



A LOOK INSIDE THE ISSUE



THE MAROON TIGER

THE ORGAN OF STUDENT EXPRESSION
SINCE 1925

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE ■ ATLANTA, GA
9/4/13 - 9/11/13 ■ VoL.88, No. 1

NEWSLINE

CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SYRIA:
PRESIDENT OBAMA ANNOUNCED ON SATURDAY THAT HE WOULD SEEK CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION TO STRIKE SYRIA IN RETALIATION TO PRESIDENT ASSAD'S ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

CENSORING MUSIC ON CAMPUS:
SGA AND CASA ARE COMING TOGETHER TO START A PETITION THAT AIMS TO URGE ADMINISTRATORS NOT TO REGULATE MUSIC DURING HUMP WEDNESDAY AND HOMECOMING.

RESIDENCE HALL CLOSING:
WHITE HALL HAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED ITS DOORS. IN RESPONSE TO LOW ENROLLMENT NUMBERS, ADMINISTRATORS DECIDED TO CONSOLIDATE WHITE HALL RESIDENTS INTO OTHER RESIDENCE HALLS AROUND CAMPUS.

CAMPUS CRIME ALERT:
LAST WEEK, CAMPUS POLICE ALERTED STUDENTS OF AN ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS. STUDENTS WITH ANY INFORMATION ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT AUTHORITIES.

ROAD TO THE CLASSIC:
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE'S MAROON TIGERS ARE PREPARING FOR THE THIRD-ANNUAL AT&T NATION'S FOOTBALL CLASSIC THIS WEEKEND.

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER FEE:
STUDENTS THAT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO VISIT THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER AND OPT OUT IN ORDER TO AVOID BEING CHARGED A \$930 FEE FOR THE COLLEGE'S HEALTH PLAN.

#INSTAPHOTOOTHEWEEK



MT'S FIRST #OOTD FEATURE:
[Miss @AP_1924, @SHAWNIE_SAID_SO]
#campusfashion #spelhouse

POSTED BY @THEMAROONTIGER
24 LIKES 5 DAYS AGO

FEATURES

THE
WRONG
CHOICE?

SPELMAN STUDENTS QUESTION THEIR
BELONGING AMID TEMPORARY HOUSING
COMPLICATIONS.

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Uncertainty comes with the college experience, no matter the institution, its administration, or its students. While many students may bask in the "anything can happen" potential that is intertwined with the ambiguity of their undergraduate years, others fear the unknown that lies within it.

The AUC has been no stranger to uncertainty this year – the questionable fiscal conditions of the schools, under enrollment and over enrollment, and major cuts to faculty and other areas have led to protests and general upset among students. Recently at Spelman, the uncertainty of the college landscape has personally hit a few Spelmanites regarding lack of housing.

What started off as an issue familiar to only Spelman students, the subject of the shortage of rooms at Spelman has spread across the AUC. From the problematic lottery system for housing selection to vague waiting lists and encouragement to move off-campus, a growing number of Spelmanites are forced to carry the burden of finding adequate shelter on top of the weight of other burdens attached to college. Sophomore Psychology major Moriah Sells weighed in on her turbulent housing situation this year.

"I was on the waiting list over the summer for housing, so I started off at number 48 and then I moved up," she said. "And they [said] something in the area [of] 'We would rather you look for off-campus housing rather than wait for something on-campus.' I was just confused."

Sells' circumstances reflect that of many young women stuck in housing limbo. Temporary housing is defined exactly how it sounds – Spelman's housing office provides transient places to stay on campus for students who did not receive housing for numerous complicated and personal reasons (most often due to not having their

WORLD AND LOCAL

MOREHOUSE JOINS TRIBUTE TO
THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

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Several Morehouse students as well as faculty, such as Dr. Vicki Crawford, director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. collection, attended last week's 50th anniversary of the March on Washington.

On Aug. 28, 1963, symbolically before the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the original March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place. The heat of the sun and the dedication of the people dominated the event. John Lewis, civil rights activist and the current U.S. Representative in Georgia's 5th Congressional District, is the last living speaker from that day 50 years ago.

Jamaal Lewis, senior at Morehouse College, attended the commemoration of the event on the 24th in D.C. Upon receiving an email from a representative of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, he went to the March on Washington with the Samuel DeWitt Conference group.

"The conference commemorating the March on Washington was centered on faith and justice," Lewis said. "My favorite part of the event was witnessing the excitement on peoples' faces as they stood out there on the national grass ... Ruby Sales, a founding member of SNCC (Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee), also attended the conference."

HBCUs and other organizations celebrated this important time in American history. When asked about the relevance of the March on Washington in the AUC community, Joshua Drumming, sophomore Political Science major at Morehouse College, said, "While a part of the Voting Rights Act has since been repealed, the march and what it accomplished reverberates through time. It gave boys and girls that look like me the temerity to look up and feel like they are worth something."

The original March on Washington demanded human rights, economic rights, and civil rights for all. The demonstration, meant to rouse the minds of America and awaken the humane sensibilities of the government, applauded the United States on its religious, ethnic, and racial diversity while stressing the idea of taking advantage of people's unique attributes.

The heartening of non-violent protests united citizens of all backgrounds under one purpose underscored in the famous and often quoted "I Have A Dream" speech presented that day by Martin Luther King Jr. The words of the "I Have A Dream" speech, one of the more memorable speeches given by King, would not have been uttered at the event without the work of chief organizers A. Phillip Randolph and Bayard Rustin.

Women like Dorothy Height, the president of the National Council of Negro Women at the time, and Rosa Parks, NAACP activist, also played a crucial role in the March on Washington. In addition to these heavy hitters, both men and women, unknown to the public, contributed to the iconic and mesmerizing event.

Proceeding the March on Washington, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 deemed discrimination along racial, ethnic, gender, and religious lines intolerable. The following year, The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed discrimination in the voting process.

Fifty years later, the March on Washington is remembered for changing U.S. government policy and for empowering and uniting people of all backgrounds. Fifty years later, modern day proponents of equality such as Oprah Winfrey, Congressman Lewis, President Bill Clinton and Christine King Farris graced the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to explain the improvements in America while noting needed improvement.

With emphasis on LGBT rights, reproductive rights, and continued battles for justice when discrimination along all lines is present, the March on Washington reminded citizens of the humanity binding the public.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: CYDNEY FISCHER

“

IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I DON'T BELONG... THE
FACT THAT I GET TO SCHOOL AND THEY TELL
ME THEY HAVE A BED FOR ME BUT I'M LIKE,
WHERE'S MY BED?

MORIAH SELLS

tuition balance cleared by the time of the housing lottery).

While this problem is nothing new to Spelman, it has stirred unpleasant buzz around campus because of its increased severity this semester. Even a significant number of freshman, whose first year is largely in part defined by which residence hall they stay in, came to school without housing stability. Whether they are temporarily living in the Spelman Suites or crammed into makeshift rooms in lounges and basements with multiple roommates, students across campus are wondering how temporary their situations truly are.

For Sells, her issues with housing first arose when she got back to Spelman for the current academic year.

"Over the summer I was trying to see if I was going to come back to Spelman," Sells said. "I kept emailing the financial aid office, and when I finally got back to campus they said they just had a bed for me... It was very vague."

First- and second-year students are required to stay on campus, and ironically this dilemma has had the greatest effect on them. This fact, along with dismal temporary living conditions and the entire housing process in general has increased the building tension between students and administration. Many students have taken to social media to air their frustration at Spelman as a whole, while others are castigating President Beverly Daniel Tatum directly and demanding an investigation of the use of the college's funds.

The problem has been a common source of discussion this semester among the Spelman student population, but many specifics are still unknown to the public, such as an exact number of how many students are on the wait list for permanent housing. The housing staff was not permitted to answer any questions, and Spelman's Office of Communications was unavailable for comment on the situation.

The majority of students in temporary housing also keep their current conditions discreet. Sells chose not to disclose where she is

TURN TO PAGE 6

SPORTS

UNFAIR
ADVANTAGE

THE USE OF
PERFORMANCE -
ENHANCING
DRUGS IN SPORTS

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There is and will always be a competitive nature in professional sports. Professional athletes are constantly looking for new ways to take their game to the next level, in hope of becoming the best, or remaining the best in their sport. There are some athletes who travel around the world in search of the best training, possibly to make their skill set stand out in their specific sport. But there are also a number of athletes who look to illegal substances also known as performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) to get the extra edge desired to maximize their potential.

Although steroids are banned by almost all major sports organizations, the use of anabolic steroids in professional sports has been going on for many years. Athletes use these illegal substances as a way to get stronger, faster, and to transform their body into athletic machines capable of achieving things the average athlete can't. These steroids speed up the training process for athletes and allow them to get in better shape quicker.

The use of these banned substances has been seen in the majority of the major sports including football, track and field, and especially baseball. The first stage in identifying an athlete as a steroid user is the radical change of their physique. Because steroids increases the amount of testosterone in the body, when an athlete on steroids works out muscle is built in a much quicker manner.

MARION JONES
BARRY BONDS
SHAWNE MERRIMAN
AND
MANNY RAMIREZ

are all notable athletes who have tested positive for anabolic steroids. Many of these athletes were the face of their sport at one time or another, and tarnished their name once these discoveries became public. One would think seeing these athletes take such a major fall would cause other athletes to think twice about using steroids, but that was not the case

A steroids related scandal has happened recently in the MLB with the focus being on three-time MVP and 14-time All Star third baseman Alex Rodriguez. There had been reports of Rodriguez being a steroid user going all the way back to 2007, but there was not enough evidence to investigate. But in 2009, it was discovered that Rodriguez tested positive for two banned substances.

Rodriguez broke down and eventually admitted to using steroids from 2001 to 2003. In the summer of 2013, Rodriguez allegedly was given HGH from Biogenesis of America, and Major League Baseball gave him a 211-game suspension for his role in the scandal. Through the Major League Baseball Players Association, Rodriguez is appealing his suspension that, if upheld, wouldn't let Rodriguez play again until the 2015 season.

Steroid use in athletics is bringing an artificial approach to the sports that we all grew up loving. Seeing star professional athletes use these banned substances gives youth the idea that if they want to be the best they should use steroids, and just as long as they don't get caught everything will be fine. There needs to be a major crackdown on drug use soon, and if not sports will remain tainted.

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THE ARTICLE "LIVING IN A SMALLER HOUSE" IN LAST WEEK'S EDITION OF THE MAROON TIGER INCORRECTLY STATED THAT ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT TERRANCE DIXON HAD SAID THERE ARE 513 ENROLLED FRESHMEN IN THIS YEAR'S CLASS. THE SENTENCE CONTAINED TWO MISTAKES. DIXON DID NOT PROVIDE THE NUMBER OF FRESHMEN, AND THE NUMBER WAS INCORRECT BECAUSE THE FINAL TOTAL HAD NOT BEEN DETERMINED YET.

DIXON PROVIDED UPDATED FIGURES ON SEPT. 3. ON THAT DATE, THERE WERE 458 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN THIS YEAR'S CLASS, COMPARED TO 626 FRESHMEN IN 2007.

A CLOSE CALL
FOR POLI SCI

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As the stakes rise for students in the Political Science Department, so do concerns. "We're flirting with students delaying graduation," Political Science Professor Dr. Gregory Hall said.

Hall expressed that one man down in the department could be disastrous because course coverage is so thin. In the last four years the department has lost six full time professors, leaving their current number of full time staff at four. With hundreds enrolled in Political Science courses, students are affected by the understaffing and underfunding.

At an Aug. 26 meeting organized by students in the Morehouse Political Science Association (MPSA), faculty and students voiced their concerns to newly hired Provost Garikai Campbell.

As a result of the meeting Campbell's titles now include provost, senior vice president for academic affairs, as well as unofficial grant writer for the Political Science Department.

In response to a student's request for a grant writer, Campbell said, "No, we're not going to hire a grant writer right now, but I am willing to take on that role." He said there is a need to get more external resources but the department is not currently in a position to hire a grant writer.

Another position students requested was an adjunct to oversee the Moot Court course and team. A member of the team, Rodje Malcolm, said because they did not receive funding for an adjunct he is unable to complete the remainder of the two-semester course or participate in upcoming team events. Within days of the meeting, students were notified that an adjunct was provided.

Even with the addition of the new adjunct and two visiting professors this year, concerns persist. "We have been unstable since 2009," Dr. Tobe Johnson said. "We have been able to provide our courses, and we've had good teachers, but we have not had continuity."

The loss of several professors and their subsequent replacement with part-time or temporary staff has altered students' experiences and education. Johnson said the department should rely less on adjuncts in the future and that recently freshmen have not had the same professors or mentors assisting them when they became seniors.

By senior year some students had lost courses in addition to teachers. Because of the decrease in faculty retention, the senior seminar course was suspended for several semesters and more students were allowed to cross register at other institutions.

Senior Political Science major and Student Government Association President Anthony Simonton stated his plans at the meeting for aiding the department. His goals included engaging alumni by having them come to campus, creating petitions and surveys, and sharing students' stories with donors.

"We are the best marketing stamp for the college; we are the brand and the product," Simonton said.

The interim chair of the department, Dr. Ebenezer Aka, revealed the timeline for selecting the next chair, which is set to be completed by Nov. 15 of this year. The appointee, however, is not predicted to be in place until fall of 2014.

As a Morehouse graduate and professor at the College for the last 55 years, Johnson is the longest serving member of the staff but he does not plan to leave until the department is stable again. However, after serving under six of the 11 administrations in the College's history, he said his current colleagues are among the best and most qualified he has worked with since 1958.

NEW KIDS CLEANIN' UP THE BLOCK

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Morehouse College is welcoming new faces on its campus this year; however, these new faces do not solely belong to the members of the Class of 2017. This summer an initiative was launched to drastically improve campus safety. As a part of this effort, the Atlanta Police Department and Morehouse College Police Department have partnered to tackle campus and community crime.

Following the death of a recent graduate of Morehouse College last May, many students were grief-stricken. But even more were left fed up with the crime on campus. Subsequently, the Wilson administration created a Safety Committee for Residence Halls, which is intended to improve campus safety.

Alvin Darden, Dean of the Freshman Class, serves as one of the heads of the Safety Committee. When asked about the goals of the committee, Darden said, "The committee seeks to accomplish three main tasks: improved student awareness of safe behavior, improved campus safety, and a collaborative effort between Morehouse and Atlanta Police Department to ensure safety."

He described tasks under way that include ridding Parsons and surrounding streets of all drug activity, improving lighting around campus, and increased code enforcement. He added that these policies seek to also improve student development. This includes stricter policies on practices such as hazing, drug and alcohol use in resi-

dence halls, and disorderly conduct on campus. These changes were observed in the change of some practices in New Student Orientation Week and the rules for substance abuse in residence halls. With more safety comes more responsibility, which will affect conduct on campus. Darden believes that to sufficiently address campus safety issues, "We will have to adopt a philosophy of uplifting one another instead of bringing one another down."

Another individual instrumental in this process is Interim Chief of Police Jared Smith. "Part of the plan is to increase police visibility, which will result in heightened security," Smith explained. Smith also emphasized that Morehouse Campus Police and Student Conduct work hand in hand. The policies regarding student conduct have not necessarily changed, but are now being strictly enforced.

"My purpose is to ensure campus safety," Smith said. "I don't seek to ruin anyone's school career, but when you make a bad choice, it will have a consequence. As a school of higher learning, we need to have pride in ourselves." He expects that the Morehouse students will continue to be individuals who seek to better the world and reach for a higher level. He concluded by saying, "Change starts with us." Morehouse is one of many colleges and universities working with the Atlanta Police Department to increase safety on campus. Ralph Woolfolk, a 2008 graduate of Morehouse and the College Campus Safety Task Force Liaison Officer for the Atlanta Police Department, was assigned to the Atlanta University Center by Atlanta City Council

SPELHOUSE RENEWS CAMPUS SAFETY EFFORTS

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Since Aug. 17, Spelman College's website recorded the following crimes involving its students: four classified as being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, three aggravated assaults, one burglary, one theft, and one controlled substance charge. At Morehouse College, a report of an on-campus sexual assault and two arrests for physical altercations have been documented.

Officers on both campuses are focusing their attention on enforcing current policies and encompassing new initiatives to strengthen security. However, they rely on student cooperation to prevent, report, and solve crimes together.

Spelman senior Brianna Kinsey is the president of the Protecting Our Spelman Sisters Everyday (POSSE) organization aimed at promoting campus and community safety and security. Kinsey warns students that even though campus security officers are friendly and approachable, they will take students to jail as a last resort if a student commits a crime.

Director of Public Safety Steve Bowser said the spectrum of consequences can range from just conversations with officers to even jail time depending on the circumstances. However, Bowser said the goal is always to change behaviors and not punish, because it has been proven

that the threat or use of harsh penalties does not deter criminal acts.

The POSSE organization was created by a Spelman student who was assigned community service with the Public Safety department because of an inappropriate interaction with an officer. After hours of working at an entrance gate, the student understood the challenges officers face and went on to develop a program with officials that became POSSE.

One of the organization's most known contributions is assisting in the Fight Back Defense Classes during Freshmen Orientation to teach students self-defense tactics and proper procedure on and off campus.

The event is now known in the Atlanta University Center for calling on girls to demonstrate techniques and giving out safety whistles. A less talked about program, Facility Monitoring, is just as important to the safety of Spelman students.

Every night from 8 o'clock to midnight at least four student monitors assist officers in performing surveillance on campus. The monitors address or report any unsafe behavior during their paid shifts.

Entering his first semester as Morehouse Interim Chief of Police, Jared Smith has already reported a decrease in offenses at the College and in the surrounding area.

"Crime statistics have plummeted because of close cooperation with the Atlanta

President Ceaser Mitchell.

Under the task force, all AUC institutions have experienced heightened security and increased campus safety.

"The components of the task force include collaboration with Atlanta Police Department, a Student Safety Advisory Group, campus-wide collaboration, and a prevention component which educates incoming freshmen on safety awareness," Woolfolk said.

Woolfolk is happy to bridge his love for the law with his love for the Atlanta University Center.

"I have an oath to uphold the law to all mankind," he said. "I have a passion for increasing safety here in the AUC. My mother and wife graduated from Spelman, and my grandfather, father, and I graduated from Morehouse. I see all of you as my younger brothers and sisters." The Atlanta Police Department task force will be present in the AUC for 10 months. The next step will be evaluating all of the data received, and to make necessary adjustments.

This effort will not be successful without collaboration among Housing, Student Conduct, the Office of the President, Clark Atlanta University and Spelman police departments, and, of course, the student body. All of the individuals who were interviewed for this article offered a unique perspective, but the biggest emphasis was student awareness and development. Each individual stressed the importance of students being aware of their surroundings and making smart choices. This will be no easy task, but with everyone contributing to this effort, the Atlanta University Center and surrounding areas will be a safer environment for all students.

Police Department, students, and other schools in the AUC," Smith said.

The department is making a conscious effort to actively enforce the Georgia state laws by walking through dorms, increasing officer presence on campus, and exchanging information with nearby schools and businesses. As a result, the areas surrounding campus are changing as well.

Smith said the number of crimes around campus is at least partially correlated to students increasing the demand for illegal drugs.

"People think crimes like those [related] to marijuana are victimless but they're not because when you bring that criminal element into an area all sorts of other crimes follow," Smith said.

This has led to a strict enforcement of Morehouse's illegal substance policy. Students found with more than an ounce of marijuana will be subject to City of Atlanta legal processes and could be removed from the college. Any student who is also found with alcohol in a residence hall will also be fined and, depending on the number of infractions, purged from housing.

Any students who witness or suspect possible criminal and unsafe behavior are advised to call 911 operators, Campus Police (404-215-2666) or any of the public safety offices. Also, 16 emergency call boxes are available on and around Morehouse that allow every on-duty officer to hear the calls live.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: CYDNEY FISHER

#TIGERDICTIONARY

ADJUNCT- A professor employed by a college or university for a specific purpose or length of time and often part-time. dictionary.reference.com

MOOT COURT- A method of teaching law and legal skills that requires students to analyze and argue both sides of a hypothetical legal issue using procedures modeled after those employed in state and federal appellate courts. legal-dictionary.com

GRANT WRITER- researches and writes grant proposals for funding. Has a broad knowledge of the organization, its financial details, and where to find appropriate funding. Wisegeek.org

CROSS REGISTRATION- students register for courses at member institutions and receive credit, while paying tuition costs to the home institution. Morehouse.edu

TUITION- \$46,000

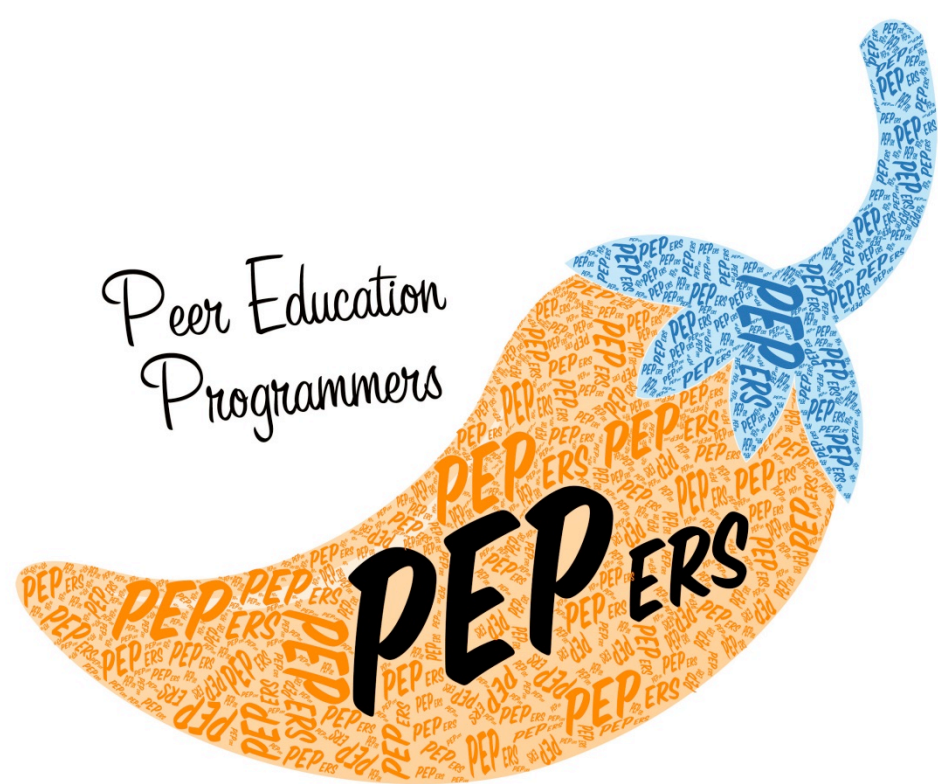
JOIN MT

The Maroon Tiger is open to all interested writers, editors, video producers, cameramen, broadcast talent, public relation mavericks, business finance interest, and more. We write the narratives and capture the events that change Mother Morehouse.

Interested in being a part?
Email us at mtigerprteam@gmail.com

SPELHOUSE CLASSIFIEDS

THE ONE STOP TO STUDENT BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS



Mental health has become such a hot topic in today's society, so PEPers is an organization dedicated to removing the stigma of mental illness, providing information and support to those living with mental illnesses. We are certified peer counselors and want help anyone in need. PEPers will have a Mental Health Awareness week October 27- November 1, 2013 dedicated to discussing a variety of issues around mental health and providing strategies and techniques for dealing with stress, anxiety and depression. We want all AUC schools to attend all the events and learn more!



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THE MELLON EXPERIENCE

UNCF MELLON MAYS FELLOWS REFLECT ON THEIR EXPERIENCE

NEBIYU FITTA

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR
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"I think the Mellon program is amazing."

Junior Marcus Lee wastes no time expressing his passion for the academy and the UNCF Mellon Fellowship's role in further fueling his desire to pursue his PhD.

Spelman Philosophy and Political Science major, Ayanna Spencer, shares this sentiment. When asked if she would recommend the program to others, Spencer answers firmly, "Yes. If anyone is interested in pursuing a PhD, and becoming a professor, the Mellon program is the absolute best."

"Scholars Transforming the Academy", the impressive slogan of the UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship has managed to attract students from the AUC for just over two decades. The extensive program is seriously committed to changing the face of academia with driven students such as Lee and Spencer.

Lee feels the program has put him in closer reach of his goals.

"I now realize how tangible becoming a professor is. My path is clearer," Lee said.

As a first-generation college student, Lee has benefitted greatly from the structure and support of the program, not to mention the opportunity to engage in research amongst academia's greatest minds.

Now more determined to fulfill his aspirations, Lee jokes "I think this summer really, just proved how much of a nerd I am. I would just get so excited sitting in the library alone, and just reading!"

Lee also attests to how he was able to effortlessly meld his academic and personal lives this summer, tailoring research to his own interests.

SPELMAN'S HOBSON BECOMES ONLY FRESHMAN MAROON TIGER CHEERLEADER

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"Now this is a story all about how my life got twisted up side down and I'd like to take a minute just sit right there; I'll tell you how I became a freshman Maroon Tiger Cheerleader" rapped first year cheerleader Tatiana Hobson.

Spelman College freshman Hobson has traveled over 2,000 miles from San Francisco to embark on her journey here in Atlanta. Slightly weary as to how her transition would be, Hobson immediately began to weigh her leadership and extracurricular opportunities, those of which included trying out for the Morehouse cheerleading squad.

In duration of the tryouts, Hobson could do nothing but reflect on her mother's simple motto: "mind over body (M.O.B.)"

"The simple motto consists of only three words, yet it means so much. A person's mind is the control system of whatever the human body does, says, and feels," Hobson explained. "Therefore, whatever thoughts come from you is what you will be. M.O.B. pops in mind whenever I am faced with adversity or even when accomplishing both short term and long term goals."

With a bi-cultural background of Korean and African-American, Hobson practiced martial arts like karate where M.O.B was also forcefully bestowed upon the students.

On August 16, 2013, Hobson became the only freshman Maroon Tiger Cheerleader. Having no prior cheerleading experience, mind over body has definitely become a rewarding mantra to Hobson.

"Despite my lack of cheerleading knowledge, the first day I stepped foot onto the [B.T.] Harvey Stadium track, I knew the importance of carrying a strong yet open mind with me and I did just that," said Hobson. "I was open to learning everything. My life ironically got twisted up side down in a positive way because I am in a completely different region with a new found hobby."

THE WRONG CHOICE? CONTINUED

living, but vaguely confirmed that it is somewhere on campus.

While Sells does not harbor any severe resentment toward the administration, unlike some of her peers in temporary housing, she does not deny the stress that this situation has caused her. Being uprooted and placed in a temporary space that is not claimed as yours can damage one's psyche. Temporary housing has had an impact on Sells' studies, motivation, and general attitude this semester.

"At first, I was a little distraught because I need to be in school," Sells said. "The fact that I am in temporary housing or on the waiting list makes me stressed out. I don't necessarily feel like I'm wanted in this community. It makes me feel like I don't belong ... the fact that I get to school and they tell me they have a bed for me but I'm like, where's my bed? Not having a place to stay makes you feel like no one even wants or cares about you there."

Through it all, Sells, like many of the other Spelmanites without a room to call their own, has chosen a resilient high road over her current housing situation. She chooses not to let the issue defer her from her plan to graduate early and move forward.

"This is helping me grow up," Sells said. "With the housing situation, I've had to learn how to balance school and a hard time. Even though it's something that's unfortunate, I still have to focus on school more than housing so I can graduate on time. I understand in life you're going to have hardships, and maybe this is a hardship that's going to help me be a better person in the long run."



Spencer, who conducted research on the effects of language on knowledge creation, speaks highly of the program's network of professors and mentors. "There's a nice community feel and plenty of financial support." The mentorship she has received has not been in vain, as she hopes to show other minority students that being a part of academia is entirely within reach.

After an enriching, yet challenging month, Spencer walked away as the 2013 Outstanding Mellon Fellow. While Spencer was one of 31 students to receive the award, she shared the experience with four other Mellon Mays scholars from the Atlanta University Center.

While the one-month program was undoubtedly rewarding, the Mellon Mays Fellowship does not end here. Next summer, the scholars will be returning to Emory to execute a research plan without a strict time constraint and greater autonomy.

The application becomes available every year to UNCF affiliated schools, and is open to humanities and science majors alike. This year, the application will open in January.

Lee's advice to those interested in applying, "If you really have a passion for the academy, do it."

PAIN AND PROGRESS

FIFTY YEARS AFTER HISTORIC 1963

JARED LOGGINS

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Fifty years ago would prove to be one of the most pivotal years in American history. A nation shook and jarred by segregation and racial injustice was in the midst of a nonviolent revolution for human rights. Last week, thousands converged on Washington to celebrate 1963's 'March for Jobs and Freedom'.

The march, however, was but a moment during that historic year. The hundreds of thousands that had journeyed from across the country to the National Mall did not begin there.

Months before August 1963, there had been protests and demonstrations calling for voting rights and desegregation; Medgar Evers had been assassinated that June; and a month after August, four little girls were killed in a Birmingham church bombing that rattled the country.

Dr. Vicki Crawford, African-American studies professor and director in the Office of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, vividly recalls "creative tension" leading up to the march.

"1963 was an unprecedented year for the movement," Crawford recalled. "There had been escalating violence leading up to August 28th. Fannie Lou Hamer and others were registering citizens to vote in Winona, MS that June. They were arrested and beaten to near death."

Crawford recalled the historic moments and urged people to remember that 1963 was so pivotal because of events during the years just before it. There had been protests and organizing efforts on college campuses in 1960 at North Carolina A&T University and at Morehouse College—where students in the Atlanta University Center had joined efforts to draft an "Appeal for Human Rights".

Fifty years later, on the eve and in the aftermath of a commemoration that brought thousands of organizers and activists together, events leading up to the commemoration point toward a nation that has continued to struggle with race issues.

In July, protests in cities across the country

erupted in the aftermath of George Zimmerman's acquittal of 2nd-degree murder in the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin. Just weeks before, the Supreme Court struck down key provisions of the Voting Rights Act that would have kept in place a preclearance formula for states that have had a history of voter disenfranchisement.

"Radical and nonviolent movements persist," Crawford said. "Organizing and mobilizing around tragedies and appealing for human rights is important. When we get a Trayvon or Oscar Grant, people get to work. Though last week was a commemoration, folks have organizing tirelessly for change."

Amid recent events that seem to have had clear implications for race relations, a recent CBS News Poll shows that race and perceptions on racial progress remains split. Fifty-eight percent of whites believe race relations are good, but among African-Americans, opinion is more divided: 46 percent think race relations are good, but almost as many - 41 percent - say they are bad. The percentage of African-Americans who say race relations are generally good has dropped nine points since January 2012.

Marian Wright-Edelman, now President of the Children's defense fund, was an organizer in August of 1963. Commenting on CBS Evening News the night of the commemoration, she says many strides have been made as far as race relations are concerned but that there is work to be done.

"I am so worried about this country moving backwards," Wright-Edelman admits. "A child is dropping out of school every eight seconds. If 60 percent of all of your children cannot read and compute at grade level, you are not going to be a strong, competitive nation. And we need to just see the growing gap between the poor and the rich, and the wealth and income inequality at an unprecedented stage with poor children are everywhere."

In spite of current challenges, the recent CBS Poll also showed that 52 percent of the country believes that racial discrimination could come to an end.

Responding to the question, former Atlanta Mayor and Morehouse Man Andrew Young replied, "Because it's happening."



A 17-year-old civil rights demonstrator, defying an anti-parade ordinance in Birmingham, Alabama, is attacked by a police dog on May 3, 1963. On the afternoon of May 4, 1963, during a meeting at the White House with members of a political group, President Kennedy discussed this photo, which had appeared on the front page of that day's New York Times.

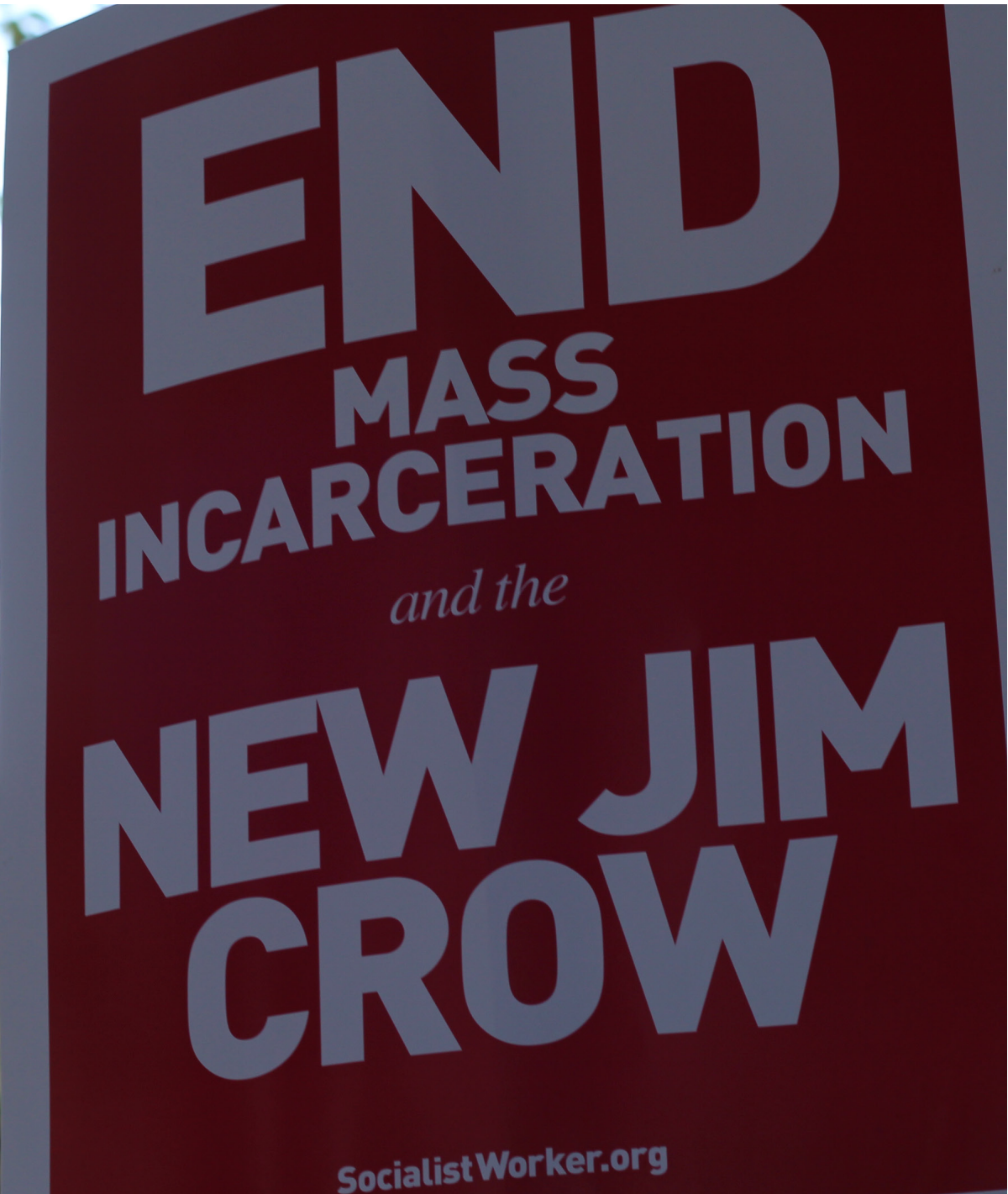
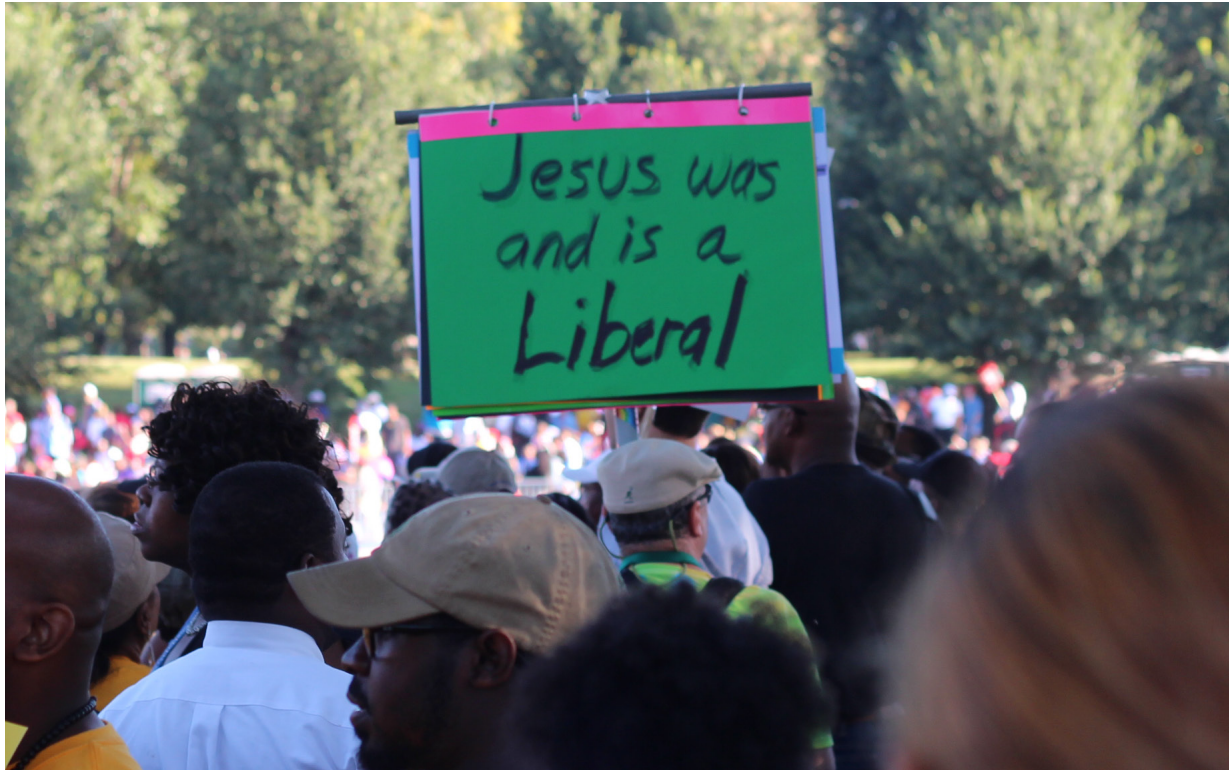
PHOTO BY: Bill Hudson





THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON RELIVED

A PHOTO STORY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: JAMAL LEWIS



HARD DRIVE FAILURE

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My laptop's health has been on a rapid decline over the past few weeks, leading me to some rather unusual questions. My primary concern is for my hard drive, which contains all the documents of my high school and collegiate career. Scrolling through my files while backing up my hard drive, I began to wonder what would hurt me the most if it were lost.

While many documents serve no other purpose besides providing nostalgia, I would certainly be distraught if I lost my first "A" paper, from both high school and college. Looking through these items, I began to question what is worth remembering. Excluding memories from the parameters, I made a list of five things I have memorized that are crucial to my existence.

The five items are: my parents' telephone numbers (counts as one), my social security number, my password (I only use one), what years the Baltimore Ravens won the superbowl, and my favorite poem. I made this list using the hypothetical situation of me waking from a coma with amnesia.

If I could remember only those five things after waking up, then it would be easier for me to digest the horror of all the memory loss.

I took my hypothetical situation to the library and asked several people for their five things excluding

memories. After hearing multiple lists and explanations for their choices, I was convinced that the lists were as unique as the individuals I asked. I expected to hear items on my list, or at least items similar.

Chad Alexander, a Clark Atlanta University sophomore from Atlanta, took a very practical approach to his list. He wanted to remember: how to operate a vehicle, how to read and write, how to ride a bicycle, how to use a computer, and his morals. His focus was on the assimilation back into society, not recovering his identity.

I understand the intentions behind Mr. Alexander's list because I believe we both understand who we cannot be undone with a simple wipe of our memories. While our memories serve as a prized catalog of previous events, our catalog is subject to frequent updates or modifications, meaning our precious memories might not be that precious.

My opinion contrasted Robert W. Woodruff librarian Mrs. Shirley Dillahunt, whose list showed her belief that certain memories give a person their identity. Her list is as follows: present family, past family, name, personal things (age, favorite color, etc.), and significant events that occurred involving the country (President Obama's election, civil rights era, etc.). I was a little surprised when her list didn't include a book, but with her selections, I completely understand why.

In an age where memorization is optional, it's interesting to learn what an individual has chosen to remember. Does that choice reflect functionality, like my memorization of my social security number, or does it reflect personality, such as remembering a birth date. Personally, if it is of little consequence to forget, I don't bother remembering it. However, I will admit that the glares I receive for not remembering a name are extremely uncomfortable.



FROM THE REGULAR GUY: TAKE A RISK

A LETTER TO THE CLASS OF 2017

Dear Class Of 2017,

Last Spring I had an opportunity to run for SGA President. It was an experience I will always cherish. I met many brothers from all walks of life with different experiences who share a common commitment to progression of our college. Going into the race, many people labeled me the "Dark Horse" in the race of eight candidates a virtual unknown who had no business running for SGA President. I was blessed to emerge from a field of eight candidates to a runoff of two candidates. Not knowing how to grasp it in the moment, the attention and shock was overwhelming. My team took that energy into the run-off campaign, knocking on every door, talking to every brother I could and spending countless hours on social media. We ran an impeccable campaign, like no other, I'm proud of that.

After more than a week of campaigning, I had become the SGA President. Once again, it was a very overwhelming and humbling experience. Here I was, the doubted unpopular student, the student who didn't wear a suit-tie every day. I was declared the 82nd President of the Student Government Association. This excitement and experience was quickly turned into a nightmare. I was the center of an uncertain election, in which there were accusations that people voted more than once, which has yet to be proven. This event led to a decision to hold a re-vote in which the results did not come in my favor, I had lost.

The last election allowed me to clearly see the lack of competence, integrity, and ethics on our campus and it took me an entire summer for my spirit to partially accept such event. However, there was a learning experience. I learned to not be afraid of taking risks. I learned what it meant to accept the good and bad. I took a risk and was hit pretty hard.

Many don't know this but I experience depression and lack of self-esteem. I'm a former cutter and in my past was once suicidal. Members of my campaign were concerned about my health and ability to deal with the pressure of campaigning. My constant refrain throughout this process was that I don't deal with personal deficits, I only deal with improvement, I'm not running for me, I'm running to serve the student body.

I put myself on the line to do something I thought was important. I put my emotions and esteem in the hands of people who probably barely knew me. Throughout the process, I proved that I was fully capable of the experience. Brothers, win or lose, succeed or fail, life is about taking risks and accepting challenges we face. It is more rewarding to build sufficient character than to always win and succeed. Sufficient, supreme, and preeminent character requires losing and failing so don't be afraid. As far as the election, I consider my lost a victory. I won the right way and I lost the right way. I stood up for the students who feel as if they don't fit the "Morehouse Mold", I stood up for the approximately 30% of college students who report feeling so depressed that it was difficult to function,

I stood up for the student trying to find his voice or purpose on campus, I stood up for the average student who wasn't engaged with campus life, I stood up for the crown above Morehouse College, I stood up for you.

Class of 2017, this is your moment, this is your victory. Take risks, discover yourselves, love your brothers and don't be afraid to fail as a result of risk taking. Dare to be bold!

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MT

Insta Video Contest #MTONEFEST

1. CREATE AN INSTAGRAM VIDEO RAPPING OR SINGING A SNIPPET OF ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE SNOOP DOGG, CEELO, LUKE JAMES, JOEY BADASS SONGS.

(EX: RE-ENACT A SCENE FROM THE ARTISTS' VIDEO)

2. PUBLISH YOUR VIDEO WITH THE HASHTAG:
#MTONEFEST

3. FOLLOW @THEMAROONTIGER ON INSTAGRAM

4. SUBMIT ENTRY BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 3-SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND OFFICAL CONTEST RULES VISIT:
WWW.THEMAROONTIGER.COM/MTONEFEST

DATING: UPPERCLASSMAN VS. UNDERCLASSMAN

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Being an older transfer college student entering Morehouse with some experience of the world, I know the challenges that come with achieving your dreams and also creating lasting relationships at the same time. Friends or lovers who possess the qualities that you admire are very hard to come by. Each relationship requires investments. Both parties have to be willing to be open and honest about one's self, which can be difficult and emotionally consuming. There's the challenge of giving someone the support that's needed in any relationship. This includes those unexpected urgent talks that just can't wait, that will interrupt your study time, which will completely help you lose your train of thought. Then the constant texts from people who seem to forget that around 9pm (or other times depending on the student) you are studying the Freudian Theory (Yeah, you get my point.) College is a fulltime job in itself and sometime requires a person to be selfish with their time. With that being said, when you find those meaningful relationships, you would like to nurture them.

Then there is the age difference situation, which equates to wisdom in some cases. Many new incoming students are allured to the prospects of dating an upperclassman. On the Spelhouse Facebook page, I posed the questions to the incoming class of 2017: Is it ok to date and upper classman? I received some very surprising but wise answers from the class of 2017, and also some of the stereotypical answers that I expected.

So let's take a look into this age old question. I decided to do some research and came upon this website called Sparknotes/Spark Life that weighed the pros and cons of an upperclassman dating an underclassman, no pun intended underclassmen, but here is what they said (Note: I changed the statements after the pro or con to fit the lifestyles of our campus.) Now remember everyone's different and should be treated as a blank canvas.

PROS:

- They will look up to you (Bernier, 2012). Because you're the outgoing classes and have endured the rigorous college life, you are respected and looked at as somewhat of a role model. Show them the way oh sensei (did you know in Japanese sensei means "born before another.")
- Cultural Exchange (Bernier, 2012). Upperclassmen have the upper hand in knowing the most happen-ing place to go and what to do and not to do on campus. They know the culture of the campus and can guide you from making mistakes that can damage your reputation (ever heard of gate dating.)
- You can mold them (Bernier, 2012). This one happens regardless of social status. As humans we want

to mold our friendships and relationships. Who doesn't want someone who is somewhat what they have always wanted. I consider this one a con also because if you spend time trying to mold someone I'm sure you are not studying or doing anything for yourself enough.

CONS:

- They may not be able to drive by themselves (Bernier, 2012). I thought this one was funny so I included it. Plus it seemed like a pro to me. I remembered when I toured the campus I was told by one of the campus representatives, and I will not name any names as for a backlash on this junior, that "Bro if you have a car...you'll be the man on campus."
- The text speak they use is weird (Bernier, 2012). "What the heck is lfoagheneigf anyways and why is it so long?" I chose to leave this one as quoted on Sparknote/Sparklife. Do you know how long it took for me to understand what SMH meant? "Shaking my head" and yes I know some of you are doing just that.
- Your pop culture references may go over their heads (Bernier, 2012). Your generation heroes are that...yours (laughing in the inside.) Some of your fondest shows and pop icons may not mean anything to them. A sophomore friend of mines doesn't understand why Biggies one of the top five MC's. And don't email me asking why he is (laughing out loud.) He just is (serious face.) Don't worry underclassmen's, I got my brother and sisters back.
- Pedophile or Cougar complex. I included this one myself. For upperclassmen men who date under-classmen you can be labeled as a "youngin' chasers" who preys on the weak and inexperienced. For upperclassmen women dating underclassmen you will be labeled for dating them only for their vitality and fun, but nothing serious (waving my hand.)And yes gender does play a role but we will discuss that later.

But on the serious side what we are discussing is maturity. For anyone dating someone older or even as friends there has to be a connection on some level that can be respected and admired. For some situations there are connections that may become serious because the two involved have a mutual understanding of both emotions. Plus what each person offers is valuable to the other. But the key is to pay others no attention if you really want it to last. Keep others out of your relationship that have negative thing to say.

Finally, we are all here to learn and exchange ideas that will change each other prospective of the world around us and hopefully the world itself. Learn, discuss, debate, and have a great experience as a college student. I would even challenge to keep all friendships mutual and platonic until college is over but this is the real world. But until your parents can buy a long distance mental and physical chastity belt...stay aware and informed.

HBCU’S, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, AND THE POLITICS OF RESPECTABILITY

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Founded in the basement of the Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta, GA, our dear college was constructed out of the promise of uplift and hope for black communities just a few short years removed from failed Reconstruction-era policies. To be sure, this promise—one that many HBCUs share—has somehow been able to sustain the toils and snares of a country that, since its inception, has been riddled with vast inequities that have plagued black bodies.

The entire conglomerate of HBCUs, it seems, serve primarily as a metaphorical ladder implanted in communities all over the country as an avenue of escape out of the ghettos and socioeconomically dispossessed states of living many have found their ways in.

Throwing on a three piece suit, “cleaning up” perceived trashy language, and challenging students to pursue respectability are all mantras that seem to have created paradoxes when coupled with the idea that HBCU students have some duty to go back into riddled communities.

Unfortunately, the education of black and Latino men and

women of color has forged tiny respectable utopias across the country where sagging pants and foul language are often admonished and rarely respected as an admirable form of expression in the eyes of administration. Outside those gates, we barely lift our voices above a whisper. In many cases, we dig trenches around our tiny bubbles and inadvertently distance ourselves from the communities we profess our allegiances to. In essence, we perform for a gaze—a heteropatriarchal gaze at that—which tells us that if we are respectable: using proper diction, standing upright, abandoning foul language—then we stand a chance of being presentable enough for this gaze to achieve upward mobility. Not necessarily true.

This gaze has been the root of the ideals we seem to hold most true. And in doing so, those who are not respectable are dehumanized, even demonized for not fitting within this mold. I'm guilty myself. But the fact remains, we other the very black bodies that desire the promise of climbing the same ladders we have had the privilege to climb. We do so in the name of respectability.

But this summer laid to bear a stark reality that faces black life today: trading our sagging pants for suits and our sometimes foul language for a newly formed loquacity does nothing to address the systemic inequities and injustices that plague black bodies nearly 150 years after reconstruction. In 2013, respectability did little to stop key provisions of the Voting Rights Act from being stricken and

George Zimmerman from being acquitted of murder. Albeit in different forms, the most respectable in our communities have just as much recognition as the cookie cutter negro in the hood have in the eyes of the gaze. Henry Louis Gates and Trayvon Martin are only separated by two or three degrees. For HBCUs, we are left with no choice but to use the summer of 2013 as an important lesson: respectability is not a viable politics because it forces distance between our colleges—founded on uplift—and the communities in which we reside. To that end, we often find ourselves having conversations about our communities instead of engaging them to find ways to make their lives better. Instead, we must find strategic ways to address the systemic issues that face the underserved and unprivileged. The question must inevitability turn to how we can ensure that black bodies, whether suited and booted or pants to the floor, can have equal economic opportunities. Because the present reality is that respectability does little to liberate even respectable black bodies. We can have a million more conversations about the n-word and sagging pants, but they do little to change the conditions that surround us. That changes when we start including our communities in what we represent as HBCUs. It changes when we dare to forge our own path—irrespective of what we wear and how we speak.

#TIGERPOLL

QUESTION:

HOW PEOPLE FELT ABOUT MOREHOUSEREJECTS.COM

BEST RESPONSES



Jared @_jlog
4h
.@thamaroontiger what did you expect from HowHard? Although, it ain't all that hard to get in here neither. We need the money.

View conversation



Khalil @Keepupz
4h
Lol Someone has way too much time --> “@thamaroontiger: #TuesdayTopics Okay so what are your thoughts on this -----> MorehouseRejects.com”

View conversation



Autumn A. Arnett @A2Arnett
4h
RT @thamaroontiger: #TuesdayTopics Okay so what are your thoughts on this -----> MorehouseRejects.com

Expand



Jack Dynamite @SatisJackson305
4h
OH SHIT!! RT @thamaroontiger: #TuesdayTopics Okay so what are your thoughts on this -----> MorehouseRejects.com

Expand



Ryan Jäger @InJustTime
4h
@thamaroontiger good spark for pre Nation's Classic trash talk

View conversation

MT

#ASKMT

The students in the AUC live many different lives and experience a vast array of things during their time here. Sometimes, going to school away from home leaves you feeling lonely without anyone close to talk to about issues you're dealing with. But, The Maroon Tiger is here to help by offering advice to our brothers and sisters at Morehouse, Spelman, and Clark Atlanta.

Through #AskMT, readers may submit questions to ask.fm/MTAdvice and hear from an unbiased third-party who can hopefully help them through their tough time and lead them to a happy resolution.

"AT HOW MANY SEXUAL PARTNERS AM I CONSIDERED PROMISCUOUS?"

I personally don't think there is a cut-off limit that labels a person "promiscuous." What does promiscuous even mean? It's a way for other people to look into your life and judge you for your decisions. It's your life and you're living your own experiences. Who cares what anyone else thinks of you? You shouldn't care what other people think, and if you do care, then you need to look inside yourself and realize that you only get one shot at life and you must live life according to your own rules. Don't waste your life trying to please everyone else. Do what you want, have fun, but be safe!

"HOW CAN I JOIN A FRATERNITY?"

Assuming this question is coming from a Freshman, you don't even need to be worried about fraternities right now. Worry about your GPA, focus on your classes, and everything else will fall into place from there. Don't rush to join any club on campus without handling your business first.

But in the event that this is from an upperclassman, making your presence known on campus would be a good start. Networking is key to succeeding in anything in life, and it will help to get you noticed.

"HOW SHOULD I, A GAY BLACK MALE, APPROACH SOMEONE I'M INTERESTED IN, AN ASSUMABLY [SIC] STRAIGHT BLACK MALE?"

Well, quite frankly, you shouldn't. Especially if you don't know for sure that the guy you have an eye on is even playing on the same team as you. Don't risk it, and respect his personal space. Maybe you could get a friendship out of the ordeal if nothing else works out. Just don't put yourself out there and look like a fool in the event that you get rejected.

"MY BOYFRIEND IS VERY EMOTIONALLY AND MENTALLY ABUSIVE AND ALWAYS COMES BACK WHEN I AM READY TO LEAVE HIM WITH 'BABY I LOVE YOU' I WANT TO LEAVE HIM BUT I DO LOVE HIM-I JUST KNOW BEING TOGETHER MAY BE A BAD IDEA FOR US BOTH. HOW DO I BREAK IT OFF?"

Someone needs to shake you until you realize that you don't deserve the treatment you're getting. Respect yourself above all others, and decide if you really are the type of person who is willing to settle in a relationship that doesn't make you happy. Confide in close friends and family for support and safety. You don't have to be alone. But most of all, stay strong, stand up for yourself, and don't let anyone shove you around.

FINAL THOUGHT:

YOU DON'T LET EVERYONE INTO THE 'HOUSE. SOME JUST AREN'T WORTHY.

THE ABSENCE OF BLACK ACTORS IN HOLLYWOOD

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The Butler (2013), a film that focuses on the experiences of a black butler who served for 34 years in the White House, was recently released and has been met with positive reception. Several sources are even speculating that the film has the potential to be recognized at the Oscars. Despite *The Butler* being well received and “certified fresh” on Rotten Tomatoes, a well-known movie review aggregator, the question arises: is the physical and creative representation of Blacks in film misrepresenting and ignoring the various experiences of the Black community?

The Wall Street Journal reported that there will be a sequel to the *Man of Steel* (2013) and *The Guardian* has reported that Ben Affleck will star in multiple Batman films replacing Christian Bale. Together, these franchises have made a total of over \$1 billion and represent large markets in the film industry. Nonetheless, this is an example of how Whites can be overrepresented in media. While these characters were originally created to be White, we cannot ignore the popular comic book superheroes of color. In February 2013, Vibe detailed the top Black superheroes that they would like to see in the movies. The list was diverse and included both Black heroes and heroines, and could have been expanded to include many others. While fictional, these characters were still able to characterize ideas and varied identities of blackness.

These intersectioned identities may be able to add to the roles and character development in different films. Kerry Washington, star of *Scandal*, in an interview with *Variety* said, “I think it’s [race is] relevant. I think gender is relevant. I bring something to the table as a woman; I bring something to the table as a woman of color. So I feel like, if it’s the only thing you focus on, then it’s a danger, and if you

never talk about it then it’s a danger.”

The danger that Washington is speaking about is Black actors and actresses negotiating their racial and ethnic backgrounds in spaces that are typically designated for and by White people. This leaves Black actors and actresses with little option and opportunity to be part of the creativity that involves the spectrum of racial and ethnic storytelling and narratives.

Let us not forget, *Django Unchained* (2012), a film that Washington starred in and was written and directed by a Quentin Tarentino; or *The Help* (2011), *Precious* (2009), *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* (2005), *Training Day* (2001), *Monster’s Ball* (2001), *Carmen Jones* (1954), or *Gone With the Wind* (1939). These films were popular upon their release; some were critically acclaimed and were the stepping stones for people like Dorothy Dandridge, Halle Berry, Hattie McDaniel, Gabby Sidibe, Tyler Perry, Jamie Foxx, Lee Daniels, Kerry Washington and Viola Davis to be nominated for or win Academy Awards and other acting and film recognitions. However, do these stories epitomize the full understanding of what it means and is to be Black?

There are movies like: *Pariah* (2011), a film about a 17-year-old African-American teenager embracing her identity as a lesbian, *Eve’s Bayou* (1997), which unfolds the life and dealings of a black Louisiana creole family. *Dead Presidents* (1995), which highlights important issues facing black veterans, and the nonexistent black James Bond, rumored to be Idris Elba by TIME that are a part of the multifarious identities of black folk, but have not received the attention and funding resources that they deserve. From *Boomerang* (1992) to *Porgy and Bess* (1959); *Fruitvale Station* (2013) to *Madea’s Big Happy Family* (2011); *Crooklyn* (1994) to *Precious* (2009); the list goes on. And there can be space for all these and more Black films. A challenge for today’s forthcoming and established filmmakers and writers will be how they can tell the stories of African Americans without saturating the space with the same strained narratives that may further bias the array of experiences of the community they wish to conceptualize.



JOHN LEGEND CHANNELS “MODERN SOUL” WITH NEW ALBUM

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Nine years ago, 25-year-old John Legend burst onto the scene with hit single “Ordinary People,” changing the face of R&B and garnering attention as the male counterpart to Alicia Keys. Now boasting his own signature sound, the crooner is set to release his fourth studio album *Love in the Future* which possesses that smooth tone of genuine passion that Legend is known for, with a modern twist.

If Marvin Gaye were alive, he would be proud as the “Green Light” crooner bridges the gap between old school and new age on *Love in the Future*.

“The title suggests optimism,” Legend told Vibe. “It suggests hopefulness.”

If by “optimism” he meant love-making, then he’s onto something, as this album can most aptly be described as a modern take on the sensuality that pervaded the old-school R&B scene of the ‘80s. With his clever play on words and deliberately manipulated monotone vocal delivery, Legend’s voice on this project lures the listener in sans the directness displayed by some of his contemporaries.

After being commercially absent from the music scene for five years – Legend has not released new music since 2008’s *Evolver* – the “Used to Love U” singer’s ultimate choice of a comeback single was indelibly crucial. After receiving the lukewarm reception of the Rick Ross-assisted “Who Do We Think We Are,” the G.O.O.D. Music artist finally got it right. Combining the effortless gusto that he is known for with the impeccable Kanye West production that took many by surprise, Legend turned things around with the intensely sensual “Made to Love.”

Encompassing the thumping sounds of drums, echoes and unconventional guitar riffs, the production of “Made to Love” sounds like it would possibly fit in with the sparsely unorthodox composition of Kanye West’s *Yeezus*. However, what is shockingly pleasant is that John Legend’s soulfully resonant voice is placed over the distinct melody. It all works!

Don’t think that this was an accident. In addition to North West’s dad, Legend enlisted a slew of high-profile producers including Q-Tip, Da Internz, Hit-Boy and No I.D. to help create what he considers his “best work” to date.

In addition to “Made to Love,” which can arguably be considered an ode to his fiancée Christine Teigen, the R&B veteran has hit the jackpot on a few other album cuts as well. “All Of Me,” Legend’s confirmed third single, sees the singer stripped down to the bare essentials: a piano and his voice. Are the “Ordinary People” flashbacks commencing yet? Lyrically and vocally, “All Of Me” sees the musician offer his best self yet, gliding over the minimalistic melody with ease.

Adding to the list of standout tracks are the Stevie Wonder-influenced “Hold On Longer,” and mid-tempo “Save The Night,” which sees the singer revisit the drum and guitar-heavy rhythm that was similarly noticed in “Made to Love.”

The track that is sure to excite Legend’s core fan base, however, is undoubtedly the album’s title track. Displaying the performer’s raw talent as both a vocalist and overall musical aesthetic, “Love in the Future” is the song that many will immediately envision Legend performing live, sitting before his Yamaha grand piano with just a spotlight and a microphone. The song blends the elegantly angelic strings with the rich sounds of the keys and synths perfectly. With all of these layered on top of Legend’s buttery vocals, this one is definitely a winner.

While the R&B circuit is currently over-saturated with the laments of deceit and heartbreak, John Legend takes a different route by focusing on the optimistic nature of love. By putting forth this 16-track album of love-filled ballads, the musician strategically places all of his strength on front street while proving that only one thing matters in his continued quest for success: quality.

Love in the Future is currently available in record stores and on iTunes.

MT

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DRESSED ON CAMPUS?

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WHATS
THE 411?

10 BEST MOMENTS IN
A&E THIS PAST WEEK

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She won! Tamar Braxton, the notoriously over-the-top personality of the Braxton clan, teased the super sassy visual for “Hot Sugar,” a fan favorite off her September 3 released LP Love and War. In the clip, the 36-year-old is seen viciously whipping her noticeably long ponytail in circles as men dressed in nothing but skin-tight leather trousers kick their legs up beside her. Tamar’s album dropped the same day as John Legend’s latest project Love in the Future. Which project will you be buying?



Keeping it in the Carter family, Hip Hop juggernaut Jay Z released the music video for the Justin Timberlake-assisted fan favorite “Holy Grail,” taken from his latest LP Magna Carta... Holy Grail. In the Anthony Mandler-directed visual released on Facebook, Hov watches a clip of Buster Douglas knocking out Mike Tyson. Displaying Jay is the light of a fighter, the video sees the rapper drop references to Tyson and rhyming about the misfortunes of fame. JT appears later on in the video, but seemed a bit disjointed as his scenes appeared to be so far removed from the visual’s distinct concept.



Well, not quite. In an attempt to further gain an urban audience, Miley Cyrus joins forces with Usher’s protégé Justin Bieber. Their collaboration resulted in the form of a song titled “Twerk,” of course. Boasting the commercial appeal of Cyrus’ platinum-certified single “We Can’t Stop,” “Twerk” is simply another strategically crafted cut intended to “cross over” onto urban radio.

“I came up in this party/Time to twerk,” the Hannah Montana actress sings. Sure, Miley... Sure.



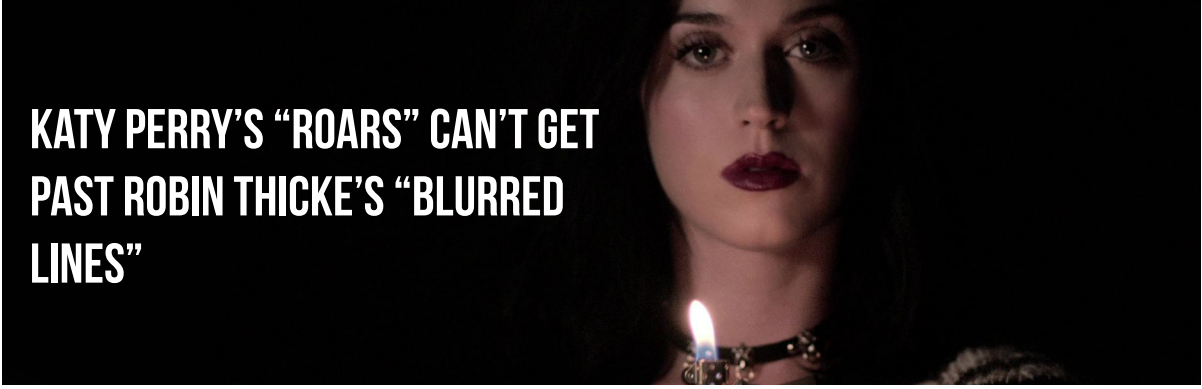
Slim Shady is back! After the huge reception of 2010’s Recovery, the 8 Mile star is set to make his return to the charts on November 5 with his new album titled Marshall Mathers LP 2. MMLP2 serves as the sequel to the 2000-released original, which has sold more than 10 million copies to date in the United States only, thus being certified Diamond by the RIAA. The album will compete with Katy Perry’s Prism and Lady Gaga’s ARTPOP in the fall, adding some testosterone to an otherwise pop-heavy season in music.



Ever since the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards on August 25, Miley Cyrus’ questionable on-stage antics have been, and still are, on the tongues of many. With her “performance” came a slew of hilarious reactions from various high-profile celebrities including Rihanna, who gave the former Disney star the ultimate side-eye, and boy band One Direction. However, the Internet has been a-buzzing after a photo has been floating around of a picture of Will, Jaden and Willow Smith looking on in shock – and possible disgust – at what many thought was Miley’s bizarre antics. MTV later confirmed that they were actually looking on as Lady Gaga completed her opening set of “Applause.”



Queen Bey has been torturing the BeyHive (Beyonce’s fan base) for months now, with rumors swirling since April that the diva is set to release new music. After four months following the release of her “Grown Woman” led Pepsi commercial, the megastar is apparently officially on the road to slay the charts yet again. Last Thursday, it was confirmed that Beyoncé was seen filming a music video at Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York. Donning a Notorious B.I.G. snapback, a black knitted bra-top, covered by a white tank and blue washed jeans, Bey kept it casual as she hopped on rides with models Jessica White and Jourdan Dunn. Celebrity photographer Terry Richardson was on site filming the performer in all of her blonde bob glory.



We know that headline was corny, but it was too clever to exclude. R&B crooner Robin Thicke is still flying high off of the success of his latest album Blurred Lines as the album’s title track currently still holds the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100, blocking Katy Perry’s quickly growing hit “Roar” from snagging the top spot. This marks the 12th week that “Blurred Lines” tops the chart, therefore making Thicke not only the king of the summer, but perhaps the soon-to-be king of the fall. Close behind on the charts are Lady Gaga’s “Applause” at No. 5, and Jay Z’s “Holy Grail” featuring Justin Timberlake at No. 6.



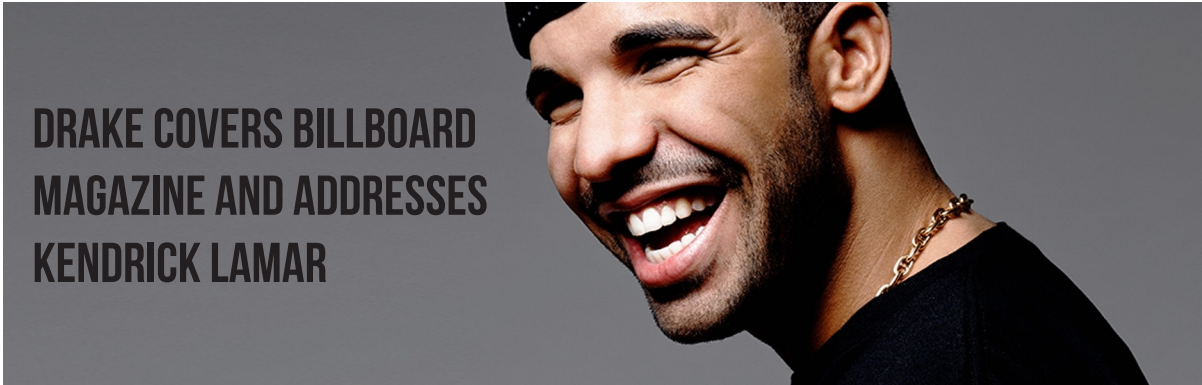
After annihilating his rap contemporaries on his now infamous verse on Big Sean’s “Control,” Compton emcee Kendrick Lamar has received a series of responses from fellow rappers he so unapologetically called out. Calling into New York’s Hot 97 morning radio show, K. Dot revealed that King Los spat the best response verse.

“Los was flipping his words, you know? Putting that spunk on it,” he said. “I think he has the killer thing,” said Lamar.



After arriving at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards on August 25, recently reunited girl group Danity Kane announced that their comeback single is titled “Rage.” Dawn, Aundrea, Shannon and Aubrey – unfortunately, no D. Woods – have all remained mum on the details of the song’s content and sound.

While former fifth member of the group D. Woods will not be returning, she shared her support for the ladies’ upcoming endeavors, telling Us Weekly, “Much love to the ladies of DK!! They have decided to reunite and I, like our amazing fans, will be cheering them on.”



Gearing up for the September 24 release of his highly anticipated third studio album Nothing Was The Same, Canadian rapper Drake covers the September issue of Billboard Magazine. Though his music is what currently matters – or should – the “Started From the Bottom” emcee added to the growing list of responses to Kendrick Lamar’s “Control” verse.

“I didn’t really have anything to say about it,” he told Billboard. “It just sounded like an ambitious thought to me. That’s all it was. I know good and well that Kendrick’s not murdering me, at all, in any platform.”

STRONGER SCHOOL SPIRIT WOULD BOOST FOOTBALL TEAM MORALE



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Last season the Morehouse College football team had a dismal 3-7 record. Their low win total was paralleled by the low attendance numbers at home games. Fan support has always provided good teams with extra motivation and confidence to succeed. If Morehouse is going to taste victory more than three times this year the student body will have to make its presence known at home games.

There is some hype surrounding Saturday's season opener in Washington, D.C., against Howard University. The AT&T Nation's Football Classic has had decent attendance numbers in the last two years; this gives incentive to believe that Morehouse has a fan base.

This year The Maroon Tigers have a lot of people excited for the 2013 season. According to 17-year football operations manager Phillip Thomas, "We have freshmen that are able to contribute immediately. That's why everybody is so excited. We have them on both sides of the ball – skill players and defensive linemen."

The combination of young talent and five preseason all-SIAC veterans should be enough for the Maroon Tigers to have a successful season.

Even with his optimism about the talent on the team, Thomas still acknowledges the importance of a strong fan base.

"I look for us to be successful," he said. "We will be the most successful with more support. We will go as far as the fan base takes us."

The players seem to agree with their coach on this topic. Junior cornerback Rio Johnson said, "With familiar faces in the crowd the team is more likely to play at its best. We want to put on a show for the fans. We will be a lot better with more fans in attendance."

In addition to the entertainment of the game itself, fans get to interact with classmates and alumni who attend games.

Julian Singletary is a senior at Morehouse College who has attended games throughout his tenure at school. He expressed that football games and other sporting events are a part of the college experience.

"Going to games and supporting the team is what school spirit is all about; it gives you a chance to create memories with classmates that will be cherished after we leave. It is also a great opportunity to network with alumni from Morehouse and Spelman."

If more students could view sporting events as a part of the expensive experience of attending Morehouse, then maybe the Maroon Tigers will give the fans something to be proud of.

Three games on the schedule are nationally televised. It is important that the stands are not empty during these games. It wouldn't be good for the school's image if the sports program has little to no support.

Thomas stressed the importance of cherishing this season.

"The kids are doing well; they're healthy, everybody's eligible, this is a happy time for us right now."

The team is looking for a big win in the season opener against Howard on Sept. 7. This win would give the team momentum going into the season and prove that the fan base is willing to travel in order to will the Maroon Tigers to victory.



SETTLEMENT REACHED IN NFL CONCUSSION CASE



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Several months of court-ordered negotiation has ended with a \$765 million settlement for former players who have brain injuries related to concussions in the NFL. This large amount of money will be used to compensate for players' injuries and to pay for medical research. This announcement came from a federal judge on Aug. 29 days away from the start of the NFL season.

This lawsuit was joined by over 4,500 retired NFL players, some of whom claim that they have suffered devastating conditions such as dementia, Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease because of their constant blows to the head during their long careers. The plaintiffs include 10 members of the NFL Hall of Fame, including Super Bowl-winning running back Tony Dorsett, Super Bowl-winning quarterback Jim McMahon and the family of Pro Bowl linebacker Junior Seau, who committed suicide last year.

The former players claim that the dangers of constant blows to their heads were obscured. The NFL has denied any wrongdoing to the former players and has always claimed that safety is the top priority. Under this settlement, the awards for individual players would be \$5 million for men with Alzheimer's disease, \$4 million for those diagnosed after their deaths with a brain condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and \$3 million for players with dementia, said lead plaintiffs' lawyer Christopher Seeger.

There was also a previous lawsuit regarding concussions in the NFL in August of 2011, but the lead plaintiff, former player Ray Easterling, committed suicide. If this settlement receives final approval, and all appeals have been concluded, the NFL will pay approximately 50 percent of the settlement amount over three years, and the balance over the next 17 years. There will also be \$10 million distributed by the NFL for medical programs, research and for educating retired players on NFL benefits programs.

Most would consider this settlement a win for the NFL over the former players. The NFL is expected to make \$10 billion this season, and the NFL finalized a number of TV rights deals last year, which guarantee revenues of \$40 billion through 2022. This settlement is also a win for both parties because there would be aid for a large group of former players and their families right now rather than to go through thousands of distinct cases and wait years for any relief. Even though this settlement only represents 2 percent of the combined value of the 32 NFL teams, which is \$37.4 billion according to Forbes, this is still a good win for the retired players of the NFL because they are getting some help. But now the question on everyone's mind is: "Is this sum worth someone's brain or life?"

