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"HAKUNA MATATA"

The Lion King Review is Here



Photo Courtesy by Deen van Meer

Victoria Jones

News Editor

Wonder no more, a Lion King review is here to save those who have a burning desire to attend the Fox and allow their inner childhood dreams to unfold in approximately two hours. Some may say that this is an experience of a lifetime and others...well, they may say you need to go back and watch the movie again before going to see the show. Whichever it may be, the experience is significantly unique to everyone. More specifically, the immediacy of live theatre as a whole has a way of making one person feel emotions unlike any other.

While The Lion King may be a favorite childhood Disney movie, there is nothing quite like seeing it take place on Broadway.

From the astonishing special effects to the intensely stunning costume designs, the show was amazing. Julie Taymor, the director of the production and costume design, did a breathtaking job of making the play come to life.

Although Taymor did a great job at giving vivid details throughout each scene of exactly what was taking place, it was hard to fully focus on the show due to the temptation of trying to remember The Lion King's full story. Even though it is a well-known childhood musical, if a viewer does not know the tiny details of the reason behind each scene then it may be hard to concentrate on the work of art that was put together for this production. On the other hand, if a theatregoer is well equipped with the story then they are in luck; they can simply sit

back and enjoy the show.

Besides the need to refresh the brain on the glorious details of the show, it was startlingly impressive. In particular, the opening scene was magical. It began with the "Circle of Life" and a bright orange sunrise backdrop to set the mood. Ginormous life-sized elephants, giraffes, birds and various other African animals operated by actors made their way onto the stage. Because of the vibrant colors and excitement, it changed the entire atmosphere and the viewers were automatically intrigued.

The costume design by Taymor was by far the most creative and detail oriented piece in the show. The lion manes were carefully crafted out of wood and some could even be operated by hand in order for the character to

embrace the lion-like or humanlike persona. Each actor had costumes that clearly revealed their characters and distinguished them from the rest of the cast. The actors did an exceptional job at replicating the voices, choreography and personalities of each of the characters in the original movie. The authenticity of the show gave a clear representation of the original movie.

Overall, Disney's The Lion King was a captivating production and is easily the number one musical. It proved its hype and the cast was talented, outstanding and deserve praise for this show. While it would be a good idea to watch the movie again before seeing it on Broadway, it was presented in a way that created a desire for more. Bravo and brava to the cast and crew of the excellent production of this show.



Living West

New Position, New Direction

Robert Moody

Copy Editor

The University of West Georgia has recently began taking large steps to evaluate and update its current Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

An EOP is a multi-faceted plan that is put in place so the university is prepared to make an appropriate response to risks resulting from unforeseen and unpredictable emergencies. Preparation is imperative because emergencies and the risks they impose cannot be measured before they happen. This is why the EOP is part preparation and part response.

"We as a university are not defined by the things that happen to us, but we define ourselves by how we respond to them," said Matt Jordan, director of Risk Management. "When emergencies take place the planning, preparation, response and recovery are all expressions of the university. They are outside our normal scope of engagement and that is when we are most at risk."

This plan, should it ever be implemented, assigns specific responsibilities to various departments so they can do their part in keeping campus safe for everyone who could be affected. The response is viewed as an all-inclusive effort from all entities participating due to the large number of people who can be affected by an emergency and the size of the area that could be affected as well.

"In the Emergency Operations Plan everybody contributes," said Lt. Ned Watson, Deputy Chief of Police for UPD. "It's not just police response. If there was an active shooter, yes, the police would respond but there are other things that are involved. There could be

infrastructure that is damaged, people that are hurt, there are going to be people that need services of the university like counseling and all of these stakeholders that are involved in this have to be involved in part of the planning, response and the aftermath portion."

Though the various stakeholders involved in the EOP carry out their own individual tasks it is important that everyone involved works with a team mentality while carrying out their responsibilities following an emergency. This is expressed through the idea of a unified command as one person is in charge while many work to manage a risk that is present.

"There can be any sort of contingency or emergency so we really look at the impact and the risks associated with that," said Jordan. "It is usually delegated to a specific individual. If it's a premises related incident it goes to the chief facilities officer, if it's a public safety concern it usually goes to the chief of police and we typically do this as a group. We typically use unified command which means that we all bring our interests and expertise, but ultimately there is only one person in charge."

Though the university already has a solid EOP in place they are always looking to improve and update it on a regular basis. A major part of this improvement comes in the form of planning so the University of West Georgia recently created a new position known as the Director of Emergency Management and hired Michael Nelson to fill that role.

Nelson, a retired Naval Flight officer, is no stranger to emergency management. In his time with the military he was on a joint staff that was responsible for the continental U.S. and training all the services. They established an organization known as Joint Task Force Civil Support that works to train people to handle large incidents, primarily regarding chemical and biological disasters, should they happen in the

U.S. Following his time with this joint staff Nelson worked as a contractor to teach Marine and Naval staffs to operate weapons systems before he began working for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in 2007.

In his time as a contractor, Nelson took a Community Emergency Response Team class that trains people in communities how to respond when an emergency happens. Since then he has taken additional courses to become a certified campus CERT instructor and intends on bringing this type of class to UWG.

"The primary goal of CERT is to teach preparedness," said Nelson. "If you get citizens in your community to take a CERT class they not only learn skills that can help in an emergency, but their family is more prepared."

Nelson has already spoke to the Emergency Manager for Carroll County in hopes that first responders from the local community could have a role in teaching this course on campus. This training would help students be prepared and equipped to handle immediate emergencies while awaiting professional response.

"The key thing with preparedness is the more prepared people are the less we, as emergency responders or public safety, have to do because people are taking care of themselves," said Nelson.

Aside from bringing CERT to campus, Nelson is currently creating a new EOP as well as developing a building emergency coordinator plan which would place an emergency coordinator in each building to handle day-to-day tasks and to pass emergency information on to the occupants of that building.

Though people at the university may hope that the EOP never be necessary to implement they can rest easy knowing that improvements are being made to an already thorough plan.

UWG Hosts the Annual Juried Art Exhibit

Erin Grady

Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia's department of art kicked off the 2018 Juried Art Exhibit that will be held through the beginning of March. The exhibition takes place in the Bobick Galleries in the Humanities Building. It opened on Jan. 18 and will remain available until Mar. 1. The exhibit is an open event available for everyone from 9am to 5pm on weekdays.

The exhibit is held each year and it encourages students to create and submit their works of art. "We have a juried student art exhibit every year and it is an opportunity for students to get professional practice and experience with exhibiting their work," said Stephanie Smith, gallery director and professor at UWG. At the end of each Fall semester, students are able to submit a digital entry of their work to be showcased at the exhibit. Some students had the opportunity to get multiple entries in, while others only had one piece selected.

At this year's exhibit, over sixty art pieces by forty students were picked to be showcased. The pieces varied from paintings, sculptures, printmaking, photographs and drawings. The artists are given the opportunity to have their works of art sold to the highest bidder and they can also win prizes and awards. The art is judged by an outside juror, who is a professional in the art field that either works at a museum, gallery or is an art professor.

"We choose an outside juror

to select and judge the work and we do this for two reasons," said Smith. "Those reasons are because they are professional and they are objective. They have not met the students and they are unbiased. It offers the experience of dealing with acceptance and rejection, which is important for anyone working in the creative field."

The juror for this exhibition is Bruce Bobick, who is the professor emeritus at the University of West Georgia and has also served as the head of the Art Department at the university. Bobick is a well-known watercolor artist and has received multiple awards, including first prize and signature member Peach Award for the Georgia Watercolor Society. Bobick created the Juried Art Exhibit in 1984.

There was a wide variety of artwork displayed in the first and second-floor galleries for the students and staff to observe when they walked in. "I love the exhibit," said Jasmyne Johnson, an art major and the student assistant for Smith. "It is interesting seeing the variety of the work. Seeing everyone's individual touch on the art is motivational."

The awards reception was held on Jan. 25 from 6-8 p.m. At the reception, multiple awards were given out to the participants. The awards included first, second and third place awards, honorable mentions and the Best in Show award that contains a prize of \$1,000. The awards help to recognize the participants for their work and the money prize helps support their art making. The

reception usually has a turnout of 100-150 people including students, family, alumni and the juror. The winners of the awards were not



available in time for publication. Although the awards ceremony is completed, the artwork will still be on display until Mar. 1.



Photo Courtesy of Stephanie Smith

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THE WEST GEORGIAN

Victoria Jones
NEWS EDITOR

Daniel Forte
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Robert Moody
COPY EDITOR

Bree Thompson
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COPY EDITOR

John Sewell, Ph. D.
ADVISOR

Gracie Shefelton
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

Living West

Best of West

Matthew Harvey

Contributing Writer

The Best of West is a peer nominated award that provides recognition to faculty and staff at UWG. Melanie McLean, a staff member of the Dean's Office, was recognized in the category of Strategic Imperative Recognition. UWG's faculty and staff works hard behind the scenes to make this the great school that it is. One of the ways that hard work done by faculty and staff is recognized is through the Best of West Employee Award and Recognition Program. The Best of West award provides recognition to faculty and staff in the categories of values, strategic imperatives and cross divisional collaboration. McLean's award for Strategic Imperative Recognition was given for her efforts in Project Search.

Project Search is a partnership between the University of West Georgia and Carrollton High School that provides opportunities for students with developmental disabilities. Project Search gives these students the chance to be in a college atmosphere while gaining valuable work experience through jobs within Dine West.

A key part of Project Search is that the students are provided with a classroom everyday for a month during the semester. The students require the space so that they can learn valuable skills about teamwork and how to properly interview for a job in classroom sessions. During

the semester classrooms stay booked throughout the day so finding one available all day, everyday for a month proved challenging.

McLean worked hard to find a classroom for the students of Project Search, even calling other universities after all options were out at UWG. Like UWG, the other universities that McLean reached out to did not have the space. McLean did not give up and eventually was able to find a computer lab in the Survey Research Center at UWG thanks to the help of Dr. Winston Tripp, Director of College of Social Sciences Center of Research.

"The students were able to use the computers and I.T. set them up with a projector and a whiteboard," said McLean. "The students were able to use the classroom in its fullest ability."

McLean did not take all the credit for getting the students into the classroom that they needed. She believed that several others pitched in and that it was a team effort, but Dr. Tripp received a large amount of recognition.

"It is a great thing for the students to have that experience," said McLean. "I think Dr. Tripp was a huge part of it because he was the one who was able to give the students access to that room and allowed them to use it for what they needed."

McLean was honored to receive the Best of West award but said she does not expect the acknowledgement.

"I feel like I am doing my job and I am doing it well and that's all I need," said McLean.

Thomas Thrasher

Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia chose four students to represent the school in the 25th annual International Economic Convention, which was held in Mumbai, India. The students and professors were able to explore the area as well as make new connections with various people across the world.

The UWG team came together and created a phenomenal paper and presentation where they earned the title of second-runner up during the competition. The team of four students managed to represented UWG well by bringing home a trophy after competing against 10 other schools. During the two weeks in Mumbai, the students and professors went sightseeing through the city along with experiencing cultural events such as visiting popular monuments, tourist attractions and interact with the community of 20 million people.

"It was surprising," said Dr. Susana Velez-Castrillon, Associate Professor of Management. "This sounds insane, but I didn't realize that there is a lot of people and then you realize when you are there what does it mean to have jobs for all of these people. It might be a growing economy, but when you have over 1 billion people to feed it's going to be very hard to turn around the lives of so many people."

The trip was also great for not only learning about India's culture and pressing issues, but it gave the students a chance to mingle with other schools from all over the world. It was UWG student Anna Jinks' favorite part about the trip.

"Having lunch with K.C. College was my favorite memory because we all got to compare our cultures," said Jinks.

The trip was a constant learning experience for the students as well as the professors. The UWG team went to India and brought back trophies along with an experience that will leave a mark on their lives forever.

One of the representatives and competitors was student KaRa Thompson. Thompson will always remember an idea shared by Dr. Beheruz Sethna, the Regents Professor of Marketing at UWG and President Emeritus.

"He gave a speech while we were in India during the competition," said Thompson. "He was talking about expanding our perspective and how that is the best thing we can do as people in general. Just expand your perspective. That's the greatest lesson I took from the trip."

Trump plan offers citizenship path to 1.8 million immigrants

Zeke Miller, Jill Colvin & Alan Farm

Associated Press

The White House unveiled a proposal Thursday that provides a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million young immigrants living in the country illegally, in exchange for new restrictions on legal immigration and \$25 billion in border security. The plan was applauded by some in Congress, but blasted by conservative activists as "amnesty" and slammed by a slew of Democrats, who accused President Donald Trump of holding "Dreamers" hostage to his hard-line immigration agenda.

Senior White House officials cast the plan as a centrist compromise that could win support from both parties and enough votes to pass the Senate. But it comes with a long list of concessions that many Democrats, and also conservative Republicans, especially in the House, may find impossible to swallow.

The plan would provide a pathway to citizenship for the roughly 690,000 younger immigrants protected from deportation by the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program — as well as hundreds of thousands of others who independent estimates say qualify for the program, but never applied.

Trump announced last year that he was winding away with the program, but gave Congress until March to come up with a legislative fix.

The plan would not allow parents of those immigrants to seek lawful status, the officials said.

In exchange, Trump's plan would dramatically overhaul the legal immigration system. Immigrants would only be allowed to sponsor their spouses and underage children to join them in the U.S., and not their parents, adult children or siblings. The officials said it would only end new applications for visas, allowing those already in the pipeline to be processed. Still, immigration activists said the move could cut legal immigration in half.

It would also end a visa lottery aimed at diversity, which drew Trump's attention after the New York City truck attack last year, redirecting the allotment to bringing down the existing backlog in visa applications.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the plan before its release.

On Wednesday, Trump said he was open to a pathway to citizenship for the younger immigrants. "We're going to morph into it," Trump told reporters. "It's going to happen, at some point in the future, over a period of 10 to 12 years." It was a reversal for the president, who

had previously said he opposed a pathway to citizenship for Dreamer immigrants.

Under the plan, recipients could have their legal status revoked due to criminal behavior or national security threats, the officials said, and eventual citizenship would require still-unspecified work and education requirements — and a finding that the immigrants are of "good moral character."

The nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute said it believes the largest share of the White House's 1.8 million people who'd be eligible for citizenship — 1.3 million — are people who currently meet all of DACA's eligibility requirements. These include years in the U.S., their ages now and when they entered this country, and whether they have a high school or equivalent education.

Another 400,000 are people who'd be eligible for DACA protection but for their education. And 100,000 more are people who are under age 15 — the minimum age allowed for most people requesting protection under the program.

Trump ended the DACA program in September, setting a March 5 deadline for Congress to provide legal protections or the program's recipients would once again be subject to deportation. The officials said Trump would only sign legislation providing those protections if the other immigration changes he is proposing are implemented.

Trump earlier this month had deferred to a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers to craft an immigration proposal, saying he would sign whatever they passed. But as talks on Capitol Hill broke down — in part because of controversy Trump ginned up using vulgar language to describe African countries — the White House decided to offer its own framework.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and others had also complained the president had failed to sufficiently lay out his priorities, leaving them guessing about what he might be willing to sign. One official said the Thursday release represents a plan for the Senate, with the administration expecting a different bill to pass the House.

McConnell thanked the president and his aides for providing the outline. "I am hopeful that as discussions continue in the Senate on the subject of immigration, Members on both sides of the aisle will look to this framework for guidance as they work towards an agreement," he said in a statement.

Doug Andres, a spokesman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, echoed the sentiment saying: "We're grateful for the president showing leadership on this issue and believe his ideas will help us ultimately reach a balanced solution."

Rep. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., an immigration hard-liner, called Trump's plan "generous and humane, while also being responsible" and said he'd work toward its passage. He said that besides protecting DACA recipients, "It also will prevent us from ending up back here in five years by securing the border and putting an end to extended-family chain migration."

But some of Congress' more conservative members seemed unwilling to open the citizenship door for the Dreamers.

"DACA itself didn't have a pathway to citizenship," said Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who battled Trump in 2016 for the GOP presidential nomination. "So I think it would be a profound mistake and not consistent with the promises we made to the voters to enact a pathway to citizenship to DACA recipients or to others who are here illegally."

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, said he supports a more conservative, more sweeping immigration bill proposed by House members, including House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., which has won strong support from House conservatives. Speaker Paul Ryan has promised to push for support for that measure.

The conservative Breitbart News, seen as a barometer of Trump's nationalist base, declared it "Don's Amnesty Bonanza."

Democrats were also raging. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., blasted the plan as "an act of staggering cowardice which attempts to hold the Dreamers hostage to a hateful anti-immigrant scheme."

In a statement Thursday night, Pelosi said the framework was "part of the Trump Administration's unmistakable campaign to make America white again."

Democratic Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., urged Republicans to join together with Democrats to reach a bipartisan alternative.

"Dreamers should not be held hostage to President Trump's crusade to tear families apart and waste billions of American tax dollars on an ineffective wall," he said in a statement.

Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., who chairs the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said the White House was using DACA recipients "as bargaining chips for sweeping anti-immigrant policies."

And Lorella Praeli, with the American Civil Liberties Union, called it "a hateful, xenophobic immigration proposal that would slash legal immigration to levels not seen since the racial quotas of the 1920s, eliminate legal immigration channels for African countries, and spend \$25 billion for a harmful, wasteful border wall and an increase in Border Patrol and ICE agents."

News

Snow Day

Kristian Hammond

Contributing Writer

On Jan. 17, Coweta County and the surrounding areas woke up to a blanket of white. Due to winter storm Inga, almost six inches of snow covered the ground in northern portions of the county, and two inches in southern portions. The wintry conditions caused problems for travel until the end of the week for locals and non-locals alike since local roads as well as state highways were impassible.

Commuter students going to the University of West Georgia were particularly distressed and grateful that the decision was made to close the Carrollton campus.

"It's always really stressful making that drive in bad weather," said Katie Abernathy, a business student at UWG living in Newnan and commuting to Carrollton. "But ice adds a new layer of danger to it all. It's hard when classes are not cancelled in Carrollton because you never want have an accident."

The snow was not the only reason they were grateful for the Carrollton campus being closed. On that same day, the state of Georgia was put under a state of emergency, and Coweta County issued a strict 5 p.m. curfew, punishable by a high fine of over \$1000 or even 60 days of jail time for those unable to pay. Only those working in emergency and medical services such as first responders and nurses at hospitals were exempt to the consequences of the curfew.

"I would have been stuck in Carrollton if I had to go to my classes that day," said Abernathy. "It seemed a bit

excessive to me."

While it was true that the curfew and its harsh penalties caused some controversy among citizens of Coweta county, police officers ultimately felt that it was for the best given the conditions of the roads due to the winter storm.

"Whenever the state is put under a state of emergency, a curfew is instated," said Deputy Chris Segrest of the Coweta County Sheriff Office. "It is normally mainly for schools, day cares, and institutions involving kids. However, the road conditions were so bad that we needed to enforce one in this case. It was really to keep road personnel, local law enforcement, and emergency workers, as well as citizens safe. The consequences needed to be stated, but we mainly wanted to avoid even the possibility of

accidents happening."

In the end, neither the Coweta County Sheriff Office or Newnan Police Department made any arrests, and no citations were issued from the curfew. The curfew only lasted until early Friday morning, but the snow and ice patches on the roads did not completely clear until days later when temperatures climbed high enough to melt the snow and ice.

Though the winter storm was severe and travel difficult, the amount of accidents from cars being on the road was kept to a minimum due to the curfew, making the jobs of police officers easier. Other issues such as power outages and downed trees were also able to be kept at a minimum due to resources not being spent on clearing car accidents.



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Arts & Entertainment

Rick and Morty: Three Seasons in Review

Dylan Logan

Contributing Writer

Since its release on Adult Swim in 2013 Rick and Morty has easily become one of America's top comedies. The dark sci-fi series' offbeat and wacky humor sparks the viewer's interest, who are later won over by its deeper meaning.

The animated series follows mad scientist Rick Sanchez and his timid, half-witted grandson Morty Smith who travel the depths of their parallel universe, dimension C-137, in search of adventure. Although the purpose of these adventures are usually to cater Rick's own amusement the characters tend to run into tribulations that cause them to question their own relationships and moral values.

On the home front parental figures Beth and Jerry Smith struggle to work through a failing marriage while dealing with the pressure of Rick's antics and his return to their lives after 20 years of absence. Rick is the star character of



the show. Known to be the smartest being in the universe, he has the power to save or destroy entire worlds with only his mind and quirky inventions. Watching Rick attempt to maintain the balance of the universe while struggling against extreme alcoholism and emotional detachment makes for an exciting half-hour of television.

Rick and Morty, the work of co-creators Dan Harmon and Justin Roiland, has been a huge success. The show has landed quite an impressive list of guest stars such as Keegan-Michael Key, John Oliver, Steven Colbert and more. Rick and Morty has captured over 11 million viewers breaking Adult-Swim records. It has been the second-highest rated TV show falling only to Game of Thrones.

Harmon and Roiland have a knack for leaving fans begging for more, which has surprisingly called Rick and Morty's future into question. Viewers are beginning to become frustrated with the creators only having produced three seasons containing 31 episodes in just under five years. Fans waited 18 months between the end of season two and the premier

of season three, which was aired in the form of a pleasant surprise as a reverse April Fool's joke earlier this year.

As for season four there is no set release date and it does not seem like it will be coming any time soon. Writer and producer Ryan Ridley said the network, Harmon and Roiland should probably get their "[expletive] together". There does not seem to be any form of internal conflict in the show's writing and production. Harmon and Roiland have left many open storylines that fans are excited to see play out. The creators are extremely picky about the content that they produce.

"It's a common yet odd phenomenon," said Harmon, "Tail-chasing, perfectionism, overthinking? One problem is that any description you pick for it."

Nevertheless, Rick and Morty is worth checking out. Its dedicated fans would rather wait for the producers to get it together than face disappointment. Hopefully the next time we get to see Rick and his crew "get schwifty" on screen will be sooner rather than later.

The Nashville Sound Tour Comes to the Fox

Robert Moody

Copy Editor

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit will be bringing their international Nashville Sound tour to Atlanta with a two-night stop at the fabulous Fox Theater on Feb. 8 and 9.

The critically acclaimed group has spent the last few months on the road supporting their album, The Nashville Sound, which was released in June of 2017 to high praise. The album traverses a wide range of social issues and topics from racism and politics to love, death and the struggles facing middle class Americans making it the most intriguing, introspective, insightful and thematically complete of the band's three studio albums together.

The Nashville Sound has

also drawn in two 2018 Grammy nominations for Best Americana Album and Best American Roots Song for the hit single "If We Were Vampires." These nominations come as no surprise as frontman Jason Isbell has previously won both of these awards for his 2015 album Something More Than Free and its lead single "24 Frames."

The popularity of outspoken frontman Jason Isbell and his well-known mastery of storytelling and lyricism is one major reason for the success that he and the 400 Unit are currently experiencing. Once recognized by John Mayer as "the best lyric writer of my generation," Isbell and his writing have ascended to and established residence in places that few have visited before over the course of his career that has spanned nearly two decades.

One unique aspect of Isbell's successful music career shows itself through his ever growing honesty in his lyrics and his ability to walk a fine thread

between numerous styles and genres. This thread is often hard for fans and music aficionados to follow as he often bridges the gap and falls somewhere between country, southern rock, alt-country, americana and one that Isbell seems proud to be, folk.

"I think folk music deals in narrative more than anything else," said Isbell in an interview on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah in June of 2017. "Folk music harkens back to a time when we made up songs so we didn't forget our stories. That's what I think I'm trying to do more than anything else is remember the world and my own experiences and explain them to myself."

Isbell shares these experiences in his work by being transparent about his own personal successes, hardships and fears. These have most notably appeared over the course of his last three albums on which he has been painfully vulnerable with lyrics

about love, loss, fear, anxiety and his newfound sobriety after years of alcohol and drug addiction. This honesty takes audiences around the world and not only tells them of Isbell's story but, through genuine authenticity, tells them their own stories as well.

"What I'm trying to do is make something that's not exactly for entertainment purposes and I think to be an artist you have to set an honest location and tell people what your life was like and what your experiences were like while you're telling this story because to tell a good story you have to have a good setting," said Isbell.

With an expansive catalog of music to draw from and over a decade of playing together it is no surprise that Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit have become one of America's most entertaining and raw live acts to grace stages worldwide. One can only assume that Feb. 8 and 9 at the Fox Theater will be no exception.

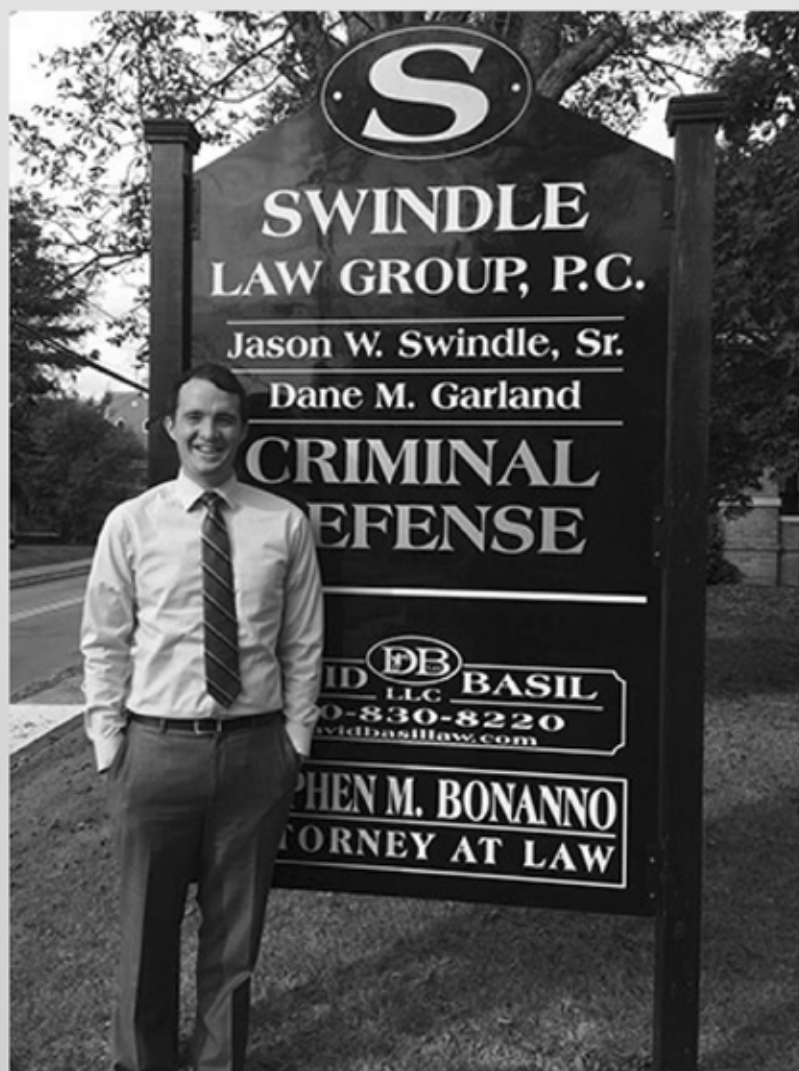


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Jason W. Swindle Sr. (770) 836-8332 jason@swindlelaw.com www.swindlelaw.com
310 Tanner Street Carrollton, GA 30117

Criminal Defense Attorney



Dane M. Garland dane.swindlelaw@gmail.com

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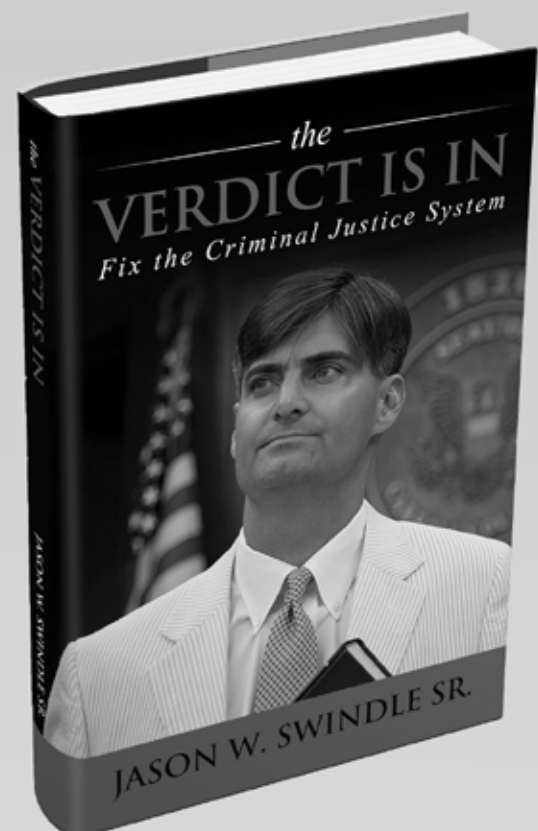
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Sports

UWG Men's Basketball Escapes Grueling Stretch of Games with 3-3 Record

Justin Hodges

Feature Editor

The UWG men's basketball team recently had to survive through a treacherous part of their season schedule in the first month of the New Year. The team has played in six games packed in to only 14 days. While some college basketball teams have the luxury of playing one or two games a week by this point of the season with plenty of rest in between the Wolves barely got to have two days of cumulative rest between each game played in this stretch. This includes having to play three out of the six games with just one day of rest prior to.

"This is just suicide this schedule that we're under. We don't have any time to feel sorry for ourselves," said Michael Cooney, head coach of the UWG men's basketball team. "This is a brutal week for us. You have to have short term memory."

The stretch began with four consecutive home games with the next two on the road. Convincing victories against Carver and Auburn Montgomery had the Wolves in high spirits, but the continuous wear and tear made things that much more difficult for the next four games. UWG would have to battle and suffer through back to back overtime games on Martin Luther King Day weekend.

The Jan. 13 game against North Alabama saw the Wolves down 8-0 right off the bat and trailed by as many as 15 points in the first half. Sluggish first half shooting (34.5%), and poor defense left Coach Cooney in disbelief after his efforts to give his players as much rest as possible beforehand.

"The first half really killed us. We took bad shots, were impatient offensively and we turned the ball over. I thought we were fortunate to only be down 11 at half, there was no semblance that we were really trying to work," Cooney said after the game. "I was shocked. We were off Wednesday, I tried to make practice as light as I could Thursday and Friday but we looked very sluggish to start the game and I was really surprised by that."

UWG would come roaring back in the second half. A 36-22 run led by leading scorers Paul Turner and Marquill Smith gave the Wolves their first lead of the game with 6:30 left in the

game. Both teams continued to battle throughout with the game eventually going to overtime. UWG would run out of gas in the extra period despite valiant efforts from their two stars, losing 99-92.

Things would not get easier in their next game just two days later against Alabama-Huntsville. Coach Cooney suffered throughout the game with the cold; a game which would last three overtimes and a total of 55 minutes game minutes played. Two separate times in regulation and double-overtime UWG had the game in their hands in the final seconds but could not pull through.

"It was tough, when you know you have the game won two separate times and they just give it away... they made it way more difficult than it needed to be," said Cooney after the thriller. "To just show that grit and keep fighting, you got to give my guys all the credit. They are always going to compete."

Cooney's men were indeed resilient coming through and winning the game by a score of 122-118. Marquill Smith again played fantastically with 33 points. However, Cooney made sure to mention the impact that his freshman players were able to have picking up the slack for some of the older starters that were struggling.

"The freshmen were fantastic tonight.



Photo credit: Justin Hodges

Inserting Stephen Ross in the game in the third overtime, he makes all his free throws. Greg James hit big threes... Ovie Magbegor is becoming a force down low with his reach and rebounding," said Cooney.

Back to back crushing losses against West Florida and Valdosta State currently has the Wolves hanging low, with their season record now at 8-10. A unit that has not played much time together, their most recent game being just the 7th played with the current core all together, is still struggling simply to figure everything out.

Gymnasts' parents say they'll 'never get rid of the guilt'

David Eggert & Tammy Webber

Associated Press

Some parents thought they were misinterpreting the doctor's techniques. Others assumed their children were lying or mistaken.

But as more details emerged, the mothers and fathers had to face an awful truth: A renowned sports doctor had molested their daughters.

These parents, many fighting back tears, confronted Larry Nassar during his long sentencing hearing, lamenting their deep feelings of guilt and wondering how they could have missed the abuse that sometimes happened when they were in the same room.

"I willingly took my most precious gift in this world to you, and you hurt her, physically, mentally and emotionally. And she was only 8," Anne Swinehart told Nassar. "I will never get rid of the guilt that I have about this experience."

Many of the young athletes had come to Nassar seeking help with gymnastics injuries. He was sentenced Wednesday to up to 175 years in prison after admitting sexually assaulting patients under the guise of medical treatment while employed by Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics, the sport's governing body, which also trains Olympians.

He counted on his charm and reputation to deflect any questions. He was so brazen that he sometimes molested patients in front of their parents, shielding the young girls with his body or a sheet. His clinic on the university campus was decorated with signed photos of Olympic stars, bolstering his credentials to star-struck athletes and their families.

Parents who voiced concern say Nassar dismissed their questions. The mother of one 12-year-old victim said she questioned Nassar about not wearing gloves and he "answered in a way that made me feel stupid for asking."

"I told myself, 'He's an Olympic doctor, be quiet,'" the woman said. "The guilt that I feel, and

that my husband feels, that we could not protect our child, is crippling."

Some victims said they were so young that they did not understand they had been abused until they were adults, so did not tell anyone.

What's more, coaches told the parents that Nassar was the best and could help their daughters achieve their dreams.

Paul DerOhannesian, a former prosecutor in New York who has written a book on sexual assault trials, said abusers in positions of authority often hold "tremendous power" over both children and parents. Some parents also fear what will happen to their child if they report abuse, and children often have difficulty talking to parents about anything sexual.

"It shouldn't turn into a situation where we blame parents," DerOhannesian said. But even when Nassar's abuse was reported to coaches and law enforcement authorities, many of them did not believe Nassar had done anything wrong, causing many parents and girls to second-guess themselves.

Donna Markham recounted how her then-12-year-old daughter Chelsey began sobbing in the car as they were headed home after a session with Nassar.

Her daughter said, "Mom, he put his fingers in me and they weren't gloved," then begged her mother not to confront Nassar, fearing it would derail her gymnastics career.

The next day, Donna Markham told her daughter's coach, who did not believe it. Markham said she also asked other mothers if their daughters had mentioned inappropriate touching by Nassar. "They gave me a look like, 'You're lying to me,'" she told the judge, choking back tears.

Chelsey Markham quit gymnastics not long afterward and entered a "path of destruction" and self-loathing and eventually killed herself.

"It all started with him," Markham told the judge. "It has destroyed our family. We used to be so close. ... I went through four years of intense therapy trying to deal with all this, until I could

finally accept the fact that this was not my fault."

Some parents did not believe their daughters at first, finding it incomprehensible that the man they trusted could have done anything wrong.

Kyle Stephens, whose family was close with Nassar's, said he repeatedly abused her from age 6 to 12 during family visits to his home near Lansing, Michigan. But her parents did not believe her when she finally told them and made her apologize to Nassar.

Years later, her father realized she was telling the truth, and she blamed his 2016 suicide partly on the guilt he felt.

"Perhaps you have figured it out by now, but little girls don't stay little forever," Stephens told Nassar. "They grow into strong women that return to destroy your world."

Dancer Olivia Venuto, who said Nassar abused her from 2006, when she was 12, until 2013, said her parents did not believe her at first and sent Nassar messages of support after a 2016 Indianapolis Star investigation revealed the abuse.

Swinehart said that when her 15-year-old daughter, Jillian, told her she had been abused, "I tried to believe that there was some medical necessity for this treatment," she said. "The alternative was just too horrific, to think that I had let this happen to my child when I was sitting right there."

Police in Michigan investigated Nassar twice. One inquiry from 2004 concluded that his actions were medically appropriate. Another investigation in 2014 and 2015 did not result in charges.

Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who sentenced Nassar, told parents not to feel guilty.

"The red flags may have been there, but they were designed to be hidden," she said. Swinehart said other people can't know how they would have reacted in the same situation.

"Quit shaming and blaming the parents," she said. "Trust me, you would not have known. And you would not have done anything differently."



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