



ELON MUSK BUYS TWITTER

CHRISTIAN JAMES-LATTORE

Contributing Writer

The world's richest man, Elon Musk, closed a deal to obtain Twitter for \$44 billion. The deal was finalized on Oct. 27 thus ushering in a new era on the social media app. The public wonders why Musk would buy the platform let alone show interest in doing so.

Musk views freedom of speech as one of the most important aspects of human interaction. When Musk first obtained Twitter, he began cleaning house on the app's executive side of the business. Chief executive Parag Agrawal and Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal were the first to go under the Musk regime. In addition, half of Twitter's public policy team was axed. Musk has called out the company's management many times before due to content moderation.

With Twitter being a pool of all types of information, misinformation can be spread just as fast as the truth. Misinformation and policies that cover Covid-19 for example were ordered to be reviewed by the new executive team. Musk has stated before that he sees himself as a protector of free speech and

wants information that's shared to be accurate.

Musk has stated that there will be certain payments set in place on the app so that the company could make back the money lost. Paid direct messaging which lets users send private messages to high-profile users is an idea Musk and his team has put on the table. Certain videos would be "paywalled" which only gives access to users who paid a fee but one idea that has caught many people's attention is the blue check decision.

The blue check verification program will be implementing an \$8 monthly fee for its service. In previous years, the blue check has been a free part of the platform. Priority in replies, mentions and search, which is essential to defeating spam/scams, the ability to post long videos & audio and half as many ads will be included in the monthly plan.

Musk and his team are bringing a whole new attitude when it comes to dealing with impersonators on the app. With the amount of information that is shared daily on the app, some people try to spread misinformation by using someone else's name.

This method is to further Musk's push for valid and trustworthy information. Musk's commitment to Twitter is acceptable by many and disliked by many as well. While the future of the app isn't fully set in stone yet, this purchase is just a seed planted for something even bigger.

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Elon Musk
@elonmusk

Twitter needs to become by far the most accurate source of information about the world. That's our mission.

7:25 PM · 11/6/22 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

70.5K Retweets 20.1K Quote Tweets 764K Likes

Image courtesy of Twitter

ROCK THE VOTE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SHARE THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUNG VOTERS

JANNETTE EMMERICK

Feature Editor

As current elections draw to a close around the nation, future elections loom inevitably around the next corner leaving students full of uncertainty. Three organizations are available to help students prepare for the election of 2024.

The conference was hosted by Fireside Campaigns with three primary speakers being the deputy director of Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) Abby Kiesa, co-founder and executive director of Students Learn Students Vote (SLSV) Coalition Clarissa Unger and the president and executive director of Rock the Vote Carolyn Dewitt.

"[CIRCLE uses] data of a wide diversity of youth and how they engage with democracy and communities," said Kiesa. "When it comes to elections, we've seen cycle after cycle how young people are powerful in the face of campaigns and parties not talking to them and in the face of lots to be disillusioned about."

Rock the Vote held a student

press conference on Wed. Nov. 2, inviting reporters from over 30 schools to learn about their goals and resources with the primary goal of sharing the importance of the young adult votes.

"We've used data to show how the turnout of young people and the way in which young people pass ballots for the candidates they vote for can have a profound influence on elections," said Kiesa. "Even in low turnout elections, young people can have significant power."

With some states, the young voter registration is significantly low, which is what education and these organizations seek to amend alongside the active participation of the states that struggle with achieving those.

All three organizations each speaker encourages young voters to show up and secure their vote for every election because small elections especially impact their communities. For the SLSV Coalition, they seek to make sure every college student has easy access to the voting registration process.

"Civic engagement looks and feels very different in every community, and there's really no one size fits all approach to ensuring that every voter remains engaged in every election," said Unger.

SLSV Coalition's website, slsv-coalition.org, offers resources for campuses and students to become more active in promoting voting habits for

their respective colleges and universities. Encouraging young people to vote is a critical endeavor in democracy that tends to devalue certain voices or neglect voter education to some groups.

Rock the Vote specifically is a non-profit organization started in 1990 as a reaction to the censorship against music artists in the rap and hip-hop scene especially.

"Our mission is pretty simple. It's to build the political power of young people," said Dewitt.

Rock the Vote's website, rock-thevote.org, provides a vital quality of information including voting trends, data maps and information on candidates and ballot options.

"What's also historically true is that young voters don't turn out at the same rate as older voters. And this is not a generational problem. This is a systematic problem," said DeWitt. "We do very little to prepare 18 year olds to participate in our democracy before they become eligible to do so."

"In many states it's designed to keep [young voters] out," continued DeWitt. "The more young people are showing up and turning out, a lot of the older folks in power are trying to make it harder in certain places for them to actually turnout."

New and younger voters are often limited with voter ID requirements and restrictions on voting by mail or other factors.

While colleges and universities are the largest demographic for Rock the Vote, they are a universal resource for graduating high schoolers and young adults who are not attending traditional colleges or are already in their career fields. Overall, the organizations strive to serve young proactive voters.

"Together, Millennials and those who are eligible to vote from Gen Z, make up for approximately 40% of the electorate, giving members of these generations enormous power to determine the direction of our country and our communities, but only if we show up and vote," said DeWitt.

ROCK THE VOTE

Image courtesy of Rock The Vote

LIVING WEST

LACK OF STAFF IN UWG DINING

BRIANNA WELCH

Contributing Writer

Inside the dining halls around campus, many food stations have been shutting down early due to lack of staffing. The University of West Georgia has been experiencing a staff shortage in their dining services and students are starting to notice.

There are a multitude of reasons why Dine West had a decline in staff members. The culprit of the staffing shortage is a lack of applicants for full time positions and lack of applicants for student assistants.

“We have seen this challenge post-pandemic,” said Joey Moncayo, the University of West Georgia’s Director of Campus Dining. “Just look at the state of the economy, employment rates and things of that nature. We have the same effects that most in this industry are suffering from.”

Additionally, UWG experienced a decline in full-time dining employees after shutting down dining halls for the pandemic even though they were still getting paid despite them not working.

Moncayo and his team have been attempting to fix this issue by intriguing potential employees with higher pay and the payoff is starting to show.

“We’re still onboarding a lot of student assistants that have applied,” said Moncayo. “It’s starting to even out now. We’ve raised our student assistant pay for Dine West to \$12 an hour which has attracted more students.”

Moncayo and his team have also allowed student assistants to work 29 hours instead of 20 like former years which has increased more interest in dining positions.

West Commons and East Commons are not the only dining services that are experiencing understaffing issues. The University of West Georgia’s Chick-Fil-A has also been struggling.

“Chick-Fil-A is the biggest one,” said Moncayo. “It takes quite a number of individuals to be able to operate. We’re not short staffed in our full-time employees; however, again filling those vacancies for student assistants is critical. We’re starting to see a positive impact from our rate increase and hours increase students

applying to work down at Chick-Fil-A.”

Despite this, Starbucks, West Wings and the Market Deli have not been experiencing challenges with being understaffed.

The main method they intend to use to assist the current staff is by hiring qualified employees and updating dining operations.

“Honestly, that’s really the goal,” said Moncayo. “We’ve adjusted some of the things we operate in our dining facilities, we’ve centralized all our baking out of one kitchen, so we have one pastry chef and her support team that can cook out of one kitchen in what we call commissary and send it to East Commons.”

Though the university’s competitors can offer more pay per hour, Dine West staff is offered insurance, retirement and other benefits to attract more employees that their competitors do not grant.

Despite Dine West’s lack of staff, they are still hopeful that they will gain more attraction for employees due to their new offers, new operation and higher pay.

“Come and enjoy Dine West,” said Moncayo.

GREEK GRIND 2022

DOUGLAS SALTER

Contributing Writer

Greek Grind City 2022 Edition rocked the University of West Georgia. Greek Grind is an annual dance competition between Greek Life Organizations that is hosted by the Greek Programming Board and Center For Student Involvement.

There were seven dance teams in total. Each team features at least one Greek Organization from the Inner Fraternity Council (IFC) and College Panhellenic Council (CPC). Teams were given two weeks to practice and create a five minute dance corresponding to the theme given to them by the Greek Programming Board. The Greek Programming Board is a group of Greek Life Students that helps plan Greek Life Event

The theme for Greek Grind 2022 was large cities. Each team was given a city to represent. Teams had to perform songs to artists from their city or a style of music that represented that city. They were also expected to dress up in corresponding costumes to tie together their style of dance and city. The chosen cities were Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans and New York City.

“Cities was decided on as be-

ing the theme because we were trying to find something both fraternities and sororities could vice with,” said Greek Programming Board Member Eric Walters. “It was a theme we felt had good music choices and variety.”

Greek Grind was located in the Campus Center Ballroom from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It is normally held outside however due to possible rain the event was held inside. Greek Grind was also a charity event. Admission for students was \$2 or donate two canned goods. Judges were faculty members from the university that had ties to Greek Life.

“The \$2 that was paid to get in was put into an account we use strictly for Greek Week and other GPB hosted events,” said Walters. “The cans we collect are donated to a local food drive. Greek Grind is better outside but that depends on the weather and whether or not we can reserve a venue outside somewhere on campus”.

After each team performed the judges deliberated and submitted their votes to be announced. In third place was Team Miami featuring Kappa Delta and Phi Delta Theta. In second place was Team New York City featuring Alpha Gamma Delta and Kappa Alpha Order. The winner of Greek Grind 2022 was Team Houston featuring Alpha Sigma Phi, Phi Mu and Tau Kappa Epsilon. Teams in the top three received trophies.

“Greek Grind is so special because it is an event that brings all of Greek Life together under one roof,” said Walters. “Organizations are able to celebrate their favorite team and they are able to rejuvenate that love to their favorite fraternity/sorority.

“My favorite part of Greek Grind overall is the comradery between fraternities and sororities,” continued Walters. “The one thing I would like to see differently at next year’s Greek Grind is better [music] speakers.”



Photo courtesy of UWG Greek Programing Board

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LIVING WEST

**SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION,
FILM AND MEDIA
CELEBRATED HALLOWEEN
WITH A STUDENT-MADE
HORROR FILM
MARATHON**
ALANNA KING
News Editor

UWG’s inaugural horror film race offered students both a festive and educational opportunity to celebrate Halloween this year. On Oct. 31, students, faculty and Carrollton community members gathered for Horror Fest, a film festival showcasing short films created in just one week by students in the School of Communication, Film and Media. The idea of a film race was brought to UWG by Dr. Patrick Clinton, a new professor in the SCFM, after running a film race at the Art Institute of Dallas. “It was like exercise for filmmakers,” said Clinton. “It gave them a venue to show off their stuff. Not only get practice but an opportunity to show off their skills and I thought it would work

well here. Especially, my first semester here, it gave me a way to meet students.” “Even though they made these films in six days, some of them are very good, polished and at the point where they could be entered into film festivals,” continued Clinton. Over 100 guests attended Horror Fest, many in costume complimenting the festivities. Faculty, students and even families of the team members came to support. A large turnout proved that students and faculty were eager to get involved in the event. “It was the first time and I knew I was going to be pushing it,” said Clinton. “I was pleasantly surprised when we ended up with nine different teams showing up and I was even more impressed that all nine teams managed to finish their films.” Students were able to create teams at the start of the film race. They delegated roles and developed a plan to execute their films. Each team drew a subgenre

of horror and were required to work within that genre, no matter how bizarre. “A lot of the project planning happened in one night,” said Jackson Sarna, a senior film student who was assigned the Japanese Horror genre. “It was very hectic filming over the weekend, considering I only had one other group member.” While some groups were as large as ten members, this two-person team split the responsibilities of creating the storyboard, writing the script, shooting and editing the material well past midnight. “Overall, I learned a lot from the experience,” said Sarna. “It gave me a much better grasp on how to set up things like lighting and how to work on films as a team, since I had only done solo short films before.” While each team faced immense pressure, limited experience and other challenges during the race, they still produced quality films. UWG’s film race has a promising future ahead with plans for expansion and growth.

**UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
WIND ENSEMBLE HOSTS
ANNUAL “GO WEST” CONCERT**
ANNA ROBERTS
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 1 The University of West Georgia Wind Ensemble hosted its 12th annual “Go West” concert entitled “All Hands on Deck.” The concert took place at the Carroll County Schools Performing Arts Center with free admission for the community. The concert is designed as a recruiting event for the University of West Georgia Music College of Arts, Culture and Scientific Inquiry. The concert was advertised to high school students, with many high schoolers who attended. The goal of inviting so many high school music students

showed what to expect for graduating high school seniors to “Go West.” During the concert, the ensemble performed a variety of pieces showcasing the talents and abilities of UWG’s student musicians. They began with the world premier of The Remains, by Jamie Thierman, which showcased alto flute Rachel Breaux. The next piece was Sonata for Flute by Francis Poulenc, showcasing flutist Cameron Applegate. The ensemble played Blue Topaz, by Tommy Pederson, showcasing trombone Jacob Snyder, followed by Concerto in F Minor by Oskar Bohme featuring trumpet Rachel Worley. The concert concluded with the ensemble playing a full symphony entitled Wine Dark Sea: Symphony for Band, by John Mackey. “I think this concert really showed what the students here can do,” said soloist Rachel Worley. “My piece had a little bit of every-

thing in it, lyrical technique low and high. We played an entire symphony which isn’t an easy thing to do.” The University of West Georgia Music Department is one that expands far and wide. There are a variety of small ensembles for students to participate in, including a marching and basketball band. “I would say to anyone who is thinking about joining the music department to do it,” says Worley. “Everyone is very supportive and there are so many different levels of involvement, so you can choose exactly what you want to do. It also doesn’t matter what your major is, you can still participate in music in any capacity at West.” For audition information for the University of West Georgia Music Department or simply keep up with their performances, their information is regularly updated on their Instagram @uwgmusic.



Photo: Anna Roberts, The West Georgian

ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEW: MEGHAN TRAINOR DROPS 1950'S STYLE BOPS ON HER NEW ALBUM TAKIN' IT BACK

BRITTANY MERSFELDER

Editor-in-Chief

Pop artist Meghan Trainor has done it again with her new album, *Takin' It Back*, mixing modern pop sounds with older 1950's beats. The album features 16 songs with a variety of selections; from fast-paced "Let me love you" songs to slow and steady love songs. Trainor dropped this album on Oct. 21, the same day as a handful of other mainstream artists' new album drops. Since the album was released alongside others, Trainor's album fell flat. Only one song has been in the top 100 because she has advertised "Made You Look" 24/7 on Tiktok.

The first song that I truly fell in love with is "Bad for Me (feat. Teddy Swims)." This song is a slow, easy to listen to bop that lyrically discusses toxic family members and having to respectfully cut them off. The song is a beautiful ballad. Teddy Swims' voice is warm and feels like a hug when he starts to sing. Trainor sings, "Your best intentions end up hurting me. No matter what I'll love you endlessly but I gotta run from your reality. I know we're blood but this love is bad for me."

Trainor has recently become a mother to a beautiful boy named Riley. He is a toddler now and definitely a handful for Trainor and her husband. In her song "Superwoman" she talks about wanting to be able to do it all. Being a parent, you can't always do everything you want; your child and their well-being always comes first. This song is also a ballad and is a gorgeous song about the struggles of being a mom. I love this song and appreciate how much

Trainor shares about her personal life and struggles being a parent.

Another song that I really enjoyed is "Don't I Make It Look Easy." Trainor is discussing how influencers make life look easier than it really is. Even being a celebrity has its ways of fooling the public, making everything look easy. Having a celebrity like Trainor be honest about her experiences is what the world needs. At the end of the day, we are all human.

There is a laundry list of songs I did not like. One that I felt was repetitive and highly annoying was "Shook." First problem is that it uses a slang term and references having sex throughout the entire song. I have never been a huge fan of slang especially when it's repeated over at least 30 times in the song.

The song that Trainor picked to be her radio hit, "Made You Look"

is unreasonable, does not sound great and is just lyrically annoying. I have heard the song nonstop everywhere and it is not what Trainor thinks it is. I like the idea that it is pushing but not everyone can afford to own the items she states in the song.

The last song I really had a problem with was "Breezy (feat. Theron Theron)." The announcement of the word "Breezy" just sounds so nasty. The song isn't to my taste and the strong accent on "Breezy" just makes me uncomfortable.

All in all, Trainor did a great job keeping to her original sound. The 1950's style of music suits her voice and her looks. Her choice to go with a live band versus a digital one also stood out to me as a plus. Not many artists choose to go natural instead of digital. I applaud her for her efforts to keep music as authentic as possible.



Image courtesy of Sony Music Productions

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA DEBUTS NEW VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

ANNA ROBERTS

Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia gave Social Media Ambassadors a first look at their new virtual reality experience in West Commons on Oct. 31 and now this experience is now open to all students.

The University of West Georgia Social Media Ambassador Team was invited to preview the new Virtual Reality Experience available for students. They were given an exclusive tour of the set-up and were shown all of the features that make this such a first class experience for students. The Social Media Ambassadors were the first students at the university to get to experience

the new activity and all it has to offer.

"I would highly recommend this experience to students because it is a great way to relieve stress and have a great time with friends," said Social Media Ambassador Alan Remes. "This experience was super fun, especially with the other social media ambassadors. We got to play dodgeball and do an escape

room. It was such a great experience."

The Virtual Reality Experience is available for students every Sunday, Tuesday and Friday from 5-9 p.m. in the lower level of West Commons. The experience is exclusive to University of West Georgia students and is completely free. Students can simply walk in during those hours and have access to what the experience has to offer. As of now there are no reservations and is solely first come first serve to all students.

There can be up to six players at a time inside of the virtual reality experience with many options for students to

pick from when choosing a game to play.

There is dodgeball, escape rooms, Dinosaur Island, Pirates' Fate, Corridors of Horror, Out of the Abyss, The Watching Hour and CarniChaos. Each game varies in the amount of gametime and allows the students to customize their experience. The duration of the game depends on how fast students complete them.

A waiting room is also available for students when the virtual reality is at capacity. There is a TV screen available where you can watch the current players' adventure through their point of view.

"This experience has been one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had here in West Georgia," said Remes. "Go out and experience it for yourself because it will be a great time and a great memory to talk about in the future."

To check out other experiences, events and opportunities on UWG campus, Alan Remes can be followed on Instagram @uwg_dynamicdozen.



Photo: Anna Roberts, The West Georgian