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The

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NOVEMBER 11, 2019

VOL 98. ISSUE 10

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In SGA

Longwood Recovers, SFC Overview

by Allison Turner | Assistant News Editor | @allisonkturner

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, Ashley Hiemenz Green, a Longwood Graduate Assistant, came to speak about Longwood Recovers.

Longwood Recovers is the university's collegiate recovery program, which received a 50 thousand dollar grant earlier this year.

Green said, "It is a community of support for students that are in recovery." She added that it is a place where they can come together, share stories, hold each other accountable and grow.

The program currently provides students opportunities for group or one-on-one meetings, and they currently serve around 10 students in recovery. Their office is located in the Upchurch University Center on the third floor, room 305A, for students that would like to learn more.

In Special Orders of the Day, Treasurer Samuel Torpy provided the Senate an overview of what the Student Finance Committee (SFC), does.

He said, "We are a separate committee from SGA...We allocate money and funds to recognized clubs and organizations."

SFC is comprised of the SGA Executive Board, class presidents, the freshmen class officers and a handful of SGA representatives. They meet on Thursdays at 4 p.m. in the Upchurch University Center.

In Open Forum, Treasurer Samuel Torpy said that the College of Business and Economics is sponsoring a petting zoo on campus on November 13 for students.

In the President's Report, President Haleigh Pannell announced that there will be a Campus Safety Walk on Tuesday, November 19 at 7 p.m. They will be meeting at the Chi fountain in front of the dining hall, and will be splitting into groups to walk campus and determine anything that is unsafe.

The next SGA meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 12 at 3:45 p.m. inside of the Wilson Chamber at the Upchurch University Center.

SFC Report

Athletic Trainers Association requests funds

by Ryan Crow | A&E Staff | @longwoodrotunda

Longwood Athletic Trainers Association: \$300.00

Funds would be used to cover the registration fee for participants of the VATA Annual Meeting on January 3-5th, 2020. SFC did not approve the allocation.

Lancer Productions, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Global Leaders, Student Diversity and Inclusion Council, Longwood Company of Belly Dance: \$7,279.64

Requesting funds under the EPAA (Educational Programming Appropriations Act) to bring the Step Afrika dance group to perform at Longwood on March 27th, 2020 SFC voted to table the allocation decision until a later date.



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Local family owned business spreads the joy of ice cream while raising awareness for Down Syndrome and Autism

Waldy's Ice Cream raises awareness for Down syndrome and autism

by Miranda Farley | Social Media Editor | @mir4nda9



SHANNON HENSHAW | THE ROTUNDA

Waldy's Ice Cream ends their season with half off prices.

On a crisp November evening in Farmville, Waldy's Ice Cream, the family-owned ice cream truck, served its last customers before closing up for the season. For the last week, the business ran various promotions to help sell the last of the ice cream before closing until the spring.

On their last night of being open for the season, the menu that previously was filled with so many different flavors read sold out for many of the options.

Waldy's Ice Cream is named after a 4-year old boy named Landon. Landon, whose nickname is Waldy, was the main motivation for the family to start the business as he was born with Down syndrome and autism.

After he was born, the family made a goal of showing support for families who have children with Down syndrome and autism while contributing to Landon and his future by opening an ice cream truck in the spring of 2019.

Jennifer Lapp, co-owner and the aunt of Landon explained how the idea of starting Waldy's Ice Cream emerged one evening when the family was discussing how they could

support her sister, Cynthia Lapp, and brother-in-law.

The family decided ice cream would be easy to sell since they wouldn't have to make it themselves and they felt that ice cream was something most people enjoy. The family also decided that being a mobile business would make things easier.

"We all collaborated together as a family. It was one meeting and then it was like a month later pretty much we got the trailer and we started working it," said Lapp.

The family wanted to find a way to help themselves out financially and "also for other families that have kids with special needs just to kind of show the support there."

There are currently no set hours since the business is mobile. Hours of operation change based on location and are posted on their Facebook page. Their menu includes floats, cookie sandwiches, brownie sundaes, milkshakes and more.

According to Lapp, Waldy's Ice Cream traveled for events as far as 30-45 minutes away.

She said the inspiration came from being able to reach the community, to show awareness for other families with children with autism and Down

syndrome and to be there to support her sister and brother-in-law.

"We want to reach the community. We want to have a safe place for people to come to and just hang out, especially in the summertime," said Lapp.

The business has a very family-friendly feel. At night when it starts getting dark, there are disco lights that illuminate the area around the truck.

Presley Walton, a junior and business administration major at Longwood, first tried Waldy's Ice Cream when the truck was at the High Bridge Lofts.

"I think their reason behind the business is really sweet, for the little boy," said Walton.

Walton attended Waldy's Ice Cream the last night of the season and indulged in her favorite ice cream flavor, Colombian Coffee.

"The things that we really want to focus on is just spreading the joy of ice cream and also just the love of Christ with everybody around," said Lapp.

To stay informed about upcoming events, check the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/waldys4landon/>.



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

Let's face it: new technological advancements have the potential to change the way students of today learn. The equipment used today is drastically different than what they were accustomed to using fifteen years ago, let alone fifty years ago.

Projectors and iPads were once chalkboards and typewriters. Taking tests and quizzes at home was unheard of and, frankly, technologically impossible.

Now that kids are exposed to different forms of learning through that of technology, one would assume that the outdated school systems curriculum and teaching styles would also change.

However, this isn't necessarily the case.

American author and entrepreneur, Gary Vaynerchuk, believes the internet has rendered the current education system more-or-less useless, because information can be found everywhere due to the internet's easy accessibility.

A smartphone carries all the tools needed to carry out basic mathematical skills and can find the answers to any textbook question taught in schools.

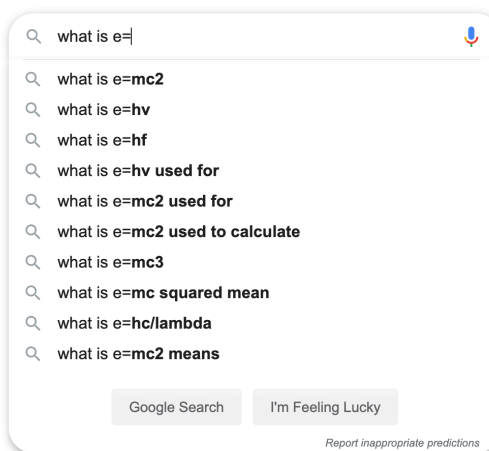
This means most students recognize that they don't need to work hard to memorize information, they just need to have access to technology.

"The school system was built on memorization of information," Vaynerchuk stated. Now that specific

information is just a click away, there needs to be a different approach to the way that students are taught.

Both the past and the modern-day educational system value the skills of memorization and conformity, rather than retaining information and individualism.

Because of this, not every student will excel or reach their fullest potential.



Unfortunately, this isn't the only problem regarding the teaching styles of today's education system.

Students are taught and expected to learn most information in only one particular way. However, there are multiple different methods of learning that work better for different students.

There are a variety of different ways for students of all ages to learn the information they are being taught in schools. Some students can be kinesthetic or hands-on learners,

which means they learn better through moving, touching and physical activity, rather than sitting and listening or seeing something written out on the board.

There are also visual learners, but the school system isn't always so accommodating to these different types of learning styles, instead of sticking to teaching one way or the other.

If a student finds it difficult to learn the way the instructor is teaching, without any accommodations to their learning style, this could cause them to do poorly in school. This then has the potential to discourage students to pursue higher forms of learning.

Because academics in the past were made to prepare young children for a career in an industrial period, there needs to be some reevaluating and changes made to this outdated system.

We must reform our school system of teaching, so that students can become better members of society in order to pursue a higher education, rather than being discouraged due to the idea that they may not be able to grasp a topic, taught in one way.

We have a variety of different technological equipment that should be able to help initiate this change. We have to keep our future generations interested in learning and help them learn in conjunction with the technology that we now have access to.

Learning has changed and it's time the teaching practices change too.



COURTESY OF PM TOURS

The Loy Krathong and The Yi Peng Chiang Mai Festivals

by Savanna Makins | Contributor

Have you ever seen "Tangled"? If you have, then you remember a very important scene where Rapunzel gets to see the floating lanterns. Where she stands on the boat in amazement looking around as the lights ascend to the Heavens, but did anyone know that this is an actual celebration?

The floating lights festival is a celebration held in Thailand that is held once a year. Let's take a closer look at, what Thailand calls, The Loy Krathong and The Yi Peng Chiang Mai Lantern Festivals.

Loy Krathong is a festival that is held on the evening of the twelfth full moon in Thai's moon calendar, which usually falls around mid-November. This year, the Festival of Lights will be held on Nov. 11.

This is a celebration in which the people make small banana leaf rafts to send out on a river or canal for the definition of Loy Krathong is "float a banana leaf raft."

They make this raft out of banana leaves, banana tree bark, three light incense, a candle, pins to hold the

raft together and decorations such as flowers and coins.

But why do they make these rafts with such care? The idea is, once they light the candle, they make a wish and send their raft down a river or canal.

They believe that once the raft is out of their hands, it takes away all their past sins and brings good luck for the upcoming year. Loy Krathong is also considered to be the Valentine's Day of Thailand.

In the days of old, young men and women could not meet, except at religious events, so during days like this, it was their only time to meet and be able to fall in love with someone.

Nowadays, it is a great opportunity for bonding with old and new couples. Sending them together is a symbol of many years together. It is now very common to see a man propose to his love at The Lantern Festival especially in Chiang Mai.

As for Yi Peng Chiang Mai, the two festivals may seem similar, but they are extremely different. This amazing festival is held dominantly in Chiang Mai, the former capital and the

second-largest city in Thailand.

How they discover the dates of celebration is the full moon day of the ancient Lanna Kingdom Lunar Calendar, therefore, the festival this year is held from Nov. 11 to Nov. 13.

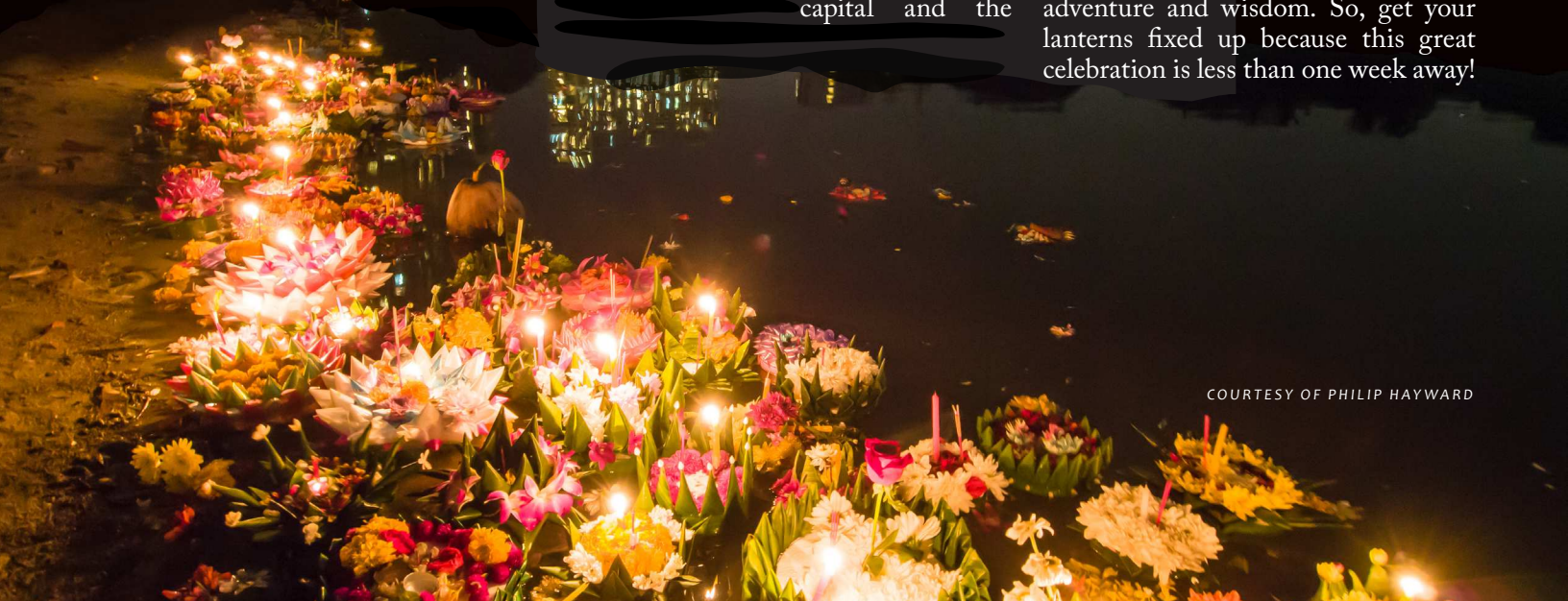
Instead of making rafts, they make Khom Loi, which is also known as a sky lantern. This is made of a very thin fabric, stretched over bamboo or some sort of wireframe and a candle.

There are plenty of activities to do while in Chiang Mai such as worship rituals, parades of traditional Taiwanese dances, bazaars, fireworks, live music and much more.

They do have the same idea at the Loy Krathong festival when someone releases their lantern, it is supposed to remove any unfavorable luck or sins that a person may have and bring them grand fortunes for the next year.

These are both incredible festivals to attend once in your life. With such a unique culture, it is a thriving experience for anyone who wishes to know the cultures of the world around them.

It is a great opportunity for love, adventure and wisdom. So, get your lanterns fixed up because this great celebration is less than one week away!



COURTESY OF PHILIP HAYWARD



Ugly footwear is in style, are you?

by Taiya Jarrett | Assistant Opinions Editor | @ohsoootay

Chunky. Bulky. Massive soles. Eccentric nineties pattern. Sound familiar? Integrating into society as a revived fashion trend, millennials have oddly resonated a sparked obsession with "dad sneakers".

Certainly, emerging into 2019 as an unlikely item that would have been considered archaic and unstylish in every sense, this lost 90's trend has evidently dismissed that notion as dad sneakers are stepping onto the scene as fashionable footwear.

Having swept throughout the '80s and '90s, this style of shoe was exclusively worn by dads, yet, they have slowly but surely become the epitome of a modern statement piece. Seemingly resembling an orthopedic sportswear shoe, these chunky-soled shoes are nothing of the sort as they are becoming one of the top shoe purchases of the year.

According to USA Today, "Just within this year, chunky sneakers have seen a 238 percent uptick in stock in

the last three months compared to three months prior to that."

From the social media platform of Instagram to the runway to your local college campus, influencers, designers and perhaps yourself are embracing the "ugliness" of oversized sneakers that the internet has mastered to dub as "dad sneakers" or "dad shoes", and have turned them into a unisex trend.

However, you're probably wondering, why is the sneaker even relevant into today's fashion? Shoe historian, Elizabeth Semmelhack, via Yahoo Lifestyle, stated, "the trend grew out of "normcore," which she describes as avoiding "hyper branded, super luxury, in-your-face-fashion" and, instead, toning down your look with a more muted and nondescript outfit."

Incorporating this concept has been various branding companies from the likes of Balenciaga with their Triple S shoes that have an extreme platformed heel lined with a range of colors to the well-publicized FILA Disruptor

II sneakers, that come in neutral-esque colors, this is only

the beginning.

Yet most notably getting affirmation is Adidas. The sportswear brand has simultaneously used its recognition to entice and essentially use the power of well-known social influencers to increase the seller-buyer relationship which is not new, nor is it the first time. Business mogul Kanye West's Yeezy brand is a prime example.

More so, within today's fashion footwear market, these dad sneakers are definitely here to stay, as they not only offer comfort but neutrality to an outfit. Despite being out of the ordinary with its shape, these versatile dad sneakers are now for modern-day sneakerheads, as they can be worn with a plethora of clothing pieces varying from dresses, jumpsuits, tracksuits, you name it.

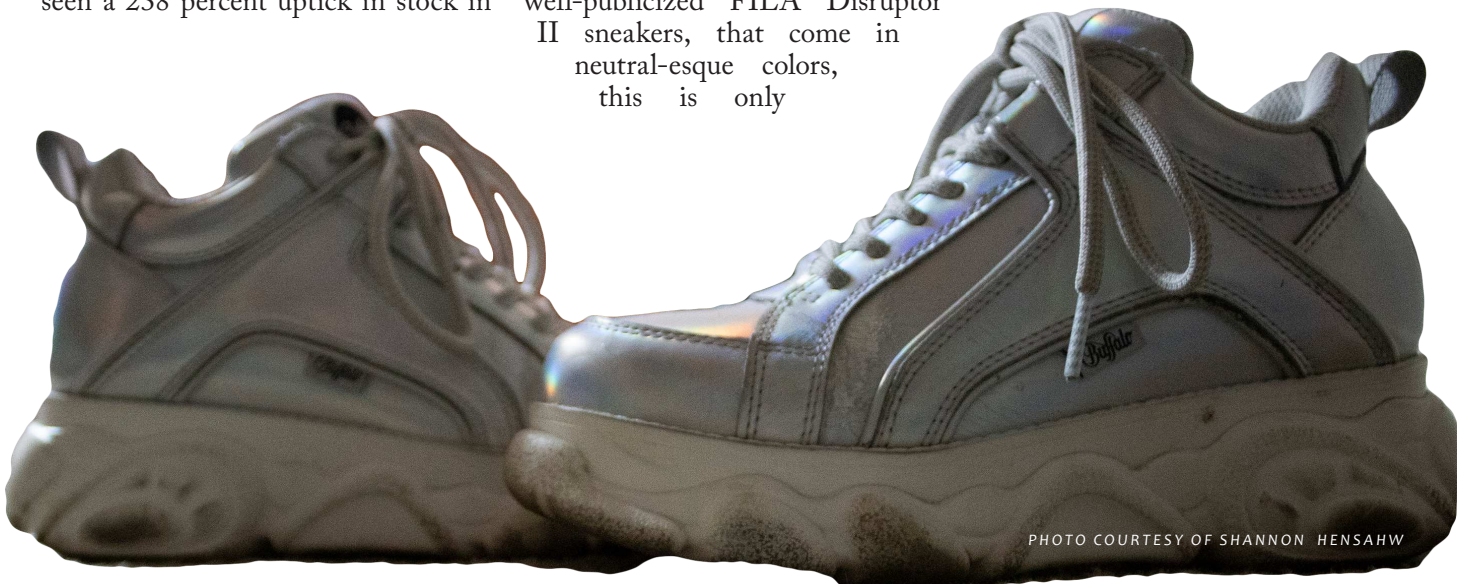


PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON HENSAHW

"May The Lord Watch" Album Review

by LeDaniel Jackson | A&E Staff | @xidjoeker500



COURTESY OF VIBE.COM

Little Brother is a veteran rap group from Durham, North Carolina. The group includes artist Phonte and Big Pooh. These artists are major pioneers in the underground rap scene with releasing five albums. Along with the two artists is highly acclaimed producer 9th Wonder who provides the production for their albums.

After their previous album "Leftback" was released, the group has gone on a hiatus leaving their fans questioning if they were going to come back. Now the group comes back to release "May the Lord Watch" which shows how the chemistry between artists is still prominent with the opening track "The Feel."

It starts with a smooth hip-hop beat with Phonte and Big Pooh showing versatility in their rapping. Phonte delivers the first verse with gritty delivery and punctual lyrics such as "Who taught food for thought was only for the malnourished."

Big Pooh takes a different approach with his impressive flow and witty lyrics. Overall the two artists deliver an amazing performance and it shows how their

hiatus didn't mess up their chemistry.

"Everything" talks about how the rappers think throughout the day. Phonte and Pooh trade verses which sound amazing over a laid-back hip-hop beat. Phonte provides some introspective lyrics such as "Hanging in the balance like a brand-new evergreen/ it comes crashing down as soon as the miracle swings." Pooh delivers a similar verse while matching the energy with Phonte.

"Right on Time" is a more energetic song with two artists discussing their rough times and how they got through them. Phonte and Pooh explain their subject matter well with their raw delivery. The production enhances the performance of the two artists especially when they start to feed off of each other.

"Black Magic (Make It Better)" talks about how people can make bad situations better. The song starts with an old school hip hop beat with Pooh and Phonte providing great performance. Both artists produce short

verses with the transitions sounding like they're both telling one story.

"GoodMorning Sunshine" starts with a soulful hip-hop beat while Pooh and Phonte talk about their upbringings. Similar to "Everything," Pooh and Phonte do a good job with trading bars.

The production provides a cushion for the two rappers as they provide some great lyrics like "Punch up the data, man it's rather tough to stand strong if you ain't man enough."

"Sittin Alone" talks about the current state of the music industry, especially in the party and club scene. Phonte is the only group member rapping which honestly brings down the quality of the song. Phonte by himself is a great rapper, however, the combination with him and Pooh sounds great with some of the previous songs.

Overall Little Brother did not disappoint with their return to creating albums. Phonte and Big Pooh show how they can still have great chemistry while touching on some serious topics. The production also stands with providing some old-school hip-hop vibes. However, when the group decides to split it takes away a little bit from the album.

★★★★★ 4.5/5



Nile Continue Their Reign Over Modern Death Metal

by Ryan Crow | A&E Staff | @longwoodrotunda

“Nile” continues to deliver their own unique blend of crushing death metal with an ancient Egyptian theme on their ninth studio album “Vile Nilotic Rites”.

As the name implies, the band is closely tied with Egyptian and Mesopotamian history, featuring heavy influence in both their lyrical subjects and the inclusion of traditional Middle Eastern scales and melodies – an unexpected theme for a band from Greenville, South Carolina.

Nevertheless, founding member and vocalist/lead guitarist Karl Sanders’ impressive armada of riffs and blistering leads with a penchant for Egyptology have earned “Nile” a prominent spot in the death metal community.

This album picks up where 2015’s “What Should Not Be Unearthed” left off – minus the inclusion of longtime vocalist/rhythm player Dallas Toler-Wade, who left the band in 2017 due to fatigue from extended touring.

For the previous seven albums, vocals were split between Toler-Wade and Sanders; “Vile Nilotic Rites” is the introduction of new guitarist and vocalist Brian Kingsland. Kingsland’s expressive vocal style breathes new life into the album, and better polish on the vocal production allows Sander’s lyrics to shine in bold choruses and verses.

The title track “Vile Nilotic Rites,” “Long Shadows of Dread” and “The Imperishable Stars Are Sickened” feature dynamic growls and vocal work accompanied by grandiose lyrics covering the end of times and ancient evils.

Adding to the epic scale of these songs are authentic elements of ancient Egyptian culture.

Frantic riffs and hyper-technical drum blasts are often punctuated with deep gongs, bells or choral chanting,

creating a fascinating juxtaposition between the modern and ancient worlds of music – “Revel In Their Suffering” and “We Are Cursed”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS

inserts bursts of choral tensions amidst claustrophobic guitars, and “Seven Horns of War” features a whole warband of drums and war horns marching the song onwards.

“Where Is the Wrathful Sky” and “Thus Sayeth the Parasites of the Mind” bring back the traditional baglama saz instrument with graceful plucking.

Drummer George Kollias continues his inhumanly precise and aurally assaulting drumming, carrying songs at breakneck speed with intricate footwork and rhythmically impressive cymbal fills.

His highly technical playing falls in perfectly behind Sander’s chaotic and brutally virtuosic riffs that are unafraid to slow into mid-tempo breakdowns.

“Snake Pit Mating Frenzy” and “The Oxford Handbook of Savage Genocidal Warfare” take their place alongside some of the most

technically challenged playing in the “Nile” discography, while “Revel in Their Suffering,” “Long Shadows of Doom” and “The Imperishable Stars Are Sickened” take a chunkier, groove-oriented approach with crashing cymbals and methodical vocals.

The production on “Vile Nilotic Rites” is on par with the previous “What Should Not Be Unearthed,” save for clearer vocals and some tidying of the guitar tone.

Sanders’ razor-sharp guitar tone still bites through the mix, but the high end is cleaned up and the drums sit lower in the mix with a satisfying weight.

Unfortunately, talented new bass player Brad Parris is hard to discern among the mix, but Sanders’ and Kingsland’s dual drop-tuned guitar attack are deep enough to cover the low end. The vocals also benefit

from a cleaner mix.

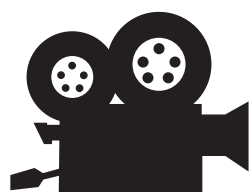
After 16 years and nine studio albums, “Nile” prove that they can still hang with their contemporaries.

“Vile Nilotic Rites” continues their high standard of excellence and modernizes many aspects of the band, with the new members bringing in some fresh new techniques and sounds – and cements its spot as not only an impressive “Nile” record, but one of the best death metal albums of 2019.

★★★★★ 4/5



PHOTO COURTESY OF ECHOESANDDUST.COM



THE REEL LIFE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF INTREPID PICTURES, VERTIGO ENTERTAINMENT, AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES.

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

There's a lot to unpack here. Not just the immense pressure in creating a sequel to "The Shining," but the novel "Doctor Sleep" itself is quite long and covers a large swath of Danny Torrence's life. It's a testament, then, to the pure skill of everyone involved that "Doctor Sleep" is anything but a dull boy.

Ewan McGregor's performance here is one to be rivaled. There's a worn warmth to this older Danny that he embodies so well. He clearly cares about those around him and has so many demons all locked up to try and have a normal life for himself. The arcs and motivations, as well as the broad strokes and changes in the third act never take away from the immense character work McGregor delivers, turning out a performance to beat.

Likewise, Kyliegh Curran, in her major debut, shows exactly why she should be watched in future years. There's an equal parts determination and childlike innocence to her fascination with the Shining. She's the perfect parallel to Danny, somehow still seeking out the wonder and good that can be done with their powers.

Meanwhile, Rebecca Ferguson is a delicious antagonist who sulks through the scenery and builds her anticipation. Note, she isn't villainous, as she maintains a level of calmness and intensity that allows her to become menacing without ever taking the title of "evil villain."

Her group of energy vampires are wondrous as well, as is the rest of the supporting cast. Particular standouts are Emily Alyn Lind as Snakebite Andi, a character whose screen time is limited but makes her mark quickly and effectively, Carl Lumbly taking over the role of Dick Halloran from Scatman Crothers, and Danny's friend Billy, played by Cliff Curtis, a kind soul who makes a mark of warmth and normalcy on Danny's life

and the film.

Writer/Director Mike Flanagan continues to show impressive work thanks to an excellent control of space and lighting. Multiple sequences jump between enclosed spaces like bathrooms, bedrooms and kitchens to wide open spaces like forests and town squares. This also ties into the film's heavy usage of doors and the framing of them, as

even more jarring and upsetting.

Huge amounts of time are spent just watching Danny live his life, get back on his feet, and learn to use his powers for good and comfort. While this might appear boring, Flanagan slowly reveals that, in order to show the differences and lengths between Danny, Abra and the others, these distinct differences, large and small, must be shown.

This does lead to a fairly long run time, and a pace that might be slower than most would like, but "Doctor Sleep" uses its deliberately slow pace very effectively, building an atmosphere of dread and unease, rather than deliberate horror.

Thankfully, it keeps that in common with the previous film. "Annabelle,"

DOCTOR SLEEP

★★★★★ 5/5

entrances and exits, nothing in between. It's clearly purposeful, and cinematographer Michael Fimognari uses these juxtapositions to build the two types of Shiners who exist in this world.

Here comes the elephant in the room though; this film, while based on the sequel novel written by Stephen King, is a sequel to "The Shining;" one of the most beloved films of all time, period. There's a lot of pressure riding on this film, and Flanagan's expert control of character work helps the story avoid falling into disrepair.

Virtually every story moment or major decision is punctuated with moments of intense thought and consideration. This is fantastic, because not only does it allow for true time to be taken getting to know the inner machinations of this world and characters, but it means that when those moments are taken away, they're

this is not, there is nary a single jump scare in the film, allowing the surprises, twists, and expertly crafted atmosphere to stretch out and breath, creating the horror naturally through the world itself.

It does rely heavily on "The Shining," a bit too much for some people's liking. But each moment spent back in the Overlook, or each reused shot feels deliberate and purposeful. Yes, it might be aping a shot or moment from the first film, but the ways that Flanagan, who also edited the film, utilize these moments feel like they couldn't have existed in any other way. It's not copying, its deliberate tribute.

"Doctor Sleep" is masterful, incredibly creepy, and an intensely watchable movie-going experience. It's deep character works and wondrous performances, as well as some phenomenal cinematography make this an unmissable cinema experience. Whether you've been to the Overlook before or not, you shouldn't miss this appointment with "Doctor Sleep."

Early jitters, newcomer debuts highlight opening week

by Patrick Sanderson | Assistant Sports Editor | @psanderson20

Debuting their new-look, cursive lettering uniforms and a brand-new staff on the bench in Willett Hall, Longwood men's basketball walked away with a 73-51 win over Division III Marymount University Tuesday night to officially tip-off the 2019-20 college basketball season.

Second-year head coach Griff Aldrich rolled out four returners and one freshman in his starting lineup – senior guard Shaboody Phillips, senior guard Jaylon Wilson, junior forward Jordan Cintron, senior forward JaShaun Smith and freshman forward Abraham Deng.

Deng, who logged 13 minutes, scored six points including a pair of emphatic dunks in his Longwood debut after sitting out all of last season as a redshirt freshman.

Sophomore forward and NJCAA transfer Christian Wilson led the Lancers in scoring with 12 points in a stellar debut, followed by East Carolina transfer, sophomore guard Deshaun Wade with 10 points. Jaylon Wilson and Cintron both also scored

10 points.

Even though the Lancers came away with the win, it didn't come without lapses on both ends of the court, especially on the offensive end. The first ten minutes of the first half was sloppy, in that there were 16 total turnovers in the first 15 minutes of the game – 10 by the Lancers. A frustrated Aldrich was disappointed to see the sheer number of mistakes, and the offense not exactly adjusting throughout.

"We had 11 turnovers in the second half and 10 turnovers in the first half," he said. "Turnovers is something that we've been talking about non-stop and to come out and be very careless our first game is really disappointing to see."

He continued: "One of the things I was really disappointed in is that we never adjusted to deal with or started to make better decisions."

The Lancers did shoot the ball extremely well, shooting 61.7 percent from the field. However, they made eight of 16 attempts from the free-throw line and shot 35 percent from

beyond the arc, the three-ball being a staple of their offense a year ago. However, when the Lancers weren't shooting the ball, Aldrich wasn't satisfied with the way the offense was being conducted.

"There were a bunch of times where we're just not running our offense," a frustrated Aldrich said. "They're just, out there – almost like they're confused."

Some of these lapses may be attributed to early season nerves in their first game in front of a college basketball atmosphere, with six Lancers making their collegiate debuts.

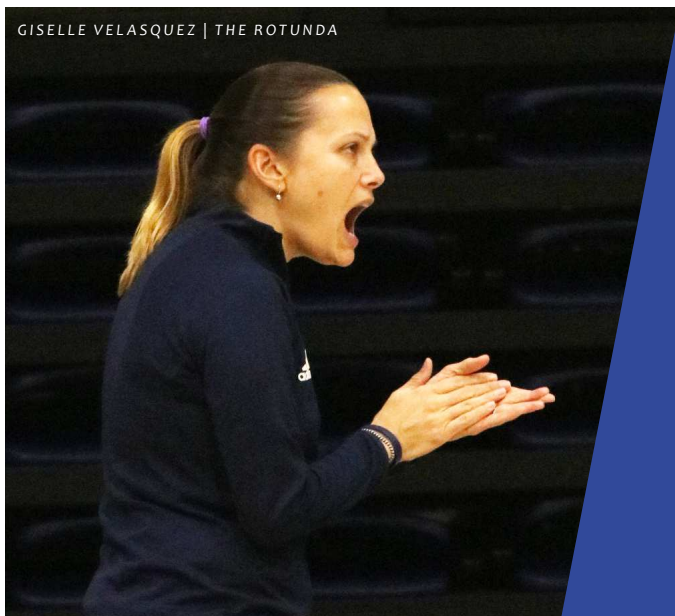
The Lancers then travelled to Fairfax, Virginia for a matchup with Atlantic-10 opponent George Mason, dropping the contest 76-65 after a second half comeback attempt. Now sitting at 1-1 following the opening week, they'll look to adjust and improve as they enter a three-game homestand this week – a test in front of their home crowd with three games in five days.



KC MCALLISTER | THE ROTUNDA

Juan Munoz dishes a pass to Heru Bligen in the team's season opening victory over Division III Marymount.

GISELLE VELASQUEZ | THE ROTUNDA



Lancers look to find traction in early season

by Nick Robinson | Sports Staff | @longwoodrotunda

Head Coach Rebecca Tillett guides her team through walkthroughs during a recent practice.

The Longwood women's basketball team made the two-hour drive up to Harrisonburg on Wednesday to take on the Colonial Athletic Association preseason favorite James Madison (JMU).

From the opening tip, it seemed as though the Lancers were playing catch-up as the Dukes started the game on an 18-6 run. The team kept fighting, but ultimately the Dukes' offensive attack proved too much as they pulled away in the second half, dominating Longwood by a score of 93-53.

In the aforementioned second half, the Lancers, after trailing by only 13 at the half, were outscored by 27 after the break.

"Certainly, we didn't meet our own expectations. We knew that JMU was a veteran squad coming off a 29-win season, so you have to keep that in mind. That being said, nobody in our program is satisfied with the loss. Especially with the amount of points we gave up, our team took it personally," said head coach Rebecca Tillett.

Despite the result, Tillett said the team stuck to the game plan with the exception of defensive rebounding and transition play.

A major question mark for the team heading into the season was just how well the team would gel on the court with seven new players.

Tillett said, "In the first half, I

thought there were some moments of chemistry, but you cannot take for granted the amount of time that people play with one another. We all have to work to know each other better and develop cohesion quicker because we'll be going against lots of teams that have more cohesion than us just based on their roster."

Tillett believed that there was much that the team could learn from a game like this.

"There were a few things that we tried that I think our women executed well from a game plan standpoint in the first half that could gain us a little bit of confidence. We are trying to maintain that confidence, especially after a third quarter that was detrimental to our defensive confidence" said Tillett.

Something that may inspire confidence in the team is the performance of freshman guard, Kyla McMakin. In her college basketball debut, McMakin scored a team-high 17 points and grabbed a team-high five rebounds.

McMakin was highly-touted coming out of Ocean Lakes High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia where she averaged twenty-five point seven points and eighteen rebounds per game and also holds the school record for career points and rebounds.

"It was great. I was very nervous coming in," she said. "My teammates did a great job at making me feel comfortable. I took a few difficult

shots, but they encouraged me to keep shooting. My coaches and my teammates allowed me to get used to the game fast. That really helps when you tell someone not to stop, but to keep going."

McMakin said she feels that she is capable of producing on a consistent basis for the team.

"Definitely. As long as I don't stay stagnant and expect to do well. Also, when my teammates start moving the ball, it's inevitable that an open shot is going to come," she said. "I'd like to keep it going and not get shut down. I want to be able to produce for my team."

The team then travelled to Gainesville, Florida to take on the Gators this past Sunday. Despite outscoring their Southeastern Conference (SEC) foe in both the first and fourth quarters, the team would fall 70-54, pushing their record to 0-2.

Lancer faithful will have their first chance to see this year's squad on Wednesday night, as the team plays host to UNC Wilmington at 7 p.m.

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