



The West Georgian

Est. 1934

DR. MICHAEL CRAFTON STEPS INTO INTERIM ROLE AS PRESIDENT

Tiffany Maynard

Feature Editor

Dr. Michael Crafton started his career as an educator of higher learning in 1982 as an English teacher at West Georgia College, the institution now known as UWG. Though his original plan was to leave the institution after a year of instruction, that one year job turned into 37 years of service.

Throughout his time at UWG, Crafton has taught many classes, mostly English, and has most recently served as Provost and Vice President of Student Affairs. As of April 1, 2019, Crafton took on the new role at Interim President of UWG following the departure of Dr. Kyle Marrero. Despite having a lofty title, administrative work was not always his Crafton's career plan.

"I actually planned to avoid it," said Crafton. "I did not want anything to do with administration. But after teaching here about 15 years ... the Vice President of Academic Affairs at the time asked for somebody to be an associate vice president ... and he offered me the opportunity.

"It took me about two weeks to make up my mind," continued Crafton. "But I thought 'that could be interesting. I could do something, create programs, and solve student issues, so I took it on, and spent the second half of my career in administration."

Crafton and his team have already started planning to implement programs for the betterment of the institution.

"Mostly academic programs," said Crafton. "That's what I do as Provost and when I go back to being Provost I'm going

to work on them again. I want to make them a little bit more campus-wide while I'm in this office because they could use the help."

Though Crafton is planning on implementing more academic programs, he also plans to continue the work of past presidents.

"We will continue the Engage West initiative," said Crafton. "It's a variety of leadership development, surveys, and all of the stuff Dr. Marrero was doing."

Crafton has served at UWG for many years, so it only seems fit that he serve as president -- however, his stint as the head of the university will probably not last for long.

"There is a policy that the Board of Regents has that says that anyone serving in an interim position is not eligible to apply for that job," said Crafton. "There will be a search [for President] sometime, maybe summer or fall. All of that is kinda organized by the Board of Regents. That will take whatever time it takes."

For now, Crafton will serve UWG in making it the best place to learn, work and succeed. His vision for the university includes a vision for what the next president will be like.

"My personal wish is that this person will be utterly competent and capable," said Crafton. "But most importantly, have academia at the heart."



Photo Credits: UWG



JUST ANOTHER NAIL IN THE COFFIN

Matthew Harvey
Editor-In-Chief

In the spring of 2018 I took the job as Circulation Manager for *The West Georgian*. My job was simple -- grab the stacks of newspapers and deliver them around campus. This was my introduction to print writing. Not long after I started my first article was published and the feeling of seeing my name in an actual newspaper brought a rush of excitement like none I had felt before. I made my place at *The West Georgian* as the Circulation Manager, toting each and every bundle before the sun came up Monday mornings and now, a year later, I am the Editor-in-Chief. Starting fall 2019, *The West Georgian* will be stepping away from its weekly physical newspaper and switching to a primarily online newspaper. While this move in format will better suit the habits of the current readers it does mean that we are changing the newspaper as we know it. The experience of actually picking up the newspaper and flipping through the pages each week is now gone.

Currently, *The West Georgian* publishes twelve hard copy editions a semester. The online edition of the paper comes out on its website Friday mornings. The online edition has every article with the PDF copy of the paper accessible. The physical newspaper is put out the following Monday mornings. Starting the fall of 2019 *The West Georgian* will continue to publish twelve PDF editions each Friday morning with the standard online updates. The major difference is that the physical newspaper will not be released every week. Instead, only two hard copy, themed, digest style editions will be released per semester.

This shift into a mostly online format will push *The West Georgian* to follow other publications into the evolution into online publishing. The online format is supposed to increase readership involvement and be more interactive for them. Instead of picking up a newspaper readers will be able to scroll through the articles on their phones in one quick sitting. The change is not only seen as more practical for the readers, but for the staff as well. Going online only will provide the staff of *The West Georgian* with

more time to focus on reporting, writing and editing articles that meet the needs of its readership. Cutting down on the print edition will also be more eco-friendly.

Many publications have made their articles much shorter and changed their styles all together when going online to appeal to readers, but *The West Georgian* will not follow this trend. We will stay true to the news style writing that we have consistently put out while raising the quality. This shift will be different and provide *The West Georgian* with new opportunities, but we will stay true to who we are while growing and improving for the readers.

This change of platform may be seen as more efficient and practical, but it is just another nail in the coffin that is the newspaper industry. As time goes on we are seeing the number of print newspapers get smaller and smaller due to lack of interest from readers. The truth is that if the news cannot be found on one's phone then there is no serious appeal to it and the stacks of papers laid out on campus are neglected because of it. This has been the major driving factor for the push towards an online paper. While this not a bad thing, just the way things are moving, something must be said about the different impact that a physical newspaper has opposed to an online paper. My start at *The West Georgian* and the feeling I got looking for my name in that first copy I was published in will not be had or felt by others. While this is sad we must adapt with the times and open our arms to the opportunities that this will bring *The West Georgian*.

LIVING WEST

DR. CHAPMAN RACKAWAY: A CLOSE UP

Ashley Moore
Contributing Writer

Dr. Chapman Rackaway is a Chair and Professor of the Political Science Department at UWG. He teaches classes in Political Parties, Political Campaign Management, Interest Groups and Lobbying and Campaign Finance.

Having published ten academic journal articles, thirteen book chapters, and six books Rackaway has been interested in politics from the beginning. He grew up with a father who was a newspaper editor and publisher, and a mother who was intensely interested in politics.

Rackaway's interests focus on a combination of republican democracy and professional electioneering. He is the author of *Civic Failure and its Threat to American Democracy: Operator Error (Lexington Press 2016)*, co-editor of *Parties Under Pressure (Palgrave 2017)*, along with books on American politics, political communication and voting behavior.

"I became involved with political campaigns when I became a teenager, which provoked my interests in political parties and campaigns," said Rackaway.

Rackaway continued working on political campaigns, but his fate changed when he was connected to a congressional candidate at the University of Missouri. After becoming his teaching assistant, Rackaway discovered his passion for teaching and soon writing.

"The more I was in grad school, the more I noticed people teaching and writing," said Rackaway. "Everything came together at once, especially upon graduating with my Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 2002."

Upon graduating, Rackaway continued his research in what a democratic society consists of, which initiated his first book, *American Government*.

Three editions later, Rackaway has authored a total of six books.

During his graduate studies, Rackaway noted that Samuel Popkins, author of *The Reasoning Voter*, is who inspired him to begin writing and publishing. The book explained information deeper than the surface value, specifically low-information rationality.

"This is essentially when people take whatever information is easily available to them and try to make sense of it, to follow their own instincts," Rackaway said. "It still inspires me to this day."

Racakaway, along with qualified field experts and fellow academic professors are now working together on publishing a book.

"There's no greater laboratory to look at how things can change in a presidency than Donald Trump's presidency," said Rackaway. "The book will focus on how President Trump has a different mindset, from an analytical perspective."

"Is he changing a trend in how the presidency operates?" *The Unorthodox Presidency of Donald Trump*, coming in January 2020. The book will entice details of Donald Trump's current presidency, his mindset during office, and the analytics behind it.

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THE WEST GEORGIAN

Justin Hodges
NEWS EDITOR

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Matthew Harvey
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Erin Grady
WEBMASTER

George Arowoselu
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

Summer Plans

Brittany Shivers

Copy Editor

With finals approaching at UWG, students are eagerly counting down the days until summer break is here.

There are numerous ways to spend the summer, and some people choose to be a couch potato or work a pointless job, but summer should be more. For AnnaGrace Henson, UWG freshman, summer is a time to invest in her future and enjoy time with family.

Henson will spend some of her time this summer working as a courier at Tisinger Vance PC, which is an attorneys’ office located in Carrollton, Ga. As a courier there, her main responsibilities are to transport documents and assist attorneys, but her ultimate career goal is to be a real-estate agent. Because she meets so many people, she hopes to gain clientele for her future job.

“Real estate is all about the people, and I’m looking to build more face to face relationships with future clients,” said Henson. “If I make some connections now, I will have a starting clientele. It will be work, but it is all worth it for my future career.”

Although Henson will be working, she is also making sure to sprinkle in some family fun. She plans to go to Tennessee with her grandparents and is excited about going to the Bloomin’ BBQ & Bluegrass Festival there.

“The bluegrass festival is a bunch of bands and people that come together and play the instruments that they bring,” said Henson. “We bring my 98-year-old great grandfather, and he likes to play his washboard. He loves talking to people and enjoys the atmosphere.”

This summer will be a truly memorable one for Henson and her family, but they are not the only ones. Brian Kamau, UWG sophomore, will be meeting some of his family this summer for the first time ever.

“I’m going to meet some distant relatives who are in Kansas. I have actually never seen this family,” said Kamau. “We’ve only talked on the phone. They came here from Kenya too, but 25 years ago.”

Kamau was born in the small town of Githurai, Kenya, which is situated on the outskirts of Kenya’s capital Nairobi. Githurai has a lot of crime, poor living conditions and social and economic issues. However, Kamau is extremely thankful that his parents were able to get him to a good school and enjoys life at UWG.

“Education is the key to success,” said Kamau. “Poverty is the lock.”

Just as Kamau believes in the power of education, Logan Ransom believes in the importance of good job experiences.

Ransom is a UWG student majoring in Construction Management, who plans to move to Kennesaw in the next year or so. This summer, Ransom plans to work construction.

“My summer projects help me shadow project managers and get my feet wet in the profession. That way, when I graduate, I will already have connections with certain companies,” said Ransom. “I’ll learn the ins and outs of the mechanical things and also about the finance part like how to balance the budgets of jobs.”

For Ransom, the summer is valuable. It is an opportunity to get ahead in the field he is passionate about and secure his future. However, for Candace Cole, this summer is about nostalgia and fulfilling a childhood dream.

Cole, East Paulding High School alumna and current student at the Florida Institute of Technology, was accepted into the Disney College Program. The Disney College Program is an opportunity for college students to work within the major company of Disney in a five- to seven-month program, where they can gain personal and career development and potentially live in the company-sponsored housing at various parks and resorts.

Cole is taking part in the magic at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla.

“Some of my first vacation memories are of Disney. My dad used to record everything. He basically vlogged,” said Cole. “When we got home, he would burn them into CDs for me, and I would watch them over and over and over again.”

“When I started getting older, around age 7, my mom told me I could do the college program, so it was always a thought in my head, but when I picked my major, I figured it wouldn’t work because I wasn’t doing anything Disney related,” said Cole. “Then a girl came to my work in Melbourne, and she did the Disney College Program and had a similar major to mine. So, I got home from work that day and applied because if she could do it, then so could I.”

Cole is thrilled for this chance to move to Disney World and learn the little

secrets that only Disney workers know. This once in a lifetime opportunity has been in the back of her mind ever since she was a little girl, and now she finally has the chance to live it out this summer.

If there is anything to learn from these individuals, it is that summertime is for living to your fullest potential. If you allow it, summer break can be memorable, valuable and magical. It can be a place of sunny opportunities and fostering bright futures.

So how will you choose to spend your summer?



Photo Credits: Lisa Cole

GRAPHIC DESIGN SENIOR EXHIBITION

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129 Main St, Villa Rica, GA 30180



Cawanna McMichael
cawanna.swindlelaw@gmail.com

Jason W. Swindle, Sr.
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SPOTLIGHT ON #METOO: ON CAMPUS & BEYOND

Amir Sports

Contributing Writer

The Spotlight on #MeToo: On Campus & Beyond will be held on April 16 at 6 p.m. and the symposium will be located in the TLC room 1303. The event is designed to let students and experts engage in a discussion about issues of gendered harassment and violence that students face both on and off campus.

The schedule of the event will start with four speakers qualified to talk about the topic, then their selected student respondents will ask them questions. Lastly, the conversation will be open to the audience to ask questions and share views with the speakers.

The #MeToo movement was founded in 2006 to help survivors of sexual violence find pathways to healing. The organization was founded by Tarana Burke when she wanted to support women of color who have experienced it. During the fall of 2017, actress Alyssa Milano encouraged all women who had been either sexually harassed or assaulted to use the hashtag and it went viral.

The four speakers of this spring’s symposium are Deirde Haywood Rouse, Mr. Corey Hindaman, student advocate, Dr. N. Jane McCandless, Dean of College of Social Sciences and Dr. Stephanie Chalifoux, assistant professor of history.

“I am a historian of US women,” said Chalifoux. “As such, I see the #MeToo movement as an important moment for women and one that is leading to more awareness about sexual violence. #MeToo dates back to 2006, but efforts to seek justice and to bring awareness have a much longer history in the US. I hope that I can add some historical context during the Spotlight event, learn from my peers on the panel, and engage with the audience who may have questions about the subject.”

Dr. Misty Wilson, lecturer of communications, is the faculty member in charge of coordinating this event. There are a few faulty members that trade-off turns of being in charge and this year Wilson took the job.

“My job was to find out what the symposium will cover, then have to start looking for speakers with well-informed opinions,” said Wilson. “This symposium will open up a discussion, a much-needed discussion, about something that is not easy to talk about to a degree about what you’ve experienced.”

The #MeToo movement is still growing by the day. Amy Russo on the online news source Metoomvmt.org shared that Tarana Burke, the activist who founded the Me Too movement against sexual abuse more than a decade ago, is launching a new public service announcement campaign to remind survivors they are not alone.

Burke told Huffington Post she hopes the PSAs will show that #MeToo goes beyond outing offenders. It also aims to empower survivors.

“It’s about survivors regaining control of their own stories and taking hold of their own healing journeys,” Burke said. “If the PSAs empower one person to gather the resources, they need to begin their own recovery — whether that’s telling their story or seeking justice in whatever way feels right for them.”

NEWS

THE VAULT RE- OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

Jasmine Dwamena

Contributing Writer

Carrollton has a new bar in town, and it is bringing a new type of class to Adamson Square we all know and love. Despite being a college town, Carrollton does not have many options for students to go and socialize. The Vault is designed to be a relaxed environment for frequent bar-goers who just want to enjoy themselves in good company.

The Vault had a pre-opening last summer to introduce the regulars on Main Street to the new joint. The bar is described as “Carrollton’s Only Speakeasy”. A speakeasy was a bar or nightclub during the Prohibition era, so the interior is designed as such.

The atmosphere is really nice and the people are very friendly. The bartenders and cooks are always there with a smile and good conversation.

“It’s a different environment than all the other bars in Carrollton,” said Israel Brassell, cook at the Vault. “As an employer, they’re a lot more willing to work with their employee’s school schedules than other places on the square, and the management and owners are fun to work with.”

Also unlike most places on the square, The Vault offers live entertainment on some nights, in true speakeasy fashion. The performances range from smooth jazz to stand up comedy.

So far the crowd that this new establishment has attracted are all enjoying chill people just looking for a good time.

“I love the decor and the lighting of the venue,” said Ethan Orphe, customer. “The service is good, and I always feel welcomed in and the jazz and blues music is a nice touch.”

The Vault is not just open at night, like other places on the

square it is open during the day as a restaurant. The menu is styled in 1920s-1930s fashion with specialty, gourmet hot dogs. Each hot dog is topped with interesting ingredients to give it character to match their special names. There is an Al Capone, the Pretzeldent Hoover, the Fire Flapper and other exceptional hot dogs. They also provide a kids menu, dessert and they also cater events.

Being a brand new business when so many others around town have closed down is very risky. However, good business owners know how to pull in a crowd. Each day of the week The Vault has different deals for their customers in an attempt to get new groups of people in.

Currently, members get discounts on Mondays, Tanner Medical employees get discounts on Tuesday, UWG employees get discounts on Wednesday, Southwire employees on Thursday, Greenway employees on Friday and the Barrel House Blue Band plays live music on weekends. It is unknown if these discount days will change in the future.

There are not many themed restaurants or bars in town or in the surrounding area that provide such a different dining or bar experience as this one does.

Carrollton is lucky to have a new place like this one open up to bring new experiences to the students and residents of Carrollton. The Vault will be a frequented spot this summer and anyone who enters will not be disappointed.

NIKITA DRAGUN REVIEW

Ariana Carter
Contributing Writer

Nikita Dragun is a model and makeup artist who created her YouTube channel in 2013. Two years later she came out as transgender which went on to be a viral video titled “I am Transgender.” Seeking change in the beauty world, Nikita has recently launched Dragun Beauty, a brand that is targeted at the Transgender community and beyond. Since 2015, Nikita Dragun has reached over 2 million subscribers and has risen to Internet stardom because of her honesty, fun personality and amazing confidence.

On March 25, Dragun Beauty launched. The line includes two powders and a color correcting concealer for all skin types and all skin tones. Most beauty gurus collaborate with other brands but Nikita wanted to create something she wholeheartedly believes in herself. Also known as Mother Dragun, she perfectly integrates the fantasy world of dragons and achieving the fantasy look of your dreams.

The two products sold out in one day. The collection launched the DragunHeart Transformative Powder and the DragunFire Skin Perfecting Potion inside of a medium sized purple egg.

The DragunFire Skin Perfecting Potion is a color corrector that comes in a bright orange color. Color correcting before applying makeup helps to cancel out any darkness on the skin in a variety of tones such as grey, blue or purple areas. The formula is vegan and cruelty-free. The perfecting potion is also infused with almond oil and shea butter to enhance the health of the skin. The product comes bottled in a sleek hard bottle with a duochrome top that mimics scales.

The DragunHeart Transformative Powder is in a duochrome palette with two powders in heart shaped pans. DragunHeart powder is infused with

Cocoa Seed Butter and is a shimmery formula with brightening properties that melt into the skin for a flawless, filtered makeup look.

Dragun Beauty products are easy to use for any makeup lover on any level. The perfecting potion is heavy duty for covering imperfections but so lightweight that it does not look cakey on the skin. It is blendable under any foundation whether it is light, medium or full coverage. The creaminess surprisingly has amazing staying power that does not dry down on the skin, and that is mainly due to the almond oil and shea butter used to condition the skin.

Both products are built to be used on more than one part of the face which makes purchasing both worth the money. Also, they both work well together to bring that face filtered look as promised. As the first two products to come from this brand, it is amazing that both the DragunHeart Powder and DragunFire Potion are so versatile that they can be used together, separate or with other products.

Dragun Beauty is fairly new but not entirely a new concept. That has left room for comparison to other beauty gurus and negativity looming over the brand and the brands Instagram. Shy of a restock in mid-April many have seen that Dragun Beauty is not as inclusive as it promises to be. Although Nikita is not the first YouTuber to come out with an entire makeup brand, she is the first choice for a majority of people simply because of the price point and the brand’s personal mission. Dragun Beauty is here to empower and help everyone unleash the fantasy within.

Nikita Dragun has come to slay the beauty world and aims to bring her fans closer than ever through makeup everyone can use.

THE CHI SEASON 2 PREMIERE

Conrad Mears
Contributing Writer

The smash hit TV series *The Chi* has returned to Showtime for the highly anticipated second season of the show. The show pits children and adults against the vices that accompany life in the inner city. Filled with the new and old storyline, the gritty show is ready to quench the thirst of its strong fanbase once more.

Street drama and struggle has become the theme of *The Chi*. The show, which is set in Chicago’s notorious south side, displays the never-ending vices that come along with living in the ghettos of Chicago. While season one centered around the immoral slaying of a local high school basketball star, the plot of season two can dart the momentum of the show in any direction.

Behind the tunes of Chicago artist Chance the Rapper, the second season of *The Chi* opened exactly how any regular viewer of the show would imagine. With genuine heartwarming moments immediately followed by the stark reminder that the show is set in one of the most notorious ghettos in the United States. The opening of the second season pits often pestered character Brandon against the natural dark karma that seems to follow every character on the show. Viewers are reminded of this harsh reality following a scene in which the often financially strained Brandon is robbed at gunpoint after making hundreds of dollars with his food truck. Regardless of how cold hearted it seems, this gritty opening is what has endeared the show to its rabid fanbase. Life is not fair and *The Chi* only confirms it.

A new element *The Chi* experiments within the first episode is sudden flashbacks to a younger version of the character Ronnie Davis, who is currently in jail facing murder charges. Adding flashbacks to the show is a grand slam for the audience. Often in this show, it feels easy to judge the characters for their actions. Yet implementing flashbacks allow the viewer to sympathize with characters who are portrayed as villains. This clever screenplay is just one of many reasons why the show is so tantalizing.

The storyline of the show has plenty of themes to unravel as it originally centered around the death of a former high school basketball star. The murder mystery was the main plot of the first season but now that the character Ricky has confessed



to it the show has been forced to turn the plot in a different direction. Now instead of all the characters being related to one major issue, their vices are now individual problems. This is an extremely effective method because the audience is allowed to see more insight into individual characters lives. This method has provided fans with important clarity in regards to the characters. As a result of this, the audience is able to develop a bond with all characters and not just stars of the show. Although the storyline is less focused than last season’s it is extremely effective in humanizing all the characters.

Perhaps the best element of *The Chi* is its relatability. Every character is struggling either internally or externally. *The Chi* truly knows no limits and that is where the beauty of the show lies. The character Emmet completely

embodies the new episode when he is put out of his mother’s house and left to fend for himself. The first emotion the viewer is inclined to feel is ... actually nothing at all. His mother did warn him about not following through on her simple requests after all, right? After Emmet walks the streets of the city with his belongings packed, he is offered a shopping cart to help him carry the bags by a homeless man. To really understand the significance of this scene one must sit back and analyze. A man who literally has nothing of value is willing to assist Emmet when his own family has abandoned him. This is where even the sternest of people at the very least sympathize with him. This is what *The Chi* is great at. It makes one feel compassion and empathy which is forever priceless because it makes the show more relatable for the audience.

Perhaps the most satisfying element of *The Chi* is the characters range from all ages. This allows the show to attract audiences of all ages as well. In addition to this, it gives the show a necessary balance. As a result, *The Chi* is neither too action- filled with young kids nor is it too reliant on over dramatized adult banter. This balance is essential to maintain a good character dynamic in the show.

An epic drama series that is bound to draw a wide range of emotions from audiences, *The Chi* is surely one of the hottest tv series on television. Look out for the next episode in this compelling drama on Sundays at 10 p.m.

PG. 7 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SPECIAL REVIEW

Aurie Johnson

Contributing Writer

The new Netflix original series, *Special*, chronicles the budding social life of a gay man with cerebral palsy (CP) living in Los Angeles. The show is a situational dramedy with quirky characters who have very exaggerated personalities.

The series is based on a book titled, *I’m Special: And Other Lies We Tell Ourselves*, written by Ryan O’Connell who produces the show and plays the main character. O’Connell himself has cerebral palsy.

At the beginning of the show the main character, Ryan Hayes, gets hit by a car. The car did not hit him hard enough to seriously injure him. All Ryan got was a bruised arm. Ryan then gets an internship at a blogging site where his boss entices him to write articles about his deeply personal experiences.

Due to his CP, Ryan walks with a limp and does not have complete motor function in his right arm and has trouble doing certain tasks such as opening letters and tying his shoes. Noticing this, his boss asks him why he maneuvers the way he does. Instead of telling people he has CP, Ryan tells everyone it is because of his car accident. Ryan does not tell anyone about his CP because he is tired of being defined by his disability, so he takes the fact that he was struck by a car as an opportunity to reinvent himself. One of the main premises of the show is Ryan keeping this secret.

The other main premise of the show is Ryan looking for love. One of the show’s weird and exaggerated characters is Ryan’s coworker. She is a writer at his job named Kim who encourages him non-stop and constantly pushes him out of his comfort zone.

The show tackles body insecurity when Ryan and Kim are at a pool party and Ryan does not want to take off his clothes. Because of his CP, Ryan is ashamed of how his body looks

in comparison to all of the other chiseled men at the party. To combat this, Kim encourages Ryan to take off his clothes and make him say everything that he loves about the way his body looks.

Another exaggerated character is Ryan’s boss, who is extremely rude, and has no sense of personal boundaries or privacy when it comes to others’ personal information. When someone tells her something in confidence she either spills the beans or she gathers the entire office to listen to someone, which is hilarious but also awkward and random.

One of the other more complex and serious arcs is the relationship between Ryan and his mother. His mother, Karen, is very overprotective of Ryan even in his adult years. At the start of the series Ryan still lived with Karen, but immediately decided to move out, which Karen was not on board with because she did not think he could live on his own.

Karen and Ryan’s relationship takes a rocky turn as you see her struggling to help Ryan with things, such as unclogging his toilet because he could not properly grip the plunger, and starting to have her own social life. The series showed viewers another side of the coin, what the parents of people with disabilities feel. In an argument with Ryan, Karen brings up all of the physical therapies and leg brace fittings she took Ryan too. She basically felt she could not have her own life because she always had to make sacrifices to be there for her son.

Overall, this series tells a fun, touching and hilarious story that has many angles and pieces to it. It diverges from the usual coming of age shows and movies by telling the story of someone with CP. The show has a unique way of letting the viewer see more of the main character than just how he walks.

WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?

Ariana Carter

Contributing Writer

Billie Eilish’s debut album, *WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?* was released on March 29, just weeks before Billie playing the biggest gig of her career, Coachella.

Eilish is a singer-songwriter and collaborates heavily with her brother Finneas. Her first single “Ocean Eyes” was originally written for his band but was put in Billie’s hands and was released on her Soundcloud in 2016. Eilish’s music is considered pop/electropop which makes every song she has released a fun and interesting experience with a touch of sadness.

Eilish is only 17 years old and is taking the pop world by storm. She is the first artist born in the 2000s to have a number one album. *WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?* includes 14 songs that effortlessly blend into one another. Although she released her EP *don’t smile at me* almost two years ago she has had singles rolling including “you should see me in a crown” and headlined her first tour, all in 2018.

Adding a bit of comedic relief to start off her album “!!!!!!” is a quick track that shows off Billie’s personality and how easy going she is. It is easy to forget that the woman behind these songs is a teen writing and singing her experiences that are sometimes fictional pieces of work.

Most songs were also produced by her brother Finneas including, “all the good girls go to hell”. This track has such an interesting sound opening with the vocals by Billie being warped in an almost demonic way. The song opens by saying “my

lucifer is lonely,” meaning that she or whoever the song is about is lacking an angel on the other shoulder adjacent from the Devil. The imagery of lacking an angel on the other shoulder fuels good girls doing bad things because they lack the moral compass.

The most playful song on the album is “wish you were gay” which was written when Billie was 14. The song is about having a crush and that crush not feeling the same way. Her vocals have such an interesting sultry feel but not necessarily to sound sexy. Eilish sings in the chorus “I just kind of wish you were gay,” and in her voice, it is easy to detect that the crush, in general, is in some way difficult to have because she knows they are straight but it is hard to understand why they do not like her back.

WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO? is an amazing blend of everything electropop/indie and as a first-time listener, it is understandable why Eilish is a huge hit. What makes Billie’s debut album different from the rest is that it has a little bit of something for all fans of the genre and has a little bit of that relatable element to it. Although she is young, her music is not influenced by that, like many artists she pulls from her real life and other people’s lives in order to tell a story. Listening to it over and over again gives a different experience each time and not many albums do that.

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