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A Picture of Your Family

**Victoria Jones in
collaboration with
Daniel Forte**

Editors

Pony League, an Atlanta based band of close-knit college friends, will officially release their latest album, *A Picture of Your Family* Friday, March 23. Pony League is most known for their ability to create honest and raw music that paints a picture throughout each verse. With this album, fans can expect nothing less than artwork.

A Picture of Your Family was specifically made to inspire those who need help getting back to their roots and to remember where they come from.

"If you look at a picture of your family or even a picture of you and your friends from college

on a bad day, that kind of reminds you of who you are and you can walk out with a little more confidence," said frontman, Gus Fernandez.

Every family goes through trials and tribulations throughout life, but the lessons family members learn from one another lay the groundwork to shape the person that they grow into. Fernandez wants to tap into those memories through music.

"The idea was that it all stuck with this theme that paints a picture of who we are and hopefully for anyone that listens to the album will be able to make a connection to it," said Fernandez. "I want people to connect with it because the songs are inspired by real life moments. I just want people to relate however they want to."

Pony League prides themselves on their unique sound and their journey of finding what most influenced it over the years. They evolved

their style of music from the loud, punk style to a more melodic and mellow tone that allows the band's listeners to connect with the music on a different level.

"We really started to be ourselves as opposed to playing so loud, it was hard to get a sense of who we were," said Fernandez.

The band has much to look forward to in the coming months. The group plans to perform at various venues throughout the southeast. Pony League also has big news for vinyl lovers coming in June.

"When we get the vinyl, we are going to do another run around the southeast and keep that going throughout the rest of the year and spread the music," said Fernandez.

Whatever sound that comes out of the speaker, listeners can look forward to getting back to their roots.



Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Threall

Living West

The Final Event of the Black Project Series: The B.E.L.As



Sierra Lemelle

Contributing Writer

In honor of celebrating black culture and excellence throughout the month, the Black Excellence Leadership Awards (B.E.L.As) ended the Black Project's month long series of events by acknowledging the unforeseen leaders at UWG. This formal event was hosted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter at UWG. Students and guests came dressed to impress for the red carpet hosted by The WOLF Internet Radio along with photographers such as OneShotJohn.

The second annual final event of the Black Project, recognized 14 minority individuals and organizations at UWG. Planning for this event started in October. Tyrahn Brown, owner of "Events by Tye," worked rigorously with the NAACP executive board to create a seamless event. Learning from mistakes last year helped to

improve this year's show. Other organizations involved such as the African Student Association also participated in making this event happen by providing volunteers.

"The B.E.L.As gives black leaders on campus an opportunity to be appreciated or showcased for what they do around campus because we are the minority on campus," said Kayla Mitchell, president of NAACP at UWG. "We thought it would be a good opportunity to close Black History Month on a positive note and we also feel like by showcasing these different leaders and different organizations, it'll give people more motivation to get involved or to become leaders."

The Black Project council worked together to create a list of categories in which they felt Black students have not received enough credit for through the university's annual student achievement awards. Once the nominations are submitted for each category by the student, the award committee selects the students with the most

nominations to form the ballot.

For three weeks UWG students had the chance to cast their one-time votes on orgsync for the following categories: Leadership award, Achievement award, Excellence award, Community Service award, Behind the Scenes award, Most Impactful Community Service and Outreach event, Best New Organization, Most Improved Organization, Most Influential Organization, Most Influential Fraternity, Most Influential Sorority and Organization of The Year.

Tia Tuggle, former Black Student Alliance President, created the foundation of the Black Project in 2017. Throughout the month of February, the Black Project's series of events has celebrated Black history and pulled people out of their comfort zone. This is a series of events, in which, Tuggle established to run annually.

"I think that what she did was so great to bring all of us together, all these different organizations, when sometimes there's division," said Mitchell. "She created unity here

on this campus especially between black people. I think that is amazing. We work so hard to do what we do. We're here for the campus, for the community, we're here to advocate for the advancement of colored people and we strive to do that every day. We strive to create new leaders from now moving forward. I work with an amazing team of people and I'm more than fortunate to be able to do so."

Throughout the award show, there were several performers such as singers, dancers, and poets. The masters of ceremony, Nefeteria Wells and Jahquele Burks, kept the audience engaged and entertained the entire night while members of the organizations involved presented the awards. The Black Project is expected to be bigger than ever next year.

"We're always about being bigger and better than the year before, so next year we hope to see this event be even bigger, even better, more participation, more people coming, we're all about improvement," said Mitchell.



Photo Credits: Sierra Lemelle

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It's more than just clothes, It's a movement: *New Age Thrift*

Kyzia Wint
Contributing Writer

Douglasville native Cymphonie Williams, the owner of online thrift store New Age Thrift LLC. created her own line of fashion in hopes of relieving the stresses of shopping. Fashion always repeats itself and for fashionistas, getting one of a kind pieces are essential. More often than not, cool and trendy items usually come with a steep price and can be very expensive. This can be very discouraging to a fashionista on a budget. Fortunately, within the past decade thrift and vintage stores have grown tremendously and have become extremely popular.

Shopping at thrift stores can bring an element of surprise because you never know what you will find. This can also be a very overwhelming experience. Having to look through racks of clothes with no guarantee of finding a cool vintage gem can be stressful.

In 2006, the world was introduced to the online thrift store Nasty Gal. This brand took the fashion world by storm by taking away the stressful element of thrifting and turning it into a pleasant experience for all. Being able to still find stylish vintage pieces in the comfort of your own home was an idea that Williams thought was amazing and used as a way to express her love for fashion and brand herself.

“I’ve been thrifting for years now and I have always been a fan of old-school everything,” said Williams.

“Especially, fashion in the 80s and 90s. I thought it would be cool to incorporate the two and provide a more convenient way for people like me to find clothing that matched that look.”

This 21-year-old fashionista has always expressed herself through fashion with her cool and effortless style. With an eye for spotting trends and unique pieces, running an online thrift store is perfect for her. Williams prides herself in being creative as she creates look books and collections for all of her clothing pieces to separate herself from the rest. This allows her to express her creativity through unique direction while making her vision for each piece come to life.

Every article of clothing in Williams’ store has a story and caters to all types of people. Williams recently came out with her Black Collection, featuring all black thrifted pieces in honor of Black History Month. Various other collections by Williams include a denim and velour collection, just to name a few.

“I love that fashion doesn’t have an exact definition,” said Williams. “Fashion is a form of expression. Expressing who you are and what looks good to you. Fashion is forever evolving and true style never dies.”

Collaborating with photographers and models all around the city of Atlanta, Williams highly supports other artists.

“I love that they can provide you with different perspectives and allow



Photo Courtesy of JoannyPulis

you to see things differently,” said Williams. “We can have the same concept but different visuals; I love being able to intertwine the two.”

Williams wants New Age Thrift to become more than just a thrift store but more so an online

community that other creatives can use to also share their work.

“I love that at the end of the day I’m doing something that I love. I don’t just own a store, I’m creating a community of artists that can all grow together,”said Williams.

West Georgia Outdoors Gears Up for Adventure

Robert Moody
Copy Editor

With two successful outings already in the books West Georgia Outdoors is gearing up for an exciting and adventure filled close to the spring semester as they prepare to embark on their seven remaining spring trips in March and April.

For the spring outings WGO sought to provide a wide range of opportunities for students and faculty to experience the outdoors with fellow classmates and coworkers. They also sought to give participants the ability to stay near their normal comfort levels or test their limits by classifying the trips under the cleverly-named categories of “More In-Tents” for overnight trips and “Less In-Tents” for day trips.

As a general rule the overnight trips tend to be located in places that are a considerable distance away while the day trips are planned in and around the community. This idea is evident as overnight trips will take participants as far as Virginia while the majority of the day trips occur within Carroll County.

While all the trips seem to be filled with adventurous opportunities that can be enjoyed by any and every one, the alternative spring break trip scheduled for March 16 – 25 may be the most “in-tents” of them all.

“Our Alternative Spring Break will last the entirety of Spring Break from Saturday to Saturday and we will be going to Virginia and Tennessee,” said Erin Mitchell,



Photo Credits: Zack Silver via Unsplash

Graduate Assistant of Outdoor Education for UREC. “We will be doing some backpacking, biking and also some trail work to provide some of that alternative volunteer aspect that we are looking to do.”

The Alternative Spring Break trip will certainly provide participants with a number of unforgettable experiences as they will spend a week on the world famous Appalachian Trail which stretches from Georgia to Maine and traverses some of the most beautiful scenery and challenging terrain that the eastern US has to offer. The trip will also feature a bike ride on the Virginia Creeper Trail that stretches across 35 miles of southern Virginia

and a hike around Mt. Rogers and the surrounding Highlands area which is known for the numerous herds of wild horses that roam freely.

Other overnight and weekend trips for the spring include a two-day rock climbing experience at Horse Pens 40 located within Palisades Park in North Central Alabama and a white water rafting trip on the Ocoee River in Benton, TN. The rafting trip in particular will be both unique and exciting for WGO as one of their long-time employees, Jared Ashley, spends his summers working for Outdoor Adventure Rafting and is set to be one of the raft guides for the trip as well.

As for the more local and “less in-tents” events that WGO will be providing in the spring students can look forward to a Greenbelt bike ride around Carrollton, a day hike, an intro to mountain biking held at Little Tallapoosa park and a river clean up event on the Chattahoochee River at the McIntosh Reserve near Whitesburg. These events will give students and faculty the chance to build relationships with each other as they come together and connect with the community in and around Carrollton.

For more information on WGO’s spring adventure trips and to register for them visit the UREC website.

Arts & Entertainment

Janelle Monáe Channels Prince in New Album

Erin Grady

Contributing Writer

Janelle Monáe returned from her five year musical hiatus with some new music. Monae released two new singles titled “Make Me Feel” and “Django Jane” on Feb. 23. For her upcoming album, the singer worked with her mentor and friend Prince before he passed away in 2016. The songs will be featured on her third studio album, *Dirty Computer* which will be released April 27.

After the release of her second album, *The Electric Lady*, the “Tightrope” songstress took a break from the music scene and ventured into acting. Monáe went on to star in the Academy Award winning *Moonlight* and *Hidden Figures*. During her five year break from making solo music, Monáe only featured on a small number of song. These songs include “Jalapeño ” with Pharrell Williams for the *Hidden Figures* soundtrack and “Hum Along and Dance” for the show *The Get Down* soundtrack. Monae has finally returned from her break from making a solo project with her album *Dirty Computer*.

Monáe cites Prince as one of her biggest inspirations for her new album. Monáe and Prince had a long relationship and he helped her break out into the music scene. When Monáe was not invited to perform at the 2013 BET Awards, Prince personally called producers and demanded that she get a performance slot. Monae and Prince worked together previously on Monae’s sophomore album, *The Electric Lady* with their song “Givin Em What They Love.” Prince helped to create the synth line on her song “Make Me Feel.”

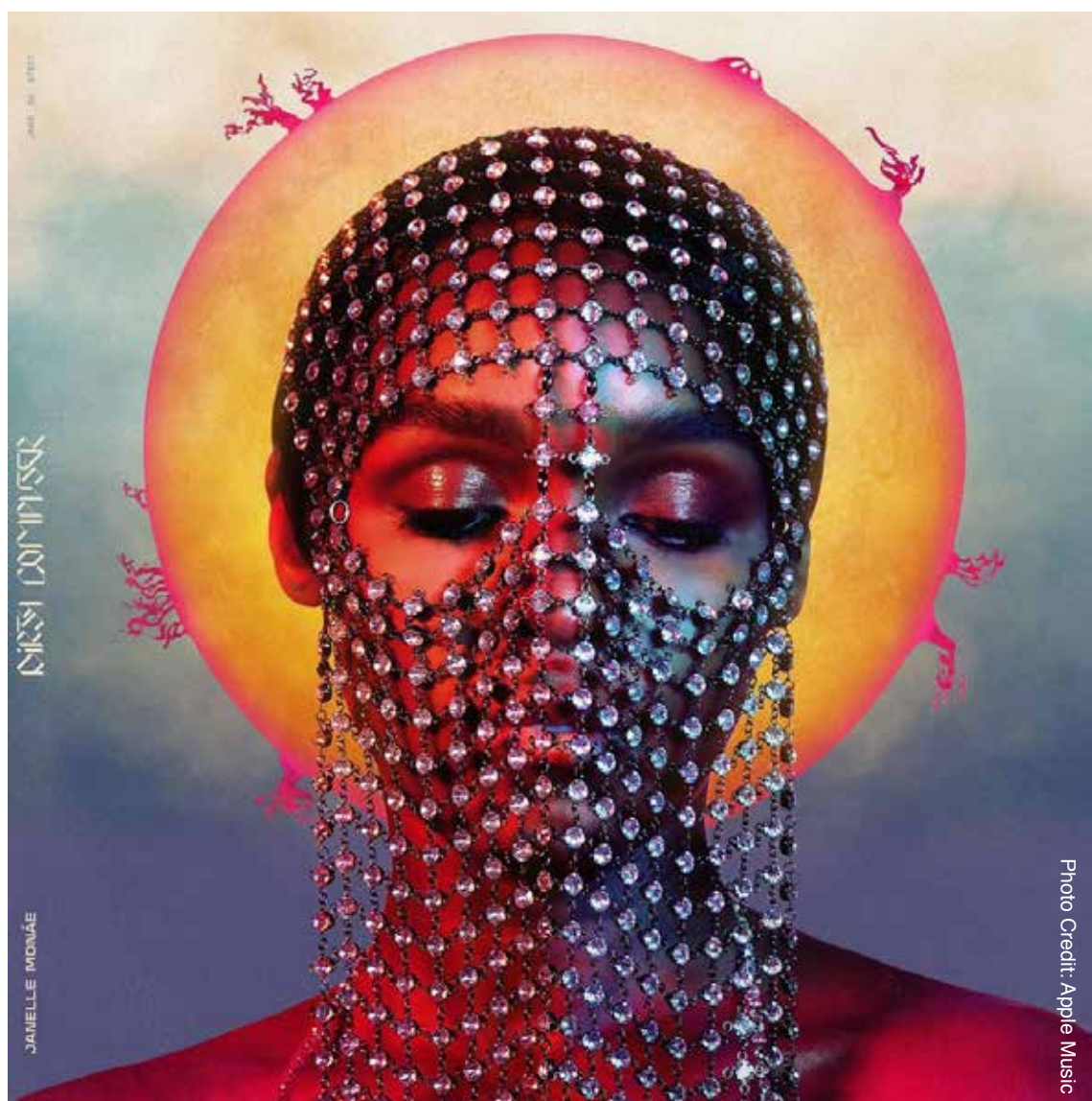
The single “Make Me Feel” is an 80s pop inspired pop song. The song provides a funky tune and a bouncy synth line. Her former

mentor’s presence is apparent throughout the song. “Make Me Feel” is reminiscent of Prince’s well-known song “Kiss.” The song displays a mix of modern influences and old soul that puts her strong vocals on display. Monáe also released a music video. The video is also 80s inspired with neon colors and eccentric fashions. The visual also shows actress Tessa Thompson as Monáe’s love interest. The video explores Monáe’s sexuality as she is shown with both a male and female love interest.

The song “Django Jane” is the complete opposite of “Make Me Feel.” Monáe trades her sweet vocals for a raspy rap performance. The song features a heavy hitting bass line and melodic violins. In this song, Monáe shows a

different version of herself. She brags about her new-found success as an actress and raps about deeper issues. Some of the issues that she raps about are gender, race and the intersections of it all. In the music video, Monáe sits upon a throne with a crown on her head. The video features visuals that pays homage to the Black Panther Party with background dancers dressed in all black leather and holding up the Black Panther fist.

The two singles from *Dirty Computer* shows Monáe’s versatility as an artist. She shows that not only can she sing, but she can also tap into the hip hop scene. Her anticipated third album is due to release on April 27.



Bitter Fruit: A HISTORY OF LYNCHING IN AMERICA

Sierra Lemelle

Contributing Writer

To wrap up black history month, Center for Diversity and Inclusion hosted a theatrical stage reading of the play “Bitter Fruit.” Written by Jacqueline Clay Chester and directed by Mia Kristin Smith, this play tells the history of lynching in America, specifically the effects that lynching has had on a family throughout a generation.

Inspired by true events, “Bitter Fruit’s” compelling narrative is an intimate examination of communal trauma, generational memory and collective resistance to racial injustice. This story explores the brutal legacy of sanctioned violence against Blacks in the United States during the late 1800s to 1900s.

Chester is a former model, playwright, author, actor, artist and sculptor born in New Jersey. She

grew up in Brooklyn, New York and would occasionally visit her mother’s hometown in Georgia. When she was a teenager while on a visit to Georgia, she went to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center’s exhibition on lynching with her mother. There she discovered a postcard with her mother’s hometown and her great grandfather’s name on it. The postcard she found of her great grandfather and his two best friends hanging from a tree led her to do some research. She interviewed people from her great grandfather’s hometown for over 10 years to find out the truth behind what led to her great grandfather’s death.

“I heard all my life that my great grandfather was a hero because he went up against the Klan,” said Chester. “People didn’t do that back in those days. I mean the Klan had a reputation, you did not confront them.

“Of course, they didn’t expect to live and they really couldn’t

have expected to live through that confrontation,” Chester continued. “But enough was enough.”

There are many cases, in which, the Ku Klux Klan would display Black peoples death as the result of being hung. However, that is not how some actually died. The Klan did this to spark fear into Black people and prevent others from rising up.

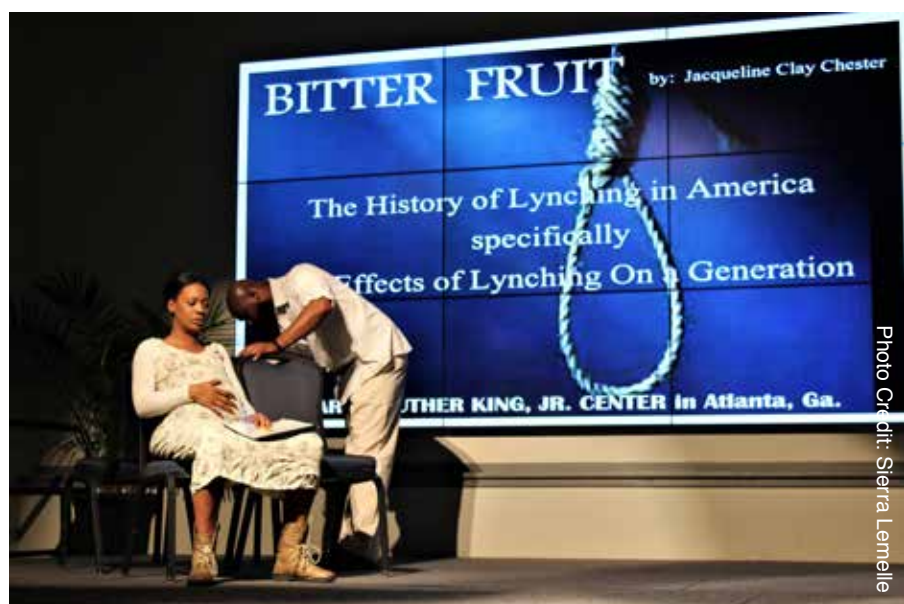
“To my family, George Papa Martin, my great grandfather who owned a restaurant, something that most people didn’t do back in those days, was our hero,” said Chester. “I hope this play exonerates him and makes him that hero.”

The actors were able to successfully bring the play to life and take the audience on a journey through the late 1800s. To do so, they had to fully develop the characters and pull from cases in which they may have experienced injustice themselves.

“Growing up in the South before

the civil rights movement. I’ve seen a lot of changes and I’ve heard some horrible stories about some things that happened in my family too and I have chosen to not see those with anger, but I don’t think I do myself any service by forgetting it. I’m pleased with the progress we’ve made but I am challenged to know that we have more progress to be made,” said actor, Gordon T. Daniels.

This compelling and thought-provoking story acknowledges how many women, men, and children died because of the color of their skin. It highlights the dehumanizing history of Black people present in America. “Bitter Fruit” is not a story that expressed anger from beginning to end. By having moments of conversation about relationships, peaceful family conversations and ordinary topics, it created a more relatable and holistic understanding of that time and the effects on today’s society.



Arts & Entertainment

Blac Youngsta 223 Album Review

Triston Armour

Contributing Writer

Having his hit singles taking over clubs and radios across the country, artist Blac Youngsta recently released his highly anticipated debut album *223*. The artist released this album after facing legal issues last year and makes references to his charges throughout the album. The album contains a few features from artists like Travis Scott, Lil Yachty, and French Montana to name a few but sees Youngsta carry most of the album himself.

The artist's music has been hard to ignore as he recently scored his first Billboard Hot 100 hit this year with the single "Booty." With his hit singles being upbeat club-oriented songs,

listeners would anticipate that the rest of the album would follow suit. This is not the case with *223* with most of the songs being slower tempo and dealing with surprisingly serious subject matter.

The Memphis artist takes a break from trying to get the party jumping to discuss important issues going on today like violence in his city, issues he has with President Trump and taking care of his family. Songs like "Strength" and "Old Friends" are prime examples of him switching up from the party vibe while still making quality music.

The album totals 14 tracks and surprisingly runs only 43 minutes. Youngsta seemed to take the short and sweet approach to making the album. The songs being short also helped with the flow of the album. The length of the songs makes those 43 minutes go by in a

breeze. Besides the surprising serious topics being discussed, Youngsta also decided to try a different style of music on *223*. The artist took a break from his usual rapping style to experiment with dancehall, which is more of a reggae style of music. The song "Forever" has Youngsta trying his hand in reggae and sees him actually singing rather than simply rapping in the song.

All in the all the album is a good listen. Besides the dancehall record, Youngsta sticks to the street sound that his core fans enjoy and appreciate.

A lot of times when an artist misleads fans with the singles it is a bad thing but this time it's actually a pleasant surprise. It might sound weird at first hearing about politics and other serious topics from Blac Youngsta but if listeners look past the social media antics they will see he has a voice worth hearing on the subjects.

Heathers: The Musical



Picture Credits: Chad Batka, The Hollywood Reporter

Photo: (From left to right) Elle McLemore as Heather M, Jessica Keenan Wynn as Heather C, Alice Lee as Heather D and Barrett Wilbert Weed as Victoria in "Heathers: The Musical"

Kristian Finn

Contributing Writer

It is not unheard of for movies from the 1980s to gain a cult following once they become nostalgic. The movie *Heathers* from 1988 is no exception. However, what makes this movie more unique than others, besides the subversion of the usual 80s tropes that were seen in many movies such as *The Breakfast Club* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, is that *Heathers* has been adapted into a musical.

The musical was first presented as a concert in 2010 at Joe's Pub, a dinner-theater in New York City. In 2014 it was a full play, running Off-Broadway that year. Though the show only ran for a month in 2016, it did receive a high-school edition with updated lines and lyrics as well as a new song to make it more appropriate for a younger audience. Since director Andy Fickman and writers Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy wrote the musical, it has since gained the same clique status that the original movie obtained.

Heathers was a film that began as

a typical high school story of an unpopular girl suddenly being thrust into popularity and disapproving of the way the three popular girls, collectively known as "the Heathers" behave. Most of the tell-tale tropes of any of these types of movies are present, most prominently the mean popular girls, the innocent and good-hearted protagonist and the bad-boy boyfriend.

However, the story quickly diverges into a very real depiction of drug use, teenage suicide, bullying, homophobia, eating disorders and gun violence. The story is turned on its head when the main character, Veronica, kills one of the "the Heathers." She and her boyfriend, JD, pose it as a suicide to avoid the blame being placed on them. It is later revealed that JD has a very twisted mind, outright killing students he does not like and obsessing over Veronica, and the protagonist must find a way to stop her boyfriend while clashing with the school's most popular clique. It might still sound cliché, but it ends with a bang.

Like the movie, the musical starts off in a similar fashion. The opening number is upbeat and cheerful, not unlike something heard lighter-hearted Broadway shows. The musical numbers are downright comedic with songs about partying, blue balls and even an ode to brain freezes. The

choreography is lively, and the ensemble takes up the whole stage as they practically prance to the music.

However, once one of the Heathers is killed, things turn more serious. The music and lyrics take on darker tones by the minute, with the choreography slower and more pocketed except for a few numbers that take place outside of the main character's sphere of conflict. It is at its heart a comedy, but by the end the pop-like music has divulged into rock ballads. JD's facade of a flirty bad-boy has morphed into that of a deranged killer, and the humor gets darker, not shying away from the dark topics of suicide and even attempted bombings.

The musical was quite a faithful adaptation, updated only slightly. JD's obsessive and even abusive nature from the original film was toned down enough to make him sympathetic, and each of the Heathers got a chance to shine. The characters are real, and the songs are catchy, many playing homage to beloved lines in the original film such as "I love my dead gay son." The musical also did a great job of visualizing how one small thing to a teenager can feel like everything with its radical story. Fans of the 80s movies as well as *Heathers* should thoroughly enjoy *Heathers: The Musical*.



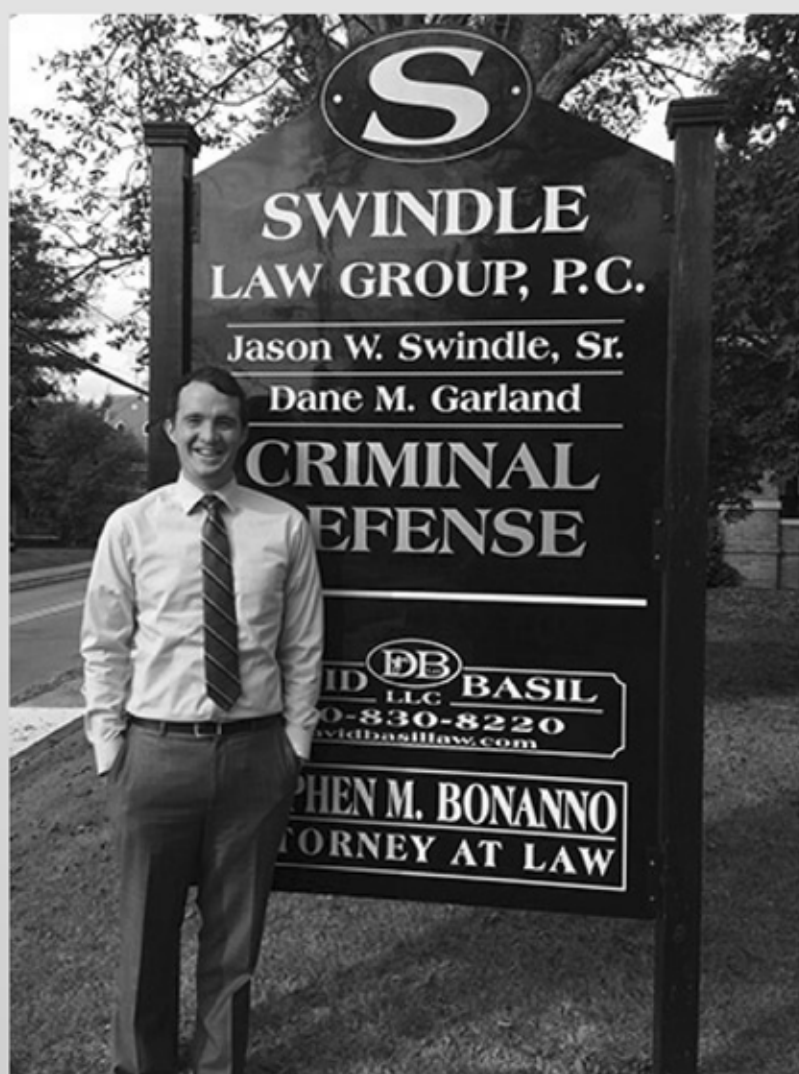
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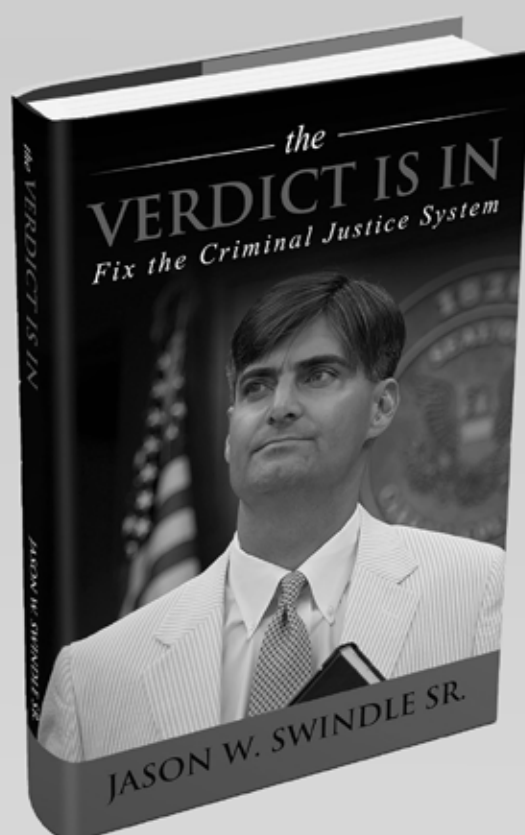
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March Madness: UWG basketball squeaks into playoffs

Thomas Thrasher
Contributing Writer

The UWG Men's basketball team finished the regular season with a record of 14-13, putting them on the outside of the Gulf South Conference Tournament bracket behind the University of Montevallo who were 15-14.

With Montevallo occupying the last seed for the Gulf South Conference playoffs, it looked as if UWG was going to miss out on a chance to play in the postseason. Fortunately for them, another team in the Gulf South with a 19-9 record was forced out of the playoffs after being disqualified for violating the NCAA rules.

NCAA regulations and violations have been a major part of college basketball for years. The NCAA's enforcement department goal is to uphold integrity and fair play among member schools. In the 2017-18 season, the University of West Georgia Men's basketball team became a beneficiary of a violation mishap of another team.

The University of West Alabama was disqualified from the Gulf South playoffs for having an ineligible player on the roster. The team was ready for the playoffs with a conference record of 13-7, that would have put them in the number three spot. Unfortunately, UWA's season came to an end due to an



Photo Courtesy of uwgsports.com

NCAA violations that disqualified them from participating in the Conference Playoffs.

With West Alabama being disqualified from the playoffs, a spot opened for UWG's men's team to claim the eighth seed. With having the eighth seed, UWG was set to face number one seed Valdosta State.

"We are sad to see any teams not able to reach the tournament due to an ineligible

player," said Matt Cooke, Assistant Athletic director. "However, we benefited from that and are happy that we were able to participate in the conference tournament."

When it comes to sports, anything is possible. UWG had their seasons revived due to an unfortunate situation. Even though the team lost to Valdosta state 90-106, it gave the Wolves a chance to play in the postseason.

CHASING GOLD

Jordan Herron
Contributing Writer

The UWG track and field team are off to a great start in their outdoor season. The team took first place at the Cougar Invitational at Columbus State University on Feb. 24. The Wolves wanted to start with a winning streak with the hopes of finishing the season with another Gulf South Conference Championship.

At the Cougar Invitational, the Wolves placed first above Clark Atlanta who placed second in the meet. UWG also took first place in many of the individual events including the relays, hurdles, jumps and pole vault. The Wolves received medals in many other events as well.

"Winning the first meet was a good way to start off the season. We need to continue working hard and doing everything we can to

stay healthy," said Bailey Roberts, UWG distance runner.

The Wolves, off to a good start, went into their next track meet with high hopes of bringing home another win. The team traveled to Rome, GA for a meet dubbed Victor Icebreaker Duals. The Wolves did not bring back the gold but they still placed in the top three by bringing home the bronze.

The Wolves had many runners and throwers place in the top three in events including the triple jump, the long jump, the high jump, relays and a school record in the hammer throw placing first. The Wolves did not place first in enough events to give them that top spot to win back to back meets, but the team still has high hopes for the rest of the season and is hungry to

win back their GSC Conference Championship title from 2016.

"Winning conference was one of the best moments of my athletic career," said Roberts. "Coming off of a season like that I was excited to continue improving and looking forward to winning again and placing even higher the next year."

The West Georgia track and field team did not win the GSC Championship in 2017, but brought home fourth place as a team. The team had high hopes walking in as the previous champions, but started the day off in third and could not gain enough points to remain in the top three.

"I think our biggest problem going into the conference meet last year was we thought it would be just as easy to win as it was the year before," said Roberts. "We didn't think about all the teams that would be joining the conference."

The track and field team has been training year-round to go back to the GSC Championship and redeem themselves and are ready to do what it takes to have a successful season and hopefully come back out on top.



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