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The

ROTUNDA

Awaiting fall break since 1920



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make potential a reality

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

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CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA

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Longwood University has changed its parking plans for the 2019-2020 academic year due to the upcoming construction that will commence on the new convocation center, slated to open by the spring of 2022.

On April 10, Longwood announced on their website that a new convocation and events center would be built after philanthropist and former student Joan Brock donated \$15 million to the university. The new center will be placed right next to Willett Hall, the current home of the men's and women's basketball teams. Due to this, the tennis courts, which are located in the same spot, had to be relocated.

The tennis courts will be moved to the South Wynne lot, which sits next to Buddy Bolding Stadium and is currently fenced off in order to make way for the tennis courts to be built. This has forced Longwood to change the parking plans for this school year, in order to accommodate the construction as well as the residential and commuter students that used to park in that area.

The South Wynne lot was previously used for students living on main campus with a resident pass, as well as visitors who came to the university. Now that this is not an option anymore, those affected have to find a new place to park.

Matthew McGregor, associate vice president of auxiliary services and wellness at Longwood, said, "Some of the space will come back, they just need it during the construction phase."

McGregor added, "The gravel area in the middle of the lot on Pine Street".

Due to the smaller number of upperclassmen students living on campus this year, the need for residential parking spaces decreased. Residential students are able to park

in the Wynne Tiers behind the Clark House and at the Longwood Landings behind the northeast and southeast buildings if Wynne has filled up.

They did lose almost 100 commuter parking spots when Wynne became fenced off, but they were able to gain a few more spots back from other parking areas on and around campus.

McGregor said, "We switched Hooper St. from residential to commuter, added 10 spots in the Upper Frazer lot and made Putney St. commuter, so we gained around 30 to 40 spaces."

He added there are always spaces for students to park throughout the day as well as on the weekends and so far, they have not had any issues despite losing some parking spaces.

As for visitor spaces, there is a parking garage located below Brock Commons that can be used when there are not enough spaces in Wynne. The parking garage has 130 spaces for people who are coming in the evenings or for special events such as basketball games. You do not need a pass to park there, but it is not intended for anyone to park in overnight.

As far as parking spaces surrounding the convocation center goes, they are still in the process of deciding where they will go.

McGregor said, "We still need to study the area and decide what to do accordingly once construction is further along on the building."

Until then, people are encouraged to park in the Wynne lots or down behind Midtown near the Longwood Landings, which is within walking distance to campus. Students and visitors can also access the university's master plan which includes graphics that show where they are able to park now and over the course of the next few years.

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In SGA: Elwood's Cabinet resolution, Willett Pool discussion

by Kurt Martin | Sports Editor | @lamKurt14



Executive Vice President Catherine Swinsky reviews Robert's Rules to those who were recently introduced into the SGA Senate.

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, a resolution for a clause stating the purpose and availability of Elwood's Cabinet in all academic syllabi was read aloud by Vice President Catherine Swinsky and Sophomore Class President Payten Bovat.

The resolution states many current students may not be aware of the services of Elwood's Cabinet, which inhibits their ability to utilize said resources when they are food insecure.

After completion of the first reading, a motion to fast track the resolution was passed by senate, therefore opening the floor for discussion on the matter.

Senator Ibrahim Kante asked if adding the clause of Elwood's Cabinet to course syllabi would open the door for any and all organizations to add a clause to course syllabi about what resources they have to offer. He asked if senate should make a motion to make the option only for Elwood's Cabinet.

Swinsky said resources and other organizations can come to SGA meetings and propose resolutions like these.

SGA President Haleigh Pannell said she understood where Kante was coming from, but the likelihood of other organizations making a resolution such as this is highly unlikely. She pointed to a past resolution of a mental health clause in course syllabi as a similarity of what is looking to be achieved through this particular resolution.

She said, "we want to make sure all students are aware that there is a food service that is provided by the university, by this student group, to allow for that."

The resolution was then called to question and passed by the SGA. Now approved, the resolution will move to Faculty Senate for decision.

In open forum, Webmaster Mason Patrick began by reading aloud questions from the new virtual open forum, found on the Longwood SGA website.

One submission said there are concerns about the smaller size of Longwood's Class of 2023.

Senator Amy Maier said she works for the Office of Student Success and there have been studies the office has analyzed which say there was a decrease in birthrate as a whole for 2000 and 2001, and she believes every campus may experience this because there aren't as many

people going to college from this generation.

Another submission said there is a lack of parking for commuter students on Longwood's campus.

Junior Class President Jamal Allen said the parking lot behind the Health and Fitness Center was changed from residential to commuter parking and there is also a new lot behind the Longwood Landings for commuter students.

Sports Club Council (SCC) Representative Brooke McGowan said the pool inside of Willett Hall has closed. Due to this, the Swim Club is unable to use the facility and is looking for a new space.

She said the organization has been in touch with the local YMCA, Hampden-Sydney College and other community pools from around the area on the matter. McGowan added the price for use of the H-SC pool would be around \$1,900 dollars per semester and this was something the organization did not budget for due to the timing of the closing.

Pannell said, according to the bylaws, SCC gets their money during budgets and cannot do requests throughout the year, so if the SGA wanted to fund the money for the Swim Club to find a new location, the bylaws would have to be suspended.

She encouraged members of SGA to remain persistent in advocating for the issue.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Tim Pierson, said the pool has a lot of problems and the usage rates were not high, which contributed to its closure. He said he was disappointed the university hasn't worked out a plan on the issue and that the issue has now fallen back on the Swim Club. He however did feel it was a situation that could be resolved through persuasion to the university and SGA action.

Pierson said himself and Director of Landscape and Grounds and Sports Turf Sustainability David Love would speak to Campus REC on the issue.

The floor was then reopened for discussion.

Allen said he felt the pool wasn't advertised enough and he didn't know about the pool until he became a Longwood Ambassador.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee Representative Dana Joss also noted athletics used the Willett Pool for rehabilitation of injuries and it was a vital part to the process of recovery.

The subject then turned as Senator Jack Harmon said there is continued work on a reimbursement system for those who drop a class during the add/drop period. He said the amount given back would be in correlation with how much of the class was completed at the time of dropping.

Senior Class President Emma Giambalvo said many of the chairs in the classrooms of CSTAC are broken, which hampers the comfort of students during classes.

Harmon said he will speak to Faculty Senate on the issue.

In the Fiscal Technicians Report, Fiscal Technician and Administrative Assistant Trish McGregor said a Club and Organization Financial and Training course has launched on Canvas and is required for completion by treasurers of all clubs and organizations, at a minimum.

According to McGregor, student organizations will not be able to access their agency or SGA funds until the course is complete, and cannot be recognized as an official organization until a mandatory meeting is attended, a signature of authorization is submitted, the course is completed and Lancer Link is updated by the deadline of September 30.

In the President's Report, Haleigh Pannell said she, alongside Pierson, met with Longwood University President W. Taylor Reveley IV, Director of Cultural Affairs Jonathan Page and the presidents of other multicultural based organizations to hold a discussion. Pannell said this meeting will occur three times per year.

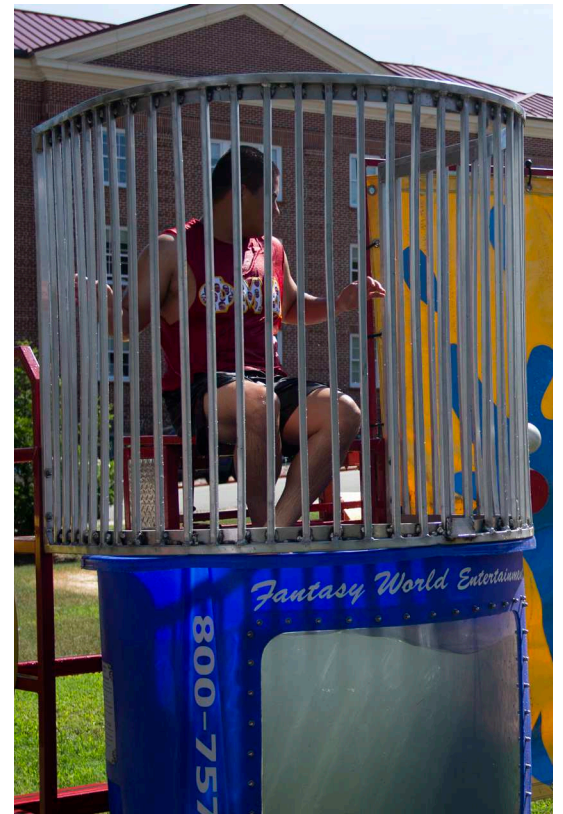
In the Executive Senator's Report, Executive Senator of Senate Relations Eleanor Carr said she took on the Campus Flow initiative from last year, which will provide free feminine products in the bathrooms of academic buildings.

She said a trial period will take place this semester and is aimed to take place in Ruffner Hall, Hiner Hall, Chichester Hall, the commuter lounge, Upchurch University Center and possibly the Dorrill Dining Hall.

The next SGA meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 17 at 3:45 p.m. inside of the Wilson Chamber at the Upchurch University Center.



A student rides a mechanical shark during the Block Party, which took place before The G.A.M.E.



A dunk tank was also provided to give students a break from the summer heat.

THE G.A.M.E

by Jessica Paquette | Photo Staff | @longwoodrotunda



President W. Taylor Reveley, IV leads the march with his family. Students from Longwood walk three miles to the soccer field to show their support and receive a scarf.



Lancer Productions gave out cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn during the festivities.

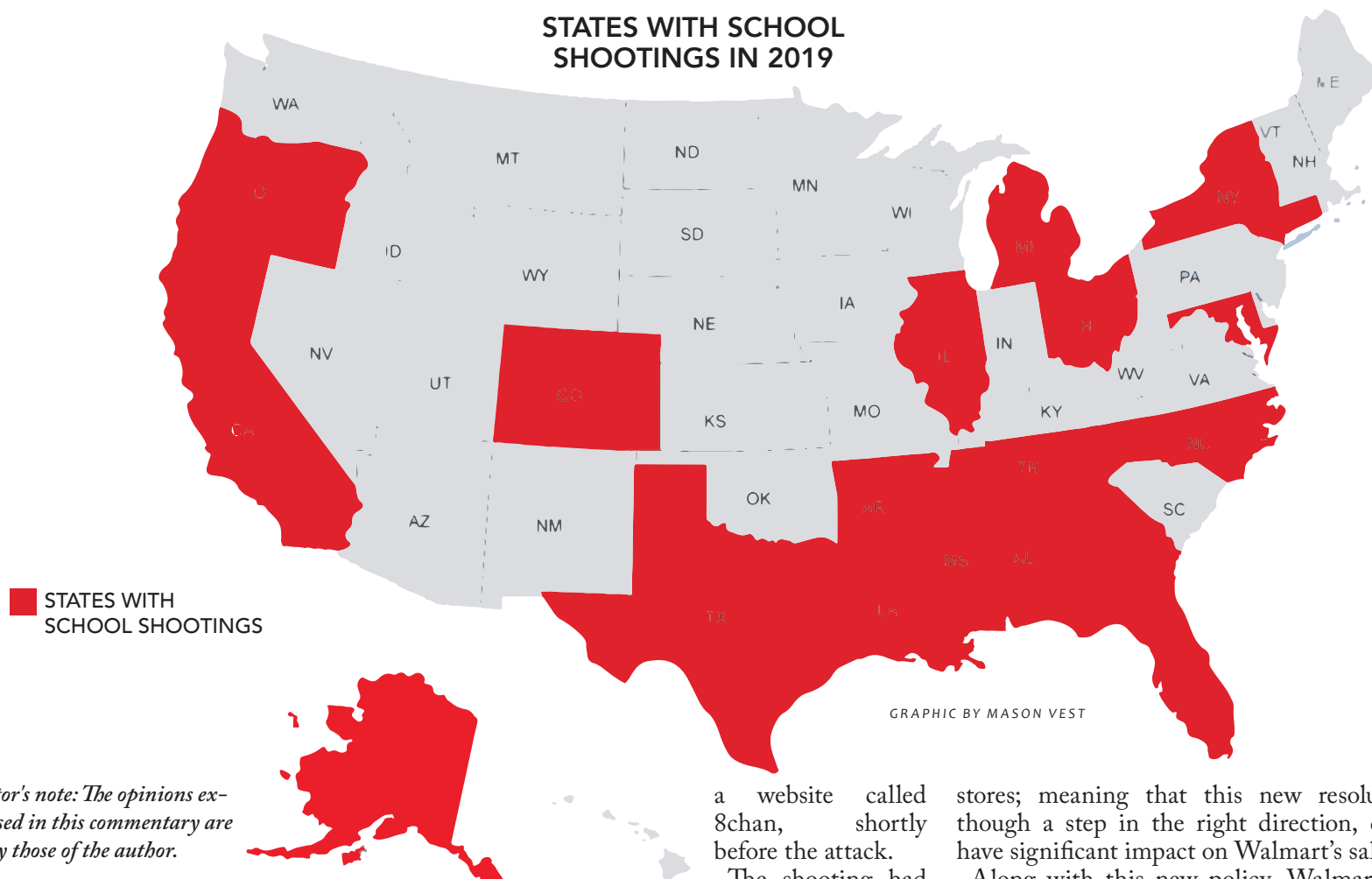
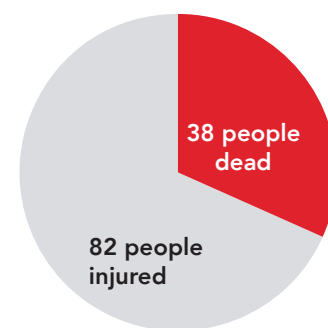


The cheerleaders get the crowd pumped for the pep rally, which began the march.

Gun violence in America: Enough is enough

This summer's mass shootings stir up a call for action against gun violence

by Davina Applewhite | Opinions Staff | @longwoodrotunda



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

As the warm weather approached and schools closed for the summer, parents across America breathed a sigh of relief with the thought that their children would be safe from the recent influx of mass school shootings, taking place nationwide.

On July 26, CNN reported that there had been 22 school shootings across the United States since the beginning of 2019.

These shootings resulted in the loss of life and injuries of more than ten students.

Unfortunately and unsurprisingly, the safety of summer was merely an illusion to parents and students alike, because in the month of August alone, mass shootings have continued to transpire in places such as a busy street, a municipal building and a Walmart.

On Aug. 4, a Walmart in El Paso, Texas was disturbed by gunshots fired by a man named Patrick Crusius.

According to the New York Times, Crusius killed twenty-two people and injured another 26 in his rampage.

Authorities apprehended Crusius and discovered that he had written an anti-immigrant manifesto, which was posted on

a website called 8chan, shortly before the attack.

The shooting had been premeditated and has since been labeled the deadliest mass shooting to occur in 2019, thus far.

Just one day later, another devastating mass shooting took place across the country.

In just 32 seconds, a gunman opened fire in the middle of a crowded street, managing to kill nine people and injure 27 others, on Aug. 4, in Dayton, Ohio.

Police arrived at the scene, killing the gunman and putting a stop to his reign of terror.

The shooter in question was 24-year-old Connor Betts.

Bett's sister, Megan, was among one of the victims who were fatally shot.

Many ask what needs to be done to prohibit and prevent more mass shootings in the United States.

Following the shooting in El Paso, Walmart stores have made the decision to stop selling ammunition and eventually stop selling handguns as well.

According to The Washington Post, Walmart sells guns in about half of its U.S.

stores; meaning that this new resolution, though a step in the right direction, could have significant impact on Walmart's sales.

Along with this new policy, Walmart has stated they would put an end to the concealed carry of weapons, in order to take more control over the potential mishandling of guns brought into their stores.

Furthermore, cities, like San Francisco, have also decided to take a stand against the gun violence that has been happening in the last few months.

The California City, has declared the National Rifle Association (NRA) as a domestic terrorist group, due to the recent mass shootings and the pressure on the NRA to create stricter forms of gun control.

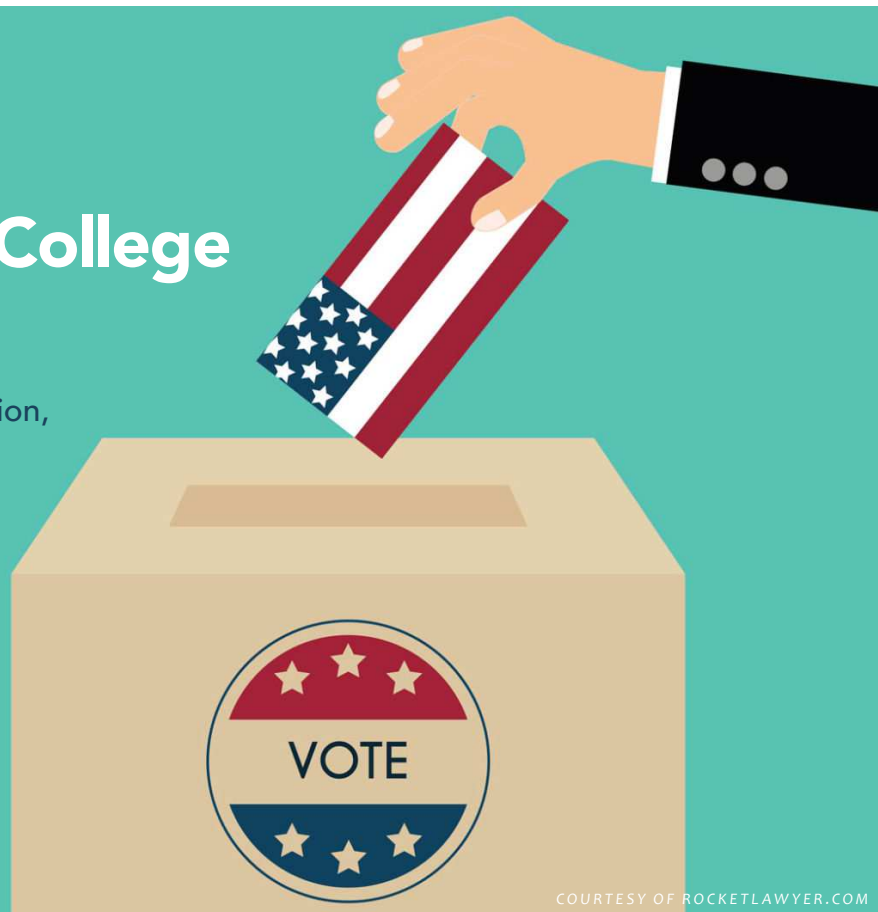
More and more Americans are dying frequently as a result of gun violence and citizens are becoming more and more divided on their stance.

Whether it be declaring the NRA as a terrorist organization or making guns less available to the public, there is no denying that something must be done to put a stop to the recent influx in mass shootings across the United States and the decision must be done quickly to prevent further tragic incidents that have taken place this summer.

Face it, the Electoral College is becoming obsolete

After the results of the 2016 Presidential Election, the Electoral College has current presidential candidates, states and electors feeling angsty about the outdated process

by Taiya Jarrett | Opinions Staff | @ohsoootay



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

Teetering upon the winner-takes-all concept, the constitutionalized process deemed as the determining factor of who will hold the position as the presiding Chief of State is in disarray.

Relatively defined by the National Archives and Records Administration as a “compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and the election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens,” the Electoral College is slowly but surely becoming dismissed and dismantled by your 2020 presidential candidates.

As tensions rise between both political parties as to who will take the seat of the presidency, people like myself are wondering how this will be decided.

Consisting of 538 hand-selected voters, the Electoral College is meant to allow each state to be heard in presidential elections, especially those smaller states via those electors. In conjunction, acquiring half, approximately 270, of those electoral votes grants that candidate presidency.

Now, although this diluted explanation of the electoral process may seem simple and fair, it is nothing of the sort.

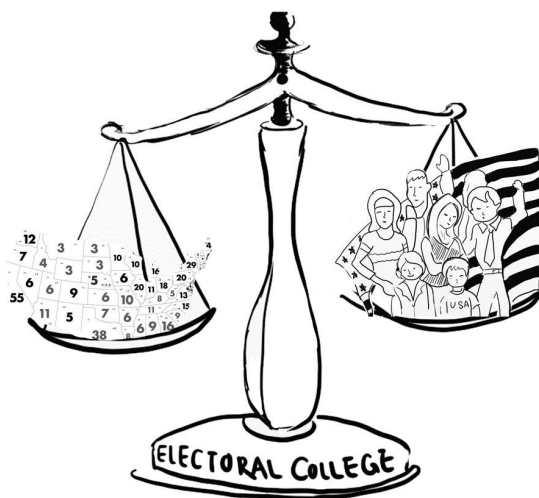
In essence, the Electoral College allows the elector of that state to perhaps vote for the candidate of their choice, rather than the guaranteed candidate the majority or minority in the state aligns with. However, the alternative to this dilemma isn't to change the elector, but to change the system.

Guaranteeing presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular

votes across all 50 states, the National Popular Vote has been sought out by many politicians since the unfortunate 2016 presidential selection.

To break it down, during the 2016 presidential election Hillary Clinton; Democratic, and Donald Trump; Republican, became a spectacle of the Electoral College, as the votes attained managed to outweigh the National Popular Vote. Therefore, Trump won the Electoral College by 306 votes, meanwhile, Clinton received 232 votes.

According to the Pew Research Center election results, Clinton won the popular vote, “Our tally shows Clinton won 65.8 million votes (48.25%) to almost 63 million (46.15%) for Trump.”



COURTESY OF DAILYTROJAN.COM

Occurring as a rarity, this is the fifth presidential election in U.S. history where the presidential candidate won the National Popular Vote but did not win the Electoral College. The electoral

college has caught on-going flack as democratic politician's, in particular, are scrambling for a way to rid of the system.

From Beto O'Rourke, Bernie Sanders, to Pete Buttigieg and Elizabeth Warren, these presidential candidates have recently expressed their lack of favor for the outdated system. However, this should not be a shocker, as their constituents and own party is very much so in agreeance.

A recent poll by Pew Research Center displayed, “55 percent majority support picking presidents by popular vote, compared to 41 percent who prefer keeping the Electoral College. A solid 75 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents support amending the Constitution so the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide wins,” whereas, “A majority of Republicans prefer the electoral college regardless of whether they live in a red state, a blue state or a battleground.”

As of recent, 16 states including California, District of Columbia, Maryland and New York are straying away from being undermined by the electoral college under the National Popular Vote bill. Once states acquire 270 electoral votes, the bill will be in full effect.

As the road to 270 narrows, there's a winding upheaval in the Electoral College as the National Popular Vote movement emerges and will likely trickle into the 2020 presidential election. Yet, will it have a different effect this time around?

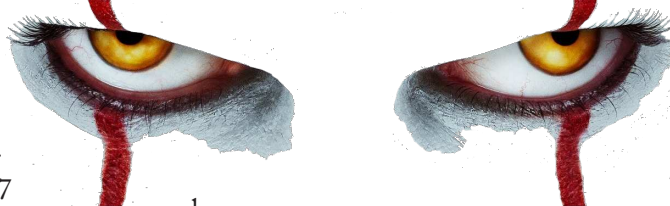


CHAPTER TWO



THE REEL LIFE

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



WELCOME BACK to Derry, Maine. Returning seemed inevitable. After the runaway success of the 2017 "IT" remake in the form of critical praise and box office records, it seemed like only a matter of time before the second half of arguably the most famous of Stephen King's novels was adapted to the big screen.

Released almost two years to the day of the first film, "Chapter Two" picks up 27 years afterwards, focusing on Pennywise's return and subsequent rampage throughout the town of Derry. However, given the way the first film ended, it's understandable to expect his attacks to be more focused on the Losers Club.

Director Andy Muschietti ("Mama") returns and he and cinematographer Checco Varese ("The 33," "Lemonade Mouth") manage to bring together some wonderful and evocative sets to life. Practical effects ooze from every pore, and even some of the CGI manages to not be as obvious or overbearing as it could have been. Composer Benjamin Wallfisch ("Hidden Figures," "Blade Runner 2049") also returns and continues to use music to underscore the creepiness expertly.

The group of kids who escaped his grasp in the first film all return, now aged up, and the way they've been brought back is hit or miss. Some, like James McAvoy's ("Atonement," "Split") adult Bill, Isaiah Mustafa's ("Shadowhunters") adult Mike and Bill Hader's ("Barry," "The Skeleton Twins") adult Ritchie are excellently done, with interesting dynamics within the rest of the group and ample story time.

Others, like Jessica Chastain's ("The Tree of Life," "Molly's Game") adult Bev or Jay Ryan as adult Ben, give performances that pale in comparison to the younger actors who portrayed them in the previous film. Meanwhile, the rest of the Club, James Ransone ("Sinister," "Starlet") as adult Eddie, and Andy Bean ("Swamp Thing," "Power") as adult Stanley are all just fine and they get the job done respectfully.

As in the first film, though, the clear star of the show is Bill Skarsgård ("Hemlock Grove," "Assassination Nation") as Pennywise. He continues to show excellent work here, diving headfirst into the physicality of the role like few others can. Thankfully the film gets to

showcase more toned-down moments of Pennywise as well, even featuring a few scenes where he's just talking to the Losers and it fleshes out his fearfulness.

However, those talking scenes are most of Pennywise's moments in the film. He just doesn't show up that much. Not only does this mean that Skarsgård's charm and chemistry with the rest of the cast are absent for most of the film, but the scares without Pennywise just don't hit as hard as they should.

While the last 40 minutes is bombastic and excellent, the previous two hours feel both incredibly slow and not very scary at all. Yes, there are frightening things happening, and some are just as expertly pulled off as in the first film. But others feel like cheap retreads or even cop-outs. One even seems closer to a moment from a summer blockbuster, as opposed to a scene that fits into a Stephen King film.

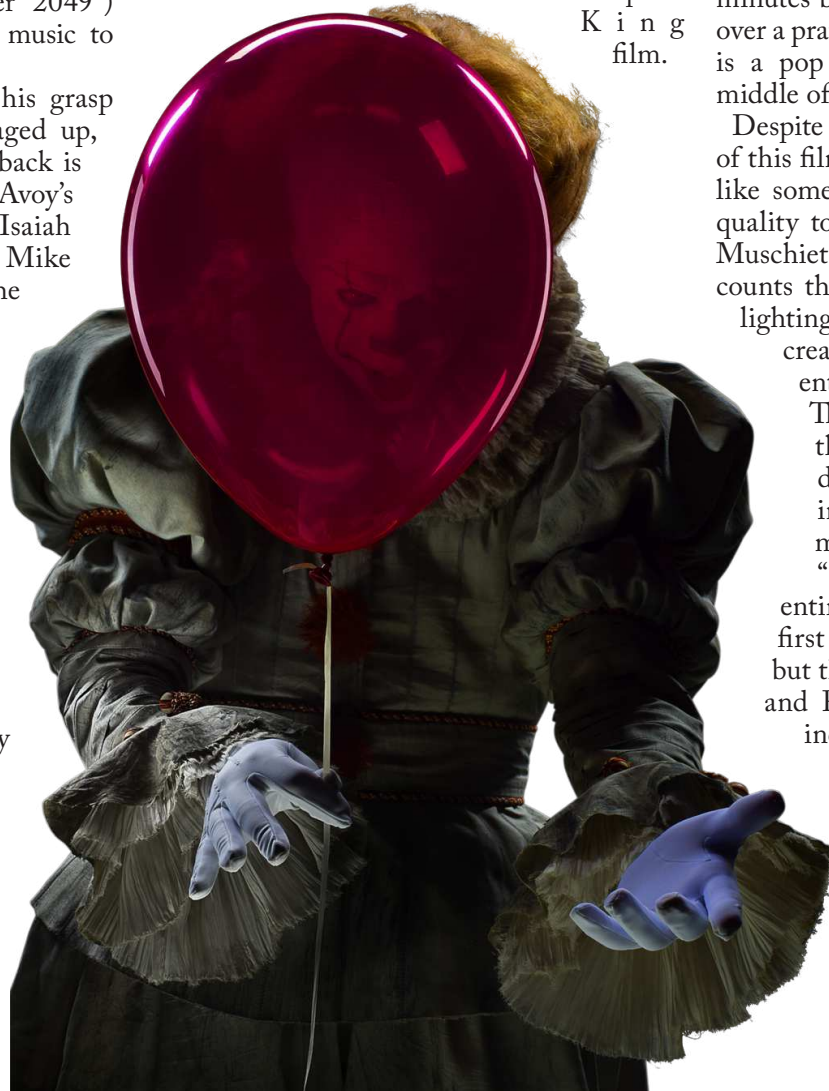


PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA, DOUBLE DREAM, VERTIGO ENTERTAINMENT, RIDEBACK, AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES.

For example, the leper as seen by Eddie comes back twice in "Chapter Two" and the heavy use of flashbacks in the second act makes it hard to keep track of what is happening and when it is happening. This also means that the ample time spent on reintroducing the Losers' Club and getting them all back to Derry drags far more than it should have.

What could very well be the film's biggest issue however is in its tone. While a lot has been said in recent years about putting comedy in films like "Star Wars" or the Marvel Cinematic Universe, the implementation of humor here might just be the most egregious. It's understandable for there to be an element of humor in Pennywise, as he is a clown and there is something darkly comedic about his scare tactics.

But moments that exist seemingly just for a joke; misunderstandings in conversations, unexpected pratfalls, musical cues and oddly delivered lines, completely throw off the tone. How can a scene be scary if, less than two minutes before, the audience was in hysterics over a pratfall off of a bike? The worst offender is a pop song musical cue directly in the middle of a scary attack scene.

Despite all of these issues, the last 40 minutes of this film is truly something special. It feels like something truly connected in tone and quality to the previous film, and thankfully Muschietti knocks it out of the park where it counts the most. The CGI, practical effects, lighting, music and acting all coalesce to create some of the most jaw-dropping entertainment put to screen this year.

There is no exaggeration when saying that when the acting, production design and music all come together in the end it is fantasy horror at its most excellent.

"Chapter Two" unfortunately can't entirely capture the horrific magic of the first film. It has excellent performances, but they're less consistent. The few scares and Pennywise scenes, as well as tonal inconsistencies, are juxtaposed against a phenomenal third act, excellent filmmaking on a base level and a wonderful sense of place. It's fun for a spell and definitely shoots for the stars (or Dead Lights) this "Chapter Two" likely could have used another draft to truly become something spectacular.

3/5





PHOTO COURTESY OF TOP DAWG ENTERTAINMENT AND RCA

SiR reminisces about his hometown in "Chasing Summer"

Album Review: SiR Chasing Summer

by LeDaniel Jackskon | A&E Staff | Xidjoeker500



COURTESY VIDEO STILL OF SIR IN "QUEEN" MUSIC VIDEO.

SiR Darryl Farris, commonly known as SiR, is a R&B artist, song writer and producer from Inglewood, California. He recently released "Chasing Summer" which is his third studio album and it follows his last from 2018; "November."

When talking about this album, SiR mentions how it represents the freedom that summer provides. He talks about how "the overall theme for this album is being able to live how you live". This is shown with the intro song to his album "Hair Down".

"Hair Down" is a track that talks about how SiR and Kendrick differ in hairstyles. The beat on this song introduces a laid-back R&B beat with subtle guitar riffs in the background. SiR delivers an impressive vocal performance that matches the tone on the song and provides some introspective lyrics. Then, Kendrick Lamar comes in and provides an excellent verse by changing his voice and providing some incredible flows.

"LA Lisa" is a song about SiR and Smino's description of a girl from their hometown. The beat is very soulful, with hints of psychedelic guitar and soft drums. SiR opens by mentioning how "You grew up on queen street / Hangin' with the players got caught in the game". The second verse includes Smino and SiR harmonizing while Smino gives a description of his girl. Smino and SiR sound great together and should definitely continue to collaborate.

"Fire" is similar to "LA Lisa"; SiR describes how he's going to pleasure a woman. While he is very descriptive in this song, the beat kind of tones it down with smooth R&B and some hints of guitar. This song is not SiR's best performance,

but its easy to see it on the airwaves.

"Lucy's Love" pays homage to the CBS sitcom "I Love Lucy". SiR talks about a couple's adventure in their relationship. "Lucy's Love" is the first collaboration between SiR and Lil Wayne and it sounds decent at best. Wayne didn't sound good, especially when he uses auto tune. It almost makes the song hard to get through because of his verse. SiR does a good job mixing his voice with the beat and describing the couple's relationship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQULYN WHANG/ FRESH SELECTS

"That's Why I Love You" tells the story about a couple that only participates in a sexual relationship. They try to get more out of the relationship during the song, but they never get to that point. SiR and Sabrina Claudio deliver good performances and they work together well with this old school R&B beat. Sabrina is a nice surprise, with her different type of voice fitting well on this track.

The album concludes with "LA" where SiR describes his experiences in Los Angeles. This is without a doubt the best song on this album. The beat brings elements of LA with an upbeat tone. SiR paints the picture of his LA experience and the piano solo at the end that rounds off the song nicely.

SiR has a bright future, however, there are a couple of things that miss the mark on this album. Having more energetic songs would help, and while most of the songs here are good, there are moments where the album drags. SiR also needs to change up his subject matter more, as most of the album is about relationships. Overall, SiR delivers with "Chasing Summer". His ear for music and lyricism makes the album a decent listen.

3.5/5



CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA



Men's soccer holds high potential in new campaign

Increased depth looks to propel Lancers into top tier of Big South

by Kurt Martin | Sports Editor | @lamKurt14

Junior, Jacob Reimers goes above and beyond to block the soccer ball during last week's practice.

After the Longwood men's soccer squad took down the Bison from Howard University in their first match of the season, the confidence of having started their season on a high was reflected on the pitch.

Veteran head coach John Atkinson said, "I think every coach in America is probably sort of happy that they wake up the next day and feel a little bit better after getting a victory."

The Lancers came out in the new season showing off their 4-3-3 formation, consisting of four defenders, three midfielders and three attacking players - a system seeking to be a driving force for the team over the course of the season.

"We've got a stronger team this year for sure," said Atkinson. "I think there is deeper squad ability to help and in the first game our team came out with a good appetite and knew their roles pretty well."

With the new formation in place and increased depth, the team will look to improve on a back line which surrendered a league-worst 48 goals last season. However, with Sunday's score line, the squad has already earned a third of the amount of shutouts from last year with their 3-0 win.

"I wouldn't say the old adage of, 'defense wins' games', but it certainly will not lose you many games if you defend well," said Atkinson. "Last year we were quite porous in the goals from a lot of instability, and I think we are starting to learn from some of those examples and some of the opportunities that we saw last year."

He added, "It keeps us in striking range of teams."

The Lancers remained in within striking range of ACC powerhouse NC State in their second match, but ended up falling short 1-0.

Sophomore defender Jonas Kalchner earned Big South Defensive Player of the Week honors for his efforts in the Howard game, and while the recognition is an accomplishment and is something to show praise for, Atkinson knows the season is still young and there are many tough tests coming down the line for the team as a whole.

On the other side of the formation, the Lancers return a three-headed monster in redshirt senior Willy Miezan, senior Mikel

Abando has already halved his goal total from a year ago, as he was able to find the back of the net twice in the opening victory. While Miezan was unable to score in the opening contest, he feels the early season performance will only serve as a building block moving forward.

"If we can work on that, you know, and develop that even more, we will be a challenge for any team really, whether in the conference or out of the conference," said Miezan.

Now entering his fifth and final season in a Lancer kit after suffering two devastating ACL tears over the course of his career, Miezan said he is slowly getting back into full game shape.

He said it is a challenge to regain game fitness in the beginning of the season, because nothing truly compares to playing the game. The Lancers have 17 games on the regular season docket this season, including a trip to ACC rival Virginia Tech.

At this point in the new campaign, it isn't possible to tell how this season will pan out for the Lancers. Despite this, Atkinson said he does have expectations for where he wants the team to be around time for the Big South Tournament.

"You can ask me in about another month's time where we see how these guys develop, but there is a lot of potential, but we

certainly have to realize that potential," said Atkinson.



Redshirt Senior, Willy Miezan practices his footwork skills during last week's practice.

Abando and sophomore Markus Gronli, who accounted for nearly 60 percent of the teams' goals from a year ago.



Balance needed defensively in Lancers quest for title

Women's soccer ranked third in Big South preseason poll, seek deep postseason run

by Patrick Sanderson | Assistant Sports Editor | @psanderson20

Following what was an abrupt end to last years' campaign – an unexpected defeat in the first round of the Big South tournament at the hands of USC Upstate – Longwood women's soccer has brought significant depth and firepower to a team already considered a Big South conference contender over the last few years. However, this time around, their sights are set on a different kind of ending.

There's one milestone 26-year head coach Todd Dyer has yet to reach since founding the program in 1993, a milestone he's relentlessly worked on and come close to achieving in recent years – winning their first Big South championship.

Dyer recruited 11 freshmen this year, adding depth to his squad who has seen a number of significant injuries plague them over the last few years, including early this season. He noted the team's scoring output to support the defensive side – which he notes has been lacking in depth – as an area he believes kept them out of winnable games late in the season. Though he's pleased with the pieces he's assembled, he's trying to find the combinations and systems that work best through the non-conference schedule.

“Our biggest challenge right now is that we're pretty thin on our back line,” Dyer said. “We need to figure out, with that being the case, how we can make it work with three defenders and how we can make it work with four defenders.”

He continued, “We need a little bit more offensive output until we're perfect defensively, and I don't know if we can ever count on that.”

Junior defender and captain Carrie Reaver, who was named Big South Freshman of the Year in 2017, brought up another area of concern – staying healthy.

“In the past we've had some unfortunate injuries throughout the season but I think this year if we can keep it pretty healthy, we have a lot of really talented players and we'll have that depth we need towards the end of the season going into the (postseason),” she said.

The depth of this years squad helps, considering the amount of time players have missed due to injuries over the years. With this in mind, Dyer believes every player from top to bottom on the team can fill shoes if need be. With a few lingering bodies recovering from injuries currently, the non-conference slate helps with finding a working rhythm on the field.

“Bottom line, it's still early, we're going to try things, and by conference play, we hope to have it figured out and we hope to be fully healthy,” Dyer said.

Dyer naturally expects the team to contribute collectively across the board. He believes if each player puts themselves under the spotlight and steps up in all aspects of their games, then team will be seen as “special”.

“They need to take collective ownership of what their season is going to be like, and within that, we need personalities and characters to rise to the occasion,” Dyer said. “We need that collective ownership, but we need individuals to really shine and know their personality and their character against good players and good teams.”

◀ Freshman Kiersten Yuhas (2) sprints down the wing in support of a Lancer counterattack.



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