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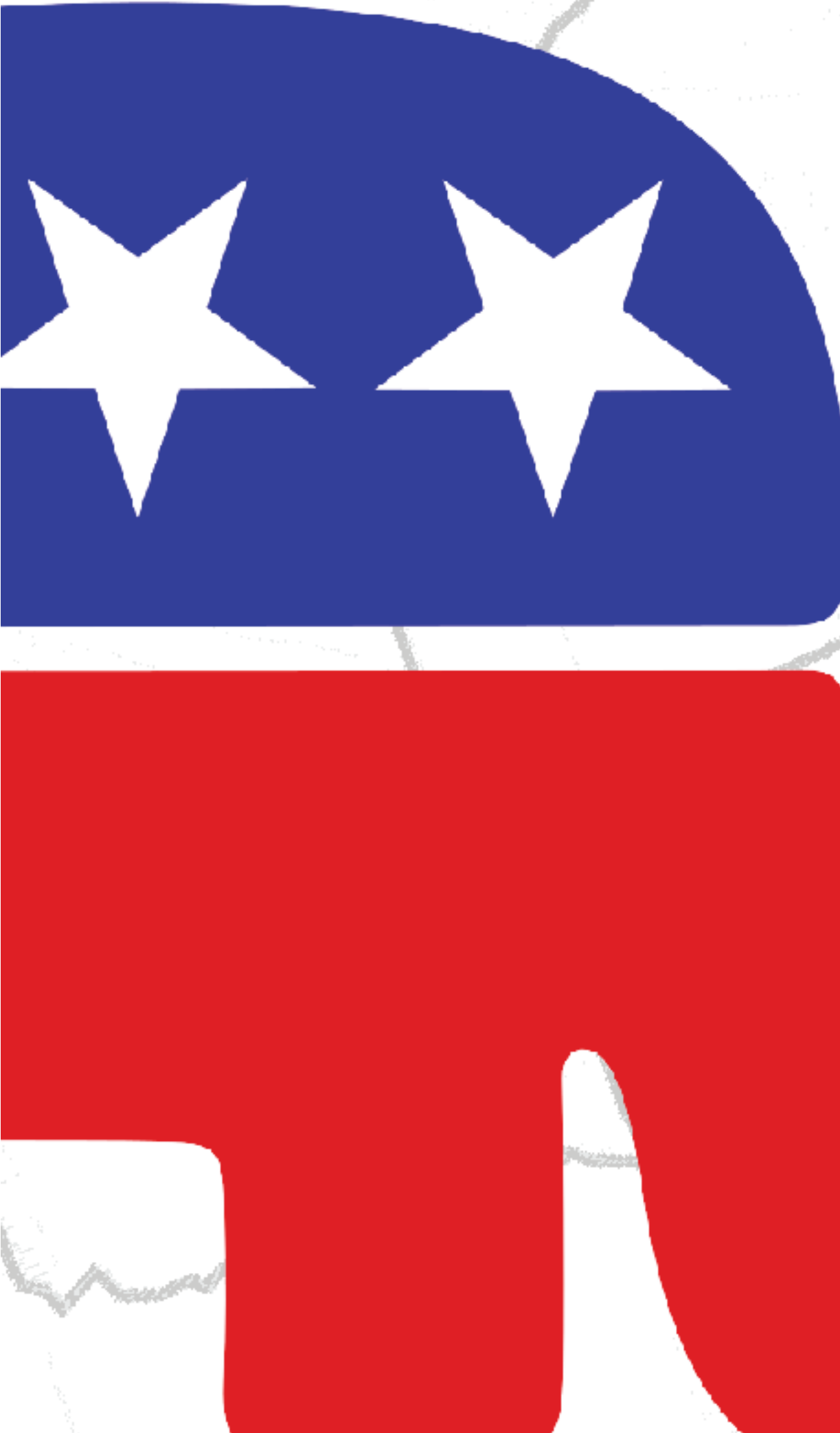
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A LOOK INSIDE THE ISSUE



HOW ONE MOREHOUSE REPUBLICAN HELPED KEEP GEORGIA RED

Gracious in the face of a “not-so-conservative” political environment, Mark Smith joined then-candidate David Perdue’s campaign, worked his way up, and won.

MT STAFF

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Darren Martin
Editor-in-Chief
Darrenmartin884@gmail.com

Jared Loggins
Managing Editor
Jared.loggins@yahoo.com

Michael Martin
Editor-at-Large
michael.martin@morehouse.edu

Matthew Guthrie
Business Manager
Mguthrie93@gmail.com

Bryan Burke
Executive Producer
bryan_a_burke@yahoo.com

Kristen Harris
Internal Relations Director
kharris35@scmail.spelman.edu

MT EDITORIAL TEAM
James Parker
Campus News Editor
Jamesjr.parker@gmail.com

Jayson Overby
Fashion Editor
bradleycestchic@gmail.com

Jebar King
Arts and Entertainment Editor
JVincenzoKing@gmail.com

Jerrel Floyd
Features Editor
Jfloyd134@gmail.com

Kristopher Colley
Sports Editor
Kcolley5293@gmail.com

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS
Christine Slaughter
Opinions Senior Staff Writer
Csllaughter93@gmail.com

Jonathan Thibeaux
Columnist
jthibeaux@gmail.com

Michael Scott
W&L Senior Staff Writer
Mail.michaelscott@gmail.com

Annick Laurent
Campus News Senior Staff Writer
alaurent@scmail.spelman.edu

STAFF WRITERS
Aiyana Parks
aiyanap@bellsouth.net

Brianna Gaulding
Arts and Entertainment
bngauld@gmail.com

Darion McCuller
Fashion
mccullerdarion@gmail.com

Joshua Snell
jsnell1995@gmail.com

Lonnell Mackey
Fashion
lonnellmackey@gmail.com

Nicholas Martin
Fashion
nick.martin2013@gmail.com

Teddy Holliday
Sports
hollidaytheodorel@gmail.com

Ugochukwu Unigwe
World and Local
aunigwe@gmail.com

COPY EDIT
Will Shelton
Chief Copy Editor
w.sheltonap@gmail.com

Associate Copy Editors

Isaiah Avent
iraevent@gmail.com

Stephen Fisher
Stephen8fisher@yahoo.com

Ralph Jean
ralphjean1212@gmail.com

BUSINESS TEAM
Amber Johnson

WORKING FOR DAVID PERDUE



Mark Anthony Smith II enjoyed working on the campaign supporting new Senator David Perdue, shown with his wife Bonnie.

JERREL FLOYD
FEATURES EDITOR
JFLOYD134@GMAIL.COM

In the race for the U.S. Senate seat in Georgia, Republican candidate David Perdue defeated the Democratic candidate Michelle Nunn with more than 50 percentage of votes. Amid all of the celebration on the side of Perdue during the election day, one supporter found himself excitedly handing out American flags to further commemorate the successful end to a long campaign.

Senior Sociology major Mark Anthony Smith II served as a staff assistant and outreach coordinator for the David Perdue Campaign team.

Upon Perdue being officially announced as one of the next Georgia Senators, Smith was in the parking lot gathering the pre-prepared American flags that were to be used as another way to celebrate the win.

“I went to the car and people were already cheering,” Smith said.

Before the beginning of his tenure with the Perdue campaign team, Smith was not completely aware of the potential of David Perdue to become the next Georgia senator. It was not until the February debates held right before the Republican primary that Perdue fell into Smith’s radar.

“David wasn’t in my top three,” Smith said. “But after the first debate I

said ‘I got to meet him’.”

It was after this meeting that Smith would eventually invite Perdue to meet and speak with some Morehouse students, and eventually become hired as a Staff Assistant and Outreach Coordinator when Perdue reached the general election.

“Day to day was really coordinating our volunteers and working with different groups” Smith said. “Mainly it was reaching out in any capacity.”

From making phone calls to coordinating volunteers and organizations, the earlier portion of the campaign process was simple and routine. However, as the campaign progressed the work load began to intensify to ensure a successful outcome.

Three weeks before the election, volunteers and staff members were making about 15,000 calls a day to further promote the attainment of every possible vote.

“We were cautiously optimistic and humbly confident,” Smith said. “At the end of the day, we never knew what the voters were gonna do.”

Maintaining an underdog fighting spirit throughout the weeks leading up to the election, both Perdue and the staff members eventually reached a point in which they were almost certain of a victory.

“If David isn’t nervous we shouldn’t be, either,” Smith said. “The supporters were nervous, but the staffers knew it was a numbers game.”

When word finally reached Smith that David Perdue would be the next Georgia senator, he was almost at a loss for words.

“I felt genuine excitement and relief to know that not only did we win, but we shocked a lot of people,” Smith said.

Perdue had gone from not being one of Smith’s candidates to being someone Smith would consider to be a mentor. The campaign process not only gave Smith direct experience in working with a successful political campaign, but also a new-found friend.

“He is genuine, heartfelt, and committed,” Smith said. “We will always be friends.”

Balancing the budget, reforming the tax code, and restructuring current term limits while pledging to serve only two terms are some of the primary goals of Perdue that Smith details upon Perdue officially taking his seat as senator.

“He is not the out-of touch-business man that people paint him as,” Smith said. “He is solution-oriented and will serve based on the issues.”

RATEMYPROFESSORS.COM: TO USE OR NOT TO USE

BEST UCHEHARA

STAFF WRITER

BUCHEHARA@YAHOO.COM

In recent years, RateMyProfessors.com has become an increasingly popular mechanism for students to choose teachers on college campuses across the world. This website allows students to complete reviews of their professors based on rigor, teaching technique, helpfulness, and grades earned in the class. Students are also able to write personalized reviews of their professors.

The growing popularity of this website on Morehouse's campus raises the question of whether or not it is a reliable source for students. The website has mixed reviews across the campus, as some rely on it faithfully while others have deemed it useless.

Sophomore DeMarcus Burke said that the site is vital to every student at Morehouse and it has allowed him to select good teachers so far. Burke said that he has been relying on the website for his teacher selections, and that the majority of the reviews he has viewed have been accurate. However, others, like senior Glenn Reeves, disagreed.

IT'S ON US: ACTION DAY AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

JAMES PARKER

CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

JAMESJR.PARKER@GMAIL.COM

Next Monday, eight student leaders will host a think-tank inspired event to end sexual assault on campus and in the country. The event will be at 7 p.m. in the African-American Hall of Fame.

Rather than conducting a panel discussion, each leader will be seated at different tables with other students who attend. At each table, the student leaders will engage his or her team members in conversations about sexual assault.

During this time, students will define sexual assault and describe the culture at Morehouse and Spelman related to sexual assault. Then each team will brainstorm ways that each of the group members can work to end sexual assault as well as methods that the student leader's organization can address sexual assault.

Before the conclusion of the event, a representative from each group will present

"I don't like to have preconceived notions about professors," Reeves said. "I like to go in the class for myself and see how [the teachers] operate the classroom."

For him, this strategy has been successful and has allowed him to take many good professors who were condemned by students on the website. Senior Isaiah Norwood agreed, stating that he does not trust the website because of the bias that lies in the reviews.

"You can get a great grade in any class, regardless of what people have said on the website. You just have to put in the work," Norwood said.

Instead of using the website, he recommended that the best alternative is for students to go and talk to their potential professors before taking their class. He also suggested that students ask for the opinions of students who have previously taken the class.

"I feel like it has all the potential to be a great tool, but it's just one of those things that is great in theory but doesn't necessarily happen in practice," freshman James Jones said.

From his first semester experience, Jones said that his professor was rated poorly on the website but was actually one of his favorite professors.

a summary of everything they discussed and an outline detailing the actions that the members and student organizations will take.

The student leaders include:

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Rho Chapter President Justin McElderry;
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Mu Pi Chapter President Meagan Allen;
- Morehouse Campus Alliance for Student Activities (CASA) Chair Jonathan Thibeaux;
- Spelman Student Government Association (SGA) President Mary Pickard;
- Morehouse Resident Advisor (RA) Reginald McCrimmon;
- Miss Maroon & White Brittany Botts;
- Morehouse Junior Class President Darrius Atkins;
- Spelman Freshman Class President Aaliyah Channer.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), another American is sexually assaulted every two

Dr. Natasha Crosby, the division advisor for Science and Mathematics, also expressed mixed emotions about RateMyProfessors.com.

"On one hand, everyone's experience with a professor is different because everyone has different learning styles," Crosby said. "On the other hand, I can see where students find it beneficial because it provides them with some kind of guidance as to how a professor would fit their learning style."

However, Crosby added that she does not recommend the website because no two students have the same experiences.

"I'm indifferent; I don't tell students to use it and I don't tell them not to use it. I just tell them that it should not be their sole choice in whether to take a professor or not," Crosby said.

When it comes to selecting professors, the only way to limit bias is to obtain various opinions. A single opinion is never enough. In terms of using RateMyProfessors.com, Norwood, Jones, and Crosby recommend that students be aware of the bias that may be present before making a decision based solely on online reviews.

minutes with an average of 237,868 victims (age 12 or older) assaulted each year. RAINN also stated that 60 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to the police and two-thirds of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.

Morehouse Campus Security Officer Twyla Locklear hosted an informational and training event for faculty and staff members regarding sexual assault. Locklear and other officers are partnering with Monday's event as well.

The event Monday is in conjunction with the national "It's On Us Campaign" launched by Generation Progress. Lauren Sills, a Spelman graduate in 2010, currently serves as an advocacy associate for Generation Progress and inspired the Maroon Tiger newspaper and Spelman SGA to organize Monday's event.

The "It's On Us" event is free and open to the public.

**MT
STAFF**

Public Relations Director
ajohn175@scmail.spelman.edu

Brianna Gaulding
PR & Marketing Associate
bngauld@gmail.com

Chelsea GPR Associate
chelseagibson28@gmail.com

Corey Smith
PR & Marketing Associate
corey.smith@morehouse.edu

Danyelle Carter
PR Associate
dcarterj@scmail.spelman.edu

Kailyn Brooks
PR & Marketing Associate
kbrook10@scmail.spelman.edu

Naya Coard
PR & Marketing Associate
ncoard@scmail.spelman.edu

Ramon Johnson
PR & Marketing Associate
ramonjohnson2017@yahoo.com

K'Mani Dowe
PR & Marketing Associate
kmani_dowe@yahoo.com

PHOTOGRAPHY/NEW MEDIA
Kenneth Greenwood
Lead Photographer/Editor
kgreenwood@gmail.com

Deshon Leek I
Photography
eek.deshon2013@gmail.com

Deverick Morgan Photography, Graphic Design
deverick.morgan@gmail.com

Isaac Monk
Photography
monk_isaac@yahoo.com

Lizette Terry
Photography
lterry2@scmail.spelman.edu

Tramaine Monet Lockhart
Photography
tlockhar@scmail.spelman.edu

Tyler Lacey
Photography
tyler.lacey2@gmail.com

Winston Cash
Photography
winstonecash@gmail.com

TIGER TV
Jason Perry
Associate Producer
jason.perry@morehouse.edu

Keon McKay
Associate Producer
smckayk743@me.com

Darius Johnson
Assistant Producer/Reporter
dariusjohnson7894@yahoo.com

De'Quandre Manley
Reporter
dequandem@gmail.com

Deshon Leek
Assistant Producer, Videographer
leek.deshon2013@gmail.com

Eboni Ellis
Editor
eellis7@scmail.spelman.edu

Grant Nelson
Reporter
g.grant.nelson@gmail.com

Jonathan Thibeaux
Assistant Producer
jthibeaux@gmail.com

Winston Cash
Videographer
winstonecash@gmail.com

Zoe Wade
Assistant Producer, Editor
zoewadel@aol.com

All Creatives By: Ahmad Barber

Ron Thomas
Advisor
Ron.thomas@morehouse.edu

ENDING SEXUAL ASSAULT

IS ON ALL OF US

JOIN THE MAROON TIGER, SPELMAN SGA AND THE IT'S ON US CAMPAIGN FOR
A ROUNDTABLE ACTION
EVENT AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

IT'S ON

US

7:00 PM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

Featuring Members of: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., CASA, Miss Maroon & White, Morehouse Junior Class Council, Spelman Freshmen Class Council, the Morehouse Office of Residential Life and Perspectives from Sexual Assault Survivors



MISS
MAROON
& WHITE



MT

LEGACY — BLESSING OR BURDEN?

JERREL FLOYD

FEATURES EDITOR

JFLOYD134@GMAIL.COM

Whether son or daughter, there is always a subconscious or literal expectation to match or surpass the accomplishments of an individual's parentage. From poet Vivian Allen expecting her daughters Debbie Allen and Phylicia Rashād to have an immense appreciation for the arts, to Bishop Brandon B. Porter Sr. and his son Brandon B. Porter Jr. aspiring to function as blessings to others, the idea of living up to parental legacy is common to the multitude of people who have felt its pressure.

Legacy, a term commonly tied with the concept of transferring physical or intangible ancestral material and expectations to future generations, is one of the main recurring focal points within sophomore Business Finance major Brandon Porter Jr.'s literary work titled "If Obama Had a Son."

"What would it mean to Americans to allow a black boy to become a man in the White House?" Porter asked.

Regarding President Barack Obama as the most powerful man in the world, Porter highlights the possible discussion that would arise with not only having a young black male being raised in the White House, but one that would have to possibly surpass the title and legacy of the President of the United States. Though the title may give off the impression of solely focusing on the hypothetical question regarding Obama fatherhood, the question is actually a gateway into an in-depth discussion on the idea of legacy.

"This book is less about Barack Obama and more about the fear of legacy," Porter said. "The book emphasizes fatherhood and sonship."

Birthed from conversation on legacy between Porter Jr.'s father and himself, his father introduced a puzzling riddle that eventually sparked Porter Jr.'s interest in the topic of legacy.

"He asked, 'What is the one thing the most powerful man in the world wishes he had, but if he had it, he would never have been the most powerful man in the world,'" Porter Jr. said.

WHAT EXACTLY IS MOREHOUSE BUBBLE?

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

MICHAEL.SCOTT6@MOREHOUSE.EDU

Morehouse Bubble Team: Cabral Clements, Thahal May, Maada Thomas, Scooter Taylor, DaJuan Johnson, Julian Lopez, Steven Daniel, Jairus Davis, and Kirk Scott

For an entire semester now, Morehouse Bubble has been the newest form of social media on campus. By providing everyone access to a combined network of students, faculty, and administration, this social medium allows Morehouse College to be one more step closer to achieving unity. I sat with Cabral Clements, the founder of Morehouse Bubble, in which he explained what makes Morehouse Bubble unique and offered advice to aspiring student entrepreneurs.

Me: What is Morehouse Bubble?

Morehouse Bubble: It is an academic social network, private to Morehouse College. It is used to find out what is happening on campus, to collaborate, and to communicate amongst students, staff and faculty.

Me: From where did the idea originate?

MB: Morehouse Bubble is a part of campus bubble. Campus Bubble was an idea built for Emory Bubble, which started at Emory University. It was actually in the MT GroupMe, when Jared said to look at Emory Bubble, and said that we need this at Morehouse College. I went to Emory and told them that we want this at Morehouse, and I from there I basically had to talk to a lot of people: the Dean Washington and Dean Booker. They helped Morehouse Bubble get traction. Clifford Russell, the CIO finally said, "Let's do this." He paid for the product and because it wasn't actually finished being developed, we spent the summer establishing it.

Me: What makes Morehouse Bubble unique from other social media applications?

MB: Because Morehouse Bubble is private to the Morehouse community, it gives it that uniqueness. On Facebook you'll see posts from Grandma and a lot of things unrelated to Morehouse, same with Instagram and Twitter as well. But since it is Morehouse branded, it is specifically related to your academic identity.

The answer is a son.

The riddle, which also functions as the title of the first chapter, opened up an entire realm of discussion for Porter Jr. about topics such as Trayvon Martin and single mothers raising black men. Simultaneously, it allowed Porter Jr. to emphasize the intense pressure and fear that comes along with maintaining a legacy.

"Some men's greatest fear is not living up to their father's expectation," Porter Jr. said.

Having firsthand experience with the daunting pressures of meeting fatherly expectations, examining the fear of legacy was a naturally occurring process.

"I am the son of a prominent man, and I know the pain, the pressure, and power of my position as his posterity," Porter Jr. said. "I am the sum total of my father, his justified remix."

Through examining the title and a few of the excerpts from the work, it is easy to fall into the false assumption that there is only respect for the father and son relationship.

"I hope people don't feel as if I am emphasizing that a woman or his daughter cannot follow in his foot step" Porter Jr. said. "It embraces women and even praises single mothers who are out there raising young men."

Personally regarding his mother, Melody Porter, as the primary source of his perseverance, Brandon acknowledges the major role his mother played in not only shaping the man he became, but also instilling in him some of the skills and traits he used to publish his discussion on legacy.

"My mom drilled me with persistence and perfection," Porter Jr. said. "She emphasized always giving 110 percent."

Being able to reflect on his own personal experiences and the common experiences of those who follow a legacy, Porter Jr. emphasizes the need for young men to embrace parental expectations and avoid being intimidated by them.

"I want to encourage them to stimulate their thinking, but not be afraid of legacy," Porter said. "We have to prepare ourselves because we are next in line."

"If Obama Had a Son" by Brandon B. Porter Jr. can be found at www.bbp3publishing.com or eventually on Kindle and in the Morehouse College Bookstore.

Me: What does Morehouse Bubble have in store in the near future?

MB: Hopefully, more and more people will log on and utilize the system. Specifically, feature wise, we're getting messaging in a few weeks, where students will be able to message anybody who is in the platform, group or individually. Also, we're looking into rolling out a new Feed Feature where one will see more things going on all in one post.

Me: What does being a student entrepreneur mean to you?

MB: Working closely with Campus Bubble, and having such a small team, where we wear our mini hats, it means that we're solving a problem. And we think that if there's no need, nobody will buy it and nobody will use it. So I guess that's what being an entrepreneur is, finding a problem and solving the problem.

Me: What advice would you give to aspiring student entrepreneurs?

MB: I think entrepreneurship is great. There is so much opportunity in this world and it's beautiful when you can develop that opportunity yourself. I think that students starting stuff and being entrepreneurs... I don't know. It's beautiful thing. Find a need, and find a way to address that need. Be different, be scarce. In economics they say scarcity equals value. If you're not scarce, you're generic, so make yourself valuable by searching for that unique cause.

Me: Do you have any other project on which you're currently working?

Cabral Clements: I do video production and media production. So I am constantly looking for clients and brands.

When asked how he feels about Morehouse Bubble, Diego Aponte, a Junior Business major had this to say:

"I feel it's good because I think people don't realize that the Morehouse Bubble gives Morehouse an opportunity to build its brand more. It's a powerful thing. When Facebook hit Harvard, and then Stanford, it created a whole new brand. It made all of these other top schools chosen to be the select few to use it, and to be better. So I think that we're in that same realm in Georgia. Given that Emory and Morehouse are top schools it shows our adaptability with change in this world. It's a good way for us to improve our brand and show the world that we are forever adapting and improving."

THIS TIME AROUND

JAYSON OVERBY

FASHION AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR

JAYSON.OVERBY@THEPOSHANDPOISE.COM

If you have time to see just one Atlanta exhibition this month, these emotional and highly informative selections of photographs by Gordon Parks from the 1950s for a *Life* magazine article should be it. The exhibition “Gordon Parks: A Segregation Story” takes root in Mobile Alabama—the epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement.

By the 1950s Parks had made a name for himself as a photographer of many sorts: fashion, documentary, and commercial. Although the photographs in the exhibition at the High Museum of Art focused on the day-to-day life and struggles of a multigenerational family living in segregated Alabama. The exhibition focused on the day-to-day activities of the related Thornton, Causey, and Tanner families in and near Mobile, Alabama, capturing their everyday struggles to overcome discrimination.

The images are unlike any other iconic civil rights photographs, rather than photographing boycotts and the brutal battle for racial equality Gordon focused on everyday life. There are images that include the family at a local ice cream parlor purchasing ice cream. In many of the photos included in the exhibition, a sign that reads “Colored” is evident in the photographs. Blacks often subjected to an inhumane lifestyle and in result suffered poverty or racial inequity.

Rather than using the normal black-and-white film, a primary medium for documentary photography, to present the dramatic state during the era of civil rights Gordon uses color film. The photographs uncovered the way racial inequity and financial duress affects the day-to-day life and opportunities’ of blacks during the civil rights.

GORDON PARKS: SEGREGATION STORY



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE HIGH MUSEUM OF ART, GORDON PARKS EXHIBIT

STOP BEING SO POLITICAL, IT'S NOT A GOOD LOOK

JAYSON OVERBY

FASHION AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR

JAYSON.OVERBY@THEPOSHANDPOISE.COM

COM

You may have owned a few T-shirts that were controversial at a point in time. Others, you just purchased due to the aesthetic appeal of the brand. With each T-shirt produced in the '90s, each one of them had a story, and each shirt happened to be an integral part in history.

Unlike the '90s and early '00s, controversy just doesn't sale anymore. Unlike any other clothing, a T-shirt lets you wear a message on your chest. Whether it is positive, negative, or influential—it's a message someone will read. Unless you're attempting to be an urban minimalist in a plain white tee, the message embossed on your T-shirt is bound to offend.

In their day-to-day activities, students haven't really taken the time to acknowledge the fact that there aren't any

designer brands that address world and local issues. It's not a good look for particular brands that have a specific audience, if their audience doesn't like it than it most likely wasn't a good move.

"I was suspended in the eighth grade after wearing an Obama T-Shirt," says Timberland Hilliard, a student at Clark Atlanta University. "He had just been elected, and I wore the shirt the following day to school to show how proud I was, but it resulted in a three day suspension due to the fact that my teacher voted McCain—I've been wearing controversial T-shirts ever since."

A few months ago during fashion week, Shiona Turini, the fashion market director at Cosmopolitan Magazine, wore a powerful T-shirt that embossed the names of several black males that were victims of Gun Violence. The shirt includes the names of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, and other black men who have been shot and killed.

Jean-Raymond, designer of the T-Shirt, used his platform to make an impactful social statement at the presentation of the brand's, Pyer Moss, Spring 2015

Menswear Collection.

"Wearing a T-shirt that addresses cultural issues takes courage, everywhere you go someone is surveying the message on your shirt and you're liable to receive backlash," says Deron Cooper, sophomore at Morehouse. "Unlike the social activist who can delete a post or comments with the click of a button and choose not to address the issue."

In contrast to the T-shirts that were previously produced, urban streetwear and designers have failed to address world and local issues that are integral to American and black culture. Sure, fashion isn't meant to be political but the clothes that individuals wear say a lot about themselves.

If you have anything to say, put it on a T-shirt. We're sure someone will take time to read it and dissect your being for the message embossed on your chest.



AHMAD BARBER
PHOTOGRAPHY

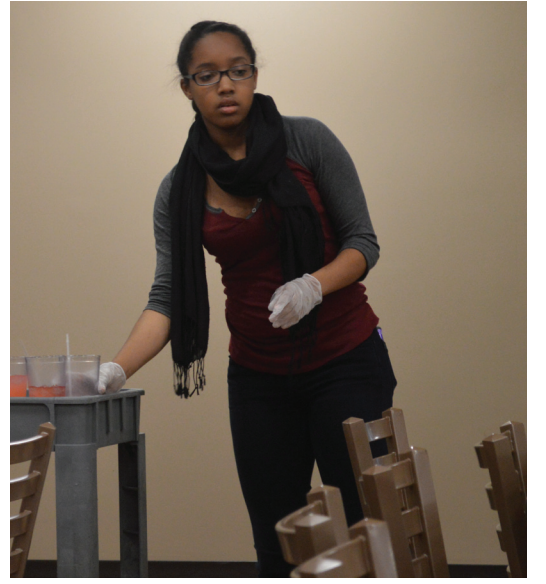
EARLY BIRD
GRADUATION PORTRAIT
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MAN
OF THE
YEAR

MOTY

2015

PRESIDENTIAL CHAT: WILSON'S SEMESTER IN REVIEW

BEST UCHEHARA

STAFF WRITER

BUCHEHARA@YAHOO.COM

JALEEL HOWARD

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

JALEEL.HOWARD@GMAIL.COM

JAMES PARKER

CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

JAMESJR.PARKER@GMAIL.COM

The fall semester of the 2014-2015 school year consisted of many noteworthy events; some were annual traditions, some new initiatives, and others were welcomed and unwelcomed surprises. In an interview with the campus news editorial team last week, Morehouse College President John Wilson highlighted several defining events from this term and outlined his vision going into next semester.

AUGUST

August 12-19, New Student Orientation

First Day of Classes, August 20

More than 600 freshmen arrived to campus along with several new staff members including Dr. Timothy Sams, the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The renovated cafeteria also opened on the 20th, introducing extended dining hours, increased food options, and improved customer service.

Beginning in August and continuing throughout the semester, Wilson also traveled across the country fundraising for the institution. During his trips, he met with potential donors and business partners in San Francisco (Silicon Valley), Cleveland, Washington DC, New York, Philadelphia, Houston, Chicago, and St. Louis.

"I think the most effective presidents in the country are on the road at least half of the time – most often in campaign mode." Wilson said.

SEPTEMBER

September 13, Morehouse vs Howard Nations Classic

September 18, Opening Convocation

September 19, Anonymous Convocation Response Published

One day after Wilson's convocation speech, an anonymous writer published a blog titled "Thirteen Points of Outrage: A Student Response to President John Silvanus Wilson Jr. and His Opening Convocation Address." Among the complaints, the article accused Wilson's administration of being materialistic, having disregard for traditions,

promoting an unclear vision, and being insensitive.

Wilson, alumni, parents, and members of the board of trustees all expressed concern over the blog's content. Days later, 13 points of dissent were published in the Maroon Tiger, refuting inaccuracies in the blog post.

"I did not foresee that any speech that I would ever give would invoke outrage from anybody for any reason, so I seriously considered each point in both articles." Wilson said.

OCTOBER

October 4, Breast Cancer Walk

October 12-19, Homecoming

October 24, Football team blog published

October 31, Multi-million dollar donation

October 24, 2014

While on a trip to South Carolina, the Morehouse football team watched a film "Dear White People" at a theatre in Columbia. Following the film, an online blogger unaffiliated with the college published an article titled "How the Morehouse Football Team Ruined Dear White People and Proved its Point."

In the blog, the author accused several football players of making repeated homophobic remarks while watching the film. The blog accumulated more than 250 comments, and dozens of response blogs and articles were published online. Sites including The Huffington Post, BET, and Uptown Magazine, all covered the story.

"The issue with the football team actually has not provoked a conversation, rather, it fits into a conversation that we were already having about homophobia on campus and in the life of Morehouse. I talked about this issue when I was interviewing Tim Sams for his position, so we are working together to take corrective action and also change the culture at Morehouse." Wilson said.

October 31

In an effort to enhance residential life, Wilson's administration worked to acquire a \$1.7 million donation to improve the Wi-Fi on campus and the board of trustees matched the donation for a total of more than \$3.4 million. The check from the unnamed donor was received on October 31.

"I started talking to students to understand why some prefer to live off campus, and I learned that there are several things that are driving students away," Wilson said. "On that list are quality housing, residential space, food quality on campus, programming on campus, and most surprising to me, internet reliability. Combining that with the new meal plans and meal providers on campus, [students] can see that we're making strides to remagnitize the

campus." Wilson also held a private meeting with each residence hall on campus to allow all students to voice their questions and concerns directly to the president.

NOVEMBER

November 14

The college partnered with StudentsFirst to host an "Atlanta Leaders Education Policy Summit." Speakers included former Chancellor of DC Public Schools Michelle Rhee, mayor of San Francisco, California Kevin Johnson, and charter school founder Steve Perry.

"Morehouse you need a school of education. Don't tell me that Spelman has one and they got it right – you need one," Perry said. The closed event invited 10 students to assist in setting up the program, organize registration, and watch faculty members serve on panels.

"The provost and I care a lot about teacher preparation and we know that only two percent of the k-12 teachers in this country are African American males," Wilson said, concerning the shrinking resources for students interested in education. "We also know that this current department of education under President Barack Obama and Arne Duncan is zeroed in on the issue of the underrepresentation of African American males in teaching, so those contextual factors behoove us to get moving in this area."

He said that he and Provost Garikai Campbell intend to devote Title 3 funding to the area, continue partnering with Spelman to avoid "reinventing that wheel," clarify the vision for what and who the college will be in this space, and engage the philanthropic markets to strengthen the program and programming.

THE FUTURE OF THE 'HOUSE

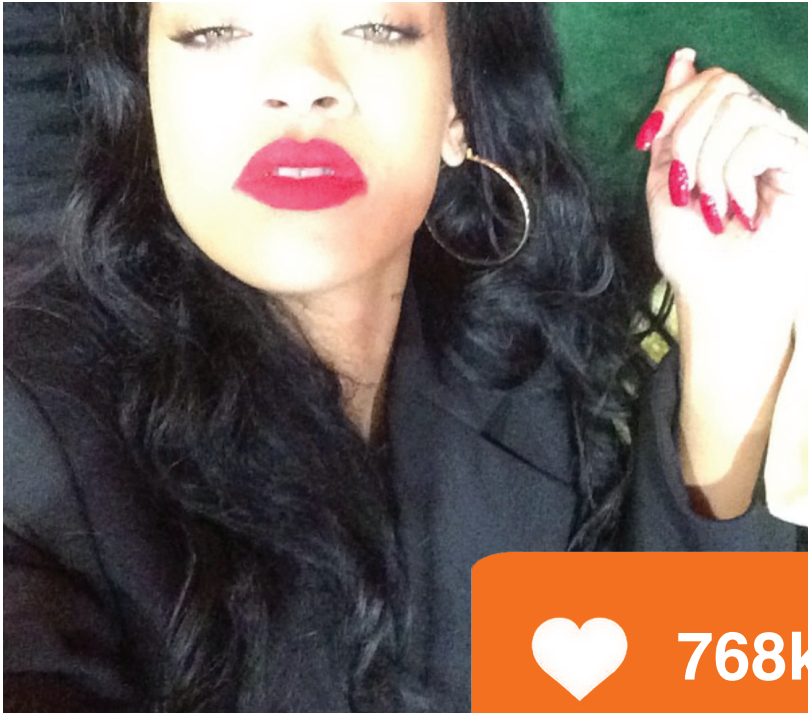
Going forward, Wilson listed items that his administration is working to achieve and added ways that students can assist in accomplishing the vision for the college.

"The best thing a student can do is to pursue the highest definition of a Morehouse man and that, in and of itself, will require you to do well in your classroom and do well in the way you carry yourself outside the classroom," Wilson said. "I want to ensure that the young men who graduate from Morehouse are not just positioned to do well but positioned to do good."

Among the accomplishments he is working toward are: more scholarships, higher faculty salaries, better physical spaces and infrastructure, improved customer service, and information technology capital.

CELEBRITY SELFIE OF THE WEEK

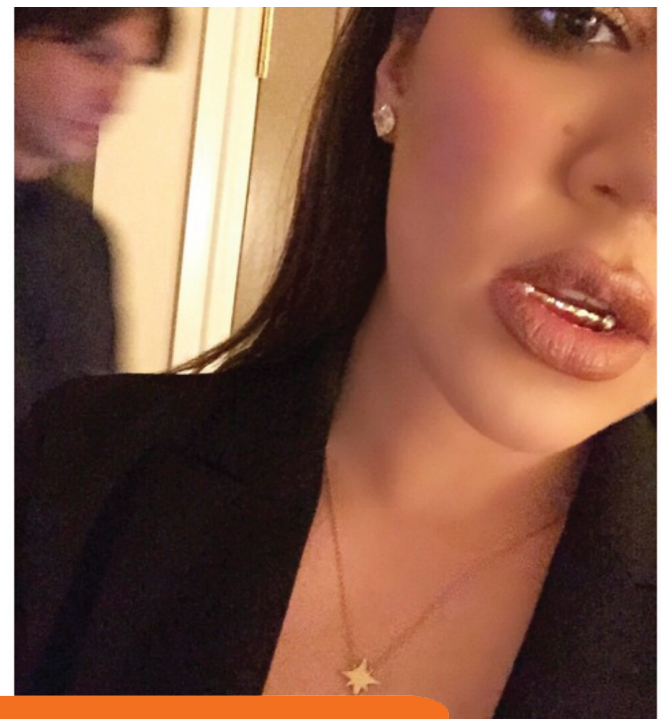
JEBAR KING | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR | JVINCEZOKING@GMAIL.COM



768k Likes

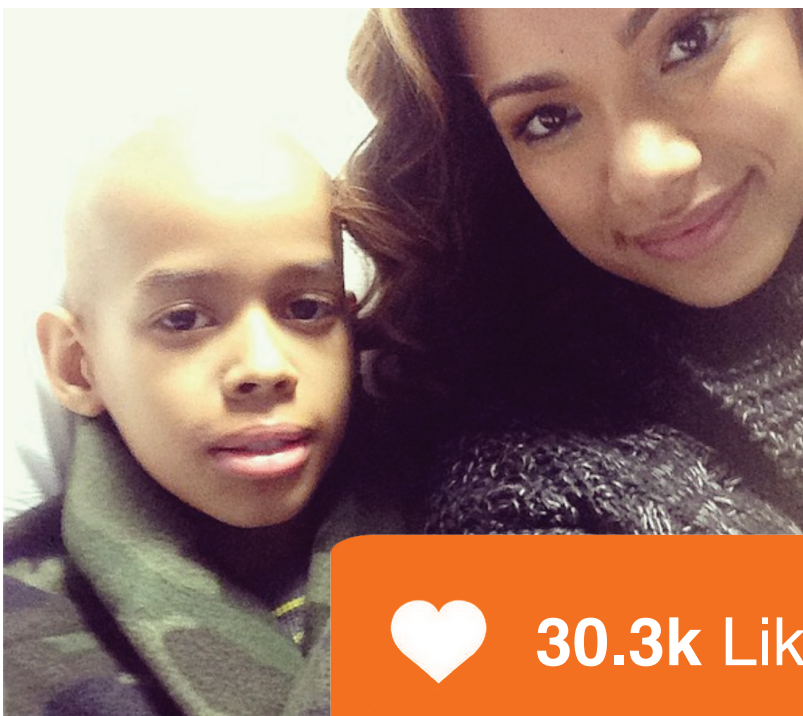
◀ The Bajan Princess Rihanna is known for her “live fast, die young” lifestyle that includes smoking, drinking, partying, and dropping jaws. Equipped with low eyes, a red lip, and matching red nails, Rihanna (who recently returned to Instagram) posted this photo with the caption, “Dis whiskey got me feeling pretty.” It’s OK Rih – whiskey makes us feel pretty too!

Referred to by some as their “favorite Kardashian,” the beautiful and very funny Khloe a.k.a. KoKo showcased her bottom gold grill in this half-face selfie uploaded earlier this week. The photo was captioned simply with a star emoji – matching the gold star on her necklace. With some gold earrings, gold grill, gold necklace – gold everything. We wonder if the grill (or at least the idea for one) was a gift from French Montana?



545k Likes

◀ In a more heart-warming selfie, Love and Hip Hop NY star Erica Mena poses with Jacob, a young cancer patient, who she spent some time with at the hospital. She referred to Jacob as her buddy and captioned the picture with the harsh (but relatable) hashtag “#F---Cancer.” She also encouraged her followers to donate to Jacob and his family’s GoFundMe to help with health and daily expenses. We are also sure Mena made a donation for her new buddy!



30.3k Likes

CROOKED ENCOUNTERS

JONATHAN THIBEAUX

COLUMNIST

JJTHIBEAUX@GMAIL.COM

“Hi, my name is...

”CrookedT (krü-kid-tee).

To honor my family and let the world in on an old secret, I decided to rebrand myself into the name of the gift bestowed upon me at birth, CrookedT. A commonly used family joke, CrookedT is to the Thibeaux family as mojo is to Austin Powers.

CrookedT was first discovered hundreds of years ago by my ancestor, Thibeaux the Great, who read his fate on one of the walls of The Great Pyramid of Giza: “Once you mess with that CrookedT, you will never be able to leave it alone.” Since that moment, CrookedT and the last name Thibeaux have been synonymous.

Our very own X-Factor, CrookedT makes us unforgettable. It is our light when we are without sight and our strength when we are most frightened. It is also the passion that keeps our loved ones craving for more and the guiding force that drives us to be our authentic selves and keeps us genuine in our interactions with others.

Something so special you would think we would keep it to ourselves right? Nope. You see, CrookedT would be nothing if it were not shared with and able to be enjoyed and embraced by others. But, like all traditions, this one, too, needed to evolve into a meaning far greater than its initial purpose.

The letter T in the English alphabet is known for its symmetry

and balance. It provides two equal paths: one to the left and one to the right. If folded in half, both ends of the T would align and fall right into place perfectly.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary, however, defines crooked as not straight; having bends and curves. With that in mind, a crooked T would be one that is not straight. I would even go as far as to say that a crooked T bends and has curves causing it to not be symmetrical.

A crooked T does not offer two equal paths nor does it allot options that align with one another perfectly. Instead, a crooked T allows any given thing the opportunity to go in any specified direction and choose whichever path it pleases. A crooked T is unique and caters to each and every one of us differently. A crooked T gives us the chance to not be so precise or perfect, but to still exist and be great.

I chose to call myself CrookedT because I wanted to write and live life as if there were no box. I wanted to give a voice to the scared and be an outlet for the struggling young adult. I wanted to exhibit for others that YES we can exude confidence in our walk and be comfortable in the way that we talk. I wanted to do what I have been afraid to do my entire life, BE MYSELF!

CrookedT makes the IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE.

CrookedT is inspiration. CrookedT is love. CrookedT is family. CrookedT is us.

Yours truly,

CrookedT (The New Renaissance)

NOT A MOCKERY

BRIANNA GAULDING

STAFF WRITER

BNGAULD@GMAIL.COM

“Transgendered,” “Male,” and “Feminist” are all labels Janet Mock has grappled with. She prefers “trans” to describe herself in terms of gender.

Being assigned a gender at birth based on her male biology wasn’t reflective of who she truly is, and Mock’s view of the way feminism was constructed and is enacted forged itself as a movement against her and not with her in mind.

Although she’s resolved her dissonance with feminism, the remainder of the labels and many others saddled on her without her permission are a no-no. So it makes sense that Marie Claire’s “I Was Born a Boy” article about Mock was not a proper headline. In 2011, the magazine article served as Mock’s first large-scale introduction to the world as a trans woman. After realizing that no one else could tell her story in the way that she could, she took the reigns for herself.

When she graced Spelman College’s Bill and Camille Cosby Academic Center on Nov. 12, she read excerpts from the 2014 New York Times Bestseller that told the story in her own words: *Redefining Realness*.

As Mock is the very first transgendered person to visit and speak at Spelman College, the event was historic to say the least. She read portions of her memoir that acquainted us with her best friend, Wendi, a fellow trans woman, whom she grew close to during her coming of age in Honolulu, Hawaii.

While she balanced time between Honolulu with her mother, and California and Texas with her father, she battled against her family’s resistance to accept her gender orientation, but shared with the audience that she felt more and more assurance once she began hormone replacement therapy, expressing femininity in her dress, and announcing her new name: Janet.

Mock chose the name to pay homage to Janet Jackson and reflect Jackson’s influence on Mock’s style (her classmates fondly called her Baby

Janet, and it stuck).

In *Redefining Realness*, Mock speaks to Janet Jackson’s counterparts in influencing her Black womanhood, most notably Beyoncé and Destiny’s Child. As she did for many of us, Mock credited Beyoncé for making her proud to be a brown, curly haired, thick thighed woman.

Janet Mock claims that until recently she merely “performed esteem and...[self love]” but didn’t truly feel that self-assuredness until she defined and specified herself in her own terms.

After sharing parts of her journey with the audience, something Mock referred to as “sharing [her] intimacies with the reader [and listener],” the floor was open for questions.

Mock digested and candidly answered each inquiry posed to her by Atlanta University Center students, community members, students from other universities, and even Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall of the Spelman College Comparative Women’s Studies department.

The questions ranged from how any spirituality she may feel helped or hindered her transition and advice she may have for LGBTQIA students in the AUC.

Being unfamiliar with the culture of the AUC, Mock wasn’t able to directly respond, but within her general guidance, she stated that “the spaces where [she’s] the most safe and full are in the spaces of [her] own creation.”

As Spelman and Morehouse are institutions and spaces created for and by us, it stands to reason that every student should be purposefully made to feel safe within and throughout.

In response to the claim that her feminine presentation is just a distracting costume, Mock asserted that “[her] body, [her] clothes, [her] makeup are on purpose. Just as [she] is on purpose,” as are we. Our existences and presentations are not hassles, not despite, but because of our intersections of identity.

Ms. Janet Mock’s stance as a writer, speaker, and activist gives us another strong, unique, and unapologetic voice through which we may understand each other and ourselves.

COULD THE BEST CONFERENCE (THE SEC) IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL BE LEFT OUT OF THE FIRST COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF?

BEST UCHEHARA

STAFF WRITER

BUCHEHARA@YAHOO.COM

The College Football Playoff bracket was created to do away with the immense controversy and confusion that the old BCS format produced. Simple enough 13 people from all over the country, throw away their subjective biases, to become the selection committee.

This inaugural committee has the duty of choosing the top four teams from any conference. Their selections are primarily based on strength of schedule, quality of win, and record against ranked opponent.

The last criteria and often the most significant method of choosing the top teams is the eye test. If a team consistently passes the eye test, meaning that they look and play a lot better than their stats and record advocate, they should be one of the top four selections.

The committee releases their rankings every Tuesday. The first couple of unveilings went without much scrutiny, but last week there was finally unrest from fans across the nation when the Alabama Crimson Tide were leapfrogged by Texas Christian University. They are both one-loss teams with some quality wins and solid records against ranked opponents; however, Alabama plays in the best conference in college football, the SEC, and strength-of-schedule and the eye test both play in Alabama's favor.

This decision left only one SEC team in the selected top four, number one Mississippi State. This past Saturday, Mississippi State and Alabama battled in Tuscaloosa and Alabama prevailed 25-20. This win will more than likely propel Alabama back into the mix, leave Mississippi State yearning for another way back in, and resolves nothing about only one SEC team being in the top rankings.

Alabama plays Auburn November 29th, and after last year's classic there is no telling what that outcome may be. Mississippi State is now a one-loss team and possibly an outsider to the playoff bracket, but they control their own destiny with the Egg Bowl against rival Ole Miss also coming up November 29th. Other SEC teams Georgia, Ole Miss, and Missouri can make a bid but probably to no avail.

It seems as if SEC is being punished because of its depth. It could be craftily argued that the conference has three of the best four teams in the nation, and at the minimum should have at least two of them in the final playoff bracket. When one conference, the SEC, has won seven out of the last eight national championships there is no bias, but only a valid argument of track record.

With three weeks of season still remaining it is still yet to be recognized if the top conference will have one team, two teams, or no team. But what is for sure is if they aren't present in the first College Football Playoff it will be a neglectful and unexpected snub.

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2014-15 MOREHOUSE BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW



AUSTIN WILLIAMS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
AUSTIN.WILLIAMS@MOREHOUSE.EDU

Last year was disappointing for the Morehouse Maroon Tiger basketball team. After they finished 20-8 and reached the SIAC championship game two years ago, the Maroon Tigers finished with a dismal 7-20 record during the 2013-14 season. They look to get back to their winning ways during the 2014-15 season and are out to prove that last season was an anomaly.

After losing their first two games to Lee University and West Georgia, the Tigers look forward to tonight's home opener against Fisk University at 7:30 at Forbes Arena.

This year's team will look much different from previous years. Former All-SIAC guard Darrius Williams is no longer with the team. Williams was the Maroon Tigers' leading scorer and top rebounder the last two seasons. Though there are some familiar faces returning this season, this year's team also will depend on transfer students and a very talented freshman recruiting class.

Size is one advantage Morehouse has that should give opponents fits this year. With big bodies in the paint, including 7-foot Chris Fontaine, 6-foot-10 junior center Michael Hall (a transfer from Harvard), 6-9 senior center Tyrone Brown and 6-8 junior forward Robert Askew, height will be an important factor if the Maroon Tigers have a successful season.

"For as long as I've been in coaching, one thing you learn is that something you can't coach is length and size," head coach Grady Brewer said. "In basketball, you want to get guys like that who add length and size

to the team because you're going to need them down the stretch to rebound the ball and play the rim, so I think we are better off at that position with the depth that we have."

Preseason All-SIAC selection Austin Anderson, a 6-2 guard, returns after last year finishing second on the team in scoring (10.3 ppg.) and second in assists (35). He won't play until January after recovering from knee surgery.

Freshman guard Tyrius Walker has added a new dimension for the team. The athletic guard out of Grady High School has been a welcome surprise with his explosive and aggressive play. Brewer thinks he has the potential to be very special.

"Tyrius is very talented," Brewer said. "He has to go through the learning process in college basketball but one thing about him is that he is poised and you'll never see him get rattled, and that is huge. In the long run, he can be really good."

Junior guard Javarius Gray could be a valuable sixth man for the Maroon Tigers. Gray comes back after missing most of the last season with a hyperextended knee. Playing more off the ball this year could prove to be a good opportunity for Gray.

"In my role coming off the ball, I have to look to be more aggressive," Gray said. "It's just a different feel for me because I'm used to being ball dominant and now with this it gives me more opportunities to go get rebounds, and I'd say I rebound pretty well."

If everything goes right for the Maroon Tigers, this could very well be a bounce back year.

"It's too early to tell," Hall said. "If we stick to our principles and live up to our potential, I think we can be great."

REVIVING THE JUNGLE



Current coach Grady Brewer dribbles upcourt during his last game at Archer Hall as a player in 1980.



The jam-packed Archer Hall crowd went wild when a Maroon Tiger scored.

ISAIAH AVENT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
IKEAVENT@GMAIL.COM

In recent years, the Morehouse Maroon Tigers basketball team has noticed a steady decline in support. Empty seats are everywhere and the crowd noise is almost non-existent. As big as Forbes Arena is, you can tell.

As a student body we must realize that we have just as much of a responsibility as the basketball team. As they go out on the court and give everything they have, it is our duty to them to be their support system. Who wants to play for a school that doesn't support them?

Head coach Grady Brewer remembers a time at the Tigers' old homecourt, Archer Hall, when the crowd was just as much a part of the program as the players.

"We used to have crowds come over to Archer two hours before the game," Brewer said. "If you didn't get there two hours early, you couldn't get in the game."

Brewer explained that 6,000-seat Forbes Arena was built because the crowds were so large in Archer, which holds only 2,500. The Olympic committee wanted to make Forbes a water polo stadium but was urged to make it a basketball arena because at that time, it was a necessity. Now it seems in vein.

When those crowds were in full effect, other teams didn't want to play at Morehouse. And one point, it's basketball team had a record of 53-3 at home.

"They called it The Jungle and they didn't want to come to The Jungle,"

Brewer said.

It is now our job to recreate "The Jungle." Leading that charge is junior Diop Shumake, President of the Morehouse Student Athletic Committee. MSAC is looking to create an atmosphere in which the crowd is not only there, but effective.

"This basketball season we have more T-shirts, more events at the basketball games," Shumake said. "Hopefully, we can do better with promoting the games."

The Co-Founder and Vice President of MSAC, Anthony Body, has become the most recognizable fan of the Maroon Tiger basketball team. Every home game Body can be seen sitting courtside with his referee shirt. He is most recognized for his enthusiasm during the games: yelling at referees, taunting opposing players, and running down loose balls out of bounds.

"I get energy from people rooting me on and rooting the team on," Body said. "It builds an energy that ultimately feeds into the basketball team."

As much as they try not to show it, the players on the court do recognize the energy (or lack thereof) that comes from the stands. Knowing that their classmates are there to support them and cheer them on has a positive effect on the team's performance.

"I like to see the crowd at more of the games," junior forward Robert Askew said.

The team will be doing their part tonight against Fisk University in the season's first home game. MSAC will be doing their part. Will you be doing yours? It's time for us to step up as a body and revive "The Jungle."