

Investigative journalist George Jared comes to Arkansas State University

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

The Society of Professional Journalists invited investigative journalist George Jared to speak on Tuesday. During the two hour session, Jared spoke extensively about his various experiences covering murder cases and other instances of investigative journalism.

Jared graduated from Lyon College and began his journalism career in 2004. He is the host of the weekly true crime podcast “Diamond State: Murder Board” and co-hosts the podcast “Break the Case.”

Jared has written numerous books covering murder cases he has worked on, including “Witches in West Memphis,” which discusses the West Memphis Three case, and “The Creek Side Bones,” which talked about Rebekah Gould’s murder. Other works include

“Whispers in the Willows”, “A Novel Wait” and most recently “Silent Silhouette.”

After the presentation, Jared had his books for sale and offered to sign them.

After a brief introduction, Jared spoke about his time covering the West Memphis Three case. During his discussion, Jared pointed out how evidence initially gathered, as well as witness statements, turned out to be inaccurate or changed later.

“This guy was confessing about all the things that you’ve got everything wrong about. He got the time, day, place, how they were tied, what they were tied with; he got every single thing wrong,” Jared said.

Jared spent most of his time talking about the first murder case he covered, that of 22-year-old Rebekah Gould.

Gould disappeared from her home in September 2004. Upon

investigating the home of her boyfriend, blood was strewn throughout the house and most of her personal belongings were left behind. The one exception to this was a missing suitcase and a lone piano leg.

Jared said he thought the worst moment of covering that case would be finding Gould’s body, but he said telling her father they found her was much harder.

“He looks at me and he grabs a hold of me. At this time he was a pretty big guy, played college football. He said ‘did they find my daughter?’ I said ‘yes, they did.’ He put his head on my stomach and he started crying.”

Jared went on to speak about how his collaboration with experts in other fields, as well as using social media and podcasts, helped get people talking about the case again after nearly 18 years.

Jared then described his interviews with various suspects



Photo by Rachel Rudd | News Editor

Investigate journalist George Jared speaking at the event. In front of him in the missing poster for Rebekah Gould.

in the case, including his interviews with the killer’s family members and William Miller, who confessed to killing Gould and is serving 40 years in prison.

The session concluded with

a question and answer segment. During this portion, Jared also provided advice for prospective investigative journalists.

“I tell prospective journalists ‘you’re gonna have

to confront people, if you do it the right way. You’re going to have to, and it’s a vital part of our society,” Jared said.

CONTINUED:
JOURNALIST, 4A

An open discussion on Black women’s wellness

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

In honor of Black History Month, the Wilson Counseling Center, alongside Access and Accommodation Services and Pretty Proverbs, hosted a virtual roundtable to discuss issues prevalent to Black women.

“These conversations are important just so we better understand one another,” said Dominique White, senior associate director of Access and Accommodation Services. “There are differences in the Black experience and the Black female experience. We’re not a monolith group who experience the same things, who look at things the same way.”

The discussion aimed to talk about barriers women face in healthcare and mental health and how stereotypes affect

how Black women navigate the world around them.

Questions for the panelists were sent in via email before the event.

“Traditionally, Black women hold such significance with holding down the household, keeping the family together, just essentially being the glue,” said Carnesha Ben, a student life counselor at the Wilson Counseling Center. “Maintaining that expectation, although there are times where it’s unrealistic to maintain it, considering that Black women experience our own personal struggles as well, is a barrier.”

The panelists added that lack of access, lack of education and not realizing one needs help also work to build up the idea of “the strong Black woman.”

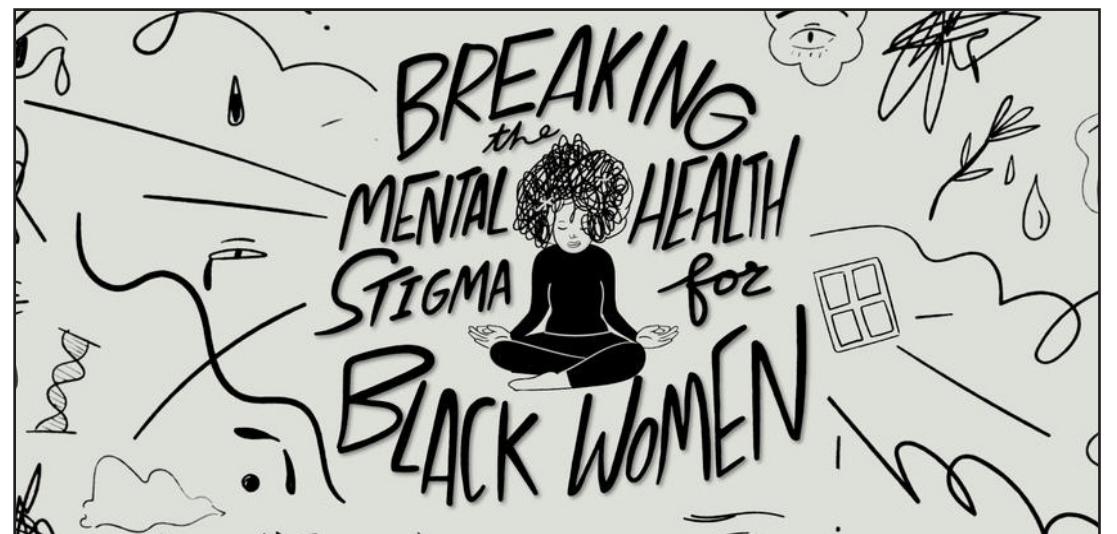
Ben also brought up how

religion can play into not seeking out mental health care. She discussed how seeing a counselor can go against one’s religious beliefs, so Black women may not seek out care.

White added that when Black women do seek therapy, they may turn away because there isn’t a therapist who looks like them.

“There is comfort sometimes in talking to somebody that looks like you where you don’t have to explain everything because there’s just a shorthand, you just kind of get it sometimes. I don’t have to go in a therapy session and educate as you already understand, to a degree where I’m coming from,” White said.

Another issue brought up was the actual cost of mental health services. Those who live in rural locations may have difficulty commuting



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF HULU

The virtual roundtable was meant to open a discussion on Black women’s experiences with healthcare, mental health and stereotypes.

back and forth, or can’t afford technology to use telehealth.

“Not really knowing how to access quality therapy at an affordable price, because not everyone does income base or

sliding scale fee, so for someone who is working, let’s say minimum wage, that’s going to be a problem for them,” Ben said.

After talking about barriers, the panelists were asked to

speaking on their opinions with the phrase “strong Black woman” and how that has affected them.

CONTINUED:
WELLNESS, 4A

SGA elects new senator at large

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association met on Zoom last Tuesday due to winter weather.

During this meeting, Parker Collins, a first-year marketing major from Bentonville, was elected as a new senator at large.

“I’ve seen how it’s run. I see how some people actually want to make a difference and I feel like now I can actually be a part of that difference making,” Collins said.

Collins was voted in by acclamation. His leadership experience includes serving on the presidential committee of the Student Activities Board (SAB), a first-year representative for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and being a new membership educator for Alpha Tau Omega. He



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKER COLLINS
Parker Collins, the new senator at large

was also a member of his high school’s student government.

“I’m in all these different organizations, so I have different backgrounds,” Collins

that into making changes for campus and making it a better place where everyone feels like they’re included.”

Collins said he wasn’t sure which committees he wants to serve on, but wants to serve on whichever ones will help with “the environment or diversity and safety on campus.”

“There are just a lot of people that are not from the U.S., so I want to do more things with that where they feel comfortable and A-State is their home, not just where they’re spending a few years for their education,” Collins said.

The other issue to be discussed at the meeting, SR 22/23-01, a resolution which would provide a housing scholarship funded by SGA, was tabled for the next meeting on Feb. 14.

said. “I feel like if I hear all these different backgrounds and like their problems with campus, I feel like I can incorporate

CAMPUS CRIME



RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Feb. 3 | 1:05 a.m.

Officer Chad Hall was dispatched to a call in reference to a trouble alarm sounding at 1115 University Loop East Building #4. Upon arrival he met with the RA and they discovered via control panel that the room sounding was room 4112.

Upon arrival of room 4112, witness one, witness two and witness three stated that none of them lived there and that they had no knowledge on where the occupant of the room was. After a bit of talking, witness two admitted to smoking a Black and Mild in the bathroom, causing the alarm to sound. It was then that arrestee one arrived on scene and began speaking to the RA while Hall spoke to the witnesses. It was then found by Officer Stephen Montgomery that arrestee one was already issued a persona

non grata notice, which bans a person from entering campus. Officers Montgomery and Hall then informed arrestee one of this and arrested him.

Officer Hall allowed the other parties to gather their things. While observing them gather their items, Hall saw several alcohol bottles of assorted beverages, as well as two dogs. Officer Montgomery then issued witnesses one, two and three all persona non gratas.

After gathering their things, Hall did a walk through of the apartment and all had been taken out with exception of arrestee one’s belongings which were recovered by Montgomery while Hall placed arrestee one in his patrol unit. Maintenance then came and fixed the alarms so they would stop sounding.

Hall transported arrestee one to Craighead County Detention Center, gave him his citation and explained his court date.

He was then turned over to the Craighead County Jailers.

While all parties were gathering their items the RA mentioned to Hall that arrestee one stated that an individual had been letting him into the building. Upon investigation, that individual is witness four. Hall then informed the RA that he would issue a student conduct referral to witness four for a residence hall violation.

The remaining parties, witness one, witness two and witness three were each issued a persona non grata in reference to their own violations. Each of these individuals were suspected of smoking, drinking alcohol and claiming residence at apartment 4112. None of these individuals are students of Arkansas State University. Hall then escorted them off campus.

CONTINUED:
CAMPUS CRIME 4A