

THE MAROON TIGER

The Organ of Student Expression Since 1925
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, ATLANTA, GA

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

www.marootiger.net
Volume 78, No. 2

“In the event the Student Government Association President is separated from office, the Vice President shall become the President; and he shall appoint a Vice President subject to confirmation by the Student Senate.”



‘THE EVENTS IN LIFE AREN’T WHAT DEFINE WHO YOU ARE. IT’S HOW YOU REACT TO THOSE EVENTS.’



ROBERT GAINES/MAROON TIGER

Student constitution holds: Crooms puts the SGA back on track

by **Christian Nwachukwu, Jr**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The College still follows the rule of law. Morehouse College students and administrators leaned on the Constitution and stepped past crisis at the end of the spring semester as the elected Student Government Association Vice President, Dawud Crooms, ascended to the vacated presidency.

Crooms, a senior Computer Science major from Edison, New Jersey and career senator at the College, conquered his apprehension at

assuming the power of the president.

“In times of turmoil and controversy, you have to rise to the occasion,” Crooms said.

Crooms was elected vice president in a three-man race following a run-off with 60 percent of the final ballots cast. With three years worth of experience in the Student Senate and status as “guru of the Constitution” (Crooms has served on three constitutional review committees), the students may see an even more connected SGA than in previous administrations.

Please see **NEW PRESIDENT** on page 2

Aug. 19, 2000
Crooms comes to Morehouse

Sept. 1, 2000
Elected Senator of Graves Hall

Sept. 10, 2000
Elected to General Laws & Constitution Committee of the Senate

Jan. 20, 2000
Appointed to Constitutional Review Committee

Sept. 2001
Appointed Chairman of General Laws and Constitution

Sept. 2002
Appointed president pro-tempore of Senate

May 2003
Elected SGA Vice President

June 1, 2003
Crooms ascends to presidency

Perdue blaze raises safety concerns

by **James Pendleton**
CAMPUS EDITOR

I smelled smoke and when I opened my door, I saw the fire and knew I had to do something.”

Tony Aaron, II, a poet more commonly known as “Texas”, vividly recalls his discovery of and reaction to a fire that occurred in Wiley A. Perdue Hall two weeks ago. The fire

ignited at approximately 6:45 pm on Saturday, August 23, in a garbage can on the third floor of the Fair Street dormitory.

Aaron was instrumental in the identification of and immediate reaction to the fire. In response to the initial smoke, he filled a trashcan with water and attempted to quell the flames. The first wave of water did not put down the fire, and by this time the thickening smoke drove Aaron to

the second floor. Once there, Aaron was able to alert some other residents and refill the trash can with water. Returning the third floor, he dispensed the second, ultimately successful, wave of water to the fire.

Aaron was joined during his fire-fighting efforts by the Assistant Director of Housing and Residential Life, Alex Branch, as well as other staff members and

Please see **FIRE** on page 2

Man of Morehouse seeks office

by **Demond Drummer**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On November 4, when residents of southwest Atlanta take to the polls for a special election to choose the person who will represent their community (District 2) on the Atlanta Board of Education, Khaatim Sherrer El, a senior Urban Studies major at Morehouse College will be

among the candidates’ names listed on the ballot.

A special election for the District 2 seat was called when Dr. Mitzi Bickers, a veteran member of the Atlanta school board and its former president, announced in late August her plans to vacate the position in order to seek the chairmanship of the Fulton County Commission. Her replacement will finish out the

remainder of her four-year term, which ends in 2005.

When asked about the factors that influenced his decision to run for the seat, which represents a community of some 50,000 students, Sherrer El, 22, listed a number of factors.

“The Morehouse experience opened my eyes to things that need to happen in the

Please see **MOREHOUSE STUDENT** on page 3

NEWS

THE COLLEGE

NEW PRESIDENT continued from page 1

"I have a passion for the senate and I will definitely be involved," Crooms said. "I feel it's important for the president to be involved in the senate, because [it] is the collective voice of the student body. The voice of the student senate should echo a lot louder."

How will it echo louder? Crooms, as the Constitution mandates, will appoint a vice president.

"[The senate will get that] voice [through] my contact with whoever the vice president will be," Crooms said. "I am looking for quality leadership. The only way that you can keep the Senate honest, on task, and moving in a direction for the students is to have someone who has been there, someone who has had a position of leadership, someone who I am confident will fill the role that I would fill." He will also appoint a treasurer, as that position was vacated at the end of last school term, as well.

What I want is someone who can efficiently keep track of our budget, someone who is organized and has shown an ability to handle finances," Crooms said. "I want to operate the SGA in the same structure as a business. Your treasurer is our CFO."

Clark Jones, SGA corresponding secretary, and Jordan Segue, SGA recording secretary, will help Crooms review applications for the two positions in a process that should be completed with the new appointees' confirmation on September 16 at the first senate meeting. The final decision, however, is Crooms' to make.

The effort to select them is collaborative. But, at the

end of the day, the appointment is mine," Crooms said.

David Brice, associate dean of student conduct and campus life, and Alex Branch, assistant director of housing and residential life, are advisors to SGA this year.

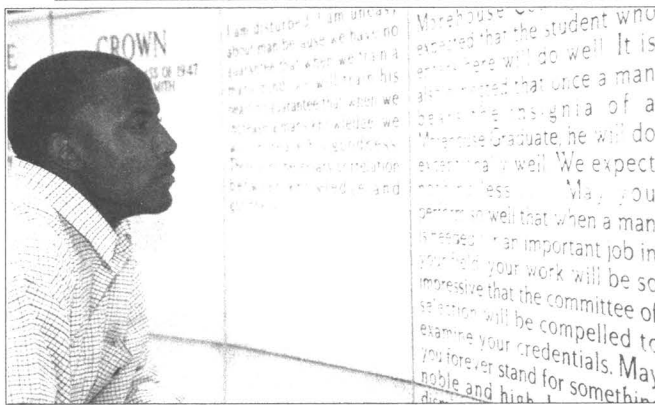
Crooms says that he looks to JC Love, III and Randall Woodfin as models for his presidency. Love became SGA president February 15, 2000 after President Shaun King stepped down for personal reasons. In April 2000, Love won the presidency outright.

"Seeing what J. C. Love did in the past and was an excellent president gave me the confidence that [leadership] is transferable," Crooms said. Woodfin revolutionized the SGA by implementing new programs and bringing the voice of the students to bear on the culture of the College in ways previously unseen.

"I believe Randall was a great president because if he took off his shirt and tie and stood in a crowd, you'd never be able to figure out who was who," Crooms said. "You are a student first, if you don't understand what it is to be a student and if you're not involved in the day-to-day student life, you can't represent the students."

While Crooms plans to continue many of the initiatives begun by Woodfin, he says that his presidency will be unique because of his history with the senate and an expanded emphasis on service. Woodfin's mantra was "Community through Servant Leadership."

"With any administration you have things that are most important to you, things that you feel would most benefit the student body," Crooms said. "[What] I feel is



ROBERT GAINES/ MAROON TIGER

lacking on this campus is service—service to the younger students and service to the community-at-large."

Crooms attributes his success at the College to his hard work, honesty and character. He began his service as the senator from Graves Hall his freshman year after being encouraged by mentor Ashanti Johnson, '02.

"[Before] I came to Morehouse, I was never really involved with student government," Crooms said. "I was a jock whose 'momma' made him do well in school.

"[Ashanti] sat down with me and he said, 'Man, you need to get involved in something.' In order to get the full Morehouse experience, you can't just go to class and go home. If you're not connected to the school in some way, you're going to miss a lot of what Morehouse is and what it's about," Crooms said.

Crooms says that students respect his straightforward personality and honesty. He emphasizes that he has a love and passion for anything that he attaches his name to, including his membership in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

"Your membership in an organization does not define you," Crooms said. "You define

you. I feel like those who put me in the position to become vice president and now president understand that about me. And those people who don't and have questions should ask me."

Crooms promises the student body power with a purpose to voice their concerns to the administration.

"It's not a power struggle, because I'm not a power-hungry type of guy," Crooms said. "There are many people on this campus who want power for power's sake and I feel that this campus is full of intelligent black men who see clean through that. Time and time again, those who are overly power hungry, end up getting washed out of the cycle. I feel like my purpose should be to serve the College, to make Morehouse a better place."

Crooms says that he will draw on many events throughout his life to work to serve the College as SGA president.

There's no one event in any man's life that could prepare him for such a thing. It's a series of events and how you react to them that determine whether or not you'll be capable to fill this sort of position," Crooms said. "The events in life aren't what define who you are. It's how you react to those events."

FIRE continued from page 1

students. According to Branch, the fledgling group of fire-fighters started on the third floor going "up and down the building two or three times knocking on doors, trying to alert residents."

The Atlanta Fire Department, Morehouse College Campus Police, and much of the Residential Life Staff appeared on the scene soon thereafter, securing the floor and confirming the dissolution of the fire.

While the fire occurred before returning students were able to check into Perdue Hall, the dorm was already housing members of the Morehouse marching band, the ROTC, NSO staff, and the Resident Assistants for the Morehouse Suites. All students were safely evacuated and remained outside of the building until officials contained the situation. According to Branch, "students were displaced for close to an hour, third floor residents slightly longer than that, while the Fire Marshall attempted either to restore power to the emergency systems or organize a 'fire watch.'"

At no time during the crisis was the established fire-safety system triggered—no alarm

no sprinklers, no response. The Morehouse College Fire Marshall was unavailable for comment; however, preliminary investigations suggest that an electrical problem exclusive to the fire-safety system was responsible for the failure.

It is not clear whether the fire was the result of arson or simple negligence, but Perdue Hall Residence Director Michael Southern noted, "we are expecting a written report from the Fire Marshall in the near future."

Although serious damage was avoided, several concerns have been raised about the personal safety of on-campus students. Nevertheless, the quick responsiveness of everyone involved in managing the Perdue blaze remains remarkable.

"You feel better about yourself when you come through when someone needs you," reflected Aaron. "I like to play the role of the hero."

A disaster was averted and a lesson was learned. Southern was adamant that "students should not hesitate to get out of the building at the sign of any mishap. Safety is most important."

MT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The nationally-ranked Morehouse Debate Team is looking for new members to compete for the 2003-2004 academic year. Very talented people are needed for various events and platform speaking. For more information contact Betsy McCann at (404)931-3996 or dial extension 2161. Please hurry! The season begins very soon.

Wednesday, September 10, 2003, the Alpha Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. starts the Maynard Jackson Lecture Series and the AUC Voter Initiative Kick-off in Sale Hale Chapel, 6:00 PM

THE MAROON TIGER

The Organ of Student Expression Since 1925

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NEWS

THE WORLD

Rwanda conducts historic election

John Thomas
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On August 25, 2003, Rwandans voted in their first election since the 1994 genocide that slaughtered almost 1 million citizens. This election is the first contested election since the country gained its independence in 1962. Paul Kagame, former Tutsi guerrilla chief and acting president, won by garnering 94.3 percent of 3 million votes cast in a field of five candidates.

Mr. Kagame is no stranger to Rwandan politics. He emerged as leader of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) before the devastating genocide of 1994. While serving as the vice president and defense minister since 1995, he effectively governed the country. His role was cemented when the previous president Pasteur Bizimungu, a moderate Hutu, resigned in 2000 after charging the National Assembly with conducting biased investigations against Hutu

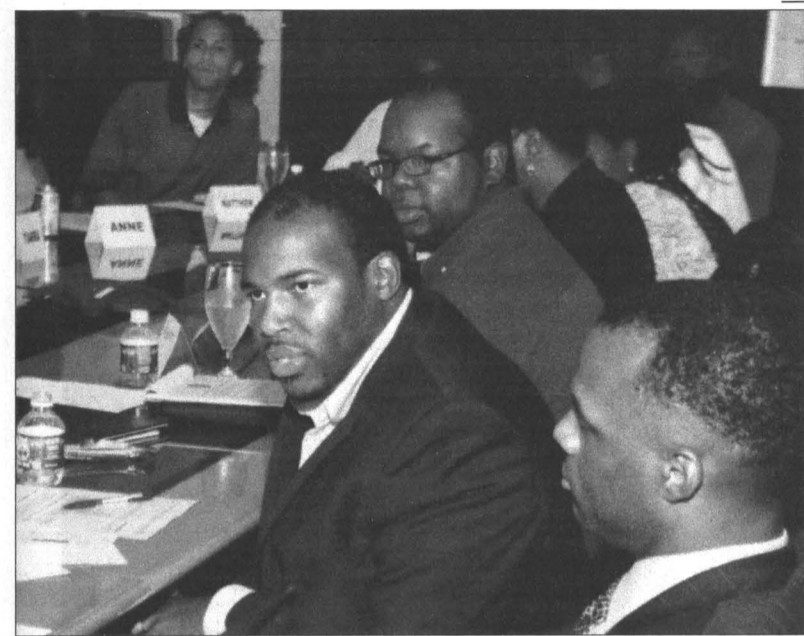
politicians. Supporters say Kagame has been a successful leader on many counts. Security in Rwanda has improved dramatically since 1994. Poverty is high but falling and the economy is recovering from the devastation unleashed by years of turmoil. Last week's poll, however, was the first elected contest in which Mr. Kagame participated.

The overwhelming majority garnered by Mr. Kagame has been questioned. The main opposition candidate, Faustin Twagiramungu, a Hutu, rejected the results: "I do not accept this election ... That's not democracy". They are trying to have a Stalinist style one-party system. Almost 100 percent? That's not possible. I will write a letter to the Supreme Court." Furthermore, Kagame declared victory in the election before the polls closed on Tuesday.

Human rights groups say opponents have been sidelined; people who have spoken out against his Rwandan

Patriotic Front (RPF) have been imprisoned or have fled Rwanda. Some have disappeared. Many are accused of ethnic politics. Furthermore, there are allegations that the RPF has scared Rwandans into believing that supporting anyone else could see them stigmatized as "divisionist." Kagame, who was always been favored to win the polls, denies accusations that the RPF has intimidated opponents while trying to project a façade democratic credibility.

In spite of the various concerns with the Rwanda election, the process presents a large step for Rwanda in terms of consolidating its democracy and achieving a harmonious balance between the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis. Kagame stated at a victory rally: "Our victory should serve as a lesson to the outside world, that Rwanda is on the right path," he said, holding aloft his fist in a gesture of triumph. "Our victory means that even our opponents should join us in building our country."



FILE PHOTO

Sherrer El (center) addresses community leaders and concerned citizens at a recent forum on education.

community," he said reflectively. "At Morehouse, we are encouraged to tap into things we are passionate about...my thing is education."

Sherrer El has followed his passion from day one. During his freshman year, he helped to organize a town hall forum that addressed the state of public education in the African-American community. He also worked as a policy analyst for the Atlanta Committee for Public Education, where he learned the fundamentals and formalities of education policy.

"What looks good on paper," he warned, "isn't always the best thing for the kids. For me, the best training ground has been out in the community, working with kids, talking with their parents, and voicing their concerns to policymakers."

Sherrer El's involvement in the community has indeed been both extensive and multifaceted. From working with parents, teachers, and community leaders on the Education District 2 Community Council (with which he has been active for more than three years and currently chairs), to serving as the assistant to the director of a charter school, to teaching Language Arts to a class of rising 9th graders, his work runs the gamut of community-based advocacy. It is this strong sense of community involvement that Sherrer El's campaign staff wants to accentuate over the coming weeks and months.

"Khaatim is already playing an important role in addressing the public education situation in District 2," declared campaign manager Ebony Barley. "That's what we want to emphasize in this campaign." And to a certain extent, that message appears to have already taken hold.

"I've received tremendous support from the community," remarked Sherrer El, whose list of campaign contributors is topped by

parents of students whom the young educator has taught. He beamed as he explained how one of his elderly neighbors cooked a southern style dinner for campaign volunteers one evening. "She even made sweet tea!" he laughed.

That kind of support does not come by easily. Sherrer El's face darkened as he spoke of the countless nights he has had to "burn the midnight oil," juggling the demands of being both student and community leader - all while holding down a full-time job.

Sherrer El has also received strong support from fellow students.

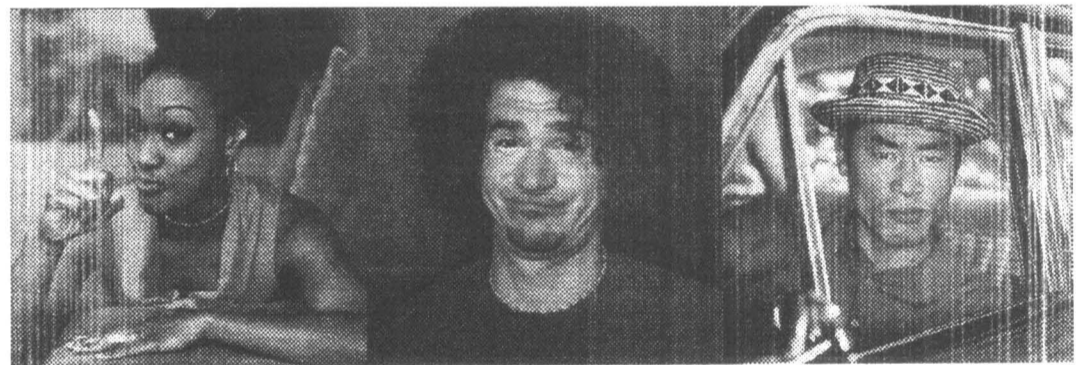
"Khaatim is passionate and dedicated to improving public education," remarked campaign volunteer Alexandra Whittaker, a junior International Studies major at Spelman College. "Working with him on the NAACP Education Committee has really furthered my interest in the issues surrounding education."

Junior Marcus Ridley met Sherrer El last spring when the two were representing Morehouse College at a conference on the "No Child Left Behind Act" in Washington, DC.

"He is very driven," said the sociology major, who also volunteers for the campaign. "Khaatim will make a great impact in District 2." The vast majority of Sherrer El's campaign volunteers met Khaatim doing what he does best - showing how much he "loves the kids."

Sherrer El, of course, would have it no other way. "We have to let our passions fill us up, bubble over, and affect those around us," he smiled. If all goes well for him on November 4, that same passion will have a seat on the Atlanta Board of Education.

For more information on Khaatim S, El's campaign, please call 404.752.7523



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Sports

Jason Mercer

by Kyle "Scoop" Yeldell
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Student-athlete. The expression seems rather archaic in present-day usage. In layman's terms, the student-athlete is non-existent in today's society. With all of the hype surrounding athletes who make the jump to their respective professional leagues early, the importance of college life in the sports world is noticeably diminishing. What used to be a place to earn a four-year degree and make lasting friendships is steadily becoming a one-year pit stop to the pros. In spite of such trends, however, the student-athlete continues to survive and thrive at Morehouse. And there's probably no one who embodies this concept more than one player: Jason Mercer

Division I schools receive a lot of attention. A loss in Division I can impact a school's alumni donations, endanger possible athletic contracts for players, or totally dash a team's national championship hopes. When Morehouse loses to Clark Atlanta, the loss is very personal, but that's just what it is: one loss. The mantra throughout campus is, "We'll get them next time."

Division I stadiums are generally bigger, in order to rack up more money for the athletic departments. Sure, cheers from thousands of raving fans may be exhilarating to those on their athletic

stage, but no sound is better than the praise of one's closest friends and classmates. Just as Jason Mercer.

"[The class of] 2005 holds it down," asserts the talented athlete. "Since we had four freshmen on the team, our class came hard." This support from his classmates has continued even after freshman year. "Last year [as sophomores], there were still a nice size of us at games."

Coming into Morehouse, Mercer was being courted by such academic dynamos as NYU and Yale, but received no major Division-I scholarship offers. His overriding ambition has been to graduate from college, while most of his friends "went to college just to go the NBA. School isn't even important to them. Coaches make their classes." This comes from a finance major holding a 3.6 grade-point-average at Morehouse.

Ranked *Black Enterprise Magazine's* #1 school for African-American students for two consecutive years, Morehouse is not known for its athletics. An athlete at Morehouse must embody the concept of "student-athlete" in order to succeed. He must maintain the balance. "Morehouse is a great athletic and social experience," concluded Mercer, after coming from a house party with some teammates. "We're Division II, but we're winning championships. It's the best of both worlds. "And best of all, mygrades aren't slippin'."

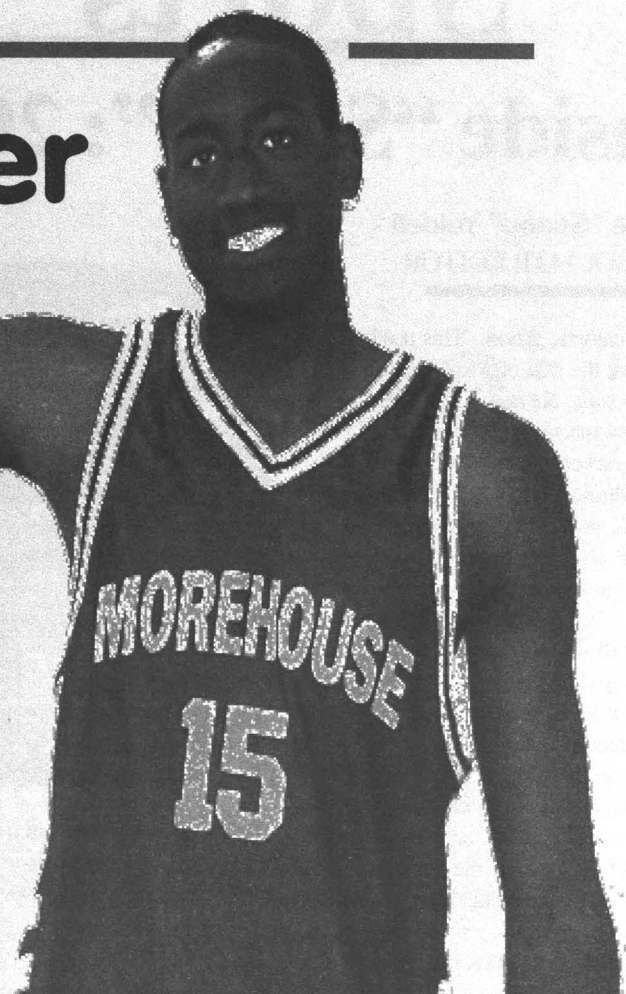


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JAMIE SWIFT/MAROON TIGER

Jason Mercer '05 is an honors business administration major with a concentration in finance from West Bloomfield, MI.

2003 NCAA COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

by Kyle "Scoop" Yeldell
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

College football is definitely one of my prized pastimes, and I cannot start this article without saying that the Ohio State Buckeyes, my favorite team, are the reigning NCAA champions. The big question is ... will they repeat? You're going to have to continue reading to see my predictions.

The SEC is the nation's best conference, boasting such Top 25 teams as Auburn, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and LSU. Auburn, rated as *Sporting News's* #1 team, started off the season with a shutout loss to USC, 23-0. Georgia and their quarterback duo of **David Greene** and **D.J. Shockley** will win a lot of games this year. They return the best defensive lineman in the nation, **David Pollack**, and the SEC's best wide receiver, **Fred Gibson**. Florida brings in one of the nation's best recruiting classes, equipped with quarterback of the future, **Chris Leak**, who threw 10 for 14 for 111 yards in his first college game. Tennessee, where Leak's older brother CJ plays, is going through a rebuilding year. LSU will miss its two best running threats, but wide receiver **Michael Clayton** is back.

The second best conference in college football is the Big 12. Kansas State's **Ell Roberson** is a taller, more accurate version of last year's Heisman hopeful, Seneca Wallace from

Iowa State. With the help of **Darren Sproles**, arguably the best running back in the country, K-State is expected to go to the Bowl Championship Series this Christmas break. They do, however, have tough Big 12 competition in Texas and Oklahoma.

Texas has a great balance between offense, defense and special teams. Although their four-year starting quarterback, **Chris Simms**, graduated, they return one of the best young quarterbacks in the nation, redshirt freshman **Vincent Young**. For those who never have heard of Young, he is 6'5", weighs 225 pounds, and runs the 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds.

Oklahoma, known for their bone-jarring defense, is anticipating a big year. Many of the coaches and players have been quoted as saying that this year's defense is the best they've ever had in the four-year tenure of head coach **Bob Stoops**. This is high praise indeed, especially considering that two years ago, they had the nation's best linebacker and defensive back (Butkus Award winner **Rocky Calmus** and Thorpe Award winner **Roy Williams**, respectively).

Speaking of guys named Williams, this seems to be the year of that surname. Three of the nation's five best wide receivers (Texas' **Roy**, Washington's **Reggie**, and USC's **Mike**) share the last name, as well as the SEC's best running back (Auburn's **Carnell**). The other two wide receivers

in the top five are Pittsburgh's **Larry Fitzgerald** and Oklahoma State's **Rashaun Woods**.

The tight end position is owned by one man: Miami's **Kellen Winslow**. If the name sounds familiar, it's because his father, **Kellen Winslow, Sr.**, is the greatest player to ever play that position. Jr., however, might just be great enough to continue his father's legacy.

His Miami teammates, fresh from a heartbreaking loss to Ohio State, are coming back strong. They boast the best secondary in the nation, as well as one of the country's most dominating defensive linemen, **Vince Wilfork**. This year is the last year for the Hurricanes in the Big East; along with Virginia Tech, they have defected to the ACC, effective 2004. Like Texas, Virginia Tech has a great young quarterback whose name, like Miami's Winslow, might evoke some nostalgia; he is redshirt freshman **Marcus Vick**. The scary thing is that he was better in high school than his talented older brother, **Michael**, so his potential is unmatched. Running back **Kevin Jones** is set to dominate the halfback position in his last year in the Big East.

In V-Tech's new conference, a sleeper team will rear its head: Virginia. They return the best quarterback in the league, **Matt Schaub**, and have a very good linebacker corps. Maryland, shockingly upset by Northern Illinois in their first game (20-13), has to regroup. They boast a great secondary and the 2001 ACC Offensive Player of

the Year, running back **Bruce Perry**, who returns from a season-ending injury. They must regroup in a matter of days in order to travel to Tallahassee to face Florida State. The Seminoles return most of the players on their defense, as well as their two key offensive players, quarterback **Chris Rix** and running back/grown man **Greg Jones**. The ACC also boasts arguably the best quarterback in the country (next to Washington's **Cody Pickett**) in NC State's **Philip Rivers**. Rivers, along with running back **T.A. McLendon**, led the Wolfpack to 11 wins, their greatest season in history.

The Big 10 will have a good year. Ohio State is missing their star player, **Maurice Clarett**, who possibly will miss the entire season. They didn't miss him much last week when they ran by #19 Washington, 28-9. The Buckeyes return every single starter on offense, the best defensive line in the nation, and the best two-way player since Champ Bailey in cornerback/wide receiver/returner **Chris Gamble**.

Michigan is another school that consistently racks up some of the nation's best high school talent. It's not hard to sell Michigan to recruits when the best college defensive back in the United States, **Marlin Jackson**, invokes thoughts of the best defensive back in the NFL, former Wolverine **Charles Woodson**. Running back **Chris Perry** leads the country in rushing yards after Game 1 with his 22 carry, 232 yard explosion Saturday.

Sports

Inside "Scoop": 2003 Tiger Football Season kicks off

Kyle "Scoop" Yeldell
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lights, camera, action. This used to be just the title of Mr. Cheeks' hot club song, but now it has taken on a new meaning at Morehouse. With the set of four new light posts erected throughout the B. T. Harvey Stadium, football has taken on a different atmosphere on campus. And so far, students are liking it.

For the people that performed during the Fort Valley game, Saturday night was a great change of pace. "I like it a lot," said Cory Green, a junior who plays the tenor drum for the band. "It's better for us. We're not in the blazing heat."

One thing that people tend to forget when they attend football games is the health of the people involved. "We're no longer playing during the hottest part of the day," explained Ashley McNeil, a member of Morehouse's flag girl company, Maroon Mystique. "We already don't get much water. Now our health is better."

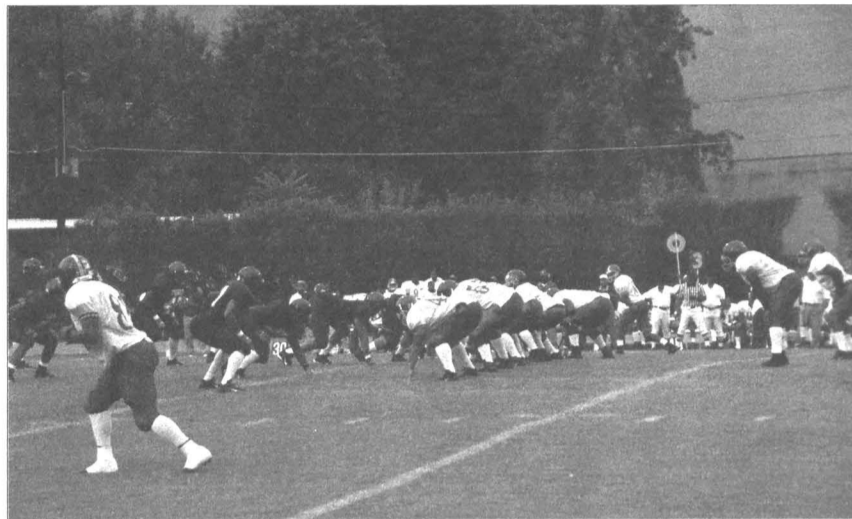
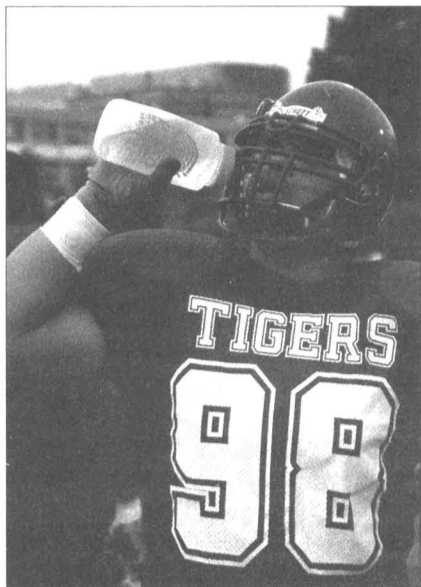
The later starting time of 7 p.m. also gives people more time to get ready for game time. "I like them late," said Quentin Samuels, president of the AUC DC Metro Club. "People don't have to wake up early anymore."

So far, game attendance is definitely enjoying the new time slot.

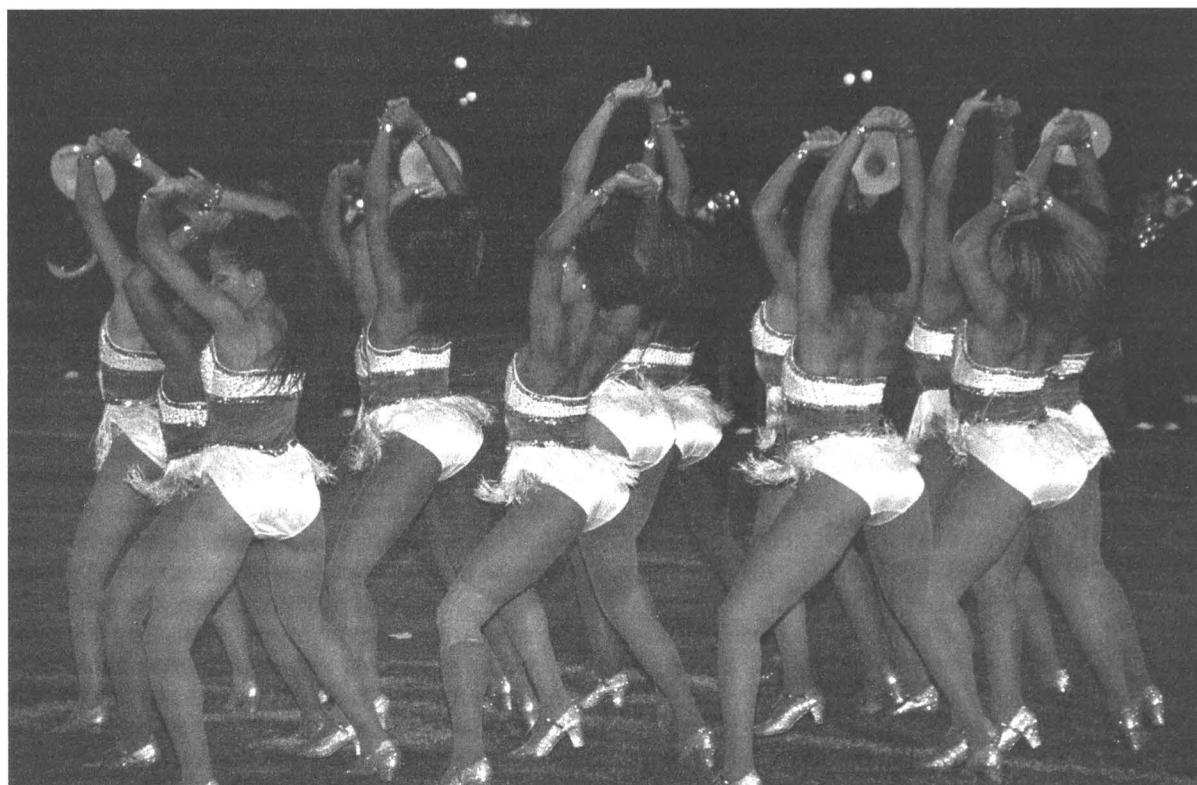
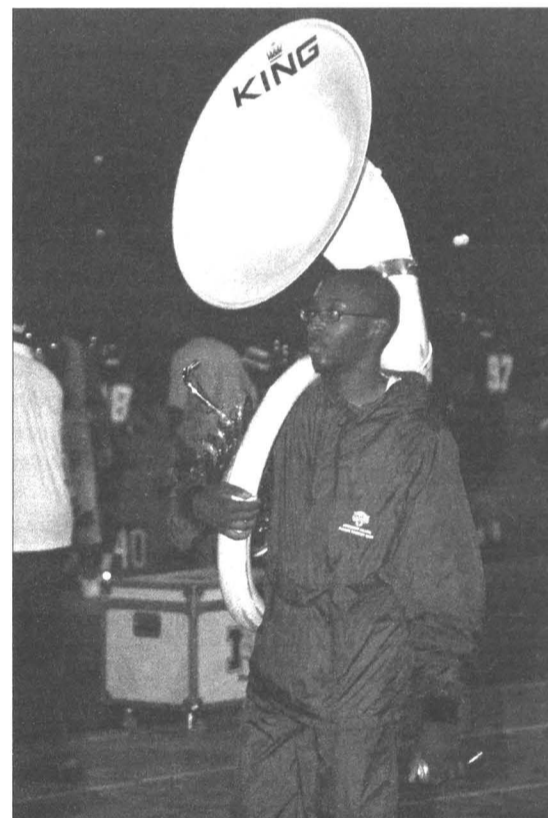
"It was packed," said Frank Bryant, a forward on Morehouse's basketball team. "Based on the first game, I'd say more people are showing up," agreed Yanique Moore, a dancer for Mahogany-n-Motion, Morehouse's flagship dance squad. "It's nice to see people gather at night to do something constructive. It induces people to stay on campus for activities."

The night game also attracted some former students to come back. Bakari Sellers, Morehouse's unofficial school pride torchbearer, expected to see some old faces around the yard. My own brother (Cleveland), who played WR for Morehouse in the early 90s and some of his teammates came back for the first game.

Unfortunately, they had to watch Fort Valley defeat us 23-10. John David Washington played his heart out, but some botched passes and missed opportunities led the Tigers down a tunnel of defeat. Well, at least now we know there is a light at the end of that tunnel.



Top left: A player cools down between highlight-making plays. Top right: Morehouse defense takes the field.



Clockwise from left: Thousands of spectators enjoy the new lights in B. T. Harvey Stadium. The Marching Tigers hit the field. Mohogany takes Beyonce's 'Uh-Oh' to new heights.

Life

Afghanistan TO Morehouse

One Student's Story

by Marc Muneal
FEATURES EDITOR

Few people who notice Obaidullah Asem walking about the campus know that his road to Morehouse was much longer and more harrowing than the average student's. Born in Kabul, the capital of war-torn Afghanistan, in 1982, Obi lived through times during which his elementary school, wary of claiming liability, would send students home for the day because rebels fighting the Russian-supported communist regime were firing missiles close to the city. Still, he says that he was able to grow up like any normal kid.

It was after the fall of the communist regime in the late 1980s, however, that life for the Aseems became even more traumatic. Rebels in the country broke into factions on the basis of ethnicity, and each wanted to achieve power. Obi's father, a U.N. worker with no political affiliation, was taken prisoner in 1992 because he belonged to a certain ethnic group and village. In a two-hour conversation I had with Obi, the articulate junior biology major spoke of his father's imprisonment, the subsequent escape and his family's reluctant flight to Pakistan, and his ultimate arrival in Atlanta days before September 11, 2001.

MM: How and when were you reunited with your father?

OA: He was in prison for 40 days. We didn't know if he was alive or dead. We had absolutely no idea where he was. Any suspense movie wouldn't even come close to describing it. But he had a cellmate who was an experienced contractor. They formulated a plan, used old bedsprings to dig a hole in the wall and escaped. A week or so later, we left Afghanistan and moved to Pakistan.

What were some of the obstacles you had to overcome in adapting to a new country and culture so soon after that ordeal?

The good thing was that my grandmother and one of my uncles were already there. We stayed with them for six, seven months and then moved out to buy our own place. When we moved to Pakistan, I had to learn two new languages (English and Urdu). We had to pay a lot for money for education, which is something we never had to do in Afghanistan. I feel a lot more comfortable here [in America] than I used to feel at a Pakistani school, in terms of discrimination. Moving to Pakistan was a huge step to make.

During those years, back in Afghanistan, the Taliban had amassed a force of intimidating size and systematically conquered each of the various factions and the Burhannudin Rabbani government to take control of Kabul in 1996. Though the Taliban regime crippled Afghanistan's economy, oppressed women, and harbored suspected terrorists, it would be five years later and two skyscrapers fewer that the world would sit up and seriously take notice.

Despite the challenges he faced in his new home, Obi soon mastered the new languages and excelled in the classroom, consistently ranking at the top of his form in the British high school he attended. In 2001, he began considering tertiary education.

How did you end up coming to Morehouse?

During the early 70s, one of Morehouse's graduates, Bob Moore, came to Afghanistan in the Peace Corps. He and my father became very good friends. During all those years, they kept in touch, and when I

graduated from high school, my father asked if I could come over and he sponsored me to Morehouse. So I arrived on campus in August 2001, a couple weeks before September 11th.

What was your reaction to the news that there was an Afghan connection to the events of September 11th?

I couldn't believe it. I couldn't see Afghans being involved in something like that. One thing people still don't understand — when they talk of Bin Laden and 9/11, they automatically assume they are Afghans. The Afghans in Afghanistan and Pakistan were as shocked as people everywhere around the world.

The War on Terror meant that the world's superpowers,

led by the U.S., would be invading your country. What were the positives and negatives you in this?

I was very optimistic, but I was scared. I had seen my people suffer, and I was praying that it would be over and done with in the least amount of time possible. As far as my own family was concerned, I was very afraid. My father is involved in imports and exports from China and would go to Afghanistan now and then, and there was a lot of money invested in his business. The family's finances were a huge concern for me. I didn't know what would happen next. But everything turned out pretty well.

The war was over in a relatively short amount of time, and focus soon shifted from Afghanistan to Iraq, from Bin

Laden to Hussein. Your views?

I don't like it in the sense that it takes focus away from Afghanistan. The international community is spreading itself too thin. There's a lot of development to be done in Afghanistan. Financially, it's getting a lot more stable, but there's still a lot to be done. Any moment that international peacekeeping forces leave Afghanistan, it will probably go back to the way it used to be.

To ask a very general question in closing, how do you feel about your country and your nationality?

I feel Afghanistan is a very beautiful country in its own ways. We are not the perfect people, but our way of life, our culture, is very important to us.

I love our sense of dignity, our sense of pride. We love being Afghans, and we wouldn't trade it for anything. That's who we are.

Afghanistan during the rise of the Taliban

Population: 21,251,821
Birth rate: 42.69 births/1000 population
Death rate: 18.53 deaths/1000 population
Infant Mortality rate: 152.8 deaths/1000 live births
Life Expectancy: 45.37 years
Male literacy: 44%
Female literacy: 14%

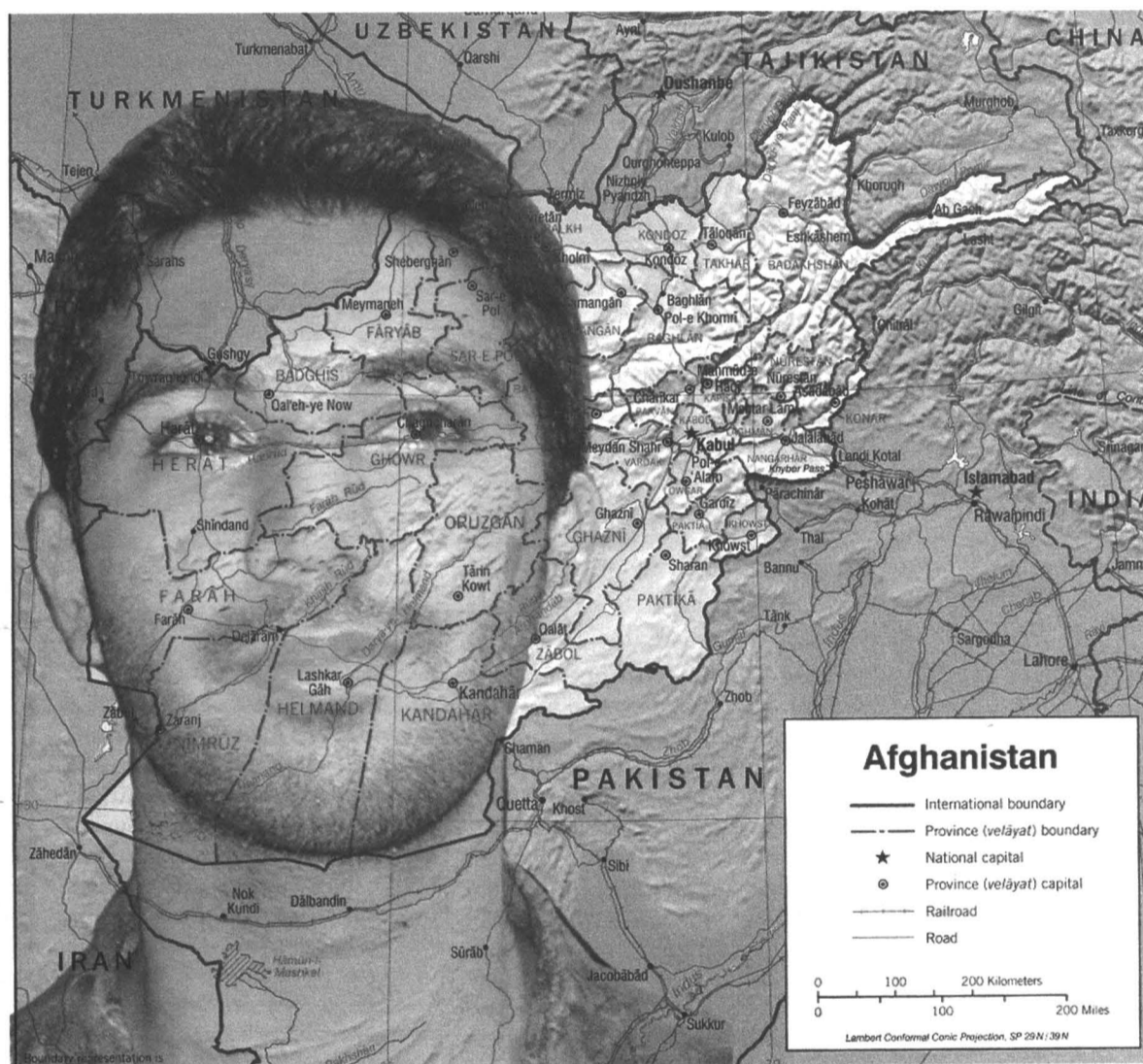


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JAMIE SWIFT/MAROON TIGER

Life

The Suite Life

Morehouse Students finally get a 'piece of the pie' on the eastside

with reporting
by George Shelton, Jr.
STAFF WRITER

Two weeks ago, 3000 students descended on the Morehouse campus excited about the start of another semester, many also anxious to see their new homes at the Parson St. suites. Faced with the challenge of living up to high expectations, the new buildings have been met with mixed reactions from residents. The question on all minds: are the luxurious rooms worth the luxurious prices?

For some students, one little privilege makes the price worthwhile: privacy. "A definite advantage is not waking up to another guy every morning," joked junior Dennis Spencer. Twenty-four-hour visitation, in the same vein, is another advantage enjoyed by the buildings' 373 tenants, who have no fond memories of escorting their female friends back to the Spelman campus at 1 a.m.

At the same time, however, there have been some murmurs of false advertisement and broken promises. The L-shaped buildings offer students the option of living in a one-, two-, or four-bedroom suite with a kitchenette, individual or shared bathrooms, and a sitting area – and that's on the low end; more luxurious accommodations include apartments with fully furnished kitchens and living rooms. Increased security and a lower noise level have also contributed to a more comfortable living area for occupants. But the college appears



Look at my kingdom I was finally there...

to be changing its tune about certain amenities that were promised when the suites were initially advertised.

Senior Lloyd Johnson is not a little upset because of non-working cable television connections. For many students, said Johnson, cable was a big selling point of the new buildings. Unlike the arrangement promised for the suites, students living in other dorms on campus have no cable access, nor may they pay for it themselves. Suite residents are now afraid their privilege may extend only to permission to pay for their own cable.

Alex Branch, the assistant director of housing and residential life, acknowledged that there are some issues yet to be resolved. "We did market cable and phone service as being included," he admitted. "It was our understanding that

it was part of the price."

However, the housing office is awaiting final word on the matter from the Suites Committee, of which Vice President for Business Affairs Shirley Williams and Dean of Student Services Eddie Gaffney are members. "We're still waiting on fiber-optic lines to be installed," said Branch. "I'm

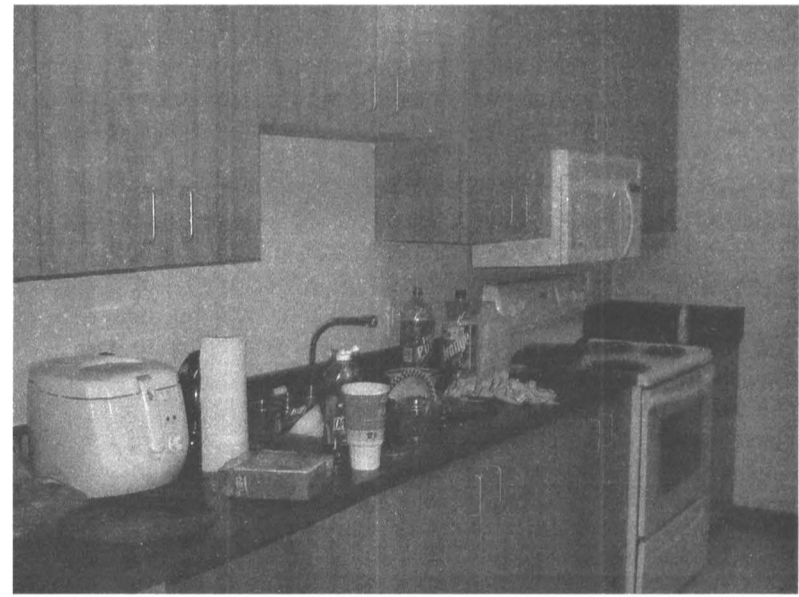
optimistic that it will go as the selling procedures said."

Scholarship students in particular have to deal with one very unwelcome side-effect of living on Parson St; many have had to give up either the room or entire room and board portion of their scholarships to make the move two blocks off campus.

Johnson commented, "It's an inconvenience for people with

scholarships, but I understand that the school is trying to make money." Branch could say only that that was a "directive that came from Business Affairs."

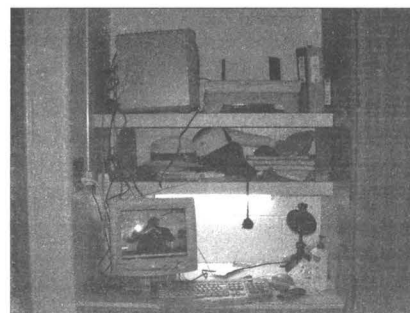
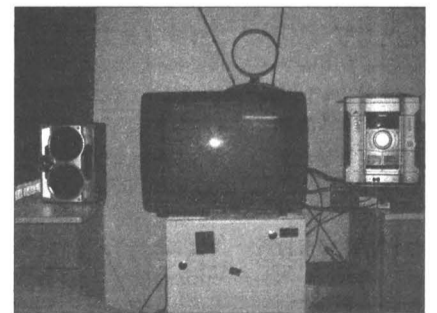
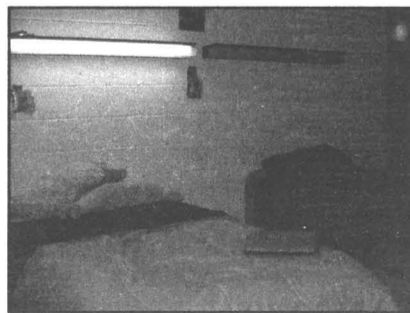
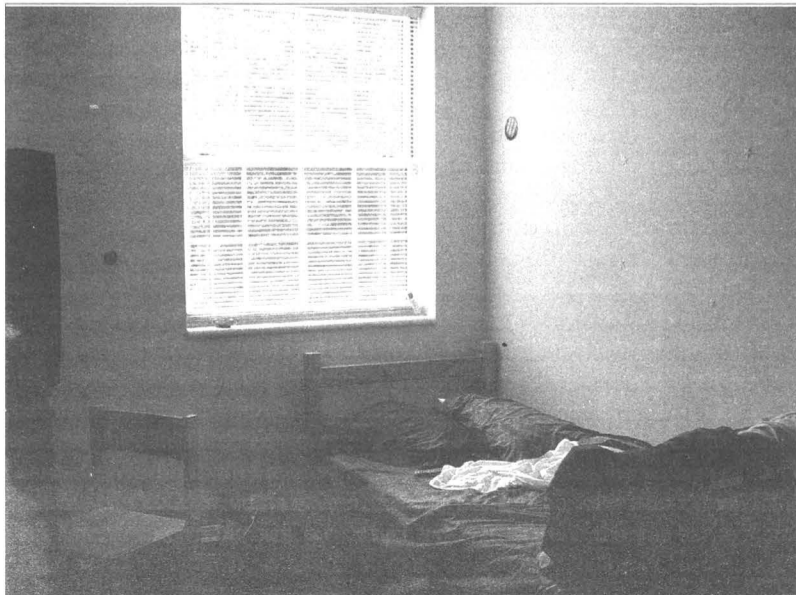
Despite the birthing pains, the overall reaction to the new housing option seems more favorable than otherwise. According to Spencer, the accommodations are, in a word, "better."



The fish don't fry in the kitchen, or does it?

The other half...

Bedroom at the suites.



Bedroom, study, sitting room, kitchen, and dining room in Brazeal Hall: all in one room

ArtsEtc.

A new season of art

by Anthony Coln
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After a two-month hiatus, the High Museum of Art greeted Atlanta with its much anticipated fall exhibits on August 30th. Having been temporarily closed for expansion and renovation, the Museum re-opened with two new exhibits, featuring the work of artists Ansel Adams and Edward Hopper.

The first of the two exhibits, entitled "Ansel Adams and His Legacy," featuring classic images from the Ansel Adams Archive, presents 81 of Adams' master prints, which consist of nature details, architecture, and landscapes. Several other photographers are featured to demonstrate Adams' stylistic impact on their work. The majority of the photos are stunning black-and-white landscape scenes from the western U.S.

The second exhibit is entitled "A Matter of Time: Edward Hopper from the Whitney Museum of American Art." Sixteen paintings, including six watercolors, are used in the exhibit to demonstrate the sense of solitude—and loneliness—that characterizes many of Hopper's works. Images of desolate streets and other solitary modern life figures feed into this feeling of hopeless alienation.

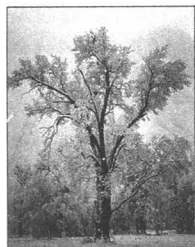
During a walk through, I was not particularly struck by any one piece. The Ansel Adams exhibit might have easily been tailored to fit 81 Hallmark gift card photo covers. The exhibit did, however, make me want to visit the



Early Sunday Morning by E. Hopper

western U.S. to see the land in person. I was also interested in how the prints were made because of their unusually high resolution. I say visit the exhibit to experience a land less traveled. Then, purchase a camera and go take the pictures yourself. As for the Edward Hopper exhibit, he must have been a lonely man. I must give him props on the watercolors. When I was little, all my watercolors ran together and made brown. I say visit the exhibit to catch the minor details of his work. I was able to find many details in his paintings that piqued my interest.

To sum up, the Adams and Hopper exhibits are worth the visit. The two exhibits run through October 26th. The price is \$8 and there is a student discount, so it won't break you. Oh, and one more thing, please make sure not to look too deep. I saw a lot of people trying, without much success.



Oaktree by Ansel Adams.

Please come and worship this Sunday at the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel, Morehouse College at 11 AM. If you would like to join the King Chapel Choir please contact Mr. Brian Keith Major, Director, at (732)682-1312. The choir rehearses every Saturday, 11 AM.

Music In Review:

STATE PROPERTY PRESENTS:
THE CHAIN GANG VOLUME II
(Criminal Background/Roc-A-Fella/
Def Jam Records)

by Sam Beresford
SWING EDITOR
and Christian Fields
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When most solo MCs get together and record as any type of collective or group, the results usually amount to unorganized garbage over music. However, the Philadelphia-based State Property brings us their second compilation, *The Chain Gang Volume II*, a fine work that effectively contradicts the stereotype and solidifies their spot as one of the game's top-notch posses. State Prop general Beanie Sigel, along with Freeway, Peedi Crakk, Oschino, Sparks, and the Young Gunz (Chris and Neef), lyrically assault tracks with their perfect mix of hard street rhymes and contrasting but complementing flows.

Surprisingly, the album isn't supported by the skills of the artists alone. The production on *The Chain Gang* has only three fairly big-name producers to its credit (Bink, the Alchemist, and Digga), but even with the majority of the board work being handled by a relatively unknown artist, the beats easily make the album complete. Philadelphia Freeway runs amuck on the neck jerking "Rollin' Down The Freeway," while Peedi Crakk, the self-proclaimed Prince of State Property, along with Oschino, Young Chris, and the Broad Street Bully, bring the album to an apex with the certified street anthem "B.B. Gun." Don't be fooled for a second into thinking that the album contains nothing but gritty I-can-sell-more-powder-than-Johnson-and-Johnson's rap. Oschino pours his soul into the touching track entitled "Been Down Too Long." He makes you feel his pain with moving lyrics like, "Through the trials and tribulations I fought Satan/ No heat, I had to sleep with a coat, I'm running out of patience." A perfect way to describe State Property would be comparing them to *Voltron*. Separate they are powerful, but together they are a force to be reckoned with.

Certified Bangers: "Can't Stop, Won't Stop," "It's On," "B.B. Gun," "G.A.M.E.," "Want Me Back," "Criminal Background," "94 Bars,"



RATING: 4 TIGERS

20 QUESTIONS

by the Pied Piper &
Karma Police featuring
Hermione Granger

1. Why do you think these questions are about you?
2. Is your "California issue" more serious than the Terminator being governor?
3. Wu, wassup with the jeans and church shoes?
4. If Diddy and Mary can reunite, why can't Psi and HK?
5. Julius, why don't you tell _____ how you feel?
6. Why haven't you realized by now that the train has already left?
7. Is there anything more annoying than a Morehouse sophomore?
8. Joe, is this the end?
9. Were you more mad that Raven-Symone wasn't here, or that you believed the rumors that she was?
10. Isn't the play action on NCAA 2004 the hottest innovation ever?
11. Why are spas becoming so popular?
12. Is Wellington Pointe the new East Lake?
13. Aren't the new freshmen cat?
14. Now that she's a Falcons cheerleader, what's up with some tickets?
15. After all the pimping, will the GDI's have the money to pay the intake fees?
16. Instead of gossiping about it, why don't you just ask them what happened?
17. Maybe it was the night air, the spirits, or just my mood, but didn't you dig the way Mahogany was sweating under those lights?
18. Are Seminar, Policy and Pro Seminar that hard, or are we just that lazy?
19. Seniors, shouldn't they call it a 'needed' sheet? (Shout out to L.T.)
20. Guess who's back on the market?

VISIT
www.marootiger.net
TODAY

Comment

Here at *The Tiger* we believe that there are as many potential contributing writers as there are readers. We also believe that though Saida Grundy is the Holy Grail of opinion writing, others deserve to drink from the cup.

We know you have things to say. Each time an issue drops onto kiosks AUC-wide, we are bombarded with sidebars from readers whose names usually don't ring a bell. Nonetheless, those comments are valued. We just wish you'd take the time to write them down using an appropriate capacity for the Queen's English and send them our way.

In lieu of dorm room rants about how your air conditioner can't be turned down without breaking permanently, channel those frustrations into a campus commentary about the inefficiency of work-orders and physical maintenance. Instead of knee-jerk criticisms of Saida Grundy's pro-gay tirades, *tell her how you feel*—in 500 words or less. You can even submit something that's *not* a complaint. Anything. Really.

This is not the venue to publish your Sunday sermon or the spoken word piece from Underground Live that got fingers snapping high in the air. Proclaiming your love for that certain someone will run you \$300 for a quarter page, and we'll most likely stick it in the back with all the pizza ads.

Instead, challenge yourself to studying the art of true journalism. If you need a how-to guide, take a look at past *Maroon Tigers*. After all, our writing's pretty swell.

We even have some pointers on writing good commentary:

Your foremost task is to do justice to the English language. If you can't spell it, we won't print it. And if your subjects and verbs don't agree, then neither will the reader. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, content and length, but we should never have to do revisions. Your college pays writing tutors for that (our copy editor is one).

Additionally, you should be so self-assured by your opinion that we don't have to ask, "who are you trying to convince?" Of course, we don't suggest you substitute self-righteousness for thoughtful critique, but, truth be told, it worked for Saida Grundy.

Finally, be mindful that the PRINTED WORD IS PERMANENT. Once you've said it, you've said it — to be stored in Morehouse archives for eternity. You'll forever be known as "that guy who wrote _____." After every-single-person-you-never-realized-knew-your-name voices an attack on your opinion, you'll realize why they say the pen is mightier than the sword (mostly because ink fades slower than scars heal).

On the bright side, you'll be a campus celebrity—at least for that week until the next *MT* drops and your name's not in it. But in the meantime, wear your Market Friday best as you walk through the yard listening to the accolades from your friends who are wondering how a herb like you can get such clout just by submitting an article to *The Tiger*.

By the way, this article is **exactly** what 500 words looks like.

I don't need this.

To the Editor:

Think back to high school when most of us were laboring to learn the basics of algebra, pre-calculus, writing, history, or some other subject. We all had at least one class that we didn't enjoy, and in which we didn't do exceptionally well. Although most of us hadn't yet designated an absolute career path, we felt that our time could be better spent doing something other than learning that given subject. Thus, we found ourselves asking the same question that many of us still ask today: "Why do I need this?" After a brief analysis, many of us conclude that we don't.

From an objective standpoint, this conclusion is probably true. For example, one doesn't really need to know pre-calculus or world history to physically survive. There are plenty of jobs that do not require the full body of knowledge gained from a liberal arts education. Thus, there probably is no real need for all of the extras. However, while there may not be an explicit need for the material, at the end of the day there probably is a use for it.

While an understanding of other disciplines can be advantageous for several reasons, I will consider the added benefit in the context of one's added value in the increasingly competitive labor market.

First and foremost, most of us do not know exactly what our future jobs will entail, and, as job opportunities become more interdisciplinary, an understanding of areas outside of one's particular field will be especially useful. For example, consider a student who is pre-law and needs a chemistry class to graduate. While that individual may see no explicit

need to know chemistry, it might be useful in ten years when he or she works on a case that deals with patent violations. In this case, the attorney's understanding of chemistry increases his or her value to the client.

Also, there is more to gain from a class than just the material that is directly taught. For example, while students may learn to solve for "x" in an algebra class, the more important lesson is in understanding how to solve a problem when given sufficient information. Similarly, when your English teacher asks about the tone of a passage, the more significant lesson may be noticing the difference between what someone says and what that person actually means. These types of skills can clearly be useful throughout one's career.

Finally, there are just some things that educated people are expected to know. For example, most of us have a general understanding of what caused the Civil War and the Great Depression, and of the distrust that many investors have of large corporations. Such subjects often arise in professional conversation, and it becomes painfully apparent when someone isn't able to follow. Clearly, this can slow one's career mobility.

As stated above, there may be no true need for extra disciplinary knowledge. However, the arguments above indicate that an understanding of fields other than your major can be especially useful. There is something beneficial in every class. Find the value in your classes, and use it to improve yourself. *Ravaris Moore is a member of the Morehouse College Class of 2004.*



THE MAROON TIGER

The Organ of Student Expression Since 1925

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Maybe he [Kobe Bryant] was just obeying his thirst."

-- Sim James, sports commentator

"When you see a woman who can go nowhere without a staff of admirers, it is not so much because they think she is beautiful, it is because she has told them they are handsome."

-- Jean Giraudoux, writer

Letters Policy

The Maroon Tiger invites our readers to submit letters to the editor or mail them to the comment editor. *The Maroon Tiger* reserves the right to decide which letters to publish. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, libelous content and length. Editing will be performed in accordance with Associated Press guidelines.

Please limit letters to 500 words. Letters must contain the author's telephone number, e-mail address and school for verification. Anonymous letters will not be published. Deadline for contributing writers is Monday at noon.

Email letters to editorials@marootiger.net

Mail letters to 830 Westview Drive

Campus Box 40

Atlanta, GA 30314

Hand diskettes and hard-copy letters to room 115 of Archer Hall

Travel

Maroon Tiger Editor has summer to remember

Photos by Christian Nwachukwu, Jr

Christian Nwachukwu, Jr
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

They invested in twelve. Twelve college newspaper editors, some editors-in-chief and others not, were selected Summer 2003 to participate in the Anti-Defamation League's Albert Finkelstein Memorial & Laurie Tisch Sussman Campus Editors' Study Mission to Poland, Bulgaria and Israel.

The Anti-Defamation League, a largely Jewish organization founded in 1913 to combat anti-Semitism, bigotry, discrimination against minority groups, and hatred both nationally and abroad, made a substantial investment to educate and expose twelve college students to the history of the Jewish people, the Holocaust and the history of Israel and its current state of unrest.

For sixteen days, with the support of Martin Cominsky (Poland, Bulgaria), Rick Hirschhaut (Israel), Dena Marks, and Gary Levin, our mission leaders, we pushed the limits of our preconceptions and challenged our own and each other's beliefs and limited understanding. We were the new contingent of American jet setters: pleasure travel with a purpose for journalists with a cause.

The plane touched down in Poland to raucous, if subdued, applause. I think it was the nine hours with coach food and never before seen music videos that I never want to see again. Nevertheless, we were in Poland—a first for each of us.

There was no rest for the weary; without stopping to collect a shower or a change of clothes it was onto the tour bus with guide Waclaw to see old Warsaw. We visited the Ghetto (the area walled off from the city proper where Polish Jews were forced to live after Poland fell to Nazi Germany). "Flowers die," we were told. So as we left each site, in the Jewish

tradition, we left stones to show that we remembered the events and the lives lost in its wake.

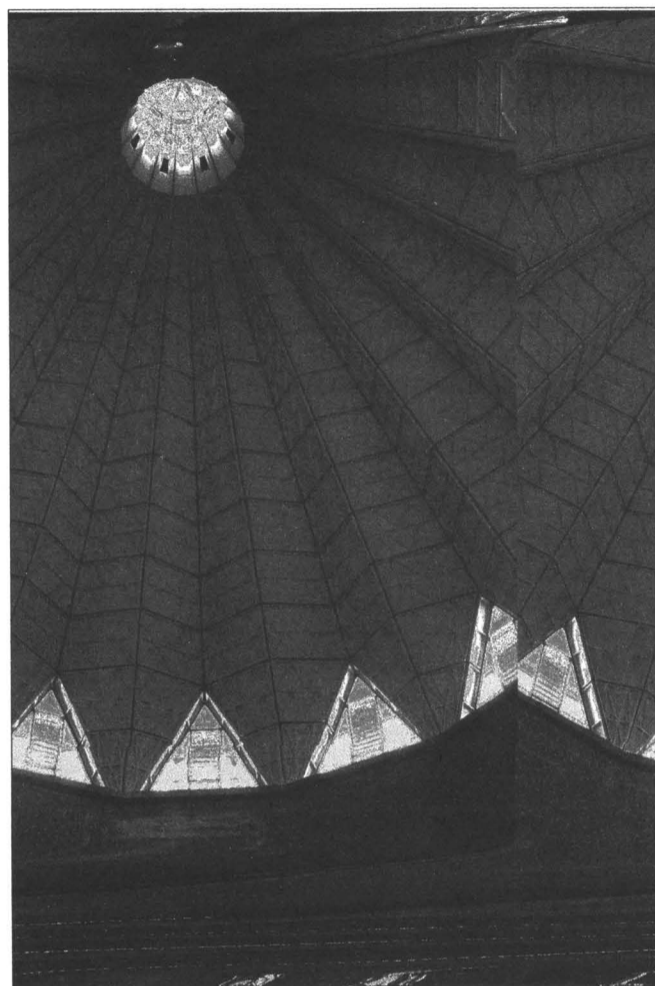
Warsaw was a graffiti paradise, a picture of discontent. Waclaw explained that many Warsaw citizens left following World War II to be replaced by a group with few ties to the Polish capital. The result, he said, was a capital rife with discontent and a poisonous brand of individualism. The starkest example was the widespread neglect of Warsaw's elderly community.

Contrasted with Krakow, our next site, Warsaw was almost a world apart. Krakow is a tightly knit city with diverse interests that work together. One of the large churches we visited had apartment housing free to senior citizens.

We traveled to Krakow for a more daunting reason as well: to visit Auschwitz and Birkenau. The death camps are in a remarkable state of preservation and are now museums open to the public. Large groups from all over the world moved slowly from building to building listening to the grim protocol of attempted annihilation and recalling what happened to millions following the selection.

Two things surprised me: first the numb, detached feeling that some of the students who had grown up being taught the horrors of the Holocaust expressed. One Jewish editor said that she expected to be much more affected by the site of the barbed electrical wires and the stockpile of suitcases, children's shoes and human hair. The second shock was that some students expressed disgust that there were vendors near the camps. They felt that their presence somehow tainted the preservation of history. That thought never occurred to me, especially as some of the most "commercially successful" ports during the slave era are now resorts.

After being given the second and third over and asked to smile (I'm smiling in my passport pic-



The highest point in the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, Israel.

ture), we headed toward Bulgaria. Bulgaria in a word: amazing. In two words: shockingly so. Maybe I expected the air to be heavy with the residue of communism. Don't misunderstand; McDonald's advertisements painted on the side of drab gray concrete apartments certainly speaks to a nation becoming acquainted with capitalism, but the people were great. The food was great and for all the communist era buildings, the country (about the size of Arkansas) was stunningly beautiful. Perhaps my view is distorted, as our guide leader Jacob and our translator Joseph spirited us into high-level meetings with political and judicial officials and lunch with the Mitropolit of Stara Zagora, the religious leader of the country, and the Grand Mufti of Bulgaria, the Muslim leader of the country.

Although in Bulgaria to learn how Bulgaria stood up to Adolf Hitler and saved its 50,000 Jewish citizens during the Holocaust, the most forceful presentation was the one that wasn't a presentation at all. After a private performance by a national Bulgarian dance company, our tour bus prowled over potholes as we headed toward the Roma community. Previously thought to have come from Egypt (hence the name Gypsies), the Roma are an ancient ethnic minority that has a history mired in persecution. I was looking out the

window to the left of the bus, cautiously waving to the smiling men, women and children who stood in front of shacks when one of my fellow editors pointed out the right side and gasped. A throng of people as far as we could see, some on foot, others on horse drawn carts, many holding small children cheered as though we were in New York and "The Rolling Stones" was painted on the side of our bus. As we headed to a meeting place, young girls offered us bread and a plate of spices unique to the country.

"America is a place where there is no discrimination, no hatred and they care for their poor. Here we have no running water or facilities. This could never happen in America," one of the Roma men said. America should live up to the image we so carefully project.

Israel is a place so saturated with the presence of God that it is at times overwhelming. Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druse Arabs, all worship on this tiny sliver of land. There is no separation of church and state in Israel and the complexity of it and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict are palpable.

Under the brilliant direction of our guide Mike Rogoff, we stood on a hill and viewed the 'green line' and the barrier being erected by Israel that is in some places a fence and in some a wall. We

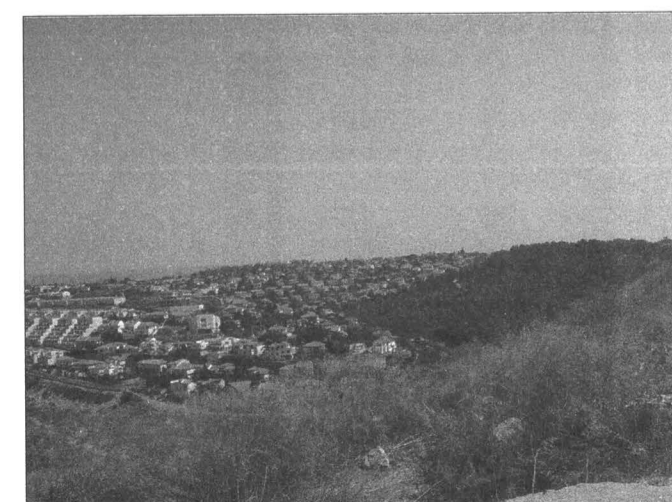


stood in the Jewish quarter and looked at the gold dome of the Dome of the Rock that we could not visit; we hiked down Mount Arbel, visited the Golan Heights, swam in the Mediterranean, sailed on the Sea of Galilee and floated on the Dead Sea. We rafted down the River Jordan (a common bathing spot for Israelis), visited the Church of the Annunciation, the Western Wall, the Holy Sepulcher, Capernaum, and the City of David and celebrated the Jewish Sabbath by participating in a Shabbat dinner. All the while we grappled with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its implications on the Middle East and world. Carlos, our security guard during our stay in Israel, said that he hoped that he would not be needed for the next mission

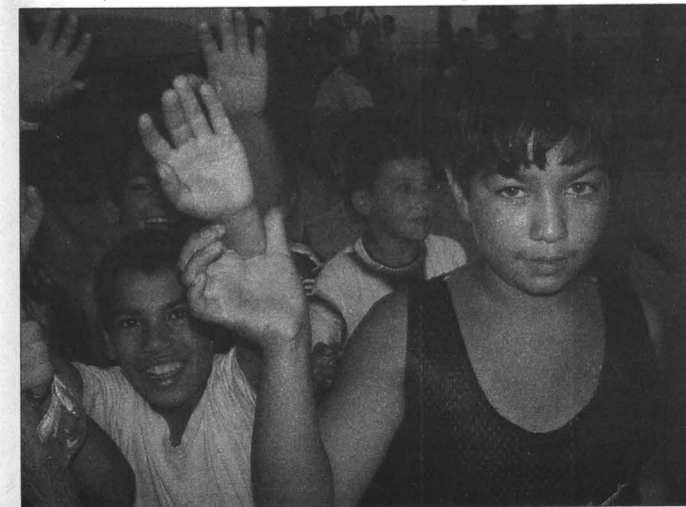
because perhaps peace would be attained. Sadly, the region has erupted in turmoil once again.

Some events should never be forgotten. We have to remember that deciding that we care enough to ask the tough questions is only half the battle; the real work begins afterward.

From top to bottom: Nationally acclaimed Bulgarian dance troupe begins their performance; busy city street in heart of Sofia, Bulgaria; view from Mount Arbel in Ein Gev, Israel.



Bottom, Roma children in Ithiman, Bulgaria.





Have you ever felt like you were behind enemy lines?