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Rotunda - Vol 97, no. 10 - Nov 5, 2018

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ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

NOVEMBER 5, 2018

VOL 97. ISSUE 10

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Director of University Center and Student Activities Susan Sullivan spoke to the SGA Senate about the new Upchurch University Center and listened to suggestions the Senate had to improve the new building.

During the Student Government Association (SGA) meeting on Oct. 30, Director of the University Center and Student Activities Susan Sullivan came in to answer questions and take suggestions from the Senate in regard to Upchurch University Center.

Freshman Class Representative Claire Lesman asked about the possibility of a printing center in the building and Sullivan responded by saying that there would be a cost effect and there would be materials needed that the university doesn't have.

Senator Joseph Hyman said other schools use a printing "kiosk" service that is cost-effective and suggested that Sullivan look into that avenue.

Virginia 21 and State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Representative Mary Zell Galen asked if there were any plans to put art or decorations in Upchurch to make it feel more Longwood-oriented and less commercial. Sullivan said she hopes to be able to work with the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) and the art department, but it is a plan in the works.

Senator Cameron Roblewsky suggested there be line dividers put in the food court to be able to differentiate between the lines for Panda Express and FarmGrill and Sullivan said that is currently being worked on.

Historian Megan Bland asked if there is a possibility for a Lancer Cash Deposit machine to be put in Upchurch University Center. Sullivan said that it is a possibility.

Sullivan also announced that a suggestion box is going to be put at the information desk on the second floor.

During open forum, Senator

Catherine Swinsky said two students came to her with a complaint that they got sick after eating Panda Express. Swinsky went on to say she met with Senior Director of Longwood Dining Services Grant Avent and an investigation followed.

According to Swinsky, 300 servings were put out that day and only two students got sick, so the dining services came to the conclusion that nothing was wrong.

During the president's report, SGA President Josh Darst talked about Longwood University President W. Taylor Reveley IV's email that was issued on Oct. 26 surrounding the white nationalist postings that have been found on campus.

Hobson recapped a meeting that was held with Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) Chief Col. Bob Beach surrounding the postings.

Per Hobson, one of the outcomes of the meeting was pushing the motion of "see something, say something," and said SGA will be tabling outside of the dining hall for that cause.

The conversation went back to Darst, who said he talked to Jonathan Page, director of Citizen Leadership and Social Justice Education, about some resolutions for students. One of the resolutions suggested was a minority cultural center and a proposal is being worked on for that.

Swinsky gave an update on the service dog in training resolution and announced that after meeting with the Office of Disabilities and Resources, the proposal was dropped and the conclusion was service dogs in training should not be allowed in other facilities.

The next SGA meeting will be Nov. 6 at 3:45 p.m. in the Wilson Chamber, located in Upchurch University Center.

Longwood student advocates to change service dog in training policy

Proposal nixed, Tucker will continue to advocate

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar | News Editor | @JesseKellar

Looking to seek change to Longwood University's policy on service animals in training, Ellen Tucker, a sophomore nursing major, is training a dog herself while attending Longwood. At this time, the policy will not be changed but Tucker said she will continue to advocate for it.

Tucker said she is a "volunteer puppy raiser" with Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). She attends Longwood as a commuter student and raises a future service dog. The dog she is responsible for, Peru, is seven months old. She will train Peru until she is



Peru, a service dog in training, is not allowed in classrooms at this time while services dogs are allowed.



Trainer, Sophomore Ellen Tucker and Peru.

two and half years old, when she will go to professional training.

"So my main responsibility as a puppy raiser is socialize her, get her use to different types of people, different types of situations that she could be put in when she's working," Tucker said. "Different sounds, you know, like taking her to basketball games and taking her to places where she has to be quiet for a long period of time ... So that's basically my responsibility and also giving her training her (with) 30 commands."

Per Tucker, the dogs she and other CCI puppy raisers train eventually become service dogs. They may become hearing dogs, facility dogs, skilled companions and service dogs, all of which can provide help with specific needs.

At Longwood, Tucker said her goal is to be able to have service dogs in training, like Peru, in classrooms. Currently, Peru is allowed in "all of the public buildings" but access is restricted regarding classrooms and Longwood managed housing. Tucker wants to have the policy changed to allow service dogs in training into classrooms and housing. Additionally, she said she would like to start a club at Longwood for training future service dogs.

"They (Longwood) told me that they prefer

to not have her in classrooms and on residence halls, which really puts a halt on my ability to start a club," Tucker said. "I've written a constitution, kind of got that start going, but now I'm kind of hit a wall because I want this to be accessible to students."

Per Tucker, Student Government Association (SGA) Senator Catherine Swinsky has assisted her in her efforts.

Swinsky said the process would mean speaking to disability services, drafting an SGA resolution, having it sent to Faculty Senate and then have the handbook changed.

"Even if the (Faculty) Senate approves it, then it has to be changed in the handbook and that could take another year," Swinsky said in an interview before the resolution had been presented to the Office of Disabilities and Resources (ODR).

In SGA last week, Swinsky gave an update that the proposal had been rejected by ODR. Tucker said she had received an email from Swinsky that the proposal had been nixed but Tucker plans to continue to advocate to have service dogs in training on campus.

"I'm going to continue to advocate. I'm considering (advocating for) changing the laws, either over winter break and into the spring or the summer too, because Longwood is kind of pushed me to that point," Tucker said. "Even though many schools have made the exception and changed the handbook (Longwood has not)."

According to Tucker, Longwood was "worried about people adopting dogs and saying, 'oh, this is my service animal in training,' but how I was going to change the handbook, I was going to say that the dog in training (had to be with) with an accredited organization."

Tucker said, "I've been stepping back because I need to reestablish a lot (of) what I'm going



Peru is training to be a certified service dog as part of the Canine Companionship for Independence.

to do" but is still interested in Longwood changing its policy.

Although fully trained service dogs are allowed in classrooms per the student handbook, service dogs in training are not allowed in classrooms at this time, per Swinsky.

Follow The Rotunda for updates.



A Candle for Hope

by Jacob Puterko | Photo Staff | @JPuterko

SGA President Josh Darst led the vigil first by speaking to the crowd of students and faculty as everyone looked towards him for support.



All those in attendance held a candle to show support for recent events both nationally and on Longwood's campus.



As more student body leaders came up and spoke about the losses that have brought them all together, it was hard for some of the crowd members to hold back their tears.



Everyone in attendance signed the Unity banner to show their support.



Longwood President W. Taylor Reveley IV was in attendance to support students.



As the vigil got more emotional, Darst took a moment to himself to reflect on the losses that have affected the nation.

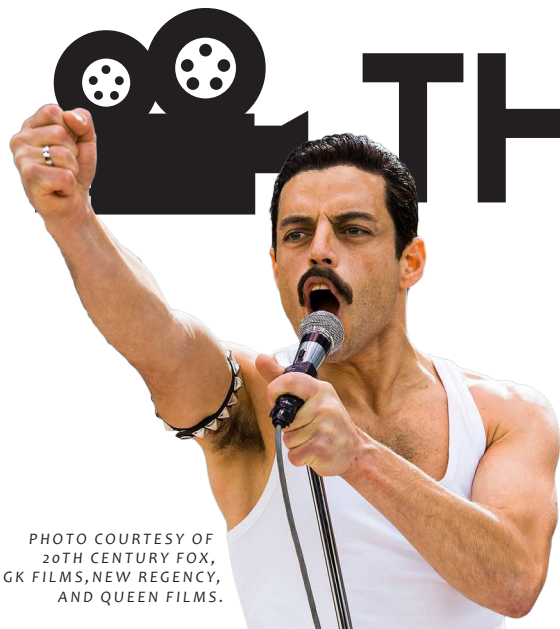


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20TH CENTURY FOX,
GK FILMS, NEW REGENCY,
AND QUEEN FILMS.

THE REEL LIFE

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

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

At one point about a third of the way through “Bohemian Rhapsody,” the new biopic about Freddie Mercury and Queen, a record producer, upset at the band trying to push the film’s title track states, “Mark my words, no one will play Queen!” Now this is a line that the producer probably didn’t say, put into the film to give a fun winking nod to the audience. And it’s a perfect way to encapsulate the film as a whole.

This is a movie not particularly enamored with telling a deep and exquisitely detailed story of the life and success of the eponymous rock band Queen, and its equally eponymous lead singer Freddie Mercury. Some moments are clearly truncated to fit the constraints of a two-hour film; Freddie’s first introduction to his future band-mates also conveniently explains their backstories because Freddie just happens to know them.

However, while it is a bit annoying for those looking to the film to learn, it allows the film to get the semantics out of the way as quickly as possible and pursue the real goal: tell how some of the band’s iconic songs were made and tell the story of Mr. Mercury in all his flamboyant glory, while having as much rock and roll fun as possible.

That’s where “Rhapsody” finds the most success. It’s inherently a film that just wants to celebrate Queen. Audiences won’t walk away with a particularly deep understanding of the band, but they will walk away with the songs in their heads and on their tongues, and the simple thought of, “Man, Queen really is a good band.”

So then, if the film’s goal is just to have a good time, does it succeed in that aspect? Well, yes, kind of. If there’s anything that has clearly affected the film’s quality, it’s the behind the scenes shenanigans that affected its shooting and post-production.

To mention it briefly, former director Bryan Singer was fired in Dec. of 2017 after failing to show up to set during shooting, and shortly after this was accused of sexual assault of minors in what many dubbed to be an after-effect of the accusations of Harvey Weinstein. Dexter Fletcher (“Eddie the Eagle”) was hired to finish shooting and work through post-

production. Per Director’s Guild of America rules though, Singer retained a sole Director’s credit.

This behind the scenes turmoil does show in some elements of the film. Its first act is sloppily edited and feels as though it condenses too much into too little time, leading to a generally rushed feeling. This is further exacerbated as the latter acts are much slower and better edited and paced. The first act and the last two are so different that it almost feels like whiplash.

Musically, the film is golden. Keep an eye out for the sound editing Oscar come next year, because every performance is pure musical delight. Rami Malek (“Mr. Robot”) is clearly having the time of his life gyrating around the stage as Mercury, with the rest of the cast (Gwilym Lee, Ben Hardy, Joseph Mazzello, Aidan Gillen and Tom Hollander) performing with charisma and glee.

They’re nothing compared to Malek though. His performance as Freddie is simply astonishing. It isn’t method acting, as he doesn’t embody Freddie like he’s copying recordings or photographs. Instead, it feels as though he’s captured the spirit and energy of the rock star and channeled into a vision of the singer that is entrancing to watch.

By the time everything wraps up, it has all been done in such a nice neat bow that it seems almost Hallmark Channel-esque. While it doesn’t harm the film’s quality, it does further embolden the movie’s generally clean feel, which is ironic for a star who was anything but.

It also feels as though Mercury gets the most focus so that nothing ill comes out against the other members or so that they aren’t portrayed unfavorably. They always seem to come out of arguments and fights with the upper hand, or at the very least with no one within the band to blame. That may have something to do with actual band members Roger Taylor and Bryan May serving as Creative Consultants, as well as former Queen manager Jim Beach serving as a producer. But that’s probably just a coincidence.

By the time the third act rolls around,

and the final 25 minute-long sequence begins to play, none of the other details matter. In that moment, the plot issues, historical inaccuracies, editing mishaps and pacing problems all fade away. In that moment, it’s just Queen and their audience. And it’s glorious to behold.

Overall, “Bohemian Rhapsody” is a solid look at one of the most beloved bands in the world. It’s musically satisfying, and its rocky pacing and editing is smoothed out by the film’s halfway mark. It doesn’t feel particularly extensive in its want to detail the bands history. It’s closer to a summary in a book jacket than an actual detailed description.

But at the end of the day it’s just a solid film carried by an incredible performance. It practically screams “Hey, we love Queen. Come take a ride with us and talk about how much we love Queen.” It’s not a biography, it’s a celebration. And that’s not entirely a bad thing.

★★★★☆ 3.5/5

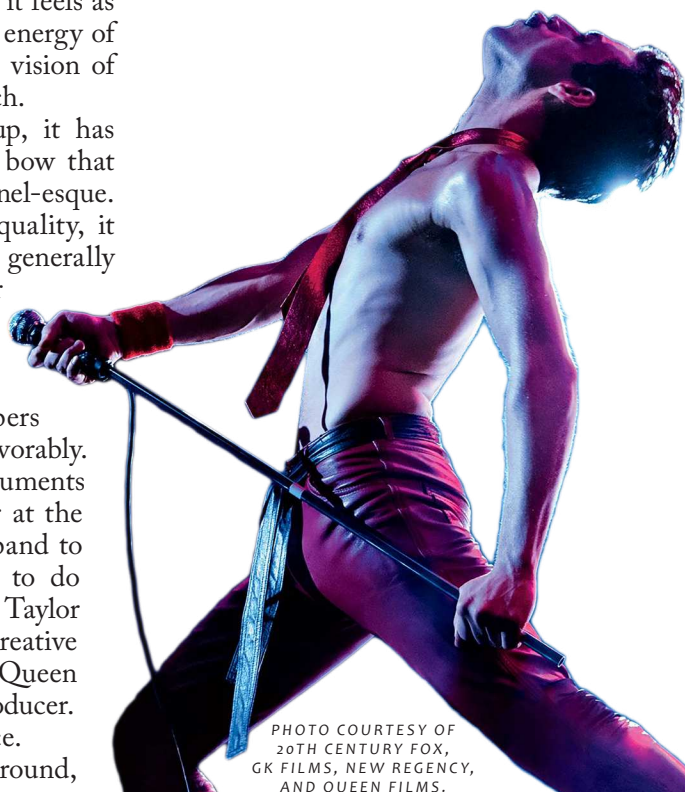


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TRANSPHOBIA

IS PREVALENT IN NEW TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL

by RACHAEL POOLE | Opinions Editor | @rapoole17

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of the author.

The Trump-Pence administration is considering making a dangerous move to change the definition of gender to a biological condition determined by genitalia at birth, according to the New York Times. It would take back decades of movements for LGBTQ+ rights, eradicating government recognition and protection of transgender and non-binary citizens.

There are 1.4 million people in the United States that identify as transgender or non-binary, according to the Williams Institute.

Per the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), transgender means, "an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth," meaning non-binary fits under the transgender umbrella term.

Generally, non-binary means one doesn't feel they fit on the binary spectrum, not identifying as either male nor female, per the National Center for Transgender Equality.

The change is outlined in a draft memo by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), according to BBC News. It would rescind the Obama administration's policy that provided a broader definition to the word.

If it gets adopted, it could also exclude transgender Americans from existing protections at the federal level in healthcare, education and employment.

This isn't the first time the Trump administration has attacked transgender people – a month into President Donald Trump's presidency, his administration rescinded Obama's guidance policy that required schools to let students choose what bathroom they were comfortable using.

That was just the start of a long, hard fight for transgender Americans.

In 2016, the Department of Education (DoE) issued a guidance that required schools to let transgender students use the bathroom of their choice, if they wished to use the bathroom corresponding to



COURTESY OF TEEN VOGUE
Transgender people and allies react to the Trump-Pence administration's memo on changing the definition of gender.

their gender identify.

The current Director of HHS, Roger Severino, has been openly critical of Obama's past attempts to push civil rights forward for transgender Americans.

After the DoE's guidance policy on school bathrooms was issued, Severino called it the "culmination of a series of unilateral, and frequently lawless, administration attempts to impose a new definition of what it means to be a man or a woman on the entire nation."

On July 26, 2017, Trump announced on Twitter that trans people would no longer be allowed to serve in the military, though that directive was blocked by the court.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions reversed guidance that protected trans workers from discrimination from the workplace in October of 2017, also taking back decades of steps toward civil rights protections for trans people.

"At every step where the administration has had the choice, they've opted to turn their back on transgender people," said Sarah Warbelow, legal director of the HRC, in response to the memo.

Warbelow expressed that transgender people are frightened of the current administration's desire to erase the very definition of their identity.

HHS has requested that the Departments of Education, Justice and Labor adopt the new definition in regulations to get it accepted by the courts, according to the New York Times.

If adopted, the proposal would be published in the Federal Register where comments from the public would be allowed and viewed before a final rule is issued.

In response to the memo proposal, trans people took to social media where they shared pictures of themselves and their transformations with the hashtag #WontBeErased.

One out of every 137 teenagers/young adults identify as transgender or non-binary, according to the Williams Institute. That means one out of roughly every 137 students here on campus identify under the transgender umbrella term.

Since the memo proposal was published, Trans Lifeline received four times the number of normal callers, according to the organization's website. Trans Lifeline is a suicide hotline for people who identify as transgender, non-binary or are struggling to find their identity.

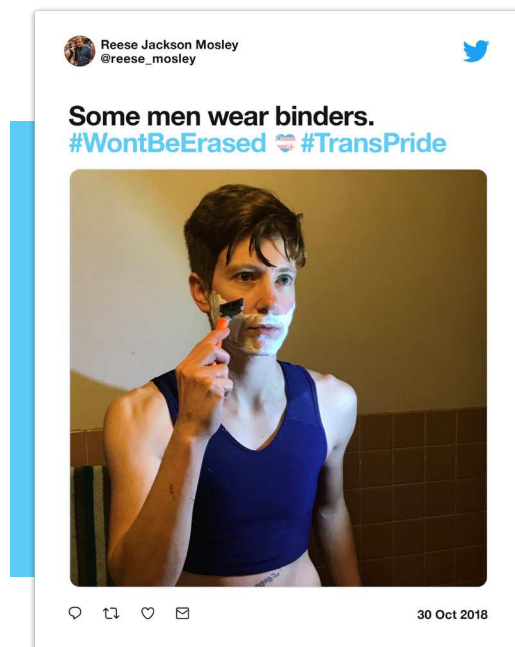
You might not know it, but some of your classmates are transgender or non-binary. Some of them are scared for what happens

next. If we, as a diverse nation, allow the continuation of these policies to go on, we are letting the current administration take back years of civil rights.

As if it's not enough for the Trump administration to implement policies that are dangerous to LGBTQ+ Americans, Trump has done more to attack trans people in the nearly two years he's been president.

Trump's rhetoric has allowed his followers and others to display a large amount of transphobia in the U.S. - it's the same rhetoric that gets people killed or attacked. This rhetoric is what's caused a rise in suicide or suicide attempts by transgender citizens.

An Oct. 2018 study in Pediatrics found



that 50.8 percent of transgender boys, 41.8 percent of non-binary kids and 29.9 percent of transgender girls aged 11-19 had attempted suicide, mainly because of fear. Trump seems all too committed to pushing those numbers up. Suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts among trans people are directly associated with the same discrimination and messages the president puts out.

You don't have to understand the concept of gender identity to support it. But you do have to support it to save lives. It's unfair and unjust that our transgender and non-binary acquaintances, friends, colleagues and mentors should be stripped of their identity due to a lack of understanding. It's unfair they must be worried about their identity being legally erased due to blatant transphobia and ignorance.

They will not be erased, not now nor ever. We won't let the Trump administration do that.

WBB Preview: Lancers excited for future under new leadership

by KURT MARTIN | Sports Staff | @lamKurt14



CONTRIBUTED BY ASHLEY ROBERTS

Longwood women's basketball hopes to improve their offensive attack after last season's 54.9 points per game.

As the Longwood women's basketball team inches closer to their first regular season game on the road at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), excitement amongst the team is at a high as the team is looking to start fresh after a disappointing 2017-18 campaign.

"It's just energy and excitement, there's a lot of change going and we've really done a great job of embracing that and so we're really excited to see what the new culture and program looks for us," said redshirt junior Kate Spradlin.

The biggest change for the program came in mid-April when Longwood Athletics announced the hiring of former Navy women's basketball associate head coach Rebecca Tillett, who replaced former Longwood head coach Bill Reinson.

Tillett, a native of Manassas, Va., is looking to transform the identity and culture of the program.

"For our women, we want to implement a tough and unselfish culture, so caring about other people so that the team can achieve great things," said the first-year head coach. "Being tough, in our world, you have to have an inner strength and I think for women to emphasize that for them is important."

The team also brings a new set of assistant coaches to the forefront this season, as Jessica Olmstead, Tiffany Sardin and Maeve Gallagher have been assembled by Tillett to

help lead the Lancers to success.

The new coaching staff has given the team a fresh start, something Spradlin understands the team needed.

"I think a lot of it is our attitudes towards things. We look forward to coming to practice, we look forward to playing," Spradlin said. "It's something that's fun again for us and I think that's really brought a lot of change."

Spradlin, who finished fifth on the team in scoring with 5.9 points-per-game a year ago, is another experienced player on a team that only has

two newcomers this season, freshman guard Milou Vennema and freshman forward Akila Smith, both dangerous 5-foot-11 threats.

In a pre-season scrimmage against the University of Richmond, the Lancers showed encouraging signs of growth and maturation going into regular season play.

"I think that gave us a good picture of where we are and what we need to do to improve," Tillett said.

Earlier in the pre-season, to improve the team's overall toughness and camaraderie, Tillett said she arranged practices named "Toughness with the Marine Core" which stemmed from her time at the Naval Academy. In the five sessions, all at 6 a.m. on Friday mornings, the team competed in mental and

physical challenges to help develop chemistry and communication skills, according to Tillett.

Last season's fourth leading scorer, senior guard/forward Kristina Antonenko thought the workouts were grueling, but beneficial.

"I also think it helped us to grow together as a team, because we really stick together, and in a lot of the workouts, you have to listen to your teammates and reply to them and really communicate a lot," said Antonenko. "I think it was a really good thing."

For the team to have success this season, Tillett said they will need contributions on all fronts from every player.

She hopes junior guard Dayna Rouse is able to stay healthy this season after undergoing shoulder surgery, saying she looks ready to go for tip-off. Additionally, Tillett said she wants to keep Khaila Hall off the injury list after only playing in two games last year.

The Lancers will have their first chance to show off their pre-season work for their home fans as they host the Wagner College Seahawks on Nov. 14, and then officially open a new season on Friday, Nov. 9.



The team catches their breath during a high-paced practice.





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