

A new quarterback in town



Photo courtesy of Casey Roethler

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The UWG Wolves have found their future quarterback in redshirt freshman Willie Candler. After a lackluster season with the first seven games, which resulted in a 4-3 record, Head Coach Will Hall gave the nod to the 19-year-old dual-threat quarterback. He has performed better than anyone could have expected in the beginning of his college career.

On Sept. 3, the Wolves took the field for the first time in 2016 as the second-ranked team in Division II football. Expectations were high with the arrival of former four-star high school quarterback and Louisville transfer Will Gardner at the helm of the offense. The offense was expected to strike quickly and frequently with this talented recruiting class, and with the Wolves starting the season 4-0, it seemed that everyone received what they anticipated.

However, after a 24-23 defeat at the hands of North Alabama and a 38-27 loss to rival Valdosta State, Coach Hall implemented a new philosophy: "If you turn the ball over, you won't play." During those two games, Gardner had

thrown seven interceptions and only one touchdown.

On Oct. 15, Candler saw his first significant amount of action against West Alabama. In that horrendous 31-7 blowout that snapped the Wolves 18-game home win streak, Candler out-performed Gardner, throwing for more yards on less attempts and doing something that had not been done this season: he did not throw an interception. Since then, Candler was promoted to starting quarterback of a talented team that rode their first three-game losing streak since 2012.

Candler's first game as a starter came during Homecoming against the 2-5 Mississippi College Choctaws. Not only did the team see a change at quarterback but also in their offensive scheme. Candler is a dual threat quarterback, meaning he isn't a stranger to running the ball himself.

Under this new offense, fans saw the read option attack for the first time all season, which is the same offense that the Wolves used the previous two seasons when they went to the semi finals.

In Candler's first start, the young quarterback passed for 181 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran the ball five times. Most importantly, he did not throw an interception and played with poise from start to finish of the game.

"He played great," stated Hall.

"He was named GCS Freshman of the Week, and hopefully we can build on that moving forward. I just can't say enough about his leadership."

With the freshmen's first home start behind him, the Wolves took to the road for an inter-conference battle against Shorter University. With this being his first action away from home, hopes around campus were that Candler could continue his success from last week. He sure answered those questions in a big way. the young quarterback showed flashes of former UWG great Dallas Dickey the way he controlled the offense with his poise, leadership, and playmaking ability. Candler ran the offense out of the read option, and controlled the offense in a way that we haven't seen all year. He completed nearly 70 percent of his pass attempts, racked up 215 yards, both in the air and on the ground, and scored two touchdowns on the way to a 44-0 shutout.

Since first seeing the field, Candler has 478 yards, five touchdowns and no interceptions. The Wolves still have a chance at making the postseason, but it will be an uphill battle, and the Wolves will need some teams ahead of them to lose. If this new quarterback keeps playing the way he has been, there is a chance he could take this team riding off into the sunset as they hope for their first National Championship since 1982.

Tia Tuggle has always been a queen

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Tia Tuggle, junior, recently ran for UWG Homecoming Queen, but did not win the title. She was the runner up and did not care much for the title "UWG Homecoming Queen." Instead, her motive was to represent the minorities and to get a certain message across.

"I am a black woman, a lesbian that some people may view as more masculine than your average female," said Tuggle. "Who would expect me to run for homecoming queen? Nobody."

Tuggle wanted to represent students and faculty that felt like they are overlooked, silenced and not represented enough.

"It was never about the title for me," said Tuggle. "It was about the movement and the message I was trying to get across. All of these things are what make me unique."

Tuggle definitely was

different compared to the majority of candidates. While many women flaunted in their dresses, she introduced herself with a black dress shirt and pants with a red blazer.

"Dresses make me oddly uncomfortable," she said. "I'm vocal. I like to challenge people and how they think. I don't really like to follow the rules."

The goal of her campaign was to let the student body to know that it is okay to be yourself. You do not have to hide and change who you are. With a phenomenal campaign team, she was able to spread her message.

Her slogan was "You don't have to wear a dress to be a queen." Her campaign team passed out lollipops with her slogan attached and constantly encouraged students to vote for her on social media.

"I didn't even have a campaign team at first, but somehow, somehow, one was formed and it was beautiful,"

said Tuggle. "I really give all props to them because in my eyes they honestly made my campaign what it was."

When it came to making homecoming court, Tuggle did not have any doubts. When she introduced herself at the pageant, the crowd would not stop cheering. Her support system

and the audience gave her the energy and confidence she needed to make it through. After being one of the finalist of homecoming court, Tuggle was very confident that she would be crowned as homecoming queen. Unfortunately, that was not the outcome.

Even though Tuggle

did not win, she ran for homecoming queen to show people that they don't have to change who they are in order to be accepted and respected. It was never for her, it was to represent the people.

"Being a queen is a state of mind. It has nothing to do with one's appearance," she said.



Photo: Sade' Louis

Novel “Wrecked” addresses sexual assault

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In her new novel, *Wrecked*, Maria Padian draws attention to the controversial issue of sexual assault on college campuses. This issue is seen time and time again throughout various news stories- increasingly so over the last few years. The stories often come with little to no definite factual evidence, leading to non-decisions. Although fictional, *Wrecked* does an excellent job of placing the reader in the middle of one of these cases, offering varying perspectives to show why such issues are often controversial and hard to resolve. It tells the story of a girl named Jenny who files a sexual assault charge against a perpetrator at a party at which she was intoxicated. What sets this novel apart, however, is the way the story is told. The novel alternates between two points of view: Haley and Richard. Haley is Jenny’s friend and the other, Richard, is the accuser’s friend. This approach gives the story an outsider’s perspective from both sides of the case, leading the reader to feel sympathetic toward both parties involved and to wonder what the truth is. The story also does a wonderful job of illustrating the difficulties with reporting a sexual assault case, particularly on a college campus. Between hazy memories clouded by alcohol and little to no eye-witness reports, it can be a hassle to report a case. By adding the privacy

restrictions granted to schools by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), it becomes even harder to obtain details. With so many steps of testimonies and statements that must be done, a student may never even get a hearing. Meanwhile, the suspect still attends classes or even lives on the same campus. This is one type of emotional hardship illustrated throughout the novel. Another important point Padian successfully demonstrates through her novel is the involvement of other people in sexual assault cases. Not only are Haley and Richard involved, but parents, lawyers, school officials, witnesses and more are, too. Rumors spread throughout the campus of what did or did not occur. Jenny’s friends and parents offer contradicting advice. Through all of the characters in the book, the reader learns how outside influences impact a person’s emotions in this type of tragedy. *Wrecked* is effective in discussing sexual assault because rather than a list of facts or figures, it is a story. It tells an emotionally charged account through multiple points of view while focusing not only on the case but on the lives of the people involved. Although it was released on Oct. 4, 2016, the novel has already been named a Fall 2016 Kids’ Indie Next List pick for teen readers and has also garnered praise from a variety of writers and critics. The story feels realistic and relatable with enough suspense to keep readers turning pages. By keeping readers interested through storytelling, Padian is able to artistically communicate the importance and relevance of campus sexual assault.

Ideas for Thanksgiving

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Thanksgiving is the time where families and friend gather to give thanks for one another. Instead of carving the turkey and passing the cranberry sauce, there are other ways to celebrate this holiday than just around the dinner table. You and your family can binge watch Thanksgiving movies on Netflix, for one. Though most of the films on there have to do with Christmas, they are still flicks that get everyone in the holiday spirit. Or you could just watch “Gilmore Girls” or “Luke Cage.” If you do not want to stream a film on Netflix, Redbox and going to the theater are other ideas. If you and your family are travel bugs, then try to plan early for the Macy’s Day Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. This year is their 90th celebration according to their website. If you and your family cannot attend the parade in person, snuggle up with blankets, hot chocolate and breakfast to watch it on NBC at 9 a.m. Pinterest has plenty of Thanksgiving arts and crafts. For those who are into drawing, painting and do-it-yourself crafts, then Pinterest has a lot to choose from. You can create all kinds of Thanksgiving decorations. If you and your family plan on cooking this holiday, you can try new Thanksgiving recipes for classic dishes. Check out their sweet potato cake or their turkey, cranberry and brie crescent braid. If your family isn’t into cooking, then dining out is good, too. According to opentable.com, some places in the Atlanta area that are open on Thanksgiving are Cibo E Beve, South City Kitchen Midtown, Seasons 52 and the Hard Rock Café. Thanksgiving is Thursday, Nov. 24 and is the perfect day to stuff your belly and relax with the family.

living west

SAC’s Fall Festival haunts students

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UWG’s Student Activities Council (SAC) hosted their annual Fall Festival at the Campus Center Ballroom in preparation for Halloween. The Fall Festival was coordinated by Read Lucas, the 2016-2017 special events director. Previous years exhibited carnivals and costume parties for the Fall Festival, but the main attraction of this year’s festival was a haunted house provided by Simplifies ENT. “It’s been about three years since we’ve had a haunted house for Fall Festival, so this year students should be prepared to scream, run and panic in the haunted house,” said Lucas. That is exactly what students did. Only four people were allowed in at a time while students who waited

in line heard the screams of the victims inside. As students walked through the beginning of the house, deformed babies laid on the floor and glowing string tickled their heads. Each room had a different theme. Bodies hung from the ceiling as a monster peeked from behind them in one room. In another, a crying lady sat in a crib holding what looked like a baby as a creepy nanny jumped out and put a creepy doll in student’s faces. The house got scarier as students were taken through a tunnel and unknown hands grabbed at their feet, trying to pull them under. Streamers and white light flashed and distorted their vision as they passed through a highway. When screaming and ominous music filled student’s ears, they knew they were near the exit. As they reached the exit, Ghostface and an evil clown blocked the passage, making students have to go through them. When students made it

through, a buffet catered by Dine West was waiting. The menu included mashed potatoes, green beans and macaroni and cheese with the choice of chicken or chili and sweet tea or lemonade. For dessert, there was chocolate chip and sugar cookies. “I wanted students to enjoy

themselves and their time here at the University of West Georgia,” said Lucas. The event was a success. Students laughed and enjoyed the scare that SAC put on and many students are eager to attend next year’s festival.



Photo: Amber Mack

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Veterans Day at UWG honors our Heroes

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With Veterans Day around the corner, the UWG Center for Adult Learners and Veterans (CALV) gears its focus on those who have served and protected our country. CALV has a number of events planned for the week of Veterans day to honor our nation's Veterans. Their work, however extends well beyond Veterans Day. Headed by Director Danny Gourley, CALV is constantly looking at ways to get veterans educated and have partnered with the university to implement a series of programs the benefit veterans by attending school at UWG.

On Veterans Day, a number of large restaurant chains honor our veterans by giving them free meals with proof of Military ID, but CLAV is looking to expand that gesture even more. They have arranged for Veterans to have a free lunch on Nov. 9 and give them a breakfast on Nov. 10.

"We wanted them to have a couple meals on us the days before Veterans day, which leads into our ceremony on Friday, Nov. 11," said Gourley.

The November 11 holiday will feature events not only honoring our living Veterans, but for our fallen heroes as well. The ceremonies start at 9:15 a.m. on the Campus Center back patio with a presentation of the colors. Dr. Jane Marrero, Music instructor at UWG and Opera singer, will perform the national anthem before her spouse and University President Dr. Kyle Marrero will address the veterans and those attending. The mood will go somber as time will be taken to honor our fallen veterans as well.

"Because the University is closed on Memorial Day, we never really have a chance to honor our fallen Veterans," said Gourley. "We always make sure we

reserve the beginning of the ceremony to acknowledge our fallen veterans before we focus on the current Veterans and celebrate those who are still here, whether they be student, staff or faculty."

A group of five UWG band students have also volunteered to form a brass quintet which will perform during the Friday festivities.

Not only does the University do a great job of honoring our veterans the week of Veterans Day, but they also assist them with gaining an education after they serve. According to Gourley, UWG offers things like priority registration and out-of-state waivers, which means, they get top register for classes before regular students as well as pay in-state tuition no matter where they live. In addition to that, UWG offers Exemption of mandatory fees for military tuition assistance. Many veterans have programs that help them pay for their tuition, but there are still many expenses that come with attending a university, like textbooks and additional fees. UWG offers waivers of those fees to make college at UWG more affordable for our valued Vets.

Once they are in school, CLAV continues to assist veterans by helping them find employment. CLAV hosts recruiting events that bring in companies looking to hire people exclusively with military experience. In the Military, soldiers, airmen, marines and seamen all develop a certain discipline and work skills that serve certain job better than others.

"These companies know what they are getting when they recruit military veterans," said Gourley. "They know they are getting somebody who is hardworking, disciplined and skilled, because they have already been tested in the military, no matter what their concentration was."

With the help of CLAV, UWG is brightening the future of American veterans at the UWG.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Fischer



ATTENTION ALL UWG STUDENTS!



Join us for mass

every Monday @ 7pm

at the Kennedy Chapel

1601 Maple St, Carrollton GA,
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Pita Pit comes to Carrollton

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UWG alum John Crossley decided to bring Pita Pit to Carrollton when he was still a student at the university. While doing a project for a small business entrepreneurship course, Crossley chose Pita Pit as a place that would benefit the community.

The restaurant has over 500 locations in over 66 countries and is known for being placed near the bars of college towns. Since the target market is college cities, the restaurant can be found near well-known universities, such as University of Georgia, University of Auburn and the University of Florida.

Crossley says the restaurant was strategically placed in the square so that students do not have to travel far for food after leaving the bar.

"I always told myself whenever I graduate from college, if no one has opened a restaurant for kids to eat at late at night, I would do it," stated Crossley.

Pita Pit serves an array of traditional Greek and Mediterranean wraps, sandwiches and salads. The brand gets the name Pita Pit from the choice to use pita bread instead of the traditional oven baked bread. For the meat lovers, the restaurant offers Philly cheesesteak pitas, buffalo chicken pitas and a Dagwood club pita that includes turkey, ham and prime rib.

Customers can also choose between the vegetarian options, such as the spicy black bean pita and falafels. They can also order gluten- and dairy-free pitas. Since they specialize in fresh and healthy

selections, the new restaurant will be the first late night eatery that is not a fast food chain in Carrollton. It will close around 3 a.m.

In addition to The Border and Max and Henry's, Pita Pit will also have a day of the week where students can bring their student ID and get a discount. It has not been decided how much yet. Along with the discount, on Wednesdays, the restaurant will offer customers double the meat for 99 cents. This deal is nationwide and popular.

Pita Pit resembles Subway and Moe's, in which the customer choose what they want while watching someone prepare it. The difference is the freshness of the meat and produce. The meat is sliced twice a day, once before lunch and once before dinner, and then put in the refrigerator. When the meat is ordered, it is taken out and placed on the grill to cook while the customer builds their sandwich.

Within the next few weeks, Crossley will be looking to hire people for the Carrollton location. After the hiring process, the store will be complete.

Pita Pit is expected to finish in late November or early December of 2016. Barring any setbacks, the restaurant will be complete in January when students return for the spring semester. Crossley expressed wanting to do a soft opening for friends and family and a grand opening for students and the community where they can get a taste of what the restaurant has to offer. The restaurant will do some pre-grand opening marketing, which will provide sandwiches to hospitals, police stations and schools to promote the business. Crossley also will have features on Facebook for free coupons.

UWG fashion show beams creativity

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UWG organization Models and Business hosted their first fashion show Thursday October 27. The fashion show was held in the Campus Center Ballroom. The ballroom was packed with different organizations, fraternities and sororities as well as parents and siblings.

Like many fashion shows it contained a theme, which was “A Night Undercover.” The models replicated some favorite action-filled movies. Movies like *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, *Skyfall: 007*, and *Charlie’s Angels*, were all brought to life with different designer’s collections.

The fashion show consisted of eight extremely

unique designers, three being UWG students. The show also featured Anisa Brenee and Shon Brown, two UWG students, as the hosts to keep the crowd pumped as they awaited the next designer.

The opening scene, “A Night Undercover,” featured an introduction of the models. In order for the crowd to get a preview of who they would see for the remainder of the show, models came out as couples, dressed in all black. Their outfits were not by any designer, but the models fierce looks resulted in major applause from the audience.

Scene two, three and five were all about the ladies. With designs from Shakeria and Jenee Dionne, the models modeled different dresses meant for different parties. Shakeria featured dresses one would wear for

the night life while Dionne created gowns meant for more upscale events.

These gowns were unique because they were made using old, worn and forgotten prom dresses. Dionne’s creations involved bringing outdated dresses back to life.

Scene five was themed after *Charlie’s Angels* with Sayless Boutique, in which the female models mimicked the original angels by coming out in three’s and doing the traditional *Charlie’s Angels* poses.

The Sayless Boutique collection consisted of creative and trendy pieces, like two-piece sets, dresses and heels. This seemed to be the most popular collection, judging from the crowd’s reaction after the hosts asked if the audience would purchase

from this boutique.

Scene four was dedicated to the gentlemen by showcasing the sleekness and style of blazers in all sizes. The blazers were all from the male model’s closets.

During intermission, the audience heard the sounds of freshman singer Destiny Briona. Briona performed her own song “No X” and the Dance Ensemble came on stage after she finished to perform a routine. The show proceeded shortly after.

Megan Chambers, a member on the Eboard for Models and Business, as well as a model for the event, explained the stress that comes with modeling the night of the show.

“It did get pretty difficult at times, especially in the *Charlie’s* scene when I had to change into two outfits

from the same collection,” said Chambers. “The practices were hard and stressful, but when the day came, I was so excited and so proud of the models.”

The show also featured three collections designed by UWG students. Crew, Build Yourself Up and Slaylors Creations closed the show, proving that the students all have the creativity to express themselves through fashion. The Saylor collection was even created by one of the models, Taylor Edmonds.

To close the show, the models wore shirts representing their organization and danced amongst the audience to Migos’ “Bad and Boujee.” Although this was the organization’s first fashion show and UWG can expect more in the future due to the crowded audience.



College Radio Day at UWG

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Radio personalities, technicians, and staff from The Wolf Internet Radio enjoyed the warm November weather in the grassy triangle to celebrate College Radio Day.

“It was an attempt to show college radio is important to college campuses,” said Shawn Isaacs, the general manager for The Wolf Internet Radio. “College Radio Day is a time to unite as one station across the nation and show the world why college radio is important.”

College Radio Day was started by Rob Quickie at William Paterson University in 2011.

“There was a trend where college radio stations are being sold out to corporate industries,” said Bode Brooks, the news director of The WOLF. “This was how the radio industry works, but it shuts the door for many college students that need that hands on experience.”

A typical UWG Thursday afternoon would be quiet, with students winding down after their last class of the week. On November 3, Wolf Internet Radio stirred up Thursday afternoon by setting up speakers at the grassy triangle and broadcasting radio segments throughout the day. This gave students more exposure to the radio, rather than them only being able to listen if they tune in on their computer.

College Circuit is a Wolf Internet Radio Show that broadcasts every

Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The show is run by juniors Neriah Ethridge and McKenzie Benfield. Not only do these students broadcast an internet radio show on this notable day, they also encourage students to listen to their show. Creating a radio show is a process from planning a storyboard to advertising the show on social media.

“We use the hot clock which breaks down the minutes of our show while organizing our story with subtopics,” said Neriah Ethridge.

The hot clock is a method used for students to organize their radio by times and topics. Similar to commercial radio stations, aspiring radio personalities use this schedule to prevent going over airtime.

Adren Cook, senior and co-host of The Battle of Sexes, a radio show that airs every Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., plans on using her radio broadcasting skills in the future. Of course, Cook supports college radio and believes College Radio Day recognizes the amazing things digital media students achieve on the college level.

“We are still learning and grooming in our field,” said Cook. “We have a lot of ambition behind everything we do and one day hope to work in the radio industry.”

The Wolf Internet Radio has been celebrating College Radio Day since it’s founding year, 2011. One year the radio station celebrated with a lock-in held in the HPE Gym. However, most years this event is held outside. The Wolf Internet Radio’s main priority is to showcase their unique shows that broadcast daily.

Photos: Ze’Nia Middlebrooks



news

Halloween comes to Ole McDermitt's Farm

Cleopatra Job

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Though Halloween is over, you should check out the haunted corn maze at Ole McDermitts Farm next year. This is the fourth Halloween in a row that Ole McDermitts Farm opened their corn maze to the public for spooks and a haunted Halloween adventure.

First, the farm is located on a long dark dirt road on Baxter Road where you may not have any cellphone service. The only lights on the street are car lights as they trickle down the road. Upon arrival you may be greeted by a dog or several cats.

The entrance to the corn maze is through the barn. As you step closer to the maze your heart starts beating faster. At this moment you may even consider turning around, but it's too late. There is no warning of what awaits in the corn maze aside from tall corn stalks.

While exploring the corn maze there will be screams, running and a red devil face that appears and disappears quickly. Several clowns will follow you. Scarecrows await you at almost every twist and turn. This corn maze is full of Halloween themed costumes and creatures.

These ghouls do not give you time to breath nor do they give you time to think about which way you want to run. It is as though these Halloween creatures force you to

travel deeper and deeper into the maze.

You will come across more creatures as you go, and they do not make it simple to get past them. As you attempt to run past one of the creatures they stand there, frozen. Then they begin to walk toward you at full speed which in turn makes you turn around and run. While you try to escape the maze, these creatures terrorize you until you find your way back to the beginning, which also is not an easy task.

There are dead ends throughout the maze. There are various routes that can be taken within the maze, so there is a possibility that you can get lost. If you happen to get lost the owners will come out into the corn maze and help you find your way back to the beginning.

If you survive the maze at the end you will get to write your name on the survival board, which is hung inside of the barn. However, if you were lost and had help getting out of the maze then you did not survive and therefore cannot sign the board.

This family business executes the lightly haunted corn maze. They keep you engaged and terrified the entire time.

If you are looking for a great Halloween attraction for next year, Ole McDermitts Farm is the place to be. For 10 dollars you will be able to enter and re-enter the corn maze as much as you please.

Photo courtesy of Kayla McDermitt



Furry farewell: Panda twins leave Atlanta for China

Associated Press

Two Zoo Atlanta staff members are accompanying the furry pair. They've also brought 375 pounds of bamboo, eight gallons of water and 25 pounds of treats, including sugarcane, bananas and biscuits.

The zoo says Mei Lun and Mei Huan left Atlanta early Thursday bound for a panda research center

in Chengdu.

Two Zoo Atlanta staff members are accompanying the furry pair. They've also brought 375 pounds of bamboo, eight gallons of water and 25 pounds of treats, including sugarcane, bananas and biscuits.

Mei Lun and Mei Huan are the first surviving pair of

giant panda twins born in the U.S. Their mother, Lun Lun, gave birth to another set in September.

Like the other three U.S. zoos with giant pandas, the bears are on loan from China. As part of the loan agreement, all adult offspring are sent to China when they're of age.



Photo: Anndrea Ours

Afghanistan: The war Trump and Clinton have ignored

Robert Burns & Deb Riechmann

Associated Press

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have said next to nothing about how they would handle the war in Afghanistan.

That's remarkable, given the enormous U.S. investment in blood and treasure over the past 15 years — including two American deaths on Thursday — the resilience of the Taliban insurgency and the risk of an Afghan government collapse that would risk empowering extremists and could force the next president's hands.

In addition to the two service members killed on Thursday, four others were wounded while assisting Afghan forces in the northern city of Kunduz.

President Barack Obama escalated the war shortly after he took office, but he fell short of his goal of compelling a political settlement between the Taliban and the Afghan government. The next president will face a new set of tough choices on Afghanistan early in his or her term, including whether to increase or reduce U.S. troop levels and, more broadly, whether to continue what might be called Obama's minimalist military strategy.

The difficulty of these choices may explain, at least in part, why Trump and Clinton have been largely silent on Afghanistan. They ignore it while campaigning; it came up only in passing during the first Trump-Clinton debate and was not mentioned at all during second and third debates.

OBAMA'S FAILED MISSION

If Obama's eight-year struggle is a guide, his successor will not have an easy time disentangling the U.S. military from Afghanistan. Nor is there an obvious way in which a bigger U.S. military role could end the war.

Neither Trump nor Clinton has offered more than broad clues about their intentions toward Afghanistan. Trump has called for an end to U.S. "nation-building" efforts. Clinton has said she would "deal with" the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan and "stem the flow of jihadists" to and from Afghanistan. Neither of the candidates' websites, which usually go into detail on policy matters, have a mention of the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan or what to do about it.

Shortly after entering the White House in 2009, Obama undertook a lengthy review of U.S. policy on Afghanistan and Pakistan with the eye toward fixing what he saw as U.S. failures there. He pushed U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan to 100,000, but the surge did not force the Taliban to the negotiating table. The war dragged on.

Obama ended the U.S. combat role in December 2014 and said that by January 2017 the military would be reduced to only a "normal embassy presence." But in October 2015 he put the skids on a full withdrawal, saying 5,500 troops would stay to support Afghan forces and to continue counterterrorism operations against al-Qaida. In

July, with about 10,000 U.S. troops still there, he scrapped the 5,500 target. He pledged to keep 8,400 troops through the end of his term to continue training and advising Afghan forces and to maintain a counterterrorism mission.

AFGHANISTAN 'AT RISK'

Washington has praised Afghan President Ashraf Ghani as a more effective U.S. partner than his predecessor, Hamid Karzai. But the political dimensions of Afghanistan's problems are in some ways as worrisome as those on the military and security side.

The so-called unity government set up in 2014 is led by Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, who have been bickering since they took office. The rift has threatened to send the country further into chaos. Afghans are increasingly convinced the double-headed government cannot endure.

National Intelligence Director James Clapper earlier this year told Congress that Afghanistan is "at serious risk of a political breakdown in 2016." On the other hand, Afghan officials say the country's progress since 2001 is often overlooked or underestimated. Hamdullah Mohib, the Afghan ambassador to Washington, in September ticked off several examples: More women are serving in government positions than at any time in Afghan history, anti-corruption measures have produced a 22 percent increase in national revenue and more rural families have access to electricity.

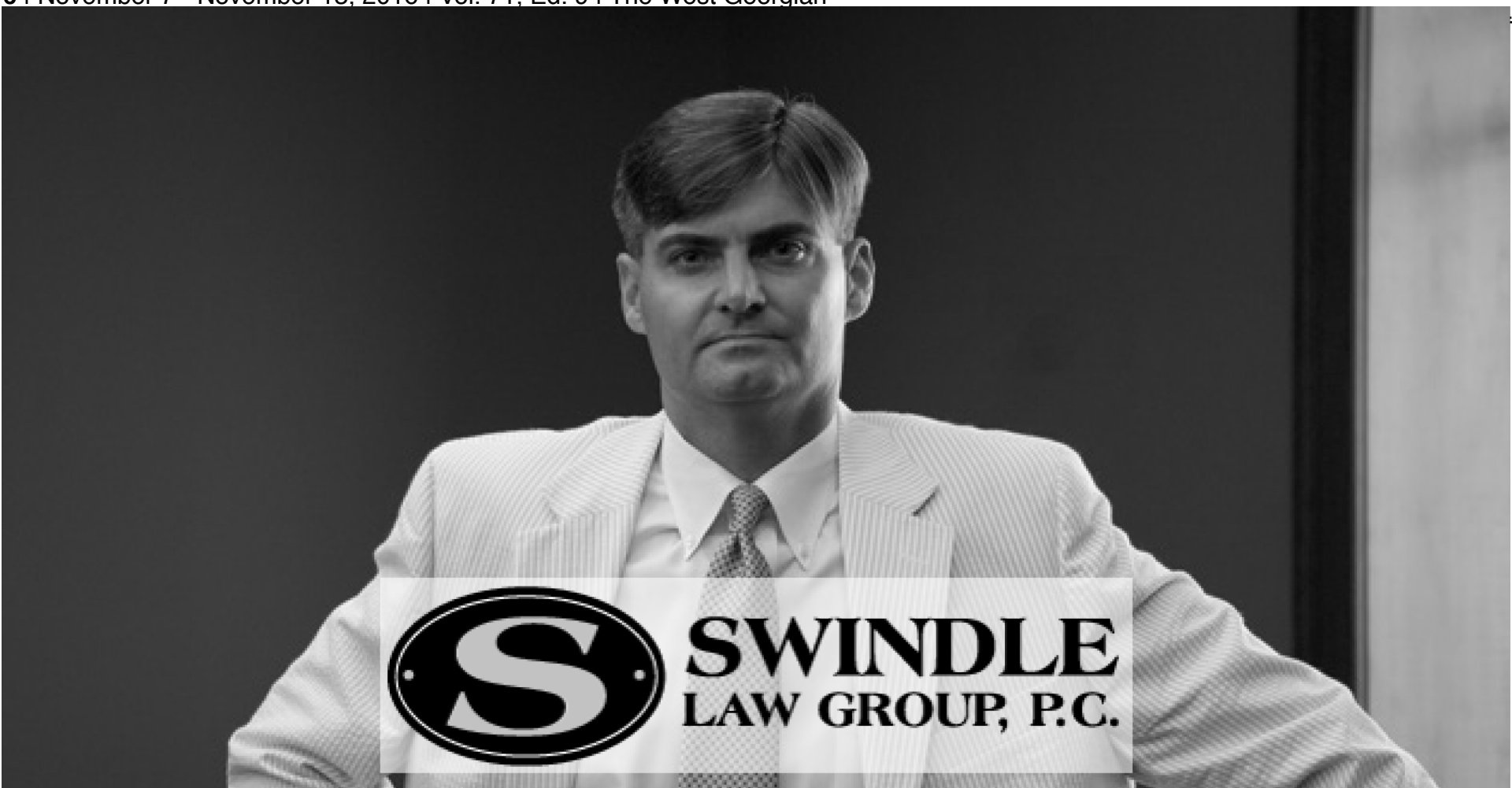
NO END IN SIGHT

One measure of the intractable nature of the war is the language American officials have used to describe it. As far back as February 2009 the top American commander in Afghanistan said the U.S. and its Afghan partners were "at best, stalemated" against the Taliban. Seven years later, in September 2016, Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a congressional committee the war was "roughly a stalemate."

Just a few days after Dunford's comments, the current commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Nicholson, said the government and the Taliban had "reached some sort of equilibrium" on the battlefield. "This is a positive," Nicholson said, in the sense that the government controls nearly 70 percent of the population. One might also say it's a negative in the sense that nearly one-third of the population is NOT under government control, even after years of fighting a Taliban group that in December 2001 was seemingly defeated.

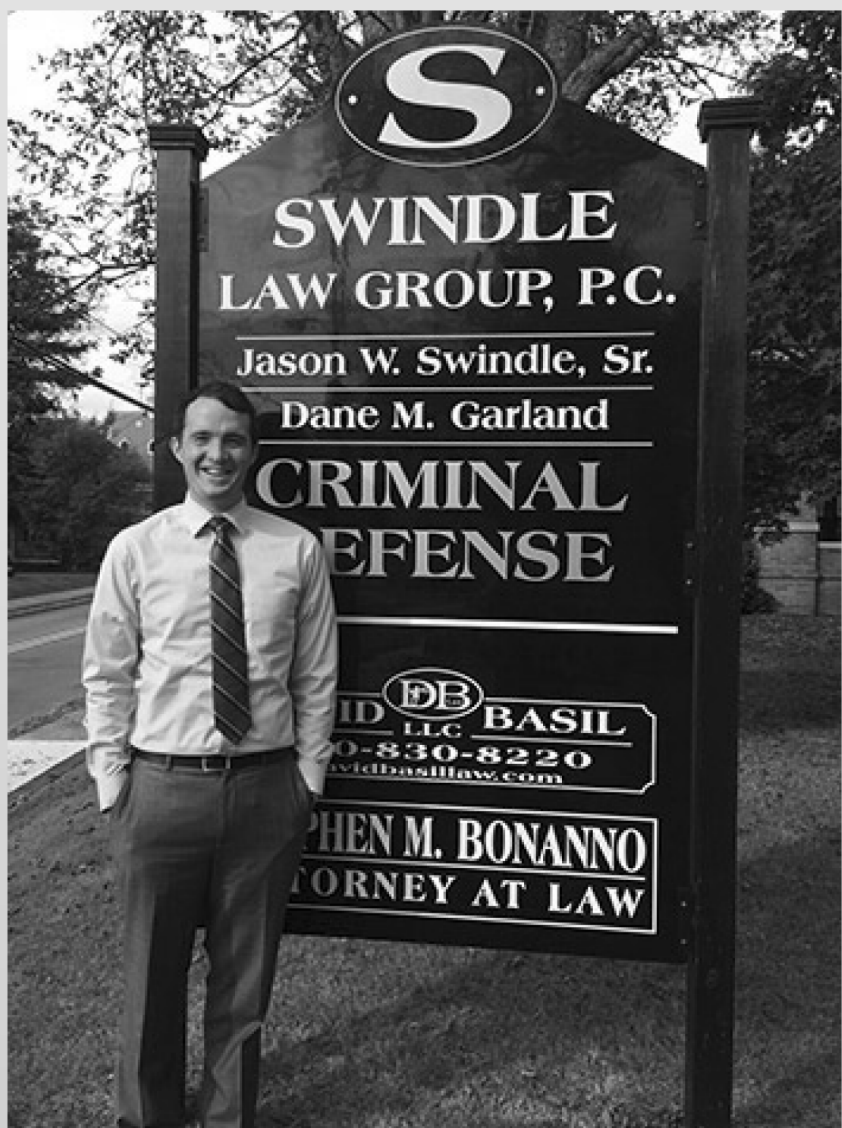
There is no consensus view on how much longer the U.S. would need to keep troops there to help Afghan forces avoid defeat.

The inattention to Afghanistan during the presidential campaign is seen by Stephen Walt, professor of international affairs at Harvard university, as symptomatic of Americans' "war amnesia." Writing for the Foreign Policy website, Walt called Afghanistan a conflict "we seem readier to forget than to end."



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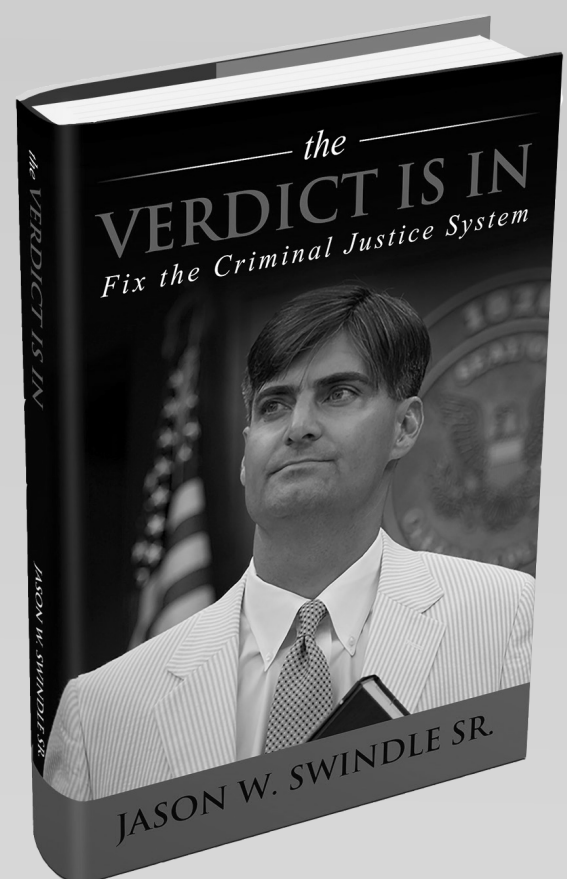
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arts & entertainment

Switchfoot and Relient K at the Tabernacle

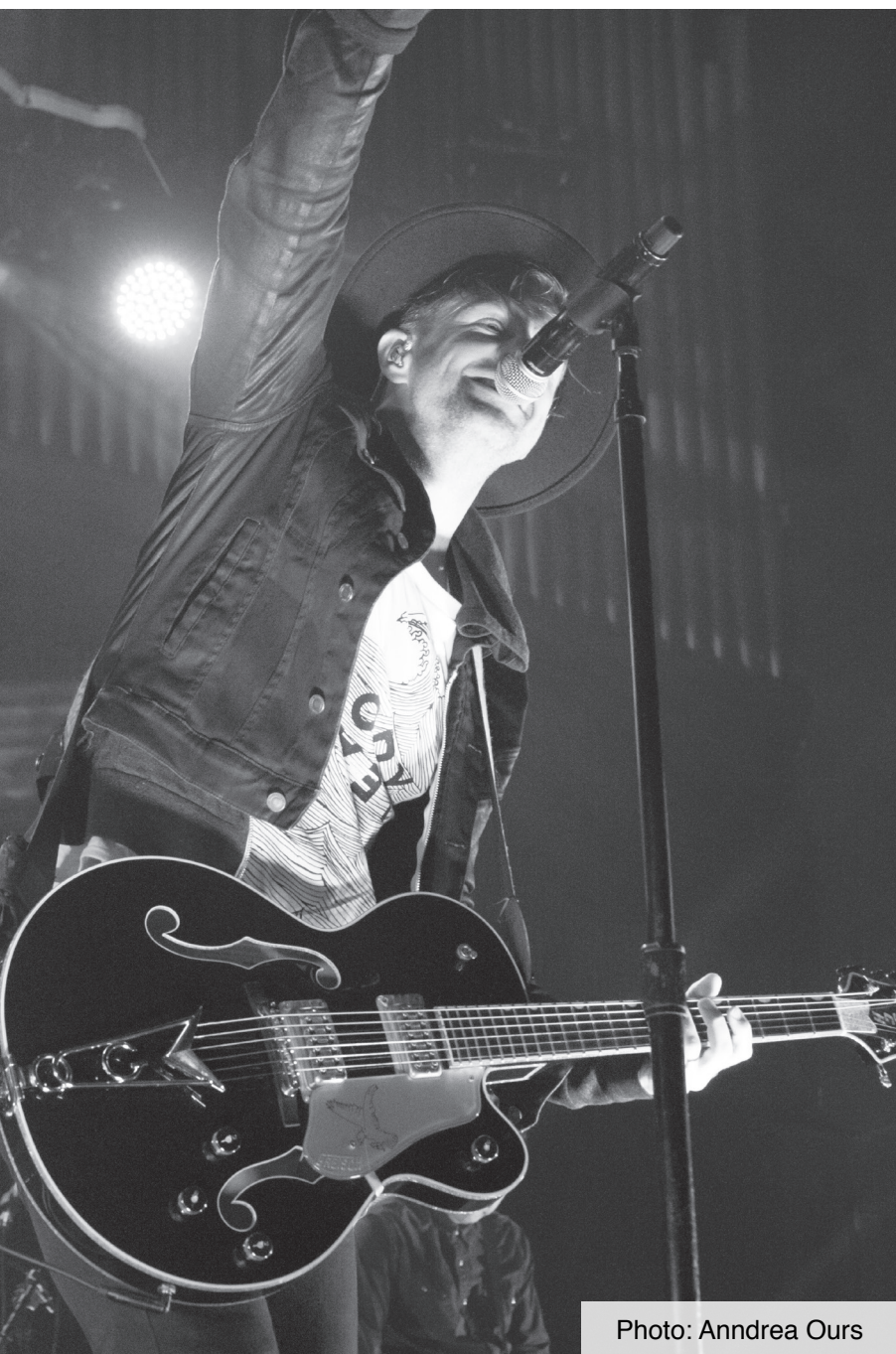


Photo: Anndrea Ours

Anndrea Ours

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Before furthering their journey across the U.S., alternative rock band Switchfoot with Relient K brought their *Looking for America* tour to Atlanta. The two bands performed a lively, soulful show and shared good vibes and Halloween fun at the Tabernacle on October 30.

Both bands performed old and new tunes, including songs from their 2016 albums, Switchfoot's *Where the Light Shines Through* and Relient K's *Air for Free*.

The stage was set up with lawn chairs, fake grass, a big white buffalo and was reminiscent of a lake house. The setting visually aided the horror-esque Halloween tunes Relient K performed towards the end of their set. This included three Halloween themed songs, one about candy, lead singer Matt Thiessen wrote for another show prior to this one and they posed as a perfect and unique addition to the Tabernacle performance.

Relient K kept the crowd mesmerized and fists pumping throughout their set, and the venue buzzed all night with wild and enthusiastic guests. The band performed wildly as Thiessen bobbed across the stage jumping between guitar and keys while sometimes fist pumping with a trumpet. There was never a dull moment.

Between sets, the crowd of people mingled across all four levels of the venue. Since there was no assigned seating, the atmosphere moved sporadically and the crowd shifted between floors in anticipation for Switchfoot.

Once the sets were changed and the stage was stripped of the lake house gear, Switchfoot entered the stage. However, frontman Jon Foreman was not present. The stage went dark and a silhouette danced on a screen above the center of the stage. After the spectacle,

Foreman appeared and hopped around stage clad in a black fedora and leather jacket as the crowd went wild. As the show went on, Foreman lost the hat and jacket and bounced around the stage as much as Thiessen did.

During Switchfoot's performance, the band took a moment to form- as Foreman put it- a kumbaya-at-the-beach moment where the group gathered center stage and serenaded the crowd.

Throughout, Foreman shared small bits of his deep and soulful thoughts and showcased an old soul personality with a taste of youthful enthusiasm.

Near the end, Foreman performed while shining a spotlight around the stage out into the crowd in a pitch black room. Later he also encouraged the crowd to raise their phones to shine their own individual lights. Switchfoot finished the show with a fan-favorite and classic, "Dare You to Move."

Foreman's enthusiasm, accompanied by his band, rocked the Tabernacle until 11 p.m. with an encore of three songs that resulted in Foreman crowd surfing. Foreman seemed as excited as the crowd to keep the show going. By the end, the main floor was littered with red, white and blue confetti and bubbles.

More than halfway through their tour, Switchfoot and Relient K lit up the Tabernacle with their enthusiasm and passion. Foreman kept the crowd going and did not show any signs of fatigue or wanting to stop.

After the Tabernacle in Atlanta, the bands made their way to Thomasville, Ga. on November 3, Saint Petersburg, Fla. on November 4, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. on November 5 and Vero Beach, Fla. on November 6.

Switchfoot's and Relient K's *Looking for America* tour will continue in the east in New Orleans on November 9 and Memphis, Tenn. on November 10 before moving back west towards Switchfoot's home state California.

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