

THE MAROON TIGER

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SGA Senate Drafting Proposal for First Fall Break

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A major complaint from students during the Fall semester is the absence of a break to clear their minds from the arduous academic environment. SGA senator Dontavious Taylor noticed that burgeoning sentiment and proposed the idea to solicit the college administration for a Fall break.

In order for a Fall break to

be considered, the senate must first submit a draft to the college provost, Dr. Weldon Jackson, and the college Committee on Educational Policy. The proposal has not been finalized, however, Taylor and other senators are in the process of drafting one to be submitted in the Spring semester.

According to Provost Jackson, Morehouse has never had a fall break, which would make this feat a first in the college's history. However

with opportunity of enacting a Fall break there is also some doubt among administration. According to Taylor, President Franklin, Jackson and some administrators are not opposed to the idea, however, they are concerned that a break could lead to student apathy toward coursework as the semester progresses. Other administrators support the idea, viewing it as an opportunity for students to regroup.

"Spelman and many other liberal arts schools have [a

Fall break]. It certainly warrants the administration's serious consideration," senior Renaldo Pearson said.

Spelman and other colleges and universities such as Harvard, Princeton and Columbia have Fall breaks between the Labor Day and Thanksgiving holidays.

"Morehouse students currently go 11 or 12 weeks without a break during that same period of time," Taylor said.

If the proposal meets fruit

tion it would possibly be one to two days on the academic calendar after midterms. Spelman's Fall break is currently two days during the week of their midterms.

SGA Vice President Tyler Bell believes a Fall break will significantly benefit students.

"Students' morale could grow exponentially and stress levels could dramatically decrease," Bell said.

"Students have been asking for it and we think it is a reasonable, attainable goal."

A Fall break may not benefit only the students. "It could allow faculty the opportunity to prepare for the remainder of the semester and catch up on grading," Taylor said.

Taylor is confident in the ability of the senate to induce the provost and committee.

"The success of the proposal will be determined by the persuasiveness of [the proposal] and its ability to shine light on the advantages and not the disadvantages."

Morehouse VP Appointed to NBC Affiliate Morning News

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Soon, Patrice Washington, vice president of communications and external affairs for the Economic Empowerment Initiative (EEI), will be making her way onto the small screen. Washington was recently appointed as a personal finance contributor on an NBC affiliate morning news show based in middle Georgia.

"I consider it practice for making me the Black Suze Orman," she said.

EEI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting students in managing their financial resources, building entrepreneurial success, and creating wealth. It has institutional partnerships with the three schools of the AUC and other colleges and universities in Atlanta.

Her passion does not lie solely in making money, but also in assisting others to make their own. She has a passion for educating women and college students about finances.

Through Young Fit and Fly (YFF), an organization founded by Brandi and Karli Harvey committed to inspiring young women to take responsibility over their lives,

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College Commemorates Freshman Class at Ritual Blazer Ceremony



Members of the class of 2012 as freshmen walk to Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel with Morehouse blazers in hand.

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The Office of Student Services and Alvin Darden, Dean of the Freshman Class, organized the second annual blazer ceremony for the Class of 2014. "The Coat of The Mystique" was held on Tuesday during freshman orientation. The freshman class proceeded into the the International King Chapel, with maroon blazers in arm, fill-

ing into the rows one by one. The occasion was modeled after Crown Forum. Chairs were aligned on stage to seat President Robert Franklin, Provost Weldon Jackson, Dr. William Bynum, Vice President for Student Services, Henry Goodgame, Director of Alumni Relations and the freshman class president Stephen Green.

Darden welcomed the freshman class to the ceremonial event, which purpose was to enlighten them on what the

blazers symbolized and how they were to be treated. He encouraged them to keep the programs, as they were keepsakes of a developing tradition at the college.

Provost Jackson delivered the occasion to the freshman class. Jackson compared the wearing of the blazers to honorary traditions such as an olympic athlete proudly sporting his country's colors and a new fraternity member wearing his organizational jacket.

"Today is a special day for you because you are about to adorn the coat of the Mystique," Jackson said.

The provost instructed the Class of 2014 to sport their Morehouse signature blazers with pride. "You're not going to find any other service like this in the academic universe where you are called to put on the coat of the Mystique."

Jackson quoted a phrase President Franklin said to

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Papa John's and Freshens Coming to Morehouse

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The vacant facility by Jazzman's Café, the Morehouse College bookstore, and Statz barbershop will soon be occupied by Papa John's and Freshens. The two companies are expected to be operational within the first couple of the spring semester.

"These vendors will be coming to the Morehouse campus in an effort to meet some of the requests that students have placed to faculty and staff," Ralph Johnson, the Chief Procurement Officer, said. "It is all about meeting the students' needs and listening to the students. That is why those choices were made."

Johnson, who came from Ericsson Inc., a telecommunications company, has held his position since the beginning of the semester and said that the proposal to bring these two vendors to campus has been in the works since his arrival.

While some may question bringing a Papa John's to campus when there is one nearby on Northside Dr., Johnson, who also is a Howard University graduate, contends that this decision will provide students with convenience.

Sophomore Steven Greene is in favor of the move to bring the two companies to campus in order to give students more options.

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Morehouse Introduces First Associate Campus Minister

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Morehouse College formally welcomed a new member to campus on Nov. 14 in Sale Hall Chapel. Reverend James Ellis III has been named the first Associate Campus Minister. Ellis officially began his duties in early November and has been hard at work acclimating himself with the campus and the students.

The position is the first of its kind at the college and was introduced for multiple reasons. The role of the campus minister is to assist Dean Carter, dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, in his duties. The position also places Ellis in charge of the Chapel Assistants Program and developing new initiatives for the chapel such as a certificate program.

"I am sort of the pastor of the campus, while Dean Carter is still the bishop," Ellis said.

This new role was seen as necessary due in part to Carter's age; Carter has been the leader of King Chapel for 31 years. Ellis' appointment serves to implant some youth

not only into the chapel, but also into the idea of religion on campus. Carter is also a relatively busy individual and travels often, so with the help of a grant, the chapel created this more stationary position.

Years ago, Ellis, 31, admits he may have seemed like the least likely candidate for this position. He did not grow up in the church and was not truly in touch with religion until age 20. Ellis hopes to use that experience as a way to connect with students.

"I really hope to be a mentor and resource," Ellis said. "Not just for the chapel assistants but for all students."

Ellis earned multiple degrees including a B.A. from University of Maryland in African-American Studies, a master's in theological studies from Baylor University, and most recently, a master's of sacred theology from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Despite all this success, Ellis admits that he has been "impressed" by Morehouse in his short time here and hopes to gain from the students as much as they gain from his presence.

"I like interacting with college students and being in a college environment," Ellis

said. "I want to be a spiritual resource for students, who they can e-mail, call or even text."

It remains to be seen how effective Ellis and the chapel can be in making spirituality an important idea on campus again. Morehouse College is historically rooted in the Baptist faith, but the student body has been relatively apathetic towards the chapel program in recent years, an issue that Ellis will have to combat. He is confident that other positions that are in the works, like a Director of Performing Arts for the Chapel, and his availability and technical savvy will be enough to rejuvenate student interest in religion.

Ellis, who is also an online professor at George Fox Evangelical Seminary in Portland and a featured blogger for day1.org, hopes that his experience can make up for the mystery behind the position.

This new campus confidant will also have to be unique, a challenge Ellis feels prepared to face. "Morehouse gives [students] and, particularly, the chapel assistants a grounding ministry that's unique for undergrad," Ellis said.

Morehouse initiates new ceremony to confer BLAZERS upon the freshman class

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each graduate during the 2010 Commencement Service, "You represent Morehouse." Jackson expressed to the freshmen that the coat of the Mystique was not just a blazer but a symbol of the college. "Represent it well" Jackson said.

Bynum presented the freshman class with the maroon blazer etiquette, instructing when and when not to wear them. Students are to wear their blazers at formal and college functions such as Crown Forum, when officially representing the college, and when visually prepared to live up to the ideals of the college. Students, however, are not to wear their blazers to parties and when stepping or strolling.

Bynum also pointed out that since its induction in 2007, the maroon blazer has gone through a series of looks before arriving at the final product to be worn by the freshman class. The new

blazer is now 100 percent wool, with interior pen and PDA pockets, a larger seal and the letter "M" detailed on its buttons.

Bynum instructed the Class of 2014 to treat their blazers with care and provided particular guidelines: (1) Blazers are to be dry cleaned only, (2) hung on a hanger, (3) encased in plastic covering (when plausible), (4) should not be thrown, (5) and the tail of the blazer should be properly cut and released.

"This is not just a article of clothing or a piece of wardrobe, but a symbol of expectation," Franklin said, addressing the freshman class.

The president spoke briefly on the distinct symbolism of the blazer; symbols of unity, sacrifice and service. Franklin said the symbol of unity reaffirmed the Morehouse brotherhood. He characterized the blazers as art. "It is art and it is hope. We have art so we are not destroyed by the truth," Franklin said.

Franklin instructed fresh-

men to use their blazers as a reminder of that brotherhood during times of "superficial differences" such as dorm competitiveness.

"That blazer in your closet is a reminder of unity," he said.

Franklin called upon the freshman class to be honorable, noble and willing to lift others as they climb the ladder of success.

Franklin sanguinely spoke on the Mystique and the impact it will make "when, not if" President Barack Obama comes to Morehouse.

Franklin rallied the Class of 2014 as they enthusiastically chanted "Morehouse...your house at your service."

The ceremony ended with Goodgame enjoining the freshman class to stand to their feet and put on their blazers. "Take care of this 'House,'" Goodgame said.

"When anyone finds you in your Morehouse blazer, let it always be in a way that you are uplifting your institution."

NBC to have Morehouse VP make her way to the small screen on morning show

◀ continued from front page

she educates young women at Clark Atlanta and Spelman on entrepreneurship, financial aid, fitness, and wellness.

"Many times women are being taken advantage of in business," she explained.

Washington is a mother, wife, financial expert, and successful woman. In her junior year at the University of Southern California she got a realtor's license and in the following year, started a real estate company. She graduated from USC with a business degree and \$18,000 worth of debt. However, due to her financial savvy, Washington was able to pay off her debt utilizing the revenue from the fledgling real estate company.

Washington believes that her experience can provide a model of how college students can make money.

"Work, work, work!" she said. "Work experience, whether it be through a part-time job, apprenticeship or internship, is far more beneficial than having great grades."

"In this economy, employers don't want to waste time or resources teaching young people even the most basic lessons of office politics and work ethic. Being able to show experience is invaluable."

Under the age of 30, Washington already has an impressive list of accomplishments, and she is living proof of what diligence and a plan can manifest.

FRESHENS and Papa Johns to occupy vacant space adjacent to Jazzman's Café

◀ continued from front page

"I think it would be great to give students on campus access to other dining options besides the cafeteria and Kilgore," Greene said.

Freshens is a restaurant that sells healthy smoothies and yogurt, and Papa John's will sell its trademark pizza with baked wings. The facility will be licensed and operated through Sodexo, Inc.

"It is all about making sure students have healthy choices," Johnson said.

Junior Phillip Wiggins however, is not too sure about the proposed healthiness of the food and wonders if another campus venture would have been a better idea. "The smoothie idea is pretty cool, but pizza is too fattening," Wiggins said. "I think the freshmen would prefer a dry cleaner."

Another thing to consider is how these businesses will affect Jazzman's. Freshens and Jazzman's sell similar items, and Johnson is not sure how the businesses will affect Jazzman's. One student,

though, feels that competition between companies could benefit the students.

"I don't know much about Freshens, but this venue may also cut business from Jazzman's," Jerry Pratt Jr., a sophomore psychology and philosophy double major, said. "It may bring competition, which may make prices go down," Pratt, a native of Albany, GA, added.

Students have wanted additional dining options for years, and these two companies provide those options. Freshman Andrew Peterson supports the campus venture and is not concerned about Papa John's and Freshens taking business away from current dining options.

"I know many students are eager for more dining options," Peterson said.

"I don't think that the new restaurants will steal too much business from the cafeteria.

"There are a still large number of students who are on limited college budgets and rely on scholarship-provided meal plans, including myself."

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Cholera Outbreaks Call For Vaccine Stockpile

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Due to massive outbreaks of cholera in Haiti, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, experts are proposing that the United States establish an emergency stockpile of vaccines. An expedient delivery of vaccines would have immediate humanitarian benefits. Additionally, it would also prevent the disease from exacerbating the effects of natural and man-made disasters.

Professor Peter Hotez of George Washington University, Professor Matthew Waldor of Harvard medical School and Dr. John Clemens of the International Vaccine Institute have published their proposal in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"What we've been concerned about is the fact that now there's been multiple outbreaks of cholera over the last several years." Says Hotez. "So, we've been really trying to be thoughtful about are we fully using our armamentarium of interventions against cholera, which of course

is such a highly lethal disease."

The most recent outbreak is reported to have been on the island of Hispaniola, which includes the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Hotez states, "This cholera outbreak is actually part of a larger pandemic that's been going on for several decades. We came to the conclusion that this is an opportunity to really think about ways to use the vaccine in what we would call reactive situations."

Traditionally, vaccines are used to prevent outbreaks of diseases, but once the outbreak has occurred, the cholera vaccine has not been widely used. And we think there's an opportunity to do that. The problem of course is we don't have the vaccine available."

There are three cholera vaccine makers. Of the three, two are major manufacturers: Crucell of Sweden and Shantha of India.

Besides oral vaccines, treatment of cholera includes replacing lost fluid with oral or intravenous rehydration solution, as well as antibiotics.

"The problem is they only have about a hundred thousand or so doses on hand in each place. And if you are going to entertain the possibility of a widespread use of a vaccine in Hispaniola, you would want millions of doses. So, right now, even if we wanted to embark on an ambitious vaccination campaign in Hispaniola, you don't have that as an option," says Hotez.

"So what we're proposing is at least to have the option of having the vaccine available in horrific situations, like we're seeing now in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. To give us the option of having large doses of vaccine available," he says.

Hotez asserts that millions of doses would be needed for

the proposed stockpile, but he does not have an exact figure at this time. Vaccine manufacturers could scale up to produce millions of doses, but that could take months.

"If you have [to] wait months and months every time an outbreak occurs, then you're way behind the game," concludes Hotez.

The three tropical disease experts suggest that the United States take the lead. "The United States does stockpile potential interventions for bio-terrorist threats. So, for instance, they stockpile medicines for an and in some cases smallpox vaccine. Hotez posits. Naturally, a cholera vaccine stockpile would be both a humanitarian diplomatic resource.

"Particularly," he says, "with Sec. Clinton now coming out and talking about a new role for the State department." That role would prove to be a locus for the department's diplomatic activities with its development work through USAID.

"We're going to see more and more use of what she terms civilian power," Hotez predicts.



Will the Pentagon Dismiss 'Don't Ask Don't Tell'?

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A recent study about the military's "don't ask don't tell" policy, which prohibits gays from openly displaying their homosexuality, was released as supposed grounds for the law to be dismissed. Congressional Democrats were anxious to see if the study was going to be enough to support their efforts of overturning the law. However, republicans were not completely persuaded that the study, or the democrats' efforts, would be substantial enough to overturn the law.

According to defense secretary, Robert Gates and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Administration, Mike Mullen, there was a follow up report Tuesday Nov. 30 with the

co-chairs of the study, Pentagon General Counsel Jeh Johnson and Army General Carter Ham.

Gates motioned for Senate interference in the matter, supporting the repeal to the law because he claims that it "requires people to lie." To support his opposition, Gates used the Pentagon study to show that most military members aren't concerned with the ban.

"We spend a lot of time in the military talking about integrity and honor and values. Telling the truth is a pretty important value in that scale," Gates said.

"If the government must question the status of 'don't ask don't tell' after all this time then that should indicate its stability as a law. Telling someone that they can't pursue their goal of fighting for our country simply because they'd prefer to express themselves, who they truly are, and their sexual preference just goes to show how narrow minded our country is," says Addison DeMoss, a sophomore, political science major at Morehouse College.

Many people who spoke on the results of

the study chose to remain anonymous because the study wasn't publicly released. Nonetheless, a survey concluded that 70 percent of troops agreed there would be repercussions. The opposition came mainly from combat troops, 46 percent of the resistance stems from Marines.

Jordan Gilmore, a sophomore International Studies major from Spelman College in the Navy R.O.T.C at Morehouse says, "it depends on the squadron because some people will take it personally ...but if you have a job in the military it shouldn't matter if you're gay".

The study indicates a direct connection between troops who support the repeal, troops that have worked with homosexual service members, troops who haven't worked with homosexual service members and those who don't report the repeal. About 92 percent of troops who served with gay service members believed that the sexuality of their fellow service members did not negatively affect their work. Members characterized this performance as either good, neutral or very good.



Recycle The Maroon Tiger

Why are Online Technology and Social Networks Invading Our Private Spaces?

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Privacy. It's a principal rule that this country continually seems to beat down from a pillar to a pebble. It's a principal that has been constantly stripped away after the Sept. 11 tragedies and the passing of the Patriot Act. It's something that our parents valued, that we tried to exercise, and that our children will be oblivious about. The coming of the technological age has not helped with restoring privacy's ethical and moral standards. Instead, it creates a safe haven for its destruction and depletion.

Weeks ago, Twitter lit up with the news of Messy Mya's death. Messy Mya was a growing YouTube sensation that garnered his audience with funny videos and commentary about things we have all thought. While staying committed to his growing fan base, Messy Mya was also committed to his family. He was currently dating and was expecting his first child. All of this ended on Nov.

14, 2010. As he was exiting his girlfriend's baby shower, Messy Mya was shot to death. The most horrific part about was that his lifeless body was captured on someone's cellular camera and twitpic'd everywhere. His death was placed on public display.

Messy Mya's death comes on the coattails of other privacy invading incidents where technology was used as a medium to spread malicious acts. Accompanying the incidents at Rutgers a few months ago are a webcam spying campaign by a Pennsylvania school and a project-gone-wrong on Duke University's campus.

The Lower Merion school district organized a promotion where its students would receive free Apple MacBooks to use for their educational and recreational uses. The school and the district were ecstatic about the promotion. However, the school district did not include the disclaimer that the webcams were used for spying on the children. Originally, the school district stated, the "spying" was simply a precaution

to locate missing computers. However, students like Blake Robbins, were often photographed 400 times within two-week intervals, including while they slept in their beds. Throughout the duration of their program, their remote tracking devices went off 40 times.

"I think what they're doing was absolutely terrible and scary," Blake told Good Morning America. "They are invading my house. They might as well be sitting in my room watching me without my knowing."

In North Carolina, the story was more disturbing and damaging. Karen Owen, a former student, composed a mock thesis, which detailed her sexual encounters with thirteen popular athletes on campus. She included with her thesis a PowerPoint presentation that stated their names, produced graphic photographs, and explicitly described their sexual activities. She emailed her 42-page narrative to her friends, who emailed it to their friends, and the rapid chain of communication began. Soon, it went viral, or online for

public amusement, and was published by various online websites. Deadspin was the first. The interest in the PowerPoint presentation wasn't solely because it involved sex, but because it was written by a woman about athletes attending the same school that faced another sex scandal in 2006.

"It just goes to show you that something you put on the Internet isn't private." Kelsey Porter, a Duke senior and president of The Girls Club said in an interview with The Huffington Post. While she's surprised at just how widely distributed the list was, "it's the day and age we live in right now," she said. "Anything you put on the Internet becomes public property."

While these cases are being judicially handled, they set a precedence for how negatively technology, specifically those used online, is being used. Our privacy is not safe, but it is our responsibility to keep our private matters behind the crystal-line computer screens.

Technology Could Be Running Our Generation Clueless

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Word on the street is that technology is distracting our generation. Texting and Skype are making us less personable and the lingo used online is making us dumber. We don't know how to communicate without a technological medium and we are even losing our scholarly skills of research and information acquisition. Why read a book when it can read to you? Why search for a document manually when Google can find it automatically? Wake up generation clueless! We are making life harder on ourselves.

How bad can it be? Well consider the fact that 20 percent of 18-20 year olds surveyed in a British online magazine believe that an umbilical cord is a musical note and have no clue that it's the attachment between a mother and her child. Or consider that those same young adults surveyed believe that a woman is pregnant for 12 months instead of nine.

Researchers say that temptation of these technologies is particularly powerful for young adults, although technology does affect Generation X and Baby Boomers as well. They continue to state that the risk for technological dependency and distraction is that the brain develops a habit for continually switching tasks, thus creating an environment of instability and the inability to thoroughly concentrate on one thing.

"Their brains are rewarded not for staying on task but for jumping to the next thing," Michael Rich said. Rich is an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and executive director of the Center on Media and Child Health in Boston. "The worry is we're raising a generation of kids in front of screens whose brains are going to be wired differently."

It is not uncommon for young adults and teenagers to spend hundreds of hours texting or engaging with one another via social networking sites. Video game usage has also skyrocketed over the years. With the research as appalling as it presents itself to be, students are often faced with the conflicting views of those with authority. School districts, colleges, and universities often urge students and teachers to make better use of the technology at hand and to create

a more technological-savvy environment. Schools are equipping themselves technologically so that they can reach the students at an even medium.

Many students define their initial engagement as their start down a slippery slope. Vishal Singh, a high school senior from Redwood City, California, described his childhood as many of us would. He explains how his sixth grade year was one of production. He studied hard, he passed all of his tests, and he was an exemplary student. Seventh grade, things changed. For one, his mother went back to work because of the slipping economy, and he got a computer. Once the computer entered his life, Singh explains, his new world of procrastination became his place of comfort.

Recent studies show that students often use technology for recreational and entertainment purposes, not educational ones. When education is put into the realm of technology, half of students ages 8-18 are using the Internet, watching TV, or using some sort of technology while doing schoolwork, as researched by the Kaiser Family Foundation earlier this year.

With this being said, further research suggests that our minds cannot focus or set priorities because we are constantly engaged. The major cross sections of our brain become increasingly active during downtime. It is during this period that our brain is able to synthesize information, draw inferences and connections to various ideas and concepts, and to even discover a sense of self.

"Downtime is to the brain what sleep is to the body," Dr. Rich said. "But kids are in a constant mode of stimulation."

Dr. Rich feels as though youth should embrace their technological devices, but to also find a balance with other outside forces. In his opinion, this balance is what is needed to compete and succeed in the modern era.

Overall, research shows that we are no longer Generation Y. We are Generation Clueless. Our dependency on technology is growing at an alarming rate and we no longer know how to be sufficient students, friends, lovers, citizens, or people in general. Wake up Generation Clueless before it's too late!

To become a Business & Technology Staff Writer, contact the section editor or stop by The Maroon Tiger Office in Archer Hall Room 115!

Wiretapping Invading Your Social Space

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Recently the emergence of a new technological trend has hit the scene. Blackberry, iPhone, iPod, and Android joined to develop "Kik Messenger." The purpose of this application was to connect all smart phone users regardless the type of phone they had or what network they were currently utilizing. It sought to be one of the newest and leading worldwide trends. It was fast, reliable, it told you when a message was sent, delivered, and read even when the person is still typing a response. Kik's motto was "turning regular texting into real-time conversations."

Just 15 days after their ini-

tial launch, Kik had more than 1 million users. Weirdly as many discovered, Kik began to add people to their personal list of contacts, many of whom were not connected to their social networks or within their cellular phonebooks. Many users suddenly felt that their privacy had been invaded and no one was as safe as they thought.

Many individuals are unaware of the wiretapping law passed in 1994. Some of us may not be aware possibly because the majority of Kik's users were still learning how to perfect their writing skills and how to tie their shoelaces.

The "Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act" requires phone and broadband network access providers, like Comcast, Di-

rect TV, Verizon, and Sprint to immediately comply with various requests when presented with a court wiretapping order. Recently the New York Times discussed Robert S. Mueller III, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and his traveling to Silicon Valley to meet with top executives of several technology firms about a proposal to make it easier to wiretap Internet users.

Mr. Mueller sought to meet with prominent companies such as Google and Facebook to potentially gain support for his new proposal to expand wiretapping. Additionally, within this new expansion, firms would have to design systems to intercept and unscramble encrypted messages. He feels his proposal is justi-

fied because of the fact that more people communicate on the internet the same if not more than on the telephone.

People within Mueller's team and some from Obama's task force are currently preparing to draft legislation and submit it to Congress by early next year.

In regards to wiretapping, the public has raised many criticisms about the future it holds. People have indicated feelings that further wiretapping may inhibit innovation and may possibly make society feel unsafe. This adds to the notion that there is no privacy. At the end of the day it is left for us to determine if we feel the government is just trying to be nosy or is just naturally being overly protective and cautious.



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"Sweet" Mu Pi Returns to Pearly Gates of Spelman

Sierra Stokes

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On Nov. 21 Spelman college welcomed the newest additions to the "Sweet" Mu Pi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. On that day the ladies revealed themselves to their family, friends, and the world. Wearing all black and covering their faces in veils the line of forty-four distinguished women marched into the Spelman campus amphitheater ready to finally declare themselves as members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. As Channing Miller unveiled and welcomed each of the ladies she was thanked by a song from the latest members. To top it off the ladies also sang to their new sorority big sisters expressing their gratitude for being selected and wanting to please them in every way. The line sisters also recognized the Greek fraternities and no question about it they were warmly received. After singing a song of sisterhood to one another the ladies all rejoiced. The probate was now over and tears and shouting followed as family members and loved ones gathered around to give gifts and hugs and kisses. Nov. 21, 2010 just marked the beginning of great

deeds to come from the ladies. Jaleesa Diaz, a sophomore, made it a point to express that she is grateful to be a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., but she is more ready to be of service through her membership.

"Spelman is the number one historically black college," Diaz said. "Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. is the first black sorority created. Created during a time when women barely had a voice let alone an organization of sisterhood focused on being of service to all mankind. It feels amazing, especially as a first generation college student. However, humbleness is key. I feel blessed to be a member of this organization, but I do know that it was in God's plan for me and I must use this as a tool to help others, and not as personal applause."

Shortly after the line was revealed Diaz's words proved to be true with the hosting of Gifts of Giza drive. At the drive, the Mu Pi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. along with the Alpha Rho chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. gave gifts to those less fortunate. The community service aspect of the sorority was definitely obvious as the ladies each volunteered their time to support the Atlanta Union Mission. Diaz spoke again on how she personally planned to contrib-



ute to the chapter through service and establishing personal relationships.

"As a member of the "Sweet" Mu Pi chapter I will mentor and uplift young men and women through personal relationships. Impacting a person's life is not by just visiting their school, or providing workshops, but it is simply by having a personal conversation with them. It is by being relatable. Greek organizations have a reputa-

tion of intimidating people sometimes, but as a member of the Mu Pi chapter I will be relatable to young men and women. I understand that true leadership is the product of relationships," added Diaz.

Not only through service, but through sisterhood, the newly selected members plan to impact their community.

When asked, "How does it feel to be in such a prestigious Sorority?" Sheryl Means, a sophomore, responded, "I

have always been heavily influenced by members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and to be able to greet them as sorors is something that I cannot quite put into words. It's a wonderful experience and I am loving the feeling as a new member!"

The excitement and bond is the key to the chapter accomplishing any and all goals. The ladies definitely reflect that bond and show that through sisterhood all things are possible.

The ladies are making it known that they are here to leave their mark through their ongoing drive and dedication to each other and the community.

Means concluded, "I intend to make it one of the strongest undergraduate chapters of our sorority. We are all extremely excited and have great ideas for new initiatives in the coming year. I am excited to get my hands dirty and begin great community service projects."

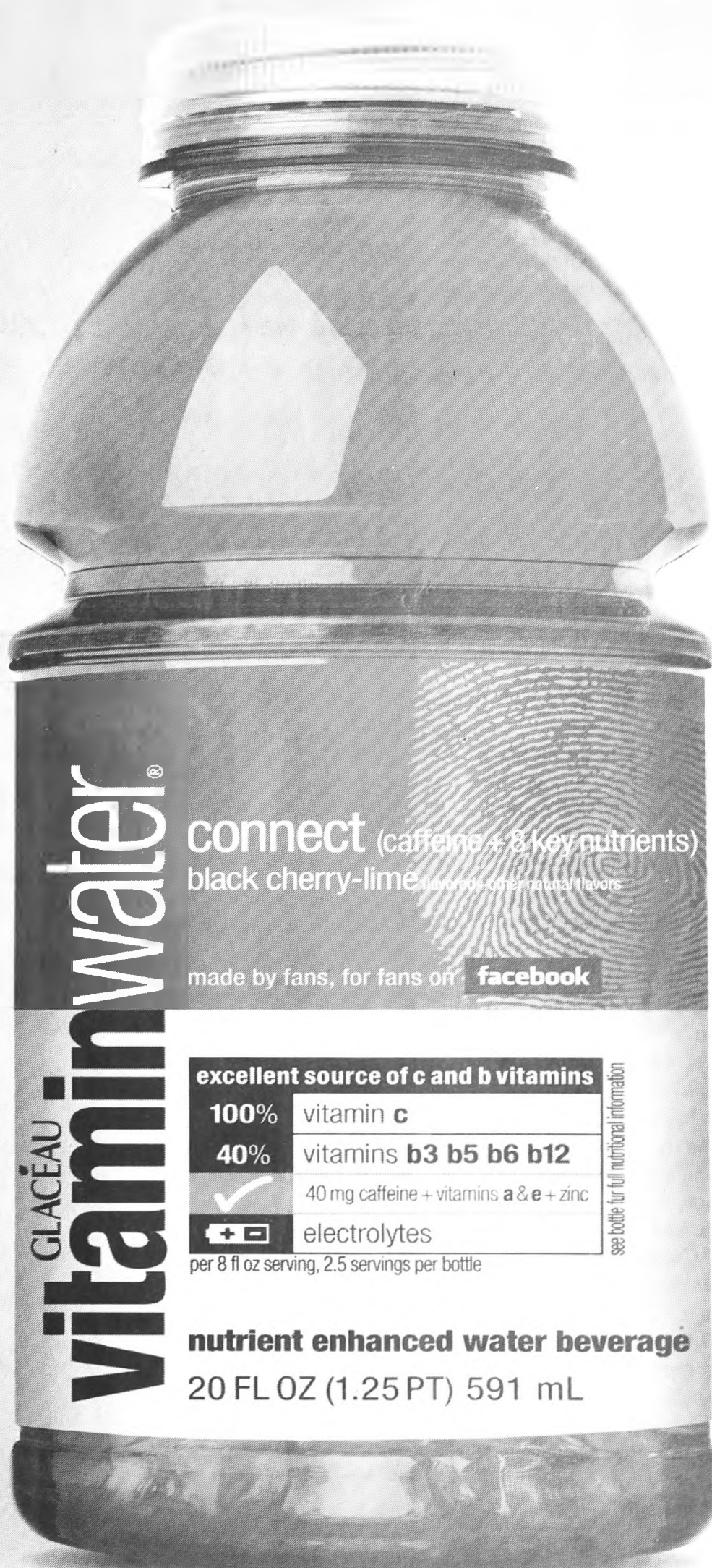
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 **Recycle The Maroon Tiger**

Our Mother's Year in Review

Tre'vell Anderson

Opinions Editor

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2010 has been an interesting year for Mother Morehouse. When I think back on all the moments for us Men of Morehouse to be proud of, this is what I came up with: Vibe Magazine, Haiti relief efforts, the Rick Ross debate, the football playoffs, the spring '10 protest, Tiana Kindred, Khalifah Muhammad, "trunk boys," and Mike Griffiths.

Somehow, despite how much we want to pride ourselves on the responses and actions to the above list, I must ask, what has happened to us?

After the publication of a previous article of mine entitled "I'm More than a Man of Morehouse," the student body transformed. I had never seen people so infuriated at my opinion, so charged with emotion wanting to affect some sort of change. My elders attempted to persuade me that I was wrong as well. That it was a feat to make it to Morehouse and I should be proud to engage anyone in conversation about my school. That

Morehouse was the pinnacle institution of the Black community and I was a disgrace to believe such things. That Morehouse meant change. That it meant leadership. That it meant strength.

My response to such statements is simple: In 1960, yes, we were the pinnacle institution of the Black community. Maybe in 1960 we did mean change, leadership, and strength.

But in 2010, we meant cowardice, hypocrisy, and malarkey.

By protesting for minor improvements to this school, we began to restrict ourselves back to the back of the bus. By neglecting the woes of our homosexual brothers, we made ourselves use the 'Colored' entrance. And as a people, by focusing on the seemingly racist Tea Party, expecting the change to come overnight, we allowed the isms of life to take over once more – sizism, racism, sexism, etc.

And as we link up each Thursday to haphazardly sing our Hymn, haphazardly upholding our founders' ideals, we do a disservice to ourselves, our families, and our ancestors.

I came to Morehouse because I longed to be around the best of the best, the brightest my people had to offer. I longed to see the process of galvanizing a group of people disappear because we all would be on the same page aiming to redefine the world.

But as I sit here, I realize that the Morehouse I had read about, the Morehouse my grandmother prated about lives no longer.

Or maybe she's just on life support.

It is my understanding that our institution was built with the purpose of aiding in the holistic liberation of not only Black men, but Black people. Progressively, we became an institution aimed at bettering the livelihood of all persons of color. We are supposedly a World House where all students have a social conscience and a global perspective.

But what have you done to end the fact that one billion people in the world live in chronic hunger?

What have you done to inspire the child next door to our House to look beyond the streets for success?

Or maybe we will continue to worry about CNN, VIBE

magazine and Fox News.

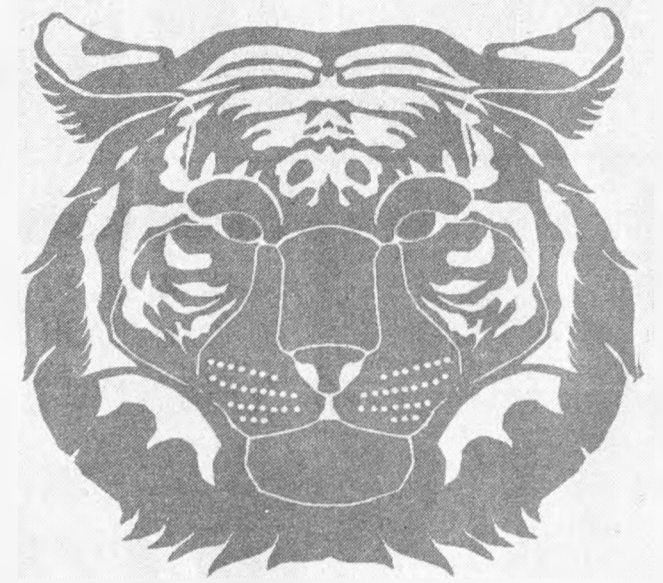
In 2011, Morehouse must get back to its roots of developing widespread leaders wanting to take a stand despite the naysayers and onlookers. We must understand that a protest for a four credit hour system pales in comparison to a campaign to end human rights abuses in Kenya, let alone the West End. We must understand that our brothers and sisters from Clark Atlanta University are just as integral as our brothers and sisters from Morehouse and Spelman in the fight for holistic liberation of our people. We must take back our international appeal, as a people, to make the pain of the Harriet Tubmans, the Nat Turners, the Madam C. J. Walkers, and our grandmothers not be in vain.

For once we do this, we will truly be able to stand steadfast, honest, true.

Charleston, SC native, Tre'vell Anderson is a sophomore at Morehouse College. Majoring in political science pre law, Anderson serves as the Sophomore Intern of the Bonner Office of Community Service.

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Sex: What's the Big Deal?

Cazembe Kennedy

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The magnificent, the glorious, the ever-sacred act of sexual intercourse. But let us meditate for a second.

What does sex mean to us as a people?

No matter how intellectual you are, sex plays a role in your life here in the AUC. It becomes an issue when it takes over your mind, when "Pretty Nasty" is so necessary that courses and exams become less of a priority. When the club is your place to get away, to mentally and physically cheat on your significant other. When the dance floor becomes the set for pornographies starring you.

Coming to college, we get a whiff of freedom. The idea of doing what you want comes at an age when people are reaching their hormonal peaks. Some are coming from sheltered households,

causing them to not be able to control themselves at their first glimmer of independence.

Now add a tablespoon of separation by gender with Morehouse, Spelman, and CAU, and two million pinches of party promotions for the supposed "livest" party of the year. You have just cooked up some sexual tension.

One may think that I am just trying to magnify the situation and that sex at parties is absurd, but is it? Girls wear skirts so low that underwear is visible and guys have their pants down, leaving them with just boxers on. Females are against the walls at parties, felt on and up in a public setting.

Then the same people who ritually go to these clubs wonder why their grades are not among the first three letters of the alphabet.

There are many ways to attain grades, but having sex or thinking about it consistently is not one of them.

Should the value of hooking up with multiple girls equate to a value of a hard-working, straight A student?

One would expect such childish mindsets to be dispelled upon entering an institution of higher learning. However, if you have not lost your virginity by the time you are 18, in the AUC people think there is something wrong with you.

If you are not risking impregnating someone at an age when you are incapable of handling the situation, there apparently is something wrong with you. If you are not risking Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) at least twice a month in college, your peers believe you must not be right in the head.

None of this makes sense to me.

The pressure that one gets from other supposed college scholars is often unreasonable. Why can't sex be something special to share with a person you love, in-

stead of with that person you just met?

Focus on being well-read, not reading party promotions. Focus on being well-dressed, not undressed. Try well-spoken and no, I do not mean spitting the lines that got you into that last girl's pants. Maybe being well-travelled will keep you from travelling to the hospital or courtroom. And, unless I'm mistaken, keeping one's balance while intoxicated was not the definition of well-balanced.

Let's focus on advancing the race, but through raising and producing scholars and not fornicating and reproducing.

Cazembe Kennedy is a freshman at Morehouse College. Born in Washington, D.C., Kennedy majors in computer science. He currently serves as a member of the Morehouse College Glee Club, Brazeal Hall Residence Hall Council, and the Honors Program.

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OPINIONS

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Crisis Among Freshmen Residence Halls Yes, You Are a Student Ambassador

Anthony Galloway Jr.
Staff Writer
agallowayjr@yahoo.com

On the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 16, a freshmen stroll off was held at Morehouse College. At the event, in the midst of the intense competition, a fight broke out between two freshmen residence hall stroll teams.

It saddens me to say that clearly Morehouse is moving in the wrong direction. This foolhardy action on the students' behalf is a clear sign that the student body at Morehouse is on a decline.

Here we are at what some call the most prestigious historically black college, the school where black boys become world changing Renaissance men, and we are fighting over whose freshmen hall "goes the hardest." Nonsense!

First off, let me state that this is why the class of 2013 did not get the privilege of having step teams, and barely enjoyed having stroll teams – due to foolishness including numerous fights, vandalism, hazing, and unauthorized events.

Let me also dispel any ideas that the student body as a whole should not get the blame for this event, and that this should solely be put upon the freshmen class. If anybody is to blame, it is the more seasoned students, those who have been here for years and choose to perpetuate past mistakes by teaching incoming students bad habits. From the residence hall alumni stroll captains to the NSO leaders, freshmen are taught the most superficial principles.

What is most perplexing is the sense of unjustified pride for the building they live in. Now, and even when I was a freshman myself, I could not begin to explain why someone from one hall would feel so illogically against someone from another. It may be a nice joke at first and a source of friendly competition, but when it causes you to want to raise arms against someone else, it becomes silly and mindless.

When one poses the question why were they fighting, the lack of an intellectual answer is further proof that students here are focused on the

wrong things.

Here we are agents of social change and men with a social conscience. We are harbingers of peace and we're fighting for bragging rights.

How can we address the problems in the world if we can't address the problems in our own House?

What makes the event more embarrassing is the rush of students on stage. I'm sure they weren't going to break up the fight, but to get a better view.

I ask you brothers, what do we stand for? What does it mean to be a Man of Morehouse these days? Are all those Crown Forums just a humorous facade?

That's rhetorical, but really, fighting over your freshmen hall is a reason there's a crisis in the village.

Anthony Galloway Jr. is a sophomore at Morehouse College. Majoring in studio art, Galloway aspires to become an architect after graduate school. He currently serves as the Freshmen Class Coordinator for the Bonner Office of Community Service.



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When I went home for winter break my freshman year, I received endless hugs and everyone from family, friends, neighbors, and church members asked about my first semester of college. They wanted to know if I enjoyed Atlanta, if I had met any nice girls, to explain the rumors and drama going around about Morehouse, if I partied too much, and, most importantly, how I did grade-wise.

Needless to say, at least to them, I was the face of Morehouse College. Whenever someone invited me to speak on a student panel, or I give my testimony of how I maintained my faith during my freshmen year, I realized that I had to be careful with my words and actions. On many occasions, what people really wanted to see was the physical embodiment of Morehouse. Many parents wanted to know if it would be a good option for their own sons. Remaining professional, I knew that I had to cast aside my own personal opinions and issues with the 'House, and present an objective perspective.

It seemed that I was the official Morehouse representative.

This is my warning and advice to everyone going home over the winter break, whether

you're a first year or a graduating senior. Carefully consider the things you say when people ask you about Morehouse. It goes back to that saying about airing out your dirty laundry. It's not about being mysterious, or making Morehouse appear to be some secret society. It's about presenting Morehouse in the best possible light.

We've received enough bad press over the past year; people need to see that we're really about what we say we're about, that Morehouse is still producing Renaissance men with a social conscience.

I think there's a huge difference between somebody asking you "So, how is Morehouse?" and "How did you like Morehouse?" The difference, I believe, is your opinion. One asks what's going on, what it is all about. The other asks what do you think, how do you feel.

Remember that there are mothers who are looking for a good place to send their boys to become men.

The scenario previously mentioned usually occurs between familiars and acquaintances. However, there is another set-up that can occur at home as well as right off campus. This is the representation while in paraphernalia. Whether you're at Lenox Mall, the Marta, the airport, or any other public location, be extra careful about the things

you do and say while wearing Morehouse College paraphernalia. While in the AUC, you may just be wearing school colors, but when in public you act as an advertisement and representative of the school.

Imagine how it looks to someone when there's a young man at the mall wearing his Morehouse sweatshirt hanging out with his friends, and he's cursing, sagging, and using the N-word relentlessly. Along with rowdy and boisterous behavior, naturally any observer would begin to associate this young man's actions with Morehouse's maroon and white. It's important to realize that paraphernalia acts as a branding device and free advertisement. People associate the name, logo, and colors with whatever words and actions come along with it.

Again I warn you my brothers, that when speaking on behalf of Morehouse College or wearing Morehouse apparel, be cognizant of your behavior. Because although you may not lead tours down Brown Street, whenever you step off campus you are an ambassador of the 'House.

Anthony Galloway Jr. is a sophomore at Morehouse College. Majoring in studio art, Galloway aspires to become an architect after graduate school. He currently serves as the Freshmen Class Coordinator for the Bonner Office of Community Service.



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40 questions

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1. Did you REALLY think 20 Questions was done?
2. Don't you realize by now that it will NEVER die?
3. How many of you are salty about that?
4. How was your semester?
5. Will your GPA come out ok or did you mess it up GRINDING for a line you didn't make?
6. Will Saturday's event truly be a COLD FRONT or just a slight breeze?
7. Do you think they will look as tight in person as they do on PAPER?
8. Isn't it funny how they just started going HARD when everybody found out their "secret"?
9. Is it possible to come out during the afternoon and still own the night?
10. We guess they aren't as HEAVY as they think they are?
11. Speaking of ice cold, did you hear BOBBY FRANK is their newest member?
12. LOWERY and MLK III too?
13. Aren't they a little old for all of that?
14. Were they "paper" too?
15. Or is this the reason that Bobby's been MIA lately?
16. Is this a part of his GOOD GAME plan to raise all that money?
17. Or did some of it go to that application fee?
18. What about the other members of the first PHAMILY?
19. Did any of those girls earn their spot in line, or did they just rely on a LEGACY?
20. How many of them ACTUALLY knew how to whip their hair?
21. Don't they kind of RUN Spelman now?
22. How come our first attendant was so upset at the probate?
23. Why would the PRE have the QUEEN?
24. Will she now be a pa
25. We guess she'll just huh?
26. What is the likelihooc
27. Maybe their interest and grind for the othe
28. Can they be consid POTENTIAL to join the
29. Did you spend your in front of Forbes?
30. What happened to tl see?
31. Maybe next time?
32. But weren't their hoc gear they wore last tir
33. Are we the only ones 2013 & Park was GHETTO?
34. How did they fit that many COONS in Sale Hall chapel?
35. Since when do Greeks get special seating at a SOPHOMORIC event?
36. Why would you ho Douglass during reading period?
37. Besides the junior class council, do you know anyone who went to it?
38. Are they mad that no one decided to RSVP to their INVITATION?
39. Has SGA done anything significant this semester?
40. Or have they been busy using Too much Rhetoric and not enough ACTION?



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Your Favorite Rapper's Favorite Book

Donovan X. Ramsey
Contributing Writer
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Hip-hop is for the well-read. Just the thought is revolutionary but it immediately comes to mind while watching arguably the greatest rapper alive on his book tour to promote Decoded. Yes, a book tour. Some rappers have written books and there are those self-help offerings from executives but Jay-Z, with the help of journalist Dream Hampton, got all deep on us. Hip-hop is literary now or it had always been and Jay-Z was ambitious enough to extend his clout into a land where no emcee has gone before. With Decoded, Mr. Carter attempts to further legitimize the genre through his own work by unraveling or decoding his lyrics and contextualizing them within his life story and its surrounding events.

Maybe you don't get all excited about words like "contextualizing" and "unraveling" but it's exactly what a form of expression like hip-hop needs to be considered a genuine art form. In other words, the 40-year-old rapper and businessman reminds us that it's bigger than rap.

By offering a backdrop to his music, Jay sets up rap as a medium worth academic attention. By doing so, he connects it to a larger community

complete with challenges, joys, and complexities. In interviews, Jay says that the impetus for Decoded came from conversations with people like Oprah Winfrey and Cornel West who consider hip-hop culture to be destructive, who still don't understand its value.

In times where hip-hop culture and rap music have been used as scapegoats for societal ills, the argument has been mounted that both are simple reflections of the world that their participants inhabit; that they're mirrors being held up to an America that is experienced primarily by young, Black men. In a sense, Jay-Z has expounded on that sentiment — which was quickly becoming a tired cliché — and built a legitimate case behind it. For his effort, he may have won over Winfrey because, as a part of her most recent "Favorite Things" show, the queen of American media gave the book away to her audience saying that it gave her many "aha moments."

Some of the most compelling content in Decoded (from where Oprah probably got those aha's) comes by way of Hov's presentation of his most popular songs. "This Can't Be Life," "99 Problems," and "Can I Live" get a line by line treatment where the rapper offers analysis and clarification on some of his most controversial rhymes.

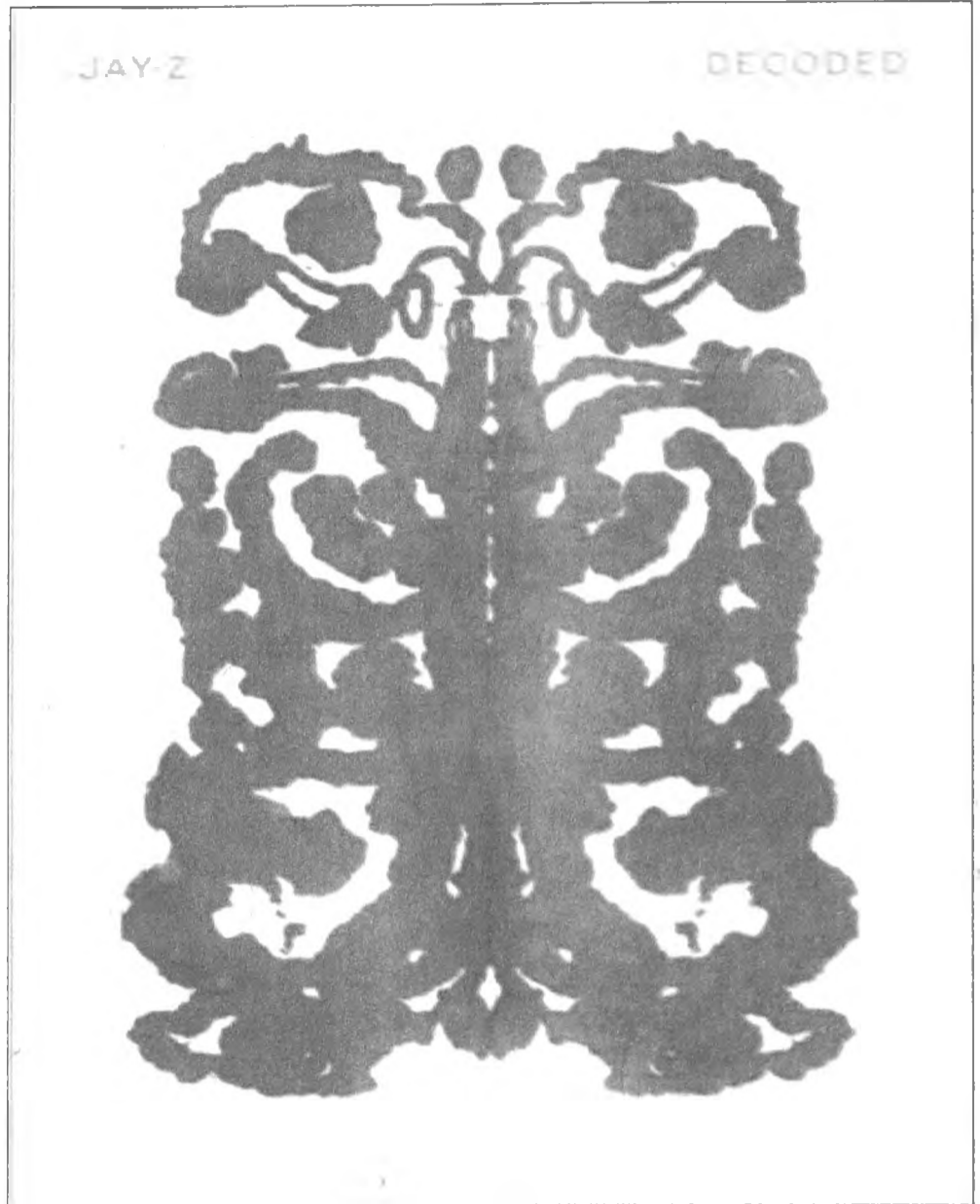
He even throws in a discussion of his song "Lucifer" from The Black Album for all of the Illuminati-minded. There's also great insight to be found in other sections of the 317 page book. Throughout, Jay-Z provides commentary on his life and times. He analyzes politics, economics, the music industry, and many of his influences. Of hip-hop as a movement he writes,

"There were no leaders of this 'movement.' There wasn't even a list of demands...It was definitely different, less easily defined, less pure, and harder to celebrate than a simple call for revolution. But in their way, Biggie's word made an even more desperate case for some kind of change...We were coming from the perspective, 'We need some kind of opportunity; we are ready to die.'"

Ultimately, what is proposed with Decoded is what many hip-hop heads already know: that the music is complex and behind every song is a larger story. It's affirming that one of the most celebrated emcees has taken such a bold step to push the culture forward and a book like Decoded may give way to more serious treatments of hip-hop in academic spaces. For Morehouse's part, there is serious work being done by Dr. Joycelyn Wilson with her The HipHop2020 Curriculum Project which brought artists

like KiD Cudi to campus for a discussion of his music. Within the department of psychology Dr. David Wall Rice's Identity Orchestration Research Lab is involved in research investigating expressions of Black male identity as evidenced through hip-hop lyricism for an upcoming book entitled I 'Aint No Joke.

From the looks of Jay-Z's most recent venture, there's a place of prominence in store for hip-hop beyond that of an economic engine or campaign wedge issue. Just looking at a physical copy of the text, it's clear that the culture is growing up and refining itself to the point of introspection (a rendering of Andy Warhol's 1984 Rorschach appears on the cover.) Most importantly, the book leaves the reader wondering; it opens up the



scope of hip-hop. In reading it, one asks himself, "If this is what a boy from Brooklyn's Marcy Projects has brought to being, what else is possible? What are this genre and the people who fuel it truly capable of saying and doing?"

Donovan X. Ramsey is the Associate Researcher at the Identity Orchestration Re-

search Lab at Morehouse College where he is currently engaged in research regarding the expression of Black male identity in contemporary politics. He has served as a writer for elected officials throughout Georgia and contributor to several publications. For more of his work, please visit www.dynamicstasis.com.

Pilot Talk II Album Review

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In a dream world, many fans would love to have their favorite artist drop multiple albums in a year. This is sadly not a reality as many artists usually take two to three years to release new material. But for New Orleans rapper Curren\$y he did it in just four short months.

After the release of his critically acclaimed album "Pilot Talk" in July, Curren\$y is back with his follow up, "Pilot Talk II." The release of this album came as a surprise to many after Curren\$y announced it in a video in late August. Regardless of the short time span, none of the material seemed rushed and the music was quality, arguably better than its predecessor.

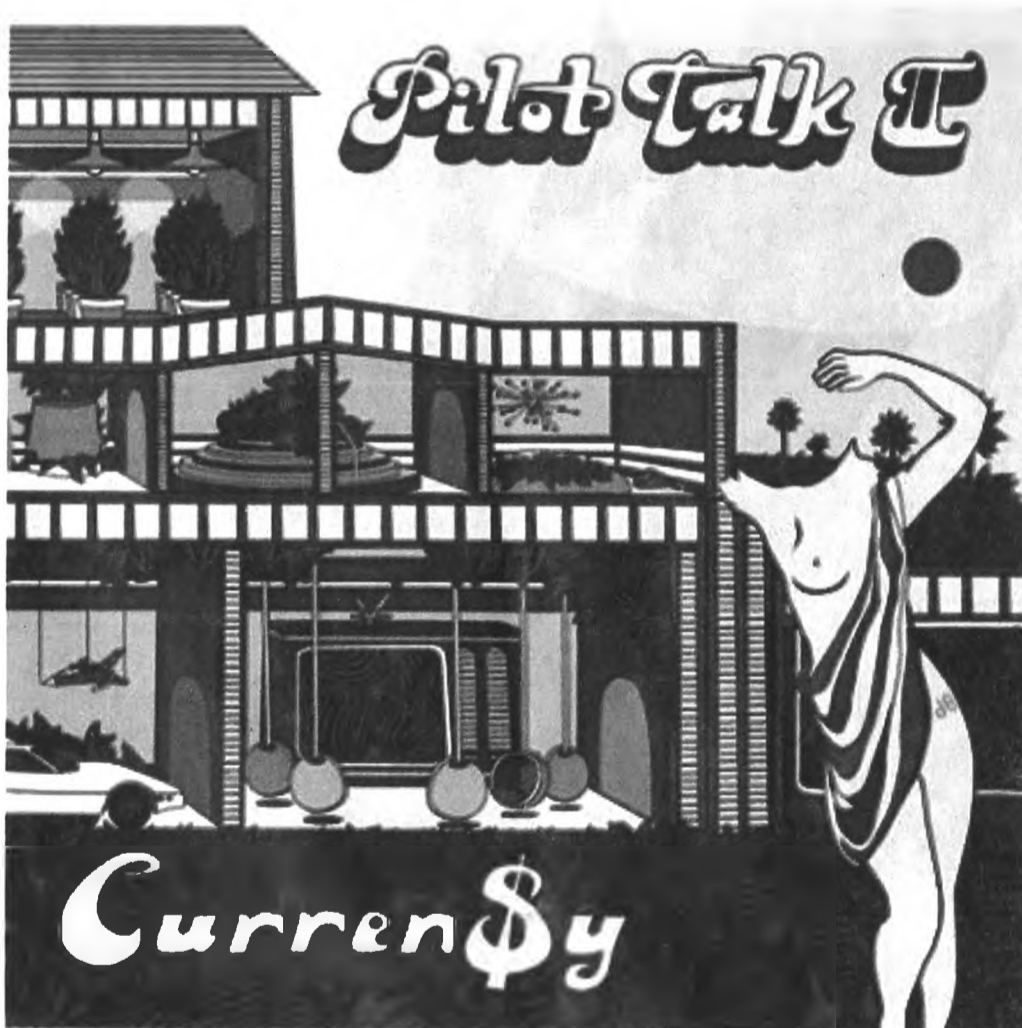
The majority of the album was produced by Ski Beatz, who also did many of the tracks on the first "Pilot Talk." The lead single "Michael Knight," an ode to the '80s fictional television character, is just as the character might be described, cool. With a simple hook consisting of the repetition of the character's name followed by the sound that Knight's car made in the show, it might seem stupid to some, but Curren\$y

makes it work and does a great job at it.

Curren\$y is now in a position where he can make the type of music that he is comfortable with. This is evident in the tracks "Montreux" and "Famous." On "Famous," Curren\$y raps about his ability and freedom to do what he pleases with his music now

without the worries he used to face when he was signed to a major label. One of two tracks produced by Monsta Beatz, the laid back, jazzy beat fits Curren\$y's flow perfectly.

On the track "Flight Briefing," Curren\$y and his proteges, Young Roddy and Trademark, take listeners on a flight, literally. With a flight attendant speaking after every verse, it gives the listener the illusion of taking a flight with Curren\$y, one of the more creative tracks on the album.



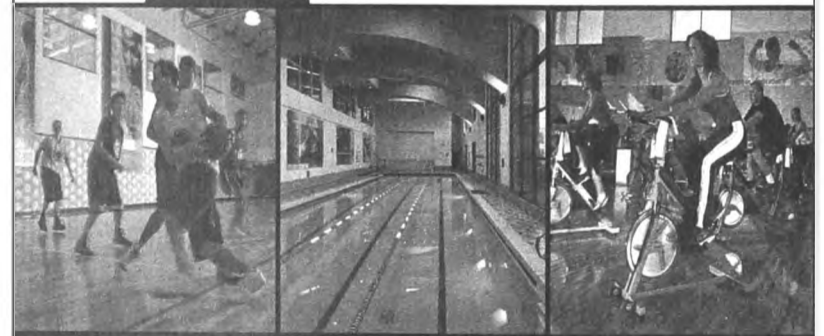
"Real Estates" is one of the standout tracks on the album and features Los Angeles rapper Dom Kennedy. Kennedy takes control of the beat as if it is his own song. Towards the end of the album, the tempo picks up, evident on the track "Highed Up," which is dedicated to the late great Pimp C. Laced with a myriad of horns, a heavy bass, and fact paced drums, it exemplifies a different flow from Curren\$y, who is usually really laid back.

The next song "O.G. (The Jam)" features former No

Limit label artist, Fiend. Produced by Drupey, the newcomer definitely shows out on this beat. The last track of the album is a remix to the single "Michael Knight," which features Raekwon.

"Pilot Talk II" is an amazing follow-up to an album many considered one of the top hip-hop albums of the year, "Pilot Talk." If you want to listen to some good music, this is definitely worth the listen.

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Birds of Prey: Atlanta Falcons Hoping to Regroup

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Hearthbroken. Betrayed. Crushed. On Aug. 20, 2007, these words became synonymous with the quandary facing the Atlanta Falcons franchise. On this day Michael Vick, the man many felt would revolutionize the quarterback position, plead guilty on federal dog fighting charges.

Steve Newman, a lifelong Falcons fan told reporters, "It didn't hit me until I saw the sentence. Once I heard he was given two years I knew it was over."

The Vick era was indeed over in Atlanta and the Falcons moved in the direction mapped out by their rookie head coach, Bobby Petrino, in 2007.

The Falcons' struggles were evident after starting the season 1-6. Along with the losses came rumors of a rift between veteran players, most notably former Falcons cornerback DeAngelo Hall, and Petrino.

Petrino's stint with the Falcons was short-lived, as he resigned without even addressing the team in person 13 games into the season. The team finished the season a disappointing 4-12 after Emmitt Thomas, Falcons' senior defensive assistant/secondary coach, was named the interim head coach.

Atlanta sought to rebuild yet again, this time under new head coach Mike Smith. Smith, former Jacksonville Jaguars defensive coordinator, sought to mold the Falcons into a contender.

Before the 2008 Draft, the Falcons won a coin toss to gain control of the third overall pick. This pick was imperative to the rebuilding initiative

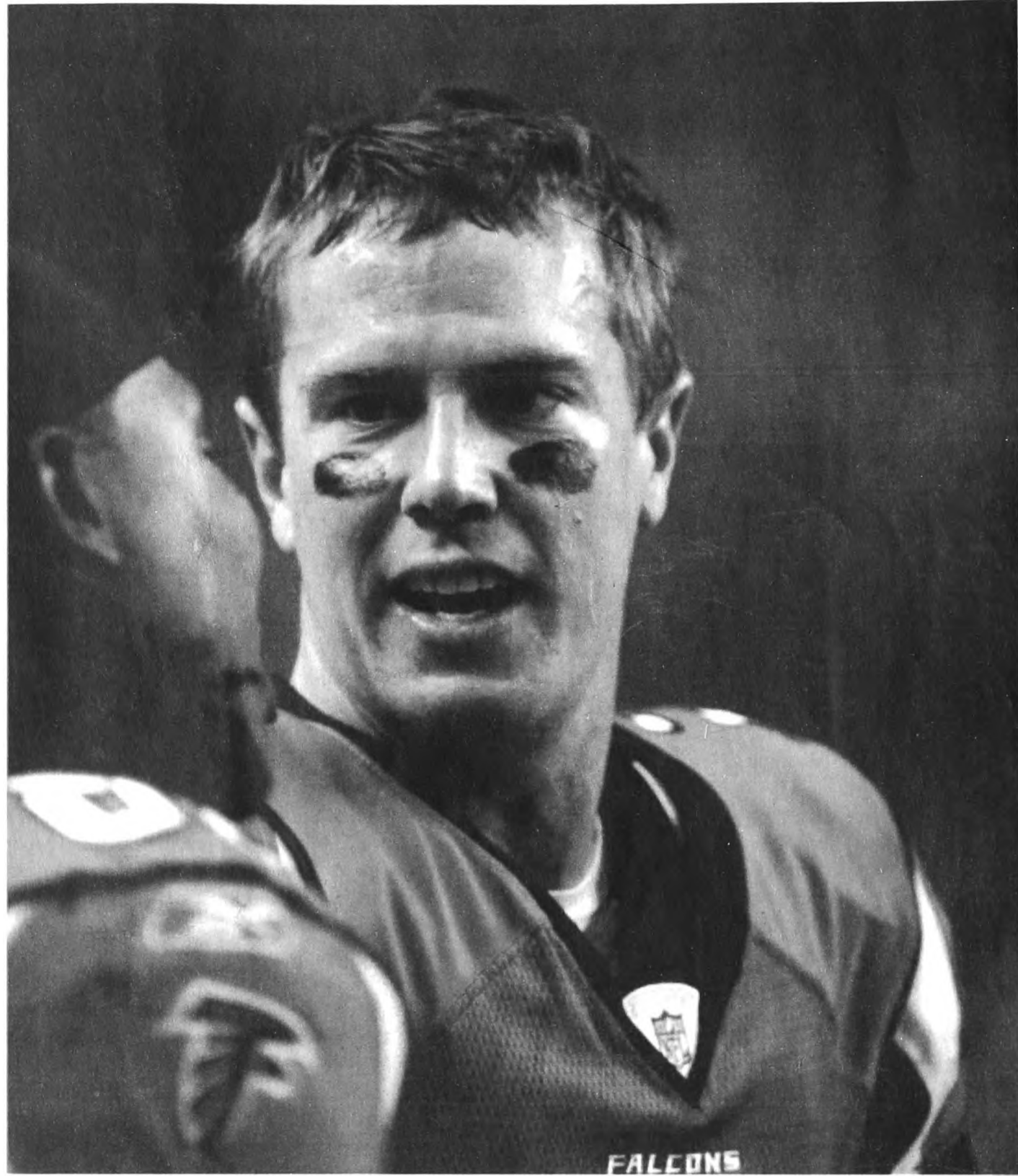
spearheaded by Smith. With the third pick in the draft, the Falcons selected Boston College standout quarterback Matt Ryan. While at Boston College, Ryan compiled a record of 25-7 along with leading his team to three bowl victories.

Along with the addition of Ryan, the Falcons signed free agent running back Michael Turner. Turner had been the backup to perennial pro bowler LaDainian Tomlinson while playing for the San Diego Chargers for four seasons.

The two newest Falcons made an impact immediately. On the first pass of his career, Ryan connected with Falcons receiver Michael Jenkins on a 62-yard strike for a touchdown. Turner would not be outdone as he rushed for 220 yards en route to breaking the Falcons' single-game rushing record.

The addition of the Offensive Rookie of the Year, Ryan, and Turner proved to be key to the Falcons' 11-5 season in 2008. The Falcons have since posted winning records in consecutive seasons for the first time in franchise history. Alongside the solid play of Ryan and Turner, the emergence of Roddy White as an elite receiver has made the Falcons a Super Bowl contender this season.

For a franchise and city that has endured so much heartache, the chance at a Super Bowl title is well overdue. Ryan and the Falcons have dominated at home, compiling an 18-1 record inside of the Georgia Dome since '08. This stat alone is seemingly intimidating for other NFC contenders, as the road to Super Bowl XLV may very well go through Atlanta.



Crafting the Perfect NBA Player

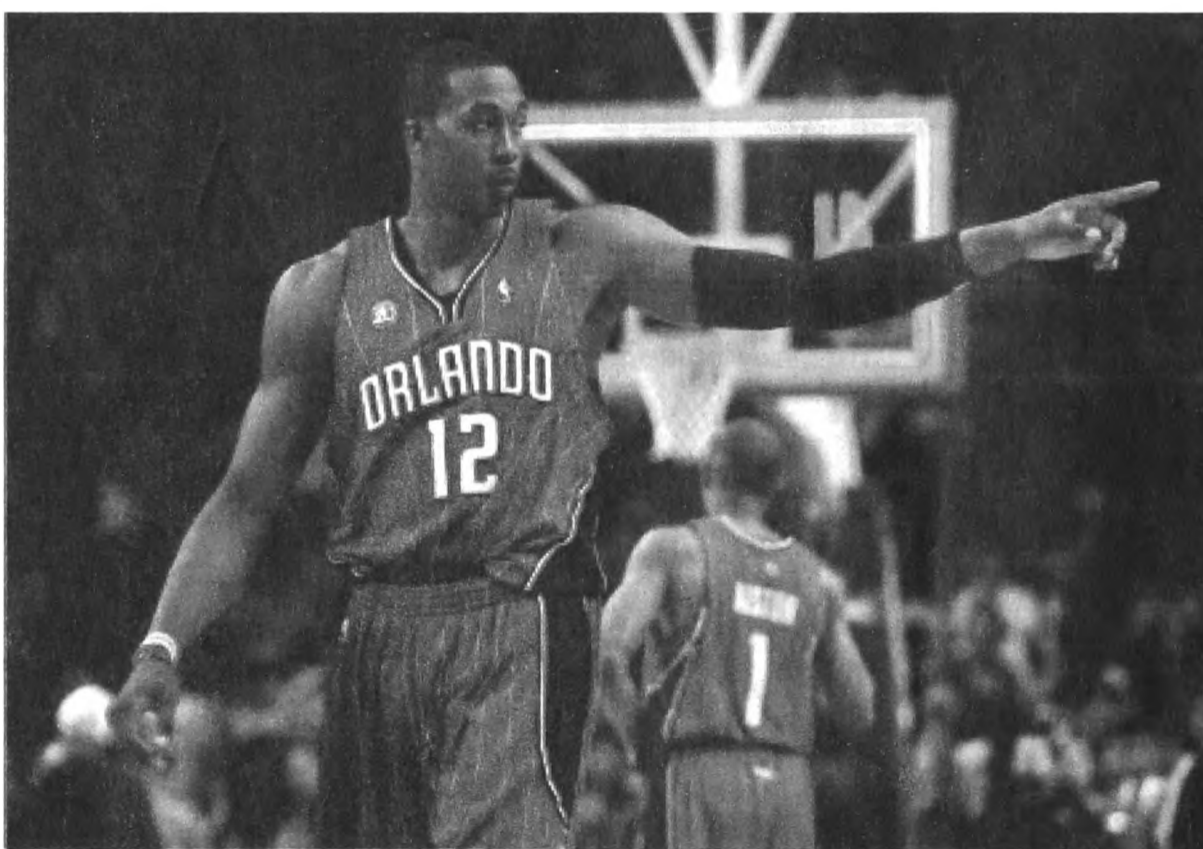
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All of the stars in the NBA have specific skills and attributes that make them special. What if you could take apart every player in the league and select anything you want from any player to design your perfect player? What would you choose?

Head, Kobe Bryant - Bryant is arguably the most talented player in the league, but what sets him apart is his mental toughness. He plays through a plethora of excruciating injuries and has a will that is unmatched in the NBA. In the fourth quarter, no matter how many minutes he has played in the game, you can always count on him to come through in the clutch.

Shoulders, Dwight Howard - Arguably no other player has more on his shoulders than Howard, yet his shoulders are massive enough to handle it. Anchoring one of the league's best defenses, Howard is the only intimidating defensive presence on his team. Even though he dominates both backboards and leads his team in scoring, Howard constantly faces tremendous pressure to improve his limited offensive game to help take his team to the next level.

Jump Shot, Ray Allen - Allen has the smoothest jumper in the game period. Wheth-



er it's spotting up, coming off screens, or off the dribble you would be hard-pressed to find a smoother jump shot.

Eyes, Steve Nash - Who sees all 94 feet of the hardwood better than Nash? Playing in an uptempo running style offense that requires the point guard to make all of the plays, Nash rarely misses an open man. Whether it's in transition or in the half court, this point guard, without question, has the set of oculars all players desire.

Heart, Kevin Love - It's fitting that the NBA's most valuable heart belongs to a guy named Love. Love is at an athletic disadvantage almost every night he steps onto the court. Lacking in

explosiveness, quickness, and lateral mobility, Love still finds a way to dominate the glass and has established himself as a premier rebounder. A prime example of his rebounding prowess came on Nov. 12 when he recorded 31 rebounds against one of the most athletic players in the league, the Knicks' Amar'e Stoudemire.

Leadership, Chris Paul - Perhaps the best point guard in the NBA, Paul is also one of the best leaders in the game. Paul is a constant communicator whether he is bringing the ball up court or sitting on the sidelines. Embodying the phrase "coach on the floor," Paul leads by example with his relentless effort every sec-

ond he is in the game.

Athleticism, LeBron James - This is a no brainer. James is a rare athlete that basketball has never "witnessed" on the court before. Standing 6-8, 270 pounds, James is also one of the fastest players in the league with the ability to jump out of the gym.

Hands, Pau Gasol - This Spaniard owns the best set of manos (hands), allowing him to possess the ability to finish strongly with either hand dunking, a finger roll, or with a hook shot. He rarely mishandles the ball or drops a pass, making it difficult to not want Gasol's 10 fingers for our perfect player.

Possibility of Pacquiao-Mayweather fight sees difficulty

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The result of Manny Pacquiao's dominant performance in his latest bout with Antonio Margarito on Nov. 13 was more of intrigue than disbelief. Once again, all anyone wants to see is Pacquiao in the ring with Floyd Mayweather. However, for now that is just a dream.

Pacquiao thrashed Margarito throughout the fight and it even got so bad that Pacquiao turned to the referee, Laurence Cole, several times in the 11th round to stop the fight on his way to a unanimous decision. Although Pacquiao unanimously won, that was not the fight fans truly cared to see.

The mega-fight between Mayweather and Pacquiao has been argued over seemingly since the dawn of time and there are no indications that this fight will happen in the near future. There are a multitude of legal problems surrounding the fight that need to be negotiated between both fighters.

The most pressing issues stem from Mayweather's domestic abuse and assault charges, which need to be handled before he enters

the ring again. Mayweather is expected in Las Vegas Justice Court in January on unrelated felony coercion, grand larceny and robbery charges stemming from a Sept. 9 dispute with the mother of his children. If convicted, he could face jail time.

The ring-related concerns begin with random drug tests demanded by Mayweather, even though both camps previously said that they have settled this problem. Though the camps may want everyone to believe those reports, sources from the Mayweather camp believe the fight will not happen because Pacquiao refuses to comply with Mayweather's wants. This has been the main problem between the two fighters, and with the back and forth statements from both camps no one knows who to believe.

On the other hand, many people believe that Pacquiao is good for another two or three more high profile fights before he retires and continues with his political career. With Mayweather heading to court in January and Pacquiao contemplating retirement, the mega-fight between the two might be the greatest fight we will never get to see.