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In SGA:

More Lancer
Card services
and convocation

by Rachael Poole | Opinion:

Pierson addresses the concerns of changing schedules due to the upcoming hurricane.

n the Student Government Association (SGA) meeting this week, Director of the Lancer Card Center Crissy Sampier gave a presentation on the services the Lancer Card Center provides and the importance of keeping credit holder data safe.

According to Sampier, the Lancer Card Center provides the following services:

- Lancer Card printing
- Meal plan management
- Lancer CA\$H management
- Point of Sale devices
- Door access requests,
- · Door scheduling, contractor access
- Dining contract administrator
- Laundry
- Coke machine management
- Snack vending management

Attendance tracking Sampier also said three more services are coming soon: mobile ID, Starbucks gift cards and Lancer CA\$H being able to be used at Hotel Weyanoke. The mobile ID feature will mainly be used for monetary transactions, and would most likely not be used to get into buildings for security reasons, according to Sampier.

The presentation then went into ways to keep credit card information safe to prevent fraudulent activity. Sampier encouraged organizations to stay away from accepting credit card payments, and using Square point of sale devices.

Per Sampier, using the Square paired with a personal cell phone keeps credit holder information stored in the device, which is a financial hazard. Sampier suggested students check out mobile readers from the Lancer Card Center, at no cost, to take Lancer CA\$H instead.

Campus Planning and Construction Facilities Planner Jerry Jerome announced a new project called the Academic Space Improvement Plan. The plan surrounds developing an outline of budgets and timelines in order to improve the academic space on campus, according to Jerome.

Jerome also said this plan covers the entire range of where students go to study and collaborate, and is not limited to just classrooms.

There will be a Student Engagement Session on this plan from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 18 in the Virginia Room.

During open forum, Junior Class President Haleigh Pannell talked about complaints from seniors regarding the Convocation ceremony this Thursday, Sept. 13.

According to Pannell, a lot of "cappers" don't want to stay on campus due to the incoming storm, and seniors are worried the rain will ruin the event as a whole.

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson responded by saying those complaints are understandable, but if Convocation were to be canceled, it would be too hard to reschedule it.

Student Diversity and Inclusion Council (SDIC) Representative Arin Young brought up concerns that the white nationalist posters have returned to campus. President Josh Darst said as long as racism is still an issue there will still be problems with the posters.

Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) Chief Robert Beach gave a comment on the matter saying LUPD is close to figuring out who is possibly responsible for hanging up the posters around campus.

Beach also gave a reminder that it is not a criminal offense to hang them up and to report any sightings to LUPD.

Executive Secretary Chyanne Correa gave concerns about there being a limited amount of security cameras on campus and there not being a blue phone on the walk from campus to the Landings.

Darst said the university is working to increase security camera usage on campus, and Chief Beach said the weakest coverage is on the northern end of campus.

Vice President Lucas Hobson reported three work orders have gone in to fix the lamp posts outside of the library. According to Hobson, the lamp posts not working are due to wiring issues created when Brock Hall was built.

During the president's report, Darst said SGA is partnering with the Big Event to best serve the town in the potential aftermath Farmville could suffer from Hurricane Florence.

Rachel Cliborne was sworn in as the Graduate Student Association representative.

The next SGA meeting will be held on Sept. 18 at 3:50 p.m. in the Martinelli Board Room located in the Maugans Alumni Center.

SEPT. 17, 2018 03 > NEWS



Future leaders pondering upon what they think it takes to become a leader.

BRANDON CHEUNG | THE ROTUNDA

he Citizen Leadership Institute (CLI) started its second year at Longwood University after its curriculum has been revamped from last year, according to Laura Parker, assistant director of leadership development and programs, facilitator of CLI.

"Last year was kind of our pilot year. It was very kind of traditional in the classroom workshops. This year, after some feedback from students, I have decided to completely redo the structure of it to make it be more experiential," said Parker.

According to the program guide on CLI, "The Citizen Leadership Institute is an

experiential learning program that develops Longwood students into Citizen Leaders who lead, serve, and advocate in order to transform their communities for the common good".

Per Parker, there were 27 students in attendance at the first meeting, which was Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 4 p. m.

Students were asked to introduce themselves via notecards and how they define leadership and then to introduce themselves to as many people as possible.

The person who introduced him or herself to the most people, per Parker, received a small prize. Renee Cotton, class of 2021, won with eight people met.

Per Parker, students were briefed about expectations and the program's structure. Students were then tasked with finding a partner and discussing the qualities of a leader. After discussing their definitions with partners, they made groups of four people and

came up with five essential characteristics of leadership.

"Leadership to me would be having integrity and confidence to lead," said Jacob Shope, a freshmen psychology major.

Some students attended the event for class

"I came for one of my classes, but I actually really enjoyed it," Regan Standlick, a senior social work major, said. "I'm taking leadership...I feel like this particular workshop has helped me to better understand (leadership)."

Others are taking it mostly for personal development, such as Elena Munger, a senior

"The main goals really are to create citizen leaders around Longwood and for me what that means is to really have students identify what their values and their passions are and find ways to pursue those," said Parker.

Some students, like Shope, had personal expectations as well.

"Î'm going to learn (leadership) qualities I can apply in my life," said Shope.

"I think it will help me become engaged with the community," said Morgan Dunn, a freshman political science major. "I just learned that so many people have different definitions of leadership and it's important to recognize that people have those different

leadership definitions."

Per Parker, the program is run through the Office of Citizen Leadership and Social Justice Education (CLSJE). The program's curriculum was mostly developed by Parker, but with help from other campus staff members both within and outside CLSJE.

In addition to the inclassroom experiences, the program will include experience learning, according to Parker.

"In the next few weekends we will be doing an offcampus retreat, which will

be taking place at the cabin that campus recreation has for their ropes course," Parker said. "Then we will be doing an interactive tour at the Robert Russa Moton Museum. Then we're doing an activity called place as text, where I'm going to put the students at different places in Farmville to exploring the

Per Parker, the funding comes directly from the CLSJE budget.



Students were told to pick up pictures and explain a reason behind why the picture exemplifies leadership in any way or form.

social work major.

"I'm taking this course because I want to further my leadership skills and become an active citizen leader," said Munger. "To me, a citizen leader is someone who does things for the greater good, for other people, while remaining culturally competent and culturally sensitive."

According to Parker, the central goal is to create citizen leaders.

04 > A&E TheRotundaOnline.com

THE REEL LIFE

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

PREDATOR

In 1987, audiences were wowed by the original "Predator" film. Not because it was anything truly groundbreaking, more so because it seemed like something could actually kill Arnold Schwarzenegger. Now, the original film is remembered fondly as a big, brash and gory action blockbuster. But as the years went on and Predators kept returning to the cinema, the quality of their escapades began to drop. Now Shane Black's "The Predator" is here to, hopefully, show these killers can still... kill.

"The Predator" starts and the blood flows almost immediately. While its protagonist Quinn McKenna is routine and cookie cutter, he's performed well by Boyd Holbrook ("Narcos"), with a southern charm and steel -eyed gaze that's enjoyable to watch. The same goes for the rest of his crew of mentally unstable soldiers, with particular credit to Trevante Rhodes ("Moonlight"), who manages to out-charm and outshine Holbrook in every scene they're in.

The same cannot be said for the film's females. Olivia Munn fairs the best, as she

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CENTURY FOX AND DAVIS ENTERTAINMENT manages

be

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film has to a character who experiences growth and change. McKenna's ex-wife, played by Yvonne Strahovski, gets the short end of the stick in both screen time and development.

Sterling K. Brown's antagonistic Will Traeger is easily the film's goofiest character. Brown carries the character with a self-important cheesiness that makes him the movie's most entertaining piece. Jacob Trembley however, fresh off his acclaimed performances in "Room" and "Wonder", fairs worse than anyone else in the film. His character is boiled down to a pre-teen deusex machina, utilized to translate alien tech thanks to his autism and as bait in the hunts, and whine the rest of the time.

Trembley's poor characterization also speaks to the film's general laziness. Need a kid who's super smart? Easy, give them autism. Need a crew of soldiers? Easy, make them the rag tag bunch. The only clever spin "The Predator" tries to put on its tired clichés is that, instead of smoking, the human villain chews Nicorette gum. An amusing detail, nonetheless.

Every good intention the film has seems misplaced though. It mistakes the hardened fighting spirit in the first film for a douchey frat boy sense of humor here. It doesn't mean that none of the jokes land, but for the

most part the only thing they induce is eye rolling. By the time the movie passes into its second half though, everything seems to

get better.

The humor becomes smarter, the action is more satisfying and the overall pacing improves drastically. It becomes the kind of mindless action movie it clearly wants to be.

And while its debatable, if the entire product is a "Predator" movie, since it



mainly favors big loud action over sneaking stealth moments, it nonetheless becomes enjoyable in its second half.

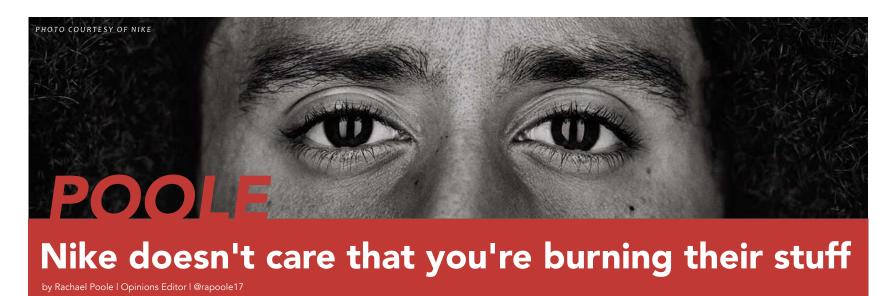
It still suffers from a general addiction to cheese and the ending is just awful, but at least it becomes bearable. What doesn't improve though, is the editing. In fact, it only gets worse as the film progresses, as do the visual effects. What starts as a decently edited film with cool practical effects becomes a CGI mess with green screen seams popping up everywhere. It's also very clear in the second half that the film generally suffers from a lot of studio meddling, as most of the editing mistakes seem amateurish at best.

"The Predator" isn't the best the series has to offer, nor is it the worst. Its first half is more visually engaging than the second, but the second half has superior writing, action and humor. It becomes a film that is, ultimately, despite its cheese and adherence to the worst of the 80's clichés, somewhat enjoyable. As McKenna himself says, "Nobody's gonna remember them when the day is over." As passable as it may be, the same can probably be said for this movie.



2.5/5

SEPT. 17, 2018 05 > OPINIONS



Colin Kaepernick is the face of Nike's 30th anniversary "Just Do It" campaign, sparking controversy in the United States.

In response to Nike's 30th anniversary Just Do It campaign starring Colin Kaepernick, people are burning their apparel that belongs to the brand. The campaign surrounded the slogan "Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything" - a reference to Kaepernick's career.

During the San Francisco 49ers third preseason game of 2016, Kaepernick sat down during the national anthem. After the game, Kaepernick said in an interview that he was, "not going to stand up to show pride in a flag or a country that supports the oppression of black people or people of color," according to the National Football League (NFL).

By the next preseason game, he opted to kneel to show more respect for former and current U.S. military members. The idea came

Our Soundman just cut the Nike swoosh off his socks. Former marine. Get ready @Nike multiply that by the millions.

Fig. 1

from former football player and U.S. military veteran Nate Boyer.

The practice of kneeling during the anthem proved to be divisive with President Donald

Trump characterizing it as disrespectful to the U.S. flag and military.

Shortly after, Kaepernick's jersey sales skyrocketed while he was also determined 2016's most disliked player, according to ESPN. The 2016 NFL also had a significant drop in their television ratings, due to people boycotting the NFL after Kaepernick's actions.

Immediately after Nike made Kaepernick the face of their campaign, backlash began. John Rich, of the country duo Big & Rich, tweeted a picture of the band's sound man holding the famous Nike swooshes cut off his socks (Fig.1).

Rich's tweet ended up going viral, following Twitter user Sean Clancy's video of him burning his Nike shoes. The video led to the hashtag #BurnYourNikes, subsequently resulting in a trend where conservatives light their Nike gear on fire (Fig.2).

The importance of this conversation around Nike destruction and its relative merit is this boycott isn't just about the brand. Destroying their Nike attire allows these people to voice their displeasure with Nike, and to assert their own identity in a public space.

This identity that's being shown is nothing other than underlying racism. It's a well known fact that Kaepernick's protest is in response to the racism and police brutality against people of color. When people criticize that protest, they are basically shaking hands with racism itself.

What people fail to realize is Nike's sales have gone up 31 percent from this campaign, according to Time - something that was closely considered before even making the final decision on making Kaepernick the face of the campaign. By giving the company media attention, those who are shunning Nike are also courting the brand's media performance.

Nike knew exactly what they were doing



Fig. 2

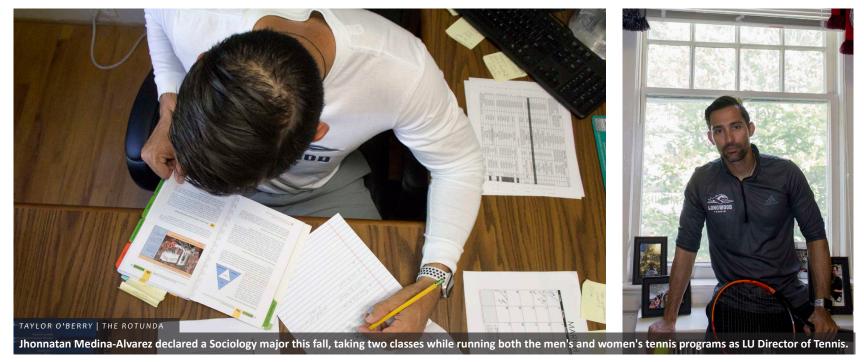
when they decided to highlight Kaepernick's career. The risk of a negative response was most obviously assessed and considered before making the deal, which implies Nike believed they would earn more than they would lose with the sponsorship.

Another thing to consider is whatever compels someone to burn their Nikes is the same thing that compels someone to go out and by something from the brand. Regardless, Nike is still making money, because they've already profited off what protesters have purchased.

Nike is also going to make a profit off social justice and the desire to do something for a cause. Millennials and Gen Z's, the demographic that is the company's future, are more likely to choose companies that have a social theme as a core value.

At the end of the day, you can burn your shoes or cut off that famous swoosh. Nike still got your money.

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Finding Something New After Losing Everything

by Patrick Sanderson | Sports Editor | @psanderson20

is office in Tabb Hall is filled with his prized possessions. A framed jacket given to him as a gift from then president of Venezuela with the colors of the country's flag sits propped up against the wall under the window. A black motorcycle helmet rests on his shelf with the Venezuela, Spain and United States flags printed on the top and on either side. Directly below it sits a small, six-inch tall trophy holding a tennis ball, fitting perfectly in the cup between the tiny handles.

Jhonnatan Medina-Alvarez carefully opens a worn memory scrapbook sitting on his desk. He gently turns the pages, looking at pictures of his teenage self. His hair was long then, and in each picture he's with family, friends and old teammates. He cracked a soft smile as he pointed to his teenage self on the front cover of a messy cutout of a Spanish-language newspaper article.

He shows up to work every day well-put together with his short, black hair carefuly gelled over and always wearing Longwood apparel. Standing around six feet tall, he never takes a day off, working out to keep his slim, athletic frame, no matter the time of year. Jhonnatan's heritage is ever present thanks to a noticeable accent, but speaks English flawlessly. Above all, Medina-Alvarez always greets others with positivity and kindness.

You would've never known he's lost everything, witnessed death right before his eyes and stared down the barrel of a gun.

Medina-Alvarez was a Venezuelan tennis sensation just five years after picking up a racket for the first time when he was 9 years old. He learned quickly by hitting tennis balls against concrete building walls on the streets of his hometown, Caracas.

He began touring the world when he was 14 to compete internationally, wanting independence to pave his own way to success.

"My dad knew that I was an opinionated and straight-forward kid, so I wanted a place where I was able to learn other things about life that he thought was important," he said. "I realized I needed to see life differently than just waiting for my parents to give me things."

By 18 years old he ranked in the top ten tennis players in South America and was the number one player in Venezuela of all players 18 and under.

Receiving a proper high school education became tough for Medina-Alvarez while bouncing from country to country. While he was competing globally, traveling to over 35 countries as a teenager and in his early 20s, friends and classmates back home were advancing their education.

The only difference was Medina-Alvarez thought he had his future all in front of him. After graduating high school in 1999, he declined to advance to higher education despite receiving numerous scholarship offers, deciding instead to pursue tennis professionally.

His face filled billboards along the streets of Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, and his name was all over the country's newspapers.

"I had a maid, I had a chauffeur, I had everything you could possibly think that most people would love to have," Medina-Alvarez said. "In my country, you either have the wealthy or the poor. You don't have the mix in the middle."

Back in Caracas, his father, Carlos, was on the opposite side of the spectrum. He lived most of his life trying to give his son everything he didn't have. Because of this, he was a strong supporter of Jhonnatan's aspirations to play tennis professionally. He was the best under-18 tennis player in the country, eventually reaching heights his father never reached.

"It created kind of like a false entitlement, because it didn't belong to me, it belonged to him," said Medina-Alvarez.

As he continued to climb the world tennis rankings, money followed, along with notoriety and the common trappings of fame. His name began to be recognized around the country.

Meanwhile, government corruption in Venezuela led to issues economically and politically. Economic difficulties resulted in a debt crisis in the 1990s and 2000s, creating an unrest amongst Venezuelan citizens.

"It got to the point where the country was not sustainable for what I wanted to do. I was a high-profile person," said Medina-Alvarez. "I wanted to live my life freely."

There was a genuine fear of being kidnapped as a high-profile person in Venezuela. People broke into his boyhood home numerous times, his brothers were attacked and he was even held at gunpoint.

"All the money I made as a professional, I had to not only hide it, but I had to hide who I was," he said. "You learn to live like that."

And he did. His father built a fortress from the ground up with three-meter walls, ten-inch steel doors and electric barbed wires. The fears of burglary, theft, assault and home invasion became an underlying, constant part of Jhonnatan and his family's daily life.

"People would still get in," he said. "The problem is, when they don't have it, they're just going to take it from you."

A stroll down the streets of his hometown

on the northern coast of Venezuela would lead you to find children fishing for their next meal in a nearby dumpster. Fights would break out leaving someone lying lifeless on the pavement, and he witnessed first-hand a person lit on fire for stealing.

"I've seen death many times," he said. "It becomes normal because you cannot show signs of weakness."

A household name in Venezuela during the 1990s and early 2000s, he was forced to keep a low profile to protect himself. He couldn't walk down streets or take cabs without being recognized, and there was a lasting fear of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

His life took a dramatic turn when he began to slip down the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings in the late 2000s, then sustained an injury during a match in which he almost lost his left thumb. A man who was once a rising tennis star, after all he's seen and done, fell to his lowest point.

He struggled to acclimate to being considered a 'normal' person in a hostile country after his playing career ended. He still had money in his savings, and he still had to protect his identity because people still knew his name. Following his departure from professional tennis, Jhonnatan had blueprints to open his own tennis academy, but the government shut down his plans just before development.

Venezuela never showed signs of improvement with people continuing to show hostility towards the government. Hyperinflation began to take its course, causing people to flee to surrounding countries such as Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. In need of a change, Medina-Alvarez moved to the United States in September 2009 in search of something new.

"It was a different dynamic, I started from scratch," he said. "The goal was to embrace my knowledge and try and bring it here to people in America"

Leaving his family behind, he found a tiny, one-bedroom apartment in Orlando, Fl., to live in by himself. With limited English, no real job experience and no American citizenship, he believed nobody would hire him. His new life in America started extremely rough as a result, struggling to make ends meet.

"I was going to train anyone who wants a lesson because I had to make a living," said Medina-Alvarez.

He made \$50 a month teaching private lessons to anyone who wanted one. It turned into a game of chance, because if the player he taught didn't think they benefited from the lesson, they'd take their money back. He knew nobody, and had no connections.

"I had everything I ever wanted because I was the best," Medina-Alvarez said. "But here, who am I?"

Fortunately, he still had money in his savings, but the conversion system made American dollars less valuable than Venezuelan money. He gave himself six months of teaching private lessons while living in Florida, and if he couldn't maintain a comfortable lifestyle, he planned on moving to Spain, where he already was a citizen.

"It was really hard, sometimes I was questioning myself," he said.

Two years after moving to the United States, Medina-Alvarez invested his savings into his own academy in Florida in 2010. His academy started small, but quickly became successful. Memberships kept increasing, reaching over 100 members. Eventually, he branded the name, calling it the Medina-Alvarez Tennis Champions (MATCH) academy.

"I had everything I ever wanted because I was the best, but here, who am I?"

He worked 10-11 hours a day at the academy with his income reaching \$5,000 per month. At 28 years old, he thought he finally found a glimmer of light in a dark tunnel living in the United States.

In 2016, five years after applying for a green card, Medina-Alvarez officially became a licensed American citizen.

"I cried when I got the citizenship," he said.

Six years after moving to America, his family joined him.

However, his life took another hit. Medina-Alvarez was renting out the courts used for the MATCH academy from a Saudi Arabian prince for seven years from 2010-2017. Once memberships started to slip and conditions became poor, he put in \$40,000 of his own money to refurbish the courts in exchange for the actual owner of the court to take care of the water supply on the clay courts. After making the investment, the water supply ended up being completely cut off.

"I lost everything," he said. "Everything was gone the same way it came, but in a way I was in those shoes before, so it didn't bother me."

In 2017, following the collapse of his academy, he wanted to move on from life in Florida. His long-time best friend from Venezuela, Maria Lopez, formerly women's tennis coach

at Longwood, contacted him about an opening as the head men's tennis coach. However, a college degree was required for the position. But it didn't stop Medina-Alvarez from sending in his résumé, boasting 20 years of tennis experience.

"How many years of school do you have to take to be able to have the same knowledge that I have? Because in the end, you are hiring a tennis coach," he said.

His argument worked, and he received an interview with Longwood Director of Athletics Troy Austin.

"He understood that I had goals that I wanted to accomplish for the team, for the program and for the university," said Medina-Alvarez. "And at the same time, I wanted to go to school."

Austin was convinced, and Medina-Alvarez was hired in December 2017 as the head men's tennis coach alongside his long-time best friend, leaving his entire family and girlfriend in Florida to coach a small Division I NCAA program in Farmville, Va. He never forgot about his goal to receive a college degree, though, as he officially enrolled in sociology courses for the Fall 2018 semester.

Medina-Alvarez lives alone in a rented attic, waking up around 5 a.m. every day. Following an early morning workout with his team, he works on homework up

until his classes start at 8 a.m.

He trains with his team in the afternoon and calls his family almost every night, then repeats the cycle all over again in the morning. He takes two classes at a time, so obtaining a degree will take time, but he has his mind set on accomplish-

thought he'd do.

"If I ever walk, the
walk that you guys do
when you get your degree, I'm going to cry
like a baby," he said

ing something he never

with a smile.

Jhonnatan Medina-Alvarez was recently named Longwood Director of Tennis, overseeing both men's and women's programs





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