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The

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Longwood University Chief of Police Col. Robert R. Beach informs senate about precautions students can take when approached for information relating to voter registration.

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, Susan Sullivan, director of the university center and student activities, came to senate to give an update on the Upchurch University Center, just shy of the one year anniversary of its opening.

There is now a printer located on the third floor in room 305, the clubs and organizations space, that all students can access. Sullivan said marketing work for the different meeting rooms in Upchurch is being done, which includes directions on how to use the printer, which will be coming soon.

Col. Robert R. Beach, director of public safety & chief of police at Longwood University, also came to the meeting to urge students to register to vote. He encourages students to register online and not give their information out to organizations that come to campus, solely for safety and security reasons.

Beach said, "If someone is asking you for private information, make sure that LUPD is notified so we can check and verify where the information is going."

Beach added LUPD will continue their security efforts at Oktoberfest this year, which includes having fencing around the perimeter, as well as two entry points and a clear bag policy. The department has also added a magnetometer (an instrument used for measuring magnetic forces)

In SGA: Upchurch updates, voter registration information

by Allison Turner | News Staff |
@allisonkturner

this year, to ensure nothing dangerous is being brought to campus. An e-mail regarding all Oktoberfest information will be sent out soon, according to Beach.

In the Advisers Report, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson discussed that the university has contractors working on a "punch list" for Frazer Hall, which is a list of tasks still needed to complete. They are currently continuing to work on projects from the list, such as fixing the elevators.

In the Fiscal Technician Report, Trish McGregor urged students to forward any spam emails that are received to the help desk.

She said, "If you clicked on the link, you need to contact the help desk right away, they may need to get a hold of the computer to get the system back."

Students can forward the emails to helpdesk@longwood.edu or call 395-HELP immediately if anything suspicious pops up.

In the Presidents Report, Haleigh Pannell urged students to attend the Town Hall, which will be held on October 22 at 6 p.m. in Blackwell Ballroom. Its purpose is to educate and inform those in attendance on Title XI, according to Pannell.

The next SGA meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 1 at 3:45 p.m. inside of the Wilson Chamber at the Upchurch University Center.

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Longwood switches to banded tuition for new academic year

by Allison Turner | News Staff | @allisonkturner

Longwood has changed its tuition model back to “tuition by the semester” for the 2019-2020 academic year.

On May 21, students and families received an email from President W. Taylor Reveley IV announcing that Longwood would be freezing tuition and would be switching back to the banded tuition model.

This model will now charge all students who take between 12 to 18 credits per semester a flat tuition rate that is based off of a full-time load of 15 credit hours.

Students who are taking less than 12 credits or more than 18 will continue to be charged by the credit hour, like in years past. Summer and winter intercession classes will continue to be charged per credit hour.

Longwood traditionally followed the banded tuition model until 2007, when it was decided to switch to the “pay-per-credit” model.

Justin Pope, vice president and chief of staff, said, “the university switched back to get in line with what other colleges do and to lower the overall cost for college students.”

This model is supposed to help ensure that Longwood students graduate on-time in four years. For most undergraduate degrees at Longwood, if a student takes 15 credits per semester every semester then they will graduate in four years.

Pope said, “we want people to graduate in four years, and students do a lot better when taking a full course load of 15 credits.”

By charging students the flat rate for 15 credits, the university hopes students will take advantage of the model and take a full course load each semester.

Casey Vandegrift, a junior at Longwood, is taking less than the 15 credit hours the new model suggests, and is not in favor of it.

She said, “I do think that Longwood could have come up with a better option for tuition payments.”

The goal of the banded tuition model is not to anger students, it is to increase the four-year graduation rate, as well as the student retention rate.

Pope added, “students who are full-time and committed are much more likely to graduate and come back. Cost is front and center because that fifth or sixth year is underrated, where student debt becomes an issue.”

In addition to creating the banded tuition,

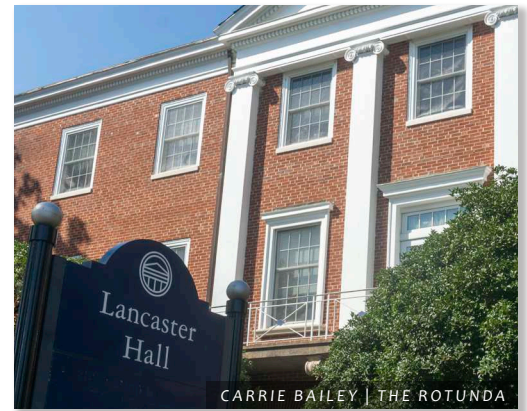
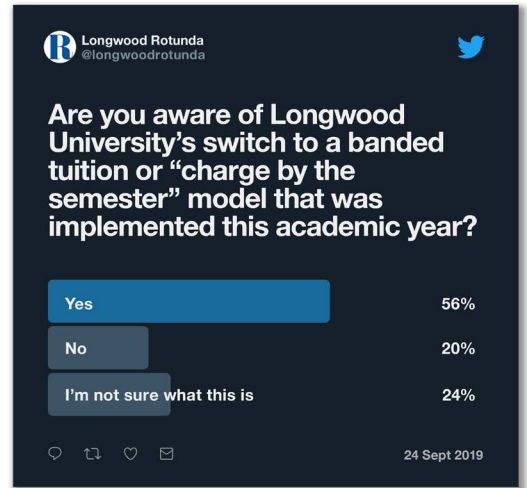
Longwood has also frozen the tuition, so the rates did not change from the last academic year to this new one. Longwood does not have plans to switch back to the “pay-per-hour” tuition model anytime soon.

15

credit hour flat tuition rate

“...the university switched back to get in line with what other colleges do and to lower the overall cost for college students.”

— Vice President and Chief in Staff, Justin Pope



"The goal of the banded tuition model is not to anger students, it is to increase the four-year graduation rate, as well as the student retention rate."

— Allison Turner, The Rotunda



Longwood Art Students Showcase Work in Greenwood Library

by Victoria Thompson | Contributor



JESSICA PAQUETTE | THE ROTUNDA

Natalie Byers talks to the audience about her art pieces. Byers was one of the four winners in the art show.

On Thursday, September 26, 2019, faculty members of the library and various art students gathered at the Greenwood art gallery to see the art work of juniors and seniors at Longwood University.

Brent Roberts, the dean of Greenwood Library, began the gallery by quoting the library's motto: "Celebrate Curiosity". Then, he congratulated the participants for receiving the Student Art Award this year.

Meagan Martz, administrative assistant to the dean, helped to host and set up the event.

When asked about what students are given with the Student Art Award, she stated, "They receive a \$200 check, a certificate, and their art is displayed in the library for one year. The Student Art Award has been given out since 2017, so this is the third year that art students have received the award. The new applications for the fourth year will be available in the spring."

She then went on to describe the process of selecting the pieces in this year's exhibit: "We have an application that we give to the Art Department and interested students will pick it up. The junior show is in Bedford. The senior show is in the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA)."

Martz added, "we have staff here in the library that go, and then we have the faculty library advisory committee go. In the past, we have had the student library advisory group. So usually three different groups go and vote and then the art is selected. This year two groups voted on the artwork, since the student library advisory group dissolved."

Two senior art students, Francesca Chambers and Natalie Byers, briefly discussed what influenced their work and the materials used to create them.

One of Byers's pieces, *Jungle Walk*, was created using digital pigment print and shows a green-haired woman surrounded by jungle leaves in various shades of blue.

During her discussion, Byers admitted that she did not have a name for this work, but different people told her that they thought of the woman as a fairy.

Her other work called *Self Inspiration* was displayed through a TV in the library, because it was made from storyboards and digital editing. She

dark blue bubbles and an oval full of octopus tentacles in the center.

She explained how this work was made as a project that required her to use a large amount of different materials including string, glitter, acrylic, clay and puffy paint on canvas.

When talking about the inspiration to use an octopus, Chambers noted that they are her favorite animal. She then added, "I think they have such unique physical traits, and they are represented in different cultures as intelligent, flexible, and creative that I relate to in a way."

Every student involved has a unique theme to their work as well as a different approach in terms of material use. However, they are united by the application process to achieve the Student Art Award in addition to dedication.

Chambers mentioned, "You have to be in the art show junior year. You have the option to pick the pieces that you want to be in it, and these were interesting pieces that people gravitated towards and that's what lead to my process in the show."

As upperclassmen at Longwood, the students appeared to have a humble sense of pride when discussing their hard work.

"Well I have my senior show in spring 2020 to look forward to, but as an end to my junior year, I see it as fulfilling to have my work displayed in general and having so much positivity towards my work" said Chambers.

She then added, "the content and the materials I used inspires me even more to make art and even with my senior project, it's exciting. It's like a new step in my artist career that will hopefully set me up after."

All of the art work in the gallery is displayed in the upstairs Quiet Study Room section of the library.

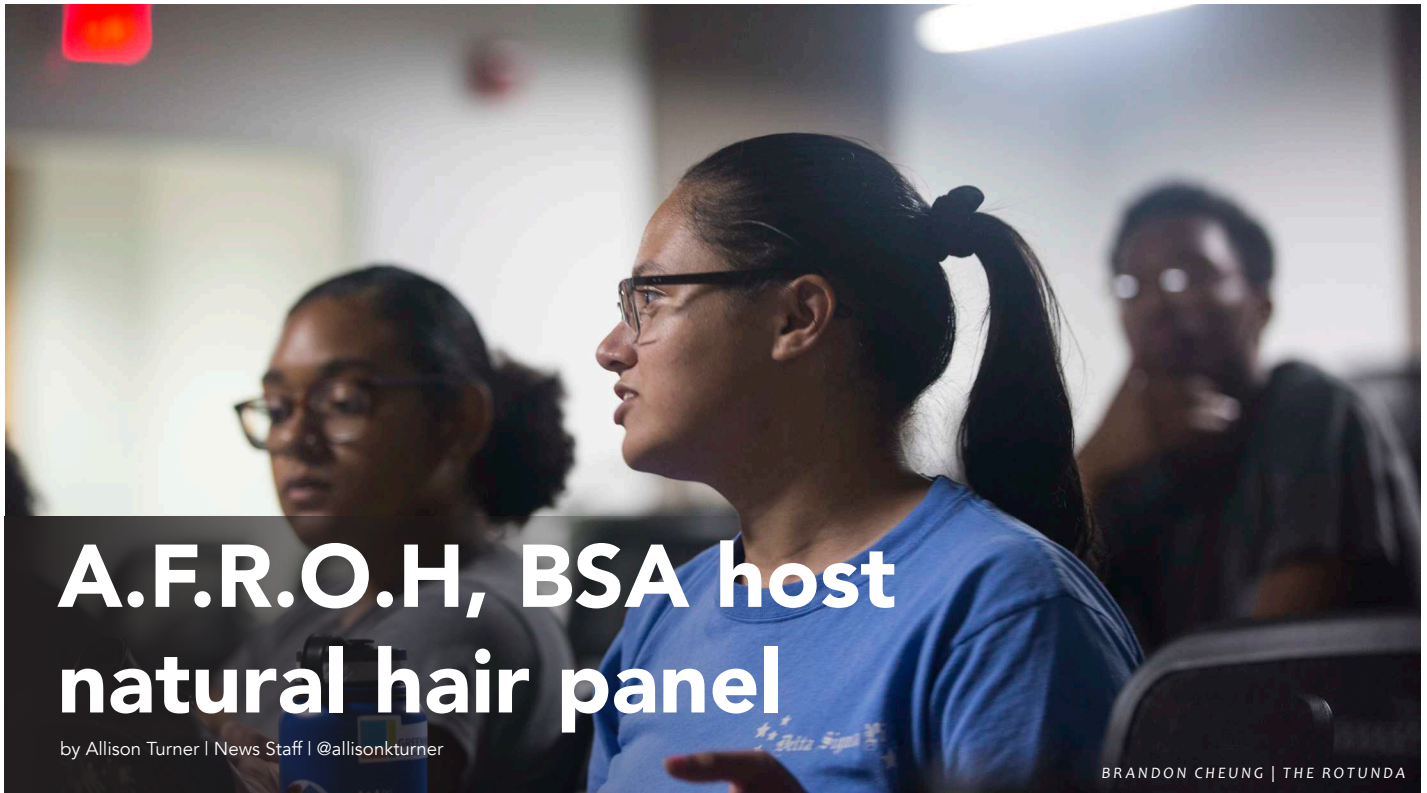


Francesca Chambers' piece titled "Alien Arms".

mentioned that this work was inspired by music she likes in addition to other things that influence her art.

Chambers later commented on her two pieces in the exhibit, both of which revolve around the octopus. One was a painting with a self-explanatory title, *Octopus on Couch*, showing an octopus on a yellow couch holding a paintbrush.

The second work called *Alien Arms* presents an oceanic background with



A.F.R.O.H, BSA host natural hair panel

by Allison Turner | News Staff | @allisonkturner

BRANDON CHEUNG | THE ROTUNDA

Members of BSA and AFROH came together for a panel based discussion about natural hair and the different perceptions from both males and females. Topics of gender and race came into play as well when certain questions provoked a call for deeper questioning.

On Friday, September 27, two organizations on Longwood's campus, AFROH (All For Respect Our Hair) and BSA (Black Student Association) hosted an event titled 'Natural Hair, Weave Panel'.

This event was held at 5 p.m. on Longwood's campus in Bedford 111, and students were invited to come sit in an interactive environment to talk about wearing your natural hair versus a wig. There was a panel that featured staff members Quincy Goodine and Jonathan Page, as well as students in the organizations that hosted the event.

The panel included both males and females in order to ensure that they were to get both perspectives on the different topics discussed, but those in attendance were encouraged to voice their opinions as well.

There was a broad array of questions asked, but they all stuck to once central theme: black hair. Some of the questions included asking why females change their hair based on how men want them to look and what is good hair.

Jonathan Page, director of multicultural affairs, said on the topic, "I think it boils down to us saying that this is unapologetically me and if you don't like it, then there's the door."

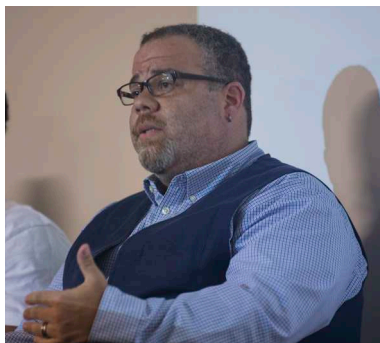
The event lasted around two hours, but attendees were allowed to come and go as they felt necessary. Towards the end it became an open forum for people to discuss issues and concerns that they felt were necessary and wanted to open up about.

The purpose of the panel was to get people talking about the positives and negatives about "black hair", a topic that is not normally talked about in a public setting.

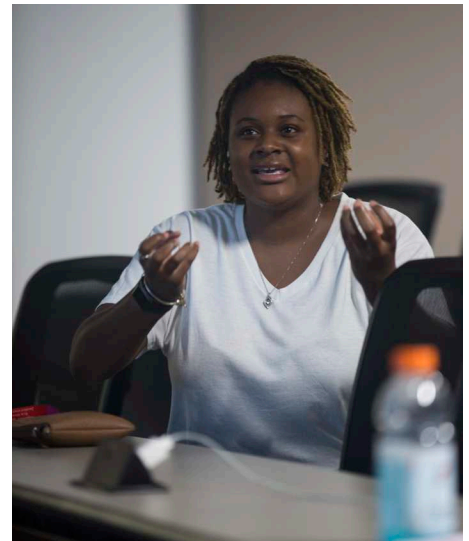
Andrea Dogbo, a panelist, said that she enjoyed being on the panel and would do it again if the opportunity presented itself.

She said, "I think any form of discussion about possible controversial topics is always good for the community because you get different opinions and you can grow as an individual."

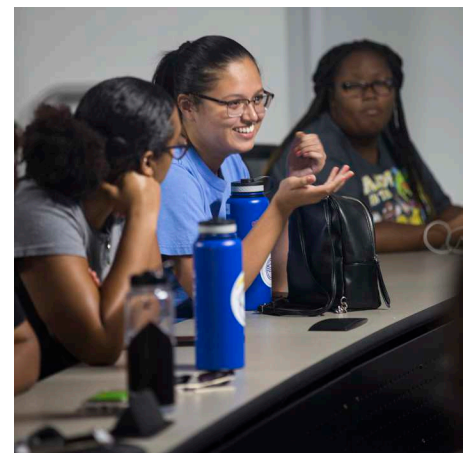
At this time there is not currently a date set for another panel.



Director of Multicultural Affairs Jonathan Page discusses the social constructs of questions being debated with the panel.



Maya Young shares her story on her decision to go natural.



Tellesha Woodson went on to discuss her views as a mixed minority.

Keep the discussion of suicide alive past September

by Davina Applewhite | Opinions Staff | @longwoodrotunda

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

As National Suicide Awareness and Prevention month comes to an end, it's important that everyone continues to acknowledge suicide, and the mental illnesses often associated with it, even after the month is over.

It's especially important that colleges and universities remain informed and provide services and resources that allow their students to reach out, throughout the school year.

The stresses of college can further impact the mental stability of students and lead to failing, worsening mental illnesses, and in the worst case, suicide.

According to The Jed Foundation, the average age that depression and anxiety appear is college-aged students, 18 to 24 years old. Knowing this, it comes with little shock that suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students.

The pressure of classes, extracurricular activities, jobs, internships and looming financial instabilities are all contributing factors to the stress that college students take on for nine months out of the year. Summer courses and internships make this a year-round concern.

Unfortunately, it's far too easy for the signs of depression and anxiety to go unnoticed no matter the circumstances.

Students, parents and administrators should make it a priority to familiarize

themselves with the symptoms and effects.

Some possible symptoms of depression in college students, according to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, include feelings of worthlessness, loss of interest in activities that were once enjoyed, irritability and insomnia.

The symptoms for anxiety are slightly different, including difficulty concentrating, hyper vigilance, having a sense of impending danger and restlessness.

Since so many of these symptoms are overlooked by others, students may never know that they are suffering from a mental health issue or even feel as though they cannot tell anyone about what they're going through.

A study conducted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness showed that one in four college students have a diagnosable mental illness and 40 percent do not seek help about their illness or worsening mental stability.

For this reason, some colleges, like Boston University, have implemented screening events. These screening events allow students, faculty and staff to receive professional, free screenings for anxiety and depression.

These screenings could mean the difference between a student getting the diagnosis and help that they need and a student continuing to struggle with an undiagnosed and untreated

mental illness.

Longwood University also brought awareness to the issue, when organizations teamed up and arranged a suicide prevention booth, which allowed students to gain information and learn more about the statistics surrounding suicide.

Longwood also provides counseling services for those who may be suffering from any mental health issue, in the form of Longwood Counseling and Psychological Services.

These helpful sources brought forth by colleges and universities are necessary across all campuses nationwide, for many reasons.

As much as we'd all like to believe that things like this can't be happening in plain sight, it is simply naive to let an issue as prevalent as mental health slip through our fingers and create life-altering consequences.

It is up to everyone, college boards and administrators, parents, friends, professors and students alike, to not let the conversation around suicide die with the autumn leaves of September.

We must all keep the conversation going past September, past Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We must keep the conversation alive to keep each other alive.

National Suicide Prevention Hotline:
1-800-273-8255

5 Action Steps for Helping Someone in Emotional Pain

 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; margin: 0;">ASK</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">"Are you thinking about killing yourself?"</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; margin: 0;">KEEP THEM SAFE</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">Reduce access to lethal items or places.</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">BE THERE</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">Listen carefully and acknowledge their feelings.</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; margin: 0;">HELP THEM CONNECT</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">Save the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number 1-800-273-8255.</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; margin: 0;">STAY CONNECTED</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">Follow up and stay in touch after a crisis.</p>
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For more information on suicide prevention:
www.nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention




Pictured is "Five Action Steps for Helping Someone in Emotional Pain", according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Tragedy disguised as fashion

by Davina Applewhite | Opinions Staff | @longwoodrotunda

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

Tasked with the opportunity to incite inspiration, fashion as we know it has recently invoked fear with its latest controversial fad.

Amid frequent mass tragedies at the hands of mass gun violence, fashion label (B)stroy debut a spring/summer 2020 line of bullet hole collegiate-esque sweatshirts, during New York fashion week. These sweatshirts included the names of the most infamous school shootings attached—Columbine High School, Sandy Hook Elementary, Virginia Tech, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Once becoming the pinnacle turning point for the nation, the 24th school shooting of 2018 occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL., collectively killing 17 students and staff members.

A year later, there's been 22 school shootings in the US, and sadly that number will continue to rise. More so, the Washington Post reported, "more than 228,000 students have experienced gun violence in their schools since the 1999 Columbine High School Shooting."

Outside of the fact that the deaths of many kids and young adults are evidently being exploited for clout, this clothing label inadvertently glorifies the result of gun violence and that is quite unsettling. Furthermore, with the increase of gun-related violence, one must ask has the American public become desensitized to tragedy, the more frequent it unfortunately occurs?

Considered the deadliest year on record of school shootings, according to Center for Homeland Defense and Security, 2018 accumulated at least 83 deaths or injuries in active-shooter incidents, including the Valentine's Day mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Since then, it seems as though nothing has changed, except tensions have risen and people have frankly adapted to the frequent occurrences by protecting themselves—and it's not by choice, but by circumstance.

Unsettlingly being the literal forefront of this labels' debacle, Sandy Hook elementary made headlines in 2012 once enduring in a massacre, which took 26 lives.

However, in efforts to prevent this

from occurring again, the elementary school created a nonprofit anti-gun violence organization, Sandy Hook Promise, under the 'Keeping Our Schools Safe: A Plan to Stop Mass Shootings and End Gun Violence in American Schools' campaign.

The elementary school has recently taken it a step further to highlight the gruesome reality with its viral, yet chilling advertisement.

Under the premise of being a cliché back to school essentials advertisement, it is certainly nothing of the sort. The advertisement paints a triggering depiction about school shootings and how today's youth prepare for it—instead of worrying about what clothes to shop for, it is which bulletproof backpack should be bought based on reliability.

This visual depiction is raw and grim, however, it's reality and that's the scary part. Whether it's an attempt to capitalize on horrific tragedies or lessen them through a gruesome advertisement, the result of school-related gun violence is not fashion nor is it a fad.

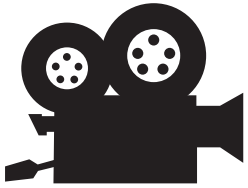


COURTESY OF GIONCARLO VALENTINE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



COURTESY OF @BSTROY.US/INSTAGRAM

Left: Du (seated) and Brick of Bstroy are the creators of the controversial spring/summer 2020 fashion line. Top and bottom right: Models pose with Bstroy's collegiate-styled sweatshirts ridden with bullet holes.



THE REEL LIFE

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

ABOMINABLE

PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS ANIMATION, PEARL STUDIO, AND UNIVERSAL PICTURES.

Dreamworks basically has two types of films: the pop-culture reference heavy comedy-based films (“Trolls,” “The Boss Baby”), and the more dramatic emotionally based films (“Kung Fu Panda,” “How to Train Your Dragon”). That’s not to say that elements of both don’t blend back and forth in some films (“Shrek”), but most of their catalog can be split like this.

The last film they did with an outside studio, 2017’s “Captain Underpants” fell squarely into the comedic category, and now their second, a co-production with Chinese based Pearl Studio, looks to be a more dramatic affair.

“Abominable (2019)” clearly has not suffered visually as a result of the co-production. The film is gorgeous, pull some real-life landscapes for beautiful sweeping vistas. The characters are expressive and extremely charming, and while the Yeti, known as Everest, is clearly a member of the Toothless or Stitch style of cute, yet threatening, he’s still very adorable and huggable.

The voice cast manages to deliver some pretty good work here. Chloe Bennet (“Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.”) has a sweet and charming performance as the main character Yi. Her chemistry with Everest is good and sells their quickly forged friendship. Albert Tsai (“Trophy Wife,” “Dr. Ken”) is a comedic highlight as the young Peng, but that’s about all his character brings to the table. The same goes for Tenzing Norgay Trainor (“Liv & Maddie”) who is good here, and his “hip” dialogue doesn’t sound cringey thanks to his delivery, but he doesn’t really do much more than just fine.

If there is a standout, it would be Eddie Izzard (“The Dark Crystal: Age

of Resistance,” “Cars 2”) as Dr. Burnish. His character is right next to Yi in their complexity, and he’s thankfully allowed to be fleshed out more than one might first assume. Sarah Paulson (“Glass,” “American Horror Story”) meanwhile is fine as Dr. Zara. Nothing more, nothing less, and almost forgettable.

Unfortunately, this is a theme in much of “Abominable.” The characters are sweet, the world is gorgeous, and the messages are heartwarming, but all of these have been done better in other films. It actually does succeed in blending the comedic and dramatic in such a way that neither overpowers the other. A moment of sadness with Yi remembering her father and a comedic moment involving Everest and some flowers both feel tonally at home.

There are elements to admire as well. Yi is a protagonist who is never forced to abide by the whims of those around her. If more time were given to flesh out her motivations, she could have been the next great animated female protagonist. As it stands, she’s just fine. Her love of music, specifically her violin, is integrated into the film really well, and the overall musical through line is well produced. But it doesn’t really add much to the film overall.

Moments of plot frustration also crop up that may leave some audiences scratching their heads. Writer/Director Jill Culton (“Open Season,” “Monsters, Inc.”) has a few twists pop up that don’t have the impact they should, and some moments of conflict are resolved virtually instantly. The ending especially feels anticlimactic, especially since it seems to be building to something bigger. It all feels like it’s made up of a series of strong moments,



with less strong moments in between, but that never feel cohesive or come into their own.

The themes of music and family, while not particularly new, are done with professionalism and grace, as is the Chinese influence. This isn’t a film that takes the trappings of Chinese characters and twists them into a fantastical world. It’s a real-world setting, and these elements are integrated respectfully and admirably.

Wonderful animation and gorgeous vistas back a story with great moments, but it never feels like it comes into its own. A bit anticlimactic, but its messages are clear. The incorporation of Chinese culture is admirable and fleshes the world out considerably, but at the end of the day it is a beautifully told story made up of pieces and plot beats of better stories. It’s a fun diversion, but hopefully if Pearl and Dreamworks continue this collaboration, it’ll result in more unique films.

★★★★ 3/5



Maxo Kream tells his life story with "Brandon Banks"

Maxo Kream: Brandon Banks Album review

by LeDaniel Jackson | A&E Staff | @xidjoeker500



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG PERSONA, 88 CLASSIC, AND RCA RECORDS.

Maxo Kream is a rapper from Houston who has worked with artists such as J-Cole, Lil Uzi Vert and Trippie Redd. Kream started his music career by releasing mixtapes before releasing his debut album "Punken." Now comes his next album, "Brandon Banks," named after his father. Kream gets very personal on this album, explaining his childhood and his current status as an artist.

Kream starts the album with "Meet Again" which includes a funky instrument that pays homage to artist Cloud One. Kream is impressive on the track with his raw delivery. "Meet Again" is a letter to his friends in prison and he also talks about his personal life while telling them that he is checking on their families. "Meet Again" is a great intro with Kream showing his versatile flow and his storytelling skills.

"Bissonet" discusses Kream's venture into becoming a product of the streets. The beat on this song is an average trap beat, however Kream's performance enhances it. His raw delivery makes this song seem like a story of how he joined his gang.

"8 Figures" is Kream's braggadocious song where he talks about the requirements to make real money. Kream chooses an interesting beat on this song to talk about his riches. He rap's over a subdued trap beat when telling stories about how some of the people he knew wasted money. Towards the end of the song, the beat switches to add more substance.

"She Live" is the first collaboration between Kream and Meg the Stallion.

The two artists discuss what they look for in a lover. Kream and Meg have great chemistry on the hook and their separate verses. Kream provides some witty lyrics such as "She hit the road with the bundles/she tricked the treat and she brought me the money." Meg fits in very well with her verse, where she talks about how she wants a guy that can afford her expensive taste. "She Live" is a decent track that can make the airwaves.

"Drizzy Draco" is a song where Kream pays homage to Drake via his nickname Drizzy Drake. This stems from Kream's freestyle on the show "The Cave" by Kenny Beats. While the subject on the song is vague, Kream flows very well and makes some witty remarks. The beat also sounds very good, especially on big speakers.

"3 AM" marks the first collaboration between Kream and Top Dawg Entertainment artist, Schoolboy Q. This song describes the gang activities that would happen at 3 AM. Kream and Schoolboy sound amazing on this track with their raw and gritty delivery. Kream gets very comical with lyrics such as "Campin' outside your crib like I'm buyin' Jordans." Schoolboy makes his verse interesting by changing his voice to sound like a psychopath.

"Spice Ln" is another personal story by Kream where he talks about his history in Spice Ln. The beat matches well with his subject by providing this gritty undertone with an up-tempo trap beat. Kream also comes in with an aggressive flow when describing his experiences. Towards the end of the song, Kream's dad makes an appearance to tell Kream not go around Spice Ln.

"Brenda" pays homage to "Brenda's Got a Baby" by Tupac. The storytelling is impressive with Kream picking a smooth beat to rap over. He also does a good job of changing his tone when the story gets more serious. The ending song is interesting as it ends abruptly with a gunshot that signals Brenda's son has died.

Overall Maxo Kream delivers an amazing performance this album. His flow and his storytelling really pull this album together. The beats are good, but they can get repetitive throughout the album.

★★★★☆ 4.5/5



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS

After 3-3 start, men's soccer ready for their moment

by Kurt Martin | Sports Editor | @lamKurt14

Thus far, it has been a season of cheerful victories and crushing defeats for Longwood men's soccer. The club rushed out to a quick 3-1 start, with victories over Howard, VMI and Robert Morris, all by a combined score of 11-1. However, the team has dropped three in a row, two to ranked opponents (per United Soccer Coaches Poll) in Navy (25) and James Madison (20), and their last match to conference opponent, Gardner-Webb.

The first two losses came on the Lancers home field, and were narrow defeats, as the team fell by one goal in each of the contests. Saturday's loss was a 3-1 defeat, on the road, in Boiling Springs, North Carolina.

For head coach John Atkinson, despite the three game skid, he feels the team has performed "admirably" thus far, and is also encouraged by the increased maturity of this year's side.

"Certainly we've seen the games show a lot of potential, a lot of potential being realized," he said. "Still a lot of growth that needs to be realized if we really want to argue in the postseason accolades."

Atkinson pointed to the caliber of team the Lancers have taken on in their past two contests, before Saturday's, and said their ability to hang in with teams of said caliber raises team morale moving forward.

"They executed game plans in both games and put us within striking distance; and with that, there is a lot of success to be had," said Atkinson. "Now, who doesn't want to win these games? I think that it would be phenomenal for the program to get that, but maybe our time is just not ready just yet, and I think that's

something we have to be humble about, and understand that there is still areas to grow, and take games into our favor after the 90 minutes."

Before the season Atkinson said his team's defense had to raise their level for the team to be successful, and so far, they are answering the call.

The Lancers backline has only surrendered eight goals on the season, which currently is third in the Big South Conference. At this same point a season ago, the team had surrendered 19.

A key contributor to the turnaround is sophomore Jonas Kalchner. The native of Eichenau, Germany was awarded Big South Defensive Player of the Week honors for the opening week of the campaign and is one of the anchors of a defense that currently sits

Reimers. The 6' 4" junior has showed stellar play in net for the team, making many key saves thought the season and keeping opposing offenses at bay. The stats also reflect this, as he currently third in the conference in save percentage at 77 percent.

The Longwood offense has also held their own for the most part throughout the campaign, as they currently sit third in the Big South with 13 goals.

Senior Mikel Abando and junior Ander Etxaniz currently lead the team in goals with four, and also are tied for third in the conference for the stat.

Despite the flashy numbers, Atkinson said the team still has to put together a full 90-minute performance.

"There is an old adage 'it's easier to destroy, than build up,' and I thought that in the James Madison game we destroyed a lot of what (sic.) were about," he said. "Now it's a chance for us to see what we can do to build and take away from teams that, you know, may give us more opportunity with the ball, and I think that's where the challenges still lie.

He added, "Are we able to have that cohesion, and that, again, the communication and leadership that allows us to play the type of football that we've seen in fits and starts, but never fully for 90 minutes.

Atkinson said the team can reach their full potential by becoming more clinical in everything they do, moving forward. With this, he feels the team can reach their full potential as a unit.

The Lancers will continue their journey on Tuesday, as they take on the Patriots from George Mason University at the Longwood Athletics Complex, beginning at 7 p.m.



Junior goalkeeper Jacob Reimers sends away the goal kick after coming up with a defensive stop.

at second in the Big South Conference in shutouts.

"I think overall we have did a good job so far. I think we as a team are closer, we have gotten to know each other, (and) we know what system we are going to play," he said. "It's just confidence that the next game is going to be better and we will have the wins."

Another massive part to the Lancer defense has been goalkeeper Jacob

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JESSICA PAQUETTE | FILE PHOTO



Lancers settle into formation, gear up for Big South slate

With conference wide open, head coach scopes in on defensive efficiency and offensive output

by Patrick Sanderson | Assistant Sports Editor | @psanderson20

Junior forward Emily Mothersbaugh weaves her way through the defense in a counter attacking opportunity.

Following a slow start to the season for the preseason number three ranked team in the Big South Conference, Longwood women's soccer took a step in the right direction Wednesday (September 25), dismantling Hampton 4-0 on awkward field conditions and played to a scoreless draw against Charleston Southern on Saturday, pushing their record to 3-5-1 on the season.

Before traveling to Hampton, head coach Todd Dyer said he solidified a comfortable formation after evaluating the team's performance throughout non-conference play. The plan is to run a 4-3-3 formation; four defenders, three midfielders and three forwards, being two wingers and a striker.

However, it hasn't been smooth sailing just yet. Though they have performed well and dealt a four-goal barrage against Hampton, there's still technical aspects with the formation to be altered.

"We're trying to address some areas where we need to be better," Dyer said. "Bottom line, we have to do a better job at finishing our chances on the front end, and then on the back end we have to do a better job of not

beating ourselves."

The formation has settled in comfortably with junior Madison Hommey, who missed all of last season to a torn ACL. Now fully recovered, she noted they played in a few different formations throughout non-conference play, including a three-in-the-back look, in which could turn out to be beneficial in the latter half of the season.

"We're able to play within the midfield, we can play out wide and have numbers up top, different things that just work for us, and we're strong in the back," Hommey said. "It's also good to know if we come across an opponent that we need to change our formation, we have a little bit of experience where we played different ways and can change."

Dyer uses "beating ourselves" in terms of handling set pieces defensively – corner kicks, goal kicks or free kicks – and transition moments. Earlier this season, Dyer had expressed concern on the defensive end regarding depth and strength, and although he's found a solution to both, his focus shifts to tactical areas and avoiding mental lapses.

In terms of tactical areas, winning 50-50 headers in the air as well as on the ground has Dyer working on winning the physical game.

"The games that we've lost, even recently, it wasn't that they broke us down defensively, we just didn't deal with balls in the air very well, whether it's a punt from the goalkeeper, a goal kick or a cross from a wide area, we're just not dealing with those situations defensively," Dyer said. "You almost have to be perfect defensively, and we're not, we're far from it...I like our plan and our tactics because we're not getting beaten in the flow of play."

The Lancers win at Hampton put them at an even 1-1 in conference play ahead of Saturday's clash against Charleston Southern. If there's any outlook the 26-year head coach has on the rest of the season, it's to go 1-0 every time they play.

Dyer said, "We've learned some tough lessons up until now, so hopefully we can learn from them and make necessary changes and do better tomorrow."



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