

Lack of funds delays dorm renovation

Financial aid denied to HBCUs due to recent federal budget cuts

by Mel Dennis
STAFF WRITER

The Quarles Court Dormitory Unit Two was last week re-opened for student use, one year after a first floor fire on August 9, 2002 left eight students without rooms. Though the students were relocated to Unit Five immediately after the incident, reconstruction did not begin on the dorm until June of this year due to lack of funds.

Funding for the reparation of Unit Two, as well as for the renovation of the remaining units, was originally slated to come from a series of four federal grants. When the government reneged on over \$275,000 last January, however, faculty, staff, students, parents, and friends of the college had to band together to raise the money. Forty-five thousand dollars had to be taken from Morehouse's endowment to raise enough money for the renovation. The goal was reached in March.

The loss of funds came as a result of governmental budget cuts, caused

“The government has done its share of promise breaking. We should have expected it and planned to raise the money ourselves.”

- Barry Marcus, 04

by the continuing war in the Middle East. Financial aid to HBCUs chartered before 1900 was among the first programs to be cut. Among the affected schools are Morehouse, Spelman, and Edward Waters Colleges, and Howard, Atlanta, and Wilberforce Universities.

Please see **BUDGET**, page 2

Black athletes urged to join the struggle

by Kyle Scoop Yeldell
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SPORTS EDITOR

Jackie Robinson broke the color line in Major League Baseball in 1947 by playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Larry Doby followed suit 11 weeks later with the Cleveland Indians. Preceding them was Moses Fleetwood Walker who played for Toledo in the American Baseball Association in 1883. His brother, Welday, accompanied him into the league, at a time when the league let few, if any blacks in. Now, many black Americans are calling on their pioneer black athletes to take an active role in the struggle for universal voting rights.

Though the National Football League was integrated upon its

inception in 1922, it adopted a no-blacks policy in 1933. This policy was lifted in 1946, when Woody Strode and Kenny Washington, two UCLA All-Americans, broke down that barrier by signing with the Los Angeles Rams. In 1950, Earl Lloyd became the first black American to play in the National Basketball Association when he signed with the Washington Capitols. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Charlie Scott became the first black basketball player to integrate major college basketball. Like Lloyd, who attended West Virginia State College, most of these black athlete pioneers went to historically black colleges and universities.

Please see **ATHLETES**, page 3

Mandela dies in prison, South Africa erupts in riots



COURTESY OF WWW.KIM.CO.ZA

The world mourns the loss of 85 year-old, South African anti-apartheid activist, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

Story by John Thomas.

Please see **MANDELA**, next page.

This revolution will not be televised

by Marc Muneal
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FEATURES EDITOR

The following story is brought to you at a price.

Every week, the Maroon Tiger undergoes a strict censorship and screening process to ensure that what we print coincides with the city's laws regarding propaganda and activism. This week, a false copy was sent in for screening.

On this page, we were supposed to run a story profiling Morehouse trustee Dr. Bill L. Garrison and his candidacy for the office of mayor in the upcoming election. The interview was done. The story was written. The dummy copy was sent off to the review board. With the assistance of a sympathetic party, however, the

approved material was intercepted on the way to press and replaced by one bearing this page and this story.

Fellow students, take the following words to heart. When authorities get word that we have subverted the system, the Maroon Tiger may be shut down. We, the staff members, may face legal action; our safety, uncertain at all times, will be even more compromised. We must, however, stand for something.

Our time is now, and we may not get another chance.

For the past year, secret societies have been privately meeting at Morehouse College, Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University, and many other colleges and universities throughout the city of

Please see **REVOLUTION**, page 4

QUICK READ

OUR WORLD

Local restaurant asks black college students to leave

Students claim the restaurant forced them to vacate seats for whites, page 2

SPORTS

Black Athletes forced to take the defensive

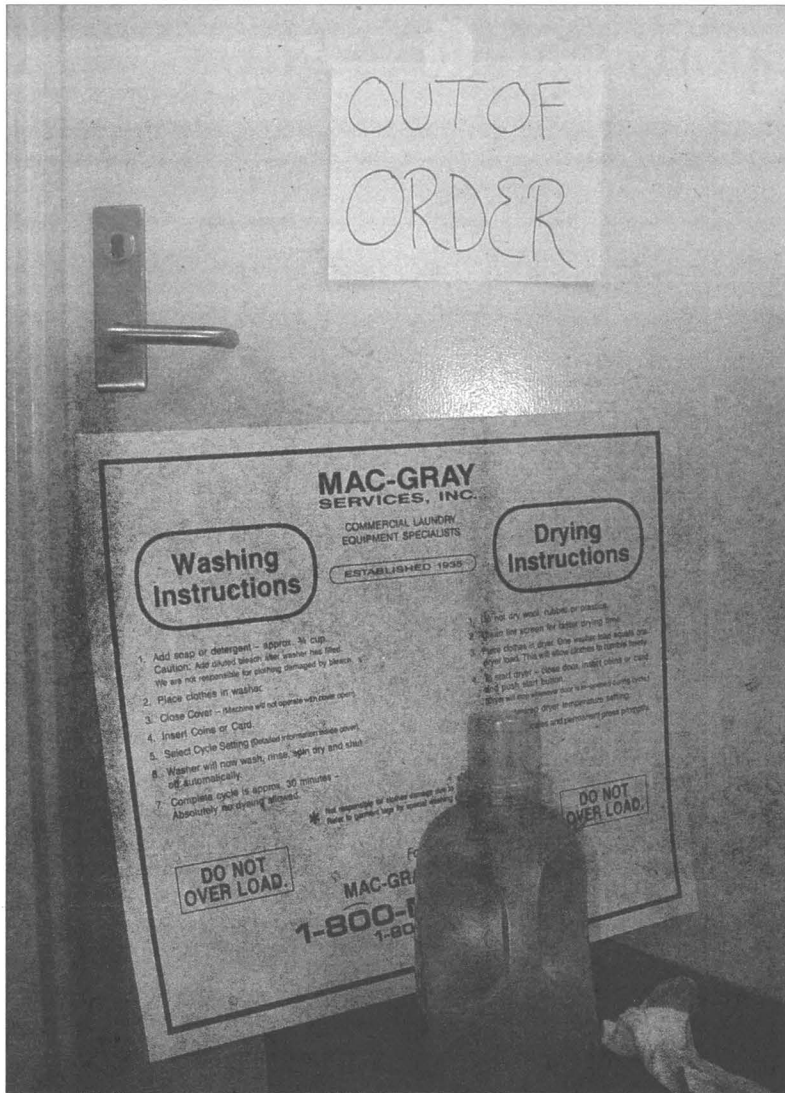
Everything from hairstyles to interracial dating make black athletes the target of a racial discrimination, page 3

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LIFE

REVOLUTION continued from page 1



ROBERT GAINES/MAROON TIGER

Atlanta. These groups have resorted to extreme and drastic measures to ensure their concealment. As of today, however, they hide no more. Their purpose: to give the African-American the right to vote without harassment. To give us a voice.

Before you read further, you must make a decision. If you want a better future for yourself and your children, start walking to Maddox Chapel. Read as you go.

Carlton James Walters '04, a Negro Studies major, is the president of Voice of Black America (VBA) at Morehouse College. Last Saturday, while the *Tiger's* decoy reporter was interviewing Dr. Garrison at his Buckhead home, I interviewed Mr. Walters at the VBA's secret campus headquarters: a bathroom in the Graves Hall Laundromat that has not been in use, thanks to an "Out of Order" sign on the door.

"It's one instance," said Walters, "where the fact that broken things are never fixed within a reasonable period of time on this campus has come in handy." This quip, however, is an isolated moment of lightness and humor; the decisions and directives issuing from the executive's seat on the rusty commode are usually weighted by urgency and seriousness.

"Tuesday 4 November is our day of change. Every student at Morehouse

who wants to reclaim his rights as a citizen of this country must participate. This is no time for indecision; it's a time for action. We will congregate in front of the statue of Maddox at the chapel and proceed, as a group, to the polling station. They can't get us if our numbers are large enough. They can't threaten us all."

Around the city of Atlanta today, other black newspapers and periodicals are printing articles similar to this one. VBA presidents throughout the city will make themselves known and rally all registered voters at their institutions. The black vote, this year, will count.

"Over the years, Morehouse's population has dwindled to include less and less students from other states and countries. We find one positive in this negative, however: Eighty percent of students at the college can vote in the November 4 Atlanta elections. That's approximately 400 of the 500 students enrolled here. Four hundred from Morehouse, 400 from Spelman, 700 from Clark... It adds up. The black youth can make a difference."

Walters and his team of ten students, with help from other branches of the VBA and black professionals throughout the city, have been working diligently to forward the cause even in their seclusion. They were the force

behind the citywide black voter registration drive earlier this year, an effort strongly and subtly opposed by government officials. Though the amount of publicity generated by the drive ensured that most eligible black Atlantans were registered (compare 95.3 percent in 2003 to 11.8 in 1999), Walters and other VBA officials knew that this was only the first step in an ongoing process.

"You register to vote, you immediately become a target of threats. We all know that. Who here hasn't gotten one of those notes in his mailbox? Things like that frighten people. They want to intimidate us into remaining quiet."

For the record, the notes contain the following warning: "If you know what's good for you, n*gger, you'll stay home on November 4." A rough sketch of a noose hanging from a tree adorns the card.

Merill Cambridge '05, a former political science major (when the administration pulled the plug on the political science program last year, he was halfway through the curriculum), is the VBA vice president. Though he hails from New York and will not be eligible to vote in today's election, he will still be on the front line.

"Not being able to vote is not an excuse. We need everyone's support when we march today. Atlantans, New Yorkers, Texans... Our strength will be in our numbers. This is more than electing a man to power; this is electing ourselves to freedom."

Candidate for the office of mayor Noah McAllister, himself a secret member of the VBA since its inception, has the support of the black community in Atlanta. Until today, however, no one expected that he would have its vote.

While Dr. Garrison and other candidates for various office are out in the streets freely campaigning and kissing babies, McAllister and the entire slate of black and white candidates in support of voter rights and ending racism have had to keep a low profile; the threats in their mailboxes are far more serious and specific than the ones we receive.

Walters explained today's process for voting: "We will gather at the chapel. Spelman students will gather at their meeting place. Other schools and minority groups will gather at their meeting places. And we'll all march to Centennial Olympic Park, where the large group will splinter off, depending on the location of the various polling stations to which voters have been assigned. Similar exercises will be conducted at central locations throughout the city. They can threaten individuals, but the threat is reduced when we stick together."

The VBA concedes that some violence may result from today's efforts. They do not expect disgruntled parties to hold their peace. "But we have to do something," said Cambridge simply.

At particular risk today will be the white Atlantans who choose to march in the black throngs. Dr. Nolan Craig, the white Biology professor who was assaulted on Fair St. last year and had the words "N*gger Lover" scraped into his back with a dinner fork, will be one of those.

"Unless we do something, barbarians like that will take over. What they did to me was horrible, but I'd be just as bad if I don't try to do something to change the society that breeds that kind of behavior. This is not a battle between black and white; it's a battle between right and wrong, and black people and white people have to decide which side they're on."

If the VBA is able to pull off today's coup at the polling stations, Atlanta's racist history may work in favor of McAllister. Because scare tactics traditionally ensured a negligible minority vote, the white electorate has become increasingly lax in recent years, since electing this or that "suitable" candidate is more or less a formality. Approximately 14 percent of eligible white Atlantans are registered to vote; traditionally, about a third of that number casts no ballots. Should a significant number of registered black and minority Atlantans make it to the polls today, McAllister has a very good chance of defeating Garrison.

The momentum from today's election, should McAllister and his colleagues be victorious, could well have a tremendous impact on the outcome of next year's presidential elections. If the VBA's efforts are not successful, its future and our future will be a big question mark. Much rides on what happens today.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., longtime civil rights activist, had some words of inspiration for today's marchers from his Birmingham jail cell: "If only we lived in a world in which people could vote without being harassed and threatened. The black man, the white man, every man would cherish the opportunity to have his voice heard, to make a difference. None would take it for granted, whether they were electing a mayor or a commissioner or a school board director. Unfortunately, we do not live in such a world. So you must march today for yourselves and for the future. I believe I survived those assassination attempts in 1968 and 1983 for a reason: God couldn't give me rest just yet, not until I see some change or the promise of change. You are that promise. You are the future."

STUDENTS continued from page 1

restaurant was not due to close for another hour.

While Barrington preferred to just forget about the entire incident, Johnson wanted to get some answers.

"I was asking myself why that lady would ask us to leave when there was still an hour before closing time," an irate Johnson told the *Maroon Tiger*. "I just could not come up with any rational answer."

The two students decided to return to the restaurant to ask the employee in question to explain her reasons for asking them to leave. The waitress (whose name has been withheld for legal reasons) initially came up with an excuse that was not satisfactory to Johnson.

After being prodded further, she finally said in a spiteful tone, "I don't have to explain nothing to no colored boy. They [the Caucasian couple] requested a seat back there and that was the only one available at the time. Besides, you and your friend had been back there long enough."

Johnson became furious and was determined to get revenge, but he was held back by Barrington.

"You have to be able to pick your battles," said Barrington. "Some cards you can play, but other times the deck is stacked even before you pick up your hand, and although it may not be right that is just the way things are."

While the two students plan to file a civil suit against the restaurant in the coming weeks, neither is optimistic about a favorable resolution to the incident. In the past forty years, the Fulton County Court has never decided in favor of an African American when the opposing side has been white. African American citizens, however, are powerless to do anything about this imbalance, since the members of the court are all appointed by Georgia Governor James Crowe, a traditionally favorite candidate among Georgia voters, who are all white.

... I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow damned up in my soul... I do not belong to the sobbing school of Negrohood who hold that nature somehow has given them a low-down dirty deal and whose feelings are all hurt about it... I have seen that the world is to the strong regardless of a little pigmentation more or less.
- Zora Neale Hurston

ARTS ETC.

The Black Panthers made these kids realize that there are Black heroes who will fight and die if necessary to get what they want...

I want to be remembered as a diva from beginning to end who never compromised in what she felt about racism and how the world should be, and who to the end of her days consistently stayed the same.

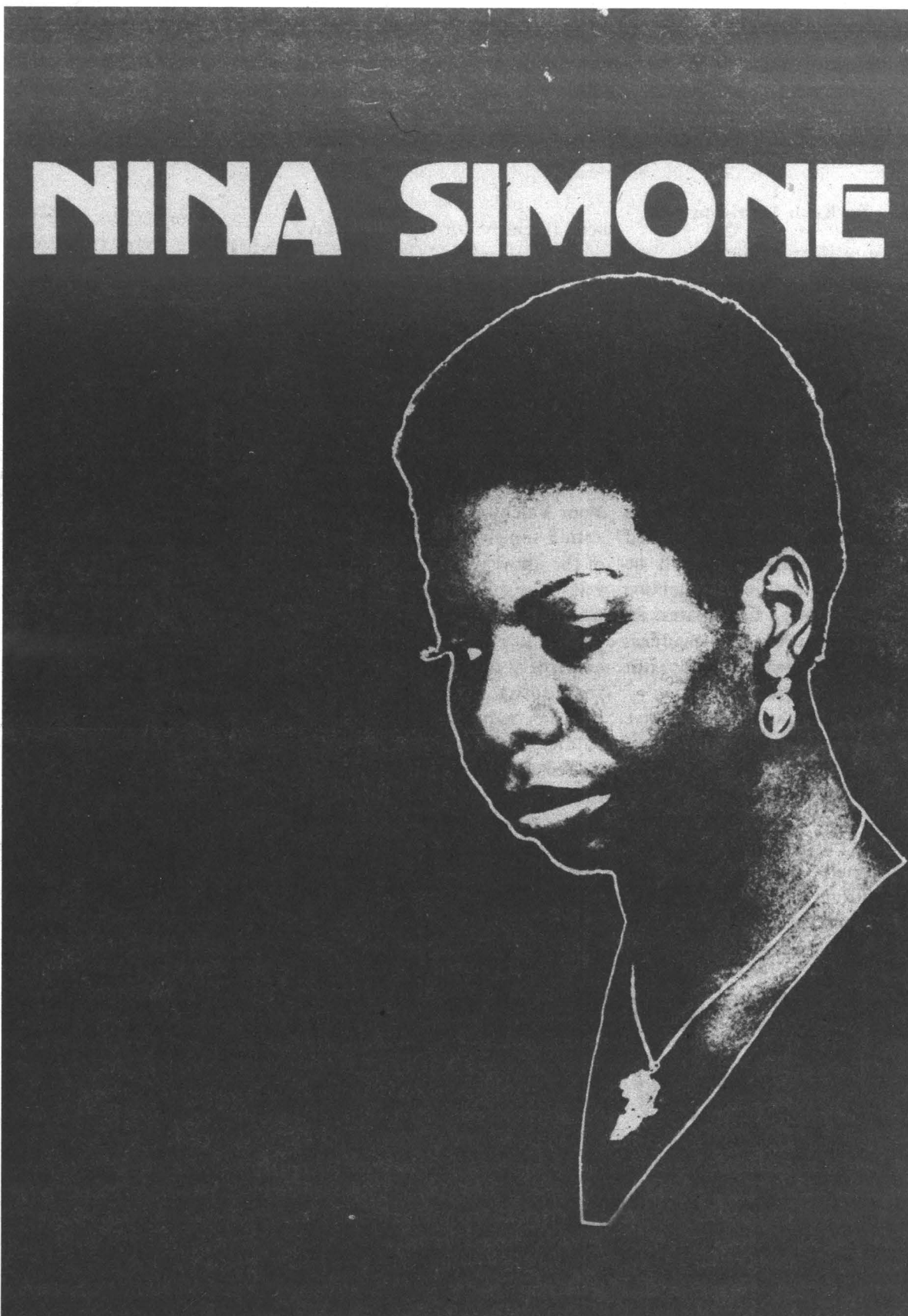


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JAMIE SWIFT/MAROON TIGER

by Timothy J. Cunningham
MANAGING EDITOR

If Malcolm was "our own black shining Prince", then Nina was our Queen Mother. Throughout her life, her lyrics detailed our struggle. Even in death, her deep, dark voice arouses the passion of living.

Nina Simone's celebrated career spanned from 1959 with the release of her first single, Gershwin's "I Loves You Porgy," to her last public performance in July 2002 in Poland. Often considered a jazz singer, her works included pop, cabaret, rhythm

and blues, soul, classical, and gospel.

When she described her craft in her 1991 autobiography, *I Put a Spell on You*, she wrote, "If I had to be called something, it should have been a folk singer because there was more folk and blues than jazz in my playing."

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon on February 21, 1933, Nina Simone was one of eight children in Tyron, North Carolina. By the age of six, her talent was noticed when she began to play the piano and sing in the local church choir.

Her talent soon led her to New York's Julliard School of Music, where

she developed her classical precision. In an attempt to further her classical training, Nina applied to the esteemed Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, but was rejected because of her Black skin.

One of the true Black Revolutionary Artists, compatriots with Baldwin, Hansberry, Davis and Dee, Coltrane, and Baraka, Nina Simone shared the Amiri Baraka's belief that "Black art is change. It must force change, it must be change."

Who are Black people? What is their plight? The answers to such questions can be found in the song, "To Be Young, Gifted, and Black," which

both praises and inspires the young participants of the Movement. And everyone should take note of her first protest song, "Mississippi Goddam," which inspired by the murder of Medgar Evers and the four little girls.

Nina described "Mississippi Goddam" as a show tune for a show that hasn't been written yet. "The name of this tune is Mississippi Goddam," the song begins, "and I mean every word of it."

The end is even more powerful: "Oh but this whole country is full of lies/ you're all gonna die and die like flies/ I don't trust you any more/ You keep on saying 'Go Slow!'/ 'Go Slow!'/ But that's just the trouble/ too slow/ Desegregation/ too slow/ Mass participation/ too slow/ Unification/ too slow/ Do things gradually/ too slow/ Brings more tragedy/ too slow."

Nina also supported the nationalist Black Power Agenda. "The Black Panthers made these kids realize that there are Black heroes who will fight and die if necessary to get what they want," she was quoted as saying. "That's what I find wonderful; they scare the hell out of white folks, too, and we certainly need that."

When Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Nina paid her tribute to him in "Why? (The King of Love is Dead)," declaring in the middle of her performance, "I ain't about to be nonviolent, honey!" She believed that it was impossible for America to reform injustice.

"I wish I knew how it would feel to be free." She almost whispers, singing so delicately that it sounds like freedom is only a breath away. The embodiment of the nationalist spirit and black culture is evident in all of the songs she wrote, starting with the 1965 release of "Four Women," which plays out like a Morrisonian novel to her soulful petition in "Marry Me."

Nina Simone left the United States in 1974, upset by the American racism that marked the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. She fled to Barbados and then settled for two years in Liberia. Her years after that were spent between Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

In 2000, she received Honorary Citizenship in the city of Atlanta. Nina passed away due to natural causes at her home in Carry-le-Rouet, France, on April 21, 2003. Pursuant to her desires, her ashes were spread throughout the continent of Africa.

When an interviewer once asked Nina how she wanted to be remembered, she replied, "I want to be remembered as a diva from beginning to end who never compromised in what she felt about racism and how the world should be, and who to the end of her days consistently stayed the same."

COMMENT

Separate isn't equal

Nicholas Sneed
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

My younger sister is arguably the brightest, most inquisitive person I know. Although she's only ten years old, she already has a wealth of knowledge and a seemingly unquenchable thirst for learning. She's currently a fifth grade student at South Atlanta Elementary School. Per recommendation

"South Atlanta Elementary is understaffed, under-kept, and all in all academically inferior to almost every other elementary school in the Greater Atlanta area."

of her teacher, she skipped the fourth grade. It was even suggested that she also skip fifth grade; however my parents didn't think she was mentally prepared to attend classes with children two years older than she. Suffice it to say, my sister is very brilliant. But much to my dismay and her disadvantage, she lacks the opportunity to fully exercise and develop her brilliance.

South Atlanta Elementary is understaffed, under-kept, and all in all academically inferior to almost every other elementary school in the Greater Atlanta area. I strongly desire for my sister to accomplish more than anyone else in our family, but the only way this will occur is if she moves to a more sufficient learning environment. The seemingly obvious

solution to this problem would be to have my sister enroll in a school that will better cater to her academic needs. Transferring would not be an issue if some of the other "black" schools across the city were adequate. However, only the schools in the white neighborhoods - past c o m m u t a b l e distance - have the substance that my little sister wants and deserves.

I've attempted to contact my local Congressman on this issue a number of times. I've yet to yield a positive result. I continue to try to approach him in new ways despite being hung up on, cursed out, and even threatened. On one occasion, I actually managed to speak to him, and he was painfully frank. In short, he told me there was nothing I could do about the problem because I, as well as the rest of "my people," don't count, because we don't vote.

Enraged with this reality, I got in the car and went to the Department

of Registration and Elections. As I entered the building, I encountered an eerie silence in the lobby as all eyes were focused on me. I went up to the receptionist and asked where I could go in order to fill out a voter registration card. At that moment, three white security guards honed in on me and started an interrogation. I won't detail all of the wonderful things they had to say; they called me everything but a child of God and instructed me to forget the thought of ever casting a vote in any election. If I continue this "foolishness," they said, I would be introduced to...my last breath.

As I drove home, I couldn't help but feel a sense of nothingness. I was fresh out of ideas as to how I could make sure my sister was afforded the

educational opportunities she rightly deserves. If only I had a voice that could be heard by the powers that be, this situation wouldn't be as complex as it is. It's quite simple, actually. An intelligent young girl

deserves a better education. There are other schools in the area that can provide this. Just let her enroll and prove herself worthy of attending. She'll blow their minds with her sheer excellence.

"I've attempted to contact my local Congressman... I've yet to yield a positive result. I continue to try to approach him in new ways despite being hung up on, cursed out, and even threatened."



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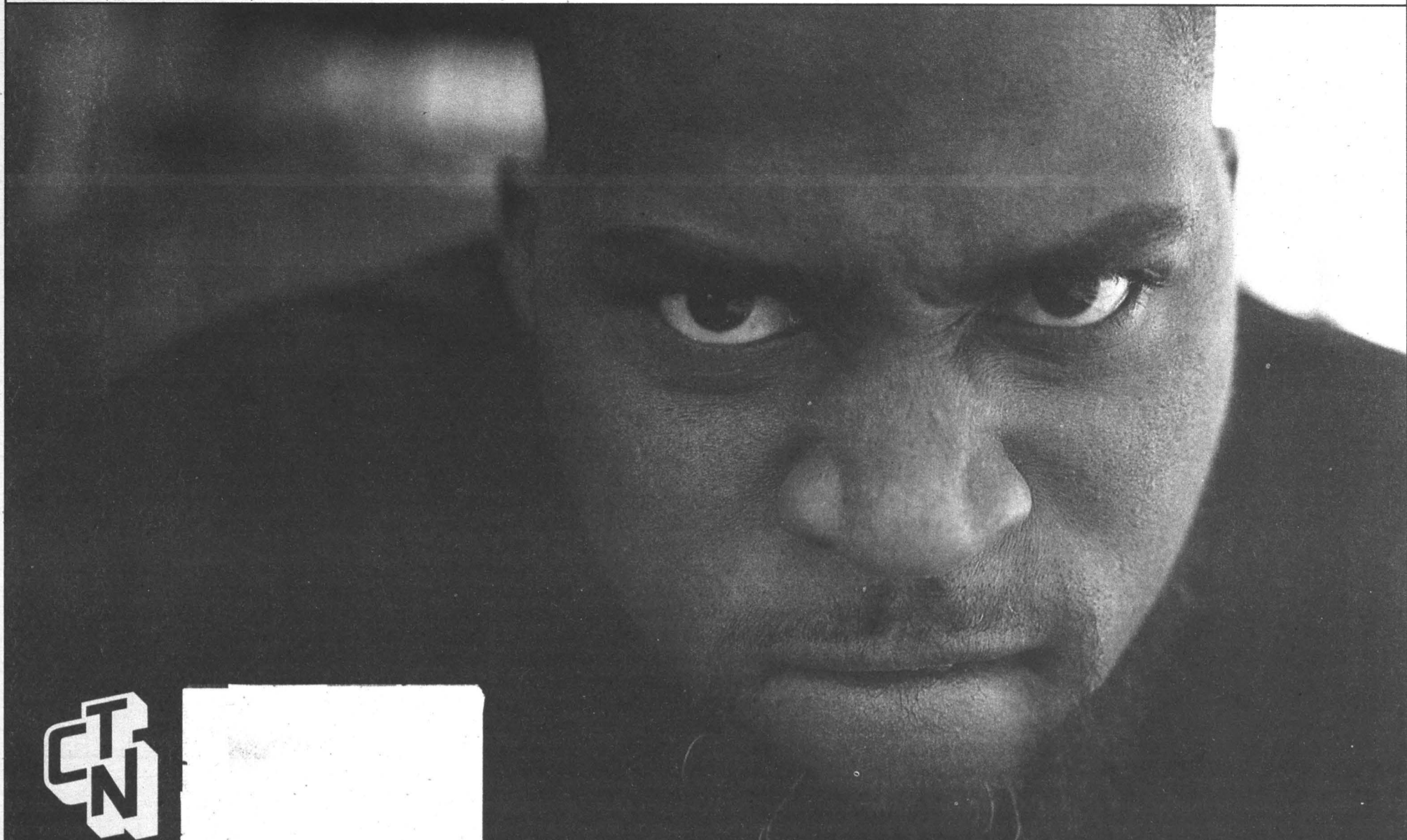
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Why?

by Christian Nwachukwu, Jr.

Illustration by Ashton Dunn and Jamie Swift



I have seen the inside of Archer 115 many times; it looks somewhat different from the floor after waking up at 5:30 on a Sunday morning. Ashton is the current holder of the Pittman Prize; he never fell asleep although he kept telling me things between my extended power naps that still don't completely make sense. MT 9 came together slowly, if surely.

Hopefully, as you read the articles in this edition of the Tiger (what we call, "the election preview") you slowly realized that you were holding journalism's nemesis: fiction. But fiction, just like any writing written for a particular audience, is never an end in itself.

Your ninth issue of The Maroon Tiger is a collective work of "alternative history." We began, as always, with questions tempered with information. Some two months ago, as we finalized this year's production calendar, we asked ourselves why only 229 of 1,229 registered students at Morehouse College voted

in last year's election, as reported by the AUC Voter Initiative. Ultimately, we asked, "What would the Tiger report if the 1965 Voting Rights Act had never been signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and, in 2003, African Americans still did not possess the power of the ballot?" What you now hold is the answer to that question.

Voting is a privilege granted to a society by its members. Only when we are fully engaged in our democracy can we effect the change desperately needed in our time. We hope that you will ask tough questions, not only of yourself, but also of the society in which we live. If the occurrences reported in this issue seem farfetched, full of hyperbole or outrageous, ask how far we went with our journalistic license. If what you find in this special issue makes any sense at all, however, then you must ask, "If this destructive world can be created when black Americans cannot vote, what world do we create when we can but do not?"

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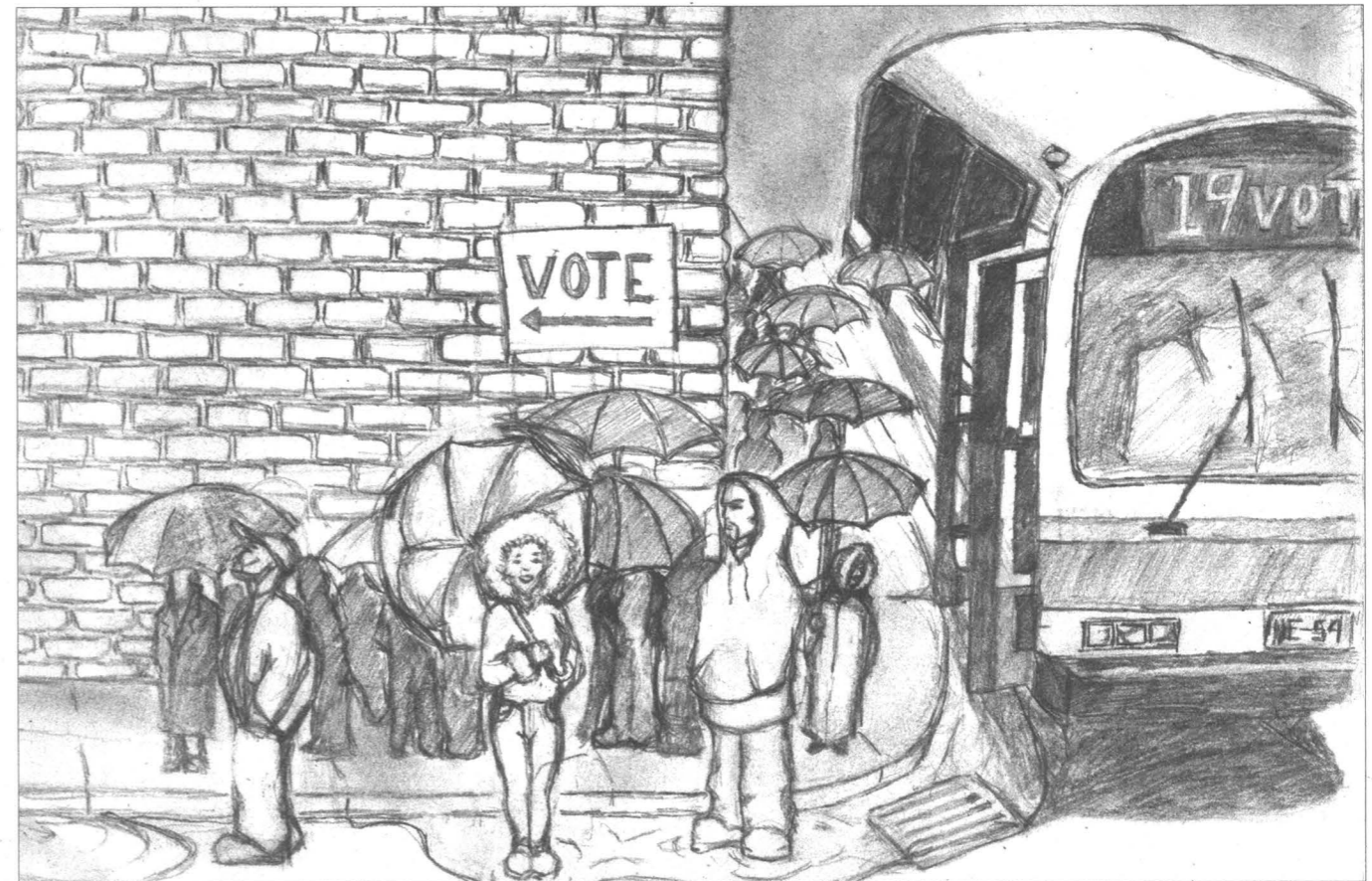


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