

THE MAROON TIGER

OBAMA TO GIVE 2013 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

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Once President John Wilson '79 announced that the speaker for the class of 2013 commencement would be President Barack Obama, students, alumni, faculty, staff, family and friends all stood to their feet in amazement.

Obama will address the class on May 19 at the 129th Commencement of Morehouse College. His first HBCU commencement took place at Hampton University in 2010.

Everyone who has a communal relationship with the Morehouse community began to tweet and update their Facebook statuses, relaying the message around the world: Barack Obama will be the speaker at Morehouse's commencement this year!

The class of 2013 is elated with this opportunity to hear the first African-American president deliver their commencement address.

African-American Studies major and Senior Class President Michael Daniels-Fleming '13 is among those who are excited about Obama coming to speak.

"Understanding all of the sacrifices that former Men of Morehouse have made to secure President Barack Obama as this year's commencement ceremony speaker, I am extremely honored to be a beneficiary of such tireless efforts," Daniels-Fleming said.

Daniels-Fleming will be addressing the class of 2013 along with Obama. His expectations for Obama are high regarding the anniversaries that have occurred this year.

"Given the importance of the century's events, the anniversary of Morehouse College's Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have A Dream' speech delivered at the March on Washington in 1963, the granting of freedom

of slaves with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and then the centennial year of the naming of the college, I expect President Obama to reflect on these events and to place his own life story in the context of the events as a means of encouraging the class of 2013 to go forth and serve as leaders in our community," Daniels-Fleming said.

Students have set high expectations for the president. Senior Political Science major Adam Starks is in the midst of those students, too.

"I feel ecstatic, almost too overjoyed to explain, but when I sit back and think there are three key points that come to mind,"

"President Barack Obama ...will be a Morehouse Man"

Starks said. "The first is what an honor it is for my class to be sent out to the world as Morehouse Men by the president of the United States, simply remarkable.

"The second is more personal because since I will be commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force, on that day the Commander in Chief will commission me to my life of military service, something I never dreamed would be the beginning of my career," Starks said. "Finally it will be amazing to say that once President Barack Obama receives his honorary degree he will be a Morehouse Man and a member of the class of 2013. That is pretty amazing."

Not only are students excited about the president coming to speak at commencement. They are also shaping their minds around things that will have a lasting effect on them for the rest of their lives.

"I believe President Obama will go down Morehouse history and discuss how

certain Morehouse alum paved the way for him and allowed him to be where he is today," Starks said.

Starks is prepared for the charge that Obama will give his class to go out and change the world.

"I also think he will talk about the coming challenges in the educational system as well as the world we are all about to enter," Starks said. "I do not think he will address any specifically divisive issues, but will use this opportunity to challenge Morehouse as an institution and our class as black men to continue to be on the cutting edge of social progression and never stop pushing forward in education because the future of America, in the eyes of our president, is in the hands of a heavily specialized and educated population."

The class of 2013 is ready to embark upon a new chapter of their lives. They are preparing for Obama to give them the "hope" to change the world, cited about Sheftall receiving a Bennie award.

"Sheftall has been here for a long time," Butler commented. "Over the many years that he has been here, I know that he has made many contributions to the College."

However, some students have begun to realize the importance of the Gala, despite the fundraising aspect.

"One of the primary purposes of the Gala is to raise the money for the college; however, the Gala has a more symbolic purpose," Leonard said. "Having the opportunity to learn of the accomplishments of the award recipients makes me realize why I chose to attend Morehouse College."

Students are truly inspired by the recipients and are thankful for the commitments that they have made and will make in the future.

THE MAROON TIGER

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REFLECTIONS OF EXCELLENCE

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As the students of the Atlanta University Center walk around their campuses, they are unaware of what their reflections of excellence will one day be. Last Saturday in the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center, Tracey Hutchins, the anchor of CBS Atlanta/ Better Morning, and the distinguished 2013 Bennie and Candle Award honorees came together to offer their own "Reflections of Excellence" to the audience. The discussion was a part of Morehouse College's celebration of 146 years of leadership and excellence. It was organized for honorable black men to speak about their success and what it took to reach their "excellence." The panel also answered questions from individuals in the audience.

The panelists, three of whom are Morehouse graduates, were 2013 Bennie and Candle Award Honorees:

- Dr. Willis B. Sheftall Jr. '64, Morehouse Provost and Professor of Economics;
- Calvin Mackie '90, an author, educator and engineer
- Milton L. Little Jr. '76, President/CEO of United Way of Greater Atlanta;
- Ulysses L. Bridgeman, Founder/CEO of Bridgeman Foods, Inc., and a former pro basketball star;
- Charles F. Bolden Jr., an NASA administrator and famed astronaut;
- Laurence J. Fishburne III, critically

acclaimed actor, director and producer.

Throughout the discussion, not only did the honorees speak about their experience of reaching success, but they also talked about their goals and setbacks as young men.

Little said, "Preparation, passion, commitment, and faith are the four main components of reaching success and you must also keep pushing against your doubt - get past the fear of saying the four words, 'I need your help.'"

Although the Candle Award honorees did not attend Morehouse College, they all stated that the college had an impact on their success.

"One day standing outside a man walked past and said, 'Hey, you're Larry Fishburne,'" he said. "This man was Spike Lee. He told me that he would one day write and direct great films about black people and I believed him."

"Laurence Fishburne is a master of his craft," sophomore psychology major Desiree Booker said.

"He's someone that we have watched rise in his career. His caliber is visible in his movies. With those movies, he grew a level of confidence."

During the question-and-answer portion of the discussion, a member of the audience asked each honoree what they hope their legacy would be.

"I just want someone to say, 'I am because he was,'" Mackie said.

"When I'm gone my work will still be here and people will get to enjoy it, and with that I'm satisfied," Fishburne added.

THE PARENT CLOSET

MOREHOUSE PARENTS COUNCIL
START CAMPUS CLOSET

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As notable alumni, parents, donors, and celebrities dressed to the nines in their formal evening wear for the 25th Candle In the Dark Gala, many students on campus struggled to afford suits, shoes, and even dress shirts as they prepared for the spring's demands for job interviews and internships.

However, in the midst of the Gala's decadence and formality of Founder's Week, the Morehouse College Parents Council has worked tirelessly to ensure that there is a place where students in need can go to dress themselves with essential clothing items and accessories; a campus clothing closet.

Last Friday, parents, administrators and students crowded together in one corner of Forbes Arena at the entrance of the administrative offices, awaiting for the maroon ribbon to be cut and the campus closet to be unveiled. Dr. Felicia Jackson, president of the Morehouse College Parents Association and representative from Region 1 (Georgia and Alabama), presented the closet at the grand opening.

"This is a celebration of a vision that has finally become a reality," Jackson said. "A celebration of service, hard work, dedication and commitment on the behalf of parents and our administration who have worked diligently on this process. A celebration of partnership, workmanship, and friendships."

The closet was initiated by a group of parents who sought to meet the need of many students who do not have the resources or access to essential clothing items like suits, ties, shirts, socks, and shoes. Many students who come to Morehouse, whether international or local, not only struggle to get housing and books, but also to buy clothes.

Although being "well dressed" is an important subject on campus, many students

are challenged to be dressed at all, provided that Morehouse is comprised of diverse backgrounds, including economically.

The campus closet, which is not yet named, is aimed to provide students in need with these essential clothing items. One of the goals stressed by Belva Weathersby, the chair of the Clothes Closet Committee, is dignity.

"One of the things as you will see in the closet is that we wanted to represent dignity, that even if you have a need you can still have dignity," Weathersby said. "These sons will think they're in Macy's and that's exactly how we want them to feel. That there is pride and dignity even when you are in need."

"We want this to be discreet access, but we certainly want to make sure that they have a place where they can go to get those things that they need."

One of the major efforts of the council, in addition to establishing the closet, is naming the closet; however, instead of giving the closet a name themselves, they have decided to create a contest where the students can vote on the name.

"The next challenge that we have is spreading the word," Jackson said. "And right now that is the Office of Student Services, but one of the ways the [Clothes Closet] Committee is trying to engage our sons is through our Clothes Closet naming contest."

With the innovative efforts of the Morehouse parents and administrators, the closet will open shortly with hours of operation posted on the door. Otherwise, students in need should contact Dean Wright in Student Services.

The inventory of the closet is comprised of donations from parents, students and alumni. Regardless of the occasion, the campus closet stands to serve the needs of the students and make sure that being well dressed is more than an ideal, but a reality.

REFORMATION OF BLACK EDUCATION

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In a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" style symposium Saturday, Morehouse President John Wilson, Dr. Marvin Sapp, Dr. Howard Fuller and Dr. Ivory Toldson polled the audience and disclosed their observations on education. Morehouse alum and current Psychology Professor Dr. Bryant Marks moderated the discussion and town hall meeting that followed in Bank of America Auditorium.

The current graduation rate for African-American females is 46 percent and a mere 35 percent for males, making the need for the discussion evident. As overflow students, alumni and professors began to line the auditorium walls, panelists dived into the topic, "Innovation and Reform in Educating Black Students: Increasing Flow Through the Academic Pipeline."

When asked if they thought African-American children were reaching their full potential, the entire panel responded no. Dr. Toldson, a Howard University professor, added that black children are also likely to be at less rigorous schools, have less experienced teachers, and are more likely to be disciplined for the same things white children do.

Also speaking about the education gap, Wilson said, "Only 4 percent of African-Americans are college ready by the time they graduate." He also noted that the average black 12th grader is reading on an eighth-grade level.

But there wasn't complete congruity on all topics during the Founder's Day event. Toldson disputed the dropout rates commonly associated with African-Americans and he disagreed even more with the attitudes that make blacks cling to these negative and sometimes invalid statistics.

"If I say something that doesn't sound bad enough about our people, [African-Americans] doubt it," Toldson said. Dr. Wilson continued with the notion of accountability.

"People need to expect to pay a price for mediocrity and failure," Wilson said. This idea was met with a rumbling applause, but his next statement added a little more sting.

"I really do think there are too many faculty and staff that are underperforming and they pay no price for it, and the people that pay the price are our kids," Wilson said.

Fuller, Marquette University professor, also drew attention to the responsibility of teachers.

"You can feel deeply and not have the capacity to educate," Fuller said.

He went on to emphasize the need to insist that children do better as well.

"We do have to send a message to our kids that nothing precious comes easy."

Sapp, the President of Grand Rapids Ellington Academy of Arts and Technology (GREAT) in Michigan and the father of a current Morehouse freshman, created his own charter school to ensure that his expectations were met.

"We put the mandate on the teachers and the parents that this is a partnership," Sapp said. Other panelists also mentioned the importance of family participation. This was underscored by the attendance of Wilson's wife, mother, and son during the symposium, in addition to other Founder's Week and Parents' Weekend events.

The presence of Wilson's family and the panelists' comments both alluded to the quote from Carter G. Woodson's "The Mis-Education of the Negro" that was cited during the symposium:

"To educate the Negro we must find out exactly what his background is, what he is today, what his possibilities are, and how to begin with him as he is and make him a better individual of the kind that he is."



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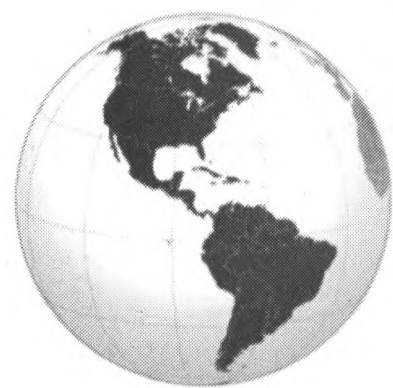
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PARKS NAME CHANGE SPARKS DEBATE



THE AMERICAS: UNITED STATES

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The larger-than-life statue of confederate general and member of the Ku Klux Klan Nathan Bedford Forrest was the subject of fierce debate recently in Memphis. During a city council vote just days before the

Tennessee state legislature was to put a bill before the floor to ban the renaming of state landmarks, the park was renamed with unanimous consent.

Racial tensions in the city have flared in the wake of the controversial decision. Critics of the decision argue

that "to blot out such associations were tantamount to rewriting the history of a Mississippi River city steeped in Old South heritage," an Associated Press report said.

"It's very offensive," local African-American civil rights activist Kenneth Van Buren said. "How can we have unity in the nation when we have one city, right here in Memphis, which fails to be unified?"

Opponents of the decision argue that Forrest was humane in his treatment of the slaves he owned before, during, and after the Civil War.

Forrest lived in Memphis before the Civil War, working as a cotton farmer and slave trader. Though lacking traditional military training, he rose to lieutenant general in the Confederate Army. He became legendary for fast horseback raids that disrupted the enemy's supply lines and communications.

As recently as 2005, former Memphis Mayor, Willie Herenton and a coalition of black leaders sought to

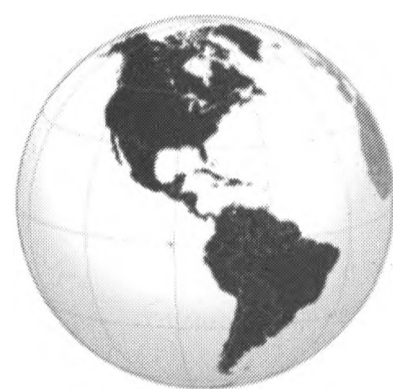
have the park renamed, but failed.

More recently, the City Council in Selma, Ala. voted to stop work on a monument honoring Forrest at a city cemetery after someone removed Forrest's bust from the site. The apparent theft had led to protests by civil rights advocates not to replace it. Also, in Dec., Dixie State College in Utah removed a bronze statue of Confederate soldiers from campus.

Tennessee also has a state park named for Forrest and a modern-day statue of him in Nashville erected on private land. Others say the city needs to discuss more pressing matters such as crime and education.

"I don't care if it's named for Nathan Bedford Forrest," said Councilman Harold Collins to the Associated Press, who is black. "He's a dead man."

NEW FILM ON RACE SPARKS CONVERSATION WITHIN MOREHOUSE



THE AMERICAS: UNITED STATES

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As an entire nation marked the anniversary of the birth of civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a few weeks ago, and as the month-long celebration of Black excellence has kicked off across the country, debate within

the Morehouse community and beyond continues surrounding the progress of King's dream.

Since King's speech in 1968, scholars, leaders and ac-

tivists alike have taken up this issue. At no other place in the world has this conversation been more prevalent than within the Morehouse network.

In a trailer on cainTV.com, businessman and Tea Party activist Herman Cain '67 offered his insight on racism and struggle in Runaway Slave, a new documentary on the progress of African Americans conceptualized and produced by former NAACP leader Rev. C. L. Bryant.

"I focused on my performance and making sure it was the absolute best," Cain said when asked in the documentary how he dealt with racism climbing the corporate ladder. "And pretty soon, people stopped looking at me as a black guy. They started looking at me as a high achiever."

The title Runaway Slave draws on the historical concept of American slaves in the mid-19th century escaping from slavery, usually on a southern plantation, and escaping to freedom via the "underground railroad."

Bryant and the film's producers use the term to call American Blacks to become modern runaway slaves, and leave behind the domination of not only welfare and entitlements, but the rhetoric of divisive Black leaders who promote hatred and violence as the way to gain equality.

At the time the documentary was released, during the week of the King holiday, Amazon announced that the film premiered as the number one bestselling documentary during its initial week.

Freshman Devario Reid agrees that progress has been made but King's dream has not been necessarily fulfilled.

"Tokenism is prevalent throughout our community," Reid said. "We as an entire community have not exactly progressed together. We have surely had groundbreaking moments but we have yet to meet our fullest potential."

A recent CNN poll of adults nationwide showed that Americans are split at 50 percent on the question of whether

NFL PLAYERS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT LOCAL INDIANA



THE AMERICAS: UNITED STATES

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National Football League (NFL) players used the first week of their offseason to celebrate Black History Month with 300 Central Indiana students at the Indiana Repertory Theatre.

The Colts were represented on the day by defensive linemen Fili Moala

and Corey Redding, and tight end Dwayne Allen. The three players, who arrived in their home speed blue jerseys, surprised students from local Indiana Public School system's William Penn Elementary and Arlington Woods Elementary and hosted a special performance of "Jackie and Me."

Allen, winner of the 2011 John Mackey Award as college football's most outstanding tight end, used the event as a platform to speak of his own struggle as a Black athlete and his personal connection to the Jackie Robinson story.

"Allen briefly talked about how the story of American Baseball Legend Jackie Robinson resonates with him as an African-American professional athlete because of Robinson's ability to overcome racial prejudice and discrimination," Anna Kimble-Roberson, Community Relations Assistant for the Indianapolis Colts said.

Today, while not as extreme, black athletes experience indignations of their own. This extends to their portrayal in media.

"It is not that positive athletes do not exist - it is that they're not shown," Dr. Pellom McDaniels III, curator in Emory's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library and former NFL player said. "We don't see the black athletes who host positive events and spread awareness to important causes."

The three NFL players used Friday to disavow such stigmas.

Redding and Moala joined Allen to speak of similar misconceptions, and the importance of Black History Month.

"Black History Month provides an opportunity to honor those who fought for equality and civil rights so that we could all sit in this room together today," Moala said.

The production of "Jackie and Me," coupled with the

personal testaments by players, made young viewers aware of the racial tensions of previous generations and the existence of racism today. The three Colts players were happy to announce the partnering between Corporate Education Partner for "Jackie and Me" and the Colts.

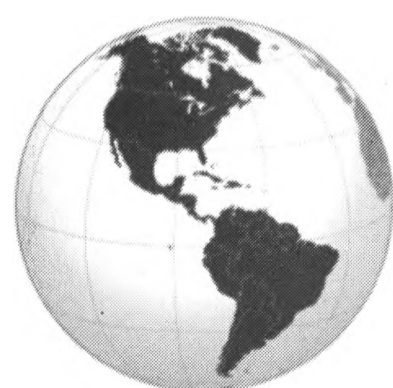
"As the Corporate Education Partner for 'Jackie and Me,' the Colts are providing more than 12,000 underserved students throughout the state of Indiana the opportunity to visit the theatre for a matinee performance," Kimble-Robinson said.

In a sport where African Americans make up 65% of the cosmology, the promotion of healthy race relations is required for advancement within the sport. Given the nature of the month, this is a perfect opportunity to accomplish this feat.

"To have this production in our student matinee series is a perfect addition to Black History month education. We couldn't be more thrilled to partner with the Indianapolis Colts on this event - and throughout the run of the show," Kimble-Robinson added.

The Miami Dolphins followed suit and hosted a similar event this past week.

U.S. A STEP CLOSER TO WIDE DOMESTIC USE OF DRONES, NEW REPORT SAYS



THE AMERICAS: UNITED STATES

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The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) last week made a formal request to create six drone tests sites at various locations across the country. The nationwide competition to get a test site is expected to ensue in the wake of FAA's decision, CBS News reported.

In addition to the formal request, the FAA also drafted a plan to protect certain civil liberties related to people's privacy.

Recently, President Obama was asked about his position on drones targeting American citizens on and off U.S. soil.

"There's never been a drone used on an American citizen on American soil," the president said. "We respect and have a whole bunch of safeguards in terms of how we

conduct counterterrorism operations outside of the United States. The rules outside of the United States are going to be different than the rules inside the United States, in part because our capacity, for example, to capture terrorists in the United States are very different than in the foothills or mountains of Afghanistan or Pakistan."

The use of drones on U.S. soil come as law enforcement officials across the country have been using unmanned aircraft to assist in crime-fighting. More recently, the Los Angeles Police Department neither confirmed nor denied the use of drones to track ex-cop Christopher Dorner, when asked by reporters a day before he was found in a log cabin in San Bernardino County, Calif.

"That would tip off any suspect watching media, right?" LAPD spokesperson Alex Martinez said. "So, to answer your question, we're not gonna answer that. Obviously, because he has access to media and we're not going to let him know how we're approaching him."

The plan to place drone sites across the country has also been lauded by the Department of Transporta-

tion. Secretary Ray LaHood released a statement last week announcing the plan.

"Our focus is on maintaining and improving the safety and efficiency of the world's largest aviation system," LaHood said. "This research will give us valuable information about how best to ensure the safe introduction of this advanced technology into our nation's skies."

Still, members of Congress on both sides of the aisle were cautiously supportive of the program; many of them called for intense regulation, sound privacy standards, and adherence to the U.S. Constitution.

"As we enter this uncharted world of drone technology, Congress must be proactive and establish boundaries for drone use that safeguard the Constitutional rights of Americans," Rep. Tom Poe, R-Texas, said in a statement. "Individuals are rightfully concerned that these new eyes in the sky may threaten their privacy. It is the obligation of Congress to ensure that this does not happen. Just because Big Brother can look into someone's backyard doesn't mean it should. Technology may change, but the Constitution does not."

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW

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DO YOU FACEBOOK YOUR DATE?

ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY BY MATCH.COM, **48%** OF SINGLE WOMEN DO RESEARCH ON THEIR POTENTIAL DATES USING FACEBOOK. FOR MEN ON THE OTHER HAND, ONLY **38%** OF MEN CONDUCT PRE-DATE RESEARCH ON FACEBOOK. ACTUALLY, MANY MEN, **49%**, ARE AGAINST RESEARCHING SOMEONE PRIOR TO A FIRST DATE. – **BLACK ENTERPRISE**



IT MUST BE SWIZZ'S TURN?

SWIZZ BEATS, HUSBAND OF ALICIA KEYS, HAS DECIDED TO GET INTO THE HEADPHONE BUSINESS. HE HAS SIGNED A DEAL WITH THE CREATIVE AND MARKETING TEAM OF MONSTER CABLE INC. FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEBRON JAMES, JUSTIN BIEBER AND OTHERS. – **BLACK ENTERPRISE**

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ACCORDING TO A STUDY BY PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S INTERNET AND AMERICAN LIFE PROJECT, **27%** OF UNITED STATES FACEBOOK USERS WILL SPEND LESS TIME ON THE SERVICE THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH ONLY **3%** WHO PLAN TO SPEND MORE TIME. OVER **60%** HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE A BREAK FROM THE SITE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS OR MORE. – **CNN**



PRE-PAID OR CONTRACT?

RECENT STUDY BY WALLETOP BLOGGER JANE TUV EXPLORES THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF PRE-PAID PLANS. OVERALL, WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER NOT RENEWING OUR CONTRACTS AS THE WOES OF A MONTHLY BILL, POTENTIALLY ABSURD OVERAGE CHARGES AMONG OTHER CONTRACT-RELATED ISSUES CAN BE CUMBERSOME. – **DAILY FINANCE**



BlackBerry

BLACKBERRY MAY BE DOWN, BUT NOT OUT!

BLACKBERRY HAS RELEASED A NEW OPERATING SYSTEM WITH HOPES OF REVIVING ITS STRUGGLING EXISTENCE IN THE MOBILE DEVICE MARKET. THE OPERATING SYSTEM, BLACKBERRY 10, ALSO COMES AFTER THE FIRST EVER GLOBAL CREATIVE DIRECTOR WAS HIRED. HER NAME? ALICIA KEYS. – **BLACK ENTERPRISE**



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THE CHICKEN FRANCHISE HAS LAUNCHED A NEW CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE CUSTOMERS TO "EAT MOR CHIKIN 4 BREKFAST." UNDER THIS CAMPAIGN, SELECT RESTAURANTS ARE INVITING CUSTOMERS TO EAT BREAKFAST FOR FREE ON A SELECTED DAY. YOU CAN RSVP AT CHICK-FIL-AFORBREAKFAST.COM. – **BLACK ENTERPRISE**

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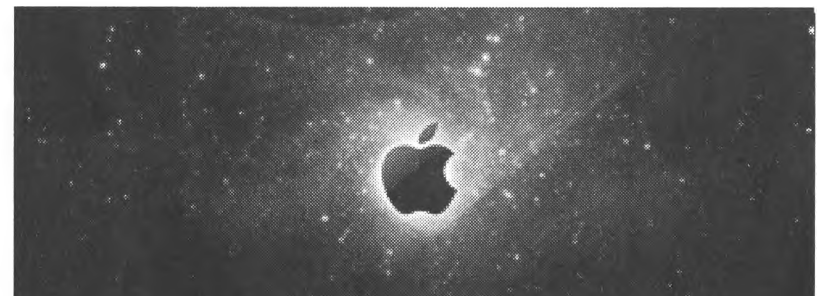
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EVER GOT YOUR PHONE UNLOCKED? WELL APPARENTLY, THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IS MAKING STEPS TOWARD MAKING THAT PROCESS ILLEGAL. A PETITION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO KEEP PHONE UNLOCKING LEGAL. LAST OCTOBER, IT WAS DECIDED THAT CELLPHONES WOULD BE RESTRICTED FOLLOWING THE NEW ANTI-HACKING LAW, DIGITAL MILLENNIUM COPYRIGHT ACT (DMCA). THIS RESTRICTION WENT INTO EFFECT ON JAN. 26. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PETITION FROM **MASHABLE.COM**.

NATIONAL DAY OF CIVIC HACKING

THERE'S A NATIONAL DAY OF HACKING?

APPARENTLY - AS OF EARLY FEBRUARY. THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THIS DAY EARLY FEBRUARY, SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 1-2, WHICH WILL INCLUDE CITIZENS, SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS, AND ENTREPRENEURS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WHO WILL WORK WITH ONE ANOTHER TO CREATE, BUILD, AND INVENT NEW SOLUTIONS USING PUBLICLY-RELEASED DATA, CODE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SOLVE CHALLENGES RELEVANT TO THE NATION. – **BLACK ENTERPRISE**



IS APPLE FATIGUE ACTUALLY POSSIBLE?

ACCORDING TO WALL STREET BANKERS, YES. OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, SHARES IN THE COMPANY HAVE TAKEN A DOWNWARD TURN. IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, APPLE STOCKS TRADED AT **\$705**, BUT NOW THE SHARES HAVE SINCE FALLEN BY 35 PERCENT. THAT MEANS THAT THE STOCK IS VALUED AT **\$430 BILLION**, DROPPING NEARLY **\$230 BILLION** – IN LESS THAN A YEAR. – **BLACK ENTERPRISE**

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GONE TOO SOON: THE STORY OF RUBY DORIS SMITH ROBINSON

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It is no secret that the Spelman College of the mid-20th century was hardly the world-changing wealth of enlightenment and empowerment we know today. Under the administration of Albert Manley, the college's first male president, Spelman resembled a finishing school.

More than a liberal arts institution, its students often were described as sweet, graceful and uncommonly gifted as far as the confines of the home were concerned. However, as the Manley regime from 1953-1976 reached its midpoint, Spelman women dotted picket lines across Atlanta, more concerned with equality than home economics.

One such student was Ruby Doris Smith Robinson, described as "a person with a rare power, a rock-like integrity, which moved and inspired countless people in the Movement" by former Spelman professor and civil rights activist Howard Zinn.

As the Executive Secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Robinson was at the forefront of the fight for Black equality. At age 18, Robinson was part of a delegation of SNCC workers sent to support a group of Friendship College Students in a South Carolina jail. Robinson sympathized with the students, as she, too, had seen the inside of a cell in pursuit of racial equality.

Undaunted, she joined the Freedom Riders after her month-long imprisonment. The rides, developed by the Congress on Racial Equality, were temporarily suspended following the brutalization of a group of CORE volunteers. However, the coalition of activists remained undeterred. Robinson's fellow SNCC female leader, Diane Nash, recruited even more riders

in the wake of the violence, unwilling to see the movement lose its fervor.

Robinson joined the riders with the understanding that they were just as susceptible to violence as the initial group. She met Jim Crow with a calm demeanor that she developed into a trademark. Colleague and Morehouse Man Julian Bond remembered her as a fearless pillar in the movement, afraid of no one, regardless of their skin color.

When faced with the challenges of being a woman in the movement, Robinson remained committed to Black solidarity above all else. But just when the movement was in greatest need of levelheaded leadership, of either gender but especially female, she lost her life to cancer at the age of 25.

Some attribute her death to the stresses attached to being a female civil rights activist. In a sense, she gave her life to the struggle. She and her fellow women leaders developed an impeccable paradigm for changing not only the status of Black women but the greater African-American community as well.

In true Spelman Woman form, Robinson took no issue with making her presence felt. She was known as a woman who took no nonsense, an uncompromising change agent who proved a formidable, albeit composed, opponent for all those who chose to challenge her. Although her time in the streets of protests may not have been long, it is imperative that we, as Dr. Zinn said, "bring this extraordinary young woman to her proper place in the history of our time." Women like Rosa Parks and Recy Taylor walked a precarious line between African-American rights and the pursuit of gender equality. Prior to the advent of the civil rights movement in the mid-20th century, brave Black women confronted violent sexism as it compounded racism in America.

Although the Black struggle as we know it eclipsed the physical, sexual, and social abuse of its women, the fact remains that there is no such thing as selective equality.

UNSPOKEN LEGACY: BLACK WOMEN BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

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Although we may not care to admit it, many of us know Rosa Parks in a shallow sense. Her sweet, mild image has rendered her the porcelain doll of the civil rights movement. She's often been portrayed as a meek, elderly woman whose tired feet stood, or sat rather, on the front lines of mid-century anti-segregation politics.

However, beneath her quietly constructed facade, there existed a warrior fighting for her rights as an African American and as a woman.

The African-American experience has been characterized by an undercurrent of sexual violence against Black women since the earliest days of slavery. Although theft of the Black female body has evolved from its carnal roots in the antebellum era, history has revealed women of color to be universal property. Prior to her days as the poster child for the Montgomery bus boycotts, Parks was an ardent advocate for gender equality.

On an early fall evening in 1944, a 24-year-old Alabama woman named Recy Taylor was kidnapped at gunpoint and raped by seven armed white men driving a green Chevrolet. As the assault occurred, the primary assailant ordered

the young wife and mother to "act like she did with her husband" or have her throat slit.

After being identified by a friend of Taylor's, the driver of the vehicle confessed to transporting her to the scene of the crime and revealed the six other perpetrators. However, in accordance with the racial climate of the era, the policemen of Abbeville, Ala., refused to take the men into custody.

Enter Rosa Parks. In the wake of the Taylor tragedy, the NAACP sent Parks, their most prominent advocate and investigator against sexual violence toward black women, to address the situation.

At 31 years old, Parks was a seasoned soldier in the war to reclaim Black women's bodies. At a time when women of color were violently bound by the intersection of sexism and racism, Parks was a feminist crusader for rape victims. Under her leadership, Parks' fellow activists sparked a national dialogue on the widespread sexual assault of Black women.

The Taylor case revealed a flagrant double standard in interracial relations. African American men risked brutal lynchings if they so much as looked in a White woman's direction. Black women, however, were denied their humanity and available to any White man with a shotgun.

The culmination of the Taylor trial engendered more outrage when, after five minutes of deliberation, a jury of

12 white men dismissed the case. In the following months, Taylor's home was bombed by white supremacists, forcing the victim's family to relocate. Multiple NAACP chapters mobilized in their defense and demanded justice until the Governor of Alabama painfully agreed to reopen the Taylor case. But the new investigation only revealed age-old myths regarding the innate hypersexuality of African-American women.

The Abbeville sheriff concluded that Taylor was an immoral woman and four of the seven rapists agreed, stating that the young woman was a prostitute who'd given them full consent to do with her as they pleased. Although one assailant confessed to the rape, telling a story directly in line with Taylor's account of that fateful night, the Alabama attorney general was "unable" to indict the seven men when he presented the case in 1945. After she was viciously slandered as a whore, Taylor received even stronger backlash following her second attempt to achieve justice.

Women like Rosa Parks and Recy Taylor walked a precarious line between African-American rights and the pursuit of gender equality. Prior to the advent of the civil rights movement in the mid-20th century, brave Black women confronted violent sexism as it compounded racism in America.

Although the Black struggle as we know it eclipsed the physical, sexual, and social abuse of its women, the fact remains that there is no such thing as selective equality.

LEZ-B-HONEST: BLACK COMMUNITY BEGINS TO ACCEPT HOMOSEXUALITY

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What was once seen as a taboo is now becoming more prevalent in the community. Not only is this once shunned way of life more prevalent, it is also becoming more accepted. What is that ever-evolving way of life you ask? It is simple, homosexuality.

Before the 1970s, it was unspoken of for a person to openly confess to their homosexual nature. If one were to be aware that they preferred a spouse of the same sex, this immediately caused those experiencing these feelings to believe they were cursed, or somehow damned, in the ancient years. As time went on, people of homosexual orientation became more comfortable accepting their choice in a mate of the same sex, but knew it would not be as accepted by society.

For many, allowing it to be known that one was homosexual led to the loss of jobs, bullying in school, shunning from family and the forfeiture of friends. In other words, it was best before the social movements of the 70s for homosexuals to align their decision with the infamous "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

This quietness that surrounded the "underground" homosexual community soon began to shift into a more progressive, outspoken direction as movements began to spring up all over the nation in support of homosexual and feminism rights. The 70s was a period of peace, love and happiness for all, not just those who were born male and heterosexual. Those who once hid their true selves rapidly became more comfortable showing the world who they truly were and honestly, the world had no choice but to accept the change - whether they liked it or not. Not only was this movement impacting Caucasian Americans, but people of all races were forced to see the homosexual community for who they were. One race that showed the most outward reluctance to accept the gays was the Black community.

Morehouse Freshman Devario Reid shares his own experience of taking a class as an African-American male that primarily focuses on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in the Black Community.

"The class enlightens you tremendously on the Black homosexual community starting with the 70s," Reid expressed. "I was aware of white homosexuality, but not as much as that of the Black community."

As Reid discussed the center focus of the class, this then led to more specific examples of experiences in the Black LGBT community.

One of those experiences described derived from a group of foreign women who quickly learned that what they believed to be innocent customs in their village were glowered upon in the States.

"I learned about how some women in Sierra Leone were having intimate relations in their village and it was not frowned upon in their community," added the St. Jude Up 'Til Dawn Liason. "This approval changed when they came to the States and realized open homosexuality was not a widespread acceptance."

Out of experiences similar to those of the Sierra Leone women, blacks and whites who identified themselves as LGBT learned that fighting for the rights would not be simple, but resistance was a must in order to see a change. Those in the LGBT community used acts of violence and other horrendous incidents as evidence of the dangers of homophobia and to show that they too were human. Therefore, even if their sexuality was not considered the norm, they must still be respected.

After this force, over the years the LGBT community began to take seats in office, become those normal neighbors next door and appear in the media. It was as though the LGBT community began to assimilate within society to a whole new depth, one that held no prejudices against freedom of choice for all.

An example of this can be seen in the creation of a married homosexual couple on the popular show "Modern Family." The American Comedy having at least 12.6 million initial viewers is indication of society's growing acceptance of homosexuality. More importantly, Eric Stonestreet, one of the partners in the gay union of the show, won the 2010 and 2012 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for his role. As it relates to the Black LGBT community, Frank Ocean serves as one of the greatest examples of the Black public also embracing the LGBT community. When Frank Ocean decided to reveal his sexuality to the world, it was undoubtedly a shock, but one that was necessary. Frank Ocean is possibly one of the most famous Black entertainers to be honest about his sexuality, allowing others to see it was not something to be ashamed of. In his "coming out," Frank Ocean received support from fellow entertainers, such as Beyoncé, and went on to still sell a platinum album and become a Grammy award winner.

As society begins to accept those things that cannot be changed, the nation and the world learn to be more loving and tolerant of all, no matter what their sexuality, background, culture and so forth may be. This allowance creates a necessary civility among everyone, especially in the Black community. These ending words from Reid speak volumes on the importance of getting to know those in the LGBT community based on their inner person and not their sexual orientation. His personal interaction with his peers is suggestion of the emergence of acceptance in society, particularly the Black community.

"I feel like people judge me by the personal relationship I have developed with them first before they even consider my sexuality," concluded Reid. "This new LGBT class is proof of that."

I HAVE MY BROTHER'S BACK?: ALUMNI VS. MOREHOUSE

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"Dear Old Morehouse," a song that represents a newfound brotherhood between Morehouse students and Mother Morehouse, is known to carry a legacy. For new students who are chosen to attend, it signifies a new chapter, the beginning to no end. It conveys the true meaning behind loyalty, brotherhood, and the Holy Spirit. It is the binding process of commitment and trust, "I have my brother's back."

But like many students who pledge Greek life, this song means nothing and its values are meaningless. It's another song students listen to like those by 2 Chaniz, Rick Ross, and Lil Wayne, except they do not enjoy "Dear Old Morehouse" or even hold onto its worth, according to the alumni of the college.

We, students of Morehouse, run Morehouse College, according to President Wilson. I would like to extend President Wilson's statement to former students as well. Alumni matter and their involvement with Morehouse is crucial because giving back is a vital component to our institution's prosperity. Alumni are the backbone of the college. The Morehouse brand is nothing without them. "I have my brother's back."

Without support from alumni, we face programs being cut, students without money for school, unbearable living conditions and outdated technological tools. The underlying fact remains that the college's financial strain is hindering its growth – but where are our alumni? Financial issues can be life or death for a collegiate institution and our life is in the hands of our alumni. "I have my brother's back?"

Earl Nero, class of '72 and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., agrees that alumni are

imperative to the future of the college. The Morehouse brand has the potential to carry students far past graduation day, and such a pristine reputation must be preserved.

"Some alums that do give back don't give back consistently," Nero said. He cited reasons behind alumni's philanthropic reluctance, such as worries regarding donation size and unresolved issues with former instructors or staff members.

Alums need to understand that it's not how much you give back, but it's that you give back period. Yes, student loan debts must be repaid, and you might not have graduated with the ideal job. But like Nero said, if the 500 students that Morehouse graduates each year give back at least \$500 each, that equals \$250,000 per year.

According to Kevin McGee, the president of Morehouse's National Alumni Association, roughly 15 percent of our alumni are involved with the Alumni Association while about 36 percent of alumni give back to the college.

This is why we are at the bottom of the pool, sinking. Our priorities are messed up. Morehouse graduates obtain top-notch jobs and begin catering to our wants rather than our needs, neglecting home, disregarding Mother Morehouse, and forgetting the oath we made to our current and future brothers on a sweltering day in NSO.

Without support from alumni, Mother Morehouse relies heavily on the angels of the financial aid department, Mr. Stott, Ms. Jackson, Ms. White, and Ms. Meadows, to help ease our matriculation through Morehouse. Mother Morehouse kept her promise to her students. She has your back, so the question is, do you have hers? Be prepared and ready to return the favor, my fellow Men of Morehouse. Step up, reach out and give back.

IT'S ENGAGEMENT, STUPID

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Most students might not be old enough to recall Bill Clinton's famous "It's the economy, stupid" line leading up to the 1992 Presidential Election. It was a simple idiom. It held a certain simplistic truth that spoke for the times. The country was in the midst of a recession and Clinton's campaign thought crucially about the priorities on the minds of voters at the time. Thus, the phrase became tattooed in the minds of millions as a reminder of his most fundamental obligation as president: to fix the economy.

Arguably, he did. The next eight years were categorized by surpluses and balanced spending, although that was due in large part to a deficit-reduction-minded Congress. We can all honestly say that his promise in holding and sticking to that simplistic message was pretty solid, at least, judging from the big spending that would characterize the next eight years.

Decades later, there is a lesson to be learned among student leaders and the administration from Clinton's leadership. That lesson and message is simple: "It's engagement, stupid."

The biggest issue of our SGA is and continues to be engagement. We can't continue to wonder year after year why a glaring disconnect exists between students, student leaders, and the administration when the answer is so glaringly clear: Leaders have failed to engage with us.

By engagement, I do not mean picking a fight with the administration for the sake of trying to hear a response or the administration throwing a few students on a committee to appease the few that care. By engagement, I mean fulfilling the most basic duty and obligation of leadership: standing with students,

not standing above them. That requires being their voice rather than suppressing it for the purpose of an individualistic agenda.

As we reflect historically on the legacy of Clinton's very simple call to action, let's consider the simple strategies of folks like King, Abernathy, and civil rights activist Stokely Carmichael. They were able to mobilize change not through fancy rhetoric, but through engagement. Indeed, their message was simple despite the complexity of the issues they faced.

All of these leaders teach us that using the words we speak from places of power and position do not necessarily equal change. Where would the 1990s economy have been without the engagement of a president with the American people? Where would our dreams be without the boycotts and sit-ins and demonstrations – the hard work and determination of grassroots activists?

In SGA, it seems as though leaders must find a way to simply articulate the systemic problems at the root of the complex issues we are all experiencing – tuition increases, ineffective use of resources, poor food quality and selection in Chivers. The issue is both disengagement and a systemic failure to establish the level of trust needed for effective advocacy and outreach.

Leaders have to do the arduous work of developing relationships and engaging from the bottom up. King wasn't sitting on a throne when he was shot to death in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. He was in the thick of one of the most drawn-out sanitation strikes in Memphis' history, fighting for equality.

If collective action is to ever be effective, students must feel as if they can trust and engage with their leadership. Take off the Bostonians and bow ties and engage with us. Then perspectives will truly change.

THE CRIME OF BLACKNESS: THE HISTORY OF LYNCHING IN AMERICA

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If I were to ask you the meaning of Jim Crow, I'd likely hear musings about segregation or recollections of textbook images of "Whites Only" water fountains. From what many of us understand, Jim Crow is synonymous with the "separate but equal" doctrine that facilitated centuries of racial oppression in this nation.

However, post-Reconstruction white supremacist laws were not solely rooted in "Colored only" signs and segregationist ideologies. They were carried by institutionalized violence against Black people. Jim Crow was anchored in the unsanctioned genocide of our ancestors, as their noosed, shot, burned bodies were denied an ounce of humanity.

Deemed "our country's national crime," the practice of lynching has crept into the modern era with the election of President Obama. Racism and ignorance has generated countless images of his hanging body. Lynched effigies of the president have been reported at gas stations and churches and, just as perpetrators of the Jim Crow era went unchecked, the creators of these brutal, racist displays remain unpunished. It seems that not even the Commander in Chief is immune to the systematic racial violence that plagues Black men in this nation.

As with the women of our community, Black men have

been subjected to gender specific racial violence throughout history. While there were female victims of lynching, the majority of Jim Crow casualties were male. Lynching became a method of maintaining white supremacist social order in America. Considered an extrajudicial solution to Black "crimes," it differed from standard murder because members of lynch mobs were not subject to criminal charges and their actions were generally met with public approval. Although lynchings generally came in the form of a noose, the term encompasses any murder in which the public served as judge, jury, and executioner.

As you could guess, fair trials had no place in these citizen "courts." Black victims of lynching were rarely guilty of illegal activity. Infractions that carried a public death sentence included looking at a white woman, attempting to vote, being obnoxious, unruly talk, and demanding respect. The collegiate community that nourishes our growth as Black people was at the center of this state sanctioned terrorism when a Morehouse College sophomore was lynched on June 15, 1930.

Dennis Hubert was an 18 year old studying religion when he lost his life to Jim Crow. A relative of former Morehouse president Dr. Charles D. Hubert, the young man was a member of a prominent family and had a promising future of continuing his father's legacy in the church.

One day after the semester's end, a white man charged Hubert with insulting his wife the previous day. Eyewitness

accounts reported no such insult and in actuality the young man saw three intoxicated white women, one of whom fell to the ground, and recommended that the others take the fallen woman home.

The day after Hubert's remark, he was beaten and shot by seven white men as he was leaving Sunday School. His father, Reverend Gaddus Hubert, discovered the slain student when he returned from church that afternoon. Given the prominence of the Hubert family, the young man's murderers were convicted in the following weeks.

In the aftermath of the trial, enraged members of the Ku Klux Klan terrorized Hubert's family and other members of the Atlanta University Center. The Hubert home was burned to the ground. A mob attempted to abduct former President Hubert and his son from their home.

During the nights that followed, Klansmen hurled stones over the gates of Spelman College, shattering lamps and windows. The hooded men protested the convictions throughout the West End, reminding African Americans that they were not to step out of line.

As Black History Month continues, it is imperative that we remain connected with all aspects of our past. That means holding people like Dennis Hubert in just as high regard as Dr. Martin Luther King. They are equals, both Black, both men of Morehouse College, and both sacrificed in hopes of creating prosperity for all who have come after them.

FACULTY PROFILE AVERY WILLIAMS

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Professor Avery Williams '86 has accomplished many feats since leaving Morehouse. Some of his works include "Eddie," winner of a 2001 New York International Independent Film & Video Festival, "The Willie Witch Project," and now working as an instructor for Morehouse's Cinema, Media, Technology and Emerging Media Studies (CTEMS) program.

BUT HOW DID HE BEGIN HIS JOURNEY AS A STUDENT?

Convinced by Morehouse Men, Williams came to the school as an English major practicing his use of words by taking classes that varied from Shakespeare to theatre. While at Morehouse he developed a method to direct his goals as a student, one of which was his selection of teachers. One in particular was Dr. Luffes who used the works of Milton and Chaucer to further develop his English mind by having him memorize written works such as *The Canterbury Tales*.

Another method used was challenging himself. As such, his selection of teachers consisted of those who would push him to be better, a choice that may be controversial to what many students may think today. Another teacher that molded him into the man he is now was Dr. Raheem whose criticism on a paper stick with him to this day.

"You make some very nice assertions however the ground often gives way beneath your literary feet.," Williams recalled Raheem writing once.

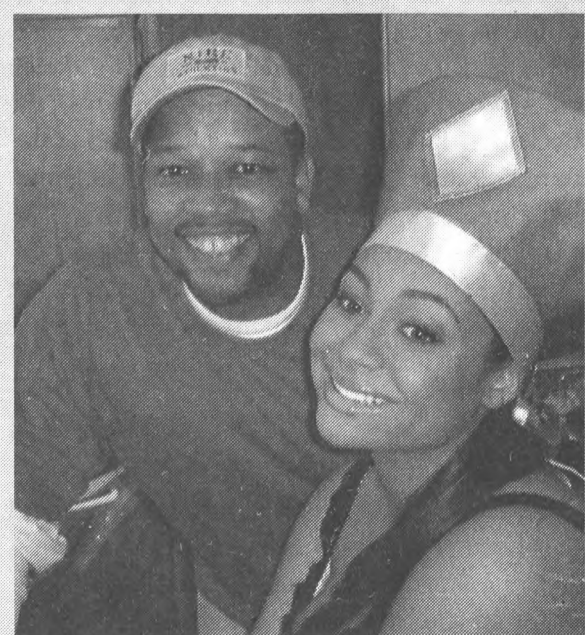
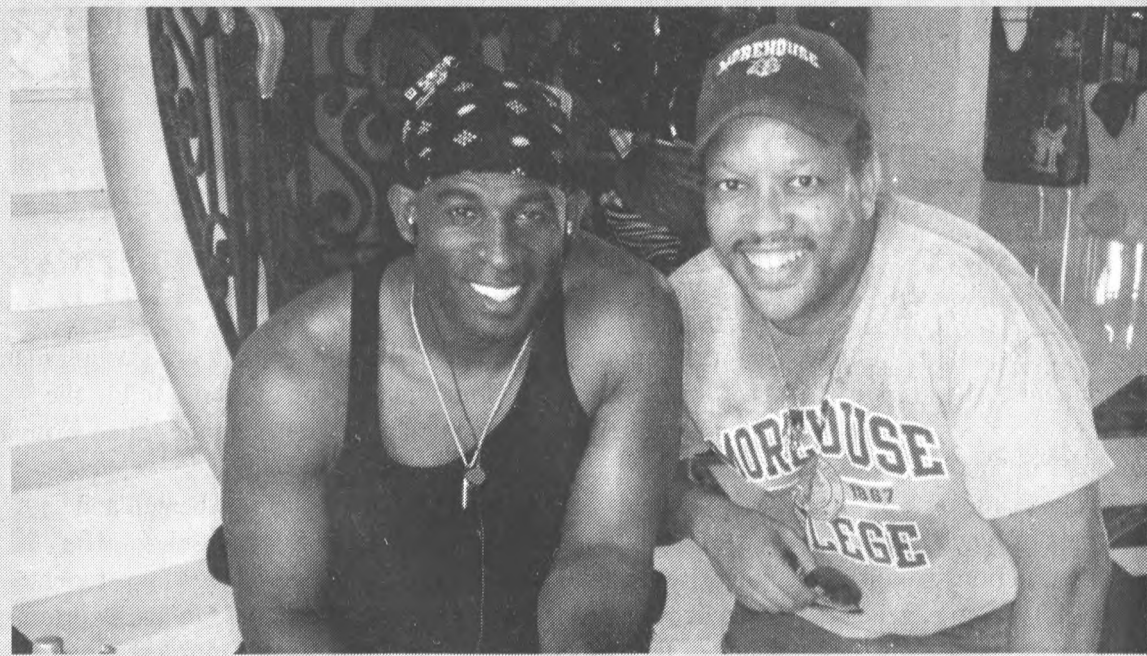
This challenge, in combination with the formation of an "end game" goal for his student career, as Williams called it, helped him develop skills that he used later on in his life. The most valuable skill used was communication, described as relaying thoughts, personality, and shared ideals via paper and vocal interaction.

Williams said, that the need for communication will always be present in today's time. As proof, this belief has brought friendships between him and many partners he's worked with on projects that gave many references for other directing or screenwriting positions.

What brought Williams back after his success with screenwriting was the possibility of another job during the 2008 writer's strike. Initially, a show called "Hell Date" brought him back, but an eventual call from Morehouse brought him into a different direction. Phil Howard, Vice President of the office of Institutional Advancement, had made contact with Williams after looking over some of his work to get footage for a promotional video for Morehouse.

As of now, Williams has set new goals to keep himself productive. This coming summer, he'll be working on a short-film project called Plenty.

It goes without saying that William has achieved what many English majors hope to achieve and he continues to lead other students into their academic future.



NIGERIAN DRUMMER VISITS MOREHOUSE

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In a small classroom, waves of overlapping percussion coming from a single drum bring its audience together, clapping and singing. This drum can talk, and its master, Nigerian drummer Adebisi Adeleke shares its language.

"Any note, any word in the Yoruba language, this drum can speak it," he tells us, manipulating the instrument's unique strings to produce melodies beyond basic drum beats.

The talking drum is a part of Nigeria's musical tradition, something that Adeleke has been included in since his birth. Like his father and grandfather before him, he has mastered the instrument, and can communicate his native tongue through it.

"Remember I said, we talk with this drum," Adeleke said during his performance. "What I ever I say, I can say on the drum. Any note that you play on the piano, this drum can do the same thing. And what we can do, that the piano can't do, is talk, in the Nigerian language, the Yoruba language where this drum was originated."

A fourth generation drummer from the town of Ila-Orangun in Nigeria, Adeleke worked as a professor of music at Ibadan Polytechnical College before bringing the message of the talking drum to thousands in the United States. He is often the guest of

the Woodruff Arts Center, and local arts and culture gatherings.

The talking drum, also known as the *dundun* is designed to mimic human speech with its hour glass figure and strings. Musicians can manipulate the instrument by pressing it against their arm and body, creating full melodies beyond basic percussion. Peripheral instruments such as bells and other percussion instruments can be added to the talking drum to create additional sound as artists like Adeleke bend the sounds of the drum.

Adeleke's visit to Morehouse was the work of English professor Dr. Michael Janis, who teaches the department's West African Fiction and Film course. Janis, who has spent time living in the region, claims that the rhythm of Nigeria's talking drum has no match. Paired with a screening of *Konkomba*, a documentary on Nigerian music, the event was intended to introduce students to the country's rich musical culture.

"I've been to many countries in West Africa and I have to say that, of all the music I've heard there's nothing like the Yoruba talking drum, so you're in for a real treat," Janis said as he introduced the master drummer.

Similarly, a second event focusing on Ghanaian music will be held Thursday Feb. 14 by the Morehouse African Film Society. Dr. Kwesi Owusu will direct the hour long program with a screen of *HiLife: Ghana's Musical Soul*. Specifically, the event will focus on Ghanaian music from

KID VISION: BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD

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Beasts of the Southern Wild has taken the world of film for a ride. The movie, released in mid-summer 2012, is a creative blend of fantasy and drama; demonstrating how the mind of a child often blurs the line between 'real' and imaginary. It received four Academy Award nominations—Best Picture, Best Director (Benh Zeitlin), Best Adapted Screenplay (Lucy Alibar, Benh Zeitlin), and Best Actress (Wallis). Notably, Quvenzhane (pronounced kwuh-ven-zuh-nay) Wallis is the youngest person to receive the Best Actress nomination, at nine-years old.

Five-year-old Hushpuppy is the film's protagonist and narrator. Her mother 'swam away' shortly after she was born, leaving the girl and her father with their close-knit southern Louisiana bayou community. The *Bathtub*, as its colloquially called, is a small and isolated fishing community where everyone knows everyone.

Hushpuppy's journey begins as a storm is heading towards the *Bathtub*. She and her father band together with other townspeople who remain rather than leaving for higher ground. As the movie follows Hushpuppy and her dying father, we watch as she learns about her family, about death, and ultimately what it means to fit within the universe.

Along with her narrated musings and observations, the major

contribution to our sense of Hushpuppy's perspective is the use of a hand held camera. This technique has gained popularity with first-person narrative films, recently with films like *Chronicle* and *Project X*, both from 2012. While these films included a 'first-person' camera; with a character acknowledged as the one filming the action, *BOTSW* utilized this technique to emphasize the point of view of a small child.

Watching the film's action unfold from a five-year-old perspective contributed to its uniqueness, and some believe its strength as well. A young New York filmmaker and director, who chose not to be named, saw a particular advantage in having Hushpuppy tell this story.

He said that her point of view "gave the movie a sense of whimsy, how she looked at real, dire circumstances and just saw adventure. It allowed us to get a sense of magic out of something that would've just been very depressing if it'd been following a grown up."

The centrality of the child's perspective in telling this story placed significant responsibility on very small shoulders. Wallis, who was only five when she auditioned for the role, performed with an unexpected strength.

Within the next year we can expect to see her in *12 Years a Slave*, directed by Steve McQueen, along with a Sundance film titled *Boneshaker*.



KING BEY REIGNS

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On February 3, the world eagerly awaited what would become one of the most anticipated performances of the year – Beyoncé's Super Bowl halftime show. After month of speculation, rehearsals, and some backlash, Beyoncé took to the stage, in the New Orleans Superdome, to deliver the fierceness that only she can. With performances of major hits such as "Baby Boy," "Single Ladies," "Halo," along with a cameo

performances
"Crazy in Love,"
Ladies," and
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Child mates, Beyoncé strutted her way onto the radars of many. Many ask the questions, "Why was Beyoncé one of the most buzzed about artists?" The answer lies in the fact that Beyoncé and her team are amazing marketers. With this team backing her, this year is sure to be the year of the Bey. Here's why:

Beyoncé utilizes social media... in the correct way: After announcing that she would be the halftime performer, Beyoncé took to social media to wet the appetite of the online community. Through her Instagram page (@BaddieBey) and her blog, Beyoncé's pictures offered an inside look into the life of the private superstar. Beyoncé understands her consumers and their appetite for more information and a closer look at her life. Her solution was to provide everyone with an in-depth look, on her own terms. This outlet gave her more control of her brand. So, while other artists were forcing media outlets to pay attention to them, Beyoncé let the Beyhive and others do the buzzing.

Beyoncé turns bad situations into amazing, iconic ones: Before stepping foot onto the Super Bowl stage, Beyoncé took to the Presidential Inauguration stage to perform "The Star-Spangled Banner." Many praised her amazing rendition of the national anthem, but that was overshadowed by the Marine Corps admission that the Grammy Award winner lip-synched her performance. So, what did she do? She used that opportunity to create even MORE buzz for her upcoming Super Bowl performance. Everyone knew that Beyoncé would have to face the situation in a Super Bowl press conference (and one that will go down in the history books), before even uttering a word, Beyoncé performed the national anthem a cappella. Her stunt, once again, had the media buzzing and everyone talking.

Beyoncé has more in store: It seems that the superstar has done many things already, but she is just warming up! Her next venture will be a HBO documentary, entitled "Life is But A Dream," that airs in February. Beyoncé will soon head out on her "The Mrs. Carter Show" World Tour. This will be her first world tour since 2009's "I Am..." World Tour. In addition, Beyoncé still has to release her fifth, yet-untitled album. According to Beyoncé, from an interview with GQ Magazine, the album is described as mostly R&B with influences ranging from 60s doo-wop to Aretha Franklin and the 90s. The album features production from Justin Timberlake, Kanye West, Missy Elliott, Miguel, Timbaland, Ryan Tedder, Ne-Yo, and Jay-Z among others.

Beyoncé is arguably one of the hardest working individuals in the entertainment industry. She understands the power of her personal brand and relevancy. Whether you love her or hate her, there are lessons to be learned from the marketing machine that is Beyoncé. She may have not been parading around like others in the past year, but she is ready to take the world by storm once again.

So in 2013, who runs the world? Beyoncé.

"Any questions?"

SPORTS BLACK HISTORY



HENRY "HANK" AARON

WHO IS HE?

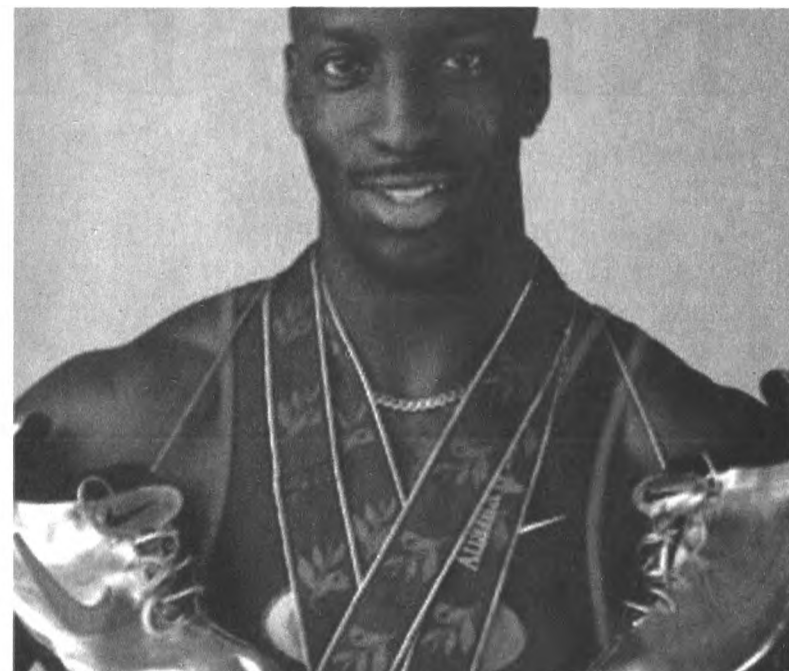
Played major league baseball for 23 seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers and Atlanta Braves. Aaron broke Babe Ruth's career home run record of 714 home runs – a record that is currently held by Barry Bonds. While on the chase for Ruth's record, Aaron received many death threats from fans that did not want to see a black man break one of baseball's most important records.



LISA LESLIE

WHO IS SHE?

Played in the WNBA for 12 years with the Los Angeles Sparks. Leslie won three WNBA MVP's, four Olympic gold medals, and capped off her career with two WNBA championships. As a 6'5" center, she was the first player to ever dunk in a WNBA game. She was a pioneer for the sport and for years considered to be the cornerstone of the league.



MICHAEL JOHNSON

WHO IS HE:

Michael Johnson is a retired American sprinter who is considered one of the greatest long sprinters in the history of track and field. He won four Olympic gold medals and eight World Championships. Johnson holds the world and Olympic records for in the 400meter race. He is the only male athlete in history to win the 200meter and 400meter dash at the same Olympics. Johnson had a specific running style, where he stood stiff and upright and took very short steps; this style defied conventional wisdom.



ERNIE DAVIS

WHO IS HE:

Ernie Davis was a talented running back, who played collegiately at Syracuse University and became the first ever African-American athlete to win the Heisman Trophy. The highly sought after running back was drafted by the Washington Redskins and then traded to the Cleveland Browns in 1961. Ernie Davis would never play a game in the NFL, as he was diagnosed with leukemia in 1962.



CHARLAINE VIVIAN STRINGER

WHO IS SHE:

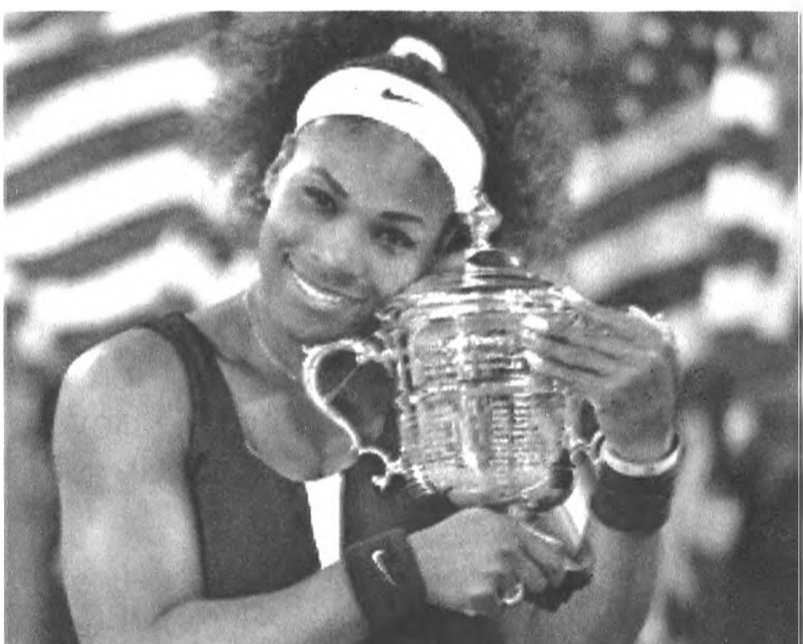
Vivian Stringer is the head basketball coach for the Rutgers women's basketball team. She is the first head coach in NCAA history to lead three different women's programs to the NCAA's Final Four. (Rutgers 2000, 2007, University of Iowa 1993, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania) Stringer is the third winningest head coach of all time. She has won the Naismith coach of the year, and is a member of the Women's basketball Hall of Fame. Stringer was also inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 1993.



VONETTA FLOWERS

WHO IS SHE?

Vonetta Flowers is an American bobsledder and athlete. Flowers was a fantastic sprinter and long jumper at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She originally had plans to compete for the United States in the Summer Olympics; however, after several failed attempts she turned to bobsledding and found success. Flowers and her teammate Jill Bakken won a gold medal at the 2002 Winter Olympics. The win made Flowers the first African American to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics.



SERENA WILLIAMS

WHO IS SHE?

Serena Williams is an American professional tennis player. The Women's Tennis Association has given her a number one ranking as a singles player on five separate occasions. Williams is the only female player to win \$40 million in prize money. She is thought of as one of the greatest tennis players of all time, and has 30 Grand Slam titles putting her in 8th place all time. Amongst active players, both male and female, she holds the most major titles.



FLORENCE- GRIFFITH-JOYNER

WHO IS SHE?

Florence Griffith-Joyner also known as Flo-Jo is considered to be the fastest women of all time. She was an outstanding track and field athlete. Flo-Jo set world records in 1988 for both the 100 and 200-meter races. Both records still stand and have never been challenged.



DOUG WILLIAMS

WHO IS HE:

Williams is the current head football coach of the Grambling State University Tigers. He was also the quarterback for the Washington Redskins, and the only African-American quarterback to win the Super Bowl and Super Bowl MVP. .

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