

UWG Organizations Encourage Students To Vote

Ze’Nia Middlebrooks

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Many organizations at UWG have been encouraging students since August to register to vote. With September being National Voting Month, UWG organizations Young Democrats and National Advancement Association of Colored People (NAACP) set out tables with brochures, laptops and voter registration forms in hopes of getting students registered to vote.

The last day to register to vote was Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016. Luckily, many students have registered to vote and are planning to be at the polls on election day.

Voter registration events not only took place in the grassy triangle, but also in Ingram Library, University Community Center and the Technology Learning Center.

NAACP’s goal was to reach a certain number of students to register to vote.

“We wanted to have 60 students register to vote at our first voters registration drive,” said Vice President of NAACP Jamal Legree. “We got 118 students to register.”

Voter registration is important to the college community because some students will be voting for the first time.

“We are the minority,” said Legree. “If you look into the numbers you will see that more adults are casting votes than students between the ages of 18-24. If we vote we will make a huge difference in this year’s election.”

College students should be a part of this decision in the 2016 Presidential Election.

“We are the future of this country, and policies implemented today will affect us as we leave college, get into our careers and potentially start our own families,” said Liaison of Young Democrats Darion Reed. “Our futures literally depend on this election.”

However, many students are not satisfied with this year’s candidates.

“This year’s election has brought in more turmoil it seems than when President Obama was running for office,” said Legree.

This fortunately did not stop students from showing an interest in voting, though. Students stopped by these organization tables, reading brochures and choosing an option to either vote electronically or by mail.

Location matters when registering to vote as a college student. Many students chose to vote in their college town, which will prevent students from traveling several miles to submit a poll. With part-time jobs, tests and loads of homework, voting day will be a stress-free task for students thanks to the help of UWG’s NAACP and Young Democrats.



Photos: Ze’Nia Middlebrooks



Up in Smoke: Majority of Americans Oppose Marijuana Prohibition

Daniel Forte

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America has seen dramatic changes in the prohibition of marijuana. With the right propaganda and unbiased research, facts have begun to change the minds of Americans. These changes have been spurred on by the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), the nation’s largest marijuana policy organization.

MPP is at the forefront of marijuana regulation. MPP has been responsible for most of the regulations that have already taken place in the US, most notably regulating the plant in Colorado.

A new poll conducted by the Pew Research Center shows the continuously growing number of Americans supporting the end of marijuana prohibition. 10 years ago, 32% of Americans supported ending the prohibition. After a decade of research and experience, 57% of Americans now support ending the

ban; a jump of 25% from 2006.

These figures are released right as five states are beginning to vote on legalizing and taxing marijuana for adult use. Early voting in Arizona, Maine and California started the week on Oct. 10. Voting in Massachusetts and Nevada begins early the week of Oct. 17.

Mason Tvert, director of communications for MPP, has been fighting hard for the end to marijuana prohibition.

“Marijuana prohibition laws were founded upon misinformation, so it comes as little surprise that support for them is now eroding so quickly,” said Tvert. “There is more credible information out there than ever before, and it has become increasingly accessible over the past decade. As people learn that marijuana is not as dangerous as they were once led to believe, they tend to be supportive of taking a new approach.”

But how would the end of prohibition affect a community where marijuana is regulated and legal? Would society suffer? Would the economy really benefit from the legalization of a Schedule I substance? Simply look to Colorado.

Public Policy Polling ran a

statewide survey among the citizens of Colorado, polling them on their opinion of Amendment 64, which made marijuana legal in the state. The poll shows more than half of Colorado voters believe the law has been good for the state. The poll also asked citizens about the economical impact of the amendment, which 61% of Colorado voters believe the amendment has a positive impact on the economy, whereas only 19% say it has a negative impact.

“Opponents of Amendment 64 told voters the state would fall apart if they approved Amendment 64, but they could not have been more wrong,” said Tvert. “They said it would hurt the economy, but the economy is booming. They said it would hurt tourism, but we have more visitors spending more money than ever. They said the rate of teen use would increase, but state officials confirm it has not. And they said it wouldn’t actually raise any tax revenue, but it has already exceeded expectations and generated tens of millions of dollars for schools and other important programs.”

There is no immediate plan of an amendment for Georgia, but voters can learn more about MPP at www.MarijuanaPolicy.org.

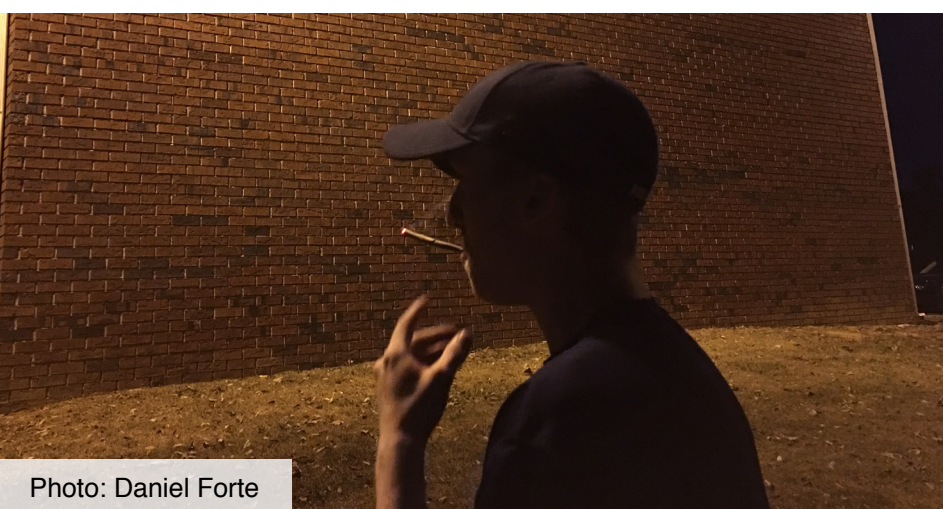


Photo: Daniel Forte

Black Lives Matter?

Cleopatra Job

Contributing Writer
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In 2016 you would think that racism would be an issue of the past. In 2016 you would think that you could be pro-black without being anti-white. In 2016 you would think that America would be a country of growth and equal rights. In 2016 you would think that a person of color could have an encounter with a police officer without it ending with a life being lost. Unfortunately, that is not the America we live in today.

There has been countless African American lives lost due to police brutality since 2014. Mike Brown, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Dontre Hamilton, Tanisha Anderson, Tamir Rice, and most recently Philando Castile and Alton Sterling just to name a few. In most of these cases when a black person has been unarmed, but still killed by police the people of America have seen no justice. What we have seen is the suspect, the officer, put on administrative leave.

These various incidents have made the black people of America feel as though we are not being heard. Because of this, various movements have been created such as the Hands Up Don't Shoot movement, and the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

On Sep. 21, a Black Lives Matter event was held in the Campus Center ballroom. Janaya Khan, the International Ambassador for the #BlackLivesMatter movement was the speaker. This event took place a couple of days after Philando Castile, and Alton Sterling were murdered by police officers. Firstly, events such as these are crucially important, considering all the incidents that have been occurring within the past couple of years. These events are especially important when you are a young African American college student that is attending a Predominantly White Institution (PWI), where events like this may not happen often.

Khan began her speech by addressing an incident that had occurred just a few moments before her speech with a student that wanted

to attend her speech and the students' professor. Khan went to the students' classroom to inform the professor on the importance of this event and why the student should be there seeing that she is African American. However, as Khan explained the professor did not seem to change his decision to let the student attend the event without her grade being penalized for her missing class. Khan explained that this is the very issue that we have in America right now. She informed the audience that the same issues are taking place in Canada as well. Khan then went on to describe personal racial situations that she has been in.

Khan described a time she was on a train and a white man yelled every racial slur at her that she had ever heard in her life. No one stood up for her and she did not stand up for herself. Ever since that day she has thought of various responses that she could have said to him. She explained to the students in attendance that we need to protect ourselves because no one knows when it will be their last day. Khan went on to inform the audience

that the #BlackLivesMatter movement is occurring in Canada as well. There is police brutality happening everywhere and it is important to be informed on things such as this because the media may not always expose the world to this.

This Black Lives Matter event was nothing less than liberating. It exposed the people in attendance to what is happening to people of color in America and all over the world. Khan attempted to help the audience be aware of the racial issues that still exist in the world, but she also empowered the audience by leaving us with a simple chant: "I believe that we will win."

It is important for people to know what some African Americans go through because we need to know how to get through it if we encounter it one day. These incidents of police brutality against African Americans is why it is important for events of black empowerment to occur. We, African Americans need to know how to protect ourselves against the hate that we may have to encounter one day.

living west

The Department of Music: Upcoming Events

Anndrea Ours

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UWG's Music Department is packing the final half of the fall semester with opportunities for students to listen and enjoy an array of musical performances.

Octubafest!:

UWG's Tuba Ensemble directed by Associate Instructor of Low Brass Cale Self will toot their horns Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 8:15 p.m. at the Outdoor Amphitheater at East Commons.

Saxophone Ensemble:

The sax players of UWG conducted by Professor of Music John Bleucl will make a joyful noise Monday, Nov. 7 at 8:15 p.m. in the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts.

Jazz Ensemble:

UWG's Jazz ensemble directed by Director of Jazz Studies Dan Bakos will jazz up the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Choral Concert:

UWG's chorus students directed by Department Chair Kevin Hibbard are set to serenade listeners Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 8:15 p.m. in the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts.

Percussion and Brass Ensemble:

Percussion Ensemble conducted by Instructor of Percussion Katie Byrd and Brass Ensembles conducted by Cale Self will perform Thursday, Nov. 17 at 8:15 p.m. in the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts.

Wind Ensemble:

UWG's Wind Ensemble conducted by Director of Bands Josh Byrd will bring their sweet tones and harmonies to the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Opera Scenes:

UWG opera and voice students directed by Assistant Professor of Voice Dawn Neely will take listeners on a musical journey through theatrical performed opera Thursday, Dec. 1 at 8:15 p.m. in the Kathy Cashen Recital Hall.

Dr. Singh Presents Lecture About All-Gender Restrooms

Annierra Matthews

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Dr. Anneliese A. Singh, Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the College of Education, presented a lecture on Oct. 13 at 3:30p.m. The lecture, titled "What if Trans Liberation was for Everybody?: The Importance of 'All-Gender' Bathrooms," took place in the Campus Center Ballroom.

She spoke to students about trans liberation in light of the incident that occurred in the Ingram Library weeks ago. On Sunday, Sept. 18, a UWG student removed temporary all-gender bathroom signs from single-occupancy restrooms.

During her presentation, she addressed the safety concern for transgender individuals using bathrooms. She displayed an image of a transgender person deciding which bathroom to use. If they use one bathroom, then they could face jail time. If they use the other, they could be harmed.

"Nearly 80 to 90 percent of trans people report being hurt in bathrooms," Dr. Singh said. "I want you to go to the last time you used the bathroom today. I want you to imagine feeling the anticipation that you might be hurt in that bathroom."

Her presentation highlighted the benefits of all-gender restrooms for everyone.

"Single-stall bathrooms are 100 percent good for people who identify as gender-queer and nonbinary, who really may not want to be using the bathroom with everyone else."

She also said these bathrooms can be helpful to people with disabilities, those who may need to inject medication and for mothers and fathers with children.

"For all of us, a single-stall bathroom can be our best friend," she said. "We need to have some privacy, right?"

Later, she described the elements of shared trans liberation and defined what liberation meant.

"It's the act or process of freeing someone or something from control," she said. "That's like the foundation of this country, right? The removal of traditional social, sexual roles, attitudes. It's kind of freeing yourself of stereotypes."

One element that can lead to trans

liberation was self-reflection. She wanted students to think about the stereotypes and roles they have been placed in because of their gender.

"I think for us, if we're going to get to shared gender liberation, we have to think about our gender deeply," she said. "And so, I want you, again, to think about who taught you to be a boy or a girl and how did you get out of those stereotypes."

"Think about right now," she also said. "What's one way you beat your own body up or judge yourself or kind of feel like you have to look and be a certain way? That's all related to what trans people go through as well."

Centering the margin or focusing on those who are oppressed was another way to liberation.

"We've got to figure out who are the people who are the gender outlaws, who are targeted, who are made fun of," Dr. Singh said. "If we can make this campus safer for them, guess what? This campus is going to be safer for everyone, right?"

She also touched on accountability. She mentioned taking a stand for what is right and wrong when it comes to injustice toward trans gender individuals. Students can also educate themselves and others about transgender issues.

"That matters, folks," she said. "It really does. And then we can start to support and encourage social justice and making sure that these things don't happen. That's what the bathrooms are about. It's about supporting and encouraging, and I would say even preventing. The bathroom, on multiple levels, is a public health issue when people don't feel like they can use it."

Afterwards, she expressed getting involved in discussions about inequality.

"We cannot be neutral, right?" she said. "And then we've got to be curious and learn about trans people's lives and the lives of people we love who have been hurt around gender. We've got to do that with curiosity and respect." The final component was healing.

"Trans people, their lives is not going to be made better by you helping them out," Dr. Singh said. "Trans people's lives are going to be made better when we all self-reflect on our own gender, how we've been hurt, how we've learned to live and be differently than we actually were born to be."

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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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Airlines Add ‘Fire Containment Bags’ for Overheating Phones

Scott Mayerowitz and David Koenig
Associated Press

Some airlines are taking extra steps to prevent a disaster in case a passenger’s device powered by a lithium ion battery catches fire during flight.

At least three U.S. airlines are adding new fire-suppression equipment to fleets in case a cellphone or laptop battery overheats, catches on fire and can’t be extinguished.

The issue has taken on new urgency following incidents of overheating Samsung Galaxy Note 7 phones, including one on a Southwest Airlines flight earlier this month.

The Federal Aviation Administration has taken the unusual step of warning passengers not to use or charge the devices while on board and not to stow them in checked luggage.

One of the first airlines to deploy fire-containment bags on its entire fleet was Alaska Airlines. The Seattle-based airline finished adding them to its 219 planes in May, a process that took two months from concept to deployment.

The bright red bags are made of a fire-resistant material and are designed to hold electronic devices such as mobile phones and laptops that can sometimes overheat and catch fire. The bags can be shut with Velcro and heavy-duty zippers and can withstand temperatures up to

3,200 degrees Fahrenheit. The sell for \$1,800 each but airlines are likely to have negotiated a bulk discount.

Virgin America has installed fire-containment bags on all its planes, said spokeswoman Jennifer Thomas. The airline, which is based in Burlingame, California, has about 60 jets.

Delta Air Lines noted Thursday on a call with investors that it too would be adding such bags. The Atlanta-based airline has more than 900 planes, all of which will eventually get the bags, depending on production speeds and the ability to train flight attendants and pilots.

The first priority will be the 166 aircraft that cross oceans, as well as some Boeing 757s used for domestic flights, according to spokesman Morgan Durrant. Those jets will have two bags each by the end of the year. In 2017, Delta plans to start adding the bags to its domestic fleet, including planes flown by its regional airline partners.

“This has been on the to-do list but has been accelerated by recent events,” Durrant said.

American Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines don’t have any immediate plans for fire containment bags but all said their crews are trained on how to fight such high-energy fires. Additionally, aircraft have been fitted with fire extinguishers in the cabin as well as other fire detection and suppression systems in cargo holds for decades.

Kemper Plant Makes Power With Gas From Coal for First Time

Associated Press

Mississippi Power Co. says that the power plant it’s building in Kemper County has generated electricity using gas produced from coal for the first time.

Atlanta-based Southern Co., the utility’s parent company, announced that the electricity was generated during a test Wednesday. The company says it used both the part of the plant that turns soft lignite coal into a synthetic gas, as well as the chemical plant that removes carbon dioxide and other chemicals.

Mississippi Power spokesman Jeff Shepard says one of two power generating turbines was fueled with up to half synthetic gas, while continuing to burn up at least half natural gas. The plant has been generating electricity using natural gas since 2014. Shepard says the plant will continue to generate electricity normally as tests continue, using natural and synthetic gas.

The \$6.8 billion plant, far over budget and behind schedule, is now supposed to be completed by Nov. 30. Mississippi Power must still start the second gasifier, synchronize the two units, and ramp up the feed of synthetic gas.

The Kemper plant is

supposed to burn coal while emitting as little carbon dioxide as a typical natural gas plant.

“The technology at the heart of the first-of-its-kind facility provides a way forward for energy companies in the U.S. and around the world to cleanly generate electricity using an affordable and abundant resource,” Southern Co. Chairman and CEO Thomas Fanning said in a statement.

For now, though Shepard said the carbon dioxide was vented into the atmosphere.

“There are specifications that must be met before the carbon dioxide can be placed in the carbon dioxide pipeline and sent to oil fields for use in enhanced oil recovery,” Shepard wrote in an email.

He said ammonia and sulfuric acid, the other two byproducts from the chemical plant, were collected and stored for sale.

The plant and associated coal mine were originally supposed to cost \$2.9 billion at most, and earliest estimates were lower. Customers could be asked to pay as much as \$4.2 billion. In December, the Mississippi Public Service commission allowed Mississippi Power to raise rates on its 186,000 customers by \$126 million a year to pay for \$1.1 billion worth of equipment already generating electricity.



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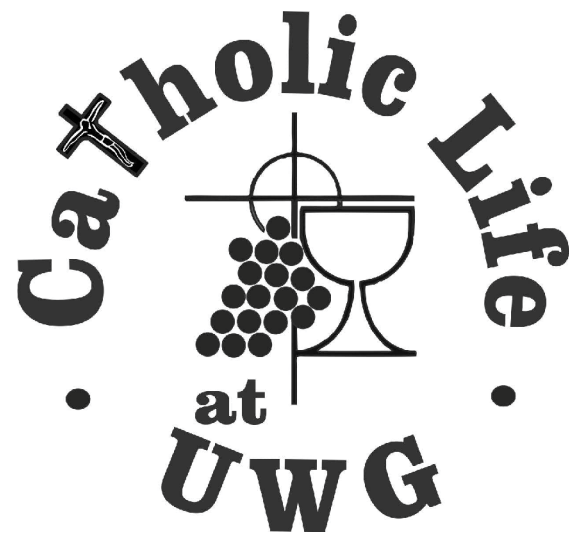
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Please follow “Southern Casting Associates” Facebook page for more casting calls and breakdowns coming soon!

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sports

Braves Close Turner Field with Win

Johnny Jorgensen

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The Braves ended their tenure at Turner Field with a 1-0 win against the Detroit Tigers October 2. The Atlanta Braves had a terrible season and were ranked in the bottom five of the Major League Power Index throughout the entire year, only going .500 in 1988 and last in their division. Though they had their shortcomings this year, this season was about saying goodbye to Turner Field.

Turner Field was built in preparation for the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. It was constructed next to the Fulton County Stadium, which at the time was the home of the Braves. Turner Field was made for the track and field event during the Olympics but would be turned into the baseball field for the Braves at the start of the 1997 MLB season. With the view of the downtown Atlanta skyline just over the outfield, fans were excited to fill the stadium and root on their hometown team.

Once the Atlanta Olympics were successfully completed, "The Ted" was then constructed for the upcoming baseball season to officially be the home of "the team of the 90s." The Braves were coming off of a 1995 World Series Championship, along with three other World Series runner up finishes. They earned a chance to host their first World Series inside the walls of Turner Field in 1999. In front of a packed house of just over 51,000 for both Game One and Game Two, the Braves lost both games at home in route to being swept by the New York

Yankees in one of the most lopsided World Series ever.

Turner Field was once again at the center of the Major League Baseball world in 2000 when it became the venue of the MLB All-Star Game. The first pitch was thrown by the true home run king and former Atlanta Braves Hall of Famer Hank Aaron. The National League team was managed by the Braves' Hall of Famer Bobby Cox. The game also featured five Atlanta Braves players, including Hall of Fame pitchers Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine. It also featured the fourth All-Star appearance for hometown hero Chipper Jones, who hit the game's only home run in front of a sold out crowd.

Since the All-Star Game, Turner Field saw the Braves make the playoffs nine more years, including a six year stretch where they won the National League East Division. Through that time they were not only the best in their division, but they were one of the best teams in the entire MLB. On Oct. 5, 2003, against the Chicago Cubs, Turner Field set the record for having the highest recorded attendance for a Major League Baseball Postseason Game.

In 2013, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed announced that the Braves were going to be moving away from Turner Field following the completion of the 2016 season. Their win against the Tigers not only ended Turner Field's time as a baseball stadium but also eliminated Detroit from the Playoffs. Following the conclusion of the game, nearly all of the 50,000 stayed hours later to say goodbye to the stadium they had come to know and love. Hank Aaron threw the last ever pitch to be thrown to Bobby Cox before they picked up the home plate and took it to the Braves new stadium.

"It's not bad news, or sad



Photo: Alyson LaRotonda

news, because we get to remember those great moments over the past twenty years of Braves baseball," stated Braves Vice Chairman John Schuerholz. "It's true the final curtain has fallen here, but let's not forget that the memories that we've made here

will last forever."

The Braves will start their season next year at SunTrust Stadium in Cobb County in April 2017. Georgia State University will take over possession of Turner Field and repurpose it into a football field.

Georgia Freshman QB Jacob Eason Still A Work in Progress

Paul Newberry

Associated Press Sports Writer

Jacob Eason has shown flashes of his enormous potential.

Then there are times when he looks very much like a freshman quarterback.

Like this past Sunday, when he threw for only 29 yards in Georgia's victory over South Carolina, the fewest passing yards by the Bulldogs since 1990.

Coach Kirby Smart shrugged off Eason's up-and-down play, saying that's to be expected when you're starting a guy right out of high school.

"He's had his wow moments and he's had his bad moments," Smart said Tuesday. "You know that you're going to inherently go through some of those. You've got to encourage, you've got to teach, you've got to improve him as a player so there's progress there."

The Bulldogs (4-2, 2-2 Southeastern Conference) are definitely counting on Eason to show improvement, beginning with Saturday's game against Vanderbilt. But they also realize it's not always going to be a steady progression.

There are going to be some bumps along the way, and Eason could be challenged again by a Commodores defense that it tied for fourth in the SEC in passing yards allowed (215.3 per game).

Smart never considered benching his quarterback in the 28-14 victory over the Gamecocks, even though he completed just 5 of 17 passes, with one touchdown and one interception.

The way the Bulldogs were running the ball — they piled up 326 yards behind Sony Michel, Nick Chubb and Brian Herrien — allowed them to largely control the tempo of the game, which never felt as close as the score might have indicated.

"I don't think that decision is based on statistics," Smart said. "It's based on your ability to execute and perform within the offense. Sometimes outside circumstances affect statistics, whether it's dropped balls, whether it's poor breakdowns in protection, whether it's tipped balls. There's a lot of things that affect that."

While Smart said every starting position is up for grabs on a weekly basis, he seems intent on going with Eason through thick and

thin. That means fifth-year senior Greyson Lambert, who started all but one game a season ago as well as this year's opening victory over North Carolina, is likely to remain on the bench for the rest of his college career.

Eason's poor performance was not entirely his fault. The game, which was delayed a day by Hurricane Matthew, was played in a strong breeze that appeared to affect some of his throws. There were also several drops, which has been a problem at times for Georgia's receiving corps.

But Smart said there are plenty of areas where Eason can improve.

"He's got to do better with his play-action fakes. He's got to be more detailed with his drops. He's got to be more exact in reading coverage. He's got to be able to communicate a little better," the coach said. "All of those things have been a work in progress since he got here. It's not like you're saying 'Oh, this is what he's not good at.' This is what he's got to improve on."

Smart credited Lambert with doing his part to help Eason learn the nuances of the college game.

"He meets extra with Jacob each week to go through coverages he sees and helps him learn how to study film, which is really important for a freshman," Smart said. "You've got to understand, these kids didn't study high school film like they have to study in college."

Eason's teammates haven't lost confidence in their young quarterback.

After all, he did come through with a 20-yard touchdown pass on fourth down to beat Missouri in the closing minutes, not to mention that 47-yard touchdown pass with just 10 seconds remaining against Tennessee, which would have pulled out another victory if not for the Volunteers completing a Hail Mary scoring pass on the final play.

"It's a learning curve," Michel said. "You've got to know what it feels like to not succeed before you succeed."

Notes: Defensive lineman Jonathan Ledbetter is expected to play for the first time this season against Vanderbilt. After two alcohol-related arrested during the offseason, Ledbetter served a six-game suspension. "He's handled everything we've asked him to do very well," Smart said. "We'll work him into the rotation. How much he'll play will depend on how he practices this week."

Atlanta Man Jailed for Selling Fake Texas A&M Tickets

Associated Press

An Atlanta man has been jailed and charged with selling counterfeit tickets to Saturday's Texas A&M football game against Tennessee.

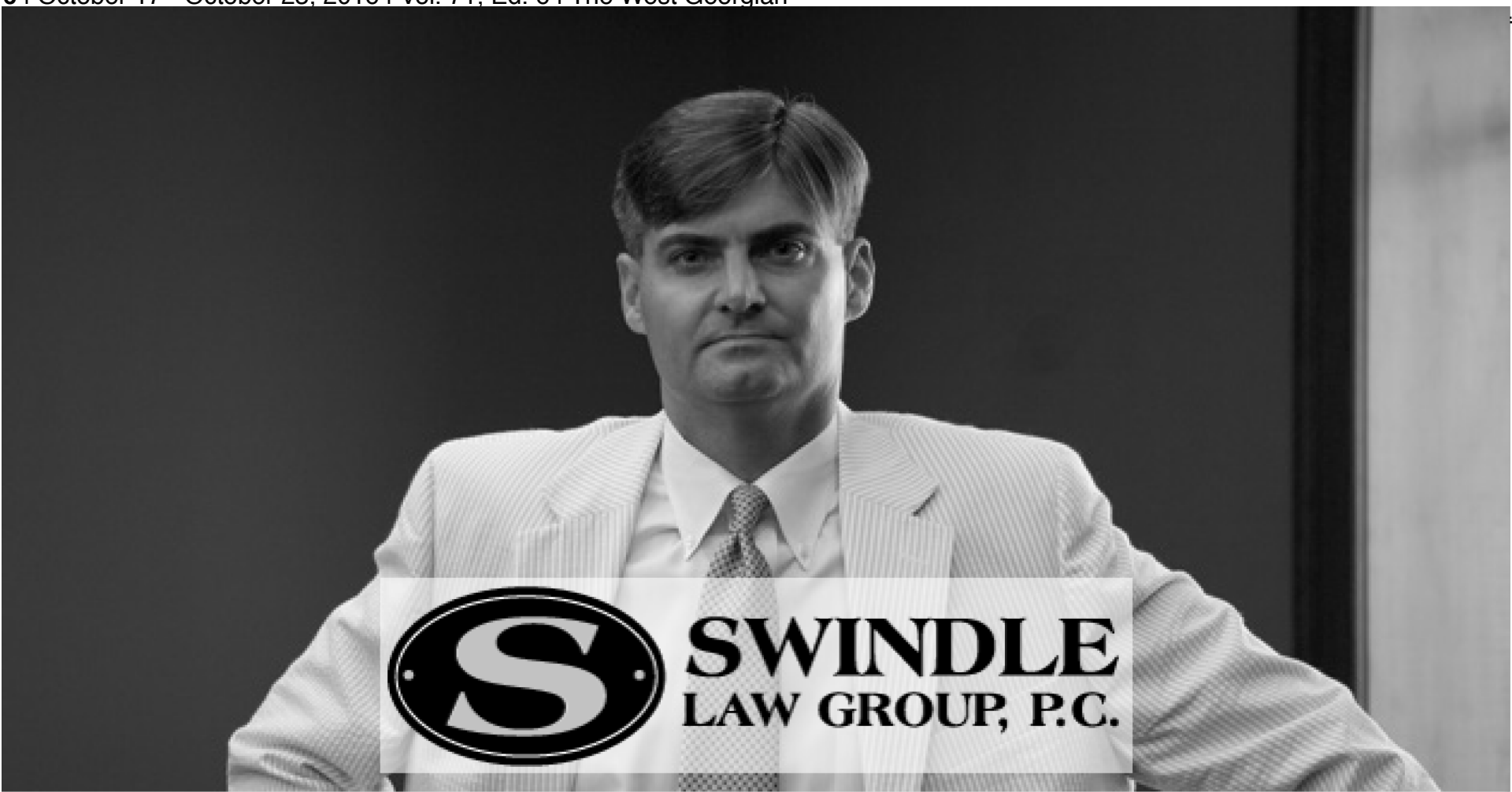
Authorities say 33-year-old William Gerard Brown is charged with five counts of trademark counterfeiting, a misdemeanor because the ticket price was under \$500. His bond was set at \$15,000.

University police had received several reports from people saying they'd been scammed when they bought tickets that turned out to be useless so a plain-clothes officer was assigned near Kyle Field to look for a seller.

Brown told police he'd obtained from two other people the five tickets he was trying to sell.

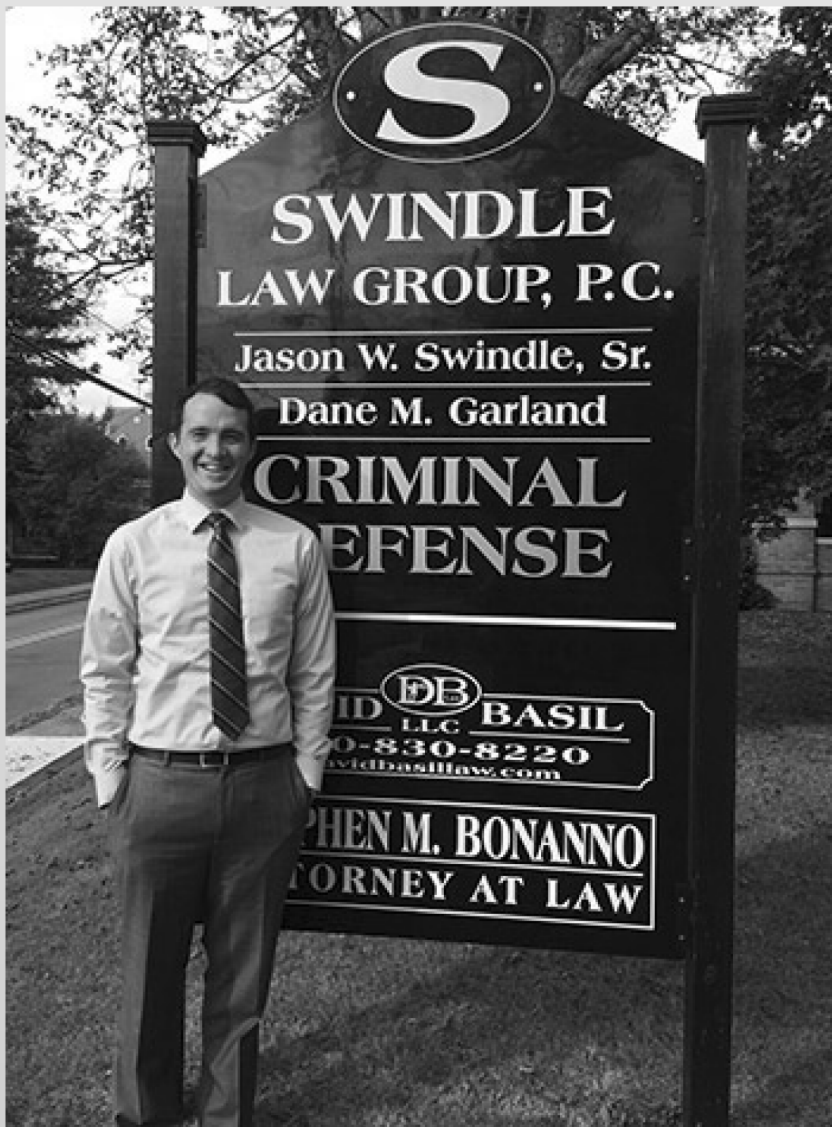
If convicted, he faces up to 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

Authorities say the phony tickets were missing a defining A&M trademark.



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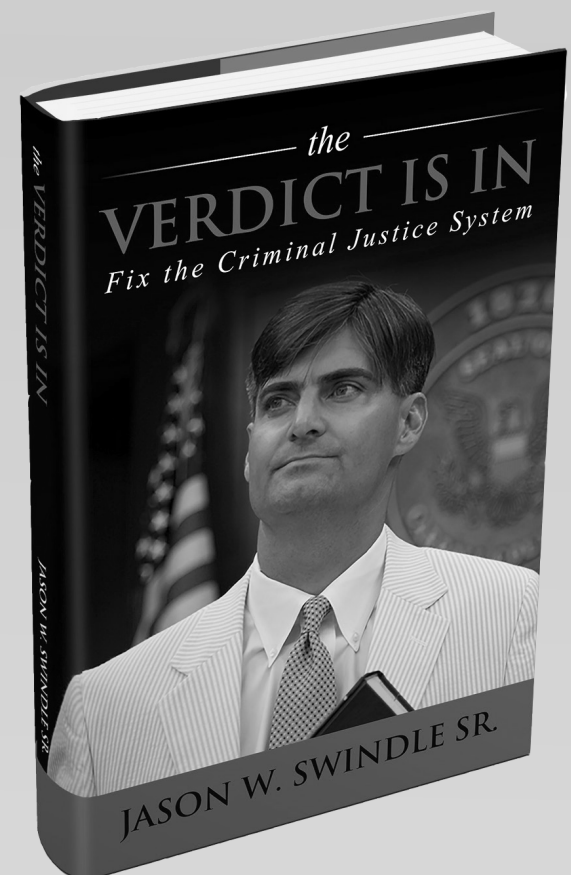
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arts & entertainment

Singer-Songwriter Yuna Performs in Atlanta

Amber Mack

Contributing Writer
amack3@my.westga.edu

Do yourself a favor: go see Yuna live.

The Masquerade's Hell was sold out on Friday, Oct. 7 for good reason: Yuna's Chapters Tour was in Atlanta. Doors opened at 7 p.m., and the show started at 8:30 p.m.

Opening the show was Chicago native N'ye, who kicked off her set with a slow track, releasing positive mellow vibes throughout the venue. She performed tracks from her 2013 EP *Memories Speak* and single tracks "Take It Back" and "Fool Me Once." N'ye set the mood with a sound careening production of the Weekend and echoing the smooth pop vocal confidence of Keri Hilson or Ciara. N'ye played and sang all the right notes that made the crowd listen with attentive ears. Her set was fantastic and left them wanting more the minute she exited the stage.

After her set, the wait was not long before the Malaysian singer-songwriter appeared in front of the Atlanta crowd. Smiles, cheers and "I love you's" were directed towards Yuna, and Yuna did the same. She kicked things off with a track on her recent album *Chapters*, "Places to Go," which was followed by "Best Love."

After each song Yuna talked and joked with the audience.

"This will be my last song of the evening," she said. "Just kidding."

The atmosphere at the concert was very peaceful and laid back. She has this organic, serene aura that took over the whole audience. Throughout the night, Yuna performed songs from

her first two albums and new material from her recent third album.

A special moment throughout the whole show was when she told the audience to settle down. Here she serenaded the audience with "All I Do," a song about that moment after a breakup, with only a soft guitar accompaniment. The entire venue stood in awe and silence.

Yuna closed her set with a powerful performance of "Crush." The crowd sang at the top of their lungs and

featured artist Usher came onstage and surprised Yuna and the audience. The crowd went wild as Yuna and Usher sang the duet. The audience sang backup, singing every harmony and adlib in the song.

After the song, she thanked everyone and exited the stage. Not long after, the crowd chanted "Yuna! Yuna!" and she and her band reappeared on the stage for an encore. She officially ended the night with a lively performance of "Live Your Life,"

an empowering and selfless tune. She took a bow and thanked Atlanta for a wonderful night.

Yuna is truly an incredible artist who enjoys sharing her music with everyone, and it was proven with this show. She is an artist who can bring all cultures together in one room to enjoy live music. I look forward to seeing her again. As for the Masquerade, concertgoers bid farewell to the 117 year old building as it is moving to its new location at Underground Atlanta.



Photo:DiDi Ramlan

Solange's *A Seat at the Table* Provokes Healing

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Solange released her third album *A Seat at the Table* on Friday, Sept. 30. *A Seat at the Table* speaks to the emotional toll many African Americans face in today's pivotal movement. The songs on the album act as mental therapy for those concerned with social injustices happening to African Americans right now. The 21 tracks include interludes and songs with well-crafted verses.

A Seat at the Table is the most recent in projects focusing on healing within the black community. Similar to the works of other artists, such as her older sister Beyoncé (*Lemonade*) and Chance

the Rapper (*Coloring Book*), Solange offers an album rooted in embracing the trials and tribulations that come with black personhood. Solange features her parents Tina Lawson and Matthew Knowles, as well as rapper Master P, to share with listeners their personal experiences of blackness in the interludes. The interludes deliver insight through storytelling, all while providing listeners with a preview of what the next song will acknowledge. In each song, Solange offers her relaxing vocals to narrate an unapologetic description of black life.

Solange took to Twitter to say *A Seat at the Table* is intended to "provoke healing" and encourage a "journey to self-empowerment." She acknowledges the different

stages of pain in songs like "Weary," "Cranes in the Sky" and "Mad."

"Weary" describes the continuous state of mourning blacks find themselves in after witnessing so many police involved shootings. In the song, she sings "Be leery 'bout your place in the world/ You're leaving, not a trace in the world" These lyrics convey the idea of questioning why the world is in this state of violence and suffering. Solange challenges her African - American listeners to question what makes them susceptible to racism and brutality. The lyrics "I'm gonna look for my glory, yeah/ I'll be back like real soon" acknowledge the necessity of searching for spiritual liberation. She repeats these lyrics three times as to stress

the importance of this quest in times of adversity. Looking for her glory implies that she has not yet found it in a society built off of racism and discrimination. Solange's soft voice in "Weary" is direct in her approach to bring awareness to self.

For "Cranes in the Sky," the singer describes trying to cope with the monstrous acts against African Americans. Verses like "I tried to keep myself busy/ I ran around in circles/ Think I made myself dizzy/ I slept it away, I sexed it away" summarize not being able to shake off the depressive episodes that come from witnessing African-Americans being gunned down by those meant to protect, as well as having no repercussions for the action. These verses describe Solange's attempt at avoiding the feelings of sadness. No matter the steps taken to feel better, or forget for just a moment the depression can sometimes feel inescapable.

In "Mad," Solange and Lil Wayne sing about the rage of many African Americans in a state of awareness. The lyrics say "I ran into this girl, I said I'm tired of explaining/ Man, this shit is draining/ But I'm not really allowed to be mad." A familiar frustration within the black community is constantly having to explain why black lives matter. Continuously describing the pain felt to non-black people takes a toll, especially when they feel the shootings are proper protocol. "Mad" touches base on the

premise of African American women being unable to channel their frustrations with society because of instilled stereotypes. Stereotypes such as the "Angry Black Woman" prevent many African-American women from saying what they are upset about. Many people assume the anger stems from her culture and it is not justifiable. The song resembles author James Baldwin's comments regarding being black in America. "To be a Negro in this country, and to be relatively conscious is to be in constant rage."- James Baldwin. Lil Wayne reassures that being "mad" is okay and the reason behind the anger is valid.

Since the release of the album, Solange has debuted videos for both "Cranes in the Sky" and "Don't Touch My Hair." Both videos feature aesthetically appealing visuals of nine cities in New Orleans, Texas, and New Mexico along with contemporary choreography. Solange featured clothing from young emerging designers such as the iconic pink puffer and the blue choir robes.

A Seat at the Table serves as Solange's version of events. The album allows listeners to self-reflect on the beauty of blackness and the strength required to be black in America. Solange's album is currently number one on Billboard's Hot 100 and could go up against Beyoncé's *Lemonade* in the Grammy's nomination for Album of the Year.



Photo courtesy of Carlota Guerrero



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