



The West Georgian

Est. 1934



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“Everything is RENT!”



Victoria Jones

News Editor

The musical that completely shook the American theatre world in 1996, stopped at the Fox Theatre and put on an outstanding performance. Rent, on its 20th anniversary tour managed to captivate the Fox audience in a way unlike any other.

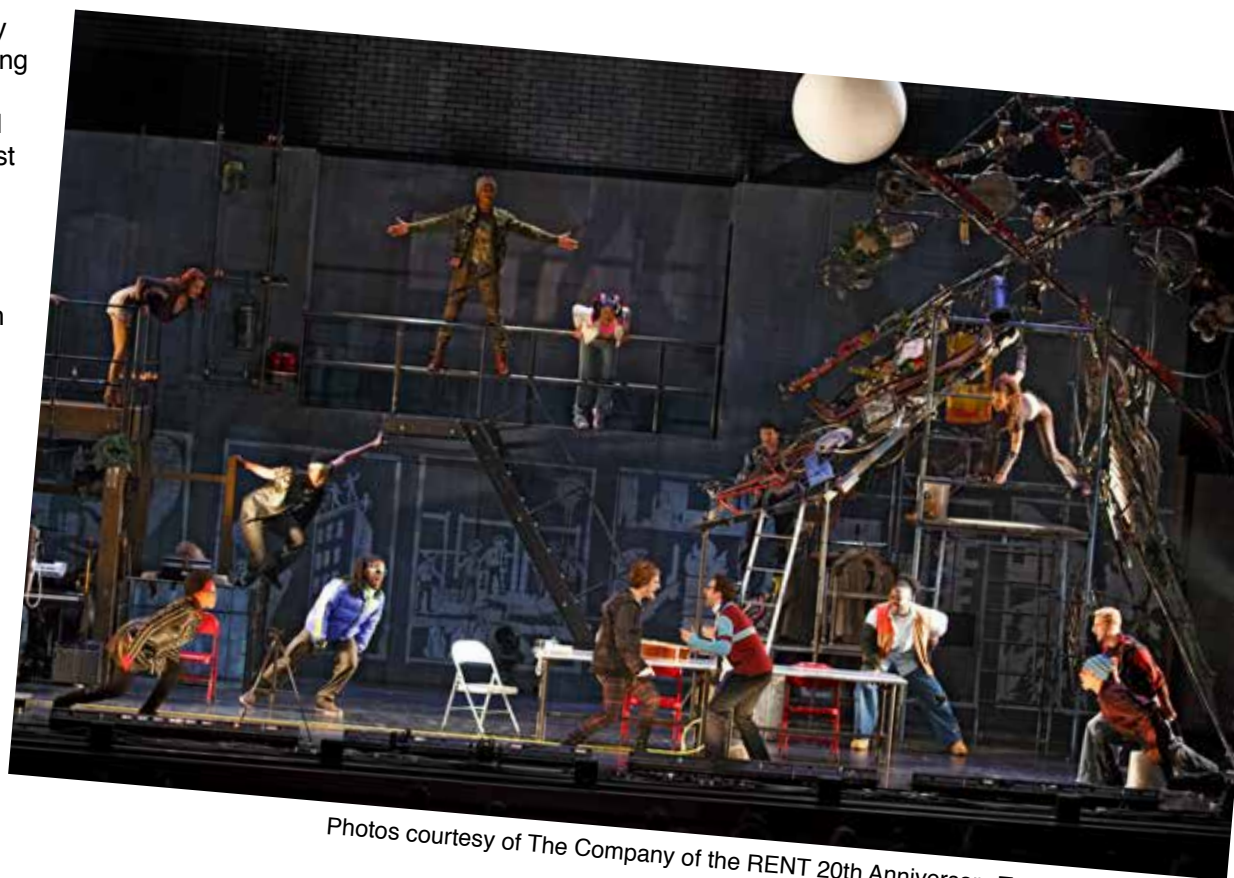
After five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes and 21 years, Rent is still sharing the importance of living in the moment; something that Rent creator, Jonathan Larson lived by in his bohemian life. Now directed by Evan Ensign, the cast of the 20th anniversary tour did an exceptional job portraying this lifestyle just as the way Larson would have wanted it.

The plot is based around two roommates living in New York City named Mark and Roger and a community that created a close bond (some friendships and some lovers) over the hardships they were facing. During this era, a strong AIDS/HIV epidemic was spreading rapidly. Rent gave insight into what it was like dealing with diseases, being poor and ridiculed for their way of life. Though the characters faced injustice, they held onto their love for another and the need for truly enjoying the present moment.

While the show was based around love and sadness, anger made its way into numerous scenes. The characters rioted against the exploitation they faced after being forced to move out of their apartment due to Mark and Roger's former roommate, Benny becoming the owner of the building and constructing a studio. Not only did this affect Mark and Roger, but the entire community. The homeless who lived around the building had to leave along with the rest of the crew who had no other choice.

As each scene unfolded, the characters only grew closer throughout their pain. As a theatregoer, it was an amazing experience to watch the connection that each character had with one another. The cast brought a unique energy to the atmosphere leaving the audience wanting more. Their talented artistry sustained Rent's prestigious reputation through incredible vocals, instrumental and highly regarded choreography.

Rent is a love story that stretches much deeper than a romance. It is a love story that is expressed through poverty, pain, disease, suffering and unfairness. The inability to live the way in which they wish is what keeps the musical alive today. The injustice the characters have endured translates to many of the inequities many of us face today as a society. This edgy Broadway hit has stood the test of time and is more relevant now than ever.



Photos courtesy of The Company of the RENT 20th Anniversary Tour, Carol Rosegg

Living West

A taste of Jamaica in Carrollton

Kyzia Wint

Contributing Writer

In December of 2017, Kadine Houston-Farr opened up Kay's Jamaican Cuisine on Alabama St. in Carrollton, Ga. Originally from Jamaica, Houston-Farr relocated to Carrollton and wanted to create an atmosphere where she can not only provide great food, but give back to her community.

Her motivation to open up a restaurant came from her family and friends encouraging her to do so because they loved her food so much. She originally wanted to open up a spot just for students, but those plans did not go through.

Houston-Farr enjoys collaborating with students. She wants students to not only be able to come in for food, but to hangout as well. Earlier this month, she

collaborated with a community service organization on campus called Love Travels for their spirit night.

"Not a lot of people showed up, it could've been better supported," said Houston-Farr.

The turnout did not discourage her. Houston-Farr continues to build connections with students and create innovative ways to reach students at UWG.

She also plans to expand her restaurant into cities where there are not many Jamaican restaurants. The next stop on her journey is expanding into LaGrange, Ga. She is not in a hurry though; she wants to have at least two years in Carrollton to build and grow. Right now, she does not have a staff but eventually wants to employ and give back to the community. Houston-Farr is currently running lunch



Photo Credits: Kyzia Wint

specials geared towards students.

"One of the things I took into consideration when making the lunch specials was the students," said Houston-Farr. "I didn't want them to have to pay a lot, but I still wanted to make a profit."

Her lunch special is \$6 and it includes the choice between two entrees and a drink. She also added new items to her menu such as mac-and-cheese and Jamaican beef patties.

Houston-Farr says that so far

oxtail has been the number one seller. She wants to create food and establish an environment that keeps customers coming. Her hope is that customers to come to her with concerns and know that she'll fix them right then and there.

Although it has only been two months, Houston-Farr has been loving owning her own restaurant.

"The best thing about owning your own business is that it gives you your own freedom," said Houston-Farr.

Local Couple Tackles UWG's Mardi Gras 5K



Photo Credit: Anna-Maria Palma

Michael Samurda

Contributing Writer

On Feb. 17, the Graduate Assistants of the University of West Georgia held the Inaugural Mardi Gras 5K at UWG's Athletic Complex. The project manager of this event, Sarah McDaniel, wanted to use this event as a way to promote personal wellness in a fun and exciting fashion.

When participants arrived to the event they registered, and received their goodie bags. The goodie bags contained their Mardi Gras t-shirts, beads, masks, stickers, a raffle ticket and other promotional objects. There was a variety of power foods available to the runners throughout the event such as fruit, granola bars and an abundance of water. Runners gathered energy through this fuel and began their trek with the other runners at 3:30 p.m.

UWG student, Anna-Maria Palma and her boyfriend Hank Barnes attended the event because they have recently been running together.

They decided to attend the event after Palma discovered the ad online. The track was difficult for the couple, but they finished the race in just under twenty-nine minutes. Palma placed third in her female age group. Palma received a certificate for third place, and bragging rights over Barnes for the future.

"I could have won that whole race, I just stayed with her to be a good sport," said Barnes.

The couple waited patiently after the race for the raffle ticket drawing that the graduate assistants provided for the runners. Every runner's registration number was thrown into a drawing for a chance to win gift cards to multiple Carrollton restaurants. The couple wanted to win the raffle badly, but unfortunately their numbers were not chosen.

Palma and Barnes had a great time promoting personal wellness with the other participants. This was their first 5K together as a couple, and they plan on attending many more in the near future after their experience at West Georgia's Mardi Gras 5K.



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Reading Jane

Kristian Flinn

Contributing Writer

Novelist Patricia Parks read from her debut novel *Re Jane* last week in Kathy Cashen auditorium in the Humanities building at UWG. The novel is a retelling of the classic novel *Jane Eyre*, retold from the point of view of a Korean-American girl named Jane Re. The reading was a good opportunity for students to not only hear from a professional, but to also learn about her creative process as well.

“The novel took me about seven

years to write,” said Parks. “Jane Eyre is such an upset from these conventionally beautiful heroines. She is scrappy and she is an underdog. You can’t help but root for her. She was a character that really stuck with me, and as it developed from a prose poem into a novel, I couldn’t help but wonder how she would fit into the modern world that I knew.”

Although *Re Jane* is her premier novel, Parks has also published essays in *The New York Times*, *Slice*, and *The Guardian*. The reading at the UWG was part of her tour to promote her book and upcoming projects. Her next project features a character in her novel.

“He’s a secret favorite character of mine,” said Parks. “All he’s doing in *Re Jane* is wiping some WD-40 on a door in the same store Jane works at, but my next novel is all about him. The character’s name is Juan Kim and he’s part of this community of Koreans in Buenos Aires, Argentina who falls in love with jazz piano. It’s all set in the backdrop of the time of the ‘Dirty War’ in Argentina and eventually moves to New York. I’m fascinated by these groups of minorities within minorities, so that’s been an interesting project to research and write.”

The reading saw a turnout of about 40 students who all engaged heavily in asking Parks questions after her reading about her process of writing this novel.

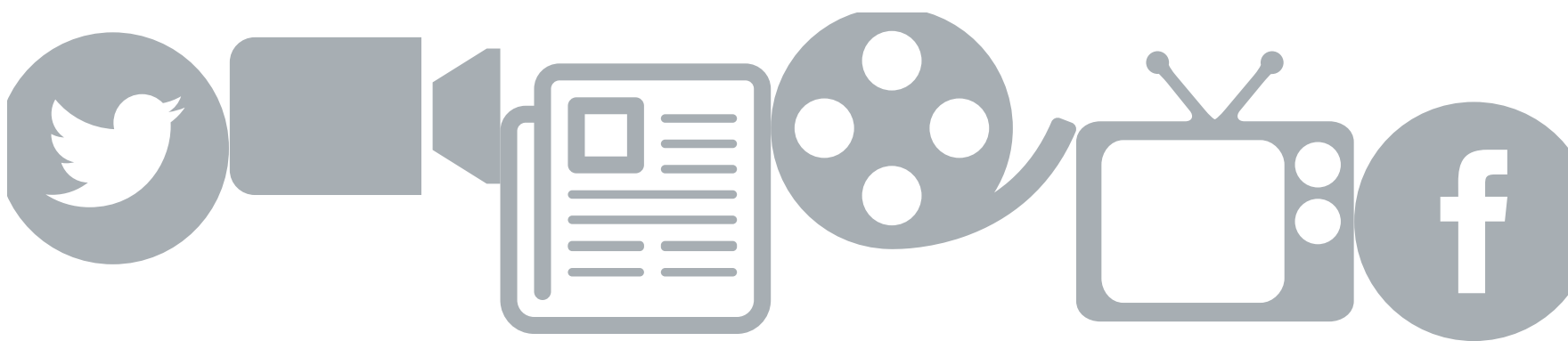
“It’s always great when the authors will actually stay and answer questions,” said Ashleigh Dennis, a student who attended the

reading. “It’s great for getting insight and advice from professionals since the process of writing itself isn’t something we always think about.”

Parks originally came up with the idea of a retelling of *Jane Eyre* when she used a writing exercise to lean on a classic. After writing scenes of her novel multiple times, using the story as an opportunity for a retelling was a success.

“No one teaches you how to write a novel,” said Parks. “Everyone writes differently. I thought as an exercise to lean on a classic, and that was *Jane Eyre*. I just never removed that scaffolding of the original text.”

A reception at Underground Books on the square followed the reading, allowing students even more valuable time with the author. Refreshments at the reception and students were happy and grateful that Parks was able to come share her work and her insight with them.



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Living West

Dressing to Impress

Triston Armour

Contributing Writer

The organization Love Travels recently had their Belles of the Ball event which gives out prom dresses to high school students for free. With plans to expand to other cities and make the event widely accessible, the 2018 Belles of the Ball event was a step in the right direction. The event had a large turnout and even had a runway for all the girls to get a chance to feel like the “Belle of the Ball” and have fun doing it.

The event was held at the UWG Campus Center where the group gave out more than 200 dresses and had girls come from all over the west Georgia area to take advantage of this opportunity. With the prom season just around the corner, this was an affordable way for teens to still feel pretty at prom.

The event was organized by Scottlin Smith had plenty of volunteers from West Georgia to help make sure everything went smoothly. Many had smiles on their faces the whole day as they suggested different style dresses for the high school students to try on. The volunteers were not the only people having fun, the parents enjoyed helping

their kids as well.

Belles of the Ball began three years ago when the founder Scottlin Smith decided to donate a few of her own prom dresses to high school students. The event has since grown from a few dresses out of Smith’s closet to over 200 dresses.

“We want the next step for Belles of the Ball to eventually travel to different cities crowning girls the Belle of the Ball,” said Smith.

Love Travels puts on the event so everyone can have an opportunity to have a dress for prom. With prom dresses being such an expensive item to only wear once, Love Travels hopes to save parents money as well as making sure girls don’t miss out because of their financial situation.

“I started Belles of the Ball to ensure every high school girl is able to go prom no matter their socioeconomic background,” said Smith.

With this year being such a success the future seems to be very bright for Love Travels and the Belles of the Ball event. Scottlin has big plans for the group and for herself as she prepares to graduate.

“In the future I see myself having my own nonprofit, being a mentor to young girls and simply spreading love,” said Smith.

Carnival 2018

Michael Samurda

Contributing Writer

On Feb. 7, UWG student Francisco Stenger returned to his home country of Uruguay to experience his first “Carnival.” “Carnival” is a festival that is held in many South American countries where the community celebrates the days before lent, and Stenger was there to witness everything that Uruguay’s “Carnival” had to offer.

Stenger’s journey to Uruguay required a connecting flight through Miami Fla., and once in Montevideo, Uruguay, Stenger still needed a 9 hour bus ride across the country to his family’s house in Artigas. The long travels caused Stenger to suffer jet lag, but he did not let a lack of sleep get in his way of having a good time.

Artigas’ “Carnival” began on Saturday Feb. 10, but the city started the festivities early with a costume contest on Feb. 9., which was a great event for Stenger to meet up with his old friends. On Feb. 10, at 11 p.m. Artigas’ “Carnival” parade ran through the city of Montevideo. This “Carnival” parade was presented to the public by the four Samba schools of Uruguay through their collaboration within the parade.

Samba schools such as Rampla, Imperio, Emperadores and Academicos created floats and performances for the parade, and are later judged accordingly to decide a winner. There was music playing from each float, women dancers wearing large feathered hats and relentless representation for each Samba school.

Stenger’s family was chosen to represent the Samba school of Rampla because they represent the economically less fortunate. Rampla received their seventeenth “Carnival” victory in 2018, and Stenger was there to celebrate with his family. Stenger claimed the parade was a more family oriented event, but after the parade the partying began. There were concerts, paint parties, and dancing that occurred in large grassy fields outside of Montevideo until early hours of the morning.

“The people of Uruguay have an entirely different time schedule compared to the people of the United States,” stated Stenger. “Families in Uruguay brought their children to the city of Artigas at 11 p.m., stay until 3 a.m., and the young adults would party until 8 a.m.”

Stenger was able to see the three-day experience for the first time in his home country with his friends and family, and it is something that he will never forget.

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Local Tattoo Artist Pursues the American Dream by Opening His Own Studio

Dylan Logan

Copy Editor

If you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life. This old adage has proven to be timeless and true across many mediums. Whether it be art, athletics, music, engineering, writing, tattooing or any hobby, subjects of their work will tell you that it is not a choice for them. They are a victim – held hostage by passion.

This attribute can be seen in many of the best artists time has to offer, including (but not limited to) Kat Von D, Don Ed Hardy, Norman “Sailor Jerry” Collins, Mike “Rollo” Malone, Scott Campbell and Ami James. These types knew when they picked up the tools of their trade that they were not soon to put them down – instantly hooked, like a fiend to a needle.

Julius “Jules” Woods, 35, is no exception to this trait. Woods knew the day of getting his first tattoo that he wanted to pursue a career in tattooing, and he was apprenticing in shops during his senior year of high school.

Jules was born in Chicago, but he was raised in Guntown, MS – a

small-town of only 2,700 people. He can recall the challenges of growing up as a black tattooer in Mississippi, but he never let that hold him back and has since traveled the country pursuing his passion.

Woods has been tattooing for over 17 years in 13 different studios. He has spent the last seven years in Carrollton – most of that time as an artist at Skinwerks Tattoo & Design alongside artist Craig Foster, who appeared and competed on the popular television show “Ink Master” in 2015. Woods has since broken away and is now the proud owner of Blackwater Ink. He opened shop in October of last year, which happened to fall on a Friday the 13th.

The master tattoo artist says the transition was absolutely terrifying. “Nothing worth having comes without some kind of risk,” Woods said. “So, it was a risk that I took. I’ve dumped a lot of money, basically everything I have, into it. Right now, I’m putting everything back into the business to make sure that my people have what they need. I designed the shop for the tattooers – it’s not for me to make money, it’s for them to make money and if they make money then I make money in return.”

Woods seems to be doing

exceptionally well since opening his studio. He has taken advice from many other owners with much more experience – and is taking all of the right steps to become successful. His humble personality, dedication and lifetime of hard work is paying off for him.

“The name “Blackwater” is an homage to home,” he says. “Every time I hear that old Doobie Brothers (Black Water) song it reminds me of home. I grew up on a farm, and on that farm, there is a lake – at night, against the moonlight, it looked like black ice. I would go there just to sit and look at this lake, the sky, the stars and all of that.”

Woods recognizes that Carrollton has an abundance of talented artists – both students and non-students. He uses the hallway and foyer of his studio to showcase local art. When he makes a sale the artist keeps 100 percent of the profit. He wants to bring more culture into people’s lives.

“I want to do things that most tattoo studios don’t do,” he says. “If you want to draw people’s attention you have to do something different. You can’t do it the way that everyone else does.”

He also recognizes the importance of local business in the community.

“A small town like this is local business oriented. If more of us will work together it will benefit all of us,” he says. “I think that’s the way it should be. There’s enough to go around for all of us – so why not help someone else out. Even if it costs me a little bit, so what.”

His clients fuel his passion. Some have said that getting tattooed is better than going to a shrink. He loves to see the reaction on his client’s face after getting tattooed. He says that most of the reactions are of people who got more than what they expected.

Woods’ passion has taken him so many places and given him a significant amount of memories and stories to tell – and will surely give him many more.

“I’m an artist at heart and I stay pretty dedicated to that. I’m either drawing or painting when I’m at home. I’ll never quit tattooing – there’s no time,” he says. “That also means very little sleep and not much of a social life – I even have two ex-wives and a lot of that comes from the time and work that I’ve put into my craft. You know how everyone says, “you’re never promised tomorrow,” so I try to get as much done every single day as I possibly can, so I don’t feel like it’s been wasted.”

Sports

Building a Tradition: One Match at a Time

Matthew Harvey

Circulation Manager

The UWG Tennis team is preparing for their 2017-2018 season in what they hope will be another stepping stone in the program’s future.

Michael Coleman, UWG women’s tennis head coach, is entering his sixth season with the team. His team is coming off a season in which the UWG women’s tennis had a 6-2 record outside of the conference, but a disappointing 0-10 in Gulf South Conference play. The Wolves play in a powerhouse conference full of national championships and proud cultures.

“Our conference is extremely tough,” said Coleman. “You’ve got teams in our conference that have won multiple national titles, and are just power house teams. They have been power house teams for a long time.”

Coleman divides the conference up into thirds. The top third consists of the multiple national champion and powerhouse teams. The middle third are the highly competitive but not quite the powerhouses in the top third. Then there is the bottom third, teams that are competitive but struggle heavily against the others. The Wolves have fought but have yet to make it out of the bottom third of the conference.

“Since I have been here we have been in the bottom third. We have wavered in there. We’ve been a little better some years. We’ve been a little down some years,” said Coleman.

Coleman has added two freshman players for this upcoming season, Brooke Kane and Bailey McCammon. Kane comes from Cumming, Ga where she graduated from West Forsyth High School. McCammon is from Buford, GA and

graduated from Buford High School. Coleman is hoping that the addition of Kane and Bailey will provide depth to the squad and that the two will make a big impact on the court.

“Brooke is a much more aggressive player, hard hitter in your face kind of a girl. Bailey is a more steady, grind you down kind of player,” said Coleman. “Because we’ve added those girls we have added more depth to our team.”

Right now Coleman’s goal is to move the UWG women’s tennis into the highly competitive middle third of the conference and believes that the addition of Kane and McCammon will take the team closer to that goal.

“We’re really looking to pick up more wins,” said Coleman. “Now when we play one of those top tier teams we may not beat that top team but we expect to win a few more matches or for the matches to become a lot closer.”

Coleman believes that the future of the program is looking bright as the school has began to put more of a focus on all athletics. UWG has provided more of an influx in

scholarship money to help build the team further. He is hoping that this focus will help his team build a winning tradition and attract better players year after year.

Despite wanting his team to be a force on the court, Coleman wants his team to be even more of a force off the court. UWG women’s tennis always has one of the highest average GPA scores through all of the athletic teams and always push their players over the line to graduate. Coleman believes that the players grades and overall happiness is far more important than their performance on the court.

“The term we use to refer to anybody in the NCAA is ‘Student Athlete’ and the word student comes first,” said Coleman. “You need to graduate.”

Coleman looks to teach his players lessons that extend beyond that of the tennis court as they prepare to go out into the real world. He believes that in doing so he can build the tradition that he wants within the UWG women’s tennis team.

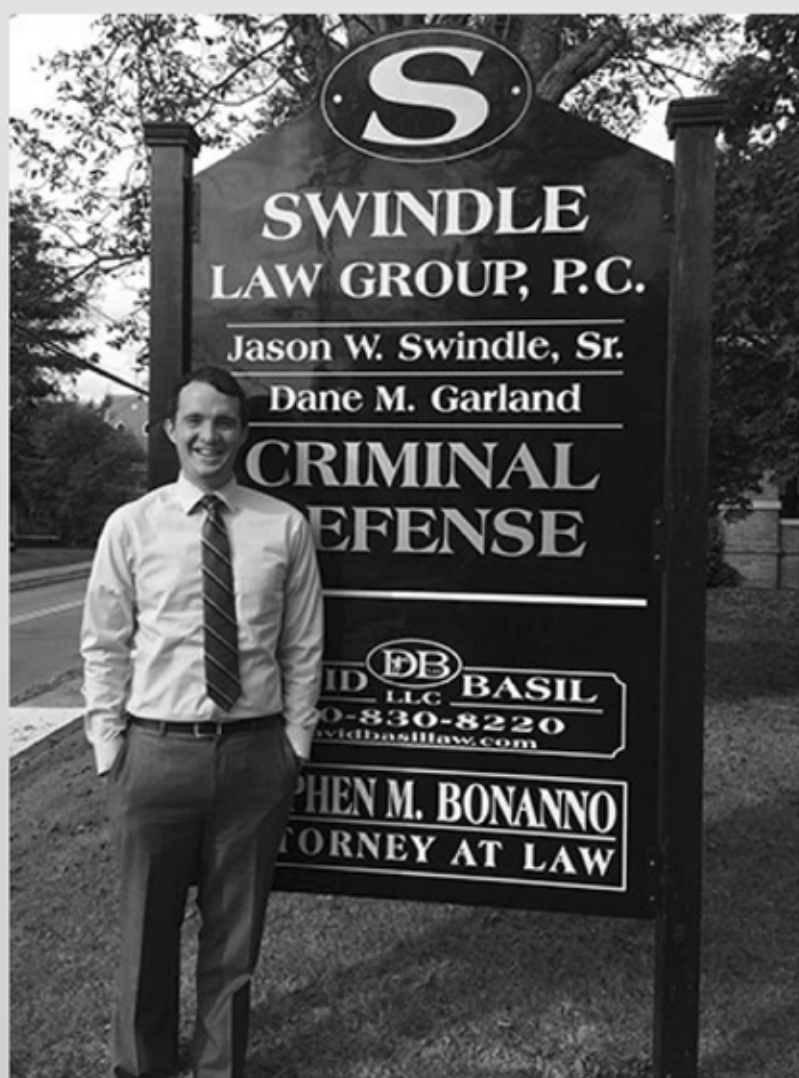


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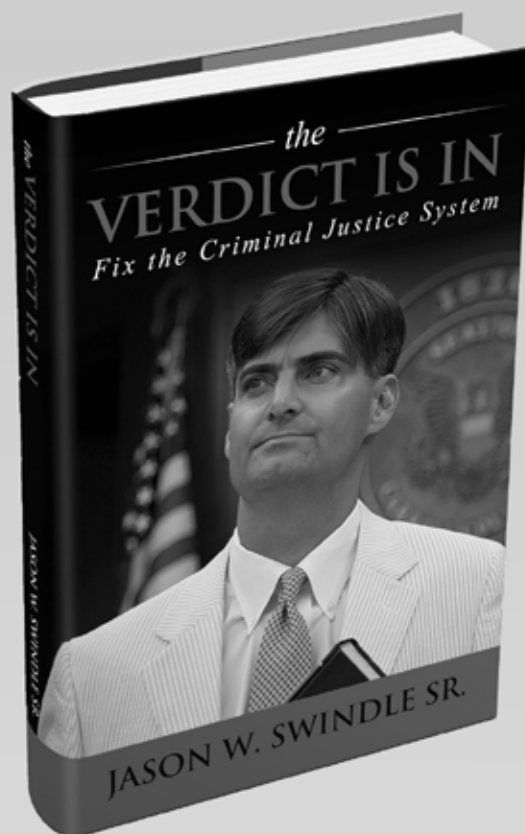
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Arts & Entertainment

Marvel breaks historical barriers with *Black Panther*

Thomas Thrasher

Contributing Writer

The anticipation was built up for the release of the blockbuster hit, *Black Panther*, ever since his initial appearance in *Captain America: Civil War*. The Marvel Cinematic Universe has done a great job with creating a movie that highlights one of Marvel's greatest super heroes.

With a unique storyline following the death of his father, King T'Challa (played by Chadwick Boseman) faces a challenging journey to claim his throne. *Black Panther* also addresses current issues within the African and African American community. The latest comic book blockbuster film has caused an eruption in box offices during its initial release.

The film estimated around \$200 million dollars in production cost being filmed in South Korea, Australia and Atlanta. According to *Forbes*, *Black Panther* has estimated \$387 million across the globe making it the largest President's Day weekend for moviegoers since

the 2016 hit movie *Deadpool*. Tickets were sold out all over the country to get the first glimpse of the movie as it premiered Feb 16. According to *Forbes*, the movie received \$25.2 million that night making it the biggest preview for a non-sequel movie.

A unique fact about the movie was that the cast consisted of predominantly black actors. Director Ryan Coogler noticed the struggle for black actors in Hollywood to receive good roles in movies. In response, he gave roles to a diverse array of African and African American actors which enabled them to spark and launch their careers with more opportunities. *Black Panther* gave a different outlook because it was based on a black superhero. Since the movie is about a black superhero from Africa, it gives hope to minority groups.

"We were making a film about what it means to be African," Coogler says in an interview with *Rolling Stone*. "It was a spirit that we all brought to it, regardless of heritage. The codename for the project was Motherland – and that's what it was. We all went to school on Africa."

Erik Killmonger (played by Michael B.

Jordan) touched on issues that have plagued the African and African American communities for years. Also the distinction between foreigners and Wakandans was prevalent throughout the film. The people of Wakanda only took care of their own and were hesitant to adapt to the idea of helping others outside of their country.

The movie also touched on protection against the oppressed. These are dilemmas that humans still face today when dealing with the fear of change or prejudice individuals with power. This obstacle affects people all around the world and it is unfortunate that innocent lives have been taken due to oppression. The movie displayed an option of fighting back against the oppressors or educating and empowering the oppressed.

Black Panther was educational and revealing to the cultures that exist in Africa. Watching the movie brings feelings of unity upon Africans, African Americans, and other ethnicities. Coming together as one to help create a better life for everyone is a step closer to evolving into a more suitable place to live.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS COMING TO THE COLISEUM

Justin Hodges

Feature Editor

On Mar. 2 at 7:00 PM the legendary Harlem Globetrotters will be performing right here in Carrollton. For the 3rd time since 2010, the Coliseum will be hosting one of history's greatest entertainers in a night that will be filled of joy, wonder and laughs.

Having played in more than 26,000 exhibition games in 122 different countries since their founding in 1929, the Harlem Globetrotters combine wondrous acts of theatre, athleticism and comedy in the form of a basketball game. They dazzle crowds with wizard-like ball handling tricks, flashy shots and dunks, and by integrating props into their show while interacting with

their audience.

Their opponent, the Washington Generals, is looking to end a 47-year losing streak against the Globetrotters and get their seventh win ever in the near century long rivalry. The Generals themselves have created a more competitive look for the team, and the revamped group looks to make a statement.

Not only is this a marvelous event for UWG students to attend, but for everyone in the Carrollton community. The event is suitable for all ages, and is welcome for everyone to come have fun.

"This is great for the community, for us to be able to host this and for people living here to be able to come and bring their kids with them to enjoy this is special," said Trent Ross, Director of the Coliseum.

The Globetrotters roster includes the likes of Nathaniel "Big Easy" Lofton, Ant Atkinson, Kris "Hi-Lite"

Bruton, Corey "Thunder" Law, Bull Bullard and Brawley "Cheese" Chisholm – along female stars Fatima "TNT" Lister, Crissa "Ace" Jackson and Briana "Hoops" Green. The group's newfound style and flash makes for the ultimate athletic entertainment without the tensions and seriousness of a professional game.

Once the game itself is over fans in attendance will be able to meet the Globetrotter players on the court, take pictures and get their autographs. The event is all for having fun and living in the joyous moment. The Globetrotters are entertainment unlike anything else in the world of sports.

Tickets can be bought at the Coliseum box office as well as on the Harlem Globetrotters official website. However, the tickets are running out quickly.



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