



IN FEATURES

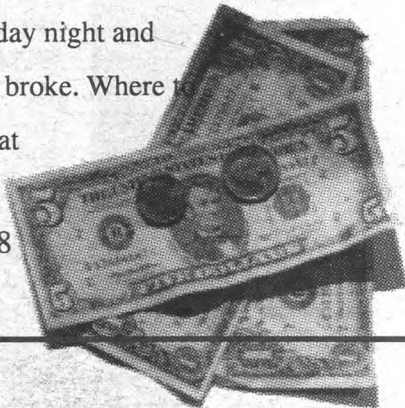
When it comes to interracial dating, the answers are never as simple as black and white.

Page 7



It's Friday night and you're broke. Where to go, what to do.

Page 8



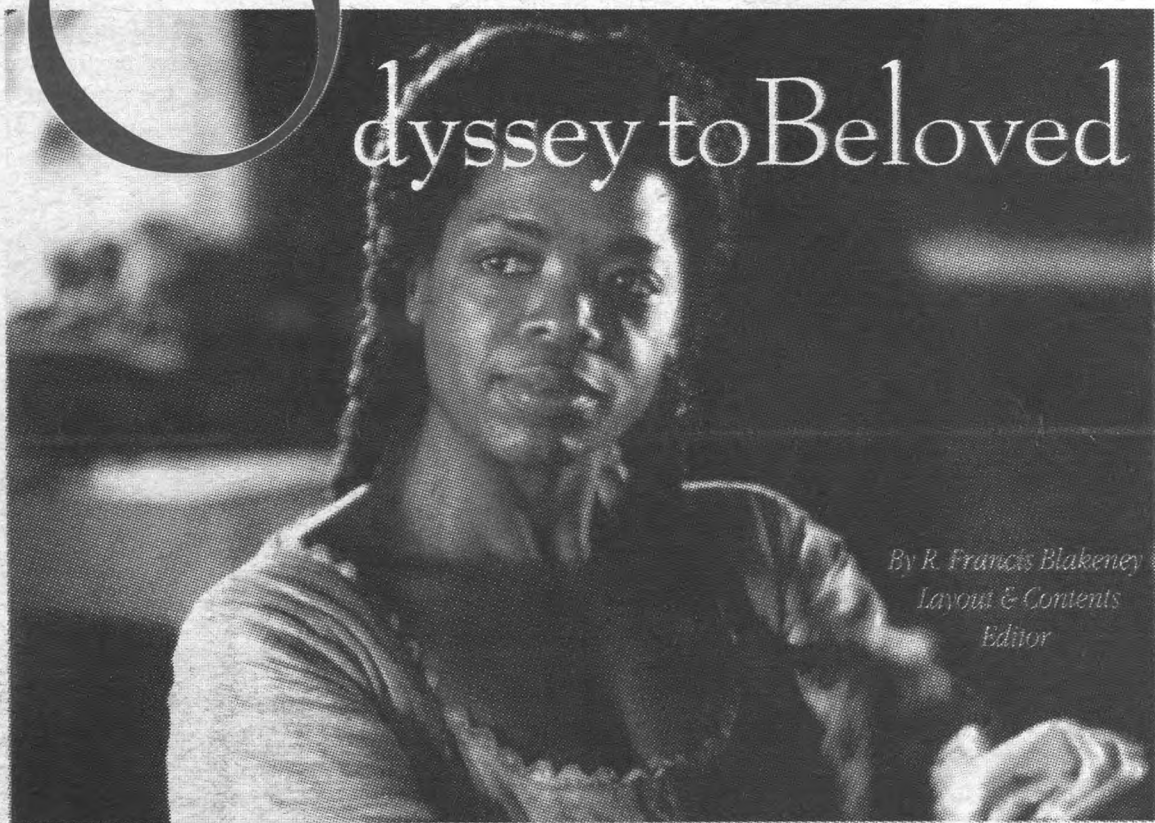
IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Saul Williams waxes poetic on his new movie, book and CD.

Page 20



Oprah's Odyssey to Beloved



By R. Francis Blakeney
Layout & Contents
Editor

Ken Regan/SPECIAL

Oprah Winfrey knows what happens to a dream deferred. It gets better and better.

On a sunny Saturday recently, *The Maroon Tiger* sat down with Winfrey at the Ritz-Carlton Buckhead and discussed the realization of her twelve-year dream to bring "Beloved" to the screen.

The movie, which opens today, is a testament to Oprah's determination to persevere when no one else — directors, producers, even the author of the book on which the movie is almost literally based — thought it could be done.

"I am a person who does everything based upon instinct. Every decision that I have ever made, that made a difference in my life, came from not my head but my heart," said Winfrey.

In 1986, Winfrey had just read Toni Morrison's Pulitzer-prize winning best-seller and

thought, "This needs to be a movie."

But having only starred in one feature film, "The Color Purple," and not knowing what to do, Winfrey called Morrison.

"She said 'I'm a novelist, I write books, and [screenplay writing] is a whole different kind of language. Don't do it, don't want to do it, don't want any part of it,'" said Winfrey, recalling her conversation with Morrison. "And I was like, 'OK.'"

But following her instincts, Winfrey forged ahead.

She said she never asked herself how much money the movie would make or if the studios would be interested in a story that dealt with slavery.

"I didn't think any of that. I just thought it has to be told, and I'll find a way," Winfrey said emphatically.

Continued on page 19

Grasping the true meaning of Inner Strength

From sleeping in streets to changing the lives of "at risk" kids, this Morehouse alumnus is a positive influence on his community.

By Cary Jordan
Staff Writer

At 13, Valdimir Joseph came home to an empty house.

His mother, unable to handle the stress of single parenthood, had packed her bags and left, forcing young Joseph to spend the next year and a half sleeping on subways, rooftops, and hallways in the rough city streets of the Bronx.

Joseph vowed then that he would never let this happen to another child again.

Now 25, Joseph, a 1996

Morehouse graduate, is the founder and director of Inner Strength, a 4-year-old development program that is changing the lives of "at risk" minority youths everyday.



Valdimir Joseph (second from right) poses with Inner Strength participants Quentin Rogers (far left), volunteer Sule Carpenter '98, John Collier, and Yusef Langford.

"If it weren't for the people who helped me during those dark days, I wouldn't be alive today," says Joseph.

"Someone helped me, therefore I must help others."

Joseph describes Inner Strength as a "holistic development program" that offers young males

alternatives to the corrupting influence of urban life.

"We use tutoring and mentoring to expose these adolescents to different levels of reality, like

the power of education, the power of self-esteem, and the reality of their worlds," Joseph

Continued on page 3

Drum roll please!



Shaun Spearmon/STAFF

Homecoming '98 starts off with a bang! Yolanda Adams kicked off the festivities Sunday with a soul-stirring performance, and the fashion show benefitted a good cause. With the weekend here, things only get better. The concert boasts Outkast, and the parade features participants from Morris Brown and Spelman colleges. It certainly is the Rebirth of the Spirit at the House.

COMPLETE HOMECOMING COVERAGE BEGINS PAGE 11

CAMPUS NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPPORTUNITIES

During the spring semester, the **Developmental Reading Program** will offer the 102 Advanced College Reading and Study Skills II course. The course will offer intensive reading comprehension instruction and practice for students who are preparing to take the **LSAT, GMAT, MCAT, and the GRE**. The course yields three hours of credit towards graduation. Interested students should Dr. Henry Dixon, Reading Coordinator, in Brawley Hall, Room 94-B.

The **Black College Network (BCN)** is developing its online news division at www.bcnusa.com. The network is recruiting talented students from HBCUs interested in being **freelance writers, editors, and photographers**. For more information, e-mail: EDDIED@bcnusa.com

DISCOUNTS

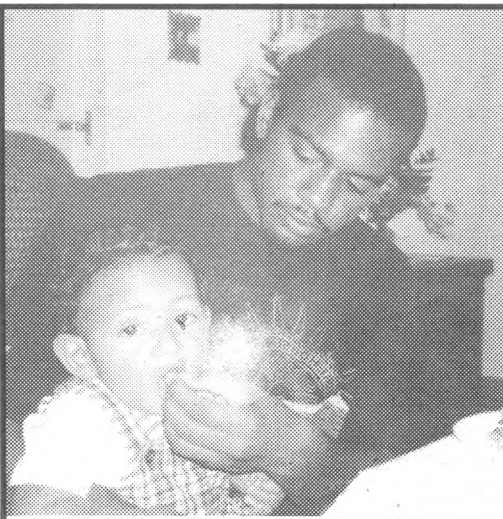
Reduced MARTA monthly passes are now available in the cashier's office during regular hours, Monday through Thursday, for \$35. There are no Friday sales due to normal high volume of business transactions. Currently, sales will be limited to Morehouse students only. Monthly passes are good for unlimited rides on the MARTA rail and bus routes.

DIVERSIONS

PBS will be airing a 6-hour documentary concerning the **African Holocaust**. The documentary, **AFRICANS IN AMERICA: AMERICA'S JOURNEY THROUGH SLAVERY**, is scheduled to air Monday. Check your local TV listing for confirmation.

MEMORIAL

There will be a **Memorial Service** held for **Kyle Wilson Singer** in the Chapel of Sale Hall today at 7:00 p.m. Singer was a member of the Morehouse football team and Class of '96.



This issue of *The Maroon Tiger* is dedicated to Aziah, the 13-month-old son of Managing Editor Mikhia Hawkins. Aziah has been the good luck charm during the stressful process of putting together this 24-pager.

The Maroon Tiger invites all students, parents, faculty, staff and alumni to a
MEET & GREET
Saturday, October 17
6:00 p.m.
The Maroon Tiger Office
Archer Hall Room 115

Between the Lines

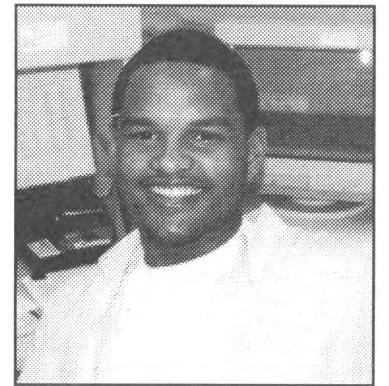
Dem hard-workin' folks at *The Maroon Tiger*



Features Editor **STERLING TAYLOR** is a sophomore English major from Daytona Beach, FL. His brief profile should not be attributed to his lack of accomplishments, but rather to his supremely humble nature.

International sex symbol and male underwear model, **TASH** joined *The Maroon Tiger* as General Manager in the fall of '98. This junior English major from Los Angeles, Calif., has a lot to hide, though. Strung out

on methamphetamines at the age of 10 and in AA by 13, **TASH** enjoys writing (suicide notes), travelling (from prison to prison), and listening to the guitar (to drown out the voices in his head). Hoo-ray for Hollywood!!!

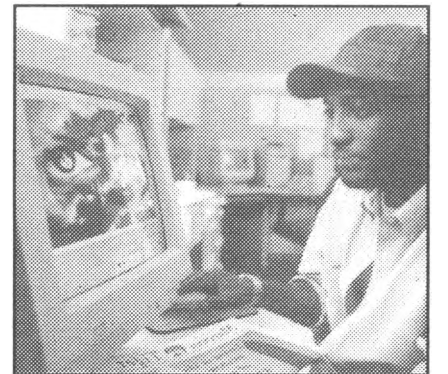


Better known as "Joe from Dallas," Sports Editor **JOE CARLOS** is a senior political science major from the Lone Star State. An active participant in many campus activities and organizations, Joe's immense presence is only eclipsed by his massive number of connections and his cowboy boots. Need a car? See Joe. Bail money? Joe. Presidential pardon? Find Joe. And, lest we

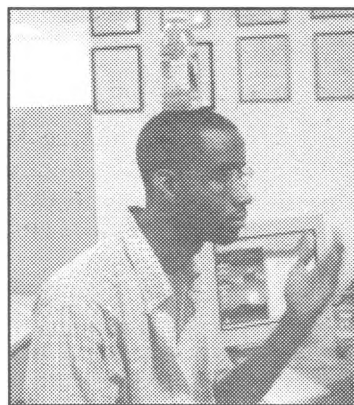


forget, according to Maria Fletcher, "Joe Carlos is not a poor man." Texas ... Texas ... Texas ...

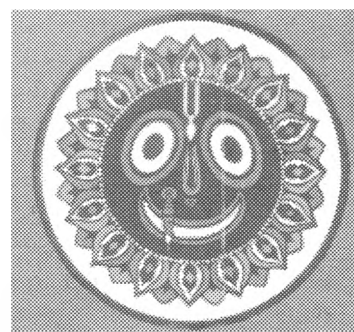
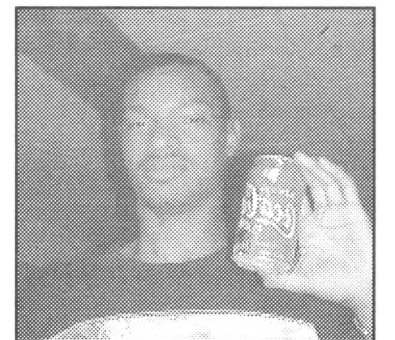
Photography Editor **SHAUN SPEARMON** is a sophomore marketing/Spanish double major from Seattle, Wash. He has worked with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and this past summer completed an internship with the *Seattle Times*. Spearmon is currently offering up blackmail pictures of certain school officials in compromising positions with cafeteria folk to the highest bidder. Going once ... going twice ...



JONATHAN HOWARD, a junior English/sarcasm major, is the A&E Editor. Born and raised in Mississippi, he was obviously deprived of such amenities as electricity, running water and indoor plumbing. His first taste of civilization was when Massa allowed him to go to the "Big City." Now that he has gotten fancified and has acquired some book-learning, the world is his. Says Howard of his come-up, "Gooney-goo-goo!"



Campus News Editor **FARAJI WHALEN** is a junior business major from Washington D.C. Whalen has had numerous essays and poems published. He is currently working on a screenplay of "I'm 'Bout It II: I'm 'Bout It, 'Bout It." He enjoys debauchery, coonery, crude humor, and Coke — as well as ambush journalism.



What if the **INVISIBLE CYNIC** was a mystic gnome of the Mali-Mali tribe located in the deep, deep jungles of Wyoming? What if his body consisted of many circles — swirling, ever swirling? What if he really didn't give a fu#k what you thought about 20 Questions? Could you handle the truth? What if we just let Guru Smurf die?

News & Editorials Editor (place name here) enjoys getting paid ridiculous amounts of money and living the good life.

You may have seen him on campus organizing the very first AUC Hawaii Club. Or maybe you saw him watching cable in his dorm room. In other words you haven't seen him. What's wrong with you people? Don't you like money? No! No more excuses! We're sick of this!!

**YOUR
PICTURE
HERE**

Fraternity threatens to sue Morehouse

By Faraji Whalen
Campus News Editor

It seems like not everyone is happy about the return of campus Greek life.

One member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., has threatened to sue Morehouse College in the wake of what he describes as an organized attempt by members of the administration to hinder the Iotas' return to campus.

According to Jihad Muhammed, a junior history major and member of Iota Phi Theta, the problem began in April, when fraternities turned in their respective paperwork to become chartered organizations.

And while all of them were chartered over the summer, the Iotas were not.

"We turned in all our paperwork before the deadline in April — our rules and by-laws, pledging policy, everything," said Muhammed. "Now, Ellice Hawkins [coordinator of student programming] didn't even register us until the fall semester started."

Muhammed claims this was done deliberately to prevent his organization from becoming eligible to pledge new members.

He also takes issue with what he sees as preferential treatment doled out to the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., which returned to campus this semester.

The college bypassed its own rule that fraternities will not be allowed to have smokers, or interest meetings, to make an exception for the September 13 Alphas smoker, he said.

Johnny Nimes, director of Greek life, says the case of the Alphas was a special one.

"The interest meeting was part of the agreement between the national chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha and Morehouse," Nimes said. "The Alphas requested the meeting as a pre-requisite to letting the Morehouse chapter return."

To Muhammed, this reeks of special treatment.

"It's an old guard system, and we are the youngest and fastest growing fraternity," he said. "They would prefer to

exclude Iotas because we aren't eighty or a hundred years old."

Muhammed offers his own take on the situation.

"Johnny Nimes, who is a Q [member of Omega Psi Phi, Inc.] was fired from the office of financial aid by Sterling Hudson [vice provost for admissions and enrollment management], who is an Iota. And it is my contention that one of the main reasons he is holding us back is his personal vendetta against Hudson," Muhammed said.

Nimes wholly disagrees. "I have no vendetta against Dean Hudson. I don't even know where that's coming from," said Nimes. "[His accusations] just don't compute."

Nimes claims there is no conspiracy to hinder the Iotas.

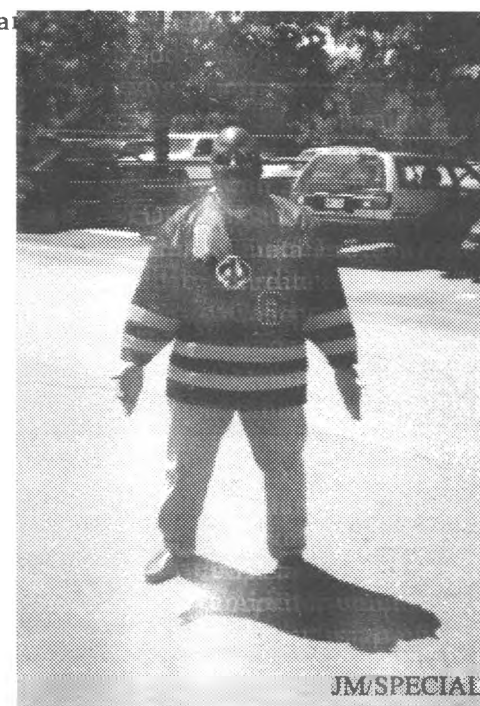
"Their organization is chartered. If they want to intake members, they can, as long as they follow our guidelines and rules," said Nimes. "I haven't received their paperwork yet. And that puts them in violation of the Greek life handbook."

To this, Muhammed responded, "Johnny Nimes is telling me that he doesn't have our pledge policies, which we gave to Ms. Hawkins. Why can't he get that from her, if that's the only thing stopping us from being fully chartered?"

"In addition, the rush meeting [was] on Monday. We were not informed of this, and the only reason I found out was because I saw a small flyer in Gloster Hall," he continued. "Rest assured, the Alphas, the Sigmas, and the Omegas knew. And yet, we were not informed."

Muhammed says he is willing to pursue legal action against the school if his organization continues to see a pattern of discrimination.

"I'm at the point where, if there is no change, we have no recourse but to file a lawsuit,"



JM/SPECIAL

Standing his ground: Jihad Muhammed is considering legal action against the college for what he claims is a deliberate attempt to keep his fraternity off campus.

he said.

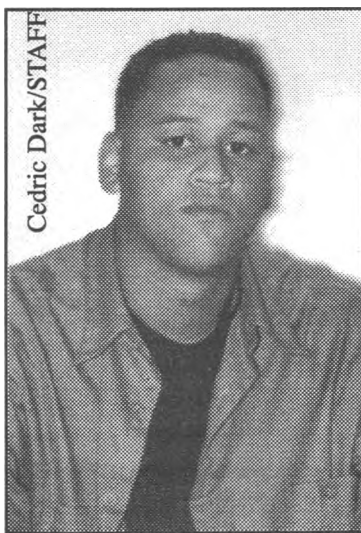
Nimes dismisses the threat.

"Jihad hasn't done what he's supposed to do but he's saying everyone else is holding him back," he said.

"Semesters" puts Morehouse filmmaker to the test

By Erika Wallace
Staff Writer

Kevin Parker isn't your typical whip-cracking, cigar-toting filmmaker. Instead, the



Parker

21-year-old Morehouse senior modestly places most of the credit on friends who have made his vision a reality.

Parker is the creator of "Semesters," a chronicle of college life at Morehouse, which he is screening at HBCUs nationwide. Call it a brilliant piece of work, but

"please, don't call it a documentary," said Parker.

"People have preconceived notions about documentaries. They tend to think it is more historical," he said. "Variety show is more of an accurate description. If anything, it's the week in the life of a college student."

Parker filmed "Semesters" on and off the college campus. It features scenes from Atlanta area nightclubs, such as The Chili Pepper, and his former employer, Club ESSO. He also spent time on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., filming and conducting interviews of college students.

Parker conceived of the idea for the project last year during an English class. Last summer, he took it home to Los Angeles to share with talent agents. Among many who offered him advice and encouragement was former "Teen Summit" host Belma Johnson.

"He gave me a good foundation and a lot of guidelines on how the show could be run," said Parker.

It took over a year for

Parker to finish "Semesters." He used close friends who were willing to use their talents and work for free, and financed the project from his personal savings and the money he raised from a "Back to school" party at Club ESSO last year.

So how much did the film cost? "It's the cost of a Morehouse student to live off-campus for a semester," he said, wryly.

Those who don't know him would assume that Parker is working toward a degree in mass communications. Surprisingly, Parker chose to major in sociology because he believes that one doesn't need a mass communications degree to make films.

"Before I came here, I knew I wanted to do this," said Parker. "When you're a sociology major, you get to learn about people and the world. I think majoring in sociology has helped in the way I looked at things, and knowing what people want to hear."

After graduation, Parker plans to enter "Semesters" in the Student Emmy Awards

and screen it for more agents. He also plans to continue on at the University of Southern California.

"I want to stay in school,"

Parker said. "The other door is reality and I want to stay away from that as long as possible."

"Semesters" has a little bit for everyone

Kevin Parker's "Semesters" beautifully captures the Black college experience, from a uniquely Morehouse angle.

Parker highlights events from Morehouse's homecoming such as the fashion show, coronation, and the comedy show featuring comedian/actor John Witherspoon.

"Semesters" also steps away from the campus to Atlanta nightclubs where students escape from the pressures of school. Parker travels to Washington, D.C., to film a football game between Morehouse and Howard University. To get a sense of rivalry between the two colleges, Parker interviews football players and coaches from both teams.

The project flows smoothly thanks to the host Paul "Smokey" Deese of the Uptown Comedy Corner. What makes Deese such a great host is the fact that he doesn't try to use the film as a way to show off his stand up comedy routine. Rather, he uses his own charm and lighthearted humor. (He notes early in the film that one of the "perks" of attending Morehouse is that Spelman is across the street.)

Parker's first project is one that takes one of Morehouse's most important events and transforms it into a 90-minute video album that non-Morehouse students can relate to.

— Erika Wallace

Morehouse students call Biodome home for semester

By Katrina Shindledecker
For *The Maroon Tiger*

This semester, Randy Chambers and Antonio McGaha are learning that college courses can entail much more than just sitting in lectures and cracking the books.

The Morehouse College sophomores are studying in a "semester abroad" program - right here in the United States, taking a progressive and interactive course known as Earth Semester at Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Center.

As students and beginning researchers at the center, along with almost fifty other students, Chambers and McGaha engage in hands-on

research and field exploration. They also participate in team-taught, cross-disciplinary classes led by scientists specializing in fields from biology to geology to socio-economics.

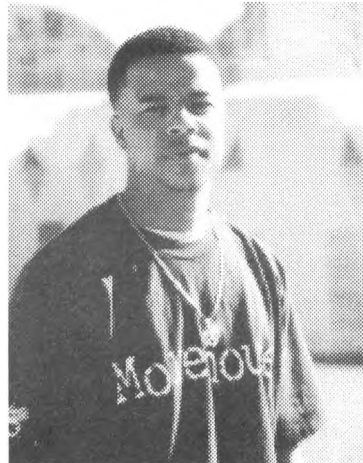
"The classes here have given me practical field experience and the differing opinions and responses to the research," said McGaha, a biology major.

"Biosphere 2 is a unique experience for anyone

interested in global management and the environment," said Dr.

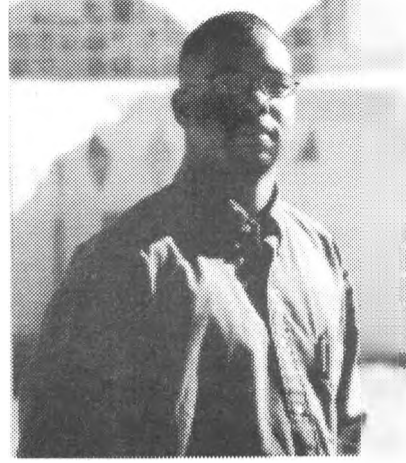
William Harris, president and executive director of the center. "By simulating conditions that scientists expect to see on Earth within the next century, students get to be a part of ground-breaking

research." The goal of the center is to learn how to better manage the planet, especially its atmosphere, Harris said.



Antonio McGaha

Nestled in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains, the



Randy Chambers

meter enclosed glass and space frame structure that houses several of Earth's ecosystems in miniature — is the centerpiece of the campus.

Among the seven ecosystems housed in the research facility are a rainforest, a desert, and a 900,000-gallon ocean — the largest research ocean of its kind in the world.

When not engaged in research or coursework, students participate in a number of recreational activities on campus and in the surrounding area, including hiking trails and swimming.

Photos courtesy of Columbia University

Joseph is changing lives through challenges

Continued from page 1

says. "Ultimately we hope to change the stereotypes that society has about Black males today."

To show the youths there is life outside their seemingly hopeless environments, Joseph and his small but dedicated group of volunteer staff take them hiking and water-rafting.

"By climbing for hours on end or treading water down a vigorous river, the kids are able to see the power of their own individual inner strength to survive," Joseph says.

And it works.

"I remember a kid we had who had dropped out of school at 13," says Joseph, citing one of many examples of how Inner Strength turned lives around. "He had been in and out of jail two times and also had a baby girl. He didn't care much about himself or his immediate family, but he did care about his little girl.

"We counseled him, and made sure that he was on the

right track both in school and outside school. And I'm proud to say that he is one of the many students we have helped to graduate from high school."

The success of the program, which started as a one-man effort in Joseph's sophomore year as a political science major, has garnered numerous awards for the organization, including two grants totaling \$17,000.

The program has also been featured in various publications, and will be highlighted in the December issue of *Essence*.

"Publicity is good, but it is not enough," Joseph says, visibly worried. "We want to do so much more but we're in dire need of funding. Hopefully, the alums returning for homecoming will read this, and help out."

Between running the program full-time, raising funds, and preparing for law school, Joseph has little time to himself.

"Starting an organization means I've had to sacrifice a lot of my personal needs," he says. "I like to go hiking and camping by myself, but I hardly get a chance to do it."

Joseph pauses for a brief moment and says, "The

biggest joy is knowing I am changing lives!"

"It's almost like a domino effect," he continues, with eyes closed, as if replaying every experience he has ever had. "If I help them to be their best, they'll help their

brothers, friends, uncles, fathers and society as a whole to do their best."

And it is from this that Valdimir Joseph draws his inner strength.

Editor's Note: Inner Strength is having its first

Atlanta based fund-raiser soon. Everyone is invited to come out and support the organization. For more information on the fund-raiser or to volunteer, call (404) 335-0461.

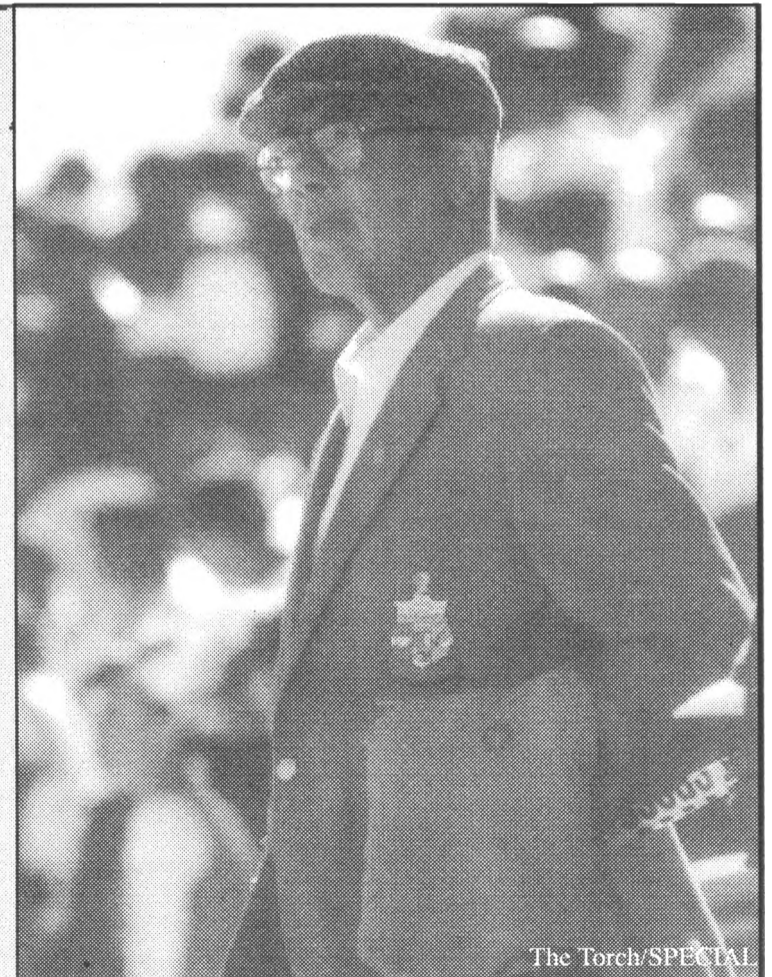
Fare ye well, fare ye well . . .

Dr. William Garfield Pickens, professor of English and illustrious Morehouse alumnus, passed away early Monday morning. He was seventy years old.

Pickens, who entered Morehouse as a 16-year-old, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his graduation earlier this year. He was a friend and contemporary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and graduated with him and the distinguished Class of 1948, which produced other notables, such as Samuel Dubois Cook, and Charles V. Willie. Pickens was also a proud member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Among his many credentials, Pickens served as chair of the English department and sat on several boards and committees at Morehouse.

His death has



The Torch/SPECIAL

saddened many faculty, students and alumni who knew him.

"He did a lot to organize the department and was instrumental in making very significant changes at Morehouse. We will miss

him," said Dr. Delores Stephens, the current head of the English Department.

Dr. Pickens is survived by his wife and three children. His presence on campus will be missed.

— Faraji Whalen

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Campus Capsules

Merrill Hall to undergo renovation

Merrill Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus, will undergo a major renovation next year — as soon as the Office of Institutional Advancement can raise the required funds. The \$5 million project will convert the deteriorating structure into a state-of-the-art facility with eight teaching labs and nine research labs, in addition to lecture halls, offices, and support areas.

A connector will bridge Merrill to adjacent Hope Hall. The 51-foot connector will provide additional classrooms, office space, and computer graphics labs.

The college hopes to complete construction by September 2000.

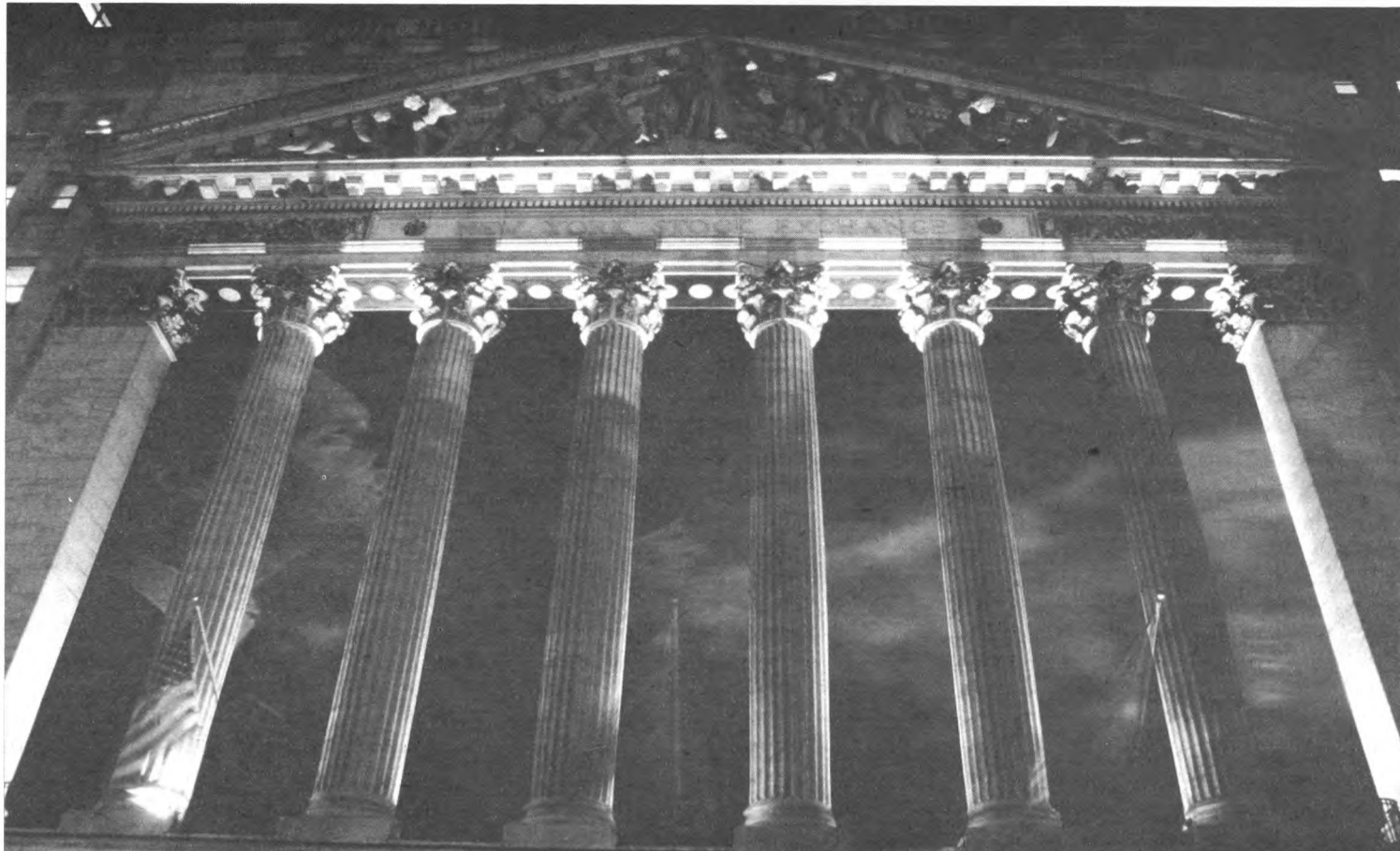
-- Michael Harrison/
Staff Writer

Learning Goals focus of faculty retreat

In the near future, Morehouse students may have to meet certain goals that enhance other skills along with academics, in order to graduate. This was the focus of this year's faculty retreat, the annual gathering of college faculty and administrators, held last weekend. The concept, called Learning Goals, is one that President Massey believes will be the most important change in the academic program since his inauguration.

The retreat, held on campus this year to cut back on costs, also focused on academic misconduct and revision of the faculty evaluation process.

-- Tash Moseley/
General Manager



Opportunities abound at Salomon Smith Barney.

Some are satisfied to follow in the footsteps of others. Others want something more. They want to create. They want to make an impact. And make it today. As Winston Churchill declared, "History will be kind to me. For I intend to write it."

To those of similar persuasion we say, "Let's get to work."

Care to join us?

*Please join us to learn more about career opportunities in
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**Wednesday, October 28
6:00 p.m.
Wheeler Hall - Room 234**

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IN SHORT

Protests greet Supreme Court's first day of session

By Howard Franklin
Staff Writer

Almost a thousand civil rights activists gathered on the steps of the highest court in the land, October 5, to protest the failure of the Supreme Court Justices to hire more minority law clerks.

"This Supreme Court ought to be ashamed of itself. After having existed now for 200 years, [it still] denies day-in and day-out opportunity for law clerks of color to have a chance to come in and shape policy," said Kweisi Mfume, president of the NAACP, which organized the rally.

Mfume and 18 others, including two Morehouse students, were arrested at the end of the march after they peacefully crossed a police line in a symbolic attempt to deliver resumes of qualified minority law students to the Court.

They were charged with violating the federal law that bars demonstrations on Supreme Court grounds, but

were released later in the day.

"The Justices don't see us as law clerks; they want to see us as basketball stars," the Rev. Jamal Bryant, an NAACP official, told demonstrators at the gathering.

The protest was spurred by a report last March in *USA Today* which pointed out that fewer than 2 percent of the 394 law clerks hired by the Justices during their tenure were African Americans. Hispanics represented 1 percent of the hires and Asian Americans, 5 percent.

No Native American has ever served as a clerk, a fact that was not lost on the demonstrators.

"The First Americans should not be the last Americans to clerk for the Supreme Court," read one sign.

Clerks play an essential behind-the-scenes role in screening cases and drafting the Court's opinions. Since they make the first determination of the cases to bring to the Justices' attention,

clerks can guide the fate of a multibillion-dollar commercial dispute or make the difference between life and death for a condemned prisoner.

Typically, such a clerk is a 25-year-old white male, a year out of Harvard.

"With so few minorities filling the positions, the court misses out on diverse views," said the Rev. Staccato Powell, general secretary for the National Council of Churches.

Civil rights leaders at the protest were particularly critical of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who has never hired a Black clerk.

"If the Chief Justice can't find a single Black law clerk in more than a quarter of a century, that speaks volumes about his soul," civil rights scholar Roger Wilkins said.

For his part, Rehnquist refused to meet with NAACP representatives, saying such a meeting will not serve any "useful purpose."

Rights group prepares to sue Chevron over Nigeria deaths

Lawyers for Nigerian human rights activists are preparing to file a lawsuit in the United States against Chevron Corp., alleging that the U.S. oil giant was complicit in the deaths of two protesters in an incident on an offshore oil platform last May. The case stems from an occupation of the Chevron-operated Sabre offshore oil rig by about 100 demonstrators, one of a growing number of actions in the oil-rich region by groups protesting pollution by the oil companies. Chevron informed the authorities, and military and armed police were flown in on Chevron helicopters to end the occupation. It quickly turned violent and two protesters were killed and several others wounded.

Iran foundation raises bounty on Rushdie

An Iranian religious foundation has raised its \$2.5 million bounty on the head of British author Salman Rushdie by 100,000. A hard-line Iranian student group has also offered one million rials (\$333,000) to anyone who carried out the fatwa, or religious order, to kill Rushdie. In September, Iran and Britain said they would upgrade diplomatic ties to ambassadorial level after the Iranian government formally dropped a threat to Rushdie's life and the British government dissociated itself from the contents of the book. All sides to the controversy acknowledge that nobody can rescind Khomeini's death order.

34 sentenced to death for Sierra Leone coup

A military court Tuesday condemned 34 officers to death by firing squad for crimes linked to the 1997 coup that toppled Sierra Leone's president. The 34 were found guilty of treason, murder and other crimes committed by the junta, which held sway for 18 months until President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was restored to power in March by a Nigerian-led West African intervention force. Although Kabbah's return was hailed as a victory for democracy in West Africa, fighting between his forces and ousted RUF fighters and their rebel allies has continued in the country's east.

Beaten gay student dies

Authorities plan to file murder charges in Monday's death of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student who was pistol-whipped and tied to a fence post a week ago in an attack denounced nationwide as a hate crime. Police have said robbery was the primary motive for the attack. But one of the four suspects being held told police that they wanted to get back at Shepard for making passes.

Amtrak slapped with class-action suit

Lawyers representing 13 former and current Black managers have filed a class-action lawsuit against Amtrak claiming that it practices discrimination. The suit alleges that Black managers are paid less, are promoted or hired less frequently than whites and that senior managers have made racially derogatory statements to Blacks. One plaintiff, Roberta Perry, says her coworkers called her "nig#er bi#ch" and often referred to the route from New Orleans to Chicago as "the nig#er and chicken bones special."

School pays for itself

Students looking for help paying off loans after graduation may want to head back to school -- to teach. Under the education bill passed by Congress last week, graduates who teach five years in a poor district can have \$5,000 in debt forgiven. The private sector is also encouraging community service: Andersen Consulting has a new program to hire graduates from schools like the University of Michigan, but lets them first work for two years at Teach for America.

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CLINICAL RESEARCH ATLANTA

Guess who's coming to the House?

In the AUC, opinions on interracial dating run the gamut

By Sterling Taylor
Features Editor

The stares were something that John Manson and his girlfriend soon got used to. Fortunately, the hostility never went beyond the awkward glances.

"Yeah, everybody's gonna stare at you," Manson says matter-of-factly.

Manson, a junior music major at Morehouse College, was sharing episodes from his relationship with a young white woman.

The Nashville, Tenn., native says he went to a predominantly white high school where there weren't many Black women. He maintains, however, that he didn't date his girlfriend solely because of her color.

"Race was not a factor," Manson says. "A lot of things appealed to me."

Interracial dating among college-age students is on the rise nationwide. And while it is still rare to see a mixed couple in the AUC, it is

unfortunately common for students to question why, with the high concentration of young, single African Americans on the center campuses, their fellow classmates would "venture over to the other side?"

AUC students are strongly divided in their opinions when it comes to dating someone of another race. Some express vehement opposition; others think it

home is more cosmopolitan while America's culture is more or less polarized."

But for Carl Washington, a junior industrial engineering major at Morehouse, it's not quite that cut and dry.

"I got mixed emotions," Washington says. "I think it's cool and all, but to be honest, if my daughter came home with a white dude, it'd make me kinda uneasy."

For every grudging

"There's no place for them [interracial couples] in society," Johnson says.

Sheila Brown, too, is opposed to interracial couples but her rationale is different.

"I am against it because most men are trying to prove they are better because they have a white woman. They don't want a strong Black sister," says Brown, a junior education major at CAU.

So, given all the hassle that

"I've gone out with an equal number of Black and white girls. Sometimes as far as personality is concerned [white girls] are a little better," says a sophomore marketing major at Morehouse, who would only speak on condition of anonymity. "They're more caring and understanding. Black women at Spelman who have money have more white tendencies. It all depends on their background."

The debate rages on, with a host of reasoning and counter-reasoning muddling what should be an insignificant issue in this age of multiethnicism.

Meanwhile, Manson broke up with his girlfriend of three years, but he says it had nothing to do with their cultural differences.

"I think [my parents] were relieved when we broke up," Manson says. "They didn't want me to marry her. Her parents were much more accepting, which was surprising."

Kenisha Bethea of Clark Atlanta and Iyabo Kwayama of Spelman College also contributed to this article.

And while it is still rare to see a mixed couple in the AUC, it is unfortunately common for students to question why their fellow classmates would "venture over to the other side?"

should matter little.

"If two people are in love, there's nothing wrong with it," says Herbert Hayden, a freshman psychology major at Morehouse, who is currently working on a research project on this topic for his psychology class.

Likewise, Morehouse sophomore Kasi David is bewildered that interracial dating is even an issue.

"It's not really a big deal," says David, a chemistry and mathematics major from Trinidad. "The culture back

acceptance, there is a vociferous dissent from the other camp.

"I feel that dating white people is spiritual genocide," says Monica Dennis, a senior English major at Clark Atlanta University. "Black people by nature are loving, warm, and caring, [while] white people by nature are deviant, diabolical, murdering thieves."

Equally passionate about his opposition is Julius Johnson, a sophomore psychology major at Morehouse.

a mixed couple has to go through, why do so many choose to become involved?

"True love is color-blind," says Ryan Pack, a freshman engineering major at Spelman College.

Morehouse sophomore Ben Shirley feels the same way, although he expressed it in a much cruder fashion.

"A#s is a#s. It doesn't matter what color it is," says Shirley, a mathematics major.

On the flip side of the coin are those who prefer dating outside their race.

BLACK BUSINESS PROFILE: A cut above the rest: Mass Appeal

By Damon Warren
Contributing Writer

Mike Hatcher is the owner of three businesses — and he's not even 25 years old.

Since graduation from Morehouse College last May, Hatcher has been busy with Mass Appeal — a fully operational barbershop and beauty salon on Lee Street.

"I felt that brothers shouldn't have to wait four hours or sit in the stall of a bathroom just to get a cut," said Hatcher, of his decision to set up shop in the area.

Mass Appeal is the latest brainchild of this former physical education major. He also runs Big Boy Security, which provides crowd control at events, and Big Boy Entertainment.

As a young student at Morehouse, Hatcher became disillusioned with the idea of

going to school for four years just to work for someone else the rest of his life.

"I didn't want to work



Tash Moseley/STAFF

Mass Appeal, the new barbershop on Lee Street, is Mike Hatcher's third venture since starting college. The Morehouse grad plans to someday run his own mortgage company.

until I was fifty and then get laid-off," he said.

Using the capital from a shuttle service he ran around campus, Hatcher started Big Boy Security his sophomore

year.

By providing security for Atlanta's hottest clubs and celebrities, he built a name for himself and his business. Today, Big Boy boasts such trendy spots as Club ESSO, Shark Bar, and Chili Pepper among its clients.

"Big Boy was definitely a learning experience," said Hatcher. He credits it with giving him his first hands-on experience in the business world.

Within two years, the small security company he started led to Big Boy Entertainment. To date, the company has hosted parties all across the southeast.

Through it all, Hatcher

attended school full-time and started on the football team.

"God blessed me with the desire, ability, and drive for everything I've done" he said.

Hatcher's plans for the future include real estate investments and owning a mortgage company.

"I'd [also] like to teach a class in the AUC about entrepreneurship" he said. "My goals are to be able to provide for my family, and to continue to give back to the community."

Hatcher hopes other AUC students will follow in his footsteps, and start their own businesses.

"Try to learn everything you can, be patient, but stay aggressive," he said.

In the meantime, Hatcher said he's always looking to hire people from the AUC for promotions, security,

entertainment for his companies.

FAST FACTS

Age: 23

Hometown: Willingboro, NJ

Education: Morehouse College
B.A. in Physical education, 1998

Accomplishments: 3-year starter, The Maroon Tigers
Academic All-Conference
Graduated with a 3.0 GPA

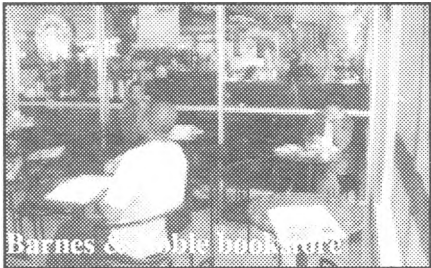
Businesses: Big Boy Security, Big Boy Entertainment, Mass Appeal

A little loot goes a long way

By James Prewitt
Staff Writer

It's the weekend.

You've had two projects, three tests and four quizzes during the week and now you're convinced you deserve a weekend of fun.



There's only one hitch: your wallet's thin.

No problem. For the weekend Romeo looking for a nice spot to take your date, here's a list of things to do and places to eat for under \$10.

If there's one thing Atlanta has, it's good dining for cheap. One of the city's best-kept secrets is Eats on Ponce de Leon. Its signature dish is jerk chicken and black beans over rice (\$4.50), but you can also get a wide selection of pasta, starting around \$4.00. Hop on MARTA to North Ave. station

and take the #2.

If you can take off early Friday afternoon, you can load up on Houlihans' half-price appetizers, offered from 4 - 7 p.m. weekdays. And if you plan in advance, you can take in a play for free after your early dinner by volunteering as ushers for the Alliance Theater's many productions staged throughout the year. Both the restaurant and theater are right across from the Arts Center station.

Any one of Fellini's numerous locations that dot Atlanta can be a great get-to-know-you spot if you're craving pizza. You can't beat their cheese pizza (\$1.25/slice), the special with the works (\$2.65/slice) or their heaping bowl of salad (\$2.70). The atmosphere is casual; you can go as you are.

If you're in the mood for Mexican, and you're over 21 to wash it down with \$0.99 Margaritas, Piedmont's Taco Cabana is for you. The place boasts nachos and salsa for under a dollar, while the tacos (\$1.32) and fajitas (\$1.22) are an equally enticing bargain.

Take #31 from Lindbergh Station.

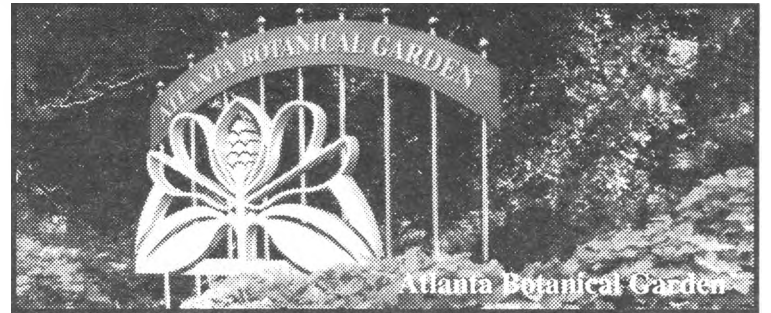
For more nachos than you can handle, the Groundhog Tavern in Underground Atlanta offers its 'Nevermore Nachos,' (\$6.25) which easily feeds four.

Finally, for that very special first date, Cafe Intermezzo's dim mellow atmosphere can really add to the mood. The coffees are cheap (\$2.70), and the desserts are around \$5.00. Bus #23 from Lenox or Arts Center will get you there.

Movies in Atlanta can cost anywhere from \$4.50 to \$6.75, according to location and stu-



dent discount. To make your money go that extra mile, the \$1.75 theater on Buford Highway is an option you could explore. The movies are a few months old, but we all have a flick or two we miss during the



regular run.

With the money you save, you can go bowling in the alley next to the theater. Before 5 p.m., it's \$2.00 to bowl; it's \$2.80 afterwards. Of course, shoe rentals will cost you an additional \$2.00. Bus #39 from Lindbergh Center will take you down Buford Highway and drop you right at the Northeast Plaza Mall.

For the more culturally inclined, the High Museum of Art is a godsend. The highly-anticipated Pop Art exhibit begins October 24, and for \$4 a head, it's a better deal than art

museums in other metropolitan cities. Tickets for the exhibit, however, need to be reserved in advance. The museum is located a stone's throw away from the Arts Center station.

Located next to Piedmont Park, the Atlanta Botanical Garden is the perfect spot for an early date. Admission is \$3.00 for students from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. And while the weather's still mild, a Sunday picnic in the park can be a pretty romantic prospect. Pack your own basket, grab a blanket, and idle the day away. Bus #31 from Lindbergh station passes by both the Park and the Garden.

Another great way to spend the evening is to peruse books and magazines at the Borders or Barnes & Noble book stores on Peachtree Street. Both stay open late and have cafes with suprisingly good food. Borders also offers live music on weekends.

Atlanta is a city full of possibilities. With your ears and eyes open and a little bit of creativity, you can make an evening out of very little.

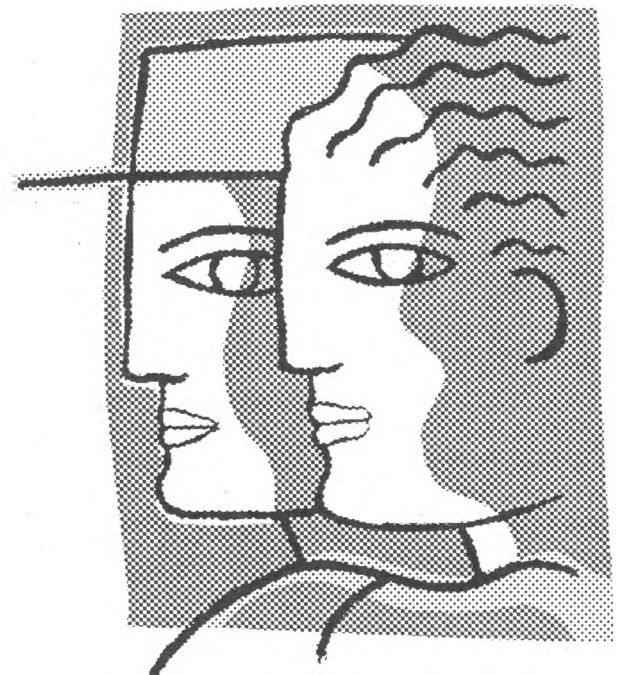
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by Shaun Snearmon/STAFF

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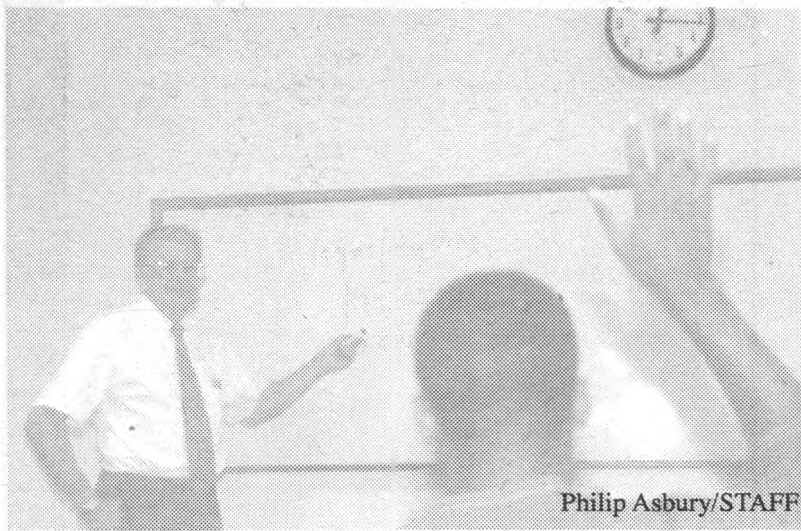
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Racism in the philosophy department?



Philip Asbury/STAFF

By Aaron Chilton
Editorial Columnist

On my very first day of New Student Orientation, my group leader told us that he had written a paper on the absence of Black professors, full- or part-time, in the Morehouse philosophy department. He alleged that the department's white professors were racist.

Today, there still are no African American professors in the department and I have, on more than one occasion, heard students refer to one or more of its professors as racist.

Let's consider the reasoning behind these claims.

It is not difficult for me to understand the complaints of students. What sense does it make for any department at an HBCU to have exclusively white professors?

Black philosophers are in high demand because there just aren't that many. For instance, in our department, there are less than twenty majors and most of us are planning to attend law school rather than pursue advanced degrees in philosophy.

Morehouse philosophy professor Dr. Del Kiernan-Lewis said that the department has been actively seeking Black professors for several years. However, they have encountered two major obstacles.

First is the lack of Black Ph.D.'s in the field, most of whom tend to be enticed by larger schools who pay more, bring more prestige, and provide more promising prospects for their works being published.

Second, the Morehouse philosophy department lacks

the financial support of the school to hire a new full-time professor of any race, especially considering the already small class sizes that average between 5-8 students.

Still, some students point to the fact that both Spelman and CAU have been able to secure Black professors in their departments. Others complain about comments made and behavior exhibited by professors that they believe to be racist.

One student claims that a professor stated there is no such thing as African philosophy. Taken out of context - with little understanding of the academic discipline itself, this may seem racist.

However, authentic evaluation of this statement will reveal that this professor was not claiming that African peoples are incapable of critical reflection and intellectual inquiry; that would be absurd. What he meant is that, historically, there has not been an established systematic methodology for critically

evaluating the production and dissemination of knowledge for its own sake as practiced in the Western academy.

This is not a derogatory claim about Africans lacking in intellectual capacity, but a descriptive statement about the way in which inquiry has, or has not, taken place.

Another consideration is that the history of philosophy

Since the study of philosophy consists of studying philosophers, the discipline tends to take on racist overtures due to the elitism that the activity exudes.

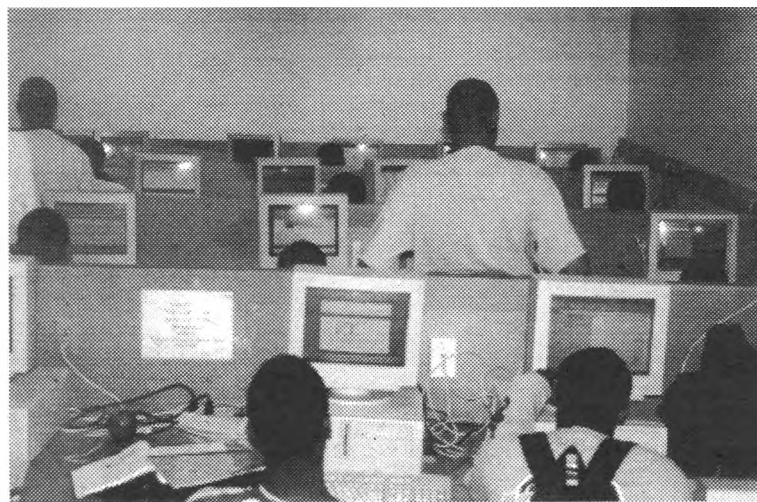
However, we must distinguish between the personal views of the professors and the ideas they study and teach. In philosophy it is vital that we make attempts to be detached

One student claims that a professor stated there is no such thing as African philosophy. Taken out of context with little understanding of the academic discipline itself, this may seem racist.

as studied in western academia has a strong tradition of elitism, sexism and racism. Most philosophers who studied the discipline prior to the twentieth century are avid bigots. I suspect that students find it disturbing when white professors give serious consideration to thinkers who are obviously racist.

when assessing the ideology of a thinker, even when it is apparently racist, sexist or elitist.

I don't pretend to be able to account for every student's beliefs about my department, its chair, and the professors, but I remain firmly convinced that none of them are even remotely racist.



JoyAnn Phillips/STAFF

Let student assistants handle computer lab traffic

To the Editor:

Have we come so far and yet made so little progress? Morehouse College, the beacon of the AUC, treats its students like prisoners and dogs!

I say this when a police officer can arbitrarily enter the Sale Hall computer lab and, like a Gestapo, demands the IDs of

the students in the lab! In the same breath, he barks the order to leave if students don't have their college ID with them!

I have been a student here for three years and I have been working as a lab assistant for about the same period of time. The running of the lab is complex and never is it a

situation of black and white.

The fact is no other AUC institution has a computer lab with the levels of performance the Sale Hall lab possesses. When Morehouse students complain that the lab is used more often by other schools, it is a desperate attempt to give themselves excuses for waiting until the last minute to hand in papers.

The use of the lab by other AUC students has never been a major determinant in computer availability in the lab. Throwing them out of the lab should not be welcomed either. The result of this exercise is the unnecessary intimidation of Morehouse students.

If, in fact, the use of the lab should be limited, let it be limited to the times there is heavy traffic in the lab — midterms and finals. As a student, it is very hard to tell other students to leave the lab when you know they have to do equally important papers, no matter what school they are from.

Allow the lab assistants the discretion to handle these situations as they arise. Should Morehouse students need to use the lab, then it should be up to those coordinating

is ridiculous! The network is always in a mess; a computer that prints today may not necessarily print tomorrow.

Yet with the help of the assistants, the lab is more or

If, in fact, the use of the lab should be limited, let it be limited to the times there is heavy traffic in the lab — midterms and finals.

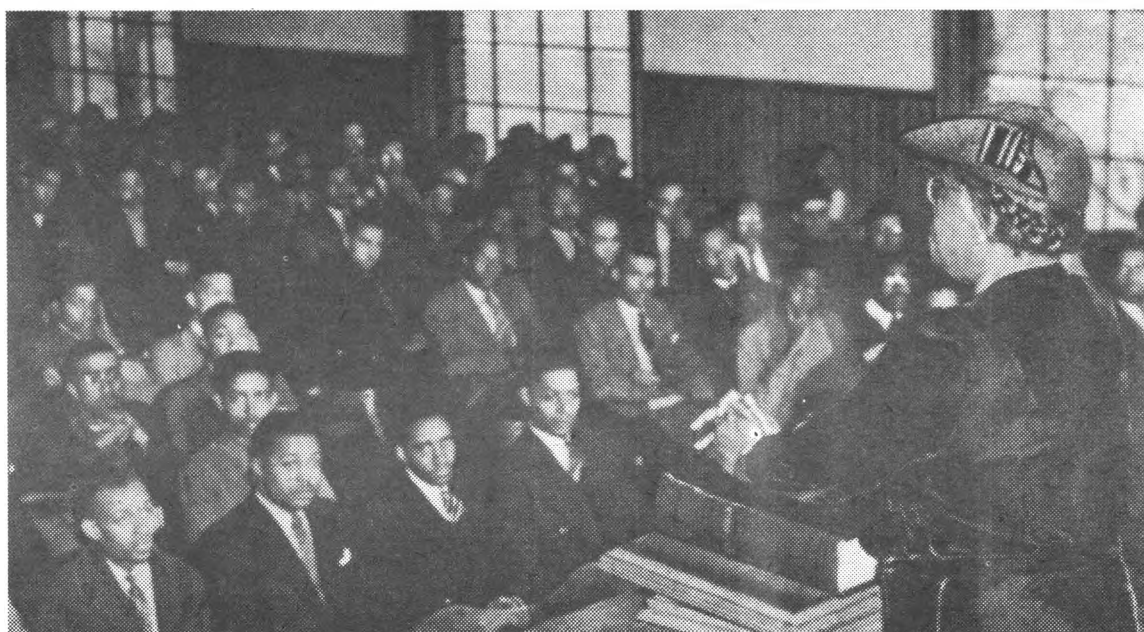
assistance in the lab to handle it so that the least number of individuals are adversely affected.

The last issue of *The Maroon Tiger* commented on the problems faced in the lab. Running the lab with forty computers, that may or may not be at optimum performance levels, and only two lab assistants (on average)

less a successful venture. If only we had enough assistants to assist. If only we didn't have to be psychologically insulted by being thrown out of our lab if we came to the lab with our disk and without our I.D. If only we, as students, were trusted to handle our lab to our best interest.

If only we could get rid of this slave mentality.

Keilonne O'Brien '00



Office of College Relations

Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune speaks to a group of attentive students during Crown Forum. The year is unknown.

New Crowns, New Kings: A Truce

Crown Forum behavior is better this year than in the past

By Sidney Robbins
Editorial Columnist

I arrived ten minutes early and sat in the front with my freshman brothers. I waited and watched, wondering if it was going to be any different this year. One gentleman approached me and asked if we had to sit in assigned seats (apparently I was in his).

As the prelude began, an improvisation on "Dear Old Morehouse" by Henry Purcell, I remember thinking how appropriate it was. It was still beautiful, somehow elegantly capturing the spirit of its predecessor in a new rhythm; yet it sounded so different from the original.

For the first Crown Forum

of 1998, it was indeed fitting.

Noise rose above the song in chatter and laughter -- the rest of the upperclassmen were arriving. My new colleagues, still accustomed to the atmosphere of Freshman Orientation, turned in their seats in disbelief. Why were they making so much noise after the program had started? Why were so many Morehouse men late to what they said in orientation was one of the most sacred events of our institution? Where were their ties?

I saw the questions in their eyes. I had asked the same ones two years ago. One brother looked at me briefly, still not understanding.

I whispered to him the only thing I could think to say in consolation for what the noise had taken from him and his fellow classmates -- for the upperclassmen's parts in beginning to erase their belief in Mays' Morehouse -- for shattering the sacredness of Crown Forum for them -- for doing to them what had been done to us in the same assembly years ago by upperclassmen.

I told him, "It's getting better."

It wasn't a lie. Overall Crown Forum behavior has been better this year than the previous two years. There is still a hum of conversation throughout the gathering, but I have yet to hear the loud cat-

calls, the rude comments to speakers during their addresses (and the whispered apologies that the administrator sitting next to the speaker must continually offer), or even that obnoxious "uhhh" that is imitated whenever a certain administrator speaks.

For the most part, students even wait until after the speaker has concluded to leave. Maybe it is getting better.

Of course, there are the yearly arguments that behavior will improve with the quality of speakers. They cite the day Magic Johnson spoke to a captive audience. But I recall the instance when Andrew Young was our guest:

at exactly 11:49, the student body headed toward the exits while he was still speaking. Good speakers will not come to Crown Forum to be disrespected.

So, I write to present a truce: Let's continue to improve our cordiality (and new students, please believe this is an improvement) while we continue to demand more renowned speakers.

Crown Forum does not have to be a six-day-a-week, assigned-seat event as it once was, but it should still be special -- it is still one of the most sacred events of our college.

Thursdays are "High School Forum" days at Morehouse

By Christopher Bryant
Contributing Writer

I usually try to go to sleep during the highlight of every Thursday at Morehouse College, Crown Forum.

But as the Student Life Editor of the *Torch*, the college yearbook, I am required to cover these assemblies, and attend its stretched-out sessions.

In years past, it seemed that the college did not put such a great emphasis on staying awake during these fifty-minute snooze-fests. Now, Dean Gaffney says that we shouldn't even *study* during the time we spend

listening to the soporific student speeches at the forum.

Administrators call us "young men" and "boys" at these gatherings and we are never really taught that this place is nothing like the real world. When I left school and had to get a J-O-B, so that I could rejoin my "well-taken-care-of" brothers at the House, no one would stop by my desk and offer to refresh my memory of my responsibilities on the job.

I know that most of my Morehouse brothers have been baby-sat most of their lives in parochial schools and in the back seats of their parent's Volvos. Yet, in a world of reality that we will

all be subjected to eventually, there is no room for trying to spend time teaching grown men to be quiet during a meeting. Nor should they be

in a world of reality that we will all be subjected to eventually, there is no room for trying to spend time teaching grown men to be quiet during a meeting.

given instructions on where to go sign their promissory notes if it happens to slip from their memories.

Furthermore, the speakers humiliate us by telling us how

disappointed in our behavior they are. Who cares?

If these "boys" do not learn to grow up soon they will eventually have to leave school because they are not serious enough to handle college life. The college is not doing these young men any favors by treating them like boys once a week.

"Pizza blasts" and oratory contests are what we did in high school. Plus, the only students that get out of line at Crown Forum will behave that way in any public arena because of their immaturity.

Perhaps, if we told all the restless students who filter in late that they do not have to come, then we could spend more time in Crown Forum focusing on student concerns, academic problems, and social issues.

We need to do away with all the "kite-flying" rhetoric that characterizes Crown Forum. We should strive toward building a stronger foundation for a gathering of student fellowship, rather than spending fifty minutes in "in-house detention," putting up with slander from a staff that works for the same student body that they are persecuting at 11:00 a.m. every Thursday.

The Maroon Tiger

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REBIRTH

OF THE

SPIRIT

HOMECOMING

1998

SUPPLEMENT

Outkast headlines homecoming concert

By Don Hogan
Contributing Writer

It's almost always the concert that measures a homecoming's success in the end.

And with Outkast as the headlining act, students are abuzz with excitement about this year's homecoming pick.

"Outkast's created three classic albums, and they're Atlanta's hometown favorites; so you know it's going to be a tight show," said Al Weston, a senior biology major.

The concert, to be held tonight, will also feature Noreaga, fresh off a well-received show at the Warehouse last month, and R&B act, Next.

"Since we're representing three major genres — Southern hip-hop with Outkast, East Coast hip-hop with Noreaga, and R&B with Next -- this should be a great show," said Jason Boulware, assistant director of homecoming.

The concert is a collaboration between

Morehouse and Morris Brown, and will be held in the latter's Herndon Stadium.

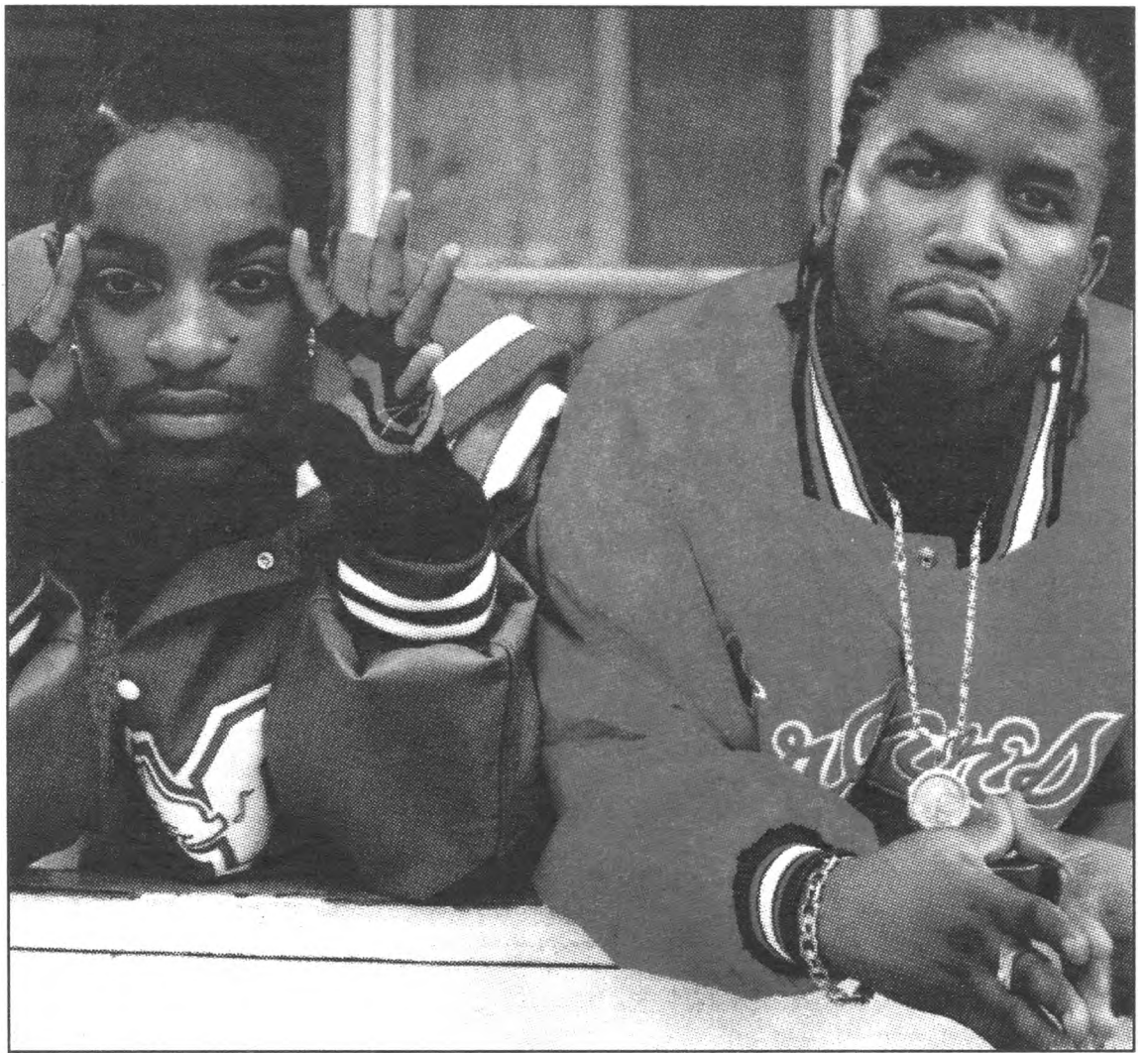
Seth Pickens, director of homecoming for Morehouse, said the decision to jointly sponsor the show significantly cut down on the budget, and allowed the schools to go after big-name artists.

"With our collaborative efforts to bring this to a reality, we clicked from all angles and things fell right into place," said Pickens.

The show will start at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for Morehouse and Morris Brown students, \$12 for students with college IDs, and \$15 for the general public.

Where to buy tickets:

Tickets are available at the Morehouse College Business Office, and the Morris Brown College Bookstore.



Vibe/SPECIAL

The ABCs of homecoming: Alcohol, Brotherhood and Coronation

Drinking among alumni and students rises during the weekend

By Randall Jackson
Staff Writer

For many students and alumni, it's not the concert or the football game that consummates the partying on homecoming weekend.

It's the alcohol.

"I know that people here drink more, especially at homecoming, than I ever saw in high school," said Seth Pickens, director of homecoming.

"I don't really think it's even an outlet from stress or anything; it's just part of the culture of Atlanta and Morehouse," said the junior psychology major. "Half the people drinking at the tailgate spots at homecoming are successful alumni. It's the accepted norm."

Henry Goodgame, director of alumni affairs and major gifts, agrees that consumption of alcohol among alumni is not uncommon during the

weekend, but said that drinking is not the focus.

"Alums come back and have a good time. Some may bring something, and some

that drinking has never posed a serious problem.

"We've never had an incident related to drinking and we don't plan to this year,"

alcoholic beverages will be served at one student event this homecoming -- the ball. Because the event is being held jointly with Spelman, it falls

for student events, like Morehouse does," said Ellice Hawkins, coordinator of student programming. "Therefore the Hyatt [Regency, site of the event] will be setting up a cash bar for those of age."

However, Morehouse College continues to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol on campus, and the campus police warns that students can endanger their registration or even face prosecution if caught with controlled substances, including alcohol.



Shaun Spearmon/STAFF

may not, but the focus is just fellowship and having a good time, rejoining old friends," he said.

Goodgame points out

he said. "We hope everyone has enough respect for homecoming to not cause any problems."

In a break from years past,

outside normal Morehouse protocol.

"Spelman decided to sign for it and they don't have a zero tolerance alcohol policy

Favorite drinks among Morehouse College students

- Corona
- Heineken
- Rolling Rock Beer
- Jack Daniels Down Home Punch
- Southern Comfort
- Kahlua and Cream
- Margarita
- Hennessy and Coke
- Bacardi Rum
- Peach Snaps
- Alizé
- And of course, the perennial favorite - Wine coolers!!

With each game, Tigers improving

By Joe Carlos
Sports Editor

Be patient. Better days await the Maroon Tigers.

The team is coming off two straight weekends of strongly-contested losses to Alcorn State and archrival, Tuskegee.

The narrow margins of defeat have injected a new dose of optimism to the team and Head Coach Frank Hickson.

"Have you been to the games? Then you can see the improvement we are making every week," said Hickson, in an interview with *The Maroon Tiger*. "We were two plays away from making a national statement [in the game against Alcorn State]. By beating them — a team in a higher division — we would have shown all of the critics just how far

we've come."

Hickson said the team has come under unfair fire from the students and the newspaper, and stressed that the campus-wide negative



sentiment regarding football has to change.

"There needs to be an attitudinal adjustment in regards to football on this campus," he said. "We're experiencing growing pains, which is natural for any team that is rebuilding."

"You've got to realize that we've got guys, young guys, that in a regular program would have been red shirted," Hickson added. "Instead, we had 250 lb. freshmen linemen playing IAA defensive linemen who were

about 325lbs. And they were fighting them and holding them off all day."

The confidence oozing into the team following their recent performance is slowly making a difference on the field, said Hickson. All the team needs now is for the college to rally behind it.

"It's sad," said Hickson. "Before the guys go out on the field, they say, 'N o b o d y believes in us but ourselves. Let's do it for

us.'" Hickson also cleared up the rumors that began circulating around campus after students misinterpreted a story that appeared in the last issue of *The Maroon Tiger*. He is here to stay, Hickson said.

"I'm building a lifetime career. I want to be at Morehouse for the rest of my life," he said. "I have moved eight times in sixteen years.

Coming back to an HBCU,

that's my heart, my roots. I'm a guy who wants to make a difference here."

When asked about homecoming, Hickson expressed confidence that the Tigers will put up a good

fight.

"It's always good to come home," he said. "It's an exciting time. And with the progress that we've been making, hopefully we can pull it off for Homecoming this week."

Players hungry for first win

By Levar Smith • Staff Writer

Through the taunts and criticism, they've been silent. Amidst the doubts, they have stayed focused on the game, preparing for the homecoming showdown against Virginia Union.

The Maroon Tigers' impressive showing against Alcorn State and Tuskegee may have been just what the players needed.

The optimism and enthusiasm of the team are now apparent on every face.

"We haven't given up yet. We still want to finish strong," said freshman business major Kent Davis.

"The team is taking the losses one game at a time, and I try to get better every game and during practice," added Camy Smith, a freshman business major.

The players admitted it takes time to get to know one another's playing style, but said the unity and chemistry this year was better than in the past.

"We're close-knit, but we're still trying to get to know each other better," said junior mathematics major Patrick Carter.

Key to their success is increased student turnout and support, the players stressed.

"The fans are important to team success" said Carter. "The more fans we have, the more morale the team will have."

Keys to victory

THE RAPIDLY IMPROVING PLAY OF THE OFFENSIVE LINE

In the past couple of weeks, the offensive line, led by center Jason Perry, has given quarterback Chivalrik Daughtry the necessary time to make reads, and has opened up holes for the running backs. In the Tuskegee game, running back Jason

Taylor ran very well in the second half behind the vaunted Maroon Tiger line.

CONSISTENCY AT QUARTERBACK

Sticking with freshman quarterback Chivalrik Daughtry has helped build a level of consistency within the offense. In the last couple of weeks, Daughtry has shown poise and skill at his position, and has led his offense to numerous scores and near victories against Alcorn and Tuskegee.

CORNERBACKS

Opposing offenses have repeatedly gone to the air to challenge the Maroon Tiger corners. Challenging the corners is to be expected with the successful play of the defensive line. However, with improved coverage at the wideouts and in the flats, more first downs and deep plays will be prevented.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Maroon Tigers enjoy a particular luxury in the fact that place kicker Marcus Shaw is so consistent. Shaw attributes for a great percentage of the Maroon Tigers' offensive points, and is basically dead on accurate from upwards of 30+ yards.

FAN SUPPORT

Fan support is so important. In order to win, it takes mental preparation, execution of plays, and support from the fans. Screaming, yelling chants and cheers are invaluable psychologically for the team as well as the fans.

-- Joe Carlos

In defense of our football team

By Keddrick Franks • Editorial Columnist

Let's face it; football is obviously not where Morehouse excels as a school.

We're half-way through this season and we're floundering at a pathetic 0 and 6. And in the past three years, we've only been able to crack the win column a meager 5 times.

But look at it this way: No matter how many times our team has been ripped in half, they continue to get up and go back for more.

This year, we practically have a new team, including a new head coach. Different faces from different places and backgrounds who've been thrown together without being given enough time to learn to work together. Now, they are expected to turn a team with a legacy of losing into champions. That takes time.

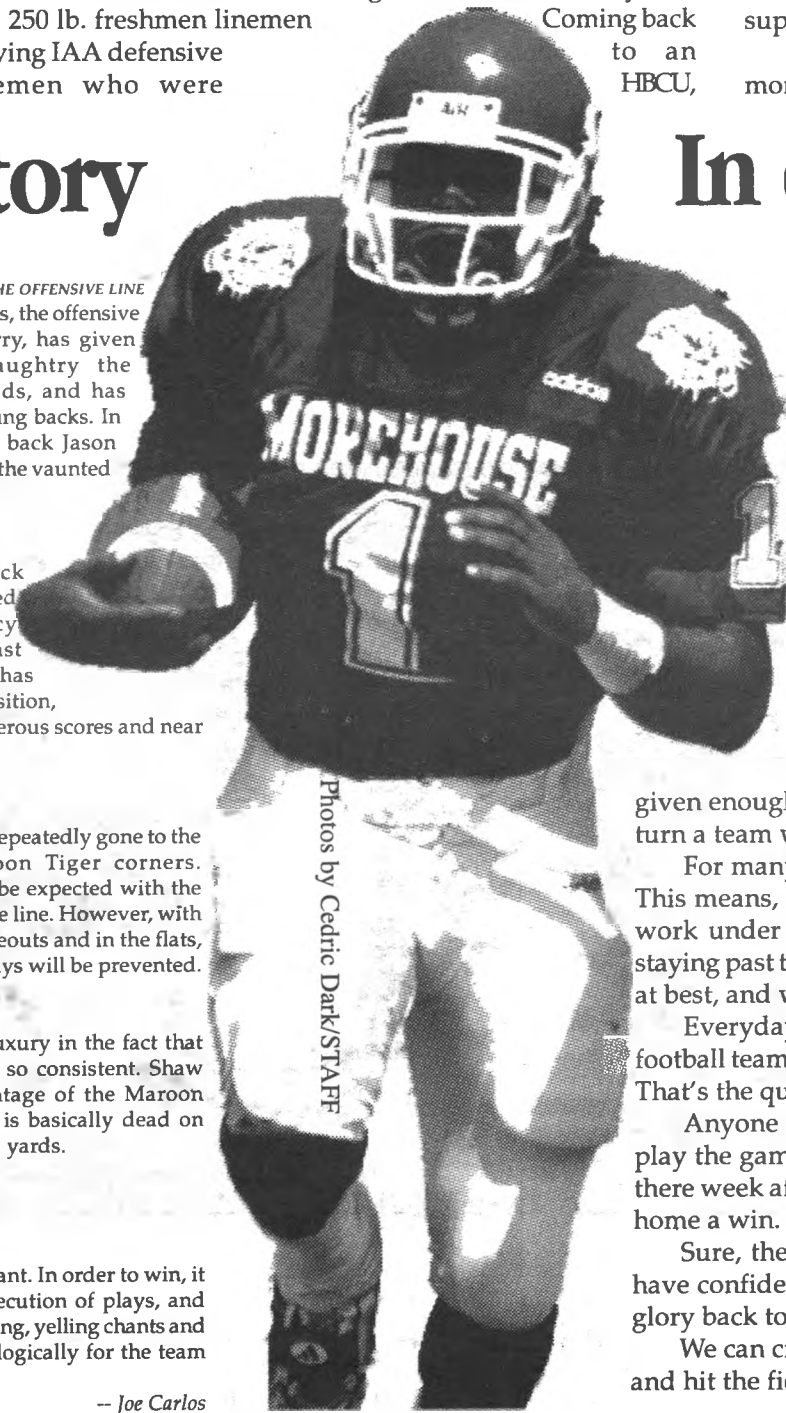
For many of the returning players, it is their second or third coach. This means, these players constantly have to learn and re-learn how to work under new leadership that they know has very little chance of staying past two seasons. To put it plainly, our football program is unstable at best, and we as students don't exactly make things easy for them.

Everyday, students, myself included, can be heard ridiculing our football team. But if we were in their shoes, could we really do any better? That's the question we should be asking ourselves.

Anyone can be a Monday-morning quarterback, but can you really play the game? In the end, it's the team, not its critics, that is going out there week after week doing the best it can to work cohesively and bring home a win.

Sure, their best may fall short at the present, but given a chance, I have confidence that this team can be a force on the field and bring the glory back to our football program.

We can criticize all we want, but until we actually strap on the pads and hit the field, what we say really doesn't matter.



Photos by Cedric Dark/STAFF

Alumni Giving: Putting a down payment on the House

By Melvin Mallon
Contributing Writer

It's a question that comes up every homecoming. And with alumnus Bob Davidson's recent \$1 million donation, it's resounding louder this year: Are Morehouse alumni doing their share to fortify the House?

Fortunately, the answer is yes, says Henry Goodgame, director of alumni affairs and major gifts for the college.

The school's alumni donation rate is the highest for all historically Black colleges and universities in the country. And the college persuades a greater percentage of its alumni to contribute than do Purdue, University of Illinois and University of Michigan, all institutions ranking in the top 10 nationally in total alumni contributions.

Goodgame attributes the alumni giving to fierce school loyalty.

"The love that Morehouse men have for the school is lifelong," said Goodgame '84. "There's been an increase in the donations due to the presence and support of Dr. Massey, and [because of] the various fundraising drives by different chapters."

At present, the school maintains a 25 percent alumni donation rate, with Spelman College a close second at 21 percent.



Cedric Dark/STAFF

Henry Goodgame, director of alumni affairs and major gifts, says the college has the highest alumni donation rate of all HBCUs

"We judge alumni donor rates against schools with traditionally high percentage rates, such as Princeton -- schools traditionally in the 60 percent range," said Goodgame. "Considering that we are equivalent in contributions to that of Cornell University, which has a bigger alumni population, I feel we are accomplishing a great deal."

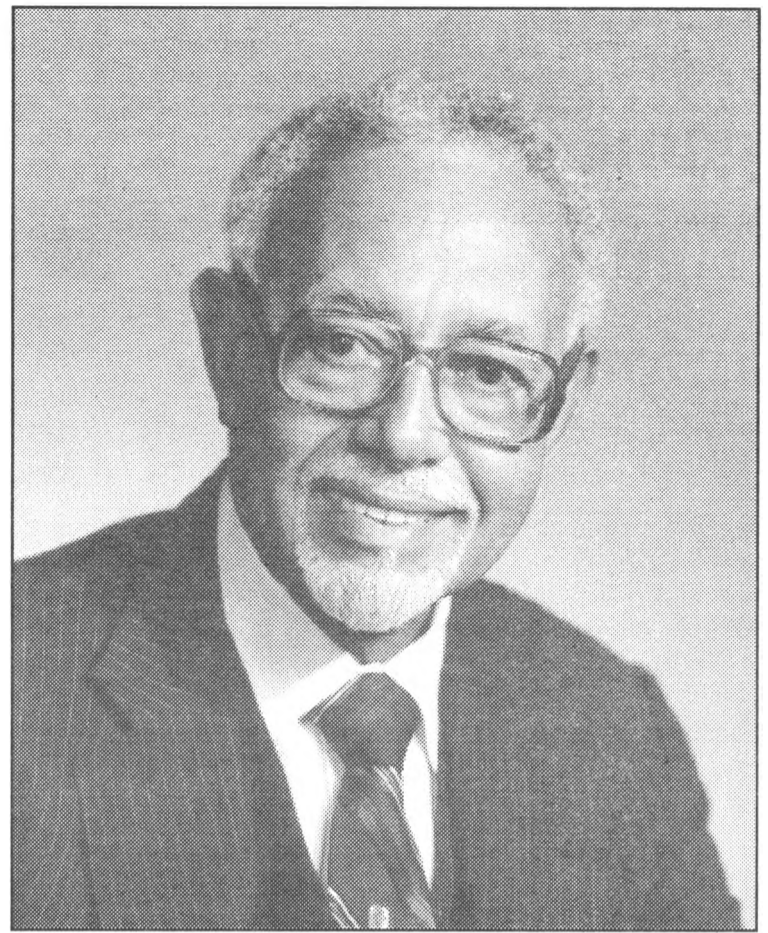
But Goodgame says the college isn't resting on its laurels just yet. The office of alumni affairs has set a lofty goal of 49 percent by 1999.

Utilizing the Young Alumni Council, the National Alumni Association, the Annual Fund Drive, and the Phone-A-Drive, Goodgame 's

office hopes to reach a wider alumni pool. The rigorous funding drives by the Atlanta, Boston, New York and Chicago chapters have contributed greatly.

Alumni donations usually go toward educational supplies, scholarships, and to subsidize student tuition. However, when necessary, the school allocates a percentage of the funds, regardless of its original destination, to a particular area of the school operation depending upon the projected need for the year.

Editor's Note: Alumni, students and parents interested in finding ways to contribute money or volunteer time toward alumni or fundraising affairs may contact Henry Goodgame in Gloster Hall, Rm. 305, or call (404) 215-2658.



Homecoming service dedicated to Dr. Thomas Kilgore's memory

A worship service honoring the late Reverend Dr. Thomas Kilgore '34 will be held at King Chapel on Homecoming Sunday, October 18.

Kilgore's eldest daughter, the Rev. Jini Kilgore Ross, will deliver the morning sermon dedicated to her father's memory. Later, she will autograph copies of his newly published autobiography, "A Servant's Journey: The Life and Works of Thomas Kilgore Jr."

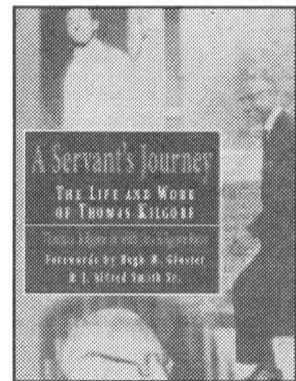
A civil rights leader, Kilgore helped organize the historic 1963 March on Washington, founded the Los Ange-

les chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and served as an advisor to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. He is one of a handful of ministers to have served as president of two national Baptist bodies: the mostly white American Baptist Church and the predominantly Black Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Kilgore also served as longtime chairman of the Morehouse Board of Trustees and was Pastor Emeritus of the Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, California.

The Homecoming service will begin 11 a.m.

-- Staff Reports



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S T R E E T

The Unofficial
Official Word

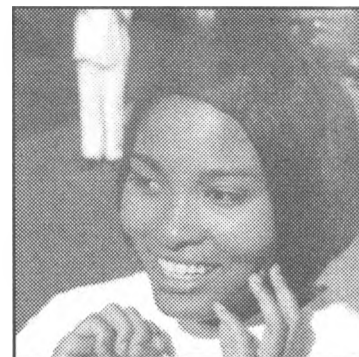
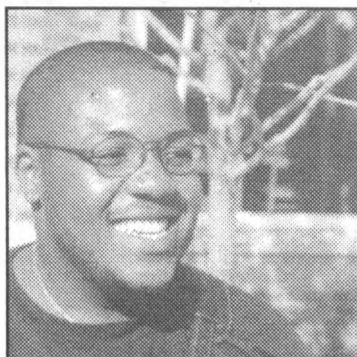
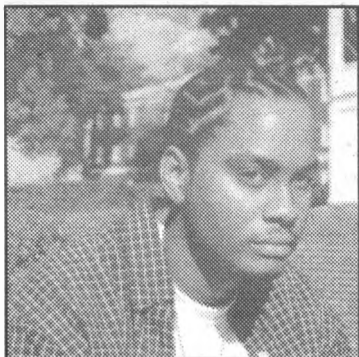
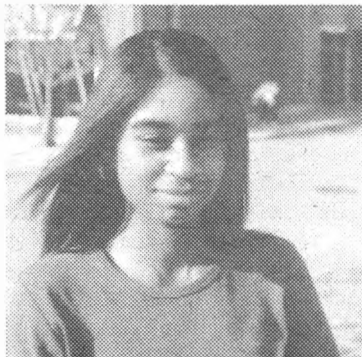
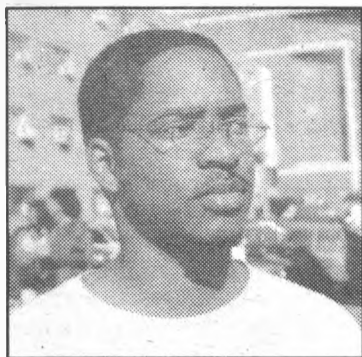
PHOTOS BY
TASH MOSELEY

B E A T

COMPILED BY
TASH MOSELEY

This week's Street Beat question :

"Do you think the fashion show is sexist?"



Blair Sills
Junior
English
Cedar Brook, NJ

Meleah White
Junior
Psychology (CAU)
Springfield, MA

Freddie Craig
Sophomore
Political science
Pittsburgh, PA

Wesley Franklin
Junior
Chemistry
Greensboro, NC

MarieGabrielle Jones
Sophomore
Chemistry (Spelman)
Cleveland Heights, OH

"I think it's a wonderful and great [event], but, yes, it's sexist."

"I don't think it's sexist personally because in certain scenes, you see equal amounts of flesh [from men and women]. If it was one sex being exploited, then it would be sexist."

"I don't think so. If they choose to be in it, they choose to be in it. You can't make decisions for people."

"No, because sexist means showing favoritism to or exploiting one gender. If the show is showing equal amounts of flesh/nudity of both genders, then there is no favoritism."

"I think that the fashion show is sexist because it exploits women. Not even the fashion show itself, more so the advertisements. It's degrading and I feel that real women would not participate in such events."

Miss Maroon & White pageant: An exercise in sexism

By Heather Thompson
Guest Commentary

Perhaps I just expect too much. However, it seems to me that as conscious, educated African Americans, we should be taking bold steps toward creating a world for ourselves which is free of the rank stench of sexism.

The Miss Maroon & White pageant reeks of it and I think it is time we clear the air.

Webster's New College Dictionary defines pageant as "an elaborate public dramatic presentation" and as "a showy display."

If the men of Morehouse were using this definition to measure the success of the pageant, I would contend that they have succeeded — resoundingly.

I have seen enough sequins and attempts at poise and comportment during the course of the pageants to last a lifetime.

However, if the college is seeking to redefine the ways in which it views and treats

women, it has failed — miserably.

Contrary to popular belief, this is not an event that honors women. It is simply the grandest display of relegating

It is simply the grandest display of relegating women to being trophies. And every year young women from Spelman College compete against each other to win the right to be top mantle piece.

women to being trophies. And every year young women from Spelman College compete against each other to win the right to be top mantle piece.

They put on their finery and make-up, hoping and praying that they will have what it takes to impress the men of Morehouse enough to garner their votes.

The air is filled with nervous trepidation as these women put it all on the line in an attempt to knock the collective socks off Morehouse.

The entire process harks

back to the days when African Americans were required to parade on auction blocks for perspective slave buyers. It is inarguable that by sponsoring this pageant, Morehouse College is directly aiding in the subjugation of women.

Invariably, this column will raise questions about the validity of the Miss Spelman pageant. However, the two events and the roles of the women who win them differ in several key ways.

A contestant in the Miss Spelman competition becomes a full-fledged member of the Spelman Student Government Association upon winning. That means she assumes the same responsibilities as all other elected student leaders on campus. These requirements are clearly defined in the Spelman College handbook, and the winner is required to initiate a yearlong community service project in order to retain her

title.

None of this can be said about Miss Maroon & White. This is not an attempt to diminish the community service projects some of the past queens have undertaken. It is to highlight the fact that nowhere in any literature that Morehouse makes available to the general public is the role of Miss Maroon & White

defined.

Would I be hasty in concluding that the role of Miss Maroon & White, then, is to be pretty and poised but not empowered?

Thompson is a senior studio art major at Spelman College. After graduation, she plans to join the Peace Corps.

Conscience comedy Colyar's forte

Michael Colyar will make you think a little and laugh a lot at the college's homecoming comedy concert, tomorrow.

The comedian's thought-provoking humor both tickles the funny bone and enlightens the mind, and has been described as "conscience comedy." Between the punch lines, Colyar sprinkles in social

commentaries on such topics as racism, homelessness, AIDS and drug abuse.

The concert, to be held in King Chapel at 8 p.m., will be emceed by alumnus Ken Rye and include a performance by Sirius B.

Colyar is best known for his appearances on "Showtime at the Apollo," and "HBO's Def Comedy Jam."



Parade to feature Morris Brown, Spelman Colleges

By Kevin Ervin
Contributing Writer

For Alexander Robbins, parades have always been more about creating unity than boosting school spirit.

And as director of the college's homecoming parade for the second year in a row, this senior business major is aiming for just that by soliciting participation from AU Center schools, Spelman and Morris Brown for Saturday's event.

"Growing up in Tuskegee, Alabama, I always admired parades because they brought unity within the community and I want to see the same thing in West End," said Robbins.

Although a grand marshal for the route has not been picked yet, Robbins has confirmed participation from over 200 clubs and organizations. Area high school bands — always a crowd favorite — will number in the teens, and Mays High School, a major feeder of AUC band members, alone will have 20 cars.



Robbins directed his first parade last year under then SGA President Will Sellers.

"When I was offered the position, I was very nervous because I had no experience but I knew that I had the heart and desire to finish the job," he said.

This year, he is more confident.

"Last year's parade was exciting and organized but it was mostly centered around Morehouse College," Robbins said. "This year, it will be much bigger and better — it could possibly be the best one yet."

The homecoming parade begins tomorrow at 9 a.m. in front of Fair Street dormitory.



How I see it

The Love Movement:
Come out and be a part of it

The Morehouse - Tuskegee annual meet Saturday reminded me of the stories that my mother always told me of her days as a co-ed at Jackson State.

There was nothing but love in the air. Love for schools, love for each other, and definitely love for our teams.

I wish every student enrolled at Morehouse could have been at that game. I wish they could have seen how hard we fought and how well we played.

After place kicker Marcus Shaw made the first two scores in the game, the excitement in my area of the stadium was reminiscent of how it always should be — frenzied.

It was all about fun.

If we could get that same type of enthusiasm in BT Harvey this weekend, then nothing in the world is going to stop us from clinching our first win.

Unfortunately, at Morehouse there still lingers a cynical attitude towards our football program.

I feel that if you don't love Morehouse, you have no business being here.

If you don't appreciate the rich history and traditions of this institution, take back those shirts and hats you bought at the bookstore, because you don't deserve to wear them. This sarcastic take on Morehouse and the Maroon Tigers is childish and counterproductive.

Why are you here? To berate guys that leave everything they have on the field for you and this school. The attitude that says, "Well, I don't go to games because they're not winning," is stupid. If you don't support them, who will?

Coach Hickson is right when he says that Morehouse needs an attitudinal adjustment in regards to football. It is time that we, as a school, come together, rally around our team and be proud of the efforts that this program produces.

This Saturday is our last home game of the season.

There is no excuse that should keep the men of Morehouse from attending the game.

Homecoming happens only once a year and the game is what captures the essence of attending an HBCU: the band, the crowd, the food, the love, and most importantly, the indomitable school spirit.

Remember Spirit Night? Remember having your brother's back?

There has never been a better time than now.

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Tuesday WORKING WORLD SPECIAL

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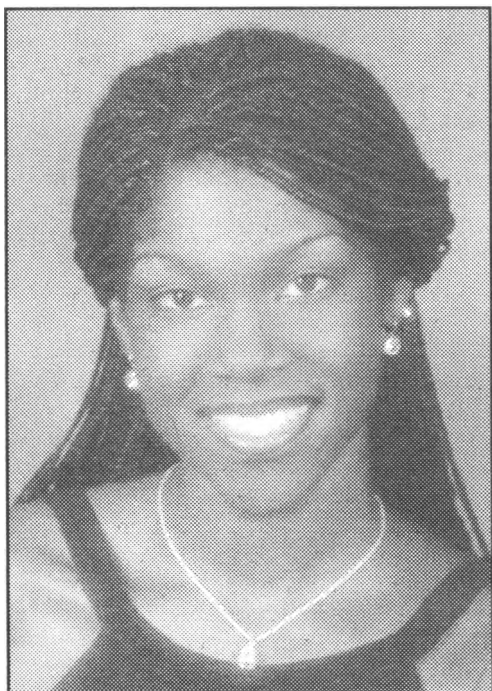
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The reign of Queen George

The new Miss Maroon & White wants to be a hands-on activist

By Tash Moseley
General Manager



Jamie George plans to make a model of her reign as Miss Maroon & White by focusing on the mental, physical, and social problems that face college students, especially AIDS and STDs.

"It is important that the

men of Morehouse, and the AUC community, be well-informed on the threat that STDs pose to our community, and partake in mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy relationships," says George, a native of Los Angeles, Calif.

George, who overcame stiff competition to win the Miss Maroon & White title September 12, was formally crowned last night, in the first of two Coronation events being put on as part of the college's Homecoming celebrations.

The 20-year-old junior theater major has already endeared herself to the student body by displaying a sincere commitment to Morehouse College in this early stage of her reign.

She participated in the Campus Community Clean-up late last month, and represented Morehouse in the 1998 National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Pageant, September 26, where she won second attendant.

Last year, George worked hands-on with AID Atlanta

during an STD awareness forum. She wants to organize similar forums on Morehouse's campus, and have AID Atlanta provide confidential AIDS testing and rap sessions to the students.

"Eventually, we need to move the information beyond the gates of Morehouse and Spelman," George says. "Survival is dependant upon knowledge of this life-threatening disease."

Along with her community activism, George's immediate goal is to obtain a Masters in Fine Arts from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts

"Theater incorporates all aspects of life and living," says George, of her decision.

Like George, her family is proud of her accomplishments and takes the honor of Miss Maroon & White seriously.

"Jamie will possibly be one of those queens whom one will always remember because of her personality and fortitude," says Geraldine Hayes, her mother. "Because of her willingness to really want things to be better, I think that she will be a Miss Maroon & White who will offer some direction to what Miss Maroon & White should be, could be, and used to be."

All photos: Wilford Harewood/
SPECIAL

TAHNEE SPRINGFIELD
1st Attendant to Miss Maroon & White



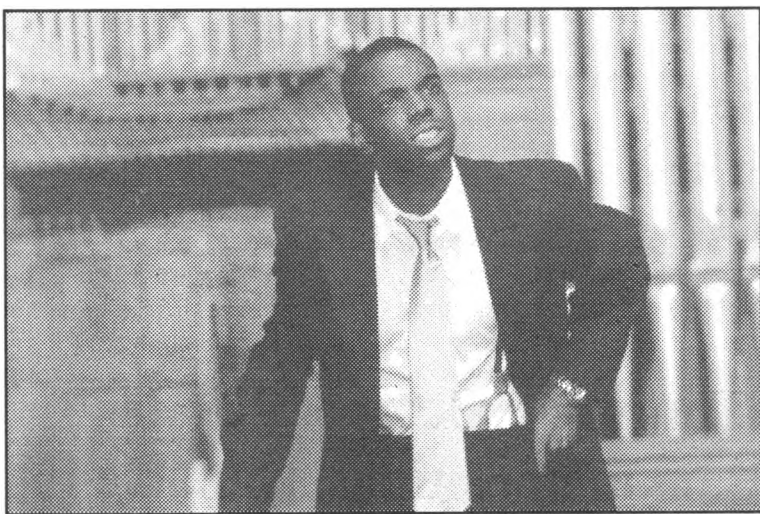
Spelman College
Junior
Economics major
Chicago, Ill.
Career Goal:
To become a trader on the New York Stock Exchange, and a professional singer

TARA HUDSON
2nd Attendant to Miss Maroon & White



Spelman College
Senior
Psychology major
Atlanta, Ga.
Career Goal:
To become a clinical psychologist.

Homecoming to be colored with 'Shades of Blackness'



Shaun Spearmon/STAFF

Bryan McCollum, a senior mathematics major, rehearses a scene from the Coronation ceremony. This year's events is highlighting the rich African American tradition through colors.

By Corey Wilborn
Contributing Writer

Saturday, October 10 -- Erik Bynum is positive this year's coronation will be the "best in any HBCU's history."

Gabriel Redic thinks it will be so "tight" there will be "an encore the following Saturday."

Bynum and Redic are among 225 participants rehearsing late nights and weekends to ensure Thursday's ceremony lives up to their predictions.

Entitled "Seven Shades of Blackness," the coronation ceremony will center on the rich African American heritage. Although the official crowning of Miss Maroon & White is the centerpiece of the

event, the show will explore the meaning behind each of the seven shades in its various segments.

At coronation practice tonight, the excitement was contagious. The participants tirelessly practiced their routines over and over, but remained enthusiastic and upbeat.

Tamaria Perry summed up the prevailing sentiment in the room.

"This year's coronation is much more organized than those of past years," said Perry, a sophomore English major from Spelman College. "I am sure that it will be great; I can't wait till next week."

Coronation I
Thursday
King Chapel
8 p.m.

Coronation II
Friday
King Chapel
7 p.m.

The Maroon Tiger invites all students, parents, faculty, staff and alumni to a
MEET & GREET
Saturday, October 17
6:00 p.m.
The Maroon Tiger Office
Archer Hall Room 115

Most companies would call 21 equity transactions, two mega-mergers and record breaking growth a great year.

We called it June.

Come join our team next June.

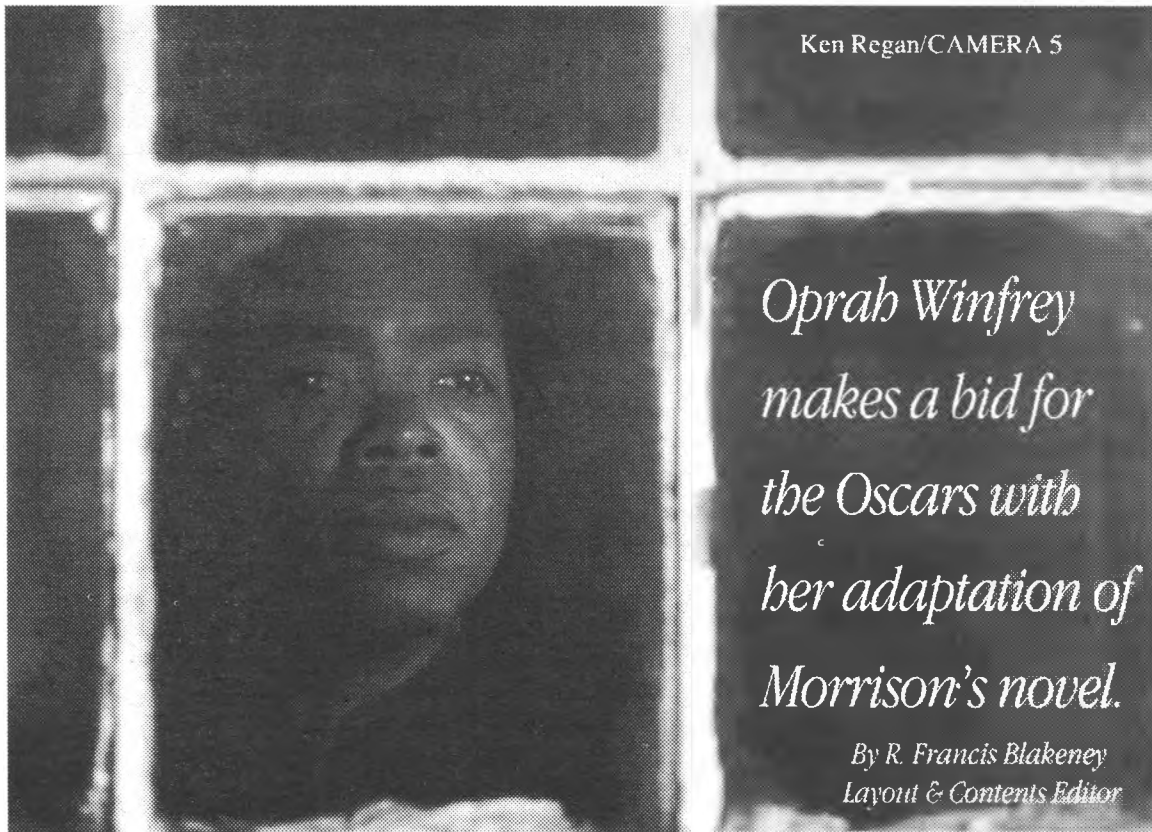


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Yuka Kataoka
Recruiting Coordinator
BancBoston Robertson Stephens
555 California Street, Suite 2600
San Francisco, CA 94104
IB_Recruiter@rsc.com

Please join our Morehouse presentation on Thursday, October 22nd in Wheeler Hall, Room 234 at 6pm. Investment Banking positions available in San Francisco, Boston and New York. Interviews will be held January 27th.

"Beloved" a masterpiece for the 90's



Ken Regan/CAMERA 5

*Oprah Winfrey
makes a bid for
the Oscars with
her adaptation of
Morrison's novel.*

*By R. Francis Blakeney
Layout & Contents Editor*

Exactly, what do we mean when we tell our children we love them?

"Beloved," a drama starring the multi-talented Oprah Winfrey, raises this

question and more.

In this thought-provoking adaptation of Toni Morrison's 1987 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Winfrey plays Sethe, a runaway slave living in rural

Ohio in 1873, who does all within her power — even an unspeakable act — to prevent her children from experiencing the humiliation and degradation of slavery.

As years go by, Sethe tries to tamp down all reminders of her painful past, and hangs on to life by a thread with her surviving daughter, Denver (Kimberly Elise).

Denver jealously guards her relationship with her mother, and is resentful of Sethe's relationship with Paul D (Danny Glover), an old friend from the past who unexpectedly appears.

But it is a far greater force that threatens to unravel the peace and security of 124 Bluestone Road, a household brimful of secrets.

Sethe, Denver and D return from a day at the carnival to find a mysterious young girl, lying half-dead against an old stump in the front yard. Who is she? Where did she come from? And is it

possible that she is Sethe's long dead child, Beloved?

The new arrival threatens Sethe's relationship with both Denver and D. And while Denver takes extreme care and patience to help her grow, the unknown guest increasingly demands the attention of Sethe.

Returning to the silver screen 13 years after her captivating Oscar-nominated performance in "The Color Purple," Winfrey forces "Beloved"'s audience to grapple with issues such as freedom, love, betrayal and desperation.

The version builds to a dramatic climax when the painful truths

are revealed, and old ghosts are finally set free. No one is left unaffected by the aftershocks.

Returning to the silver screen 13 years after her captivating Oscar-nominated performance in "The Color Purple," Winfrey forces "Beloved"'s audience to grapple with issues such as

Continued on page 22

"I didn't act in this movie. I transcended it..."

Continued from page 1

During her decade-long wait, Winfrey went from being a talk-show host to a globally recognized household name without missing a beat.

She produced and acted in several TV miniseries, single-handedly revived America's interest in books by introducing her book club, and educated several Morehouse students by donating over a million dollars to the college.

But through it all, she never lost sight of her dream.

After going through a stage of interviewing Black, women and foreign directors because of the movie's subject matter, Winfrey settled on Jonathan Demme, a white filmmaker whose credits include the Oscar winners, "Philadelphia" and "Silence of the Lambs."

"I am not accepting any criticism. I just won't accept it," said Winfrey, when asked if she is opening herself to the kind of controversy that greeted Steven Spielberg's direction of "The Color

Purple."

"I don't believe that you can live in a country where you have demanded that people respect you on the basis of your own intellect and commitment and service, and then turn around and say, 'You can't direct this because you are white'," Winfrey explained.

While "Beloved" was her first time collaborating with Demme, whom she described as "the most exhilarating person I have encountered," Winfrey had worked with co-star Danny Glover before — in "The Color Purple."

"Because 'The Color Purple' was my first acting experience, I was traumatized by it," said Winfrey. "I didn't act in this movie. I transcended it, I allowed [Sethe] to come through me. That's what you see on screen."

It wasn't easy for Winfrey. Before the shoot, she enlisted the assistance of historian Anthony Cohen and partook in a slave re-enactment in Maryland along the Underground Railroad route.

Cohen created a scenario in which Winfrey was a once-free Black woman, captured and sold into slavery. Placed on a plantation, Winfrey was surrounded by actors playing

everyone from slaves to the overseer — and left to fend for herself.

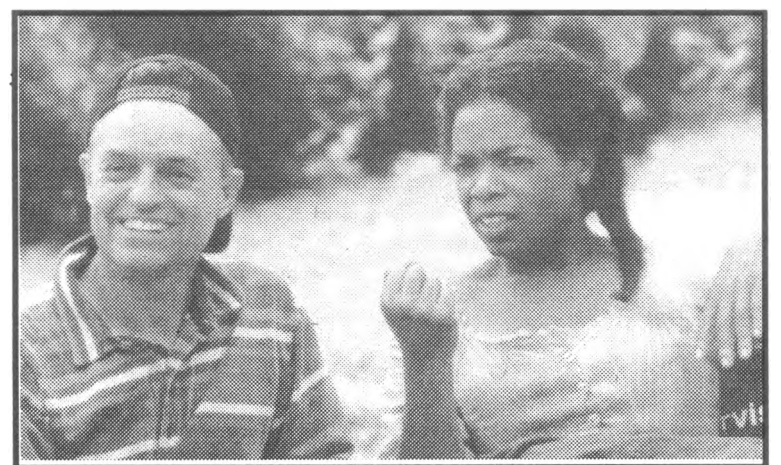
Over the next few hours, Winfrey worked in the fields, saw another slave being sold off the plantation, and endured the overseer's verbal humiliation.

"It was during that process that I touched the root of it, the root that I was looking for — the part of me that knew what it was like to be a slave," Winfrey recalled.

Transformed by the experience, Winfrey knew that playing the character of Sethe would be far different than what she had initially envisioned.

Talking about the intense mental preparation she underwent, Winfrey said: "I knew what the physicality of slavery was, but compare that to the knowledge that you didn't have free will, that your thoughts didn't really belong to you, that you didn't have the right to exist — that's the scarring, that's the true scar. I touched the place that was slavery."

Throughout the filming of the movie, Winfrey said she would read the names and prices of slaves off old lists, to get through some of the movie's more challenging



Ken Regan/CAMERA 5

Academy-award winning director Jonathan Demme (left), on the location of "Beloved," with Academy-award nominated star Oprah Winfrey, who portrays Sethe, an iron-willed former slave who must come to terms with her horrific past and newfound freedom.

scenes.

"I would light a candle and say their names before every scene. 'I'm doing this for Little John — [who was sold for] \$350. For Isabella — \$400,'" she said.

In describing her transition from Sethe to Oprah after the end of the shoot, Winfrey said, "I came out redeemed with a great sense of self."

Winfrey believes audiences will be similarly touched by "Beloved," which she insists is much more than a film about slavery.

"It speaks to the heart of

anybody who has ever come through tragedy and crises and was able to see triumph on the other side," she said. "It speaks to anybody who has ever dealt with difficulties, and didn't know how they would be able to free themselves but believed that 'maybe I can.'"

Winfrey believed in her dream. And it bore fruit.

"Now I'm like, 'Huh, if you thought I could fly before, watch me now,'" she joked.

And we will. After all, she is Oprah and she's "Beloved" by us all.

"Slam": A gritty work of urban art

Spoken word movie may leave you speechless



Vernando Reuben/STAFF

By Jonathan Howard
A&E Editor

More documentary than work of fiction, the Marc Levin-directed "Slam" takes you on an unforgettable ride from the projects of D.C., to our nation's capital's prison system, to Bohemian cafes — all the while bombarding you

with verses from the mouths of the best spoken word poets in America.

Exploding from the Sundance Film Festival, where it won the top dramatic prize, onto the Big Screen, "Slam" is destined to be a critical smash. It is definitely a must-see (again and again) movie.

Co-written and starring Morehouse College alum and poet, Saul Williams, and queen of the spoken word, Sonja Sohn, "Slam" is one of those rare movies that allows you to get lost in the depth of the story.

Williams plays Raymond Joshua, a small-time poet/dealer who lives with his pen

and pad. One of the more poignant scenes in the movie is Williams rhyming for the little kids in the neighborhood, some amazed, some determined to show off their own skills.

Raymond is close with a drug runner/gang leader named Big Mike, who is taken down by a bullet at a small nighttime handoff. All hell breaks loose, and Ray has to break because the cops are on the scene (a little too) quickly.

He's caught, though, with the stash still on him.

The story flows from there, with Ray facing 2 to 3 years over a petty possession charge, and being forced to spend time in a prison where a) he's new blood, and b) some think he set Big Mike up for

the fall.

During his stay, he's helped by Hopha (*Vibe* columnist Bonz Malone), a jailhouse kingpin of sorts who offers to protect Ray for his allegiance to the "family."

Poetess Sonja Sohn plays (what else?) a poetry teacher named Lauren Bell who has a weekly class at the prison and spots Ray in the yard spouting lyrics.

The remainder of the film focuses on the relationship between Ray and Lauren, and Ray's soul-twisting acceptance of his sentence.

Levin's direction brings a gritty edge to the movie, making the viewer feel that (if it weren't for the fact that Marion Barry stars as a judge) these events were filmed as

they happened.

No huge stars, no Hollywood cameos, no bloated budgets, "Slam" is just raw footage of a man's battle against a justice and social system set up to knock out as many Black males as possible.

The most impressive aspect of the film is that its main characters (Williams, Levin, Sohn, and Malone) wrote the script, yet were able to ad-lib and blend perfectly into the feel of the film.

A high-grade movie with a feel that comes from the gut, "Slam" is an impressive film that's well worth the view.

"Slam" is now playing at Lefont Plaza theater on Ponce de Leon.

The Soul of Saul Williams

By Vernando Reuben
Staff Writer

Williams is the quintessential renaissance man — a published poet, an accomplished actor and soon, a recording artist.

This Morehouse grad's just finished a book of poetry, "The Seventh Octave," and has

dunked the 1998 Cannes Film Festival, winning the Camera d'Or and the Prix du Public (Audience Award).

Interviewing Williams was easy. Sitting still while he waxed poetic on music, movies, and movements, was a much harder task.

Vernando Reuben: How did "Slam" come about?

Saul Williams: I was at the Grand Slam Championship in April 1996, and Mark Levin was in the audience. He was in the process of starting a film company and thinking about his first feature project.

He had been, and is, a documentary filmmaker for the last twenty years [notably HBO's "America Undercover"]. So basically he comes up to me after he saw me performing.

The film is about a poet who gets busted on some petty weed charges, ends up going to prison facing serious time. He can't get a pen because a pen is a weapon. So he slowly starts

losing his mind.

Meanwhile, there're these two warring gangs in the prison that think he's responsible for the death of this particular character in the plot. They're about to attack him, and right at that moment, he starts squirming out this stuff which becomes the most magnetic poetry that stills everyone, and nobody touches him.

It's about the learning power of words, the volume of his voice, and how he uses it to affect change.

Mark [Levin] wanted to tell the story of talented youth that get caught up in the system. He wanted to inject some idea of hope, some type of vision.

VR: You've said that "Slam" is more than a movie; it's a movement.

SW: Yeah, because the spoken word is NOT a fad, regardless of how commercial it may or may not become as a result of something like "Slam."

The reason why the word

is becoming so important in this day and age is because we have reached a new beginning, a new millennium and people are turning to us like they might have one day turned to soothsayers, seers, kings.

People are turning to poets. It's the poets that are the wordsmiths that are calling the next world into existence.

VR: Tell me about "The Seventh Octave."

SW: "The Seventh

People are turning to poets. It's the poets that are the wordsmiths that are calling the next world into existence.

SAUL WILLIAMS

another on the way, entitled "She."

He's working on a new album, but for now you can hear him on the Lyricist Lounge CD.

And then there's his new movie, "Slam," which won the top dramatic prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, the Grand Jury prize. It also slam-

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Sugafist returns with *Back Hand Mentality* and no one's safe

By Christopher Bryant
Contributing Writer

His conception on a cold night on K Street in Washington, D.C., was the result of his "pimp-daddy father giving his young, innocent, Jamaican mother too much Vodka and playing a few Al Green records."

Since then, he has brought the rebirth of "ignorance, malt liquor, and smutty hip-hop to the eardrums of white and middle class Blacks."

Meet John Troutman, aka Sugafist, whose rapid-fire lyrical knockdowns hold nothing sacred.

"I'm the father of mockery rap. And I'm not afraid to glorify ghetto-ology," says Sugafist, whose long-awaited sophomore release, *Back Hand Mentality* has listeners — sharp enough to keep up with his verbal volleys — rolling.

All of his self-produced songs are "saturated in ignorance," says Sugafist.

"Black people crave ignorance. That's how we got out of slavery," he says. "We kept saying, 'Naw masta, f#uck this sh#. I ain't picking none of this damn cotton no

mo.' So Masta had to let us go. This same thing comes through in my album."

Lest anyone's confused, Sugafist says his music is all really a parody.

"There's a lot of misdirected anger directed at me," he says. "People say that I am setting a bad example at this school. But these same people bounce their elbows to Masta P. Master P is serious about his misogyny; to me it's just comedy."

At an early age, Sugafist realized that he was no scholar and said he needed a way to succeed in life.

"I couldn't play basketball like most inner-city ballas who make it out of the ghetto. I had no foreseeable talent," he says. "But I had an infinite ability to attack and mock people. Folks even paid me to make a fool of others."

And hence, his incarnation as Sugafist. The name, he says, "represents the sweet and sour in life."

"The sour part is getting you're a#s kicked, being beaten by the police, discovering that you've got AIDS," he says with a straight face. "The sweet part is the



Tash Moseley/STAFF

John "Sugafist" Troutman, the self-proclaimed "Sultan of Smut," delivers street justice from his throne

birth of a new child, getting that welfare check on time."

One of Sugafist's earliest performances was at Underground Live last year, where he cut into the crowd's sensitive side with such "heart-felt" verses as ... well, they aren't fit to print.

"I thought that it was going to be a forum of thought

for AUC students. Yet it turned out to be very cliquish," Sugafist says. "There were tons of bald-headed, Eryka Badu wrap-wearing, bad-poetry reading, suburban Nubian queens. It was like a coffee shop without the heroin."

All of this leads to the release of *Back Hand Mentality* — a much better project than his freshman-year offering *Cadillacs and Hoes*.

"There where much more [women] in the studio which led to greater morale among the production team. Plus, more liquor too!" he says, in his trademark deadpan delivery. "On this album, I received a revelation from God, who came to me in a dream. God said, 'What is your worth in life? Were you put here to live in a cubicle from 9 to 5, working for some rich Asian for the rest of your life, or to make a name for yourself?'"

Sugafist says his album is an antidote to the poorly-produced releases of 1998. But

the self-titled 'Archbishop of Domestic Violence' falls short when it comes to the "Big Willie" side of rap.

"They're all trying to be Italians, when they were star pupils in high school," he says, of the tendency in hip-hop to be big and bad. "If you can't bust a nig#a in the head and shoot his mother, then don't rap about it."

This is why Sugafist is quick to explain that his music pokes fun at the contrived gangsta rap image.

But don't play it safe either with that new A Tribe Called Quest CD or some other "tree-hugging hippie crap," Sugafist says. "Check out that new Sugafist *Back Hand Mentality*."

Or if you prefer your music a fusion of rock and rap, Sugafist's got that covered as well with his punk-rock outfit, The Back Alley Abortionists, coming soon.

Sugafist CDs can be ordered on-line at <http://members.aol.com/sugafist/index.html>.

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Renee's half-hearted attempt at "neo-soul"

By Jason Pollard
Staff Writer

R&B has experienced a great decline in respect and sales over the years. The artists who were once viewed as icons in the industry were chased off by the popularity of hip-hop.

To keep up with the times, the genre eventually meshed with hip-hop. Teddy Riley called it a "new jack swing." But like anything that is overdone, the formula soon got tired and predictable.

A few artists broke this mold, creating a "neo-soul" sound. Nicole Renee is the newest kid on that block.

But Renee's album proves that

just because something sounds different doesn't necessarily make it better.

Her release experiments with many styles and techniques. There are no guest rappers and no reused 80's loop.

And while this may sound like a refreshing break from the mundane hits that the radio plays six times a day (but that "Splackevelli" does nod your head), alas, it's not.

Renee's beats are dull and plodding. The producers try to fuse rock and R&B to no avail.

Renee's vocals don't help matters. At times she sounds like a female Prince impersonator. This is no *Emancipation*, though.

Renee sings about socially relevant topics, such as drugs ("Cocaine Lane") and spirituality ("Heaven"), but eventually the album meanders back to its central focus: love. Any one of the topics would strike a chord with the listener if her vocals or her production were up to par.

Without a song that is a sure radio hit, it will be interesting to see what becomes of Nicole Renee. Hopefully, she will see the error in her ways and have the chance to redeem herself on a second album in the future.



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A Holy Mess: Murphy's latest is comedic sacrilege

By Jalylah Burrell
Contributing Writer

Best known for his roles as Axel Foley in the "Beverly Hills Cop" trilogy, Buddy Love in the "Nutty Professor"



Jon Farmer/SPECIAL

In an attempt to revive sagging ratings, executive Ricky (Goldblum, center) and media analyst Kate (Preston, left) come up with the idea of putting an itinerant guru named G (Murphy) on the air, in the comedy, "Holy Man."

and his wildly hilarious self in "Delirious" and "Raw," Eddie Murphy is a funny cat.

The good news is that Murphy has a new film, "Holy Man." The bad news is that it isn't funny.

In his latest role, Murphy has ventured into unexplored

territory. He plays G (short for God), an herbal tea-drinking, yoga-practicing, tunic-wearing, all-round mysterious sage. He enters the lives of a disillusioned executive, Ricky Hayman (Jeff Goldblum), and the object of his affections, Kate Newell (Kelly Preston).

Despite previews that portray Murphy as the main character, the film centers on Ricky, who works at the Good Buy Home Shopping Network but hasn't been able to generate an increase in sales in ten months.

Fearful for his job and threatened by his heartless boss (Robert Loggia), he tries to project a calm, collected outward appearance, but is plagued with issues of self-esteem. In

the midst of flirting with the network models, Ricky spots Kate, an attractive, witty young woman on the fast track up the corporate ladder nonchalantly striding past.

The rest is movie cliché. She begins as little more than another one of his conquests.

She's doesn't succumb to his charms. He becomes smitten, as does she, though she tries not to show it.

So where does G fit in? After a highway mishap, he ends up being taken in by Ricky. A series of potentially disastrous but successful encounters with Ricky's business colleagues and clients leads to G becoming one of the hosts of the Good Buy Network. He develops cult-figure like status and somehow inspires television audiences to be good people and buy a lot of stuff they don't need.

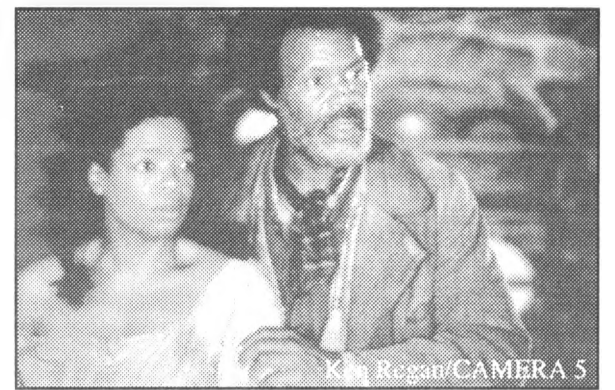
While this may be a unique plot, the sheer ridiculousness could serve to alienate most audiences.

"Holy Man" suffers from a crisis of faith. It's a little bit of drama, a little bit of comedy, with a sprinkle of watered-down spirituality.

Its odd coupling of such diverse subject matter as home shopping, spirituality and love achieve little more than a few strained smiles and forced laughter.

'Holy Man' opened last weekend at area theaters.

Reunited after 18 years of separation from former Sweet Home Plantation slave Sethe (Oprah Winfrey, left), Paul D (Danny Glover) is tested by the shattering secrets in her household.



Ken Regan/CAMERA 5

"Beloved" a definite Oscar contender

Continued from page 19

freedom, love, betrayal and desperation.

Winfrey collaborated with Academy Award-winning director Jonathan Demme ("The Silence of the Lambs," "Philadelphia") to produce this adaptation that stays true to Morrison's complex, heavily plotted best-seller.

Winfrey poignantly portrays Sethe's character with amazing sensitivity, grace, and dignity. And Thandi Newton is startlingly realistic as the near animalistic scepter from the past,

Beloved.

The supporting cast delivers an equally outstanding performance. Kimberly Elise ("Set It Off") shows maturity and a great deal of range as an actress in her role. And Danny Glover's strong physical presence commands the viewer's attention throughout the movie.

The lush cinematography and scenery in the movie only add to the depth of the story.

"Beloved" easily belongs in the long line of great films such as "Schindler's List," "Malcolm X," and "Amistad." A must-see for '98 and a definite Oscar contender.

"Beloved" opens today.

The poet expounds on the power of words

Continued from page 20

Octave" is the body of work having to do with me discovering the importance of different realms of consciousness. It's broken down into three sections: Saturn Rivers, Lunacy, and the Seventh Octave.

Saturn's rivers has to do with the power to dictate your own reality by imagining and envisioning the steps you want to take. I've always classified Saturn the home of imagination itself. Beyond the sun, I can find no more luminescent and beautiful bulk of light.

Lunacy is about the power surrounding that which is matriarchal. It's about realizing the true line of the universe is feminine in nature.

The book is about my beginnings, entering the realms of imagination, matriarchal truths.

"1987" [one of Williams' poems in Seventh Octave"] is

about me putting all this into perspective.

VR: Is 1987 some kind of revelatory year?

SW: It's a fundamental year in hip-hop. When hip-hop went mainstream, political consciousness hit hip-hop at the same time.

You had KRS-1 and Public Enemy — all these groups coming out then. And even the one's already out were putting out stuff like "You know I'm proud to be Black y'all!" It's an interesting peak.

It was with ["1987"] that I realized I needed to focus on my music. In my studies, I kept coming up against the octave scale. Started learning that the octave is one of the most ancient mantras known to humankind, and there's a meaning correlated with each chakra, y'know?

VR: Hmmmm!?

SW: After that song, I began writing songs again actually. I started out as an M.C. writing rhymes at the age of 12 and 13. Now half the songs I write can be instrumental.

Basically a poet is not a

writer. He's an instrument. Like a saxophone player playing a sax, the poet is the instrument of the universe; an instrument of the Creator. The poet's tongue is the reed that the universe blows.

It's a living discipline. There are tons of beautiful poets who have never written a word.

VR: So who inspires you musically?

SW: James Brown. My mother was rushed from a James Brown concert to give birth to me. I like Fela.

VR: Fela's so reminiscent of James Brown.

SW: Well yeah, they called him that, the "James Brown of Africa." What inspires me is the transcending qualities of music.

The way you take "The Message" of Grandmaster Flash and play telephone with it, and by the time it reaches the UK and comes back to us in the form of this white woman [Portishead] singing the blues over break beats. For me, this is undeniably hip-hop, and undeniably DOPE!

By the Invisible Cynic

20 Questions

1. What is it about Ashby Street on a Friday night? 2. Why is it that no matter what the illness (cold, flu, cancer), the infirmary always gives you the same blue and white pills? 3. Why does the girl with the cocoa eyes and sweet smile always have tart breath? 4. Why does Agnes Scott have half the enrollment but twice the campus? (Shouts to Justine.) 5. Why are there two students with Porches on campus? 6. And how can I be down? 7. Have you ever seen a bigger mistake than last issue's front-page faux pas? 8. What if this was my shout-out to Aziah? 9. Will there ever be a year where Financial Aid doesn't fu#k somebody over? 10. Why is kissing a#s an art form at Morehouse? 11. Why is our paper bigger than the AUC Digest and the Spelman Spotlight combined? 12. What if the soccer team wasn't as good as they say they are? 13. If I give a shout-out to Jackie at Emory, will she know it's me? 14. Who's the jerk that put his hands on the flag girl at the Alcorn game? 15. Why is Oprah on the cover? 16. Did she give another cool million? 17. Why is Mariah Carey showing off all of her a#s these days? 18. Did you check out the profiles in the front? 19. What if I did a whole 20 Q's without clowning the football team? Happy Homecoming...just wait 'til next issue. 20. How do you honor a fallen hero? R.I.P. — Dr. William G. Pickens.

A Classic Showdown in Columbus

Tigers take on Tuskegee in a close game

By Joe Carlos
Sports Editor

The Morehouse-Tuskegee Classic is a thrilling contest pitting two bitter rivals who represent the very best in competition.

The 63rd annual meeting of the two teams Saturday was no exception.

Though the Maroon Tigers lost the very close, heart wrenching game 27-20, the team once again made great strides in improving in a variety of areas.

Marcus Shaw, a senior place kicker who scored 8 of Morehouse's 20 points, put the finishing touch on two first half drives by nailing two field goals to give the Maroon Tigers an early 6-0 lead.

"Throughout the week, we practice heavily on it [special teams], because we know the large impact that it has on the game," Shaw said.

After Morehouse gained the early advantage, Tuskegee responded with a receiving touchdown and an extra point that put them up 7-6 in the second quarter.

Not to be upstaged, the Maroon Tigers answered back with a receiving touchdown of their own. And despite a field goal by Tuskegee, Morehouse went into the locker room leading 13-10.

In the second half, Tuskegee came out determined to wear down Morehouse's defensive line with consecutive runs and bootlegs. The line, led by juniors Isaac Keys and Steve Clark and freshmen Isaac Thomas and Tahir Hayes, chased, hurried, and knocked down Tuskegee's quarterback throughout the half.

But eventually, Tuskegee went to the air and used their effective ground game to take a 20-13 lead.

The near-capacity crowd in Columbus witnessed a Herculean effort by the Maroon Tiger offensive line, and late in the second half, junior running back Jason Taylor sparked the offense with impressive runs.

Quick handoffs from freshman quarterback Chivalrik Daughtry to Taylor yielded big gains as the line anchored by junior center Jason Perry provided holes to run in.

The solid play of the Maroon Tiger offense led to a touchdown late in the fourth quarter to even up the score at 20.

However, later in the fourth, Tuskegee ran up the

middle on a routine lead draw that produced a huge gain. With their offense rolling, and the Maroon Tiger defense wearied, Tuskegee proceeded to score another touchdown and take a 27-20 fourth quarter lead.

Answering the call, Chivalrik Daughtry led his offense back down the field, and the line gave him and the other backs and receivers enough time to make crucial

first downs when they needed them most.

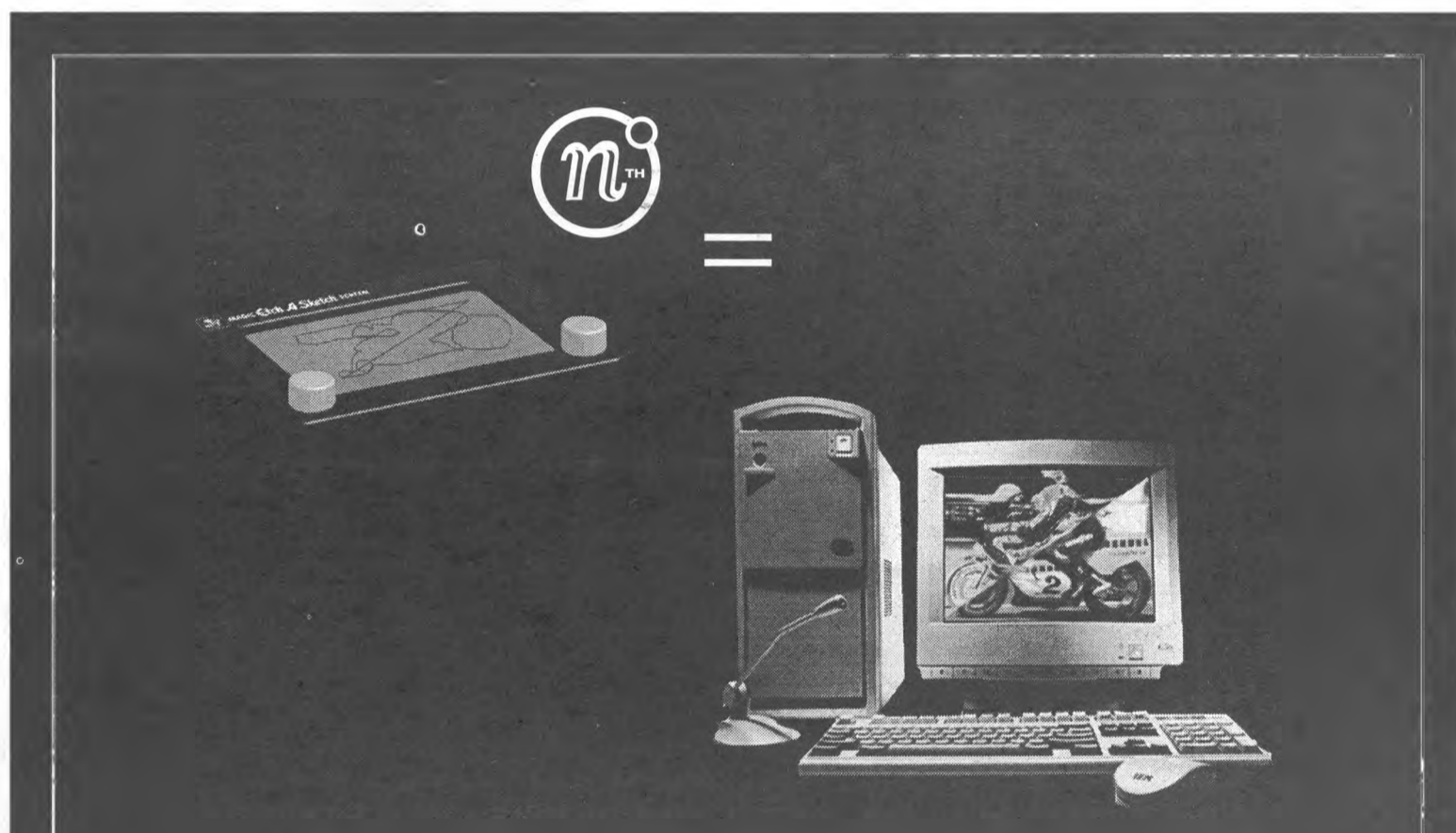
A turnover with less than two minutes to play sealed the Maroon Tigers' fate, and Tuskegee ran the clock out much to the delight of their fans.

"Our team is continuing to improve. I'm happy about that," said Head Coach Frank Hickson after the game. "We appreciate the effort, and if we just keep on pressing,

pressing, pressing, we're going to win some games."

"It was one of, if not the best effort we have had thus far," said Marcus Shaw. "Everyone came around well and played hard."

"Each week there's definite improvement in every spot of the field, and one week we've got to just put it all together," Shaw added.



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