

The West Georgian

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CHURCH

GOOD SAMARITANS NEED YOUR HELP TO BRING CHRISTMAS JOY

Emily Conklin

Contributing Writer

Operation Christmas Child is an annual event that is overseen by Samaritan's Purse International Relief. The mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies to help those who are in need.

Not only does this relief organization help many children in need all around the world with basic necessities, but it also allows them to experience a good holiday season. These boxes are required to be dropped off during the week of Nov. 18, which will ensure that the boxes arrive to these children right in time for Christmas.

"Every year my church and I have the opportunity to donate to this relief program that helps those who are in need," said Ava Shields, member of West Ridge Church.

"Samaritan's Purse ships these gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disasters, famine and disease."

Some children are unable to experience Christmas in the magical way that many of us do here in the United States. This little bit of effort and support from the community allows them to be happy during the holiday season.

"Packing a shoebox full of necessities does not cost a lot, and it is also not very time consuming," said Jacob Daniel, member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "We do it when the kids are in school so that everyone who wants to help can just come into school early and pack a shoebox."

There are dozens of churches and schools all around

the country that are partnered with this relief program, which allows many people to donate and give to those that are less fortunate than they are.

"When packing a shoebox, you have the ability to decide both the gender and the age range of who you will be packing the shoebox for," said Shields. "This makes the packing process more personal since I am picking certain items instead of just general items."

"Along with getting to decide the gender and age of the box that you will be packing for, you also get to pick a fun gift for the receiving child. This particular gift in the box usually makes me the happiest as I know that when they open the box it will be one of the first items that they see," Shields continued.



Photo courtesy West Ridge Church

Many people are unable to pack shoe boxes themselves, whether it be because they don't have time, they don't have the money to go out and buy all of the supplies or they don't have a drop off location that is close enough to them. This issue is avoided as the Samaritan's Purse International Relief Foundation has the opportunity for people to pay online.

"People can choose to build a box online, which will still allow for them to personalize it as they would if they were able to build it themselves," said Daniel. "Having this option truly enhances the outcomes of this project."

The potential for an amazing Christmas filled with lots of happy and jolly moments can be achieved with this foundation. Seeing the smiles on children's faces when they open their boxes will be sure to light up even the darkest of rooms.

NEWS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE PEER MENTOR FOR PROJECT WOLVES

Cameron Lynch

Contributing Writer

Project Wolves is the UWG's post-secondary education program offered to students with intellectual disabilities, and many students are unaware it even exists.

Students in the program enroll for two years and the curriculum increases their independence going into their adult lives while enjoying many of the fun social aspects of college life.

The primary focus of the program for students are academic and social development, employment skills, self advocacy skills and independent living skills.

The University of West Georgia is one of nine accredited colleges in the state that offer this type of program through the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. This allows disabled students all over Georgia the opportunity to get a college experience that was not possible before. Other participating universities include Kennesaw State, Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia.

Project Wolves is always eager for student volunteers regardless of what they have to offer. The program has students enrolled with all different personalities and interests, and the lifelong friendships they develop are one of the most exciting parts about their time here. Peer mentors can be undergraduate or graduate students and they act as a guide

and a friend to these students. This can include anything from homework help and a walk to class or even catching a UWG football game together and cheering on the team at University Stadium. Peer mentoring is also eligible for receiving volunteer and community service hours.

This statewide effort towards inclusion in education speaks volumes for Georgia as a whole. The program has been a long time coming, and is only possible through the hard work and donations of many. Historically, students with disabilities have not been provided all the tools they need to succeed and Project Wolves is the university's effort to rewrite that narrative.

Students who are interested in making a difference and becoming a peer mentor can find out more information at <https://www.westga.edu/academics/education/volunteer-project-wolves> or email ProjectWolves@westga.edu

If you know anyone in Georgia who might be interested in enrolling a student in Project Wolves or a similar pro-gram please refer them to <http://www.gaipsec.org/>



Image Courtesy of Project Wolves

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DO GOOD HAS CHOSEN ITS UWG WINNERS.

Katelynn Johnson

Contributing Writer

Michael Wahl, owner of Do Good, a fair trade market located inside of Re-Thread thrift store, has chosen it's UWG student product winners. Students from UWG's Retail Management class pitched fair trade products, with one product being chosen and put in Wahl's Do Good market.

"Everyone had some great products, there were three top pitches that I really liked," said Wahl. "All the students worked hard on this project and I hope they had fun."

Five groups were created within the class, with each group choosing their own product to pitch. Each group was graded on their presentation by appeal, product information, social media and 30-second pitch.

Group five consisting of students Amanda Friend, Zach Harvel, Stefan McCray, Katelynn Johnson and Ashley Wilson came together to present their product, Good Paper Cards, and won. Group five chose to make gift packages from the product already in the Do Good marketplace, to help present their cards. Each package was labeled and had a corresponding card to go along with it.

"Group five had the best 30-second pitch," said Wahl. "They flowed well together, knew their product and even had a social media calendar made for me."

Good Paper Cards is a fair trade business that helps supports women affected by sex trafficking in the Philippines, and men and women affected by the genocide in Rwanda. Each card is carefully handcrafted by its maker, and then personally signed on the back when finished.

"We chose this product because we thought that Good Paper's mission went well with the rest of Michael's products in his store," said Wilson.

Inside Do Good market, many will find products that have a mission or purpose behind it. Headbands for Hope is one of many businesses Wahl has chosen to carry within Do Good Market. Headbands for Hope was developed to help give back to children with cancer. Each headband purchased from Do Good gives a new headband to a child at Scottish Rite.

Good Paper Cards will be joining other businesses such as a local Georgia business, Rahab's Rope, to be revealed in the Do Good Market. Rahab's Rope gives hope to women and children who are at risk or forced into commercial sex trade.

"I actually may carry more than one product in my store from all of the group pitches," said Wahl. "I am glad I decided to open my store to UWG students because they found products I never knew existed."

Do Good had a grand showing of all the products that were pitched. Products included a gift bag, scrunchie, a clutch and keychain. Each product was labeled with the company's name and the group which chose it. Wahl had already made his first order at Good Paper and had many cards displayed at the showing. He also talked about all the other products located inside Do Good, and why he chose to carry them.

"Group five was really creative in incorporating products I already had into their pitch," said Wahl. "I chose them not only for the pitch, but for how well it flowed with my current products."



Photo Credit: Katelynn Johnson

LIVING WEST

UWG NAACP GIVES BACK TO ANIMALS

Arvon Bacon

Contributing Writer

The UWG NAACP Community Service committee volunteered at the Carroll County Animal Shelter to give back to the previously mistreated pets in the community on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019. The animal shelter service event allowed members to see the real world impact on animals and be advocates for animal justice.

"It was a great experience and I've never had a pet before," said Victor President, NAACP member.

Showing love and compassion for the dogs at the animal shelter is a soul cleansing moment that contributes to the greater good of the world.

"Some of the dogs were nice but you could tell that some were over-aggressive due to their past," said President. "Being able to take them out of their cages to pet them and walk them really does them good."

Teaching members the importance of community service can affect them for a lifetime. Along with teaching great moral values, it also gives a first hand experience of what it's like to have a pet and know what to do. Committee leader Chalis Crockett is the man responsible for making the community service event become a reality.

"I have certain events and then I have the main ones that I really want to do and I pick up the phone and start calling," said Crockett.

Because Crockett genuinely has a love for doing community service, he really doesn't see his position as something that he must force himself to do, but as an enjoyable time.

"As a whole, we enjoyed the experience of the animal shelter and will for sure be making another trip back," said Crockett. "It's like we have a connection with the dogs we walked, so the trip back is inevitable."

Since 1909, this great organization has been playing a big role in the New York community where it originated. After hearing stories from older members of the Carrollton NAACP it is only right that we pick up the torch that has been passed down and run with it past fulfilling what has been set before us and raise the bar to the next level.

"As the semester winds down we will have more upcoming events, such as the soup kitchen and others, but one thing is for sure you can count on us making multiple trips back to the animal shelter," said Crockett.

WILL SMITH'S *GEMINI MAN* FLUNKS AT BOX OFFICE

Kimberly Wooten

News Editor

Gemini Man is an action-thriller starring Will Smith as Henry Brogan, an elite assassin, who is suddenly targeted and pursued by a mysterious young operative that seemingly can predict his every move.

The *Gemini Man* faces off against a deadly computer-generated version of himself, who looks like the zombie double for Will Smith. Rumor has it, it was almost an impossible project to be made, passing through the hands of countless actors and falling apart many times because the technology was not there yet. At least, that was the excuse, although judging by the finished product, it was the script that never lived up to the promise of its premise.

Some of the fight scenes are cool, and there's a thrilling confrontation between the Smiths, young and old, involving some exciting leaping from roof to roof is reminiscent of director Lee's cracking early film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. The way the two characters contrast each other in the initial motorbike action scenes gives a *Grand Theft Auto* feel.

However, the rest of the film is a very hard adventure to watch, with Smith in permanent danger of being upstaged by a handful of pixels. Winstead and Wong are sporting the

slightly bemused-neutral expression of people having to react to a green screen, or perhaps that is the response Smith naturally elicits from his co-stars these days. In addition, this sadly alright film never really manifests in to something that could have made it superb to watch.

Not even an Oscar-winning director and one of the world's most popular actors could save *Gemini Man* from getting bumped off at the box office. During the opening weekend the movie only reeled in \$21 million, it came behind *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* (22.4) million dollars in a shocking upset.

Ang Lee's VFX-heavy film, starring Will Smith, faces losses of \$75 million or more after the opening of \$20.5 million domestically over the Oct. 11-13 frame and finishing Sunday with an anemic worldwide total of \$118.7 million, according to box office analysts. The movie had a budget of \$150 million plus. IMDb gave the movie a rating of 5.7 out of 10. Rotten Tomatoes gave the movie a 25% out of 100. In addition, the website Metacritic gave the movie a 38% out of 100.

NEWS

POWERING THROUGH THE FINAL SEASON

Kimberly Wooten

Contributing Writer

"The sixth season of *Power* looks set to have an epic midseason finale, which will see Ghost's (Omari Hardwick) enemies closing in on him. Though it may seem unlikely that the Starz show will kill off its main character with five episodes left to go, Ghost's chances of survival are getting smaller and smaller every week as he makes more and more enemies. *Power* show-runner Courtney Kemp has also hinted that his days may be numbered.

Though we have often seen Ghost face off against one major threat, tackling four credible threats against his life at once may be too much for him to handle. Episode 9, "Scorched Earth," shows Tommy (Joseph Sikora), Tasha (Naturi Naughton), Dre (Rotimi) and Tariq (Michael Rainey Jr) all say aloud that they are ready to kill Ghost.

As threats push in from every side, the episode promo sees Ghost unable to accept how much danger he's in. As the trailer shows us shots of every person out to kill him, including not only Tariq, Tasha and Tommy but also Rashad (Laurenz Tate) and Dre (Rotimi), we hear Ghost say, "No one can stop me." This being *Power*, this very likely means he is about to be proven very wrong.

Ghost's death is hinted at from the first lines of the teaser, when Ghost tells Tasha: "I'm sorry for the way things have turned out," to which she replies: "Not as sorry as you're gonna be." Later in the trailer, Ghost clearly fears for his life, as we see him carrying a gun.

The series first aired starting all the way back in 2014. With five episodes left still to come next year, there's bound to be a fair amount of twists and betrayals before *Power* goes out for good. The show has won numerous awards since it first aired. In 2018, at the 49th NAACP the series won the Outstanding Drama Series, the Outstanding Actor and Actress in a Drama Series given to Omari Hardwick and Naturi Naughton.

The mid series finale is definitely a sight to see. But you need to make sure that you watch from the very beginning. *Power* is definitely a television show that needs to be watched from the beginning to get a better understanding as to why people would want to hurt Ghost.

As of right now Rotten Tomatoes have given the show up to this point a 54 percent out of 100. New episodes of *Power* come on at 9 p.m. every Sunday on the Starz network.

FALL FESTIVAL: FUN IN THE RAIN

Logan Landers

Contributing Writer

There were sights and sounds of leaves falling, people laughing and children on the hunt for candy. The time had finally come for the Carrollton Fall Festival at Adamson Square. Even though the weather was gloomy with rain and dark clouds, the fun never stopped.

Children were dressed up in a variety of different cartoon character costumes and took in the beauty of downtown Carrollton while also eating as much candy as they could handle. While the majority of the events were for children, the parents were able to enjoy snacks for only a dollar. The trick or treating went on for around an hour and a half, allowing enough time for kids to fill up their bags full of sweet treats.

There were numerous bounce houses that were set up in the middle of the square with lines as long as the eye could see. One of the most popular attractions at the event involved the Carrollton Fire Department. Firefighters were seen taking pictures with the children who were able to tour the firetruck that the men brought with them. The look on the children's

faces when looking around the truck was quite a sight to see. Smiles and laughter were seen and heard all throughout the square as the kids were having a wonderful time.

Many local business owners were seen standing out in front of their building with a basket of candy to hand out to whoever would come up to them. These owners were thrilled to see the amount of people at the square since the majority of people show up to the square at nighttime because of the robust nightlife scene.

The big main event of the day was a costume contest which was held around 11 a.m. with a massive amount of contestants. Even though the weather began to become murky with high wind and slight rain, the contest continued with each child trying their best to impress the judges and win.

The Carrollton Fall Festival was a wonderful experience that celebrates the aura of Halloween as a holiday. From festive decorations all around the square to kids enjoying a fun day eating candy, this festival is a wonderful sight to see every Autumn.

NEWS

CREATIVES IN CARROLLTON AND STUDENT INTERN OPPORTUNITIES

Nicole Kirkman

Contributing Writer

The Carrollton Community has been home to many successful businesses, but one that has quickly made a name for itself here is RedCube Creative. RedCube is a multi-media production company located on Adamson Square. The space is owned by Jonathan Drake and Brian Little.

"Brian and I came together forming one company from two separate companies. The goal was to grow larger and involve more people to impact more people," said Drake. "We have worked with a number of businesses in Carrollton and are hoping to expand that even more in our community very soon. We also work with people all over the country and even internationally."

The duo decided to combine their companies about a year and a half ago and were recently welcomed into the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

"We had a ribbon cutting at our new offices a few weeks ago," said Drake. "We just joined the chamber about two months ago and it was the best decision we could have made. We have already connected with so many amazing people and businesses and look forward to being a staple in this community for years to come."

The company is full of passionate people and the owners have a real love for helping give their clients the best experience that they can.

"We have a great team that we have built so far and the team atmosphere is always fun and exciting," said Drake. "Our goal when we work with a client is to give them a completely new experience than anything they have seen before."

Some of its top customers are locally owned businesses in Carrollton that are thriving as well, building connections that will strengthen the Carrollton community as a whole.

"In Carroll County we have done projects with Southwire, Midway Church, Tabernacle Baptist Church, South of Heaven BBQ, Plates on the Square, Fever Dance & Jules and James Boutique. We work with all types of different industries. It really is something different almost every single day," said Drake.

UWG students also have some real opportunities with RedCube Creative because it embraces learners and those who have a passion for multimedia.

RedCube had its first round of interns at the new location this past summer of 2019. The company has opened opportunities to allow student shadowing in photography, social media, graphic design and many other parts of mass media. The sky's the limit with this

crew.

"We are always looking for individuals who are willing to learn and want to grow in one of the areas that we service. We are not looking for people who already know it all, we want students who are teachable and hard working," said Drake. "We have been a part of Media Day at West Georgia for the last two years and took on our first interns in May of this year. We learned a lot and are excited about new internships that we will be open to immediately."

RedCube wants students to come and learn and even talk about things they are dreaming about the closer they get to graduating college.

"We never miss deadlines and we go to the extreme to make our clients happy. We want to stand out from the pack when it comes to work ethic. We are always early, we work hard and we produce a great product," said Drake. "We believe in excellence and we want to do our best to meet that mark every time. I'm proud of what RedCube has become in the short year and a half we have been in business and I know the best is yet to come."



Photo Credit: Jonathan Drake

ALL WOMEN AND MEN WALK TO EQUALITY

Arvon Bacon

Contributing Writer

NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir broke down another barrier for women last Friday, Oct. 18, 2019 by being part of the first all-female spacewalk in history. The female astronauts were tasked with replacing a power controller, ventured out of the International Space Station.

The spacewalk lasted seven hours and 17 minutes and included a brief call with President Trump. The original spacewalk was supposed to occur in March but was pushed back due to inadequately sized space suits. The space program took a hit over its legacy of sexism, displayed by the suits being historically designed for men.

It wasn't until 1978 when women were admitted into the astronaut program, and an American woman did not take flight into space until Sally Ride did so in 1983. The first spacewalk occurred in 1965, and in 1984 Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first American woman to perform one.

The first all-women spacewalk exemplifies our nation's growth and shows how close we are to crossing the threshold of gender equality. Since the early birth of the United States, women's rights have been laid by the wayside.

They've banded together to make a change to carve out a voice for themselves in modern-day society.

Events such as the space-walk give us more evidence that women have been wrongfully put into a corner and shows that the Rosie Riveters from the 1940s are still seeking and conquering every obstacle that has been put in their path.

With the younger generations growing up in a society that has seen women become astronauts and presidential nominees, via Sally Ride, Mae Jemison and Hillary Clinton. Being one of the leaders in the space race, it's only right that they do their part and be one of the leaders breaking women stereotypes.

Therefore, as Americans, we should lead the pack of retiring old stereotypes with new ones by changing our media coverage of women to a modern conquering individual that will not be trampled under by men but by the side of the man.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek," said Barack Obama, via An American Story: The Speeches of Barack Obama.

NEWS

SAFE TRICKS AND TREATS AT THE 6TH ANNUAL HOUSING COMMITTEE EVENT

Terrion Newton

Contributing Writer

UWG's annual Safe Treat, hosted by the housing committee, was held on Oct. 24 at Greek Village from 6-8 p.m. Every year since 2014, the Safe Treat has provided young children and parents a safe and secure trick-or-treating experience. The event is not only for students and faculty with children, but also the general public as well. In past years, the Safe Treat was commonly located in the campus quad area near East Commons and Ingram Library. However, Greek

Village was a much more efficient space because it allowed children to play and dance to music freely. Campus police made certain that everyone found an appropriate parking space and arrived and departed the event safely. Clubs and organizations such as The WOLF Internet Radio, and the ASL (American Sign Language) organization were in attendance.

Many UWG students like Victoria Chaney, who is apart of The WOLF Internet Radio, and Jamaya Adams, an ASL club member, assisted with welcoming parents and children, passing out candy and directing them to bathrooms

and other essential locations.

Nearly every candy stop consisted of a fun game to play. These included bowling and the popular game of stack the cup. Everyone had the opportunity to show off their pumpkin carving skills by entering the school's Halloween pumpkin carving contest. For those who participated, their work of art was displayed at the Safe Treat.

After the winners were revealed, participants had the opportunity to take their pumpkins home with them or allow the Safe Treat attendees to adopt them. As the night went on, parents got to witness the school mascot, Wolfie, showing off his dance moves with the hyper children to tag along.

In addition to the festivities, the UWG bookstore had several clothing items for children and adults on sale. Those in attendance could choose between a brand new t-shirt, or a cozy long-sleeve or sweater. Whether you're a student, staff member, or Carrollton resident be sure to stay updated on all of UWG's events that are open to the community, you wouldn't want to miss out!

HOW MUCH DO YOUR PROFESSORS MAKE?

Justin Hodges

Editor in Chief

Teachers and professors reign as the most influential and pivotal figures in the United States, they're often the most maltreated as well. Dispute over education salaries constantly causes outrage, primarily in the public grade school spectrum where resources are continually being cut.

Teachers lead growing generations down the path of life, making them heroes. The best of the best walk among us at universities. The ongoing growth of the University of West Georgia correlates with the school's practical core of professors, many which trialed years of seasoned experience and solid standing in their respective fields before migrating to classrooms. While the discrepancy of pay for grade school teachers drives political debates, our university professors get a better chunk of the cheddar. However, the distribution of that parmesan could be seen as inconsistent.

The official positions for university teachers vary but in simple terms, you have lecturers and professors. Professors swim through years of graduate school education programs to obtain masters and doctorates as well as do independent research through the university. The compensation is well worth the tribulation, as the average undergraduate professor at UWG earns a few pebbles shy of \$100 thousand a year, compared to \$62 thousand for lecturers according to open.ga.gov. Totals for programs such as nursing or law were not listed in Georgia's public records, for unknown reasons.

Though lecturers make significantly less, their salaries are dispersed fairly evenly, however the same cannot be said on the other side. Standard deviation is the square root of variance, measuring the dispersion of data relative to the average of your data pool. The standard deviation for lecturer's salary here is about \$17 thousand and shoots up 63% for professors at \$27 thousand. This simply means that professor salaries at UWG vary greatly, and the data shows staggering leaps in professor salary by department. The top wolf? The Roy Richards Sr. College of Business.

The highest average teacher salary among all degree programs at UWG is Finance at around \$127.5 thousand with Marketing right behind with \$120.5 thousand. In fact the business department holds each of the top six highest average

salaries on campus: Management Information Systems at \$113 thousand, Business at \$112 thousand, Economics at \$109.5 thousand and Accounting at \$104 thousand.

The only other degree program with an average salary in six figures is Education, along with Education Research Studies. "Many things contribute to faculty salary, but the biggest factor is the market. An incoming faculty salary is benchmarked against median salaries for similar institutions in the College and University Professional Association (CUPA)," said Jami Bower, Associate Vice President for University Advancement. "Discipline plays a role as well in some areas, especially those where entering private practice would be much more lucrative. Programs such as business tend to have higher salaries based on factors such as these."

Stepping away from business, Center for Education and Personal Development teachers average out at \$96.7 thousand annually. Geography, Political Science and Chemistry all come out to around at \$94 thousand. Math, German, Management, Physics, Biology, Computer Science, Psychology, Early Childhood Education and Geology all range between \$80-\$90 thousand in salary. Other notable figures beneath them include History at \$72 thousand, Theatre at \$70 thousand, Philosophy at \$69 thousand, Mass Communications, English and Physical Education all at \$67 thousand, Music and Sociology at \$65 thousand, Art, Astrology and Criminology in the \$50 thousand range with Spanish teachers rounding out as the lowest with \$48 thousand.

"Lesser factors include accrediting bodies who have similar Salary Studies (departments often use these studies to attract candidates and stay competitive in certain fields since many faculty look to those sources for salary negotiations), Faculty Retention (higher rank and seniority contribute, which in our Richards College of Business we have many senior faculty), and High Demand Fields where we compete with the Atlanta market. Department funding does not affect faculty salary since budget for positions is held centrally," said Bower.

At the end of the day, it's still about your negotiation skills!

SPORTS

SEPARATING THE ATHLETE FROM THE GAME

Matthew Harvey

News Editor

Heckling has always been a part of sports. Giving the opposing team's players and the referee a hard time has, and always will be, a part of the fan experience, but when does it become too much? When does heckling cross the line of innocent banter to harmful and abusive?

The classic form of heckling can be traced back to America's game, baseball. "Hey, batter batter. Hey, batter batter, swing!" was once the extent of heckling and was ultimately an innocent form of throwing the player off their game at that moment. However, heckling has now developed into finding ways to get at a player beyond the game. Fans are looking for the best way to hurt players on the field at an emotional level that extends off the field.

Taking a look at the beautiful game of soccer, where the sport's biggest issue right now is keeping racism out of the game. The use of racial slurs, throwing bananas on the field at players and making monkey noises at them happens far too often in the game. The issue has been so prevalent that English football started an organization called "Kick it Out" to fight this discrimination. This racism has become many fans' new "hey batter batter" chat and they horrendously view it as an appropriate form of heckling.

A huge gateway to heckling has been the 24/7 access fans get to players through social media. Comment sections have become a go-to place for fans to attack players for their performances on the field. Incredibly, fans do not only target players of opposing teams but more times than not decide to attack the players of the team they support as well. It is almost guaranteed that if a player underperforms or makes costly mistakes fans will attack them with racial slurs, death threats and crude comments about the family of the player.

However, the abuse does still occur directly in the game. Back in 2017, the United States Men's National Team lost to Trinidad and Tobago in what knocked them out of qualification for the ensuing World Cup. This was obviously a massive underachievement for the team and of every fan's expectation of the team, and the players were disappointed. After that game players such as Jozy Altidore and Michael Bradley, two major first-team players for the USMNT, were

subjected to boos from fans anytime they touched the ball in an MLS game. This happened anywhere they went to play in the country and the boos still echo around stadiums two years later.

The effect of this on the players is detrimental to their mental health. This new form of heckling is adding pressure and building hate into the mind of the players, which defeats the purpose of sports. In a world that is extremely polarized and divided, we still find a way to divide each other in one thing that is designed to unite us.

Basketball player Kevin Durant has received a lot of heckling on the internet and has been driven to the point of lashing out at fans, which only makes the abuse worse. Similarly, Swiss international soccer player and Captain of English Premier League club Arsenal, Granit Xhaka, was recently booed by fans in his home stadium as he was substituted in a match. The boos and yells caused him to yell at fans telling them to, "f**k off", before throwing his jersey on the ground and making his way to the tunnel. The list goes on and on of players lashing out at fans or breaking down because of the abuse they are receiving.

We are in a weird situation where people are unable to separate the athlete from the game and people are starting to hate athletes outside of what they do on the field. We have adults threatening and booing 18-year-old college kids because they played a bad game, forgetting that they are just kids. Forgetting that they have parents watching and hearing their child being publicly crucified for a game.

What is interesting is that despite the abuse that occurs while the player is on the field, and through their social media outlets, it would be difficult for fans to give the same abuse face to face with the player. This shows that there is a disconnect between the fans and who that player is outside of the context of sports. These players are regarded as gods, living lavish lives unimaginable to the mass majority of the world. Since these players have all the wealth in the world, an expectation is put on them to perform like it is the only part of their lives that truly matters. In a way it is forgotten that these are human beings, they are more than just athletes.