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MILEY CYRUS

Embraces Her Country Foundation in New Album

Megan Bohlander
Webmaster

Bring out the cowboy boots and Elvis es- que-jack- ets, because Miley Cyrus’ new album is the epitome of her Tennessee roots. Last month, the 24-year-old released her sixth album titled *Younger Now* where she described the album as her feeling more youthful now than ever. Cyrus has been on a roller coaster of identities through- out the last decade which has resonated through her music. From the darling of Disney channel, to the rebellious twerkaholic, to now dive-bar diva, Cyrus finally seems to be coming full circle with herself. After a four-year stretch since her last album, this record portrays maturity and a recon- nection to the music she was raised on.

Coming off of her 2013 image when she released her blockbuster album *Bangerz*, Cyrus has taken the more calm approach. *Younger Now* represents a Miley of new form. Before, she was teaming up with producer Mike Will Made It to create hits assembled by songwriters but now Miley is getting to express her real self and she’s doing it well. This was seen when she delivered her first single from the album “Malibu,” that describes her joyous rekindling of on and off boyfriend Liam Hemsworth. After a rough patch and breakup during her *Bangerz* phase, Cyrus and Hemsworth have since found their way back which accounts for her soul searching on this new project. In “I Would Die for You,” the quiet love song reveals the deep, passionate side

of Miley while the retro ballad “Week Without You,” shows the singer imagining leaving her lover behind. This is a true representa- tion of the artist embracing her past selves.

There’s no ques- tion *Younger Now* is on a completely different spectrum than her last album. Cyrus celebrates this transformation with her blend of country and radiant pop. Country music is where her origins lie being a Nashville native. She duets with godmother Dolly Parton on “Rainbow- land,” a simple yet sweet track about inclusion and idealism backed by lovely harmonies. In “Miss You So Much,” the echoing of steel guitar and ache in her words firmly place Cyrus in down-home serenity. The strong fiddle and feel good lyrics throughout “Inspired,” has a “good old days” meaning to it. The rootsy, classic sound of these tracks has allowed her authenticity to shine.

This album was an awakening for Cyrus as a musician. The twangy pop melodies and storytelling show her blossoming artistry. She sounds softer and more secure with her music compared to her past hell raising, pop perso-

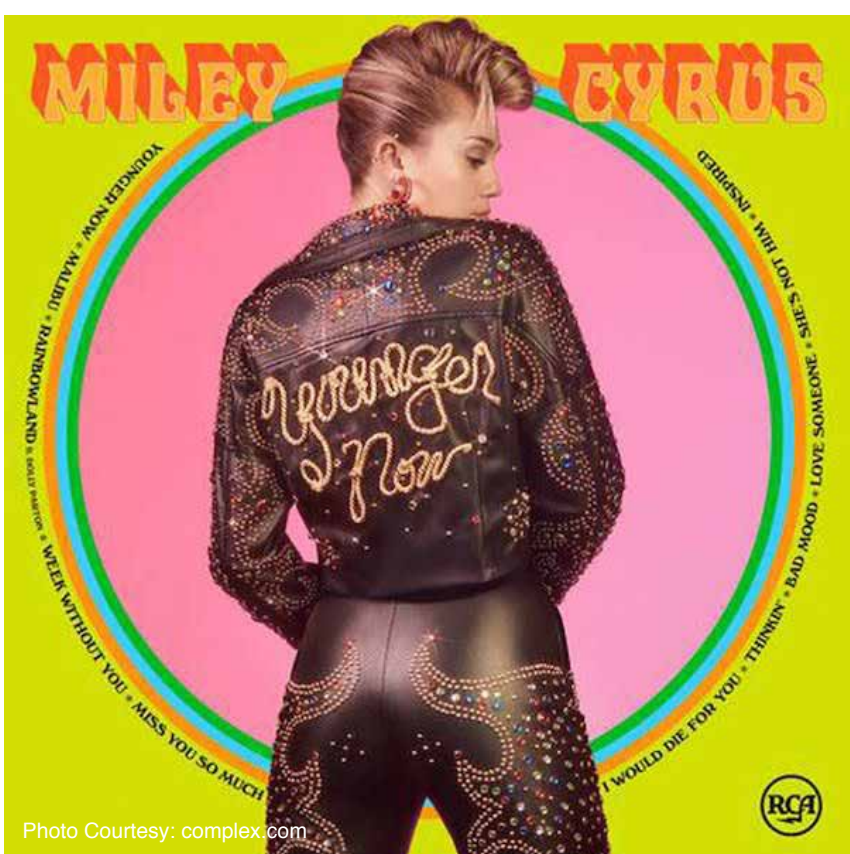


Photo Courtesy: complex.com

na. The coming-home inspirations and country instrumentations were the mold to Cyrus getting back in touch with herself. The self-titled track “Younger Now,” features some inspiring meta- phors like “No one stays the same,” and “What goes up must come down”. These could serve as a reboot in Cyrus’ career and life. Even through the clichés, Cyrus’s new music is proving her to be a more cultivated and refreshed individual.

Interior Designers Put On A Fashion Show

Jamie Walloch
Contributing Writer

IIDA Georgia recently celebrated their eighth annual charity fashion event, *Dressed 2017* from Cover to Cover, at The Tabernacle in At- lanta. The International Interior Design Association is a profes- sional networking association bringing together communities of interior designers. The event was created to promote creativ- ity of architects and interior de- signers by challenging them to create wearable couture using construction and scrap mate- rial including wall coverings, carpets, ceramic tile, furniture components, vinyl, rubber and paint among other materials.

The proceeds benefit Dress for Success Atlanta, an organization geared to help women with professional attire and develop key tools to thrive in the work force. The theme of the event this year included all things fairytale. Each design- er team used this theme as the inspiration to design their unique looks. The Big Bad Wolf, Thumbelina, Ursula and Peter Pan are a few examples

of inspirational outfits to strut down the runway.

Twenty designer teams showcased their outfits on the runway with very dramatic music and a fun atmosphere while being judged on creativity, craftsmanship, detailing and the use of materials.

Modern Luxury’s Atlanta Interiors magazine hosted the event and held a party before the fashion show equipped with themed entrees and desserts, an interactive champagne wall, fairytale photo booth and a live DJ for the guests.

“This event is one of my fa- vorites to plan because of the architecture of the Tabernacle and the different theme every year,” said Modern Luxury Mar- keting and Events Director, Ella Gentry Vance. “IIDA is an incredible organiza- tion that raises a lot of money for Dress for Success Atlanta. This event has grown larger every year and it is always a huge success. It is not only fun for the designers but everyone watch- ing has a great time all night long.”

While enjoying open bars and sponsored popcorn, guests texted to vote for their favorite outfit and five judges se- lected the top three designs. The judges

included Joyce Fownes of Per- kins+Will, Steve Hart of HLGstudio, Nanci Love of Colliers International Atlanta, John Schneider of Lord Aeck Sargent and Amanda Wing from the Architecture Firm of Small- wood, Reynolds, Stuart and Stuart.

A long intermission and de- liberation from the judges resulted in this year’s winning designs. Second runner-up was awarded to Heery with The Big Bad Wolf and first runner- up went to Gensler Hospital- ity with Rapunzel. People’s Choice Award voted on by attendees went to TVSDesign with Little Red Riding Hood and Best in Show was ASD/ Sky with Lumiere. Actors in fairytale costumes made sure everyone felt like they were in a story book as an after-party followed for design- ers and models to mingle with the guests.

“I could not do this every year without the generosity of our incredible sponsors,” said IIDA Dressed Chair, Cas Swope. “They are the reason this event happens and the reason the designers get this learning experience.”

Raising thousands of dollars for Dress for Success for Atlanta, IIDA Georgia pulled together an interactive learning experience for growing interior designers and an interesting show for attendees.

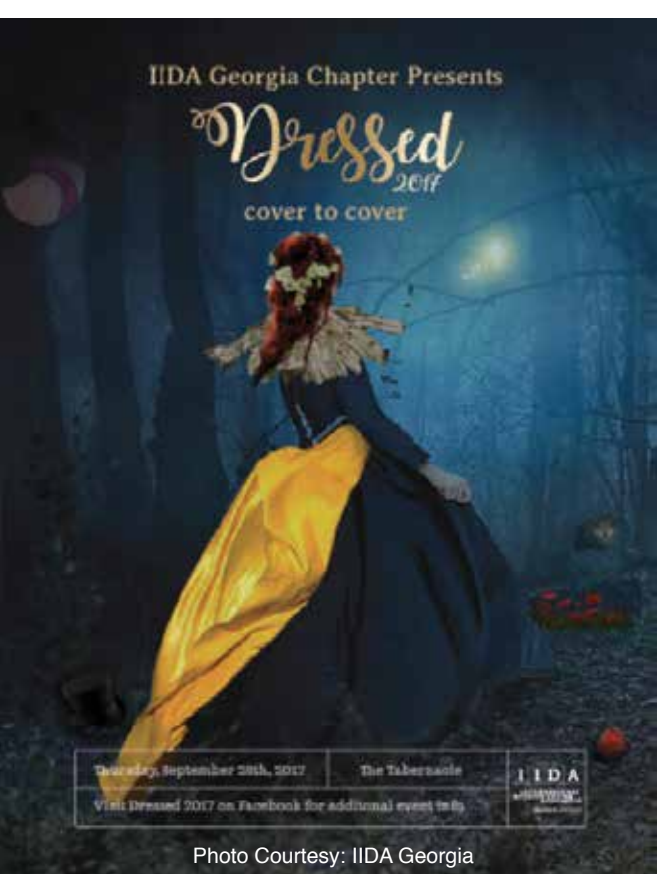


Photo Courtesy: IIDA Georgia

Living West

Homecoming King and Queen

Ashlee Aukerman

Contributing Writer

Across schools and universities across the country, including here at West Georgia, one of the most glamorous and prestigious titles for anyone to earn is that of Homecoming King or Queen. Earning such an accomplishment means much more to the students selected than just the title itself. It is a testament of hard work and dedication outside of the classroom and certification of the character of these students, and this year's Homecoming King and Queen are pure examples of just that.

The 2017 Homecoming King and Queen are David Ndozi and Victoria Jones. The Homecoming Crown was presented and passed down from last year's homecoming winners Earvin Anumgba and Katie Barrow in front of a packed University Stadium crowd.

Jones has shown through a multitude of extracurricular activities the art of leadership and perseverance. She is the news editor for The West Georgian, a senior editor for Her Campus UWG, a member of the UWG football recruiting team, and is also Chapter Chaplain for Kappa Delta sorority who nominated her as Homecoming Queen.

A full Homecoming Pageant takes place for each nominee with an entire interview process that determines who will be selected to the Homecoming Court. That is only the first part of what is a long and complicated process.

"After becoming nominated I participated in the Homecoming

pageant where I was narrowed down to the top 10 girls," said Jones. "Each girl and boy had the opportunity to answer a UWG related question at random. The judges then picked the top five girls and boys and we were announced as the UWG Homecoming court. It was the most exciting feeling ever. I remember being thrilled that I had this amazing opportunity."

The process that it takes after nomination to become Homecoming King or Queen is much more than simply waiting to hear your name called by the announcers. In the end, it is a moment that is fully worthwhile.

"When I heard my name over the loud speakers I was probably the happiest girl in the world," said Jones. "I couldn't believe that I was awarded the biggest honor of all. I couldn't stop smiling and I felt like a total pageant girl who just won Miss America."

Nodzi is apart of numerous student involvement organizations including the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, African American Male Initiative, Student Government Association, Interfraternity Council, African Student Association, and Student of Caribbean Ancestry. Although Ndozi did not plan on participating initially, he was approached by multiple organizations before deciding to take on the nomination by the College PanHellenic Council. He chose CPC because he got to represent all women in the council, including Sigma Kappa.

"I was honestly shocked when my name was called because I was not expecting it by any means," said Ndozi. "I am sure you can tell by the pictures

Photo Credit: University of West Georgia



that this is probably one of the most incredible things that has happened to me this year. Even though it still feels unbelievable, I am very excited and thankful to be crowned King and I am grateful to the University of West Georgia for the opportunities I got. I will always be an ambassador of this great institution and also a proud wolf."

Ndozi decided to do a very selfless act with his crown and sash. He donated them to his fra-

ternity house to use as decoration as his parting gift since he is graduating in the spring. It will become a great addition to the house that he will be reminded of every time he comes back to visit as alumni.

It is an unforgettable moment for the King and Queen as well as everybody that is involved in the process. For Jones and Ndozi this is something that both will remember for the entirety of their lives, as their names are now forever cemented in UWG history.

Green Zone

Itunu Aromolaran

Contributing Writer

The Center for Adult Learners and Veterans (CALV) has started a new program in efforts to give adult learners and veterans an exceptional college experience. The Green Zone works to promote a safe environment for these groups of people.

"The Center for Adult Learners and Veterans was established in 2014," said Timothy McGowan, Assistant Director for CALV. "Our mission is a concierge service for those two populations, adult learners and our military-connected students through three transition stages. One of the goals of the Green Zone training is to increase the cultural confidence, in terms of people's perceptions and understanding the particular needs and challenges of those populations."

These three transition stages mentioned are before they become students, once they become students, and after they graduate.

The Green Zone was created and targeted towards helping veterans and adult learners adjust to the college atmosphere. It is modeled after the Safe Zone, which focuses on creating a safe environment for the LGBTQIA community.

"What we want to do is guide veterans and adult learners to where they need to go, to give them a resource," said McGowan. "We advocate for them."

The idea of the Green Zone came about at UWG last year when a student at CALV showed an interest in starting the program here.

"We had a practicum student who wanted to work on the Green Zone," said McGowan.

Photo Courtesy of: Center for Adult Learners and Veterans



"He worked on the concept, gathered data, looked up various models and started developing the program at UWG."

After the first practicum student graduated, another student came in and was willing to help continue on with the development of the Green Zone.

"She spent a lot of time trying to pull the program together and narrow it down," said McGowan. "She did that work in the fall, so by the spring of this year, we were ready to launch Green Zone at UWG."

Topics covered during the Green Zone training include the history of Green Zone as well as what CALV hopes to achieve with this training.

"We send out a recruitment message and limit the number of people that take part in the training to 15," said McGowan. "There's approximately 60 staff and faculty members on campus who have gone through the training."

The training is a one-time, 3-hour commitment, where participants learn more about the challenges adult learners and veterans face on the journey of going to college. These challenges include returning to college and being

older than the traditional student. So far, the training has been a success.

"A lot of the people who take the training feel as if the training can be longer, which is unusual," said McGowan. "Most times when people take a training, they're eager to get out rather than stay longer. The content is such that people are interested in learning more about how to work with our adult learners and military-connected students."

Something the training participants are particularly fond of is meeting and interacting with the students they're training to help.

"We try to bring in a panel of on-campus student veterans, so the participants are able to hear from the veterans themselves," said McGowan. "The veterans talk about their experiences and what it's been like for them, transitioning from the military to civilian life, and college."

The Green Zone is a cause close to McGowan, as he has family members with military connections. Although the program isn't offered to college students, McGowan hopes to see that change in the near future.

"My children are veterans," said McGowan. "One of my children's transition from military back to civilian life was very challenging for him. We've made the Green Zone training available to specific groups of graduate students, but I think it wouldn't be a bad idea to open up the program and allow interested students to go through the training."

In the end, there is one common goal for the Green Zone.

"Our goal is to introduce our staff and faculty to the potential challenges and issues faced in undergraduate, and graduate, student veterans at UWG," said McGowan.

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Victoria Jones
NEWS EDITOR

Daniel Forte
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Robert Moody
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Bree Thompson
GRAPHIC DESIGN EDITOR

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COPY EDITOR

John Sewell, Ph. D.
ADVISOR

Gracie Shefelton
CIRCULATION MANAGER

The University of West Georgia
University Community Center, Room 111

Carrollton, GA, 30118-0070
Editorial Line: (678) 839-6527
Advertising Manager: (678) 839-6588
Editorial E-mail: uwgeditorinchief@gmail.com
Advertising E-mail: uwgads@gmail.com

Online at:
www.thewestgeorgian.com

Living West

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS Reaches Milestone Anniversaries



Courtesy of Richards College of Business

Odera Ezenna

Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia’s Richards College of Business (RCOB) celebrates two significant anniversaries this year; 50 years as a college and 20 years of honoring the name of Roy Richards Sr.

Fifty years ago saw the official creation of the school of business, then known as the Division of Business and Economic Studies. The school reconstructed and renamed its programs, and was officially named a college in 1996.

“In the College of Business, people come and stay because it has an extremely collegial atmosphere,” said William C. Schaniel, a professor of economics that has been with UWG since 1980. “If you look at it, faculty come and very rarely leave, and that is a sign of the strength of any department or college.”

Someone else who has stayed with the college is Dr. Faye McIntyre, the current dean of RCOB. McIntyre became the dean of the college in 2005. According to her, the students are the

most important part of the college.

“We are excited to celebrate two milestones in the life of our college,” said McIntyre. “As we have evolved and grown over the years, our primary focus remains the same; students are at the center of what we do and who we are.”

A wolf through and through, McIntyre obtained her bachelors in Business Administration from UWG in 1982. She later returned and earned her MBA in 1984. These days, McIntyre works to ensure that RCOB stays true to its mission.

“The faculty and staff of the Richards College believe in and live our mission every day,” said McIntyre. “We are in the business of transforming lives through education, engagement, and experiences.

Twenty years ago, the College of Business was officially renamed to the Richards College of Business. In 1997, Roy Richards, Jr. presented a \$1.5 million gift to the university in the form of an endowment in honor of his late father Roy Richards, Sr., founder of Southwire Company, the largest cable manufacturer in the nation. Although the name of the college is changed, it remains dedicated to providing

students with an education that is rich in experiences and engagement opportunities.

Through all these exciting changes, RCOB has developed into a vibrant college with five internal departments offering nine undergraduate degrees, three graduate degrees, seven certificate programs, and a host of extra-curricular opportunities.

RCOB will be hosting a celebration event this October, to commemorate their history and highlight all their achievements.

“This is such an excellent opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of our amazing alumni, faculty, staff, and students,” said Amy Lavender, the Marketing Program Manager of RCOB. “So we plan on showcasing all of our various departments and centers as well as research conducted by both faculty and students.”

The event will be held on Oct. 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom and is open to all alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the college.

“We are also looking forward to welcoming our guests, reminiscing and showing them our vision for the future of RCOB,” said Lavender.

“Classes Canceled”

Jaenaeva Watson

Contributing Writer

Students rarely think about the steps towards a campus wide shut down or the consequences that follow. The unscheduled cancellations do not happen on a whim or without much thought and consideration. Making up class days, deciding which departments need to stay on alert and how will this affect the semester are on that list of considerations.

“The number one consideration is the safety of students, staff and faculty,” said Gary Leftwich, Director of Communications in the Risk Management Department. “A team of select people in key roles come together to assess the threat and make a recommendation to the president.”

The University of West Georgia’s community consists of thousands of students, faculty and staff. Among those thousands, 75% of that is made up by commuter students alone. Besides making sure everyone is safe on campus, Risk Management must take into account how many people have to safely travel to and back from campus.

“The main concerns [about Hurricane Irma] were the possible impacts on campus and allowing students ample time to travel home or to other destinations before the storm struck,” said Leftwich.

In order to ensure that UWG remained safe during the hurricane and tropical storm, Risk Management stayed up to date on weather forecasts. Consistently watching patterns and predictions of how the Carroll County area would be affected, they were well ready for any sort of disaster the area could have faced .

“Usually, the incident command team watches developing conditions for days ahead of severe weather,” said Leftwich. “The team communicates storm warnings and watches to all audiences via Wolf Alert as they are released.”

The effort to keep everyone safe extends to several other departments. The incident command team consists of representatives from university police, residence life, student services, facilities, risk management, dining services and university communications and marketing. Medical and counseling services join the team when their resources are needed.

“The residence life team communicates with students as well, encouraging them to stay in their rooms as conditions worsen,” said Leftwich. “The team also decides when to mobilize medical, safety, recovery and other resources.”

Each time the campus needed to be shut down due to inclement weather with any potential for danger, Risk Management and partnering departments grouped together to ensure the safety of the students, faculty and staff throughout the hurricane.

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News

TASERS VS GUNS

Jaenaeva Watson

Contributing Writer

An armed student was shot and killed by an officer on Sept. 17 on the campus of Georgia Institute of Technology. The 21-year-old student was a part of the LGBT community and an engineering major. After his death, several suicide notes were found in his apartment. The officer that took the fatal shot claimed to only be doing what he felt was necessary in the situation.

When news started circulating about the incident, many people were confused. The 23-year-old officer has only been a part of the department for 16 months and didn't feel prepared for the situation he faced. People talked about how the officer could have done something different.

But there is something many people didn't know. Georgia Tech police officers aren't equipped with tasers.

A taser could have been used as an alternate option.

Depending on the training and the equipment that an officer is given, his or her preparedness will be affected. The equipment given to an officer is meant to serve and protect. In this situation, an officer felt the need to use his firearm that resulted in the death of a student. However, there isn't any proof stating that the outcome would have been different if the officer was equipped with a gun.

An investigation performed by Reuters revealed 1,000 deaths since the year 2000 connected with police officers using tasers. Depending on the physical size of the person it is used on, the jolt of electricity can be fatal. Drug use and medical conditions also play a role in how being tased can affect someone. Even with that risk, the probability of someone dying from taser is considerably lower than that of someone dying by gun. According to Pro-Con.org, 6,234 deaths can be traced back to guns and legal intervention. So why not supply officers with tasers and allow them to use the same judgement they have when it comes to wielding a gun?

Even though some people voiced their concerns with the new campus carry law at University of West Georgia, a committee of key staff members put together the plan that they felt would best ensure the safety of everyone on the UWG campus.

Tom Saccenti, Director of Public Safety and the new Chief of UWG's Police

Department, began his first semester at the University of West Georgia this fall. He has yet to see a situation where a weapon had to be used on a student, on or off campus.

"The department [Campus Police Department] recently went through a national accreditation process, during which the National Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies reviewed our policies and inspected operations to ensure we are following those policies," said Saccenti.

At the University of West Georgia, the University Police Department is equipped with tasers. "At UWG, we have the funding, training and ability to equip officers with this tool [tasers]," said Saccenti. "We feel it gives more resource to use in a time of need."

The situation at Georgia Tech involved a student dealing with depression and dealing with a depressed student falls under "a time of need." Officers have to make split-second decisions which can result in someone living or dying. They can only use the equipment and training that they have been given.

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Sports

New Players, New Expectations for the Hawks

Justin Hodges

Feature Editor

The Atlanta Hawks 2017-2018 season begins on Oct. 18 when they travel to Texas to face the Dallas Mavericks; the first of five consecutive games that will be played away from Atlanta to begin the season. After a disappointing 2016-17 campaign that ended in a 43-39 record, the entire landscape of the Atlanta Hawks changed during the summer. Key players that include the likes of Paul Millsap, Dwight Howard, and Tim Hardaway Jr. moved away from the team and a plethora of young players were inserted to try and keep the Hawks competitive. Whether or not that will be possible is yet to be seen.

In response to these changes, KL Chouinard, writer for Hawks.com, put it best. "In losing Paul Millsap, the Hawks lost their cornerstone. His exit creates a big vacuum of talent. On the other hand, the pieces on the current roster fit together like an IKEA furniture kit. Mike Budenholzer put together a revamped, 5-out offense that fits well with the shooting big men the team acquired in the offseason: Ersan Ilyasova, Mike Muscala and (surprise) Dewayne Dedmon."

Above all else, this Atlanta Hawks team is spry with youth.

While that can be seen as a major disadvantage in the NBA, this specific group of players are not only capable, but they also have a ton to prove.

The leader of the team is 24-year-old German point guard Dennis Schroder. He returns to action this season after averaging 17.9 points and 6.3 assists per game in the last one. This includes a magnificent performance in the NBA playoffs in which Schroder put up 24.7 points and 7.7 assists in a battle he and the Hawks ultimately lost to NBA superstar John Wall and the Washington Wizards.

While that alone is impressive, Schroder showed improvements in his game while competing with Germany in the overseas tournament known as EuroBasket during the summer. He ranked second overall amongst all players competing in scoring at 23.7 points per game. If nothing else, Schroder has shown that he is ready to shoulder the load as a leader and help guide these Hawks through the season.

The most important aspect of the Atlanta Hawks going into the season is head coach Mike Budenholzer. Budenholzer's defensive minded, ball-movement based coaching scheme helped the Hawks explode for 60 wins and a top record in the NBA's Eastern Conference during the 2014-2015

season. Since then, after numerous changes to the team, Budenholzer has had to work with players and pieces that simply did not fit. Now, he has young players committed to his scheme and pieces that can help create a successful and entertaining product.

"The same shooting ability pairs well with the athleticism of the young wings and point guards who will be asked to make offense in space," said Chouinard. "The athleticism of those guards meshes perfectly with (Mike) Budenholzer's desire to add a hyper tempo to his pace-and-space offense. Apart from all that nice synergy, high-flying rookie John Collins is going to be REALLY fun."

A general rule for young and inexperienced teams is that in order to be effective, they simply have to play together to learn how to do so. Newly hired general manager Travis Schlenk allowed all those players from last season's team to leave because he has a goal in mind. Shredding those contracts will allow a new team identity to be formed. Schlenk will build the Atlanta Hawks through youth to eventually add greater talent to eventually accomplish the only goal that matters in the NBA--winning a championship. While it will not happen this year, the blueprint has been set and these Hawks are ready to learn to fly.



Photo Courtesy of: Kevin C. Cox

TANKED:

Why American Sports need to adopt a relegation system

Daniel Forte

Editor-In-Chief

Suck for Luck, Wiffin' for Griffin, Clowning for Clowney, Tank Harder for Parker. However you look at it, 'tanking' American sports teams are the core of what's wrong with American sports. 'Tanking' involves a sports team clearly out of the championship race in their league intentionally losing games to worsen their record and get a higher draft spot the following year. Only in America is the absolute worst team in the league awarded the very next year by receiving the highest overall draft pick.

Relegation is the clearest way to solve this problem. The cutthroat system is used in many professional leagues around the world and consistently plays with

more heart and at a higher level than what we see in the United States. Why? Because no matter where those teams stand in the standings, they always have something to play for no matter how poorly their season is going. A soccer team playing in England's Premier League must finish in the top 17 out of the 20 teams in the league because the bottom three get demoted to the lower level league that has its own cities and clubs trying to play their way into the Premier League. A team that gets relegated to a lower level league needs to then finish in the top three of that league in order to be promoted back to the Premier League the following year. This constant vicious cycle always causes teams to bring their 'A' game, which results in a better game experience for the fans.

Now in American sports, in leagues full talent deficiencies and massive leagues that certain

teams can't compete in, a relegation system would bring a fresh alternative to watching all sports. If a consistently lousy team like the Cleveland Browns, Sacramento Kings, or perennial dumpster fire Philadelphia 76ers has nothing to play for and is ensured a top pick in the next draft, why would they try to play hard? They will continue to make money, sell tickets and merchandise to loyal fans while they 'tank' their season in the hopes of coming back better next year. The talent pool, and quality of games would improve across all sports with a relegation system. How about instead of leagues that house over 30 teams reduce it to 16 teams, with a lower division for the 'relegated' teams? Would we still be faced with 41-3 blowouts on Sunday, or basketball teams that win 20 games in an 82 game season? Most teams would be playing their hearts out in order to stay in the top league because of the financial gain as well

as national exposure that playing in the top league brings. How many people outside of Ohio would be upset if the Browns get relegated? Why should they get to continually play in a \$14 billion league while being the worst team in the league every year and do not seem to do anything to improve themselves? Complacency is rampant in the American sports world, and would be swept out immediately if a relegation system was adopted.

With a relegation system, fans of bad teams would not have to suffer through another dismal season wondering where their team gets a draft pick next year. They would be worried about being able to see their team play at the highest level.

The leagues would be smaller, the rivalries would be tighter, and fans and teams would put a huge emphasis on the regular season, thus improving American sports overall.



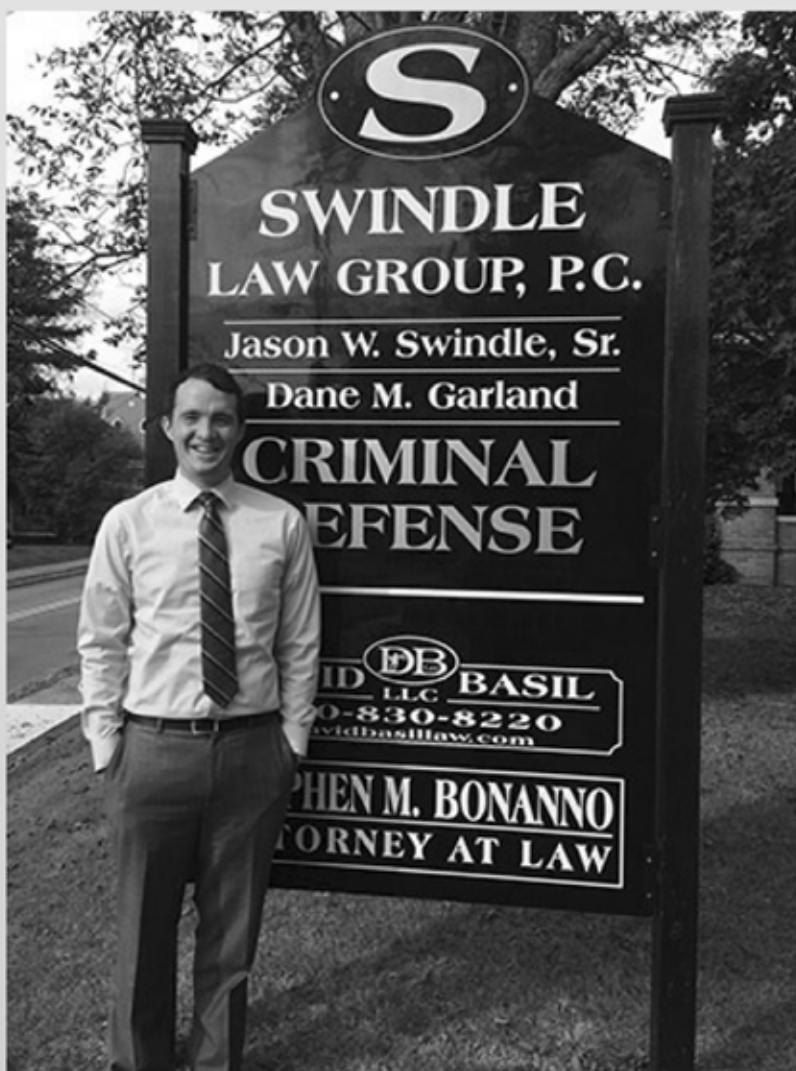
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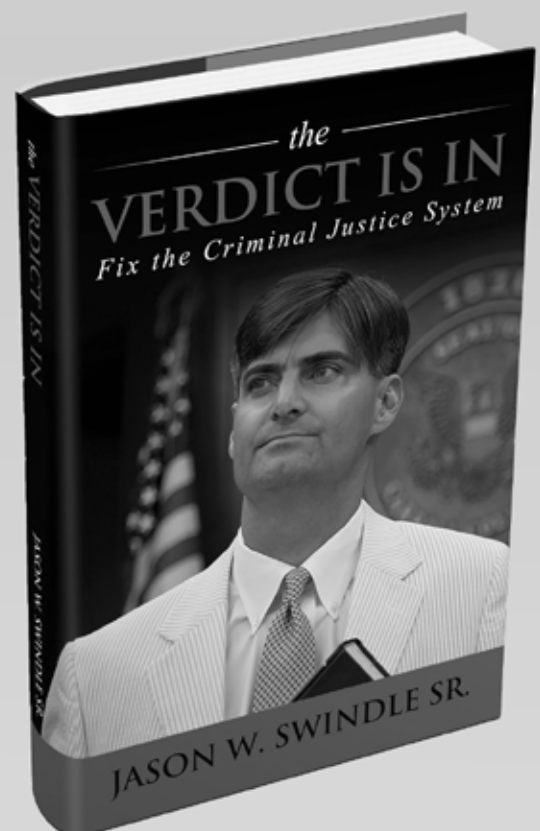
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He's On His Way: Ed Sheeran Coming to Atlanta in 2018

Gracie Shefelton*Circulation Manager*

Ed Sheeran has announced another U.S. stadium tour coming in 2018. Sheeran will be playing arenas and stadiums across the country starting in August, including a stop at Atlanta's brand new Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Nov. 10.

Sheeran is currently finishing up another

North American tour that started in June of this year, soon after the release of his newest album, "Divide". His tour has sold out multiple shows in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and even Madison Square Garden in New York. His last show in Atlanta was so popular that he had to add a second date.

Sheeran's newest album has topped charts across the world since it was released. It broke records in the U.S. and the U.K., as well as dominating the Top 40 all around the world.

Sheeran's album has reached far and wide, and it has blown up around the world.

This is not Sheeran's first brush with popularity however. His previous album, "Multi-ply", also topped the charts. Songs from all three of his albums have made it to the top and many of his songs have gone multi-platinum. The U.K. singer-songwriter definitely knows what he's doing when it comes to making hits.

Tickets for the tour are on presale now at www.edsheeran.com/NATour2018.

IMAGINE MUSIC FESTIVAL



Photo Credit: Bree Thompson

Alex Cescutti*Contributing Writer*

Atlanta Motor Speedway recently hosted the Imagine Music Festival which showcased some of the biggest names in the EDM industry including the likes of DeadMau5, Above & Beyond, Tiesto, Big Gigantic, Pretty Lights, STS9, and more. The festival took place from Sept. 22-24.

The Imagine Festival kicked off with a variety of circus acts off stage while the opening artists performed. These acts included aerial performances with people dressed as aquatic figurines swinging from rope to rope and motorcyclists balancing on tight ropes. Once people

entered the arena, they could see each stage and the entire layout of the area; giving them the full effect of the festival.

"There's this one stage called the disco inferno that I found really interesting," said festival goer Breanne Thompson. "Random bursts of fire shot into the air from at least three different locations on the stage all throughout the show."

Those who arrived a day in advance could enter through the gates before the festival began and had first choice to claim their camp sites. Early access also included an invitation to the pre-party and late night silent disco, Shakedown Street with craft beer and food vendors, and various campground games and activities.

"There were people doing light shows and waving around finger glove lights," said Thompson. "Others were hula hooping and

dancing around freely. You could tell most of these people had their share of experiences with music festivals."

The one detail of the festival that never changes is the theme: An Aquatic Fairytale.

"They had these giant statues that resemble jellyfish. Even the tentacles were life-like, swaying loosely among the crowd," said Thompson. "It was so realistic, like I was actually underwater."

The festival also provided SkyDeck VIP Experience passes for fans interested in receiving the most extraordinary Imagine experience. SkyDeck VIP passes offered top notch table service and the best view of the main stage with elevated viewing, private seating, premium wait staff, and private air conditioned restrooms instead of community restrooms.

This year Imagine also intro-

duced its first festival fashion show. This new edition provided 30 fans with free weekend passes to the festival. These fans were hand-selected for using their own personal experiences from the festival and applying it to their day to day life. An additional benefit of entering the fashion show included each person a chance to be the celebrity for a day and show off the "best of the best" designer attire. These special fans were offered free food, drinks, hairstyling, makeup, and high resolution photos to make sure each participant had the experience of a lifetime.

The Imagine Music Festival introduces a creative, "artsy" place for those who enjoy bright lights, loud music, and live entertainment. People from all around the country attend this music festival every year and look forward to the new decorative layout of the event.

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