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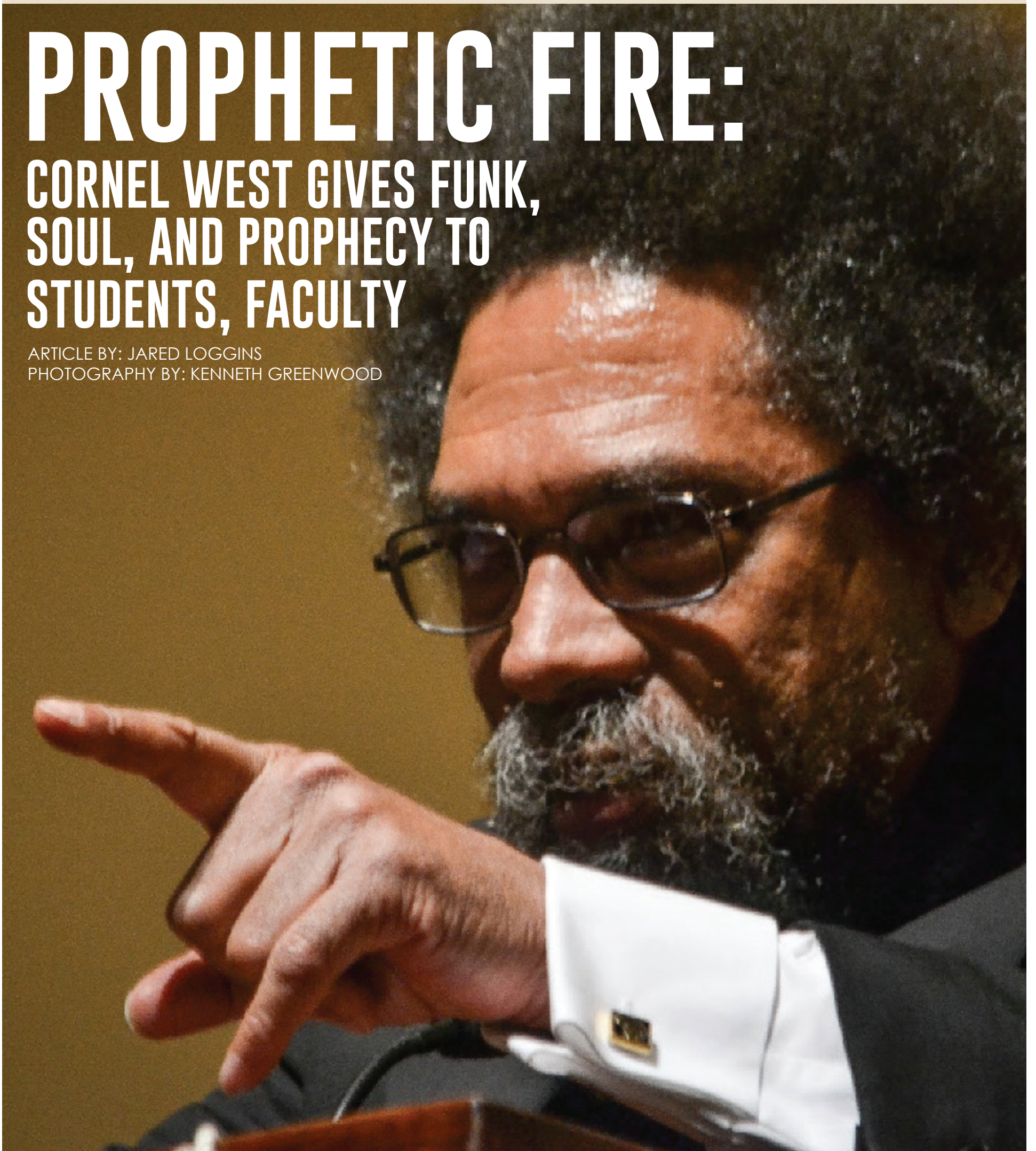
A LOOK INSIDE THE ISSUE

PROPHETIC FIRE:

CORNEL WEST GIVES FUNK, SOUL, AND PROPHECY TO STUDENTS, FACULTY

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PROPHETIC FIRE:

CORNEL WEST GIVES FUNK, SOUL, AND PROPHECY TO STUDENTS, FACULTY

JARED LOGGINS

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When current Union professor and American public intellectual Cornel West took the stage for the school's 148th Founder's Day Convocation, senior Philosophy major Justin Jones was expecting a good speech. He got a little more than he bargained for.

"I went in expecting a good speech," Jones said. "But we got much more than that. Dr. West gave us a charge."

A charge it was. The Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel was filled to capacity as West took the audience on a journey through what he called the "black prophetic tradition." Peppered with the funk and soul of black music, West gave lessons on love, sacrifice, and a hint of appreciation for the "new school".

"Jay Z is a Genius, Kanye is a genius...most of the time, and Beyoncé is the greatest entertainer of our time," West proclaimed. "But she ain't Aretha."

Beyond West's deep appreciation for black music, Du Bois was hanging in the backdrop of his speech. West's latest book *Black Prophetic Fire* highlights the radical Du Bois, and West used the intellectual to frame his dialogue.

"What happens when integrity meets oppression?" he asked. "What does honesty do in the face of deception? What does decency do in the face of insult? How does virtue meet brute force?"

West's speech comes on the heels of protests in recent months in response to the deaths of black people at the hands of police.

"In the last 30 years we have not seen just a war on people, but a cultural and spiritual war on young people," West remarked.

After his speech, West was invited to dialogue for an hour with a select group of students and faculty. He also signed copies of selections from his various collections of books.

We've compiled a list of our favorite live-tweets during the Crown Forum Event:

Doughboy Baker @MrRenwick · Feb 18
Nah snow gotta chill I'm Tryna see **cornel west** tomorrow

Maura Chanz and 2 others retweeted
J. Lyn @ProfJ_Lyn · 22h
Thin Music = Thin Souls **@CornelWest**

@GQSmooth92 الأردن · 16h
It was cool seeing the big homie **@CornelWest** again at Morehouse for convocation. Realest around



DiamondRiche\$ and 39 others follow
Kevin Colclough @KColclough6 · 22h
Cornel West has just given the best speech I've heard at **Morehouse** thus far

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MOREHOUSE GPA'S LOW & DEBTS HIGH

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At the end of each school year, Dr. Tafaya Ransom, Special Assistant to the Provost, releases the Morehouse College Fact Book. The report included the GPA's and loan amounts for last year's freshmen class – the current sophomore class.

The average GPA for the class was 2.73. The total amount of parent loans for all students last year was \$49,684,899. The total amount of student loans for all students was \$14,467,862.

In order to correct one of these issues, junior Willie Thompson said mentorship could be the best solution. Thompson has maintained a 4.0 GPA every semester.

“Mentorship is necessary but it needs to be personal and effective enough for the mentor and mentee to form a real connection,” said Thompson. “Mentors should be available and invested in [their mentees].”

He also said the low GPA's could be attributed to a lack of responsibility and discipline on the students' part. According to the report, most of the current sophomores – 27 percent – only had between a 2.5 and a 2.99 GPA when they applied to Morehouse.

Sophomore Christum Noel said, “My GPA was lower freshmen year because I put too much of my focus into extra-curricular activities.” Senior Mark Ballard agreed, adding that many freshmen arrive in Atlanta for the first time and face numerous distractions which they are not mature enough to manage until they become upperclassmen.

Current mentoring initiatives include the New Student Orientation (NSO) program, the Morehouse Business Association (MBA) protégé program, and the partnership between Graves Hall and Robert Hall.

Thompson also said he observed that some students are not proactive in making relationships with their professors; possibly resulting in the lower grades.

“I go to my professors' office hours at least once a week now and I try to see my previous professors at least once a month,” said Thompson. Additionally, as a freshman he also met with each of his professors during the beginning of the semester to ask what was required of students in order to master the course – and earn an ‘A’ in the class.

To address the issue of student debt and financial illiteracy, the Office of Financial Aid has hosted town hall meetings and increased assistance with scholarship searches and applications. Under

the new direction of the director of financial aid, Sheryl Spivey, students with completed FAFSA applications – and financial need – were awarded up to \$10,000 prior to arriving this school year.

A report released by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on Tuesday revealed that Americans currently have \$1.2 trillion of outstanding student debt. This is not only more than the total amount of credit card and auto loan debt, but it's also greater than the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland combined.

Classification	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012 -13	2013 -14	5-yr Avg.
Freshman	2.67	2.66	2.62	2.77	2.73	2.69
Sophomore	2.74	2.79	2.71	2.92	2.90	2.81
Junior	2.89	2.90	2.79	2.97	2.99	2.91
Senior	2.95	3.02	2.92	2.97	3.03	2.98
<i>All</i>	<i>2.81</i>	<i>2.82</i>	<i>2.77</i>	<i>2.91</i>	<i>2.91</i>	<i>2.84</i>

ADMINISTRATION NEARLY STIFLES MOOT COURT'S HISTORIC SUCCESS

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On Tuesday, the president of the Atlanta City Council and Morehouse graduate of 1991, Caesar Mitchell, honored the Morehouse Moot Court team with a city proclamation. Dr. John Wilson and members of the team attended the ceremony.

The team recently became the first HBCU to win the national championship at the American Collegiate Moot Court Association's (ACMA) national tournament. Members of the team successfully unseated Patrick Henry College which had been the defending champion for the last seven years.

Professor Winfield Murray, a graduate of 1998 and full-time government attorney, founded the team just two years ago. He is the first African American coach to win the nationals.

During last year's competition, the Morehouse team was the first and only HBCU to ever compete. They also became the number five team in the nation.

Approximately 400 colleges and universities participate in the ACMA tournament, these include Duke University, University of Virginia, and Texas A&M. Unlike the other schools which have dozens of two-member teams, Morehouse has two teams.

Also dissimilar, the Morehouse team lacks adequate funding.

Other teams are funded by their institutions and are able to participate in multiple scrimmages and invitationals. The Morehouse team only receives funding for one competition.

“If we had blown one tire or needed one extra tank of gas, we would have been screwed,” said Murray.

Murray has been able to cover some costs on his own and through donations from his friends and colleagues but he said the team is put at a severe disadvantage.

“Other schools are able to compete in smaller events before regionals, but we only get one shot,” said Murray.

There are 13 students who are interested in competing next year but the organization is

struggling to maintain funding for its four current members – Rodje Malcolm, Emanuel Waddell, Cassius Price, and Darius Atkins.

Next year, the national championship will be held in California – a 30 hour drive (without stops) if the college does not increase funding to include air fare.

Despite the lack of sufficient support from the school, Malcolm said he enjoys the program because of Murray's leadership and the opportunity to couple advocacy work with academic research.

Murray said, “In order for Morehouse to remain a viable institution and not a relic, it must offer innovative courses and activities, like Moot Court, which attract new students as well as opportunities.

Malcolm described Moot Court as a simulation of Supreme Court argumentation. While delivering their case, participants are interrupted for questioning by actual judges and attorneys in addition to members of the opposing team. Students read hundreds of pages of case law over several months in order to prepare.

SGA IN ACTION: MAJOR CHANGES IN HOUSING POLICIES

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Representatives from the Student Government Association (SGA) DeMarcus Crews and DeShaun Bennett, recently drafted a white paper addressed to the Morehouse College administration, faculty, and students. The document titled, "New Structure for Residential Education," details residential policy recommendations from the Residential College Task Force. The following expectations are highlights from their proposal:

There will be a three-year on campus requirement for students. The 1st year students will be required to live in a house designated for freshmen, the 2nd year students will live in a house dedicated for sophomores, and students in their 3rd year and beyond will live in one of the upperclassmen houses.

All students will participate in a retreat the Monday and Tuesday before classes begin. This retreat will be led by Community and NSO leaders.

Each freshman and sophomore house will be equipped with group study centers, personal study space, kitchenette space, common room, a MicroFridge, and heating, air conditioning and hot water upgrades.

Upperclassmen will have a uniform visitation start date of the first official day of classes with an overnight policy for guests who would like to spend the weekends on campus. Students with overnight guests will have to register guests with the residential life staff 24 hours before the guest plans to stay over.

They also recommended that administrators allow students to host private parties in the residence houses.

"In our pursuit for changes we aimed to strike a balance between extremely progressive policy (i.e revisiting the visitation policy), structural upgrades (both administratively and physically), and administrative feasibility," Crews and Bennett said in a joint statement released to the Maroon Tiger. "This balance made administrators much more open to implementing our ideas."

According to the white paper, Harvard College, Williams College, and Yale College were used as comparisons schools.

Members of the task force included: Maurice Washington, Associate Dean and Director of Office of Housing and Residential Life; DeMarcus Crews, Senator at Large; DeShaun Bennett, Secretary for Student Development; Michael Smith, Jr., Senator at Large; DaJuan Johnson, Sophomore Senator; Nicholas Coleman, Freshman Representative; Kamren Rollins, Freshman Representative; and Johnathan Hill, Sophomore Representative.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITIES TRYING TO REGULATE STUDENTS' SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS-INVASIVE OR NOT?



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The age of social media is here! Social media is a great way for students to connect with friends, express individuality, and articulate their opinions. We live in a world where you can instantly communicate with individuals across the planet from the comfort of your family room couch. If you're interested in someone special, you can find out a person's relationship status just by checking their Facebook page. While many things have changed, some things never do. Colleges and universities still want to be nosy and controlling!

Is it a good idea to regulate how a college student operates on his, or her, personal social media account? Well, if a flaming meteor falls from the sky, lands into a swamp full of slender-snouted crocodiles, and no one is around to hear it, does the impact make any noise? The answer to the first question is no. The answer to the second is maybe.

Curiosity already killed the cat; we can't let it kill students' individuality too. If colleges and universities control what students post on their social media accounts, they eliminate a very important aspect of personal identity—uniqueness. Hence, educational involvement in personal social media accounts could negatively affect students.

Regulating a student's social media account could potentially lead to students becoming hostile towards administration, to becoming oppressed from a lack of expressing their individuality through their social media accounts. If a student portrays themselves contrary to how a college or university wants them to on social media, they can be unethically judged by the college or university that they attend, or even expelled. There are no perfect people in this world—excluding Beyoncé—only imperfect people trying to live the best lives they can.

Students who attend colleges and universities are accountable for their own actions and should not be judged, policed, nor controlled in any way by the colleges or universities they attend for any mistakes they post on

personal social media accounts, especially if they did not make a mistake, but were unfairly prejudged by what is seen on social media. Students, no matter the age, have the right to express their selves without being infringed upon. Thus, no part of a student's personal life, including social media, should be scrutinized, nor controlled if they have matriculated into an institution for higher learning. Colleges and universities are used for educational purposes, not as a form of mental imprisonment. Controlling someone's social media account is similar to controlling a piece of an individual's mind and is an example overstepping one's boundaries. To the colleges and universities looking to regulate students' social media accounts, in the words of Ludacris, "Get back, get back, you don't know me like that!"

Any personal endeavors that students participate in should not be exploited by the institutions they are enrolled in. Colleges and universities that try to regulate students' social media accounts are an invasion of privacy, mental space, and a stout of individuality.

BLACK GRIEF, BLACK RAGE



CHRISTINE SLAUGHTER

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Seven family members of Kendrick Johnson were found guilty of misdemeanor charges following a 2013 protest at the Lowndes County Courthouse. In this protest, family members, including Kendrick Johnson's parents, blocked the entrance to the courthouse and the security checkpoint to the building. These actions were in direct response to the lack of transparency and serious investigation following Kendrick's death. According to a recently published CNN article, the family will not be jailed, fined, or placed on probation.

In 2013, the body of Kendrick Johnson was found in a rolled-up wrestling mat at Lowndes High School. The preliminary investigation and autopsy concluded that the death was accidental and somehow, Kendrick had slipped into the mat and suffocated to his death. After skepticism

of this response, the family hired a private investigator who drastically concluded otherwise. With more media attention and outcry from grassroots organizations, such as Justice for KJ and social justice organizations such as SCLC and NAACP, his death stands alongside other senseless killings of Black men and women. Since his death, the family has continuously sought justice for their son. There is an ongoing federal investigation led by the United States attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, Michael Moore.

For many students and former students, the death of Kendrick Johnson is close to home. In 2013 and 2014 the Morehouse NAACP chapter was active in assisting the movement for Justice for KJ. Former Morehouse NAACP president Stephen Green says, "The family of Kendrick Johnson has suffered enough attack and abuse over the last 25 months and I am eagerly looking forward to the response from US Attorney Michael Moore's office."

There has been no report from the office of the attorney since the announcement of an investigation.

Considering the trauma associated with the loss of a loved one and the unanswered questions surrounding his death, the family of Kendrick Johnson has faced insurmountable pain. Thus, I cannot understand how this conviction aids in ailing their pain in this slow process of justice. His family's arrests symbolically represent the devaluing of Black lives even in their expressions of anger, hurt, and despair. A simple cry for justice from the Black mother cannot expedite the procedures of justice, but she still should have the space to publically grieve for the loss of her son.

How is it that the family of Kendrick Johnson is held accountable for a non-violent and peaceful protest yet the police respondents are not held accountable for the lack of transparency and urgency in the investigation? The failure of the Lowndes police department to respect the way that Black families grieve and demand for justice is yet another blow to the pursuit of justice for all those responding to injustices.

BLACK STATE OF THE UNION: ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER

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While countless friends and families celebrated the closing of 2014 and the dawning of a new year, all too many Black families instead mourned the lives of loved ones lost to police brutality.

The 2015 State of the Black Union (SOBU) addressed these and other related concerns in a recently released publication. The address carefully emphasized the inclusion of women and trans victims in supporting the declaration that #blacklivesmatter. The first point of the SOBU reproached the subjugation of these victims in

organized protest, and rightfully so. The life expectancy of a Black trans woman is 35 years of age—less than half the life expectancy for the average American. Black women as a whole experience physical and sexual police brutality at alarming rates, yet their stories are largely dismissed. Activists and the media focus on straight Black males as the demographic most attacked by systemic violence, forgetting that there are hundreds of other Black souls in danger of administrative persecution and murder.

Needless to say, the SOBU went on to detail an array of other grievances ignored by the United States government. Among these were the prison industrial complex, outrageous obesity rates in Black homes due to the lack of accessibility to healthy food, and the gentrification and destruction of Black communities. Many of these

issues are mutually inclusive: the targeting of minorities as a result of poverty, poverty as a result of classism, and classism as a result of racism. The address rightfully demands that Congress resolve systemic racism and all of its repercussions in 2015, or else these inalienable rights will be taken. The time is now for Black citizens of all identities to recognize that #allblacklivesmatter and are worthy of protection from civil abuse. This is true not only in the United States, but in every nation that dares to oppress people of African descent in the twenty-first century. The world must know that Black lives will no longer be abused and destroyed without justice. In the words of WEB Dubois, "The world must one day reckon". With the increasingly oppressed state of Black society, that day must be today.

THE MAROON TIGER TAKES TOP AWARDS AT GCPA BETTER NEWSPAPER CEREMONY



On Saturday, February 7, 2015 The Maroon Tiger Student Media Group (MT) traveled to Athens, GA for the Georgia Press Institute hosted by the Georgia College Press Association. Here, The Maroon Tiger won the top award: 1st place in General Excellence—Division Two. This qualifies MT, according to the GCPA judges, as the best campus newspaper in the state of Georgia. MT also won two other awards in the general campus community: first place in Best Campus Community Service—Features and third place in Best Layout and Design.

Members of the Georgia College Press Association and the Better Newspaper award contest include Berry College, College of Coastal Georgia, Mercer University, Winthrop University, Georgia State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia, Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), to name a few. The Maroon Tiger

was also the second HBCU represented at the conference along with Savannah State University.

Among publications awarded, MT's annual Man of the Year magazine, "Where Do We Go From Here" Ferguson Edition, President Wilson's 2014 Inauguration feature and more allowed MT to propel to first place in the conference's highest awards. This serves as the 8th award in two years for The Maroon Tiger and its approximate 70th award since it started competing. In 2014, The Maroon Tiger was named Best HBCU Newspaper by the Center for HBCU Media Advocacy and HBCU Digest.

As MT enters its 90th year in October 2015, Darren Martin, second-year outgoing Editor-in-Chief believes, "the group is in a place for nothing but progression" and is leading the group's Senior Management transition and training process.

Jared Loggins, second-year outgoing Managing Editor, is chiefly responsible for the content curated in the newspaper arm of the group and has been a vanguard in sustaining the group's mission of critical and relevant school wide and national discussions.

Did you know: Alumni of MT and the College have transitioned from MT into a wide scope of the media-technology ecosystem. Some institutions include: The LA Times, BET, Centric, ESPN, NBCUniversal, Google and more.

Ron Thomas, director of the Journalism and Sports Program serves as Advisor for The Maroon Tiger and Kevin Booker, Dean of Student Life, serves as business/administration relations advisor.

INTERESTED IN EXPLORING YOUR CREATIVE SIDE?

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Reflections OF Excellence



Moderated by
Blayne Alexander
Reporter/Anchor, WXIA 11-Alive

Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 11 a.m.
Ray Charles Performing Arts Center
Emma and Joe Adams Concert Hall

Bennie and Candle Award Recipients



BENNIE ACHIEVEMENT
Paul O. Judge '98
Inventor, Scientist, Technologist
and Philanthropist



BENNIE TRAILBLAZER
Eugene Vernon Wade Jr. '92
Education Innovator
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, UniversityNow



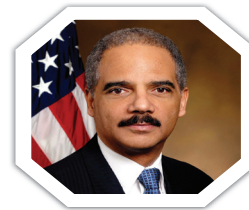
CANDLE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Robert Benjamin Crews Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer, CREWS
DBA Crews of California, Crews Enterprises
and Airport Retail Management



**CANDLE IN SPORTS
AND ENTERTAINMENT**
Grant Henry Hill
Seven-Time NBA All-Star, Broadcaster
and Managing Principal and Founder
Penta Mezzanine Fund



CANDLE IN BUSINESS
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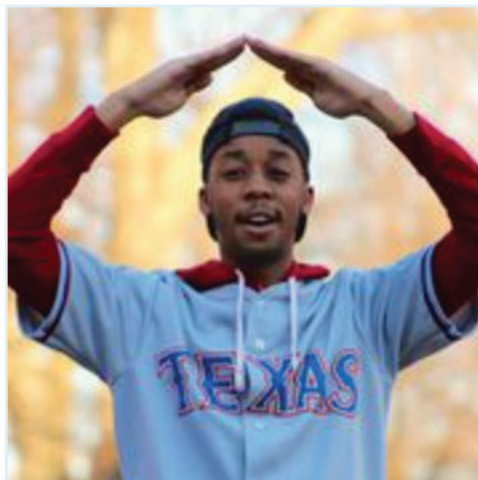
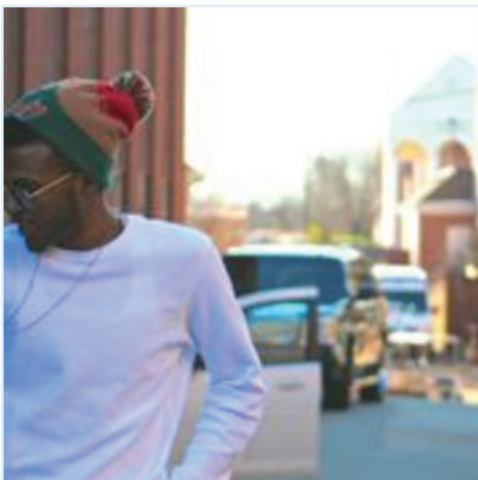
AUC CAM

“Everybody’s Somebody” is it’s official tagline and from the looks of its 1557 AUC followers, students are agreeing. AUCCAM was created by Morehouse juniors Temitayo Agoro, Alex Ocansey and Justice Anderson with a mission to “promote love, positivity and equality at all times, everyday, all day.” The founders say that “the passion of capturing wonderful and memorable moments for all is what inspires us to do what we do; that is, capture everyone at their best. That is, all the time!”

With a large following and largely diverse pool of student pictures on its feed, it seems as if the AUCCAM is another great way to spread positivity, love and hope within the entire AUC student body. MT also chose this work to be featured at-length to cement this project’s future historical significance by displaying the image of 21st century campus culture.

Follow AUCCAM @AUCCAM on Instagram.

All Photos by: Temitayo Agoro, Alex Ocansey, Justice Anderson---AUCCAM



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Morehouse UPS Scholars Program

Applications Due: Friday, February 27th
By 5:00 pm

Visit Twitter to Start the Application: [@AUC_UPScholars](https://twitter.com/AUC_UPScholars)



Program Description:

1. Scholars must volunteer at Fickett Elementary School for approximately 10 hours each week (150 hours per semester).
2. Scholars must attend orientations and training session(s).
3. Scholars must attend monthly meetings.
4. Scholars earn a \$5000 scholarship award each year (\$2500 per semester).

Application Process:

The application is available via twitter ([@AUC_UPScholars](https://twitter.com/AUC_UPScholars)) and should be submitted in (.pdf) format. Applicant must submit completed application (along with web transcript and one letter of recommendation from professor/mentor/community leader) to the Morehouse UPS Scholars Program Advisor Jamila Lyn via email to jamila.lyn@morehouse.edu. If selected to interview, applicant will receive an email to schedule an appointment.

#YEEZYSEASON

RJ DARNELL

STAFF WRITER

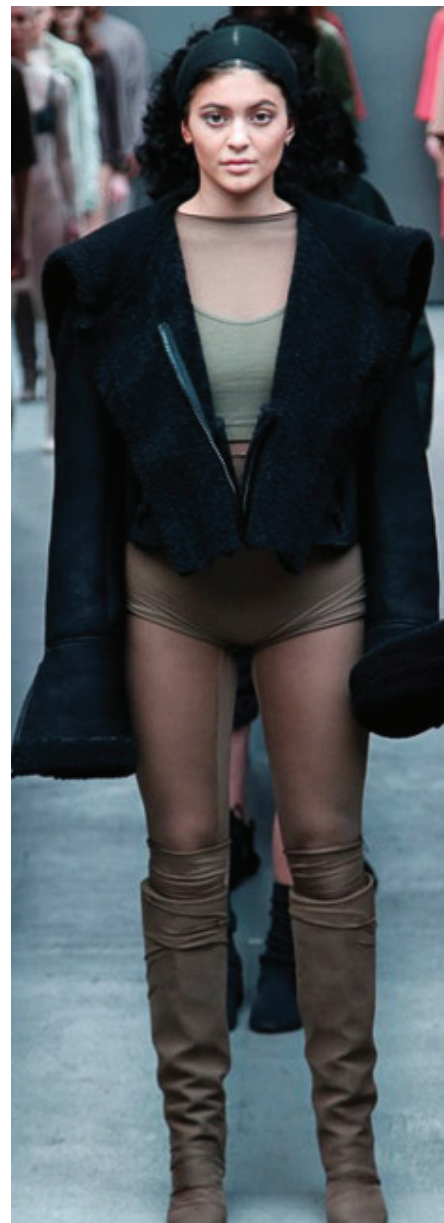
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Whether you're a fan or an onlooker, one can't deny that one isn't following the highly controversial artist of the 21st century, Kanye West. Fresh from his Grammy stunt, West arrived to New York days later and days before fashion week to showcase and present the anticipated collection with Adidas, whom he signed a \$10 Million deal with. After his public split with Nike, the sneaker launch was perfect way for West's to launch his designs, along with a selection of clothing.

There was no other way to kick off Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in New York than with his show, West presented a stellar collection including all the components to make a stand in fashion history. A collection was on display while the first single titled "Wolves" from his new album accompanied the mood of the show. Showcased on the models, the Adidas sneakers YEEZY 750 Boost was paired with the assortment of outfits from the collection. The tech-inspired release consisted of male and female models wearing soft tones, muted colors, earth tones, and monochromatic pieces.

The collection, futuristic rebellion street-wear inspired, was the elevated matrix outfit. The collection, broadcasted to 42 theaters in three different continents, was showed to a high-profile audience which included Anna, Wintour, Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Diddy, Cassie, Rihanna, Alexander Wang, Kim Kardashian West, and a crying North West. According to Adidas and West, Yeezy Season 1 is "a collection of apparel and footwear that cherishes universality and timelessness. Described by West as the world's first 'solutions-based' clothing line, the individual pieces define a style that matches the relentless pace of contemporary lives."

Only 9,000 pairs of the 750 YEEZY Boosts will be available for purchase. With a retail price of \$350, the sneaker will be available February 28. There is no denying that YEEZY Season has officially begun, and will continue to reign. With West's working on projects such as Rihanna's album and his on, this year is written in his name.



ALL STYLE, ALL STARS.



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Amidst Mercedes Bens Fashion Week and NBA's All-Star Weekend, NBA player LeBron James hosted an inaugural NBA fashion show. TNT broadcasted the first ever NBA fashion show on Saturday night, titled NBA All-Star All-Style produced by LeBron James's Springhill Productions. Although James season with Cleveland Cavaliers, 33-22, hasn't been the best yet, he continues to lead and build upon his endorsement portfolio in 2015 and set the record why he's the greatest.

Combined with NBA and fashion rhetoric, seven NBA players were drafted to compete in the runway competition. The seven all-star contestants included Klay Thompson, DeMarcus Cousins, Jeff Teague, James Harden, J.R. Smith (not an All-Star), Chandler Parsons (not an All-Star), and Zach LaVine (not an All-Star). The competition consisted of three rounds: dressing for the boardroom, a night out, and attire worn to the game. The top four advanced to the second round, and then the one-on-one in the final.

"This could very well be the gateway to major sports and high fashion partnerships," Steven Hill says, a freshman at Morehouse College.

Unfortunately, being an athlete who's physically gifted with muscular thighs and impeccable biceps doesn't translate into being a runway model. It actually means ill-fitted suits, strained muscles, and uncomfortable. Accompanied by an on staff stylist, players were responsible to bring their own clothing and captivate viewers and judges. Considering NBA players have always been known for their excellent sartorial decision—with the exception of a few, well at least 5—the fashion show was a nod to basketball players alike and sartorial mavens across the world.

"It's good, but at the same times it bad," says Amber Harris, a sophomore at Spelman College. "I'm unsure if they're more concerned with their clothes that the way they plan on the court, those players cant be stellar in high end fashion but lack the skill to play basketball."

Many millennia's grew up an era where the basketball and football players coined one style, the struggle look. The struggle look in its context takes on a connotation of good rather than bad. Often composed of a monotone jogging suit or jogging suit pieces, basketball shorts, or white tees. Players were too worried about their rivalry on the court, rather than on the runways. Seeing why most of the NBA players made poor sartorial decisions and dressed in Steve Harvey suits that were ill-fitted and untailored.

"You know, it's kind of like those infomercials that show the products at night. We can live with it, or we can live without it," Sam Gissintaner says, a senior business major at Morehouse. "I could care less if they're known for style, they were picked to play the sport of basketball—not fashion."

The fashion show ended with NBA player J.R. Smith taking home the award for best dressed. Considering he stayed up all night to prepare for the show, as noted by GQ, he deserves it. The competitions among NBA players have bounced of the court and into the arenas and streets where athletes are donned in high fashion. Playing for keeps, the players are turning the NBA league into a runway of high fashion and even higher jump shots.

Credited as executive producer, James along with his production company, Springhill Productions, produced the show. The company, named after the housing project where James grew up in Akron, Ohio launched two shows in October and is also working on a prime-time game show for NBC. James off court earning is to be unmatched, who's to say that we may never again witness a NBA fashion show. In all actuality, I could live without it.



"THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW" MUSIC REVIEW

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"Alternative R&B, true story, and labor of love" is how Justin McElderry, a senior here at Morehouse College, describes his newly released very first EP *Things You Never Knew*.

The EP includes five excellent smooth groove songs entitled "Arrogance," "Mirrors on the Ceiling," "Talk," "Ocean," and "Crown X Jameson." Each song seemingly describes a woman (more than likely a significant other), the many stages of their relationship, and how she makes him feel. McElderry's tone on some of the EP could be classified in one world as a "love maker"—for us, it's a perfect mixer of historical and modern soul.

As we hear on each track, McElderry is willing to give his all to the woman he loves. He exposes his soft side to her, while expressing that he is what she needs to feel complete. By telling her that nothing compares to her and exclaiming how he sees the beauty within—Justin gives us raw emotion! And this emotion makes his music more relatable to a larger audience.

The EP can also be an incubator for thought: on the track "Arrogance," McElderry calls out the fragility and aimlessness of mankind and asks us, "Who are we?..." and asks himself, "Who am I to think there is no heaven or hell?"

The musical composition of the EP never really gains a fast pace. The beats stay rather smooth and sensual, but this deficiency in speed is made up with in skill of rhythm and rhyme—and soul.

There are two ways we recommend listening to the EP:

1. A dimly lit room with your significant other
2. In seclusion while studying or lying in bed

Option one may cause for an exciting night, while option two may cause a diverging from studies and lead to a replaying of the past or even to thinking about changing the present and creating the future.



JUSTIN MCELDERRY

+++

The EP can be best described as a mix of Drake or partynextdoor – though, it is evident that he is creating his own style and voice.

Give it a listen!

Download Justin McElderry's EP at: soundcloud.com/justinmacmusic

"God Bless the broken man!" – Justin McElderry

LOVE & HIP-HOP...AND R&B...AND COUNTRY

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Country, by far, is more popular than R&B/hip-hop in the United States, and it has been since the genres went mainstream. What draws a person to a genre varies, but relatable lyrical content is one of the main deciding factors. By studying the difference between country and R&B/hip-hop, two of the most distinct genres, one can see stark contrasts appear. When love and attraction is involved, differences are abound.

Naturally, it is impossible to study every country song and every R&B/hip-hop song ever recorded, so only the songs that peaked at #1 on their respective Hot Billboard Charts between the years of 2000-2014 are included in this examination. Songs about being in love or being attracted to someone were the most popular subjects in both country and R&B/hip-hop between the years 2000-2014, and how love/attraction is expressed differs.

For example, in country, it is common for the artist, especially if it is a male artist, to reference a desire to drive away in a car or truck with the person the song is about. The idea of driving aimlessly appears several times in #1 country songs like "Cruise," "Banjo," "Shotgun Rider," and "That's My Kind of Night." In contrast, this particular act is hardly, if at all, mentioned in the #1 R&B/hip-hop songs since 2000.

For R&B/hip-hop artists, a dance club is a very common setting where the protagonist meets the person he/she is attracted to, and the lyrics are either about the two people dancing together or one is watching the other dance. The second most popular setting is in public where the protagonist sees an attractive stranger walking down the street. To contrast, in country music, bars are a staple settings for the protagonist to see the person he/she is attracted to.

Additionally, in the R&B/hip-hop genre, it is conventional for the protagonist to attempt to convince the person he/she is attracted to or loves that nobody else interests him/her and not to listen to naysayers. Songs such as "Adorn,"

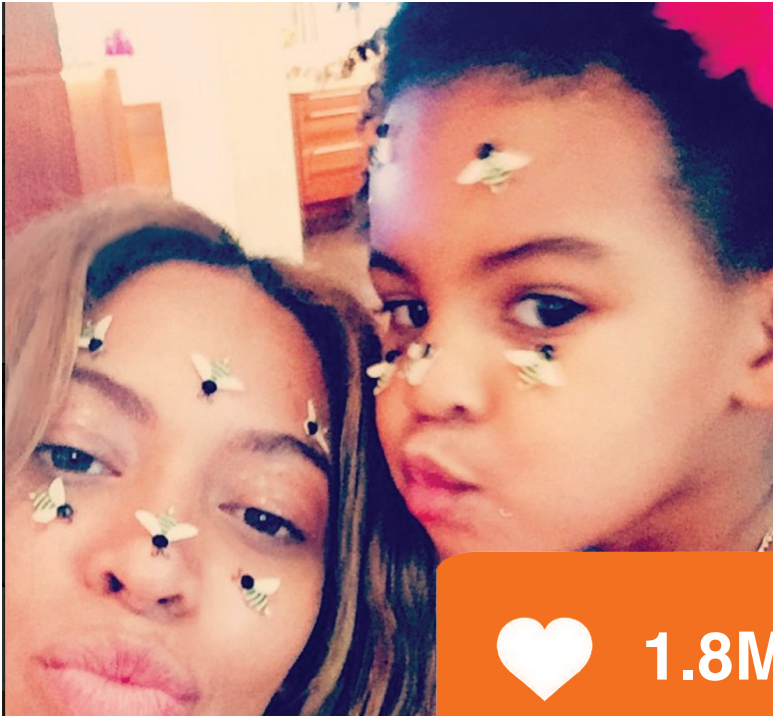
"Love in this Club," "No One," "Fall For Your Type," "Hold On, We're Going Home," and "Promise" are just a few that adhere to this concept. Interestingly, this concept is virtually nonexistent in country.

Last but not least, sex is almost always mentioned or alluded to in R&B/hip-hop love/attraction songs, whereas it is barely mentioned in country music. Some country songs uncharacteristically allude to sex, such as "Gettin' You Home," "Sideways" and "Rain is a Good Thing," but they are extremely sporadic. Regularly, love/attraction is communicated through sensual touching, marriage, and spending time together, while sex is almost always mentioned in R&B/hip-hop songs. "Drunk in Love," "Whatever You Like," "Me & U," "Motivation," and "Bed" are prime examples.

Why the distinctions exist at could very well be a stimulating study, but for now, just recognizing that messages about the same subject are conveyed differently to people is a beneficial step towards cultural understanding and respect.

CELEBRITY SELFIE OF THE WEEK

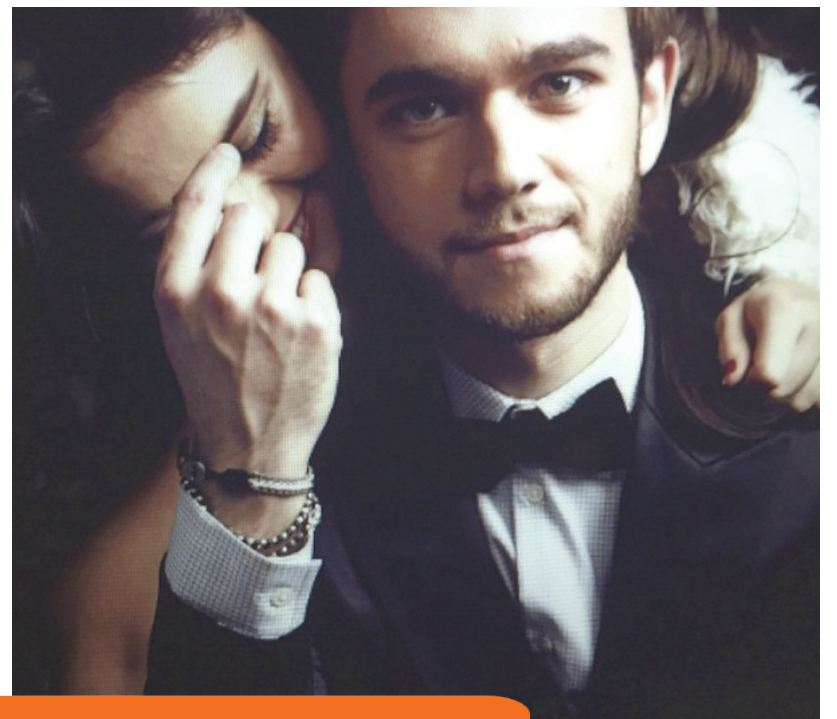
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1.8M Likes

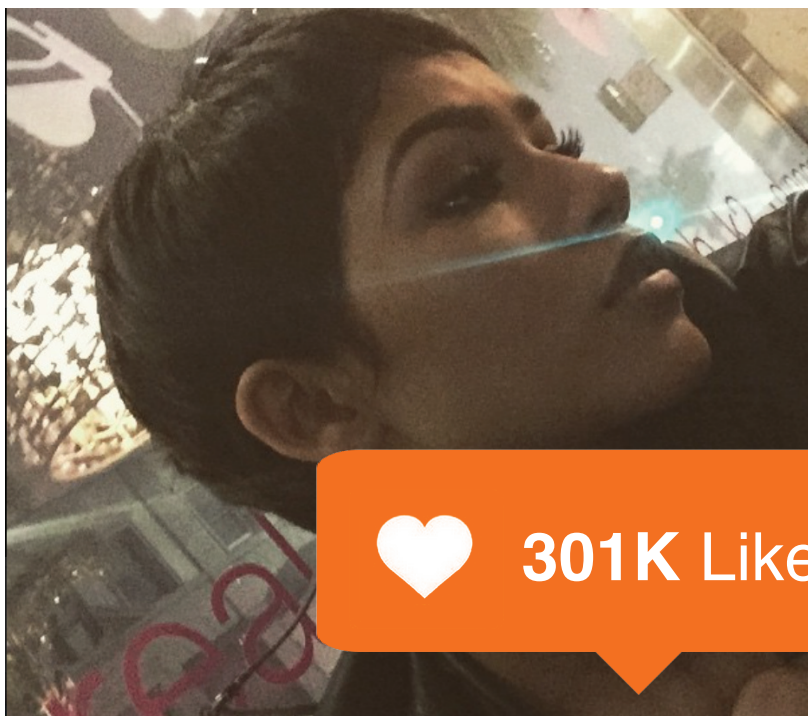
◀ After racking up a few Grammys with hubby Jay-Z, Queen Bee and Princess Blue spent their Valentine's Day reigning over the bee kingdom. The music mogul and her precious tot blow kisses into the camera with bees all over their faces for The Gram. Blue Ivy is looking more and more like Jay every day and it shows in the selfie where she is face-to-face with her flawless mama.

Turns out the heart really does want what it wants. Once over her dramatic on-again, off-again relationship with Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez moved on to a new beau. Selena Gomez and notable music producer Zedd, who is responsible for "Clarity" featuring The Foxes and Ellie Goulding's "I Need Your Love" have been friends for a while, but decided to take it to the next level. Their budding romance, too, comes with a new single, "I Want You to Know" which both artists have been teasing on their social media and is schedule to be released on February 23rd.



1.3M Likes

◀ Watch out, Keke Palmer! Zendaya is rocking a sexy new-do and all eyes are on her! "Short hair like Nia Long," is right! Rising superstar Zendaya showcases her new look during New York Fashion Week, a chic pixie cut that makes her look a lot more mature and allows her to stray away from that cute Disney Channel look she's always had growing up in the industry. This grown-and-sexy look definitely works for you, Zendaya! Or should we start addressing you as Ms. Coleman now?



301K Likes

ADAM SILVER'S PROPOSED PLAYOFF LAYOUT

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The now acclimated commissioner of the NBA, Adam Silver, has recently come out to say that he feels the NBA playoff system needs reform to strengthen the postseason competition. It would eliminate the even amount of competitors from each conference and allows each of the six division leaders automatic bids. The last 10 contenders are decided by which teams have the best overall records, regardless of what conference they belong to.

Is this a progressive effort and an attempt to make the NBA better to watch for the national and international postseason audience? Yes it absolutely is.

Idea like these from Commissioner Silver is part of the reason why he was hired as David Stern's successor in 2014. In comparison, NFL commish Roger Goodell and former Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig would never consider something so drastic. Even with MLB television ratings declining harshly over the past 20 years, Selig would never even give this solution a thought.

Is this better for the players and the teams in the NBA, considering how the Western conference seems to be superior to the Eastern Conference in all facets? No.

Although the Eastern conference has failed to match the depth and talent of the West for more than a decade and it still struggles to put serious contenders in the postseason, there should not be a change in the playoff layout.

An equal amount of teams from each conference should be able to compete for a championship. It should not matter if one conference outweighs the other in the regular season; the champion still isn't crowned until the postseason. The East has won four of the last 10 NBA champions, and only one team (2007 Cleveland Cavaliers) was swept in the Finals during that period.

It's great that Commissioner Silver has realized a slight problem in his league and would like to improve on it. But in this situation, it would not be in the best interest of the league to change the playoff system, which would leave a lot of Eastern conference teams struggling to get in and creating powerhouse matchups in the playoffs relying heavily on the Western conference.

THE ATLANTA HAWKS: WINNING AND CHANGING THE CHAMPIONSHIP FORMULA



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Back in the summer of 2010 when LeBron James decided to join the Miami Heat in a quest to chase rings, he completely changed the format to creating a championship roster.

Teams throughout the league began to put all their cap space into signing one or two of the NBA's elite players. Some experiments found success (Blake Griffin and Chris Paul with the Los Angeles Clippers) while others achieved little to no success (Carmelo Anthony and Amaré Stoudemire, New York Knicks).

Teams such as the ones assembled in New York and Los Angeles are currently not title contenders and it brings us to a different topic. Do you really need multiple superstars to win a championship?

LeBron was able to achieve that feat twice with a loaded roster, but he's the best player in the world. Pairing with Dwyane Wade was far too much firepower to be denied from winning a NBA championship.

The Atlanta Hawks, currently the best team in the NBA have implemented a system of

basketball that reminds many of the San Antonio Spurs. Coach Mike Budenholzer was an assistant for the Spurs and Greg Popovich from 1996-2013.

With the current success of Atlanta, is it possible that teams around the league will shift their strategies when trying to build a winner? The Hawks are proving that team ball and defense are the two main factors needed in being a contender.

"Last year, we were one of the worst teams in the league defensively, and I think we stepped it up a lot," Hawks point guard Jeff Teague said to Bleacher Report's Josh Martin. "This year, we're more active defensively, trying to get into passing lanes, create turnovers. I think we're doing a pretty good job so far."

Atlanta currently has the number four-ranked defense in the league and doesn't appear to be letting up.

Fans around the league are pleased to see the success that Atlanta is currently displaying as it allows teams without a superstar to have hope for the future. With great coaching and defense, you can win without having a James, a Wade, or a Durant.

Now the only two questions that remain are how far will the Atlanta Hawks go and will we see a change in the way general managers build their teams in the future?