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# YOUNG SUCCESS FOR UWG SOFTBALL



**Michael Samurda**  
Contributing Writer

The youthful UWG Wolves softball team welcomed the Delta State Lady Statesmen to University Softball Field for a three game Gulf South conference series. The Wolves came into the series with a 5-4 conference record and a 12-5 overall record. The Wolves began the season well, and were coming into the matchup with a two Gulf South conference series win streak.

The series against the Lady Statesmen began with a doubleheader on March 9 starting at 2 p.m. The Wolves scored eight runs off of seven hits in the top of the first inning, and the deficit was too much for the Lady Statesmen to overcome. The Wolves scored 10 runs by the end of the game, and sophomore pitcher Lindsey Jefferson's performance in the circle was exceptional. Jefferson pitched five innings, only gave up a single run, and accumulated a strikeout in the first game of the series.

The Wolves started the second game of the doubleheader with the first score of the game. The Lady Statesmen came back later with three runs and were up by two. However, the Wolves' three-run sixth inning gave them a lead going into the final inning. The Lady Statesmen then scored five runs in the top of the seventh inning, and won the second game 8-4.

The Wolves ended the rubber match with a 6-3 victory, and took the series over the Lady Statesmen.

Wolves' freshman pitcher Katie Foote increased her pitching record to 5-2 on the season, and gave the Wolves their third consecutive Gulf South conference series victory. The Wolves' series victory improves their record to 7-5 in the Gulf South conference with an overall record of 14-7.

The Wolves' centerfielder, Sydney Smith was also named Gulf South conference freshman player of the week with her performance against the Lady Statesman. In this series Smith was 6-10 at the plate while batting 3-4 with runners in scoring position. Smith's tremendous defensive role in the outfield also helped propel her to the title of Gulf South conference freshman player of the week. This makes Smith the fourth UWG softball player to reach this honor this year along with other freshman Katie Foote, Lexi Close, and Ashley Ellison.

"We really have so many young players doing well for us this year, we just have to keep the same mindset throughout the rest of the season," said Smith. "That is how we are going to succeed this year and for the future, we have to create a winning environment that we can pass on to every new year of freshmen."

Smith and the Wolves will be shifting their attentions to Rome, Ga. for a three game series against Shorter on March 16 and 17. The Shorter University Hawks are 5-6 in conference play and have a record of 10-12, but UWG will be looking to win their fourth consecutive Gulf South conference series.

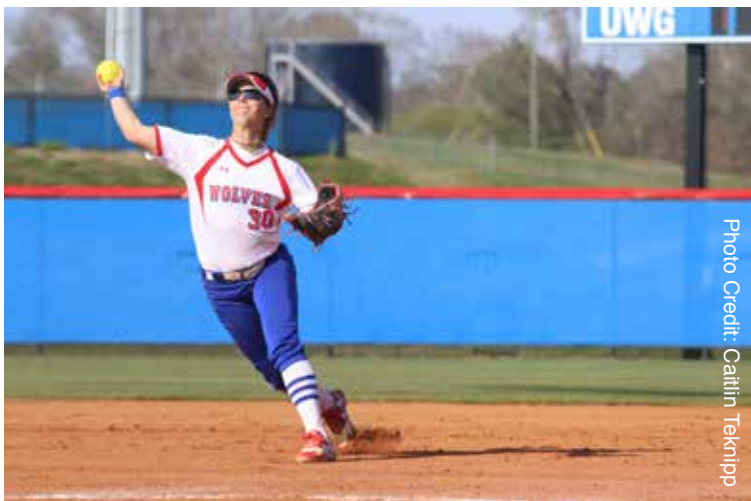


Photo Credit: Caitlin Teknipp



# Editorial

## Is There an Answer to America’s Gun Problem?

**Robert Moody**

*Copy Editor*

Gun violence and it’s ever-increasing prevalence is and has been an intense and divisive issue in America for nearly half a century and seems to be going nowhere soon. News reports of deadly mass shootings such as those seen in Las Vegas in 2017, which resulted in the death of 59 concertgoers, and the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting, which left 50 dead have littered both international and domestic news outlets for the last half decade and called many citizens to take up camps and declare their views of gun control versus the Second Amendment Right right to bear arms.

This issue and debate have recently gathered new, and quite firm, ground. However as the tragic trend of school shootings has become more prominent than ever in the last decade the topic of gun control has circulated around students, schools and keeping the places that the two meet as safe as possible.

The most recent school shooting to grip America and elevate the topic of gun control to new heights occurred on

Feb. 14 when gunman Nikolas Cruz entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. and opened fire on students and faculty leaving 17 dead and 15 wounded.

The incident almost immediately raised questions regarding further regulation and a potential ban of all firearms while also fostering a counter-argument that a better way to protect students and schools from these situations in the future would be to arm teachers and elevate security measures. While there are pros to each of these arguments, there are also many examples of past gun violence that ultimately cloud any definitive solution to the matter.

In the wake of the Parkland shooting, the gun control conversation has significantly revolved around the heightened regulation and abolition of firearms and has found ground behind the voices of survivors from the shooting. This approach however poses major difficulties as many of these proposed regulations already exist in some form yet are regularly disobeyed.

This can be observed in many situations such as the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in

which gunman Adam Lanza used his mother’s guns to kill her and 26 others in Dec. of 2012. Also the Charleston church shooting in which gunman Dylan Roof, who killed nine people in June of 2015, legally purchased a handgun despite having a misdemeanor drug charge which should have kept him from obtaining the firearm. In both cases we see that individuals who either had no true possession or no right to possess a firearm would go on to end the lives of dozens of people.

On the other hand, many pro-gun activists have refuted the impulse to remove guns from society and argued that the best option to protect students from mass shootings would be to arm teachers and bring more security into schools. While these options would increase the ability of those present to defend themselves from shooters, it would also bring more risk into schools every day. With more guns present, ideally one in every classroom, students would be exposed to the ever present danger of an accidental firing as well as the danger that comes with arming people who live with the daily stress of teaching children.

Evidence of these risks have been very present even in the

weeks following the Parkland shooting as a teacher at Dalton High School in Dalton, Ga. locked his classroom and fired a shot through an exterior window on Feb. 28. Similarly, a teacher who is also a reserve police officer at Seaside High School in California accidentally fired his gun into the ceiling, injuring three students on March 13.

In both of these cases we see that arming teachers is not an adequate solution due to the ever present danger of human error and the risk that is included in placing armed individuals in stressful environment.

Given the sensitive nature of the topic it is important to continue seeking answers but it is dangerous to fully assume any solution to be correct in any and all circumstances. As we seek these answers we must realize that differing opinions and lifestyles should be taken into consideration and that the best solution for one person may not be the best for another. All in all we must be concerned with the growing trend of mass shootings and their movement into schools all over the country as we search to address and correct whatever the causes may be for these heinous acts.

# Living West

## UWG Hosted the 27th Version of *Episodes in Sexuality*

**Erin Grady**

*Contributing Writer*

The UWG Theatre Company and the Responsible Sexuality Committee hosted the 27th version of *Episodes in Sexuality*. The play was held at the Townsend Center Dangle Theatre from Mar. 7-10th. This year’s version of the play was directed by Matthew Williams, a senior at UWG.

*Episodes in Sexuality* is a production that is held each year at UWG. The play is created and directed by students. Over the course of several weeks, the students carefully planned and improvised to create a production-ready play. The play is completely different each year and the only aspect that is consistent is the theme. *Episodes in Sexuality* always focuses on different issues of sexuality, whether it is sexuality or gender identity. This year’s edition of the show focused on multiple aspects of sexuality.

“*Episodes in Sexuality* focuses on college students struggles with sexuality, sexual identity, and finding their place of acceptance

in society,” said Isaiah Clinton, an actor in the play.

The play focused on five characters that represented different issues that relate to sexuality. Virgin, the main character played by Starlynn Freeman, is a young naive woman to all aspects of sexuality and gender identity. Throughout the play, she is informed about sex through the four other characters. Cassie Hulette, a sophomore at UWG, played the character Femme Fatale. Femme Fatale is a woman who works in the sex industry and is confident in her sexuality.

Because of her experience, she was able to help Virgin learn about her own sexuality. The character Saboteur was played by Courtney Rose Roberts, a senior at UWG. The character Saboteur is a woman who is promiscuous and ends up contracting a sexually transmitted disease. Sydney Warren, a freshman, played Alchemist. Alchemist is a transgender man, and he helps educate Virgin on being a transgender person and the issues they face. The last supporting character King was played by Clinton. King serves as an antagonist in the play. King represents a man who is very hyper masculine and misogynistic.

The cast and the director started from nothing when they first made the play. The crew did not use a script for the play and most of it was done from improvisation. The lack of a script proved to be difficult for some of the cast members.

“The hardest and most scary thing for me was not having a script,” said Clinton. “This forced me to be able to trust in myself and my ability in order to perform the role. After a while, it became more natural to me.”

The play has become a tradition for the university. Sexuality and sexual identity has become a very discussed topic in recent years, but some people are still uninformed or to the topic.

“Our society makes it so taboo to talk about sex,” said Clinton. “The topic of sexuality needs to be discussed. Everyone does it, so I believe it is important that we are comfortable talking about it.”

The play was welcomed to great reception the three nights that it was shown. The show was packed each night and the cast received standing ovations. *Episodes in Sexuality* took a serious and complex topic with sexuality and transformed it into an entertaining production.

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# Rethreading Love One Diaper at a Time

**Matthew Harvey**  
*Circulation Manager*

A local non-profit organization has opened a thrift store to help support their mission of helping the mothers and children of developing countries. The non-profit, called DriButts is run through Retread Thrift store in Carrollton. The vision of DriButts was founded in 2013 by Michael Wahl, a local mission pastor who often led church mission trips to Haiti and helped build wells and toilets in communities that needed them. While on these mission trips, Wahl noticed that several children ran around naked and were not provided with basic sanitization to keep themselves clean. Wahl wondered why all of these children did not have diapers and discovered that the families in these areas simply could not afford to buy them. He also learned that the mothers were not educated on the dangers of disease through the result of poor sanitation, so Wahl decided he would address the issue himself. He brainstormed several ideas before coming up with one that he felt would work best, which included making diapers specifically for those in need. “I went home and started to think of ways to make a diaper that dried fast, would not create rashes, would fit babies from ages zero to three, and could last up to three years,” said Wahl. Wahl and his family ordered about thirty pieces of material to test and see what would work best to fit the standards that he had set. They conducted

various experiments in their kitchen sink and after several trials they decided that using bamboo as the interior with dri-fit and spandex as the outer shell was the best combination. They then set out on a mission trip with sixteen reusable diapers providing eight moms with these new diapers. Wahl quickly realized though that providing these families with a product would only go so far and that he would need more to make the difference that he wanted to make. “Our goal overall is to help the number of children that die from fecal matter related diseases to decrease,” said Wahl. “The CDC says that 2,195 children die every day around the world because of fecal matter related disease. Specifically from lack of sanitization when it comes to washing hands and where they relieve themselves.” In 2014 Wahl’s reusable diaper was invited to an idea conference called Plywood Presents by Plywood People with a chance to win five thousand dollars to invest into the product. Plywood People is an Atlanta based non-profit that is an incubator for social justice start-ups. Plywood People wanted a company name, logo, and a website within a week, all of which Wahl and his family did not have. So Wahl reached out to everyone he knew and through the help of others he had a logo made, a website running, and the name DriButts was created. Wahl’s diaper won the competition and he immediately reinvested the money



Photo Credit: Matthew Harvey

back into DriButts, buying several sewing machines where his family and friends sewed the first eight hundred diapers. From this, DriButts has been able to do incredible things within the communities of developing countries since the idea conference. DriButts has not only been able to provide the diapers that the mothers and children needed, but they have been able to educate the mothers on better sanitization methods and the proper way to use the diapers. DriButts has also built a school in Haiti that holds up to sixty childrens. The non-profit has also recently opened Rethread Thrift Store in December 2017.

Rethread Thrift Store takes ten percent of all net revenue to support local ministries in the West Georgia area and the other ninety percent goes to support the mission and vision of DriButts. Wahl decided to name the store Rethread Thrift because he believes that every act of kindness threads love into somebody’s life and when you repeat that act you rethread love. Every time somebody shops, donates or volunteers at the store they rethread into DriButts. “Every act of kindness threads love into somebody’s life. When you repeat that act, you thread love. We call that rethreading,” said Wahl.

# The Cook-Off



Photo Credit: Sierra Lemelle

**Sierra Lemelle**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Latino Cultural Society at UWG teamed up with a number of organizations to host a large cook-off on March 8. The Cook-Off was more than a friendly competition, it was an event that brought together people from all over campus. Black Student Alliance (BSA), Student Government Association, Latino Cultural Society (LCS) and Lambda Theta Phi, Latin Fraternity Inc. (Lambda), cooked food that was judged by UWG president, Dr. Marrero. With support of the Carrollton Police Department and music played by the WOLF Internet Radio, students came together for food and a good time. “I wanted to bring a lot of organizations on campus together and in my opinion there’s no better way to do that than through food,” said Kimberly Marroquin, President of LCS.

This event exceeded Marroquin’s expectations by having such a great turnout and eager student involvement since this was the first time that LCS has hosted an event like the Cook-Off. Each organization that participated cooked something different. BSA cooked cornbread, barbeque chicken wings and ribs. LCS made grilled corn and stuffed peppers. SGA cooked two different types of burgers and Lambda made desserts. After tasting each dish, President Marrero determined BSA to be the winner of the Cook-off and presented them with a certificate of achievement. “I wanted it to be people coming together, enjoying the food and the music,” said Marroquin. Though Marroquin had no intention of the cook-off being an actual competition the organizations, President Marrero, and the Carrollton Police Department were

eager to participate. By collaborating with other organizations, LCS created a bonding experience with a friendly atmosphere that was all about enjoyment. “My intention was to bring a lot of diverse students together, but my personal agenda is to create a lot of events on campus that do provide free food,” said Marroquin. “I went to a meeting earlier last semester and we were given school statistics on students and there’s actually a lot of students that don’t really eat so it’s been my personal mission since then to have as many events that have free food as possible.” With hopes of making this an ongoing event, LCS will be hosting a spring fiesta in hopes of bringing more people together with food and music. These organizations continue to embrace individuality, welcome diversity and strives to educate the community.



# Living West

## The Circus is coming to UWG: WOLFstock 2018

**Sierra Lemelle**  
*Contributing Writer*

The WOLF Internet Radio’s annual music festival, WOLFstock, is coming to UWG with a circus style theme. It will be held on Thursday, April 5 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom. There will be free food, games, prizes, live music and a select amount of free t-shirts for students to enjoy. WOLFstock is a birthday event that celebrates The WOLF Internet Radio’s creation in April 2011. This year will be the eighth annual WOLFstock.

“When the station first started, we embodied the college radio attitude that we are against the establishment of corporate radio,” said Shawn Isaacs, General Manager of The WOLF. “We wanted local and fresh new music. Thus we honored the original anti-establishment movement of Woodstock by tweaking the name with our station name.”

It first began as not only a celebration, but a way to promote The WOLF and get more students aware and involved. The first WOLFstock was created in under a month and a half at Love Valley. In 2015 the event was moved to the Campus Center, which has been the biggest change along with extending the length of the event by an hour to reach more students.

The WOLF has continually hosted performances by local unsigned diverse bands, artists and DJs. This year there will be performances by Katie Martin, Josh Purgason, Mid Boss, Survival Kit, Strategery, Dezzy Yates, Tonio G.

and JP and Alden.

The WOLF staff began planning this year’s WOLFstock in November when Music Director Gabrielle Thomas and Operations Manager Michael Tucker began gathering performers. Staff members also worked together to determine the theme of the event.

“I definitely wanted to go out with a bang for my last WOLFstock, so after The WOLF staff and I brainstormed a bit, we finally came to a decision that having a Carnival/Freak Show themed WOLFstock would be awesome,” said Jasmine Render, Promotions Director.

With the theme established, Render then began designing posters and creating a weekly schedule to keep the promotions team on track when they returned from Christmas break in January.

“I am excited about a lot when it comes to this year’s WOLFstock,” said Render. “The fact that it is my second one that I’ve planned, definitely has me hype beyond all measure. Seeing as it is also my last one it’s bittersweet but I think I have just used it as fuel to make it one to remember.”

On average, about 500 students every year attend the event over the four hour time period, however this year more people are expected to attend this year. With sponsors such as West Woods, RiverPointe, The Reserve, Student Government Association, Ozier, Carrollton Crossing and Bahama Tan, The WOLF staff and volunteers are expecting this year to be better than ever.

“With the help of my team, I’m definitely excited to see how our hard work comes out,” said Render.



Photo Credit: The WOLF UWG Facebook Page



## From West to Wakanda: UWG Student Cast in the Black Panther Movie



Photo Credits: Naja West

**Kyzia Wint**  
*Contributing Writer*

The record breaking film, “Black Panther” is one of the most popular movies out this year. While it may be a huge hit nationwide, it is particularly valued by one student at the University of West Georgia who had the opportunity to land a role in the film.

In November of 2016, there was a large open casting call in Atlanta for “Black Panther”, calling for all people of African descent. Over the course of two days, Tammy Smith Casting had three different showings. Each showing hosted around 500 people with hopes of being cast in the film.

UWG student and aspiring actress Naja West was cast in the film as an extra and says that Coogler hand-picked her himself.

“We had to line up, take a picture and were then told that the director will hand-pick us himself, and he chose me,” said West. “That was so crazy, Ryan Coogler chose me.”

Over 5,000 people showed up to the casting call and only around 100 to 150 people were chosen for the scene West played in, which was a member

of the border tribe. She also made an appearance in the fighting scene as one of the warrior women on the waterfall. Although she was covered head to toe in traditional African gear, people still noticed that she was in the film.

“One of my friends said that she saw me in the movie,” said West. “I didn’t think anyone would notice me because of my costume, but because I was in the film I knew what to look for; that was pretty cool.”

West also had the opportunity to meet some of the stars of “Black Panther”, including Chadwick Boseman and Daniel Kaluuya, best known for his leading role in Oscar-winning film, “Get Out”.

“Chadwick was probably one of the nicest people that I have met on a set before,” said West. “He is so approachable and friendly.”

West has been acting since she was a toddler and has dreams of making it big one day. She wants to do more than just extra work but right now she will take as much experience as she can get.

“I love being a part of films and shows that make a difference and mean something,” said West. “Black Panther is something that will always be a known film and to say that I was a part of it and casted in it is amazing.”



## Shaquille O’Neal to hold carnival-style EDM affair in Miami



Picture by Amy Harris

**Jonathan Landrum**

*Associated Press*

NBA legend Shaquille O’Neal will put his DJ skills on display at his own carnival-style event after a popular electronic dance music festival in Miami.

O’Neal said that “Shaq’s Fun House” will debut March 24, immediately following day one of the three-day Ultra Music Festival. Both events are taking place during Miami Music Week.

He said the one-night, invite-only affair will feature EDM performers, a cabaret show and “over-the-top” carnival attractions. It will be held at an unannounced warehouse venue.

“Despite all the problems that are going on

in the world, there are two (things) that’ll bring people together: it’s sports and music,” he said in an interview Wednesday. O’Neal added that there will be “flame throwers, people swinging from ceilings, a lot of costumes. We want this to be very different than any other festival.”

“Shaq’s Fun House” will run from 2 a.m. to sunrise.

O’Neal will perform under his stage name DJ Diesel. The four-time NBA champion said he came up with the concept after he performed at the EDM festival TomorrowWorld, held near Atlanta, in 2015.

“I want to do something big and develop a brand that represents this younger world,” he said.

O’Neal won’t announce who is performing at his event because he wants to surprise the

audience. Performers at the Ultra Music Festival include David Guetta, the Chainsmokers and Afrojack.

O’Neal, 46, has been performing at small and big venues since the age of 14, even DJ’ing at parties during his college days at Louisiana State University. He released multiple rap albums in the 1990s, and in recent years he’s performed at music festivals around the world.

At “Shaq’s Fun House,” O’Neal said he’ll play a mixture of EDM, hip-hop and classic songs.

“I like to read the crowd and see what they like, but I want to hit them with that base, edgy trap. I like all types of music. I’m mixture of AoB and Skrillex,” he said, referring to the electronic soul duo and Grammy-winning dub-step DJ-producer.

“That’s my alias, the black AoB-Skrillex.”

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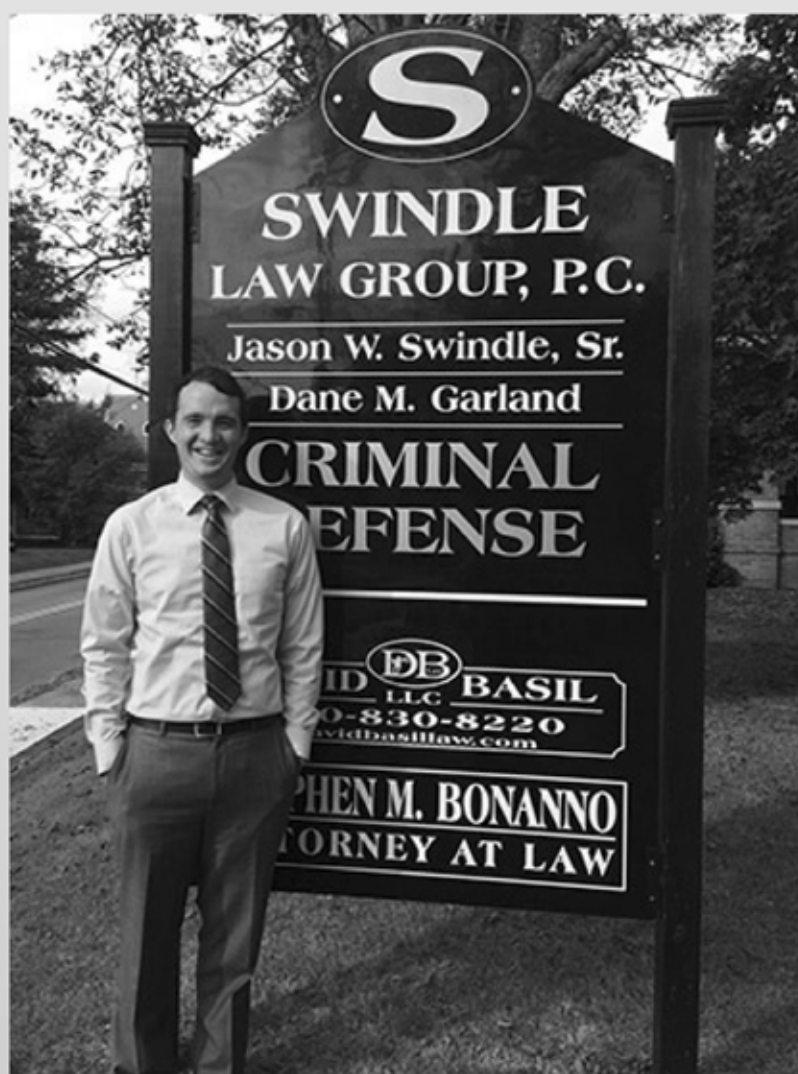
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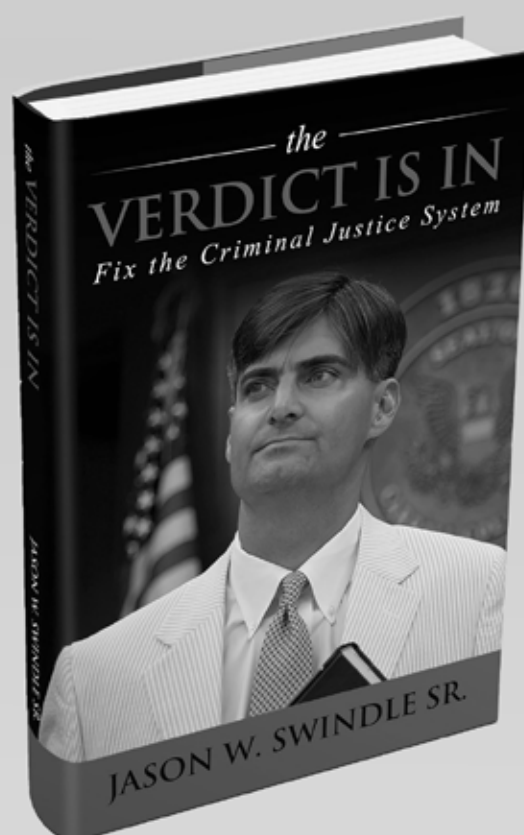
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# Arts & Entertainment

## Atlanta is back to continue its award winning run

**Triston Armour**

*Contributing Writer*

The FX show *Atlanta* is back for its second season. trying to live up the to the hype season one built after winning a Golden Globe award for best show. Lead actor Donald Glover, a native of Atlanta, also won the Golden Globe for best actor in a comedy series.

Season two continues to see the show being unpredictable. *Atlanta* has always kept viewers anxious with its unpredictability. This continues as season two begins with two teens talking about video games and sports drinks, who then proceed to rob a fast food restaurant. This scene is used to setup the theme of

season two which is “Robbin Season.” The term is used later in the episode and expected to be referenced throughout the season to connect all of the episodes.

The show picks up right where it left off in regards to the main characters. Glover’s character, a homeless person named Earn, is getting kicked out of the storage unit he was seen sleeping in at the end of season one.

Earn’s cousin Paper Boi is a successful rapper in the Atlanta area. He and his roommate Darius are sitting on the same couches from season one and having the same funny conversations, while not taking rapping serious.

The duo also have added a new dynamic to their already fantastic chemistry. Tracy, an old friend of Paper Boi, is staying with him after being released from prison. This puts Earn in a

tough situation as his last option for a place to stay has been taken from him. Tracy seems like a great addition to the *Atlanta* cast as he brings a new humor to the show.

The show continues the theme of feeling unpredictable as the episode sees Earn trying to help his uncle get out of a tough situation that involves the police and an alligator. The episode also shows Earn realizing that he has to make changes in his life which will likely serve as motivation going forward.

Season two is shaping up to be great follow-up to the award winning first season. With the “Robbin Season” theme continuing throughout it should add a factor that will connect all of the episodes together. Glover and company should be on the way to another great year if the first episode is any indication.

## Sports

## Wolves Basketball a Work in Progress After 2017

**Justin Hodges**

*Feature Editor*

The University of West Georgia men’s basketball team had their season ended by the Valdosta State Blazers on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The team played in the Gulf South Conference Tournament due to NCAA violations against the University of West Alabama for having an ineligible player, but suffered defeat in the first round against Valdosta State by a score of 106-90.

Paul Turner led the team with 22 points on 9-of-15 shooting from the field and Marquille Smith added 19 points on 7-of-15 shooting in what would be the final game of their junior campaigns. However, no other Wolves player scored more than nine points, and hot shooting from Valdosta State from the very beginning propelled the Blazers to a double-digit lead early.

The Wolves finish the season with an even record of 14-14. The team was solid when playing at the Coliseum, finishing with an 8-5 record at home. Their season struggles came primarily on the road, where they finished just 4-9.

An up-and-down season was filled with continuous periods of adjustment and development. Paul Turner, the team’s second leading scorer at 19.2 points per game, had to sit out the entire fall semester after transferring from the College of Central Florida.

“This is just a team where I don’t have enough timeouts,” said Michael Cooney, UWG men’s basketball head coach. “Next year it won’t be like that but this year

every situation has to be coached and that’s difficult.”

The positive thing for the West Georgia basketball team is that this year’s team had no seniors on it, meaning that most if not every player should be returning for next season.

That includes starters Turner, Marquille Smith, the team’s leading scorer at 23.1 points per game, William Sides, who averaged 15 points per game, Aren Ulmer and Karlos Odom. All five will be seniors next year, which should give the Wolves a team rich with talent and experience for the 2018-2019 season.

“Down the road these situational things will be second nature to these guys, this year it wasn’t,” said Cooney.

The team will also likely be returning several key bench players for next season. Those names include Greg James, Ovie Magbegor, Steven Ross, and Glenn Robinson. All of who were freshmen this year and will play larger roles next season.



Photo Credits: Justin Hodges

“These guys are gonna compete, but they have got to get better at the inner game, there is a floor game and then there is the inner game,” said Cooney. “Keeping yourself composed and

handling the bad calls, handling the pushing and shoving, we have to mature as a team with that kind of stuff. But it is a lot easier to do when you are winning games instead of losing them.”



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