

# HBCU Graduation Rates Low; Morehouse Has Third Highest Rating

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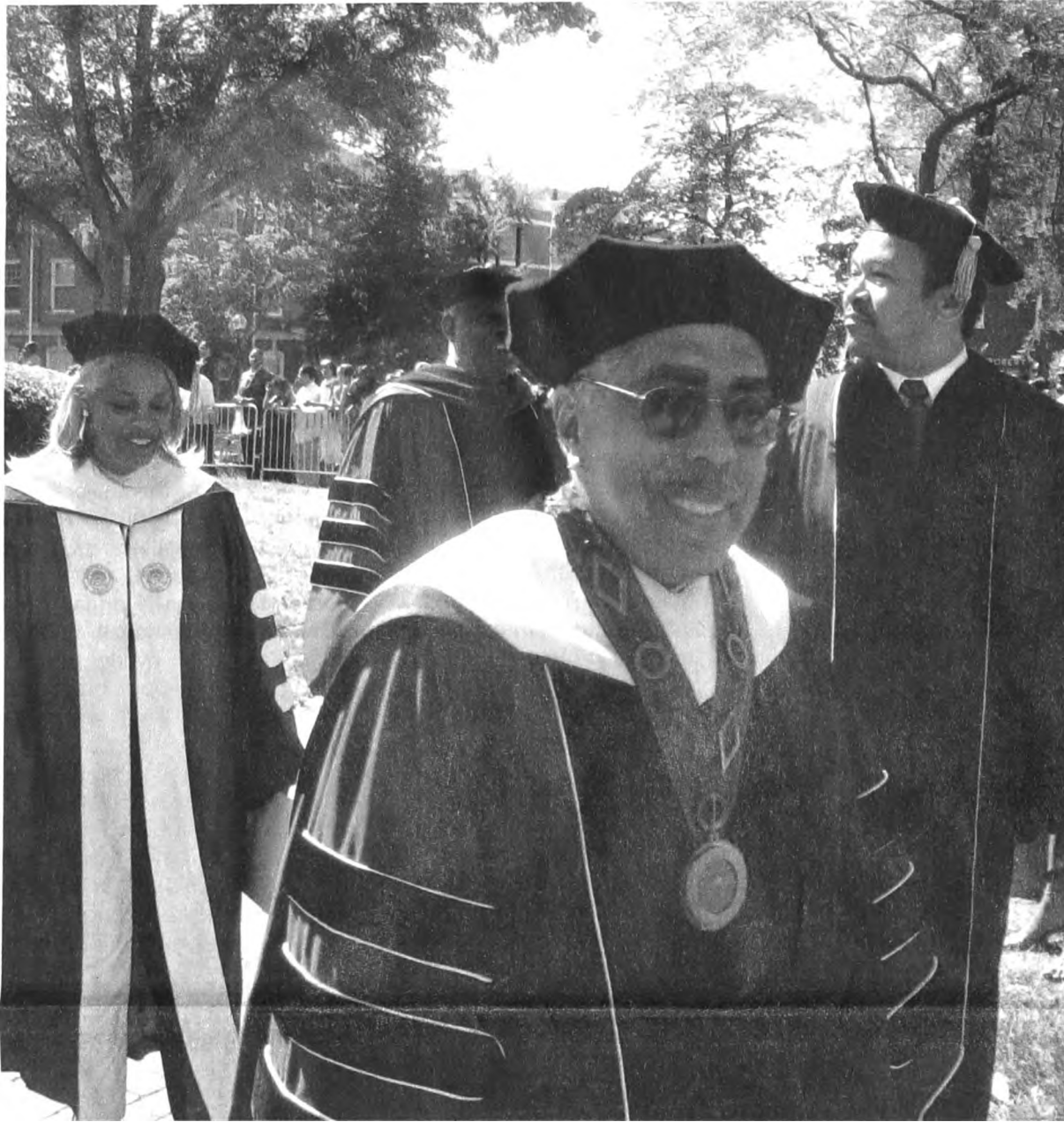
In 2009, the phrase "I am a GRADUATING senior" means more than ever. A recent Associated Press article reports that only 37 percent of HBCU students earn a bachelor's degree within six years. The figures are even worse for Black males, with reportedly just 29 percent of them earning a degree within six years.

A graduation rate is defined as "the percentage of students in a cohort who graduate within 150% of normal time to graduate." This definition points out that while the percentage of Black males earning a degree in six years is 29 percent, the percentage of Black males earning a degree in four years is even lower.

Morehouse College, an institution that prides itself on educating the Black male, shows a 61 percent graduation rate as of 2007 according to the Department of Education. Morehouse falls third on the list of prominent Black institution graduation rates behind Spelman College (81 percent) and Howard University (69 percent).

Black males attending HBCUs graduate at a lower rate than women since 43 percent of Black women earn a bachelor's degree within six years.

The Associated Press statistics, which are based on government data about 83 federally designated HBCUs, report that women outnumber men at HBCUs 61 to 39 percent. The Atlanta University Center website reported that in the fall of 2006, the AUC ratio of women to men was 57 to 43 percent, including Clark-Atlanta University (undergraduate and grad students), Morehouse,



During President Massey's last year in office, Morehouse's graduation rate stood at 61%. *Image: Courtesy*

Spelman and the Morehouse School of Medicine.

In response to the HBCU gender gap, Sydney Starke, a freshman psychology major at Spelman College, said, "I think the media has a lot to do with it. You always see a lot of men making it without an education, but you never really see successful women without educations.... I feel that women are raised differently to believe that in order to make it you must receive an education."

Brennan Hawkins, a freshman economics major at Morehouse, said, "Many Black men regard education as a burden, and believe they can succeed without receiving a formal education. Whereas, women appear to be, on the whole, more appreciative of education and its intrinsic value."

One Morehouse administration member claims that the graduation rates are due to students' decisions.

Khagesh Pathak, director of the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research, says, "I have evaluated about 10 factors that affect the graduation rate [of Black males]. Some of these factors include [the student's] high school GPA, withdrawal from [college] classes, the [student's] frequency of changing their major, and whether or not the student is in the honors program."

Pathak's research has *HBCU Graduation Rates Cont." 2▶*

# SGA Candidates Begin 'Soft' Campaigning

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The 2009 SGA campaign has officially begun. Student Services released the names of all candidates on Tuesday, revealing that numerous students will face off against each other in various categories.

The SGA presidential candidates are Jason Lukose, David Malcolm McGruder, Adam McFarland, and Kawasi Weston. Vice presidential candidates are Melvin Colbert, Darell Comer Jr., Dominic Jones and Tyrone McGowan.

Prior to the announcement, prospective SGA officials attended the last of two mandatory training sessions. There, current SGA officials, along with representatives from administration, went over campaign guidelines and gave advice for the upcoming season.

SGA officials and administration also shared their best and worst experiences.

The soft campaigning period, which began Tuesday, lasts through April 13. During this period, candidates running for office may perform dorm walk-throughs, as well as other forms of verbal campaigning, but are not allowed to do anything tangible. Students who do not follow soft campaigning rules are subject to be sanctioned.

Beginning on April 14, candidates will be allowed to participate in what the elections committee called "hard campaigning." Until April 19, candidates will be permitted to use T-shirts, buttons, flyers and other tangible campaign items to publicize their campaign.

However, candidates must follow the rules of hot and cold spots, which designate where their items can and cannot be. Any candidate not following such guidelines is also subject to

being sanctioned.

"And don't mess around with someone else's campaign material," said Reginald Cleaver, Chair of the 2009 Elections Committee. "Please don't be disrespectful."

The 2009 SGA Debates are scheduled to take place on April 14 and 15 with the actual election taking place the next week. Organizers plan to provide electronic voting machines.

Aside from election rules and bylines, administration also wanted to share advice with the students about how to plan a campaign and what to promise, or not promise to voting students.

"It doesn't take a whole lot to have a winning administration," Dr. Moffett said. "If something doesn't seem measurable, then you shouldn't do it. Do not commit to something that you know you can't do."

Current SGA officials also used the training session as an opportunity to give advice to the candidates.

When Moffett asked current officials what they know now that they wish they had known before taking the job, Christopher Copeland, current Corresponding Secretary, replied, "Always prepare for failure."

When asked the same question, Chad Mance, current SGA President, replied in part, "Sometimes, administration doesn't even have your best interest at heart."

During the training sessions, Mance focused heavily on the concept of "student advocacy."

"Always keep students first, and be transparent," Mance concluded at the end of the session.

As campaigning goes on, stay tuned to [www.themaroontiger.com](http://www.themaroontiger.com) and look for our *Annual Elections Issue*. If you would like to advertise your candidacy in the issue, visit the website for ad rates.

# Activities Ban Lifted on Case-By-Case Basis

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Student Services will lift the ban on outdoor activities on a case-by-case basis, announced Interim Vice President Herman "Skip" Mason.

"I have asked Raphael Moffett to inform each group who has requested an event to provide this office with a plan of action that includes: Run of Show, Advisors who will be present, Campus security support, start and end time," said Mason in an email to student leaders, Campus Police, and other school officials.

Five hours later, Kappa Alpha Psi held their probate in front of the Kilgore Student Center. The probate was allowed to occur with the understanding that advisors Raphael Moffett and Duane Cooper would oversee the event.

"It is my desire to see the return of a vibrant and trusted student life and activities on

the campus," Mason wrote. "It is still my expectation that SGA will continue to take the lead to provide to the student body with the college's expectations of conduct and decorum at all campus events."

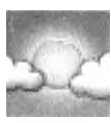
As of Monday, the Student Government Association was still working on its planned "manifesto," a document outlining student leaders' opposition to campus fighting and their plan to curb the violence.

The ban on outdoor activities and the manifesto came after weeks of fighting on campus between various Men of Morehouse, including students from the football team and Graves Hall.

Last Thursday, Dean Mason called a meeting of student leaders to address the issue of campus violence. Next Tuesday, President Franklin plans to hold a town hall meeting on a similar subject. The meeting is billed as "The Soul of Morehouse and the Future of the Mystique."

## Inside Track

Fri



47°F | 31°F

Sat



54°F | 32°F

Sun



49°F | 27°F

## Pres. Mance's Last Stand

Chad Mance's SGA has been dogged by criticism for its seeming lack of campus presence. Ever wonder how we got there? As SGA elections roll into full swing, Managing Editor Donovan X. Ramsey puts the Mance Administration in context.

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Our Rabin-King Initiative: A Path to Peace or Politics?



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Fraternity Probates Back On Schedule



See photos on page 7▶



# News



## The Maroon Tiger

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*"Now the judgment of God is upon us, and we must either learn to live together as brothers or we are all going to die together as fools." Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### Town Hall Meeting with President Robert M. Franklin

Theme: "The Soul of Morehouse and the Future of the Mystique"

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

11:00a.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel

## Morehouse's Grad Rate High

◀ Continued from front page

shown that students who enter college in the institution's honors program have a higher likelihood of not only graduating, but graduating sooner. Furthermore, he said, "Because students who enter an institution in the honors program are forced to keep a certain GPA to remain in the program and/or keep their scholarship, they are more likely to take each class a little more serious than a student who is not in the honors program."

When Pathak was asked if HBCUs could do anything to help raise the graduation rates of their students, he responded by saying, "I believe it is solely on the students. While the institution could do things such as not allow the changing of majors or the withdrawal from

classes, these options are not practical or likely."

Hawkins said, "Speaking from my own experience at Morehouse College, I believe that the importance of education is not adequately appreciated by much of the student body, and that many of the men at Morehouse are more concerned about non-academic issues than they are about school work."

Whether it is non-academic issues or just the simple lack of seriousness concerning their education, it is evident that for HBCU graduation rates to rise, students must take the larger role in affecting this change. A particular institution can only do so much to aid in a student's success.

# Quiz Bowl Team Sparks Buzz



The Quiz Bowl team came close to winning the \$50,000 prize at the Honda Campus All-Star.

Image: Courtesy

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With a new coach and 80 percent of the team consisting of new players, Morehouse wasn't highly regarded before the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge that pitted 64 HBCUs against each other in a show of academic prowess.

But the Maroon Tigers came surprisingly close to winning the \$50,000 grand prize by finishing third in the March 26-30 National Championship Tournament in Orlando, FL, from March 26-30.

This year's HCASC team, led by senior and only returning member Akil Jackson, wasn't

expected to make a lot of waves since Morehouse hadn't won since 2006 and hadn't won a playoff game since that competition.

But English Professor Charles Walton, the new coach, along with institutional representative and former player Eugene Finley, molded a team out of Jackson and four new players: freshmen Paul Adamson and Robert Myrick and seniors Berkley Thomas and John Torrey. The players' knowledge ranged from sports to science and they needed to have a fast recall to beat the opposing team to the buzzer.

As the competition got closer, the team increased its practices and got ready to compete and

bring home a championship for Morehouse.

"Before the pre-NCT tournaments (Morehouse won in the 1st Annual Morris College pre-NCT Invitational and placed second in the Florida A&M University Invitational) I didn't have a lot of overly positive things to say about our team, but after coach and I were able to help realize the potential I went into Orlando figuring that [Morehouse] was a Final Four team," Finley said.

While the five players and the new coach didn't know each other prior to becoming a team, they bonded quickly and were able to learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses. This

was imperative, as the team was tested early on in their round-robin play.

Its division of eight teams had some serious competitors, and while Morehouse finished their Day 1 play at 4-0, it wasn't without some close finishes: a double overtime victory over Sojourner-Douglass College.

On the second day of tourney play, Morehouse maintained its good fortune, as Jackson led his team to a 6-1 record, with the only loss coming to Howard in their final game.

Morehouse faced Howard again in a Sweet 16 grudge match and was victorious, allowing the Maroon Tigers to play on the big stage on Sunday in the Elite Eight.

With hundreds watching, they were more like the cardiac cats, beating the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore by five points on the final question of the game and going down to the wire in the Final Four with the eventual champion, Oakwood University.

"Though we didn't win, being a part of a team that made Morehouse a premier quiz bowl team through a coalition of the willing and nearly impossible odds was priceless," Thomas said.

For a new team that was pieced together, everybody contributed, something unique in terms of information and personality, which gave Morehouse its best HCASC team since 2006.

The team would like to thank the Morehouse College Bookstore, the Douglass LRC, President Franklin and all of the well-wishers and supporters of the HCASC team, including a special thanks to the Clark-Atlanta and Spelman teams, both of whom supported their AUC brothers during the playoffs.



Left to right: Mr Kevin Booker, Dr. Barbara Williams, Dr. Bryant Marks, Dr. Belinda White, and Mr. Ron Thomas discuss the transition of HBCU students from majority to minority.

Image: Courtesy

## Preparing Students to Transition From Majority to Minority

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AUC students gathered in Frederick Douglass Hall on March 31 to hear from a panel of professors about techniques on how to have a successful graduate experience as a minority.

The forum, titled "The Big Transition: From Racial Majority to Racial Minority," gave students from Morehouse College, Spelman College and Clark-Atlanta University an opportunity to receive advice about how best to adapt to life as a student at a predominantly white institution.

Much of the evening's conversation centered on the usefulness of networking.

"I learned very early in life that being successful in life...is to build relationships," Dr. Belinda White said, an assistant professor in the Department of Business Administration at Morehouse.

White said it was friendships with her white friends that helped her to endure ridicule of her academic success from Black

peers who joined her recently integrated Birmingham high school after a nearby Black high school was closed.

After graduating from Spelman, White earned a master's degree from Georgia Tech University and then a doctorate from Georgia State University.

"Networking takes years of building relationships," Barbara Williams continued, a professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages at Morehouse.

Graduating from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Williams went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Florida.

For Williams, the student's networking begins with the impression they make on those people they interact with. She said that when someone is impressed with the type of person they perceive you to be, then they will consider you when career opportunities become available.

"If you don't have a diverse network, you will not have much success," Williams said.

The panel of professors

were also eager to give advice to students on how to deal with incidents of perceived racism.

Each professor shared personal anecdotes addressing issues of race typically experienced by minorities at predominantly white institutions of higher learning.

"The moment I realized that race was going to be a central role in my graduate experience was at Morehouse College," Illya Davis said, a Morehouse alum and former professor of philosophy and religion at Clark-Atlanta University.

Davis, who is currently finishing work towards a doctorate from the University of Chicago, said that Black professors prepared him as an undergraduate student for life as a minority graduate student with candid talks about racial dynamics on majority white campuses.

"They were girding my loins," Davis said of his professors at Morehouse.

Davis said that as a result of the preparation he received, he was never surprised by events of racism and ignorance when

studying as a graduate student at Harvard University and the University of Chicago.

"These things could've chipped away at the fabric of my being, but I didn't let it," Davis said.

Dr. Bryant Marks, Director of the Morehouse Male Initiative and assistant professor of psychology at Morehouse, told students that it's important to recognize the difference between racist and ignorant comments made by white peers.

"You have to, in that moment, assess intent," Marks said, a Morehouse alum who received his doctorate from the University of Michigan.

"Is the person trying to be hurtful or trying to learn?" Marks said.

Marks explained that a racist comment is made with a negative intent while an ignorant comment is made out of curiosity about something.

Both Marks and Davis encouraged students to not be consumed by issues of race.

"Choose your battles," Marks said, "and know what your goals and objectives are."



# Sudan Pres. Faces War Crimes Charges

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Since 2003, the conflict in Darfur, specifically between the powers of the Justice Equality Movement and Sudan Liberation Army, has resulted in the fleeing of more than two million Sudanese citizens. Because of what the International Criminal Court (ICC) is calling "neglect" from the Sudanese government, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is being charged with war crimes.

Bashir is also being charged with genocide of citizens in his country along with the war crimes, as 300,000 Sudanese citizens are said to have been killed since the start of the conflict. This effort from the ICC is an attempt to shine a light on Bashir's part in the Darfur conflict.

On the contrary, Bashir contends, stating that the media and international community have always made the conflict seem like a bigger deal than it really is, claiming that the crisis was a "traditional conflict over resources ... coated with claims of marginalization."

The accusations against Bashir began in 2004, with those of "ethnic cleansing" that were



Prosecutors in the International Criminal Court have charged Sudan's president with crimes against humanity.

Image: Courtesy

"strategic and well planned," according to the Human Rights Watch (HRW) organization.

However, the accusations kept flowing in, confirming the thoughts of HRW when Bashir was held responsible for aerial bombardment and ground attacks that drove thousands of Sudanese people from their homes in 2008. Such

allegations led to Bashir's current indictment.

Despite the long list of accusations against him, Bashir appears to show no respect for the arrest warrant and has continued to go about his duties.

On March 25, the Sudanese ruler went to Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak for a one-day visit to his ally. This trip was his second venture outside his country's borders since the March 4 arrest warrant was issued.

These trips are a combined effort by Bashir and his allies to gain support from neighboring countries, claiming that his arrest would endanger current peace efforts underway in Darfur.

# Major Economies to Meet With Obama for Energy Forum



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The White House has announced that President Barack Obama has invited the leaders of 16 major economies for a forum on energy and climate.

The forum, for which a preparatory session is scheduled for April 27-28 in Washington, is to be held in July in La Maddalena, Italy, as stated by the White House.

The goal of the forum is to "generate the political leadership necessary" for a positive outcome at the U.N. climate change negotiation held later this year in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The 16 other major economies invited to the preparatory session, aside from the United States, are Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

The need for alternative

energy sources was an oft-mentioned issue during Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, and it should come with little surprise that he is addressing his concern early in his presidency.

Administration officials for Obama have stated that the energy portion of his budget for his term is nonnegotiable, and thus, immediate action is necessary.

Of the \$787 billion dollar stimulus package proposed by Obama, \$39 billion is allotted for the Department of Energy and \$20 billion is for tax incentives for clean energy.

Two weeks ago, while addressing a group of renewable-energy company owners and investors, Obama said, "We can allow climate change to wreak unnatural havoc or we can create jobs preventing its worse effects."

He added, "We can hand over the jobs of the 21st century to our competitors, or we can create those jobs right here in America."

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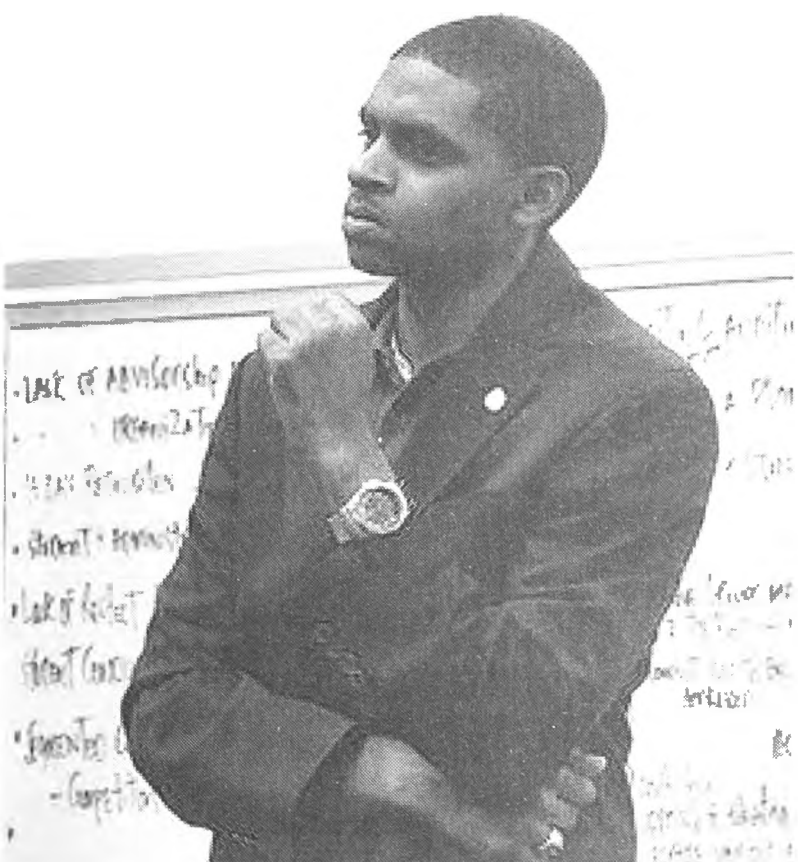
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## Opinions

## Mance's Last Stand



President Mance has experienced some criticism.

Image: Courtesy

## DONOVAN X. RAMSEY

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2008-2009 school year.

Prior to his campaign, Mance was relatively unknown with no experience in Morehouse politics. He ran primarily as a student whose concern was advocacy, not as some insider who'd trained through the ranks of SGA.

The appeal of his "student"-leader persona was irresistible and his small group of committed supporters soon turned into a wealth of burgeoning interest on campus. In achieving this feat, Mance only deserves a part of the victory. To his credit, he marketed himself well.

He honed the phrase "performMANCE never dies" and put together a series of YouTube commercials that lampooned then SGA President Stanley Onuoha in the style of Apple's "Mac vs. PC" advertisements.

He also drove his platform of student advocacy home with a dynamic performance during the debates, where he appeared to be above the fray and resolute.

His efforts were also made possible by a few other factors.

First, he ran against a backdrop of Onuoha's controversial administration, where funds were allegedly misappropriated to his fraternity for a trip to New Orleans and the most notable act was the introduction of the New York Times to campus.

Mance was also aided by running against Marcus Daniels, who was tied to Onuoha as a member of the Alpha Rho chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and Mark Anthony Green, who was widely resented by the student body for campaigning to hold SGA's highest office as a sophomore and for his "flashing lights" public image.

Mance went on to win the election by one of the largest margins in SGA history, avoiding the expected run-off. Not to discredit Mance for his victory, but the stage was set. Unfortunately, his whirlwind victory also set the stage for an epic fall.

The timeline differs according to the source but somewhere between the spring and the fall semesters of 2008, the Campus Alliance for Student Activities (CASA) was formed.

Created as an extension

of administration and with programming as a goal, CASA was comprised of administration-appointed members that would arrange many of the activities that SGA was previously responsible for, especially Homecoming.

This arrangement did two things: it left the Mance administration with opportunity to create a new SGA focused on student advocacy solely (without the demanding task of planning Homecoming), but it also took from many members of the Mance administration the hallmark by which previous SGA's were judged and the platforms on which many of them ran.

So with only two years of experience as a Resident Advisor, Mr. Mance became SGA President and was on his way to chart new territory.

Questions began to arise almost immediately.

As CASA began to brand itself with a new logo, website and banners, SGA slowly faded to black. It failed to capitalize on usual student concerns like inefficient IT services, customer service by Morehouse staff and more.

During, arguably, the most pivotal U.S. Presidential election, SGA was invisible in doing registration drives, hosting debates and mobilizing students.

Even with failing departments, faculty losses and classes cancelled, SGA was stagnant.

Furthermore, students looked to a student government too unsure to move or too inexperienced to do so successfully. People began to whisper that the Mance administration was disorganized and too concerned with establishing a bureaucracy to get to work.

Others suggested that they were intimidated by administration, in the form of Dean of Student Services Herman Mason and their advisor Dr. Moffett (who also serves as advisor to CASA).

Finally when, this spring, Treasurer Brandon Douglass released the Treasury Times, a newsletter that had been one of his 2008 campaign promises, people took note. It detailed \$14,000 of SGA's budget that had been used without authorization of the executive board.

The revelation was much to the displeasure of Mason and Moffett and a controversy soon erupted resulting in both men unsure of who had authorized the use of the funds. At this time SGA still has not made public who authorized the funds, \$9,000 of which went toward purchasing food for a Homecoming event.

Defeated, graduating, and \$14,000 lighter, Mance is now finding his issue. Following several altercations on campus between students, Mason immediately put the campus on "social probation" for outdoor activities, including Hump Wednesdays and Greek organization probates. In response, SGA has circled the wagons around the issues of brotherhood, institutional pride and accountability.

Action will come in the form of a "manifesto" issued by chartered student organizations and several other planned changes to activities all encouraging responsible brotherhood.

I am led to question, however, if it is too little too late for the unlikely president to keep his promise of performMANCE. I also can't help but look at the candidates whom Mance ran against and ask, what if?

What if Mark Anthony Green brought his trademark flash to this year's student government?

What if Marcus Daniels, with his astute business experience, had been looking over SGA's books?

What if CASA had never been created?

Lastly, I look at the landscape of current SGA presidential candidates and hope that we choose wisely.



Image: Courtesy

Morehouse's Rabin-King Initiative must encourage true peace, and not make the college a political tool.

## Morehouse's Rabin-King Initiative: A Step Toward Peace or Politics?

## EDWARD MITCHELL

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righteousness and against oppression.

Last Thursday's Crown Forum would have provided a prime opportunity to do just that—to encourage Israeli Ambassador Reda Mansour to take the lesson of our Rabin-King initiative back to his new government.

For those who haven't been keeping up with Israeli politics, Mr. Mansour now represents a government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, the latter of whom has called for Arab citizens of Israel to swear a loyalty oath or face deportation, and for the drowning of some Arab prison inmates in the Dead Sea. Numerous critics worldwide have publicly used the word "racist" to describe Lieberman.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, meanwhile, leads Likud, a right-wing, hawkish political party that represents the polar opposite views of Yitzhak Rabin. For example, the new prime minister has pointedly refused to support

a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians, the early foundations of which were laid by the late Rabin and eventually supported by other Israeli leaders (including Mr. Mansour).

But Mr. Mansour has not been immune to contradicting the peaceful message of Rabin-King. During Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's military assault on Gaza—which killed hundreds of Gaza civilians—Mr. Mansour defended the war in multiple appearances on CNN (even one on CNN Espanol!).

In addition, I—as Editor of Morehouse's college newspaper—received numerous unsolicited emails from the ambassador's office. The emails alerted me to opportunities to read or hear the ambassador defend then-Prime Minister Olmert's government from critics of the mounting Gaza death toll.

Perhaps the most revealing email from the ambassador's consulate subtly encouraged me and other Southern college

students to alert his office if anyone on our respective campuses dared to speak out against the Gaza violence.

"With students returning to campuses this week and next, there is sure to be discussion and action regarding this current situation [in Gaza]," an official at the Consulate wrote to us on Jan 9.

"It is also important that you help us to monitor the situation on your own campus in order to assess how to react to any negative action or discussions [regarding Gaza] and how to strengthen anything positive that takes place. Please be aware that we cover six States in the Southeastern US so you being our eyes and ears at an institution that you know best is vitally important and very much appreciated."

Putting aside the disturbing fact that a foreign government was keeping track of free speech activities on private American college campuses, the Consulate was actively seeking to counter or stifle those students who would criticize the Gaza violence.

It would therefore seem that of the hundreds in King Chapel last Thursday, Ambassador Mansour was the one who most needed to hear and carry home the message of Rabin-King—a message in which peace is not simply a slogan, but a way of life.

And so, as we strengthen the Rabin-King initiative, let this be an opportunity for Morehouse to not only hear from foreign governments and citizens, but for them to hear from us.

Let Ambassador Mansour and Foreign Minister Lieberman hear that in the vein of King and Rabin, they should support peaceful negotiation with Palestinians, not deadly fighting.

Let them hear that they should support President Obama's diplomacy with Iran, not Prime Minister Netanyahu's threats of preemptive attacks.

Let them hear that the Rabin-King initiative stands for true peace and that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s alma mater will never become a political tool for those who would engage in, or defend, violence.

## My Brother's Corruptor

## DONOVAN X. RAMSEY

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Transferring into Morehouse my sophomore year provided me with some unique opportunities. Although I missed out on our campus' distinctive freshman dorm experience, I was saved from being a prospect. That is, by the time I dragged my luggage to Mays Hall, all the choosing had already taken place and the upperclassmen who were looking for "little brothers" to mold had taken their pick.

If the process by which mentorship relationships are foreign to you then stop for a second and open your eyes because it's everywhere. Whether apparent in peoples' SGA campaign managers or the neo/prophete of fraternities, it exists. What is less apparent though is the mentoring that takes place in the shape of whispers and careful misdirection. I would be remiss to not acknowledge the honest and profound tradition at Morehouse College of reaching back to the brother behind you and lending a word and sometimes a helping hand but that's not always the case.

There is also a tradition at Morehouse of social manipulation whereas upperclassmen and recent alumni seek to control the social climate of our institution by selecting those that they feel can continue and sometimes complete their efforts at the college. It starts early with taking the eager and already sectionalized freshman class, those who have shown some potential and are looking for a way into the bustling business of campus life. The "mentors" convince them that there is only one way to succeed here and proceed to direct them in that way, one littered with lies, false promises, and slander.

I remember vividly seeing the campus torn into political parties

along the lines of secret societies my first year at Morehouse and being awed at the effectiveness with which brothers were selected, mentored, and indoctrinated by members of the senior class. They do it under the auspice of brotherhood and the fallacy that greatness can be created like some alchemy of personal character.

To that, I answer that every man of Morehouse is great and this experience by which we become steadfast, honest, true to Morehouse, not each other's narrow interests, is how greatness is facilitated. Dr. Benjamin E. Mays said that, "the circumference of life cannot be rightly drawn until the center is set." Such profound words incite me to wonder, from what centers are our circumferences drawn. Do we look to the unchanging bedrock of principles upon which this place was built or to the passing words of the brother beside us?

I cannot help, in this case, but to be mindful of Plato's Apology where the Trial of Socrates appears. In it, the philosopher was famously accused of corrupting the youth of Athens. He was ultimately convicted and condemned to death. While Socrates' mentorship is in no way comparable to the divisive practices that go on here, his defense does offer some insight to young budding apprentices. Socrates had believed that he was not on trial for his beliefs but his pursuit of truth. Socrates made it his duty to question men with established reputations, who were believed to be the wisest in Athens. He found that after examining their moral values, they were not wise, as they had appeared. "In my investigation in the service of the god I found that those who had the highest reputation were nearly the most deficient, while those who were thought to be inferior were more knowledgeable"



# Opinions

## The Worst Kind of Roommate

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People always deem MTV's "The Real World" as out of touch with reality and completely over exaggerated when it comes to young adults in a house filled with threatening social conflicts.

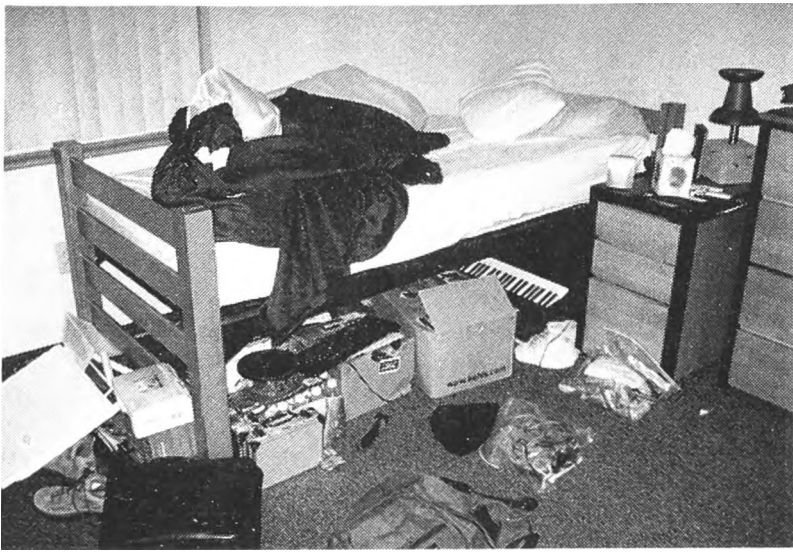
I, for one, believe that while "The Real World" is nothing more than a media spectacle at its best, it is heavily filled with circumstances that are commonly found in a household of raging individuals.

As college students, I'm certain we all can relate to some of the conflicts that transpire on this reality war zone almost every day of the week. No, I'm not referring to the drunken nights or tear-jerking conversations on the phone with loved ones from back home.

I'm referring to the unfortunate reality of dealing with, or rather tolerating, roommates from hell.

Whether you have personally experienced it or you have heard numerous recounts of how someone's roommate is completely driving them mad, I'm sure you are quite aware how irritating living with a roommate can be.

I just don't understand why two or more individuals can't seem to live in harmony without one attempting to jump out the window. Seems like no matter how close you and



Messy roommates can create problems.

Image: Courtesy

your roommate may be, or not, conflict will occur.

Now, don't sit there like you don't know what I'm insinuating. Allow me to examine the all but infamous roommate from hell.

For the students who reside in traditional on-campus housing, forced to live side-by-side their roommate (literally), given little to no privacy whatsoever: Oh how depressing it is to wake up every morning only to see their crusty-looking faces!

Every move you make, there he is. When he has company (unexpected at that), so do you, because you don't have much of a choice when they're nearly 10 feet away.

For my fellow students who live in the suites, or stay off-campus: just when you thought things would somehow become

easier, being that you have your own room and all, you're harshly faced with the reality that things only become more problematic.

Suddenly in college you find yourself relating to your parents all those times they hassled you about washing the dishes and taking out the trash. It wasn't because they found pleasure (well, maybe a little) in bombarding you with worthless chores.

They stressed cleanliness because it's common sense! Have you ever tried not cleaning for weeks at a time? It's exceedingly disgusting!

Sometimes I find myself in disbelief how one can continuously walk past a pile of dirty dishes, the size of a mountaintop at that, and persist to add to the collection as if it

doesn't exist. Why not take the time to at least wash the things you use? It would surely make things less challenging in the future.

And what about the good ole bathroom? Cleaning the bathroom does not only entail flushing and wiping the toilet seat. A bathroom needs to be mopped and thoroughly cleaned weekly. When there is mold of some sort surfacing in the shower, it's time to whip out the Pine Sol and bleach.

Cleaning does not include simply wiping the surface with a paper towel. Cleaning requires you to actually use a rag and cleaning products.

Now, I'm no anal cleaner or anything, but shouldn't dust, dried-up sauce, bacteria-like mold and empty cans give a signal that SOMETHING should be done?

Off the topic of apartment purity, one thing that also irks me is when your roommate wants to blast music at the most inconvenient hours! I perfectly understand that you're not always going to be in the mood to study. But if you find the urge to not just play music, but ignorantly blast it to the point where my textbooks are vibrating, Houston we most definitely have a problem.

It's not even a matter of bad timing, it's simply inconsiderate. Let's keep in mind that these walls are paper thin. If it's the weekend, then by all means turn it up as loud as you want; I will gladly take a walk to "Club Woody." But if it's 1 o'clock in the morning and I clearly have a 9 o'clock class, I would advise you to be a little more cognizant.

You see, living with a roommate isn't rocket science. It's called common courtesy. We can't always please one another, but some things don't require much thought.

Conflicts are inevitable when sharing space with anyone other than yourself, but there are little things we most commonly ignore that could make the difference between inconveniencing your roommate and causing him to contemplate killing you.

So next time you decide to go about your regular routine of living, stop and consider whether or not you are contributing to the long list of roommates from hell.



Bedroom of a self-confessed "sneaker freak."

Image: Courtesy

## Stuntin' is a Habit

**SPENCER GREENE**  
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Recently, I decided to sit on Brown Street and observe the activities of various students. In doing so, I witnessed a common pattern among almost everyone passing. One student, who was wearing a Kid Robot T-shirt and a pair of True Religion jeans (that were obviously fake), walked down the street reciting the lyrics of a Gucci Mane song as if he had written them himself.

As he passed one of his friends, he began to loudly speak about the bottle of Moët he bought at Club Miami on Saturday while in the VIP section. As he proceeded to boast about his lavish weekend, another guy walked up the street carrying a Kenneth Cole bag.

A voice from afar yelled, "Come on boots," and "You don't see that Gucci." He kept walking as if he didn't hear the voice, but the smile on his face proved otherwise.

After an hour, I grew tired of students boasting and flaunting their possessions and financial status. I wondered why it was so important for individuals to display their bank accounts.

At first I thought that they were simply reenacting the current images portrayed by entertainers on television. But as I thought about blaxploitation movies such as "The Mack," "Dolemite," and "Superfly," I realized that this obsession with flaunting has been around for quite some time.

I remember going to family reunions as a child and watching my uncle boast of the many women he slept with and money he made as a pusher in the 1970s. He had lost all the money he made and spent numerous years in jail, but still felt the need

to brag of his past as if it would impress people and distract us from his current state.

I realized that for my uncle, as well as many other Blacks, stuntin' is a habit. Buying flashy clothes and luxurious cars has somehow become the logical thing to do once you obtain a lot of money.

Sometimes we put these luxuries before buying a house, or paying off student loans and credit card bills.

In his song "All Falls Down," Kanye West stated, "I went to Jacob with 25 thou [thousand] before I had a house and I'd do it again cause I wanna' be on 106 and Park pushing a Benz."

Although it is easy to blame entertainers for the misguided mindset of Black youth, and Blacks in general for that matter, the problem stems from the Black community being impoverished and insecure to the point where we look at luxury items as a measure of our success.

In his song "Successful," rapper/singer Drake explains what many of us would describe as success and then redefines it. Money, cars and clothes have become the goal for many. But we reach that goal and wonder why we don't feel successful.

It's important to redefine what success is for us individually. It's important to find a common ground between wealth and happiness. If you need to flaunt your money for attention, you may be insecure about your personality and ability in making long-lasting relationships.

Faunting luxury items may display the amount of money you have, but doesn't measure your success or happiness. As stated in Mark 8:36, from New American Standard Bible, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"

## Don't Limit Yourself, Live Free

**RASHEIDA MOSS**  
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In life there is a lot we have to deal with as human beings. We grow up in a world in which everything seems to be going against us; but adding the minority factor presents a whole new trial that we must face. There are so many ways we limit ourselves as a people, not on purpose, but by what was imbedded in our minds so long ago.

We put blame on other things that contribute to the problem but really aren't the source. They say "growing up in a certain environment" is the reason for the limits we put on ourselves or say "I didn't know about it" as they continue going through the motions not caring. There are many excuses we use that are confusing what the true source is, as we keep going in circles for whom or what is to blame.

The first thing that comes to mind when you think of the ultimate wrong done to Black people is slavery. You read about it in history books all through school, so you know there is proof of its existence, but yet still don't believe it.

They don't tell you the whole story, only what they want you to hear and you accept it. Those are the seeds of ignorance implanted in our minds, but you have to kill

them and push yourself forward to gain accurate knowledge.

Show there are no limits by doing research and reading up on prevalent information for yourself. Having the passion to know the truth is the starting point in your journey to do all things.

You may think: since growing up in an environment with negative moral influences is so difficult then that means it is okay for me to fail because I had no one to help me, or there were always people going against me, telling me what I could not do.

That is not enough excuse to fail. It's the choices you make in life that determine your future, and to constantly make the wrong choice, or feel what you have is the best you can do is simply giving up.

Why let your current circumstances hinder you from your potential greatness? I think that allowing every bad circumstance to determine the path of your life has nothing to do with the environment you were chosen to live in. I'm sorry to say it, but that is your own fault.

It is not your fault, however that you do not know what is really going on. There was a lot of work done to make sure that we continue to be ignorant, feel inferior and believe what they label us— maintaining the slave state of mind.

That is the Willie Lynch mentality, he put forth a plan of

action to both break and control us like animals. It was guaranteed to last three hundred years but evidently it is still in effect.

He wanted it so the young would be against the old, male against female, light skinned verses dark skinned and vice versa. He wanted the white man to distrust the slave but the slave to depend upon the white man; have them respect, love and trust only him. On the slave ships, Africans were separated from their tribes and juxtaposed against one another as enemies, which has evidently continued here in the States today.

The fact that most young people, because of ignorance, do not care about such history is unfortunate, but then again, our elders never told us what really took place. They always said it was "grown folks" talk. It was taboo to discuss the past so openly, and in return, future generations do not really believe slavery existed in such an intense and immoral way.

More about the past should have been discussed. Living a life knowing will bring so much more for you. Continuing the bad habits of our past, which has been set in place for hundreds of years, is highly detrimental. In the end, we have to understand that our burdens to bear are only for us. We should not put blame on others or the past but rather use it and make sure to strive for the best, living life more liberating, free of limitations and doubts.

# 20 Questions

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BY: CLOWN OF THE YEAR

LadyInRed@Apocalypso.com

- 1) With everyone back on the yard, will they still have soul?
- 2) Or does this SIGnal the beginning of the end?
- 3) Weren't you happy it was on time and short?
- 4) Does he really mean 'probate by probate?'
- 5) Is that logo your attempt to continue the Fiasco?
- 6) Weren't happy almost getting sued the first time, huh?
- 7) Was your presidential candidate conDucting secret Meetings on the parking Garage deck?
- 8) Is that "brotherhood?"
- 9) Will Interim soon become Permanent?
- 10) 25 and only one could twirl?
- 11) Why didn't you run?
- 12) So where's that manifesto?
- 13) Will they ever attempt a live show again?
- 14) Have you received your nomination letter yet?
- 15) Is that part of your job description?
- 16) Will the doctor's prescription be just right?
- 17) Or is the answer D, it is written?
- 18) Will he be Mayor?
- 19) What are you looking forward to more, MCLA or MOTY?
- 20) Is that really a question?

Got mess????!!

If so, email to mtiger20questions@gmail.com



## Features

## Students' Stimulus



President Obama and Congress are taking steps to help college students afford their education.

Image: Courtesy

**JAYMIE WHITE**  
Contributing Writer  
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In an economic downturn, anything can happen. Certainly the last few months of turmoil have been evidence of this.

The Obama stimulus plan seeks to take on the daunting task of correcting an economy that has been suffering from less stability than a Morehouse College SGA electoral debate. In an effort to do this, the stimulus plan addresses issues in health care, energy and education.

However, how will this stimulus package affect the common Morehouse College student? Will it have any effect at all? Ronnie Washington, a junior economics major pointed to the fact that the stimulus package is geared towards a long term solution.

"Perhaps in the coming 2009-2010 school year, we will begin to notice subtle changes in college affordability for all students," Washington said. "But as for the next few months, students will need to prepare themselves for a harsh reality."

Harsh reality? No kidding! With less and less money available, students have already been hit with the harsh reality of the economy.

According to msnbc.com "the Federal Pell Grant program

-- the widely used grant program for financially needy students -- will get a \$17.1 billion increase in funding, while the federal work-study program will receive a \$200 million boost."

This increase is projected to make another seven million students eligible for federal grant money and reduce students' reliance on loans. Sounds great for students, but what about life after college?

The once dominant American economy has dwindled to a shadow of its former self; and has taken plenty of jobs and internships with it. Politicians have promised to clamp down on 'Streets made of Walls' and usher in a new era of corporate responsibility.

The question remains however, with a bill intended to improve education, health care and energy policy, what took Congress so long to pass it? Was it irresponsibility? Greed?

Or, was it simply all the Republicans' fault?

The truth of the matter is that the biggest problem Republicans have with the stimulus can be summed up in one word... taxes! The major disagreement is over tax cuts, or the lack thereof, for upper-class Americans and business owners.

Apparently, the Republicans do not agree with the 'there's not enough money in the economy

so let's borrow hundreds of billions of dollars from ourselves' approach anymore. They feel that the government should keep its tax cuts and in addition, reduce spending in order to balance the national budget.

Of course, many Democrats disagree with this theory, but everyone realizes that the Democrats need at least two Republicans in the House of Representatives to lend a hand in the bill's passing.

With all this information bubbling, it still remains that this \$800 billion plan must be paid for one day soon. The question, then, begs to be asked: Who should ultimately pay the debt that America is burying itself into? Is it the government? Or should it be wealthy citizens making upwards of \$250,000, the majority of whom had nothing to do with the debt the government now owes?

If there is a silver lining of triumph in these challenging times, it is an observation of the stimulus plan made by Vice President Joe Biden.

"[R]oughly 40 percent of this entire package is tax cuts. That's not what the Democrats wanted. And 60 percent of it is spending, economic stimulus. That's not what the Republicans wanted. But we've come a pretty long way already. So there will be, I'm sure, more compromise."

## HIV/AIDS Awareness In the AUC

**KERRY L. PAYNE**  
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Since the beginning of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, well over half a million people have died of HIV and AIDS in America -- the equivalent of the entire population of Las Vegas.

There are currently more than one million people living with HIV and AIDS in America and around a fifth of these are unaware of their infection, posing a high risk of onward transmission.

Every year approximately 56,000 Americans are infected with HIV and AIDS.

Of all racial and ethnic groups in the U.S., HIV and AIDS have hit Black communities the hardest. The reasons are not directly related to race or ethnicity, but rather to some of the barriers faced by many Blacks.

These barriers can include poverty, sexually transmitted diseases and stigma (negative attitudes, beliefs, and actions directed at people living with HIV/AIDS or directed at people who do things that might put

them at risk for HIV).

Even though Blacks only account for about 13 percent of the U.S. population, they account for about half (49 percent) of the people who contract HIV and AIDS.

HIV/AIDS affects Black children the most. In 2005, 104 of the 166 children under the age of 13 diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 33 states were Black, which is equal to 63 percent.

HIV is a fragile virus. It cannot live for very long outside the body. It is primarily found in the blood, semen, or vaginal fluid of an infected person.

HIV is transmitted in three main ways: having unprotected anal, vaginal or oral sex with someone infected with HIV, sharing needles and syringes with someone infected with HIV, and being exposed to HIV before or during birth or through breast feeding.

There are several prevention techniques that one can participate in to lower the risk: abstaining from sex until you are in a relationship with only one person, getting tested for

HIV and AIDS at least every six months and learning as much as possible about your partner's past behavior.

AIDS Atlanta, a grass-root response to the devastating and fatal impact of HIV/AIDS in the Atlanta community.

As reported in 2007, that the majority of those served by the agency are 75 percent Black, 18 percent are white, six percent Hispanic and one percent other. Men account for 78 percent of those served, 20 percent are females. One percent are transgendered.

Keep A Child Alive, an urgent response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic ravaging Africa, would like to invite everyone out to our first Annual BLACK HEALTH SEMINAR on April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Nabrit-Mapp-McBay lecture room II.

Guest speaker Jamil V. Willis will be discussing HIV, AIDS, STDs, prevention, treatment and his testimony. If you are sexually active, come out, learn the facts, and learn how to protect yourself. You only have one life so don't let a deadly disease take it away.

## Alumni Profile: Sanford Bishop '68

**ASHLEY PRECIA**  
Features Editor  
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From so many magnificent men of Morehouse, Sanford Bishop Jr. is one that does not go unnoticed.

Sanford Dixon Bishop Jr. was born on Feb. 4, 1947 in Mobile, Ala. His father, Sanford Dixon Sr. is recognized as the first president of Bishop State Community College.

So the saying stands as corrected, "the apple does not fall too far from the tree."

A law interest must also be a common denominator within his marriage as well, his wife; Honorable Vivian Creighton Bishop is the elected Clerk for the Municipal Court of Columbus, GA.

He graduated from Emory School of Law class of 1968. He also had the honor of singing as his fellow brother's funeral, the late and great Martin Luther King Junior.

He was also a member of the U.S. Army under the

Reserve Officers Training Corps. In 1971, he received Honorable Discharge.

Back in Columbus, Ga, he was a primary partner in a local law firm for Bishop and Buckner, P.C., which focused on civil rights laws, until 1996. While he resided in Columbus he also became active in civil suite and were apart of many civic organizations.

At 28, Congressman Bishop served on the Georgia House of Representatives in from 1976-1990. He also served on Georgia Senate in 1991-1992. During his run in senate, he supported many legislative bills that tackled the issue of job training for welfare recipients.

In 1992, he was elected as a Congressman. His opponent, Charles Hatcher who served six previous terms was charged for bouncing 819 checks in his U.S. House bank account. This ultimately gave Bishop the victory over his opponent.


Although, the race was neck and neck with a three-way runoff, Bishop placed second and won the runoff and general election.

In 1993, he was an official acting member of Congress.

He is currently serving his ninth term as a member of The House of Representative representing Georgia's Second Congressional District. The Second District accounts for 32 southwest counties of Georgia including Clay, Decatur and Macon counties.

As legislator, his goal is, "seeking a higher, better quality of life for all citizens by promoting jobs and a stronger, more diversified economy, a better educated population, safe and secure communities free of crime and drugs, a clean environment, affordable and accessible health care, a safe food supply, energy independence, and a strong national defense -- all within the context of a balanced budget."

Also on his list of other outstanding leadership roles include the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from Boy Scouts of America, Lifetime Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated as well as an Obama endorser.



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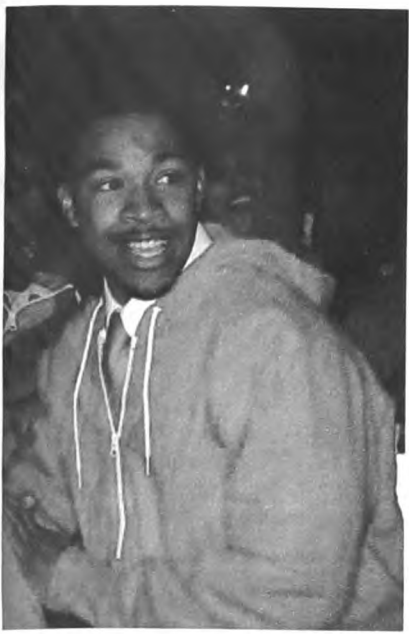




# Arts, Etc.

## 1000 Words: The Kappa Probate

**AMBRIAH BROWN**  
Contributing Photographer



## Student Releases Children's Book

**FREDRICK SALYERS**  
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All too often, the media tends to forget about the children. The television shows, movies and music are all frequently marketed to a teenage-adult audience. However, Morehouse freshman student Seth Fowler seeks to change this perception. A self-published author, Fowler is introducing his contribution to the bedtime story collection of many children with "Cory the Popcorn's Big Adventure."

Written and illustrated by the award-winning artist, "Cory the Popcorn's Big Adventure" introduces Cory, a character that all children can relate to through his innocent journey to find where he comes from. It is a very amusing book, sure to entertain the little ones.

A vivid children's book with a surprising evolved storyline and imaginative illustrations, Fowler really uses Cory to exemplify the principles of courage. These and other forms of children's entertainment seem to catch the eye of parents and children these days.

When asked for his inspiration, Fowler said, "As a child, your mind is full of ideas and I was one of those children and at that time art was my outlet. I would draw anything that would pop into my head. Now, in this day and age, children don't have much relevant substance in the media. The plots, attention span



Author of "Cory the Popcorn's Big Adventure, student Seth Fowler

Image: Courtesy

and more lack original ideas. I wanted to introduce a character that not only entertains, but also teaches lessons about life that children will inevitably encounter."

Indeed, Cory does hold up to these standards. When questioned about who Cory is, Fowler said, "Cory is a loving, gentle popcorn. He looks at life positively with lots of warmth and more. He [is] just a little kernel who's very curious about the world he's in."

Fowler suggests that this is not the end of Cory. Fans can possibly be on the lookout for more stories chronicling more of his adventures, possibly even a Spanish version.

Fowler will hold a book signing for "Cory the Popcorn's Big Adventure" on April 9 in the Morehouse College Bookstore beginning at 12 p.m. Come out and meet the author and artist and talk to him about his noble creation for the children of our community.

## Accessories: A Man's Best Friend

**FREDRICK SALYERS**  
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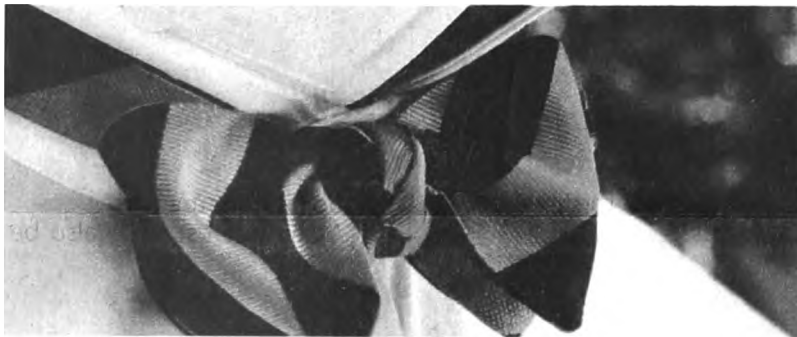
Despite the schizophrenic behavior of Atlanta weather, one thing is clear - spring is on the way. Now for most guys that typically means one thing - shirt, shorts and shoes.

When the weather heats up, there are typically fewer choices for a man's appearance. It's a simple decision between collar or no collar, jeans, shorts or otherwise.

However, there are a few

minor solutions to improving one's spring-summer selection of ensembles: accessories. No, not bangles, lockets and other girlie things, but simple additions to one's everyday wear to change things up a bit.

Hats - especially the more traditional variety - are a sure way to go. Yes, fitted hats are fun, but who doesn't have a fitted-hat these days? Fedoras, bowler hats and other older styles of headgear are a fun way to spruce up any casual outfit. A quality fedora with a simple T-shirt and jeans can convey a



laid-back look that is perfect for the summertime.

Contrary to popular belief, these old-fashioned hats do not have to be worn as formal wear.

A neutral bowler hat with a polo and cargo shorts can create the same laid-back look that is perfect for a day out in the park with friends.

Got a Lego brooch like Kanye? If not, it's fine. Regular buttons can duplicate the same type of feel with a cheaper pay out. Buttons are the smallest, yet most effective accessories. They can provide the random bits of color or pattern needed to give your look that extra flair without overdoing it. Additionally, buttons can go anywhere - jeans, jackets, hats, even shoes.

What's even better about buttons is that they typically do not price for more than a dollar or more for multiple buttons. These little gems can be found at many different locations, including thrift stores and even popular retail chains, such as H&M.

Remember DeWayne Wayne

from the TV series hit "A Different World"? It is not a secret that a pair of retro frames are easily one of the hottest accessories out there, for guys or girls. What's even better about this new trend is the increasing variety of colors and styles that these old-school frames are available in.

Dummy frames (non-prescription glasses) are reasonably easy to find. Again, both thrift stores and retail chains alike carry them in many different styles. One may even rummage through old family artifacts and find a relative's old glasses - just pop the lenses out.

These few accessories are sure to help any guy out, regardless of his style.

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# Sports

## Hope Springs Eternal For Track and Field

**ELIZABETH SAWYER**  
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The Morehouse College track and field team finished up their indoor track season with a strong showing at the National Championships in Houston, Texas, on March 14. Spring outdoor track season is well under way and the Maroon Tigers have used their success from indoor to propel them into a great start.

The indoor track and field season brought the Maroon Tigers some success and quite a bit of experience this season.

"I feel like the indoor season

went well," sophomore Brendan Fludd said. "Five athletes went to the National Championships in Texas and gave strong performances."

Morehouse finished 22nd overall in the Indoor Championships. Damian Prince, a senior sprinter from Decatur, Ga., ran 21.77 seconds to finish eighth overall in the 200-meter dash. Prince was also scheduled to the run the 400-meter dash, but he had a false start and was disqualified from the race.

The 4x400-meter relay team, which consisted of Chevon Cunningham, Jeremy Tinsley, Ian Derizzio and Damian Prince, finished third overall in the meet

with a time of 3:15:08.

"[Prince] had an injury going into Nationals and wasn't able to do what we thought he was going to do," head coach Willie Hill said. "But we were very pleased with the relay team."

The four members of the relay team were also named to the Division II All-American Team for their abilities in the 4x400-meter relay and individual performances in the 200 and 400-meter relays. Damian Prince was also named Southern Region Track Athlete of the Year. Junior Barry Batson was named Southern Region Field Athlete of the Year.

When asked what he thought

led to the team's success in indoor, Fludd said, "The practice atmosphere has been much more competitive and coach Hill and coach Cobb, as well as the other event coaches, have been really pushing us to reach our goals."

All the training and success from indoor has given the track and field team a sturdy foundation for outdoor track which is already well under way. According to runners and coaches, there has been vast improvement since indoor, and already the Maroon Tigers have captured a victory.

"We just had [the Morehouse Relays] in outdoor and we were

able to win that so we're seeing a lot of improvement," coach Hill said.

Morehouse dominated the meet, placing in every event. Juniors Matt Tuffour and Turner Coggins represented the Maroon Tigers well in the field events. Tuffour won first in the javelin, eighth in the shot put and third in the discus. Coggins won seventh in the hammer throw, seventh in the discus and second in the shot put. Tuffour also won first place in the meet's decathlon.

Morehouse also won the 4x400-meter relay, the 4x400 meter relay and the Men's Distance Medley Relay. Abraham Kiprotich placed first in the

3000-meter steeplechase and 5000-meter run. Michael Vinson placed ninth in the 800-meter run, but placed first in the 1500-meter run.

"We're looking at lot better," coach Hill said. "Right now we already have a lot of young men who have set a PR [personal record] from since indoor."

With an impressive start to the season behind them already, the sky is the limit for the Flying Maroon Tigers. They will compete in the Atlanta University Center Championships on April 8 and in the Florida State Seminoles Invitational on the 11th.



Some famous African-American sports coaches at work.

Images: Courtesy

## Hank McCladdie is Pitch-Perfect

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Although Morehouse's baseball team has had a disappointing season, senior pitcher/outfielder Hank McCladdie has remained optimistic. A team captain, he has done well to earn the respect of his coaches and teammates. The respect is mutual.

"We have a good team," the Augusta, Ga., native said. "We've just had a lot of bumps in the road. All we can do is continue to go out and play hard."

McCladdie certainly has, excelling both on the pitcher's mound and in the batter's box. In the past weekend's two victories against LeMoyné-Owen College, McCladdie earned the win from the mound in the first game and hit home runs in both games.

McCladdie's hot hitting has carried over from last year, when he was named team MVP and First Team All-SIAC.

McCladdie, who has played baseball since he was around 5,

participated in multiple sports growing up including football and basketball, but always excelled on the diamond. His favorite player growing up was Seattle Mariner outfielder Ken Griffey Jr., but is now Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Manny Ramirez.

His favorite aspect of the game, however, is pitching.

"You're in control of the game," he said. "You always have the ball in your hands."

As a child, McCladdie had dreams of playing in the major leagues. On an athletic scholarship at Morehouse, he acknowledges that those dreams have subsided. However, he does plan to have a career in sports.

He is a sports studies major and plans to earn a master's in sports management from Auburn University. His career goal is to be a general manager of a professional sports franchise.

But for now he concentrates on driving the ball from the batter's box, hitting his spots from the mound, and getting wins for the Tigers.

## How Many Black Coaches Have Cut Down The Nets?

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Monday night's Division I basketball national championship showcased the Michigan State Spartans against the North Carolina Tarheels, in which the Tarheels defeated the Spartans 89-72, but most fans will only remember the head coach and select players who made that victory possible.

It has become obvious over the last couple of decades that most of the teams that have cut down the nets have been primarily composed of

Black males. But the underlying question is how many of the head coaches have been Black that cut down the nets over the tournaments history?

The NCAA Division I basketball men's tournament has been around since 1939 and there have been numerous teams that have won the titles. Throughout the 70 year history of the tournament of course people recognize coach's names such as John Wooden, Adolph Rupp, Mike Krzyzewski, Dean Smith and others. These coaches are considered to be some of the greats, but most have forgotten about the three coaches that

won the titles in 1984, 1994 and 1997.

The 1984 championship game displayed the Georgetown Hoyas against the Houston Cougars. The Hoyas featured guard Gene Smith and center Patrick Ewing against center Hakeem Olajuwon. The most impressive storyline of the game was not the Hoyas defeating the Cougars 84-75 or Ewing's 10 points and nine rebounds in the game to be named tournament MVP. The storyline was John Thompson being the first Black head coach to win the national championship title.

Then 10 years later another

coach would come along to ink his name in the record book below Thompson's. The 1994 national championship game featured the Duke Blue Devils against the Arkansas Razorbacks. The "40 minutes of hell" philosophy that Nolan Richardson implemented allowed for him to defeat Duke 76-72 to become the second Black to win a national championship. Richardson would make it back to the promise land the next year, but lose to Jim Harrick's UCLA Bruins.

Four years later, the national championship game would feature the Utah Utes against the Kentucky Wildcats. The Wildcats

beat the Utes 78-69, which propelled Tubby Smith to be the third black men to win a national championship.

It is amazing how many talented black males have come through college basketball over the decades. The most astounding observation is that there have only been three black male coaches to have cut down the nets over the 70 year history. That leaves so many questions

to be answered. Who will be the next Black coach to cut down the nets? How long will it take? Will you still be alive to see it? Or better yet, when will large institutions begin to consider Black males as frontrunner candidates?

So the next time you begin to think about the last time your team has won a title, just think a little deeper and think about when is the last time a Black coach has cut down the nets.

# THE MAROON TIGER