, the minimal set didn't take away from the story. The actors created a strong narrative by changing up the furniture arrangement and using the aisles in between seating which kept the crowd of young students and their teachers engaged and laughing.

The children's show was directed by ITC Artistic Director and co-founder Lacy Klinger and featured a cast comprised completely of Longwood students.

Scat was played by senior Miriam Loya, who brought the crowd in from the beginning of the show with her energetic attitude and funny banter with the audience. Though Loya wasn't technically the main character, she definitely stole the show with her energetic performance.

The Fisherman, Jonner, was played by sophomore Mason Patrick, and his wife Maura was played by sophomore Brianna LaFratta. Patrick and LaFratta both depicted their characters as husband and wife exceptionally well.

Patrick played the perfect husband who simply wanted to build a happy life for his wife. His

character was the perfect blend of funny and meager as he always had to be the one asking the enchanted fish for wishes for his wife, who also brought humor to an already funny character.

With these being the only three characters in the show, each of the actors needed to bring a lot to the table. This was successfully achieved by the performers, who consistently interacted with the children for "advice" in the tale, even leading up to a vote on two possible endings for the play.

Although the show was set in a fairy tale-like medieval period, Klinger and the cast brought a modern tone to it using comedic audience interaction and lively music and sound effects throughout the scenes.

The hour-long show ended up being the perfect blend of funny and humbling. The story had a great message for all the children watching but kept the audience engaged and laughing throughout the entire performance.

ITC hoped to do more children's theatrical productions in the future, with one a year. Their next production will be a holiday show of "It's A Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play" set to premiere Dec. 7-9, also in Jarman Auditorium.

For more information on ITC and their upcoming events, visit their website.



Terrorism comes in many colors

by Rachael Poole | Opinions Staff | @rapoole17

COURTESY OF LOS ANGELES TIMES

Last week on Oct. 1, a mass shooting occurred in Las Vegas, Nevada, at a country music festival. The shooter, Stephen Paddock, killed 58 people from a high-rise hotel, making it the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history.

A mass shooting is defined as an incident where four or more people are killed. We need to start looking at who is doing most of these killings and how to prevent them from doing it. That is how we are going to get somewhere as a country.

As far as investigators know, there is no reason or motive behind the shooting. When asked about Paddock, Clark County police sheriff Joe Lombardo said Paddock was a “lone-wolf” type of shooter.

Criminals who are labeled “lone-wolves” are criminals who plot and execute a plan on their own. The term usually replaces the word “terrorist” which leads to a lot of controversy. “Terrorist” is almost always associated with people of middle-eastern descent - not white people.

The dictionary definition of terrorism is, “the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.” In this particular case, there is no known political motive for the shooting just yet.

Beyond the dictionary definition though, there’s one thing that routinely keeps Paddock safe from being labelled a terrorist: being white. Terrorism became a more emphasized term after 9/11 and that day is the reason why people think Muslim equals terrorist.

When shootings happen in the United States by non-white people, the claim of terrorism is branded easily. In the 2015 San Bernardino shooting that killed 14 people, media headlines and police alike began to label the shooting as a terrorist attack before a motive was even found.

When there are attacks against Muslims,

they don’t get treated with the same type of seriousness. On Aug. 5, a mosque in Minnesota was bombed by a white man, and it was called “an explosion.” Not a “terrorist attack” - simply an explosion.

Another example is Darren Osborne: a white anti-Muslim terrorist who plowed his van into a group of worshippers at a mosque in June of this year. To emphasize the “white people can’t be terrorists” stigma, Osborne’s mother told police, “My son is no terrorist. He’s just a man with mental issues.”

Looking at Paddock’s case, the lead investigators have avoided the word terrorism. While that could be due to the lack of political motive, it’s still inconsistent with Nevada state laws.

Nevada’s state law states an act of terrorism is, “any act that involves the use or attempted use of sabotage, coercion or violence which is intended to: cause great bodily harm or death to the general population; or cause substantial destruction, contamination or impairment of: any building or infrastructure, communications, transportation, utilities or services; or any natural resource or the environment.”

This definition of an act of terrorism clearly complies with the Las Vegas shooting, so why isn’t it being labeled as such? The decision is tied with the approach of those who only focus on terrorism and call it by its name when it can be traced back to Islam.

What makes this even more interesting is that since 1982, 54 percent of mass shootings have been committed by white males, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. African-Americans are the second largest perpetrators, but still only come in at 16 percent of shootings.

The Las Vegas shooting has also allowed the topic of gun control to come up again. A lot of conservatives tend to believe guns aren’t the problem and there’s no way to fix the number of shootings that take place, but

that’s false.

Paddock had 23 guns with him in his hotel room, which he probably intended to use to kill even more people. Investigators found 19 more guns along with various types of ammunition in his home. Why would anyone need that many guns to begin with?

Gun control doesn’t mean taking everyone’s guns away. There needs to be stricter laws on who can purchase a gun because this is getting entirely out of hand. America has gotten to the point where I am no longer surprised at hearing the news, “58 people killed in mass shooting.”

I am tired of seeing people getting killed at the end of a barrel, controlled by someone who has no business owning a gun. It’s time to do something about this. Call your senator, write a letter or just speak up. How many people are going to have to die before this country realizes there is a problem?

We shouldn’t only become united when something devastating happens. We need to unite and end the violence.



COURTESY OF USA TODAY

Stephen Paddock, the 64-year-old shooter responsible for killing 58 people in a mass shooting in Las Vegas on Oct. 1.



THE REEL LIFE

Movie Reviews by Jacob DiLandro | A&E Staff | @spongejay1

BLADE RUNNER 2049

In 1982, Ridley Scott brought Philip K. Dick's story "Do Android's dream of electric sheep?" to the big screen and created what many consider to be one of the, if not the, greatest sci-fi films of all time. Now, Denis Villeneuve, director of last year's "Arrival" is working with a story from the writers of the original film and "Logan" to bring you "Blade Runner 2049."

In terms of what is necessary to know from the previous film, as long as an audience member knows the basic ideas and characters and their relationships, they'll be fine.

No story spoilers will be discussed in this review, because not only has the studio avoided story in the trailers, a bizarre thing in modern Hollywood, but also because the film is best experienced knowing as little as possible.

The deep plot and ideas that the film plays with are all reminiscent of the original film, but they manage to also become something new. It truly feels like these new, younger filmmakers are taking inspiration from the original film more than making a sequel to it.

The world of "Blade Runner 2049" looks exceptional. Denis's vision of the future is interesting, as it isn't a vision of the future we think of now, but a vision of the future we thought of in 1982. Therefore, things look a little dirtier, grimmer, but the technology also

feels that much better. Like people really poured their hearts and souls into creating the technology we see in the film.

Thirteen-time Academy Award nominee Cinematographer Roger Deakins ("The Shawshank Redemption," " Fargo," "Oh, Brother Where Art Thou?") brings a stunning vision of the year 2049 to the screen. Sweeping vistas has a wonderfully gritty yet optimistic feeling to them. The film also utilizes color excellently, leading to a rich science fiction world that stands confidently next to Ridley Scott's original.

Ryan Gosling is excellent, delivering what is easily one of the best performances of his career. Harrison Ford is here as well, reprising his role from the first film. He brings aging wisdom to his role, feeling much older and more passive than when he returned to the role of Han Solo.

The supporting cast also deserves praise, with Jared Leto, Robin Wright, Mackenzie Davis, and Ana de Armas especially, all pulling excellent performances. However, Sylvia Hoeks more than anyone deserves to be recognized for an absolutely brutal and magnetizing performance. Carla Juri, although on screen the least, also manages to leave an impression.

And that's the film's biggest strength. It leaves an impression. Like the original, it asks a lot of questions and answers some. But it isn't concerned with answering all the questions. It also isn't concerned with halfhearted fan service or callbacks. Scott's vision of 2019 is gritty and retrofitted, while Denis's takes

inspiration but is more sexual in nature, showing the ways that humans use the replicants without being 'in your face' about it.

Blade Runner 2049 is a two-hour-and-forty-three-minute film, and it feels it. Contrary to most modern day films though, it doesn't feel it like a two hour film feels like a two-and-a-half-hour film. It feels as long as it is, and that's thanks to Denis's use to justification. It justifies the moments that are on screen by always doing one of two things; fleshing out the world, or fleshing out the characters.

"Blade Runner 2049"'s best quality is that it doesn't seek to retell the previous film's events. It wants to add to them in a way that feels organic and necessary. By the time the film is done, it feels like something that deserves to exist. It doesn't exist as just an okay sequel or a could-have-been-better sequel. It shows itself to be a necessary story.

"Blade Runner 2049" is one of the best films of the year. An engaging and engrossing story-line is complimented by excellent cinematography and musical score, top tier performances from even the smallest of the cast, and a story that never lets the audience get comfortable.

Even in the third act, things are being revealed and explained that change the way the entire plot has to be examined. It refuses to let the audience simply sit back and watch a movie. Because "Blade Runner 2049" isn't a movie. It is a film.

★★★★★ 5/5



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES, COLUMBIA PICTURES, ALCON ENTERTAINMENT, SCOTT FREE PRODUCTIONS, TORRIDON FILMS, 16:14 ENTERTAINMENT, & THUNDERBIRD ENTERTAINMENT.



WBB Insider

SEASON PREVIEW

MIKE KROFF | LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Women's basketball head coach Bill Reinson said he hopes the easier non-conference schedule will help instill confidence in the team moving into conference play.

by TJ Wengert | Sports Staff | @tjwengert

After ending with a 4-26 overall record for two of the past three seasons, the Longwood women's basketball team looks to ascend in Big South standings this year.

When Longwood released its schedule in early September, the slate didn't consist of any power five schools for the first time in 14 years.

"We wanted to put ourselves in a position to win and compete in conference, and I think in the past, we might have bitten off more than we could chew with the non-conference schedule," said women's basketball head coach Bill Reinson.

He added, "Playing those power five teams last year, I think it beat us up a bit mentally. We had a lot of freshmen, they didn't get to experience success."

Entering his eighth year, Reinson said the schedule should allow the team to shift into "winning mode" early, to carry with them into conference play.

Senior forward Autumn Childress echoed her coach and said, "It definitely give us a lot more confidence not going to big schools like Duke."

Childress faced injuries last season, seeing action in only 13 games, but scored double digits in five of those 13 games.

Though Longwood won't face a Duke or West Virginia, the team will still face tough opponents as they travel to Marshall and George Mason and host Valparaiso and Norfolk State in November and December.

"Scheduling power five conference team isn't always the easiest thing to go through, so this year we tried to find good teams that would be competitive games," said Reinson. "I really

"No one is expecting us to be very good this year, and I think we can use that to our advantage."

think we can win every game on our schedule."

Childress said the team was excited to try out their new system on the competition it will face in non-conference play.

"We all want to try it out on other teams before going into conference," she said.

Then moving to the Big South Conference, the Radford Highlanders are speculated to be the front-runners; Reinson believed they were the "team to beat."

The Highlanders will return all five of its starters after it was

one missed layup away from winning the conference title a season ago, going 24-9 in last year.

As for the rest of the conference, Reinson said, "I think Liberty will be good, Campbell will be good, High Point also. Then after that it gets hard to tell. There's a lot of good teams, and a lot of young teams, with new faces like us."

Longwood finished last in the conference last season but will look to climb into the middle of the conference this year.

Childress said, "No one is expecting us to be very good this year, and I think we can use that to our advantage. So we don't really see a Liberty or Radford, but we're focused a lot on us, and we think our new system will put us in the best place to win against teams in the conference."

The new system that Childress spoke about will be the topic for the series in a few weeks. Until then, be sure to check back for the next installment in the bi-weekly series and meet the Lancers' coaching staff.

Autumn Childress is also a member of the Rotunda Studios staff, beginning in August 2017.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

MEN'S SOCCER

Tuesday, Oct. 3

@ Liberty L 2-1

Saturday, Oct. 7

vs. Presbyterian L 1-0

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Wednesday, Oct. 4

vs. Winthrop T 2-2

Saturday, Oct. 7

@ Charleston Southern W 1-0

FIELD HOCKEY

Friday, Oct. 6

@ Ohio W 2-1

Sunday, Oct. 8

@ Miami (OH) L 2-1

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Friday, Oct. 13

@ Hight Point Vert Invitational

All day

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Friday, Oct. 13

@ Hight Point Vert Invitational

All day

**FOLLOW US
AT
@ROTUNDA_SPORTS**