

A LOOK INSIDE THE ISSUE

DO YOU KNOW WHAT SEXUAL ASSAULT IS?

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IN ANY YEAR, ONE IN 20 WOMEN ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES WILL BE THE VICTIM OF A RAPE OR ATTEMPTED RAPE.

SOURCE: 2000 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORT

ONE IN THREE GAY MEN, ONE IN FIVE BISEXUAL MEN AND ONE IN 10 HETEROSEXUAL MEN REPORTED EXPERIENCING UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTACT DURING THEIR LIFETIME.

SOURCE: 2010 CDC NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY

ALMOST 10 PERCENT OF WOMEN AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES REPORTED BEING SEXUALLY ASSAULTED.

SOURCE: 2008 HBCU CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT STUDY

BLACK FEMALES AGES 12 AND OLDER WERE RAPED OR SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AT A RATE OF 2.9 PER 1000 IN 2008.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORT

A 2006 REPORT FOUND THAT 84 PERCENT OF WOMEN REPORTED BEING SEXUALLY ASSAULTED DURING THEIR FRESHMAN OR SOPHOMORE YEARS.

SOURCE: AN EXAMINATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST COLLEGE WOMEN

FEWER THAN 1 IN 20 RAPES OR ATTEMPTED RAPES AGAINST WOMEN WERE REPORTED.

SOURCE: SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION AGAINST COLLEGE WOMEN STUDY

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DO YOU KNOW WHAT SEXUAL ASSAULT IS? [CONTINUED]

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape.

Source: Department of Justice

WHAT IS THE INSTITUTIONAL PROCESS FOR ADJUDICATING SEXUAL ASSAULTS BETWEEN MOREHOUSE AND SPELMAN?

At any given time in the aftermath of an incident related to sexual violence, investigations are happening within a number of different entities: Morehouse Campus Police, Spelman's Campus Police, Title IX Coordinator, and the Atlanta Police Department.

WHAT HAPPENS (HYPOTHETICALLY) WHEN A STUDENT MUST GO BEFORE THE CJC FOR A SEXUAL ASSAULT?*

A student before the CJC can offer his own testimony. In addition, witnesses (presumably victims) can testify before this committee. Character witnesses can testify on behalf of students. Upon conclusion of witness testimony, the CJC votes on whether or not to sanction the student. If the CJC decides to sanction students, students can appeal the ruling. The committee that handles appeals is called the College Appellate Committee. The committee re-hears testimony and re-examines evidence to determine whether or not to levy sanctions against a student.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THAT RECEIVE FEDERAL DOLLARS ARE REQUIRED TO ABIDE BY TITLE IX.

TITLE IX IS A FEDERAL STATUTE THAT SETS GUIDELINES FOR HOW COLLEGES SHOULD HANDLE SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON CAMPUS. ALL CAMPUSES MUST HAVE A TITLE IX COORDINATOR. WHO IS THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR AT MOREHOUSE?

Doris Coleman is the Title IX coordinator at Morehouse. She is located in Gloster Hall.

UPON CONCLUSION OF THE MOREHOUSE INVESTIGATION, THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR AND THE OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SANCTIONS OR DISMISSES THE CASE.

IF THEY CHOOSE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION, THE CASE IS SENT TO THE COLLEGE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE (CJC). WHAT DOES THIS COMMITTEE DO? WHO SITS ON THIS COMMITTEE?

The CJC applies to students that are in some way up for removal (either temporary or permanent) from the college. This committee is presented with cases of students that are up for any sanction from temporary suspension to expulsion. The CJC is comprised of three students, three faculty members, and three staff members. Their role is to approve, deny, or modify sanctions against Morehouse students

Next week, the Maroon Tiger will examine the number of reported sexual assaults at Morehouse and Spelman and institutional responses to the incidents.

* Confidentiality clauses prevent the discussion of specific cases

OPENING CONVOCATION: A GATHERING OF SYMPHONIES



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“Morehouse must be Morehouse,” President John Wilson said as he began his Opening Convocation address last Thursday. These words set the tone for the ceremony as he began to communicate his dream for the College. He said this dream was conveyed out of fear that the school has lost sight of its vision, so he focused on points related to the topic “Our Unfinished Symphony.”

The unfinished parts of the symphony included: ideas of collective wholeness, capital base, and student embrace. These focal points throughout his address, alluded to the weaknesses of the school’s “productive yet fragile institution.” Consequently, the points altered the tone of the ceremony causing the audience to be at times excited and somber during others.

In regards to collective wholeness, Wilson began by stating that the Morehouse community is a broken people. He supported his remarks by referencing W.E.B. DuBois’s essay “The Black Messianic Vision,” which spoke about issues within the black community. He recognized that those issues paralleled with Morehouse; and he concluded that the solution to the school’s problem of brokenness is to find its “new self.”

This issue, overall, was well received by listeners; however, the conversation concerning capital base left audience members with varying opinions.

His solution spoke of bolstering physical, intellectual, technological, and human capital. Additionally, he predicted that the college would benefit from technological advancements and elite professors.

“Wonderful ideas,” remarked, English Professor Dr. Linda Zatin. However, she too became concerned with the institution’s quest to complete the symphony. Like many others, she agreed that greater details were needed to provide security for the development of a stable capital base.

Other professors agreed, stating that at times the schools strengths were overshadowed. Additionally, there were some professors who believed that information like the discussion of their salaries was inappropriate to allude to in front of the student body.

President Wilson’s mention of student embrace, influenced by the article “Of Ray Rice and Aunt Gracie’s Black Eyes” by English Professor Dr. Stephanie Dunn, encouraged the audience to re-examine the mystique of the Men of Morehouse and questioning their character.

“That was an appropriate discussion to make public,” English Professor Jamila Lyn said. “This has to be more than just a moment or [else] the classroom efforts become counter-productive.” She also said the college should strive to develop a sense of genuine commitment to protecting women by challenging student dialogue.

Junior Jabez Beazer said, “We are all boys in men’s bodies lost on the quest of manhood. No one knows what a man is but we’re all trying to define it.” He agreed with Lyn that students’ ideas of character are often shaped by their professors’ lectures and conversations in class.

Although Wilson’s address emphasized several major points, some attendees believe that there are still more issues to be addressed.

“Those are only three of our unfinished symphonies,” Zatin said.

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THE CONTROVERSIAL CONVOCATION & THE OPPOSING VIEWS THAT ENSUED

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After Morehouse President John Wilson delivered his 2014 Opening Convocation address, an anonymous letter was posted to a blog site called Fearless Blogging. The letter titled “Thirteen Points of Outrage: A Student Response to President John Silvanus Wilson Jr. and His Opening Convocation Address,” received hundreds of views, some of which included administrators. Days later a student responded to the blog post to present his dissenting opinion. Both statements are printed in their original form below.--

Thirteen Points of Outrage: A Student Response to President John Silvanus Wilson Jr. and His Opening Convocation Address
September 19, 2014 Morehouse College

1. Students have noticed that President Wilson spends most of his addresses complaining about the deficiencies of the College. For instance, during his address he chose the words, “We are not yet whole,” as his constant refrain. He also referred to the College as “deficient” and “broken” several times. These are demeaning, discouraging and uninspiring messages for a leader to adopt, especially during an address that is meant to set the tone for the remainder of the academic year.
2. Students have noticed that, by way of greeting, President Wilson prefers to offer a “fist bump” to students, but does not shake their hands. It is a far too familiar greeting for someone who is, ostensibly, teaching them to be young professionals. What ever happened to the “firm Morehouse handshake?” Students do not feel comfortable speaking to President Wilson because his attempts at familiarity do not seem genuine. He is not our “homie” and does not need to pretend to be. We would be perfectly happy to have a genuinely interested mentor as President.
3. Students have noticed that President Wilson, during his address, referred to students and faculty as “human capital,” reducing them to the status of assets rather than persons.
4. Students have noticed that President Wilson addressed violence against women, but did not address the violence done to persons in same gender loving relationships on campus. He has said that no action of a woman should cause a man to react violently, forgetting that nonviolence is a form of respect due to both men and women. He has consistently demonstrated attitudes about gender and gender roles that are anachronistic, chauvinistic and out of touch with current socio-political realities.
5. Students have noticed that President Wilson often speaks of a “New Morehouse,” but is vague regarding the exact nature of this vision. He has failed to cast a clear vision as to what a Morehouse Man, in his view, is.
6. Students have noticed that President Wilson does not celebrate the incredible strengths and gifts of students; rather, he reprimands them for what he views as their deficiencies. We are sick and tired of him “talking down” to us. Would his message not be better received if, for instance, he reminded us that, as Men of Morehouse, we are already exceptional and that we should continue to act like it?
7. Students have noticed that President Wilson thoughtlessly discards tradition. As students, we value the College’s rich traditions. Given the current rate of rapid and seemingly arbitrary change, students fear that we will someday return, as alums, only to find no visible signs of continuity with the traditions that marked our own time at the College. President Wilson does not appear to see or value the necessity for connecting his agenda to the rich tradition that is the bedrock of the Morehouse brand, the Morehouse Mystique. He seems to feel that he can discard our traditions, and that when he does so, he owes us no explanation. He behaves as though he does not need to seek buy-in for any of his ideas. He is mistaken. He most certainly does.
8. Students have noticed that President Wilson appears to view Harvard (and other historically privileged institutions) as an appropriate standard by which to gauge the success of the College. However, Morehouse is culturally, historically, demographically and in terms of mission, a very different place than Harvard. We are not Harvard. We are Morehouse.
9. Students have noticed that President Wilson does not appear happy to be President of Morehouse College. His demeanor is one of annoyance, fearfulness and sensitivity to critique rather than one of calm, confidence, comradery and inspiration. For instance, after opening convocation, he stood on the corner of Wellborn St. and Westview Dr., asking students to explain to him the reasons for what was, in his view, a less-than-enthusiastic reception to his address. Students would like to support President Wilson’s agenda, but how can we be confident in his ability to lead when he is not? How can we partner with a President who is so averse to collaborative criticism? He does not understand that our criticisms are not personal; rather, they stem from the

same sense of love and loyalty for the College that President Wilson himself expressed by critiquing the College as a student. Members of this community are perfectly within our rights to offer constructive criticism, and to do so without fear that President Wilson will treat us as unwelcome annoyances.

10. Students have noticed that President Wilson does not take a personal interest in students, an interest that extends beyond their academic performance. (For instance, President Wilson’s predecessor took time to occasionally eat in the cafeteria with us, to hear our concerns, and to offer helpful advice as to our professional development and academic interests. He recommended books, lectures and graduate programs, and exchanged new and interesting ideas.)
11. Students have noticed that President Wilson appears egotistical and narcissistic, as though he and his “team” (and no one else) knows what is good for the College.
12. Students have noticed that President Wilson is fostering a materialistic culture at the College, one focused only on material signs of success. It is as though he does not understand that the miracle of Morehouse—and the unique quality that has always attracted talented young men—is the College’s ability to “do so much with so little,” to develop competent, courageous, self-aware, confident, socially-conscious leaders, even without access to any obvious trappings of material success. Unlike the greatest Presidents in the College’s history—whom he claims to revere—President Wilson does not show concern for the personal, interpersonal, social, mental and spiritual development of students. He does not understand that college-age students are seeking mentorship that helps them to grow in all of these ways. This kind of leadership requires that the President see himself as more than simply fundraiser-in-chief.
13. Students have concluded that if President Wilson is not happy to be at Morehouse College—and if he secretly wishes that this House were some other house—then perhaps he should find another institution to serve.

Thirteen Points of Dissent
September 21, 2014

The views expressed in the blog post are not the opinion of the majority of students at Morehouse and certain parts of the post are not true. During a poll conducted and published by the Maroon Tiger last semester, 73 percent of Morehouse students said they approved of the way Wilson is handling his job as president; 22 percent disapproved; and 5 percent were indifferent.

I strongly believe that it is essential for members of the Morehouse community to acknowledge areas that students, staff, and administrators should improve. Personally, I have advocated for change both verbally and in writing since my freshman year. However, I also recognize that, at times, perceptions may differ from reality.

If a student identifies a problem such as the lack of resources devoted to a program (i.e. the understaffed Center for Teacher Preparation), or dwindling campus morale (as evident by the blog post and increasing apathy among groups of students) then these concerns should be heard and addressed.

In all situations, it is imperative that students not only present well-written but also well-informed remarks. Moreover, any writer who presents opinions that are supported by empirical evidence will feel confident enough to publish his or her name with their work. If your arguments are sound, then even persons with opposing views will respect your opinion. In short, anonymity does not require courage.

In response to the “Thirteen Points of Outrage” I offer the following thirteen points of dissent.

1. The president describing the current state of the college is not demeaning or discouraging – it’s honest. For years, students, faculty, and alumni were unaware of the major challenges facing the College because previous administrators lacked transparency. As an adult, I would prefer to be told the truth rather than be given meaningless pep talks.
2. Whether Dr. Wilson chooses appropriate greetings for sanitary reasons or because of cultural changes, a hand shake is not directly related to respect. President Barack Obama is known to use fist-pumps, high-fives, dap, and handshakes all at the same event. Similarly, Dr. Wilson uses personal discretion when making these decisions. If his intentions are not clear, do not assume that negative explanations are inherently true – just ask.
3. I can understand why the unnamed author would not like to be referred to as human capital and that this term may have been viewed as insensitive. However, I reached a very different conclusion than the blogger. Considering that Dr. Wilson received his Business degree from Morehouse, it is befitting that he used business terminology while describing the state of the institution. I do not prefer the term “human capital” but it was

denotatively accurate.

4. Inter-partner violence has not been adequately addressed on campus. Like violence in relationships, sexuality has also remained a divisive topic that has been met with misguided opinions and statements. Conversations concerning both issues need to change at every level of the institution.
5. No, Dr. Wilson actually has cast a clear vision as to what a Morehouse Man is to him. In his inaugural address in February, he reiterated his description of a Morehouse Man. Dr. Wilson said, “A Morehouse Man is one who moves through the world with competence and confidence, able to compete and work in the world that is, and yet imagine and work for the world that must yet be.”
6. No, as Men of Morehouse, we are not already exceptional and no one is obligated to ignore our shortcomings. Merely being admitted to any institution or even graduating does not make a person exceptional. Even though each individual has accomplishments and should be recognized for those achievements, no one is perfect. When the president of the College suggests ways that students can improve, the students should not respond by saying “we are already exceptional and we should only be told to continue as we are.” This is especially true at Morehouse where student misconduct is a daily occurrence and ranges from leaving trash in the newly renovated cafeteria to stealing from staff members and fellow students.
7. When Dr. Robert Franklin became the 10th president of the college, his vision was for students to become renaissance men who embodied the five-wells. I still strive to live up to this expectation because new leadership entering the college does not make the previous standards obsolete. Today, very few people can state Dr. Walter Massey’s vision for the college because Dr. Franklin instituted his new vision when he arrived. However, Dr. Massey’s vision for Morehouse to be “one of the nation’s finest liberal arts colleges” and to “provide students a quality 21st-century education” was not removed when Dr. Franklin took office. Nor were the five-wells removed when Dr. Wilson was inaugurated. Each president builds upon the legacy and expectations of the previous leader because the college must evolve. Traditions are modified based on the needs of the students, and for this reason, we no longer have mandatory daily chapel services and women are currently allowed into the residence halls.
8. In the same inaugural address referenced above, Dr. Wilson stated that Morehouse is uniquely equipped to create change. He said, “My other alma mater, Harvard University, recently launched a \$6.5-billion capital campaign, and I can guarantee you that with a mere twenty percent of that, we can change the world better and faster than Harvard or anybody else.” Also, in 2009 Dr. Wilson was appointed by President Obama to serve as the executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs. Not only did Dr. Wilson prove to the president of the United States that he valued HBCUs but he also oversaw all 105 institutions.
9. Based on the bloggers description of events following Convocation, Dr. Wilson asked students to identify problems with the event as well as his role during the ceremony. If this is true, I am not sure why this would be negative. Garnering feedback is essential in order to improve, so asking students to critique his speech is admirable.
10. Not only does Dr. Wilson eat in the cafeteria but he also renovated the cafeteria after students voiced their dissatisfaction with its quality. When Dr. Wilson travels and even when he is on campus, students can also contact the appropriate vice-president, dean, or staff member to communicate issues as well. Rather than directing every problem to the president, utilizing other administrators can be equally effective.
11. This point was a personal attack and neither a respectful nor sound argument.
12. In describing the need for character development among students Dr. Wilson said, “Institutions with multi-billion dollar endowments do not have among their alumni, a mystic like Howard Thurman, a leader like Martin Luther King, Jr, an Olympian like Edwin Moses, a film maker like Spike Lee, an eradicator of world disease like Donald Hopkins, cabinet secretaries like Lou Sullivan and Robert Mallord and Jeh Johnson, a surgeon general like David Satcher, or recent graduates like Josh Packwood and Robby Robinson and Euclid Walker and Alex Washington. Sixteen-thousand men are a collective force for good and this world needs more. And in order to produce more we must enrich, elevate, and update this Morehouse experience with character preeminence foremost in mind.” He did not describe any of these alumni as wealthy, and none of them were businessmen. I agree that more mentorship should be encouraged, but mentors are not assigned in life. It is the responsibility of ambitious men and women to identify role models and then garner their respect and support.
13. What students reached this conclusion? Why is it negative that the president of the college wants the school to become better than it currently is?

OPERATION COLLEGE

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In the months leading to summer vacation, many high school students begin to receive letters detailing their admissions status with the colleges and universities to which they applied. Though many open their letters to find the satisfying information of acceptance, there are still a lot of students who read their letters in disappointment.

The disappointment could stem from students feeling overwhelmed about not receiving a particular scholarship, or not being accepted into their chosen institution at all. For some of these students, this disappointment comes as a result of the limited financial resources open to them. Being one of the latter, senior Political Science and Economics double major Jerrel Baker became inspired to ensure that no high school student feels this disappointment as a result of limited resources.

This motivated Baker to create an educational and community outreach program called Operation College. “Our mission is to increase the number of high school students going to college in underrepresented

communities,” Baker said.

Operation College will provide guidance for high school seniors who are applying to college. They will receive help in filling out applications and writing admissions and scholarship essays. Personally feeling insecure about his college application process, Baker applied to 38 colleges and was admitted into 33. Unfortunately, those acceptance statuses did not come with a promise of scholarship. Arriving at Morehouse College, Baker had to personally establish a method to ensure a stress and disappointment-free college experience.

“I had to recalibrate my mind and figure out what programs are the best fit for me,” Baker said.

This restructuring allowed Baker to establish success in his future application endeavors during his present experience at Morehouse College.

“Everything I applied for in college I received,” Baker said. Not forgetting the difficulties he faced, Baker looked to spread his own experience with approaching collegiate issues for local high school students.

“Operation College is a way for me to share the wealth,” Baker said. “I want them to know that there aren’t any limits.”

Though Baker is a graduating senior, he looks to take Operation College from being just a simple outreach program to an official nonprofit. To reach this goal, he intends to look at the AUC first in terms of volunteers. “Who better than students who have come from these underrepresented communities?” Baker said.

Even though the goals that Baker has placed on the program seem extremely difficult, his primary goal of success is still manageable.

“I’ll know it’s successful when the students that we helped have received acceptance letters to colleges and universities,” Baker said.

Realizing that there are high school students who look at college as being an impossible task, Baker hopes that Operation College is a way to reach those students and alter their present pessimistic mindset.

“They should reframe from feeling that they lost the game before even playing,” Baker said. “Keep playing.”

For individuals interested in working with Operation College, though the application for operating officers has closed, they can visit the program’s website at operationcollege.org or email Jerrel Baker at the email jerrel.baker@morehouse.edu.

PRESENTING WEMONTAGE

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It is a typical day with nowhere to go and no one to see. Some people could find themselves resting while others scroll through the channels on their television hoping to find something that might quench their thirst for entertainment.

While channel searching it is possible to come across advertisements for products that could easily inspire individuals to think about innovations that could make modern life easier. For Morehouse alumni James Oliver Jr, simply thinking about an innovation was not completely satisfying. While watching television with his wife, Oliver became inspired to create an easily removable picture collage wallpaper creation system called WeMontage.

“Angels were singing,” founder and CEO of WeMontage James Oliver Jr said. “Everybody loves pictures.”

Instead of allowing his innovation to remain an idea like

countless others, Oliver decided to make his idea a reality. The WeMontage system is an incredible and unique way for people to take their photos and get them printed on their actual wall. One of the fascinating parts about the WeMontage system is that it is unbelievably simple.

“It’s super easy; just add them to your computer,” Oliver said. “We automatically arrange the collage, so there is no trouble in figuring out how [to] arrange the collage.”

In the AUC it is easy to find people with cameras around their necks taking photos on behalf of an organization or themselves. Oliver’s system is another way for those students to showcase their photos.

“It’s an innovative and cost effective way to show off your pictures,” Oliver said. “It is great for college dorms.” Since the collage is actually wallpaper, there is no need to drill or hammer nails into a wall to showcase the collection of photos. This makes it ideal for AUC students who live on campus and do not have the authority to actually drill holes into their walls.

Though WeMontage has been featured in The Huffington

Post, USA Today and on “The Today Show,” Oliver was unable to get the system featured on the television show “Shark Tank.”

“Not getting on ‘Shark Tank’ is a bummer,” Oliver said. “But I’m moving on; we got something big coming up.”

For some people it is easy to become discouraged and forget about past success when faced with adversity. Thankfully, not being able to appear on “Shark Tank” has further fueled Oliver’s drive to form the WeMontage system into something incredible.

“I want to be a shining example of when you do what you’re passionate about,” Oliver said.

Everyday more and more people are contemplating about innovative ideas that can truly have an effect on modern life and not acting on those ideas. It is always easy to adapt a simple life and avoid taking those risks that could possibly lead to something extraordinary. For Oliver, authenticity and drive allowed his idea to take physical form.

“You got to be true to yourself,” Oliver said, “Live beyond the frame.”

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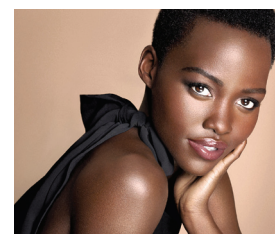
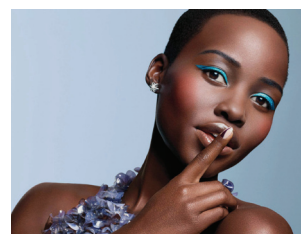
We've all played with Barbies. If you're a baby of the '80s or the '90s, you'll certainly remember the vast wardrobe that Barbie has had over the years. Although, somehow the too small pieces of clothing always seemed to get lost or swept into trash and lifted away into fashion heaven.

However, designer Jeremy Scott, who based his fall 2014 collection for Moschino on America's junk culture (not fast food, SpongeBob and Budweiser), decided to play on childhood nostalgia for spring, and created an exact version of Barbie's dream wardrobe for this upcoming season. Fashion hasn't seen anything like Moschino in years: bubblegum Barbie. If you've grown up playing with

Barbie, hopefully you did, then you would know that the bubblegum pieces Scott presented this season is a leading example of primetime Barbie. So, go on and crank up the Aqua and indulge your inner Barbie girl with Moschino's latest collection.

Lastly, there was the brand new Instagram dedicated solely to her style. Although you've been at this Instagram thing for a while we're pretty sure that your outfit of the day doesn't come close to Barbie. In short, just delete your Instagram because it's Barbies time.

NOW WE'RE GETTING COMFORTABLE



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An Academy Award and the latest Prada wasn't enough. Award-winning actress and irresistibly stunning Lupita Nyong'o visited Elmo to talk about a very important topic: skin.

As flawless as the Sesame Street guest could possibly be, Nyong'o talks about why we all have skin and how it's great at protecting our bodies and helping us feel things. Nyong'o teaches Elmo a very important lesson: "Skin comes in lots of beautiful shades and colors," she tells him.

How comfortable are you in your skin? Sure, Nyong'o appeared on Sesame Street to talk to children; yet, adults still suffer with problems when skin color is the topic of discussion.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

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Fashion Week has been around in some form or another for the past month, but (wouldn't you know it?) it's ending today. Therefore, if you even blinked an eye—you missed everything.

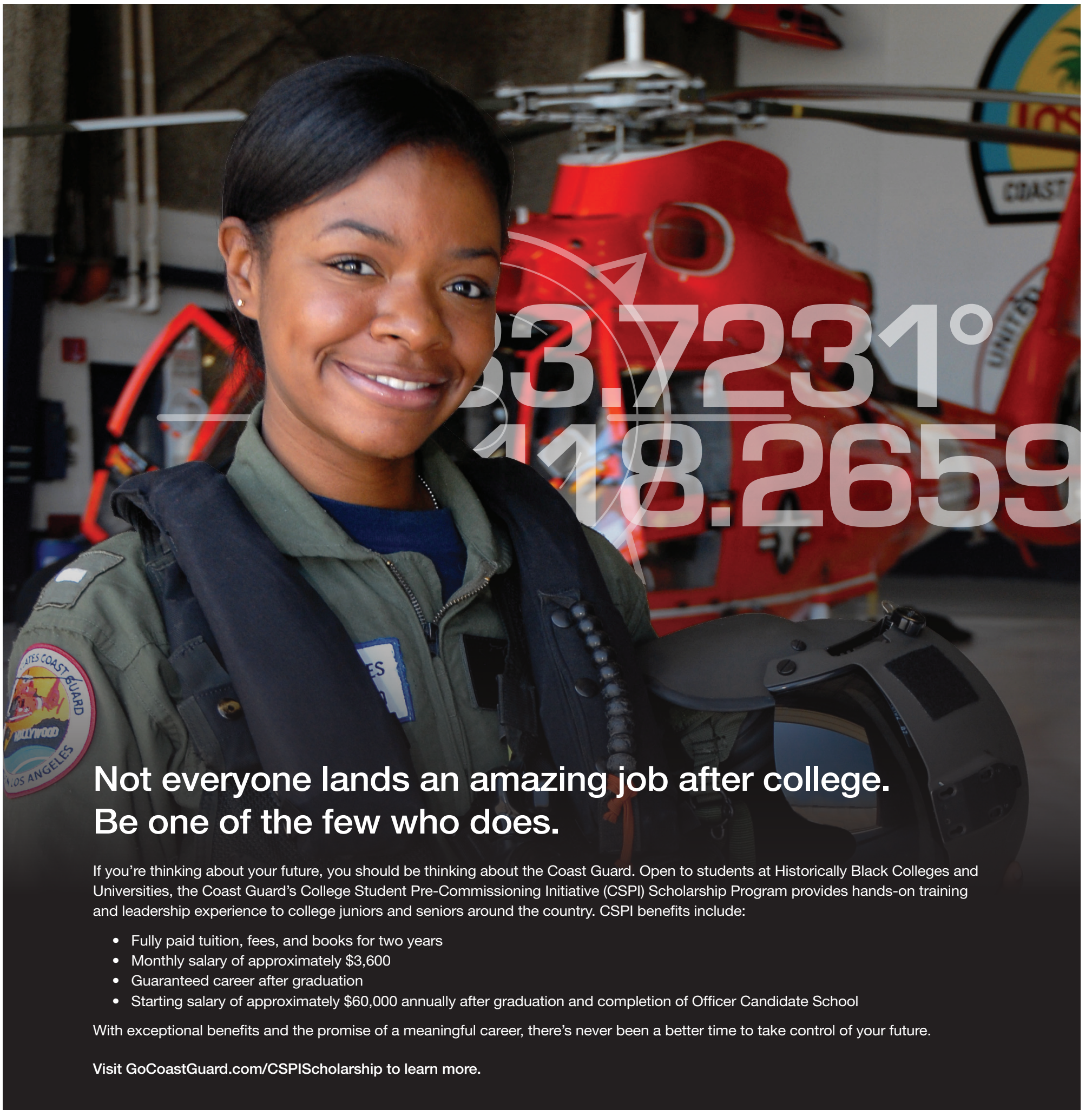
Surprisingly, there were only a few trends that you should've caught onto. The idea of fashion week is to develop a general idea of how you plan to start the upcoming season, fall. In all honesty, your wardrobe may not look like those of a Spring Ready-To-Wear show, but instead of marveling at collections it's about time to get prepared.

Stay war ready, flattering army shades of khaki and gray are a good starting point when channeling the luxury military trend. Cargo pants and utilitarian jackets are promoted from the ranks in sumptuous leather and silk, white coats are pure officer class – has anything ever sounded so wearable? Medallion buttons, buckles and belts provide important finishing touches.

Don't flip. Wait, if you're doing anything you should definitely be flipping everything you get your hands on. Whether it's capes, skirts, or oversized shirts—flip. Designers like Altuzarra and Jason Wu are definitely flipping everything.

In essence, if you didn't have the opportunity to catch the pieces are the integral inspirations to your closet this season. We most defiantly have your back. All your fashion woes have been lifted off your shoulders.

This is the moment where a soft undertone of Boys II Men, "It's So Hard To Say Goodbye To Yesterday" cues and we prepare for the final departure of the only thing that makes us happy, sadly. There's not more waking up in the early hours of the morning just to catch a show, it's over.



Not everyone lands an amazing job after college. Be one of the few who does.

If you're thinking about your future, you should be thinking about the Coast Guard. Open to students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Coast Guard's College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) Scholarship Program provides hands-on training and leadership experience to college juniors and seniors around the country. CSPI benefits include:

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COAST GUARD
BORN READY



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
Liz Terry and Deshon Leek
for The Maroon Tiger

HUMANS OF



Francois

What inspires your music?

Uhhh, the 60s, the 70s, and a tad bit of the 80s. They're the ones that make up all our music of today.

So do you like our music today?

I love our music of today. As a matter of fact I listen to it regularly. Its just I like to listen to the older music because it's a concrete for the new music of today. Like people references come from, you know, older music that we listen to back when like Prince and stuff...



Bridget and Family

Where did you guys meet?

Oh that's a great story. We met at olive garden. I was working there; he was applying, back in 2009. And I was like ooooh who is that applying? We kind of caught eyes and we have a funny story. My version is, that I was like alright, he needs some drinks so I was like "hey would you like anymore sweet tea?" But his version is that I came up to him and was like "yo, you want some sweet tea son? You looking kind of thirsty." (laughs) I'm from Brooklyn and he's from Atlanta.

So who gave who the number?

We have a mutual friend who worked at olive garden. He was the cupid. He totally matched us up.



Kaytee

Can I see your tattoo?

Which one?!

What inspired your tattoo?

Actually it was more for spiritual reasons. I don't really consider myself incredibly religious, but owls symbolize enlightenment and wisdom; all things that I've tried to gain throughout my life. I got fall leaves and snowflakes because those are my favorite seasons, and purple because that's my favorite color. So it's just a reminder of things that I try to do in my life. I want to get the northern lights incorporated in the background, but I want to wait until I travel to Alaska to actually go see them.



Krysty

Who's the most inspirational person in your family?

It'd probably be my dad. He was a refugee during the Vietnam War and he has this crazy war story. It took him ten days out at sea to escape the country and he's made a whole life here in America since then.

What has he taught you?

Just to have a good heart and that's really about it



Meagan

What's your favorite childhood memory?

I would have to say it was going to New Bedford with my grandfather. I used to live in Massachusetts, so he would take me to like the whaling museums and stuff, and he would tell me all these maritime ghost stories. For me nautical and maritime history holds such a resonance because its part of my culture

If you could say one thing to younger Meagan, what would it be?

Don't be afraid to be yourself. Be blunt, be truthful, but for the love of God, watch what you say, and think before you speak, because you're going to get in trouble. (laughs).



Alexis

What does your hair say about you?

I have no idea.

What made you go natural?

Well, I only went natural because perms left scabs and all types of stuff in my hair, and it was breaking it off. So I cut it off and went natural. I cut it all off in 2009.

Do you like big hair?

Yeah



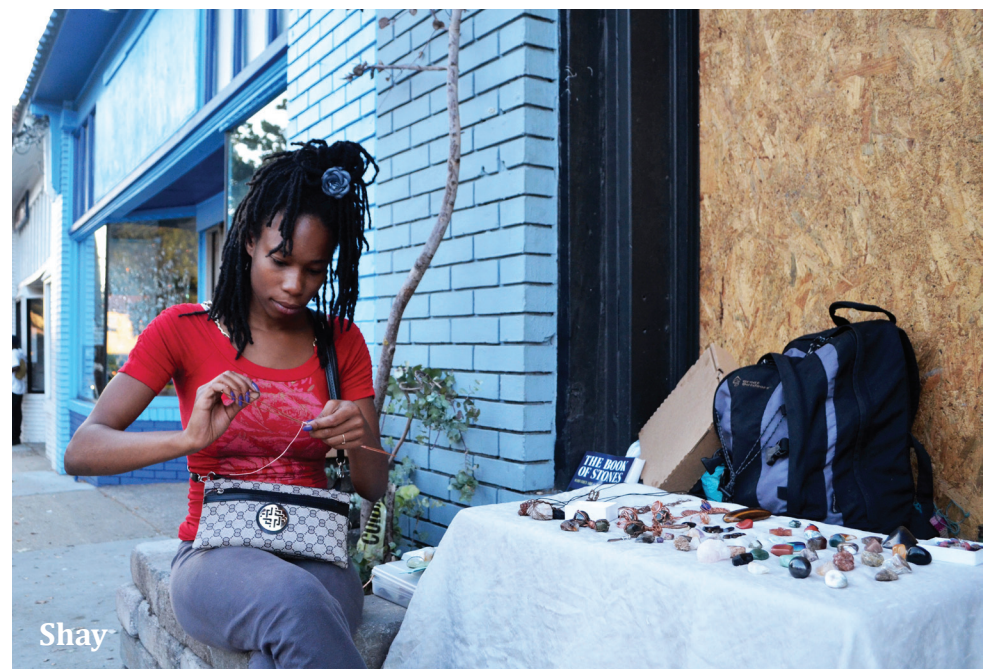
Puma

What's the happiest moment of your life?

When I had my little boy. That's it.

What's his name?

Jafar



Shay

Is there a message you try to put out through your art?

They're all healing; they're all minerals that we all need to manifest different things in our lives. For protection, and emotional healing, spiritual healing, you know, the things that make up everyday life. So I just try to encourage that for that someone who wants to buy, if it doesn't resonate with them, you know, don't do it because 9 times out of ten, they'll choose you.

So what have you gotten out of doing art?

I believe I'm making a difference in peoples lives. I'm allowing them to learn how to program themselves into better health conditioning and spiritual and emotional healing.

ALPHA-SEARCH

Can you find the hidden words? Each word ends with the letter H. The words may be horizontal or vertical.

D R N G D T E N O U G H V
 A P E A C H F R E S H J M
 M O N T H V I S M O O T H
 B W N S E A N O V B Y C P
 E A R T H N I L Z D I S H
 A T L O M I S M Y T H C T
 C C E M D S H L D J I R O
 H H N A U H N A E M G A U
 V V G C W R R R P B H T C
 P T T H A O I C T A E C H
 E Y H M S U C H H T A H V
 M A R C H G H T V H C Y G
 T V Y Z L H I J O U H V J

ARCH, BATH, BEACH, DEPTH, DISH, EACH, EARTH, ENOUGH, FINISH, FRESH, HIGH, LENGTH, MARCH, MONTH, MYTH, PEACH, RICH, ROUGH, SCRATCH, SMOOTH, STOMACH, TOUCH, VANISH, WASH, WATCH.



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A EULOGY FOR JOAN RIVERS



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Joan Rivers, the notorious comic who made the phrases “Gag me with a spoon” and “Can we talk?” her trademarks, died on Sept. 4 at the age of 81 from complications after surgery.

Born as Joan Alexandra Molinsky in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1933, Rivers came to fame because almost nothing was off-limits from her sarcastic humor.

“I succeeded by saying what everyone else is thinking,” Rivers once said.

When she branched into other areas, she proved to be a talented fashion designer, author, television host and Internet star, too.

Rivers gained national attention after her first guest appearance on “The Tonight Show” hosted by Johnny Carson in 1965. She made continuous appearances on that program, “The Ed Sullivan Show” and others, but subbed for Carson so often that she became known as his favorite replacement.

Their friendship ended after she signed a \$10 million contract in 1986 to star in her own late night program for Fox that directly competed against Carson’s show. Less than a year later she was fired for low ratings., but

slowly rebuilt her career.

Her irreverence made her one of the first successful female stand-up comics.

“We forget there were very few women in comedy, and she just blazed the trail that’s opened the door for it to be OK for women to be outrageous and strong and have an opinion,” actor Will Ferrell told E!

Well known for E! red carpet coverage of Academy Awards and E! pre-show awards coverage of the Golden Globes, Joan and her daughter, Melissa, became an absolute sensation. Rivers also co-hosted the hit E! television series “Fashion Police” and in 2013 decided she wanted to become an Internet sensation, so she began her own YouTube series, “In Bed with Joan.”

“The passing of Joan Rivers literally stopped the fashion world,” Spelman College sophomore Lesia McClure said. “She brought [Fashion Police] viewers into her wacky world of fashion. She said what everyone thought and was not afraid to be herself.

“I admired her wit and her sass when it came to discussing fashion, whether discussing celebrities on the red carpet or everyday life. When it came to Joan, you either win or lose; no in-between. Joan will be missed and Fashion Police will never be the same.” never be the same”.

LUKE JAMES AT SPELMAN

JEBAR KING & BRIANNA GAULDING

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If you don’t know who Luke James is, you need to get with the winning team.

Last year, the singer/songwriter opened up for Beyoncé’s international Mrs. Carter Tour, and this year he has joined the 2014 BET College Tour circuit.

James has penned hits for megastars such as Chris Brown, Justin Bieber, and Britney Spears, and now he is taking his own singing career to the next level.

After performing at Clark Atlanta University on Thursday Sept. 18, he sought out Spelman College’s weekly Market Friday event, where he hugged and talked to fans, took photos, and even serenaded the crowd from the DJ booth.

He also sat down with MT to further promote his debut album, an album he says he’s been working on “all [his] life.”

“I look at this album as the prelude to my story, so it’s only right to title my book

“Luke James” James said of his recent decision to change the title of the album from Made to Love to Luke James. The album hit stores Tuesday Sept. 23.

James said it was “a dream to come to Spelman’s campus” and wants AUC students to feel his authenticity and be inspired by his artistry. When listening to his music, James simply wants fans to look out for “a feeling.” He said that he and his artistry are “forever.”

With his soulful crooning and genuine spirit, there will undoubtedly be a wave of positive feelings to come. James cites artists like Prince, Marvin Gaye, and Aretha Franklin as some of his musical influences for his modern and soulful sound.

“You know – all the classic people!” he said.

Though expressing love for the classics, James also said he would like to work with today’s artists Chris Brown, Jessie J, and Sam Smith in the future.

On Sept. 23 James will be embarking on his own national tour starting in New York City, and he will be back in Atlanta performing at Vinyl on Sunday, Sept. 28.



THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH 2014



The People's Climate march was the largest march of its cause in history. Over 400,000 people filled the streets of New York to march on changing how we treat our environment, government, and planet. Many of the marchers marched to spread the word on various difficulties they are experiencing in their communities with pollution and also their thoughts on politics and how the earth and people are treated.

AUC Students Who Attended:

- Markeith Norman (Morehouse College)
- Marlissa Stalling (Spelman College)
- Ruth Wangia (Spelman College)
- Shiranthi Goonathilaka (Spelman College)
- Sederra Ross (Clark Atlanta University/President of the CAU Living Green Club)
- Chelsey Washington (Clark Atlanta University)
- Sunora Jones (Spelman College)
- Doyle Randall (Morehouse College)
- David Starks (Morehouse College)
- Photographer Kris Colley (Morehouse College)

Photography By: David Starks, Morehouse, Senior,
david.starks@morehouse.edu



THE INNOCENCE OF THE CRIME: THE PROBLEM WITH CAPITAL PREEMINENCE

JARED LOGGINS

MANAGING EDITOR

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“But it is not permissible that the authors of devastation should also be innocent. It is the innocence which constitutes the crime.” James Baldwin, “The Fire Next Time,” 1963

An anonymous article written and shared last week within the Morehouse community offered a scathing indictment of President John Wilson. The points – 13 in total – were about as critical as one can be of a leader. The ideas paint the picture of a man who would seem to be a money hungry capitalist insistent on trying to emulate institutions we could and should never be.

This characterization, from what I gather, is unfair. But I also want to note that little about Wilson’s presidency distinguishes him from the cadre of higher education leaders who want the capital to be able to produce thought leaders.

If you are shocked that our president cares about capital accumulation, you shouldn’t be. But you should be concerned about the dangerous precedent that is often established when capital is placed parallel to character – as innocently novel of an idea that is.

Let me paint the picture a little clearer. Wilson’s vision incorporates two things: capital AND character preeminence. That means, in short, that he wants to build an institution that benefits from unlimited resources while simultaneously creating a school where its students change the world.

CHARTING YOUR LEGACY

WARREN CHANCELLOR

TEACH FOR AMERICA FELLOW

This fall, as class at Morehouse went back in session, 12 Morehouse alums were facing a very different first day of school—this time as teachers with Teach For America. Their decision to direct their talents to the classroom speaks to the commitment and leadership of Morehouse men – a legacy that has made our school a top contributor to Teach For America for four years running. It’s a decision I remember well – one that led me to a classroom of Atlanta tenth graders and a career that’s been more challenging and inspiring than I ever could have imagined.

In true first-year teacher fashion, on my first day as an educator, I stood before a room full of anxious and excited sophomores at South Atlanta High School and told them my story. I told them about growing up in Charlotte, about my experiences in the marching band, going on to study mathematics at Morehouse, and all the twists and turns in life that landed me in front of them in Room D104. I did it because I thought I was supposed to. In my mind, my only objective for the year was to be an amazing math teacher. So I told my story, checked it off my first-day-of-school to-do list and geared up to transition into on one- and two-step equations. Then, I was interrupted.

“So Mr. Chancellor, how many brothers and sisters do you have?” “What was your neighborhood like?” “What was Morehouse like?” “What made you want to study math?” “Why are you a teacher?” As I tried to answer the rapid-fire questions and appease the curiosity of my students, I wondered what made them so curious about details that I felt to be inconsequential to my role as an educator.

This is the role of our HBCUs. Against all odds, against systemic factors that burden black colleges with inferior resources and capabilities, the historicized mission of educating black people remains intact. But the race for capital has its consequences. And the moral dilemma is probably impressed upon black colleges now more than ever.

Alas, history repeats itself. We ought to revisit the context of the Fisk University protests in 1924 and 1925 to see remnants of the moral dilemma involved when capital meets moral mission.

Fayette McKenzie, a white man, was the president at the time. A young W. E. B. Du Bois, a Fisk alumnus, was furious. Southern benefactors agreed to give money to the school insofar as the college (and McKenzie) made certain concessions to attract donors (John D. Rockefeller and Julius Rosenwald among them): cancelling the school newspaper, enforcing a strict dress code, and requiring a teacher chaperone to all student events. The extent of Du Bois’ fury cannot be understated.

“I have never known an institution whose alumni are more bitter and disgusted with the present situation in this university,” he said in a speech delivered in 1924. He would later write in *The Crisis*: “Men and women of Black America: Let no decent Negro send his child to Fisk until Fayette McKenzie goes.”

The Fisk case, of course, is extreme. But the premise that capital accumulation often involves moral concessions remains intact. Conservative donors in 2007 were not going to continue to give to Morehouse unless a dress code was put into place. The pro-Israel lobby organization, AIPAC, found a home in the college in 2012 and brought Morehouse students to its national conference that

The questions kept coming. I noticed that my male students, in particular, were hanging around my classroom – before school, between classes, even after school. At first it was a couple, eventually the number grew to 10 or more, including some students I didn’t even teach. They would ask me questions about my life and experiences and share their own. We talked about the world, we talked about race, we talked about identity, we talked about things that had happened in the news or in the neighborhood. Students brought issues, questions, concerns, fears, ambitions, hopes, dreams, and even the latest gossip. Some would solicit advice, some just wanted to vent, others had nothing to say and just wanted to be in that space. Those times were some of my favorite and they had nothing to do with what I perceived my job as an educator to be.

One afternoon, a student walked into my room after school as I was preparing for the next day. He entered nonchalantly and plopped down quietly at a desk. A frequent visitor who never really said much, I had grown accustomed to his presence. That day though, I broke the silence. “Keith,” I asked, “Why do you guys always come around here to hang out?” He sat up, seemingly taken aback. After considering my question for a moment, “I dunno” he said (this is the response students give when they need more time to think). “I guess it’s kinda like looking into the future. You know, being able to see what you want yourself to be.”

In that moment, it became clear to me that there is much more to this job than teaching binomials and quadratic equations. Our society provides Keith and students like him a narrow perspective as to what a black man is and can be. There at the front of the classroom, I stood counter to that narrative.

Today, Keith himself gets to stand as a role model and as a man

year.

At the time, Colorlines.com reported there was a move to, “[develop] a cadre of black allies to declare there’s no way Israel can be racist [against Palestine].” The UNCF, just last year, accepted a \$25 million donation from the conservative Koch Brothers – two men who have funneled billions of dollars into Voter ID laws, school re-segregation and defunding public schools.

It is the innocence that constitutes the crime. It is naïve to assume that capital does not precede moral dilemma concerning the values that have held an intrinsic importance to the HBCU experience. What ends up being most devastating in the end is that in some grand effort to create an attractive (and respectable narrative), we lose a certain value.

What makes HBCUs like Spelman and Morehouse and Howard attractive for many black students is that they engender a particularly historical space of black intellectualism and activism. Following from this, I am not convinced (as convincing as the argument is) that institutions can buy their way into the marketplace of ideas.

By all accounts, our ideas won over during a volatile moment in this country’s history: it was a group of HBCUs that led national efforts for universal human rights in the 1960s. Capital and the middle class values it often implies did not do that. Character did that. And it will be character that will repel the unfortunate innocence of believing that our values come second to the profit of a dollar.

of Morehouse. After working hard for several years at community college, this fall he enrolled at Morehouse as a Business Administration student. As he begins this next chapter, I feel both immense pride and cautious excitement. But mostly, I feel humbled that as his teacher, I was able to give Keith that look into his future, one that is now brighter than ever.

The kids we work for need to see themselves in positive ways daily. Getting there will require more black men in classrooms. Of course, just being there isn’t enough. We need to come with the critical consciousness, clarity of identity, and commitment to the art and science of teaching required to truly impact our students. My years in the classroom inspired me to spend my career working to expand opportunity for students of color growing up in poverty. I’m proud and privileged to do the work.

At this critical moment for our nation, I am looking for my Morehouse brothers to be the first ones that stand up. For those seniors already preparing to leverage their leadership and join this work – whether through Teach For America or countless other programs that prepare teachers to make a great impact – kudos to you. For those underclassmen still imagining your futures, I hope you’ll spend the coming year considering the legacy you’d like to leave. Make us proud.

Warren Chancellor is a 2010 Morehouse grad and alum of Teach For America. He is currently overseeing event operations for the organization’s 25th Anniversary Summit and previously served as Chief of Staff to Teach For America’s Executive Vice President of Alumni Affairs.

MEDICINE TO MEDIA

CROOKED encounters

JONATHAN THIBEAUX

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“Chip, what did you just say?”

“Momma ... I’m not going to medical school.”

What had seemed like such an easy thing to tell my mother over the phone had become something way more difficult. In my mind, I thought that I was well prepared and equipped with the proper vernacular and tone to make this conversation run smoothly. However, no matter how many times I prepared myself for this call, I knew nothing would truly sound pleasing enough to my mom’s ears.

From her end, I bet it sounded something like “Momma ... I’m not going to do anything with my life after college.” And while it may not have sounded this extreme, I know that it really hurt her to know that her only child would have to struggle and start all over in a new field. For a minute, I empathized with her and explained to her the counterfeit dream that I had already known deep down wasn’t for me. But, those emotions soon escaped me as I thought of my mom working on a job she had never loved.

I love and respect my mother dearly and appreciate the lifestyle she afforded me, but at that moment I had refused to continue to pursue a job just because it is stable. I now know that I want more than that out of life, and to truly be successful, I have to fulfill my divine purpose for the both of us.

So yes, just a few days away from the start of my senior year, I decided to do the unthinkable and change my career goals. You see, for my whole life I “wished” I could one day want to be a physician, but I never really wanted to be one.

I wanted it bad, but after pushing the MCAT back way too many times, making A’s in everything outside of biology, and spending the majority of my time doing things outside of medicine, I had to be honest with myself. I was living someone else’s dream and could never really be happy if I didn’t make the change now.

I was even deemed “The biology major with an English major lifestyle.” Come on now, does that sound like a physician to you?

But seriously, oftentimes we think we want to do something, when our hobbies and the things we devote the majority of our time to say the complete opposite. You have to follow your gut and allow your passions, heart, goals, ambitions, dreams, aspirations, purpose, duty, desires and callings to align.

Moving forward, I plan on pursuing a career in media. It encompasses all of the things that I love: film, television, journalism, social media, entertainment, pop culture, and more.

I want to be the change that I wish to see in media, someone who kids can look up to and see him or herself in. Someone like Oprah Winfrey, Andy Cohen, Terrence J, Anderson Cooper or Stephen A. Smith.

Do I know what I’m doing? “Nope.” Am I trying to learn? “Of course.” Am I scared? “HELL Yes!” Will I work a few jobs at the same time following my year abroad? “Yup.” Will I one day be famous? “Probably not.” Millionaire? “Maybe.” But, will I spend the rest of my life working my a\$\$ off and doing the things that I love? “Absolutely!”

Yours truly,

CrookedT

AULD LANG SYNE

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

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DOWN

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- 41 Employers
- 42 Plants of the parsley family
- 43 Misbehaves
- 45 See socially
- 46 Here, to Pierre
- 47 Cheech’s sidekick
- 48 Nairobi’s land
- 50 Lather
- 53 ____ roll
- 54 Put in position, as bricks

It sounded nice and, boy, did I think

MOREHOUSE-HOWARD GAME



KRIS COLLEY

SPORTS EDITOR

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The Nation's Classic is highly anticipated year in and year out by both Morehouse College and Howard University. This year was the fourth installment of the game, and with ambiguity surrounding continuing the classic the atmosphere inside of RFK Stadium was awesome on Sept. 13.

Howard, which had lost its opening two games, was looking forward to the arrival of the Maroon Tigers. The classic was close fought and highly competitive for three quarters, but Howard cruised away in the fourth and concluded the classic with a 35-17 victory. It was their fourth consecutive victory against the Tigers in the rivalry game since the classic was revived.

Morehouse dropped to 1-1 on the season, but bounced back to badly beat Central State University, 43-9, last Saturday in Chicago.

Against Howard, the Maroon Tigers were impressive in defeat. After the Bison pulled away 28-9 early in the final quarter, Morehouse began to mount a late rally. The Morehouse defense forced Howard to punt, but the rally was halted on the very next play by a fumble by returner Justin Browning.

Howard recovered the football and marched into the end zone a few plays later. The fumble on the punt return along with a 41-yard touchdown run by Howard quarterback Greg McGhee on a third-and-16 earlier in the fourth quarter were the two standout plays in the demise of the Maroon Tigers.

"It was a great experience, but a tough game, senior linebacker Brian Thomas said. "I felt that a couple times there were some bad calls, and the ball bounced the wrong way....Tough break."

The Maroon Tigers' defense played exceedingly well. They made critical stops in crucial moments throughout the game; they were just on the field too much.

"I feel the coaches prepared us, but a lot of the stuff we could have done better as players," Thomas said.

The Maroon Tigers look poised and ready to have a special year. Once the little things start going their way this team could have some success.

Although this was the last Nation's Classic, for the foreseeable future, both schools put together an atmosphere, rivalry and game that was special and will be remembered for years.

THE NFL: A LEAGUE, COMMISSIONER, AND PLAYERS UNDER SUSPICION



PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

MALCOLM BANKS

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The words suspicion and sports certainly are no stranger to one another, especially if baseball and cheating are the topics. But for a change, baseball is not the culprit.

Suspicion has reared its ugly head from out of the background again, this time not involving the well-known steroids user Alex Rodriguez or the admitted liar that is Ryan Braun. This time suspicion has infiltrated the National Football League, and worst of all, it stems from not a star player, but rather the commissioner of the league himself, Roger Goodell.

The distrust of Goodell comes after former Baltimore Ravens halfback Ray Rice being persecuted to no end due to a TMZ Sports video leaked of Rice punching his then fiancée, now wife, Janay Palmer unconscious in an Atlantic City elevator in February.

A week later, superstar running back Adrian Peterson is under great pressure from his team and the fans due to reports of Peterson physically abusing his 4-year-old son with a tree branch and photographs showing the resulting scratches and welt on his legs that.

Goodell is now receiving much of the attention and it's not the kind he wants attract.

When the video footage leaked of Rice, many began to not only attack Rice, but Goodell as well, due to him only handing out an underwhelming two-game suspension for such a disgusting act.

Goodell quickly shot the attackers down, firmly sticking to the point that he did not see the video of Rice actually hitting his wife Janay before making the initial suspension.

The commissioner was off the hot seat for only a moment, as a story this magnitude was bound to have more than one side to it.

On Sept. 10, law enforcement officials put out a statement explaining that they did send a copy of the video to the NFL of Rice striking his wife unconscious. Yet, Goodell still sticks strongly to his argument that he never saw the video footage.

If it's proven that Goodell did see the video footage, he should be fired immediately. Although he has been a successful and often strict

commissioner who has no problem handing out hefty punishments to players who deserve just that and to ones who don't as much, he simply dropped the ball here. When someone is the head of a multi-billion dollar league, you cannot make big mistakes as he just did.

In fact, if what Rice has been telling the media has any truth to it, Goodell should be removed, no question. Rice reported to media earlier in the week that he communicated with the NFL exactly what happened in the elevator footage.

Unbelievable.

Many will now wait and see how the situation plays out, but from my perspective it should be a no-brainer.

ESPN broadcaster Keith Olbermann has been calling for Goodell's resignation and has stated, "Goodell is an enabler of men who beat women!" Yes, the statement is stern, but it may have some truth that lies within it.

I'm sure Goodell doesn't actually support domestic violence by any stretch, but I do believe that giving Rice a two-game suspension for such an unacceptable act is truly mind boggling and will leave many wondering whether Goodell really cares for the well-being of women facing domestic violence or just making a profit.

Back to Peterson, Goodell has been quiet on his situation, but many believe he will soon make a decision on a punishment for him. The Vikings have already excused Peterson from all team activities until his court decision in Texas is final. Goodell has a major decision to make, as he must decide the fate of the best running back in the NFL.

It is a very tricky situation. Peterson's mother stated, "When you whip those you love, it's not abuse, but love." Peterson grew up in a culture where harsh beatings came with growing up. Millions go through this similar culture. The question is how bad should he be punished for something many around the country do?

An investigation is now taking place for Rice and Peterson; major changes including power shifts within the league may be coming. Before it gets any worse, Goodell should just pack his bags and ride off into the sunset with the \$45 million he earned last year.

But he believes he can lead the NFL past these tough times. Until the situation as a whole is clear, suspicion will continue to cloud the entire NFL community.