



WEST GEORGIA OUTDOORS LAKE DAY GIVES STUDENTS A CHANCE TO DESTRESS BEFORE FINALS

DOUGLAS SALTER
News Editor

It is important for students to have some fun before finals week and enjoy the beautiful weather. West Georgia Outdoors (WGO) is giving students the chance to have both with their Lake Day event. The event will be hosted on Saturday April 27 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at John Tanner State Park. Students are allowed to drive themselves, but the school will provide a shuttle to the park every 30 minutes from the TLC bus stop. WGO has hosted Lake Days in the past, but with this being so close to finals, it gives students more incentives to attend.

“Lake Day is intended to relieve the stress from impending finals,” said WGO staff member Jess Joiner. “Students don’t go outside just for fun anymore in college. It is all worksheets, projects and essays. The main reason UWG students go outside is to go from one class to another.”

For food and drinks, WGO is going to provide chips, candy, water and lemonade. In terms of activities, there will be kayaks, stand-up paddleboard, spikeball, cornhole and giant Jenga. WGO also encourages students to bring games and other equipment to have fun.

“WGO hosts the lake day so students can breathe fresh air without thinking of deadlines and assignments,” continued Joiner. “For the students to play games, swim in the lake, to hang out with friends, make new friends and enjoy the outdoors.”

As mentioned, UWG will provide a shuttle for students to the park. Students are more welcome to drive themselves, but WGO encourages students to take the shuttle due to a few different variables.

“As a student myself, I try to use gas sparingly,” said Joiner. “John Tanner is about 15 minutes away from campus. Not too far to drive, but just far enough that it is a debate if you’d want to drive that far. Students can drive themselves, but the parking fee would be 5 dollars per car to get into the park. Using the provided transportation would negate that fee.”

There is a lot to enjoy at John Tanner State Park. There are walking trails, minigolf, pavilions with grills and of course the lake itself. The WGO staff always looks forward to a fun day at the park, especially when competition stirs up.

“I love teaching people how to play spikeball, I get really competitive about it,” said Joiner. “It is such a fun game that involves lots of mobility and hand-eye coordination.”

Throughout the school year, WGO is always looking for ways for students to stay active and healthy. They host events on and off campus to give students new and fresh opportunities to enjoy the outside world.

“Upcoming in the Fall semester, we are going to have a couple trips per month,” said Joiner. “One of our most popular trips and my favorite

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Photo courtesy of West Georgia Outdoors



3RD ANNUAL AT THE CORE CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ACROSS DISCIPLINES

JANNETTE EMMERICK
Feature Editor

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Photo: Jannette Emmerick, *The West Georgian*

CHI OMEGA RAISES MONEY FOR THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

EMMA WORLEY
Contributing Writer

The Phi Kappa chapter of Chi Omega at UWG hosted “Wish Week” from April 8-12. The philanthropy of the chapter is the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and they actively raise money for it year-round.

Once a year Greek Life hosts “Wish Week” which consists of many competitions and contests that the fraternities compete in. Each fraternity on campus is involved in the activities that go on throughout the week and contributes money for the cause. By winning the competition of the day, they receive points and by the end of the week whoever had the most points is the winner of “Wish Week.” The winner receives a donation of \$250 to their chapter.

This year, Philanthropy Chair Anna Kate Graham hosted a phenomenal week full of great activities. The first day was “Pie a Chi O,” which was held in front of the Starbucks on campus. It cost \$2 to pie one of the girls and anyone on campus could do it. For the fraternities to specifically receive points for donating they put their chapter name on the Venmo transaction or paid cash and put it in their bucket.

“We do this event a few times per semester and we have found it to

be a huge hit,” said Graham. “We successfully raised a great deal of money from it.”

The second day of wish week was the “Mr. Chi O Pageant.” There was a \$5 entry fee for anyone who wanted to come watch the event. Each fraternity had someone representing them and they would compete on stage in each category and be judged. At the end, the winner was announced to be a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity.

The following day was a Volleyball tournament hosted in Greek Village. It cost \$5 to play and they played bracket style for the winner. On day 3, the Kappa Alpha fraternity won again.

Kappa Alpha was on a roll and they won the day 4 competition, which was a hot dog eating contest. Although Kappa Alpha was winning the competitions, other fraternities were still donating money and receiving points. Before day 5 began, the top 3 leaders were Phi Delta, Chi Phi and Kappa Alpha.

“As the week went along we were having ‘Venmo wars’ all day every day. They could Venmo our Chi Omega Make-A-Wish account any amount with their chapter name as the

title of the payment and they would receive points for that as well,” said Graham.

The last and final day was a basketball tournament. Again this event was \$5 to play. They competed in bracket-style for this as well. After a long hard battle, Kappa Sigma was the winner. After the game concluded, that was the end of wish week and the Venmo wars were over too. Graham and a few of her sisters within Chi Omega headed to their chapter’s house to total up all points so they could announce the winner.

For the conclusion of Wish Week, Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) chapter was the winner and they received a \$250 donation to their chapter as their prize.

Chi Omega hopes to raise \$10,000 per semester to grant a wish. If they do not reach the goal within the semester, the amount raised starts over the next semester.

“During Wish Week we were able to raise a couple thousand dollars on top of what we already raised from other events throughout this semester,” said Graham. “We are currently sitting at a total of \$9,553.09. I’m so proud and thankful for everyone who has helped us get here. I know we can do it and reach \$10,000.”

Throughout the school year they raise money for a great cause and put together wonderful events. They will continue to raise more money in the few weeks left of the semester to reach their grand total and grant a wish.

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GREEK WEEK 2024: TEAMS STRIVE TO HAVE THE ODDS EVER IN THEIR FAVOR

DOUGLAS SALTER
News Editor

Greek Week 2024 has wrapped up its festivities and students are raving about the amounts of fun and competition that they endured. Greek Week 2024 was hosted by the Greek Programming Board (GPB). GPB is composed of students from across the 27 different Greek Organizations. The week stretched over the course of 11 days from April 12-22. The theme for Greek Week 2024 was Hunger Games.

Fraternities and Sororities were grouped together to form 8 different teams. The teams represented some of the different trades from the districts of the franchise such as fishing, livestock, coal mining, etc. The events ranged from attending school events, games and contests.

“The theme was decided via a poll that was sent out to the FSL (Fraternity Sorority Life) community,” said GPB President Eric Walters. “There were multiple themes students could vote for and Hunger Games was overwhelmingly the favorite.”

Greek Week began on April 12 with The Big Event. The Big Event is a community service event put on by the university. The event was open to all UWG Students. For Greek Week, teams were given points based on how many team members showed up.

Some of the other events throughout Greek Week were less focused on competition and more on attending UWG events. Events included a cookout on Wednesday and the UWG spring football game on Saturday.

“The events were less competition based this year because the director of FSL wanted more inclusivity for the disabled in the events,” said Walters.

Penny Wars started the competition based events. Penny Wars lasted all week long. Members could donate pennies to increase points for their teams. Members could also donate silver coins to decrease points from another team.

The first day of competition was Jeopardy. Each team had five players competing and answering questions from different categories.

“The jeopardy categories were Hunger Games, Chapter History, UWG, Pop Culture, and Finish the Lyric,” said Walters. “I felt like Jeopardy was one of our more successful events.”

The next day was Nerf Wars, a nod to the actual Hunger Games. Guns were left in the middle and teams had to kill the other teams before they were eliminated.

“Nerf Wars could have gone better,” said

Walters. “It was a little disorganized.”

On Thursday was the Panem Games. It was a set of challenges that required mental and physical strategy. The week ended with tug-of-war on Friday.

“The games were hula hoop, 3 legged race, shopping cart race, balloon pop, musical chairs and bean bag toss,” said Walters. “This was very successful because of the large amount of competition and spirit among the teams. Tug of war was not very successful due to attendance.”

After all the festivities the final event was the Stellar Awards on the 22nd. The Stellar Awards honored Greek Life’s best leaders and chapters. The winner of Greek Week was also announced at the awards. The winner of Greek Week 2024 was Team Luxury featuring Delta Sigma Theta, Delta Zeta and Phi Delta Theta.

“Greek Week 2024 did have its ups and downs, but I felt like it was pretty successful,” said Walters.



Photo courtesy of @uwg.campuslife via Instagram

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THE FIRST OMEN: A NEW PREQUEL TO THE CLASSIC HORROR FRANCHISE

KESHAWN ALLEN
Contributing Writer

“The First Omen” released in theaters April 5, the prequel to “The Omen” from 1976. In the first movie of this series, the audience is introduced to a couple who adopted a boy from an orphanage after they lost a baby of their own. In the first movie, many strange occurrences happened after they adopted their son. People are dying, the family feels haunted and the son, Damien, comes off as a strange young child.

It turns out that Damien’s birth father is the devil, and he is the antichrist, which is why there are so many odd occurrences happening. The parents who adopted him tried to kill him, but they failed. As the franchise continues, it follows Damien growing up and what happens as he gets older.

The last Omen film, “Omen IV: The Awakening,” was released in 1991, and another child was adopted. “The First Omen,” however, puts the attention back on Damien and how his birth went.

In this film, the setting brings us to a catholic all-girls orphanage in Rome. Supervising the girls at the orphanage are a bunch of nuns and a few priests. One nun, Margaret, is caught up in a conspiracy about the church that makes her wonder what is true and false about her faith. As she tries to solve the mystery of what the higher-ups in the church are trying to accomplish, she tries to protect a young girl from a fate that no one could imagine.

This film does a great job of answering enough questions about

the franchise while still maintaining enough originality as a stand-alone film. Since it has been thirty-three years since “Omen IV: The Awakening” was released, the director and the writer needed to make this film unique while still connecting it with the storyline. Given that this is the second film the Director, Arkasha Stevenson, has ever worked on, she did a wonderful job of collaborating with the writer from the original movie to obtain authenticity.

Aside from the plot, another notable thing about this movie is the impressive cinematography and editing. Using shock value as its benefit, this film brings out the terror in its audience by displaying horrific and shocking visuals. Not to mention that the soundtrack and the sound editing do an excellent job of keeping viewers suspenseful and lost simultaneously.

If anyone is interested in following the storyline of the Omen series, “The First Omen” will be in theaters for a few more weeks before being released on streaming platforms, joining the rest of the film series.



Photo courtesy of IMDB

THE GREATEST HITS PREMIERES ON NETFLIX

BRIANNA TILLIE
Contributing Writer

Grief is universally understood to be one of the most difficult emotions to experience. Having to mourn the loss of something that was deeply cherished and cared for, struggling to take things one day at a time until finally reaching a day where things hurt less, feeling envious of others who do not understand the pain you are in as they live their seemingly perfect and happy lives, it is all apart of the messy, painful, character-building process of grief.

“The Greatest Hits” was released on April 5 and it explores the concept of grief in the form of a romance film that has tugged on the heartstrings of many viewers.

The film features a young woman named Harriet who has come up on the two year anniversary of her boyfriend’s death. Harriet and her boyfriend, Max, were in a car accident where Max was tragically killed and Harriet was in a coma. After waking from the coma, Harriet realized she could travel back in time through listening to music that she first heard in moments her and Max shared together.

Much of the film displays Harriet

attempting to find the right song that will allow her to travel in time and save Max from the car accident. This caused her to have spell-like episodes as she continued to time travel and remained unsuccessful in her attempts. The episodes of time travel appear to be beyond her control as they occur even when she may hear a song on the radio that she first heard when Max was alive. To avoid this, she wears headphones at all times.

The film excelled in several areas. The portrayal of Harriet’s grief is very realistic. Hearing a song that reminds a person of a sad or nostalgic event is an experience that many individuals can relate to. It is not surprising that she would feel deeply emotional hearing music that reminded her of the love of her life who died suddenly. Someone who may be experiencing something similar is likely to feel comforted seeing their emotions on such vivid display.

It is also commendable that the film shows Harriet still experiencing these spells two years after Max’s death. It may comfort those grieving by reminding

them that there is not necessarily a time limit on how long the grieving process is supposed to take.

Without taking away the praise this film deserves for such an outstanding portrayal of grief, the less-than-stellar parts of the film are worth mentioning. The film’s ending was quite unsatisfying. Harriet decides that the only way to save Max through time travel is to go back in time and never be with him in the first place. This took away so much of the character development Harriet had made as she was navigating grief.

The idea that she can go back and erase her relationship with Max is an option that the audience will never have for their lost loved ones. They will never be able to relate. Perhaps this film was supposed to be more of a fantasy than a psychological deep-dive, however the movie’s mood was far too heavy for such a fantasy-like ending.

It would have been a far better option for Harriet to find some way to stop living in the past where Max was alive and accept the reality in which he is gone in a positive way by honoring his memory. The problem is, that the relationship between Harriet and Max was underdeveloped and the scenes of love they shared were not meaningful enough to show the audience why they should care so much about the honoring of Max’s memory. Perhaps a sequel to this movie would be beneficial to add depth.

TAYLOR SWIFT’S NEW ALBUM “THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT” IS MORE TORTURE THAN POETRY

ABBIE KLEIN
Contributing Writer

On Feb 4 Taylor Swift broke the internet yet again when she announced her 11th studio album “The Tortured Poets Department” during her acceptance speech for Best Pop Vocal Album at the 66th annual Grammy awards. Swift released no singles or sneak peaks to any of the tracks before its release on April 19, making the anticipation for the new album at an all time high.

With Swift’s previous successes and the overwhelming excitement for the album the stakes were extreme, and “The Tortured Poets Department” failed to meet any of those expectations. With this being Swift’s 9th album in 5 years I wonder if the failure of this project is a sign that it’s time for her to finally take a break from the music industry.

When the album first dropped at midnight it featured a 16 song track list, making the run time just over an hour. However, at 2:00 a.m. Swift released an extended version of the album with 15 more tracks adding another hour to the run time. While most people would celebrate the addition of so many more songs, the surprise drop came off as excessive. A lot of the songs sounded really similar. With not many defining moments upon the first listen, it felt like the album dragged out for two hours with each track mixing into the next.

Swift’s strength has always been in her songwriting. Even though the songs didn’t stand out sonically there was hope that they would lyrically, especially with an album having poet in the title. Disappointingly the album failed here again. There are some songs that are written beautifully and I would even consider masterpieces, until a single bad lyric sneaks its way into the chorus running the whole song.

But Daddy I Love Him really showcases Swift’s ability to storytell within her lyrics but the line “I’m having his baby/ No, I’m not, but you should see your faces” overshadows the artistry of all other lyrics. Other songs like I Hate It Here and The Tortured Poets Department have this same occurrence with the lines “I’d say the 1830s but without all the racists” and “We declared Charlie Puth should be a bigger artist.” These lyrics are proof that a bad choice can overshadow all of the good choices, making or breaking a song.

What makes these lyrics all the more disappointing is knowing how talented of a songwriter Swift is.

Since Swift has begun the process of re-recording her earlier works back in 2021, I’ve realized how incredible her early albums are. There seems to be a sort of heart and soul behind her old work that her newer works lack. Which makes sense when you think about the rate at which Swift is releasing new music, she’s become a machine instead of an artist. The incentive of topping charts and breaking records instead of releasing music for the joy of sharing meaningful works is extremely reflective in this album.

While there are some songs that I really do enjoy it’s upsetting that there were only so few that stood out. So Long, London, The Prophecy and Guilty as Sin? all hold the songwriting that has won Swift album of the year multiple times. I just wish her talent was reflective in more than a few songs.

As a long time fan of Swift it was disappointing to listen to such a failure of an album, but I guess this is proof that what goes up must come down, a bad album was inevitable.



Photo courtesy of Universal Media Group