

## UWG’S first annual Film Festival



*Wildfire* dir. by Collin Lockett, Florida State University  
\*SSUFF Best Narrative Fiction Film Award Winner

Screening 2:30pm UWG Humanities 312 & 7:30pm Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

Photo: Collin Lockett & Stacy Barton

### Anndrea Ours

Editor-in-Chief  
aours1@gmail.com

The Southern Sunset Undergraduate Film Festival (SSUFF) is a new film festival for students around the southeast to share their films and screenplays. Created by UWG film students overseen by festival director Stacy Barton, SSUFF is composed of seven southeast regional states competing for awards in several categories.

“I feel like it will be exciting and varied; something that most of the audience members won’t have experienced before,” said Barton. “It’s free, so I’m excited for everyone to have access to it.”

Students competed for the titles in Narrative Fiction, Documentary, Experimental, Screenplay and Best UWG Film.

“We want to connect student filmmakers of the region with not only our student filmmakers here at UWG, but also with our local community here,” said Barton. “We want to offer free events, which promote not only student films, but short film and film festivals. It’s a culture and we want to build this community.”

SSUFF will hold their newly established annual event at UWG on Nov. 17 from 12:45 to 4 p.m. and at the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center from 5:30 to 9:15 p.m. The event will be split into two screenings at each venue.

In total, eight participating student filmmakers won prizes. The winner of the Best UWG Film category was senior Destyn Perry’s short film *Backwoodstock*, which will be shown at both venues during the awards blocks.

“Winners were chosen by our programing committee,” said Barton. “We had 11 student judges. They watched all of the films and scored them. The four films with the highest score in each category were put as semi-finalists. They did a re-vote, then they voted on their top two out of those and we came up with our winners.”

During each block, the audience will have a chance to vote for their favorite films. Audience members will write in their favorite film on a ballot and the student judging committee will tally up these votes to award one film with the Audience Choice Award.

Winners of the categories received plaques, and winners of the audience choice awards will receive a trophy.

During the day, the event begins in room 312 of the Humanities Building. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. The first block will feature short films and readings from screenplays, while the awards block features award winning student productions.

The event later shifts to the

Carrollton Cultural Arts Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the event will be similar to the one at UWG. However, the first screening will show a different set of films. The awards block will show the same films and screenplays featured during the awards block at UWG. However, the winning screenplay, *The Candyman Screenplay*, by Adrian Hargrave from Tennessee, which was not shown at the first awards block, will be read.

During all four screenings, Q&A sessions with the filmmakers and moderators will take place. Each filmmaker involved in the Q&A will answer three questions. It will take about 15 to 20 minutes in each block, with students asking insightful questions about the films.

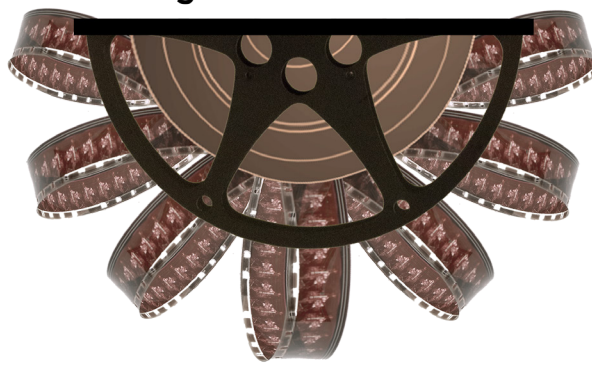
SSUFF is hopeful for the future and has big plans with their newly founded event. Barton and her students hope to establish a workshop for student filmmakers to attend next year, but for now they are happy with successfully establishing a film festival for UWG and Carrollton.

“This year we’re proud to actually have gotten off of the ground and we hope to get people in the seats,” said Barton. “We feel like if we can do that this year, we’ll have a really strong support system for next year to go all out. We have aspirations to do a two day festival.”

With Atlanta’s increasing involvement in the film industry, Barton and her students are working hard to put Carrollton on the map for filmmaking. “Really, the only venue to see short films are film festivals,” said Barton. “Atlanta does a huge film festival and shows a lot of amazing films there, but it’s in Atlanta. To bring that kind of experience to Carrollton is really awesome considering it’s a small town.” Admission is free for all who wish to attend.

## Southern Sunset

### Undergraduate Film Festival



Graphic: Stacy Barton & Ashley Young

## Raging wildfires affect West Georgia from a distance

### Daniel Forte

News Editor  
dforte1@my.westga.edu

UWG Students and other Carrollton natives were greeted by an unpleasant smoky smell caused by the North Georgia Wildfires late last week.

Visibility was reduced, and air quality suffered as a change in wind direction carried dust and ash particles towards metro Atlanta.

A number of isolated wildfires have sprung up in Georgia, Tennessee, and the western Carolinas due to the severe drought that is plaguing

the southeast. An increase in wind speed as well as a change in direction caused the smoke, ash and dust particles to drift into the metro and west Georgia areas.

The added particles in the air pose a risk to children and elderly who are exposed to the clogged air for an extended period of time.

According to the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH), the conditions can still be hazardous to young healthy adults, especially if they suffer from conditions such as lung disease, asthma or allergies.

“We especially urge parents and caregivers to pay

careful attention to children and older adults and seek medical care if needed,” said Jean O’Connor, director of Chronic Disease Prevention at the Georgia Department of Public Health. “Older adults are more susceptible to smoke because of their increased risk of heart and lung problems. Children’s airways are still developing and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults.”

Anybody outside in the smoky conditions need to be cautious, and listen to their body if it sends signs that it needs to be out of the smoke. Fatigue, shortness of breath and dizziness are symptoms of

wildfire smoke inhalation; even if you aren’t doing strenuous activity. Simply breathing in the smoke can cause harm to anybody’s respiratory system.

GDPH advises against wearing a paper or “comfort” mask, as they will have little to no effect. Those type of masks are for protecting from large particles such as pollen and sawdust. The ash and dust particles are too small to be filtered by a mask.

As far as the fires go, they will continue to spread as the wind keeps up and the rain stays away. According to Wendy Burnett, spokesperson for the Georgia Forestry Commission, the wildfires in

the state are only 11 percent contained.

The simplest thing that can help the firefighters and Georgia’s crops and cattle is rain. However, according to the National Weather Service, the best chance Georgia has for rain this week is Sunday, Nov. 20, which is still a measly 40 percent.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, nearly a third of the state is in a level four drought, the highest of its category. Over eight million people in Georgia are in a state of drought, and unless some rain falls, the drought and the wildfires will continue to spread.





# Donald Trump wins presidential race

**Kate Croxton**  
Asst. Copy Editor  
kcroxto1@my.westga.edu

Well, it's all over. Donald J. Trump, former reality TV star and businessman, will be the 45th president of the United States. He beat former First Lady, senator and Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton on Tuesday, Nov. 8, during the 2016 Presidential Election. Clinton conceded the election via phone early Wednesday, Nov. 9, and Trump gave his victory speech shortly after. Trump, the oldest president elected to a first term, is also the first president without a military or public office background. Trump won 279 electoral votes, crossing the needed 270 mark with Wisconsin, while Clinton received 228 electoral votes.

While these numbers will change over the following weeks, it is becoming clear that while Trump won the election, Clinton is projected to win the popular vote, which would make her the fifth presidential candidate to win the popular vote but lose the election. So far, she has gathered 47.7 percent while Trump has won 47.5 percent.

These close numbers were seen in the state's voter numbers as well. Trump won seven of the 11 swing states, including Florida, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, all being major key battleground states. However, of the 11 swing states, seven were within one to two points of going to the other candidate. Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wyoming and New Jersey were within one point of switching parties while Colorado and Nevada were within two points.

Even non-swing states, like Maine and Minnesota, were close calls, with Maine being within almost 22,000 votes. Florida, the first of the 11 swing states to have votes tallied, was an ongoing battle between the two candidates before being announced a victory for Trump, a must-have in order to help him win the presidency.

Georgia itself was a tight race. Eventually winning 51.3 percent of the vote towards Trump, numerous counties were torn between Clinton and Trump. According to politico.com, Carroll County had 68.5 percent of the votes for Trump, 28.4 percent for Clinton and 3.1 percent for Independent candidate Gary Johnson.

Overall, turnout rates for voters was the lowest since the 2000 election. Only 112 million Americans voted, and people under 30 made up only 19 percent of that vote, according to the New York Times. While Clinton showed a slight lead in the polls prior to election night, it wasn't enough to guarantee her the presidency, which would have made her the first female president.

Reactions from Clinton, Trump and current President Barack Obama appear to call for unitedness. While Clinton was originally scheduled to deliver her speech at the Jacob Javits Center following Trump's acceptance as president, she eventually delivered her concession speech the next morning on Nov. 9. She offered to work with Trump but expressed her sorrow in losing the election.

"I am sorry that we did not win this election for the values we share and the vision we hold for our country," said Clinton in the Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel. "Being your

candidate has been one of the greatest honors of my life. This is painful and it will be for a long time.

"Donald Trump is going to be our president," continued Clinton. "We owe him an open mind and a chance to lead. I hope that he will be a successful president for all Americans."

Obama also expressed these thoughts when he gave his speech from the White House's Rose Garden. He announced his congratulations to Trump as well as his invitation for Trump to visit the White House to guarantee a "successful transition" in presidency.

"We are all on one team," said Obama. "We are Americans first."

While Obama expressed his pride for Clinton and her "historical" campaign, he did acknowledge the fierceness of the presidential election and shared a message with millennials.

"This is the nature of campaign, the nature of democracy – it's hard," explained Obama. "Stay encouraged. Don't get cynical. Don't ever think you can't make a difference."

Trump's acceptance speech, which took place at 3 a.m. in the New York Hilton Midtown, extended the idea of a united country. Trump's Vice President Michael Pence, governor of Indiana, stood behind Trump along with Trump's son Barron Trump.

"It is time for us to come together as one united people," stated Trump. "No dream is too big, no challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach."

Trump even called for some peace and cooperation.

"We will seek common ground, not hostility; partnership, not conflict," said Trump. "While the campaign is

over, our work on this movement is now really just beginning."

Trump ultimately pledged to "be president for all Americans."

However, all three speeches have not gained as much attention as CNN political commentator Van Jones when he expressed his hurt at the "whitelash" seen with Trump's election.

"This was a whitelash against a changing country," said Jones. "It was a whitelash against a black president in part. And that's the part where the pain comes."

"Donald Trump has a responsibility tonight to come out and reassure people that he is going to be the president for all the people he insulted and offended and brushed aside," concluded Jones.

Jones is not alone in expressing his fear for the future of this country. Only time will show if Trump moves to eradicate Obamacare, build a wall against Mexico and call for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States," three significant topics that were controversial between Trump and potential voters. His economic, social and ethnic nationalism will either grow or dissipate over the coming months.

This presidential election, one of the most disputable in our country's history, focused on Trump's eccentric personality and many disrespectful statements and Clinton's continued FBI investigation into her emails. It eventually came down to the 70-year-old celebrity beating out Clinton throughout a close presidential election. We shall have to wait and see if Trump will indeed follow through on his numerous promises to "make America great again."



Photo: New York Times

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uwgads@gmail.com

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## THE WEST GEORGIAN

**Daniel Forte**  
NEWS EDITOR

**Anndrea Ours**  
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**Kate Croxton**  
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**John Sewell, Ph. D.**  
ADVISOR

**Robert Moody**  
CIRCULATION MANAGER

The University of West Georgia  
University Community Center, Room 111

Carrollton, GA, 30118-0070  
Editorial Line: (678) 839-6527  
Advertising Manager: (678) 839-6588  
Editorial E-mail: uwgeditorinchief@gmail.com  
Advertising E-mail: uwgads@gmail.com

Online at:  
[www.thewestgeorgian.com](http://www.thewestgeorgian.com)



# news

## Russia eyes better ties with Trump; says contacts underway

**Jim Heintz & Matthew Lee**

*Associated Press*

Top Russian diplomat and Vladimir Putin's spokesman said Thursday that Russian experts were in contact with some members of President-elect Donald Trump's staff during the presidential campaign, a period in which the United States accused Russia of hacking into Democratic Party emails systems.

A spokeswoman for Trump denied the assertion, but it raised the ongoing suspicions about the president-elect's relationship with Putin's government that had dogged his campaign with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Russia is hopeful that a Trump presidency will herald improved relations with the United States. But, in a sign of the cold realism that Putin is known for, Moscow is not betting on an immediate drastic turnaround in the strained relationship.

And while Trump himself has said he wants to be friends with Russia and join forces in the fight against terrorism, he has outlined few specifics as to how he would go about it. President Barack Obama began his presidency with a similar goal, only to

see progress unravel over the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told The Associated Press in an interview in New York that Russian experts had contacts with people in both the Trump and Clinton campaigns. He said such contacts are "quite natural, quite normal."

"And our experts, our specialists on the U.S., on international affairs ... Of course they are constantly speaking to their counterparts here, including those from Mr. Trump's group," Peskov said.

"Of course, it's quite natural that Russian experts are trying to maintain the dialogue with people from different camps. It's very important to understand the main streams, and understand the main tendencies, nuances and the positioning of different parties, different camps here in the United States," he said.

Peskov said Russia has "a very good relationship" with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and relationships with some academics and U.S.-Russia experts involved in foreign policy, which he also called "normal." Earlier, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as telling the Interfax news agency that "there were contacts" with influential people in Trump's circle. "I don't say that all of them, but a whole array of

them supported contacts with Russian representatives."

Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks denied such contacts.

"It never happened," she said. "There was no communication between the campaign and any foreign entity during the campaign."

Hicks also said there are no meetings planned between Peskov and Trump or anyone with the campaign.

Among Trump's inner circle was Paul Manafort, a longtime Republican operative who'd advised a pro-Russian Ukrainian political party before its ouster over alleged corruption. Manafort left the campaign after those contacts were made public.

The U.S. government believes Putin might have interfered in the presidential election. The intelligence community has concluded that Russia was responsible for hacking into the emails of the Democratic National Committee and Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and gave them to WikiLeaks, which released them. Some embarrassed and damaged the Clinton campaign.

In his comments, Ryabkov was careful not to overpromise.

"We do not feel any euphoria," he said, recalling ups and downs in the Washington-Moscow

relationship under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

"We wouldn't like our public ... to have an impression that we are full of some rosy expectations. I have to say that the judgments about Russia aired by members of the Trump campaign and people from his entourage were quite tough. And we didn't see any reason to revise our view that the election campaign in the U.S. in fact saw a bipartisan anti-Russian consensus."

Still, speaking with the careful phrasing befitting the spy he once was, Putin has made it clear he expects a great deal from Trump. And, Trump has suggested he wants a far more transactional relationship with Putin than Obama has had.

Trump's rise to the White House puts two men into seats of global power who are paradoxically both remarkably similar and wildly different.

Trump's praise of the Russian president as a strong leader, his suggestion that the U.S. could abandon its NATO commitments and his vehement complaints about allegedly biased news media all appear to parallel Putin's view of the world.

Trump has repeatedly called for better relations with Russia, frequently musing about a rosy world in which Russia and the U.S. get

along. On Wednesday, Putin did the same, hoping that the "degraded" relations between the two countries would improve once Trump takes over. Putin noted, however, that the tension "is not our fault."

Trump made no specific mention of Russia in his first post-election comments but made clear that he wants good relations with all nations "willing to get along with us."

Putin would be pleased if the U.S. dropped the sanctions imposed for Russia's annexation of Crimea and its involvement in the continuing war in eastern Ukraine. That could appeal to Trump's sense that he is the master of the deal.

"I believe that Trump is a practical man; he will lift sanctions on Russia that are harmful to U.S. business," Putin aide Sergei Glazyev told the state news agency Tass.

The U.S. sanctions have been a strong factor in Russia's economic decline over the past two years, along with a plunge in prices for oil, its major export.

Lee reported from Washington. Associated Press writers James Ellingworth and Kate de Pury in Moscow and Jonathan Lemire and Edith M. Lederer in New York contributed to this report.

## Big victories for legal pot, but path ahead is uncertain

**Paul Elias**

*Associated Press*

The number of Americans living in states with recreational marijuana more than tripled after at least three states voted to fully legalize the drug. But the election of Republican Donald Trump and GOP majorities in the Senate and House tempered advocates' excitement about an easing of federal restrictions.

"There is a massive sense of momentum, and this will put a lot of pressure on the federal government," said Ethan Nadelmann, founder of the nonprofit Drug Policy Alliance, a pro-legalization group. What gives him "real concern" is Trump.

Nadelmann and other advocates say the president-elect is "unpredictable," and they are unsure where he stands on marijuana issues, though Trump has said in the past that he supports state laws legalizing medical marijuana.

Still, analysts and advocates alike say, the industry may be too big and valuable for a Trump administration to stop, especially after California voters legalized the recreational use of marijuana.

Seven states have now legalized recreational pot, and a recent Gallup poll showed close to 60 percent of Americans support the idea.

Colorado, where stores began legally selling recreational pot in 2014, reported almost \$1 billion in legal pot sales last year. Arcview Market Research, which tracks the marijuana industry, estimates that legal annual California pot revenues could exceed \$7 billion by 2020.

"The black market will not disappear overnight," said California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who helped craft the state's ballot measure. But he said the illegal market will shrink significantly if California can establish its marijuana regulations without federal interference.

"This is the beginning of the end of the war on marijuana in the United States," said Newsom, who is running for governor.

Todd Mitchem, a Denver-based marijuana industry consultant and lobbyist, said the pot business should expect an infusion of new interest from investors and would-be marijuana growers and retailers.

"It's going to be huge," said Mitchem, who pointed out that Colorado's pot industry is worth \$1 billion a year but the state has only about a tenth of California's population. "Economically, you're going to see a lot more people enter the space and a lot more money enter the space."

Other states, too, will also look with envy at the taxes generated by California and other states where marijuana is legal, analyst predicted.

"The states that voted yesterday have a lot of work ahead of them to set up a legalization and tax structure, but I expect many more states will follow their lead," said Joseph Henchman of the Washington, D.C., think tank Tax Foundation.

Even the financial industry's reluctance to do business with marijuana businesses may soon disappear. Most banks refuse marijuana-related customers because of the federal ban.

"It is one thing to ignore the millions generated in Colorado. It is entirely a different thing to ignore the tens of billions that the California cannabis industry will generate," said Michael Weiner, a Denver lawyer who represents pot-related companies. "The big national banks will want to deposit those funds and put those funds to work by making loans."

Northern California farmers said they hoped Trump would recognize the business benefits of legalized pot and leave alone the states where it is allowed.

Recreational marijuana is "going to attract a lot of business," said Nikki Lastreto, a Northern California pot grower. "If the Trump thing wasn't hanging over our head, we'd be in heaven."

Associated Press Writer Kristen Wyatt in Denver contributed to this story

## Charges dropped against pair who filmed pipeline protest

**Gene Johnson**

*Associated Press*

Prosecutors have dropped charges including burglary and sabotage against two filmmakers who recorded a protest at an oil pipeline in Washington state last month.

The filmmakers, Lindsey Grayzel of Portland, Oregon, and Carl Davis of Orcas Island, Washington, say they were working on a documentary about climate activist Ken Ward on Oct. 11 when Ward broke through a fence and turned a safety valve along the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline near Burlington. Ward also livestreamed his actions.

The three were among 11 people arrested that day amid attempts to shut down oil pipelines in Washington, North Dakota, Minnesota and Montana in solidarity with those protesting the four-state Dakota Access pipeline project in North Dakota, said Jay O'Hara, a spokesman for the environmental activism group Climate Disobedience Center.

Charges remain against the other nine, who include two people who were recording actions in North Dakota and Minnesota.

"It's good the charges against Lindsey and Carl have been dropped," O'Hara said Monday. "But everyone knew they were taking this sort of risk. These folks aren't looking to get out of consequences."

In an order signed Friday, the Skagit County Prosecutor's Office said it needs more time to investigate and could re-file the charges, which defense attorneys had challenged on a number of grounds, including

free-speech rights.

Trans Mountain said Monday it had no comment.

Grayzel and Davis each faced felony counts of burglary, sabotage and assemblage of saboteurs, as well as a misdemeanor count of trespassing. They also had camera equipment, footage and phones seized, only some of which has been returned, Grayzel said Monday. She said the 34 hours she spent in custody and the prospect of prosecution has a chilling effect on independent journalists covering climate change and political dissent.

"My main concern is climate change, and Ken is someone who doesn't just worry about it, but is willing to go to jail to take a moral stand," she said.

The protesters called pipeline company officials ahead of time to warn them about their actions, and workers shut down four of the targeted sites before protesters reached the valves. The pipeline targeted by Ward wasn't operating at the time of his attempt.

The Standing Rock Sioux tribe, whose reservation straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border, has been fighting along with other tribes and environmental groups to stop the completion of the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline, saying it would threaten the water supply for millions of people.

Supporters say the pipeline will have safeguards against leaks, and is a safer way to move oil than trucks and trains.

More than 260 people have been arrested since major demonstrations against the pipeline began in August.



# Taco Bell closed for second remodel

**Amber Mack**  
Contributing Writer  
amack3@my.westga.edu

Taco Bell in East Carrollton closed for its second remodel. On Monday, Oct. 24, the establishment was seen with “Closed for Remodel” on the Taco Bell sign post. CW Hayes will complete the remodel, and workers have been seen on the premises. The Taco Bell “Bell” has already been removed.

Kathy Evans, the assistant manager at Taco Bell, said the building needed another remodel. The first remodel occurred some time in 2015.

“The building was outdated and needed to be updated to a more modern look,” said Evans. “Unlike the previous remodel, this one includes the kitchen.”

Evans is not completely sure on the extent of the remodel.

“I know the dining

area will be more open and completely repainted with all new flooring, tables and lighting,” said Evans. “The repainting also includes the outside, entire kitchen area and the ceiling is being replaced or repainted.”

According to demolition plans found online, everything in the dining area will be removed and replaced with new furnishings. The building will be painted a Grizzle Grey, Iron Ore and Natural Choice. The floor plan will be open with a bar and family style seating.

According to Taco Bell’s Newsroom, in May, the fast food chain released that it is testing four new restaurant designs – Cali Sol, Urban Edge, Modern Explorer and Heritage – as part of their expansion plan to be more locally focused. The designs include features like exposed brick and faux fireplaces.

“I think the remodel will be better for the community,” said Evans. “Our business has been increasing, and I think, with a more modern look, it

will definitely be an attraction, especially being located in a college town.”

Hopefully the new remodel will be one of the four that Taco Bell has unveiled. As of now, the Taco Bell on Bankhead Highway remains closed until the kitchen is

ready, then they will reopen partially for drive-thru service only. Evans gave an estimate as to when the kitchen and eating area will be complete.

“We’re hoping the timeline for the kitchen will be another week, then another three weeks to finished our

dining area,” said Evans.

The chain is set to reopen after Thanksgiving, but it may take longer with this extensive remodel. As for now, visit the second Carrollton location on Highway 27 across from Walmart to fulfill those late night cravings.



# Hibachi Express comes to Carrollton

**Ze’Nia Middlebrooks**  
Contributing Writer  
zmiddle1@my.westga.edu

New restaurants emerge in the city of Carrollton often. However, there are not many restaurants that serve hot, fresh Hibachi in a matter of minutes.

Hibachi Express opened in early October on Bankhead Highway. Without any advertising, this restaurant has had great business and been very busy. During the weekends, the lines extend past the door and the drive-thru wraps around the restaurant.

What makes this restaurant popular is a small change in traditional hibachi. Instead of cooking the food right in front of customers, fresh meat and vegetables are cooked in the kitchen.

However, Hibachi Express’s kitchen includes the same large skillet that appears in the fancy restaurants. It only takes minutes for the meal because there is no extra talents while cooking either.

“The restaurant that cooks in front of you charges you more, but since we cook it in the back, it’s cheaper,” said manager Caitlyn

Yang.

Of course, Carrollton is a small town which means that when a new restaurant comes about it doesn’t go unnoticed.

“I just saw it driving by, and I thought I should try it,” said a customer who identified himself as Jerry.

Jerry gives this restaurant an 8 out of 10. When he comes here on his lunch, he chooses either hibachi chicken or the General Tso’s chicken.

“I actually saw this restaurant across the street with the coming soon sign so I had to give it a shot,” said a customer named Mike. “This is more casual and the smell is appealing.”

Mike also eats at Hibachi Express during the lunch hour and thinks that Chinese takeout is boring. There are not many Japanese restaurants in Carrollton. Similar to Jerry, he enjoys the General Tso’s chicken. Mike enjoys the sweet and sour chicken even though he thinks it is a little heavy on the sauce.

“Everybody loves everything, but we get more orders of the teriyaki chicken entrée,” hiring manager Cedaveya Ikhera said. “This restaurant is quick which means you do not have to sit and wait for your food. It is pretty good quality food with a good price.”



# UWG to offer new film course

**Ashlyn Fluker**  
Contributing Writer  
afluker1@my.westga.edu

UWG will offer a new film course for students next semester. The creators of the Georgia Film Academy (GFA) came to UWG Nov. 1. Executive director Jeff Stepakoff and Director of Strategic Partnership Greg O’Bradovich came to encourage students to enroll in Film 1000 at UWG.

The class teaches students the ins and outs of working in film production. It is a beneficial course for students wanting a career in film and production. UWG is one of the four universities the class is offered at along with Kennesaw State University, Clayton State University and Columbus State University.

Being that Georgia is becoming the place to be for filmmaking, currently ranked third in the nation and fifth in the world according to Georgia.com/Entertainment, the GFA wants to prepare students in different fields of production. According to Stepakoff, GFA has worked with a number of different television shows and movies.

“We provide sets for *The Walking Dead* and the *Hunger Games* movies,” stated Stepakoff.

Many who have already studied the industry still try to come and work for GFA.

“If you want to meet different celebrities and see your work come to life, this is definitely the place for you,” stated Stepakoff.

Stepakoff continued to stress the fact that students who complete the course usually come out with a job and a starting salary of \$84,000.

While anyone can register for these classes, GFA prefers students because the industry is always growing. With growth comes traveling. O’Bradovich says that being older and working in the industry takes a toll when you have a family, which is why GFA wants to train and hire students.

“Older students are not shamed out of applying, but students are always on their feet, working more hours. This could take a toll on an older student.” Says O’Bradovich,

GFA is planning to expand to other schools across Georgia, such as the University of Georgia and Georgia State University. Stepakoff stated how desperate they were for students, ensuring them a set salary and the possibility of making connections.

“What we’re trying to do is put Georgia, specifically Atlanta, as an ‘above the line’ community,” stated Stepakoff. “New York and Los Angeles have things such as writers rooms. You haven’t see a writers room in Atlanta.”

A writers room is important because that is where the ideas come from. It consists of different writers spewing ideas for their sitcom or movie,

“Since they’re all in New York or Los Angeles, there should be some in Atlanta, being that all of our production is here,” stated Stepakoff.

With this course, students will go through a session for the semester. After successfully going through the session, they apply for a highly competitive scholarship. The first course allows students to learn basic skills used in on-set film productions.

Dan Kelly, one of the course instructors, states the purpose of these courses is to capitalize on the student’s talents.

“We are focusing on building a foundation around what the students are good at” stated Kelly.

Although the class is offered at UWG, students will have to drive to the Fayetteville Pinewood Studios once a week.



# sports

## Atlanta Hawks planning new D-League franchise in 2019-20

**Paul Newberry**

*AP Sports Writer*

With two stadiums already under construction and plans for a major arena renovation, the Atlanta metro area is getting yet another new sports facility.

The Hawks announced Thursday they are bringing an NBA Development League team to College Park, an inner suburb that is home to Atlanta's massive airport.

The D-League team will play at a 3,500-seat arena to be built adjacent to the Georgia International Convention Center. The cost of the project and how it will be funded were not been revealed by College Park officials, but the Hawks said they will be tenants in a city-owned facility.

The new team will begin play in the 2019-20

season. The Hawks said launching a D-League franchise was vital to player development, especially since it will be located only 8 miles from Philips Arena.

"From a basketball perspective, this is critical to our growth," coach Mike Budenholzer said, adding that players could "practice in the morning with the D-League team and play that night at Philips Arena for the Hawks. They may play one night for the Hawks and the next night for the D-League team. Those things can't happen unless you have a partnership and a team that close. So the location was huge for us."

Two Atlanta teams are moving into new stadiums next season that carry a combined price tag of more than \$2 billion — at least \$600 million of which will be funded by taxpayer dollars.

The Braves of Major League Baseball are relocating to SunTrust Park, which is nearing completion in suburban Cobb County. It will replace 20-year-old Turner Field near downtown Atlanta, leaving it to be downsized and converted into a new football stadium for Georgia State University.

The Falcons are departing the Georgia Dome after this season. That facility, which opened in 1992, is being replaced by a lavish retractable-roof stadium next door.

In addition, the Hawks last week announced a nearly \$200 million renovation of 17-year-old Philips Arena that will be paid for largely with city funding, after previously breaking ground on a new practice and training facility near Emory University.

Now, the D-League

is coming to an arena near Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest airport.

"I feel like I've been saying how excited I am about a lot of things the last couple of weeks and months," Budenholzer said. "It's kind of mind-boggling."

He pointed out that key Hawks players such as Kent Bazemore, Dennis Schroder and Tim Hardaway Jr. spent time in the D-League, not to mention general manager Wes Wilcox and assistant coaches Darvin Ham and Taylor Jenkins.

Hardaway is a prime example of how valuable the D-League is, according to Budenholzer. The guard struggled after being acquired by the Hawks, but several stints in the minors helped him turn things around. He's become a leading contributor

off the bench in his second season with Atlanta, scoring 11 points Wednesday in a victory over Chicago and averaging 11.4 to help the Hawks get off to a 6-2 start.

"Did you see Hardaway play last night?" Budenholzer asked. "My man was ballin'. You're going to see things like that in College Park."

Former NBA star Grant Hill is a part-owner of the Hawks, coming aboard when Tony Ressler bought the team in 2015. Hill said owning a D-League affiliate was always one of the top priorities for the new ownership group.

"We are excited about showcasing and displaying and ultimately nurturing the players of tomorrow," Hill said. "The players of tomorrow who will get a chance to develop right in our backyard, right in the city of College Park."

## Braves acquire All-Star knuckleballer

**Charles Odum**

*Associated Press*

R.A. Dickey was won over by an Atlanta Braves sales team that included two Hall of Famers, including a fellow knuckleballer.

Dickey said he knew the Braves would be a good fit after meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, with a group that included manager Brian Snitker, general manager John Coppolella and two Hall of Famers — former manager Bobby Cox and knuckleballer Phil Niekro.

"I had a great feeling then there was great hope I would be able to join the organization," Dickey said Thursday after agreeing to a one-year contract with an \$8 million guarantee.

He considers Niekro to be part of the "Jedi council of knuckleballers" who influenced his career.

"Phil and I have a good relationship," Dickey said. "I consider him a friend. We filmed a documentary together."

He gets a \$7.5 million salary next year, and the Braves have an \$8 million option for 2018 with a \$500,000 buyout. The deal for the 42-year-old right-hander, the first of the 157 free agents to switch teams this offseason, is subject to a successful physical, tentatively planned for late next week.

Dickey said he had the Braves near the top of a short list

of prospective teams. He noted the short travel distance — "3 hours, 15 minutes from doorstep to doorstep" — from his home to Atlanta was a big factor.

"I've grown up a Braves fan and have always admired the organization," Dickey said.

Dickey said having four children ages 14 and younger kept retirement an option if he did not find interest from the right team.

Dickey had a career-high 20 wins and won the NL Cy Young in 2012, his final season with the New York Mets. The right-hander spent the last four years with the Toronto Blue Jays, going 10-15 with a 4.46 ERA this year.

Dickey said the velocities on his knuckleball "were as high as they've ever been" and he expects to pitch 200 innings in 2017.

No one had double-figure wins for Atlanta this year, prompting Coppolella to say he will pursue at least two established starters on the free-agent market. Julio Teheran heads a rotation projected to include Josh Collmenter.

Dickey is 110-108 with a 4.01 ERA in his career. He logged at least 200 innings five straight seasons from 2011 to 2015. Since 2010, his 1,441 innings rank ninth in the majors.

He said it was a challenge to pitch in the AL East's small parks and said the rebuilding Braves' potential in their new SunTrust Park in suburban Atlanta was a selling point.

**Johnny Jorgensen**

*Contributing Writer*

*jjorgen1@my.westga.edu*

The West Georgia Wolves ended their season against the West Florida Argonauts. After a season filled with such high hopes, National Championship aspirations ended in an ended earlier than most would have expected. The Wolves were plagued with injuries, turnovers and a lack of chemistry for most of the year. As a result, they missed the playoffs for the first time since Head Coach Will Hall came to UWG from West Alabama.

The 2016 team started the season as the second ranked team in Division II football and the favorites to win the Gulf South Conference for the second year in a row. Upon kicking the season off on Sept. 3, they looked to remain that way with a dominate 23-3 win over a ranked Catawba. The offense had room for improvement, to say the least. However, the Wolves defense appeared better than ever.

On Sept. 10, UWG saw much of the same against Miles College. The Wolves offense allowed two fumbles and two interceptions. Despite the carelessness with the football, the defense, again, stood tall in a 29-0 beat down, resulting in the fourth shutout under Coach Hall's tenure.

The Wolves opened conference play against perennial powerhouse Delta State on Sept. 17. The Statesmen jumped to a 12-0 lead in the second quarter. The Wolves fought back from special teams struggles with special team plays of their own, blocking a punt and having cornerback Laronji Vason scoop-and-score. Vason's touchdown sparked the team, and gave UWG their first lead of the game. UWG quarterback Will Gardner fed off that momentum, having his best day in a Wolves uniform as he threw four touchdowns. The Wolves went on to a 34-24 victory.

UWG played their first of three straight road games against Albany State (ASU) on Sept. 24. The Wolves were favored by 24 points according to D2football.com and came out on their opening drive with an early lead. The Golden Rams, however, would not lay down lightly and would only be down 27-14 at half. ASU incredibly shut the Wolves out in the second half, and the Wolves escaped South Georgia with a 27-23 win.

The Wolves suffered three straight conference losses to North Alabama, Valdosta State and West Alabama. North Alabama beat the Wolves in heartbreaking fashion 24-23 due to a missed field goal in the last second of the game. Valdosta State beat up the Wolves' defense and forced turnovers throughout the game in a 38-27 upset. West Alabama gave UWG their first loss at home since Oct. 19, 2013, in a game that shut Coach Hall's offense out for the first time since arriving at UWG in a 31-7 upset where the only points for the Wolves came off of a pick six. During those three losses UWG turned the ball over 13 times and gave up an average of 31 points a game.

When Homecoming kicked off, the Wolves came out with a new game plan. They changed the quarterback and went back to the read option offense for the first time since last year. The offense clicked well against Mississippi College and freshman quarterback Willie Candler shined with three touchdowns in a 31-23 win against the Choctaws.

UWG took the road to Rome to take on Shorter University, where the offense again played lights-out football. The Wolves only turned the ball over one time and exploded on offense where they scored their most points on the season, in part because of a huge second half performance. The defense shined like they did earlier in the season, holding Shorter University to only 145 total yards and not allowing a single point for the second time this season. The Wolves played their best game by far, winning 44-0.

The UWG seniors took University Field for the last time against Florida Tech. Unfortunately for the Wolves, they were defeated for the second year in a row by the Panthers after a hard fought game that was marred by UWG turnovers.

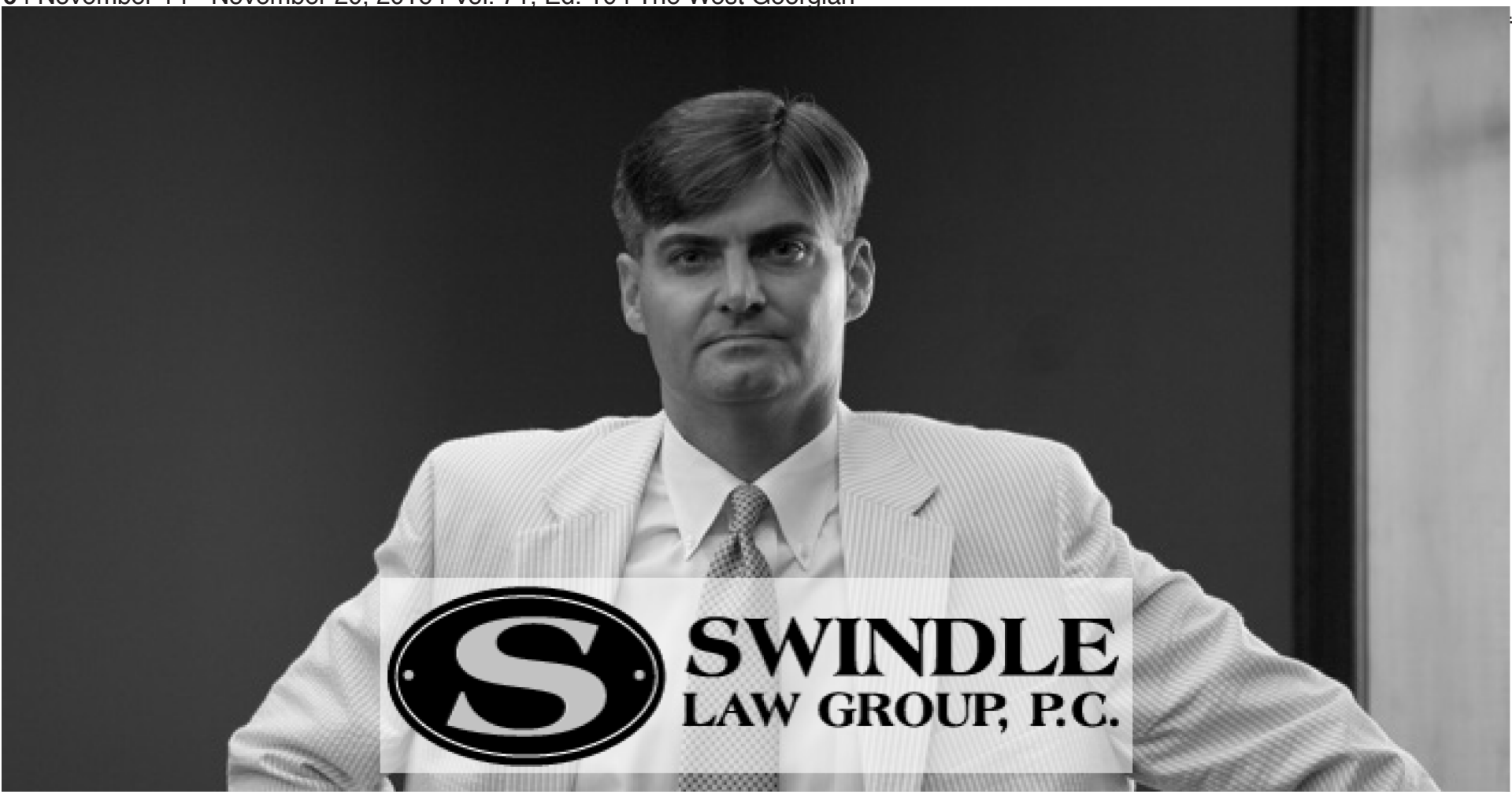
The 2016 Wolves had many great moments despite their early end to the season. They saw senior defensive end Dylan Donahue break the all-time UWG sack record, a feat he accomplished in only two years. The Wolves saw cornerback Marcus Sayles break his own blocked kicks record. They even watched the future of their program shine late in the season in young Willie Candler. Despite all these great accomplishments, 2016 will be remembered as a year of what-ifs. The Wolves had plenty of talent this year and will return many starters next year, but what if this was their year?

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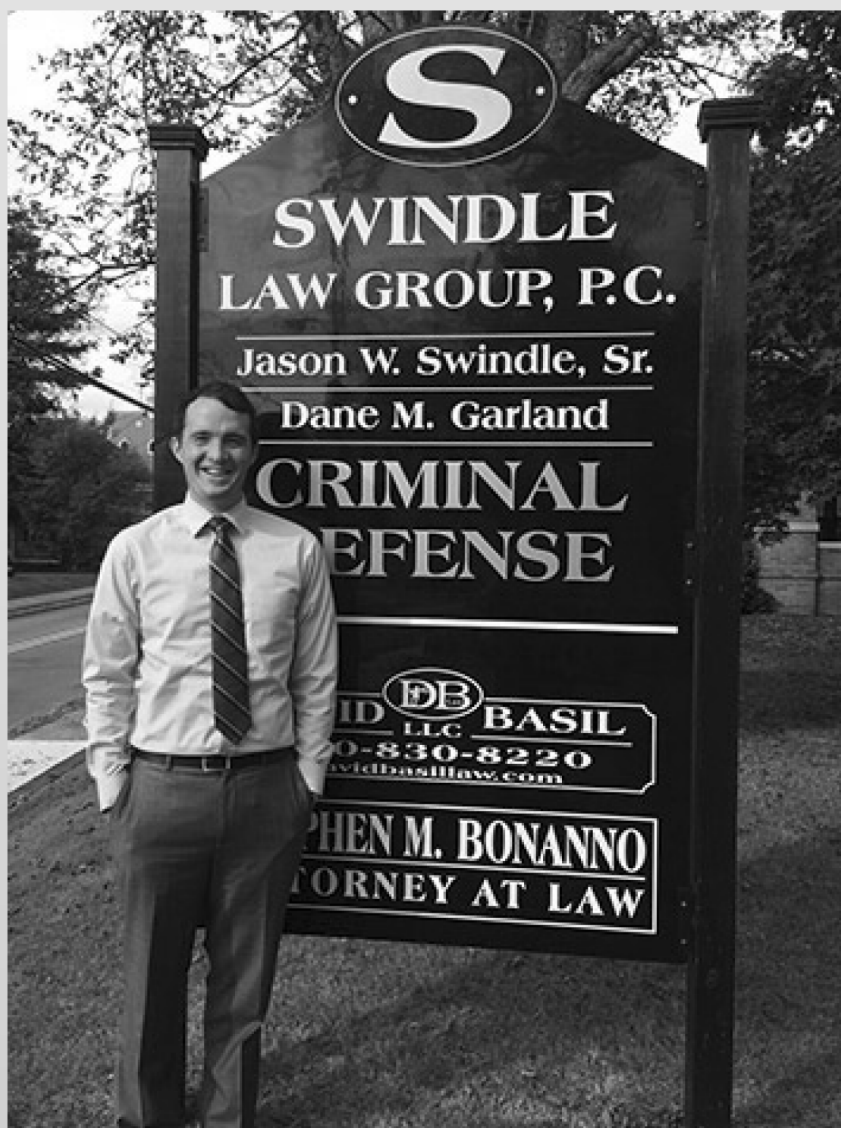
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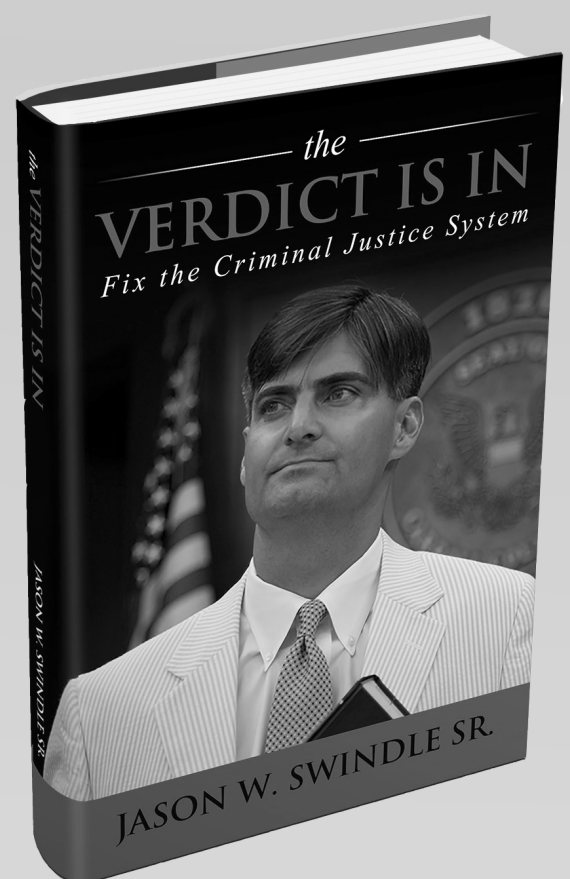
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## Nobel laureate Bob Dylan's artwork in major London show

Gregory Katz

*Associated Press*

The timing couldn't be better for Saturday's opening of "The Beaten Path," a major exhibit of Bob Dylan's artworks at the Halcyon Gallery on London's pricey New Bond Street.

Worldwide interest in the veteran American troubadour has soared after his surprising choice as this year's winner of the Nobel Prize in literature and the show is one of the most extensive displays ever mounted of his drawings, watercolors, acrylics and ironworks.

The 75-year-old singer has said he will accept the Nobel in person in Stockholm if he can fit it into his demanding tour schedule — and the gallery hopes he will stop off in London to visit the show.

"He obviously comes whenever he decides," said gallery president Paul Green, who knows it would be fruitless to press the elusive Dylan for a certain date. "We don't know whether he will come. We hope he will. He's been deeply involved in every aspect of this exhibition."

The extensive exhibit reflects growing appreciation for Dylan's art, which has been featured in gallery and museum shows in a number of countries in recent years.

The paintings at the London gallery reflect Dylan's nearly constant travels throughout the United States on the "never ending tour" that has consumed the last two decades of his life. The choice of subject matter reflects a deep affinity for the American scene, an abiding affection for its curious roadside attractions and respect for its industrial might.

Railways, skyscrapers, and

suspension bridges vie with deserted side streets and overgrown motels for his attention. This is an America of fairgrounds and circuses, forgotten crossroads and neglected cityscapes. The streets are filled with the bulky behemoths that were late 1950s automobiles — including a depiction of the Ford Edsel, a famous automotive failure.

Dylan writes in a preface that he chose to ignore corporate America: "The common theme of these works having something to do with the American landscape — how you see it while crisscrossing the land and seeing it for what it's worth. Staying out of the mainstream and traveling the back roads, free born style."

Dylan paints the Wigwam Motel in Arizona — guests can sleep in purported native-American style lodging — the Brooklyn Ice Cream factory at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City and the "Harem Slave" carnival sideshow in Alabama. There is a painting of the Paradise Motel looking anything but, its grounds in Florida overgrown and its buildings neglected.

It's a panoramic view of America similar to the one described in his kaleidoscopic 1975 song "Tangled Up In Blue." The sense is of Dylan as a solitary figure with a sketchbook, looking at the country from odd angles.

"Dylan was born in small town America," said Green. "He's done hundreds of tour dates for many, many years, and often played in the small towns. He takes the hot dog stand, or the motel, whether it's open or closed. It's his view of America. It harks back to the '50s and '60s — Jack Kerouac, the road — and how important the road is for all Americans. It shows really his love for America and all things American."

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