



IN CAMPUS NEWS

Renowned artist Arthur Rayford donates his life's work to the College.

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IN FEATURES

He runs, he tackles, he writes poetry!

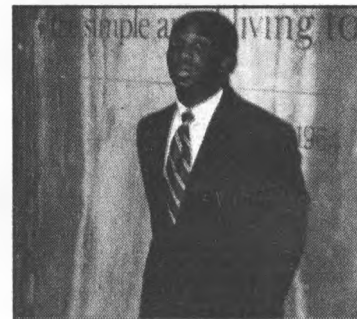
Meet Morehouse running back Rod Hollimon as he talks about his self-published book of poetry.

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IN OPINIONS

SGA President Will Sellers offers his rebuttal to a Pre-Alumni Association (PAA) member's accusations of SGA fund mismanagement and the Executive Board's ineptitude in leadership.



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Accreditation Team Arrives to Assess College

Staff Reports

Here they come. After over two years of preparation -- thousands of hours of labor by students, faculty, staff and administration on every corner of campus -- Morehouse welcomes the special guests who visit once per decade: the 13-member team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

At stake is the reaffirmation of the school's accreditation. That's what employers, graduate and professional schools and parents refer to when they say,

"He has a degree from an accredited college."

The officials will be on the campus grounds, in classes, in the dorms, and in offices, "inspecting" every aspect of Morehouse life and activities Monday and Tuesday, March 30 and 31.

They will want to know everything, and so they will want to talk to as many members of the college community as possible on every subject that bears on Morehouse.

The SACS officials come from different departments and other positions at 12 different colleges and universities around the

Southeast; one represents SACS headquarters staff.



Photo Courtesy of Jocelyn Jackson

Dr. Jocelyn Jackson, Director of the College's Self-Study Committee

Morehouse began preparing for this visit when it appointed Dr. Jocelyn Jackson, Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program, to be Director of Self-Study in August 1995. After a year of organizing -- particularly appointing committees of faculty, staff, and students -- the self-study committee began 12 months of intensive research, review and analysis of all that Morehouse had done since the last reaffirmation of accreditation.

It also assessed every facet of the College's current operations, from buildings and grounds to curriculum to student life.

That year of self-study resulted in a book approaching 300 pages long: "Institutional Self-Study Report, 1996-98." All 13 SACS representatives will have read this book before this visit.

"I am confident that we have written a Self-Study Report that is inclusive of our strong and unique features as well as of our unfinished tasks," said Dr. Jackson. "Our follow-up plan lists recommendations and suggestions we offer to ourselves."

"I want our students to reflect on the Mission of the

Continued on page 2

Lots of Love for MOM in LA



President and Mrs. Massey (center) along with hosts Dave Coulter (right), CEO of BankAmerica, and Entertainment Mogul Quincy Jones (left) greet guest at Morehouse on the Move (MOM) in Los Angeles. A series of special events that will be held in 16 targeted cities over the next 18 months, MOM is designed to enhance public awareness and appreciation of Morehouse, and its impending capital campaign.

Two Freshmen Robbed Near Park Street Arts Complex

By Sterling Taylor
Staff Writer

Two Morehouse freshmen were recently held at gunpoint and robbed, causing one student to withdraw and return home for the remainder of the semester.

The robbery occurred at the corner of Lee Street and Norcross behind the Park Street Art Complex early February 22. The suspects were described as three black males, ages 16-20, and ranging in height from 5'7" to 6'2".

The victims arrived at the West End MARTA Station after shopping at Lenox Mall. After waiting a few minutes for the AUC shuttle, they decided to make the walk back to campus.

The students walked over the bridge and crossed the street, noticing a lone black

man standing next to the church facing Lee Street. The man was seemingly mumbling to himself and as the two passed, he asked them for directions. Thinking he was drunk, they ignored him and kept walking. A second man then came from behind the church, grabbed one of the students by his jacket and let him see that he had a gun.

One student was pushed behind the church where a third assailant frisked him. The second assailant held the gun to the second student's back while instructing him to take off everything of value. After both were robbed and the suspects escaped, the students sprinted to the Campus Security Office at Spelman College. There, they were questioned by the Atlanta Police and taken back to the scene of the crime, where they

submitted a police report. A common belief is that the robbery was preventable, but according to Vernon Worthy, Chief of Morehouse College Police, the area behind the church is Atlanta city property and out of Morehouse's jurisdiction. The onus of patrolling that area is on the Atlanta Police Department.

Chief Worthy explained that most of the responsibility of a student's safety falls upon that student.

"[Freshmen are] walking risks," said Chief Worthy. "[There is] a belief that these kids have money; if not cash, then credit cards and bank cards."

He recommends that students not go out late at night unless it's essential and

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS

The **Golden Key National Honor Society** chapter at Morehouse held its annual membership induction on March 4, 1998. Academically superior juniors and seniors throughout all fields of study at the college were initiated into the society. **Barrett K. Robinson**, a Biology major with a 3.958 GPA, is the year's junior recipient. **Steven D. Schukei**, a computer science and mathematics major with a 3.9 GPA, is the senior recipient.

An American Dilemma Revisited: Race Relations in a Changing World, edited by **Dr. Obie Clayton**, Vice Provost for Research, was recently named an outstanding book on the subject of human rights in North America by the Gustavus Myers Center.

The **Maroon Tiger debate team** showed well at the Southeast/Southeast-Central Bi-Regional Tournament recently held at Middle Tennessee State University. Team captain **Deon Garner** took home second-place honors in the best varsity speaker category. The duo of **Joe Patterson** and **Derek McPhatter** placed fourth in the novice division.

OPPORTUNITIES

Graduation is just around the corner and for those seniors who are actively searching for a rewarding job, **THE BLACK COLLEGIAN Online's** Resume Database is the ideal way to make their resumes readily available for free to employers worldwide. Additionally, the first 300 seniors (with a GPA of 3.0 or better) to post their resumes will receive either the BLACK COLLEGIAN Online's cap or a beautiful kente stole. The address is www.black-collegian.com, and while there be sure to search for your dream job in the Search Open Positions Database.

Project Vote Smart, a national non-partisan organization that focuses on providing citizens with unbiased information about political issues, is offering generous scholarships to college students to work as interns during the 1998 election year. The ten-week scholarships are flexible and students can work any ten-week period that fit into their schedules. Students and recent graduates with majors in political science, communication and journalism are particularly encouraged to apply, although interns from all backgrounds and majors are accepted. For more info, visit www.vote-smart.org, or call 1-800-622-SMART

DIVERSIONS

On April 3 - 4, Georgia State University will be hosting a **Youth Service Summit**, a spinoff from the Presidents' Summit on America's Future held last April that helped establish national benchmarks for youth in local communities. Students are needed to volunteer for positions from registration to facilitation. For more info, contact Kevin Moses at (404) 215-2726.

Music Midtown 1998 needs the support of 500 volunteers to make the festival the success it has become known for. The three-day music festival, held in the heart of Midtown Atlanta, is currently accepting applications for volunteers to help during the weekend of May 1, 2, and 3. All volunteers will receive a souvenir festival T-shirt and a one-day pass to the festival. For more info, please contact the volunteer hotline at (770) 723-6572 or visit the website at www.musicmidtown.com

Science Symposium to Address Minority Roles

By Stefan Chase
Contributing Writer

The future of minority engineers and scientists, and their roles in the next century, will be the topic of a symposium to be held early April on campus.

Entitled "Superstars of Science," the discussion session will feature prominent speakers in the field of research and will be moderated by Dr. Walter E. Massey, President of the college. The forum will take place April 2 in King Chapel and will begin at 6 p.m.

Featured "superstar" panelists will include Dr. Roosevelt Johnson, National Science Foundation; Dr. Christine Darden, Langley Research Center; and Mr. Maynard Holiday, Lawrence Livermore National Labs, just to name a few.

"We want to provide an opportunity for aspiring scientists and engineers to

interact and exchange ideas with prominent professionals already in the science arena," said Chris Jones, President of the Endeavor Space Club, a key component in organizing the symposium.

The endeavor Space Club is an organization under the auspices of the NASA programs at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, and has worked for months now to make this presentation a success.

Jones encourages and invites other majors outside engineering and science to participate in the event as well.

"Since the futuristic issues of science and the positions minorities will assume within it will affect us all, complete community involvement is crucial," Jones said.

Jones added that the symposium will prove to be a refreshing and insightful discussion on the future of African-Americans and other ethnic groups in the field of



Christine Darden, of the Langley Research Center, is one of the featured speakers at the "Superstars for Science" symposium.

science. It will stress the importance of minority leadership and participation, and will provide students with in-depth information and advice on what it takes to achieve and succeed.

Students who plan to attend this symposium are encouraged to bring resumes, and to take full advantage of this networking opportunity, Jones said.

College Seeks SACS Reaffirmation

Continued from page 1

College and on their own academic experience at Morehouse. They will do much to make the undergraduate life at Morehouse a reality for these evaluators," she added.

The team arrived Sunday and spent their first hours in

Atlanta working at their hotel, organizing themselves and holding preliminary discussions on two key sections of

the Morehouse report: "Educational Program" and "Institutional Effectiveness."

They set foot on campus for the first time for a dinner Sunday evening. Then they return here for breakfast Monday morning, followed by a meeting with President Massey, Dr. Jackson and Self-Study Assistant Noreen Mashaw.

They will be interviewing

all over campus from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3:30, on either side of a reception/lunch with the faculty. Then they return to their hotel, discuss their findings and even begin drafting the first part of their report.

Tuesday's schedule is much the same. The SACS

The College hopes that the final result will be full reaffirmation of accreditation, preferably with a few commendations. However, most schools who receive reaffirmation usually also receive recommendations for improvements -- some of these Morehouse must act to

solve in three or four months; others are allowed more time for change, as appropriate.

SACS can issue one or more sanctions at three levels of

severity: notice, warning or probation. Very rarely must a team render a decision of non-renewal of accreditation.

The chairman of the visiting SACS team is President H. Douglas Lee of Stetson University. Other members include administrators and faculty from Furman University, Tarleton State, Fisk, and Hampton, to name a few.

They will want to know everything, and so they will want to talk to as many members of the college community as possible on every subject that bears on Morehouse.

team members will be interviewing students, faculty, staff and administration from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3:30 p.m., after which they resume their work at the hotel.

They will deliver an oral report to the College Wednesday morning before leaving Atlanta. The College will receive its formal written final report from SACS three or four weeks after this visit.

Artist Rayford Donates Life's Work to Morehouse

By Mikhia Hawkins
Staff Writer

Arthur Rayford, a self-taught artist and writer whose works have received wide acclaim nationwide, recently donated forty-nine of his major works to Morehouse College.

"Here I am with no affiliation to Morehouse

His captivating style of bold colors and broad strokes have been showcased in many private and public collections, including the Museum of Arts and Science in Daytona Beach; Hunter Museum in Chattanooga, Tenn.; and the Zora Neale Hurston Museum in Eatonville, Fla.

Carla Maxwell Ray, Assistant Vice-President for

these paintings as "constructive addiction," which entails listening to jazz, classical, and other forms of music while painting.

"What inspiration I don't get from God, I get from Mozart and other great minds of the past," said the artist.

Although Rayford's art is lively with invigorating themes, his past is marked with unfortunate experiences. After leaving the military, Rayford became enmeshed in a life of crime that led to a ten-year jail term in a Florida prison. He was released in 1956.

"I took that situation and learned a lot from it. Now I don't let my storms of yesterday stop my sunshine today," Rayford said.

Rayford has since become a widely revered artist. Through his art, he aims to inspire and enlighten his audience so that they may appreciate life.

His generous donation will be cherished by members of the school community for years to come.

"I took that situation and learned a lot from it. Now I don't let my storms of yesterday stop my sunshine today."

ARTHUR RAYFORD
ARTIST

College, and I'm giving my life's work," said Rayford, at a ceremony held last month during Parents' Weekend. "My paintings are like my children. Now with you, these are your children. How much should you be giving?"

Rayford, who has been painting seriously since 1984, said his works reflect the common, positive experiences in the lives of black people in all walks of life.

the Office of Institutional Advancement, who was instrumental in collaborating with Rayford to orchestrate the donation, said his full-color oil paintings will adorn selected halls on campus.

Three of these paintings -- "The Crucifixion," "Judas - A Friend Betrayed," and "Peter - A Friend Denied" -- are already on display in Kilgore Center.

Rayford described the inspirational theme behind

"Freshmen are walking risks"

Continued from page 1

in such cases to travel in large numbers. He also advises that students not deal with strangers.

As a result of the robbery, one of the victims was ready to leave Morehouse for home. His parents met with President Massey and Dean Darden, both of whom suggested the move. He says that the gravity of the situation did not occur to him until later.

"Then it hit me that could've been it," he said. "There would have been no more. . . everything I ever dreamed of could have ended."

Chief Worthy is currently lobbying for another assembly on student safety. In the meantime, students are advised to be careful. During warm weather, crimes begin to escalate in this area. Those who are not aware of the times that the AUC shuttles run should pick up a schedule in the Morehouse Campus security office.



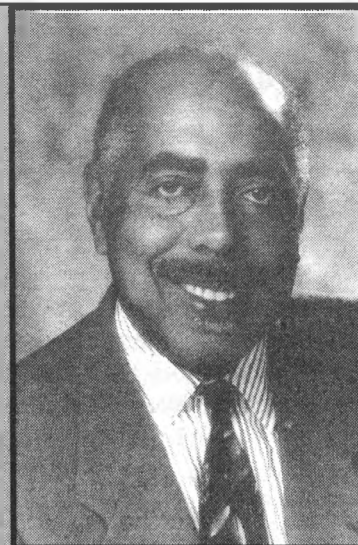
Edward Davis/STAFF

Two Morehouse freshmen were robbed at gunpoint behind the Park St. Complex. Campus security claims the area does not fall under its jurisdiction.

CHECK THIS OUT!

FREEZE FRAME IS CURRENTLY FILLING LEAD AND SUPERVISOR POSITIONS AT A LOCAL THEME PARK. HAVE FUN WHILE EARNING HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WAGES, QUALIFYING FOR BONUSES & GAIN ADMISSION TO THE PARK FOR YOU & YOUR FRIENDS. FLEXIBLE HOURS. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. FOR MORE INFO, CALL 1-800-695-5303 EXT. 319.

ASK MASSEY



President Walter E. Massey

One of the most formidable challenges of HBCUs is the lack of financial resources. Your predecessor was able to triple the school's endowment during his tenure. As president, what is your goal for the endowment and how do you plan to reach that goal?

My vision for Morehouse is that it will be among the finest liberal arts colleges in the world. To achieve that, we must have adequate resources to continue to attract the most qualified students and faculty, fund current and new academic programs, and enhance and maintain the campus living-learning environment. So, increasing the College's endowment is a major concern for me as president.

Our endowment is comprised of corporate, foundation and private donations -- gifts to the College that we invest to make money. We spend the money (interest) we make on those investments to fund scholarships, faculty development and capital improvements -- literally everything we need to operate the College. The larger the endowment, the more we are able to offer our students.

At Morehouse, we are fortunate in that our endowment, which currently stands at \$94.6 million, is one of the largest for historically black colleges. But, let me put that in perspective for you: Harvard's endowment is \$11 billion; Yale's is almost \$6 billion! So, when it comes to endowments, everything is relative.

Fund raising is the key to increasing the size of the College's endowment, and our fund raising efforts take place on many different levels. For example, there is the Annual Fund, which is targeted to alumni. This year, alumni giving is up 25 percent over last year.

We are also involved in fund raising for special projects, such as the Leadership Center. Over the past year, we have raised \$5 million -- \$1 million from Bank of America and \$4 million from the Woodruff Foundation -- to help fund construction of that facility, which will house our leadership programs.

And then there is fund raising for scholarships -- currently our highest priority at the College. Oprah Winfrey's recent \$1 million gift to Morehouse for our Diamonds in the Rough Scholarship fund is an example of this kind of giving.

Beyond these ongoing initiatives, the College also periodically conducts capital campaigns, which, because of their large fund raising goals, usually have the biggest impact on increasing the endowment. We are currently in the planning phase for a major capital campaign, which we hope to launch in the next few years.

Once we have raised money for our endowment, we are responsible for ensuring that it grows by making wise investments. The Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees oversees this function. Over the past several years, the College's endowment has grown significantly because of growth in the economy, particularly the stock market.

As we continue to implement our vision for Morehouse, we will also continue to raise money to support that vision. One thing is for sure: We will need more, not less, support from all our constituents if Morehouse is to remain the strong and viable institution it has been for more than 131 years.

Sincerely,

Walter Massey

Morehouse Professor Publishes Second Book

By Brian L. Thompson
Editor-In-Chief

She is known to Morehouse students for her unorthodox frankness in her teaching methods. But she is also the foremost authority on artist Aubrey Beardsley's works.

And last month she merged her two loves when she returned to Morehouse to sign copies of her just published second book *Beardsley, Japonisme and the Perversion of the Victorian Ideal*.

Dr. Linda Zatlin, once described as the "high priestess" of Beardsley art by the *New York Times*, first found her love for Beardsley after reading an illustrated copy of Aristophanes' play *Lysistrata* in her World Literature class.

Dr. Joseph Agee, head of the Morehouse Foreign Language Department, saw Zatlin showing her students the pictures and invited her to his office after class. There, he showed her a book full of Japanese drawings and made

the connection in style with Beardsley's illustrations. The rest, as they say, is history.

Zatlin's new book is based on Beardsley's art which breached impermissible subjects in the 1800's. By the time he was eighteen, Beardsley had digested Japonisme and forged his own style with which he attacked British chauvinism and colonialism: the Victorian ideal.

"Japonisme [can be described as] Japanese pictures in two dimensional form instead of three. [It became] a phenomenon in America and France," said Zatlin.

In the late 1800's, there was a call for Japanese culture to Europe, America and Asia. The Japanese responded by sending middle class art that focused on the theater and courtesan areas.

"[Japonisme became] a rage similar to Kente cloth — everyone had to have one," Zatlin said.

Although the art was

described as "quaint" by an English critic, even Pablo Picasso (who was still painting still-life while Beardsley was creating masterpieces) had to acknowledge Beardsley's depth and influence, which had huge implications on modernism.

Zatlin began her extensive research of *Beardsley* in 1986, finished it between 1990 and 1991 and spent the next three years polishing it. Although Beardsley died at twenty-five, he left over 1100 drawings that he created in just over six years.

Unfortunately, they are scattered across the globe and the owners often do not want to send her the information she needs. Therefore, Zatlin must travel from place to place to do the detective work herself.

Major Beardsley collections exist at Harvard University, Princeton University and Victoria and Albert in London, England, where Zatlin visits regularly. Much of the rest of the world,

save the Far East, is game for her to study drawings.

researching since 1994.

"[*Raisonne* concentrates]



Dr. Zatlin discusses her new book with her colleague James Richardson.

"Australia has about seven or eight [drawings] and there's one in Japan that has not been found," she said.

Currently, Zatlin is on her second sabbatical in her thirty-one years of service to Morehouse, and is working on her third book, *Aubrey Beardsley: A Catalogue Raisonne*, which she has been

on not only the description of physical information about each drawing [size and medium], but also on the past owners and where it is now, the auction records, exhibits, when it was first published [and] a discussion in detail of what the original critics said," Zatlin said.

While Zatlin works on *Raisonne* -- hoping to complete research and a portion of the writing this year -- she continues to set up Beardsley exhibitions worldwide. After completing her most recent one in Japan, she hopes to set up the next one in New York. She will return to teaching at Morehouse in the fall.

Forum Deconstructs Rap, Hip-Hop and the New World Order

By Deisha Galbreth
Contributing Writer

"Negativity perpetrated under the banner of white supremacy must be challenged and defeated by African people - it is our God-given responsibility and right to do so."

--Corey Johnson

A forum exploring the apparent conspiracy engulfing popular black culture was held in King Chapel last month.

Entitled "Rap, Hip-Hop and the New World Order: Who Shot Biggie and Tupac?" the talk featured Morehouse professor Larry Crawford, Corey Johnson and Keidi "The Conscious Rasta" Obi Awadu, founder of the Los Angeles Coalition Against Racist Child Experimentation and author of *Missing Assets*.

Crawford said that the speakers came to give the AUC a "more balanced presentation of reality" while testing the students' ability to judge. Before introducing keynote speakers Johnson and Obi Awadu, he also discussed the concept of "Rolehouse" and the shutting down of the students' voices.

Johnson began by encouraging AUC students to make "righteous" moves to success. He then told the audience that "these two nights [February 24 and 25] will be critical for the education of black people." His lecture included facts about the Mafia, infiltration of

Marion "Suge" Knight and details concerning Shakur's and the Notorious B.I.G.'s death.

Morehouse sophomore Shaun Caldwell found Johnson's discussion of Suge Knight one of the high points of the evening.

"All the implications that

entertainers Bill Bellamy, Madonna, Easy-E, Snoop Doggy Dogg and Foxy Brown. As the students begged for more, Obi Awadu detailed how Brown got her "Ill Na Na" from what he called "the killer condom."

Clark-Atlanta sophomore Eiko Harris said, "The

Awadu also advised against tattooing, saying, "Where does the ink go and what is it going to do to your immune system?"

Before concluding, Awadu instructed AUC students to stop accepting the behavior of celebrities and to not take on the culture of those who oppress them.

Morehouse sophomore Caldwell said, "The seminar was very good. Plans of the New World Order, innuendoes, morbid titles of the rap albums...and just [destructive behavior of] our people are all things that I took from it."

It was this type of feedback that made 'The Conscious Rasta' feel he was a step closer to reaching his audience.

"There is, in the body of written literature, all of the experience needed to create the reality that our nature demands," Obi Awadu said. "Spending too much time on sports, celebrities and decadent American culture like Ricki Lake and Jerry Springer...tolerates the degradation of our cultural values."

the black community and "conspiracy for global control."

Johnson's speech ranged from information on the first black fraternity (Sigma Pi Phi) to more incendiary topics such as documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Dissension in the United States and the Cointelpro Papers.

He also discussed Tupac Shakur's fight to make politicians listen, his protest against California's Proposition 209, as well as the history of Death Row CEO

can be made from Suge Knight's background and the possible conspiracies were eye-opening and enlightening," he said.

Students who left on the first night missed Keidi Obi Awadu's speech that was geared towards empowering Generation X. He took the stage and began sharing what he called "new ideas that would lead to new actions and new results."

He backed his opinions with facts on basketball's Dennis Rodman as well as

Conscious Rasta' suggested that we stop using latex condoms because of their possible effects. He said we should use a brand of condoms called Avanti because they are safe[r]. I'm trying to share that with everyone I know."

Awadu further spoke about demonic messages in song lyrics and commercial marketing of rap and hip-hop entertainers. He also cited a chilling example of population control: 440,000 black babies were aborted in one year.

"These two nights will be critical for the education of black people"
-- Corey Johnson, at the "Rap, Hip-Hop" forum last month.

Iraq Investigations Progressing Despite Some Discord

By Mikhia Hawkins
Staff Writer

Since the passing of the United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq after U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, there has been a virtual frenzy of diplomatic efforts to ensure a peaceful resolution of the situation.

But the threat of war still subsists.

The collective voice of Congress has conveyed an apprehension towards the U.N. deal that is salient throughout both congressional houses.

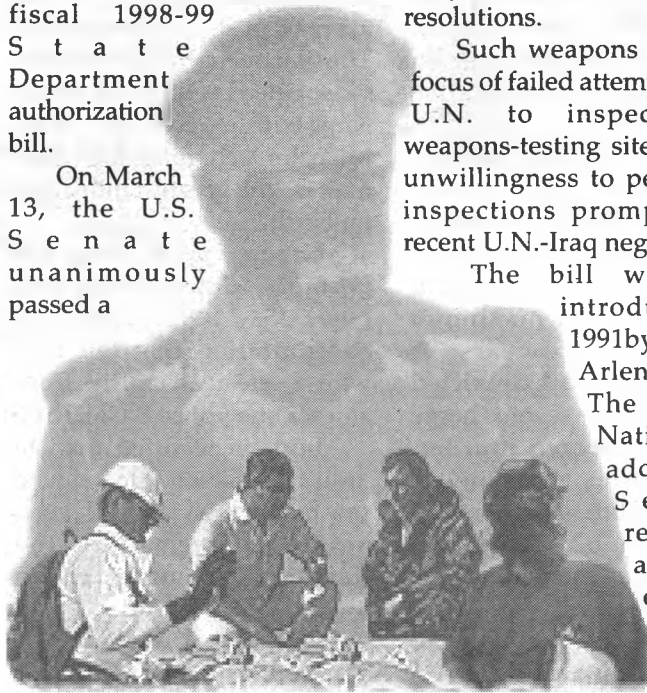
Many congressmen have expressed their concerns over the effectiveness of the deal, contending that it may not allow sufficient efforts to thoroughly inspect alleged Iraqi weapons-sites. In the eyes of many, the resolution was a victory for Iraq.

On March 11, the *Washington Times* reported that

a group of Republican senators headed by Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) appended a \$38 million package for Iraqi opponents of Hussein to the stalled conference report on the fiscal 1998-99

State Department authorization bill.

On March 13, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a



resolution calling on the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal to bring Hussein to

trial.

Allegations of the use of chemical and biological weapons against Iranians and Iraqis during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980's constitute the subject of the Senate resolutions.

Such weapons were the focus of failed attempts by the U.N. to inspect Iraqi weapons-testing sites. Iraq's unwillingness to permit the inspections prompted the recent U.N.-Iraq negotiations.

The bill was first introduced in 1991 by Senator Arlen Specter. The United Nations will address the Senate resolution and is expected to give an initial response in a matter of days.

During a meeting with Annan on March 11, President

Clinton reasserted his stance on the Iraqi situation, stating that "the [U.N.] resolution gives us the authority to take whatever actions are necessary" if Iraq does not comply with it. But Clinton added that the U.S. would consult with the United Nations before any further action against Iraq is taken.

Nearly all fifteen Security Council members have insisted that the U.N. allow the United States to engage in military actions against Iraq if it violates the resolution, which stipulates the demand for unhindered U.N. inspections for suspected weapons of mass destruction.

Following Annan's visit to Iraq, several "normal" inspections, led by U.N. Weapons inspector Scott Ritter, have been executed.

In accordance with the U.N. Resolution, the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) are in the process of organizing a new team of inspectors, led by Sri Lankan

U.N. Arms Commissioner Jayantha Dhanapala. The team will be responsible for the inspections of controversial "presidential sites" where UNSCOM believes material related to prohibited arms are hidden.

Dhanapala was quoted as saying that the United Nations wanted to implement its agreement with Iraq "as soon as possible," to avoid the possibility of another war.

In the latest news, U.N. weapons inspectors conducted their first-ever search of one of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's palace compounds Thursday, accompanied by senior diplomats whose presence cleared their way into the previously off-limits sites.

One diplomat, Horst Holthoff of Germany, described Iraqi cooperations as "fantastic, absolutely positive."

Still Separate and Unequal: 30 Years after Kerner Report, Some Say Racial Divide Wider

By Saeed Ahmed
Contributing Writer

Thirty years ago, a presidential commission warned America that it was facing a racial crisis, becoming "two societies: one black, one white -- separate and unequal."

Thirty years later, that dire prediction has come true. So claims a new report to be released April 1.

According to the report -- prepared by the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation to coincide with the anniversary of the Kerner Commission findings -- the economic and racial divide in the country today is greater than it ever was.

"While leaders and pundits talk of full employment, inner city unemployment is at crisis levels. The rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and minorities are suffering disproportionately," reads the document from the foundation.

The report, entitled "The Millennium Breach," cites a mountain of statistics as evidence to support its findings:

- The national unemployment rate is below 5 percent, but unemployment for young African-American men in places like south-central Los Angeles have topped 30 percent.
- The national incarceration rate of black men is four times higher than the

programs like Head Start. It also recommends reducing spending in ineffective programs, cutting corporate welfare and military spending.

The report urges continuing commitment to measures that work, including: after-school youth centers, school-to-work programs, job training, inner

National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, accused the report's authors of being "stuck in the '60s" and offering recommendations too general to be useful.

Woodson says the number of black families earning between \$35,000 and \$70,000 annually doubled between 1970 and 1990, even though the number of black families earning less than \$15,000 more than doubled during the same time frame.

"Racism and discrimination still exist. But they aren't the

biggest problems facing blacks in America today. The real issue is the growing economic rift within the black community," he said.

The critic of the most recent report on race divisions in our society says Americans need to change their mantra.

"If we keep banging the drum of racism, we will never find a way to close this economic rift. After all, if racism were the culprit, why haven't all blacks been affected in the same way?" Woodson said.

"The rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and minorities are suffering disproportionately," reads the document.

same rate in South Africa under apartheid.

- The country's poverty rate is four times the average of western European countries.
- And of the 43 percent of minority children attending public schools, more than half are poor and more than two-thirds fail to reach basic levels of national tests

The report recommends some \$56 billion in societal changes, including expanding

city economic development and crime and drug prevention.

Emphasis should be taken off things that don't work, it says, including: enterprise zones, prison construction, boot camps, and supply-side economics, which gives tax breaks for the rich and corporations in the hope that the money will trickle down to poorer socioeconomic groups.

However, not every minority leader agrees with the foundation's findings.

Robert S. Woodson Sr., an African-American conservative who heads the

Phylicia Rashad to Restore Historic Black School

Actress Phylicia Rashad -- TV's Claire Huxtable -- has paid \$115,000 to bring back to life a historically black school that has been closed for 59 years.

Without her intervention, the 132-year-old school -- which began as an institute for recently freed slaves -- would have all but disappeared.

Rashad bought the Brainerd Institute's lone remaining building and 12.5 acres last month with plans to open a new chapter of the school. Her mother, Vivian Ayers Allen, was a member of the school's final graduating class in 1939.

Rashad says she plans to work with graduates of the school and community leaders to restore the buildings and grounds of the now run-down and overgrown school compound.

-- Saeed Ahmed

ON THE FRINGE

Damn You, Al Nino

NIPOMO, California -- El Nino's been taking the blame for a lot of ugly weather. So has Al Nino.

Alfonso Nino - listed in the phone book as Al Nino - has fielded a few irate calls from people who for some reason think a weather phenomenon would have a phone.

"It's always something like, 'Why are you doing this?'" Nino says. "And I say, 'Well, I didn't really have nothing else to do. I thought maybe it would be kind of fun.' I usually joke around with them a bit."

You Don't Bring Me Flowers Anymore

CHICAGO, Illinois -- Forget flowers and fancy chocolates. What really turns women on are the scents from candy-coated licorice, cucumbers and baby powder, according to a study released this month.

Following up on a previous study he did on the odors that most arouse men -- pumpkin pie produced the strongest penile response -- Alan Hirsch of the Smell & Taste Treatment and Research Foundation in Chicago said he exposed women to odors and then measured their vaginal blood flow.

For women, he found the candied licorice smell produced by "Good and Plenty" candy, the odor of cucumber, and the aura of baby powder increased blood flow by 13 percent above the average blood flow. Other arousing odors were produced by pumpkin pie and lavender.

Smells that inhibited blood flow in women were cherries, charcoal-barbequed meat, and -- perhaps disturbing to scent manufacturers -- men's colognes.

For those interested in the topic, Hirsch has a book coming out in April entitled "Scentsational Sex." One of his previous work has been research on smells that encourage gamblers to bet in casinos.

Every Dog Has His Day Everyday

SAN FRANCISCO, California -- So much for the phrase "it's a dog's life."

At San Francisco SPCA's new \$7 million animal shelter, cages have been replaced with spacious "apartments" complete with comfortable furniture, TVs, skylights, and artworks on the walls.

The dogs even have their own personal trainers, and their own "social group" of two other dogs with which to romp.

Says SPCA President Richard Avanzino: "No one wants to adopt an animal that can't adapt to home life. Here our animals are socialized to be good pets."

The 21-dog apartment complex (and 67 "kitty lofts") has sound-proof walls so that visitors aren't overwhelmed by noise; and cute dogs are placed in back, so the public is forced to consider "the ugly ones, too," says Avanzino.

-- Saeed Ahmed

Ex-Detroit Cop Convicted in Retrial

By Burt Herman
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — In a case that highlighted the racial split in this largely black city, a white former police officer was convicted of involuntary manslaughter this month in his retrial in the beating death of black motorist Malice Green.

The jury of eight whites, three blacks and an Asian deliberated 22 1/2 hours over five days before convicting Walter Budzyn of the count, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years. A previous jury had convicted him of the more severe charge of second-degree murder, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Budzyn, 52, showed no expression as the verdict was read. His daughter, Andy Budzyn-Moleski, broke into tears and mouthed "why?"

Budzyn had served 4 1/2 years of an eight-to-18-year

sentence on his 1993 murder conviction before the state Supreme Court threw it out last summer.

The court dismissed the first verdict partly because the mostly black jury was shown the film "Malcolm X" during a break in its deliberations. The film opens by showing the videotaped beating of Rodney King with a voice-over from Malcolm X charging the white man is "the greatest murderer on Earth."

Green, a 35-year-old unemployed steelworker, died Nov. 5, 1992, after a confrontation that left him with severe head injuries from at least one police flashlight.

Budzyn testified that he didn't hit Green. He said he saw his partner, Larry Nevers, holding Green and the flashlight coming down toward Green's head.

"It came down and it stopped," he said. "I don't know if you'd call that a hit, but it did make contact with

the head."

But eyewitnesses who were acquaintances of Green said they saw Budzyn beat Green.

According to testimony, race was not a factor in Green's death. Still, in the aftermath of the 1991 King beating in Los Angeles and the riots there the following year, the death heightened racial tensions in Detroit.

The initial jury, made up of 11 blacks and one white, was chosen only from within Detroit. Because of a subsequent reorganization that combined city and Wayne County courts, the second trial drew jurors from the suburbs as well as the city.

Nevers was convicted by a separate jury in the same 1993 trial. He was released in December after a federal judge overturned the verdict.

No retrial has been scheduled for him while prosecutors appeal.

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Morehouse Resident Assistants: Men with Many Hats

By Jeremy L. Witt
Contributing Writer

The men of Morehouse College form a diverse community. This diversity, along with a myriad of other factors, makes this community exciting as well as potentially volatile.

College administrators combat this possibility by recruiting some of the college's most talented and dedicated students to become resident assistants. Once selected, these students are trained in the latest peer counseling techniques and are given a fully comprehensive course on college policy. Morehouse, unlike the rest of the A.U.C., does not end its training process here. It gives its resident assistants (RA's) a

crash course in philosophy so that they can have an intellectual basis for the counseling techniques they learned earlier in their training process.

So, what exactly does an RA have to do?

"Sometimes I feel like a taxi driver," said De'Ndre Mingo. "I work in a freshman dorm and they swear I have nothing better to do than to take them to this place or that place."

But an RA's duties extend far beyond that.

Resident assistants serve as the dormitory's liaison to the Campus Police Department. Morehouse preaches the concept of brotherhood. Unfortunately, some of her students purge these lessons



Cedric Dark/STAFF

Meetings, meetings and more meetings: RA's Julius (left), Dalmar and James ponder the latest dorm crises.

from their minds. On occasion, students' tempers flare and arguments elevate to fisticuffs. This is when a good RA steps in.

However, this does not mean that he jumps in and

breaks up the fight himself. According to senior Samario King, an experienced RA: "I would never put myself in physical danger. They don't pay me for

that. Besides, in training they instructed us to follow protocol in emergencies of this nature."

In the event that a fight does break out, RA's are supposed to call campus police and then their Resident

Director. Resident assistants are also instructed to alert the campus police department whenever a resident needs medical care after hours.

Resident assistants also serve as floor hall monitors. Morehouse has designated quiet hours every evening so that students can study. Many RA's consider this duty a necessary evil. Resident assistant Monteith Miles says, "I hate having to tell grown men to be quiet or to turn down their radio."

"I feel like I am being a big nag," said Tigwa Davis. "But I know that if I don't tell them to be quiet, one of my other residents will ask them to do so in a much more forceful

Continued on page 8

20 Questions

By the Three-Eyed Bandit

1. Will the REAL Underground Live please stand up?
2. Wasn't Clark wrong for that chant at the b-ball game?
3. Does all of Missy's outfits look like big ass Hefty bags?
4. How come we're ready to fight for someone else's freedom when we're not done fighting for our own?
5. Wasn't the crooked SGA more productive than this?
6. Is God only good when He does something good for you?
7. If you keep it real, why did you hide yo' weed when yo' momma came to visit?
8. Okay, now who's the second grader writing for the yearbook?
9. Since when did Morehouse Aquatics become like Navy S.E.A.L. training?
10. What if the "Morehouse Experience" was all the brochures claimed it to be?
11. What if you wrote a poem on the back page of a college newspaper to a girl and she didn't realize that her initials are in the title?
12. Isn't "ghetto" more a mentality than a place?
13. Are you as holy Monday through Saturday as you proclaim to be on Sunday?
14. How many of you found out the hard way that Lifestyles break?
15. Why is it only "playing games" when a man does it to a woman?
16. Ya'll do know that Lil' Kim rumor is bullshit, right?
17. Is "Creative Loafing" an alternative paper or a nickname for the Morehouse Police Department?
18. Isn't it messed up that we'll get an orange boot faster than a parking space on campus?
19. Isn't Kirk Franklin just a holy DJ Clue???
20. Are you awake yet?



Rod Hollimon: The Poet, the Player, the Person

By Myron G. Burney
Staff Writer

He has only been a "Man of Morehouse" for just two semesters but he has already made a name for himself.

You might recognize him as one of the Maroon Tiger's up and coming offensive backs or maybe you have read his book of poetry entitled, "Reflections of a World of Reality."

Whatever the case may be, this sophomore transfer student from the Citadel is destined to do great things at Morehouse and beyond.

Rod Hollimon, an English major originally from Augusta, Georgia, was the number one ranked running back in the state of Georgia while at T.W. Josey High School. After one year at the Citadel, Rod decided that he wanted to continue his education at a Historically Black College where he would also be closer to home.

Hollimon says he began his vision of writing a book of poetry in the eighth grade as a

result of his personal experiences. He said writing was the best stress reliever for him since he did not have many friends.

His vision was later put

form.

After receiving the necessary finances for his book, he was on his way to print, and in about a week he was selling and marketing a finished product.

He admits sales were slow in the beginning, but having the label of the best running back in the state proved to be a big advantage for him.

Everywhere he went, his book was mentioned and with the help of some other key

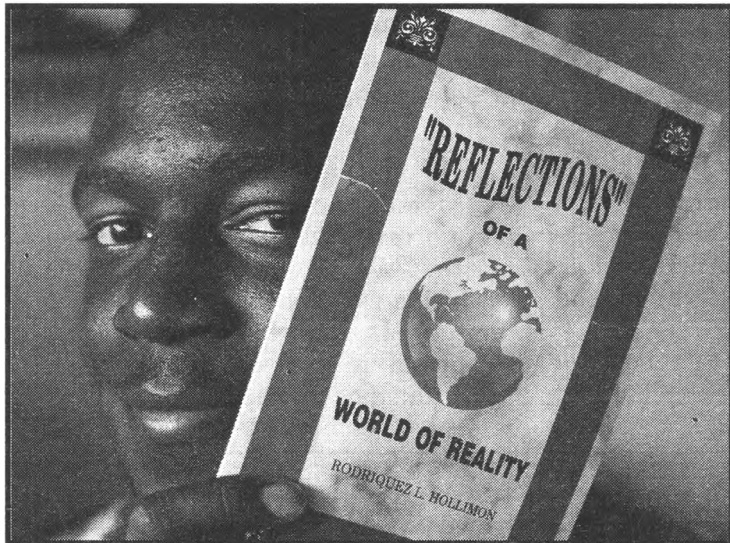
people, his sales began to pick up.

A book signing at his local high school put him on his feet and allowed him to pay off all his expenses, as well as use a bigger publishing company. He says whenever he comes in contact with other authors, they admire his accomplishments at such a young age.

Currently, Hollimon is working on his second book

into form during his high school years after writing over fifty poems and getting feedback on his work from his peers, teachers, and friends.

His big break came in his senior year when a family friend expressed interest in publishing his works. Hollimon said that although the publishing company was virtually foreign to him, he decided to team up with them to get his works into book



Taimy Alvarez/SPECIAL from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Freshman Rod Hollimon, a running back for the Maroon Tigers, was one of the nominees for the 1998 Georgia Writers Author of the Year Award for his book of poetry.

Resident Assistants Keeping the Peace

Continued from page 7

manner. This could lead to a confrontation and I don't want that."

Some Resident assistants act like apartment superintendents.

"One resident assistant from each building is designated as that building's maintenance issue coordinator," said W.E.B. Dubois Hall Resident Director

Kenyatta Shamburger. This RA not only handles the many legitimate maintenance concerns of his building, but also becomes a sounding board for those residents that are generally unsatisfied with

Resident assistants also play the role of big brother. Senior RA Samario King said: "RA's in freshman dorms are dealing with younger students who, in some cases, have never been away from home.

"RA's in freshman dorms are dealing with younger students who, in some cases, have never been away from home. You never know how far a little guidance can go. A five-minute conversation could be the difference between a student becoming valedictorian or another brilliant homeless person."

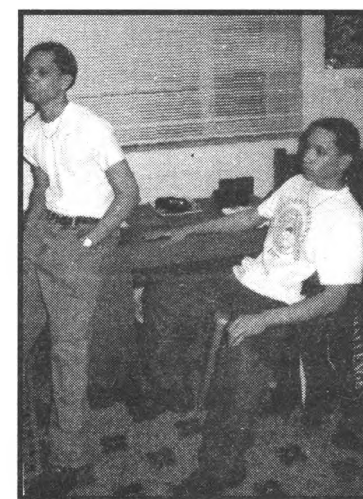
the living accommodations the College provides them.

The RA then takes the concerns to the physical plant where they are processed and eventually addressed.

You never know how far a little guidance can go. A five-minute conversation could be the difference between a student becoming valedictorian or another

brilliant homeless person."

Tigwa Davis said: "Sometimes that resident that you think is just a total jizzboy is simply acting out because he is not used to not being the focal point. My job is to give



be extremely versatile and must have a genuine concern for their fellow students in order to be successful. This unheralded position is one of the most important cogs that keeps the leader-producing machine we know as Morehouse College running.

The Future of The Maroon Tiger

We, the collective editing body of the *Maroon Tiger*, present you with a vision: As the premier liberal arts college in the nation for black men, we must continue to bring forth a newspaper that reflects our academic excellence.

We also intend to continue in the tradition of *The Crisis* and *The Opportunity* respectively; bringing forth literature that incurs thought and gives rise to rhetoric and discussion. As Africans, we must seek to continue our native oral tradition of passing down history. As Americans, we must sustain the level of journalistic excellence that has been handed down for the past one hundred years. As African Americans, it is our responsibility to dispel the myths assigned to us by society and continue to raise the bar by which Morehouse Men are measured.

The mission of the 1998 *Maroon Tiger* is to motivate you, the student body, into action. Too often, we as a people sit on our hands and watch revolution pass us by. It's true we have no journalism courses, but the fact that our people can read today is a testament to change. We are the descendants of a people who simply refused to die. What you see before you is a product of five hundred years of blood, sweat and tears. In the tradition of past editors David Wall Rice, Obiana Eze Lewis, Marc Joseph and Cedi Snowden, we present you with a vision and the opportunity to participate in it. The future is in your hands.

Brian L. Thompson & R. Francis Blakeney
Editors-in-Chief
The Maroon Tiger

which he hopes to have out this summer. This book will contain poetry that has shown his transition from boyhood to manhood.

When asking him what advice he would like to give to his fellow Morehouse brothers, he said, "Never give up on your hopes and dreams, because anything is possible."

With very little free time on his hands, Hollimon says he gets most of his enjoyment

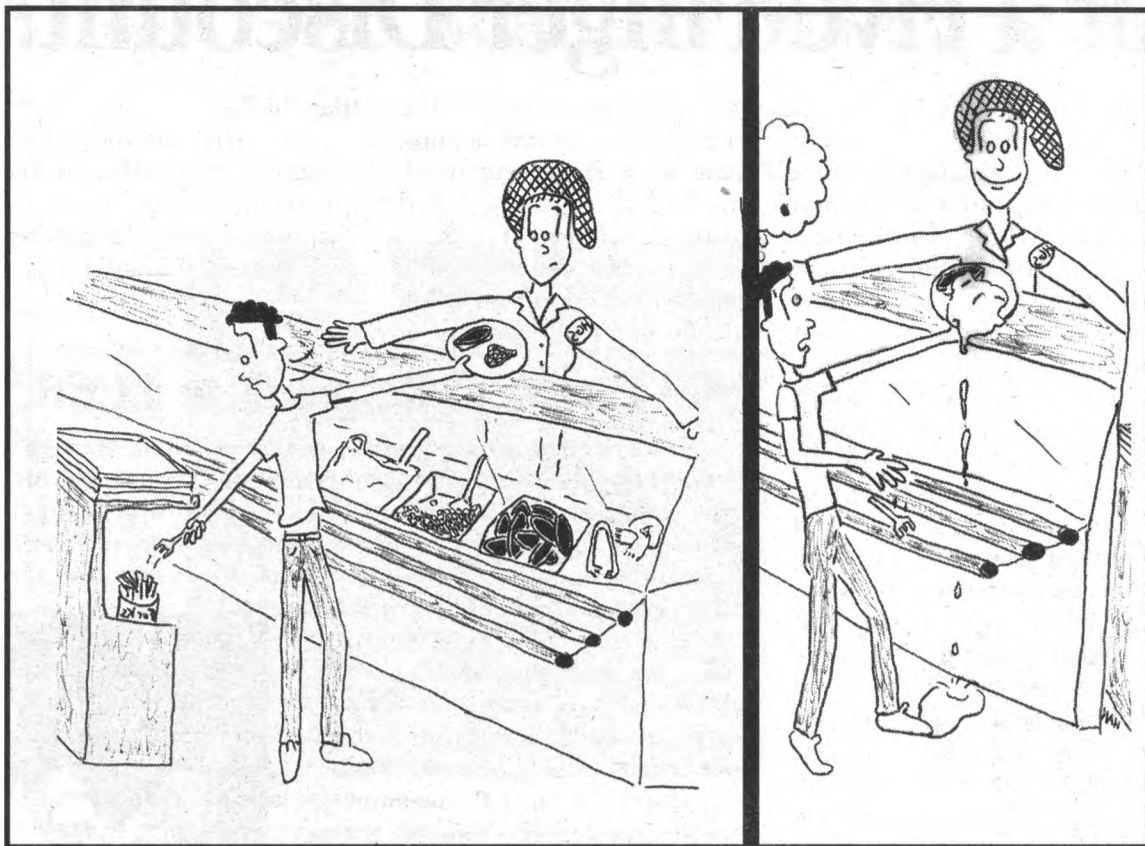
from writing. Although professional football is in his future plans, he also aspires to teach on the college level.

Cool, calm, and collected, Rod Hollimon is definitely on his way to the top in whatever he does, because not only does he have athletic abilities, and a literary skill, but he says he has Christ who strengthens him in all things.

him a little of that attention that he craves while giving him some advice that will help him adjust to his new surroundings."

Resident assistants have to

EDITORIALS



The Hair-netted Gravy Server Strikes Again

Spiritual Consciousness on Campus

By Chester Starks
Campus News Editor

Within this microcosm of elevated spiritual consciousness, technological advancement and limitless cultural/sexual/human exploitation, I see that the world has problems and that people have different ways of coping with them. I also see a very detrimental pattern evolving in our communities across the world. Some of these problems are represented and manifested at Morehouse.

The problem that I want to deal with at present is spirituality.

Many understand that one must have a strong spiritual foundation to transcend problems in society. However, people commonly mistake religion for spirituality. Religion is a group's organized method of expressing its spirituality. Spirituality is one's ability to walk with, hear and know the Creator. While religions differ, spirituality remains the same. Because people view religion and spirituality differently (and usually believe that their view is better than anyone else's),

opposing viewpoints on semantics and authenticity cloud our judgment and prevent us from seriously understanding our spiritual awareness.

For example, a few weeks ago, Dr. Charles Finch from the Morehouse School of Medicine shared some of his spiritual experiences at a Crown Forum. Some of his experiences seemed to be

Because people view religion and spirituality differently (and usually believe that their view is better than anyone else's), opposing viewpoints on semantics and authenticity cloud our judgment and prevent us from seriously understanding our spiritual awareness.

funny to some of our brothers. It is a shame that we laugh at our elders when they testify to their tangible spiritual experiences. "Don't knock what you don't know" is the phrase for today. If the man said that he saw interdimensional candy, let him have his experience without so much laughter and skepticism.

I'm sick of seeing Christians arguing with Muslims about God vs. Allah, Jesus vs. Muhammed. Let's compare the two individuals in terms of the principles they used instead of hoopin' and hollerin' about which is better,

more real or prophetic. I want to see us use each others' wisdom for the positive elevation of our people's souls. I only used Christianity and Islam as an example because they are the most popular.

Various denominations of Christianity argue amongst themselves, and so do Muslims.

I want to see us grow from our combined wisdom instead of hearing about it: Nuwaubian Moors having yelling matches

with the Five Percent Nation; Baptists (among others) complaining about Jehovah's Witnesses knocking on their door; followers of KMT's Metu Neter constantly reiterating how lost other religions are, etc. Although each point of view is not necessarily wrong, I think that we can use more humility in how we present our perspective. None of us alone have every single answer to every single question, but with us all working together, we can produce answers that all of us can use.

The Maroon Tiger Staff

The Maroon Tiger is published twelve times during the academic year of Morehouse College. Our goal is to maintain an independent editorial policy. Opinions on the Editorial Page of The Maroon Tiger are solely the views of the Editorial Board, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Morehouse College, its administration, or The Maroon Tiger advisors. Commentaries solely represent the views of the author, not the opinion of The Maroon Tiger. We believe all advertising to be correct, but cannot guarantee its accuracy or be responsible for its outcome.

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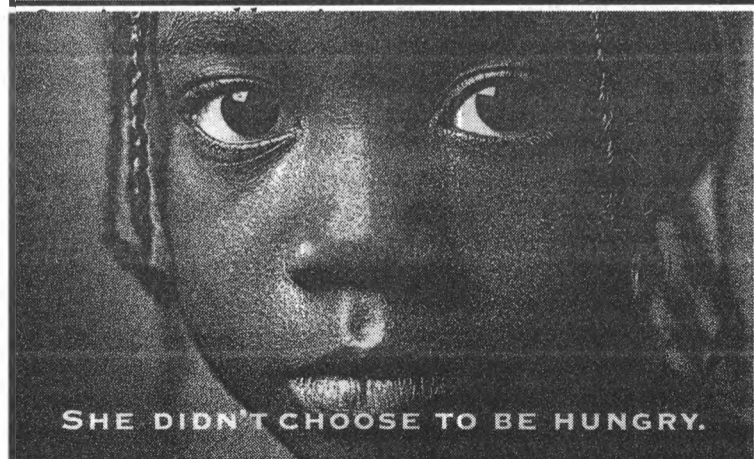
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Nareissa Smith, N.D. Washington

The Maroon Tiger welcomes your views on any public issue. Faculty, administrators, staff, students, and alumni are encouraged to express their original ideas and opinions in the paper. We publish only material addressed to us. We routinely edit letters for space and correct errors in spelling and punctuation. Letters as well as commentaries must be 500 words or less, typed, signed and should include full address and telephone number.

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Are You Eligible for a Five-Finger Discount?

By Matt Collins
Guest Commentary

Let's be real. How many times have you slipped that pack of gum, candy bar, or anything else that is small enough to be concealed in your pocket and "forgot" to pay for it? How many of you "forgot" to tell a grocery store cashier that you had a 24-pack of Coca-Cola or beer hidden cleverly out of sight under your grocery cart?

How many of you partied at the Warehouse all night and missed the last shuttle, so you and your boys called a cab and ran like hell when it was time to pay the fare? How many of you have a fiendish plan to sneak into Lane or Chivers Hall down packed? If you can answer any of these questions, then you are a shoplifter.

On a higher level, how many of you ever thought

about housing that phat FUBU hoodie from Champs? Have you candidly thought about sticking up Stegall's or one of the local BP's to pay off your negative balance so that you can register? Did you wish they didn't have chains on the computers in the Sale and AT&T labs? If you can answer any of these questions, then you have the potential to be a shoplifter.

How many of you hold down a tight job in Lenox or Cumberland Mall and have sold over \$500 in merchandise to one of your peeps for 50 bucks that you eventually pocket? How many of you ever made bootleg concert tickets at Kinko's that you sold to innocent bystanders for profit? How many of you got stupid with a credit card that you "accidentally" got in the mail? If you answer any of these questions, then consider

yourself a booster.

Let's face it, everybody steals. This is definitely not a good thing, but with the high cost of Morehouse tuition accompanied by the recurring Bell South bill, there are few other alternatives. Some might say "get a job." I've done that, but decided it was time to quit when store inventory rolled around. Some of us shoptlift without even knowing it, like when you order a pizza and tell them you have a coupon that you know you don't have. Or when you shake that vending machine for dear life so that you can get that loose bag of Doritos. And when you are supposed to put a token in the slot at the MARTA station, not a penny, but then pull the bar back and slip right through.

But with every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, and you may find

yourself suffering the consequences for such actions, whether it is getting fired, prosecuted, or getting jacked yourself. Play it smart brothers, and remember: No matter how good you think you are, you are never smarter

than the law.

So after reading this column, I must ask you this question: "Are you a shoplifter, potential shoplifter, or a booster?" I know I am.

SGA President Responds to a Critic

As I opened my copy of the last issue of *The Maroon Tiger*, I was shocked by Mr. Dante Wormley's accusations of the Pre-Alumni Association (PAA). I would first like to commend Mr. Wormley on his concern for the student body. I would encourage everyone to participate in all facets of the Morehouse community, including its criticism. However, I will not support such a slanted account of the PAA's appropriation of funds to attend the UNCF [United Negro College Fund] conference.

First, I must defend my colleagues in the Senate: Steven Schukie, the President of the Senate, and Senator Ike T. Ummanah. The duty of our senators is to represent clubs and lobby for their clubs' interests. By contrast, the duty of the senate leadership is to not only manage the funds of the senate with financial acumen, but also to make decisions that take into account the overall welfare of the student body.

The PAA wanted to fly to the UNCF Conference while other members from the AUC community arranged transportation via bus. The PAA also proposed that their twelve members be lodged in the Adams-Mark Hotel, which is equal to the Ritz-Carlton. Is that not self-serving, Mr. Staunch Critic? The Adams-Mark is a hotel for a honeymoon, not for students attending a conference. The leadership of the Senate denied this extravagant request with the best interest of the student body in mind. I applaud their resolve.

I must also address the grossly incorrect information that was presented to the Morehouse community about SGA expenditures for the "Candle in the Dark" Gala. The SGA purchased 30 tickets and distributed them to outstanding students. The tickets were distributed to members of our renowned Track and Field Team, the MLK Chapel Assistants, Work-Study students, and Men of Morehouse who have excelled in the areas of academics and community service. So to the author who submitted these faulty claims: I would implore that in the future you conduct better research.

The author raised a valid question, "What have we done?" Please allow me to provide a brief sketch:

- the leadership of the Senate introduced student legislation to ban credit card companies from campus who charged higher interest rates to our Morehouse brothers than to students at majority [white] schools.
- the SGA worked with the Student Services to improve the transportation situation of our brothers on North Campus and worked so that their meal plans would be credited.
- the SGA has helped co-sponsor Crown Forum assemblies this semester with the Department of African-American studies.

That said, the main thing to note is that both the SGA and the Senate are accessible for questions and concerns. I was dismayed that the critical author did not attempt to speak with the SGA or Senate in person, before judging them erroneously. I find that a direct affront to the "mystique" that the author mentioned, and a violation in the creed of brotherhood. These unwarranted attackers are the true parasites that wrongly cripple institutions and maim the character of individuals.

Will Sellers
SGA President '97-'98



Sellers

Hecklings and Fabricated Apologies

By Sterling Taylor
Staff Writer

Something took place at this year's Founder's Day Crown Forum that shocked and embarrassed me more than anything has since I've been a student here. Keynote speaker Herman Cain, president of the National Restaurant Association, was treated to shouts of "shut-up!" and "boo!" that could be heard coming from the balcony.

The culprit was ignored by Cain and Dr. Massey, who was also served to a round of "boo!" The noise was tolerated by members of the faculty on stage but their discomfort showed in the way they shifted in their seats.

Perhaps this person had some unresolved issues with Dr. Massey, but they certainly wouldn't have been resolved in a situation such as the one he created. He must have been bored with the ceremony, so he decided to interrupt it as a means to speed it along a little bit.

If he rationalized either of the reasons I've mentioned, it's obvious that he's not too bright, especially if he thought he could achieve anything positive. But I don't think any student at this school is dimwitted enough to believe that. To say so would be an insult to me as well as most

other students. It would place us all on the same level of intelligence as such a person, since we were all accepted to this school under the same criteria.

I don't know what prompted this person to act the way he did. The most likely answer could be that he simply lacks something that I believe a "Morehouse Man" should possess. In a word, civility, or as most people call it, home-training. People who lack this social grace don't say "excuse me" when they bump into you. They yell out in Crown Forum and Freshman Assembly, and if it causes a disturbance, they definitely don't apologize for it.

But wait a minute. According to Dr. Massey at the following Crown Forum, that's just what this person did in two drafted letters, one to Dr. Massey and one to Cain. The letters were signed, sealed and delivered to the President the next day. This hardly seems in line with the character of a person who would yell "shut-up!" during one of the most important annual assemblies of the school year.

Maybe he fell and hit his head as he left King's Chapel and had an epiphany that made him see the error of his ways. Maybe his roommate gave him a shot of civility as

he slept that night. Or maybe he left Crown Forum unharmed, and slept that night untouched, not giving a single thought to what happened that day. Maybe the letters were fabricated.

Why would the administration do such a thing? It all has to do with maintaining the image of Morehouse College. A phony letter sent to Cain would quickly erase the bad impression that his alma mater is being run further into the ground every time a new class steps foot on campus. In the students' eyes, an apology letter would let them know that no matter how much trouble one individual causes, he will be quieted and made an example of. If the administration doesn't get to you, then your conscience will.

If the scene caused by the rude person injured my sense of brotherhood, then the administration added to it by insulting my intelligence. As Dr. Massey stood behind the podium, waving the apology letter in the air for everyone to see (but not too closely) there was only one person that was more stunned by disbelief than I. He probably thought to himself, "I didn't write no damn letter." But he couldn't say a word.

The Realities of Life in Prison

TEXT BY TYLON D. SWEET

PHOTOS BY SHAUN SPEARMON

The real state prison is not just fences and bars, bad guys and bad food. No, the real state prison can be and should be compared to existing, not living. It is filled with people who have



isolated hearts and suppressed minds; loneliness that leaves one with an internal and external need for love and affection; and ideas, desires and feelings that one should be doing something constructive and positive with one's self, existing more comfortably.

But no, in sets the growing dreary anxiety, pushing and swelling. Uncertainty smothers, suffocates, until it finally absorbs one's imagination. Yeah, the real prison is agonizing frustration, fruitless despair, and unfamiliar indifference.

I am in prison. Why does my heart ache? It is because everything around me is suppressed, dead, and crushes in on me.

The walls of my conscious

mind seem to close in on me and make me unresilient. It all makes life have no meaning, life without purpose, no life at all. My situation and I are constantly faced with opposition. I am guilty, but not as charged. I am guilty of associating with scum, guilty of some irresponsible choices made throughout life.

I can easily stand criticism, correction, incarceration, even punishment for the things I've done. But what about for the things I am truly innocent? Why am I here all alone? Because I chose to be a loyal friend and not speak up, I am left here to be devoured by the system. I know I've made some mistakes in my life, but I don't deserve to be sitting here

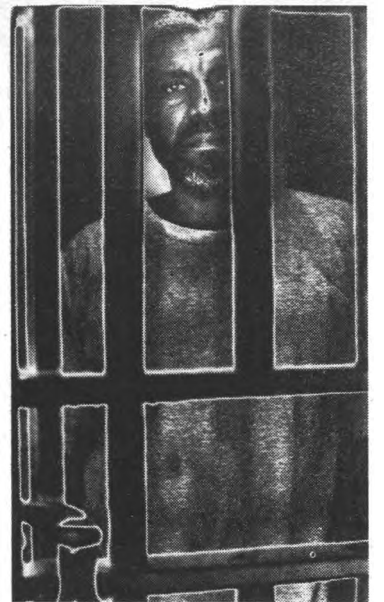
with all this time, falsely accused. The silence, the isolation, the unforgiving of society is debilitating. How much longer must I wait? How much longer must I knock at the gates of righteous people, before the outcasting of hate and unworthiness ceases and becomes an expression of love and affection?

The real prison is where too many people struggle to find the answers in their own debilitated, enfeebled, disillusioned self, because there is no one else who will listen or even try to understand. It is a place of endless routines and orders, where time itself is a dreadful task. It is the pile of hopelessness, with no affirmation from society or family members.

However the most heartbreaking, painful thing about being in prison, besides the loss of one's freedom and rights, is the deprivation of not being there for your children, family, and that significant other. The most depressing and spiritually disrupting feeling is not the freezing winter coldness, or the uncomfortable summer heat and humidity, but the waiting in anxious anticipation for a gravely

desired letter, card, or note that never arrives. Waiting in pure faith for a visit from family, who are over three thousand miles away. But only receiving disappointment because no one comes...no one cares...out of sight, out of mind.

It is not the fast ticking seconds, but the slowly passing hours that I spend daily in this narrow six by eight cell, which I must share with a cell mate, squeezing out the already unbearable loneliness and depression. I find myself hoping and praying for guidance, strength, inner peace, and a solid faith and trust in God. After listening to an old familiar song on the radio with great delight, I then find myself having my heart stabbed and my memories of past family and good times savagely and cruelly brutalized. The noisiness and frustration of the days are bad, but the countless nights one lies awake and very much alone, crying in the solitude of the soul, robs, drains, and exhausts one's bodily energy. Just reminiscing about the good times shared at Morehouse, times shared with that special someone, time with family and friends in California, are all agonizing. To watch familiar sights on the



news, in movies and videos, and looking at pictures of friends, family, and myself are damn near unbearable. Ahhhh! If only, if I would've, I could've, I should've, if only...

Without the love and support from outside sources, a brother couldn't survive. He couldn't maintain stability and focus. He would break down mentally and no longer be a human being, rather just a being. I've come across brothers who have been incarcerated and been serving time before I was even thought of.

That's shocking huh? Well, their strength had a lot to do with my support. That seven letter word carries a lot of weight for a person imprisoned. Responses from you would give me infinite, unlimited, internal pleasure; peace, happiness, and joy to make it through the emptiness of the days, and the dreadful terrifying nights.

The United Snakes, Israel, and Foreign Policy: A Sign for Black America

By Jamarlin Muhammad
Guest Commentary

The United States of America continues to live up to the term "Great Shaitan" that was coined for them by Muslims in the Middle East. Is there any reason why Saddam Hussein and the innocent Iraqi people should endure a devastating military campaign improperly called "Desert Thunder"? This arbitrary operation should be called "Devil Thunder."

Segments of Black America has blindly backed United States' foreign policy against Iraq without even knowing the history and current politics of the region. While students at Ohio State University protested against their own country's foreign policy, Black students from

Tennessee State University clapped and supported the "Wicked Witch of the West" Madeleine Albright and America's intention of bombing Baghdad.

During slavery when the white slave master was sick, the slave would identify with the master's cause and say, "We sick." If the slave master was hungry, the slave would say, "We hungry." Centuries later — in 1998 — when Bill Clinton says fight, "Negroes" will be fighting before the real fight has begun.

We have enough problems already: unemployment, drugs, miseducation, self-hatred, and the racism that we encounter by White America on a day-to-day basis. America is the same nation that distributed crack cocaine in our communities to

perpetuate a non-visible form of white supremacy. America is the same nation that used our people as human guinea pigs in the Tuskegee Syphilis experiment. America is the real biological and chemical warfare threat!

History teaches that the slave masters' best interest is not in the best interest of the slave. America's best interest is not in the best interest of Blacks in America.

Why doesn't America bomb Israel? (1) Israel has one of the largest arsenals of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, yet refuses to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Biological Weapons Convention to monitor these mass destruction weapons. (2) Israel continues to demolish Palestinian homes and

confiscate Arab-owned land to make way for the illegal expansion of additional Jewish settlements. (3) Israel intentionally targeted a U.N. Refugee camp in Lebanon, killing more than 100 innocent victims.

Maybe America will not bomb Israel because of their "unholy alliance" that allows Israel to receive \$5 billion annually via U.S. taxpayers. The Jews' promiscuous use of the term "anti-semitic" to describe critics won't deter me from telling the truth.

America's allies are not Black America's allies. Israel supported South Africa's racist regime according to U.N. voting records. Israel is a racist nation itself; it threw away blood from the original Black Falasha Jews based on an arbitrary stand that they

were HIV contaminated.

When will Black People have our own foreign policy? Intelligent leaders like the Honorable Marcus Garvey and the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad had a vision that elevated Black people beyond welfare, affirmative action, civil rights, and status quo "Negro" affairs. These great leaders saw a way to materialize our national interest in which we could orchestrate our own foreign policy and not rely on another people to tell us who to fight and who our allies are.

Jamarlin Muhammad is a Sophomore Political Science major at Morehouse College.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

How I Spent My Summer Vacation - Not Another Love Jones!

By Curtis K. L. Johnson, Jr.
W&L News Editor

Make room for another brother on the cinema block. His name's John Fisher and re-telling the story of black love in the 90's is his first attempt at stardom. Fisher is the director and writer of a new independent film entitled *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*.

This film explores the turbulent and often hilarious world of dating through the eyes of African-American college students. This film breaks current black film stereotypes by featuring no drugs, gang wars, or gunshots. *How I Spent My Summer Vacation* instead illustrates a war between the sexes in a fashion that is sharply ironic.

Fisher, originally from Athens, Georgia, is a recent graduate of Howard University Film School. His claim to fame came just a week before his graduation at

Howard Film School. He subscribed to *The Independent Film & Video Monthly* and saw a Castleway ad along with one from a production company in Atlanta. He decided to send them a copy of his script for *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*.

After they received it, he was contacted by producer Alan Gay. Gay showed interest in producing the film and asked if he could start looking for support for it.

"It was very much a surprise, especially at that point because school was beating me down," said Fisher. "I was worried about my future after graduation. And then this happens, and I was like, wow!"

Fisher has written six other screenplays; all either dramas or comedies. His personal experiences in relationships made him pen this dating tale. He labels his relationships with women as learning experiences, and

through his own experiences, he was able to add an ironic edge to his drama/ comedy.

The interview with Fisher took on a peculiar twist when it turned into a therapeutic session regarding black relationships. Fisher recalled that a woman he once dated told him that "men are lumps of clay." He elaborated by saying you grow from each experience and it somehow expands who you are. He also went on to discuss how often people view a woman's perspective on break-ups in relationships and not on a man's. Ironically, in Fisher's new hit romantic comedy, he focuses on the feelings of men at the end of a relationship rather than women.

"Often, new film-makers attempt to bring a new style to the art of filmmaking," he said.

Fisher wishes not to be labeled as a Black film maker, implying that there are limits for Blacks in film. He would also like to bring diversity to

the cinema world. Fisher gives credit to Spike Lee, Woody



Allen and Martin Scorsese, film makers who have inspired him.

Fisher does not know where his first film will lead him. But in regards to his film's central theme of baffling relationships, one can only imagine how his first love feels now that he's broken ground.

Deanna Davis as Stephanie and RonReaco Lee as Perry are college students who can't decide whether to break up or make up in John Fisher's debut feature, *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*, a romantic comedy.

PHOTO:
Deborah Celecia/SPECIAL

Crossing Over to the Other Side: Bebe Winans Style

In a departure from his gospel music roots, Bebe Winans explores popular music in his self-titled LP.

By Brian L. Thompson
Editor-In-Chief

Usually when a preacher says a member of the congregation has crossed over to the other side, he means the person has died, gone to glory on the other side, and is not coming back.

In music, when artists cross over, it means they have expanded their base audience and targeted another audience, perhaps never to return. In some circumstances, it means the death of the artist's career.

Everyone who is in the know is familiar with Bebe and Cece Winans, the gospel duo from the musically talented Winans family. It's hard to get away from the mindset of hearing their voices intertwined together.

So, while listening to Winans' self-titled LP *Bebe Winans*, keep an open mind. Cece's presence is nowhere on the album; no duets, no solos and no production. But their sister, Debbie, guest stars on "Did You Know" and "Oh

Happy Day," which also features Hezekiah Walker's Love Fellowship Crusade Choir.

What follows the trend that Kirk Franklin seems to have started in gospel music with the Family and God's Property. Most of the songs are clearly pop/R & B influenced. The upbeat songs ("Love is the Reason," "Thank You," "I Wanna Be the Only One") showcase Winans' vocalism and musicality.

Surprisingly, the lyrics of those three songs are not overly religious; in fact, they are all open to interpretation. On some of the slower songs

("If You Say," "In Harm's Way," "In the Midst of Rain"), the absence of Cece's powerful voice is quite noticeable.

Not taking anything away from Winans' personal singing ability, but listening to Bebe Winans without Cece is like listening to En Vogue's *EV3* without Dawn Robinson. Something is clearly missing.

Of course, Winans has a powerful voice and Debbie Winans, Hezekiah Walker's Love Crusade Choir and Eternal guest star. But like the girl who replaced Mimi Brownstone, it's just not the same.

Otherwise, Winans' crossover into gospel/pop/R&B is successful.

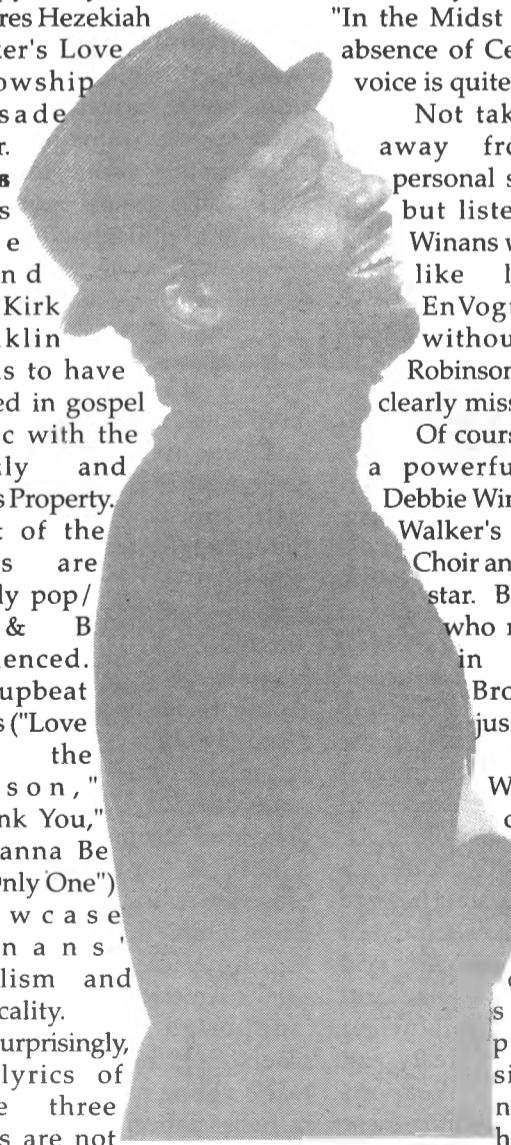
By no means does he have a studio-produced singing voice, nor does he have to whine, bare his chest or sing about sex to sell records.

However, if you're a

gospel purist, this is not the album for you. Winans ventures away from the base audience that Bebe and Cece shared.

In an interview, they stated that solo projects are something that they both have

wanted to do for a long time and that they would collaborate as a duo again in the future. So, if you enjoy *Bebe Winans*, check out a similar crossover product from Cece Winans, entitled *Everlasting Love*, now in stores.



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Kia Phillips Swings her Way to Success

by Deisha T. Galbreth
Contributing Writer

Clark-Atlanta University's own Kia Phillips, of bass music duo KP & Envyi, has fame and notoriety dangling from her fingertips.

Twenty-two year old "KP" (as she prefers to be called) is a native Atlantan and graduate of local Benjamin E. Mays High School. Presently a graduating senior in early childhood education, KP is also part of a group called The Kaperz on Legacy Records.

As a member of The Kaperz in high school, KP was surrounded by high profile performers like Jermaine Dupri on a regular basis. Surprisingly though, her interest in music entertainment evolved slowly but surely.

"Now I like a whole lot of music, not just rap, R&B or bass--I like almost anything that anyone tries to do," said Phillips.

KP & Envyi's single "Swing My Way" was chosen by Black Market Inc. to be featured on the compilation album for Elektra Records entitled "Rhythm and Quad

166."

While KP has discovered fame and popularity, she is faced with new obstacles to overcome. How does she balance academics and a recording career? How is she successful in both?

"It's not really hard, but it's a whole lot of work," said KP. She is also fortunate to have very understanding professors who appreciate what she is trying to do and help her keep up with her school work.

"[These professors are not] saying that I can miss class," she said. "But, if I do miss a day, they understand and I still have to do all my work."

She often gets home from the studio late at night with a lot of homework to do. A typical weekend with KP might include a number of shows, then getting home at 4 a.m. and still making it to her 8:00 class. Few students have her dedication and drive.

According to KP, the hardest part is when something important is going on in both her academic and musical life.

"The two coincide a lot," she explains. "It's hard to meet

with my group for a class project and be on a plane to New York at the same time."



Benjamin Brown/SPECIAL

KP and Envyi, with Clark Atlanta's Kia Phillips on the right.

Once, she was even interviewed via telephone in a hallway while listening to her professor lecture at the same time.

KP's mother, recent CAU grad Bertha Phillips-Furcon, is "very supportive" of her newfound success.

"One of the things that makes me feel good about [KP] is that [she is] a believer in the Supreme Being and His ability to give them the desires of their hearts," said Phillips-Furcon.

Class Dismissed: "Ol Skool" almost Flunks out

By Johnathan Howard
Associate A&E Editor

The current R&B scene is chock full of three- or four-member male groups that take us down the same road of lost love, i.e. "I want you back baby" and "love you down" songs.

Now, along comes Ol Skool -- a group that promises to take you back to the good ol' days of soul. However, they fail in their valiant (though badly-crafted) attempt.

The album is produced by Keith Sweat, which assures the listener that there will be an obligatory amount of begging and pleading. Ol Skool gives you exactly that on nearly every single track.

Their vocal ability also leaves much to be desired. These brothers sound like the four guys who came in second place at your high school talent show. Their vocal training must consist of singing lessons from someone named Ms. Jenkins and harmonizing along with Jodeci on the radio.

There are few high points on this debut album, but even

the decent songs are lacking. They become so full of synthesized drum beats and heavy bass that you eventually lose the lyrics.

This, though, is no great loss. Lyrical gems such as "...we can get kinky" and "...feel my nature r i s e " proliferate the album.

And just when you thought it couldn't get any more cliched, one of the members shouts, "Ol Skool, can you hear me sing?" Sheer poetry!

To match the lyrical wizardry, there's "Come with Me," an ode to the 3:00 a.m. booty call. The album does get better as it nears the end. Both "It Won't Let Go" and "Don't be Afraid" are the compulsory "uptempo jams with guest rapper (place name here)."

Ol Skool slightly redeems themselves with "Touch You" and their first single "Am I

Dreaming." "Dreaming" is one of the better slow jams of the year. But the question is:



Rafael Fuchs/SPECIAL

Ol Skool's promising future disappears in a self-titled LP with a prototype sound.

Does the song work because of Ol Skool, or because Xscape and Keith Sweat are featured vocalists? I wasn't the only one who didn't even hear Ol Skool in the verses.

Ol Skool, true to their name, bring nothing new to the music scene except four fresh faces. If your music collection ranges from R&B to ... well ... R&B, you may want to pick up Ol Skool's self-titled CD. For those whose musical tastes do vary, your fifteen dollars might be better spent elsewhere.

KP's father recently passed and she has erected her career goal in his honor.

"I've been in the business for a long time, so I plan on staying in it ...when I get my first lump sum of money, instead of buying a recording studio like most artists, the first thing I will do is make a huge learning center and name it after my dad," she said.

"Swing My Way" became number two on the Billboard Hot Rap Singles Chart after only nine weeks. The single has surpassed gold status and sells about 100,000 copies bi-weekly.

KP & Envyi are now working on a promotional

tour, new video and an R&B remix of "Swing My Way." The new video will have an entirely different format with Envyi singing mostly and KP rapping at the end.

The duo recently performed at an Atlanta Glory basketball game and appeared on BET's Teen Summit and Soul Train. They are also talking about going on tour as an opening act for Immature.

KP asks that Atlanta University Students continue to support her by buying their single and the album.

"A lot of people have come up to me and said 'I like your video' or 'I just bought your single.' Stuff like that really keeps me going," she said.

"Caught Up" in a Mediocre Soundtrack

Personally, I'm tired of seeing the "black man who goes to jail -- gets out and tries to do the right thing -- falls into a different trap" movies. Somehow, between adulterous divas (*Waiting to Exhale*), murderous home girls (*Set It Off*) and black buffoonery (*Senseless*), we get a locked up bruh -- trying to go right -- ends up going wrong again in *Caught Up*. At least the others had better soundtracks.

Don't get me wrong, *Caught Up* has a few decent tracks on it. DJ's Quik and Premier, True Master (Wu-Tang), and Jermaine Dupri bring star power to the album. But please, don't get caught up in the production or the flashy names. The songs may actually pace the movie and push along the action but the only thing it made me push was the 'eject' button on my JVC.

Snoop Doggy Dogg and Kurupt perform the title track "RideOn/Caught Up." It has an infectious beat but characteristic of much of Snoop's music in the post-Dr. Dre era, it's light on the rhymes. Guru and DJ Premier, in the company of Pete Rock, Terminator X (and Eric B. when it comes to beats), does not disappoint on "Work" while Joe's "U should Know me" proves that Mr. Thomas is well on his way to R&B stardom.

The tracks by Do or Die featuring Danny Boy and Johnny P ("All in the Club"), Lost Boyz ("Ordinary Guyz"), Luniz featuring Daz and Kurupt ("My Buddy") and Killah Priest featuring Inspectah Deck and the GZA ("Cross my Heart") solidly round out the middle of the album. This is where *Caught Up* begins its downward spiral.

Imagine a song where Mad Lion sounds like Dikembe Mutumbo and sings an old hook by the Bangles. That's track number nine ("Ey-Yo"). How about a girl with a "for studio only" tag on her voice singing a song with MC Lyte rapping a few bars? That's song number twelve ("I Like"). "I Like" will probably get some airplay because studio-only voices are "in" these days (T-Boz, Total, etc). A group named "O" sings the soundtrack's last song. Oh <sigh>.

If you are a West Coast fan, then this is the soundtrack for you. Throw up W's and pump it up to your heart's content. However, even though I don't like a lot of West Coast, I have a hard time believing that Snoop, Daz, Kurupt, Luniz and Mack 10 are the only westside groups worth putting on a soundtrack. What about Ice Cube? The Pharcyde? Dr. Dre? WhoRidas? For God's sake, there is a group named "O" on the soundtrack!

Caught Up walks a thin line between mediocrity and potential. Unfortunately, potential does not guarantee record sales.

--Brian L. Thompson

Hope Springs Eternal as the 1998 MLB Season Looms

By Staff Reports

With the regular season beginning in just a few days, the addition of the expansion teams, and Milwaukee and Kansas City switching leagues, this MLB season will piggyback on the success of last year's. Since there have been some major changes in personnel for most teams, it is anyone's guess who is the best team in baseball.

AL East: The Yankees will be closely challenged by the equally powerful division champion Orioles while the Devil Rays begin their inaugural season. The Yanks, with new additions 2B Chuck Knoblauch and DH Chili Davis, have superior power and speed from the top of the lineup to the bottom while the Orioles have a superior starting pitching rotation in Mike Mussina, Doug Drabek, Scott Kamieniecki, Jimmy Key and Scott Erickson. The first-year Devil Rays, however, will have to rely on their strong defensive players, the speed of CF Devon White and the

power of 3B Matt Williams and rookie 1B Travis Lee due to largely inexperienced pitchers.

AL Central: The Indians will receive their strongest competition from the struggling Chicago White Sox since the Brewers moved to the NL Central and their replacement (Detroit Tigers) is still rebuilding. The Indians' average rotation of newcomer Dwight Gooden, Jaret Wright and Chad Ogea will get plenty of run support if they falter. On the other hand, the White Sox will have to rely on the one-two-three punch of Frank Thomas, Albert Belle and former Gold Glove 3B Robin Ventura. The ChiSox staff ace is Jaime Navarro and it only gets worse from there i.e. James Baldwin, Scott Eyre, Bill Simas and a few other people that we've never heard of. Newly-signed and admitted wife beater 1B Wilfredo Cordero might start at 1B moving Frank Thomas to DH where he can't make any fielding errors.

AL West: The pitching-poor Mariners will have to

fight off the question mark-filled Angels to repeat as champions. Randy Johnson will again pitch too many innings this year and most likely will be traded to a team with prospects and/or big names and money to spare. The Mariner middle relief is just as bad if not worse than last year's and the longer they depend on four people (Johnson, Ken Griffey Jr., Jay Buhner, Alex Rodriguez), the longer they will come up short in the post-season. The Angels have taken swan dives the past couple of years and must solidify their questionable middle relief in order to contend.

NL East: As the best regular season team in the league, the Atlanta Braves will have to match consistent hitting with great pitching and find speed on the basepaths in order to prove that they rule beyond September. The rejuvenated Mets will be the Braves' toughest opposition now that Florida has dismantled its championship powerhouse of a year ago.

Should the Mets acquire Randy Johnson or another big arm to put them over the hump, they will be a force to reckon with.

NL Central: Milwaukee's return to the NL puts them in the thick of a title race between the Astros and Cardinals. Houston resigned "Killer B's" Craig Biggio, Jeff Bagwell and Derek Bell, but lost staff ace Darryl Kile and starting CF Luis Gonzalez to free agency. The Cardinals look promising with OF Brian Jordan returning after missing out most of the 1997 season, but they will miss the arm of P Alan Benes. Milwaukee now will have to contend with NL pitchers, a smaller strike zone and no DH rule. They must make the necessary adjustments early on in the season. The Pittsburgh Pirates will not be a factor as long as they keep a "league minimum salary" approach to signing talent.

NL West: The L.A. Dodgers should take the Western division back from the San Francisco Giants. The

only weak link is SS Jose Vizcaino and he will put up good fielding and average numbers, which is good enough for skipper Bill Russell. Otherwise, the Dodgers have the firepower and pitching to win. The defending West Champion Giants must pick up more consistent hitters and get decent production from the bullpen in order to repeat. The Arizona Diamondbacks will have to deal with very little depth up the middle and inexperienced relief in their inaugural season.

More things to look for in the new season: Randy Johnson will be traded. Former Brave Jeff Blauser will help the Cubs try to become a legitimate winner. Andres Gallaraga will drop off in production in pitcher-friendly Turner Field and former Florida ace Kevin Brown will provide depth to the starting rotation of the Padres. Lastly, Kenny Lofton should return to successful form back in Cleveland.

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EOE/AA

Mason's Future Hazy after Rape Accusation

By Johnathan Howard
Associate A&E Editor

Latrell Sprewell is banned for sixty-eight games. Patrick Ewing breaks his wrist. It's Michael Jordan's last go-round. 2-Ball replaces the Dunk Contest. Now, Anthony Mason, current Charlotte Hornet and former New York Knick, is charged with rape. This NBA year is one for the history books.

This is far from the first time "Mase" and the authorities have crossed paths. His escapades as a Knick are nigh legendary. For example, there were arrests for hundreds of dollars in unpaid parking tickets, charges of punching out a patron in a N.Y. bar, and the list goes on. That Mason got into trouble upon a return to New York isn't totally shocking. What's shocking are the details of the accusation.

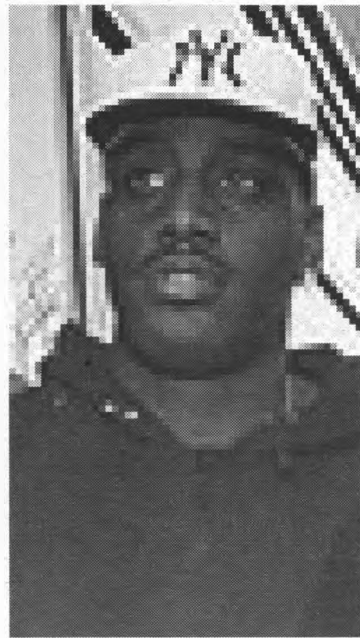
Apparently, Mason was riding around Queens, NY, with two underage girls in the back of a limousine. No, wait. Underage is too light a word. These girls were 14 and 15-year-old sisters, barely pubescent, hardly legal. The explanation for the event is that Mason and the girls were "driving around," according

to Mason's agent. A week or two later, Mason is charged with rape and his face is plastered all over the papers. He now awaits the results of a March 9 court date where he gave a blood sample. If DNA evidence matches Mason to the girls, he will undoubtedly face some serious jail time.

Two questions come to mind in this situation. The first is: What the hell was Anthony Mason thinking? What is a 26 or 27-year-old man doing having sex with adolescents? And if the charges are false (and let's pray that they are), why was he riding around with these two girls anyway? Everybody is out to make a dollar these days. I know Mason has always been one to remember where he came from, but sometimes you have to be careful of who you're with. Not everyone has his best interests at heart (see Wyclef's "Words of Wisdom.")

The second question is: What now? For fans he was an inspiration; the hard road player who fought his way to the NBA, while taking stops in the CBA and even Turkey. Mason blossomed into a "Poor man's Scottie Pippen." Mase was the first point forward on the East Coast since Larry Bird.

His selfless play was rewarded with a fat contract extension from his current team, the



AP
Mason's brushes with the law extend far beyond the current rape charges against him.

Charlotte Hornets. Innocent or guilty, what happens to all of this? Regardless, he'll probably lose fans and gain critics. Mason denies the charges, and his legal team portrays him as the victim. When this is all over, Anthony Mason won't forget this brick for a long time.

The Last Shot

It's All About the Benjamins: Salaries in Pro Sports

By Brian L. Thompson
Editor-In-Chief

Do you realize that in the time it takes me to write this article, there's a basketball player sitting on a *bench* making more money than I'm likely to see during my lifetime?

If I offered to write articles for a magazine but demanded that they pay me \$200 million over seven years, which do you think I would get first: a strait jacket, a urine test, or thrown out of the building?

Here's the funniest thing about it: the athletes do whatever they want and get away with it. Half of the NBA players get drunk and high and their punishments are the equivalents of "Go to bed without dessert." Of course, testing positive for cocaine is out of the question. Choking a coach and threatening to kill him will buy you a 68-game suspension and lose you a few million. But if a player spits in another player's face, it's all good.

Baseball is no different. Albert Belle once corked his bat (like he needed to) and gave Fernando Vina a Lex Luger-like forearm shot that likely had Vina looking for a three-count pin. Roberto Alomar has made spittle a household word. Yet both these men combined make more than a few Major League *teams*.

Even in hockey, which black folks are actually starting to play, is getting bad. What has the world come to when a Native American is throwing racial epithets at a Black man?

Now as for the NBA, the owners do have the collective bargaining agreement. It'll be reopened at the end of the season to put a ceiling on the skyrocketing player salaries and place marijuana on the list of drugs the NBA won't tolerate. Since the players want a load of money and believe they have the right to do whatever the hell they want, they'll threaten to walk out. Being the type of people that they are, the owners might let them. Even if this is not the case, if the issues are not resolved in a few months, there will be a lockout. Game, set, match. We have no NBA season.

Whatever happened to the Tony Gwynn's and the Cal Ripken's of the world? It used to be all about the love of the game. These men have played for the same teams their entire careers. Cal Ripken has played for over thirteen years without missing a game while Tony Gwynn strikes out about the same amount of times per season that Morehouse wins football games. It's about baseball for these men. Yet Deion Sanders, who bats about as good as he tackles, clamors for a bigger salary.

No one likes to lose. But if you're Rony Seikaly and traded to a team one piece away from making the NBA Finals (Utah), why do you accept a trade from a team a few years removed from the NBA Finals (New Jersey)? Locale? New Jersey is not the best place on earth but at least there are more than five black people living there. Hell, give me the league minimum (around a modest \$272,000) to play for Utah (ugh) and I'll go out there and actually give a damn every night. And if I were traded to a team like Toronto, I'd be a cold brother with about half my salary eaten up by taxes but I'd shut up and play my butt off every night. Why, you ask?

For the love. Not just for the Benjamins.

be **G**reatness
WHAT DOES
Gins here...

Lerone Bennett

Julian Bond

Robert Johnson

Howard Thurman

Charles Willie

HAVE IN COMMON?

They Are All Former Maroon Tiger Writers.

She Perfection (remix)

a story for Sistahs-N-Lovers

I spotted her
sitting in the cyphers of Ra
and splashing sunshine
between her fingers and toes,
when I ceased writing sestinas
in kemetic dialectic
to give her seven planets
just to get her attention.

She, perfection,
princess of all my predilections,
told Horus to hang them up someplace pleasurable
and gave me two krugerrands for my troubles.
So I professed all my love,
my passions and affections
from her soulful goodness
to her dark chocolate complexion.
She paused to laugh, instead,
held me close against her breasts
and fed me with spiritual milk
until I spit up sermons and Bible
verses.

She ran her hands
down my caramel brown body and
told me that,
like a redwood tree
her love for me abounded and stood
fast through troubling storms.
So after I strung together
the stars and milky ways
and placed them
around her ring finger,
we sang nine Nubian
love jams and

laid together beneath the sultry sunset of the Serengeti

-- 3 eyed bandit

PRECIOUS

(dedicated to all our Spelman sisters)

Precious lives in closed rooms
not seeing the world
refusing to hear the cries of her brothers
never dancing dances around the fire
the fire that's nearly quenched
by caucasian ways and caucasian beliefs
seeing only what caucasian eyes see
never seeing what caucasian eyes see in her
'cuz if she did she'd gouge out caucasian eyes
she sees us natives as caucasians see us natives
seeing with naive eyes
loving with naive hearts
loving her caucasian ways
not loving her African Soul

Precious moves whitely
I try to move blackly
but precious can't relate to my blackness
although I tell her
she's as black if not blacker
but she says "no I'm me"
and I say "yes"
and I say "no"

Precious walks with closed eyes
that look out tainted windows
and take warped perceptions as truth
somehow I don't think that Precious knows that we're the same
although we're different
although our roots grow from different dirt
I try to tell her that all the bleach in the world
won't make her jeans white
all the dye won't make his jeans black
no amount of color coordination
can make them white jeans match our black hearts

-- Reon Unearthly

KINKY PRIDE

Happy to be nappy
had to be said

'cause my heart burned
not from lye
but from the lies I was telling to
my hair.

The sting and burn marks
stopped making patterns on my
scalp and continued with unwise
cracks that vibrate

through my ears
being spit on -
digested -
settled -
slept on
and back
out through
my anal
as a gas-filled kiss to

you.

With nature hair follicles
roll 9

curl spiral to the 9

to the 9th power of pride.
Producing rare black pearls
in this world of Just For Me, Dark and Lovely, and
Optimum,

to add to this non-chemical path of Samson

to add to the
natural mystique
au naturale -

black style
spiritually
patient waiting for
that immortal fad
the era
marked
"proud"
of not
only the
straight
but the
kinky,
textured,
'froed
curled,
weaved,
bald,
happy to be
nappy
kinky curls
breaking
through silky
commandments
kinky new growths
of peace.

-- Latoya Brown

Photos by Vin

