

MT

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MOREHOUSE COLLEGE ■ ATLANTA, GA
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NEWSLINE

A NIGHT IN HARLEM STUNS:

THE 5TH ANNUAL "A NIGHT IN HARLEM" SHOWCASE OPENED ITS CURTAINS TO A FULL CROWD IN A NEW VENUE ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 2014. A FEW POLLED AUDIENCES CALLED IT "THE BEST SHOW YET" AND "THE GREATEST DISPLAY OF BLACK ARTISTRY." A NIGHT IN HARLEM WILL PLAY AGAIN THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE RAY CHARLES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

A BREAK FOR A BROTHER:

14 MEN OF MOREHOUSE AND ONE STUDENT AT CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY WILL SPEND THEIR SPRING BREAK IN THE SOUTH SIDE CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD OF ROSEWOOD. COREY HARDIMAN, THE ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK CREATOR, CREATED THE PROGRAM TO SPEND A WEEK WORKING WITH YOUNG BLACK MEN AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS TO INSPIRE AND ASSIST YOUNG BLACK MEN. HARDIMAN'S WORK HAS BEEN FEATURED ON AL JAZEERA AMERICA'S WEBSITE AS A PART OF THEIR "NOT A THREAT, BUT THREATENED" SERIES.

MEN OF MOREHOUSE RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION:

RECENTLY THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE FOR HBCU AWARDED JUNIORS DAVID JOHNNY AND CAMERON WEATHERS THE HONOR OF HBCU ALL-STAR'S. THIS AWARD IS DEDICATED TO FEATURING STUDENTS WHO HAVE A STRONG DEDICATION TO ACADEMICS, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

LLC VIDEO GOES VIRAL:

RESIDENTS OF THE LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY (LLC) RESIDENCE HALL RECENTLY RELEASE A VIDEO ON YOUTUBE FEATURING A MYRIAD OF DIFFERENT RAP STYLES AND DISPLAYING BROTHERHOOD AT IT'S FINEST. PROFESSIONALLY EDITED BY CABRAL CLEMENTS, THE VIDEO HAS REACHED OVER 13,000 VIEWS AND HAS BEEN FEATURED ON WATCHTHEYARD.COM AND HBCUDIGEST.COM.

A LEGEND PASSES:

MARY ROBINSON SPIVEY '33, THE LAST SURVIVING FEMALE GRADUATE OF MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, PASSED AWAY OVER THE WEEKEND. SPIVEY'S FUNERAL WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAR. 1, 2014 AT CALVARY UNITED METHODIST AT 1 P.M. 1471 RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY BLVD. ATLANTA, GA SW 30310.

#INSTAPHOTOOFTHETWEEK



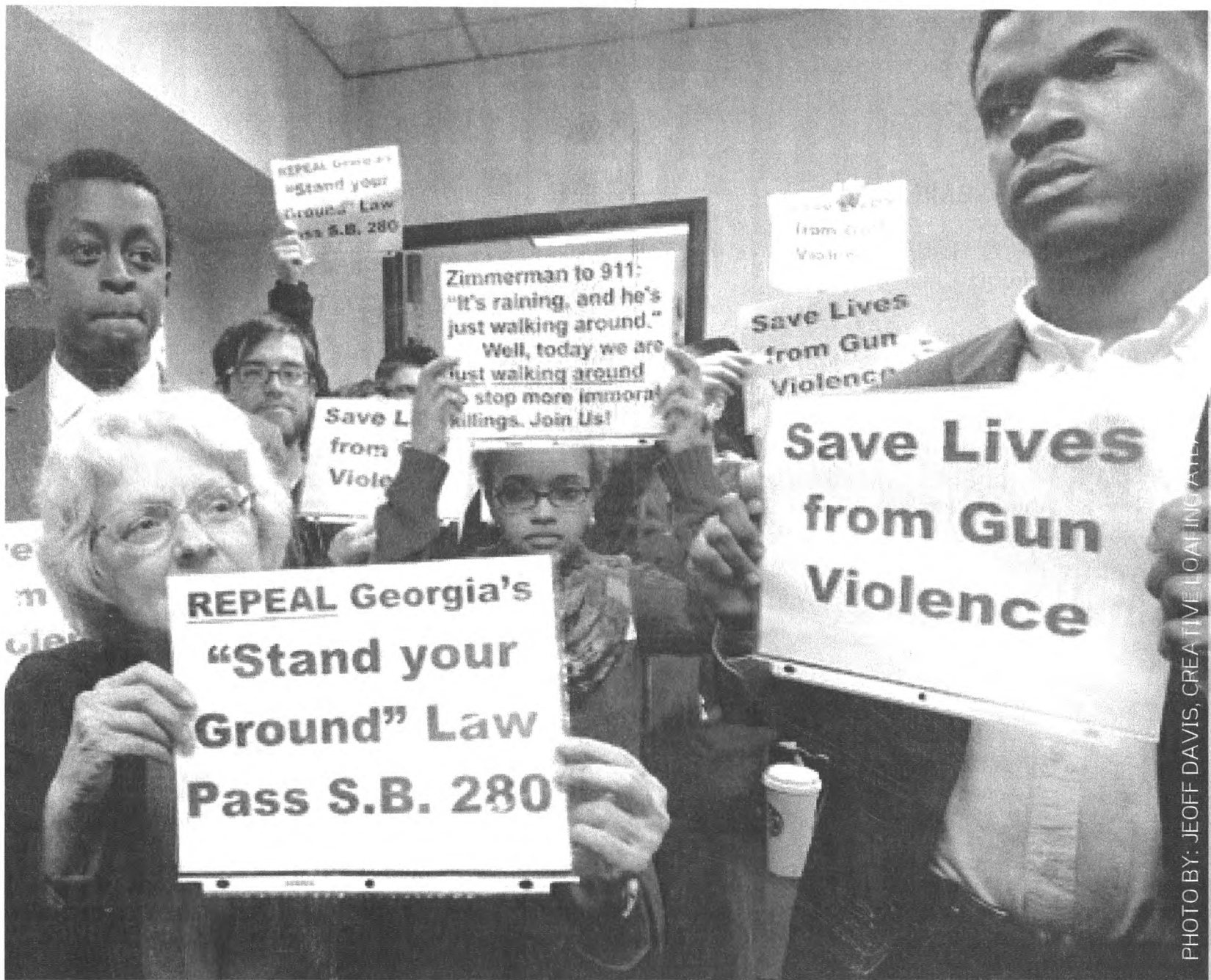
JASMINE WALKER, POSES AS SHE WAITS TO PERFORM IN THE 5TH ANNUAL "A NIGHT IN HARLEM" PROGRAM

POSTED BY: @JAZZIEJUE2AFEW

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THE MILLENNIAL ACTIVISTS: MOREHOUSE AND SPELMAN STUDENTS ARRESTED AT CAPITOL



Tabatha Holley, center, was among a group arrested last week protesting Georgia's version of the controversial Stand Your Ground Law.

JAMES PARKER

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"We are the ones that are going to die because of this legislation," Morehouse senior Ronnie Mosley said while encouraging students to join the movement to repeal Georgia's Stand Your Ground Law. Mosley, along with Morehouse freshman Darien Jones, Morehouse senior Reynaldo Roberts and Spelman sophomore Tabatha Holley were arrested this month during a protest against the legislation.

A total of 24 protesters walked freely into the office of Georgia State Sen. Jesse Stone on Monday, Feb. 10. Among the others arrested was pastor of First Iconium Baptist Church, Rev. Timothy McDonald, a Clark Atlanta University alumnus, an elderly grandmother and several local parents.

Senate Bill 280 was introduced at a committee hearing last month, but according to protesters, Stone, who serves as the chairman of the committee, allowed only one citizen out of the more than 100 in attendance to speak. Stone said that another public hearing would be scheduled so that the other citizens could be heard, but it has yet to be scheduled.

The bill is to repeal a current Georgia law which says that a "person who is attacked has no duty to retreat" and provides immunity from prosecution for such an individual. Georgia's self-defense laws and those of many other states have been nicknamed "Stand Your Ground Laws" and were cited by defense teams during trials for Trayvon Martin's and Jordan Davis' killers. Neither of the men charged in their deaths was convicted of that crime.

In response to citizens being prohibited from speaking at the hearing, a

coalition of Georgia citizens and community organizations known as Moral Monday planned the protest in Stone's office.

"Stone closed his door, locked himself inside, and only communicated through his assistant," Mosley said after the group arrived.

Eventually - via his assistant - Stone offered to speak with two of the protesters just as he had done at the January hearing. The protesters refused his offer, requesting that each of their constituents be allowed to speak with him.

Stone would not agree to meet with the protesters on these terms, and the police were called.

While the protesters waited for authorities to arrive they said prayers and began singing songs often associated with the civil rights movement, including "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around" and an improvised version of "This Little Light of Mine."

Once on site, officers escorted small groups of the protesters out of the office, because they did not have enough handcuffs to move them all at once. Some demonstrators were restrained using cable ties. The citizens were then placed into three police squad cars and two police paddy wagons, and transported to jail.

They were each charged with conducting an unlawful gathering and after fingerprinting, mug shots, and booking, they were placed in holding cells with other prisoners.

Mosley said that while incarcerated, the protesters witnessed a man being tasered. An officer later apologized for exposing them to the act, and added that the protesters "came on a bad day."

The next morning, all of the protesters were released on signature bond without having to pay bail. A court date has not yet been set.

Holley, who works for a state senator at the Georgia capitol, said she does not regret her decision to participate in the event and plans to become a community organizer after graduation.

"If we have to get arrested in order for state representatives to speak to us, then they don't deserve to be in office," Holley said. She added that Stand Your Ground Laws defend killers, but she will continue to advocate to defend the murdered men and boys.

Mosley has been featured on CNN and local news outlets since high school, when he began to speak out against gun violence in his hometown of Chicago. One of his cousins and a best friend were both killed in Chicago, but he continues his cause at Morehouse.

"Morehouse men have always answered the call to speak up for our brothers who can't speak for themselves - whether they're dead or alive," Mosley said. "Now we have to assure that our lives are protected by repealing Stand Your Ground and keeping guns off of our campuses."

Both Mosley and Holley are also actively involved in fighting legislation to allow guns in more public places. House Bill 875 would allow K-12 schools, colleges, and churches to permit faculty members to carry guns. This bill passed in the Georgia House last Tuesday and is expected to pass in the Senate as well.

The Moral Monday coalition will continue to sponsor events on these and various other issues in Georgia in the coming weeks. Students interested in participating can access dates and additional information at www.moralmondayga.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MoralMondayGA.

WILL THE LOCKER ROOM REMAIN THE SAME?

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MT STAFF CONTRIBUTED TO PARTS OF THIS REPORT

Missouri Tigers star defensive end Michael Sam's recent public statements about his homosexuality have become a hot topic of discussion. The Morehouse Student Athlete Committee (MSAC) and senior Amal Yamusah, an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., member and former Morehouse football player, wanted to give students the opportunity to share their thoughts on this broad topic.

"Being a former football player I can relate to this because we have always been aware of homosexual players being in existence inside the locker room," Yamusah said. "We can go on for hours about this topic."

Last Thursday, students from Morehouse, Spelman and Agnes Scott colleges, and Clark Atlanta University filled Kilgore Seminar Room to capacity to share their thoughts during a forum entitled "Athletes Going Pro: Panel Discussion on Michael Sam & Gay Athletes in Professional Sports."

The panel included Morehouse students Bummah Ndeh, Don Cox and Josh Harris, as well as faculty members

Ron Thomas, who is Morehouse's journalism director, and Dr. Michael Hodge, chair of the Sociology Department. Yamusah and MSAC president Brandon Sartin were co-moderators. Sartin, Cox and Harris all play on the football team.

"My teammates are my brothers," Harris, the starting quarterback, said. "We come from different backgrounds and I would not feel uncomfortable having a homosexual as a teammate. I believe it has the ability to bring a locker room closer."

Whether the presence of an openly gay teammate would make heterosexual or homosexual players uncomfortable in the locker room was a major topic of discussion. There also is speculation about whether being uncomfortable in a locker room would have a negative effect on a player's performance?

Traditional joking in a locker room, which may include homosexual slurs, was mentioned as a factor that potentially could make any homosexual player feel uncomfortable when around his teammates.

Some heterosexual players could feel uncomfortable as well, due to homophobia, negative views about someone being openly gay, or fears that a gay player could be sexually attracted to a heterosexual teammate.

"Homosexuals have been in existence in locker rooms whether we know it or not, and it can make one question who you are," Maroon Tiger New Media Director Jamal Lewis said. "It provides time to interrogate how we view masculinity and find a new way to live in coexistence."

If Sam, who was predicted to be a third or fourth-round draft pick before his announcement, makes an NFL roster, it will be an opportunity for him to perform his best and possibly encourage other gay players to be open about their sexual orientation. This also would be an opportunity for NFL teams to show that they can support diverse lifestyles.

Sam has become a role model to younger individuals and homosexuals who want to pursue a career not only in the NFL, but in other sports as well. His coming out has the potential to possibly change the culture of the NFL and counter stereotypes about homosexuals related to physical strength.

If his sexual orientation hurts his NFL draft stock, it may show a lot about the values that the NFL holds.

Sam is a prodigious example of what it means to be homosexual, hyper-masculine and a great football player. If drafted and he performs well in his first year, he will show that he is the same as a heterosexual player on the gridiron.

PHOTO BY: JEOFF DAVIS, CREATIVE LOADING

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RACIAL RESTYLING:
FUNNEL CAKE FLOWERS & THE URBAN CHAMELEONS

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Over the weekend, Spelman College's Drama and Dance Program hosted a new kind of stage show titled, "Funnel Cake Flowers & The Urban Chameleons." Created by HaJ, an Emmy-nominated film and media producer with more than 15 years of experience. The show creates an ambiance of light-hearted humor focusing on the struggle between embracing the culture of the "colored" world while staying afloat in the corporate and academic world.

Funnel Cake is a reporter, or more accurately titled as "The Urban Chameleon News Reporter". She hunts throughout urban neighborhoods in order to discover various urban people, and to shed light on their urban problems.

One issue tells that story of a girl named Crack Boo, who is hired as cheap labor, performing menial tasks to amass enough money for her next purchase. The Urban Chameleon investigates one of Crack Boo's employers, Keisha Brown, a middle-class woman who chooses to remain in the hood for its economic advantages. HaJ allows the audience to question their sensibilities using Twitter

hashtags. In questioning the exploitation of Crack Boo, we are asked to ponder whether Keisha Brown is just in aiding bad habit, or if it is best to leave it all be.

Another sketch portrays a black, female investment banker named Latisha Evans, as she manages her upper-class clients in white-America, yet journeys to the hood on the weekend in order to get her "hair did". This sharp contrast is depicted as a phenomenon that most black women involved in white-America undertake. While in a Dominican hair shop located in the ghetto, Evans sits in the hairdressing chair in high black heels and a classy-black dress, as those around her appear underdressed. Evans requests a relaxer to her hairdresser, Marisela, in order to tame her "nappy" hair, as she initially believes it to be unacceptable to flaunt in her particular occupation. An issue arises, as Hector, young Dominican man storms into the shop wielding a gun, threatening and arguing with Jesus, Marisela's brother. As the two argue, a shot is fired and pierces Evans' leg. While injured on the ground, the relaxer continues to sit, eventually burning out her hair. None of the other customers attempt to abandon their hairdryers and run to Evans' aid. Nor did Latisha herself pay attention to her wound, but rather what she was going to do with her hair. Although

extreme, HaJ exaggerates the relationship between black women and their hair. The play was "fantastic because it brought up issues within the black community in a comical way, in order to let us know that they're there", said Dorian Purse, a student in Morehouse's CTEMS program (Cinema, Television and Emerging Media Studies).

"I did not take offense to [the cultural references], because the whole purpose was to be multifaceted within the urban culture."

In summary, HaJ and the remaining cast introduced dancing, mother-daughter relationships, and the difficulty for black directors to work with corporations to avoid stereotypical media content. An aspect that added to the production was the audience participation. The choreographer, T. Lang, began the show inviting all audience members to leave their cellphones on, in order to tweet responses to the various comedic sketches occurring throughout the play. This stage-to-audience interaction encouraged much laughter and applause, as various tweets from audience members appeared on a projector screen accompanied with hip-hop music and theatrical choreography executed by the Spelman Student Dancers, creating a warm and light-hearted atmosphere mixed with various nuances of truth.

SPELMAN SPONSORS SPORTS SYMPOSIUM

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Sports and entertainment executives introduced Atlanta University Center students to their field during Spelman's 5th Annual Entertainment & Sports Symposium on Thursday.

On the panel were: Parquita Nassau, who is a radio host and a senior level media consultant for Cox Media Group; Andrea Carter, the Senior Director of Community Development for the Atlanta Hawks; Omara S. Harris, an attorney who represents singer Toni Braxton and her sisters; and Sheryl Gripper, founder of the Black Women Film Network.

Throughout the event, panelists discussed the multitude of ways in which the AUC can get involved with media and how they

can network to obtain positions within the field.

Nassau mentioned numerous times that to be in the media world, students must make connections with people in the field. She coined the term "Hollatic," which combines the word "holla" and the "tic" from politics to describe this necessary ability to network purposefully.

The panel also discussed the ways that an AUC student can become successful through hard work, persistence and strong effort. Harris mentioned repeatedly that persistence is key in becoming successful and that small acts of kindness stand out to people.

She went on to tell the story of when she sent flowers to the home of Tawanda Braxton for an occasion and Braxton later contacted Harris and became one of her clients.

Carter described a young Spelman student who met her at an event and continued

to e-mail her persistently. The student is now set to receive not only a scholarship from the Hawks but an internship with the organization as well.

Students left the panel feeling both inspired and connected as each panelist gave out their personal information as a way to contact them. Throughout the event, Harris also told students that she would e-mail them and even get them in contact with rapper Jermaine Cole's (J. Cole) business manager. Harris said she has already connected Cole's manager with one Morehouse student.

"It was great to have people like this come speak to us," Morehouse freshman Huey Gayle said.

The event was a success as many AUC students left with not only an e-mail address or business card but more importantly – a dream.

CONCLAVE COMES AGAIN

DARRELL FRYE
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PRESIDENT, MOREHOUSE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Controversy crept at the door while preparing for this year's Marketing Conclave. Whether the infamous BYOB acronym/phrase, even popularly hash tagged, would yield an inappropriate response or fail to equate to the innovative execution needed, were our only pondering concerns. After a discussion with President John Wilson about the content and anticipated execution, we decided to challenge the norm by solidifying the theme, #BYOB: Build Your Own Brand; Marketing that Challenges the Status Quo. Placed on a strong foundation, we began brainstorming innovative corporations to invite that "challenged the status quo" through brand development and strategy, as well as recruited a team with members from the three institutions in the Atlanta University Center.

The #BYOB Campaign, launched on the last week of January, instantly blew up with intriguing questions and positive feedback about the "enhancement" of the acronym.

The campaign featured a creative selling strategy entitled, #BYOB Blue Cooler, where registrants received themed T-shirts upon payment. I remained confident that students, both in the AUC and surrounding institutions, would be interested in the idea of the conclave, but the expected corporations sealed the deal! From Google, Cartoon Network, Procter & Gamble, Weiden + Kennedy, Macy's, Porter Novelli, 3M, BRAG, Waffle House, and Chick-Fil-A, to name a few, students immediately welcomed the opportunity to interact with senior recruiters from these corporations.

Day 1 of the Marketing Conclave began bright and early on Friday (Feb. 21) morning with a Lunch and Learn presented by Social Analyst, Sean McGahee from VML. We were thrilled that Chick-Fil-A agreed to sponsor lunch for the participants. Students were granted with a broader insight behind the connection between the data analytics from popular social networks and brand campaigns for specific demographics. Furthering the program, the conclave hosted a 3 hour career fair with brands stated before including: Oracle, UPS, Auto Trader, Fitzgerald+Co, TBS, and 22squared; even with BRAG interview invites on the spot! Furthermore, Porter Novelli acted

as our keynote, presenting a panel of representatives from BBDO and Porter Novelli that focused on the development of key brands including: McDonalds, AT&T, & HP. We concluded the day with branding workshops by Oracle and BRAG, and enjoying a catered dinner.

Day 2 begins and the smell of fresh waffles, eggs, and bacon instantly woke participating students from surrounding institutions, Claffin State, Jackson State, Albany State, and GCSU. After a few opening remarks, the day began with an in depth workshop behind the UPS brand as well as the opportunities afforded at the company. Following after lunch, Tracy Barash, Vice President of Brand Development, served as our keynote breaking down the strategy behind the Cartoon Network brand. Students were engaged by the relativity of the network as well as the peculiar series it showcases. Gradually concluding, we ended the day with a workshop hosted by Brand Manager, Curtis Friends, from Procter and Gamble.

The conclave was a huge success! From the controversial theme to the cohesive branding presentations, the MMA stands proud of the event and look forward to the inspiration ignited next year.

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SPELMA'S DR. TANANARIVE DUE JOINS THEGRIO'S TOP 100

KADIJAH NDOYE

WORLD AND LOCAL EDITOR
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KADIJAH NDOYE: How did you feel about joining TheGrio Top 100 Class of 2014?

DR. TANANARIVE DUE: I am thrilled about that. I was on the Ebony List, not last year I don't think, but the year before. That was a total shock and it was very exciting when I heard from the editor that that would happen. I am just completely gratified and thrilled to be on that list. I admire many people on that list. It is wonderful.

KN: What influences your writing style and the type of genre you are in?

TD: Ok. That is a very good question. From a very young age, I have always liked horror stories. My mother, my late mother, who died in February 2012, was a big horror movie fan. In later years, I have come to understand that she used that as a kind of escapism from real-life horror. My mother was a civil rights activist. We co-authored a civil rights memoir together, *Freedom in the Family*. Some people might have been surprised that this very, staunch fighter for social justice loved *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, and werewolves, but that was my childhood. As I tried to find my voice as a writer, I just kept coming back to the supernatural and to fantasy. I think part of it is it is difficult for me to stare unblinkingly into the real-life horror. It's easier for me to process mortality and loss through the realm of fiction in a way that feels safe to me as the writer and gives me the nutrients and the strength to face whatever my real life demons and battles will be. That has always been my hope and to help other readers do that. One of the best letters I ever got from a reader was one who told me that someone who invaded her home confronted her. She thought about my character in a book called *The Living Blood*. She gets strength to fight him off. It was amazing. I have never had that experience.

KN: What kind of connections do you have to characters in your stories?

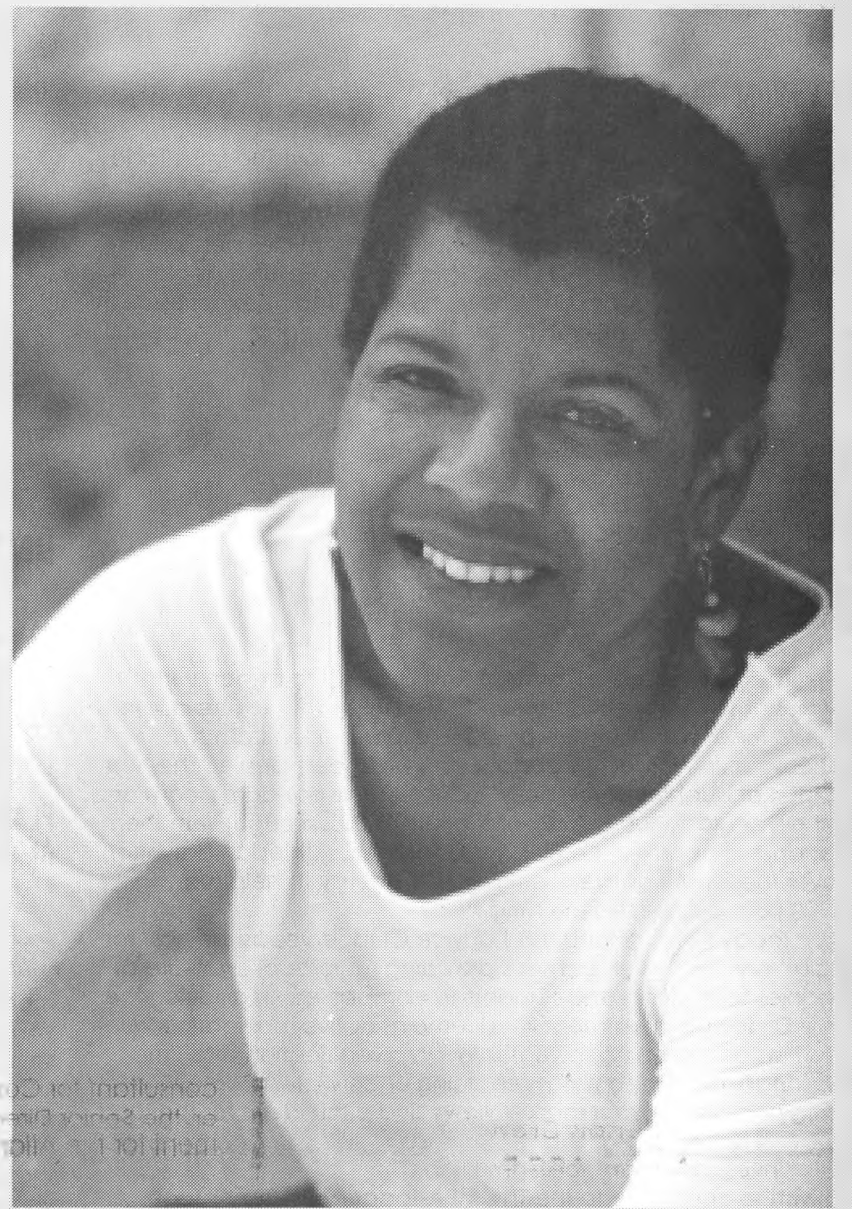
TD: That is a great question. The connections I have are very interesting. I am known for my work, *My Soul to Keep*, which is the beginning of a four-book series about the question of whether there were immortal blood that could heal any ailment. So what would it be like to be an immortal? What would the world look like if immortals existed? *My Soul to Keep* is a love story. [Jessica] met her husband when she was only twenty-years-old. He was her college professor. After she was in her class, they started dating and she married him right out of college. She was very young and very naïve, which represented how I felt when I wrote the novel. I was in my twenties, I was young and I was naïve. I was making poor choices in relationships because I would not see what was right in front of me. His character is a 500-year-old immortal named Dawit and he is a part of a secret brotherhood of immortals who do not reveal that they have this blood for fear of being captured and drained. I am telling you, a drop of it would heal almost any ailment. It sounds great except if you were the one that has that blood then other people would be coming after you. They have kept themselves separate, but he has fallen in love. He has this wife, he has this child, and he would go to any lengths to preserve that family. That story and all of its complications best describes my relationship to all of these characters. I am bouncing somewhere in between Jessica and Dawit in many of the stories I write. It is a journey from being naïve to being empowered. It is a story of a tragic flaw like Dawit who a terrible tragic turn because of the things he does and the decisions he makes. What does it mean to be human? What is the cost of immortality? What is the price of loss? All of those questions recur in my work. Secrets recur in my work. To some degree, all of my characters wrestle with love, life, death and loss. I could not be the child of John and Patricia Due without infusing a little bit of history in almost everything I write.

KN: Which work are you most proud of?

TD: In some ways, I have always thought *Freedom in the Family: A Mother-Daughter Memoir of the Fight for Civil Rights* was my most important book. Since my mother's passing, I definitely feel like it is my most important book because it is very true that you cannot understand the present or shape the future unless you understand the situation. So many of us; I am no different; never say a white-only sign or a colored-only sign. There was a sharp divide between my parents' generation and mine. Had my mother passed away just a few years earlier, she would not have seen Barack Obama on the horizon. I am just so excited that she lived long enough to see his election and attend his inauguration. I do think *Freedom in the Family* it feels like my most grown-up work because it really forced me to sit and kind of be a grown up and not escape into fantasy world, but look at what it was. The activists were around your age. My mother was twenty-years-old the first time she was arrested. The price they paid the post-traumatic stress, and the pain some of them felt. The family ties that were severed and destroyed after what happened. If you watched *The Butler* that is one of the things, I really appreciated about that film. It was true. Those parents did not want their children going to jail, what parent would. It created issues that have been long-standing issues that people don't even understand. If you were out in the streets all day, you are not at home with your family. What is the cost?

KN: How did the initiatives like *Black to the Future* work to reinvent black people into the science fiction genre?

TD: I am fortunate to be a part of a movement that is now calling itself Afrofuturism. Like all movements, it goes by different names. Some people call us black speculative fiction. Speculative fiction just means science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Octavia E. Butler was really at the forefront as a black female writer in helping to create what we know now as Afrofuturism. For a very long time, she was the only voice out there and woman of color certainly. She was a pioneer in the purest sense and Dr. Stanley who is the English Department Chair here is also president now of the new Octavia E. Butler Literary Society which is an effort to make sure that in the academy and also just among readers and fans that her work is not forgotten. There are many lessons about how to create a better world in her work. There are a lot of Octavia fans on the faculty here. Atlanta had a black speculative fiction conference back in 1997. I met Octavia there and I met my husband there. This area, not just Spelman, has had a love affair with black speculative fiction long before it was en vogue. For all those reasons, I wanted in my first year as Cosby Chair, to recreate that spirit and to harness that energy here at Spelman. We couldn't bring Octavia, but everyone who knew her [attended]. It was almost a remembrance or a reunion. This year, in 2014, because of the popularity of last year's event, I wanted to go back to Octavia but to add a new spin on it... Having been raised by civil rights activists, my mother, Patricia Stevens Due and my father John Due, a civil rights attorney, I am very aware that this is the 50th anniversary of a lot of landmark civil rights agitation in the 1960's. I wanted to bring in that question of activism and how art can help inspire activism in different ways. Octavia, herself, was not an activist in the traditional sense. She was not out there marching, holding signs, and going to meetings. She was in her room writing and giving us her great works of fiction, but there are people who have been inspired by her fiction. One of my panelists, Adrienne Maree Brown, has co-edited an upcoming anthology of science fiction stories with a social justice spin. Bree Newsome, a young filmmaker I am bringing was arrested at a sit-in. That is a different kind of activism. One thing I learned from my mother in writing our civil rights book together is that in the 1960's, not everybody was active in the same way. Sometimes you were that person knocking on the door in the middle of the night to hand an envelope of money over to a white businessman in the dark of night to help get black and white students out of jail. Maybe you were that person making copies in the university office, but you weren't on the picket line. Real activists understand that not everybody can go to jail, can carry sign; it is not always appropriate to go to jail. I am excited to tell you a little bit, about who will be here. Nnedi Okorafor is a Nigerian-American novelist who is really at the forefront of black speculative fiction right now. Her work, talks about everything from female gender mutilation to rape. She is just very issue oriented science fiction and fantasy. Junot Diaz is a Pulitzer Prize winner, best known in literary circles, but he happens to be a geek like the rest of us and he loves science fiction. He has agreed to come. dream hampton, a writer and activist will also be coming. I don't know if you remember the case about Renisha McBride who was shot while trying to look for help. dream took it upon herself to produce a video about the incident to get the word out. That is what we can call activism that really makes a difference when you are dealing with a crisis in the moment. John Jennings, he is a visual artist, a graphic artist, and a cartoonist. His message is through his artwork. It is an eclectic panel, I am excited about it, and I hope the AUC community will be excited about it too.



THE MBA TIMES

LETTER FROM EIC

Last semester MBA Today and MT connected to offer students of the AUC a look into the business world. All articles submitted are republished article clips originally from the MBA Today News Letter. We are excited to continue our relationship of expanding readership throughout the AUC.

Best,
Darren W. Martin, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief, MT

LETTER FROM MBA EDITOR

Thank You for reading this edition of the MBA Today! The MBA Today serves as the premier newsletter for the Morehouse Business Association, the largest student-led organization in the Atlanta University Center. The MBA Today seeks to provide timely articles pertaining to the financial markets, the economy, the Federal Reserve, technology, how-to guides, and more to enrich our members experience in attaining high-caliber internships, full-time offers or any other pursuit in their business endeavors.

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SECRETARY: GARRETT RANSOM

The Morehouse Investment & Finance Club began with the Morehouse College Student Endowed Investment Fund in late 1997. The fund was launched by a \$50,000 donation from two Morehouse alumni, Tedd Alexander and Dr. Robert Steele. The two stock market bubbles of the early 2000s, first the dot-com boom and then the mortgage-fueled rally of the late 2000s, brought with them tremendous support for the club which waned with each downturn, however the fund is actively seeking new energy to help manage the \$130,000+ currently in the fund.

Today the Investment & Finance Club serves as the host for financial service firms on campus providing reciprocal exposure of companies to students and students to companies. In addition the Student Endowed Investment Fund remains active, navigating volatile markets and keeping solvent through diversification at a time professionally managed funds are going underwater. Come to a meeting and discuss your market views and pitch ideas for the fund!

Email us: investmentclubmba@gmail.com
If you wish to contribute to the The MBA Today, writers, photographers, and more are welcomed! If interested, please email Clinton.m.james3@gmail.com

THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

The Congressional Budget Office (C.B.O.) recently released a report analyzing the effect of increasing the minimum wage. The two options that are being analyzed is raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 in three annual steps (2014, 2015, 2016), while the second would increase the minimum wage to \$9.00 in two annual steps (2015, 2016).

More speculation arises from the former option and the

debate stems from perceived job loss, a possibility of an increase in family income, and the stability of employees and businesses. The C.B.O. predicts that there could possibly be a reduction of roughly 500,000 jobs by raising the minimum wage to \$10.10, while an advantage would be that 16.5 million workers would see a boost in their earnings by \$31 billion. Moreover, according to Politico, for those households at the lowest on the poverty scale – the intended beneficiaries of a minimum wage increase – the effects would be duly felt.

The CBO estimates that just 19 percent of the benefits would go to families earning below the poverty line, whereas 29 percent of the increase in earnings would effect families earning "three times the poverty threshold," or about \$72,000 for a family of four in 2016. Economists have debated for years of how wage floors reduce employment and currently are convinced that since the economy is plagued by weak demand, firms may be very sensitive to wage floors. Specifically, the process is called the "spill over effect", which means that certain firms are in equilibrium at a certain wage price. However, when the government artificially raises the equilibrium (e.g. minimum wage), then it changes the labor demand curve for firms and they have to fire workers because it is too expensive to keep them. According to U.S.A. Today, 21 states have already increased their minimum wage requirements higher than the federal limit of \$7.25, and an additional 11 states including Washington D.C. are considering raising their minimum wage rate as well. It will be interesting to see the final decision that the C.B.O. makes as lives, businesses, and our economy will feel the effects.

MBA SPRING SYMPOSIUM COMING SOON

The Morehouse Business Association is extremely excited to embark on another eventful Spring. The highlight of the 2014 Spring Symposium will be our Spring Symposium in which top students representing the A.U.C. will get a chance to impress recruiters from top corporations spanning across numerous fields. This year's event will take place in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

PLANNING FOR SUCCESSFUL RETIREMENT: HOW NOTABLE AFRICAN-AMERICANS BUILT THEIR EMPIRES

Refund season is right around the corner and many of us cannot wait to spend the allotted money we receive on clothes, the latest iPhone or Android, other technological devices, bills and more. It is worth nothing though that although you may start out your career beyond college in debt, it is never too early to start saving well beyond your means to set yourself up for comfortable living and a healthy retirement. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, more than 43 percent of workers are not currently saving for retirement, and more than half have saved less than \$25,000 to fund for their retirement. It is very necessary to begin visualizing goals of ways to begin saving for retirement, and being able to execute these goals when one has actually entered the workforce and is earning a consistent income.

In one's 20's, one should look in putting 1 percent or 2 percent of your income into a retirement account, but if your company offers a 401(k) match, try to save enough money to get the full amount offered. This period in life should be focused on more immediate financial goals, like your high interest debt and establishing an emergency fund with at least six months' worth of living expenses. Becoming acquainted with investing in the markets and learning the trends and distinctions of an industry is crucial in this time period. In one's 30's, as you become more successful in your career, then one must look at resisting keeping up with their col-

leagues and friends with the size of their house, brand of their car, and so forth, and concentrate on putting more into their retirement fund. Also, looking into possibly owning your own business or participating in other business ventures to receive other streams of income is important in this period too. Moreover, beginning to save up for your child's fund will be pivotal as tuition of colleges and top preparatory schools will put pressure on your financial budget. One of the biggest issues that people in their 40's and 50's face is the amount of outstanding debt they need to pay, which seemingly increases annually. If you're maxing out your 401(k) by this point, then one should look into IRA's or brokerage options. Once you qualify for AARP, then living in retirement will look a lot more realistic, and the sacrifices that you made early on will all have been worth it.

Dr. Walter E. Massey served as president of Morehouse College from August 1995 to June 2007. He served as Chairman of the Board of Bank of America Corporation since April 2009 and its Director since 1993. Dr. Massey also has served as Director of McDonald's Corp. since 1998. Dr. Massey has been a Non-Executive Director of BP Solar International Inc., and BP Trinidad & Tobago LLC since 1998. He serves as Member of the Board of Directors of The University of Chicago. Recently, the business department of Morehouse College named its building after Massey to pay homage to the incredible success and raised money that he was able to bestow to the school.

Robert L Johnson founded Black Entertainment Television (BET) in 1979 with his wife, Sheila. He became the first African-American billionaire after selling the network to Viacom in 2001. Johnson has since started a new business, the RLJ Companies, has invested in the Charlotte Bobcats where he is part owner, a film company, and political causes and campaigns. Moreover, RLJ Companies is a holding company and asset management firm handling a portfolio of companies in the financial services, real estate, hospitality, professional sports, film production, automotive and gaming industries. Lastly, Johnson has also created the Liberia Enterprise Development Fund based on the framework of the Jewish model for Israel.

Known for the famous quote, "I got my start by giving myself a start", Sarah Breedlove McWilliams Walker, better known as Madame CJ Walker, together with Marjorie Joyner revolutionized the hair care and cosmetics industry for African American women early in the 20th century. During the 1890s, Sarah began to suffer from a scalp ailment that caused her to lose some of her hair. Consequently, she created her own hair growth product, which would lead her to become the first self-made African-American female millionaire. Ms. Walker is known for her aggressive marketing strategy and relentless ambition, which many note caused her unparalleled success.

A class of 67' graduate from Morehouse College, Mr. Cain joined Pillsbury company as president in 1977 after receiving his M.S. in computer science from Perdue University while simultaneously working full-time in the Navy. His other accomplishments include during the 1980's, serving as a business executive at Burger King, ultimately prompting Pillsbury company to appoint him as President of Godfather's pizza (1985-1996). Moreover, Mr. Cain served as the Federal Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City from 1989-1991, deputy chairman from 1992-1994. In the later portion of his career, he received a lot of political recognition, by serving on Bob Dole's presidential campaign, helping bolster Cain's announcement as a Republican nominee in May 2011. By the fall of 2011, Mr. Cain suspended his campaign for personal reasons, and endorsed Mitt Romney for the 2012 election. Mr. Cain serves on the board of directors for the respective companies, Aquilla Inc., Whirlpool, Reader's Digest, and AGCO.

STARRING AND PRODUCED BY MOREHOUSE ALUMNI!

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Q&A W/ CAST & CREW
AT SELECT SHOWS OPENING WEEKEND



Discover Your World!

Celebrate Peace Corps Week with currently serving Volunteers.

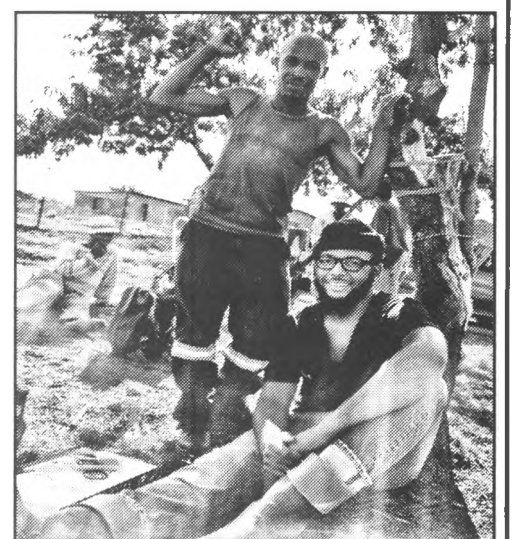
February 26, 2014 | 6:00 p.m.

Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership
Auditorium
830 Westview Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30314

The best way to learn about Peace Corps is to chat LIVE with those who are serving.

You are invited to attend this special Peace Corps event to video-chat with Morehouse alumnus Christian Perry who is currently serving overseas in Lesotho.

Help celebrate Peace Corps Week during February 23rd - March 1st. The Peace Corps community will honor all the ways Volunteers makes a difference at home and abroad and renews its commitment to service.



In Photo: Morehouse alumnus and Peace Corps Volunteer Christian Perry with his host brother in Lesotho.

You could be making a difference overseas by this time next year. Submit an online application by March 1st to be considered for programs departing before March 2015! www.peacecorps.gov/apply

Contact Leslie Jean-Pierre at LJeanPierre@cau.edu | 404.880.6302

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WHY JOIN MT?

IT'S MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER:

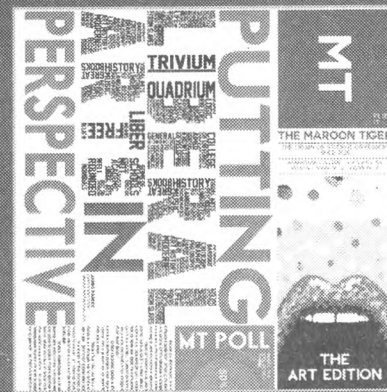
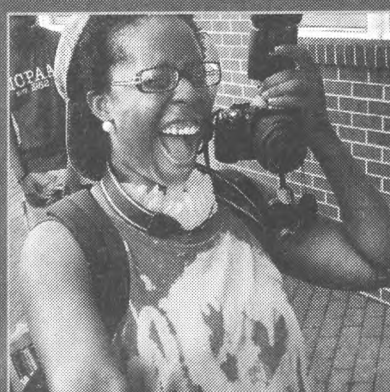
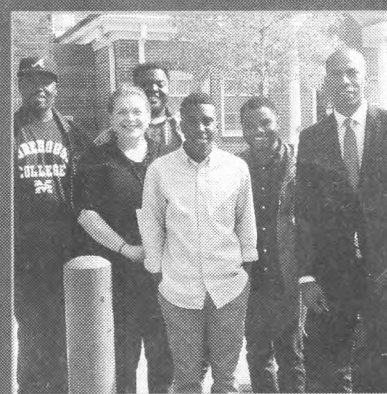
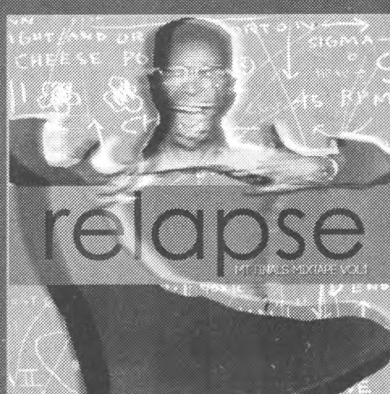
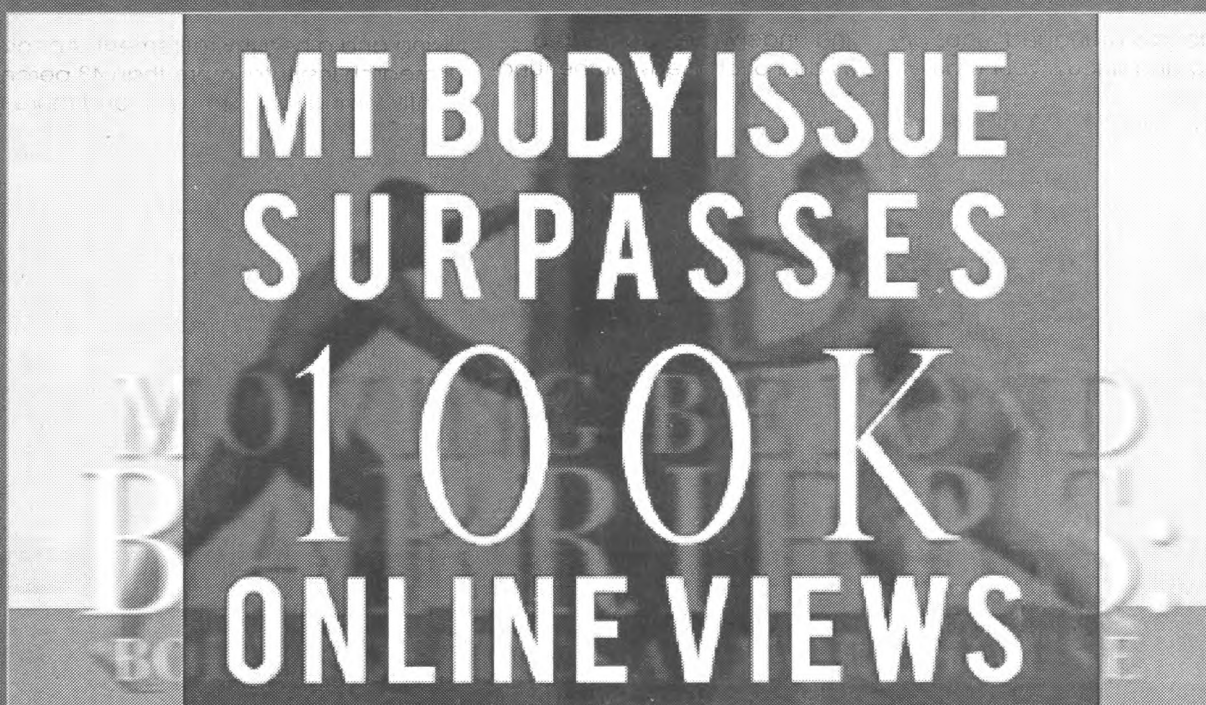
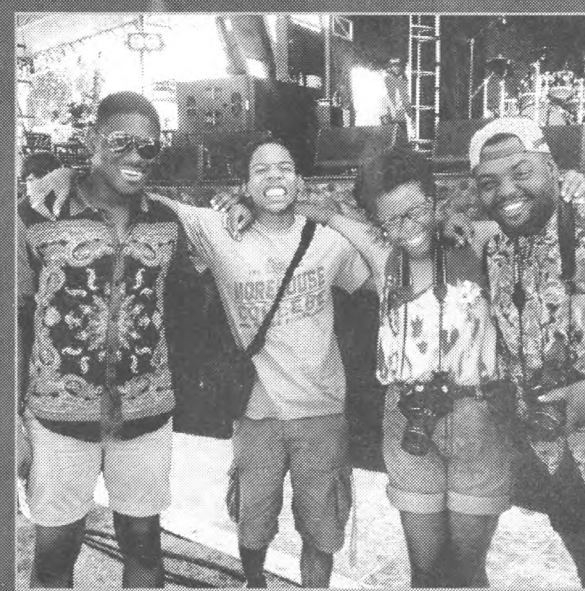
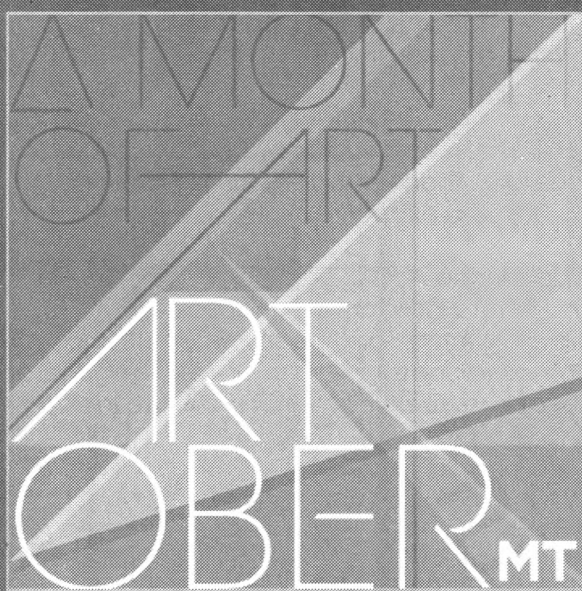
The Maroon Tiger is student-led 3-branch student media group comprised of the award-winning The Maroon Tiger Newspaper, Maroon TigerTV (our broadcast and multimedia arm), and MT Business (where we mix sales, public relations and marketing into one well-tuned machine.)

The Maroon Tiger bridges a undying commitment to true and riveting journalism with the ability to allow for creative inspiration and production. In addition to the regular newspapers that are printed weekly, MT also produces 3 fully creative magazines and multiple video projects that stand alone, or with, our written work.

The Maroon Tiger offers a practicum for all students interested in the media industry. Here, a budding journalist can fine-tune their skills of writing while getting hands-on training and experience in managing a section, editing and communication. A budding filmmaker is offered the equipment, training and projects necessary in order to expand their creative reach. The Maroon Tiger is where an idea comes to reality each and every week.

WHAT THE MAROON TIGER HAS DONE THIS YEAR (2013-2014):

- Darren Martin named Editor-in-Chief, Jared Loggins named Managing Editor.....March 2013
- Cabral Clements selected as new TigerTV Executive Producer..... May 2013
- Maroon Tiger Public Relations and New Media teams are charged with initial rebranding plans for The Maroon Tiger....June 2013
- Planning for The Rebirth, MTs NSO magazine begins....June 2013
- MT Management selects and refines new brand condensing "The Maroon Tiger" into a familiar acronym, "MT"...July 2013
- Maroon Tiger Television (TigerTV) organization and structure assessment begins... July 2013
- Photography and layout for NSO magazine completed in less than 72 hours... August 2013
- MT offers its readers digital publication with all printed work...August 2013
- "The Rebirth" is released to outstanding reviews garnering over 40,000 views online.....August 2013
- MT partners with ONEMusic Fest in an Instagram contest for free tickets to see Erykah Badu, Snoop Dog, and Ceelo Green...September 2013
- MT captures a special shout out from Erykah Badu to the AUC....September 2013
- MT Publishes "Rethinking Wilson," an article that sparks a town hall meeting with President Wilson to discuss his challenges, successes in leading Morehouse College...September 2013
- MT EIC introduces "ARTober" to management and staff, including a special edition each week in October...September 2013
- ARTober "Art Edition" features over 25 student writers, illustrators, poets, and musicians.....October 2013
- The Body Issue preparation (PR, acquisition of featured students, meetings, promotion material, budget outlining) begins...October 2013
- The Body Issue Shoots start...October 2013
- MT's "Body Issue" is released to the public....October 30, 2013
- MT's "Body Issue" receives over 20,000 views in its first 3 days... October-November 2013
- MT's "Body Issue" is covered by over 100+ news and media organizations including Morehouse College, BET, Colorlines, HBCU Digest, ESPN, Ebony, and many more...November 2013
- MTs "Body Issue" reaches over 100,000 views online...November 2013
- Al Jazeera America, new global broadcast news organization, visits Morehouse and covers MT's "Body Issue"...November 2013
- MT publishes its last Fall 2013 print edition....December 2013
- MT interviews cast of The Best Man Holiday
- MT releases 2 Finals Mix Tapes for students to download...December 2013
- MT management starts Fall 2013 review and SWOT analysis...December 2013
- TigerTV announces 5 new shows for publication in Spring 2014 semester... December 2013
- MT Interviews Robert Battle of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company
- MT places in 4 award categories from the Georgia College Press Association in 2nd Place General Excellence, First Place Best Campus Community Service—Features, 1st place Best Campus Community Service—Editorial and Best Layout and Design....February 2014
- MT Releases Surprise Valentines Day Mix Tape...February 2014



STREET VIEW MEETS THE REAL MCKOY

JALEN LAW

PHOTOGRAPHY ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JALENLAW@GMAIL.COM

Street view aims to highlight and recognize style and fashion in the Atlanta University Center. This week, Street View is taking a look into the life of Kenneth McKoy, a 2012 graduate of Morehouse College who once graced the AUC in very stylish way. While at Morehouse, Kenneth Kyrell was the director of Spelhouse Homecoming, and ran his own style blog. Now he is in New York City working in the fashion industry. Street View sat with Kenneth to discuss fashion, here is what he had to say.

MT: What sparked your interest in fashion?

KENNETH MCKOY: Every summer when I was younger I would go stay with my grandparents where my grandmother would always be making something for my grandfather to wear and/or making alterations. In addition to that, my parents instilled in me at a very young age the importance of appearance and personal style.

MT: Who are your favorite designers and/or style icons?

KM: My favorite style icons: Pharrell Williams, Andre 3000, Mark Ronson and Prince. My favorite designers/brands of the moment are Phillip Lim, Kenzo, Juun. J and Hedi Slimane for Saint Laurent.

MT: How did being at Morehouse College help you get into your field?

KM: The AUC as a whole brings so many people with contrasting backgrounds and styles together. Fashion and more importantly personal style is something that is no stranger around those parts of Atlanta. Being involved in the Homecoming Fashion Show, interning for IFG Media and doing other freelance styling gigs here and there while attending Morehouse made me realize that not only was I doing something I loved but I was also doing something I was really good at. Majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing also helped me realize that I could combine the two and ultimately make a career out of it; which is what I am currently do as a Fashion Buyer here in NYC in addition to being Co-Founder of the Lifestyle/Fashion blog, The No Names.

MT: What advice can you give to a current student looking to pursue a career in fashion?

KM: Be prepared to work, hear the word "no" and do not allow the movies, tv shows and other forms of media paint the "fairy-talesque" representation of the Fashion Industry that it often has the tendency to do. Yes, working in Fashion comes with a lot of perks however, it is hard work that requires someone who is smart, works well with others, is creative and has an eye for what is in now, what is to come and a good understanding of the past and how things that happened back "then" influence what is currently happening right now within the Industry.

MT: Describe what Fashion Week in New York is like.

KM: It's busy, it's fun, it's rewarding and if you do it right, NYFW can open up so many doors for you. Its one week where the who's who of the industry are all out and more "accessible" than normal. It can be somewhat overwhelming at times but thats what makes it so exciting. You never know what to expect.

MT: Is there any style/fashion advice you can give to people in the AUC?

KM: I say this often but its something I really stand by: "find what works for you and stick with it". Style is about having a look that is consistent and original. Don't feel the need to do so much and be so "different" that you risk being known for what you wear for all the wrong reasons. What looks good on your best friend may not look good on you but its about trying a few things out until you have that "aha" moment and realize what YOUR signature look/style is.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE-NO-NAMES.COM

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE



THE VALLEY OF THE GODS

SAHIM WALLACE

STAFF WRITER
SAHIMWALLACE@YAHOO.COM

This week's Winners Circle features Seifuddin Saafir, a junior English major at Morehouse College. Saafir is a part of a team that designs a clothing and apparel brand called "The Valley of the Gods." Saafir's younger cousin first sparked the idea for the clothing line in spring 2013. Saafir and the other team members liked the idea and jumped on board. Now a year later, they have produced various clothing designs and look forward to producing more.

The line incorporates elements of its theme and brand name "The Valley of the Gods." When asked about the derivation of the clothing line name, Saafir explained that it represents his and his team member's experiences from life growing up in New York. Saafir grew up in the Bronx, and recalls some experiences which include protecting his younger cousins from bullies and on occasions getting jumped. The line expresses positivity and their inspirations, which Saafir believes is "A gift from God."

Having had the aforementioned life experiences, Saafir and his team wanted to share this with the public through their clothing. The clothing has a distinct style, and many of the designs have come from Saafir's younger cousin, who has produced the logo and T-shirt designs with programs like Adobe. Saafir serves as the spokesperson for the group. His responsibilities include networking and promoting the group through venues such as Instagram (@valleyfamily) and their Tumblr page (<http://thevalleyfamily.tumblr.com/>).

Saafir notes that ever since he was young, he was a very social and personable person, and he would often find himself talking to strangers about random topics. He brought this gift with him to Morehouse, which has helped him lead the group in promotion.

However, Saafir wanted to add that the work is very much a team effort. His team referred to as "The Valley Family" is a very tight-knit group, one that takes great pride in their togetherness. The running slogan is that the brand is "Created by a family and run by a family."

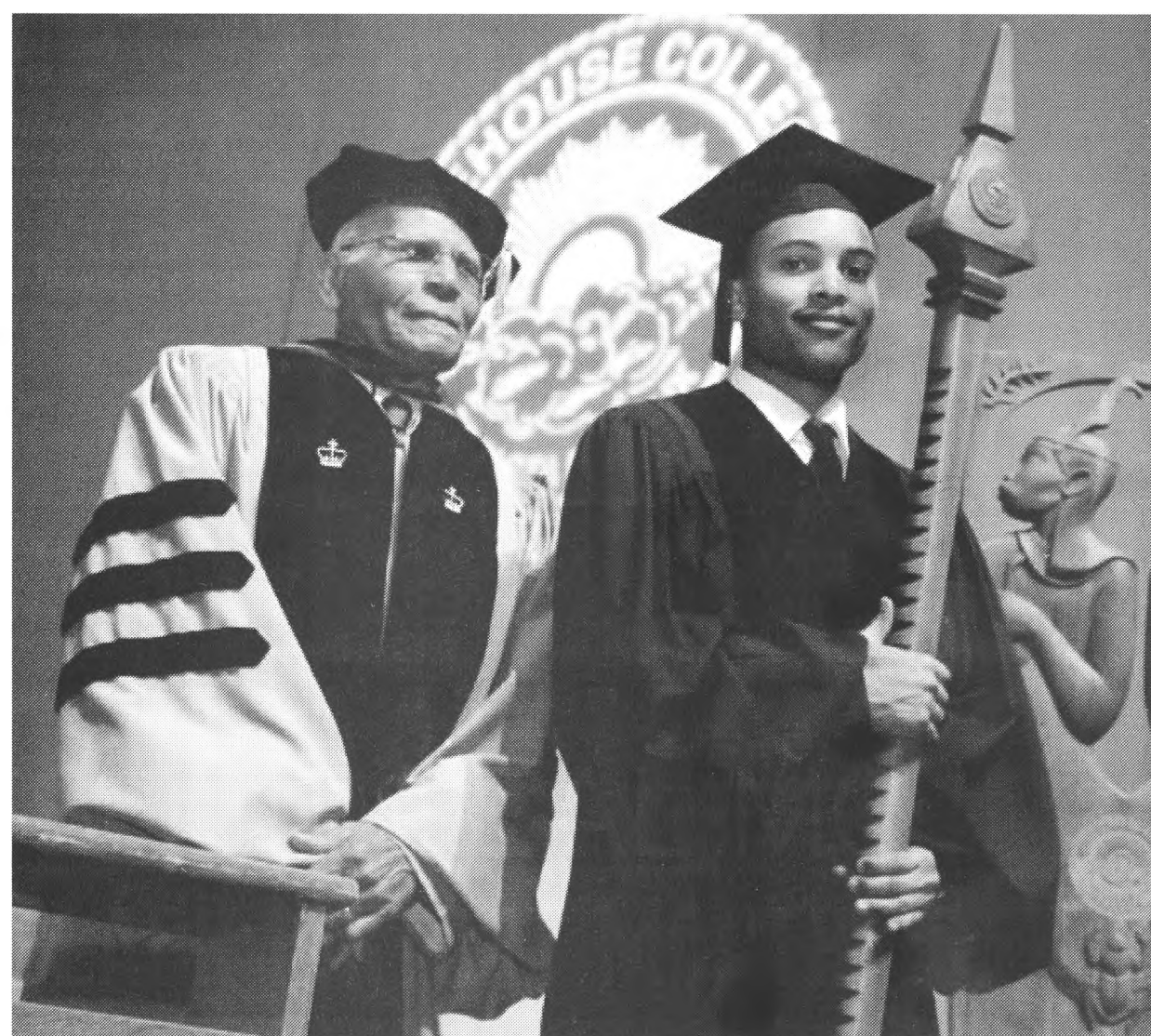
Interestingly enough, the members are not related biologically, but rather through having known one another for so long and sharing many experiences growing up. Distance is one of the challenges the team faces, and Saafir explains that it would be easier if they were closer to one another. Nonetheless, they have biweekly meetings each month, one on the 13th and one on the 27th. During the meeting, they give progress reports, which include how far they are accomplishing a certain goal and where they need to be.

Saafir and his team have released T-shirts, and plan to produce even more. Currently Saafir is working on collaborations with other entrepreneurs in the Atlanta University Center. Some of the collaborators include Matthew Garrett ('17), Cason Hill ('17) and Karon Smith ('16). Saafir hopes that by collaborating with other student entrepreneurs, their union will help to uplift all of the companies involved.

Additionally, he has a great desire to see the success of black-owned businesses and believes this will help to build the black community. The Valley of the Gods looks forward to producing more clothing this spring, which includes a T-shirt and crew neck. Future plans include recruiting more artists and bringing the business to new heights.

T-TIME W/ NEB

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EDITION



NEBIYU FITTA

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR
NEBIYU.FITTA@GMAIL.COM

In commemoration of Black History Month, Associate Features Editor Nebiyu Fitta sat down with Morehouse's own piece of history, Dr. Tobe Johnson.

Of his own time at Morehouse, Johnson, a 1954 graduate of the college, remembers Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays warning students to stay away from segregated theaters downtown. "You shouldn't pay to be segregated," Johnson remembers then President Mays declaring in Sale Hall Chapel.

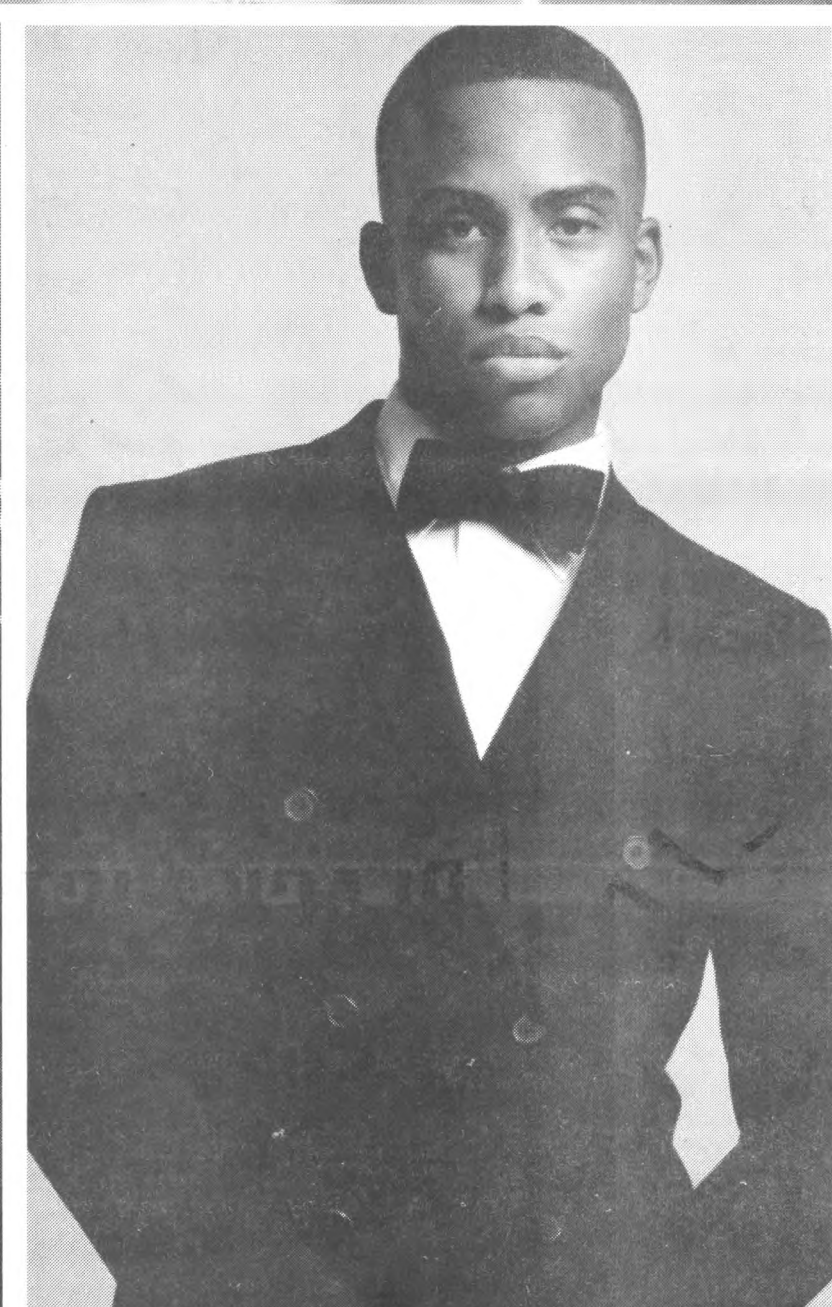
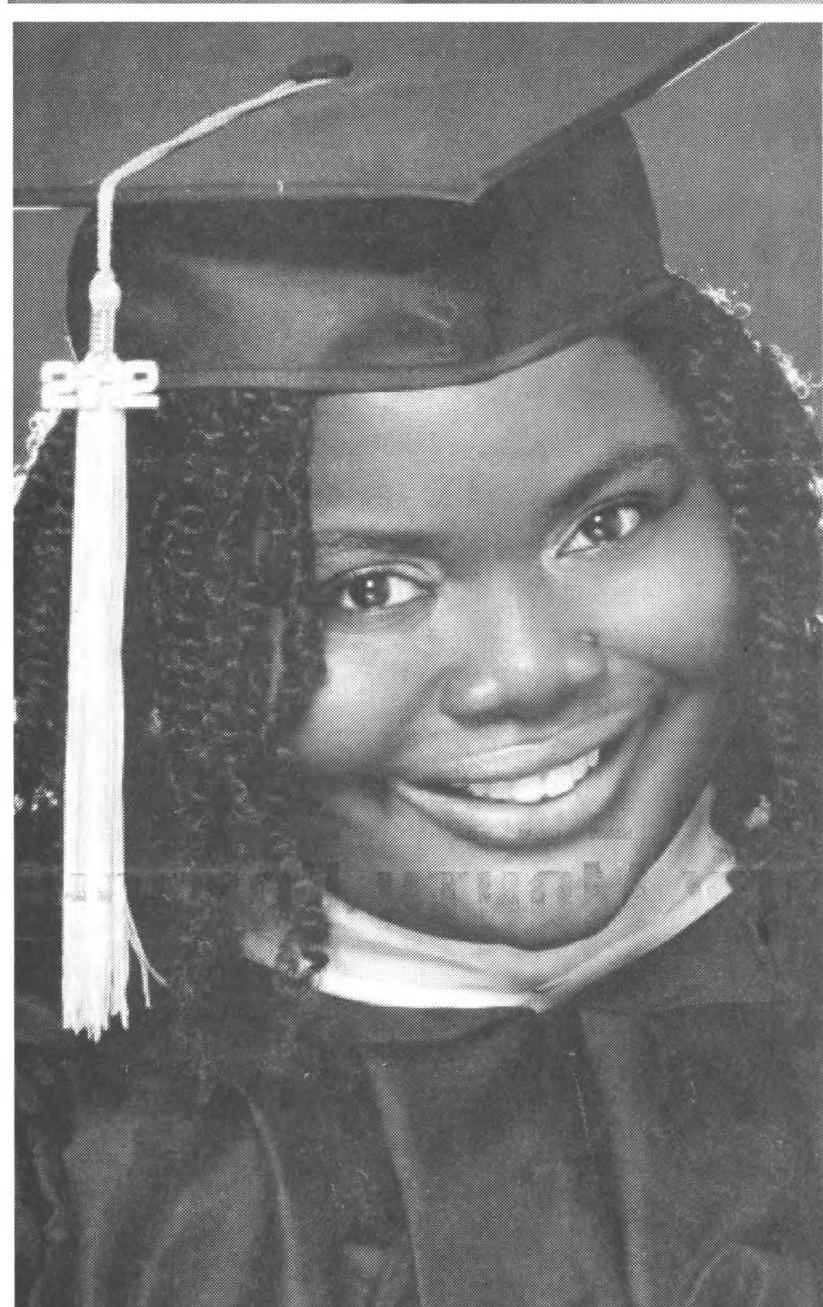
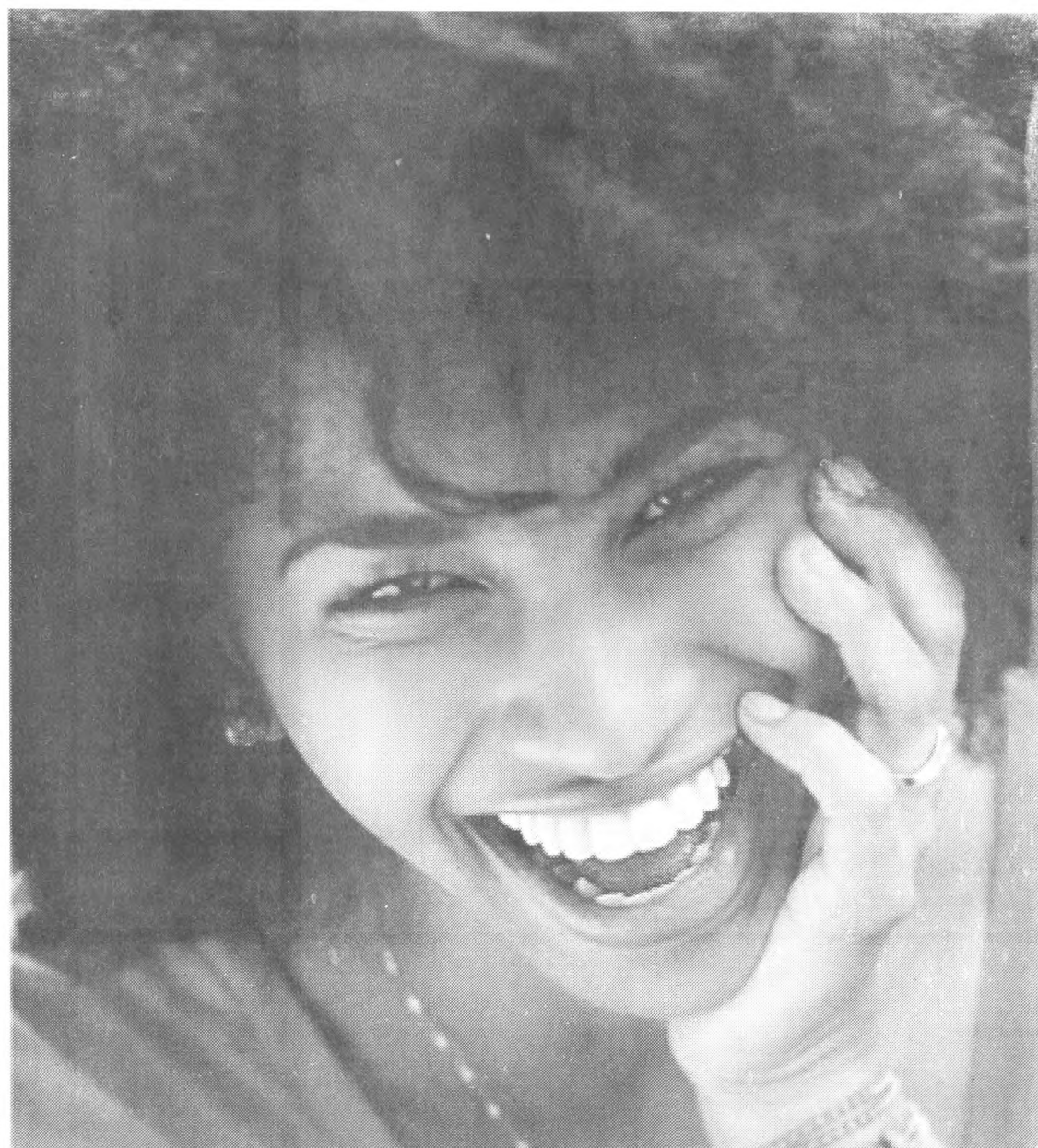
When Johnson returned to teach in 1958, the push to integrate had grown much stronger. He recalls the efforts of the Atlanta business community to maintain an image of civility. "Essentially, what the business group did not want was for Atlanta to get a bad reputation," Johnson said. "So, there was not the kind of violence here that occurred in other Southern cities."

Johnson was not active in the Civil Rights Movement, but gave students his full support. Of Black History Month, Johnson admits he is not as involved as he once was. Nonetheless, he feels it provided a tremendous opportunity "to reflect on the African-American past and its future."

NAME: Tobe Johnson
DEPARTMENT: Political Science
HOMETOWN: Birmingham, Alabama

FAVORITE BOOK: Frontline
FAVORITE TV SHOW: ON THE WATERFRONT
FAVORITE MOVIE: "About 200 words in the Emancipation Proclamation"

IF HE WASN'T A PROFESSOR, he'd be a: Lawyer



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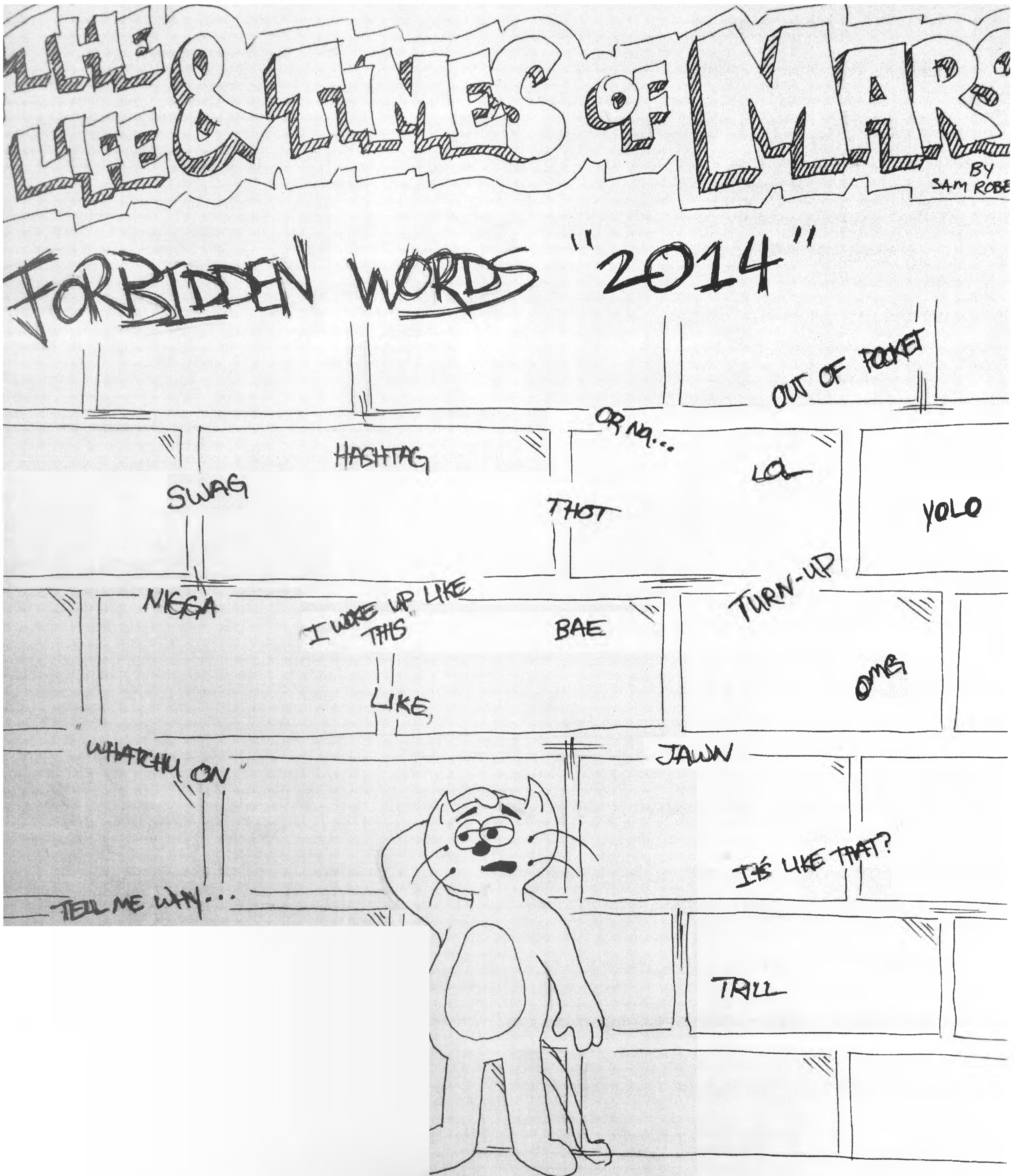
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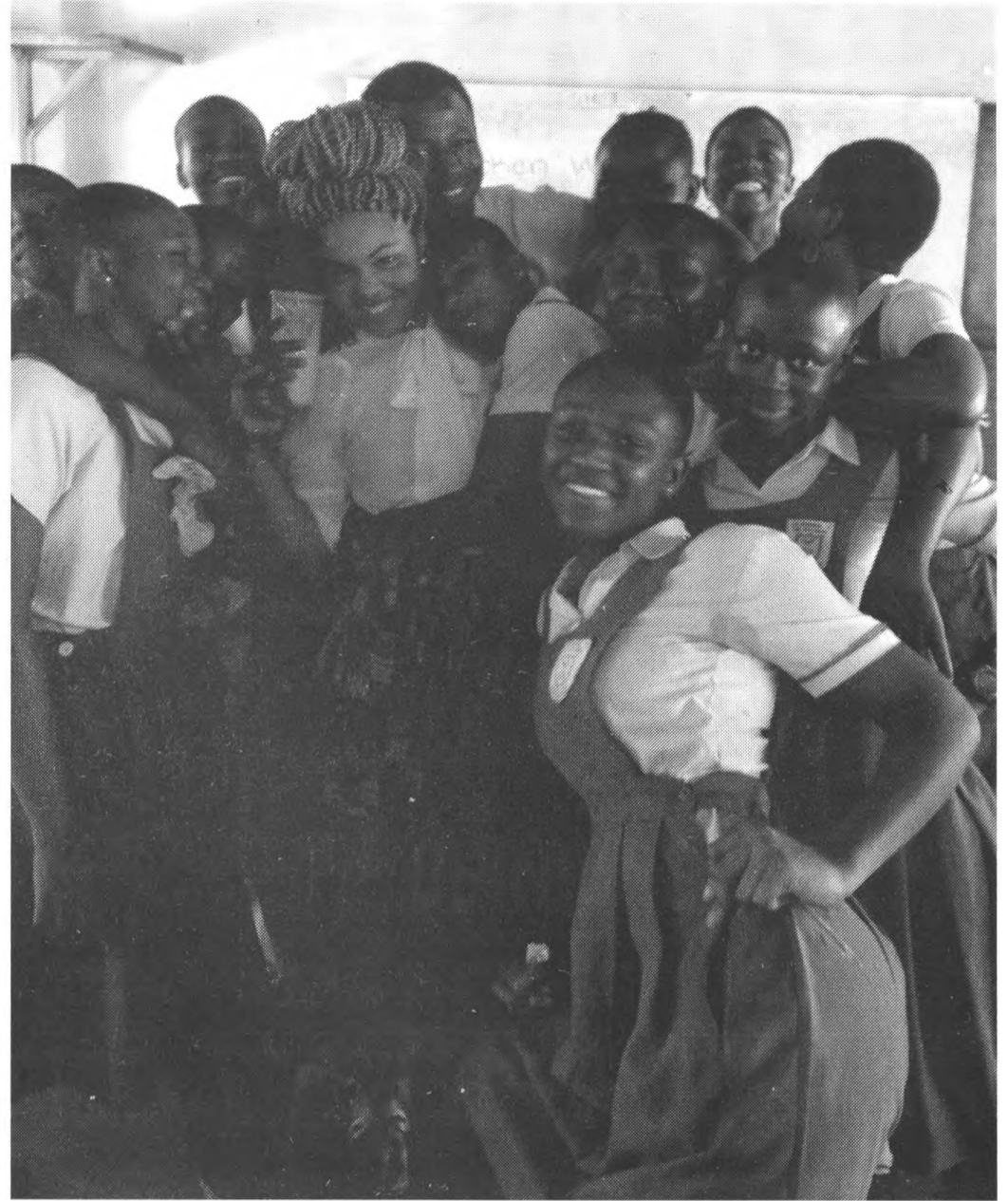
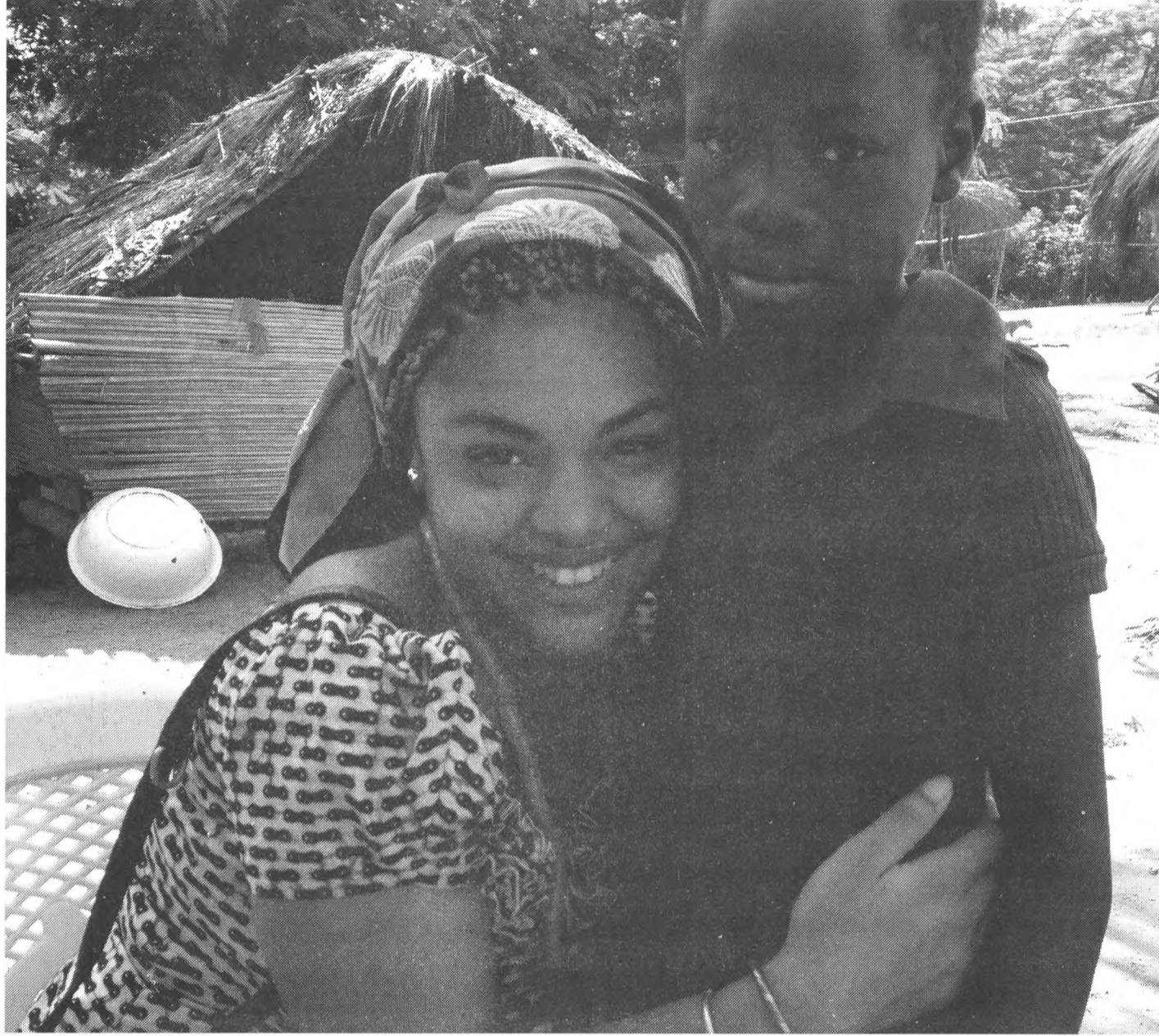
CARTOON CORNER

The Life and Times of Mars

by Sam Robertson



JUST HOW AFRICAN MY BLACK IS



BRITTANY BOTTS
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As I walked through the El Mina Slave Castle, I could not help but notice them in the midst of my sorrow. I was taken aback by them; their dark, thick lips curved in smiles and laughter, their children running about the fort as if it were a playground, their arguments about the last soccer match and who would be cooking dinner. Their faces were casual, looking as if the capture and abuse of millions of dark bodies just like their own had not happened here, looking as if this space held no weight in their hearts. They viewed El Mina slave castle as outsiders looking in, people who were witnessing the pain of another group, failing to realize that this history was of their ancestors, too. The Ghanaian visitors were unphased by it all, much more preoccupied with their real life than the history of a distant, irrelevant past. They had only come because they had heard from a cousin or an Uncle that it was important to do. Something to check off the

list of things every Ghanaian should do. They laughed at us silly African Americans who clenched the bars of cells just to feel the grasp of an ancestor. They made a mockery of our anguish as we cried and comforted each other. Silly African Americans, they thought, for thinking this actually matters, for feeling as if it was them who lived and died here. But here is where we did live and die. Pieces of our souls will always be here, the spirits of our heritage, the blues of our belonging, the memoirs of our existence all stem from this very space.

Being black once meant being African to me. It meant that a long time ago, in a land we forgot the name of, my fore mothers and fathers were stripped from home and sent on ships to slave for free. It meant that I was not really American at all. It meant that my skin told everything about the woman that I am, despite how light a shade, it was still black and I was always proud of that! Being black in Ghana has changed what being black means to me. Being black in Ghana is not expected of me. I am "abruni", meaning white, foreign, and different. I am fair. I am definitely not African. Everywhere I go, I am reminded of that fact. My middle school students called me white woman before they

knew my name, and I explained to them that I was African, like them. They laughed at my silly joke. We took a picture at the end of the class and upon viewing the image a twelve year old exclaimed, "See Miss, look at this picture. You are not like us." Their beautiful chocolate bodies huddled around me, and in the middle, there I was, sticking out like a white girl in Africa. That is exactly what I was to them. He meant no harm. It was just his fact, his reality. There was no way that he and I were the same people. I came from a land where movies were made, parties occurred, where shopping malls and tasty food existed, where lovely white people walked the streets with their dogs. He was from Ghana, the land where everyone is dark and dirty and late for everything, where he cannot speak his local language in school because he must learn English to be more like me. Why would I want to be African when I am American? He does not understand that I, too am from Ghana. I, too am Africa. Or, maybe I do not understand that I am not Africa. I am not America. But I am both, and I sadly cannot deny either. I have never felt so American.

THE MICHAEL DUNN TRIAL: AN EMPTY VERDICT?

TIFFANY PENNAMON
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Following the Michael Dunn verdict of yet another case in the fatal shooting of a young African-American male, questions arose as to whether our legal system protects the lives of young Black males in America.

The trial for the fatal shooting of Jordan Davis parallels the tragic case of Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman in the "Stand Your Ground" lawsuit. In November of 2012, Jordan Davis, 17, and three friends were sitting in a Dodge Durango listening to rap music at a Florida gas station. Michael Dunn, 47, confronted the teenagers for blasting the "thug" music, and stated that the teenagers began to yell obscenities and threatened his life with a shotgun. He immediately drew his gun, firing ten shots—three of which hit Davis—into the car. The Davis-Dunn case now is one of many cases, where the life of a Black person falls short under the legal system.

The Dunn trial garnered wide-spread publicity from

around the nation. Questions such as "Are young Black men safe in America?" or "Is it really ok to shoot (and get away with) killing Black men under the 'self-defense' clause of our legal system?" came to mind as our community thought of fathers, brothers, uncles, and sons. After four days of hard deliberation, the jury in the case found Michael Dunn guilty on three counts of attempted murder—each carrying 20 years; however, the jury could not reach a final decision on the main charge, first-degree murder. CNN reporter, Tonyaa Weathersbee, claims the verdict "is not a real victory because the jury that convicted Dunn, 47, didn't convict him for killing the 17-year-old Davis. They convicted him for almost killing Davis' three friends who were riding in the Dodge Durango with him."

"It has been a long, long road, and we're so very happy to have a little bit of closure...It's sad for Mr. Dunn that he will live the rest of his life in that sense of torment, and I will pray for him." Jordan Davis' father stated, "We do not accept a law that views our children as 'collateral damage'," said McBath, Davis' mother.

"What's important to remember about the Michael Dunn trial is that it's not the only case of its kind. Every AUC

student should be working to change laws like 'Stand Your Ground' as scholars and advocates for those in our community with no voice", said Yemisi Miller-Tonnet, a freshman Anthropology major at Spelman.

"[Legislators] definitely have to do something in regards to violence and gun control. But then again, our legal system wasn't created to protect the Black people", said sophomore computer science major, Aisha Jackson.

It is indeed frustrating that racial stereotypes and assumptions lead to "fear" and the need for "self-defense" against Black men in our society. "Thug" music should not justify the shooting death of anyone. If that is the case, many people Black AND White should be confronted.

Here in the Atlanta University Center, students come from various regions around the country; our taste in music, clothing, and our home environments vary greatly. However, our lives are Jordan Davis', Trayvon Martin's, and the many others who have died unfairly. We are them, and they are us. What will we do to ensure our safety in America's legal system? We challenge these unjust laws and challenge negative racial stereotypes.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: THE SECRET MENU OF KILGORE

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I first realized that Kilgore had a secret menu when, after countless times of ordering only a variation of what I really wanted, I saw somebody walk back to their seat with an appetizing combination of crispy chicken tenders atop a lush Caesar salad. Spare your judgments; I was trying to eat healthy at the time but what I craved was the crisp breading dashed in salt, encrusting the steamy white strips of a chicken tender. Of course, nowhere on the menu does it state that exactly what I wanted was a feasible or even billable alternative.

I looked down at my own salad that I did my best to customize with the given slots on the menu but it paled in comparison to the satisfaction that I'm sure the hipper Kilgore customer could muster.

Needless to say, now when I return to Kilgore, I often try my hand at coming up with bizarre combinations that in fact, they are more than happy to prepare—a lemon pepper chicken sandwich, buffalo chicken salad, and of course, the crispy chicken tender Caesar salad.

Besides hopefully giving your meal plan a bit more flavor, I say all this because after four years of ordering and waiting and getting only a portion of what I truly wanted out of a meal, I realized that Morehouse operates in a similar fashion as Kilgore.

Contrary to outside or even inside beliefs, Morehouse College is not for the faint of heart nor the regular menu orderers. In fact, a black man in college statistically is neither of those things because of the many pitfalls that tragically seem to single out that very demographic. As for ordering off of the regular menu, the options for what society says a black man is to get out of life are slim to jail, not paying child support, and obviously yet tragically thanks to Stand Your Ground, death.

Now in a Morehouse College context, the pool is narrowed and the fast food line of achievers and "get-more-out-of-lifers" is wrapped around the parking lot. In entering and exiting Brown Street, each student will have to ask, even if subconsciously, "what will I order from this place? What have the classes before me ordered? What did Howard Thurman and Jeh Johnson order? I want that," or "No, that's not for me." Either way, this experience is a trial and error for the feast that we will one day reflect on, savor or even rid our palette of.

In one of the many impassioned "discussions" about Morehouse, I recall the juxtaposition of whether or not Mother Morehouse does enough cultivating of its students or whether they are left to fend for themselves, naturally separating the wheat from the chaff and the ones who succeed and the ones who, even if they do graduate", are pushed along the fickle streams of want and need.

In some areas, particularly when it comes to finances, Mother Morehouse deals her fair share of cold shrugs to the student who was misinformed by one of her own and is forced to pack his things and wait another semester to continue if at all. But at the same time, the stories that make and shake this place are the ones when young men whose stories have seen empty bank accounts, spotty wifi, homelessness and even death, plunge through adversity and hardships to create a platter that would rival kings.

There is a secret menu to Morehouse College and it is not an easy one to navigate. It can be less than appetizing and down right bitter, but I foresee that the class of 2014 like the classes before it and the classes yet to come, will be able to muster the dragging line of good enough and create a masterpiece of life.

Then again, maybe Kilgore's chicken tenders are good enough for you.

MARIAH CAREY:

FAILURE OR SHEER IRRELEVANCE?

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In the everyday landscape of the functioning world, working a "nine to five" to adequately satisfy one's everyday needs – and wants, relative to one's respective lifestyle – does just fine in the quest to achieving the "American dream." While this philosophy on life may be the blueprint to the white-collar working individual, such is not the case for public figures, particularly entertainers whose last musical breath is based on the succession or failure to "evolve" with the times. Such is the case of R&B/pop icon Mariah Carey, who has been arguably on a steady decline following the peaking releases of her tenth and eleventh studio albums "The Emancipation of MiMi," and "E=MC²," respectively. Relentless in her pursuit for relevance, Carey has since shelled out cuts that have not lived up to the standards of her golden years, forcing many to ponder, "Is her time up?"

In the last two years, Mariah Carey has run through three managers, two album release dates, and four "new" tracks – or buzz singles, according to her team – that failed to impact the mainstream market. Inspired by the tremendous failure of her fifth, and latest, single "You're Mine (Eternal)," many of Carey's "Lambos" have begun to question whether their favorite diva is losing her spark in today's stratosphere of new stars. After making its debut at No. 88 on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart on Feb. 20, Mariah Carey lovers rejoiced, as this marked the "Hero" singer's 46th single to chart on the tally, and her first non-collaborative/non-holiday/non-cover entry since 2009's "Obsessed."

While the single's Hot 100 performance was admirable but questionable for an artist of her stature, the numbers failed to add up on the iTunes singles charts. The single sat at No. 376 after a week of release on iTunes, and subsequently plunged hundreds of spots, ultimately ending up completely out of the iTunes Top 1000 (yes, one THOUSAND). The Feb. 12-released track is being outperformed by tracks released over a decade ago, including Destiny's Child's 1997-released debut single "No No No," Christina Aguilera's "Genie in a Bottle," and the Lil' Kim classic "Crush on You."

So, what is the problem? Is the world no longer intrigued by Mariah's five octave vocal range? Is she getting lost in the contemporary reinvention of the music industry? The ultimate cause of Carey's demise is impossible to restrict to one definite result as this has been an accumulative case for several recent years.

After returning to prominence in 2005 with the release of "The Emancipation of MiMi," the "Vision of Love" belter proved that she was just as significant a live force as she was on record. During this era of her career, the musician broke records effortlessly and consistently, selfishly – and rightfully so – dominating the top positions of the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart. Her most contemporary signature hit "We Belong Together" held on to the No. 1 spot for 14 non-consecutive weeks, becoming the second longest running No. 1 song in US chart history, behind the singer's very own 1995 hit "One Sweet Day."

After coherently slaying the music scene for two years, the now musically "reborn" artist returned to the scene in 2007 with the hugely successful "E=MC²," which earned the vocalist the highest first week sales of her entire career. The album, led by the commercial smash "Touch My Body," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 with 463,000 copies sold in its first week of release. Riding off of the outstandingly positive reception of the LP, Mariah began planning a tour that she described as "elaborate." Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, she cancelled the tour, and took a break from the commercial music scene.

During Carey's absence, several

high profile artists released projects that somewhat overshadowed her absence, subsequently causing many to forget that she was gone. Taylor Swift crossed over into the pop lane from country with her album "Fearless," which grossed more than \$2.11 million in sales at the year's end; Coldplay's "Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends" grossed a whopping \$2.14 million; and Beyoncé's formidable return to music with "I Am ... Sasha Fierce" grossed \$1.46 million. With all of these releases still riding high into the following year, the "Honey" songstress still released her twelfth studio album "Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel" in 2009 to lukewarm public reception. Debuting at No. 3 on the Billboard 200, many have dubbed this moment the official commencement of Carey's commercial decline.

After experiencing the embarrassing performance of "Memoirs," and becoming a first-time mother and second-time wife, Carey took another break from music, and embarked on other ventures within the entertainment business, including judging "American Idol," and sporadically recording the follow-up to her iconic "Merry Christmas" album titled "Merry Christmas II You." While the festive project performed well on the holiday charts following its release, it failed to emulate the impact projected by her previous projects. Since then, the singer began teasing her return to R&B/pop with a slew of "buzz singles" including the Rick Ross-assisted "Triumphant (Get 'Em)," "Almost Home," which never quite left the house, and "#Beautiful," which managed to bomb after receiving positive critical reviews. Resultantly, everything that she released failed to garner public interest, leading to the relatively unprecedented – yet expected – performance of her current single "You're Mine (Eternal)."

As interpreted from the extensive timeline of Mariah Carey's career, it is easy to conclude that the current majority of music consumers is not vastly enthralled with the "Mariah brand" as those of the '90s and early 2000s once were. Many blame this lack of interest on the singer's disproportional correlation of aging and "forced" sex appeal, or even her much discussed performance inconsistencies of recent times. Though the true essence of this unfortunate decline may never be accurately identified, deeming her "irrelevant," especially based on the over-saturated onslaught of artists in today's "easy entry" industry, is far from the truth.

While her stature as a living music icon is cemented in history, her ability to commercially penetrate the modern music circuit remains in question. With her upcoming album, "The Art of Letting Go," slated for a May 6 release, combatting with releases from Chris Brown and Lil' Wayne, the future of Carey's commercial career will remain in limbo if another promotional strategy is not implemented. While another push back will indefinitely prove to be more of a detriment than an aid at this point, the MC brand has not completely thrown in the towel as her revered status as a music veteran still stands. It is ultimately her appropriate adaptability to translate as a marketable 43-year-old R&B/pop star that will determine her stagnancy or growth as a modern artist.



WHAT'S THE 411? | 10 BEST MOMENTS IN A&E THIS PAST WEEK

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'SCHOOL DAZE' SEQUEL IN THE WORKS?



It's not everyday that an alumnus of our institution goes on to create a heavily iconic film that predates the foundation of HBCU life. However, when his name is Spike Lee, anything's possible.

Lee's classic Black college film "School Daze" turned 25 last year, and with such a milestone of iconicity being acquired from a project that is still relevant in contemporary times, fans of the film began to question if there will ever be a follow-up. Speaking with Black&Sexy TV, Lee confirmed that a script for the movie's sequel is completed and ready to go.

"I had the script for 'School Daze,'" he said. "But, what people have to understand is that it's a contemporary version. So it's the same school, Mission College, 25 years later."

The famed director went on to elaborate on his plans for casting characters for the film, which is loosely based on his experiences here at Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Clark Atlanta University.

"Hopefully, I can get Laurence Fishburne to play Dap," he said. "He'll be the president now of the school. And we would deal with issues around Historically Black Colleges today."

BEYONCÉ ROLLS UP THE 'PARTITION'



While "Drunk In Love" is being remixed by rappers past and present, Beyoncé is pushing things along, choosing the next single from her platinum-certified album "BEYONCÉ." The entertainer has chosen the sexy, bass-heavy fan favorite "Partition" as the next offering from the hugely successful LP.

Though most have already seen the intensely seductive music video through purchasing the album, it officially premiered on VEVO on Tuesday.

Currently, the singer is taking the UK by storm as she revamped her highly grossing tour for 2014 with brand new performances of tracks including "Drunk In Love," "Blow," "Haunted," "****Flawless," and "Partition," to name a few.

AFRICAN AMERICANS CONTINUE TO MAKE HISTORY



Though Black History Month is slowly winding down, African-Americans are continuing to rewrite the history books in the fields of media and sports.

This week, Tamron Hall and Jason Collins, two of the biggest names in daytime TV and sports, respectively, made strides in their particular fields.

Hall was announced as the first Black woman to co-anchor the Today show on Monday morning. Speaking with Essence.com about the big news, she revealed her excitement in a few words: "I thought, wow, these big moments at NBC News and now I'm a part of this for women, for Black women, for all of us ... I can't even describe to you how it feels."

Also making history this week, professional basketball player Jason Collins became the first openly gay athlete to play in one of the United States' four major professional leagues when he hit the court for the Brooklyn Nets.

Collins made headlines when he "came out" in an open letter published in Sports Illustrated magazine last year.

CNN CANCELING 'PIERS MORGAN TONIGHT'



Notoriously outspoken CNN personality Piers Morgan is soon to be out of a job as both he and the network have agreed to terminate the production of his primetime show "Piers Morgan Tonight."

According to the New York Times, Morgan said that he and CNN president Jeff Zucker had discussed "Piers Morgan Tonight's" "failure to connect to the network's audience," and had ultimately decided to cancel it closer to March.

"I am a British guy debating American cultural issues, including guns, which has been very polarizing, and there is no doubt that there are many in the audience who are tired of me banging on about it," he said. "That's run its course and Jeff and I have been talking for some time about different ways of using me."

Morgan has hosted the show since January 2011. There is no word yet on who will replace him.

RIHANNA FAN ADMITS TO FAKING HOMOPHOBIC IG POST



Bajan pop star Rihanna is notorious for her brash and sometimes offensive comments, but homophobic is not a word that has been used to describe the artist's demeanor in past publicized encounters.

One of Rihanna's fans sought out to prove otherwise last week after he doctored up a homophobic comment allegedly written by the "Pour It Up" singer. The fan, who goes by the screen name Benvoy Seals, posted what looked like one of Rihanna's "RIHplies," telling him he's going to hell for being gay.

Before Seals could stir the pot of mess any further, he admitted to his pointless scheme, telling TMZ, "I lied, I don't know why. I just did."

During the fabricated hoopla, Rihanna was unbothered, posting sexy selfies on Instagram while on her birthday trip in Aspen.

MICHAEL B. JORDAN FIRES BACK AT RACIST CRITICS



"Fruitvale Station" has catapulted Hollywood newcomer Michael B. Jordan into new heights as he is currently gearing up for his highest-profile role yet. Jordan is set to portray Johnny Storm (Human Torch) in the reboot of "Fantastic Four." While this is indeed a sweet moment for the actor, many have taken to social media to express their distaste for him fulfilling the super hero role citing their disappointment with the fact that the comic book's version of the character is not Black.

"Why is it okay when a Black actor is hired to play a white character, but they'd NEVER hire a white actor to play a Black character," one fan said on Twitter. Another added, "I'm not racist, but don't cast a Black guy to play a white super hero. [It's] just not right."

When asked of his opinion of the unwarranted backlash, Jordan kept it short and sweet: "Eh, they're still going to see it anyway," he said.

'FANCY' DISSSES BEYONCÉ... THEN RETRACTS



When the BeyHive attacks, there's no turning back. Actress Garcelle Beauvais, best known for her role as Fancy on "The Jamie Foxx Show," learned this the hard way when she revealed her distaste for Beyoncé's sexy image to HelloBeautiful.

"I love Beyoncé. But I think there has to be a fine line where you have to take responsibility for what you do," she said. "I think it's good to be sexy ... It doesn't have to be everything showing out grinding, all of the time."

The actress, who posed fully nude for Playboy magazine in 2007, quickly retracted her statement after being brutally attacked by Beyoncé's legions of fans on social media.

"I love Beyoncé! What I said was taken out of context, and of course I support women being sexy," she tweeted.

LUDACRIS BLAMES CHILD SUPPORT TROUBLES ON PAUL WALKER'S DEATH



Atlanta-born rapper Ludacris has been in hot water lately as it was recently announced that he has a 2-month-old daughter who was conceived outside of his relationship with longtime girlfriend Eudoxie Agnan. Failing to pay child support for his infant daughter, he was summoned to court on Feb. 19 where he revealed that his payments have been delayed due to the untimely passing of his "Fast & Furious 7" costar Paul Walker.

According to TMZ, Luda appeared in court alongside Tameka Fuller, the mother of his infant daughter, to lay out his financial woes. The rapper wants to pay \$1,800 a month, and argued that he cannot cover Fuller's monthly demand of \$15,000 as he was relying on a paycheck from the highly anticipated movie, which is now pending due to Walker's passing.

The judge agreed to cut the child support payments down to \$7,000 a month until his financial record have been reviewed.

BIG WINS AT THE NAACP IMAGE AWARDS



The 45th annual NAACP Image Awards recently wrapped up its early broadcast with winners ranging from Beyoncé to Lupita Nyong'o.

Hosted by comedian Anthony Anderson, the show was indeed a star-studded affair with attendees including Oprah Winfrey, who honored the late Nelson Mandela; Lupita Nyong'o who won Best Supporting Actress for her role in "12 Years A Slave"; Kevin Hart, who won Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series for his role in BET's "Real Husbands of Hollywood"; and Gabrielle Union, who won in the category of Outstanding Actress for her role in "Being Mary Jane."

On the music front, Beyoncé and John Legend won top honors for Female and Male Outstanding Artists of the Year; K. Michelle was awarded the trophy for Best New Artist; and Robin Thicke, T.I., and Pharrell dominated the category of Outstanding Duo or Collaboration for "Blurred Lines."

LILY ALLEN NAMES NEW ALBUM 'SHEEZUS'

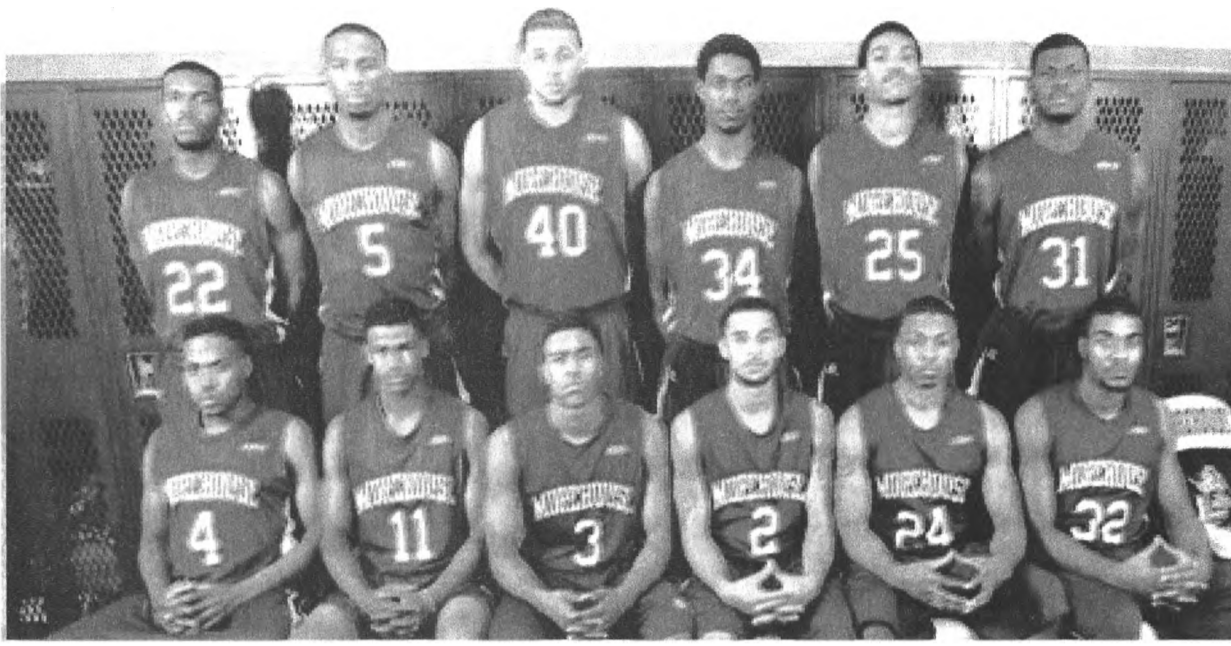


In what may be considered either the cleverest or the most peculiar musical decision of the year thus far, pop star Lily Allen revealed on Feb. 21 that her third album will be called "Sheezus" as a nod to Kanye West's latest LP.

While visiting The Graham Norton Show in the UK, Allen explained her rationale for this decision. "It's a confident title choice and a little nod to Kanye West," she said.

The British singer has released three singles from "Sheezus" thus far: "Somewhere Only We Know," "Air Balloon," and the controversial "Hard Out Here." An official release date for the album is yet to be announced.

CAU WINS MOREHOUSE REMATCH



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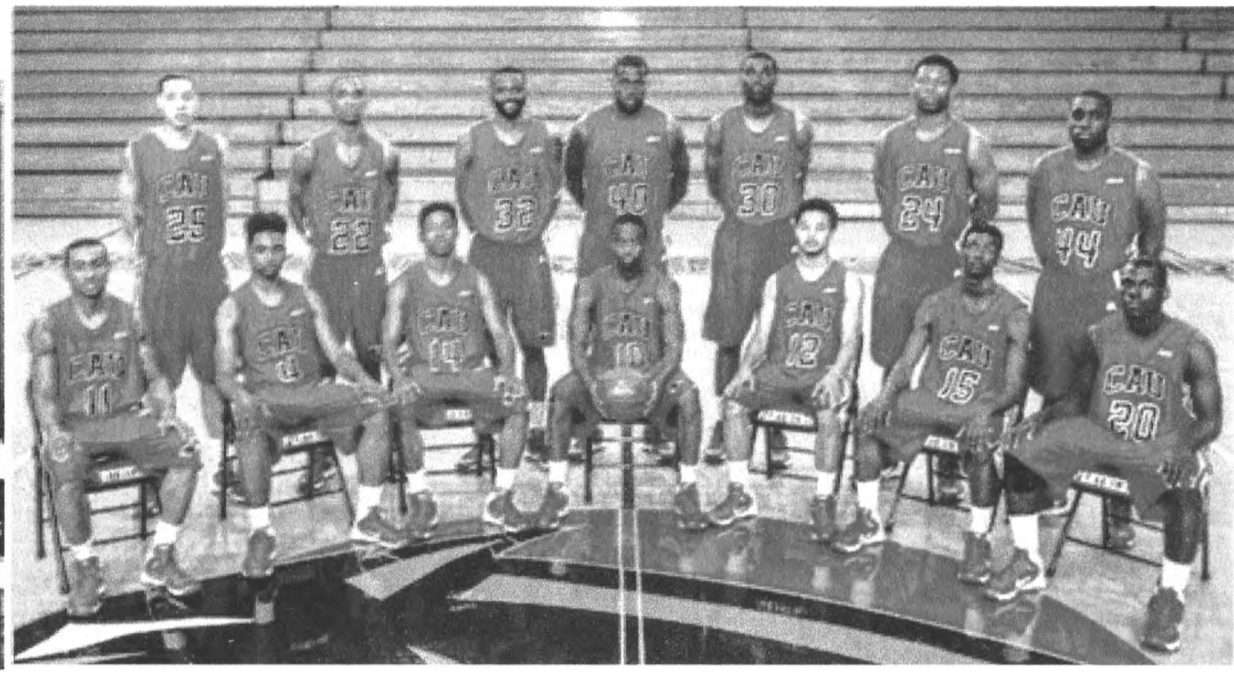
Clark Atlanta University's Epps Gymnasium was packed to capacity on Saturday afternoon in anticipation of the rematch between Morehouse and Clark Atlanta basketball. The Panthers beat the Maroon Tigers 71-66 to sweep the regular-season series between the cross-campus rivals.

Morehouse guard Darius Williams' game-high 29 points weren't enough to overcome the Panthers' scoring tandem of Kevin James and Derek Harper, who combined for 34 points and 10 rebounds.

The Maroon Tigers failed to find a rhythm with their perimeter shooting and fell one basket short of making five 3-pointers, the magic number that head coach Grady Brewer has said was necessary for his team to have a chance to win.

Maroon Tiger junior forward D'Anthony Relaford finished the game with four points, four rebounds, two assists and a block. He attributed the loss to insufficient execution on the offensive end and allowing open shots for the Panther offense. As a junior who will be a key player in next season's rivalry, Relaford will inevitably be asked to take the baton from senior leaders like Williams and forward Joshua Simmons.

"Although the seniors lost their last rivalry game to Clark, each one of them who played tonight gave it all they had and left it out there on the court," Relaford said. "With



that being said, all I can tell them is congratulations and thanks for their hard work throughout the year."

It is encouraging that there will still be players like Relaford around who can recognize the hard work and efforts of the seniors and continue to pass it on. Simmons had six points, five rebounds, five assists and a block in a game where he exemplified the passion correlated with such a rivalry.

"I feel disappointed because we didn't get the win but at the same time everything happens for a reason," Simmons said about the loss. "We may have lost this battle in order to prepare us for the war. The best revenge for this loss will be when we beat them in the tournament, when it counts."

The team's focus is fixated on the postseason. With the regular season nearing its conclusion, it's only a matter of time before the Maroon Tigers get a chance to avenge their inglorious season and recent failures with a miraculous tournament run.

The Maroon Tigers still believe in their chances of winning the conference tournament. Thirteen of the team's 17 losses this season were by 10 points or fewer, which indicates that the team can compete with most of the teams they will see in the tournament. Hopefully, the team will be able to elevate their play during the tournament and edge out what have been tough losses in the past. The teams never-say-die attitude will certainly aid their efforts of redemption.

Morehouse's final regular-season game will be held at home in Forbes Arena on March 1 against Fort Valley St. at 3 p.m. The team will need full fan support as they try to gain momentum going into the tournament at Tuskegee.

MOREHOUSE ATHLETES INSPIRED TO PAVE NEW WAY

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Morehouse College has one of the richest legacies in the history of post education institutions. Automatically the names Martin Luther King Jr, Spike Lee and Samuel L. Jackson come to mind when mentioning notable alumni. However, all too often the athletes of Morehouse College become an afterthought in the minds of many, who see the school as a place where only academic scholars can excel.

The athletics department of Morehouse has a great lineage in its own right, and over the years has produced Olympic gold medalist hurdler Edwin Moses and a number of professional athletes such as 1969 World Series MVP Donn Clendenon, former St. Louis Rams running back John David Washington, former Arizona Cardinals linebacker Isaac Keys, former Baltimore Ravens lineman Ramon Harewood, and notable NFL referee and former Morehouse Maroon Tigers quarterback Jerome Boger.

Being a small Historically Black College, that list is decent in comparison to larger institutions such as Georgia Tech or University of Georgia. Each of these athletes has left a permanent stamp on the program that has paved the way for future athletes at the college to follow in their footsteps. In fact, for some of the current athletes, those legacies are used as motivation to help them reach new heights.

LIFE ON THE DIAMOND PAT DICKERSONS' IMPRESSIVE BASEBALL CAREER

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In sports, every team has leaders and standout players. They are the glue that holds a team together and drives them to success. For the baseball team at Morehouse College, one of these leaders is sophomore infielder Patrick Dickerson.

Standing at 6-foot-1 and weighing 190 pounds, Dickerson has been a leader by example since first setting foot on the diamond for the Maroon Tigers. As a freshman, Dickerson had a .360 batting average, making the SIAC All-Conference team and supplanting himself as a middle of the lineup contributor. This year he is batting .286 and is tied for the team high in RBIs with eight.

"As a middle of the lineup hitter, I am responsible for driving people in. I hit for power and I come through in the clutch when my team needs me," Dickerson said. "I admire the power that players like Albert Pujols and Prince Fielder have."

Like most players of his caliber, Dickerson began to work on his craft at a young age, being introduced to baseball at the age of 5. Inspired and motivated by his father, Dickerson would find himself on one of the best high school baseball teams in Georgia.

As a native of Tucker, Dickerson played for Redan High School and was an integral

part of their state championship team. In fact, the most memorable moment of his baseball career would take place on the biggest of stages.

"It was the bottom of the ninth in the championship game," Dickerson recalled. "The score was tied at zero and the team we were playing was the three-time defending high school state champ. I came to the plate with two men on base and two outs. I hit a line drive up the middle to win the game. It was one of the proudest moments of my life."

The victory meant even more to Dickerson for the simple fact that his high school team was all African-American and the opposing team was majority white.

"If there is one thing that I could change about the game of baseball, it would be the stereotype that African-Americans aren't good at baseball," Dickerson said.

Although the amount of African-Americans who participate in baseball has decreased over the years, Dickerson holds out hope that communities will begin to refocus and put more resources into African-American youth baseball. The largest barrier to African-American participation in the sport is its comparative cost in relation to other sports like basketball and football.

While Dickerson is hopeful that he can continue to progress and perhaps pursue a career in baseball, his plan after graduation is to use his degree in business and finance to become an investment banker. If his success in baseball is any indicator, Dickerson's future is as bright. In the meanwhile, he is sure to be an essential part of Morehouse baseball for years to come.

SENIORS LOOK TO FINISH ON TOP

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The Morehouse Maroon Tigers tennis team has quietly been one of the most successful team sports on campus in the past five years. Headed by coach Terry Alexander, the team has made it to four SIAC championship matches during that period, winning three consecutively. Yet, with the last of their championship wins coming in 2011, the senior class of players is the only one exposed to winning it all.

Seniors Joe Brooks and Noah Terry were freshmen on that title team and are intent on leaving Morehouse the same way they came in: as champions.

"I believe the squad we have now is a championship caliber team for sure," said Brooks, a native of Long Beach, Calif. "We have two new rookies (Everette Reese and Brandon Sanders) that came on this year that have been playing lights out. If we can just stay consistent mentally and physically, I have no doubt in my mind that we will win our conference."

Terry, too, believes the Maroon Tigers have a strong chance to change the misfortunes of the past couple of years.

"We are pretty solid from 1-6 and have picked up a true No. 2 and a dependable

No. 6," he said. "We have players that will make a difference in doubles and allow the better singles players to focus on singles. We are forming our doubles but with nearly 20 matches until championships there are plenty of matches to work with."

As a senior finishing up his last semester of classes and finishing his last season of collegiate tennis, Terry's motto is an appropriate and simple one: Finish.

"Finish, finish, finish. That's our motto this year," said Terry, coach Alexander's son. "We will win the crucial points this year and not allow our opponents to. Matches aren't decided by winning every point but just the key points to either finish a needed game or to keep them on the defensive."

Coming off a 12-20 season a year ago, the record is misleading because the Maroon Tigers played their best tennis in SIAC conference play, slimly falling to Stillman College in the final. The Maroon Tigers have gotten off to a 2-3 start this season, including an early loss to that same team from Stillman, but believe that they will have enough time over the next couple of months to gel as a team off and on the court.

"I feel like what was missing for the past seasons is a true leader on the court that can bring the team together on and off the court," Brooks said. "Being able to have that one person you can rely on to get through a tough match or set. I feel like if one of our seniors can have the type of leadership influence, then we will be back at the top in no time."