

The West Georgian

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HOMECOMING 2019 ISSUE

Lana Del Rey's New Album Review

Olivia West

Contributing Writer

Lana Del Rey's sixth album *Norman F**king Rockwell* stands out because of the title alone, but is captivating for more reasons than one. Lana Del Rey's music has a reputation of repetitive melancholic lyrics and moody sounds, appealing to her predominantly young, female audience. With songs such as "Born to Die" and "Dark Paradise", Del Rey invokes a feeling of heartbreak and angst into the listener.

Although her previous albums have much acclaim and are very well known, her sound has gotten more formulaic over the years. *Norman F**king Rockwell* is a step in a new direction for her, breaking away from her songs of tragic lovers and opening a new well of emotion and lyrical genius. NFR! feels like Lana Del Rey's most stripped down album, focusing on the meaning behind the lyrics, piano ballads and strung out instrumentals.

One of the highlights of the album is "Mariners Apartment Complex", a ballad that deals with a tragic romance, which seems to be a frequent topic for Del Rey. The ballad is filled with soulful lyrics such as "I f**ked up, I know that, but Jesus/Can't a girl just do the best she can?", opening up about her feelings of insecurity and doubt. We start to see more emotions than the melancholy and heartbreak Lana has given us in the past. We start to see Del Rey break through emotions like concern, regret and doubt.

Del Rey also strips it down in her song "The greatest", using an almost sarcastic tone to sing about the end of the world. There are many nods to pop culture figures in the songs on the album, singing "I miss the bar where the Beach

Boys would go / Dennis' last stop before Kokomo" in "The greatest". She also pays tribute to Elton John in the song "*Norman F**king Rockwell*", saying the phrase "I ain't no candle in the wind." We also get a sleepy and electric cover of Sublime's "Doin' Time", Del Rey putting her own twist on the classic. The title in itself is a nod to another pop culture figure, Norman Rockwell.

Del Rey chose the title to put a twist on his idea of the American Dream, rewriting it with her album, *Norman F**king Rockwell*. Although most of the tracks on Del Rey's album are great pieces that are breaking her out of her mold, there are some moments when the lyrics seem to slip back into the mournful and poetic sound her older tracks had. Despite the few dips in the lyrics that can be seen throughout the 14 song record, each song Del Rey has put out is filled with rich and soulful vocals and calming strings and piano ballads that accompany it.

*Norman F**king Rockwell* is a great album that is a step into a fresh new direction for Del Rey and her new music. Del Rey has traded the outdated and tragic poetic prose for lyrics that hold genuine meaning and deep emotion. The authenticity of her stripped down belts and beautifully orchestrated instrumentals mean a new age for Del Rey's vision of the classic American Dream. Although Lana Del Rey has already held the title of a talented songwriter, NFR! Exhibits a side of her than she has not shown the industry previously, but she will hopefully continue to show.

ENTERTAINMENT

Addams Family Review

Emily Conklin

Contributing Writer

The Addams Family movie premiered on Oct. 10th just in time for all of the Halloween fanatics to go and see it. The modernized feel of the movie is quite different from the original as much of the storyline is dull and predictable. The movie lacks the plot and individuality that the original movie once had.

Despite the many flaws of this movie, the producers try to make sure that they emphasize on the idea that it is okay to be different and stand out in a crowd of normal people. *The Addams Family* is a perfect example of how there will always be someone who disapproves with the way that you dress, act and live your life.

The Addams Family is shown moving to a place that they believe no one will be able to bother them or make fun of their strange way of living. This place just so happens to be New Jersey. They are shown moving into a huge mansion on the

top of a dark and scary mountain. The producers do a great job of expressing just how different the Addams family is from the rest of the world down below them by placing them in this uninviting mansion as far away from everyone as they can get.

Another thing that the producers did well with in the movie is that they included some of the features from the original movie that the crowd truly enjoyed. They included the escaped prisoner as a butler, a disembodied hand as an all-purpose helper and most importantly they included the love story between Morticia and Gomez. These few details

made the movie something that the public truly enjoyed watching.

Some of the parts of the plot that were most important were rushed through, while the rather unimportant and boring parts were dragged on for what seemed like forever. There was little emphasis on the coming of age ceremony for Pugsley, which would have been something that the producers would have wanted to focus on.

The coming of age ceremony was mentioned briefly several times throughout the movie, but it was never truly explained as to what this would mean for Pugsley and his family. It would have been nice for the producers to focus on this as they were focusing a lot on being and individu-

al and not worrying about what others were thinking.

The interaction between the townsfolk and the Addams family was also rushed through and not put to its full potential. Before the audience knew it, the disagreement between the townsfolk and the Addams family was resolved,

but still felt unfinished. This lack in plot left the audience with questions as to how they resolved it so quickly and made you question as to why it was even an issue in the first place.

Overall, *The Addams Family* movie was quite a drag and did not do the older version any justice whatsoever. While there was a great amount of focus on individuality and self-expression, it lacked the dark humor and originality that the producers could have used to their advantage.



IMDB

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COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN TRICK OR TREAT TOO

Katelynn Johnson

Contributing Writer

On All Hallows' Eve, many come out to participate in the evening festivities. Monsters, goblins, princesses and more come alive to get their favorite candies and treats. Neighborhoods get filled with children excited to fill their bags with goodies.

For college students, Halloween is talked about months in advance. Students put their imagination to work in developing some of the best costumes, with hopes to show them off. There are several neighborhoods around Carrollton that are college age friendly for trick or treating. These neighborhoods encourage older teens and young adults to come and participate in filling their bags up with sweets. These residents understand that college students need to have a safe place to enjoy themselves on Halloween too.

Cottage Grove neighborhood invites all to come and participate in Halloween events. Many residents within the neighborhood bring out tables and chairs and sit at the end of their driveway to fill up children and adult's bags with candy. You can find many of the adults living inside this neighborhood dressed up as well. They are friendly, inviting and encourage everyone to come have a great time. Many choose to park alongside the road and walk this smaller neighborhood. "My motto is if they put forth the effort to dress up, what is the harm in giving them candy too," said Vickie Gleason, a resident of Cottage Grove neighborhood.

Larger amounts of candy are known to be given away in Oak Mountain. Oak Mountain neighborhood is another adult friendly trick or treating community. Some may find that older brothers and sisters will participate with their younger siblings, by walking them throughout the community.

"No one goes home disappointed," said Chelsea Church, a parent of a participant. "Some people in this neighborhood even give away whole candy bars."

Residents of Millpond invite children of all ages, and young adults, to come and have a safe play to receive handfuls of candy. Millpond is located across from the Carroll County Recreation Department on Newnan Road.

"Many kids still use their pillowcase to trick or treat," said Tina Young, a resident of Millpond. "You can tell the college age kids apart, not only by height but by their creative ways of carrying their candy."

Many neighborhoods in Carrollton are open to having older kids trick or treat in their community. These residents understand that trick or treating is fun for everyone, and allowing college students to come gives them a reliable place to participate in Halloween.

NEWS

New Goodwill Opens In Villa Rica

Allison Lee

Contributing Writer

A new Goodwill opened in Villa Rica, GA on Oct. 15, 2019 and is located on the Carrollton Villa Rica Highway. This Goodwill feature a new drive-thru where you can drop off clothing donations and has a career center as well. Goodwill now has a total of 14 stores across their 50-county territory that covers parts of West Georgia and East Alabama. Goodwill sees this as an exciting opportunity to expand their stores and to help others in the community.

Many people were involved in taking on this ambitious project such as Julie Bennett, Communications Director of Goodwill. Bennett has been with Goodwill for eight years. Her team put up much of the signage, branding and advertisement for this new Goodwill location. Since Goodwill has done well in surrounding locations such as Carrollton, the company thought that Villa Rica would be an ideal location. Goodwill has had this project in the works for about two years and has carefully negotiated about how this new store should be brought into Villa Rica.

"We look at the availability of donors when choosing a new location," said Julie Bennett. "We know convenience is important to our customers."

This new Goodwill will be on the outer edge of Villa Rica, but close enough to the city to fulfill this expectation. Goodwill does offer several services to the public which include donations, career services and job opportunities. This ensures that Goodwill is taking from the community and

giving back. Goodwill primarily takes clothing donations, but they also take donations of home decor, jewelry, small appliances and furniture. Goodwill brings in and sells out different kinds of merchandise every day which allows their selections to swap out rather frequently.

Goodwill provides employment readiness training, educational assistance, skill workshops and computer access as some of the many options they have in its career center.

There are several companies that hire people through Goodwill and many jobs available at Goodwill itself. It also works with local restaurants, the department of corrections and even police departments to find the best jobs for certain individuals. This new location in Villa Rica will have 15 jobs available for the Goodwill staff.

"I think our goal is to help people move out of poverty and become self-sufficient," said Bennett. "I think that is an amazing goal for any organization."

When purchasing items at Goodwill, all of the proceeds contribute to its career centers. Anyone can come in for free and acquire all sorts of career skills and services. This is a vital resource for some and a wonderful place to find almost anything for a decent price. Goodwill truly focuses on aiding people in their struggles and teaching them to become better individuals for themselves.



Photo Credit: Allison Lee

GLAMHOUSE COMES TO CARROLLTON

Nicole Kirkman

News Editor

Carrollton has welcomed a brand new business called the Glamhouse, located only two minutes away from the UWG campus. The owner is the same one of Jules and James Boutique and she is super excited to welcome the new business. The history of the store’s background is one that most employees dream of.

“Glamhouse was something I always wanted to do but never thought about until one of my best friend’s and employee, Allie, started to speak it into existence,” said owner Alison Grooms. The business was made exclusively for women who want to have a relaxing place to go to after a long day at work. The atmosphere is specifically gaged towards anyone looking for a place to feel less stress.

“I think there is a huge need for this type of business in the West Georgia area and it’s quite cool to be able to make it so close to college students especially for formals, graduations and other events they need to feel their very best,” said Grooms. The store is brand new and has only been in business since the second week of August . They offer many different services but some of the top rated are lash extensions and microblading. The other services they offer include brow tinting, waxing, and makeup.



Photo Credit: Nicole Kirkman

“We plan to add to the company in the next year or so and add a spa space for anyone who needs that zen experience,” said Grooms. The space is quite intimate so it does not feel like there is too much happening at once which is ideal for any customer whether they are from the college or just a passerby.

“I use the services myself even as the head overseer of the company because once I started lash extensions at the space I couldn’t stop, it was just an added piece to feeling beautiful every single day,” said Grooms. A lot of the customers come straight over from Jules and James because they are located directly next door to one another.

“I never say no to an opportunity and when Allie came to me about her passions with beauty I knew this would be a company she could lead with ease and could be enjoyed by all the women of Carrollton and its surrounding areas,” say Grooms Alison says she likes to help other people succeed in what they are passionate about and hopes to give college students an opportunity too.

“Internship opportunities are even available for those looking to get into entrepreneurship after schooling,” said Grooms. This new business is open from 10-7 Monday through Saturday and the staff is really excited to see what comes of the store. “We hope to be able to make women feel more beautiful for years to come and cannot wait to develop our brand into even more,” says Grooms.

ENTERTAINMENT

Festival on Ponce Review

Imani Feagin

Contributing Writer

The 8th annual Fall Festival, most commonly known as The Festival on Ponce, took place in Atlanta’s historic Olmsted Linear Park on Saturday, Oct 12 and Sunday, Oct 13. This free event was open to all ages and featured over 125 different booths and displays of fine arts, folk art and small local and regional businesses. In addition to the variety of art, there was also local gourmet food trucks and stands, a children’s play area and even a stage in which local musicians could perform acoustic only sets

Some of the art displays were extremely intriguing and held many abstract pieces that were very creative. One of the artists that stood out from the others was Sergey Cherep. His pieces focused on displaying beautiful landscapes and seascapes that used a lot of bold and abstract color. Yet, many of the art displayed by other artists however seemed to be very similar to one another and there wasn’t very much variety.

Some of the business that attracted many people were “Cindyrella Cakes” (a gourmet cake company), “Bare” candles, “Honey Nextdoor” (a local honey business), “Jill’s Jam’s and Jellies”, “Jewelry’s Designs” (handcrafted sterling silver jewelry) and Essential body oils and soaps.



Photo Credit: Imani Feagin

One of the businesses that grasped the audience’s attention was “Pippen Photography”, which is owned by UWG alumni, Sanese Pippen. Pippen explained that being able to showcase her work at the festival gives entrepreneurs the chance to talk to and meet many different people rather than just selling their products.

The food choices provided at The Festival on Ponce were owned by local food vendors and they served gourmet dishes that attracted many of the guest throughout the day. However, there was very little variety of vendors to choose from and some of the meals were fairly pricey. Food stands contained smaller choices, such as kettle corn, cotton candy, and ice cream.

Aside from art, business, and food displays there was also an area for young children to play and have a good time. This area contained a few bouncy houses, a pumpkin patch, face painting and a bungee jumping harness. The children’s play area was very appropriate, and the kids seemed to really enjoy themselves.

The Festival on Ponce was very family friendly event and great for those who are looking for a little fun.

The Carrollton LGBTQ Pride Festival

Imani Feagin

Contributing Writer

Carrollton hosted its very first LGBTQ Pride Festival at the AMP in Adamson Square on Friday, Oct 11, in honor of National Coming Out Day. The event was presented by the University of West Georgia Center for Diversity and Inclusion and The Queer Student Alliance from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The festival focused on celebration, community, resources and entertainment.

When the festival first began, guests were seen mingling and speaking to the different organizations and resources in which the celebration was sponsored by. Other than the UWG Center for Diversity and Inclusion and The Queer Student Alliance, other resources and organizations included: the LGBTQ Oral History Project, Invisible Histories Project, UWG Counseling and businesses in Carrollton that were supportive of the LGBTQ community such as Rooted Chiropractic and St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church.

There was also a booth set up that allowed anyone in attendance to write down memories regarding their coming out stories or anything that is related to their sexual orientation and a booth in which people were given “free mom hugs” which represented supportive parents for those who may not have such thing.

After the community got the chance to meet and greet with one another, the 30-minute documentary film, “OUTSPOKEN” was shown on screen. The film was produced



Photo Credit: Imani Feagin

after Parkersburg City Council in West Virginia defeated a nondiscrimination ordinance in 2017. “OUTSPOKEN” focused on local LGBTQ residents and their experiences in a small and often described, “small-minded” town. It is a film that brings light to individuals who are underrepresented, and it emphasizes the capacity that LGBTQ people in small towns obtain to make a difference.

Following the film, guests at the festival shared their thoughts on the film and even compared it to the city of Carrollton regarding how residents in such a small city react to the LGBTQ community. People shared their thoughts, opinions and suggestions on how Carrollton could better support the LGBTQ community or at least make the community feel safer in public spaces.

Individuals continued on to share their stories and experiences as it relates to coming out to their parents, how they are treated in public and by people they know who disagree with their lifestyle and how they are supported, even the slightest ways. The LGBTQ festival ended with a “Queer dance party” and many people in attendance were seen dancing with one another to very upbeat music under colorful strobe lights, in representation of the colors on the pride flag. Although it was the very first Pride Festival hosted in Carrollton, the outcome was very effective, and it made members of the LGBTQ feel safe and supported in a place where many people look down upon the lifestyle.

LIVING WEST

West Georgia New Security Features

Kimberley Wooten

Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia has implanted a new security feature in all of the campus housing. They have installed a small camera with a doorbell right next to the doors, inside the on-campus lobbies. That camera and doorbell is connected to UWG’s 24/7 control center. If students enter the building between the hours of 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. tonight, students will find that the entrance door will be locked. The best way to enter the residence will be to press the button on the doorbell.

Once the button is pressed a staff member from the control center will be with the student quickly and they will have a two-way conversation with the staff member located at the housing control center. If the student is with a group of people or has guests, the staff member will have to talk to each person individually to identify their identity. This is very similar to the same process as the front post would normally do. With this new procedure with on campus housing they do not want students propping open doors.

“One of the greatest threats to the security of the residence halls is propping open outside doors after the doors have been secured,” said Andy Russell. This practice may permit unwanted visitors to enter the residence hall and threaten the safety of all residents in the building. For this reason, propping outside doors is strictly prohibited. If a student is caught doing this, they will be fined and disciplinary action will occur. If the doorbells give students any trouble, the student can always call ResSTAR at 678-839-4718 and someone will come

out and assist them.

- UWG’s Housing Department has some tips when it comes to on campus safety.
- Always lock your room door(s)!
- Report all suspicious activity or persons to your hall staff or University Police.
- Don’t leave valuables in plain sight.
- Record serial numbers of electronics.
- Use the buddy system after dark and/or use the campus shuttle. If you need an escort, call University Police.
- Tell friends or your RA about your plans or whereabouts.
- Report all propped doors to hall staff immediately. NEVER prop doors.
- Never hold the door open for someone who you do not know for certain to be a resident of your building. It’s not rudeness – it’s for the safety of your community!
- Don’t leave personal items unattended in common spaces such as lounges.
- Ensure that your belongings are insured! Check to see if you are covered under a parent’s renters or homeowner’s insurance policy. If not, purchase your own renter’s policy. These can be purchased for less than \$15/month.

CHAOS Haunted House in Carrollton

Cameron Lynch

Contributing Writer

For the ninth year in a row CHAOS haunted house is back every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Nov. 3 (plus Halloween, which falls on a Thursday this year). It is no secret that Carrollton has little to offer students regarding fun things to do in their free time. That is what makes the annual Haunted House in Carrollton even more exciting.

It is located in and behind what looks to be an old abandoned house off of Highway 27, but is in fact much creepier than that up close. The website claims that “Within the walls of The Outdoor Trail at Chaos you will experience the true nature of humanity.”

Since Carrollton is such a small town, my expectations for the haunted house were not extremely high. I was expecting a small, outdated course with a relatively low number of employees. I was pleasantly surprised by the depth and detail put into each step of the house, along with how many times I was genuinely startled.

It is much bigger than it looks from the outside. The course starts indoors and then leads into the eerie woods behind the main building. Most of the maze was just dim enough to leave anyone uneasy while still being able to see every spooky detail of each scare. There is also a portion of the course that requires you to crawl through a tunnel, so

dress accordingly!

CHAOS was included on the 2018 Best Things GA website under events. It also has great reviews online and is compared to much larger and more expensive haunted houses such as Netherworld in Stone Mountain, GA. I have been to Netherworld also and enjoyed it, but the weekend tickets range from thirty-five to sixty dollars depending on the expected wait time. CHAOS charges \$15 general admission, and \$3 off with a student ID at the time of purchase on

Fridays and Saturdays This offer is also extended to the staff of the university and for students that attend West GA Tech. It also only costs \$3 if a guest wants to go back through the course after they complete it.

CHAOS haunted house is a fun way to get students in the spooky spirit, and branch out from the typical weekend in Carrollton!

Address: 247 US-27, Carrollton, GA 30117

Hours: 8 p.m. - 11/12 p.m (depending on day)

For more information and a full detailed schedule, visit <http://www.chaoshant.net> or call 470-702-7335



Photo Credit: Cameron Lynch

SPORTS

Braves flop in the biggest game of the season

Brittany Shivers

Contributing Writer

Excited, die-hard Braves fans filled the stands, sports reporters voiced their optimism and the Braves drumline in The Battery Atlanta created a competitive and energetic atmosphere for game five of the National League Division Series (NLDS) at SunTrust Park. Unfortunately, this hope and fire would not translate to the baseball field, where the Braves lost in true tragicomic fashion to the St. Louis Cardinals 13-1.

Up until game five, the series was extremely close with a combined margin of victory of only seven runs in the first four games, with three of those games being decided in the eighth inning or later. The fifth game was not expected to be any different, but that all changed when the Cardinals scored 10 runs in the first inning of the game, the most runs scored in the first inning of a postseason game in MLB history.

Braves fans had little to cheer about after the first inning, and the one run scored was a solo home run by Josh Donaldson in the bottom of the fourth inning. That was it. “I was heartbroken,” said Phillip Brown, a Braves fan and UWG Senior. “This was the closest the Braves have gotten to making a World Series run in a long time, and they had the talent to do so, but in the end they choked like any other Atlanta team.”

This loss also happened amidst a tomahawk chop controversy concerning Cardinals pitcher Ryan Helsley, who criticized the chant, according to Derrick Goold of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. “I think it’s a misrepresentation of the Cherokee people or Native Americans in general. Just depicts them in this kind of caveman-type people way who aren’t intellectual,” said Helsley. “It’s not about me being offended by the whole mascot thing. It’s not. It’s about the misconception of us, the Native Americans, and it devalues us and how we’re perceived in that way, or used as mascots. The Redskins and stuff like that.”

Due to the commentary, the Braves responded by not putting out foam tomahawks in each seat, a postseason game tradition. They also stated they would not play the beat of the chant while Helsley was in the game, but he never got called in to pitch. Some Braves fans support the Native Americans’ concerns, while other Braves fans are hoping this will not hinder the chop tradition from continuing. The one thing all the Braves fans agree upon is their shared disappointment of the fifth game flop.



Photo Credit: Brittany Shivers

Alpha Pack Kickball Tournament

Samuel Okodua

Contributing Writer

The UWG Recreations Department, also known as UREC, is hosting an Alpha Pack Kickball Tournament on Thursday, Oct. 24. The tournament is going to be held at the intramural field 13 near the football stadium from 6 p.m to 8 p.m.

This event is a one day tournament and is free for all students to come out and enjoy themselves for a couple of hours. “This is the first time that the kickball tournament will be successful,” said Lucy Caples, Graduate Assistant for UREC. “Last year was our first year doing it and it got rained out.” Caples’ hopes that last year’s outcome will not be the same as this year. She wants as many UWG students as possible to come out and enjoy themselves.

“Come on out, call your friends, get them out here, have a good time,” said Caples. “It’s completely free, and it’s open so there are no gender requirements.” She wants this tournament to allow anyone to play no matter who they are and how many people they have. UREC is also hosting another Alpha Pack Tournament with Bump Soccer on Nov. 14.

Bump Soccer is a twisted version of soccer where players are inside giant bubbles with the same goal in mind. There will be two teams of five players competing head to head to win prizes. UREC also has recreational league sports for students who seek a more competitive experience. These sports include soccer, volleyball, flag football and a climbing wall competition. These competitive sports do require a \$25 per team fee to join, all except for the climbing wall competition which is free to all UWG students.

“They are more competitive in the fact that you are versing other teams in your division,” said Caples. “And depending on your record and your sportsmanship level, you’ll be pushed on to playoffs where you’ll play everyone else.” The recreational league sports run on a sportsmanship policy where players are rated on a scale from one to four. If a player does not average sportsmanship level of at least three during the regular season, they will not be allowed to play in the playoffs.

Player’s sportsmanship level can vary due to good or bad behavior, forfeits and defaults. The sportsmanship scale creates a friendly environment for all UWG students to play fair and have fun. “Our goal at UREC is to promote healthy lifestyles, inclusion, diversity, and making sure everyone has an opportunity to play,” said Caples.



Photo Credit: Samuel Okodua

LIVING WEST

The Son of a UWG Hall of Famer Living Up to Dad’s Legacy

Arvon Bacon

Contributing Writer

Tim McClain Jr., son of UWG football Hall of Famer Tim McClain Sr., is currently an Economics Major and multi position player on the school’s football team, and has goals of being his own boss to donate an indoor turf facility to his neighborhood in Valdosta, GA.

McClain was introduced to the game he fell in love with by his dad, who played linebacker during his tenure at West Georgia. Teaching his son everything he knew from a defensive mindset made his offensive impact that more dynamic. During his time at Valdosta High School McClain played outside linebacker, safety and running back.

“I’ve always had a chip on my shoulder because I am undersized,” said McClain. “I had to lead the way for my younger brothers.” McClain has younger brothers that look up to him to learn what it takes to be successful at the high school level as well as making it to play at the collegiate level.

“I stayed in shape for football by playing sports year round by participating in basketball, track and wrestling,” said McClain “I often biked three miles to school to get summer football camp.” Staying in good condition throughout the year helped Tim become an overall better athlete.

“I feel my style of running as a running back is a mixture of the two premiere talents in the NFL, Sayquon Barkley and Ezekiel Elliot,” said McClain. “I have the tendency to run like Sayquon when I’m in the open field looking to make the defender look foolish, by leaping over them, and I have a more Zeke style when the offensive line is blocking well and can hit the open hole.” Football to McClain is more than just a sport, it is very therapeutic for him.

“I like to describe the game of football as a vent for me,” said McClain. “The field is a place where I can let go. It’s all instincts out there.” While being a student-athlete at UWG, McClain has encountered a lot of opportunities that has better prepared him for a potential career after college, and has received respect from his peers by being a student athlete. “Football has put me in places I would’ve never thought I would have gone,” said McClain. “Because of football I have become a better all-around person.”

Joker’s New Movie: No Laughing Matter

Logan Landers

Contributing Writer

His name may imply this movie will be a fun time however “Joker” is no laughing matter. “Joker” can be interpreted in a multitude of different ways and is a brilliant film. Directed by Todd Phillips, this film can be seen as the showcase of the sick and twisted backstories to one of the most famous comic book villains of all time.

Taking place in the infamous Gotham City, this film showcases the transformation of regular citizen Arthur Fleck into the sinister Joker, played by iconic actor Joaquin Phoenix. Right from the opening credits, this film goes into overdrive. With a runtime of two hours and two minutes, this is a very exhilarating movie from start to finish. The film reveals the home life of Arthur, who works as a professional clown and lives with his mother in a rundown apartment complex. However, about a third of the way into the movie Fleck kills his first victims and the film starts to amp up the intensity. After stopping his mental illness medication the Joker starts to replace Fleck as a person. From there a sense of uneasiness and grittiness is being felt throughout the entire theater for the remainder of the movie. In preparation for this role, Phoenix went through a grueling transformation in order to feel more connected to his character. When shooting for the film began, Phoenix lost a total of 52 pounds. This weight cut made his figure look sick and ill as throughout the movie his bones and ribs are visible to the audience. Phoenix was able to lose this amount of weight so quickly because of a personal nutritionist only having him eat a minuscule 500 calories per day.

In addition to losing weight, Phoenix also did extensive research about the types of medication that his Joker character took during the movie. With a dark and tragic backstory, it is clear to see that the Joker is not mentally stable. Due to this notion, this film has received both praise as well as backlash for portraying mental health issues on the big screen. Some view the film as courageous and bold, while others detest it for being appalling and distasteful.

This film has a deeper meaning and illustrates how mental health is something that people should look out for in their lives and to check on other’s health and well-being. Overall this film is absolutely a must-watch for any fan of comic books or movies in general. This movie is sure to have the viewer leaving the theater with a look of disbelief and awe at the fantastic film that is “Joker.”

The Gospel at Colonus Review; UWG Brings fun to a tragedy

Taylor Barton

Contributing Writer

The UWG Theater Program’s production of The Gospel at Colonus brings fun to a tragedy in the musical retelling of Oedipus at Colonus. The show opened on Wednesday Oct. 9 and ran through Sunday Oct. 13 with a run time of around 75 minutes with no intermission, however it did not feel too long or too short keeping the audience wrapped in the action from beginning to end.

The show’s interpretation is set under a bridge in a homeless community where a church group is re-telling the stories of Oedipus as if it were a Bible story. The actors interact with the audience, making everyone feel as if they are a part of the story ready to be preached to, and breaking the fourth wall from the very beginning.

The shows themes of responsibility, reconciliation and redemption are shown in this production through the actors telling a story within a story to the audience. The costumes, set, lighting and music all do a beautiful job helping that story along making this production, visually, one of the most beautiful and realistic on the Townsend stage that this author has seen.

The tragic life of Sophocles’ Oedipus is not something that can be brought to life in a way that can be enjoyed by all audiences, however this production seems to have done just that. The music makes the audience feel as if they are sitting front row of a lively church and keeps the audience locked in, even in moments of great tragedy. Actor Dakota Kuykendall’s

performance of what can be considered the singing narrator within the story, was amazing. The soothing tones of his voice keeping the audience on the edge of their seats and wanting more and more.

Also the almost angelic sound of Akeria Gant even had one audience member yelling “sing it baby!” and had the crowd going wild with her high notes. It is hard to say who were the standouts of the production were acting wise, as every single character and ensemble member did a phenomenal job and the amount of hard work put into this show paid off tremendously, however two students that stood out were the two Oedipus’s or Oedipi as I kept thinking of them. Shamia Taylor and Sanni Parham played two very different versions of the same character, yet made them feel like they were one.

Taylor’s powerful voice and almost demanding personality came forward as preacher Oedipus. This character is the one telling the story, teaching this to her congregation, keeping the show together and was just so much fun to watch. Parham’s portrayal as singer Oedipus was beautifully dynamic, he hardly speaks, instead showing his emotions through song and being both hilarious and tragic all at once. Overall the show was amazing. The directors, designers and actors all did a fantastic job putting this show on making it one to remember at UWG.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Jenna and Julien Podcast Review

Taylor Barton

Contributing Writer

The Jenna and Julien Podcast is a weekly podcast that is hosted by well known Youtubers and couple Jenna “Marbles” Maury and Julien Solomita. They release a new podcast every Monday, around one hour long, and is centered around the comedic duo’s lives.

Jenna Marbles is a Youtuber who has 20 million subscribers on and has been a content creator for almost ten years. She creates weekly videos that are generally comedy based, but what has been described as a cocktail of whatever she feels the urge to create that week. She has no specific theme for her channel other than the videos that come from the wonderful place known as Jenna’s brain.

Julien Solomita is a content creator who has over 2.2 Million subscribers and started on Youtube back in 2013. His content is derived of videos about his life weekly through vlogging. Together the two are prominent Twitch streamers and gamers, streaming multiple times a week together on the channel name jennajulien, where their followers call themselves the “dink-fam” from their introduction song on their Podcast.

The Jenna and Julien Podcast began back in 2014 and currently have over 240 episodes out. The content is

considered humor, ranging from stories about things that happen in their lives, quizzes and games that they play together. They have guest stars that consist over time of their friends from YouTube and Twitch.

The quote that is on their website describes the Podcast as “If you are looking for your everyday, normal, by the book podcast, then you’re looking in the wrong place.” This podcast is primarily for fans of Marbles and Solomita and is chocked full of their very specific humor and inside jokes. The Podcast is a way for fans to feel closer to their favorite Content creators, to learn more about them outside of their YouTube and Twitch channels.

The podcast is a nice way of killing time. The listener isn’t learning about history or politics, as the two prefer to stay away from controversial topics, but instead might learn what their love language is, or learn the inside scoop of adopting a full grown greyhound. It is entertaining content that is good for a car ride, if you are at the gym or you just want to unwind and listen to some interesting, funny stories and the conversations between the YouTube couple.

