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Longwood University, "Rotunda - Vol 98, no. 8 - Oct 28, 2019" (2019). *Rotunda*. 2238. https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/rotunda/2238

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#### R.R. Moton Museum, **Dining updates**

by Allison Turner | Assistant News Editor | @allisonkturner

n this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, the senate visited the R.R. Moton Museum, located at 900 Griffin Boulevard in

Cam Patterson, managing director for the Moton, came in to say a few words to the senate, encouraging the students to take a tour and learn more about the museum.

Patterson said, "You are in a spot that really helped our country work a little bit harder to achieve equality for all."

VA21/SCHEV (State Council Higher ofEducation for Virginia) State Representative Amelia Graves noted that election day is on November 5, and said there will be two vans to take students to-and-from the voting polls if they do not have a way of getting there themselves.

In the President's Report, Haleigh Pannell encouraged the senate and students to use the virtual open forum option to their advantage. The link to the forum is on their website, Longwoodsga. com, and is a place to bring up concerns about the campus.

In the Vice President's Report, Catherine Swinsky said the dining hall is working on getting iced coffee and they have received a new sandwich press, which can be used for all three meals a day. She added that Greens To Go now has pre-made salads available in order to make service go quicker and shorten the lines during peak hours in the day.

The next SGA meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 30 at 3:45 p.m. Wilson inside of the Chamber at the Upchurch University Center.



Cameron Paterrson welcomes SGA members to the Moton Museum and encourages students to enjoy the historical landmark in Farmville.



Executive Treasurer Samuel Torpy speaks on the finance report to the members of SGA

OCT. 28, 2019 03 > NEWS

#### Town Hall held to discuss Title IX

by Kurt Martin | Sports Editor | @lamKurt14

hortly after 6 p.m. last Tuesday, a crowd of 20 gathered into the Hull Education Center Room 132 for the "Ask Me Anything: Title IX Awareness Town Hall", which featured, Lindsey Moran, Longwood University clery and Title IX coordinator, Col. Robert R. Beach, Longwood University chief of police, Elizabeth Chassey M.Ed., sexual assault and outreach program director at Madeline's House, Dr. Alexa Wilkins, Longwood University staff psychologist and campus advocate and Megan Clark, commonwealth's attorney, as panelists.

The event was hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA), the Office of Student Conduct and Integrity and the Longwood University Title IX Office, and was moderated by Student Diversity and Inclusion Council (SDIC) president Anthony Jackson.

Attendees of the event were able to send in anonymous questions to the panel by scanning a code on the screen, then typing their question out to be answered

Moran began by defining Title IX, saying it is a federal law that prevents gender based discrimination on campuses that receive federal funding, such as Longwood University. She said it covers all aspects of campus life including: education, athletics, employment and covers "pretty much everybody on campus..."

Another question asked about how many cases had been referred for prosecution at Longwood University.

Clark said she could not pinpoint the exact number, but she did say the laws in the criminal justice system, not the investigation portion, have not caught up to societal norms and what is expected to take place in healthy sexual relationships versus sexual assaults. She said there have been referrals, but not ones that have been able to be taken for prosecution.

Beach added when a Title IX case comes to LUPD, it then opens a criminal investigation to determine whether or not the elements of the events of sexually based offenses were present in the situation.

"We gather all the evidence that we can possibly gather in that investigation, and then we take (it) to the Commonwealth's Attorney to see if it will stand the muster of being able to determine whether it is prosecutable."

The issue over Title IX cases dealing with Longwood University students at Hampden-Sydney College (H-SC) was brought to the forefront by question.

Moran said the issue is challenging when dealing with two different jurisdictions, as Title IX at Longwood University only pertains to individuals the university has jurisdiction over, or those who are affiliated with Longwood.

She said if the complainant is interested, she will reach out to the Title IX office at H-SC for an investigation to begin; the process then turns to a "supportive-assistant typed role" for the Longwood Title IX office.

Beach said determining where an alleged incident takes place is very important in a Title IX situation. If the incident takes place on Longwood University managed property, then the LUPD will present all information available to the case from Longwood and surrounding jurisdictions involved to the Commonwealth's Attorney. The jurisdiction in which the incident takes place is responsible for reporting evidence found.

He added reporting all available information to the Commonwealth's Attorney is statute in a Title IX investigation.

Clark said Title IX and criminal prosecution are often put together, which is false, as they are "completely separate tracks." Complainants have the right to make a report to their Title IX Coordinator and refuse a criminal prosecution.

From an earlier statement, she reiterated more on how laws have not matched up with societal norms dealing with consent.

"At one point, I know that it was being stated that consent is active; so you have to do or say something in the affirmative in order to communicate consent, and if you don't do that, then you have not consented. Legally, that's not true; legally, consent can be passive, so if you don't say anything then that can be viewed as consent," said Clark. "Now, that's a very basic understanding of it. We have to look at how a lack of consent is communicated to the perpetrator, and normally that is where my hang up is."

When a prosecution is held, Clark said she makes sure the victims have the proper support system in place to be able to make it through the process, because she believes the victims when they come to her, and she now wants to find the information that can best serve them.

She said "fight or flight" has been widely considered as forms of revoking consent in the court of law, but "freezing" is not. In light of this, she and her colleagues are working to come up with creative ways to prove "freezing" as revoking of consent in the court.

Beach said the LUPD will always support the survivors perspective when refusing a criminal prosecution because they have a right to walk away from the situation. However, he said he will always encourage victims to come forward so that as much evidence as possible can be gathered to make a case if a victim changes their mind to move forward with criminal prosecution on a later date.

A questioned was posed on what makes a "toxic" relationship.

Chassey said there are many "red-flags" which include: controlling behavior, emotional abuse and financial abuse. "A bunch of little things that might not seem like a big deal individually, but when they all kind of pile up and snowball into this big, constant abusive situation," said Chassey.

For the whole hour, there was a constant flow of questions to the panel, in which all gave detailed and heartfelt answers.

Jackson said Education and Prevention Coordinator Sasha Johnson approached him about moderating the event, and he ran with the ball. He said the discussion was "a very beautiful event", while commending the knowledge of the panelists.

Johnson commended the questions asked by those in attendance and showed praise to the hosts and students who helped coordinate the event. However, she said she wishes the attendance would have been higher.

She said the office doors in the Student Conduct and Integrity Office are always open for students who have any questions dealing with Title IX or any other problems they may have.

## Mindful Mingling helps students de-stress on



ith soothing recreational activities like playing Jenga, coloring and making stress balls out of balloons and sand, students found and learned creative ways to relax by the Dancing Fountains on Brock Commons on Wednesday, October 23.

Mindful Mingling event revolved around being mindful of mental health and showing how to apply various techniques of relaxation into a student's everyday life.

Instead of playing the regular game of Jenga, the Mindful Mingling version had people pick up a block with a statement about self-care for students to read aloud. This was followed by a question relating to the topic from one of the people in

Everyone who ran the event was sincerely interested in hearing students voice how they feel about their stress and the ways that they handle it, which gave the conversation a natural open feeling that allowed students and adults to be genuinely honest with one another.

Mental health awareness has become more of an open, yet crucial, topic of discussion in the past few years. Since stress is an unfortunate and influential force of nature on a great deal of students on college campuses, Mindful Mingling offered not only awareness of the subject, but specific advice on how to de-stress on a regular basis.

Madeline Schutt from the Office of Disability Resources said, "I think students in general need healthy techniques and alternatives that they can utilize now so that they can continue to use them later in life. Things like mindfulness, meditation and coloring for instance, can help students relax instead of turning to unhealthier options for self-care. Getting good sleep is also very important, probably the most important that a student can do for themselves."

As the semester gets closer and closer to finals week, finding methods of relaxation is vital to a student's mental health as well as their overall wellbeing. No matter how much time everyone has, establishing a little slice



Lancer Pro members showing off their relaxing coloring sheets.

of downtime should be something everyone should do, even if it is only for an hour or two.

Aside from participating in fun, calming activities, everyone at the event made sure to discuss how to make downtime a prominent part of a student's regular schedule.

When asked how college students can prioritize self-care, Schutt mentioned, First, I think students and people in general need to have a planner or a to do list, even if it's just an app on their phone, to make time for selfcare. The main way to prioritize selfcare is to type it out or write it down and actually follow through. Most people tend to spend their free time

looking at social media rather than spending ten minutes to enjoy views such as the Dancing Fountains on Brock Commons or other aspects of nature on our campus. Mindfulness is definitely about being in the present moment."

Prioritizing mental health not only benefits how well a student performs in school but also enhances how they handle other types of difficult situations in their lives.

> Schutt commented, "Using self-care will positively impact them in the long run with their grades, relationships with peers and their relationships with themselves as well."

> While some students may have stopped by for the sake of learning how to make a stress ball, there was far more to take away from the event.

"I want students to have resources in their back pocket in times of stress to control how they respond to stressful events in their lives," said Schutt.

Mindful Mingling was hosted by the Office of Disability Resources, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and several Student Wellness Ambassadors. This is the second year in a row this event has been held at Longwood University.

Remember, if you or anyone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out to someone whether it's a friend or a professional.

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# Why naming the white supremacist group matters

by Alec Hosterman, PhD, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies

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

n Thursday, October 24, Dr. Tim Pierson shared with the Longwood community information about stickers and posters appearing around campus that violated the university's posting policy. I want to thank Dr. Pierson for alerting the Longwood community about the quick actions of the Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) in taking them down.

These stickers and posters had "America First" printed on them and in actuality, are part of a larger campaign by a white supremacist organization called Patriot Front. This group targets colleges and universities across the country in order to spread propaganda and recruit members. As a community, we need to feel empowered to recognize and identify hate when we see it.

I know the idea of naming an organization gives it power through recognition. But not identifying an organization also gives it power by letting their actions go unchecked. In this case, calling them out is an act of empowerment meant to counter their subversive activities. Having experienced firsthand the vitriolic rhetoric and violence of the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, I firmly believe the more we know about these groups and their activities, the better prepared we are as citizen leaders to combat their rhetoric of intolerance and hate when we see it.

In 2017, I went to Charlottesville to photograph and document the Friday evening torch rally at the University of Virginia and then again Saturday for the Unite the Right rally at Emancipation Park. My goal was to create a visual record of these activities, originally to be used as potential material for my Visual Communication class. Both days had a

confluence of extreme alt-right groups, including neo-Confederates, neo-fascists, white nationalists, neo-Nazis, Klansmen and others, that proudly proclaimed in one loud voice, "white was right," "Jews will not replace us" and "blood and soil," amongst other things. It was jarring to say the least.

That weekend, the alt-right's message was simple: anyone who isn't like them was in the wrong. On Saturday, they exercised their first amendment rights by protesting, shouting and marching. But when confronted by an opposition of inclusivity, diversity and tolerance, their rhetoric escalated and quickly turned violent. At noon, even before it officially began, the Governor called off the rally due to the violent incursions. By that afternoon, one bystander was killed and numerous others injured.

witnessing the alt-right's tactics that fateful weekend, I firmly believe we all need to be aware of the strategies used by white supremacist groups like Patriot Front. In his email, Dr. Pierson included an image of an as-of-yet unidentified individual who may be associated with posting these white supremacy promotional materials on campus. One sticker read "America First" in a tall, blue typeface "patriotfront.us" underneath in smaller, mainly blue and red font, all on a white background. (The connection to the colors of United States flag is obvious.) However, the website takes you to Patriot Front's website. Patriot Front is an active white organization supremacist that conducts disinformation and recruiting campaigns around the country via posters, stickers, banners and in-person protests.

Both the Anti-Defamation League and Southern Poverty Law Center have declared Patriot Front an altright white supremacist group. Like similar alt-right groups, they espouse racist and anti-Semitic rhetoric whenever and wherever possible, actively recruiting on university and college campuses across the country.

As Dr. Pierson correctly mentioned, Longwood is not alone in getting targeted with stickers and posters. Materials are appearing at other Virginia institutions. According to the anti-fascist website It's Going Down, Patriot Front planned to target colleges and universities across the United States in late September of this year, including those in Virginia. The Cavalier Daily, the University of Virginia's newspaper, reported that materials were found in downtown Charlottesville along Heather Heyer Way (the street where Heyer was struck down and killed), Market Street Park and on the property of the First United Methodist Church of Charlottesville. Posting stickers and putting up posters at Longwood seems to be an extension of that September

On the surface, stickers and posters with "America First" on them might seem as benign as any other patriotic slogan. But that unassuming message is how Patriot Front and other white supremacist groups function: they play on patriotism and exploit our values. This is not patriotism. This is pure hate.

I encourage you to report any further instances to the LUPD that you may see around campus. Be vigilant. Be informed. Challenge the hate from these groups by calling it what it is: white supremacy.

"Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." – Winston Churchill.

## e mome

by Taiya Jarrett | Assistant Opinions Editor | @ohsoootay

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

isguised under the premise of soliciting a reality infused with financial incentives, popularity, notoriety and sponsorships, Social Media Influencers have ultimately pushed a narrative that is not only false but unattainable.

Contrary to popular belief, Social Media Influencers come in various forms that are not solely known for establishing a sense of popularity on social media platforms that vary from Instagram, Twitter and or Snapchat, but for excessive exploitation of branding practices.

Regardless of the social media platform, Social Media Influencers in particular tend to have the most access and traction to-and-from a plethora of people just by the access of a follow, like, comment and or retweet. That being said, influencers on a larger scale are seemingly in the

repetitive and oddly alluring ads that range from the Flat Tummy Detox Teas to your Hairfinity hair growth supplements, influencers essentially have the tools to attract the common viewer to buy into what they are selling, but at what expense exactly?

As Social Media Influencers can come in the form of an Instagram Model to a celebrity, they are all somehow interconnected as they are motivated to pursue the same agenda—making money moves.

They drive percent of shoppers to make financial decisions based social media, according to Social Media Week.org "With a large often

glimpse inside her daily work life via 'Welcome to Our Office." Yet, this subtle representation included the presence of her mini-me, Stormi, and her vocals. That said, the visual snippet enticingly showed Jenner waking her daughter with cliché phrase, "Rise and Shine," but on beat.

So naturally becoming a viral sensation, thanks to the Internet, the "Rise, and Shine," vocal snippet quickly became

a part of the millennial moment.

According Forbes.com, "Within days of the video, they'd (Kylie Cosmetics) released "Rise and Shine" sweatshirts through The Kylie Shop, sent out emails referencing it to promote "brandpromote eyeshadows.

and shared a video of Kylie showing her daughter EDM remixes. The lesson was to integrate Twitter memes into your pre-existing marketing channels."

Though short-lived, Jenner recently filed to trademark "Rise and Shine," but was unequivocally declined, which comes at no shock.

In essence, time and time again social media platforms are being driven by influencers who seem to rise to the occasion of a comical moment as a monetizing moment, which is dissatisfying and disingenuous. Trying to decipher real content nowadays is time-consuming and brain-racking, much like trying to exploit branding practices to the general public for economic advantages.



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

fter years of belting pop ballads of breakups and unrequited love alongside his bandmates, former One Direction member, Harry Styles, presents his audience with a sound never heard before in his newly released single, "Lights Up."

Following the band's indefinite hiatus, Styles continued to make and perform music on his own, including an entire self-titled album, released in 2017.

However, even considering his own album and the five albums he released while still a member of One Direction, "Lights Up" is a new, soulful piece in which Styles uses his extensive vocal range to create a different sound for each verse, the chorus and the bridge.

Many have their own opinion on the song's meaning and speculate that it represents the redefinition of Styles' sexuality.

Focusing especially on the chorus' lyrics "All the lights couldn't put out the dark / Runnin' through my heart / Lights up and they know who you are / Know who you are / Do you know who you are?" One can assume this is referring to all of the times Styles has stepped out on stage, pushing away feelings of self-doubt and questions surrounding his sexual orientation.

These same theorists believe the lyrics "Shine, step into the light / So bright sometimes / I'm not ever going back" is Styles finally embracing his attraction to men and unapologetically

shining a light on his newfound self-acceptance.

The music video also confirms a bit of these fan theories about the overall meaning, depicting Styles in a sea of scantily-clad women and men. It goes without saying that the "Lights Up" music video works to not only showcase Styles' artistic vision, but also encapsulate his entire being of both femininity and masculinity. This is shown through details of everything from the flamboyant design of his clothes to the video's change in lighting.

It should be noted that the singersongwriter hasn't come forward to explain the depths of the lyrics and usually keeps them open to interpretation.

One thing that can be said about Styles music and stylistic creativity, altogether, is that his voice and style resonates with souls from every generation.

Often compared to David Bowie and Mick Jagger, Styles reinvites an unexplainable energy to the music world that was once so admired from the 1960s to the 80s.

Despite the fact that Styles' new sound is quite different from that of the pop tunes he used to sing in One Direction, there are still many people who undervalue his music, simply because he used to be a part of a boyband.

The same can be said for celebrities

like Justin Timberlake, who was a part of the famous 90s boyband \*NYSNC, but like Styles, began his own solo shortly after they announced a hiatus.

This assumption that an artist is somehow less talented because of the way they started their career is a rather close-minded way of thinking.

Because Styles' fanbase is made up of mostly young women, in some critics' eyes this means his music is generic or subordinate.

Not only does this belief undermine an artist's hard work, but it also perpetuates the idea that because something is mostly enjoyed by women that it is inherently of lesser value.

However, what these critics fail to see due to their abrupt judgments, is the divergent, versatile nature and vocal ability that Styles possesses.

Styles, having come a long way from his days of just being a part of a whole, has now made a name for himself, selling out stadiums during his first-ever solo tour and breaking Billboard records.

The critics have given him a bit of a difficult time in the past due to the beginning of his music career, but he continues to create music that pushes boundaries and means something to others.

"Lights Up," and therefore his upcoming album, is worthy of--if nothing else--praise and recognition.

#### 08 > **A&E**

### **Spirit Adrift: "Divided By** Darkness" Album Review

by Ryan Crow | A&E Contributor

rizona based doom metal outfit Spirit Adrift are back with another dense slice of their trademark gloomy grooves. Returning for their second full-length release, after being elevated from front

man Nate Garrett's solo project to a full band, Spirit Adrift bring 42 minutes of melodious doom and gloom in the form of "Divided by Darkness." A follow-up to 2017's fantastic "Curse of Conception," this release is a clear image of the bands continuing sonic refinement and shows that they can evolve their sound in new and impressive ways.

The band's doom-andheavy-metal inspired sound is seamlessly blended across eight tracks. The old-school heavy metal influence is much more obvious on this effort than on their previous albums, often shining through in Garrett's improved songwriting

skills. Verses and choruses pour in over chunky riffs, and each song gives the listener plenty of sonic ground to explore.

Tracks "Hear Her" and "Angel & Abyss" show that the band doesn't shy away from traditional heavy metal palm mutes, fluid and melodious solo leads, while the titular track "Divided by Darkness" and "Tortured by Time" bring in sludgy doom metal riffs and yearning, mournful vocals sure to satisfy any doom aficionado.

Contributing to this album's success, the production is rock-solid, giving the drums powerful kicks and crisp cymbal crashes while the allowing guitars plenty of room to churn and chug with thick, open-ended tone. The vocals

are especially polished, sounding full and high in the mix. The synths take a backseat in most songs this time around, but they swirl with rich, psychedelic fervor that compliment the heavy guitar fuzz well.

Conception," and he does not shy away from powerful choruses that worm their way into the listeners ears.

His skill has taken a great leap since his previous effort, demonstrated in his expanded range and Ozzy-esque

> croons. The band is also unafraid to experiment with new ideas on this record. "Living Light" has an excellent major-key chorus and haunting organ notes that seep out like a funeral dirge, and



production is matched only by its musical showmanship. Each element of the band

is in total sync here, and together they produce a complex blend of instrumentality, never overstepping their respective boundaries. The bass lays down a solid framework for the lead and rhythm guitars, and the drumming hammers up into a frenzy when needed. Garrett's haunting vocal performance is more expressive and dynamic than on "Curse of

tense, vibrant synth lines reminiscent of popular 80's horror soundtracks.

"Divided by Darkness" is a solid record and shows that Spirit Adrift have earned a rightful spot on any listener's shelf. Impressive new steps keep the record fresh and listenable while retaining plenty of the triedand-true doom elements that propelled them to success in the first place. The chemistry between members and rich, complex songs are impossible to digest after only one listen. This album

demands repeated listening to fully appreciate all the details stuffed in each dense track.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NPR

OCT. 28, 2019 09 > A&E

## Back in the 90's Why "Bojack Horseman" is the best show on television

by Jacob DiLandro | A&E Editor | @spongejay1

In the trailer for season one of "Bojack Horseman," a series of rap and rock songs plays underneath various shenanigans and crude jokes, showing Bojack dealing with a world that doesn't think he's famous anymore.

In the trailer for season six, the most recent and final season, Bojack narrates the trailer as he writes a letter to his friends from rehab. He ruminates on the nature of his life and how change can only be effective if it comes from him.

You'd be remised if you thought they were ads for completely different shows. What started as a juvenile show about celebrity turned into a show about the way you're perceived by the world, the differences between evils happening to you and because of you, self-examination and one of the most heartbreakingly realistic portrayals of mental illness this side of "A Beautiful Mind." How does a show so completely turn itself around? And how does it do it within the first season?

That's right, the show's focus tightens up, and it begins to delve more into Bojack's psyche and why he's doing these terribly crass things halfway through season one! This change was, in fact, so drastic, that website IndieWire changed their review policy for Netflix shows to account for the entire season when reviewing, instead of the first six episodes. That's why "Bojack" season one has a paltry 67% on RottenTomatoes compared to the acclaim of the later seasons, as

most critics only reviewed the first six episodes, believing they had gotten a grasp on the show as a whole.

Now with the first half of season six, the final season, premiering this past Friday, there are quite a few interesting things to ruminate on as the story comes to a close. So here are a few reasons "Bojack" Horseman" is the best show on Netflix, and maybe even all of television. Spoilers ahead.

"Bojack Horseman" Netflix and it is TV-MA, but that doesn't mean the writers don't know how to show restraint. Sure, there are drugs and drinking, but the one area where they are particularly selective is with the language. The show's decision to only use the word "f\*\*\*" once per season, and to only utilize it when Bojack has irreparably damaged one of his relationships means that the team effectively gives the word power. In a world of R-rated comedies and shows that flaunt language willy nilly, here the writers are purposefully giving the scenes the power they deserve with a word that is supposed to be able to have it.

There's also some pretty great wordplay throughout the series. Some characters are parodies of their real-life counterparts, but with animal themed names, such Quinten Tarantula, Lance Bass and Cameron Crowe. There are also moments of overly long sentences that serve to show the ridiculousness of Bojack's world, such as a game show called "Hollywood Stars and Celebrities: What Do They Know? Do They Know Things?? Let's Find Out!" or tongue twisters like "This was supposed to be Courtney's crossover coronation, but that's sort of being thwarted unfortunately, 'cause Courtney's purportedly

falling short of shoring

up four quadrant support."

Naturally

all of this
wordplay
and silly
situations
shouldn't fit
as snuggly
with the
mental

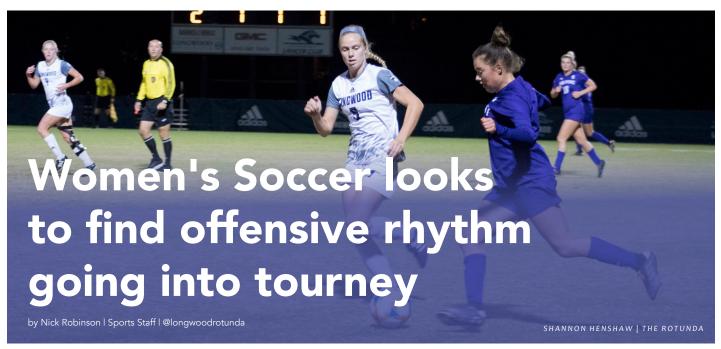
health issues and toxicity that "Bojack" often talks about. But the ability to embrace the absurd and allow it to exist alongside the serious actually helps to make the serious bits more engaging. For example, in season five, when a sex robot-turned-CEO is thrown out for making advances on his coworkers, it isn't because he actually said anything sexual. It was because he said things like "low power" and "entering sleep mode."

While other shows might have the occasional episode where one of their main characters doesn't appear, or is having a separate adventure from the rest of the main crew, "Bojack" isn't afraid to split its characters up in multiple ways. Bojack being missing was the entire premise for season four and multiple episodes throughout the show have not featured the titular character at all. It's a strength of the writers that they don't feel the need to squeeze every character in the show into each episode.

Quite possibly the most important element of "Bojack Horseman" though is its ability to show how positive change can affect people. However, it is quick to note that positive change does not equal growth or solutions. Throughout the show multiple characters have good, even great, things happen to them that seem to put them on a path to a better life, but they then tumble back to despair after failing to put forth any effort themselves, believing good things will just keep happening to them.

That's the core of "Bojack Horseman" and why it's such an incredible show. Back in the 90s, Bojack was in a very famous TV show, but now he isn't. The writers and the creator Raphael Bob-Waksberg make it very clear that as the world around us forces us to change, nothing will truly get better until we change ourselves.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TORNANTE TELEVISION, BOXER VS. RAPTOR,
SHADOWMACHINE, DEBMAR-MERCURY, AND NETFLIX.



Junior midfielder Madison Lockamy battles for the ball in the offensive end of the pitch and looks to gain possession.

he 2019 season has been one full of ups and downs for Longwood women's soccer. From the highs of shutting out multiple conference rivals, to the lows of getting blown out at home by in-state rival VCU in the first game of the season, and having two games cancelled due to rain.

It would be safe to say this season has been a rollercoaster for the team.

With the Big South Tournament now one week away, the team finished the regular season at 6-8-2 (4-4-2 Big South) which clinched the sixth spot in the tournament.

Head Coach Todd Dyer noted some things he saw from his team during the regular season that he believes will help them in the postseason.

"We don't give up, we are very resilient, we show a lot of grit, we defend very well, we're in every game; it's just a question of 'are we going to get the goal?'," he said. "Even with the ups and downs that we've had, we've learned from all of those setbacks. If we get healthy, I think we're going to be a team that nobody will want to play."

He added, "As well as we're defending, we need to transition to our offense better so that we can make other teams defend us more frequently. Sometimes we

get stuck in the back and we're defending too much and we've got to be able to break out of that, keep the ball, possess the ball, push the other team back with our possession and make the other team deal with us defensively."

This past Wednesday, the team received a visit from the undefeated, now conference Regular Season Champion, High Point Panthers. They matched the Panthers in a defensive stalemate for the entirety of the game and finished at a 0-0 score line through two overtime periods.

Dyer believes that the momentum of holding their own against the conference leader will help his team in the postseason.

"We have to come with that same energy, that same focus, that same discipline no matter who's in front of us. That's been a challenge for us this year, against some of the better teams we step up to the occasion; and then when it's one of those 50-50 games where we think we're the better team, we're not finishing those games off," he said.

One player who has come up big, as of late, is junior midfielder Madison Lockamy. She currently is second on the team in goals with five (all coming in conference play) and is second on the team in minutes played, totaling 1,303 minutes thus far.

Coach Dyer referred to her

as a "stud" and said, "This has been her best year by far. She's one of our leading goal-scorers. She has been doing a lot of work defensively and covering a lot of ground and is also managing to get forward and get goals in big games. She deserves the success."

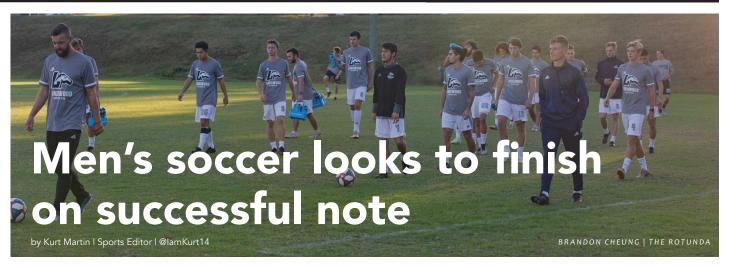
Lockamy had the game-winning goal for the Lancers in the October 2 win over Radford, whom the team will play in the first round of the Big South Tournament, and had two goals in the teams' September 25 win over Hampton.

"I like to think that I'm a good offensive presence. I try to get in places where I can try to find the back of the net and get some assists." she said. "To be better for the postseason, we have to find the back of the net more than we are now. We're fine defensively, we just shut out the number one team in our conference. Offensively, we create plenty of chances, we just need to finish them."

She said that she believed the game against High Point showed everyone that Longwood was still here and that they were still contenders.

As previously mentioned, the Lancers will begin their tournament journey on Saturday as they travel to Radford to take on the Highlanders.

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s the conference slate began for Longwood men's soccer, it would be easy to say confidence was high in the program. The club had played two ranked clubs in a row in the form of Navy and James Madison University, and played well in those games despite both being one goal losses.

They were 3-3 at that point and began the conference slate on the road at Gardner-Webb, which would serve as a benchmark on where the team was as a whole at the Big South Conference level.

The Lancers came out flat in the first half and couldn't complete the comeback in the second half, and fell by a score of 3-1. Now, almost exactly a month later, the team sits at 5-8 overall and 0-5 in the Big South Conference.

For head coach Jon Atkinson, the season has been a disappointment, but has had its glimpses of promise, at times.

"It promised so much as we got going in the season. We've shown, and even through the conference time, we are a capable team (but) we are just falling short in some areas that we would have loved to corrected," said Atkinson.

He said the defense which was "porous" a season ago has now become consolidated and has kept the team in games, but the club has not had the proper output from the offensive end of the pitch.

Another key aspect to the Lancers current in-conference record, according to Atkinson, is the team's timid nature in the first half of games, which has led to the Lancers being down at the half in four of their five Big South contests and then being faced with coming from behind to win games.

"The personality of the guys is kind of cautious. I think we've only seen the spark into life when they have had the chance to reflect on how things are going," said Atkinson. "We are not, maybe, the straight-out-of-thegate type (of) team that really goes out swinging; I think we are cautious in that approach and that sometimes leads to the personality in the team."

Atkinson said there have to be more vocal leaders on the team for it to become more well-rounded and to fully reach their potential.

One of those vocal leaders for this year's squad is junior goalkeeper and team captain Jacob Reimers. He fully secured the position in the preseason and hasn't looked back; currently sitting third in the league in save percentage at 75 percent, a number which sat at 64 percent a season ago.

If fans are to attend a Longwood men's soccer match, they can be sure to hear Reimers vocal nature on the pitch, which helps to sure up things on the defensive end and also further position players in the flow of the game.

Reimers said getting up for games isn't a problem, but the day-to-day grind when things aren't going the team's way can be difficult.

"I think the hardest thing is just continuing to like trust training, continuing to like go through every single day with, you know, 100 percent effort when results aren't going your way because you keep thinking 'well what are we doing wrong', you know, you question everything when maybe you shouldn't be," he said.

He chalked some of the teams recent misfortunes to making simple mistakes, like miscommunication in the midfield, or giving up counterattack goals; and, in result, having those minute mistakes magnified to a larger degree when things aren't going as planned.

Atkinson echoed that point by saying the team has been more tight in all areas this season, but is still held back by the one goal differential.

For the Lancers, six of their eight losses have come by one goal.

"I think certainly we have showed signs this year, (but) we still haven't put a full 90 minutes together, but if we piece together, you know, good sections from each game, you've seen a very capable team," Atkinson said. "I think with the addition of a good offensive powers in there, a strong, mature midfielder and replacing the natural leader of Josh Hanratty; I think you are going to see some magnificent things from this team."

Despite the Big South Tournament being a slim possibility, Atkinson said the plan is still to go out and trust the process and win soccer matches. He added that players who haven't gotten as much playing time over the course of the season will begin to see minutes as the program builds towards the future.

"We've competed all the way through, and it's just been that small margin. If there was a vote for being the best bottom place team, we would be in the mix; we may lose out by a goal with the way it is going," Atkinson said with a laugh.

The head coach said he will continue to challenge his players to look themselves in the mirror and provide the highest quality of effort, despite the tough season.

Men's soccer will be back in action on November 2 for senior night, as they take on UNC Asheville at the Longwood Athletics Complex with first-touch at 7 p.m.



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