



Photo Courtesy of Dawn Cook

ITALY HAS A HOME ON ADAMSON SQUARE

ALANNA KING

Editor-in-Chief

Adamson square now offers Carrollton residents a taste of international flair thanks to one Carrollton entrepreneur.

A trip to Italy in 2008 gave born and raised Carrolltonite Dawn Cook the inspiration to start her own coffee shop, Bella Coffee, at its original location on Maple St.

“[Travel] changes you,” says Cook. “There is nothing like the love of the people and the love of the food. I’ve been every year since.”

Cook grew to love the quirks and customs of Italian culture from the friendly ease of conversation with locals to the temperature of her daily cup of coffee. While she knew that her idea was different from the usual offerings in Carrollton, she knew that she could attract people who shared her vision.

“For me, it was pure frustration,” says Cook. “I can’t go to a coffee house and order a cappuccino. I feel the need to put something in because it’s bitter. It’s too hot. I knew that if I stuck to the Italian way with no sugar and the perfect temperature to drink it that my people would flock to it and be excited about it.”

Bella Coffee operated under Cook’s ownership after its 2009 opening before she sold the shop to an employee. She instantly regretted it and decided to try again with a location on Bankhead Highway which proved to be a success. However, Cook never imagined she would claim a spot in downtown Carrollton.

“We opened on Adamson’s square on Nov. 5,” says Cook. “It was last minute and out of the blue. It was more of a God thing.

Everything just fell into place because I never even thought I could be on the square.”

Cook has big plans for downtown Bella that soar beyond just coffee. She wants to convey the entire Italian shopping experience within the walls of her shop.

“I’m able to have the Italian market with everything imported from Italy,” says Cook. “We are also going to open a wine room in the back and we’re going to have aperitivo from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every day. You can come have a spritz or glass of wine before dinner, and then we’ll have charcuterie and salads and I make homemade focaccia bread.

“To be able to have aperitivo and our Italian market and a good cup of coffee is pure selfishness, and it’s been so well received,” Cook continues.

Being a victim of sexual abuse as a child gave Cook the inspiration to start a non-profit to help children who were once in her position.

“100 percent of our tips goes towards that,” says Cook. “The ultimate long-term goal is to be able to take a child that’s been placed into foster care and give them a new wardrobe, a haircut, get their teeth cleaned and give them anything they need before they just pop them into school, wearing the same clothes day in and day out.”

Bella Coffee on Adamson square is now open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and stays open until 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

“It’s a great place to study, hang out and grab a \$3.50 cappuccino,” says Cook. “That alone is the most important thing to me. That’s one thing I tell my girls, if you don’t understand the cappuccino, it’s the foundation. It’s everything.

“Bella is a beautiful cup of coffee,” Cook continues. “That’s where Bella comes from.”

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RETAKING TESTS PREPARES STUDENTS FOR REAL LIFE

JAMIE COCHRAN

Contributing Writer

Professor Kelly Williams, UWG Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Relations allows students to retake quizzes until they are satisfied with their grades.

“It’s a way for students to engage more in the material and really learn the content,” said Williams. “If a student wants to take a quiz three or four times to improve their grade, then that means they are engaging more in the material and that is the objective.”

Retakes allow students to become responsible for their own grades and to become proficient in the material by consistent engagement with the course materials. This strategy provides students the opportunity to master the material and improves overall retention.

“If a student wants an A, then they can earn an A,” said Williams. “Continuing to succeed is a lifelong skill that students need to be successful. They can con-

tinue to take the quiz until they are satisfied with their grade.”

Almost all certifications and licensure tests in life provide an option for a retake, such as a driving

test or a teacher’s license test. This strategy grants students the opportunity to take responsibility and ownership of their own success.

However, even though the opportunity is available, some students might not put in their best efforts. Williams informs her students that quizzes are worth 10% of their grades.

“That’s a whole letter grade,” said Williams.

When students come to her at the end of the semester wanting to improve their grades, she looks to see if they took the initiative to repeat the quizzes for a higher score.

“I do this strategy in all the classes I teach,” said Williams.

Quizzes are considered low-stakes assignments. Williams emphasizes how there are high-stake assignments, such as exams and projects, and low-stakes assignments, such as quizzes and daily participation. She emphasizes

the need for balance between low and high-stake assignments and how prioritization gives students an opportunity to do well in class.

Williams claims the strategy is also beneficial for students who have test anxiety.

“If students do have test anxiety and no matter what, they are not going to do well on the exam,” said Williams. “If they have done well on their quizzes, then there is a balance within the grade.”

According to Williams, when students have the option to retake a quiz, it alleviates the fear of failing.

“The main reason I allow my students to retake tests is so that they actually learn what I am teaching,” said Williams. “I want them to know what concepts they didn’t get so they can go back and review the material.”

“Allowing students more than one opportunity to master the material ensures long-lasting learning,” continued Williams. “At the end of the day, I just want students to be successful. My teaching style isn’t a one-and-done. I really want my students to learn.”

LIVING WEST

YOUNG AUTHOR BRINGS BLACK VOICES INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

SAMIRA BARNETT
News Editor

Trinity Davis, an aspiring author, published her first book, *JONA*, at the age of 17. Davis’s goal in writing is to highlight African-American struggles, providing readers with a different perspective on what is typically taught in schools.

Davis began writing stories as a child, using scratch paper and colored pencils. Davis didn’t take writing seriously until her freshman year of high school when she produced the book *JONA* and was able to self-publish her senior year.

“Me making the decision to tap into [writing] that in high school really opened a lot of doors for me,” said Davis. “It made me realize I wasn’t too young to go into something I was passionate about.”

Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken” inspired Davis. She decided to create a different perspective after realizing how many depictions of African-American slavery are the same across different works of literature.

“I felt like freedom was a lot more in depth, for me I wanted to talk about freedom in a new way,” said Davis.

Starting a book as a student required a lot of time management. It was

difficult to strike a balance between passion and academic responsibilities. This journey required more sacrifice than a typical high school student would endure.

“I would go to the library during lunch and write my book most of the days,” said Davis. Her transition into adulthood as an 18-year-old freshman at Texas A&M University has brought many challenges to her writing journey. As an author, she is held to the same standard as many other adult authors.

“When I first got to campus, I took a break to just get acclimated with campus and knew how to transition from high school to a college level experience,” said Davis. “Having the opportunity to tap back into being an author was something I really wanted to go back to.”

Challenges from her transition also motivated her to set higher goals and consider what her future might hold, whether it is working with a large publishing company or remaining self-published.

“I started writing my second book over winter break,” said Davis. “I definitely think I will have it published before my senior year of university. I’m pretty much halfway done.”

“I think learning so much from writing the first time, I was able to speed up the process entirely because I know what it looks like to have a writing schedule,” Davis continued.

Being an author at such a young age has allowed her to develop as a person independently, en-

hancing her character and mindset.

“I’ve definitely become more confident in what I can accomplish,” said Davis. “No matter where you are in life, if you have this goal you can always take that first step.”

“With that mindset I have been able to do a lot for myself and my community through having that perspective,” Davis continued.

Any goal requires time and dedication to achieve, all that is required is a little motivation.

“When we get a good idea, we can be really excited at first, but after a while the motivation is gone from initial excitement and life can get crazy,” said Davis. “You have to make the decision to be disciplined and have the endurance to see the idea through.”



Photo Courtesy of Trinity Davis

TRUE CRIME IN CARROLLTON: INJUSTICE AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

JANNETTE EMMERICK
Feature Editor

On Feb. 8, Chris Joyner visited UWG to read excerpts from and discuss his true crime investigative novel “The Three Death Sentences of Clarence Henderson.” Subtitled “a battle for racial justice at the dawn of the civil rights era,” Joyner’s book delves into a Carrollton murder and the prosecution of an innocent man.

A former UWG alumni himself, Joyner returned to Carrollton to work for the Times Georgian when he stumbled upon the cold case murder despite a ‘murderer’ being sentenced.

“My parents also met at West Georgia and they had been at West Georgia in the 1940s,” said Joyner. “My father knew Buddy Stevens a little bit. When I got a job at the Times Georgian— this would have been 96 or 97— my father said I ought to look at old copies of the Georgian from 1948, he said, ‘there was a really sensational crime and I don’t think they ever figured out who killed Buddy Stevens.’”

70 years ago on Halloween night, a couple was parked in a car at the edge of the development that would become Sunset Hills Country Club when they were threatened by a man wielding a gun. However, veteran Carl “Buddy” Stevens jumped the assailant and fought back. Buddy was shot and killed in the tussle, but fortunately the girl, Nan Turner, was able to escape. An hour later, police arrived and found the body, but by then, the attacker was long gone.

“It was a really shocking crime for Carrollton in 1948 for a lot of reasons,” said Joyner. “One of the reasons why was that Nan said she never saw the attacker. It was a moonless night, in fact, it was raining a little bit. So it was very dark, but she said his voice— and I’m quoting: his voice ‘sounded like a negro.’”

Out the gates, the murder was a national headline coupled with racial and political strife, the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement, the brewing Cold War along with the wake of World War Two and the Great Depression trailing behind.

“The police were unable to find a suspect that they could bring to trial,” said Joyner. “Despite pulling in practically every black man from 18 to 60 from Carrollton to Rome for questioning. And you can imagine questioning in the 1940s in the deep South on a case like this.”

Pressed by sensationalized media and other factors, police eventually brought in sharecropper Clarence Henderson, despite having no viable evidence against him.

“The only connection that they had for [convicting Henderson] was that a revolver that the police believed had been used in the murder of Buddy Stevens was found at a pawn shop in Atlanta,” said Joyner. “And they traced back through a series of transactions to Clarence Henderson for a period that was just long enough for him to have committed the crime.”

However, forensic issues were evident considering the bullet used to kill Buddy Stevens did not match the gun linked to Henderson, unless filed down to fit in the gun’s chamber. Clarence Henderson also had an alibi with his wife, but she was never called to the stand during the trial.

“For an all white jury, if you were trying to find an alibi, it just didn’t seem like it was reasonable to bring a black man’s black wife on the stand, it’s just not gonna wash with an all white jury,” said Joyner. “So Henderson was tried and convicted in a one day trial, Jan. of 1950. All white jury, he had two white appointed attorneys and he was sentenced to death in the electric chair.”

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) got involved and hired two black attorneys and one white attorney for Henderson’s defense in a second trial. However, Henderson was convicted again in the Fall of 1950.

Beyond racial prejudice, the injustice of the situation can be attributed largely to the homicide investigators. In his book, Joyner conjectures more likely suspects, but it’s clear that law enforcement developed tunnel vision based on one unreliable description.

“There had been five prior attacks, at least,” said Joyner. “And no one had ever been shot in those attacks but there was always a gun present. We’re talking about someone who was a serial rapist, not a serial murderer. I think the gun was more or less a

prop, a tool to scare off the boy in these sort of attacks.”

There were other odds stacked against Henderson when the Communist Party decided to support Henderson, which Joyner details more in the book.

“He never got freed in his lifetime of that murder charge,” said Joyner. “And his family was set back economically for generations.”

Henderson’s family was forced to leave Carrollton, subsequently going from poor to poorer on top of being notarized as the relatives of a murderer, and Joyner’s project has given the chance for closure. Currently, Joyner and one of Henderson’s grandsons, the spokesperson for the family, are working with the district attorney to have Clarence Henderson’s charges dropped posthumously.

“It means a lot to the family, I think,” said Joyner. “They grew up knowing about this case— not having the details— but knowing that their ancestor had been accused of killing a white man and that the whole family had been forced to leave Carrollton. Even though the family understanding is that he didn’t do it. But I think having the case formally dismissed will provide some reconciliation for the family. At least that’s my hope.”



Photo Courtesy of Kathleen Greeson

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ENTERTAINMENT

HAS “ACID RAP” CORRODED OVER A DECADE?

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Contributing Writer

A decade really has gone by that quickly. As time passes, music gets better with age and Chance the Rapper is no exception to it.

On April 30, 2013, Chance released his highly acclaimed second mixtape “Acid Rap.” The mixtape was released independently as a free digital download and debuted at number 63 on the Billboard Top R&B/Hip-Hop albums. The album debuted low due to the fact that the album was downloaded illegally from unofficial websites, but on the mixtape site Datpiff, it’s certified diamond, garnering over 1 million downloads. The mixtape was re-released on June 21, 2019, on listening platforms such as Apple music, Spotify and YouTube music.

The mixtape had 14 songs, which featured a plethora of artists like Noname, Childish Gambino, BJ The Chicago Kid, Vic Mensa, Ab-Soul and others. It infused R&B and rap but with a happy and soothing theme and message.

A few songs that helped bring significance to the mixtape were “Cocoa Butter Kisses”, “Good A** Intro”, “Juice”, “Pusha Man”, “Interlude (That’s Love)” and “Lost”. Each brought a unique beat and flow to each song. Chance is able to rap to such an upbeat tempo despite talking about depressing

situations he went through in his youth. In 2013, the Chicago drill rap movement was on the rise. To drop a mixtape during this movement and for it to do well during this era was truly impressive. It was something new that caught people’s attention. As years progressed, Chance added two more pieces of work to his discography. He dropped his first official debut album “Coloring Book” on May 13, 2016 exclusively on Apple Music, before making it available to other streaming services on May 27. The album peaked at number eight on US Billboard 200 solely on streams. The album received a lot of praise for being an uplifting gospel rap album that Chance won a grammy for Best Rap Album in 2017. It was the first independent, streaming-only album ever to win a grammy.

“Coloring Book” had 14 songs that featured Kanye West, Lil Wayne, 2 Chainz, Jamila Woods, Young Thug, Lil Yachty, Future and many other talented artists. Songs Like “No problem,” “Mixtape,” “How Great,” “Juke Jam,” “Blessing” and “Same Drugs” have a methodical melody and when you add on Chance’s rapping, you can feel that. It seemed Chance had grown from his “Acid Rap” days and found peace as he’s gotten older. Chance’s most recent album “The Big Day” was released on July 26, 2019. This album was based on his marriage in March 2019 and even though the album debuted at number 2 on the US Billboard 200 and was Chance’s highest debut to date, it did not impress fans and critics. The album felt like a regression of all the work that Chance put into his career

over the years. It felt like a Pop Rap album more than anything, with features such as Nicki Minaj, DaBaby, Megan Thee Stallion, Gucci Mane, Lil Durk and Calboy. However, most of these features did not add much to the album. The beats are remedial and generic in a few songs. Even Chance’s wordplay felt childish and simple. “Hot shower” and “Handsome” were decent songs but this album is one that has somewhat blemished his career.

As of right now “Acid Rap” is still one of Chance’s best albums. Although it doesn’t have any awards, it still holds weight even after a decade, with fans continuing to listen to this timeless classic.

According to a recent Instagram post Chance the Rapper said, “Who wants a show,” in reference to an upcoming 10-year anniversary of “Acid Rap.” The post received over 29 thousand likes and over 1 thousand comments. Even though it’s just a teaser post, fans are excited for when he’ll officially drop the date of the show. It’s safe to assume that listeners will continue to love this album no matter how many years go by. “Acid Rap” will still be considered his best body of work.



Photo Courtesy of Apple Music

REVIEW OF BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: A 30TH CELEBRATION

RACHAEL BROWN
Contributing Writer

“Beauty and the Beast: a 30th Celebration” is a television special that celebrates the legacy of the 1991 animated movie “Beauty and the Beast” that was recently released to Disney Plus. It is currently featured in their Valentine’s Day Collection. It is a mixture of animation, live action performances and behind the scenes extras.

The 1991 animated film was and continues to be the gold standard for storytelling in animation, even being the first animated film to be nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards. It is no wonder why Disney would want to celebrate not only the story itself, but the hard work that contributed to its success.

Unfortunately, the behind the scenes extras that showed this aspect had the effect of interrupting the story. Although they were interesting, they would often be placed directly after a live action performance of a musical number and I found myself wishing I was watch-

ing more of the story instead.

That being said, the live action performances were phenomenal and extremely creative. H.E.R. delivered a strong vocal performance as Belle. Josh Groban, who also sang the song “Evermore” for the live action “Beauty and the Beast” soundtrack, was terrific as the beast. Groban not only has an amazing voice, but does an amazing job of portraying his character’s emotional vulnerability. However, the best actor was Joshua Henry, who plays the role of Gaston. He is so expressive and portrays Gaston’s self obsession incredibly well.

The live action segments had well done stage design. Every scene performed in live action feels as though it came directly out of the animated film, even the opening number, “Belle,” which was filmed outside. The costume designs were also creative with the beast and the wolves being particularly impressive. The beast’s costume is a hulking, almost mechanical puppet that still allows the audience to see Groban’s face and the wolves wore similarly metallic masks with glowing red eyes.

The only aspect that was really disappointing about the live action segments were the musical numbers that weren’t

included in the special. Songs that were featured in Broadway performances of “Beauty and the Beast” such as “Human Again” and “If I Can’t Love Her” are not performed here, which was disappointing.

The animated segments were taken directly from the animated film, so of course they were amazing. Some parts were clearly edited for time but that is to be expected.

The edited transitions between the segments were done nicely as well. It was never a jarring transition between any of the three aspects, and this added to the flow of the story. The only obnoxious transitions were the ones that would have taken place before a commercial, but that is also to be expected since the special originally aired on television.

Overall, “Beauty and the Beast: a 30th Celebration” has some fantastic elements, but it is not for everyone. For viewers who especially enjoy musical theater and the animated “Beauty and the Beast” in particular might enjoy the special in spite of the interruptions. For viewers who are interested in more detailed behind-the-scenes, I recommend “Beyond Beauty: The Untold Stories Behind The Making of Beauty and the Beast.”

ENTERTAINMENT

THE GAME CHANGER OF APPLE TV'S MLS SEASON PASS
GEORGE EDWARDS
Contributing Writer

With the release of Major League Soccer (MLS) Season Pass at the beginning of February, Apple is hoping to revolutionize the way fans of soccer in the USA consume the beautiful game. Offering every single game of both Major League Soccer and Leagues Cup with no local blackouts, the service promises to delight the hardcore MLS fan, but how will it fare with the casual audience?

At the cost of \$99 per season, or \$14.99 monthly, to anyone approaching the Season Pass without a pre-existing Apple TV+ subscription (\$79 yearly, \$12.99 monthly with Apple TV+ subscription), one may argue that the service makes for a hard sale to the casual fan. Looking at the soccer selection and price point of Paramount+, for example, the offer of Champions League, Serie A, Liga Profesional Argentina, Europa League, etc. at a monthly cost of \$4.99 blows away the value of the MLS Season Pass.

The difference, however, is the dedicated support the MLS Season pass has in the form of additional content with each club required by Apple to create additional content in the form of club profiles, player profiles and other non-club-specific content— such as short documentaries on iconic playoff moments, montages of iconic MLS players and “The Movement.” The offerings are impressive, especially when con-

sidered alongside the fact that subscribers can watch every MLS Cup final and All-Star game since the league’s 1996 inaugural season coupled with further classic MLS games.

The quality varies massively on a club-to-club basis. FC Dallas’ club profile, for example, is an extremely interesting look into not only the team itself, but the role Lamar Hunt played in the growth of soccer in the United States, whereas many teams provide a fairly by-the-books highlights montage that fails to leave a lasting impression.

So far, “The Movement” consists of a series of six 20 minute documentaries discussing social and cultural issues surrounding soccer in America. Standouts from the selection are “Stonewall to Wonderwall” discussing LGBT involvement in the sport and “Being Muslim in MLS,” focusing on a contingent of Muslim players in the league. While a worthwhile addition to the Season Pass, it is worth noting that “The Movement” has been present on the MLS YouTube channel for a long time now, with a wider selection of episodes than the MLS Season Pass.

The question still remains, is the Season Pass preaching to the converted? If so, the move to give free subscriptions to season ticket holders at every MLS club may further condense subscription earnings. Making round one of every club’s fixtures free to view for any Apple TV+ subscriber, as well as providing select matches throughout the season may

prove to be a deft move. As is the nature of this 10-year deal, Apple must have faith in the growth of MLS and at \$250 million per year, the company has provided the league with a substantial financial boost to aid in development.

While it may prove a slow conversion process in the US, where top level European soccer is readily available at extremely affordable prices, one could imagine the Season Pass’ availability to over 100 countries worldwide to make waves abroad. In the United Kingdom, for example, a monthly BT Sport package will cost £29.99, approximately \$36, as of Feb. 17. Though time zones will without a doubt have a detrimental effect on European sales, with most Eastern Conference games kicking off on Saturdays at 19:30 EST (00:30 GMT), the offer of occasional free games, combined with the development of quality within the league, may pique the interest of European night owls, helping grow the MLS’ global identity.

MLS and Apple TV’s partnership seems to mirror the league itself. While initially the Season Pass may find itself ignored by the general American soccer fan, the subscriber base has potential to grow. If Apple is using this deal as an immersion into sports streaming, it has chosen wisely. If correctly nurtured, MLS Season pass could prove to be a launching pad for both the league and company in this field and a glimpse into the future of sports consumption in the digital age.