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The

ROTUNDA

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INVOKING CHANGE

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NOVEMBER 25, 2019

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JESS BOGGS | THE ROTUNDA

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In SGA

Swearing in of newly elected officials, international student presentation

by Allison Turner | Assistant News Editor | @allisonkturner

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, two new students were sworn into office. SGA President Haleigh Pannell officiated the proceedings as Executive Senator for Senate Relations Shauna Smyre and Residential and Commuter Life Representative Ashley Webb took the oath.

The students will now assume their roles after being sworn in and will begin their positions effective immediately.

Dr. Deborah Westin, director of the English Language Bridge Program, and an international student, Caroline, came to Senate to share what life is like as an international student. Currently, Longwood has international students from various countries such as Japan, Italy, Canada and Portugal.

Westin said the reason that students come to Longwood from other countries is to learn the English language, how to connect with people and how to be brave, as they are so far from home. Student Caroline said that their goals are to make new friends, learn to be independent and get out of their comfort zone, despite challenges.

Westin added that students are able to help the program by becoming tutors or conversation partners. Students that are interested should email her at

westinda@longwood.edu for more information.

In the President's Report with Haleigh Pannell, she encouraged the senate to bring more awareness to the Virtual Open Forum option and urges students to take advantage of it.

Virtual Open Forum is a platform where students can share their thoughts and ideas with the Senate without physically attending the meeting. Students can access the forum by going to longwoodsga.com or clicking the link in the senate's social media bios.

In the Vice President's Report with Catherine Swinsky, she shared updates on the food options on and around campus. Swinsky said that the fruit in the dining hall will soon be switched to all-frozen as it will no longer be in season, and they are looking into getting gluten-free pizza options.

She added that FarmGrill is also looking into getting a bench to put where the condiments were previously located to accommodate students with disabilities.

The final SGA meeting of the fall semester will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 3:45 p.m. inside of the Wilson Chamber at the Upchurch University Center.

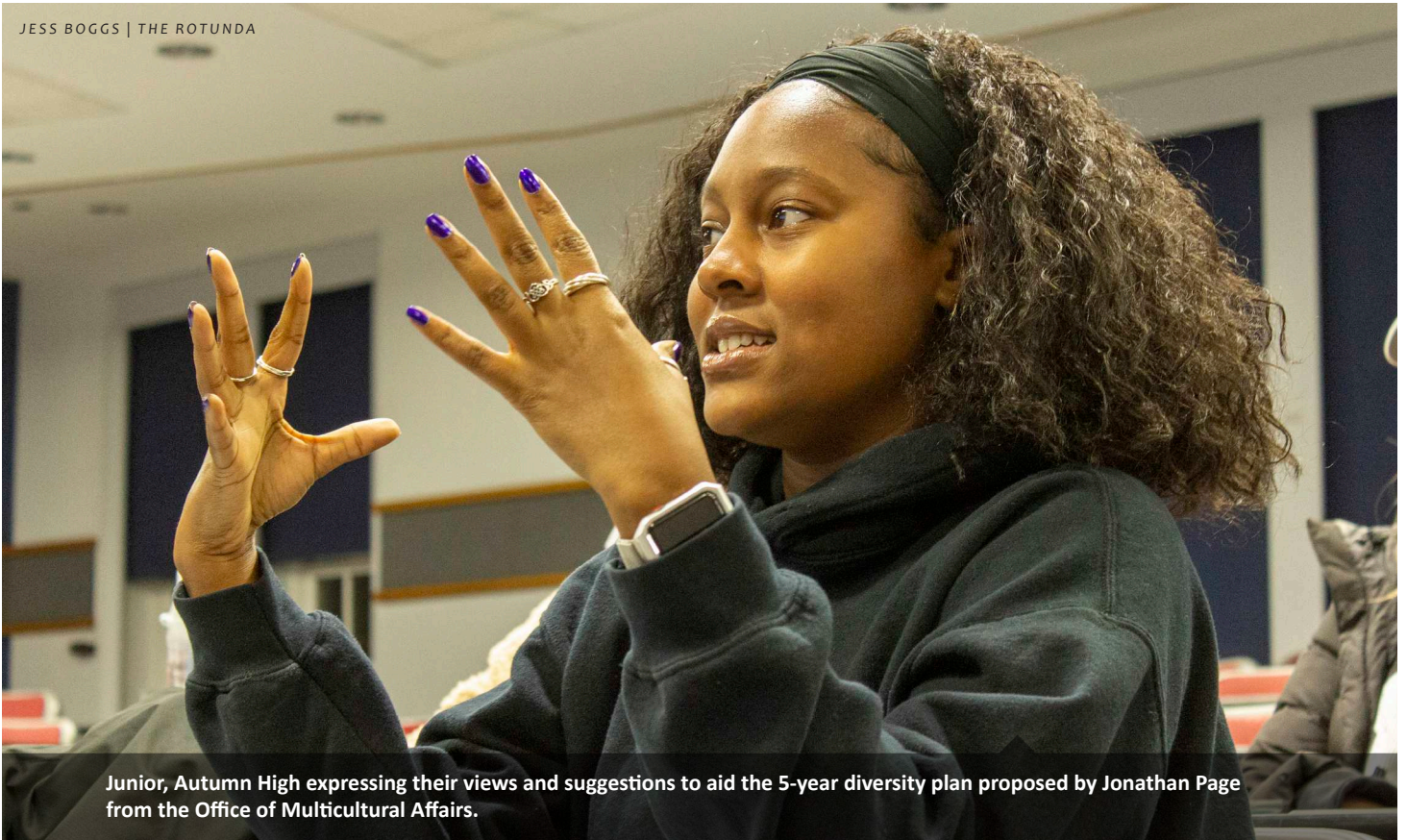


Students express their likes and dislikes about Lancer Link.



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JESS BOGGS | THE ROTUNDA



Junior, Autumn High expressing their views and suggestions to aid the 5-year diversity plan proposed by Jonathan Page from the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

SGA hosts town hall on Diversity Strategic Plan

by Allison Turner | Assistant News Editor | @allisonkturner

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a Town Hall to discuss issues surrounding diversity on campus.

It was presented by Jonathan Page, co-chair of the University Diversity council and the director of multicultural affairs, and Anthony Jackson, the Student Diversity & Inclusion Council (SDIC) Representative for SGA.

The event started with Page presenting the 5-Year Diversity Strategic Plan, including the university's President, W. Taylor Reveley IV's, goals.

Those goals include "intensifying enthusiasm across all enrollment, reflecting diversity of America, academic enterprise at heart, transforming lives and camaraderie."

The plan was developed from drawing from the campus climate survey, conducting focus groups, literature reviews and looking at strategic models. Page and Dr. Naomi Johnson will be presenting the plan to the University Planning Committee in April 2020.

It will be comprised of measurable goals

to be assessed regularly to see the progress and find opportunities for improvement.

After presenting the plan, Page opened the floor for discussion. He used questions to facilitate the conversation and get students to start. They were encouraged to be open and honest about their opinions and experiences.

Junior Autumn High started the conversation, discussing her feelings on diversity on campus. She said, "Longwood does a good job being diverse, but lacks in being inclusive."

High added that it is hard to get involved and find your way at first when coming to Longwood. Fifth-year senior Cecil Hayes agreed that it is harder to find your groups as a freshman and that outreach is an area that needs improvement.

The students expanded on the idea that it was hard for them to find their "group" or "community" when they first came to Longwood. They all agreed that once they got involved sophomore year they became happier and enjoyed themselves a lot more.

Page continued with the questions, asking what the students felt were

the biggest challenges and areas of opportunities to focus on with regard to diversity, access and inclusion.

Page then went on to ask what could be done to make campus more inclusive. Sophomore Timothy Holcey said, "We could make more races and ethnicities at things like orientation. I heard that we're the first faces that incoming students see."

The other students agreed, and they also said that they should get the conversations surrounding diversity started sooner. They also want to ensure that there is a more collective university-level engagement on campus.

The students also want to work with various offices on campus to include more diversity programs work on outreach.

The students in attendance also want to work to make sure that the resources on campus are more accessible to students that need it, especially early on

For students that would like to have input in the plan, email Page at pageje@longwood.edu or head over to blogs.longwood.edu/longwoodudc.

Remembering the Loss

by Ryan Crow | A&E Staff | @longwoodrotunda

Take a moment to ask yourself what you can recall about the arrival of the first Africans to early America. Do you know when, where and how? Do you know their names?

These questions, and their implicit tragedy, hardship and heartbreak, were explored on Nov. 19 at "Our American Story." Opening the program was student Arthur Stevens, who organized the event.

On what inspired him to organize the event, Arthur said "...I felt like this is something that I could do and make it big, while also enjoying it."

Also in attendance was the President of the Farmville chapter of the NAACP, local lawyer James E. Ghee, who was a source of inspiration for putting the event together.

Arthur's opening statements framed the tone of the evening, calling on the audience to reflect on the story of African American history in America with the hashtag "#rememberingtheloss."

After Arthur's brief remarks, the Longwood gospel choir group BASIC took the stage for their first performance of the night, a gospel rendition of the classic spiritual "Wade In The Water," echoing the trials and tribulation of slavery and paying tribute to African American heritage.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Phillip Cantrell, who is an associate professor of Asian, African and World History at Longwood, specializes in Eastern Central African studies and delivered his address with great respect for the history, people and continent he spoke on.

Starting from the origins of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, he gave powerful words about the devastating effects of the "constant, endemic warfare" induced by the ruthless European slave economy and the estimated 12 million slaves affected.

Alongside dispelling some common myths about slavery and the African American community, he also covered one of the greatest tragedies of American slavery – the 200 years of lost potential among African Americans due to their enslavement and systematic oppression.

Ending with a warning, he cautioned

the audience that it is important to continue to recognize and fight oppression, as "we are still losing talent" through continued discrimination.

Following Dr. Cantrell's speech was a second spiritual performance by BASIC with "My Soul Is A Ringin'." The Longwood dance group FIERCE trailed them with an interpretive dance set to cultural music, continuing the theme of African American heritage.

The next presentation of the evening was the showing of the short documentary "20 and Odd: Africans' Arrival in 1619" produced by ABC13 NewsNow.

The documentary carried a profound message to the room by chronicling the fateful events that first brought Africans to the shores of America, explaining how the first American slaves were captured from a Portuguese slave ship and sailed to Virginia on the English privateer "White Lion".

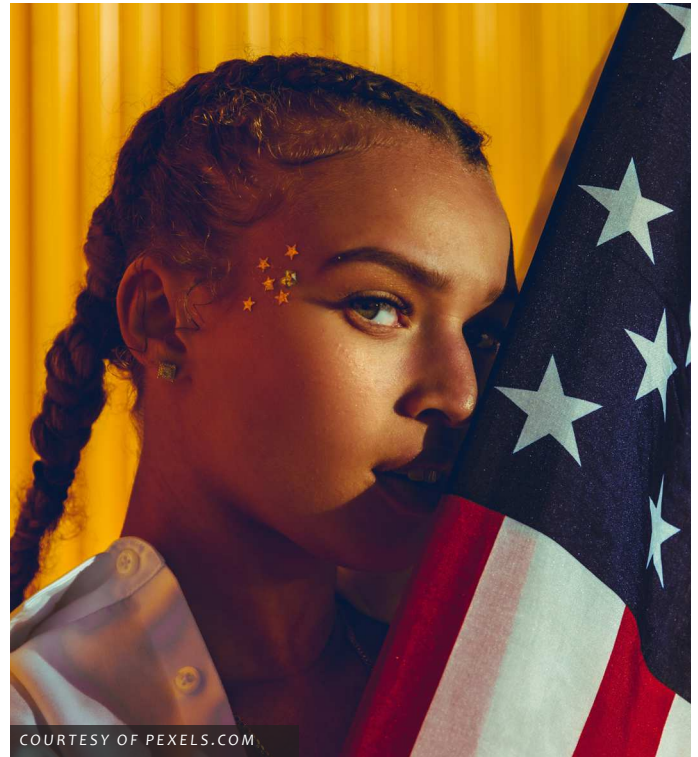
These arrivals were referred to in the ship's logs as simply "20 and Odd Negroes" – and now, 400 years later, we know nothing about them but their given Anglican names.

These early captives, who toiled in the New World as slaves, are the cornerstone for black heritage in modern America, and though their names and freedom were stripped from them, they ended up leaving a legacy that transcends generations.

Also discussed in the video was the speculated first black (and therefore, African American) man born in North America: William Tucker, whose history is mostly shrouded in mystery.

Adding his talents to the night was student Anthony Jackson, who's fiery recitation of "For My People" by Margaret Walker captivated the audience.

Margaret Walker, a famous black poet,



wrote often on the legacy of slavery and its effect on Black America, and this 400-year anniversary, the words of "For My People" ring true as much in 2019 as they did when they were written.

Wrapping up the night was BASIC again, singing their final hymn with "Melodies From Heaven" and inviting the crowd to join in.

When asked what she thought what message the audience should leave with, BASIC President Maya Young commented "...to never forget... where it all happened, where we came from, what other people went through to get us to where we are today."

In his closing remarks, Arthur once again thanked the audience before performing his own choice of song: the legendary "A Change Is Gonna Come" by prominent civil rights activist and civil rights legend Sam Cooke.

During a post-program interview, he had this to say, "I hope that people take away the truth, the truth that our America has an ugly past but it is still just that. Our America."

He continued to say, "As we move forward to better our communities, let's not forget what we have already come through over time... we should be able to look back to this time and have our predecessors see that we made a difference... for the better."

The names, faces and lives of the first African Americans may not be known – but after this event, it's obvious their history and legacy lives on.

Campus organizations are giving back this holiday season

Students come together to participate in unique and charitable causes in the community

by Miranda Farley | Social Media Editor | @mir4nda9

Several organizations on campus are taking different and unique initiatives to give back this holiday season. Students organized projects ranging from canned food drives to creating cards for residents at a local retirement community or even collecting pajamas and books for children in need.

Marin Tettelbach, a graduate student of the counseling program, organized the Pajama Program that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) is holding on campus.

The Pajama Program is collecting new pajamas and books for children of all ages from Nov. 1 until Dec. 6 to donate to children in need. The drop off locations are: the Greenwood Library Atrium, the Dining Hall, Hull 141 and Ruffner 128 (Graduate Professional Studies Office).

"I've actually had people reach out and say this area (Farmville) kind of needs them so I'm going to see if I can get them (the donated pajamas and books) to come down here but they kind of just donate them in areas of need so foster care systems, homeless shelters..." said Tettelbach.

The idea of this program was inspired by a project that Tettelbach did when she was a Girl Scout. She wanted to try this unique community service project on Longwood's campus.

"I never really thought about the whole process of like going to bed and having that comfy pair of PJs that are so warm, especially around this time of year," said Tettelbach.

According to Tettelbach, Mortar Board is donating books to the program and GSA is hoping to get faculty, greek organizations and the community to support the program.

Tettelbach discussed how the pajama program website, pajamaprogram.org, emphasizes the importance of a good bedtime experience for children.

"Every child goes to bed and they don't know what tomorrow will bring... I think that it's important to create that positive bedtime experience, especially with a pair of PJs," said Tettelbach.

Another organization that participated in a community service project recently is Federation of Student Social Workers

(FSSW).

According to Faith Beach, senior social work major and former FSSW president, the organization held the Elwood's Cabinet Food Drive where they collected canned food and hygiene items during a tabling event on Nov. 19 on Brock Commons.

"We required our members to donate either five hygiene items, or five canned items or both" said Beach.



Members of Zeta Phi Beta, Fresh Boyz Club and Royal Jewelz gather for events to give back to Farmville community.

Beach said the event had a great outcome. They were able to completely fill the Elwood's Cabinet donations container they were provided with and had enough to fill about three of them, according to Beach.

Since FSSW is a community service based organization, they have at least one service project a semester. The organization requires members to complete 10 community service hours a semester.

"For next semester, we had talked about doing a clothes drive and donating clothes for those who can't afford clothes for the specific seasons," said Beach.

The Phi Omicron (undergraduate) and Omega Beta Zeta Chapter (graduate) chapters of Zeta Phi Beta, Sorority, Inc. participated in a community service project called "Feed The Community Thanksgiving Dinner" on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 3-7 p.m.

Other community organizations who participated in the event were Royal Jewelz and Fresh Boyz Club. This was Fresh Boyz Club's third year putting on the Feed The Community event.

Together, the four organizations fed over 600 people during the event, according to Evelyn Cobb, senior and President of the Phi Omicron chapter of Zeta Phi Beta.

The event was held at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. The meals they served included stuffing, turkey, green beans, cakes and soda. According to Cobb, the leftover food was delivered to various neighborhoods in Farmville.

"Some people don't have the opportunity to have Thanksgiving just because of different situations like medical reasons or financial reasons so I think it was a way to bring the community together as well as provide meals for people who need them," said Cobb.

Cobb said she hopes more of Longwood will participate in the future so that the event can be even more successful.

"It's a really great experience for students to have, just to be able to engage in conversation with people that we're not surrounded by every day," said Cobb.

Cobb acknowledged the Feed The Community event as an opportunity to step out of her comfort zone.

"I would say my favorite aspect of the event... is just being able to engage in the Farmville community where I feel like Longwood and Farmville are very separate and not very knowledgeable of each other," said Cobb.

Another organization who gave back to the community was the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). The group partnered with Princesps to create "comfort cards" for residents at the local retirement community, The Woodland.

Students were able to make cards at the Dining Hall from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Nov. 19. Students stopped by the table to hand write and create decorative cards with stickers for the residents on their way to eat lunch.

Family Matters: Black families on screen

by Davina Applewhite | Opinions Staff | @longwoodrotunda

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

ABC's hit series "Black-ish" was recently renewed for its sixth season and has received so much acclamation that the show now has two spin-offs, "Grown-ish" and "Mixed-ish."

The original show has been a form of representation for black people and black families nationwide. Now that there are two other similar shows with people of color at the forefront, this means more representation, depicting black families in a positive light.

For a long time, black people were just used as tropes and quickly discarded characters in television and film.

There were so many sitcoms starring white families but very little focused on families of color, and even then they didn't last long.

Positive black families finally began to get their own recognition in the 1970s but only truly

became popular with sitcoms like "The Cosby Show," which aired from the early 80s and into the 90s.

Its popularity acted as a catalyst that sparked the production of other black family sitcoms.

More notably, shows like "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and "Family Matters" positively depict the dynamic of black families living in middle-class conditions and parents with higher playing careers.

These shows were effective in portraying a healthy family but also often focusing on making race and racism a topic of discussion, which was significant and influential at the time.

But, it's not just TV shows that have this power to represent black families and their dynamics.

Though they are entertaining and often end happily, some movies have perpetuated stereotypes about black people and black families for years. This includes movies like Tyler Perry's "Meet the Browns" and "Precious."

This would often focus on black families dealing with themes such as drug-dealing, single-parenthood, abuse and neighborhood violence.

This greatly contrasts with how white

a whole, because positive representation of black families means less room for stereotyping and discrimination.

Not only is positively depicting black families in the media necessary for adults, but it's also important for children to see.

Shows that were geared more towards children, like "The Proud Family" or "That's so Raven," have such a strong impact on black youths.

It's especially paramount when portraying black families on screen that the black children watching can feel that those who look like them can have healthy relationships, too.

Representation is fundamental because it holds the power of telling the public, it's what is important. If a group sees that they are not being represented in the media, or even represented negatively, it's easy to believe that they are

not worthy of being on screen.

It also can create the idea that there are fewer people out there that are similar to them, which isn't always the case.

It's important for black families to continue to be portrayed in a positive light on screen because of how the many, many years of oppression and stereotyping have altered their image to viewers.

Unfortunately, the problem doesn't just end with having healthy black families on television and in movies. Other races and diverse groups of families need to be shown as well. Our population is diverse and the media we absorb should show that, positively.



The cast of ABC's show "Black-ish".

families were always shown to be upper middle-class, slightly dysfunctional and rarely focused on such heavy topics.

That's not to say that these black films aren't iconic or don't hold any form of truth to them, but they do run the risk of implanting stereotypes into the mind of the viewers.

Within the past few years, however, there has been a slight decline in the depiction of healthy black families on screen.

According to a National Public Radio article, there was a six-year gap between series that showed black families on television: "Everybody Hates Chris," which ended in 2009 and then "Black-ish," which began airing in 2015.

These shows have more of an impact on society and the black community, as

Life and Lyrics

by Taiya Jarrett | Assistant Opinions Editor | @ohsoootay



GRAPHIC BY LAUREN QUEZADA

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

The genre that's harbored millennial rappers such as Young Thug, DaBaby, J-Cole, Kendrick Lamar and Nicki Minaj to name a few, hip-hop is undoubtedly one of the most prominent and influential genres today.

Generating a career path that strays away from the depiction of violence and despair so frequently documented in rap lyrics today, the genre has evidently become the blueprint for many to vocally maximize their past experiences, but at a lawful cost.

Gripping onto a 55-year prison sentence, vile lyrics launched the career of Texas rapper Tay-K, yet, it also most notably became his downfall.

Within his 2017 hit single, "The Race," the 19-year-old rapper boastfully recounts his criminal activity, in which he admits his involvement in a 2016 robbery and fleeing, all while on beat. However, avid listeners of his music were not the only ones in tune, but so was the criminal justice system.

Unknowingly connecting the dots for the opposition, ironically the outcome of "The Race" is exactly what Tay-K was running away from.

This past year, Tay-K was found guilty

due to his alleged involvement in the 2016 fatal home invasion and robbery, which led to the death of 21-year-old Ethan Walker. However, furthering that decision, while in the courtroom, was the use of lyrics and video footage from the controversial single, yet, this is not a new dehumanizing adaptation of our court system.

That's correct, the use of lyrics as supporting evidence in the courtroom has become heavily prominent for the past two decades and will, unfortunately, continue to do so. Posed under the illusion as a musical gateway to elicit past and current experiences, lyrics are now being used to incriminate individuals, but black men in particular.

From the lyrics of rapper Snoop Dogg's "Murder Was the Case" used in his 1996 murder trial, to today's millennial rapper YNW Melly's 2017 single "Murder on My Mind," lyrics are targeted as evidence, even for events that have not occurred as of yet.

Therefore, Melly's debacle is most interesting as he is currently facing the death penalty for his alleged involvement in the deaths of two of his friends back in October of 2018, with the song, used as evidence, that was

released nearly a year and a half before the murders occurring.

Furthermore, using a song as evidence to a crime that's foreshadowed to be connected and committed by this individual a year later is the epitome of the criminal justice system jumping to conclusions.

Now, although the alleged actions of these individuals are not being justified, the abundant use of lyrics used to incriminate individuals is not ethical.

Like every other genre, the root of hip-hop is meant to express the black experience whether that's in an exaggerated fiction and/or non-fiction form, there needs to be a defined line between the art and the artist. Criminalizing lyrics in efforts to have them perceived as an incriminating diary entry is completely demeaning to the artist and, in a way, silences their voices and minimizes their experience that they publicly shared as an escape.

Coinciding, as a fan of an artist I'm pretty sure we expect nothing but transparency and authenticity being conveyed throughout their music, so forcefully relinquishing their craft is not justice, it's exploitative.

Torey Lanez gets nostalgic with "Chixtape 5"

by LeDaniel Jackson | A&E Staff | @xidjoeker500



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS AND MAD LOVE RECORDS.

Chixtape 5" is the latest album from Canadian hip-hop/R&B artist Tory Lanez. Lanez is a popular artist in the industry, collaborating with artists such as Rich the Kid, Meek Mill and Joyner Lucas.

Lanez has released an abundance of music, including 17 mixtapes and three studio albums. His last studio album "Love Me Now?" received mixed reviews from critics and his growing fanbase. Now "Chixtape 5" continues one of his mixtape series.

Lanez takes a classic approach by mixing his style with classic 2000 R&B hits. Artists such as Chris Brown, T-Pain and Ludacris join him on this tape to give it some backup. Lanez starts the mixtape with "The Trade" which features Jagged Edge and Jermaine Dupri.

"The Trade" sounds similar to an old school R&B song with Lanez providing interesting vocals. He gives a decent performance while meshing well with the beat.

Where the song shines is when Lanez and Jagged Edge are singing together, which enhances the song. Jermaine Dupri gives a decent performance; however it did not add anything to the track at all. "The Trade" is a good intro and it sets the tone for the rest of the mixtape.

"Jerry Springer" samples the 2005 hit "I'm Sprung" by T-Pain. Lanez and T-Pain provide amazing

performances on the track with impressive vocals. However, issues occur when they give separate verses. Lanez and T-Pain sound very similar, so it becomes redundant when hearing them sing alone.

"Beauty in the Benz" features an amazing old school hip-hop beat with Lanez giving a decent vocal performance. He gives his description of the new girl Leah, who is one of the main characters in skits on the mixtape.

Snoop Dogg gives a mediocre verse on the song which is disappointing since Lanez samples his song "Beautiful."

"The Take" samples Chris Brown's 2007 track "Take You Down" and the chemistry between the two artists is very impressive.

Brown gives an amazing performance with his solo verse and his harmonization with Lanez. Lanez also excels on the track with his

interesting voice and witty flow.

"The Fargo Splash" pays homage to Ludacris' single "Splash Waterfalls." Lanez does a good job of meshing with the tone of the song while talking about him catching feelings for a girl.

Ludacris comes in and delivers a decent verse, matching the intensity of Lanez. Ludacris and Lanez are a decent duo in this song and they should continue to make more music together.

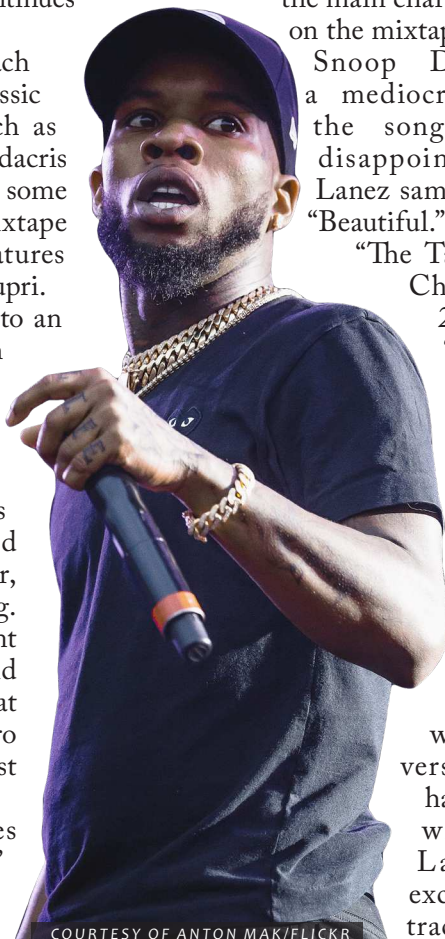
"Luv Ya Gyal//Love Sounds" is a beautiful sounding track that features R&B legend The-Dream. Lanez provides an amazing performance on the track with his transcendent vocals.

The-Dream provides backup vocals for the song, which creates a cushion for Lanez. The beat switch enhances the song more with Lanez changing his flow.

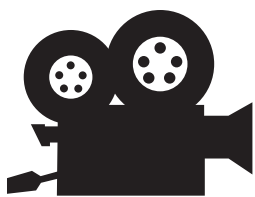
Overall "Chixtape 5" delivers on all aspects, bringing nostalgia back into the R&B industry. Torey Lanez does a good job of combining rap and singing during his performances.

The skits also enhance the album by providing a story during this lengthy mixtape. However, the album can become a bit repetitive with certain beat selections on the mixtape.

★★★★ 4/5



COURTESY OF ANTON MAK/FLICKR



THE REEL LIFE

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

There are few, if any, people in the world who can evoke the same emotions as Fred Rogers. Not happiness, sadness, empathy or tears, but calmness and contentness. The feeling that, for a few brief moments, when he talks directly to you through the television screen, everything will be okay. The idea of taking on a film about a man like that seems like a daunting, harrowing task. Maybe even impossible.

And yet, director Marielle Heller (“The Diary of a Teenage Girl,” “Can You Ever Forgive Me?”) and writers Micah

Fitzerman-Blue (“Transparent,” “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil”) and Noah Harpster (“Transparent,” “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil”)

have created a film that is difficult to describe. Does it capture the man as we remember him? Yes. Does it do so with reverence and with a few details that shed some light on who he was off camera? Yes.

Yes.



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

However, very smartly, they make sure that from the beginning it’s clear that this movie is not about Mister Rogers.

It’s about Lloyd Vogel, played by Matthew Rhys (“The Americans,” “The Post”), an investigative reporter assigned to cover Rogers for an issue on heroes for Esquire. Rhys makes Vogel so effortlessly relatable. He straddles the line between showing his anger and deep-rooted fears of the world, without turning him into a sad sack or a ball of rage. His performance and the script make conscious efforts to make sure

believe this is her debut. Chris Cooper (“Capote,” “American Beauty”) also delivers a career best performance as Vogel’s father, and while his screen time may be limited, his impact is not.

There is simply no other way to describe this film other than magical. It reaches inside you and, using Rogers, pulls at a kind of longing most films don’t have a fraction of the guts to attempt. It’s so wonderfully pure in its motivations, just a film that wants to ask if you’re okay and why you aren’t.

It’s a wonderful experience, to just sit with Rogers and Vogel for 100 minutes and by showing the impact of Rogers on someone whom he touched very particularly, it does more

that the audience knows exactly what the characters are feeling at all times, even if it isn’t strictly “realistic.”

Feeling is more important than plot, and Heller knows this. She flips the film back and forth between shots of Rogers and his show, Vogel’s life, fantastical representations of his struggles and conversations between the two men. At times it feels almost ethereal, and the fantastical sequences are so abrupt and surprising that they become a kind of magic.

And then there’s Tom Hanks (“Toy Story,” “Philadelphia”). It’s genuinely surprising that Hanks has had a career as long and as successful as it has been, but his portrayal of Rogers might just be one of his finest. The kindness and empathy comes across in droves, but there is a clear effort to not boil him down into just a nice guy. There are conflicts and frustrations that Hanks communicates with mere vocal timing and facial tics that are the signs of phenomenal actors. He embodies the goodwill of Rogers in the absolute best ways and is the best part of an already tremendous film.

The supporting cast is great as well. Susan Kelechi Watson (“This is Us”) makes her film debut here as Andrea, Vogel’s wife, and melts with charm and grace. She’s such a wonderful sense of heart and warmth that it’s hard to

to tell us about the man than a two-and-a-half-hour examination of his entire life ever could. The way it’s structured and the depths to which it takes what could have been a gimmick of presentation are extremely admirable and unique. The camera floats through sets large and small, using the work of Cinematographer Jody Lee Lipes (“Tiny Furniture,” “Manchester By the Sea”) to continue to elevate the film’s ethereal feeling. There might not be another biopic structured like it.

A calming film, one that just wants to sit with you and make you feel okay. For 100 minutes Heller, Hanks, the writers and everyone involved delivers audiences a person so wondrous and so painfully real that it makes us all feel like we might one day be okay. Tear inducing, sweet, childlike in its whimsy and offering enough so that everyone can take what they need from it, it truly is “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.” Would you be mine?

★★★★★ 5/5

Furious comeback falls short for WBB at Wofford

by Nick Robinson | Sports Staff | @longwoodrotunda

Before their matchup last Wednesday night, the women's basketball team was riding high on a two-game winning streak, and was smelling blood in the water before facing a winless Wofford Terrier squad. However, the Terriers' 0-4 record was misleading because three of their losses were by single-digits and against stiff competition.

Further showing their potential, Wofford began the game in top form hitting every 3-pointer they took in the first quarter along with an 80 percent clip from the field, and led the Lancers 26-13. The game was played closely in the second quarter as Wofford outscored Longwood 22-20, further stretching their lead to 48-33 at the break.

However, the Lancers wouldn't go away without a fight and clawed their way back into the game, outscoring the Terriers 20-9 in the third quarter and cut the lead to only a single point with 20 seconds remaining. Wofford would stretch the lead to three with two free throws, and Longwood would have one last chance to inbound and tie with six seconds to go. The ball would be thrown into the backcourt and corralled by Anne-Hamilton Leroy, she dribbled swiftly and launched a tying 3-pointer that just came up short. The Terriers escaped with a 79-76 win, making Longwood now 2-3 on the still young season.

"We knew how offensively powerful they (Wofford) were. They ate at our

defensive confidence early," said second year head coach Rebecca Tillett. "The most impressive thing about the third quarter was how well we defended. It was fueled by our defense. You're not always going to have incredible shooting quarters or nights and so you've got to have something to rely on."

All five starters for the Lancers scored in double-figures, with the most points coming from freshman guard Anne Hamilton-Leroy with 20. The game was also a homecoming for Leroy because she is from South Carolina and Tillett said that she got a huge turnout from her family.

Tillett said she learned a lot about the fabric of her team throughout the massive comeback.

"Each year, you're always wondering what are the limits? Against Brown, we came back from down 15 and won. Against Wofford, we came back from down 19 and made it a one-possession game. We learned that teams can't count us out when we're down and that's a powerful thing to lean on from experience."

One major issue for the team came from their lack of bench production. Out of the 76 points scored by the Lancers, only two came from their bench, which Tillett said was unusual.

"If you look over the course of the season, our bench production is solid. It was a unique game environment in terms of how hard we had to fight to get out of the hole. There were some

things that Wofford was doing to us that affected our personnel choices. I don't have any concerns about our bench. I think that they will produce for us consistently."

One of the Lancers who scored in double-figures was senior forward Dayna Rouse. She had a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Like Tillett, Rouse was also proud of the way the team never gave up and fought back in the second half.

"We just all sort of figured out that they can't score on us like that for four quarters. We made the decision to make tough plays and to stay together and chip away at the deficit."

Rouse said that the team could avoid having to mount such a large comeback by remaining focused from the start and bringing the same level on energy for all four quarters.

As one of the most decorated players in program history, Rouse is no stranger to putting up big numbers as she is now 234 points shy of 1,000 career points and is top five all-time in program history in field goal percentage and free throw percentage.

"There's that pressure on me. I just have to respond to the pressure with consistent numbers. I have those expectations put on me for a reason so I just have to rise to them," she said.

The women's basketball team returns to action on Tuesday as they take on the Pirates of East Carolina University in Willett Hall with a 7:00 p.m. tip.



SHANNON HENSHAW | FILE PHOTO

Senior forward Dayna Rouse is shooting 85.3 percent from the free throw line this season. ➔

MBB adjusts to new change in college basketball

by Kurt Martin | Sports Editor | @lamKurt14

When fans enter Willett Hall for a men's basketball game, or any Division I men's contest across the country, they will notice an extra line at the top of the arc.

No, the 4-point shot has not been introduced to the game (even though we would love to see it), but the 3-point line has been extended to 22 feet 1 3/4 inches for all National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's basketball competition, which is also the same distance used in international competition.

The decision was proposed by the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee, and passed by the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel in June of this year, according to an article from NCAA.com.

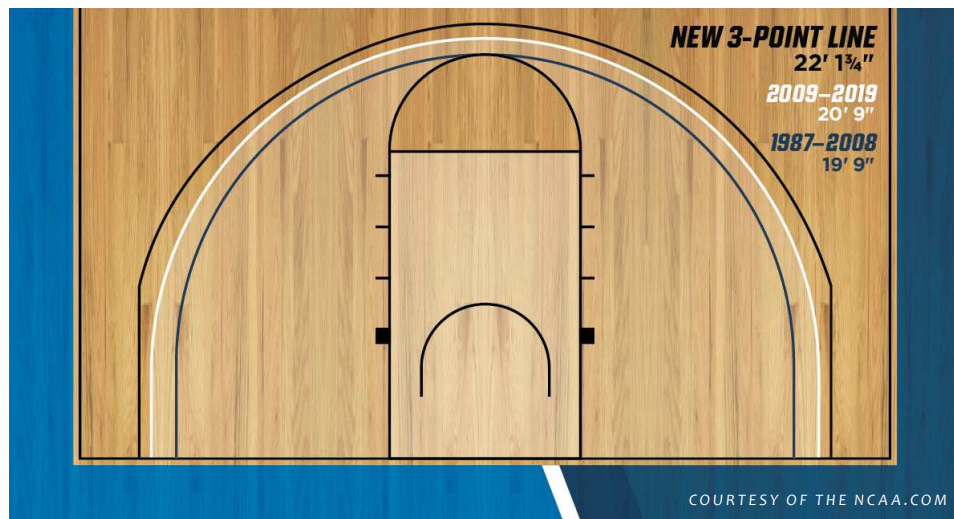
The panel and governing body as a whole, made the decision based on three reasons, the article said: "Making the lane more available for dribble/drive plays from the perimeter. Slowing the trend of the 3-point shot becoming too prevalent in men's college basketball by making the shot a bit more challenging, while at the same time keeping the shot an integral part of the game (and) assisting in offensive spacing by requiring the defense to cover more of the court."

Here in Farmville, the Longwood men's basketball team prides itself on the 3-point shot under second year head coach Griff Aldrich and uses it as a major part of the offense.

Through six games, the Lancers sit 36th in the nation in 3-pointers attempted with 136, and are converting at a clip of just over 36 percent after hitting 52 of said attempts.

Aldrich pointed to the up and down nature of his team from deep this season, going 14-22 against Maryland Eastern Shore and then 7-29 against Northern Illinois, as a possible byproduct of a trend around the nation of lower offensive efficiency.

"Can you attribute that to just an extended 3-point line? The answer is probably going to be that it's not a direct correlation, but you would think that that's having a massive impact," said Aldrich.



According to KenPom.com, a site which gives in-depth details into college basketball analytics, the current number one team in the country, Michigan State, has an offensive efficiency rating of 114.4, which is down from a 121 rating to end last year's season.

This rating specifically measures points scored per 100 possessions.

Longwood, which finished as the 256 ranked team in the nation a season ago, according to KenPom, had an offensive efficiency rating of 99.5 at the conclusion of last season. Now, the team currently sits at 283 in the overall rankings, and has an efficiency rating of 96.1.

Aldrich said in this day-in-age of college basketball, players want to shoot the three ball and will sometimes value it over a dunk. In result, the team is looking to recruit players who can shoot threes, while doing it at a consistent and efficient rate.

Spacing on the floor is another huge key to the Lancer offense, which causes the opposing defense to guard a larger area of the floor.

"If the defense only has to guard 15 feet and in, then they can just pack the paint. But if the team is making threes, and then you're having to run out and guard threes, then we can pump fake you, get into the lane, pass it, pass it again, and the defense is all of the sudden flying around," said Aldrich. "So, you know, extending it, all you've done is added another two feet that we would say, you know, the defense has to cover."

Senior guard Shabooty Phillips said

the team uses tape to measure out the NBA 3-point line, which is 23 feet 3/4 inches away from the basket at the top of the arc, to better assist with the spacing of the team. Its purpose is to create more space for Lancer players to step into their shots or make decisions off the dribble.

Despite the distance change, Phillips said he shoots the ball the exact same way as he did before and there wasn't much of a learning curve when the new line was put into place. Phillips, who had a team-high of 74 3-pointers a season ago, has begun this season only shooting 31 percent from deep, and looks to up his level as the season runs its course.

Senior guard JaShaun Smith continues his record-setting career from the perspective of three point efficiency, currently firing 54 percent from long range, which is also tops on the team.

From a defensive perspective, senior guard Jaylon Wilson said the team, as a result of the extension, has had to be more talkative on the court in order to communicate where the opposing players are and to clog passing and driving lanes.

"We work on communication every day. So communicate for defense, offense and even simple drills to make sure we are always talking to each other and we always stay connected," he said.

Lancer fans will have to wait for nearly a month to see their team shoot from long range on the Willett Hall court, as they will face The Citadel on Dec. 19 with a 7 p.m. start.



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