



Images: Staff

VP Jared Green leading a Senate meeting on the steps of Kilgore.

## Election Day Amendments Unconstitutional?

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On Monday, students went to the polls voting to elect their peers to positions within the Student Government Association. Also on the ballot were 15 proposed amendments to the Morehouse College Constitution that would affect the powers of that document and, in some cases, shape the political landscape of the college.

But according to a letter issued to the Elections Committee

by Senate President pro-tempore and SGA Vice Presidential-Elect, Melvin Colbert, several of the amendments that appeared on the ballot were not voted up by the Senate (a prerequisite to appearing on the election day ballot.) As they appeared, proposed amendments 1,2,3,4,15 were not included in an official list of amendments that were passed by the 79th session of the Senate by a majority vote of quorum senators two weeks ago.

The scope of the amendments "Election Amendments" page 2▶

## New VP of Student Services Named



Image: Courtesy

Dr. William Bynum (right) with Lincoln students.

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Late last week, school administration announced that Dr. William Bynum has agreed to serve as the new Vice president of Student Affairs at Morehouse College. Bynum is no stranger to the AUC, having previously held the same position at Clark Atlanta University.

A native of North Carolina, he earned his bachelor of arts degree in sociology at Davidson College and his masters and Ph.D. in sociology from Duke University where he was an Endowment Fellow. Most recently, he worked as VP of Student Affairs at the historically Black Lincoln University in Pennsylvania where it was announced on April 6th that he would be resigning his position to begin work at Morehouse effective July 1st in the Office of Student Services.

Of his transition from Lincoln, Bynum stated in an interview with the Lincolnian,

"What I'll miss the most about Lincoln University is the mentorship by Dr. [Ivory] Nelson. I'll miss the awesome staff. I'll miss the pride and talent of the student body," later adding "Of all the five schools I've been to,

Lincoln has the most artistically talented students I've ever seen"

The Office of Student Services is comprised of Athletics, Counseling, Housing, Student, Health, and Career Planning for Non-business Majors, among others. Over the course of the past year, Herman "Skip" Mason has served as the Interim VP of Student Services.

The announcement came as a surprise to many members of the Morehouse community who were not aware of the decision at the time that President Robert Franklin's office released a statement on Friday. In it, he welcomed Dr. Bynum saying,

"Morehouse is pleased that Dr. Bynum is joining us in the Office of Student Services. He is well versed in the culture of small liberal arts institutions like Morehouse, and he understands the students who make up our population." With the recent issues surrounding altercations on campus and overall student conduct, the selection of Dr. Bynum is significant. The position of VP of Student Services will also be instrumental in settling the issues surrounding the appropriation of student monies to organizations on campus in the next year.

# Franklin's Speech Cheered; Warns Against Fighting, Intolerance

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Students, faculty and staff are praising President Franklin's attempt to detail how the college community should respond to ongoing threats to the "Morehouse Mystique." Hundreds packed the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on Tuesday to hear Franklin, whose speech followed a Spring semester marked by multiple student-on-student fights and tension between some straight and gay students, among other issues.

"Today, our soul is sick and our mystique is threatened," Franklin said early in his special Town Hall Meeting. "Our soul is threatened by the presence of a few of our brothers who are spiritually ill and disoriented. Some are enrolled at Morehouse, and some work for Morehouse. Whatever their role, they have not joined the Brotherhood, and they are opposed to forming an academic and moral community."

Audience members applauded throughout the speech, but particularly when Franklin spoke directly to those individuals. "If you cannot follow the guidelines of a moral community, then leave. Change your behavior or separate from this college."

In the rest of his simultaneously blunt and carefully worded address, Franklin offered "guidance and direction" on a variety of issues both big and small, including fighting, intolerance, relations between students and staff, academic performance, and littering.

Perhaps most notably, Franklin also broached the subject of relations between straight and gay students. The President encouraged straight students to be tolerant and to learn from their gay counterparts. He also spoke to gay students, promising them a safe and tolerant environment while also asking those who would wear

women's clothing such as dresses and purses to "cease and desist" while on campus.

First, though, Franklin emphasized the importance of diversity and said that intolerance or mistreatment of gay students would not be tolerated.

"As a male institution with the explicit mission of educating men with disciplined minds, perhaps the great challenge of this moment in history is our diversity of sexual orientation. This has been—and will always be—a community committed to respect and tolerance between heterosexual and homosexual men. Morehouse, like every other educational institution, has always had gay men in its student, staff and faculty ranks."

He added, "Morehouse is not a gay school, it is a great school."

Franklin announced that he has created a Diversity and Tolerance Committee to "review the effectiveness of what we have done and are currently doing." The President said that he expects the committee to report back in the Fall, but that whatever their recommendation, the underlying principles would be "safety and security" for gay and straight students, appreciation for diversity, and proper "decorum."

On the latter principle, Franklin said that sagging pants, wearing caps inside buildings, and wearing doo-rags in public would not be tolerated.

The King Chapel audience applauded when Franklin also waded into the increasingly controversial practice of male students wearing feminine clothing. "And to those who would experiment with wearing clothing associated with a woman's wardrobe—dresses, tunics, purses and pumps—I am directing that you not exhibit these items on the Morehouse campus."

"Wear what you wish to off-campus. But while you are here on the ground where Mays and Martin and Maynard walked, those items are off limits. A man in women's clothing on campus



Image: Jacque Pape

Dr. Robert Franklin, 10th President of Morehouse College, during Tuesday's Town Hall meeting.

is provocative and will not be tolerated."

On the issue of violence, Franklin left no room for compromise, promising to personally become involved in the cases of students who fight. Morehouse will be a campus of peace and justice. We will be a violence free zone. You cannot and will not possess or carry weapons on this campus. You cannot be a Man of Morehouse—the college of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—and engage in fighting or threatening behavior."

Regarding gender relations, Franklin stressed the importance of women to the Morehouse community and called on students to treat their female counterparts at Spelman and Clark Atlanta University with respect. He also mentioned his efforts to start a "conversation" with Spelman President Beverly Tatum about the male-female relations, but lamented that few Morehouse students participated.

"[The conversation] was provoked by a campus crisis," Franklin said. "A few young men behaved out of character with the Morehouse mission. And a few young women behaved out of character with Spelman's mission. Sadly, very few Morehouse students took part in this conversation, which had the potential to be a compelling start to repairing frayed relations between the two student bodies. Again, remember, you were not obligated to enroll in these institutions. So if you choose to be a member of this community, you implicitly consent to being an active member of the community."

Franklin also touched on three elements of his now well-known Renaissance Man, encouraging students to read whenever they have time, to improve their writing skills, and to make use of tutors, if needed.

"Some tutors complain that they sit at the assigned time and

"Franklin's Speech" pg. 2▶

## Inside Track

Fri



85°F | 5°F

Sat



83°F | 56°F

Sun



79°F | 56°F

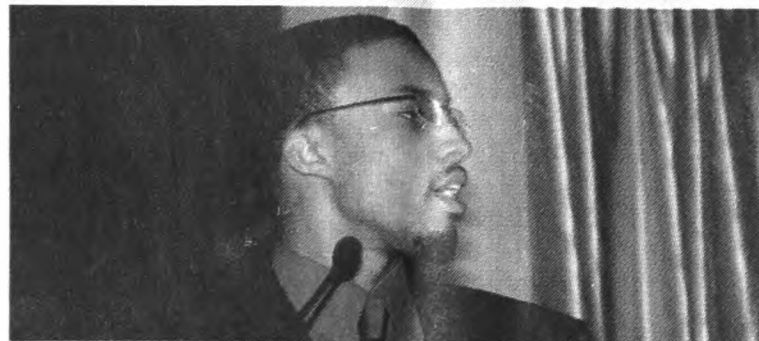


MCLAs: Maroon Tiger Wins Organization of the Year

## Colbert Elected Vice President

The student body elected junior Melvin Colbert SGA Vice President this week. Colbert won over 50% of the vote, avoiding a run-off. A run-off election was held for SGA President between Adam McFarland and Kawasi Weston... on page 2▶

Profiling Dr. Anne Watts



Read on page 3▶

# News



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## THE MAROON TIGER

# Election Amendments Unconstitutional?

◀ Continued from front page

that are in question is substantial with Proposed Amendment 1 effectively deciding whether or not a created position of SGA Executive Secretary should serve as a liaison between CASA and SGA. When questioned about the amendment, SGA Vice President and President of the 79th Senate Session, Jared Green said,

"Proposed Amendment 1 involved the creation of the SGA Executive Secretary Position, who would serve as a liaison between the SGA, CASA, and the Council of Presidents. The creation of this new and necessary position was brought before the Senate and passed." He also noted in a letter to The Maroon Tiger that the creation of the position was one of the 79th Senate's, "major accomplishments of the spring semester."

Although "proposed amendments" 2 and 3 appeared

on the ballots and were voted on by the student body as such, according to Green, they were merely "survey questions." The focus of the two amendments is whether or not candidates for President and Vice President should be required to run together on a joint ticket either for the Executive Board of SGA or class councils. Green acknowledged that,

"When brought before the Senate, the actual amendment was voted down, but not by unanimous vote. At this time, Senators who were actually opposed to the amendment suggested that we put the question on the ballot to let the student body decide."

According to Green, if students voted yes to the two questions, next year's 80th session of the Senate would be obliged to create the amendments but because due to the unclear nature of the items, they will be voted on again in the

run-off elections. However, in an email to Elections Committee Chairman Reginald Cleaver dated April 8th, Green described the items as, "15 proposed Constitutional Amendments that must be voted on individually" not as survey items.

Amendment 15 is the most controversial issue of all. It appears as the 17th proposed amendment in Colbert's letter to the Elections Committee but in both the ballot and proposal form it states that,

"A candidate for SGA Vice President must have at least one year of experience in Student Senate as either a Senator and/or Senate Staff" Of the amendment, outgoing VP, Jared Green has stated that,

"It was included in the amendments passed by the Senate, and received no objection from Senators," A claim that conflicts with the those of VP-Elect Melvin Colbert who stated that the amendment

was, "not passed by the Senate, though it is on the ballot, it is an unconstitutional amendment and therefore will not be enacted the following year."

In all, of the proposed 17 amendments made by the 79th session of the Senate, 5 did not appear on the actual ballot voted on by students. Of the 15 amendments that did appear on the ballot, 4 either were not voted on by the Senate or were voted down prior to their appearing on the ballot.

In regard to a resolution, Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, Damen Scott offered,

"The results that were posted today should be nullified. It looks very unethical and shady that things were put on the ballot that were actually voted down by the Senate. I think that the results should be scratched and restated tomorrow [for the run-off elections] in their correct form."

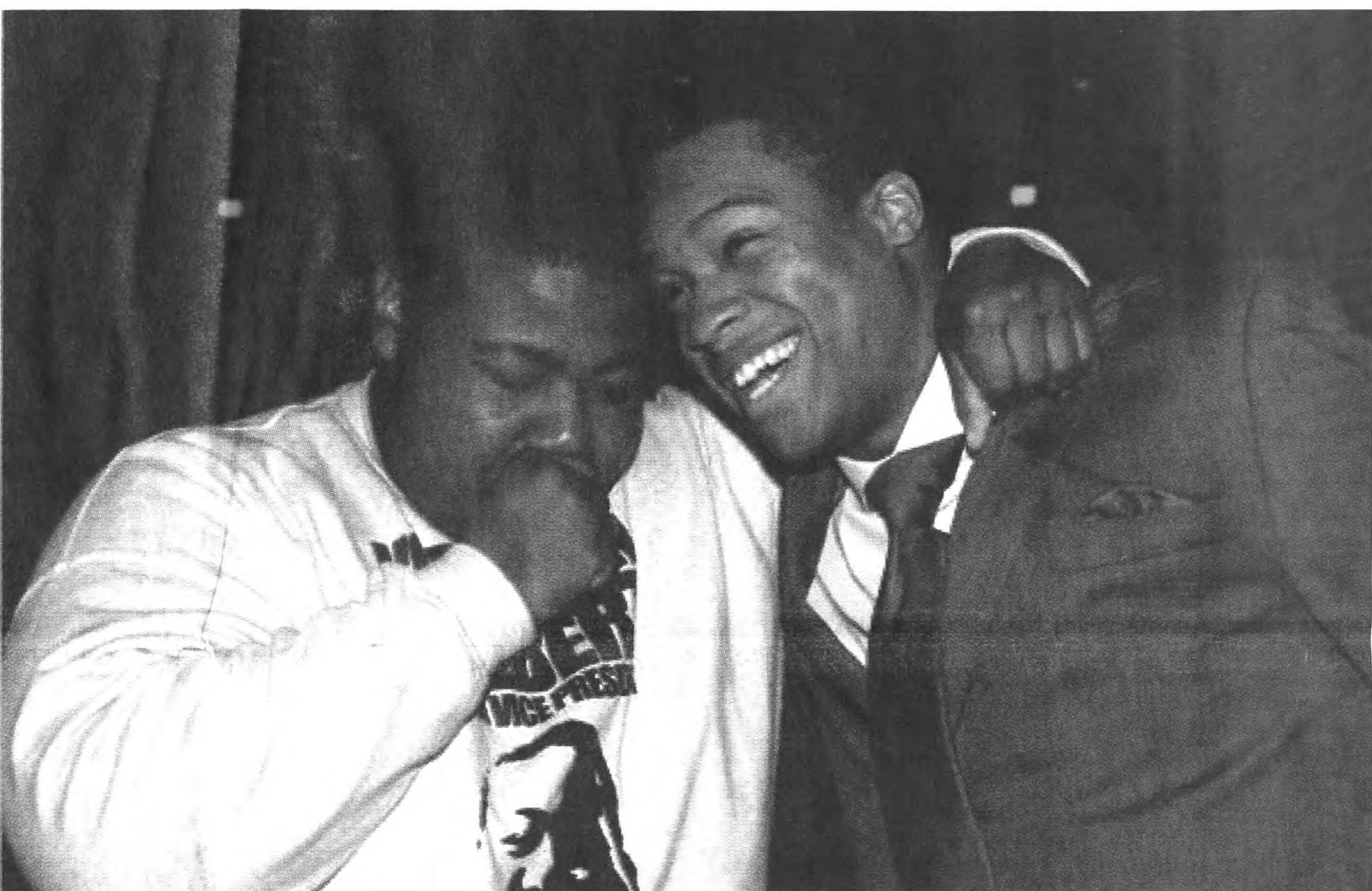


Image: Staff

SGA Vice President-Elect Melvin A. Colbert II (left) and Ronaldo Pearson (right) celebrate a decisive victory.

# Students Elect New SGA Leaders; Colbert Wins VP

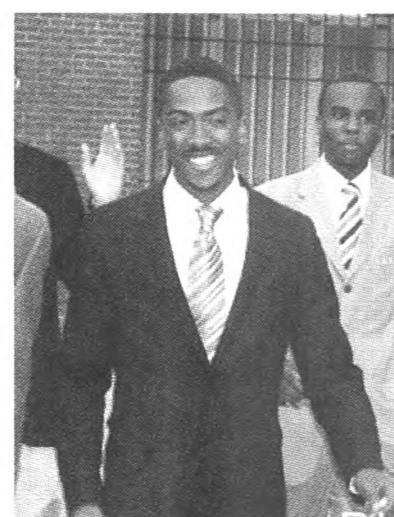
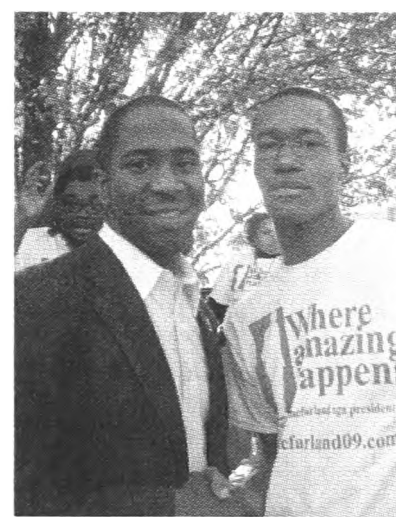
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Adam McFarland and Kawasi Weston must compete in a Wednesday run-off election for SGA president, the SGA Elections Committee announced today. McFarland won 44% of the initial vote and Weston won 25%, leaving both students short of the majority needed to claim an immediate victory. Meanwhile, junior Melvin Colbert won the vice presidential election outright, garnering just over 50% of the vote.

"I am excited about winning, and so very thankful to those who supported me," said the Vice President-Elect. "Yet, I am dissatisfied with the voter turnout and hope that next

years turnout is more reflective of the work that the Senate will do to be more accessible and open to the student body. Me and my supporters ran, but now it is up to myself, and others in this administration to RUN effectively, ethically, and with the same zeal that got us elected to these positions."

Jason Lukose, who was narrowly unsuccessful in his race for SGA president, commented, "I cannot express how thankful my team and I are for all the support from the student body. I wish nothing but the best for both candidates and their journey to be our student leader. I plan to continue to ignite Morehouse academically, socially, and spiritually, through many other endeavors."



Images: Courtesy

Candidates Adam McFarland (left) and Kawasi Weston (right.)

Armand Morman won the SGA Treasurer position and a run-off is scheduled for the Corresponding Secretary position. Run-off elections are

scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st in the Kilgore Student Center. Visit [www.TheMaroonTiger.com](http://www.TheMaroonTiger.com) for full coverage of the election results.

# President Franklin's 'Mystique' Town Hall Speech Applauded

◀ Continued from front page

place and no one shows up," Franklin said. "Meanwhile, we have several students on academic probation. We must dismantle the myth that seeking tutorial help is a cause for shame or embarrassment." He added that the school may require students who are failing a course to "work with tutors and professors to redeem the time, the money and the opportunity for learning."

Franklin also praised students for being polite and helpful to visitors, but said that he still hears too much profanity on campus. "Strive to have something valuable to say,

and be in possession of elegant words and phrases that allow you to effectively communicate complex emotions and ideas. Profanity does not reflect your verbal grace and style. It suggests a lazy mind and is contrary to the Morehouse ideal. So if you need to, go to the Woodruff Library and borrow a vocabulary."

On the matter of customer service, Franklin sought to express his understanding of both students who have complained about the treatment of school officials and officials who have criticized the behavior of students as disrespectful.

"I have heard your call for improved customer service. It is outrageous to learn that

occasionally a faculty or staff member has behaved in ways that fall below Morehouse standards. We will not tolerate this. But at the same time, we expect every one of you to show respect to all faculty and staff."

In the end, it was clear that campus violence was one of the most important—if not the most important—issue on the President's agenda. He returned to the topic in his conclusion.

"A final memo to those who would commit crimes and violate school policy. To those who would harm women or gay or straight members of this community. To those who would take advantage of innocent and trusting students, I say clearly:

You will not find safe haven at Morehouse. You will be detected, and you will be dismissed. If you willingly harm my students, you are declaring war on Morehouse College, and you will not win that war."

As of now, it is unclear what effect the well-received speech will have on the wider student body. President Franklin's office has posted the speech on the Morehouse website and the President is encouraging students who heard the speech to spread his message.

To download and read the speech released by the Office of the President, visit the homepage of [www.TheMaroonTiger.com](http://www.TheMaroonTiger.com)

## MAN of the YEAR ISSUE

2009

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# The Internet Social Community Sites You Must Check Out

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With the popular continued creation of new sites, it is hard to become bored with surfing the Internet. Mark Zuckerberg is the creator behind Facebook, Tom has Myspace and Evan Williams, Jack Dorsey and Biz Stone are the key people behind the Twitter craze. Thought that was it? Well, there are two more sites that have popped up on the scene you should definitely take a look at.

Ventletters.com is a newly established website that enables followers to "vent" on any topic of choice. It is a social community where anyone can use their freedom of expression to post anonymously.

There used to be a feature on the site that allowed others to post comments on the vent letters, but it was taken off. So now Venters can have the comfort of a judgment-free safe space.

There are no specifications on what to vent about so whenever you're feeling red with anger or annoyance let it all out on Ventletters.com.

But there are websites out there that provide more than a socially connected community. Take for instance, Unspoken Secrets.com. This website allows those to speak about fetishes, fantasies and confessions.



"Most of the people that post secrets are teenage girls who have lost their 'true love,'" Keith Cardin stated, founder and creator of the site.

But on a more serious note, Cardin explained that he has also received secrets from those who suffer from verbal or physical abuse.

This, in turn, has drawn Cardin to a greater aspirations for Unspoken Secrets.

"I hope the website becomes a regular stop for some people, daily," Cardin said. "I hope as many times as people check Facebook, they check for new secrets. I hope that the website becomes a resource for teens to resort to when having problems."

Initially, the idea was first

developed as a collaboration project with Post Secret where secrets were mailed to a PO Box. A few were selected and uploaded to the Post Secret site weekly.

Then Unspoken Secrets was newly developed and released in December 2006 due to a successful response of over 1,000 secrets weekly.

In the long run, Cardin would "love to be able to turn Unspoken Secrets into a resource for teenagers, have a crisis center, and teach other students how to help other students through difficult situations. I want to turn it into an organization, even if it's just online."

Cardin receives much gratification from Unspoken

Secrets because this site acts as a ground where people can feel comfortable with who they are by understanding they are not alone in the issues they face.

"I've done a lot of promoting, and my friends have really helped me every step of the way... but the website itself is just enticing. You go, you read, you experience, and you relate to what others are sharing, and it makes you feel good about your own situations, or how you can relate. It lets people experience others' situations, and that helps people in itself."

For further information, visit [www.unspoken-secrets.com](http://www.unspoken-secrets.com) or [www.ventletters.com](http://www.ventletters.com)



Image: Courtesy

## Producing the Beat: Maestro, Class of 2002

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Humility is not a quality often displayed in the music industry, but it's a quality recognized in Vaushaun "Maestro" Brooks.

A native of Windsor, Conn, Maestro has a Caribbean upbringing with both parents being natives of Jamaica. Maestro entered Morehouse College as a marketing major in 1999. While pursuing his Bachelors degree, Maestro began to generate his creative juices by making music beats for fellow colleagues in his dorm room.

Following graduation, Maestro went on to educate young women at an alternative high school. During his year of teaching, he was given an opportunity to work with a music producer. As the school year ended, Maestro began to devote more and more time to producing music.

Realizing he no longer had the time to commit to teaching, he decided to resign, giving producing his full attention.

His signature sound incorporates a female voice saying "Maestro" at the beginning of his productions. Maestro's sound is primarily sample-free, relying heavily on synthesizers and/or live instruments.

Maestro has a large variety of musical genres on his professional resume, ranging from hip-hop to gospel. He has also made musical jingles for Starbucks, television and video game soundtracks.

Having worked with many artists such as Lil Wayne, Juelz Santana, Clipse, David Banner and Dem Franchise Boyz, Maestro has continued to excel in the music industry. Ultimately, he won his first Grammy in 2008 for his production on Lil Wayne's latest album, "Tha Carter III."

"Reaching a part in my career where young producers look to me for advice is my biggest accomplishment thus far," he said.

Being no stranger to his community, Maestro is willing and ready to give back to the AUC environment. He was recently featured as one of the panelists on The Business of The Music Business College Tour & Student Showcase, which educated upcoming producers on the fundamentals of music production.

Maestro's advice to upcoming producers or anyone reaching for their goals is: "Don't think about failure; only prepare yourself for success."

To learn more about Maestro, his music or if you want to contact him go to [www.maestrobeatz.com](http://www.maestrobeatz.com)

## Meeting the Standard

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Find yourself taking your time to get to that 9:00 a.m. class because you know your professor won't make it there until 9:10 a.m.?

Wonder why you haven't received a grade for that assignment you turned in two months ago? While its obvious that, in terms of rank, professors and students do not fall under the same regulations, issues like arriving on time to class have caused students to wonder if their professors should share some of their classroom responsibilities.

"Both the professor and students need to put a 110% effort into the course," Morehouse freshman Derric Studamire said.

"Just as students should come to class prepared to learn, professors also need to come prepared to teach for the day. It really makes a difference when the professor creates a course that will enhance the learning experience of his or her students, rather than provide them with assignments that feel like busy work."

To some whether or not a professor is frequently tardy to class, or known as a slow grader, may appear to be a frivolous matter, but many students are finding it to be very influential on their attitudes towards their courses.

Many students argue that they do not feel the need to abide by some of the rules and regulations set by their professors because they fail to meet their own standards in the classroom.

Professors and students alike, would agree that professors set the tone for their students, when it comes to classroom etiquette and academic standards, but are students overstepping

their bounds in their demands for equal accountability in the classroom?

"I agree that students need to take responsibility for themselves when it comes to things like being on time and abiding by course requirements," Ashlin Randolph said, a freshman at Spelman.

"However, professors need to be held to a standard as well; if my professor can't make it to class on time, what's motivating me to?"

So what do professors have to say about all this?

Dr. Lisa Niles, assistant professor of English at Spelman College, said, "When it comes to the matter of classroom promptness, both students and professors should be held accountable; as faculty we should model the kinds of behavior we expect from our students."

In addressing the matter of the time between assignment submission and return, Dr. Niles further noted, "Students need to understand that with so many assignments to grade, sometimes it takes a while to return them; however, as faculty, to eliminate this type of classroom confusion, we need to make clear if and when assignments will be returned and the pace of the course, in general, so that there is an understanding between the professor and his or her students from the start."

Though matters like classroom punctuality and disagreements regarding assignment protocol have been the focus of this article, the list of complaints from students, regarding classroom criteria, goes on and on. The bottom line, however, is that clear communication, between professors and their students, is key to a successful semester and, furthermore, college career!

## Profile: Dr. Anne W. Watts

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A 4 year-old girl was once terrified by the smiling monsters in the audience as she delivered poems at conventions and other gatherings. But time and time again her mother made her face those monsters. It was not until the age of 9 that her stage fright began to diminish and she could concentrate on delivering her message.

"You learn by doing," said that little girl who became the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Anne Watts. "Speak as much as you can whether it is a bible study or a group of kids on a Saturday morning to gain the facilities for public speaking."

Watts, whose father was a Baptist minister, was taught the simple principle that one must learn by doing by her mother, who often thrust her into speaking before large audiences.

President Robert Franklin is determined that all Men of Morehouse be well-spoken. Watts stated that even in class discussions students must delve in and do it to build upon the oratory skills.

Although she is an administrator who is well-known for her dynamic public speaking skills, she once dreamed of an entirely different profession. "I took French in high school and I fell in love with the language," said Watts. "I had dreams of being an international interpreter."

Watts' love for French led her to Atlanta University, where she took courses in French literature and taught part-time. After completing her studies, she was offered a job at Morris Brown.

"The day before I replied to the job offer at Morris Brown a letter came from Morehouse College offering me a position in the English Department," said Watts. "I had very little time to consider but I accepted the position at Morehouse."

Watts' recalled that she first became familiar with Morehouse while at home in Grambling, La when the school appeared in the layout of an Ebony Magazine. The impression that Morehouse was indeed a wonderful place grew on her from that article.

In the more than 35 years she

has been at Morehouse, Watts has been a full-time professor, one of the first class Deans, Vice Provost and, currently, Associate Vice

of graduates from 300 to over 400 students.

"Our ultimate goal was to teach students to assume ownership of their destiny," said Watts.

Out of all her experiences, teaching has remained the most enjoyable part of her experience because it is her first passion. She enjoys teaching public speaking because of the cross-section of students, in terms of their majors, that enroll into the course.

"If I had continued teaching core English literature and Middle-Eastern literature, I would not be able to see the cross section of students," said Watts. "Public speaking allows me to see students from all majors and since I am responsible for faculty development this helps me to see the areas of facilities that students may or may not have."

Throughout her career, she has seen some

of her protégés soar to great heights. Just this past week, she brought greetings to the 13th president of Johnson C. Smith University, Dr. Ronald Carter '71. Carter's relationship to Watts is very deep and goes back to the beginning of her tenure at Morehouse. Carter even babysat her first son. Besides Carter, one other student has also been named president of a college.

Despite those great moments she has experienced, there have been some tough days as well. Changing into a reflective mood, she uttered softly that there has been lots of difficult experiences.

"Just last week it happened," said Watts. "A young man came in and told me that he had to leave because he has no funding."

Watts explained that some of her most difficult days are those where she has to say goodbye to promising young men.

"This tears me up and strikes at the core," said Watts.

Watts is also well-known for coaching 10 young men every year to become forceful and vibrant presenters for the college's well-attended Candle in the Dark Gala. She described her coaching style as tough and demanding.



Image: Staff

Dr. Anne W. Watts currently serves as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs here at Morehouse.

President of Academic Affairs.

"I was quite reluctant to become an administrator because they were sort of out of touch with the students," Watts said.

After a year of consideration, she accepted the class dean position, a position that is now known as the freshman class dean. Watts saw her position as class dean as a way to advocate for students. She recalled incidents where white teachers were not aware of the relationships in the Black family and roles that students played in their families.

"I remember one student in particular who was affected by his grandmother's illness and a white teacher did not understand why his studies were being affected," Watts said. "As class Dean, I was able to inform her that the student's grandmother might have reared the student and that her illness may have affected his concentration on his studies."

Class deans, whose offices were first located in Frederick Douglass Hall, assisted students with the development of their four year plans and academic advisement. Watts stated that the efforts of the class Deans gradually increased the number

"I push them beyond anything they have done anywhere," Watts said. "To be able to hush and command the audience attention is just commendable. The night of the Gala they become a distillation for the Men of Morehouse. They are well-dressed, well-read, well-spoken and well-balanced."

When Watts is away from Morehouse, she is still quite active. One of her major community service projects developed while she was the chapter president of the graduate chapter for her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. An invitation from a principal form Harper High School asked the sorority to assist with the development of female students.

"I started a finishing school to work with young ladies who had not mastered the social graces," Watts said. The finishing school is still going on under the new leadership of her sorority sisters.

Watts has also held workshops on communications with various workforces and agencies. Some workshops have been held for religious organizations on forgiveness. Besides the professional scene, there is also time for fun.

"I enjoy going to movies and bowling," Watts said. "Although it has been about a year, since I have bowled." Theatre is also a major part of her hobbies. Watts is also the creator of the play "Modern Joe", which has been staged in the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel and other venues.

Throughout her career, she has been tapped several times to consider becoming a college president.

"I was among the three finalists to become president of Grambling State University," said Watts.

She recalled when the search committee came to Morehouse and spent an entire day interviewing her colleagues, students and staff members. She was also asked by national search committees to apply for the presidency of Dillard University, Bethune-Cookman and Lincoln University. In a soft humble tone, she explained that it was never her ambition to become a college president. For now, Watts is still focusing on developing the hundreds of promising young men who come to Morehouse to reach their destiny.

"Seize the day," says Watts. "Take advantage of every opportunity. Continue to strive. Continue to climb. You must never give up!"

# Opinions

## Crisis on the Campus

**DR. MIKE F. WEAVER '91**

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One of the bloodiest fights I've ever witnessed in my life took place on campus during my freshman year at Morehouse. Strangely, the fight was between young men who literally didn't know one another. During my early days on campus, the genre known as hip-hop was just being born.

As my generation would one day be referred to as the progenitors of this radical mix of dress, talk, dance, art, and beat-making, it was, during that time period, all about repping your 'hood. So these two cats who came to Morehouse—one from the NYC and the other from DC—decided they would duke it out to show which 'hood was the baddest. If you were to show this penning to someone who was on campus that Friday evening in the fall of 1983, they will tell you that those dudes battled like warriors. Yes, warriors. They fought for about four or five minutes with neither getting the

best of the other.

Bloodily, they retreated to Hubert and Robert Halls, respectively, got amped up by either members of the DC Metro Club (who originally sponsored FreakNik back in the day) or by members of the New York whatever-they-called-themselves; back into the fray again. These brothers went back and forth for damn near three hours until they simply became tired. Or their "corners" realized the silliness of it all. I believe it to be the former more so than the latter. The scene is etched into the catacombs of my mind's eye.

Now, here I am a generation-plus removed from my freshman year picking up a copy of the Maroon Tiger to read about the recent on-goings with altercations on campus. I can't say honestly that I'm surprised, but I can say that I'm disappointed. Many of the younger alumni get together and talk about you brothers on campus. One can almost imagine the topics that engross the conversations. We understand that violence, drugs, and even suicide are all a part of

what's happening on our campus nowadays. Given the personal anecdote above, fisticuffs are likely to occur whenever you have a mass group of young Black men together—Million Man March notwithstanding—especially when there are young women around. Illicit drugs, like on any college/university campus, always will be there. Suicide, though, is a recent phenomenon to Black males and was non-existent during our days on campus. Maybe we were too busy exploring this new way of style, walk and rap. And, it seems, it was during this same period of exploring hip-hop and other musical tastes on Hump Day Wednesday a few weeks ago that young Morehouse brethren turned on each other and started a melee. This is not a question asking, "What has happened to young Black males," but, "What has happened to the things that young brothers put into their heads?"

As a professor, researcher and filmmaker, I've traveled to different cities talking to young brothers "on the block" about

violence, drugs and their dreams. One of the most poignant questions that I ask the dope-boys is, "What'd you dream of becoming as a child?" That's the one that rocks 'em! But I use this missive to ask the Morehouse student body the same question. See, I understand that if your mind is focused on that one—or many—thing(s), being involved in altercations is so far off the radar that it doesn't register. Just as I've conducted focus groups with these dope dealers, that one question about childhood is the one which has them walking the floor at night when I leave them on the block.

"How did I get from wanting to be a train conductor to being a f\*\*king dope dealer?"

(actual response) So, for the Morehouse students who opt to resort to violence as a means of engagement, how different are you from the cats on the block that I interviewed? Very, I'd say. You have an opportunity to live out your dreams; their dreams, on the other hand, have become deferred like a raisin in the sun. Maybe if you could steal away and listen to a little Coltrane instead of some of this rap-crap, then you'd stay on the right track. Jazz, like hip-hop, empowers, elevates, and enlightens; while rap, well, don't get me started.

Oh, regarding the two brothers who fought my freshman year, one returned for our sophomore year, and

the other didn't. Neither grew tall enough to wear the Crown. Maybe it was their offspring who participated in the campus bedlam a couple of weeks ago. Who knows? Life can be funny like that. Let's hope they turn it around and grow tall enough to wear the Crown someday. Too, let's hope students/readers like yourself won't have reason to write an op-ed similar to this one twenty years down the line.

-Dr. Mike Weaver '91

(FormerwriterfortheMaroon Tiger, Spelman Spotlight, and Clark's The Panther. View any of Dr. Mike videos on Black male violence and dreams at YouTube.com/therootscriedout, and feel free to email your thoughts to mike@DrMikeWeaver.com.)

## MEN of Morehouse: Not Quite

**GERREN K. GAYNOR**

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Behind the four walls of this illustrious institution is a community that gives Morehouse College the utmost honor and respect. We are deemed as one of the most prestigious HBCUs in the country. Producing some of the most influential scholars and philanthropists known to mankind, there's no doubt about it: Morehouse, according to them, is the best of the best.

But I thought Morehouse College was "The House" that bred men? At least that's what it appears to do from the outside looking in. Forgive me for my reluctance in co-signing this conventional perception, for I am not too convinced after witnessing the tomfoolery that took place at last week's SGA debates.

From start to finish, I witnessed these so-called men carry on like animals during an event that was supposed to promote dialogue and friendly competition. Rather than using the opportunity to showcase intellectual prowess, leadership and executive capabilities, our young "scholars" chose to put on the boxing gloves, turning a student government debate into an all-out battlefield.

While I totally get the fact that many of the candidates were passionate in attaining their prospective positions, I'm somehow left with the unfortunate notion that this was far more than an "I got caught

up in the moment" kind of situation.

You see, what I observed was not conversation about student concerns or policies. What I observed was collegiate men conducting themselves like children, bashing one another through personal attacks and foolish theatrics. It was truly a political spectacle at its best.

What saddened me the most was that the escalating hostility among candidates was practically encouraged by both the audience and so-called moderators.

There was cheering to the utmost magnitude, not to mention polling questions that were unethically solicited and had nothing to do with the issue at hand; it makes me wonder if questions were even properly screened.

The unprincipled questioning didn't just come from the audience but from the candidates themselves. Colleagues and friends, at least formerly, sat next to one another, accusing each other of character fallacies that did not disprove one's ability to perform the job but only contributed to public embarrassment.

Not only was it disheartening to see my Morehouse brothers taking cheap shots at the expense of obtaining power, but was utterly an embarrassment to the college. Thankfully, President Franklin had departed before the boxing gloves came off and the field turned into a full-ring circus.

The actions displayed that night were not becoming of the Morehouse College we promote to the outside world. Yelling, banging on tables, and jumping around like animals definitely does not connote the kind of man that Morehouse College prides itself in shaping.

As stated on our website, "At Morehouse, we are redefining the meaning of leadership. It's not about attaining the highest title or position, but about attaining skills such as compassion, civility, integrity and even listening. Morehouse is poised to become the epicenter of ethical leadership as we continue to develop leaders who are spiritually disciplined, intellectually astute and morally wise."

If that is the Morehouse College we claim to be, we have surely fallen short of those affirmations. It is an outright disgrace to see men of Morehouse carrying on like they have no home training.

Mother Morehouse must be squirming on her throne after witnessing her children attempting to wring one another's necks rather than endeavoring to reach as high as her illustrious crown.

Morehouse College is a place where men are built, not where men are torn down. I wholeheartedly pray that we, men of Morehouse, begin to act like it and not allow power and greed to distort our mission as agents of social change.

MEN of Morehouse, it's time to grow up.

No one ever questions Greek organizations for their inclusive membership intake, so why question the motives of student services' decision on implementing an assembly of highly qualified students to take on the initiatives of campus activities.

Everything on this campus does not have to be voted upon by the student body. Honestly, I think that anyone who critically denounces the establishment or motives of CASA, are only pain-stricken that, they too, were not considered for the job.

I am neither a member nor do I strongly advocate for CASA, however my stance is this: if Dr. Moffet and the rest of student services asked you to partake in an organization that is not only exclusively in charge of campus

activities, but is strategically hand picked by administration, wouldn't you take it? Hell yes you would!

I mean, if power is the only argument that the student body and SGA have against CASA, then I think its time we stopped fooling ourselves, because power is pretty much the foundation of Morehouse politics, a dynamic that is heavily perfected by the Student Government Association.



So what if CASA has managed to rain on SGA's parade of planning homecoming festivities?

If that's their main concern of agendas, then maybe SGA members signed up for the wrong job description.

The establishment of CASA creates a better opportunity

# 20 Questions

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BY: UNEMPLOYED IN GLOSTER

rollingheads@whosnext.com

- 1) Did we miss the MMW pageant yet?
- 2) Who are these girls?
- 3) Which one of those things is not like the others?
- 4) You know that color choice has nothing to do with who wins, right?
- 5) Does she ever Close her eyes, even to Blink?
- 6) Has BET called, asking for their award show back yet?
- 7) How many more people attended that probate?
- 8) Were you surprised that they actually counted votes?
- 9) "Shawty Got A A\*\*" in King Chapel?
- 10) Who'S gonna volunteer to help hiM pack?
- 11) Will we find the missing 14k?
- 12) How did you get those two Christians confused?
- 13) Was that a ballot or a final?
- 14) Did he think the senate would Just let it Go?
- 15) Or was he betting on us being too IGNITED to notice?
- 16) Did yall think that voting for them would put you on line?
- 17) Low-key, will it?
- 18) Isn't what's good for the hood now good for A-Rho?
- 19) Where will the renaissance man clean 'House next?
- 20) So, who really is and really isn't? well don't we KnoW who really isn't?

Bonus

- 21) so, is Her red the Knew red on facebook?
- 22) Does it really matter since this house is made of BRICKs?
- 23) Or should we all be REMInded about her?

{

Got mess????!

If so, email to [mtiger20questions@gmail.com](mailto:mtiger20questions@gmail.com)

}

## CASA is Here to Stay, SGA Get Over it!

**GERREN K. GAYNOR**

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While the Campus Alliance of Student Activities [CASA], has certainly overshadowed the campus presence, and importance for that matter, of the SGA, I think it's about time that students, and more specifically, the SGA swallowed a massive dose of reality and gotten over it.

Yes the establishment of CASA has thrown the student body for a loop, witnessing an organization comprised of appointed constituents that they had no say on whatsoever. However, there are various organizations on Morehouse College's campus that we, the students, have no control over.

for SGA to focus on the things that matter most: student body concerns for on campus living.

While many pundits have criticized the Mance Administration's lack of eventful happenings on campus, I strongly feel that Mance and his colleagues did exactly what an elected student government should do-- execute initiatives that provide student assistance

BEHIND the scenes.

The student body got so caught up with SGA's mystical clout of being at the forefront of campus activities (that had nothing to do with student advocacy), that they forgot that the reason these elected officials were put into office, which was to advocate to administration, the concerns and well-being of the student body.

So here we are, a year of CASA and an arguably failed student government. Whether CASA had anything to do with the downfall of SGA remains relative.

One thing that is certain is that CASA is here to stay. SGA can either flip the script and get with the program, working in harmony with CASA, or continue to fight a battle that they cannot possibly win.

## Opinions

## McDonald's Uses Branding to Hide Cruelty

HEATHER NORWOOD  
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Some readers may have heard that peta2, the world's largest youth animal rights organization, recently lifted its moratorium on its campaign against McDonald's, a company that has a long and checked history in regards to its relationship with HBCU's. Whether it is sponsoring a battle of the bands or a football halftime show, the company uses its branding power to sell a product that it knows consumers would be hesitant to buy if they looked behind the scenes. As responsible, Black consumer, it is frustrating for me to see our community exploited by a company that doesn't even have the decency to reduce the suffering of animals killed for its McNuggets.

The tragic reality is that in the slaughterhouses of McDonald's U.S. chicken suppliers, birds are dumped out of their transport crates and are hung upside-down in metal shackles, which can result in broken bones, extreme bruising, and hemorrhaging. Workers have ample opportunity to abuse live birds, and birds have their throats cut while they are still conscious. Many birds are even immersed in tanks of

scalding-hot water while they are still alive and able to feel pain. All this is documented on [peta2.com](http://peta2.com).

Why would McDonald's allow this? And how can its suppliers get away with it?

The fact is that there is only one federal law that regulates how animals are treated when killed for food—and do you know what worst? Chickens are excluded from that law, even though they make up more than 95 percent of all animals killed for food. As a result, abuse cases that would warrant felony cruelty-to-animals charges if they were inflicted on cats or dogs are legal when it comes to chickens and other birds.

How does the Black community fit into all this? McDonald's is not Black-owned, but it sure knows how to market to Blacks. The restaurant takes our money but returns little to the campus community (except for the notorious "freshman 15").

McDonald's could take common-sense steps to reduce the suffering of animals killed for its restaurants and to lessen the number of injuries to slaughterhouse workers. For example, there is a less cruel method of chicken slaughter that's available to McDonald's suppliers called "controlled-

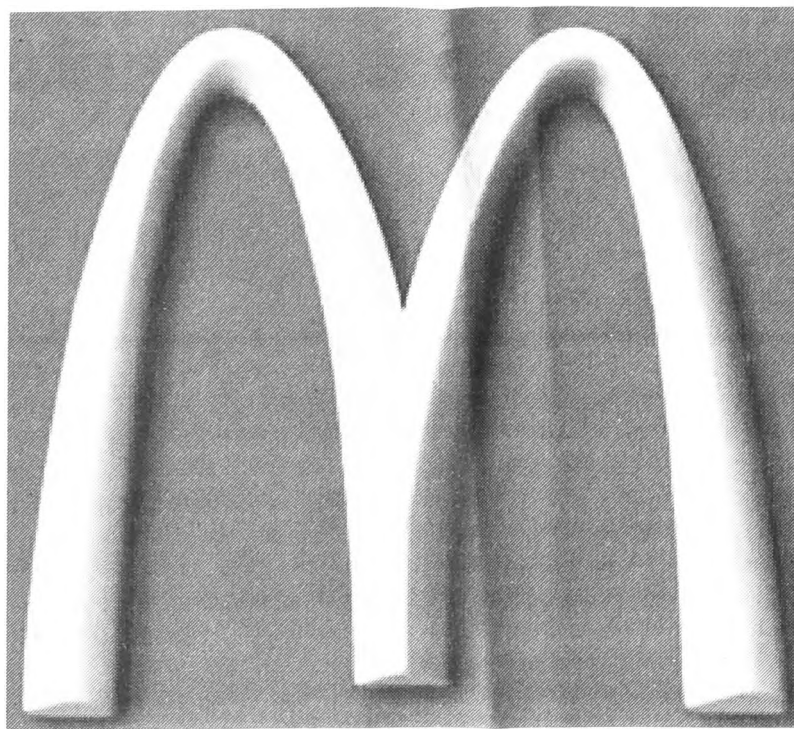


Image: Courtesy

McDonald's famous "golden arches"

atmosphere killing" (CAK), and it would cost the corporation nothing to demand that its suppliers use it. CAK would eliminate the worst abuses that chickens killed for McDonald's in the U.S. currently suffer. In fact, a 2005 study about CAK that McDonald's produced concluded that it is far better for animals than the current slaughter method.

This kind of sensible approach is precisely what consumers expect from a company that has so much influence. As detailed on [peta2](http://peta2.com), McDonald's agreed nearly a decade ago to make incremental improvements to reduce the suffering of animals

raised for its eggs and to initiate audits of slaughterhouses. Unfortunately, these changes do nothing to stop the abuse of billions of chickens who are raised and killed for their flesh. Their suffering goes unnoticed.

McDonald's is a big company, but it relies heavily on the financial support of communities like ours. Let's send a strong message that unless McDonald's listens to animal protection organizations such as [peta2](http://peta2.com) and makes some of the changes that are listed on [McCruelty.com](http://McCruelty.com) to reduce the suffering of the animals killed for its restaurants, we will take our money elsewhere.

## State of the Brotherhood

RENALDO M. PEARSON  
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*Weath-er-ize* [weth-uh-rahyz] (verb): to make (a house or other building) secure against cold or stormy weather, as by adding insulation, siding, and storm windows.

I remember when I first arrived at this institution. I stumbled across a Morehouse publication which had the vision of former President, Walter E. Massey within it. I will never forget it, in his vision, Massey stated that it was his earnest desire for Morehouse not to just be one of the best HBCU's in the nation, but for it to be one of the best Liberal Arts Colleges in the nation/world.

Furthermore, the final sentence of the College's Mission actually states: "In pursuit of its mission, Morehouse challenges itself to be among the very finest liberal arts institutions in the world."

Hence, I deem it relevant to state that according to U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges Rankings, while we rank 3rd in the HBCU category of Best Colleges in the U.S., in the Liberal Arts category, we don't even have a numerical ranking, we're just situated in the 3rd tier. Contrariwise, our so-close-yet-so-far pseudo-sister school, Spelman College ranks 1st in the HBCU category and 77th in the Liberal Arts category.

These facts are incontrovertibly conclusive. It's time to weatherize the 'House. It's time for Morehouse to deemphasize capitalizing on the legacy (i.e. "We stand on the shoulders of giants!") and emphasize actually being or building on the legacy (i.e. "How strong will our shoulders be for the next generation to stand on?").

We can start by promulgating "student-generated professor/course evaluations"—which I have already taken the initiative of starting as the new SGA Director of Academic Advocacy.

These evaluations, which will be housed on TigerNet, will essentially be report cards for our professors, whereas we grade the professors and answer a few pertinent questions as it relates to the course that the professor taught/teaches. By implementing these "student-generated professor/course evaluations" we, the students, are empowered. After all, according to President Franklin, 85% of the school's operational budget is derived from student tuition & fees. That is to say that we are active stakeholders or, vernacularly, we essentially own this house.

So, in the promulgation of these student-generated evaluations, as opposed to the ineffective & poorly received

institutional evaluations, we will ensure mutual-accountability (i.e. our professors grade us, we'll now grade them). Moreover, in the spirit of mutual-accountability (or checks and balances), these evaluations will serve to guide us (the students) through registration, as we'll see how our peers have graded and evaluated professors, while concurrently encouraging professors to optimize their pedagogical and organizational/managerial performance. These evaluations will divulge and censure the professor who abnormally deviates from the syllabus, or the professor who says "there's no way you can earn an 'A'" or the irrationally difficult professor in who's class the majority of those enrolled either fails or withdraws and the remaining minority barely passes. These evaluations will bring justice to the classroom because the saying is true, teachers/professors actually do hold your life in their hands.

Secondly, perhaps most importantly, we need to address what I'd like to call the "5 year conspiracy" by moving from a 3-credit semester hour system to a 4-credit system. I must state, from the outset, that I'd assume the only opponent of this move would be the innumerate one, because the reasoning for this pragmatic move is found in basic arithmetic—"3x3 = 9 while 3x4 = 12"—registering for 3 courses at Morehouse is not meeting full-time student status, while registering for 3 courses at Spelman or Amherst, who's tied in 1st place with Williams, according to U.S. News & World Report in the Best Liberal Arts Colleges category, would be meeting full-time student status. Bottom line: it's time to make a "less quantitative" and "more qualitative" move in adopting the 4-credit system. Besides, we do want to be one of the best liberal arts colleges in the nation/world, and I can't think of one of the top liberal arts institutions who still operate on an obsolete 3-credit semester hour system, and becoming one of the best liberal arts colleges would obviously require Morehouse to juxtapose itself to the best liberal arts colleges.

It's time to unequivocally reject incrementalism, lethargy, minimalism, inertia, and misonicism. It's time for the Mystique to wed its destined bride, the Mission. And when this indispensable rendezvous occurs, the immaculate union shall birth a brotherhood that would invoke the late Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays just to behold.

So, in the words of our greatest alumnus, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. '48, "the fierce urgency of now" awaits us!

The time is NOW!

Again I say, it's time to weatherize the 'House!

## Redefining the Mystique, From Thugs to Queens

GEORGE W. WILLIAMS IV  
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I have grown increasingly frustrated this year about issues of sexuality and gender norms on our campus. Most of my frustration is with how these issues have been discussed: in an immature, irresponsible and insensitive manner.

I want to encourage members of this great community to raise the level of the dialogue so that we can move forward with a better understanding of what it is that we expect of ourselves as Men of Morehouse.

From murmurs in the cafeteria to outbursts on Brown Street, many brothers have expressed their discontent concerning what I and others have perceived to be a growing number of students who choose to express themselves by wearing women's clothing. Unfortunately, the on-campus behavior of these students has become the center of dialogue on sexuality resulting in frequently unintelligent and emotionally charged conversations.

This week, for the first time, the campus community heard President Franklin address the controversial topic of students wearing women's clothing. Franklin's remarks, as expected, were direct, fair and placed within an appropriate context. Our President offered an example of how to address these topics within the unique environment that is Morehouse.

With specificity, Franklin presented his expectations of Men of Morehouse when it comes to our decorum. The audience assembled in King Chapel applauded and cheered on the president when he, detailing expectations for wardrobe, said "no dresses, tunics, pumps or purses."

I thought it was important that Franklin dealt with this hot-button issue of students wearing women's clothing. More importantly, I appreciated the careful way in which he engaged the audience in the discussion of gay identified members of our community and students who wear women's clothing.

Franklin made it clear that homophobia is unacceptable, and it is important that he continue

to make that point, especially to community members who operate on this belief that gay students are new phenomena at Morehouse. There have always been gay students at Morehouse, there always will be, and I'm glad to say that we count gay Morehouse Men among some of Mother Morehouse's most accomplished alumni.

There is a difference, as Franklin demonstrated, between gay students and students who exhibit provocative displays of femininity (e.g. twerking in the middle of the cafeteria). Students dressing in a women's blouse and a large belt while carrying a purse is provocative. It is not wrong. It is not sinful. It is provocative. It is unacceptable.

My claim that this behavior is not acceptable is not justified by the gender norms of our heterosexual dominated society. This behavior is unacceptable because it is unprofessional; just as unprofessional as du-rags, sagging and cursing in public spaces is unprofessional.

Students who choose to express themselves through dramatic displays of femininity are not practicing

the Morehouse tradition of men of high comportment who are community leaders. This behavior is not conducive to any cause for the advancement of humanistic values: not even causes for gay rights.

There is not only an issue with provocative displays of femininity. A question must be posed to any student who does not, whether in terms of their self-defined sex or gender, identify as male: Why are you here at Morehouse?

This institution operates with the intent to serve Black males through a holistic approach that is tailored to the shared uniqueness of its students. Therefore, every class, program and initiative is developed with the special needs of the black male in mind.

Franklin offered us some clarity on how he as the leader of our community feels about the type of behavior we have discussed here. Now, we must elevate and advance the dialogue by collectively redefining our image and conveying it to the world while defending our legacy against perpetrators (from the thugs to the queens).

## Dining at the 'House

JAN-MICHAEL BAILEY  
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Young men of color, particularly those of African descent come to Morehouse College because of its reputation as an illustrious institution of higher learning and its cultivation and production of great black men. As I look at this picture of what many might make out to be our dining facility, Chivers/Lane Hall, you would question what great black men would allow his houses' dining room to look this way. I also begin to question the leadership and integrity of those that attend this great institution, and by what these pictures perpetuate, the condition we leave our dining facility in is simply out of control.

As an incoming freshman on Morehouse's campus in the fall of 2006, I like many others were told that I must be my brothers keeper is a

vital element in ensuring that a standard of excellence is upheld and subsequently the success of each brother at the House materializes. We have not upheld this aspect of brotherhood that has served as a foundational element of the framework that makes Morehouse College all that it is.

An argument that was presented to rationalize these problems was, "they (Sodexo) have people to clean the tables and during these trying economic times, jobs are being created, so everyone is winning." I took this argument into much consideration initially, but after doing research on the issue, I came to understand that this argument is invalid. Mrs. Loretta Kellman, a busser in the cafeteria expressed, "students make messes that are simply unnecessary that create hazardous circumstances that in turn put other students, Morehouse faculty, and Sodexo



Image: Staff

Students often leave their food and trash on the dining tables.

employees in harm's way. Students will leave milk and juice spills without even having the decency to notify any of us employees that one has occurred. Students also will put their trash in empty napkin dispensers. I don't get it. They are too grown for that, my grandsons who are five and six know better than

that." The Sodexo management team has had to pull employees from other areas of the cafeteria that make it run more efficiently to clean up after grown men. This creates more congestion and traffic in the cafeteria that consequently makes lines longer, reduces options for those who are on the go, and ultimately

leaves customers (students) dissatisfied with their experience. Simply put gentleman, though it is shameful, we are our own problem, so we must change our behavior to help improve our dining experience.

Additionally brothers, dishes and silverware are still being stolen. Sodexo spends

\$2,800 every two weeks to ensure that there are dishes and silverware available for students to eat with. That is approximately \$45,000 a school year for silverware and plates! This money comes out of the profit Sodexo makes in the cafeteria. Now, when the question is asked, "why is it that other institutions have better facilities and better options (Chick-Fil-A, Chipotle, Subway, etc), the management team immediately thinks of the immaturity and lack of respect portrayed that in turn puts limitations on what all can be provided for us. By not carrying ourselves as real men do, by not helping keep our House' clean, by stealing or even "borrowing" from the hand that feeds us, and by not being accountable for what our brothers do, we will never see what great possibilities are available if the relationship between the students and the cafeteria is not mended. Let's make a collective effort to change our reality and that of those that will come behind us.

# Arts, Etc.

## Album Review: Novel's "I Am Future Black President"

**SPENCER GREENE**  
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Lately more and more producers and songwriters have been trying to break into the artist realm of the music industry. But only a few of them have had success. The Dream, Keri Hilson, and Ne-Yo have managed to become household names while Sean Garrett and Johna Austin are having a hard time doing the same. The newest of the producer/songwriter turned artists is Novel who recently released his Extended Play (EP), "I Am Future Black President."

Novel, who has written and produced for artists such as Beyonce, Alicia Keys and Leona Lewis, is signed to Capitol Records under Dallas Austin's Rowdy imprint. He is the grandson of Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Solomon Burke and son of Motown exec Mickey Stevenson.

Although he has guest appeared on songs with various artists, "I Am Future Black President" is his first solo release.

While Novel follows the

trend of singing and rapping like other artists such as T-Pain, Ryan Leslie and Drake, his soulful voice is what sets him apart. In the title track "I Am", he raps alongside Talib Kweli and Spree Wilson about dispelling the statistics and being greater than people expected him to be. While the production of the track is simple, all three MCs submit quality lyrics.

Novel showcases his singing ability for the majority of the project. His talent is undeniable but his ability to compete in this industry is questionable. Although he proves to be a good writer, his sound is a little dated.

The track "Wild West" speaks about the common problems in every ghetto of America. Despite the positive message, the song lacks relevance. It might have been a great song if released in 2003.

The next track "Damn" falls victim to the same problem.

The production and vocal arrangement sounds like Prince's 2004 release, "Musicology." Although the sound worked for Prince, Novel may need to

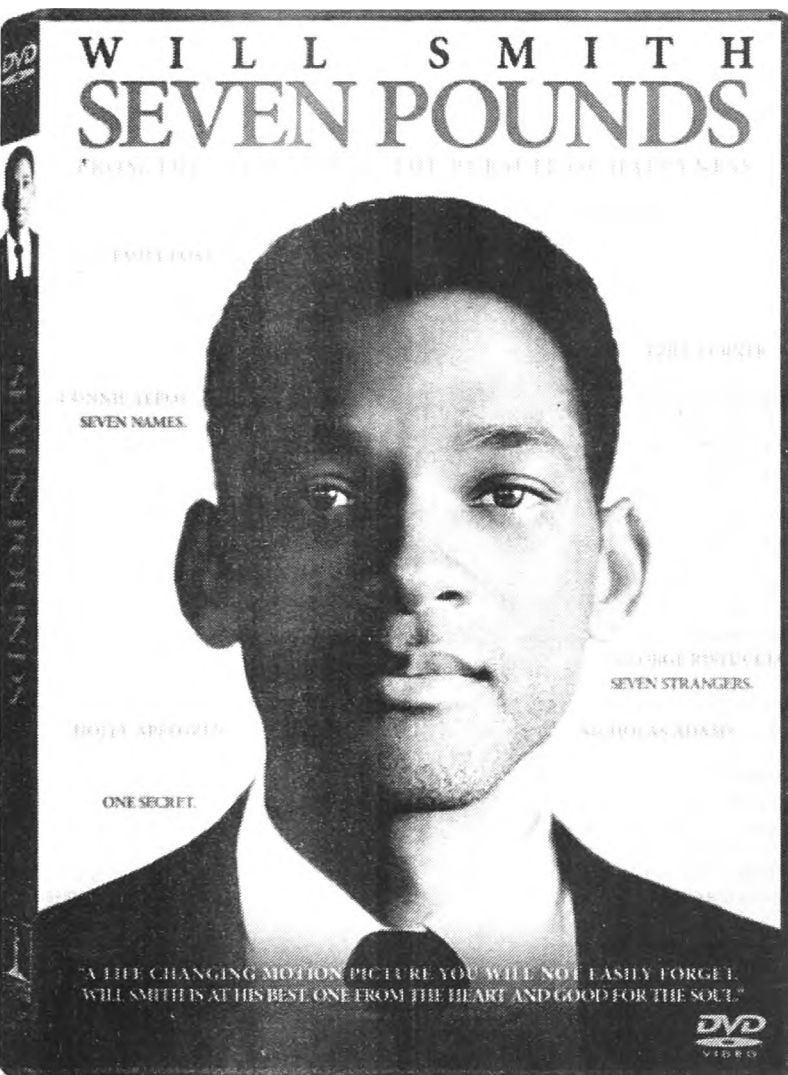
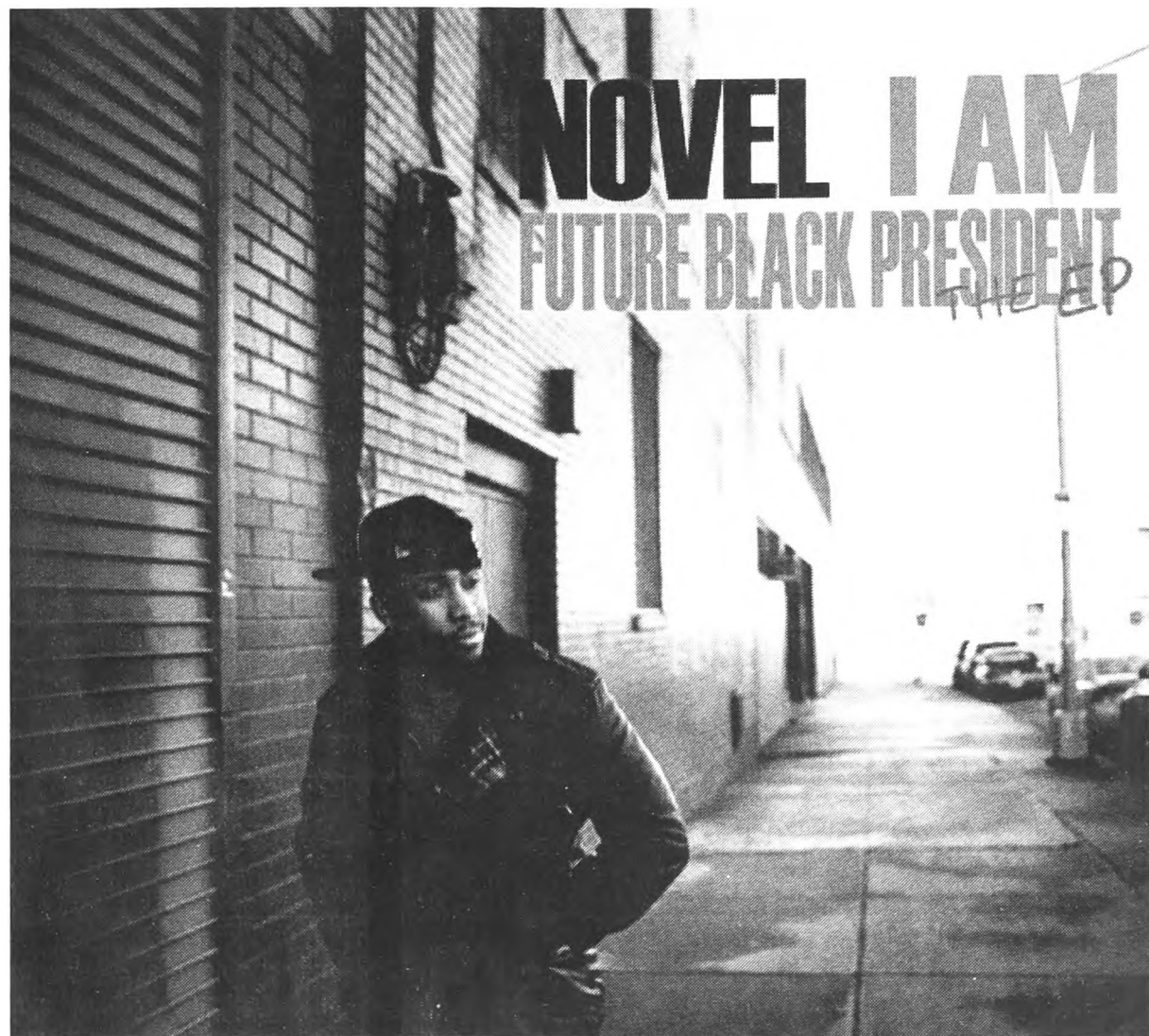
find something a little more contemporary to the times.

The track "Sista" is a remake of Miss Celie's Blues from The Color Purple. Novel's delivers a great vocal performance. His falsetto over a guitar, harmonica and drums make a simple, but quality song.

The last track "Fly Away" has potential of being a good song. The production is pretty decent, but does not quite fit his voice. His falsetto sounds a little off pitch at moments throughout the song. The song features a rapper by the name of KnivezOut, whose verse is pretty weak.

I would have like to rather hear Spree Wilson, a friend of Novel and appeared on the first song. It may be better for Novel to sell this song to another artist.

Overall, Novel is a very talented artist. But like most producers-turned-artist, he is having a hard time doing for himself what he did for other artists. His positive message is needed in the music industry, but I suggest he teams up with other producers and writers to update his sound.



### DVD Release of Seven Pounds

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The springtime video release of "Seven Pounds" opens with Ben Thomas (Will Smith) yelling at a blind beef salesman (Woody Harrelson) and ends with kids singing show tunes in the park. Initially, it's hard to tell if Big Willie has a chip on his shoulder or a heart that's three sizes too small. As the movie plays out, we find out that it is overgrown with humanitarian capabilities.

Thomas is the protagonist in a movie stocked full of scenes that play with the visually stimulating, yet sterile color palates, such as cool-toned beaches and warm fields of grass. The flashbacks inside of flashbacks also contribute a contrasting array of visual stimulation.

Ben Thomas drives a Crown Victoria and wields an IRS badge and makes "deals" with people to save their financial lives. The black cruiser gives Smith a Denzel Washington-esque mysterious cool that begs explaining every moment as the critical details

remain reserved.

A number of polished performers appear in this dream-like, increasingly humane film in nebulous, six-degrees-of-separation fashion. Emily Posa, played by Rosaria Dawson, serves up a beautiful performance in the role of a patient with a rare heart condition. Smith's character, Thomas, pops up in her hospital room with a large manila folder and leaves with her heart in a serendipitous fashion.

The Gabriele Muccino-directed movie runs for 123 minutes on secrets and the dramatic spirit of those who hold them. In flashes of pink, yellow and government blue, it exhibits a somber and reflective slew of extras and actors eager to make an on-screen impact.

The DVD release film emerges with simple, personal interactions sure to cause emotional tremors in any audience.

Smith's depiction of Thomas transcends the movie title and will surely satisfy fans of the cinematic release. "Seven Pounds" keeps one eye open - check it out.

**SPENCER GREENE**  
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Recently, I found out that the Orchard Street clothing brand was teaming up with Reebok to release a sneaker. The trend seems to be as though more and more brands are teaming up these days.

Comme Des Garcons and Converse, John Varvatos and Converse, Band of Outsiders and Sperry - to name a few companies that have recently released products together. I personally love seeing the creativity of two different clothing lines combined in one article of clothing. Although I am a Nike fan, I was excited to see the outcome of these two brands

coming together.

It was a well calculated move for Reebok to choose Orchard Street to work with. The New York based clothing line has the fresh look and vibe that Reebok needs.

While waiting to see the sneakers, rumors surfaced that Kid Cudi had refused to wear a pair given to him at a Reebok event. Reebok now faced the threat of their new sneaker being a flop before it hit stores. I then started to think back to the last time I wore a pair of Reeboks. It had to be in elementary school when the Allen Iverson sneaker came out.

I realized that I hadn't bought a pair of new Reeboks in years, nor do I know anyone who has. When is the last time you bought



Image: SAMPLE

the new sneaker from Reebok and Orchard.

pair of Reeboks?

Could the release of this new sneaker be a disappointment?

After weeks of waiting, I received my pair of Reebok X Orchard sneakers in the mail. Surprisingly, I was far from disappointed. They sent me an all black pair with purple on the inside. They have a faded look

and tie up to the side. The size of the sneaker is located on the bottom of the shoe. They also fit very comfortably. I have yet to see the pair that Kid Cudi refused to wear, but I'm pleased with the pair sent to me.

Reebok has most definitely released a shoe worth buying. Go cop a pair.

## Morehouse Students Do Music

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As of lately, a few Morehouse students have been on the up and up when regarding Atlanta's local music scene.

Frontrunner Junior Kole Davis has been putting in serious work as a recording artist, both inside the booth and outside the booth. His skills as both rapper and producer provide a very polished sound that stands out among the slew of independent artists in the Atlanta area.

Deeply interested in music since he was 9-years-old, Davis' eclectic taste in music contributes to the diversity in his budding career. Originally a member of a rock band, Davis has transformed his mastery of the drums and keyboard into an impressive track record as a producer.

When asked what inspires him when creating music, Davis said, "I always do the music first. I try to separate myself as a producer and recording artist."

With tracks like "Unstoppable" and "Party Life", Davis offers up varying sounds and styles that are sure to grab any music lover's ear. Davis states that his goal is to make, "hands down feel good music, music that creates a

mental image in the mind."

Davis is currently distributing his demo album around the greater Atlanta area and has already found minor success in contests and shows. He'll be taking the stage June 7 at Atlanta's Red Light Nightclub.

Most of us know Kameron Glasper as sophomore Biology major. But amongst the Atlanta music scene he is Kam Parker, an up and coming singer/songwriter. Kam, who started out recording on his Mac book inside of Graves Hall, is now recording with some of Atlanta's biggest producers. He has created buzz with the recent release of his first single "VIP".

"VIP" is a mid-tempo club track with a common catchy sound. The vibe of the song is very relaxed, but makes you want you dance. It reminds me a little of Bobby Valentino's "Beep," but less raunchy. In the lyrics, Kam is persuading a young lady to join him in the VIP section of a club.

The production sounds like something by Polow Da Don or Midi Mafia. Kam's vocals flow flawlessly over the well-produced track. The lyrics are easy to remember and sing along with. Kam's writing style is similar to Bryan Michael Cox but has an Atlanta edge like The Dream.

Personally, I think "VIP" is a hit. I fell in love with the song the first time I heard it. The song is

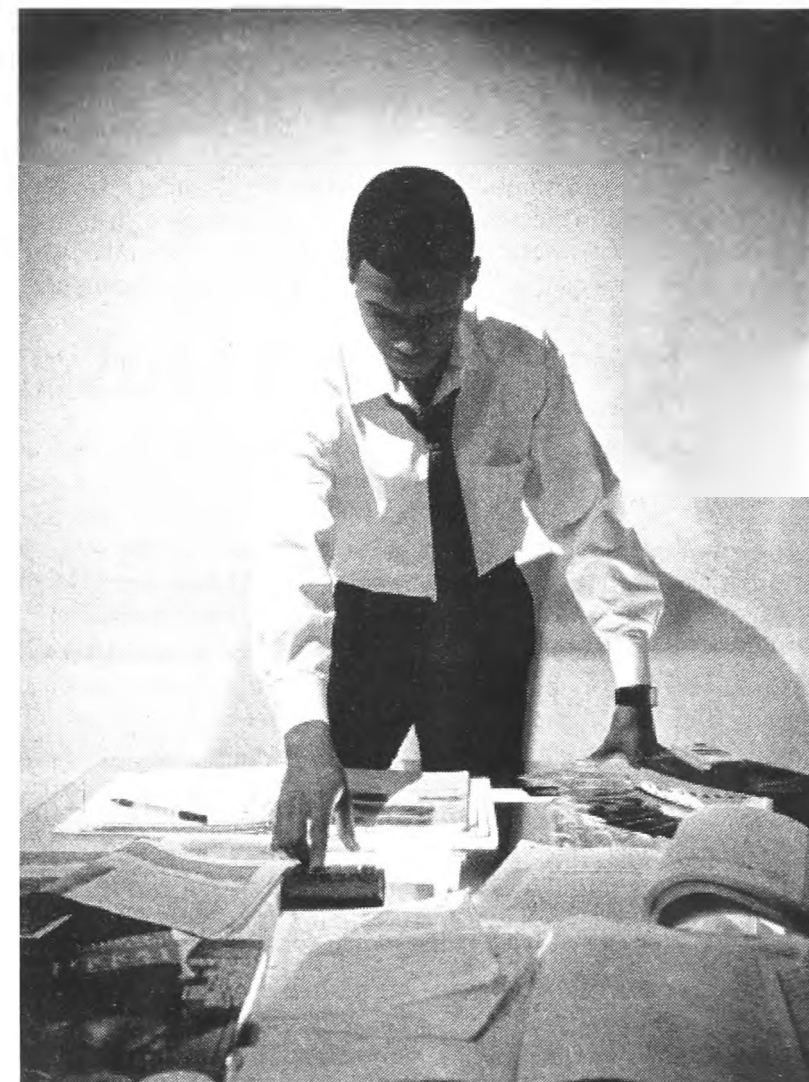


Image: Courtesy

Student and recording artist Kole Davis at work.

radio friendly and bound to be a success in the club. It's great to see Kam's hard work paying hard. Anyone who knows him can tell you that his passion for music is

undeniable. "VIP" will be available on iTunes soon. You can listen to the song on his Myspace page: www.myspace.com/kamparker.

# Game 2 Preview: Hawks Vs. Heat

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The Atlanta Hawks made an emphatic statement on April 19 by capitalizing on their home-court advantage to defeat the Miami Heat, 90-64, to take a 1-0 lead in their first-round NBA playoff series.

Even with the Hawks winning by 26 points, players and fans should not count out the Heat yet. The second matchup of both clubs during the regular season could possibly be indicative of what fans and players can expect in Game 2 on April 23.

In their second regular-season game, the Heat leveled the Hawks, 95-79, even with four Hawks players finishing in double digits. Atlanta's Joe Johnson led the way with 19 points, four rebounds and four assists, followed by Marvin Williams with 17 points and eight rebounds and Flip Murray along with Josh Smith contributing 14 points apiece.

Dwyane Wade proved to be the deciding factor with 35 points, five rebounds and four assists. Daequan Cook and Mario Chalmers were the only other Heat players to finish in double digits with 16 and 12 points.



The Hawks coach talks strategy with a player.

Some of that may have been due to the fact that Hawks center Al Horford could not clog the lane because he was inactive for that game.

The second game has always been Wade's time to carry his team on his shoulders compared

to the first. In their first regular-season game on Dec. 12, the Hawks defeated the Heat 87-73. Johnson led the way with 21 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Wade finished with 21 points, eight rebounds and three assists. Those appear to be

good numbers for Wade, but are nowhere close to his 30.2 points per game average.

For the Heat to have any chance against the Hawks in Game 2 at Philips Arena, Wade must take over like he has in the past and get close to his scoring

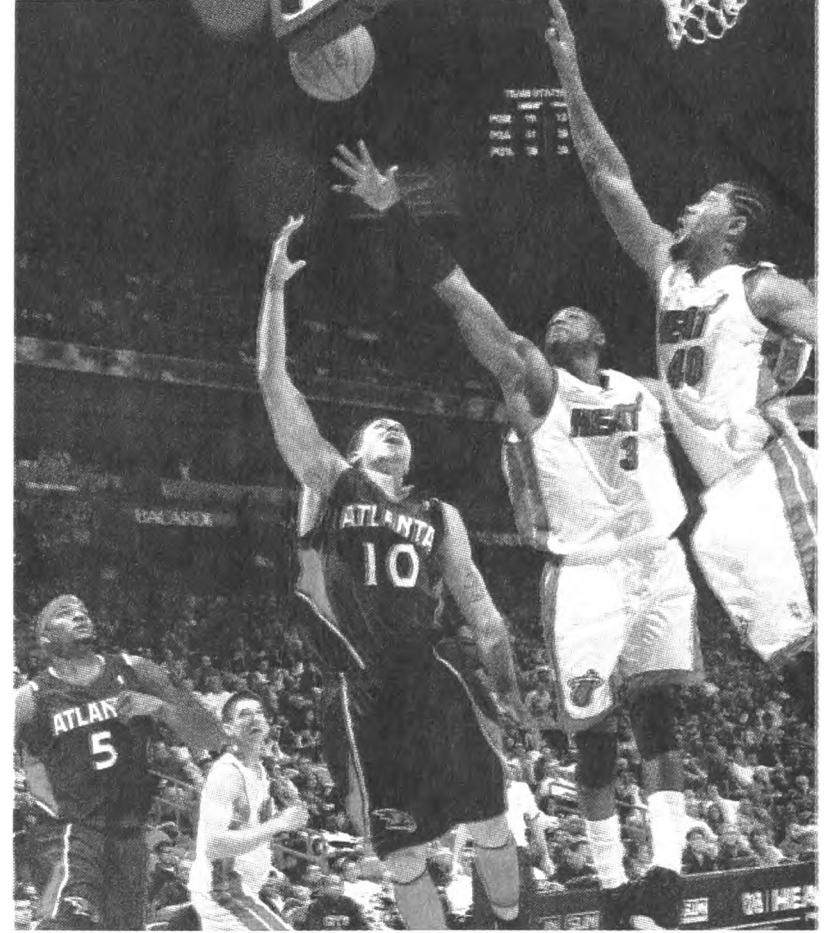


Image: Courtesy

average. Not only must Wade put points on the board, but he must get his teammates involved as well. Michael Beasley, Jermaine O'Neal and Mario Chalmers will have to make large contributions to help the Heat get by the Hawks.

The Hawks hope to take a 2-0 lead in the series tonight, but will need the same performance from their players like Sunday night. They may just have to brace themselves for the unleashing of Wade and possibly going for 30 points or more.

# Morehouse Wins 15th Annual All Conference Track Meet

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Through hard work, determination, and a great all-around performance, Morehouse College won the SIAC All Conference track meet for the fourth consecutive year.

Morehouse won first place on April 19 with 209 points, 56 points ahead of second-place Albany State University. Sophomore Lemario Bland led Morehouse in sprinting; he finished fifth in the 100-meter

dash but did not qualify for the finals in the 200 meters. In the 400-meter dash, senior Chevon Cunningham and sophomore Jeremy Tinsley placed fifth and sixth, respectively. Sophomore Dreyfus Clemmons captured first place in both the 800-meter run and the 1500-meter run. Clemmons also finished fourth in the steeplechase. The 4x100 meter relay team finished sixth while the 4x400-meter relay team finished second.

Morehouse also excelled in the field events. Sophomores

Turner Coggins and Matt Tuffour led the team in the throwing events. Coggins won second place in the shot put while Tuffour took fifth. In the discus, Tuffour placed fourth and Coggins came in fifth. Sophomore Joshua Ramseur captured second place in the hammer throw; Coggins came in seventh. Tuffour won first place in the javelin and scored 10 points for his team while Barry Batson scored six points with a third-place finish. Tuffour also finished second in the decathlon.

Freshman Van Norell

finished second in the pole vault with a height of 12 feet. Junior Barry Batson finished first in the long jump with his longest jump measuring 22.97 feet. Sophomores Omari Holtz and Derreck Smith both jumped about 21 feet to win fifth and sixth place, respectively. Batson and Smith represented their teams well again in the triple jump; Batson jumped 49.67 feet for first place and Smith jumped 47.70 feet to take third.

For the most part, the runners were very pleased with

their performance in this meet.


"Our strengths were the field events and middle to long-distance events, and our weakness was the lack of depth in sprints," sophomore Brendan Fludd said. "This meet is a definite show of what happens when everything pulls together. The team performed incredibly well and really proved what being the hardest working team means."

Coach Willie Hill was unavailable for comment. In addition to the accolades won by his team, Hill was presented with

the award for Most Outstanding Coach of the Championship Meet on Saturday. With the season quickly coming to a close, the Maroon Tigers are hopeful about their chances at the regional and national meets.

"We're confident," Holtz said. "We're a lot stronger than last year. Everyone is improving and everyone is working together to win."



Up next for Morehouse is the Drake Relays April 24-25, followed by the Regional Championships on May 2.



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# Sports

## NBA Playoffs Underway

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The 2009-2010 NBA regular season officially went on the books last weekend as the postseason officially began.

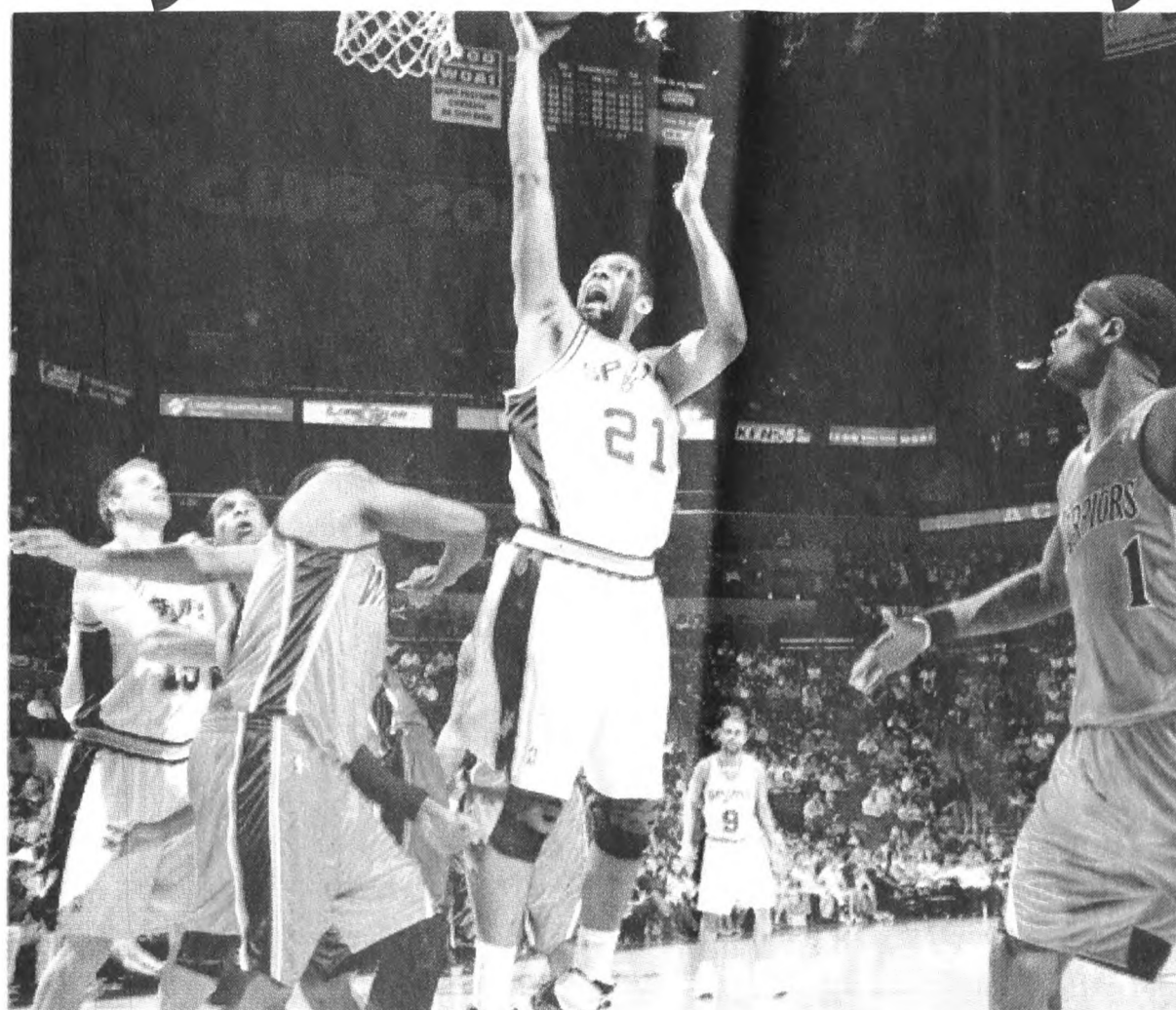
There were upsets, buzzer-beaters, and performances that indicate that June's NBA Finals will be a hard-fought battle between whatever two warrior-like teams are left standing. Below are some notable matchups and predictions.

Front-running candidate for this year's Rookie of the Year Award Derrick Rose scored 36 points and had 11 assists as his Chicago Bulls sucker-punched the reigning World Champion Boston Celtics in a 105-103 Game 1 victory in Boston. However, the Celtics thundered back in Monday's Game 2, and despite missing star forward Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen hit a 3-point shot at the buzzer to win the game 118-115, knotting the series at 1-1.

We all remember last year when the blossoming Atlanta Hawks took the Celtics to a seven-game series, and these Bulls are arguably better than last year's Hawks. A seven-game series is always possible, but I predict the C's to tighten up and seal the deal in six.

Elsewhere in the Eastern Conference, LeBron James (38 points) furthered his campaign for Most Valuable Player in the Cavaliers' 102-84 routing of the Pistons on Saturday at the Quicken Loans Arena. Past critics of the Cavs have pointed to LeBron's lack of a supporting cast as a reason this team would never raise the Larry O'Brien that goes to the NBA champions.

However, point guard Mo



Past champion Spurs try to hang in there.

Williams may be what Rasheed Wallace was to the Pistons back in 2004: the last piece missing to complete a championship-contending team. As much as I ache for my hometown Pistons, unless they play with a little more effort and a greater sense of urgency, this series could be over quite quickly.

Continuing their success at home during the postseason, the Atlanta Hawks acted like a No. 4 seed on Sunday, throttling Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat 90-64 at home. Wade was held to 19 points as Atlanta's

Joe Johnson dropped 23. Now, No. 4 and No. 5 matchups are often tricky to predict because the teams are ranked so closely together, so the intangibles may decide who advances to the second round. Miami has promising rookies in Michael Beasley and Mario Chalmers, and the volatile firepower of Dwyane Wade will make the Heat a thorn in the Hawks' side, but Atlanta does have home court. This series could really go either way, but I see the Heat eking out a win (did that sound like a cop-out? It was).

On the Left Coast, the Lakers surprised no one and beat the Utah Jazz 113-100 at home on Sunday. Kobe Bryant didn't even have to explode for his team to win, but scored a respectable, team-high 24 points. I know the Lakers are sick of dealing with Matt Harpring and his 1980s-style physicality, but the Jazz are pretty feisty for an eighth seed. Deron Williams is still a great point guard, and Carlos Boozer scored 27 points in Game 1. If any team could give the Lakers a run for their money, it would be the Jazz, but I really see Kobe and

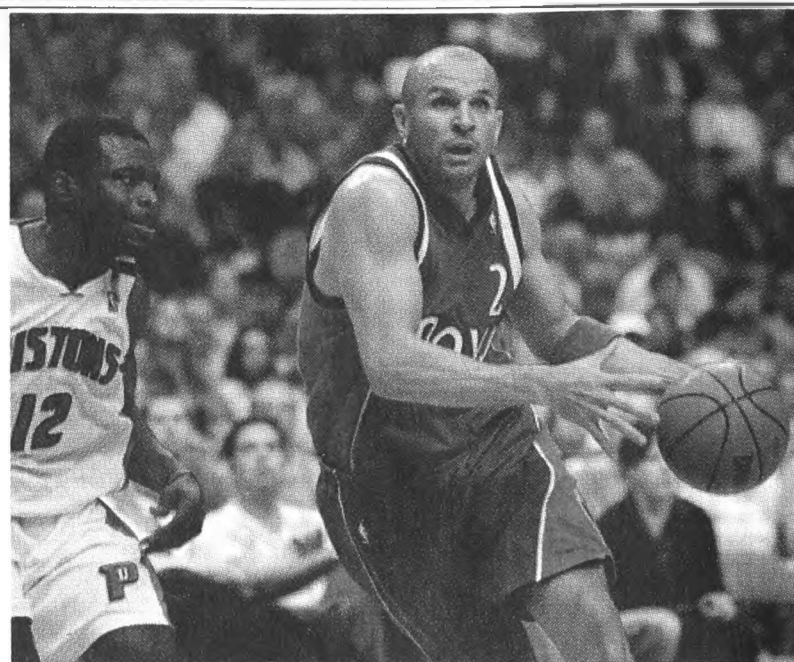


Image: Courtesy

Jason Kidd makes a move.

company advancing to the next round.

It seems like the Mavericks and the Spurs have been engaged in a Texas two-step for a while now, and they have. Of the last nine postseasons, this series marks the fourth time these teams have met. On Saturday, the sixth-seeded Mavs took care of the third-seeded Spurs, 105-97, for Dallas' first playoff road win since going into the 2006 Finals.

In Game 1, the Mavericks' Josh Howard led the pack with 25 points. However, the time-tested Spurs rolled over the Mavs in Game 2, 105-84. Dallas is one of those teams that can't seem to make that jump from consistently "OK" to elite, despite owner Mark Cuban's deep pockets. But, even though Tony Parker lit up Dallas for 38 points in Game 2, the Spurs aren't getting any younger. The Mavericks have a shot at taking this series, but it will go down to the seven-game wire.

Another electric matchup of the Western Conference was between No. 2 Denver and the No. 7 Nuggets, and started with

Sunday's 113-84 Nuggets win at home. Chauncey Billups, whose leadership transformed Denver into someone's second-round nightmare, rained 3's all night long and ended the night with 36 points, eight assists, and no turnovers, all done in front of his hometown crowd. Chris Paul scored a modest 21 points while his team got dismantled.

Sunday's game aside, the Hornets have come too far to simply be ousted in the first round, especially in such an embarrassing fashion. The veteran Billups versus the up-and-coming Paul will lead to a must-watch series, but I actually see the Nuggets sliding past the Hornets, probably in seven games, though!

Of course, only one or two games have been played at press time, and everyone knows things don't get interesting until the third game, at least. I won't predict a winner just yet, for fear of jinxing the spot-on favorite (rhymes with Bakers), but I do know this: the playoffs are where legends are made, and these look no different.

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