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MISINFORMATION SETS ROAD TO ROO OFF THE RAILS

Robert Moody

Copy Editor

On March 28, a misinformed announcement made by representatives from Atlanta's Alt 105.7 raised the hopes of two contestants in the Atlanta city finals of the Road To Roo battle of the bands only to be privately redacted the next day, leaving one group disappointed and confused as their "road to roo" had suddenly come to an end.

All throughout the evening both fans and contestants were under the impression that two bands would advance from the city finals to the state finals and play for the chance to perform at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in June of 2018. This impression held up throughout the night as multiple announcements regarding the advancement of two bands were made over the course of the three-hour long event which ended with the reveal that the winners were judge favorite Chelsea Shag and crowd favorite Camera Box.

Both bands celebrated their victories and immediately began thinking ahead to the final round, but the next afternoon the lead singer of Camera Box, Danny Weathers, received a phone call from ALT 105.7 in which representatives from the station informed him that they had made a mistake and that he and his band would not be advancing after all.

"I got a call around 3:30 p.m. the day after the show and up until this point we had been told in our interactions with 105.7 that two bands from Atlanta would advance from the third round onto the final," said Weathers. "They had me on a conference call and said they had some really bad news for us and that they had just found out that only one band could go to the state final from the third round."

Understandably upset, Weathers spent most of that evening considering ways that he and the rest of Camera Box could work with ALT 105.7 to find some type of solution to the sudden removal of the band. Having won the

crowd vote by a wide margin and earning three second place votes from the judges.

Weathers reached out to the station to propose a one-on-one battle between Chelsea Shag and Camera Box that would take place the next week and determine which band would move on to the state finals. The proposed one-on-one battle would also involve educating both the fans and judges on the specifics of the rules and scoring before any type of voting was cast. Unfortunately for Camera Box this proposal was shot down.

Therein also lay the burden that Weathers would bear to tell his bandmates the bad news and that the band would collectively share while also informing their fans who were less than a day removed from joyous celebration.

"I knew I was going to have to tell the band and we would have to tell our fans and a lot of people would be disappointed while I was also dealing with my own disappointment with that outcome," said Weathers. "I think that it's one thing to lose straight up and every band prepares themselves emotionally for the chance that they won't be selected, but nobody prepares themselves for the possibility that they could be selected and told that they won to have their victory taken away."

Once the band was positive that they would not be advancing in the competition they reluctantly took to their social media outlets to inform their fans of the unfortunate news and to let them know what had happened. Fans began to voice their displeasure with the way that ALT 105.7 handled the situation and failed to make the specificity of the rules known to them,



judges and even the bands. In response, the station began sharing the office phone number for their program director Aly Young.

Many of the initial phone calls circulated around speculation that the station had changed a rule a stated rule after the conclusion of the competition, but Young was quick to clarify such speculation in an understanding manner for disgruntled fans.

"The rules were the rules from the very beginning of the competition," said Young. "The mistake happened when Camera Box was announced as the second band that would go forward to the next round when in fact there was only supposed to be one band."

Young was also very apologetic for the confusion, going as far to say that the station was fully responsible for the mistake. However, this does not resolve the absence of the competition's rules from the station's website and the station's inability to communicate those rules clearly to those involved in all aspects of competition.

Despite the disappointment that Camera Box felt following the mistake they have publicly come forth to thank their fans for the love they have shown them through this time of embarrassment and hardship. They also announced that they and ALT 105.7 have entered serious conversations regarding having the band play an opening set for a national headliner later this year.

Even though they are no longer on the Road To Roo, Camera Box is optimistic to see what their future holds.



Photo Courtesy: Libro Musica

Living West

UWG *GLOWINGLY* ENDS THE SPRING SEMESTER



Michael Samurda

Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia will not be hosting their annual spring concert in 2018 due to insufficient funds. However, UWG's Student Activities Council will be using the money that they do have to celebrate the ending of the school year on April 18 for a beach themed party. This event will provide UWG students with an array of fun activities and free giveaways for the student's efforts throughout the 2017-2018 school year.

The festivities will begin with the annual event known as the Spring Fling. The beach themed event will be held in Love Valley and will begin at 3 p.m. and end at 7 p.m. Spring Fling will have activities for students of all interests. The University will be providing rides, inflatables, free food, a DJ and a dunking booth. Students will be able to relieve their stress of the upcoming finals week by dunking UWG staff such as UWG President Dr. Marrero, head football coach David Dean and multiple members of UWG's Center for Student Involvement.

"It's going to be a lot of fun, it's kind of like an end of the year spring celebration," said Emily Teitelbaum, Associate Director for Student Events and Programs, and participant in the dunk contest. "We start the fall semester with the Big Welcome Back Blast, and end the spring with the Spring Fling."

After the Spring Fling, students will be encouraged to head towards UWG's Hangar gym. On the practice fields outside of the Hangar gym, the University will be hosting their second ever GloRage party at 8:30 p.m. There will be white t-shirts representing the GloRage logo given out to the attendees, as well as glow sticks, and nontoxic paint. The environment will consist of electronic dance music, and gallons of paint that will be shot into the crowd from all directions.

"We hosted our first GloRage during the beginning of homecoming week two years ago, and it was huge" said Teitelbaum. "We had almost a thousand students at that, so we are hoping for that again this year."

These events are a great way for students to have a good time together before the stressful week of finals.

UWG student tackles another country

Thomas Thrasher

Contributing Writer

Over spring break, a group of 30 students and faculty traveled to South Africa to study abroad. Richards College of Business (RCOB) hosted the trip that allowed students to receive credit for International Marketing and Management.

During the trip they explored popular monuments, experienced the culture and visited businesses in the historic city Cape Town. Perspectives were influenced with the knowledge and inspiration that they received from people in top level management of various companies that they visited.

KaRa Lyn Thompson, a senior majoring in Business Management, saw the trip as a good opportunity to travel to Africa. Her love for traveling and learning more about different parts of the world helped encourage her to apply. During the trip, she gained a lot of fun memories while exploring Cape Town.

"I think my best memory was one thing that actually wasn't planned on our itinerary," said Thompson. "One of the nights we were there, there happened to be a jazz festival in the square that our hotel overlooked. Hundreds of people came to the festival of all different backgrounds."

The purpose for the trip was for students to learn and

see the business aspect on an international level. They visited trade organizations, social enterprises, and even a winery which is a large industry for South Africa.

"I learned a lot about South Africa's history and complexity when it came to racial relations and classes in society, which truly has an impact on business," said Thompson. "I also learned a lot about water conservation since Cape Town is predicted to be one of the first cities that will face major water distribution issues."

When it comes to traveling, most people do research to get an idea of what to expect. Thompson explained that the professors who lead the RCOB programs do a great job preparing documents with information about the place they are traveling to. However, research never fully compares to the physical experience of traveling to another country. Thompson was still caught off guard and shocked during moments of exploring the country even with all the provided information.

"A very different aspect of our trip that was shocking was seeing children play next to the highway outside of the townships, protected by no wall or fence or anything," said Thompson.

A group of students and faculty, including Thompson, visited the township of Khayelitsha where they had the opportunity to have dinner and conversations with families about



Photo Credits: KaRa Lyn Thompson

their different perspectives and expectations.

"It really helped to understand the dynamics that the government and society at large has to deal with," said Thompson about the visit to Khayelitsha.

Overall Thompson found the trip to be an amazing experience for such a short amount of time.

"Although the trip was different from the others I have been on, I found that the business and cultural visits helped to make the experience very impactful," said Thompson, "I think the program was very well organized and executed; I personally found it to be a wonderful experience."

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Restoring the flow of the Chattahoochee

Jordan Herron

Contributing Writer

West Georgia outdoors is hosting the school's first river clean up on April 15. The students will meet at the Chattahoochee River for the all-day event in hopes to help bring back the natural beauty of the river.

West Georgia Outdoors encourages students and faculty to step outside of their boundaries and comfort zones by doing different activities like mountain biking, climbing and hiking. The volunteers for the event will head to the Chattahoochee and float down the river on kayaks and canoes to help clean the river. All the trash in the river is polluting the water and is hazardous for all the wild life living in and out of the water.

"The plan is to pull separate cables just for trash. We will get out at McIntosh preserve and recycle the trash that we can,"

said David Noe III. "Transportation and gear will be provided for the trip as it is every trip that goes out with West Georgia outdoors."

People are not always cautious as to where they throw their trash and often litter, which will build up over time causing issues for the wild life in the areas. Littering also affects the beauty of nature so West Georgia Outdoors created a fun way to help declutter litter.

"The river clean up came up as thing when we were on our Chattahoochee paddle trip last semester. While we were floating down we noticed a lot of tires and other trash in the river," said Noe. "I brought up the idea during our trip planning meeting



Photo Credits: David Noe III

and then we made it a trip."

UWG is hoping the event goes smoothly and is enjoyable for all who attend, so they can make this an annual event. The event is ten

dollars for students and twelve dollars for employees. The school will provide transportation to the river as well as give everyone equipment needed for the event.

The Hottest New Radio Show at UWG: The Crew Out West

Kyzia Wint

Contributing Writer

Controversial topics on talk radio have risen significantly within the past few years. As more platforms are opening up for people to express their thoughts and feelings about certain issues it has become easier for people to create their own shows. In late February, three UWG students started their own morning show called Crew Out West.

These students were able to accomplish this by working with the WOLF Internet Radio, a student ran internet radio station at UWG. Popular shows that are featured on this platform include Girl Talk, Man Cave Monday, and Chick Chat.

Crew Out West is hosted and ran by Bishop, Ethan "Big E" Orphe, and Christy J.

They talk about topics that some may say are sensitive or controversial.

This show could be comparable to popular radio morning shows such as Power 105.1's The Breakfast Club, Ricky Smiley Morning Show, or Hot 97 radio show. Crew Out West discusses trending topics, life experiences and sex from a college students' perspective.

Ethan Orphe is a junior at UWG and calls the show "Bishops brainchild." Bishop is a senior at West Georgia and the creator of the show. He describes the show as a comedic-commentary internet radio show.

"I wanted to provide laughter to our college listeners," said Bishop. "We discuss trending topics while using improv jokes and satire for entertainment."

The show airs every Monday at 9 a.m. and features a new special guest every week.

"There's no holding back, this show is raw

and real," said Orphe.

This wasn't an easy journey for the three hosts. Each of them participated in a program called WIT that the Wolf Internet Radio started as an opportunity for students to learn more about how to start their own radio show or podcast with the hopes of creating one with them.

"I've learned so much about the radio industry in these few months it's crazy," said Kelli Billison, senior at UWG and current participant in the WIT program. "This is such a cool program. I encourage anyone interested in radio to join."

Utilizing the first amendment right to free speech while also expressing themselves through creativity is something that a lot millennials are now doing. While the show is still very new the hosts hope that it gains even more popularity.

Career Services Hosts a Government and Public Service Panel

Dylan Logan

Copy Editor

UWG Career Services hosted a Government and Public Service Panel on April 4 from 4-6 p.m. The discussion took place in the Nursing Building, Room 115, followed by a networking session in Room 112.

Panelists included careered professionals from the Georgia Department of Human Services, the Georgia Department of Administrative Services, the Department of Natural Resources, Carroll County CASA, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, the UWG Police Department, Communities In Schools, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the CIA.

These veterans of government and public service work shared their knowledge and advice from years of experience in the field to students looking to follow similar paths. Stay relevant, stay flexible and work hard – an overall theme that remained constant throughout the discussion. Students were reminded to keep their skills current, their education relevant and to stay aware of change. Panelists also stressed the importance of volunteer work and internships for college students entering a competitive job market.

"I wanted to bring together different employers to show students that there are many things they can do with their major," said Jasmine Posey, Career Counselor for UWG Career Services and Moderator to the panel discussion. "I wanted to show College of

Social Science students that there are more opportunities out there other than to become a lawyer, a psychologist, or a police officer. Within each one of those industries there are specialized fields that you can apply your degree in. We have a wide range of panelists, from the local government to the CIA, to show some of the business and STEM students that there are other jobs out there for them as well."

Career Services hosts these types of events throughout the school year to help students achieve their goals after graduation – for students of all majors.

"Every student is unique and has individual goals," said Posey. "When it comes to how you want to apply your major – it starts with you. When it comes to what you want to do and how you want to apply your

major you have to answer a few questions about yourself. Who are you? What do you want to achieve? How do you want to help people? When you answer those questions and identify your goals your future is expanded. Then the skills that you have gained in your field can translate into a different area that you may not have thought about before."

Although this particular event was geared to students leaning toward careers in government and public service, the lessons can be applied throughout – stay focused, work hard and network. These are keys to success in any field. Career Services hosts events such as these panels, career fairs, on-campus recruiting and information sessions throughout the year to help students connect with potential employers.



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Arts & Entertainment

Country Star Releases Ambitious New Album

Robert Moody

Contributing Writer

Country singer-songwriter Kacey Musgraves has spent the better part of the last five years making a name for herself as she has remained true to her honky-tonk roots while also avoiding the shift toward the pop-country genre that has dominated popular radio. Behind an abrasive personality and in your face lyrics she has been highly successful while leading a wave of unapologetic women in the country music genre, but her seventh studio album, *Golden Hour*, seems to be a drastically different project from her previous works.

Unlike her previous albums, Musgraves' *Golden Hour* is a vulnerable display of emotion as the 29-year-old trailer park queen takes a break from addressing gossip and societal norms and focuses on, what is mostly, a light-hearted and introspective mindset as she sings of life, love, pride and forgiveness. The album is also the farthest Musgraves has strayed from her strict country roots as many tracks cover a wide range of musical styles from twangy acoustics to bass driven funk.

In the months leading up to the March 30

release of *Golden Hour* Musgraves released three singles that encapsulated the joy, sadness and boldness that the album would ultimately possess. Each of the three singles also hinted her shift toward a much lighter and pop sounding record.

The first of these singles is the piano heavy ballad "Space Cowboy" in which Musgraves mournfully reminisces upon fading love and the heartbreak that comes with letting someone go. This sadness and style of writing also plays throughout the album on other tracks such as "Mother", in which she considers the way she feels being so far from home, and the album's finale, "Rainbow," in which Musgraves encourages the song's protagonist to realize their worth despite their personal feelings of loneliness and depression.

"Butterflies", the second single released from *Golden Hour*, brings a much different feel to the album as Musgraves playfully sings about falling madly in love over the sounds of simplistic banjo plucking and calming guitar strums. This theme of happiness and love comes as no surprise as Musgraves recently married in Oct. 2017 and even admits that the song was influenced by her courtship with her husband. Love is also present all across the album in tracks like "Golden Hour", "Love is a Wild Thing" and most notably "Happy & Sad"

in which Musgraves expresses her inability to understand the emotions she feels and that she "don't want to come down" from the high she feels with her love.

The third and final single released before the official album dropped is "High Horse", a funky, bass-driven tune in which Musgraves channels much of the signature writing style that has gotten her where she is today. The track is very similar to her past hits such as "Biscuits" and "Step Off" in the fact that "High Horse" is directed toward a prideful man who takes pleasure in placing himself over others that he feels he's better than. Despite this abrasive and confronting attitude that Musgraves has become so well known for it is not very prevalent across the album as a whole.

Altogether *Golden Hour* is Musgraves' most complete and diverse album to date and shows signs of maturation in both sound and artistic expression. Despite brief glimpses into the realm of pop-country Musgraves remains true to her roots and ultimately created an album that is both an enjoyable listening experience as well as a wonderful form of art. It seems as if *Golden Hour* could be the album that finally brings one of country music's brightest stars out from backstage and directly into the spotlight, and for fans there is good news as she does not appear to be moving on any time soon.

School of Rock: Survival Kit rocks WOLFStock

Daniel Forte

Editor-In-Chief

The Annual WOLFStock hosted by The WOLF Internet Radio featured a number of artists and groups that rocked the campus center on Thursday April 5. Three stages hosted all kinds of bands across the venue, with the rock band Survival Kit rocking the Riverpointe Stage with a mix of covers and original pieces.

Survival kit is comprised of four members, Lead Travis Blake, Singer/Guitarist Andrew Lynn, Bassist David Braden and Drummer Bryson Davis. The giddy and humorous musicians enjoy partying and music, as well as spreading the beauty of music with their fans. Guitarists Blake and Lynn have been playing together for two years, but what is interesting about Survival Kit is they recently integrated Braden and Davis, and were able to quickly build the chemistry necessary to host a festival set.

Braden and Davis were added to the group barely two weeks

before they took the stage at UWG.

"We went through a bunch of personnel and stylistic changes, but now we have finally found a sound that works and we are happy with it," said lead singer Travis Blake.

Survival Kit played a mix of popular covers, such as Twenty One Pilots "Tear in My Heart" and originals singles like "Panic Room" and "Ready to Let Go." The rock, rhythm and funky guitar riffs kept fans heads nodding to the beat of the music.

"Our songs have a story behind them," said Blake. "Andrew (Lynn) and I used to live in a legit filthy trap house, we had no power, couldn't control the heat, and that was how we came up with 'Panic Room.'"

"'Ready to Let Go' explained how we decided we were sick of the things we dealt with in 'Panic Room,'" Blake continued. "It's about letting go of things that can hold you back whether it is a person, place or thing that one may have an addiction to."

During the show, Blake mistakenly dropped his guitar pick

in the middle of a song, and was able to continue playing without his pick. He simply kept strumming with his fingers and gestured to the fallen pick when somebody from the audience reached to hand the pick back to Blake, which led to a shout-out from the band and a cheer from the crowd.

"I have really bad anxiety," said Blake. "It used to be where the smallest problem would happen during a set, and we were always like 'Fuck! What will we do?'"

"But after a few shots of tequila," Blake continued. "It is easy to not let the small things bother you, to just go with it and focus on having fun and putting on a great set. I just got my pick back from that guy and kept playing. Anything can happen onstage. If somebody comes up to the stage and says 'Take your pants off,' you better believe I'm going to take my fucking pants off."

Bake always wears Leopard print underwear during his shows in case such a request is brought up. Fortunately (or unfortunately for certain people in the crowd)

the request was never made, and Blake's pants stayed on for the entire show.

Survival kit is looking to release an EP in the future called "Lalochezia," which is defined as the relief a person gets from using filthy or dirty language.

"I say 'fuck' a little too much," said Blake. "But we feel like the relief that feeling brings is how we feel now when we write music. We are much more comfortable now and we feel that same relief when we play that when somebody says 'fuck.'"

This was not Survival Kit's first WOLFStock, and this experience was just as good as their previous one.

"The sound and people are always very good," said Blake. "But when you have a backstage crew carrying your shit in, that's legit. That was really cool."

"We felt like royalty with everybody helping us backstage," said Lynn.

Survival Kit will be touring around the southeast rocking venues throughout the summer.



Arts & Entertainment

The Broken Glass Street Band is Breaking Ground

Michael Samurda

Contributing Writer

An up-and-coming band from the West Georgia area known as The Broken Glass Street Band is taking some time off from their local performances to focus on their first album Broken Glass.

The Broken Glass Street Band is a four man band from Villa Rica that consists of Denny Burns, his son Shane Burns, “Sloppy” and Landon Carter. They frequently play their unique style of music at venues and on the streets for bypassing public to enjoy. However,

their local activity has diminished over the past months due to their dedicate work to their first album with the help of Carrollton’s Pippin Studios.

The Broken Glass Street Band uses multiple unordinary instruments in order to make their music unique such as guitars, banjos, spoons, washboards and tambourines on their tapping feet to create their music. They want their delightfully uncommon sound that comes from their coordinated performances to create its own genre.

“We want to create a homemade sound in our music, something that you would hear

your ‘great grandparents’ playing,” said eldest member Denny Burns. “I would say that our music is a combination of bluegrass and punk; I’d call it ‘newgrass.’”

This genre that they have created derives from the band’s versatility in music. Combined with their passion for bluegrass, three of their members were previously involved with punk rock music. Shane Burns and Landon Carter were all involved in a band that they created called Paradox. Paradox was a punk rock band they created in high school that performed at small venues and school concerts, but their passion for music has surpassed their time

in public schooling.

The three young punk rockers joined Denny Burns to create The Broken Glass Streetband, and now the band is looking to grow. They have played in multiple cities throughout the Southeast including Atlanta, Birmingham and Chattanooga.

The band plans to have their album finished by June. They want to stay local, but they will refrain from long distance concerts for the next couple of months while they work on their project. The band will remain in the Carrollton area performing at local venues and city sidewalks performing their music for the public to enjoy.

ArtFEST Has Fun For Everyone

Triston Armour

Contributing Writer

The Villa Rica Art Coalition will be hosting its ninth annual ArtFEST on April 14 at the Mill Amphitheater. The event showcases different artists and their pieces of art. It also has activities like children games, entertainment, food and plenty of other activities.

“The purpose of ArtFEST is primarily to give artists an opportunity to show and sell their work and thereby give the community a fun day to explore the arts and bring it into their homes,” said Hallie Henrickson, President of the Villa Rica Art Coalition.

Henrickson developed his passion for arts at a young age and because of that passion, would like to see more children interested in ArtFEST.

“We definitely want children to learn to love art in all the various disciplines. One of our goals is to bring children into the festival by sharing their creativity,” said Henrickson. “ArtFEST is a family event and we have so much for children to enjoy.”

With the event starting as an art walk and now an ArtFEST, the organizers would like to see the festival expand even more in its ninth year and in future festivals to come.

“I’d like to see a lot of participation from the community like volunteers. It’s the best way to get involved and a lot of fun,” said Henrickson. “We also hope to involve students of all ages and give them the opportunity to help and to show their work.”

The Art Coalition also uses the ArtFEST to help bring awareness to the community about the arts and expanding the reach of the Art Coalition beyond the ArtFEST.

“The Art Coalition has been fortunate to raise funds to help Villa Rica High School set up a complete printmaking shop. They will have a booth this year at ArtFEST,” said Henrickson. “We have also been able to contribute funds to the Gold Miner statue that will be installed downtown Villa Rica in future. We have sponsored performing arts workshops and given grants to several students along the way.”

This year ArtFEST aims to be an event the whole family can enjoy. The ArtFEST looks to have pieces of art from talented artist that art lovers will appreciate. The event will also attempt to bring in future art lovers with fun activities centered around the wonderful world of art.

XXXTentacion Lands No. 1 Spot With Sophomore Album

Dylan Logan

Copy Editor

At this time last year, breakaway SoundCloud rapper XXXTentacion was enjoying a rise to fame at the age of 19. After sleeper hit “Look At Me!” made its viral trip around the internet the Florida rapper found himself in the spotlight amongst the company of other artists in high-level caliber such as Lil Uzi Vert, The Migos and Kodak Black. X was featured in XXL’s Freshman Class 2017 alongside Playboi Carti, KYLE, MadeinTYO, Ugly God and others. Being vetted by XXL is an honor known in the hip-hop world as a benchmark to fame and success as an artist in the genre.

However, not all of X’s newfound attention was desirable for the rapper. His debut was that of dark and violent undertones. Following his debut album 17 – X’s ‘bad guy’ persona turned on him after details of a disturbing domestic violence allegation surfaced.

With a quick turnaround, X is working on rehabilitating his image and his overall outlook on life – a lesson not so quickly learned by others who share the spotlight such as the aforementioned, fellow Florida rapper Kodak Black.

Amid distracting controversy X’s sophomore project, ?, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 album chart. Released on March 16, ? is the first of three albums promised by the rapper this year.

Those who are not familiar with any of X’s former projects may be a bit taken back upon the first play through of the album. X goes against the status-quo of hip-hop mixing post-hardcore and emo elements along with the beat. Think of a mix between today’s hip-hop with the screamo genre that dominated the late 2000’s.

That said, in this album, the Florida rapper stayed within the confines of his comfort zone (which

many other hip-hop artists would consider the opposite of). The introductory track “instructions” comes in the style of a public service announcement explicitly requesting that listeners only take on the project with an open mind. X claims that the album can be listened to anywhere, but preferably in the listener’s bedroom or car – suggesting that within the album lies deeper meaning.

Singles “SAD!” and “changes”, released two weeks prior to the album drop – along with “Moonlight”, which seem which seem to be most popular tracks on ?, are rooted with the traditional hip-hop vibe. This may contribute to these tracks being the most successful songs on the album – in a mainstream sense.

Other tracks on the album show the unique style of the 20-year old. The first song on the album, “ALONE, PART 3”, begins with acoustic guitar arpeggios – a soft tone that reoccurs throughout the 18-track project. Other songs such as “Pain = BESTFRIEND” and “Floor 555” are rooted in hard rock. Simply put, X screams into the mic, on a beat, producing a sound that could have came straight out of a Bring Me The Horizon album.

X’s style in ? is obviously working for him – nabbing the No. 1 spot. ? shows strides of maturity in the young artist. However, the album may not be for everyone, or even the average listener at that. X’s sound – rooted in hip-hop, emo and post-hardcore rock often falls upon niche ears.

This, along with his troubled history, may hold the artist back from reaching the ‘rap god’ caliber of other artists such as Drake, Future, Kanye West and others. X does not give any impression that he is chasing that sort of goal. Coming from the new SoundCloud generation of hip-hop the artist is growing, learning and producing hits. All in all, ? is an album worth checking out. Listeners may wind up discover an entirely new genre of music to enjoy.

Arts & Entertainment

THE JACK OF ALL TRADES: TONIO G. AT WOLFSTOCK 2018



Sierra Lemelle

Contributing Writer

From the age of ten Antonio Gould had a passion for performing. Born in Miami, FL he was placed in foster care and adopted to a family in Douglasville, GA. In the beginning of his time with his adopted family, he was insecure and very quiet. No one was aware of his talents. After establishing what he wanted to do with his life, he became a jack of all trades. This led him to become “Tonio G.” On April 5 he returned to WOLFstock with a special guest performance by THC Nino.

“I’m a person that’s based my life around whatever you want you can do it. My biological parents struggled with drugs and my foster parents were horrible abusive and starved us,” said Tonio G. “To finally be linked up with an adoptive family who genuinely loves you and not only adopts you, but your brother and sister as well has shown me that anything is possible. Just because everything bad may happen to you in the beginning of your life doesn’t mean that you can’t change the rest of your life.”

Since his first performance at his middle school talent show, his passion for singing and dancing has grown to performances at showcases throughout the Atlanta area and tours in three different cities in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Florida. Continuously drawing inspiration from what goes on around him has led Tonio G. to write over 200-300 songs. Some of his songs have been given to other artists in the industry such as Miguel. Being faced with adversities has influenced his music but he does not let it define his music.

“I don’t want to live my struggles through my music,” said Tonio G. “I want to promote the positive, peaceful and great vibes through my music. Even though I’ve been through all of this that’s okay because now I’m on a different path.”

Tonio G. joined the army right after finishing high school. After basic training, started personal training, he began the No Days Off brand. He expanded his brand to establish his business, No Days Off Productions. His business encompasses photography, videography and producing. The discipline, time management, physical things and overall knowledge of being in

the military has heavily influenced his work ethic and drive.

Tonio G. became an independent artist after working with a major label for two years. Working with the Carolina Music Group has propelled his career by obtaining exposure and gaining distribution outlets but since then he has been gaining more speed and energy. He plans to use this speed and energy to put Douglasville on the map. By working with another local artist, his brother, THC Nino, they plan to do this by expanding their company called Tropical House Conglomerates in conjunction with NDO Productions. They plan to host events such as poetry nights and showcases at their studio building that will be open to the community.

“We’re two guys that feel that anything is possible if you just put your mind to it so with that is going to stem amazing things,” said Tonio G.

Working to become a household name, Tonio G. is seeking to exceed his inspiration, Chris Brown. He recently released a single called “Real Love” and is working on a five song EP called Kings Highway that is scheduled to be released within the next two to three months.



Coach Cooney PROMOTED

Thomas Thrasher

Contributing Writer

On March 26, the University announced that the current UWG Men’s Basketball head coach Michael Cooney will be transitioning into a full athletic administrative position.

Cooney has been a part of UWG athletics for over 20 years. He served as a top assistant coach for a decade until he began his reign as head coach in 2007. During Cooney’s time at UWG, he has earned a win/loss record of 168-

148 while making four playoff appearances. In one of those appearances, UWG captured the Gulf South Conference Championship in 2016.

During his stint as a head coach, Cooney was also an associate athletic director for many years at UWG. Cooney will now take over solely as the Associate Athletic Director. UWG has a history of narrowing down the workload and obligations of their staff members. For example, Coach Daryl Dickey was the UWG Head Football Coach in 2014 and the Athletic Director at the same time. The Athletic Department felt that they needed a coach that only focused on coaching without having other obligations.

“There is no possible way to give a 100 percent more than once,” said Matt Cooke, Assistant Athletic Director for Events, Marketing, and Media. “If you have responsibilities as an administrator and a head coach, it is very difficult to give 100 percent to both.”

There has been a nationwide search for a new head coach for the UWG Men’s basketball team. They are making efforts to bring in a new style of coaching that will hopefully make UWG a top contending division II team. The motive is to improve the Athletic Department with members like Cooney who have the determination to move the program in the right direction.



Photo Credits: UWGSports.com

Intramurals beginning at West

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Intramural sports are offered at UWG to give a competitive, structured environment for its students to participate in team sports. On March 26 the season for intramural softball and 4v4 flag football began. This is the first year that 4v4 flag football will be an available option. Previously, there were two 7v7 leagues.

The beginning four weeks are for the regular season, leaving a final week for playoffs which lead to championship night. For intramural softball, championship night is April 26 and intramural 4v4 flag football championship night is April 29.

Participating students used imleagues.com to register to participate which is accessible through the MyRec portal. Current UWG students are eligible to participate as long as they are paying the campus center fee.

For intramural 4v4 flag football, The National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association rules are used. These are the general rules for all campus recreational sports, which are slightly changed every two years. The rules for intramural softball are based on the rules created by the American Softball Association, which are slightly changed every year.

The organization sends the rules and the UWG committees adapt the rules to their playing styles. This year is the first year the rules for intramural softball have been changed.

“One of the things we’re doing this year is three pitch, so batters have three pitches to hit the ball and that third pitch if it’s not a fair ball it is an out,” said Brandon Barnes, Graduate Assistant of Competitive Sports. “That is one of the newest rules and one we adopted. The reason we do that it makes it more fun and also for time restriction it makes it a little quicker for us.”

The biggest expectation for teams is that the players maintain good sportsmanship. If a team

does not meet at least a 3.0 in sportsmanship rating they will not be able to participate.

“Athletics does it as well, they promote good sportsmanship. If you go to an athletic game, they have the sportsmanship talk in the beginning,” said Barnes. “That’s something we try to communicate with all the participants through captains meeting and every meeting at the field they get the same have good sportsmanship, respect the players and the teams.”

Through intramural sports students have the opportunity to participate in sports they love or have always wanted to try. Due to there not being tryouts, students are able to participate in any sport

of their interest.

Teams are formed in a few different ways. Team captains can pick a team and invite students to be a part of their team or someone can request to join a team that has already been formed. There is also an option to join as a free agent where captains can choose people to join their teams based on the information they have provided about themselves.

Intramural sports is beneficial for students because it gives them the opportunity to play sports that are not as demanding, but the same relief of stress as playing for the traditional sports teams. It is a time to meet new friends and make new connections that can help students later in their future.



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