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MORE THAN *Just an Athlete*



Thomas Thrasher
Contributing Writer



Photo Courtesy of Emani Collins

It is a tough task to be fully committed to two things at once being a student athlete who deal with these dual-commitments. Going to college as a full-time student and athlete may seem as though it can be easily managed; but the overload of school work and sports can become overwhelming.

“It’s tough,” says UWG student Emani Collins. “I also assist with a professor in the English Department so sometimes my days are rough and busy, but I love it.”

Collins is a graduate student at UWG who is on the track team. She graduated in December of 2017, from UWG with her Bachelor’s in English and is now completing her Master’s. She takes her writing seriously and has been challenging herself by doing extra-curricular activities that enables her to strengthen her skills. One of those extra activities deals with the creation of her blog site Emancipateyourself.com. She puts stories on her website every Sunday, then chooses her best story to post on LinkedIn.

“I was tired of just writing for class or school,” says Collins. “I wanted to do something more contemporary.”

With her writing skills, one of her papers became noticed and allowed her to travel to new territory. In September of 2017, Collins submitted one of her essays from a previous class into the Sigma Tau Delta International Conference. Her essay was later accepted by the judges and she attended the event in Cincinnati, Ohio during spring break. During the event, she got the opportunity to present her essay to the audience at the convention.

“The convention was really interesting because I had never been to Cincinnati before. I enjoyed the sight-seeing that I got to do. My mother went with me and we went to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.”

Her time in Ohio was not just pleasure but also a rewarding experience.

“I did get recognized by my department for being the only one who had an accepted essay,” Collins said. “UWG had multiple students who submitted their work into the program, but I was

the only one that got accepted for this one.”

Collins recently has been awarded the Graduate Studies of Underrepresented Minority Students Fellowship. This is an award that was created by the College of Arts and Humanities in efforts to represent different minority students who are graduate students.

She plans to focus on African Women literature as she continues through her program. Collins has always loved African American and Women’s literature and has chosen to compile them into one topic.

Collins has achieved many accomplishments while still managing to be a committed athlete. She has stayed focus and has been persistent throughout her college career. She has shown that she is more than an athlete and that she can manage to balance the two lifestyles accordingly.

“I want to be an English professor in the future, and I will be starting as a teacher assistant for the department,” said Collins as she prepares for her career off campus.

Living West

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Daniel Forte

Editor-In-Chief

This newspaper issue will be the last edition of *The West Georgian* this semester, and my last edition as Editor-In-Chief. As I look back on my two-and-a-half years with the newspaper, I am brought back to the great memories, great people and great lessons I have learned.

When I took an editor position after being a staff writer for a semester, I did not know exactly what to expect. Being a father and having a full time job, I was not sure how this little newspaper would fit into my college career. I most certainly did not expect to have as much fun as I did. I have been extremely lucky during my time with *The West Georgian* to work with so many great staff members, eager writers in the practicum and a number of faculty members that continuously heaped priceless advice and guidance on me. Thank you to faculty like Dr. Moon, Dr. Gant, Miss Barnes and especially Dr. Sewell for keeping a fire lit under my ass. Anytime I needed a push from behind to keep going, you along with many other faculty members (there are much too many to name) were there to spur me along. Thank you.

I spent every Monday and Thursday over the past two years knowing I was going to work with fantastic people who I was lucky enough to call my peers as well as my coworkers. I have seen people come and go and move on to do great things, and I am thankful and proud of all of you. Thank you Anndrea, Kate, Cassidy, Annierra, ZeNia, Nikole, Monica, Shaunna, Megan, Andrew, Dylan, Justin, Marshala and Victoria for everything you have done to help the newspaper as well as myself. Newspaper aside, I wouldn't have gotten through this undergrad without you all keeping me sane; Thank you Bree for making the layout look amazing each and every week. Matthew and Robert: good luck my young bucks. It has been great working with you all and I know you will continue doing an amazing job as the top editors next fall, thank you for everything.

To all the contributing writers that either volunteered or took the newspaper practicum, thank you as well. The best memories I have from being an editor are working with the students still learning to write and helping them hone their skills. Nothing was more satisfying than spending countless hours tweaking, restructuring and cutting articles until the writer finally got it. Thank you to all the writers for putting in the extra effort and making the time spent working

with you all worthwhile.

The collegiate press landscape is changing. Fewer and fewer college newspapers still publish and circulate a printed edition and everything is moving to up-to-the minute online website posts. It is only a matter of time before The West Georgian makes that switch and only releases a printed edition for events like Homecoming and Media day. Until then, thank you to The Times Georgian for printing our papers for us every week.

Thank you to all the readers for all your support, the clicks and the article shares over the years. I hope those reading my work enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed working here. I hope to come back to UWG for things like Media days and homecoming and will always look to see how the West Georgian is doing. My two years in the 84-year history of The West Georgian may not have been the most impactful to the newspaper, but they have been extremely impactful to me.

I do not know what my post-college career holds, but as I reflect on it I am filled with gratitude and appreciation for everything I have learned here. I hope that the readers keep reading and the writers keep writing. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for The West Georgian. Once again, thank you all for everything.

Daniel Forte

Steady, Comfortable, Posture

Jordan Herron

Contributing Writer

On April 11 the Students of Yoga at West Georgia, SOYA, had a "Hold That Pose Yoga-thon" in Love Valley. SOYA is a student organization that helps to teach about yoga and all that surrounds it. Yoga does not happen just on a mat but in your interaction in and around the community as well. SOYA does fundraisers, community service and discussion groups. The group likes to focus on the benefits of yoga and how it can positively change people's lives for those who are willing to learn.

For the "Hold That Pose Yoga-thon" people came out and held different poses for a certain amount of time. People were given some options on some poses they could do. Some are recommended for one minute and some are for five minutes. The people of SOYA running the

event helped time people and also helped them correctly hold the poses.

"There's lots of different poses you can do and when you hold a pose for a longer amount of time you get more benefits out of it," said yoga instructor Andrea Laubstein.

Holding a pose helps to increase circulation, build strength, and improve flexibility and breathing. The right posture can have therapeutic qualities. Yoga can help decrease back pain, help with headaches, overall tension and digestion. When holding poses, it makes you think less about the world around you and lets your body slow down. When your mind is calm, it helps the body let go and relax.

"The tendency in yoga today and life today is to move really quickly so we're trying to have people slow down a little bit and get some stress relief by holding poses," said Laubstein.

At the event they had posters set up showing different poses you can do, how to do

them and how long to hold them. The event also had a drawing where people who came to the event could enter by writing their name and email on the back of a bunch of tickets, having the chance to win many cool prizes that dealt with yoga, relaxation and stress.

SOYA is different than simply a normal yoga class. The REC Center has yoga classes on campus multiple times a week, while SOYA meets on Tuesday evenings with many different local yoga teachers. They do practices on poses and the correct way to do them as well as have discussion groups on yoga philosophy and do community service events. SOYA recently had a Yoga talk called "The Subtle Aspects and Practices of classical Yoga" where a yoga teacher came and spoke about the philosophy on the consciousness of the mind on and off of the yoga mat. SOYA is a great organization to join and find a way to step out of the real world for a little bit by focusing on your breathing.

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The West Georgian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters may be mailed to: Editor, The West Georgian, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA, 30118, or sent via electronic mail to: uwgeditorinchief@gmail.com

All letters must be signed and include a phone number and mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 350 words and should be submitted by 5 p.m. the Friday prior to publication. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content and length.

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Charter Bus Carrying UWG Baseball Team hits Gang Member

Kristian Flinn
Contributing Writer

A charter bus carrying UWG’s baseball team struck and killed a man after driving back from Dahlonega, GA after a game. According to police, the man was a documented gang member who had been running from officers that night. He abandoned his car and ran onto Highway 61, where he was hit by the oncoming bus.

Officials say that the man had threatened two females with a weapon at the Sand Hill BP gas station earlier that night, which prompted the police involvement. The call to the police stated that drugs were involved, and the tag number of the vehicle the man was using was given. When officers approached the man in his vehicle at the BP, he tried to flee.

After striking a pole, he left the car and ran on

foot. Deputies on the scene pursued a passenger they noticed in the car, and while the man was looking back at the deputies and passenger he ran into oncoming traffic.

“To my knowledge, he kept looking back at the other deputies that were going after the passenger,” Deputies said. “That was when he ran into the oncoming traffic.”

The man was identified as Preston James Henry and was pronounced dead at the scene.

“A privately operated chartered bus transporting UWG’s baseball team was involved in an accident as the team returned from a road game.” said Matt Cooke, the Assistant Athletic Director for UWG. “No one on the bus was injured. However, we are offering counseling services to students and staff affected by this incident. The incident is currently under investigation by Georgia State Patrol.”

Can You Handle These Topics?



Photo Courtesy of Westga.edu

Thomas Thrasher
Contributing Writer

The UWG debate team hosted a social protest debate on April 12, 2018 in the Campus Center. During the event, they debated about controversial topics that have affected America for over a century. The content of these topics led to an intense environment and good arguments to support their claims.

The resolutions were “Social media is a net positive for social movements”, “Economic boycotts are a productive NAACP tactic,” and “Police abolition should be prioritized over forming police practices.” For both sides of the debate, there was an offense and defense and time for cross-examination in between.

With the first resolution, the two sides developed very good arguments. On the offensive, the team talked about the large amount of people on Twitter who are of African descent. They come together as “Black Twitter” and that it is a good thing because it allows people of the same background to network remotely and discuss struggles of minorities.

They mentioned that it allows users to have a voice and become more involved. It was made a necessity for social media now versus in history because of the exposure to events going on around the world.

The counter-argument talked about how social media influences the violence of hate organizations, weakens the movement, and allows fake news to be effective. The defense mentioned that hate groups can network through social media.

With a voice, they can recruit and carry out hate that could result in violence. They said that social media also increases “Slactivism,” which is when someone likes or retweets a post but does not actually act.

With economic boycotts being a productive NAACP tactic, they feel that it is more acceptable to take a stand for equality by affecting companies economically. The purpose, the team claimed, is not to run companies into the ground but to show them that they are not agreeing with their motives. It is also great for seeing minorities act together to make a statement.

The defense argued that Rosa Parks was not famous for boycotting the bus, but she was famous for taking a stand. They claimed boycotting does not have an impact on sales revenue. Instead, people are pushed to make change when tragic events occur. Meaning that people do not get motivated to change society unless adversity affects the country.

With the final debate, the offensive argued that police officers do not do their jobs effectively and therefore need to be abolished. They claimed that cops do not prevent crimes, yet only patrol and escalate crime. They brought up the Philando Castille and Alton Sterling case to support their claims of African Americans who are killed by the police. According to the offense, black people are in fear of their life when it comes to the police and putting a gun in the hands of a racist is not the answer.

The defense claimed that if the police is abolished, it still doesn’t solve the inequality in America. Taking away law enforcement, said the team, would only increase mob rule. Abolishing the police would need a lot of explaining. They also believed that reforms work when taken seriously.

The content of the topics have plagued the justice system for centuries. Whether it was through the transition of slavery, civil rights or the modern day with the use of social media; the content is beneficial to the ears of students. It is also beneficial for the speakers to get practice for their debating skills.

“I hope that students continue this discussion with their friends and think about it,” says senior Taylor Mason, one of the student debaters of the night. “Hopefully, it could start some movement on campus with active students.”

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Living West

Fire Station 22's New Beginning

Jordan Herron

Contributing Writer

Carrollton is getting a new fire station in the city very soon. The brand-new station is replacing the previously existing Fire Station number 22 that was located on Brumbelow Road. The new Fire Station 22 will be located on at the intersection of Lovvorn and Brumbelow road

On April 3, 2017 Fire Station 22 was hit by a tornado causing some of the roof to be removed from the building, a wall to collapse and a tree to fall at the front of the station. At the time of the tornado, engine crew 22 was present in the building. The three firefighters working at a time in the station were very fortunate as none of them were injured in the incident. The firefighters employed

at Station 22 relocated to another fire station in Carrollton, Fire Station 21, for the time being.

A resident at the Cottages, a nearby apartment complex, took a video of the disturbance on her phone that went viral. According to students living in The Cottages the roof flew into their complex causing damage to many cars parked behind station 22.

"I was sitting in my room and all of a sudden I heard a huge gust of wind and noticed it was pitch black outside, so I ran into my bathroom," said Bailey Roberts, a resident in The Cottages. "It sounded like a train was hitting the house. I walked outside after and a lot of tree limbs and building scraps were everywhere and I noticed many of the cars had dents in them from being hit."

The first steps in building Fire

Station 22 showed that there were issues with the soil causing the engineers to replace the original dirt. The engineers used a higher quality dirt that is able to handle the weight of fire trucks driving on and off the land every day. After making a set foundation for the station the team began building. The new station is in a more suitable spot than the previous station which sat on a hill. The old fire station was not in the best spot with very little land and did not have proper technology or area to interact with the community.

"The goal of the new fire station is to make it community friendly. The new fire station will have educational tools and be a place where citizens can come and get educated on fire and weather safety. The plan is to make the new station modernized and have

updated technology to draw in the community," said Jimmy Bearden, Fire Chef.

The new fire station is a great addition for the Carrollton community, it is right off of the UWG campus, at the intersection of Lovvorn and Brumbelow road. It could not be in a better spot not only for the community but for the firefighters and fire trucks. The flat surface will make it easy for fire trucks to get in and out.

"The fire fighters from Fire Station 22 are very excited about their new work space," said Bearden.

Fire Station 22 is expected to open between June and July if weather permits. The station was originally planned to be completed by April, but due to numerous weather delays the expected date has been pushed back.

New TC Rose Owner Gives Carrollton More Options for a Night Out on the Town

Dylan Logan

Contributing Writer

When most UWG students think about a night out there is only one place that comes to mind, 'The Square' – Drid Harper, owner of TC Rose, is giving them more to think about.

TC Rose has been a staple in the community for locals since the early 1990's. Former owner Rickey Collins built the dive bar's reputation with his 40+ years of experience in the industry. However, on Jan 1, 2017 Harper bought the building and the name to keep the legacy going after Collins announced his retirement. Since then, Harper has been rebranding its name, has moved back to the original location and brought a more young, lively vibe to the scene making it a more college-friendly environment – in which he is succeeding.

Harper has not always been the successful man he is known as today. As the result of some lackluster decisions, he served a 5-year prison sentence that which he claims changed his life for the better. Upon release, Harper made some sound business decisions. He became the owner of West Ga. Marine, a boat dealership based out of Roopville, GA. Once he discovered Collins retirement announcement he sold West Ga. Marine and closed shop immediately in order to pursue ownership of TC Rose.

Harper's passion for TC Rose extends past his desire of entrepreneurial interests as a local business man.

"There around a lot of people

around here who love the place," said Harper. "I wanted to buy the bar as soon as I found out it was shutting down. I met my wife at TC Rose, and I used to work here as a bouncer in the 90's – becoming the owner was a personal dream of mine."

Quite a few improvements have been made since Harper's acquisition. He immediately went to work taking steps to move the local business back to its original location at 202 Brumbelow Rd. Renovations and the move where completed and TC

Rose reopened at this location in July 2017. Current UWG students may remember this location as the Hungry Wolf.

"It's a much nicer facility," said Harper.

TC Rose is open from Tuesday through Sunday from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m. They host pool tournaments every Tuesday, acoustic shows every Wednesday, Karaoke every Thursday and feature a live band every Friday and Saturday. The student-to-local ratio has become a good mix for students who are looking for a change-up

in their after-hours experiences in Carrollton. Harper's changes as the new owner has made TC Rose an attractive place for the middle-aged crowd that it has always catered to, and for college students alike.

"I spoke with one of the bands the other night," said Harper.

"They told me that they have never been to a venue where they have seen people from 21-years old to 65-years old wearing everything from camouflage, shorts or tuxedos all at the same time. That's what we want. We want to keep a good mixture."

TC Rose is the only venue in Carrollton that features live music every week and is one of the few places to play billiards.

Dive bar culture is becoming a dying breed but is an atmosphere still enjoyed by many. Harper hopes to keep that culture alive and well in the community. He can be found maintaining the facility early in the morning or overseeing the action late at night. Harper is a true American businessman and the epitome of the phrase 'pulling yourself up from your bootstraps.' His hard work is proving to be beneficial to all of Carrollton's demographics.



Photo Courtesy: TC Rose

Arts & Entertainment

Iconic Singer-Songwriter Plants *The Tree of Forgiveness*

Robert Moody

Copy Editor

American country and folk icon John Prine left his fans shocked and satisfied as the seasoned singer-songwriter released his moving and self-reflective album *The Tree of Forgiveness* on April 13.

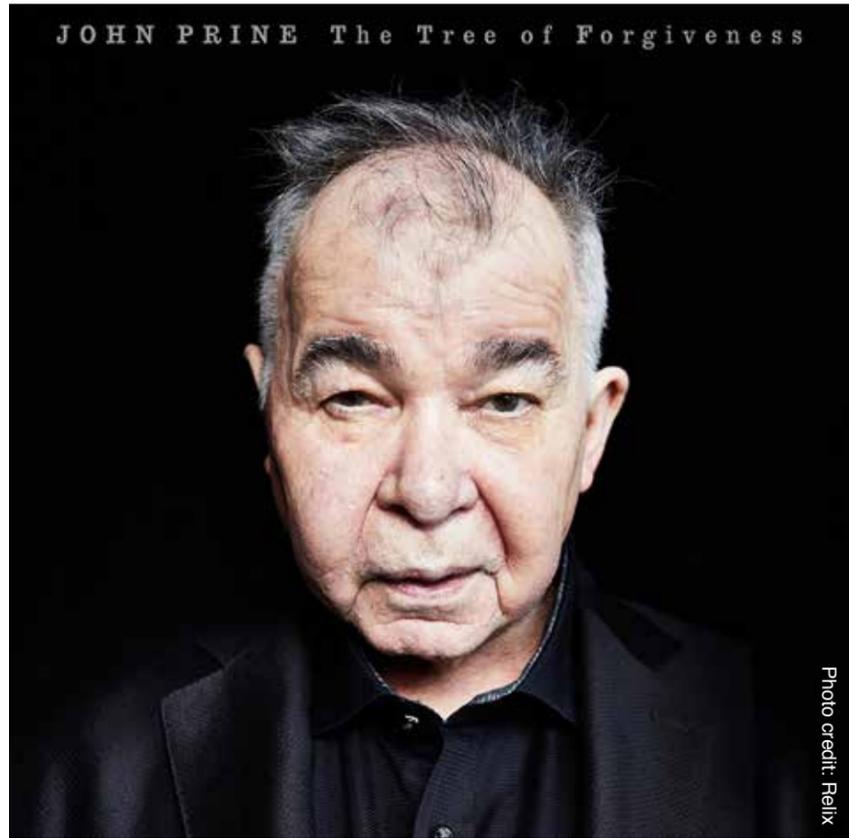
The Tree of Forgiveness is Prine's twenty-fourth album and his first to feature all new and original content in the past 13 years. The album sees a much older Prine reminisce upon sweet memories of a life with adventure, love, loss and somber regret while never straying far from the fine-tuned humor that is in itself unique to the 71-year-old icon.

The 10 track album spans the course of 32 minutes and shows multiple sides of Prine that have been both very familiar yet uncommon over the course of his past 47 years in the music industry. On *The Tree of Forgiveness* we are given a glimpse into the life of a man who has come from a small, humble background, taken opportunities to express himself, learned lessons and ultimately had the pleasure of doing what he loves while never losing himself in the process. This makes the album both an honest display of personal character and a type of overall narrative of the Chicago mailman turned songwriter who would leave an eternal stamp on multiple genres of music.

Prine's unique style and sound have mostly held true through the decades and continue to do so on his latest album but his vocals have become noticeably lower and gravelly since his bout with cancer in the late '90s. This low, unique, voice wraps itself around a wide range of musical elements that include bouncing bass lines, simple harmonies, hopeful guitar melodies and slow downtrodden strums to effectively and collectively make *The Tree of Forgiveness* a complete roller-coaster of an album.

The album opens with the upbeat "Knockin' on Your Screen Door" in which Prine lays out a narrative about a lonely older man who could use company and help around the house. In the song he implores a neighbor to find him some help while also telling his somewhat depressing story of how he ended up alone after his family left him. The track is not all a dismal affair however as Prine is clear to include his excitement and humor in the story and show a sense of content despite his current and lonely situation.

The tone and mood of the album begins to shift in the fourth track, "Summer's End," as Prine mournfully sings for a past love to come home over the slow, sentimental picking of an acoustic guitar. The shift comes surprisingly amid a slew of upbeat stories that are full of hope and good memories,



forcing listeners to step back and prepare themselves for the next five tracks which are highly self-reflective and sentimental. Among these five tracks is the eventual upswing of tone in the penultimate "God Only Knows" in which Prine reflects upon the price his decisions will have on his life now and after death. This is also the most star-studded track on the album as Prine is joined by folk superstars Jason Isbell and Amanda Shires who provide harmonies in the chorus.

The final track on *The Tree of Forgiveness* is the half-spoken half-sung celebration "When I Get to Heaven" in which Prine anxiously

looks forward to an exciting afterlife. The song includes Prine's plans to enjoy cocktails, be with deceased family, kiss pretty girls and, in true Prine fashion, "smoke a cigarette that's nine miles long."

In the end both longtime fans and new listeners can find some way to enjoy *The Tree of Forgiveness* as a complete and unique album by a completely unique man who has refused to lay down despite being one of the last of his kind left standing. Age seems to have not slowed Prine's wit and from what can be gathered from the album, a long life has not made him any less willing to live smiling.

Drake is Winning the Rap Game, Again

The 6 God Announces New Album and Knocks His Own No. 1 Single Off the Top of the Charts

Dylan Logan

Copy Editor

No other artist on the music scene seems to be having more success right now than Drake. Since his debut in 2009 the Canadian born, actor-turned-rapper has won nearly 100 major awards for his music including three Grammys. He has broken multiple Billboard records in several countries and continues to set trends for the genre.

Drake's massive success can be directly attributed to his hard-work in the industry. When Drizzy is not busy throwing money in the club, personally donating money to schools and struggling families in Miami, developing his own brand of whiskey, pursuing entrepreneurial interests or being a global ambassador for the Toronto Raptors, he is in the studio constantly producing new content or featuring on hot new songs with other artists.

The self-proclaimed '6 God' has released seven consecutive number one albums. His last two albums *Views* and *More Life*, respectively, reached quadruple-platinum and set streaming records.

On April 16, Drake posted a photo on his Instagram account under his producer pseudonym, champagnepapi, wearing a jacket reading "Scorpion" and "June Twenty-Eighteen" teasing fans of a new album drop.

According to Billboard, Drake made a surprise appearance at a Majib Jordan concert in Toronto on April 5. "The reason I'm here tonight is because I'm back in the city finishing my album," he told fans. "I've got a new single dropping tomorrow night, too, just in case you get some free time."

Since the announcement is still so new, there are very few to no other details other than Drake's confirmation that the album, titled *Scorpion*, will be released in June 2018.

Good thing Drake released the *Scorpion* lead single "Nice For What" on April 6 to hold fans over until more news on the new album surfaces. In "Nice For What" Drake stays true to a New Orleans 'bounce' style of hip-hop – a sound best known from artists such as Webbie and Lil Boosie.

The beat and background vocals in "Nice For What" are sampled from the 1998 song "Ex-Factor" by Lauryn Hill. In "Nice For What" Drake raps about Women's empowerment in the digital age. With lines like "Workin' hard, girl, everything paid for/First-last, phone bill, car note, cable" Drake shows, throughout the song, how he appreciates the hustle and independence of women today.

The video, released on the same day, features a cameo of working Hollywood actresses Olivia Wilde, Misty Copeland, Issa Rae, Rashida Jones, Jourdan Dunn, Tracee Ellis Ross, Tiffany Haddish, Yara Shahidi, Zoe Saldana, Elizabet and Victoria Lejonharta, Letitia Wright, Bria Vinaite, Emma Roberts, Syd

and Michelle Rodriguez. These women are all known to be independent and hard-working women in the industry.

Seeing actresses such as Wilde – best known for her supporting role in *House, M.D.* and Jones – best known for her supporting roles in *Parks and Recreation* and *The Office*, outside of their otherwise more serious roles make the video enjoyable and gives the song a more light-hearted, celebratory feel – keeping it true to that New Orleans 'bounce' style.

Themes uplifting women in his songs are not uncharacteristic of the multi-platinum artist who is known to be an outstanding advocate for women's equality, have a soft spot for romantic relationships and, last November, even stopped a show for a woman that he noticed may have been in an uncomfortable situation.

As anticipated, on Monday, April 16 Drake's new single "Nice for What" debuted at number one on the Billboard Hot 100. This go around he is second only to himself passing his previous number one song "God's Plan", which had an 11-week run at the top.

Drake is only the 13th artist to ever knock off his own number one song.

It looks like Drake is "back in 2018 to give us the summary", the final lyrics to his most recent album *More Life*. Any news of new Drake content comes with momentous hype – a wave that takes the hip-hop community by storm. The 6 God's unmatched talent and constant release of new music prove that his dominance in the rap game is here to stay.

Arts & Entertainment

Team USA: The Fab 5

Kyzia Wint

Contributing Writer

Being a part of Team USA Cheer may be a dream to some but is a reality for five UWG students. This may not come as a surprise to some. Last year both coed and all-girl cheer teams were the UCA Champions, with co-ed being champions for the past four years.

These students were selected to be a part Team USA Cheer after competing with hundreds of people from all over the country. The process of trying out was not an easy one. In January they had to go to Orlando, FL to try out with a stunt group with the hopes of making the team.

There were four students from UWG that made the all-girl team and one that made the coed team. The students on the all-girl team are Jordan Herron, Asia Chatman, Catie Callen and Haley Marr. Lastly, on the coed team is Spencer Collier.

For the majority of students this is not their first time representing their country on

Team USA Cheer. This is Herron's, Marr's, and Collier's second year, Callen's third year, and for Chatman this is her first year on the team.

The unique thing about this process is that these UWG students are used to cheering with each other but now have to adapt other people and find ways to work as a team with people they just met.

"Everyone's from across the country so we don't get to practice together, so we have challenges every week that we have to submit which is very hard," said Herron.

To prepare before they meet the Team USA coaches send team members a specific challenge that they have to complete by a certain day of the week. They then have to submit a video of themselves completing the challenge.

Because they are the best in the country the challenges are not close to being easy.

"Sometimes it takes days to complete one challenge," said Herron.

This month the students will get to meet everyone on the team and start their two-week training.

"We meet the first day and literally go right into practices," said Herron. "We have practices two to three times a day. We practice for a week straight and then have a performance the day before we leave for the competition. Practices are usually from 8-10 and then 12-3, but if we have a bad practice we have to come back again. It definitely takes a toll on your body."

This an exciting experience but can also be a nerve wrecking one as well. The competitions are extremely competitive.

"I am extremely nervous. Just thinking about the process is kind of scary. But just the thought that I get to go out and compete against other countries while representing my own is so cool. It can be stressful but at the same time it pumps me up," said Herron.

This year, Finland is the United States' biggest competition. Last year the USA won and Finland came in second.

The competition is at the ESPN Center in Orlando, FL. They will have the opening ceremonies on April 25 and compete on the April 26 and 27.

Cardi B Astonishes with Debut Album

Erin Grady

Contributing Writer

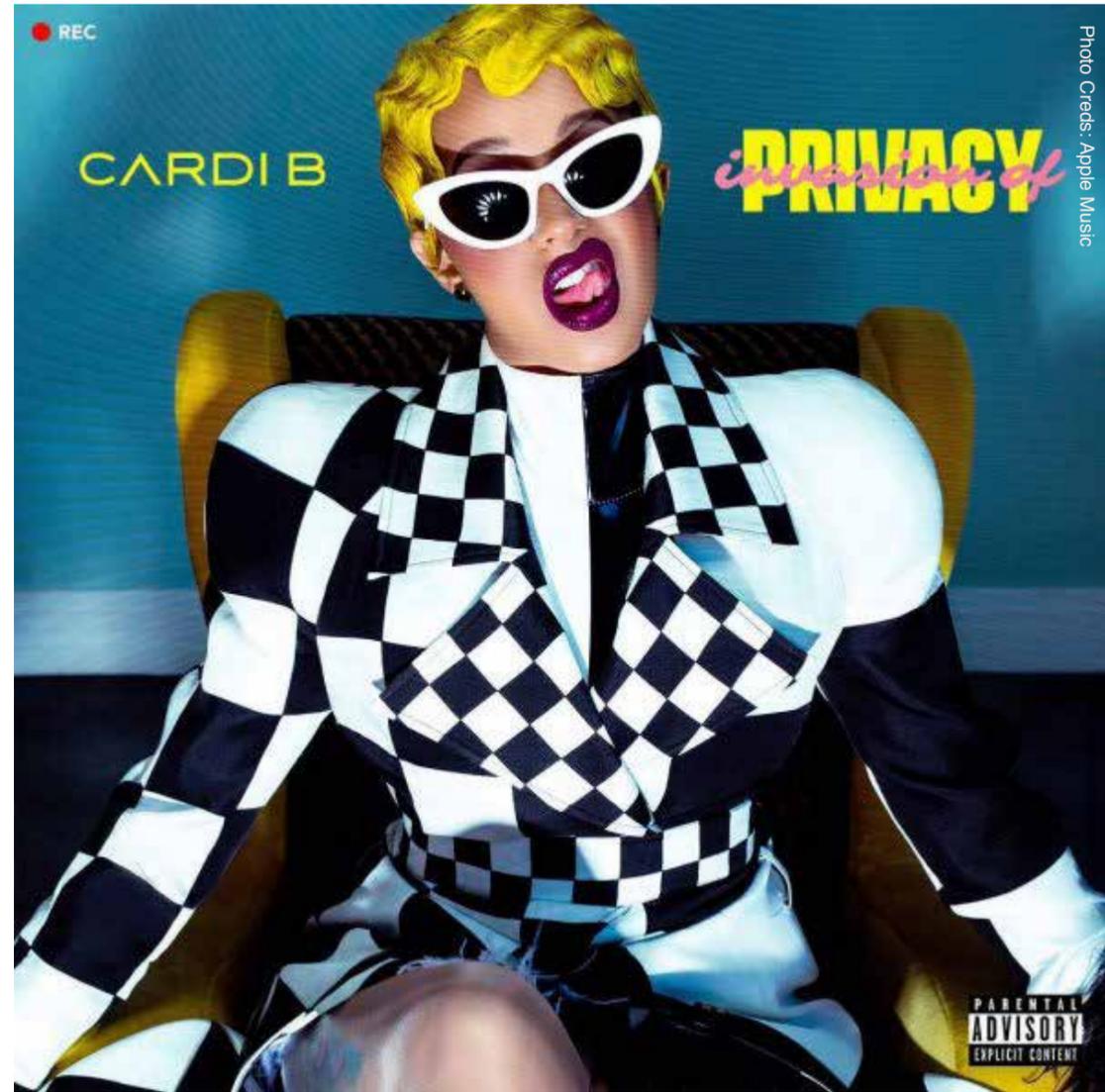
Cardi B released her highly anticipated album *Invasion of Privacy* on April 6.

Cardi B has seen a meteoric rise of success in the past year, coming from being a social media comedian to becoming a household name. After releasing two extremely popular singles and appearing on multiple tracks, the rapper has finally released her debut project.

The Grammy nominated rapper has attained a tremendous amount of success in the past year. Cardi B first gained recognition when she was a stripper and a popular social media influencer. She then went on to star on the show *Love & Hip Hop* and became a fan favorite. After her success there, she went on to release the extremely popular song "Bodak Yellow" which held the number one spot on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 for three consecutive weeks. People flocked to Cardi B because of her entertaining lyrics and magnetic personality which led to her becoming known across the nation.

Invasion of Privacy is a reflection of Cardi B's personality. It is exciting, funny, cocky, and confident. The album also shows the versatility of the rapper. It ranges from pop rap to songs that draw inspiration from Southern gangster music. In the album, Cardi is able to showcase her carefree and hilarious wordplay, while also remaining open and vulnerable. Cardi B pays homage to many rappers before her and also celebrates her Latin origins with songs like "I Like It." The album has multiple features ranging from rappers like the Migos, Chance the Rapper, and 21 Savage, and also singers like SZA and Kehlani. Out of the 13 songs on the album, there are multiple tracks that showcases Cardi B's signature sound.

The first track on the album, "Get Up 10" lets listeners know what they are to expect



on the rest of the album. In the song, Cardi fearlessly raps about her rags to riches story, talking about how she went from being a poor stripper to becoming a millionaire. The song is motivational while also being a banger. The song sets the tone for the rest of the album and proves to people that believed that Cardi was going to be a one hit wonder that Cardi is here to stay.

"I Like It" is a standout track on *Invasion of Privacy*. The song effortlessly blends Cardi's trap and Dominican roots. The song features an energetic Spanish horn section and an infectious trap beat. The track samples the song "I Like It Like That" by popular Latin singer Pete Rodriguez. "I Like It" invites Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny and Colombian reggaeton rapper J Balvin on the

track. In the song, Cardi simply talks about what she likes and how she likes it.

The track that showcases Cardi's softer side and vulnerabilities is "Ring." The song features a vocal performance by singer Kehlani. In the song, Cardi and Kehlani discuss a breakup and how their significant other no longer calls them. In the song, the rapper discusses her relationship with her fiancé Offset from the Migos. This song is different from the rest of the songs on the album because Cardi shows that she is vulnerable and human too.

Invasion of Privacy makes listeners wonder if this is truly Cardi B's first attempt at making an album. Cardi comes off as a seasoned rap veteran and proves to haters that Cardi's 15 minutes of fame is here to last.



MALPASSING THROUGH CARROLLTON

Michael Samurda

Contributing Writer

An uprising band known as the Malpass Brothers will be bringing their traditional classic country covers, while providing their original music to UWG’s Townsend Center on May 3. The band consists of two brothers, 28 year-old Taylor and 32 year-old Christopher Malpass, and they present their audience with the style and affection for music that they have acquired from their grandfather.

Growing up, Taylor and Christopher would listen and play classic country music with their grandfather. They developed the love for this music through their grandfather, and they want to

spread their passion to the public. They have multiple artists that they strive to duplicate throughout their music, but the Malpass Brothers also want to create music for others to duplicate.

“I’d like to classify the genre of music that we create as a mixture of Johnny Cash, Hank Williams Sr. and Merle Haggard.” said Taylor Malpass. “We like to play classic songs from these artists, but we also like to create our own music.”

The classic country songs that the Malpass Brothers play from these deceased artists are always enjoyed by their fans across the nation, but the Malpass Brothers also have their own songs that have been spread across the world. The Malpass

Brothers’ title track of their album “Memory That Bad” made CMT’s top ten, and was viewed all over the world.

“Memory That Bad” is a classic country song about losing the love of a woman, and has helped propel the Malpass Brothers to a larger fan base. The Malpass Brothers now travel the country on tour to spread their genre of music, and their stop in Carrollton is highly anticipated amongst their Carrollton fans.

“We have performed at a lot of venues across Georgia, and we are excited to come perform for the college crowd of Carrollton.” said Taylor Malpass.

The college crowd of Carrollton is also excited about the Malpass Brothers coming

to the Townsend Center. UWG senior, Ethan Henninger, plans to attend the concert to hear the classic country that he has loved for years. Much like Taylor and Christopher, Henninger grew up listening to artists such as Hank Williams Sr. and Johnny Cash.

“I’m a huge fan of Hank Williams Sr., and nobody can do it like Hank, but I love the similar style of music that the Malpass Brothers bring to the table.” said Henninger.

The starting price for tickets to the Malpass Brothers’ show at UWG’s Townsend Center is \$14 and increases to \$28 depending on the location of the seat. There are multiple amounts of Malpass Brother in Carrollton, so get your tickets while you can.



Photo Credit: Taylor Malpass

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