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The

# ROTUNDA

*Gripping about 50 degree weather since 1920*



## MAINTAINING CAMPUS SAFETY

### **NEWS** PAGE 3

Campus community wasn't notified of Sept. 19 incident

### **OPINIONS** PAGE 5

Examining the harsh effects of societal norms

### **SPORTS** PAGE 11

Field hockey readies itself for postseason push

OCTOBER 21, 2019

VOL 98. ISSUE 7

JESS BOGGS | THE ROTUNDA

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## In SGA Elwood's Cabinet extended hours, rides to voting polls

by Allison Turner | News Staff | @allisonturner

In the previous Student Government Association (SGA) meeting on October 8, it was announced that Elwood's Cabinet, Longwood's student food pantry, is open two days a week.

Catherine Swinsky, SGA executive vice president said, "Elwood's Cabinet is open on Mondays and Thursdays from six to eight now, so hopefully we will get some students who have a Monday class but not a Thursday class that night and they'll be able to come in those hours."

VA21/SCHEV (State Council of Higher Education for Virginia) State Representative Amelia Graves said there will be rides to the voting polls on Tuesday, November 5 for students. The rides will start at 6 a.m. when the polls open and will conclude around 7 p.m. once students are finished voting.

In Virtual Open Forum, concerns about how religious groups on campus can get funding were brought to the Senate's attention. Treasurer Samuel Torpy said if there are any questions or concerns about this funding, students can come to his office hours to discuss and read the bylaws.

In the President's Report, Haleigh Pannell urged students to always use crosswalks and to be safe when crossing streets, per a complaint from a Farmville business owner.

She said, "Please be careful when you're crossing the street, don't just cross the street randomly without checking because you never know how you're going to affect the driver."

The next SGA meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 22 at 3:45 p.m. inside of the R.R. Moton Museum in Farmville.



# DEATH CAFE

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DEATH.

October 29<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.  
At the Longwood  
Center for  
Visual Arts



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The Death Café is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session.

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# Reptile and Amphibian Day Leaps Into Chichester

by Victoria Thompson | Features Staff

From the scaly feel of slithering snakes to watching turtles wade around in small tanks, Longwood students got to interact with a variety of reptiles and amphibians on October 17, 2019.

Ty Smith, also known as "The Snakeman," presented a slideshow, first defining the distinctions between reptiles and amphibians. He then went into detail about reptiles and amphibians that are both common and uncommon in Virginia.

Some of the more recognizable creatures include the Eastern Fence Lizards, Eastern Ratsnakes and Eastern Box turtles, as these are all creatures that natives to Prince Edward county may recognize because they're usually seen crawling through people's houses or crossing the road.

Green Frogs are also common and grow up to three or four inches, compared to eight inches that mice-eating American Bullfrogs can grow to.

Smith also gave details about the different diets of some of the reptiles. For instance, Copperheads should be fed insects like cicadas.

One interesting fact told at the event involved how Cottonmouth Snakes are named as such because their venom has the ability to turn human blood into a gelatin-like consistency. Smith further stated that this type of snake is defensive, tending to have their mouths open a lot.

Another little-known fact revolved around Common Muskturtles, because they have odor glands to defend themselves, which is

reminiscent of skunks.

Smith further commented about the reptiles that represented Virginia at one point or another. Ironically, the Red Salamander is the state salamander but not that common to find.

The Eastern Gartersnake used to be the state reptile when a five-year old boy wrote a letter asking for the creature to be the reptile of Virginia.

There were creatures mentioned that are common in other places in Virginia like Southern Leopard Frogs which are common in Virginia Beach.

Smith notes that despite popular belief, turtles are messy animals. He elaborated that many families who keep them as pets tell him how they

inches long, and has only grown half an inch since he's had the animals.

Every student had a chance to learn something about Virginian wildlife that they may not have known before.

William Kish, President of the Wild Life Club, mentioned, "I didn't necessarily know the salamander. I usually do stuff with spiders. I also didn't know some of the identifiable features of snakes, so I rely on Ty for all my identifications."

With such a big variety of animals to learn about, students admired their favorites out of the live creatures available at the event.

Kish also commented, "I really like the Three-Lined Salamander because I had never seen one before, and it's

a really cool gold and black color."

Towards the end, Smith gave a pop quiz by having students in attendance guess different types of turtles and frogs just by looking at pictures.

After the presentation, the first creature he pulled out was a rescue female Corn snake which is similar to other snakes in Southside Virginia. This was the creature

that several students wanted to hold, and no one seemed to have any hint of fear on their faces when they allowed the snake to crawl on their arms.

When asked how he started working with wildlife, Smith stated, "I've kind of been interested since when I was young. I always liked snakes, working with them, but there wasn't like a defining moment when I said I wanted to work with reptiles."



Students hold and pet the corn snake at the end of the presentation. Corn snakes are a nonpoisonous snake found in Virginia.

want to keep a pet turtle at first due to their cuteness, but they end up giving the creatures away when they grow up due to the extensive care required to maintain them.

When asked about transporting the animals to Longwood, Smith said, "There were four animals total. It wasn't bad; they weren't too much of a hassle except for the turtle. I knew that one would need to be handled carefully."

The Ridiard Slider Turtle that Smith brought was only three and a half

JESSICA PAQUETTE | THE ROTUNDA

# Campus alert not sent after September 19 incident

by Kurt Martin | Sports Editor | @IamKurt14



JESS BOGGS | THE ROTUNDA

The Farmville and Longwood University Police Departments share concurrent jurisdiction in the Town of Farmville.

First reported in *The Farmville Herald* on September 24 and later confirmed by Farmville Chief of Police Andy Ellington, police responded to an incident involving gunshots fired at 1:51 a.m. on September 19 in the rear parking lot of the Midtown Landings, located on South Virginia Street.

In an interview with *The Rotunda*, Ellington said, “We received a call that night, or early that morning, (that) shots were fired somewhere in the back parking lot here at the Landings. One of my officers happened to be patrolling that area and he was coming up Putney Street and observed two males kind of walking at a fast pace coming up that incline towards Putney Street from the Landings ... As soon as he got out and confronted him, one of the subjects told him he had a firearm on him and it was concealed in his waistband. So he was able to secure the firearm.”

Ellington added, “Through further investigation, the subject admitted he had discharged a round accidentally, behind the Landings as he was trying to unload it.” Ellington said due to his

officer’s quick response, Longwood University’s campus and students were in no immediate threat of danger.

Longwood University students and campus community did not receive an alert of this incident.

When asked for comment, Matt McWilliams, assistant vice president of communications at Longwood University, provided the following statement regarding the incident and the administration’s decision.

“In the early morning of Sept. 19, reports were received by Longwood police of a possible gunshot at South Virginia St. When Longwood police arrived just minutes later, Farmville police already had a suspect in custody and determined that an accidental discharge had occurred in the area. There was no threat to campus safety.”

The statement continued, “The university is constantly focused on communicating effectively with campus regarding issues of public safety. An important factor in exactly how we communicate is whether there is any ongoing uncertainty or potential threat to the Longwood community. In all cases, even those like the one

that occurred on Sept. 19 which we were confident posed no threat to the university, we prioritize campus safety above all else. At the same time, we seek to balance sharing pertinent details of ongoing situations with the campus at large with ensuring that messages are taken with the appropriate seriousness in times of true emergencies.”

The September 19 incident was one of several reported last month. Just hours before at 11:06 p.m. on September 18, the university administration did send an email alert notifying the campus community and students about a different event, a domestic incident which involved gunfire on Hill Street near Griffin Boulevard. According to that notification, that situation was resolved and was deemed not a threat to campus.

Eight days earlier at 10:48 p.m. on September 10, a Longwood University alert email and text message notification were sent concerning a report of gunshots near the intersection of Putney and Virginia streets. In that initial notification, it was reported the suspects fled the scene, and police believed there was no ongoing threat

to campus. An update to the situation was provided at 11:54 p.m., saying the incident had been cleared and reassured there was no ongoing threat to campus.

The administration's communication with students and the campus community regarding emergency alerts came under scrutiny last semester. In February, students participated in an on-campus protest and a Town Hall Forum to discuss their concerns with university officials regarding a lack of communication after an incident involving a non-student carrying a large firearm in Longwood Village.

McWilliams was present at the Feb. 28 protest, listening to and speaking with student representatives. In a March 1 article in *The Rotunda*, McWilliams was quoted as saying, "Going forward, we can do better

(to) make you feel like we care. This is something we think about all the time."

When speaking with Ellington on

during the event of an emergency.

Beach said the population of the Town of Farmville on a day-to-day basis sits at around 6,500, but nearly doubles when students of Longwood University are on campus. He added the ability to combine forces to better serve the community is both neighborly and an added benefit.

He said, "We have students that live all over the map, if you will, and so being able to support that local agency, whether it be Farmville (or) the Sheriff's Department, in an investigative process or in some other type of law enforcement process to

students or staff of the university—it's just a good friend model, and it's also an appropriate division of labor and management of resources."

In an event of an emergency on or around Longwood's campus, Beach said there are three levels of alerts that can be issued to the campus. Each level, rising from one to three, has varying levels of significance.

According to Beach, a level three alert says there is a "verifiable, imminent threat to life or well-being." In an event of a level three, he said an alert will be sent to students and campus community, also accompanied by text messages, emails and sirens. He defined an imminent threat as something that is "occurring, or about to occur."

These alerts, per Beach, will contain information on the recommended measures that should be taken in the aftermath of these incidents, such as staying indoors, etc.

In a level one alert, Beach gave the example of Farmville receiving a large amount of snow, and students being asked to plan accordingly. An issue, but not one that is life-threatening.

"That process is determined by what is going on," Beach said. "There is no hard and fast line that says, 'When this happens, then we say everybody is okay,' that is a determination based on the circumstance."

In the month of October (as of 10/7), according to the LUPD Crime Log, there have been no gun related incidents on the Longwood University campus.

**"Going forward, we can do better (to) make you feel like we care. This is something we think about all the time."**

-Matt McWilliams, assistant vice president of communications  
(from the March 1 edition of *The Rotunda*)

Sept. 25 about the frequency of gun-related incidents, he said, "I will be honest with you, just by what records would show we've had an increased number of calls involving shots being fired within the town over the last month." He estimated four to five calls about shots fired within Farmville town limits ranging from late August to late September.

In town, the Farmville (FPD) and Longwood University Police Departments (LUPD) share concurrent jurisdiction. This means FPD and LUPD have equal arrest power and authority in the town.

event of an emergency.

Ellington said the LUPD is asked to stay on campus and protect students, but if in their travels they encounter a person committing a crime, they have the power to enforce the law. "So they can also come out, they can write a traffic violation if they observe it, they can arrest people for (being) drunk in public (and) DUIs, what have you."

Ellington said anytime an incident happens in the Town of Farmville near the properties of Longwood University, he has a duty to inform LUPD Chief of Police Robert Beach of the situation so that Beach can take the proper measures to inform students.

Ellington added himself and Beach are in constant contact



# Female gender roles and their place in modern-day feminism

by Davina Applewhite | Opinions Staff | @longwoodrotunda

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

From the moment they're born, children are constantly receiving information about the world around them; what is acceptable, what is "right" or "wrong," the roles of others and their own role in society as a result. This growing period is a critical time in their lives for this exact reason.

That being said, young girls, specifically, are often more exposed to the pressures of conforming to a certain mold, set forth by the personalities they see from women on television, in movies and in their own homes.

These personality traits then become associated with how women, in general, act and should act.

For example, Disney princess movies of the past have portrayed women to be dainty, soft-spoken and, more controversially, helpless unless they have a prince to rescue them.

The problem that people have with these classic movies is that they relay a message to young girls that a boy is constantly supposed to be strong, brave and the hero. They also implicitly create and perpetuate this idea that men are supposed to be the breadwinners, while women are the caretakers and housewives.

Unfortunately, these stereotypes aren't just illustrated on-screen.

Taking a look at children's toys, there is a vast difference in the toys made and marketed toward boys versus those that are marketed toward girls. These gender-specific toys are another indirect way that children are

informed about their roles in society, considering no child is born knowing the meaning behind a toy.

The toys advertised towards young boys usually include cars, sports or superheroes, while those geared towards young girls typically include makeup, cooking and cleaning. Perhaps, even more unsettling, is the fact that young girls are presented baby dolls, which insist upon the idea that

every girl should grow up to become a mother and a housewife.

Of course, not every growing girl will enjoy playing with these toys, take an interest in these hobbies or fit this agenda. However, many girls will take this knowledge that a woman and a mother are analogous, with them through adolescence and into adulthood.

In turn, this creates the growing fear of the dreaded biological clock, in which many women feel the need to bear a child before they reach a certain age. This, in some ways, can interfere with the new-age feminist movements, which call for women to be the breadwinners and the heroes, by going to college, getting a job and creating a "boss babe" lifestyle.

It's not impossible to achieve both. There are, however, stigmas surrounding the two decisions and problems arise in the form of a timeline that insists upon finishing school, having a stable career and becoming a mother, all before reaching a particular age.

Not only that, but it is often expected for a woman to have a stable career and then consequently leave that behind in



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# Forecasting the future

by Taiya Jarrett | Opinions Staff | @ohsoootay

COURDSEY OF VECTEZY.COM

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

**H**eavily dictating the daily social interactions of many millennials today, this technology-driven era has developed an eerie sense of satisfaction for the various interpretations of placement of the moon, sun and solar system within the 12 signs of the zodiac, to predict aspects of the present and the future.

In essence, this revived obsession known as astrology dates back to the 17th century. Astrology was seen as a scientific means of predicting the weather, yet overtime that narrative has evolved, especially with age and relevancy.

Contrary to the prediction of weather, this cultural phenomenon has manifested its self into the 21st century as being the backbone of determining relationships, personalities and cycles of life. However, this psychological concept is much more complex than you may think. In its simplest form, astrology is seen as a way of understanding ourselves and others to better communicate.

Now although the misconception of astrology is solely revolved around knowing your birthday in terms of your sun placement, that is certainly scratching the surface as a means to understanding your zodiac sign within astrology. Astrology is not only rooted in being aware of your sun placement, but as well as the placement of your moon.

In addition, The Atlantic attested, "The placement of the moon and each

of the other planets at the time and location of your birth adds additional shades to the picture of you painted by your "birth chart."

In turn, this cultural shift of logic is nothing new, it's just expansive of what was already exposed to us as the public, especially with the rise of horoscopes.

From print publications to newly becoming digitized, horoscopes have become the blueprint to utilizing one's birth chart to forecast their character, personality and future. In particular, this process of elimination has resonated with millennials, as many have adapted to this concept and have further run with it as a shorthand of communication.

That being said, I'm pretty sure we've

tune with yourself astrologically, or rather identifying with a zodiac sign that may be deemed as problematic, intolerable etc. However, this poses the question as to who decides these general characteristics for each zodiac sign and how are they applicable and

accurate to each person that identifies with them? The conventional answer is astrology apps.

Regardless of accuracy or inaccuracy, various astrology apps such as Co-Star, The Pattern, Astrology Daily Horoscope and Astrology Zone, tend to give users an insight into different aspects of themselves—character traits, behavioral patterns and future goals and an affirmation of one's prior perception of themselves, even if it's cliché.

Though, astrology is a thought provoking concept that allows us to become more in touch with ourselves and others, it can also be used to misjudge someone solely based on our preconceived beliefs of a particular sign.

CO — STAR 33m ago

**Your day at a glance**  
Be someone's service animal today.

COURTESY OF TEENVOGUE.COM

CO — STAR Thu 10:41 AM

**Your day at a glance**  
Co-dependence is a temporary fix.

CO — STAR 1h ago

**Your day at a glance**  
Get a plane ticket if you can and just go.

all been asked or have been at fault for asking, "what's your sign?" Though masked as a harmless conversation starter, there's a slight stigma surrounding the question, but also the response possibly received.

In this day and age, there seems to be a sense of judgment for either not being in

# Abbath hits their stride on *Outstrider*

by Ryan Crow | A&E Contributor

COURTESY OF GENIUS.COM

“*Outstrider*” is the sophomore effort from black metal veteran Olve “Abbath” Eikemo’s aptly named solo project “Abbath”. Since separating from the legendary band “Immortal” over trademark disputes in 2015, Eikemo’s creative ability has been thrust into the spotlight, and after a full listen, it’s obvious that his ability to write effective and listenable black metal is still alive and kicking.

Coming in at 39 minutes spread over 9 tracks and blending the timeless “Immortal” sound with new influences, “*Outstrider*” is more than enough to satisfy veteran fans and newcomers alike.

The first thing that jumps out when listening to “*Outstrider*” are the musical strides that the group have taken since their first release. Since sporting a young, new drummer in the form of the Finnish Ukri Suvilehto, and facing the departure of veteran bassist Tom “King” Visnes, improvements over 2016’s lauded self-titled album seemed unlikely. However, “*Outstrider*” takes every element to 11, boasting another solid track lineup, sharper production, and a breath of freshness that separates it from its contemporaries.

The album shines most in its excellent songwriting.

“*Outstrider*” is able to keep things fresh by bringing in surprising new influences in a genre often bogged down by repetitive structure and a lack of variety. Classic heavy metal, thrash and Eikemo’s uniquely voiced style are seamlessly blended into the core black metal formula. That’s not to say, however, that the band cannot still succeed in delivering traditional, pulverizing black metal riffing and drumming accompanied by Abbath’s trademark croaking. New drummer Suvilhto fits in the soundscape perfectly and is unafraid to drift away from tired blast beats, accenting verses with excellent kick and cymbal work throughout. Abbath delivers his usual dynamic and innovative style of rhythm, while returning lead guitarist Ole Farstad excels in his department with high-flying and technically impressive solos.

“*Harvest Pyre*” and “*Land of Khem*” open with bold thrash-inspired riffing and incite a churning

momentum that would feel at home in any mosh pit. “*Hecate*” throws in choruses in traditional heavy metal style, emulating classic Judas Priest before launching back into machine gun blast beats and black metal sonic destruction. “*Outstrider*” as a whole presents fantastic verses and choruses throughout; this shines in tracks such as “*Bridge of Spasms*” and “*The Artifex*”, both providing some surprisingly catchy vocal passages that manage to compensate for occasionally lackluster vocal delivery.

While “*Outstrider*” may not satisfy the staunchest genre purists, it is still a fantastic black metal album. It also serves as the perfect stepping-stone for a casual listener interested in pursuing the next steps in metal. Abbath’s choice to bring in new influences and approaches to his musical writing results in a wholly listenable and satisfying experience.

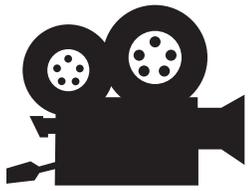
The album contains enough elements of the genre it inhabits to please veteran listeners and can still draw in new, interested listeners with accessible vocals, playing and production.

For those able to look past the rigidity of the traditional genre boundaries, this is black metal at some of its finest and most accessible.

★★★★★ 5/5



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# THE REEL LIFE

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

Here comes the queen, the dark faery, the mistress of evil. Angelina Jolie's portrayal of Maleficent managed to overcome a mixed critical reception and flew straight to big box office receipts and audience praise for her version of the evil queen. A sequel seemed almost inevitable.

So here it is, and "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" may even be an improvement upon the original in some respects. That doesn't necessarily mean it's a good film, but improvements, especially for a live action Disney film, are welcome nonetheless.

Jolie's ("Girl, Interrupted," "Salt") version of the evil queen is just as bombastic as before. She sulks around each corner, brooding at anyone who dares cross her path. Yet, the threatening menace never robs her performance of a high energy as she overacts her heart out, spinning her scenes into pure melodramatic gold.

Elle Fanning's ("Somewhere," "The Beguiled (2017)") Aurora, meanwhile, is just fine. She isn't as plain as to be forgettable, but she maintains a base level of status quo, as does Harris Dickinson ("The Darkest Minds," "Trust") as Prince Phillip. The pair have some great chemistry but aren't particularly memorable. The same goes for Chiwetel Ejiofor ("12 Years A Slave," "The Martian") who's role as Conall the dark faery likely consists of five minutes of screen time, all of them spent spewing exposition.

Ed Skrein ("Deadpool," "Alita: Battle Angel") continues his streak of bringing faceless anti-heroes to life, and the three fairy godmothers, portrayed by Imedla Staunton ("Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," "Vera Drake"), Juno Temple ("Far From the Madding Crowd," "Horns") and Lesley Manville ("Another Year," "Phantom Thread"), are as bland and horrifying to look at as ever.

Thankfully, Michelle Pfeiffer ("Scarface," "Hairspray (2007)") is here and ready to compete with Jolie for the 2019 award for overacting. The

pair churn out delicious melodrama ever time they share the screen; each one grins and broods, snickers and bickers with laser precision. They make the film worth watching, and it's better for it.

Oddly enough, the supporting cast seems to make more of an impact than the leads here. Warwick Davis ("Return of the Jedi," "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince") might not be on screen a lot, but when he is, he continues to beam with the same wonderful

## Disney MALEFICENT MISTRESS OF EVIL

★★★ 2.5/5

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES, ROTH FILMS, AND WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES.

charm he's maintained for the last 37 years in film. Sam Riley ("Pride and Prejudice and Zombies," "Control (2007)") reprises his role as Diaval the Raven from the first film and continues to be just as lovable, if not more so, than before. Jenn Murray ("Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," "Brooklyn") has a minor role here as the lead henchperson of Pfeiffer's queen, but each time she's on screen she's clearly giving it her all, chewing up the scenery and reveling in the cliched ridiculousness.

That is what is at the core of this film. It's part "Meet the Fockers" and part "every fantasy anti-hero film of the last three decades." Not a shred of the plot feels original in any respect, and the longer it goes on the more the tiny plot inconsistencies pop up.

For example, how is it that, when they're called to a big event in the third act, the entire population of the forest Moore where Maleficent and Aurora live only take up half of a church? How is it that the story of the first film has turned to manipulated legend in just five years' time? How is this legend passed around and known by all, and yet the queen doesn't even know what happened to Aurora's former castle?

How does no one notice the huge evil layer beneath the castle?

Also, for a film about Maleficent, she spends an awful lot of the second act doing...not much at all. She bums around the dark faery world and doesn't leave it until she needs to do more semi-evil actions.

The visuals are also a sore spot, because, while the physical aspects are top notch, just about anytime a greenscreen is involved, things plummet for the ground. Maleficent's outfits and makeup are a consistent highlight, growing and evolving as the film progresses, and the sets are clearly well constructed and gorgeous to look at.

The same goes for the world of the dark faerys, as the physical aspects of their world are extremely well done and gorgeous to look at. The other faerys are also gorgeously crafted, each sporting dozens of color, horn and wing variations, giving the feeling that this is truly a whole other race. Even the effects of Maleficent's powers are sewn into the film well.

But anytime she takes flight, it's clear that Jolie is floating against a greenscreen with wires all around her. Wires may not be visible, but there's a clear cheapness to these flying sequences that dampers their effect. A handful of odd inconsistencies also pop up, like poor makeup on any fantasy child creature, and bizarre editing cuts that don't even attempt to hide reused footage.

For all its flaws, there's something remarkably engaging about "Mistress of Evil." It isn't good, but it has a melodramatic soap-opera feel to it that makes it constantly watchable. The overacting of Jolie and Pfeiffer and likable supporting cast mix... interestingly with the plot-hole ridden story and weirdly inconsistent visual effects. It delivers a film that feels like if Disney did a big budget fairy tale soap opera; literally the entire film is 100% extra. If an entire film could be described as "scenery chewing" this would definitely be it.

October of 2009 introduced the world to four misfits in the zombie apocalypse so determined to keep from making connections that they just used their destinations as names. Now, a decade later, “Zombieland” is without a doubt a modern cult hit. The wry sense of humor and gory glory kills gave way to fruitful careers for just about everyone involved: the writers have now written both “Deadpool” films, each of the four leads has been nominated for an Oscar at least once, and the director went on to direct the box office smash hit “Venom.”

If rumors are to be believed, this second “Zombieland” film, aptly titled “Double Tap” has been in the pipeline long before the current trend of rebooting and revitalizing old properties. It does have plenty of things that set it apart from the collection of years-later sequels that have come since 2009, and thankfully those differences help set it above those other cash-grabby sequels.

For starters, the entire cast seems completely game and willing to be here. Woody Harrelson (“Natural Born Killers,” “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”), Jesse Eisenberg (“The Social Network,” “Adventureland”) and Emma Stone (“La La Land,” “Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)”) all still have great chemistry and comedic timing, as does Abigail Breslin (“Little Miss Sunshine,” “Scream Queens”), though she isn’t given as much screen time as the other three. The main foursome all seem like they’re having a blast, and not one comes across as here simply to collect a paycheck.

Newer characters are smartly balanced between existing purely for jokes and serving some plot purpose. Luke

Wilson (“Idiocracy,” “Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy”) and Thomas Middleditch (“Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie,” “Silicon Valley”) are the subject of some of the film’s best extended gags, and Rosario Dawson (“Top Five,” “Luke Cage”) is equally as badass as Harrelson’s grizzled cowboy type. Even Zoey Dutch’s (“The Year of Spectacular Men,” “Everybody Wants Some!!”) valley-girl-esque supporting role doesn’t come across as completely annoying thanks to her fantastic comedic timing.

This is still Zombieland, and things are still as gory as ever. Blood and flesh spew from every frame of the screen each time zombies arrive, and

★★★★☆ 3.5/5

each time it does feel glorious. While less inventive with its kills than the first, “Double Tap” does swap the cleverness with a sense of the absurd.

Not just with the zombie kills, either. It’s almost as if director Ruben Fleischer (“Zombieland,” “Venom”) and writers Rhett Reese (“Deadpool,” “Life (2017)”), Paul Wernick (“Deadpool,” “Life (2017)”) and David Callaham (“The Expendables,” “Godzilla (2014)”) knew they wouldn’t be able to recapture the subtle wit of the first film, and instead decided to go for broke into the realm of the absurd. Elvis costumes, monster trucks, the leaning tower of Pisa, and native

American

bloodlines all come into play here and it’s done in the same delightfully unserious way as before.

However, absurdity might excuse some overarching plot beats, but it doesn’t excuse some rather confusing plot holes or contrivances. A huge part of the plot revolves around a pacifist camp where they melt down any guns that make it through their gate. While this is fine in theory, they are in the zombie apocalypse, and this kind of lapse in judgement comes across more as confusing than amusing.

There are also a handful of scenes that, while they might have great action or jokes, don’t really serve any purpose in the plot, existing just to pad out the runtime. Every film has scenes like this, but a few here seem egregiously obvious.

Still, the humor and comradery are what really make this something special. Just like the first, the themes of family and home set against the backdrop of vicious zombie attacks have an odd charm to them. The little touches throughout also do a great job of making this feel like nothing else out there. While the visual effects detailing rules for surviving and the like were minor elements in the first film, here they’re cranked up to eleven in some really clever ways.

They’re a great example of tiny things that nobody else is doing that help set these films apart. “Double Tap” may not be as inventive or fresh as the first film, but the same great sense of humor and comradery still shine through. That and its sense of increased absurdity help to balance out

some blatant padding and plot holes to deliver a film that is just as delightfully silly and gory as before. The flesh might not be as fresh this time around, but it’s still delicious.

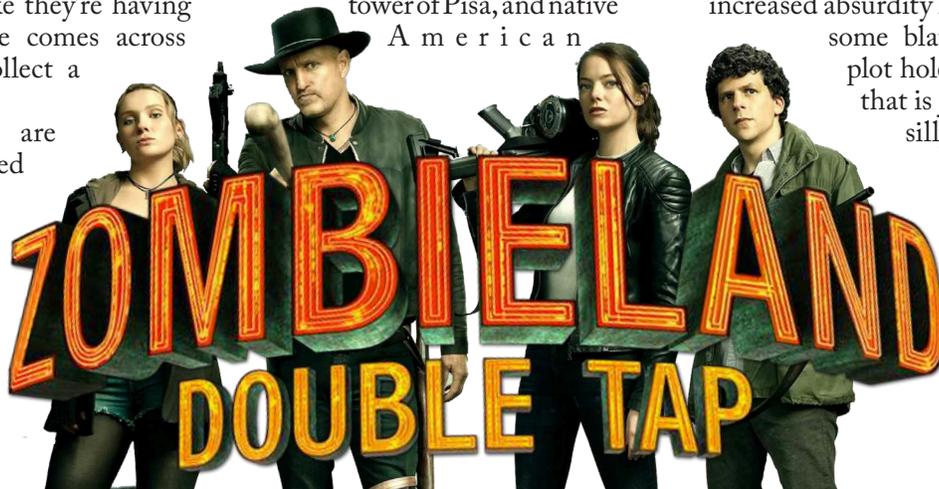


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# THE REEL LIFE

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## Field hockey begins postseason push

by Nick Robinson | Sports Staff | @longwoodrotunda

After going 9-7 last season and losing to Appalachian State in the first round of the Mid-American Conference (MAC) tournament, Longwood field hockey set out to take the next step in the 2019 season.

With returning starters in key positions and Head Coach Iain Byers returning for an 11th season, it looked as though the Lancers would make good on their goal.

"Our expectation was to be competitive and to see progress on our performance. We lost four seniors so it was a little bit of an unknown with some of the freshmen coming in," he said.

The team has maintained a degree of competitiveness all season despite currently sitting at 6-8 (2-2 Mid-American), and losing four-out-of-five games. While not being in the position they want to be record wise, Byers said there are some positives to build on as the team begins their push towards the postseason.

"We lived up to our expectations, but in a different way than we thought. From a defensive point of view, we have been solid. That was unexpected," said Byers. "I think we would all say that we've underperformed a little in

front of the goal from an attacking point of view. We've become more of a defensive team. We knew we were going to win games by a score of 2-0 or 2-1, it's not going to be 7-0 and that's fine."

Byers also pointed to the teams increased strength of schedule this season as a partial culprit for the teams record thus far. However, he said the team's performance is "steadily improving".

With the MAC Tournament quickly approaching, Byers said if the team continues to have defensive success and evolves on the offensive end, then it will be in prime position.

The aforementioned Lancer defense is spearheaded, in part, by redshirt senior goalkeeper Katie Wyman. She was named MAC Defensive Player of the Week on October 15 and currently sits second in the nation in save percentage.

When asked about the biggest reason for her performance, she said she couldn't point out just one major aspect, but felt her experience only helps.

"This is my fifth year and third as a starter so I've been around the bush. Experience has helped me be consistent," Wyman said. "Also, the

help I get from my defense. Everyone's recovering. Everyone's doing what we're asking them to do defensively, and that's just helping me out a lot because it's less shots that I have to take."

Ever since her junior season, she has held a goal to have an 85 percent save percentage or higher when the season ends; she currently is meeting that goal with an 85 percent mark (as of 10/17).

On the offensive end, junior forward Karly Harwood currently tops the squad with seven goals, with sophomore midfielder Sophia Loscher following closely behind with six.

Despite the team recently dropping an important in-conference road contest to Miami (OH), Wyman said consistency will be the key moving forward for the team to reach their goal of a MAC title.

"We just have to play a whole game and not one half versus the other. As long as we know that everyone tried their hardest and left it all on the field, I would feel comfortable leaving it like that," she said.

The team returns to Elizabeth Burger Jackson Field on October 22, as they take on the Billikens from Saint Louis University with a noon start.



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