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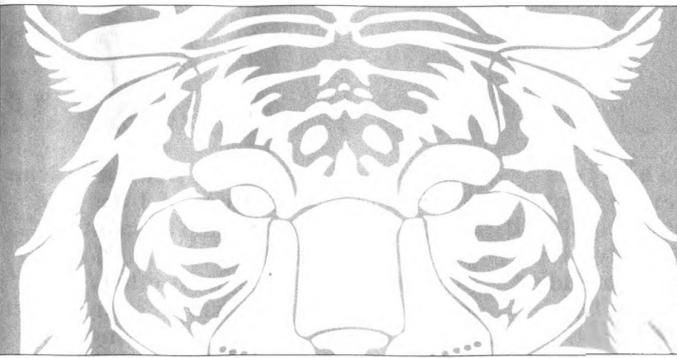
# THE MAROON TIGER

THE ORGAN OF STUDENT EXPRESSION SINCE 1925

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE ATLANTA, GA

OCTOBER 3 - 10, 2012

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## THE TRIALS OF A HIP HOP SOLDIER

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Regarded as the go-to guy by artists and politicians alike, Rev. Lennox Yearwood President & CEO of the National Hip Hop Caucus is leading a movement which seeks to organize, galvanize, and mobilize millions of citizens towards a positive civic and social change across America.

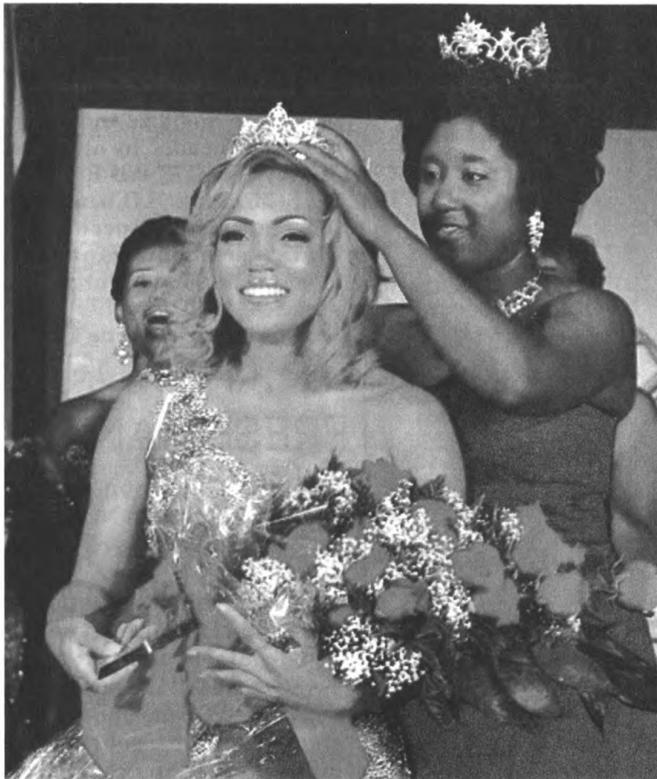
An organization built on policy, Rev. Yearwood & the Hip Hop Caucus' purpose is to ensure people feel empowered through civic engagement in their communities. These principles have moved his organization to lead some of the largest grassroots urban political campaigns in the last decade. "When we're spending more money on bombs than books for our communities, we have a problem," Yearwood said.

Approached by the likes of Russell Simmons, Sean Combs, and Jay-Z, Rev Yearwood has led some of the largest grass root political campaigns since MTV's "Rock the Vote." He directed the Hip Hop Summit Tour in 2004 while organizing thousands for Jay-Z's Voice Your Choice Campaign that same year. In 2008 he co-directed the widely successful Vote or Die! campaign which boosted an additional 4.6 million youth votes than had been recorded the

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2 >

## The New Miss NBCA

MISS MAROON AND WHITE SEIZES ANOTHER CROWN



PHOTOGRAPH BY: TREVON HILL

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"She was a queen throughout the entire pageant." These words came from one of the organizers of the Miss. National Black College Alumni (NBCA) Hall of Fame Pageant after Miss Maroon & White, Jasmine Matthews, seized the crown.

The competition consisted of 20 women from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country from Miss Clark Atlanta University to Miss Winston Salem State University. The judging criterion was broken down into 4 sections: an interview with the judges, a talent portion and two question and answer (Q&A) portions.

After the introductions of the queens, and before the talent portion, 9 queens who did not perform well enough in the interview with the judges and events prior to the pageant were eliminated.

Matthews did a Choreopoem for her talent. The talent is a spin-off of spoken word. During her talent, she spoke of a young girl who was raped by her father. Touching the hearts of the crowd through her buoyant, meticulous words, the crowd was forced to give her a standing ovation.

During the Q&A section, Matthews was faced with two controversial questions. One of these questions dealing with what changes she would suggest to her College (Morehouse) President, the other was talking about her perspective of same-sex marriage.

Both of Matthews's answers were articulated well and she represented the College like a true queen.

"Jasmine is the female embodiment of Morehouse College," Anre Washington, Student Government Association president, said. "She carried herself, as she always does, as an extension of the best of our institution."

After the first Q&A portion, the judges narrowed it down to the top five queens before doing a second round of Q&A.

These top five queens consisted of: Miss Howard University, Miss Morehouse College (Miss Maroon & White), Miss Fisk University, Miss Fort Valley State University and Miss Central State University.

With 4 runner-ups, there is only one crowned queen.

After the judges tallied the votes, and had announced the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th runner-ups, the last two standing to be Miss NBCA was Miss Howard University and Miss Morehouse College.

Once they stated Miss. Howard University as 1st runner-up, Miss Morehouse College and Morehouse students were overjoyed.

"I'm glad we finally can affirm what I've been saying - that we have been blessed with the Queen of all Queens," Washington said.

The last time Miss Morehouse won the title of Miss NBCA was in 1992.

According to the resounding support Matthews received from her supporters on Twitter, "Queen of all Queens" is a title well deserved.

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THE TRIALS OF A HIP HOP SOLDIER  
CONTINUED

previous electoral season. It was also in 2008, The Hip Hop Caucus started their first campaign entitled "Respect My Vote!" which was catapulted by the likes of T.I. and Keyshia Cole. The campaign mobilized over 700 volunteers, registered 49,500 new voters, made over 6.5 million voter impressions, and as the registration deadline neared on September 30, 2008 the Hip Hop Caucus made a one day push which registered over 32,000 people to vote in 16 cities across the country. "We want people in these communities to realize where there's unity there's strength," Yearwood said.

This year, "Respect My Vote!" is back and being regarded as the best effort thus far to mobilize youth in our communities. Spearheaded by industry leaders such as Trey Songz, Travis Porter, Lupe Fiasco, Big Sean, Tank, B.O.B, and Kevin Liles, this year's effort is specifically designed to educate communities on the importance of voting and how to organize for a better America.

After graduating from the University  
TRANSFORMATION OF  
FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

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The implementation of a new module for Freshman Orientation could possibly be more beneficial now than it has been in recent years.

Dean Alvin Darden, freshman dean—along with other Deans and administrators—has decided to create a course description for Freshman Orientation that incorporates the Five Wells (Well-Dressed, Well-Spoken, Well-Balanced, Well-Read, and Well-Traveled) into the Tuesday morning chapel lecture.

In prior years, the system of Freshman Orientation entailed coming into King's Chapel and listening to an intensive lecture of Dean Darden with the support of his assistant, Omar Agard. Many students did not find the convocation vital to freshmen and their daily activities.

This year there are more focal points. Students are now being challenged to articulate their words, engaged in active reading and historical facts of Morehouse, learn about opportunities of studying abroad, understand proper etiquette and attire expectations and develop leadership skills while maintaining a healthy balance between school, family, work and social activities.

Dr. William Bynum is the Vice President for Student Services and he covers the topic of being "Well-Dressed". The focus point of being well dressed is not only about the clothing that one wears, but it also deals with presentation and adapting to environments.

Dr. Bynum teaches the students about everything from the type of lapels to matching handkerchiefs and ties. He also introduced the freshmen to proper eating etiquette.

"No doubt [Freshman Orientation] is more beneficial," Bynum said. "There is now a curriculum and it's more substance base because we are able to speak directly to the wells."

Many students have been talking about the base of the curriculum including the "Five Wells." The main point of this discussion is to bring clarity to the extensiveness of the course. Will the Wells still be the main focus after Dr. Franklin's Presidency?

"We expect that it will," Bynum said. "However the class will still be based on modules. We hope to break the module down even further into possibly 10 sections with 50 students, rather than the 5 sections with 100 students. This will help to create a better dialogue."

With the new changes of Freshman Orientation, many freshmen have faithfully gone to Chapel in hopes of learning something new each week. Many students have adopted wells as their favorites and are aspiring to emulate the principles of that specific well. One of those students happens to be a freshman English major, Darien Waite.

"The most useful well is well-balanced, without balance we are non-functioning," Waite said. "Everything in life requires balance and without stability in that balance we will never be able to find that place of peace inside of us. There is a time and place for everything and it all requires you doing not too much of something and not too little of something either."

of District of Columbia where he served as student body president, Rev. Yearwood answered his call to ministry. He continued his education at Howard University where he was also elected student body president and earned his Masters of Divinity Degree.

After graduation, he joined the Air Force where he served as chaplain, but was soon dismissed as a threat to national security after being put on trial for speaking on his concerns with the war and the direction it was heading at that time. It was upon his dismissal Rev. Yearwood decided to follow his passion as a community servant full time. "Its amazing how I could be put on trial by the Air Force, dismissed as a threat to national security, then a few years later, I'm honorably discharged and asked to join President Obama for the launch of his Green Campaign. When your heart is with the people, God will make a way."

The son of college professors, the reverend is no stranger to educating others. "My father has his doctorate in African American studies as well as his law degree. My mother has her doctorate in psychology. It was in my teen years when my

father served as Associate Dean of African American studies at Howard, I was able to sit in his class and listen to countless leaders. People like Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) and so many others really made a huge impact on my life. An impact that really impacted me to love my people."

While success may seem as if it leaves a special window open for some, Rev. Yearwood makes it clear relating his premiss on politics and organizing have not always been easy. "After I was dismissed from the military I approached some of the more traditional civil rights organizations but they shunned the way I chose to speak out on the war. It wasn't until I met Dr. Ben Chavis that I was able to be connected to someone (Russell Simmons) who agreed with my vision. I had to find a way to shape my cultural expression with my political experience."

Moving forward Rev. Yearwood looks to continue to gather our communities for causes which affect our society. From the suites to the streets, or from the hood to the hill, Rev. Yearwood says he can't stop won't stop until the message is heard.

POLITHOUSE  
PROMISE. EVIDENCE. VERDICT.

1 "Morehouse College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against applicants or employees based on age, race, color, religion, or national origin." Department of Human Resources, Morehouse College

The U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission website outlines the guidelines which equal opportunity employers must follow. Left out of Morehouse's statement are several key groups which are normally protected under equal opportunity laws: sex (gender) and sexual orientation; both of which are further articulated in the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 and the Office of Personnel Management. The gray area: Morehouse College is a private institution and therefore is not subjected to the jurisdiction of these laws. As a result, Morehouse has fulfilled its legal obligation to protect those included in its equal opportunity clause.

## POLITHOUSE CLASSIFIES

2 "Welcome Back to the House' following NSO a week of programs designed at welcoming upperclassmen back to the brotherhood. Through use of class councils, registered student organization, Financial Aid, and OHRL making sure upperclassmen have a clear direction from one year to the next." SGA President Anre Washington, from platform as candidate, April 2012

The initiative developed by then candidate for SGA President, Anre Washington was created as a way to merge upperclassmen back into the brotherhood. The idea was to welcome upperclassmen back into Morehouse with a spirit of inclusion. Class Councils, SGA, fraternities, the Bonner Scholars Program, and other campus organizations all assisted upperclassmen on move-in day; however, no such program ever occurred "making sure upperclassmen have a clear direction from one year to the next."

## POLITHOUSE CLASSIFIES THIS PLAN AS PROMISE BROKEN

3 Last spring, then candidate for SGA Vice President, Temi Okotieuro, ran on a platform titled, "The Temi System." This system was developed to increase senate visibility on campus; which included expanding on an idea from former Senate Pro-Tempore Edward Anderson '12 to organize the senate into districts, each senator responsible for a portion of the student body constituency. Okotieuro wanted to take this initiative further and require senators to do a grievance report and mandatory meeting every month with their districts.

After winning the election, Vice President Okotieuro started to initiate his plan for rebranding and increasing senate visibility. With the help of 2012 President Pro-Tempore Ocosio Jackson and Chairman of Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Darren Martin, districts in the Senate are now included in the Senate Bylaws. Senators are mandated to reach out to their constituency and report grievances and solutions to the Senate in a week's time. District rounds and duties are slated to start in the next two weeks.

## POLITHOUSE CLASSIFIES THIS PLAN AS PROMISE KEPT

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# SINK OR SWIM FOR ROMNEY CAMPAIGN; FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE A TEST OF UNDERDOG TENACITY



THE AMERICAS: UNITED STATES

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Presidential campaign slumps and gaffes are nothing new to our political process. As always, coming into debate season, there will be a candidate seen by the general public as the underdog or the candidate with the most to lose. On Oct. 3, former Mass. Gov. Mitt Romney has to lay out his heavily criticized policy initiatives as he challenges Democratic incumbent President Barack Obama in the first presidential debate.

Romney is coming off of a whirlwind of gaffes centered around a secretly taped video at a campaign fundraiser of wealthy donors. In this tape he makes

provocative remarks about 47 percent of Americans who will never vote for him because they are dependent on government, and can't be persuaded that they should, "take personal responsibility for their lives."

The comments created a political firestorm that prompted swift reaction from both campaign teams, several press conferences to clarify the remarks, and denunciation from several top Republican lawmakers. The remarks, however, show a clear economic policy divide between the two candidates who will mainly be articulating their economic policy agendas on Wednesday night. The President is now leading in a recent New York Times poll questioning who the people think will best handle the economy.

The debate is also a moment in which Romney must overcome polls in key swing states that have him trailing among likely voters just seven weeks before the general election.

Wall Street Journal, NBC News, and Marist polled the likely voters in three swing states, and the results indicated mounting challenges for the Republican nominee, as he tries to chart a path to victory just over a month before Election Day and a few days before the presidential debates. Romney trails the President by two percentage points among registered voters in North Carolina and Nevada, and by seven points in New Hampshire, according to the recently released survey. The polls also indicate Romney is doing better among Independent voters in Nevada, and among voters likely to cast a ballot in November, though he is still trailing.

There will be a Debate Watch Party in Douglass Hall on Wednesday night at 7 p.m. The debate will also be aired live from Denver on NBC. The term will begin Monday as the court hears *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum*, No. 10-1491, a case to rule on the jurisdiction of American courts in international conflict.

# HIGH COURT EXPECTED TO HAVE BUSY YEAR; COURT TO TAKE UP AND RULE ON DIVISIVE, CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS



THE AMERICAS: UNITED STATES

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As a new session looms, the Supreme Court of the United States is slated to take up some controversial decisions related to gay rights, affirmative action and voting rights that may have an

impact on some recent state and national legislative actions.

Before the close of the last court recess in July where the Supreme Court ruled most of President Obama's landmark Affordable Care Act constitutional, the court also agreed to take up cases that will undoubtedly have at least some impact at the state and national level.

The high court is expected to rule on affirmative action by taking up *Fisher v. University of Texas*, a case which will determine Texas' limited use of race to help fill out its incoming classes. The impact of the

decision could be felt at local Atlanta colleges and universities across the state trying to balance out enrollment numbers.

In the wake of Voter Suppression Laws in Georgia and across the country which activists claim will keep minority Americans away from the polls, the court will also hear arguments from state Attorneys General about the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act. Several appeals from state and national lawmakers are asking the court to invalidate a cornerstone of civil rights era legislation, a mandate of a law that impacts over a dozen states, mostly southern states with a history of institutional discrimination, to get approval from the Justice Department or the federal court in Washington before instituting any changes affecting elections and voting.

Several Supreme Court justices have expressed reluctance about the need for this measure in another decision that denied the appeals.

A recent study conducted by professors from the University of Washington and the University of New Mexico found that more than over a million registered voters in Pennsylvania and 757,325 people who voted in 2008 lack a valid ID under a new Pennsylva-

nia Voter ID Law.

Coming off the heels of national controversy which erupted from anti-gay remarks from conservative lawmakers and conservative companies like Chick-Fil-A, the court is also expected to hear arguments related to the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

The 1996 Defense of Marriage Act denies federal benefits, including favorable tax treatment and health benefits, among many others, to legally married same-sex couples. The court almost always has the last word when federal laws are struck down. A separate appeal involves California's ban on gay marriage, ruled unconstitutional by federal courts.

Same-sex marriage is legal in six states and the District of Columbia -- places with a combined population of 35 million. Additionally, according to a RealClearPolitics poll, 50 percent of Americans approve or same-sex marriage and 48 percent disapprove.

The term will begin Monday as the court hears *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum*, No. 10-1491, a case to rule on the jurisdiction of American courts in international conflict.

# THE PULITZER BEAT

## GENDER INEQUALITY IN SOUTH AFRICA INSPIRES REFLECTION

**Amal Yamusah**  
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In the Atlanta University Center, where women make up over 60% of the campus' cosmology, the struggle for women's rights is often times trivialized. In areas of the world like rural South Africa, where gender relations between men and women are wildly disproportionate, the struggle to obtain equal rights and entitlements is all too real.

For women in the AUC, life without rights and entitlements is but a farce. For women in the homelands of bucolic South Africa, it is a harsh, yielding tight reality - one rooted in fear and despair.

"If a woman brings a case to court, she cannot set foot in the courthouse," Melissa Turley, a writer for the Pulitzer Center said. "If a woman wants to acquire land, she cannot apply for it on her own. A man must assist her. She has no say over who her traditional leaders are. She can be subjected to forced labor or harsh punishment at the whim of her chief."

Instances like these remind women on the campus of Spelman College, America's oldest historically black college for women, that they too are not far removed from severe gender discrimination.

"There was a time when women of Spelman were subject to the same gender inequalities that haunt so many women today," Jasmine Short, a junior from Spelman said.

"Even today, we are not completely rid of the discriminations that threatened us years ago."

Short echoes the sentiment of many women on college campuses that continue to struggle with gender discrimination, despite the implementation of institutionalized rights.

"Perhaps, countries like South Africa will inspire change in our own homeland," Jamal Love, Morehouse junior from Aberdeen, Maryland said.

Yet, let the gender discrimination in South Africa also serve as reprieve - though gender inequality still exists in the United States, we've come a long way. The Traditional Courts Bill in South Africa, first introduced in 2008, attests to this.

"The Traditional Courts Bill, a piece of legislation first introduced in 2008 and currently under review in South Africa, would make these practices within customary law legal and a part of the constitution," Turley said. "Almost, if not all, of those affected are Africans who are living in various levels of poverty."

The Bill represents a country in massive need of reform. It is not that women are unable to govern themselves; the problem lies in the fact that they are not afforded the opportunities to do so. But to what extent should women continue to suffer under this arbitrary law?

"One female member of the Rural Women's Movement said her daughter was raped at a young age," Heller said. "Instead of calling the police they took the matter to their

traditional leader... In her case, he said this was not a court issue but a family issue and he denied her plea for justice."

Due to the apathy of the traditional leader, the sovereign man, her daughter died of complications related to HIV without the ability to seek medical help.

"It cannot be proven that her rapist infected her, but her mother is certain that is so," Heller added.

Calamitous times like these add virtue to the struggle for gender equality. Yet, this struggle will not seize over night. Women like Sizani Ngubane, founder of the Rural Women's Movement, know this and continue their fights against patriarchy gender inequality.

"Her number one interest now is blocking the passage of the Traditional Courts Bill," Heller said. It is the desired hope of many that others will join in this fight to end gender indignation, and restore justice back to countries like South Africa.

*The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting is an innovative award-winning non-profit journalism organization dedicated to supporting the independent international journalism that U.S. media organizations are increasingly less able to undertake. The Center focuses on under-reported topics, promoting high-quality international reporting and creating platforms that reach broad and diverse audiences. Information used in this article can be located on the Pulitzer Center's website, <http://pulitzercenter.org>.*

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE  
STUDY ABROAD FAIR

*"Renaissance Men  
are Well-Traveled"*

Date: October 8, 2012

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Place: Kilgore Plaza

For more information contact Gwen Wade at gwade@morehouse.edu or (404) 215-2728

LET'S GIVE BREAST CANCER

THE "BOOT"

13TH MOREHOUSE COLLEGE BREAST CANCER WALK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012

8:00 A.M. MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL

REGISTRATION: \$20  
(INCLUDES T-SHIRT)

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY -  
"MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER"

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# TWELVE

MOREHOUSE SPELMAN HOMECOMING 2012

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# SCANDAL CREATOR VISITS AUC

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"She basically fixes things for people." Upon my investigation of interviews revolving around the hit show that just premiered their most recent episode signifying the beginning of a much anticipated second season of *Scandal*, I was lucky enough to stumble across footage that shared the inspiration behind the creation of the ABC show. *Scandal* gives viewers a thrilling chance to experience the life of the woman behind the creation of the show and the world of crisis management.

"I'm an attorney and have a background in public relations and I've just been doing crisis communications for the last twenty years," Smith explained regarding her career and entry into the field. Smith is no rookie when it comes to her job. Having worked with people such as Monica Lewinsky, NFL quarterback Michael Vick, the family of Chandra Levy and many more, the opportunities only added to her vast repertoire of work. Smith has worked as Assistant United States Attorney and was Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney of the District of Columbia and followed that appointment up in 1991 when she was Special Assistant and Deputy Press Secretary to President George H. W. Bush.

Smith is currently the founder and President of Smith & Company. Twitter feeds were all a flurry when news broke that Judy Smith would be headed to Spelman College's own Sister's Chapel for an informative conversation outlining who she is and what she does.

In response to Smith's appearance on Wednesday night, a tweet read, "Scandal comes on tomorrow and I can barely contain myself. Seeing Judy tonight just set it off!" Others said, "SCANDAL COMES ON TONIGHT!!!! Nothing can ruin my day" and "8:50 to 11:00 today I want ZERO interruptions. I will be tuned in to Grey's Anatomy and Scandal. Don't expect a response." Interestingly enough, *Scandal* was created by

the same woman who is also the creator, executive producer and head writer for the show *Grey's Anatomy*. Shonda Rhimes works as the woman behind some of ABC's biggest hit shows.

On her portrayal of strong women as lead characters within her shows, Rhimes admitted, "I feel like the one thing that my shows have in common is that they're about these really smart women working in fields that they absolutely adore, and the rest of their lives might be a mess but their jobs are something they're really good at and I wanted to capture what that was about Judy that makes her so good at her job and love it so much." *Scandal* displays a trifecta of African American talent with the work of Rhimes behind the scenes, Smith inspiring the show and Kerry Washington with the main role.

On Rhimes's writing and directorial prowess, Washington stated, "I feel like in some ways Shonda writes in the rhythm that women think." On casting Kerry Washington (Olivia Pope) Rhimes said, "Casting Kerry was interesting because I was very aware that we were doing a show that had an African American female lead and that doesn't happen very often on network television."

"I was really lucky because my character and the show is inspired by a real life phenomenon of a person named Judy Smith," Washington said.

On Smith's involvement in the show, beyond her position as co-executive producer, Rhimes shared, "I would call her and say this is a scenario, what would you do if it was your case?" Smith confessed by saying, "I never thought in a million years that my work would inspire a television show"

*Scandal* made its television debut on April 5, 2012 and shows no signs of slowing down. "I really try to make it about great storytelling...lots of twists and turns," Rhimes said. "I wanted it to be a show that when the hour comes to an end, you sort of can't believe it's over and you need to know what happens next."

# THE NEW LUX: MAPP

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During Travis Randle's two administrations as president of the Morehouse College Student Government Association (SGA), he commissioned the creation of a logistical arm of the SGA. This logistical group, which would be eventually named the LUX, was created to transform the student government association's programming agenda and assist in redefining the leadership on Morehouse College's campus. However, the organization fell short of its expectation and was therefore inactive towards the end of Randle's administration.

"The capacity in which M.A.P.P., [formerly LUX], now serves expands from solely the SGA to the entire student body," senior Tevin Jones Student Government Executive Director said when asked about the new focus for the organization. "MAPP is a promotional tool for all campus organizations. If a group needs support as far as ideas, logistics, promotions, etc., especially if they do not have enough man power, MAPP is here."

The goal of the SGA MAPP, Marketing Activities Programs and Promotions, is to increase the visibility, effectiveness and efficiency of the SGA through the establishment of a team of creative and organized students, similar to that of its predecessor the LUX. Paralleled in overall purpose, MAPP will strengthen relations and create unification among students, administration, faculty, staff through the use of well-implemented events and activities and open lines of communication between the SGA and the community.

The reorganization of the group was primarily the work of Washington, Executive Secretary Martavius Leonard and Jones.

"MAPP is divided into two divisions," Jones said.

The first division is the social networking division that creates promotional material and focuses on marketing. The second division is the street team that helps engage in the physical logistics of programming.

Much like Washington described in his moving address at Crown Forum last week, this administration is "AWe-Inspiring" and this section of the administration is no different. They are here to change the view of SGA and ensure that every constituent under the SGA voice is heard. This sect of SGA is another "pace-setter."

# THE STUDENTS SOUND OFF: HUMP WEDNESDAY...DEAD?

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Two years ago the Maroon Tiger ran a story in the Feature Section outlining the importance of the Hump Wednesday to the AUC. Then Features Editor Elizabeth Sawyer used a now antiquated phrase to describe the event: "Most students realize that just like academics, these events [Hump Wednesday and Market Friday] are an important and arguably imperative part of being in the AUC.

Hump Wednesday can be described as an event that we in the AUC once looked forward to after classes on Wednesday. During the beginning of the fall semester, when the weather is still warm, different entities of Morehouse College take on the task of creating a block party on the campus, affectionately known as 'Hump Wednesday.'

This semester, however, our beloved institution of Hump Wednesday has become what some have termed "weak." The Morehouse student body sounds off.



--Reginald Carthen "Hump Wednesday has been dry this year. Nobody ever goes, because nothing ever pops off."

--Scooter Taylor "[Hump Wednesday] needs to be revamped."

--Chris Golson "It's not as good or

as live as it was last year. I think it's for the freshmen, but somehow this year advertising and associating Hump Wednesday with something popular has fallen off."

--Eric Morgan "When I visited last year, it was a lot livelier than it's been this year"

--Yandell Hankey II "Its weak man, definitely not what I expected from YouTube."

Everyone's first Hump Wednesday experience is always one to remember; one that is characteristic of loud music, fellowship of students from all walks of life and an expression of fun that unparalleled from many other experiences. As members of the AUC, we must preserve this sacred tradition and recreate our first experiences week after week so when the next classes come, Hump Wednesday won't be an obsolete practice, or even a myth from Ole Morehouse.

# DO YOU REACT THOUGH?

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This semester, ReAct, Reading Every Action with Christ Thinking, is gaining a lot of attention around campus and respect for what it aims to do. This program started at Morehouse as an extension of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel Assistants, and now has grown into an Atlanta University Center phenomenon.

ReAct aims to help students find Jesus Christ and build or strengthen their relationship with him, while balancing the overwhelming temptations of college. They conduct Bible study, prayer groups and casual group outings as well as attend church every Sunday.

San Diego native Loren Lott is a junior mass media arts major at Clark Atlanta University with a personal connection with the student organization.

"I love ReAct because it has not only changed my life, but changed the lives of people around me who were really struggling," Lott said. "But now because of their new relationship with Christ and their new family in ReAct, they have grown to be better people and have already started inspiring others."

ReAct has clearly changed lives and continues on its quest to do so. It's not rare that you find student organizations trying to do good for its school and community, but it is rare to find one that truly attempts to better the lives of students as individuals.

# INTERVIEW WITH DR. Z

Kayla Nelson  
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You hear about remarkable people everyday, but very few are able to have a sit-down conversation with one. Fortune greeted me when I was given the opportunity to chat with Dr. Z. Aziza Baccouche. It was an amazing experience engaging in dialogue with this beautifully accomplished physicist.

**Kayla Nelson:** How did you get started?

**Dr. Z:** I excelled in mathematics and when I got to my senior year I took physics and fell in love with the subject; very math based. Particularly my teacher never created any barriers. Certain people don't think blind people can do physics.

**Kayla:** How did you get involved with working with CNN?

**Dr. Z:** I did a triple mass media fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The fellowship encouraged graduate students in the sciences with the ability to connect science with everyday life and the human experience. The fellowship assigns students to different media outlets. I got the fellowship in Atlanta with CNN which launched my career in science and communication.

**Kayla:** You worked with Howard University Television. Can you talk a bit about that experience and your time at a Historically Black University?

**Due:** The English Department as a whole is in the process of brainstorming on ways to help new and existing Spelman students discover the writing classes, the writing minor, and other offerings for writers that already exist. I see my role as one where I work with the writing faculty to meet its own goals and help bring awareness to the classes we already have.

**Kayla:** Who is Ava Duvernay?

**Due:** Ava DuVernay is a writer, director and film distributor. She's the first black woman to win Best Director at the Sundance Film Festival for her film Middle of Nowhere, which opens next month. She's also fascinating to me because she has embraced an entrepreneurial model that enables her to release her own films without having to wait for the studio system. As the co-founder of AFFRM (the African-American Film Releasing Movement) (<http://www.affrm.com/>) she has created a blueprint for filmmakers to write, produce and distribute their own work. This is a vitally important conversation in the arts, especially in filmmaking, where studio perceptions of "black life" and films that will succeed tend to be extremely narrow. She is definitely a rising star in Hollywood, so I feel privileged that we are able to showcase her at Spelman.

**Kayla:** How many people will be in your lecture series?

**Dr. Z:** I finished my PhD in Physics at the University of Maryland. I was like "hey I can bring this to the table for your program." I started producing and working with well-known veteran journalists in the DC area. We covered issues related to the African American community. I came on board as a science correspondent to do science programs which were seven to 10 minutes. We talked about things like genetically modified foods and the human genome project. It was fantastic! Working with Kojo Knamdi was great because he's a top notch journalist. When I was in graduate school afterwards, I finished my fellowship and I had an opportunity to present a documentary film profiling 6 physics and engineering students. I did a program with Dr. Randal Pinkett who won the apprentice - he was doing a PhD in media science at MIT. I looked for people that were dynamic and that were able to show that science was not one dimensional. I also worked with Corey Bevins, a graduate student at Berkley who has a Masters in Chemical Engineering who worked as a television personality and did photography. You can branch off and do these other things and be a great scientist at the same time.

**Kayla:** What do you expect from your students?

**Dr. Z:** I always hope that my students will come to me with a deep passion for what they do. My primary expectation is that my students realize that coming to class is only one part of the learning process in my class. I like to say that I have a "living" syllabus, and it needs to be checked often, not just right before class, because many of my assignments will require sustained thought and not simply a glance before class begins. I'm very excited to be teaching both screenwriting and journalism this term.

**Kayla:** Can you tell me a little about Aziza productions?

**Dr. Z:** After the fellowship, I decided to open up my own media company. It was established in 2000 after I finished my PhD and I'm the executive producer. Everything is done over the Internet, the main thing is filming. It goes to YouTube and through email; that's how we produce. The computer is fantastic in that way because it allows me to be self sufficient.

**Kayla:** What do you hope to accomplish your upcoming documentary series?

**Dr. Z:** The goal is to increase the visibility of underrepresented scientist; women, African Americans, and the disabled. Howard television was presented to the PBS network to underserved communities around the country to ensure that the target audience is met. I wanted to show that these role models exist. We can shake our brains like Beyonce shakes her booty! We can shake our brains more broadly to the general public. We're not just the stereotype in the evening news.

**Kayla:** How has your "different ability" affected you in your professional pursuits?

**Dr. Z:** I've gotten to a point in my life where I don't care. I love my white cane. I use it as a way to knock people out of my way. Like the Beyonce Knowles move to the left! There are generally perceptions and attitudes that sighted people have about blind people. We're at the bottom of the barrel. 70% of working age blind people in the United States are unemployed. In this country we still deal with perceptions even though there are laws in the book. I've received so many declination letters. It's the illusion of inclusion. At the end of the road no one wants to pick you up and say, "you have a skill set." It was something that I never thought I would have to deal with. What people see is a white cane. They see blindness. It's not an issue about what instrument you use. People with sight read with their eyes. I'm blind so I read with my hands and ears.

**Kayla:** How have you steered clear of any assumptions from the outside world?

**Dr. Z:** I think just being present and showing people. For example with this with this TV series. Let them be shocked! There are no images of blind people. It's a platform for me. It doesn't take sight to do this. We'll maneuver around. I'm not operating the camera but if I were I would just tell them work with me, work with me! Producing is imagination and telling the story. It just goes back to the vision.

**Kayla:** If someone is facing their own challenge, what would you tell them to get through it?

**Dr. Z:** Yes you can!

**Kayla:** Why do you think it's important to garner more African American scholars in the STEM fields?

**Dr. Z:** We have to leave our mark, we have to show our mark, we have to show what we're able to accomplish. The numbers are very low on the stem field and we have to play that part. We have to represent. We have to try to increase the participation of women.

# MOREHOUSE AND THE NOT LIKELY CHALLENGE

Brothers,

On the eve of the re-election of Barack Obama, we, the black man, have never been so high in prominence and low in status in American history. This is evident when only 17% of black males who enter kindergarten will be afforded the opportunity to graduate from college. Not surprising, when only 41% of black males nationwide graduate from high school, and consequently for every three black men in college, four are in prison. Hence, we have mandate to appreciate the divine value of Morehouse College as the only institution dedicated to the academic success of black men in higher education.

On July Twenty-Fourth, Morehouse was faced with unprecedented news and stark realities about its institutional stability. Mother Morehouse was diagnosed with a potentially life-threatening illness diagnosed by Moody's Investors Service, a leading provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis. They downgraded Morehouse from a rating of A2 to A3. The analysis summary reads as follows:

"The A3 rating is based on Morehouse College's established market niche, ability to generate favorable gift revenue, and an adequate balance sheet cushion to debt and operations. Offsetting factors include a highly competitive student market coupled with low net tuition per student, thin unrestricted liquidity, and weak debt service coverage. The negative outlook is driven by year-over-year enrollment declines, declining financial resources and liquidity, weakening cash flow, and a transitional senior management team."

Notwithstanding, the validity and the gravity of these indictments is not where the problem lies. If not in these inadequacies, then where might a son of Morehouse find contempt in such a scathing report? The trouble comes in the section entitled "What Could Change The Rating Up," which the first sentence reads:

"Not likely due to the negative outlook."

This statement should pierce the heart of every man who has ever benefited from graduating from our highly-coveted institution. For this declaration, above all else in the findings, insinuates that there is no solution to fixing the issues Morehouse faces. Most importantly, do Men of Morehouse accept this indictment of our academic, financial, and transformational prowess? Once again, Morehouse is the only institution of higher education that services the mind of the black male, and for that reason we do and cannot subscribe to the constrictions of anyone else's evaluation. Our education forbids this.

Our sixth president, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, proclaimed, "Not failure but low aim is sin." Thus, each Man of Morehouse should set his sights on what are the necessities to the advancement of his institution and his brothers, present and future. How can each student do more to champion the mission and better serve Mother Morehouse? This man should stand in the mirror and demand better habits and have firm grasp of his value to the world.

Famed alumnus Howard Thurman '23 stated, "There are two questions that we have to ask ourselves. The first is 'Where am I going?' and the second is 'Who will go with me?'" To answer the first, each man should analyze the trajectory of his chosen studies and determine how he can blaze a trail on behalf of a young boy with dreams in his heart. Most importantly, each man should be emphatic about receiving more guidance from Morehouse Men who have passed before you. This is imperative considering that in 2011 college graduates were unemployed or underemployed at roughly 53%.

The second question offers direct challenge to the brotherhood that we regard so highly. For four or more years, we walk the campus sharing our experience with hundreds of men, each man with his own tale of determination, his own dreams of prosperity. Though, we may not always agree, we all hold the same responsibility to be extraordinary men regardless of pathology. In order to carry out this clarion call, you deserve better amenities, transparency, and more professional development and mentorship opportunities.

No longer can Morehouse Men go without hearing the resounding voices of Men of Morehouse, for that luxury has disappeared. No more can the complaints of the Men of Morehouse go unanswered while the cost of attendance rises infinitely. There is an air of expectancy of you mighty men to evolve beyond the customary practices of institutional deprivation; for your acceptance will be our institution's demise.

In Habakkuk 2:2-3, God spoke these words, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables... For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie." My younger brothers, it is your time to stand as men before the chastisement of antiquated ideals and powerful positions. Stand tall in the face of opposition, but most importantly stand as men, stand as brothers.

Et facta est lux,

Carlton R. Collins '11  
Secretary, Morehouse College National Alumni Association

# THE SANCTITY OF SALE HALL CHAPEL

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As I prepared to write this article about Sale Hall Chapel, I realized how unprepared I was. Where lies the history of the college? Through whom could the story of Morehouse be told? My thoughts commenced and ceased with Dr. Lawrence Carter, the Dean of King Chapel who is the man with extensive knowledge about things seen and unseen, a man who could tell me a little bit about this place – good, dear, Morehouse.

Upon meeting with Dean Carter, I assumed we'd sit in his office as he let the history of Sale flow, as I would be quickly typing anything my ears heard in hopes of having a decent amount of information to write an article on the sanctity of Sale Hall Chapel. Contrary to my belief, he told me nothing. Instead, we walked across campus to this room, unknown to many, and looked at historic, classic photos of Dr. Mays, the Danforths, Dr. King, and Howard Thurman.

His words were scarce, but instructive. He told me to get my hands on the history of the college, a book in low demand and no longer being published, titled "A Candle in the Dark."

I got to the library, turned the cover of the book, and was immediately hit with something heavy. It read, "The story of Morehouse College is a saga of man's struggle to conquer prejudice

and ignorance." Read that again. "The story of Morehouse College is a saga of man's struggle to conquer prejudice and ignorance."

It took me a second to move forward. Actually, I couldn't move forward. I sat, stuck in a region of my mind, examining the realities of Morehouse, and wondering if a contour line could be drawn linking the ethos of Morehouse of the 1940s, '50s, and '60s with the ethos of Morehouse today. But then I snapped, telling myself I would have to entertain those thoughts another time.

I was supposed to be looking up Sale Hall, so I flipped to the index and finally did. What I read was interesting. As John Hope transitioned into becoming the president of the college, the school was in an overriding need for money (perhaps a contour can be drawn). Hope's friend, Major R.R. Moton, who served as Commandant at Hampton Institute, wrote to Dr. Wallace Buttrick, the Secretary of the General Education Board. Moton implored him to appeal to two philanthropists, Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller.

It turned out Carnegie and Rockefeller would rather have nothing to do with the concept of a liberal arts college for "Negroes", let alone help them expand and grow. So Moton put President Hope in contact with Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute. Apparently, "Mr. Washington was the one Negro educator capable of tapping the sources of Northern philanthropy."

As a result, strangely, money

poured in from Carnegie and the General Education Board. Subsequently, The American Baptist Home Mission Society donated funds as well, and voted a portion of the sum be put towards the construction of a new building, Sale Hall. This was 1910.

Since its construction, Sale Hall has been used for many purposes. The space most utilized is the Chapel. What is a chapel? One dictionary defined it as "a small building for Christian worship, typically one attached to an institution or private house." Another defined it as "a private or subordinate place of prayer or worship."

It was undoubtedly used for this purpose in past times. There is evidence. Go see the pictures around campus of well-dressed men listening intently to a speaker giving his or her address or sermon.

That stage? Dr. King used to stand on that stage. Those rows? Sanford D. Bishop Jr., Calvin O. Butts III, Hugh M. Gloster, Maynard Jackson, and Edwin Moses used to sit in those rows. That peace? Yes, as you meditate and listen closely, the solemn voice of Howard Thurman can be heard. Let his meditations become your meditation.

If you didn't know, the soul of the college rests in Sale. It should be treated as such. It should be cherished as if those moments we see plastered on the walls of Dansby, Wheeler, and Chivers were actually moments. Nothing more. Nothing less. Just due respect.

# COLOR ME WRONG

## NINA SIMONE'S BIOPIC INCITES DEBATE ON COLOR DISCRIMINATION IN HOLLYWOOD

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The color complex is a taboo phenomenon African Americans know far too well. Although it's often an intra-racial mechanism of discrimination, our community's struggle with colorism pervades mainstream assumptions of appropriate forms of blackness as well, hence the perpetual whitewashing of Hollywood. The lives of the rich and famous are shrouded by color politics.

This controversial topic currently has the entertainment industry buzzing as Zoe Saldana prepares to portray Nina Simone in the biopic "Nina." Saldana, the Afro-Latina actress known for her roles in "Avatar" and the upcoming film "The Words," is slated to appear in the motion picture as it tells the story of the woman known as the High Priestess of Soul.

Nina Simone's cinematic transition remains unauthorized by the late singer's estate.

For the those of you unfamiliar with the issue of such a casting, allow me to paint a picture of Ms. Simone. The classically trained preacher's daughter ascended to fame in the mid 1960s, a revolutionary period in which her appearance echoed the Black Power movement as it, too, rose to prominence. The essence of her time, Simone's raven Afro and ebony skin spoke of African diasporic excellence in its most natural form. However, her particular brand of beauty presented professional challenges that only seemed to come in shades of black.

After finishing her high school education, the gifted pianist auditioned at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA. Despite an exemplary performance, Simone was rejected not only due to her race but due to her rather "ethnic" features as well.

"As a child [Simone] was told her nose was too big and she was too dark," said her daughter, Lisa

Celeste Stroude. The world of classical music had little room for deviation and Simone's physical appearance did not fit the bill. Speaking of her mother once more, Stroude stated, "Had [Simone] become a classical pianist, which was her dream ... shattered, I doubt she would have found her true destiny. Nina Simone was a voice of her people."

I hate the idea of questioning anyone's blackness, but we have to consider that casting a light-skinned woman in a role marked by color discrimination is to make a caricature of Simone's biography. Had this film been a work of fiction, Saldana's casting as an imagined black woman would be a non-issue. However, "Nina" is the retelling of a life and placing Saldana in the titular role is a byproduct of the public's narrowing frame of mind in terms of Black female beauty.

Consider biographical portrayals of African-American women in the past. In Martha Coolidge's "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," Halle Berry was perfectly cast as the fair-skinned screen siren. When Oprah Winfrey announced that her studio would produce a Lena Horne biopic, Alicia Keys was to play the role of the songbird.

There is no issue finding actresses to play the parts of women on the lighter end of the color spectrum. However, when it comes time to fill roles of dark-skinned women, suddenly the talent disappears.

The media continues to alter the face of African-American beauty to make us more palatable to the public. When our features are deemed unfit for mainstream standards of beauty, it fuels the perception that black women are less acceptable in relationship to females of other ethnic groups. Idealized images of feminine beauty portrayed in the media have created a crooked room of light skin, European features, and long hair in which few Black women can stand.

But as Nina Simone sang in the first line of the 1966 female anthem "Four Women," "my skin is black," and regardless of how Hollywood recreates her image, the truth of her experience cannot be denied.

# BROTHER OUTSIDER: A COLORFUL IRONY

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The fears of a fearless man must be the focus of any society hoping to liberate its people. Unfortunately, here at Morehouse College, those fears are disregarded in an effort to hold the fearless man in unquestioned reverence for his greatness.

Men of Morehouse, instead of disregarding these fears so that we may emulate his shortcomings, let us engage the fears of this fearless man head on so that we may liberate our brothers and surpass his legacy in the spirit of liberty. Let us emerge triumphant over these fears after this necessary engagement. Let us bring into our focus Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s relationship with Bayard Rustin in order to reveal and analyze Dr. King's fears so that history will not continue to repeat itself.

Bayard Rustin was the greatest community organizer of the 20th century. His accomplishments ranged from the freedom rides of the 1940's to the March on Washington of 1963. From racial policies to sexual politics, Rustin tackled each issue with an equal amount of passion in an effort to get society closer to human equality.

In addition to his great work as a social justice activist, he passively fought for liberation by openly and affirmatively identifying with the social categories and political affiliations associated with his name (i.e. black, gay, Socialist, etc.).

King and Rustin first crossed paths when he helped to persuade King to adopt policies of nonviolence. From that

night on, Rustin helped to mentor young Martin through his journey toward liberty. This friendship, founded on social justice, was transformed into a brotherhood based on cooperation and support. However, this brotherhood soon reached a break, as explained in the documentary film "Brother Outsider" and in David Garrow's biography of Rustin, "Bearing the Cross."

Under pressure from the Democratic Party, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., the powerful Congressman from Harlem, was determined to break up the King-Rustin relationship. He accomplished this by sending a telegram to King that informed him that if he did not call off the protests that he was planning, he'd tell the press that King and Rustin were having a same-sex affair with one another. The fear of the fearless man reared its ugly head.

King was terrified by the prospect of being called a homosexual. Therefore, he distanced himself from Rustin subtly, and eventually, the friendship between Rustin and King was severed. After all of the organizational work Rustin did for the March on Washington, SNCC, and the SCLC, he was pushed to the background of history and a veil was dropped over his accomplishments. His brother happily received the benefits of his hard work, but rejected him from the picture when the rainbow entered the frame.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

The relationship between homosexual and heterosexual brothers on this campus is ironically analogous to that of King and Rustin. Every inch of Morehouse's unique fabric has been woven in large part by gay brothers on campus. From the SGA, to CASA, to RHA, to the OHRL staff, to some of the top scholars of every department on campus, to pageants,

to homecoming and everywhere in between, gay brothers are present in great numbers doing great work. The work they do helps Morehouse to maintain its prominence in the global village.

But, what do gay brothers receive in return? A dress code policy which undermines people of gender nonconforming communities, hetero-normative language used at every NSO and at just about every Crown Forum and every program held on campus. In addition, there's our "equal opportunity" statement that does not include sexual orientation, Board of Trustee member Dan T. Cathy who aims to take rights away from gay people, and a great deal of apathy toward, and in some cases advocacy for, heterosexism in its different forms by students and faculty alike.

As a student leader, my sexuality is regarded as "cool" and "not a problem" until I ask to be treated equally or respectfully; or until I ask my superiors to stop trying to take my rights away (or prevent me from having rights at all!); or until I wear a shirt that says "Legalize Gay" on campus. Then, I'm "too sensitive," I'm "out of line," I'm "forgetting what [people] are doing for me," I'm "throwing [my] sexuality in [your] face," and everything in between. Heterosexual brothers on campus happily receive the benefits of our hard work; but we are rejected from the picture when the rainbow enters the frame.

Men of Morehouse, I charge you to strengthen the bonds within this fraternity of scholars such that a harmless arch comprised of different colors does not cause us to disband. Let us recognize King's mistakes and reconfigure our relationships accordingly. Let us reunite King and Rustin in the spirit of authentic brotherhood.

## ~~TWENTY~~ FORTY QUESTIONS

Loretta D. Nide  
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- 1) Did you really think they got rid of us?
- 2) Weren't they sadly mistaken?
- 3) Aren't you happy we FINALLY beat How Hard University?
- 4) Anyone wonder why it took a woman to do it for us?
- 5) Maybe she should have been on the field in DC?
- 6) Has anyone else noticed that those Do Boys have produced the last three goddesses of RHA?
- 7) Does that make their hall experts at producing QUEENS?
- 8) Is their new queen an environmentalist, or is she just a fAn of recyCling?
- 9) Will this kin finally get the crown? Or will she settle for IVY?
- 10) How much longer until they PIck their new girls anyway?
- 11) Is removing the extensions a part of the application process?
- 12) Speaking of applications, did you turn yours in on time?
- 13) Or did the A train RHoll along without you?
- 14) Is friendship still essential to the soul?
- 15) Is that why they turned king chapel into a DAWG pound?
- 16) If you lay with DAWGS, do you really get up with a crown?
- 17) Or purple and gold blisters?
- 18) Did they intend to turn Sale Hall into Club Libra?
- 19) Since when has arson been considered a talent?
- 20) Speaking of fired, did you attend Opening Convocation?
- 21) Wasn't it ironic that his best one was his last one?
- 22) Did he intend to save the best for last?
- 23) Perhaps that's a manly deed?
- 24) Have you heard anything about our new president?
- 25) Is it true that only one of the three finalists is a Morehouse Man?
- 26) Is the last one white or just high yella?
- 27) Did you know about the "money talks, boot walks" policy?
- 28) Can I get a receipt with that?
- 29) Have you been to the archives lately?
- 30) Or did the rats get there first?
- 31) Or did he Skip out with that as well?
- 32) Debit or Credit please?
- 33) Is it true there was a homeless man in their showers?
- 34) Did you know the name changed from Ladies Last Choice to Homeless First Choice?
- 35) Have you heard our homecoming theme?
- 36) Was it dope enough?
- 37) What about the neo soul concert artist?
- 38) Did they lose their PULSE when making that decision?
- 39) Or will they bring the CASA down again?
- 40) Are you ready to TURN UP?

Got questions? Submit them anonymously on [themarootiger.com](http://themarootiger.com) or [mtiger20questions@gmail.com](mailto:mtiger20questions@gmail.com)

# DIRECTOR RIAN JOHNSON TAKES US THROUGH THE LOOP

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FUTURISTIC THRILLER *LOOPER* IS THE THIRD FILM FROM DIRECTOR RIAN JOHNSON AND HIS LARGEST PROJECT YET, REUNITING HIM WITH RISING STAR JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT. THE PAIR ORIGINALLY COLLABORATED ON *BRICK*, JOHNSON'S CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED FEATURE DEBUT, WHICH BROUGHT A NEW APPROACH TO THE NOIR MYSTERY GENRE.

IN *LOOPER*, JOHNSON TAKES ON A COMPLEX TIME-TRAVEL THEME, WITH GORDON-LEVITT STARRING AS AN ASSASSIN FORCED TO KILL A FUTURE VERSION OF HIMSELF. BRUCE WILLIS PLAYS "OLD JOE," GORDON-LEVITT'S COUNTERPART FROM 30 YEARS IN THE FUTURE.

"I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT TIME-TRAVEL SHIT," WILLIS TELLS GORDON-LEVITT'S "YOUNG JOE" EARLY IN THE FILM. "BECAUSE IF WE START, WE'RE GOING TO BE HERE ALL DAY, MAKING DIAGRAMS WITH STRAWS."

IF ANYTHING, THE LINE COULD BE A PIECE OF ADVICE FOR THE AUDIENCE DELIVERED BY JOHNSON HIMSELF. RATHER THAN DIVE INTO THE IMPOSSIBLY CONFUSING MECHANICS TIME-TRAVEL, *LOOPER* FOCUSES ON SIMPLER DYNAMICS. THOUGH THE STORY TAKES PLACE IN 2044, TIME MACHINES WILL NOT BE INVENTED FOR ANOTHER 30 YEARS, AND ARE IMMEDIATELY OUTLAWED. STILL, THE MOB FINDS A

USE FOR THE TECHNOLOGY, SENDING MARKED MEN BACK IN TIME TO BE KILLED BY LOOPERS LIKE JOE.

EVERY LOOPER IS CONTRACTED TO ONE DAY KILL THEIR FUTURE SELF, TAKING A LARGE PAYCHECK IN EXCHANGE FOR A SHORTENED LIFESPAN. HOWEVER WHEN JOE'S DAY COMES, WILLIS REFUSES TO LET HIS YOUNGER SELF LOOP.

JOHNSON INTRODUCED THE CONCEPT FOR *LOOPER* TO GORDON-LEVITT NOT LONG AFTER THEY FINISHED PRODUCTION ON *BRICK* IN 2005.

"I WROTE THE PART FOR JOE, SO WE HAD JOE SET. SO REALLY MY THOUGHTS WITH BRUCE WERE LESS ABOUT PICKING HIM AS AN OLDER VERSION OF JOE, BUT INSTEAD HIM BEING REALLY GOOD FOR THE ROLE. AND OF COURSE THERE'S THE PART OF HIM BEING BRUCE WILLIS,"

JOHNSON SAID DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH THE MAROON TIGER. "YOU SEE HIM AS THE BIG ACTION STAR WHO'S GOING TO FIND THE VILLAIN OR WHATEVER, BUT IT TURNS OUT TO NOT REALLY BE THAT AT ALL."

WITH GORDON-LEVITT STARRING OPPOSITE WILLIS, ONE MIGHT EXPECT THE FILM TO REVOLVE AROUND THE TWO VERSIONS OF JOE, BUT IT MANAGES TO SEPARATE ITS TWO STARS INTO AN EXPLORATORY PLOT. YOUNG JOE WANTS TO KILL HIS OLDER SELF IN ORDER TO ESCAPE PUNISHMENT FROM THE MOB, BUT WILLIS'S CHARACTER IS SET ON DESTROYING THE RAINMAKER, A DICTATOR WHO RULES THE

WORLD IN 2074.

THOUGH *LOOPER* IS SET IN THE FUTURE, JOHNSON DEPICTS A FUTURE THAT IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM SCIENCE-FICTION STATUS QUOS. THE WORLD OF 2044 IS DARK, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE DISAPPOINTING TO THE CHARACTERS THAN IT IS TO THE AUDIENCE.

JOHNSON SPENDS A GOOD PORTION OF THE FILM BRINGING HIS VIEWERS INTO THIS WORLD, BUT TAKES CARE NOT TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN THE LESS IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE FILM'S SOMEWHAT COMPLEX PREMISE. THE STORY IS INSTEAD MOVED FORWARD WITH THEMES THAT EXIST OUTSIDE OF THE FUTURE SETTING.

JOHNSON BECAME AN INDIE DARLING WITH *BRICK*, A HARD-NOSED DETECTIVE THRILLER SET IN A SUBURBAN HIGH SCHOOL. IT WAS PRAISED FOR ITS RESPECT TO THE NOIR CLASSICS OF THE 1930S WHILE INJECTING NEW LIFE INTO THE GENRE. *LOOPER* IS THE WRITER/DIRECTOR'S FIRST FORAY INTO SCIENCE-FICTION AND CREATES A FUTURE SETTING THAT IS AS ENGAGING AS ANY SCI-FI FILM CREATED IN RECENT YEARS.

"I LIKE GENRES BECAUSE THEY GIVE YOU A CHESS BOARD, PIECES TO WORK WITH AND MOVE AROUND FOR THE AUDIENCE. SCI-FI GENRE IS A GENRE THAN DEMANDS TO BE INFUSED," JOHNSON SAID. "YOU ALWAYS HAVE A BETTER CHANCE AT POPPING OUT AT FESTIVALS, IF YOUR MOVIE IS INTERESTING. IT'S NEVER THE RIGHT THING

TO JUST GO WITH EVERYONE ELSE IN MAKING IN THE INDIE WORLD. IT'S ALWAYS THE RIGHT THING TO MAKE SOMETHING NO ONE'S SEEN BEFORE."

*LOOPER* WAS A PROJECT IN THE MAKING FOR A BETTER PART OF A DECADE, AND WAS PRODUCED INDEPENDENTLY FOR STUDIO ENDGAME ENTERTAINMENT BEFORE BEING PICKED UP FOR DISTRIBUTION BY SONY PICTURES. THE \$30 MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET USED TO PRODUCE THE FILM IS THE LARGEST OF JOHNSON'S CAREER, BUT MEAGER IN COMPARISON TO BLOCKBUSTER SCI-FI THRILLERS LIKE *TOTAL RECALL*.

CELEBRATING ITS OPENING LAST WEEKEND, THE MOVIE HAS ALREADY GARNERED A "CERTIFIED FRESH" RATING FROM ROTTEN TOMATOES, WITH A 93 PERCENT APPROVAL RATING.

THE 38-YEAR-OLD DIRECTOR CAN NOW BE CALLED AN INNOVATOR IN MULTIPLE GENRES, AS HIS CAREER CONTINUES TO BRANCH OUT INTO NEW TERRITORY.

"YOU SPEND 3-4 YEARS ON A MOVIE, THINKING ABOUT THE IDEAS FOR A MOVIE. AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT, YOU'RE KIND OF SICK OF THAT," JOHNSON SAID OF HIS CREATIVE PROCESS. "YOU JUST WANT TO FIND SOMETHING NEW, AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT."

HERE'S TO 50, ONE, AND MANY MORE FOR OUR SPIDER-MEN.

## ARE YOU READY FOR FALL FASHION TRENDS?

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SUMMER IS ALMOST OVER! IS YOUR WARDROBE READY FOR THE CHANGE? HERE ARE A FEW QUICK TIPS TO KEEP YOU LOOKING GREAT THIS FALL.

FOR MEN, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BLUES. DARK BLUE SUITS CAN BE A GREAT ALTERNATIVE TO THE BORING GREY AND BLACK SUITS WE'VE SEEN SINCE ITS CREATION. AND YOU CAN KEEP THOSE BRIGHT SUMMER SHIRTS IN YOUR WARDROBE, AS THEY ARE A GREAT POP OF COLOR TO ADD TO THESE BLUE-BLACK SUITS. ALSO, DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRY ADDING A TIE CLIP TO A SLIM SQUARE-END TIE AS THE ICING ON THE CAKE TO THIS PROFESSIONAL FALL LOOK.

FURS AND SKINS ARE A GIVEN FOR ANY FALL/WINTER SEASON. FOXTAIL KEY CHAINS ARE A BIT OUTDATED, SO OPT FOR A MORE CLASSY OPTION, LIKE A SCARF. FUR JACKETS AND VESTS CAN BE A FLAVORFUL ADDITION TO A SIMPLE FALL OUTFIT. BUT IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE ANTI-FUR OR JUST WANT TO TRY A LESS HARSH APPROACH, ALLIGATOR SKIN BELTS AND WALLETS ARE OTHER CHOICES THAT WORK JUST AS WELL IN ACCENTING A FALL LOOK.

LEATHER CAN BE A GREAT OPTION TO ADD SOME EDGE TO YOUR FALL WARDROBE. A GREAT BOMBER JACKET PAIRED WITH COMBAT BOOTS AND SLIM FIT

JEANS CAN CREATE AN EDGY LOOK TO ADD SOME SPICE TO YOUR REPERTOIRE OF FALL CLOTHING. LEATHER PANTS CAN BE PULLED OFF WITH THE RIGHT STYLING, SO BE CAREFUL WHEN TRYING THIS UNUSUAL TREND.

GO BIG THIS FALL WITH OVERSIZED GARMENTS! WEARING TRENCH COATS, SHIRTS, FUNKY SWEATERS, AND JACKETS A FEW SIZES TOO BIG ISN'T TABOO LIKE THOSE INFAMOUS "TALL TEES." PAIR THESE OVERSIZED PIECES WITH A SKINNY JEAN AND CLUNKY BOOTS AND YOU'RE READY TO GO.

PLAID SHIRTS ARE A FALL STAPLE AND GO WELL WITH ANY WARDROBE, NO MATTER YOUR STYLE. SOMETHING NEW YOU CAN TRY IS TYING YOUR PLAID SHIRT AROUND YOUR WAIST. TRADITIONALLY THOUGHT AS SOMETHING MOSTLY DONE BY WOMEN, WE'RE SEEING THIS TREND ON THE RUNWAYS OF MENSWEAR SHOWS AROUND THE WORLD. SO WHETHER YOU WEAR THEM BUTTONED UP AND TUCKED IN, OPEN AS A JACKET, OR TIED AROUND THE WAIST, PLAID IS A MUST-HAVE FOR FALL.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAKE THESE TRENDS WORK FOR YOU! DON'T WEAR SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE IT'S "IN." WEAR IT BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE AND EXPRESSES YOUR PERSONAL STYLE. MIX THESE LOOKS IN WITH YOUR SIGNATURE AND YOU'LL BE READY FOR THOSE WARM AUTUMN NIGHTS BY THE BONFIRE.

## FLYING LOTUS EXPLORES "UNTIL THE QUIET COMES"

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The name "FlyLo" may escape recognition from all but the most astute music aficionados, but electronic producer and DJ Flying Lotus has been pushing out beats for the better part of a decade. While some may be most familiar with the tunes he produces for Adult Swim's signature black and white bumps, "Until the Quiet Comes" is the fourth album released by the Los Angeles composer. Working under the tutelage of famed hip-hop producer J.Dilla, Steve Ellison, aka Flying Lotus, developed his own style blending old school hip-hop tracks with electronically produced jazz and blues sounds.

Flying Lotus has established himself as a leading member of American hip-hop's avant-garde, and "Until the Quiet Comes" is no doubt an experimental project. The album was described by FlyLo himself as "a collage of musical states, dreams, sleeps and lullabies." The first track on the album "All In" is a showcase of the producer's diversity, introducing us to an array of sounds ranging from harps, bells and shakers to bass and guitar over a fast moving drum beat. The track eventually slows down, bringing us into the trance sounds of "Getting There" featuring the vocal talents of Niki Randa.

Listeners are treated to a variety of styles as the album progresses, with tracks like "Heave(n)" and "Sultan's Request" reflecting influences from nu-jazz and dubstep respectively. Like a handful of the album's 18 tracks, "All The Secrets," lasts under two minutes, but teases us with a

smooth melody mixed into abstract video game-esque sound. Teasing is something FlyLo does well; "The Nightcaller" bumps with synthetic funk and quick rhythm before breaking into a slower lounge style beat with an even funkier walking bass. Leaving fans disoriented seems to be one of Ellison's goals, surfing across a countless number of appealing sounds with no apparent direction.

His 2010 offering, "Cosmogramma," gained widespread critical acclaim, having been partially inspired by a trip on DMT, a hallucinogenic drug said to create near death experiences. Ellison took the drug in an effort to cope with his mother's death. "DMT Song" is an ode to the drug, featuring Brainfeeder bassist Thundercat, invoking the sounds of 60s psychedelic music.

FlyLo has been no stranger to collaboration, bringing in a number of heavy hitters. Erykah Badu's singing is almost difficult to recognize underneath the rolling sounds of procession on "See Thru To U." Radiohead front man Thom Yorke offers his distinct vocals to "Electric Candyman," echoing through the track's heavy sea of reverb.

By the end of "Until the Quiet Comes," Flying Lotus has thoroughly explored the experimental territory he is known for. The blend of unique sounds is impressive as always, though some of the album's tracks border on becoming too self-indulgent. Though Flying Lotus's work may never see tremendous mainstream success, his brand of exploration will be what inspires future generations of industry producers.

# BET AWARDS 12

# ONE WEEK AWAY

## KEVIN WEBB

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Next week will bring the official airing of the 2012 BET Hip Hop Awards, the seventh annual celebration of the year in hip-hop music. Hosted by Mike Epps, the show was taped over the weekend in Atlanta at the Boisefeuillet Jones Civic Center, but will air on Tuesday, October 9 at 8 P.M. on the cable network.

Despite having not released a solo album since 2010's "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," Kanye West leads all artists with a mind-blowing 17 nominations. Rising star 2 Chainz earned 13 nominations, with perennial favorite Drake picking up 11.

Categories for this year's awards include CD of the Year, Best Club Banger, Producer of the Year, Lyricist of the Year, Best Hip-Hop Video and the Reese's Perfect Combo award. Some of the nominees certainly raise eyebrows, with seemingly old tracks like "The Motto" and "Lotus Flower Bomb" earning nominations for Track of the Year and Best Hip Hop Video, respectively. Somehow, West managed to earn two nominations in the same category, getting a shot at the Best Live Performer award as both a solo artist and "The Throne" alongside Jay-Z.

The Hip Hop Awards also bring around the BET Cypher, a proving ground for hip hop's biggest stars. This year's theme will be crew based; matching up DMX and The Ruff Ryderz with the Snoop Dogg/Lion led West Coast All-Stars and The Grand Hustle Team featuring Atlanta's own T.I. and B.o.B. The cypher brings something new to the table each year, using a back-to-basics approach that extends beyond the show's prestige.

Scheduled to perform at the show are People's Champ award nominees Meek Mill and 2 Chainz, along with Rick Ross and Wiz Khalifa. You can check out all the stars, awards and performances next week when BET airs the show.

## BEST HIP HOP VIDEO

2 Chainz f/ Drake "No Lie"  
A\$AP Rocky "Goldie"  
Drake f/ Lil' Wayne "HYFR"  
Wale f/ Miguel "Lotus Flower Bomb"  
Kanye West, 2 Chainz, Big Sean x Pusha T "Mercy"

## BEST LIVE PERFORMER

A\$AP Rocky  
Drake  
J. Cole  
The Throne (Jay-Z x Kanye West)  
Kanye West

## VIDEO DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

A\$AP Rocky x Sam Lecca  
Benny Boom  
Chris Robinson  
Kanye West  
Hype Williams

## CD OF THE YEAR

The Dreamer, The Believer (Common)  
Take Care (Drake)  
Cole World: The Sideline Story (J. Cole)  
Watch The Throne (Jay-Z x Kanye West)  
TM 103: Hustlerz Ambition (Young Jeezy)

## REESE'S PERFECT COMBO AWARD

2 Chainz f/ Drake "No Lie"  
Drake f/ Lil' Wayne x Tyga "The Motto"  
J. Cole f/ Missy Elliott "Nobody's Perfect"  
Wale f/ Miguel "Lotus Flower Bomb"  
Kanye West, 2 Chainz, Big Sean x Pusha T "Mercy"

## LYRICIST OF THE YEAR

J. Cole  
Jay-Z  
Kendrick Lamar  
Nas  
Kanye West

## MVP OF THE YEAR

2 Chainz  
J. Cole  
Jay-Z  
Rick Ross  
Kanye West

## PEOPLE'S CHAMP AWARD

2 Chainz f/ Drake "No Lie"  
Driicky Graham "Snapbacks & Tattoos"  
Meek Mill f/ Rick Ross "I'ma Boss"  
The Throne "Ni as In Paris"  
Kanye West, 2 Chainz, Big Sean x Pusha T "Mercy"

# FALCONS FLYING HIGH



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The Atlanta Falcons have literally been rising up to the task during the first four games of this NFL season. The Falcons are 4-0 for the first time since 2004, and it seems like both the offense and defense are playing equally great. While this team is focused on winning their first playoff game in five years, they have higher aspirations.

Since the hiring of new offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter, the Falcons' offense has been rolling along like a well-oiled machine. Koetter has brought a new up-tempo offense to the Falcons that focuses on the passing game, and with that new focus quarterback Matt Ryan has thrived.

He has thrown for 793 yards, as well as a league-leading eight touchdowns. Ryan is arguably the best quarterback in the league this season with a 114.0 passer rating, the NFL's best.

Ryan looks to conquer his playoff demons and finally get his first postseason victory, and it looks like he finally has the weapons to do it this season. Wide receivers Julio Jones and Roddy White are two of the best in the league and continually have made big plays.

Jones, a huge target over the middle and an excellent red-zone target, has caught 15 passes for 189 yards and three touchdowns. White, a possession receiver, has caught 27 passes for 413 yards and three touchdowns, and leaped high to grab the critical 59-yard pass in Sunday's win over

Carolina. The Falcons' offense cannot be mentioned without naming All-Pro tight end Tony Gonzalez, who has chipped in 26 receptions for 265 and three touchdowns.

The Falcons defense has also seen changes in the coaching staff, as new defensive coordinator Mike Nolan has altered many of the previous schemes. Nolan has put players like safeties Thomas DeCoud and William Moore in their comfort zone by allowing them to play in space more than before. DeCoud and Moore have thrived from this change.

DeCoud ranks second in the league with three interceptions and has one fumble recovery. Moore has intercepted two passes and also recovered a fumble. Nolan's change in defensive scheme has showed in the Falcons' wins, as opposing quarterbacks are confused with the exotic packages that the Falcons show.

The Falcons defense has forced 12 turnovers and played especially well against the Peyton Manning-led Denver Broncos. The defense forced the future Hall of Famer into three first-quarter interceptions and a forced fumble, which Atlanta recovered.

At this time in the season, the Falcons look like the team to beat, and they currently have a big lead in the NFC South standings. This Falcons team is intent on not only winning a playoff game for the first time in five years, but also becoming Super Bowl champions. With a 4-0 record so far, it looks like the Dirty Birds are in a good position to fly away with the Super Bowl trophy.

# TUSKEGEE-MOREHOUSE CLASSIC

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After last week's 34-16 win against AUC rival Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse will travel to Columbus, Ga, to participate in the annual Tuskegee-Morehouse Football Classic this Saturday at 2 p.m.

Morehouse will remain more dependent on quarterback Donnay Ragland. With the running game in a sticky situation because of injuries to backs David Carter and Shelton Hamilton, Ragland became the hub of the Morehouse offense against Clark by gaining 131 yards on 11 carries and 148 additional yards as he completed 14 of 22 passes.

Teammates hope Thomas "TJ" Williams will continue to fill Carter's big shoes and produce in the run game and on special teams. Against the Panthers, Williams had the best game of his career by running for two touchdowns and opening the second half with a 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

Last year Morehouse defeated Tuskegee 17-14. The historic game, also known as the "Granddaddy Classic," will be held for the 77th time on Oct. 6.

# DONN CLENDENON

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The excitement of the Major Baseball League playoffs are about to grace the city of Atlanta, and a Morehouse man once played a prominent figure in them.

Donn Alvin Clendenon was born on July 15, 1935. Six months after his birth, his biological father, Claude Clendenon, died of leukemia. Donn's mother, Helen, would marry former Negro League baseball player Nish Williams when Donn was 6 years old.

Both his mother and Williams demanded high academic achievement from Clendenon. However, Williams took it upon himself to turn his stepson into a baseball player, and served as coach of almost every baseball team that Clendenon played on as a child. Clendenon also got pointers from some great Negro league players, including Jackie Robinson, Satchel Paige, Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe.

That privileged background, in baseball terms, contributed to Clendenon being named the Most Valuable Player of the 1969 World Series won by his New York "Miracle Mets."

Clendenon spent his high school years at Booker T. Washington School in Atlanta. Upon graduation, he lettered in nine sports and many college coaches wanted him to bring his talents to their school.

If it were up to him he would have attended UCLA, on scholarship. However,

a few coaches from Morehouse convinced Momma Clendenon that her son's best option was not too far from home. Morehouse was a premier institution for African-American men but lacked the athletic stature of UCLA. One can only imagine the dismay at UCLA when they found out that Clendenon was going to attend Morehouse.

A graduate of the college by the name of Martin Luther King Jr. would become Clendenon's mentor. Clendenon became an unbelievable athlete at Morehouse. He lettered in football, basketball, and baseball, earning 12 letters overall. He even received offers to try out for the highly acclaimed Harlem Globetrotters and the Cleveland Browns.

While Clendenon fielded offers to turn pro in almost every major sport, he turned those down and became a fourth-grade teacher to prepare for a career after athletics. He knew that even Black players who had a successful pro career rarely got coaching or front-office jobs afterward. However, he would try out for the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1957 after being convinced by his stepfather. The Pirates signed Clendenon as an amateur free agent soon after his tryout.

Clendenon played in the minor leagues for five years before making his major-league debut in 1961. The next year he finished as the runner-up for Rookie of the Year. He compiled seven home runs and 28 RBIs and had a .302 batting average.

During his time in Pittsburgh, Clendenon acquired a reputation for being a "free

swinger." He led the league in strikeouts in 1963 and 1968.

Following the 1968 season the Pirates left Clendenon unprotected, and he was selected by the expansion Montreal Expos. The Expos attempted to trade Clendenon to the Houston Astros in January of 1969, but he refused to report to the team.

"I didn't like their management, I had very little respect for them." Clendenon, who clashed personally with Harry "The Hat" Walker, was quoted saying in centerfieldmaz.com. Walker served as Clendenon's manager in Pittsburgh and the two did not get along. The Expos and Astros restructured the deal and Clendenon returned to the Expos.

The Expos again traded Clendenon during that season. This time they sent him to the New York Mets on June 15, 1969. When the Mets got Clendenon they were nine games out of first place in the newly aligned National League East. "He was a veteran that came in and made us better," Mets shortstop Bud Harrelson told Associated Press. "When you threw him into the mix with the rest of us, we became a dangerous team."

The Mets went on to win 39 of their final 50 games. They clinched the NL East thanks to an outstanding performance from Clendenon. He almost singlehandedly defeated the St. Louis Cardinals with four home runs.

During Clendenon's performance against the Cardinals, he brought his teammate Bud Harrelson's words to life. "When we got him, we became a different team," Harrelson said. "We never had a

three-run homer type of guy."

Clendenon made his presence known in the World Series by leading the Mets to a title, hitting three home runs with four RBIs and a .357 batting average. He was named World Series MVP, and currently shares the record for most home runs in a five-game playoff series with Ryan Howard, who equaled it in the 2008 World Series.

New talent pushed Clendenon out of the lineup and he was eventually released by the Mets in 1971. During his career with the Mets he set team records for the most RBIs in a single game (7), and most RBIs in a season (97). The St. Louis Cardinals took a chance on Clendenon in 1972, but he did not see much playing time and was released in August of that year.

It would be Clendenon's last season as a major leaguer. He went on to earn a law degree from Duquesne University in 1978, practiced law in several cities, and held several corporate positions. As Clendenon neared his 50th birthday, he battled a drug addiction. He eventually entered a drug rehabilitation center in Ogden, Utah. During his stay at the center he learned that like his biological father, Claude Clendenon, he, too, had leukemia.

After learning of his illness he moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and became a general counsel member to the Interstate Audit Corporation. Donn Alvin Clendenon would die on September 17, 2005, at the age of 70 years old.

Now, can you tell me who the 1969 World Series MVP is?