



MT

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND AFRICAN AMERICAN ISSUES

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND AFRICAN AMERICAN ISSUES

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The African American community has become an essentially sought after demographic in political elections. In the last two presidential races, the African American community was largely credited with putting President Obama in offices and keeping him there for a second term. With the upcoming 2016 elections, the task facing the latest crop of presidential hopefuls is persuading black voters. This is not an easy task considering a number of the frontrunners either stand on the opposing side of issues affecting the black community, or have seemingly only become concerned them in recent months. In the wake of the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, it's become apparent that the black vote will be crucial to helping the latest group of presidential hopefuls secure their respective party nominations and the coveted presidential seat. The key to getting the black vote; speaking out on black issues. While many candidates have taken up the mantle of advocating for the African American Community, others have stayed quiet.

JEB BUSH: REPUBLICAN PARTY

When it comes to the minority population, black voters don't seem to be on former Florida governor's agenda. Even when making a speech at The Urban League Conference, the same one attended by Ben Carson and Hillary Clinton, his comments were very general and he almost completely refused to comment specifically on issues affecting the black community, choosing instead to make what could be considered broad-sweeping statements.

"I know that there are unjust barriers to opportunity and upward mobility in this country," former Florida Governor Jeb Bush said. "Some we can see, others are unseen but just as real. So many lives can come to nothing, or come to grief, when we ignore problems, or fail to meet our own responsibilities. And so many people could do so much better in life if we could come together and get even a few big things right in government." This brief and general reference to what many consider institutionalized racism, was the closest the presidential hopeful came to addressing the inequities between people of color and their white counterparts.

BEN CARSON: REPUBLICAN PARTY

Carson is decidedly unpopular amongst members of the African American community. His comments on issues such as police brutality can be described as polarizing and his conservative agenda contradictory to the overall concerns of the community he claims to support. The former neurologist has been quoted as saying that he doesn't understand the Black Lives Matter Movement. He has been quoted as saying the movement was silly and divisive. He later backtracked by saying the political correctness was silly and that "of course all lives matter." Note the Black Lives Matter movement seeks to bring attention to modern day racial injustices. Carson's comments have made him increasingly unpopular among left-wing voters, those of color in particular. The reason being that his comments make it seem as if the failing of the black community are their own fault, and that institutionalized racism is a fantasy.

LINCOLN CHAFEE: DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Despite being a relative newcomer, to the presidential race, Chafee is predicted to be Secretary Clinton's greatest competition for the Democratic nomination. The Rhode Island governor has focused mainly on poverty and education. He has recognized in the past that people of color have a stake in his stat and that the key to equality is ensuring

equal opportunities for people of all races. In his 2014 State of the Union Address, Chafee further details equality.

"If we can open the doors of opportunity to those who are driving growth in our state, it will be a bright future for all, not just for some," Chafee said

Unlike his opponents, Chafee has been consistent in his opinion that it is the responsibility of the state to ensure the resources are there for equal opportunities for all minorities. His website reinforces his commitment to better access to education for people of all socio-economic backgrounds.

HILLARY CLINTON: DEMOCRAT PARTY

Up until recently, the former Secretary of State was quiet when it came to issues affecting the black community. While she has become decidedly more vocal, her statements are often interpreted as superficial. At the National Urban League Conference in July, Hillary made the following statement,

"Americans, especially today, deserve leaders who will face equity, race and justice issues in all their complexity head-on."

While the sentiment was well received, Hillary's popularity among black voters has fluctuated. Many still do not believe that she will work in their interest should she be elected to office.

BERNIE SANDERS: DEMOCRAT PARTY

Perhaps the most vocal Democrat on issues affecting the black community is Bernie Sanders. His popularity among the people is high, particularly among African Americans. He has remained consistently outspoken on issued affecting the black community. He has publically condemned both the institutionalized racism within the justice system and the rise in police violence against African Americans.

"It is an outrage that in these early years of the 21st century we are seeing intolerable acts of violence being perpetuated by police, and racist terrorism by white supremacists," Sanders said.

These and other comments he has made in favor of the Black lives Matter movement may have made him somewhat unpopular to major contributors, but he has made it clear that eradicating institutionalized racism is a big part of his political agenda.

DONALD TRUMP: REPUBLICAN PARTY

Trump's bravado has put him at the forefront of the 2016 presidential race. He has been called everything from brash, to entertaining with regard to his comments on just about everything. When asked whether or not African American should be afraid of the police, Trump referenced the violence in Chicago.

"Well, I can certainly see what's going on, but at the same time we have to give power back to the police because we have to have law and order," Trump said. "We have to give strength and power back to the police."

Trump has also agreed with fellow GOP candidate Ben Carson by calling the Black Lives Matter movement "silliness". He even condemned

Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders for having his rally interrupted by a group of women. This hasn't stopped Trump from gaining popularity. Recent polls still show him as the top contender for the Republican nomination.

#BLACKLIVESMATTER VS #ALLLIVES MATTER



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After the murder of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teen whose murderer George Zimmerman was acquitted, the #BlackLivesMatter movement went viral. Soon after the start of the #BlackLivesMatter movement spread, a counter-movement began as well.

#AllLivesMatter started popping up after almost every incident that involved an unarmed Black person that seemed to get too much social media attention. Many saw this as a way to take away from the fact that systematically Blacks are treated very differently than their White counterparts.

Many feel this movement has begun to take away the much-needed attention from the injustices people of color face daily. Dr. Sonya Mekerta, Director of the African Diaspora & the World Program and Associate Professor of French & Francophone Studies at Spelman College spoke on the two movements. She stated in response to the #AllLivesMatter movement that, "It is losing focus of what the problem is, which is the elimination through death of people of African descent."

She continued with, "Not to say that not all lives matter, but the system has always put more values on a white life than it has on the life of a black life or an African descended person." Although it should go without saying that all lives matter, many people behind or in support of the #BlackLivesMatter movement feel that this should not have to be said in opposition to the movement.

Hassan Henderon-Lott, a student at Morehouse College, stated that although he does support the movement, "It does not target and combat the systems directly of black oppression in America." He feels that must be done through policy, within the system itself.

"Black Lives Matter is meant to start conversations, raise awareness, and make people who are in political offices or who have the power to make change aware that we want changes made," sophomore Dual-Degree Engineering major LaTonya Beverly said.

With the upcoming election many are anxious to see how candidates plan to address the rise in publicized police brutality and crime rates. Black Lives Matter has recently begun to force responses from Democratic candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. Their non-reactions are causing the Black Lives Matter movement to distance themselves from the Democratic candidates.

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AFROPUNK 2015 NYC

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Afropunk began as a cultural movement ignited and fueled by Matthew Morgan, James Spooner, and the passions of a burgeoning rock and punk scene comprised of people of color with a fanbase reflecting the multiculturalism of the bands. The year 2008 marked the beginning of the Afropunk Festival. Since then, it has been launched in Atlanta, Paris, and more is yet to come.

Many have called attention to the fact that the festival has changed over the years.



The punk and indie bands have been replaced with the likes of Lauryn Hill and Lenny Kravitz. In addition, the festival, once free, is now charging attendees. While I thought the cost of the festival would change the audience, I was pleased to find that people of color were still in attendance. This not to say; however, that many of its former attendees could not enjoy the festival as they had in former years.

I had the pleasure of attending AFROPUNK 2015 at Commodore Barry Park in NYC last weekend. Throughout the festival, signs read “No Sexism, No Racism, No Ableism, No Ageism, No Homophobia, No Fatphobia, No Transphobia, No Hatefulness”. While no one can fully control the behavior of attendees, attempting to create a safe space was a powerful notion in and of itself.

The movement and individual messages that audiences derive from Afropunk vary from person to person. For some, it is a time machine of fashion trends that takes us back in time, propels us toward the future, and acknowledges the present. For some, it is time for awareness where the microcosm is a time to recognize injustices. For some, it is a microcosm where black is the norm and black recognition and excellence take on many forms through photography, style, music, and self-expression.

Thanks to social media, attendees and Afropunk followers can relive the beauty of Afropunk through shared photos and think pieces. In short, it is an experience. Here is a list of the highlights and takeaways from the festival:

- The plethora of unique styles gave breath to Commodore Barry Park as attendees travelled to and from Afropunk. Purely by dress, one could determine who was headed to Afropunk and who was not. There style meshed with Afrocentric consciousness that reverberated from merchants.
- Hearing Lauryn Hill and SZA perform live
- In light of calls to justice and the black bodies and killings that flood timelines and circulate on media outlets, Afropunk artists, both knowingly and unknowingly, served to heal the black body and spirit
- Black beauty and queerness were normalized in the ephemeral microcosm of Afropunk at Commodore Barry Park
- Hearing trans and gender nonconforming folks occupy space at the festival and chant “Hell You Talmbout” by Janelle Monae feat. Wondaland Records and speak the names of transfolks
- Hearing Kelis perform “Milkshake” live
- Getting introduced to unfamiliar artists like Lion Babe
- Attending a spoken word performance after party that turned into a dance party
- Breathing in the black people magic and finding new fashion inspirations



Afropunk will be arriving to Atlanta in October. It will be an experience and performers like D’Angelo and the Vanguard will surely be nothing less than spectacular. The audience is sure to provide #blackpeoplemagic through their energy and style.

ON TEXTUAL ENCOUNTERS

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“Make sure you’re ready,” “be safe,” and “talk to me first” are all refrains I heard ad nauseam from my mother when I was growing up. She was, of course, referring to engagement in any sexual encounter. However, after reading Aziz Ansari’s *Modern Romance* – an awesome, well-written book by the way – it dawned on me that textual encounters are never prefaced with the same fervent admonitions.

Of course, I understand why the ways in which we talk about and act out sex and text differ. However, I don’t intend to, nor do I have any desire to, get into that here. What I will say is that texting can leave one emotionally scarred and confused, just as any other encounter. Every night I find myself attempting to decode whether or not a faithful “Good night” text is just friendly and polite or if it means more.

I struggle the most when it comes to emoji hearts and almost always text a friend, frantically, upon receiving one. “Elizabeth, what does it mean when someone sends a heart emoji? Please hold for screenshot/context.” Having your message “left on read,” as millennials aptly call the practice, is dreadful as I’m sure many can attest. And even now, as I’m writing this piece and acknowledging the heartache and stress that textual encounters bring, I am waiting a solid 37 minutes (for good measure) before responding to a message I just received.

Our minds work themselves into tizzies as we try and explain why someone may have ignored our text. Let’s be honest, most of the excuses we’ve concocted are implausible: She didn’t fall asleep after reading my message, he didn’t open it and forget—I’m being ignored. And part of me can’t even be mad.

As much as I hate watching my phone lie beside me in torpor, I like the feeling of being wanted and inaccessible, like most everyone else I know.* So while I may understand the culture of ignoring messages, it doesn’t mean I won’t retort with the infamous “Who dis?” the next time you text me.

Then again, I’ve been told that my pettiness is unprecedented. But I’ve also been on the receiving end of that text many a time. And nope, I don’t believe that you “got a new iPhone” for the simple fact that iCloud is a thing and said thing works quite well.

Yes, texting is a battlefield. Even when texting someone I genuinely like (romantically or otherwise), I find myself employing Drake’s line, “Text message from a centerfold. I ain’t reply, let her know I read it though.”

I have been socialized to take pride in my 232 unread texts, none of which come from group messages I might add. I once bragged, “Look, I responded to this text three months later.”

* Everyone I know may very well be a narcissistic, horrible person. Like wolves, we tend to travel in packs.

The Ways Blacks Treat Mental Health Issues Reflect Conditions of Blackness

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With the #BlackLivesMatter movement being fueled by endless accounts of police-related deaths, there seems to be no end to the mental and emotional frustration in the Black community. This continuous exertion of energy may become a factor that contributes to depression and other mental health issues in our Black communities.

However, it is our generation’s job to deconstruct the stigmas surrounding mental health. We must examine how the conditions we face are also indicative of the way Black people paint – or hide – their stories of depression. Being Black is automatically paralleled with being strong, tough and robust, which ultimately leaves no room for weakness, vulnerability or openness. Our racial identity and everything that comes with it is something we cannot walk away from.

“Blacks are the ‘walking wounded,’” Meri Danquah, author of “Willow Week for Me” states. “We suffer alone because we don’t know that there are others like us.” But now, people know we are not alone in our suffering.

After the shooting of the Charleston 9, the families seemed to automatically forgive the shooter without publicly expressing the grief that many of us felt. It seems to be hard to cope with vulnerability while also trying to remain strong for others.

On top of living in an oppressive society, Black men and women must also be there for family and friends while also taking care of their own well being. Black people should not bear the burden of the entire world because when it crashes and depression ensues. Everything turns chaotic.

The notion that mental illness makes someone weak is a very oppressive ideology in the Black community and on college campuses. This stigma remains upfront in society because people fail to understand the risk factors that predispose different ethnic groups to depression. Factors such as social movements excluding Blacks, the pressure to be the selfless source of strength for the family, poverty, poor relationships, managing school issues, etc., all place an emotional and mental toll on some of our people. Sadly, some Black families emphasize praying problems or depression away.

Depression is an illness that needs a treatment. Just like you cannot pray away a broken arm, you cannot pray

away stress, emotional fatigue, and depression. People say handling emotional hardships is built into the character of Black folks, but at some point we need an outlet of expression to cope with the things affecting us in the world. Yes, temporary sadness and symptoms of depression may become apparent in our lives as Black people, but it does not mean we have to suffer with them alone. What does this say about the living conditions of being Black in America? It means that the intersectionality of our identity as Black men and women predisposes us to suffer with our problems silently.

However, we must react and find treatment or solace, as needed. If the Black community was more willing to talk about depression, then treatments could be given sooner or maybe Black therapy groups would openly emerge to help people feel comfortable in their own cultural environment. In the Atlanta University Center, organizations like PEPers at Spelman and CHILL at Morehouse emerged to bring awareness to mental health issues like depression in our community. If you or anyone you know could be suffering silently with depression, let them know it is OK and that they are not alone, they are not weak, and that there are people who will support them.

A NEED FOR NSO: An Incoming Freshman's Perspective

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The summer prior to college is comprised of family vacations, jobs and dorm shopping. Also, for incoming freshmen, institutions commonly host their orientations during the break before freshman year.

However, Morehouse College is unique, not simply because the college holds its New Student Orientation (NSO) a week before classes begin, but also because there are indescribable virtues, guidance and knowledge preached throughout the powerful week that are different from any other college in the world.

“NSO was a good week that allowed me to transition smoothly into Morehouse,” freshman Computer Science major Sam Hood said. “I learned about the history of the college and what it takes to be successful here.”

Disregarding the terrors of communal bathrooms, the transition into not only becoming a college student, but also being inducted into the literal brotherhood of the institution was more than a warm welcome into college.

“NSO was an exhilarating experience because I was able to walk the hallowed grounds of Morehouse College,” freshman Biology major Aaron Morris said. “Experiencing this type of brotherhood could only happen through a program like NSO. NSO just confirmed the fact that I made the right decision by going here.”

From the first ceremony, “Welcome to the House,” every speaker had an agenda to use powerful rhetoric to sway the crowd to make it clear that the class of 2019 is destined for greatness. This let us know that Morehouse did not make a mistake by admitting us, and that there was a reason we were sitting in those seats.

“We were born to win.” Continually hearing similar phrases such as the aforementioned for a week straight was impactful. Black men in America aren’t exposed to the uplifting that others typically are; we’re feared and often victims of stereotypes.

I’ve never had a Black doctor, I’ve never met a Black lawyer, I’ve never met a Black politician and the list continues. I’m from Athens, Georgia. Cities similar to Athens drain away Black aspirations and paint the picture of Black “success” as becoming collegiate athletes at the

local University of Georgia or unsuccessful local rappers. NSO was my first exposure to Black excellence; this was a community that I had been yearning to indulge in for my whole life in Athens. NSO was what I needed.

On Alumni Interaction night, the new students were exposed to successful Morehouse Men. The alumni generously shared their stories of success and tribulation, which were, again, more knowledge to be absorbed by the newest men of Morehouse.

NSO was indescribable. Whether it was “Welcome to the House,” “Spirit Night,” or even that early morning for “Whom the Bell Tolls,” I personally appreciate the faculty, NSO leaders, and anyone who contributed to putting together this remarkable week of culture and brotherhood.

The many affirming responses of incoming students seemed to reiterate the significance of New Student Orientation week.

“NSO was one of the best weeks of my life,” freshman Biology major Juan Clark stated. “During NSO, I learned the true meaning of brotherhood, and what it meant to truly be a Man of Morehouse.”

POST-NSO: Adjusting To Classes & Environment

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New Student Orientation is finally over, classes are in full effect, and it seems students are really on their own this time - so now what? Making the often-bumpy transition from high school to college can be difficult, but it is absolutely possible.

The few weeks following NSO are important, for they can set the tone for the rest of freshman year. Students are adjusting to a new environment with people from all walks of life while balancing a demanding course load. The best way to tackle these obstacles is to make proper arrangements and take a leap of faith with the hope that success will come. Here are a few helpful tips.

College is the time to push the envelope a little bit. When it comes to adapting to the unique environment that is the Atlanta University Center, it is important to realize that every freshman on campus is a newbie just

like everyone once was. People don’t know much about a freshman yet, and there is power in that. New students can approach people and introduce themselves, and they’ll never know how shy they were in high school unless told otherwise. Establishing a level of comfort with peers, getting involved on campus, and forging relationships with others are all integral aspects of adapting to the AUC in a way that is meaningful and useful for a lifetime.

Adjusting to the rigor of college classes is also a challenge freshmen must confront once NSO is over. While there aren’t many tricks and shortcuts to succeeding in college courses, there are definitely good habits to adopt that will lessen the burden of a heavy course load.

Time management is everything. Most students have heard it a million times from their parents, high school counselor, coach and or sponsor. But now is the time to really internalize what that means. Managing time is simple, though it takes a certain level of discipline. Make a list of all the major tasks need to be completed

for the week and allocate time to complete them before going out and having fun. A good way to prioritize that time is to rank a to-do list beginning with high priority tasks and ending with low priority tasks. This way one can keep track of exactly what they need to do and by when it needs to be completed in its entirety.

Most importantly, make a fervent effort to do the work. Many college students make the mistake of not reading for all their classes or completing assignments by their deadlines. Taking five or six classes can be demanding, but professors expect students to be able to balance all of them. Starting the reading before it is assigned is a great way to stay ahead in all classes instead of waiting until closer to the due date.

College can be overwhelming, but it is also one the best times of a person’s life. So take advantage of that. Try to immerse in as many campus activities as possible, meet new people when walking through Lower Manley, down Brown Street, or when stopping on The Promenade and always keep academics at the forefront

THE "BLACKWASHING" OF



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MTV has dominated popular culture, making it a divisive force in what Black millennials see. It shapes how we view and function ourselves in American culture. Yes, we have BET – but BET has lost its touch on depicting blackness – so it seems that MTV is moving into a direction that I would call “blackwashing.”

Blackwashing is the inclusion of blackness in popular culture; however, this has been problematic with shows like “Love and Hip-Hop: Atlanta” or “Real Housewives of Atlanta” that depict an unfair, one-sided view of blackness. MTV, being at the pedestal of popular culture for many decades, is beginning to “blackwash” its programming in a more positive light.

This summer, MTV released a 40-minute documentary

titled “White People.” It debunked many phenomena around the essence of white privilege and how it affects whites in certain spaces.

A pivotal moment in the documentary was about white people getting scholarships – an issue that has been brought up ever since affirmative action was in place. The popular discourse was that they do not receive them as often as minorities. This was proven to be false as the documentary proceeded.

By placing the issue of race on screen across the country, MTV is altering how white people and minorities view race. Race has now become the “hot topic” to talk about, but being a Black person, you have to look at MTV with a side eye and ask “Why now?”

Race has been an issue in America for centuries and as a Black millennial, race is not a hot topic ... this is our reality. However, many people may argue that the Black Lives Matter movement has become a trend and that MTV is trying to shift the conversation.

Another summer MTV release was “Uncommon Sense,” a show that is driven by “Black Twitter” and hosted by Charlamagne Tha God. Charlamagne has been labeled the face of coonery, so it was expected to relay that image. On the contrary, “Uncommon Sense” is great at depicting that Blacks have a voice and contribute toward popular culture.

Issa Rae, the creator of “Awkward Black Girl,” a web series that depicts the main character “J” being placed in uncomfortable situations, will join MTV’s lineup of shows. “J” is a nerdy Black girl, which is almost despised in our culture, but is the narrative of many Black girls today.

I am enjoying the fact that MTV is moving into a direction that highlights more pressing social issues. MTV has always been a social agent depicting the lives of the silenced, and now that race is on the screen, we will see how it connects the conversation of race with popular culture.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE VIDEO

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We as a nation have had a history of police brutality against men and women of color for more than a century. The difference between police brutality then and now is the ways in which those incidents are documented.

Many cases prior to the age of modern technology were told through word of mouth without much or any visual representation at all. In the past five to 10 years, more visual documentation has been available and a very troubling and unmentioned sight is in numerous videos – the presence of Black police officers who decided not to intervene against the abuse and mistreatment of people of color.

This issue was brought to my attention in the disturbing and gut-wrenching video of the arrest of Sandra Bland, an African-American woman from Naperville, Ill. who was in the Prairie View, Texas, area for a job interview. Bland was stopped by the local police on July 10 for failure to signal. Following her stop, she was arrested and later found dead in her jail cell due to an alleged suicide. What was most troubling in Bland’s arrest video was the

presence of an African-American policewoman who aided the arresting officer without questioning why Bland was being arrested and why she was detained for a simple failure to signal.

The issue of black officers being present during the abuse and mistreatment of men and women of color has been unnoticed by the Black Lives Matter movement and pundits on both local and national news.

Black sergeants and police officers also were seen in the video of the death of Eric Garner and did little to help protect Garner’s life before he was brought down in a violent chokehold.

This issue needs to be addressed quickly because black bodies are being disposed of at an alarming rate at the hands of police, and witnessed by the eyes of officers of color. Are Black officers and members of law enforcement that voiceless that they do not have the courage speak against the actions that are going on while their colleagues are making arrests? Is there a “shield” or honor code that states one is not supposed to interfere with an arrest?

I don’t have the answers to those questions, but we need to be just as hard on Black officers in the said videos as we are on the white or non-black arresting officers.



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In this pivotal and polarizing moment in American culture, young people stand at the forefront of the fight for equality for all sexual orientations. The expression of their opinions and critiques of queer culture serve as a reflection of American attitudes at large. In the AUC, these opinions stand at the crossroads of American culture, youth culture, and Black culture and are therefore instrumental in our understanding of queer life in the AUC and beyond.

In 2009, Dr. Robert Franklin, the 10th president of Morehouse College, implemented a policy related to what he called “The Five Wells.” Men of Morehouse were encouraged to be well read, well spoken, well travelled, well dressed, and well balanced. Well dressed became heavily emphasized on campus with the introduction of an appropriate attire policy, which regulated the dress of students at the College.

This dress code banned du-rags, sunglasses, sagging and pajamas in indoor and classroom areas. More importantly, the policy banned clothing associated with women’s garb, for example: dresses, tunics, purses, handbags, pumps, and make-up.

Many students supported the new dress code and attributed it to highly valued and necessary Black male empowerment, conducive with the mission of Morehouse. Some gay students, however, felt the policy was discriminatory against non-gender conforming LGBT students and inhibited self-expression.

Six years later, gay rights and the power of self-expression have entered the forefront of the American consciousness.

In a Gallup poll conducted in July of 2015, 68 percent of Americans agreed that same-sex marriage should be legal, 28 percent polled said that it should not be legal, and 4 percent expressed no opinion.

In the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court decision guaranteeing the right to marry to same-sex couples, and in the shadow of new cultural icons like Caitlyn Jenner, Laverne Cox and shows like “Orange is the New Black,” America now stands face to face with

LGBT issues. Alongside what appears to be cultural progressiveness, America has seen the rise of politicians like Donald Trump and Mike Huckabee, who endorse policies that give people, based on their religious beliefs, the right to refuse to serve gay people.

To the outside eye, the AUC seems polarized on the topic. In an article written by a white woman entitled “How the Morehouse Football Team ruined Dear White People and proved its point,” the author describes her experience at a showing of “Dear White People” in a movie theatre where some members of the Morehouse football team, easily identifiable by their colors and uniforms, yelled homophobic slurs at the screen and cheered when a gay character was assaulted.

On the other end of the spectrum, organizations like Morehouse’s SafeSpace and Spelman’s Afrekete cater to LGBT students, fostering a strong sense of community, mobilizing change on campus and creating safe spaces for queer students to share their experiences on campus and beyond.

Indeed, Spelman College recently implemented a policy that allows white pants to be worn at the traditional White Dress Ceremony, allowing non-gender conforming Spelman students to honor tradition and maintain their own comfort.

When asked about the culture of acceptance in the AUC, one student who identifies as queer but did not wish to be named said, “I feel my identity is not completely validated or respected at my school. It’s more of a tolerance rather than an acceptance. I really haven’t had too many bad experiences, but my major negative experience was with my roommate.

“Sometimes your roommate feels that because of your sexuality you’re going to prey on [her]. I initially didn’t want to tell her (that I am gay), but I felt it was necessary to let her know. But when I wanted to have a friend over privately, she became very rude and very nasty about the situation.

“It was very disrespectful and almost turned into an altercation. My safe space felt messed up; it felt like my room was no longer a safe space.”

Other LGBT-identifying students expressed different narratives which were more positive or neutral.

“I think people are pretty tolerant,” Qadry Manns, a junior Drama major at Morehouse, said. “I’ve never personally experienced harassment or hate or even heard of it. My experience has been just like anyone else’s.”

Kailah Covington, a sophomore English major at Spelman College, emphasized the importance of chosen family and community to LGBT students.

“I’m pretty much comfortable with it because I’ve found people that are like me or who are comfortable with who I am,” Covington said. “I honestly think it’s much easier for me to be here than it is for me to be at home.” Like most communities, the AUC is home to an LGBT population amid the heterosexual majority. Straight students interact with their LGBT counterparts on a daily basis in class, in residence halls, at school events.

But is there truly acceptance and mixing between the two groups? Kamal Hassan, a freshman Business Administration major at Morehouse and straight-identifying man, said about his experience with LGBT students at his school:

“It’s an eye opener. I didn’t realize it was so [prevalent]. Of course, I was told there were a lot when I came to Morehouse. It’s cool with me as long as they know their boundaries, me being straight.

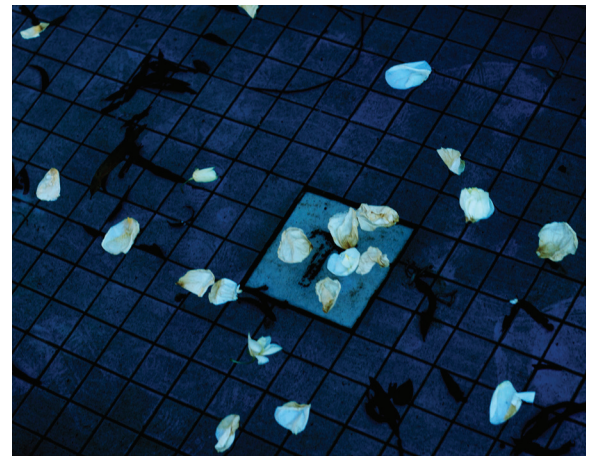
“Once it gets to the point where they’re dressing like females, that’s too much. But gay people in the AUC are changing it, definitely.”

When asked about the queer community at Morehouse, Raqir Black, a sophomore English major, said, “I don’t really have a strong opinion on community. I feel as though in the current day and age we live in that there will be gay people just about everywhere so I’m not bothered by it or anything like that. I have a couple of gay friends. Gays and other people who are more accepting may see Morehouse’s large gay community and find it welcoming, while others may find it unappealing and not want to come to the school.” =



In Tribute To
**JULIAN
BOND**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
CHAD RHYM



PROPER FIT FOR A MAN OF MOREHOUSE

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The sound of new beginnings rings throughout Morehouse College as unseasoned and undaunted freshmen are inducted into the institution. However, as parents are dropping off their college bound sons, frantically double-checking that they have everything that they need, one thing has fallen between the cracks – a suit.

Over 60 years ago when Dr. Martin Luther King once walked the campus as an average student, the dress code spoke strictly of business attire. The tweed sport coats, slim tapered pants and two-piece mod suits played into the cultural paradigm of the all men's college. Due to this set style of formality, the Class of 2019's lack of attire alarms the greater academic community.

Entering an institution such as Morehouse without a suit can easily represent inexperience and simply not knowing. These newly inducted men must first be taught by Mother Morehouse that not only does a crown exist, or how to wear it, but that a suit must be worn with it.

“Over the heads of her students, Morehouse holds a crown that she challenges them to grow tall enough to wear,” said Howard Thurman '23, a world-famous theological scholar who mentored King.

Suits in mainstream society might equate to intellectual and monetary wealth. The suit holds similar status within the Morehouse community, because with wholeness and

brotherhood comes uniformity.

“A suit in the black community represents prestige; moral symbols and life principles are attributed to clothes black men wear,” Tre’von Hill, a senior Psychology major at Morehouse, said.

The Class of '19 is not yet off the hook. Yes, a suit must be obtained – even if you're not a business major. But it must be a tailored one at that, because baggy clothes will no longer fly. Whether it is a tuxedo or a business suit, it must be personalized to appropriately fit your body shape.

One might think that getting clothes tailored is for the bourgeoisie, and college students especially might be hesitant. However, getting suits tailored is not as expensive as most think and below are a few locations that are quality yet cost-effective tailors in the Atlanta area.

1. **M Street Cleaners**
964 Marietta St. NW, Atlanta, GA. 30318
(404)-881-1600
2. **Q Tailors**
Phipps Plaza, 3500 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30326
(404)-841-0083
3. **Bangkok Tailor & Alterations**
736 Ponce De Leon Ave., NE Ste K, Atlanta, GA 30306
(404)-874-6632

REVIEW: HOWARDENA PINDELL

JAYSON OVERBY

EDITOR- IN-CHIEF

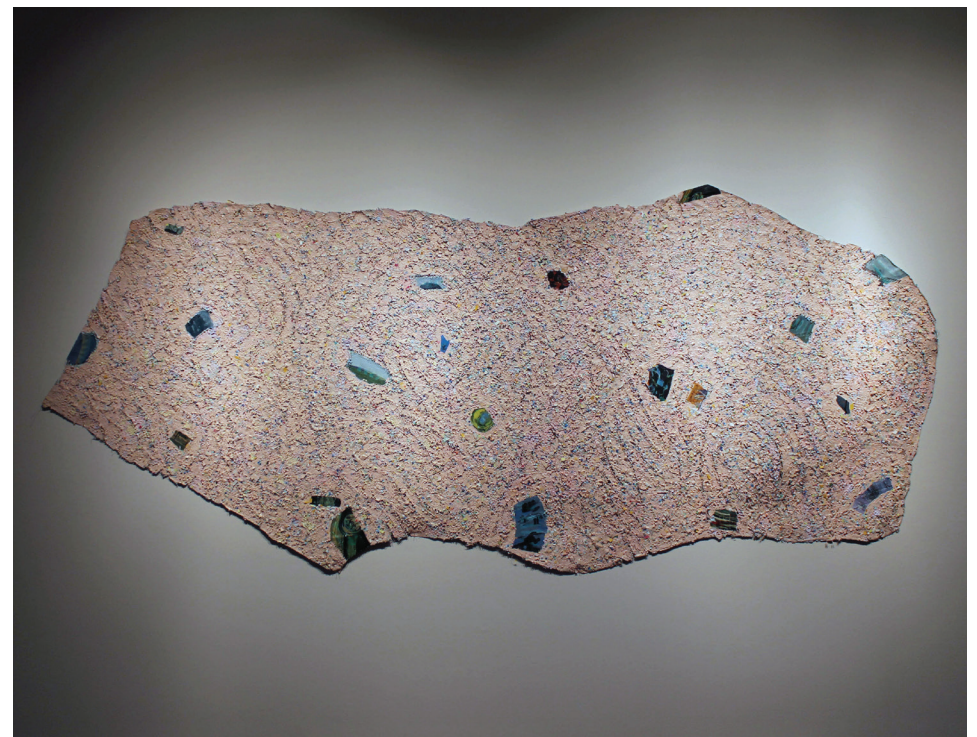
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It's hard to imagine a better place for the body of work by the African American artist Howardena Pindell than the Spelman College Museum, the only museum in the nation that places a strong emphasis on art by and about women of the African Diaspora. This exhibition brings together 20 works; the self-titled exhibition “Howardena Pindell” is a solo show, which compiles paintings, drawings, and video by Pindell.

Following their last exhibition, Marren Hassinger ... Dreaming, which both invaded and occupied space, the works in this current exhibition are rather intimate and subtle. The works are unstretched canvases that are torn apart and stitched back together, compiling hole punched dots and acrylic paint creating rough texture. One piece rather demands the viewer's attention upon entrance into the gallery. On an opening wall hung Autobiography: Japan (Tombo No Hane)(1982-1983), a large stretched canvas spanning approximately 6-foot high and 12-foot wide. The canvas, which was highly textured with hole punched dots, acrylic paint, and paper, is part of the Autobiography series.

In the adjacent gallery space to the left there are five works on paper, two unstretched canvases, and a color video where Pindell recounts bias as an African American woman. Titled Free, White and 21(1980), the video is deeply personal and political. In the video, Pindell recounts the racism she encountered both as a child and adult in various social settings. The video interchanges with the artist speaking as herself into the camera in dialogue with a white woman, which is also played by the artist in disguise, who chastises Pindell's statements of racism.

Whether or not Pindell's statements about the racism she endured as an African American woman and feminist is true, the video holds to be one of the most powerful works in the exhibition. It juxtaposes the place and role that a black and white woman played during 1970s in the feminism movement, which often overlooked the effect of class and race.



THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE



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Since the debut of the first Vogue issue in 1892, the admired “fashion bible” has primarily chosen, with a few exceptions, Caucasian women for their cover. However, the renowned singer and actress, Beyoncé Knowles, graces the 2015 September issue. (The largest edition of the year) This is not Beyoncé’s first cover, it’s closer to her fifth or sixth; however, it begins a string of covers this September that platform beautiful and successful black women and men – and it’s not just Essence magazine.



The successful pop singer Ciara is on the cover of a fitness magazine, Shape; a young Willow Smith is on the cover of a creative magazine, i-D; Kerry Washington graces the cover of a magazine that specializes in health, wellness, beauty, and style, Self; and Serena Williams is on the cover of an American magazine of reportage and commentary, The New Yorker. The list goes on including Variety, Essence, Ebony, and Paper magazine for choosing Balmain creative director, Oliver Rousteing and singer/actress Jennifer Lopez for their September issue.



Penetrating the fashion industry is often a difficult task for black professionals and celebrities, as noted by Kanye West. The struggle has been publicized with the likes of Kanye West and his fashion line, black models fighting to get covers and spots in couture shows, and even young black students attempting to land an internship within the industry. With jobs and positions that were projected for white women to fill, it is exciting to see the surplus of covers this September that are displaying black culture and providing a platform for black professionals.

MOREHOUSE - RUGBY READY TO EXCEL

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The game of rugby is a popular European sport that is not commonly played in the United States. Perhaps the last place you would expect to find a rugby team is on the campus of a Historically Black College and University. However, in 2012 students at Morehouse College erased that stereotype when they founded the Morehouse Sabers, becoming the first Black college to house its own rugby team.

The club started out with only its two founding members, former students Jalani Traxler and Stephen O'Reilly-Pol. Today, the team competes through the Georgia Rugby Union and maintains a core group of 30 players who participate in matches and tournaments all over the state of Georgia, boasting wins against Division 1 level competition such as Georgia Tech and Georgia State.

Although the Sabers have managed to find success in a short amount of time, the road to reach this level was not easy.

“We had problems that would challenge any new organization,” junior Anthony Stewart said. “Getting people from an HBCU where you don’t see rugby played to come out and experience something new and see the validity in it was definitely a challenge.”

Merging the culture of Morehouse College and the game of rugby itself was a crucial element when it came down to recruiting new members to join the team.

“I just wanted people to understand that rugby is not a sport where we go out there and kill each other like savages with no pads,” junior Elijah Brewer said. “It’s such a rich culture and brotherhood within the rugby community. It is a lot like Morehouse.”

The team manages to raise the bar for their success every year by defeating programs that have been around for decades. This year, the Sabers face a step up in competition

with scheduled matches against the University of Alabama, Georgia State and Texas Christian University. Despite these new challenges, the team has the goal of a state championship in its sights as they gear up for the upcoming season.

“We want a state championship,” Brewer said. “We have so many new people this year who are embracing the culture of rugby, along with the returning members of the team, I feel like this is our year.”

With much of the Saber core consisting of upperclassmen, players hope that younger team members will be able to carry the rugby movement and continue to break down the social and culture barriers.

“I want to see the rugby team become a point of pride for Morehouse,” Rowe said. “I want people to know that this is what Morehouse is all about, taking a group of African American kids into a new field and dominating at it the way that we’re taught to do here.”

COLUMN

INJURIES: CAN'T LIVE WITH THEM, CAN'T GO WITHOUT THEM

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The NFL and Fantasy Football participants are both in for another unpredictable season. Once again, the NFL is riddled with injuries that could potentially hinder a team’s playoff chances or ruin a Fantasy Football team’s chance at success before the season even begins.

Barely three weeks into the preseason, there have been a number of season-ending injuries to NFL marquee players. Green Bay Packers star wide receiver Jordan Nelson and Carolina Panthers go-to wide receiver Kelvin Benjamin are both sidelined for the remainder of the season with ACL tears suffered during the preseason.

Injuries are like an incurable virus to sports. There are steps and procedures that can be taken to help prevent some of the injuries, but they can often interfere with tradition that is not so willing to change. In this case, the tradition is using important players in exhibition games.

“It’s difficult to lose a guy like that (Nelson) in a meaningless game,” Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers said via NFL.com.

There are a few solutions the NFL could look at to keep players on the field and keep coaches, fans, and teammates happy. Shortening NFL preseason games and increasing the number of dual practices teams have would be one solution. Lengthening the NFL playoffs or the NFL regular season would be another solution.

Dual practices allow teams to focus on specific areas of their game at a slower pace with more repetitions in a more controlled environment. Teams control when whistles are blown, fans get a behind-the-scenes look at their teams and coaches can better evaluate their players.

Extending the season has been an idea the NFL has considered for a few years. By extending the regular season and shortening the preseason, fewer injuries would occur in games that Rodgers considers “meaningless.”

The people mostly against ideas such as these are players still fighting for a spot on the team. Fewer exhibition games give them less time to showcase their talent to the NFL. Consequently, they could potentially be out of a job entirely, which would cost them a lot of money.

LEBRON'S DONATION

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Fans and peers often regard LeBron James as the best basketball player in the world. With averages of 27.3 points, 6.9 assists, and 7.1 rebounds over his entire career, many continue to debate about whether he can supplant Michael Jordan as the “greatest of all time.” However, aside from basketball, James has set his eyes on another task in an attempt to become one of the most impactful athletes off the field.

James is giving inner-city kids from Akron, Ohio, the opportunity to receive a college education free of charge. The Cleveland Cavaliers star has created a program entitled “I Promise” which gives kids from his hometown an opportunity to attend the University of Akron without the stress of paying for tuition and service fees. James, who is always mindful of the city where he grew up, is currently planning to give the scholarship to 1,100 students. Based on the college’s current financial rates, the entire operation has a price tag of \$41.8 million.

While holding an event for students at Cedar Point Amusement Park, James decided to announce the big project to the world.

“It’s the reason I do what I do,” James said to The Associated Press. “These students have big dreams, and I’m happy to do everything I can to help them get there. They’re going to have to earn it, but I’m excited to see what these kids can accomplish knowing that college is in their futures.”

While all of the specifics are continuing to be sorted out, James has already made certain that the scholarship will be available for students who graduate from high school within Akron’s school system, meet standard test requirements, and complete a certain amount of community service hours. James, who is now entering his 13th year in the NBA, is continuing to leave his mark not only on the hardwood, but also within the communities that need help the most.

“It means so much because, as a kid growing up in the inner city and a lot of African-American kids, you don’t really think past high school,” James said. “You don’t really know your future. You hear high school all the time, and you graduate high school and then you never think past that because either it’s not possible or your family’s not financially stable to even be able to support a kid going to college.” While James often credits Akron for the influence it had on his development growing up, he is now giving back with a program that will have long-term impact on the community that helped shape the man we know today.

IT'S LIT: THE LIVEST DJS STRAIGHT OUTTA MOREHOUSE

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With all of the studying and research students always look forward to the parties and events of the weekend. Thus DJs serve as the masters behind a lot of the fun memories in college. Current DJs like DJ Myles, DosDías, and Cody GotBeatz have set the tone for whether many AUC student events have been exciting or not. Students can catch their performances on campus, at house parties and city venues with popular artists. So for all the music and party lovers, here is a list of three of the top DJs in the AUC.

Myles Pearson, also known as DJ Myles, is a senior Business Administration major at Morehouse College, who's played for 2 Chainz, Spelhouse, and Atlanta venues.

AF: What makes you stand out as a college DJ?

DM: "I feel like I'm one of the hardest DJ's in the AUC. I'm always practicing. My playlist from the 90s to the earliest 2000s sets me out, because a lot of DJs struggle with that."

AF: How do you manage DJing and a full time academic schedule?

DM: "Having to manage my time. I would have to stay up late and do my homework. Also understanding school comes first and DJing second."

AF: What advice would you give upcoming DJs?

DM: "I've learned not to do it for the money, but do it because you actually enjoy it. If you enjoy it, you can do it for free. You have to prove your worth."

David Bishop, also known as DosDías, is a junior Business Administration major at Morehouse College who spins at AUC house parties, events and produces for artists.

AF: What inspired you to start DJing?

DD: "I didn't get too serious until freshman year. My dad was a DJ in Brooklyn. He was well rounded in music, so I decided to take it further."

AF: Who are your favorite artists to play?

DD: "I'm a lover of all music in state and out of the country. Right now Travis Scott, Tory Lanez, and reggae artist Popcaan."

AF: Have you worked with any artist?

DD: "I've worked with MemberzOnly, John Middlebrooks, Cody GotBeatz, and Jean Michaels. From a business standpoint, I've worked with Marcc Rose, who played Tupac in 'Straight Outta Compton.'"

Dakota Moore, also known as Cody GotBeatz, is a senior English at Morehouse, who produces and DJs for house parties and Morehouse College events.

AF: What has been your most memorable moment DJing in the AUC?

CG: "The first weekend of the school year. I hadn't seen my class turn up like that before. It was memorable hearing all the praises; it made me want to go harder with it now that I have the stamp of the public."

AF: How do you go about recognizing the vibe of the crowd in order to get the party turned up?

CG: "It always helps me to have the host. At first it starts out with playing music and I see what connects with the crowd. Keep it similar as possible and then you switch up."

AF: Who are some of your favorite DJs in the industry?

CG: "DJ AM was unconventional, he did other things that other DJs didn't do in a set as far as blending genres and changing tempos. Of course I always have to credit DJ Scoop, being around him I wouldn't be in this industry."

#TAKINGBACKYOURTL: How Your Favorite Celebrities Took To Social Media to Speak Out!

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Whether it is Baltimore, Texas, Ferguson or New York, the rise in racial tension between police and African Americans has reached an all-time high. Where there is an uprising, people are guaranteed to find a hashtag followed by a slain Black person's name. The difference in the past year has not only been the popularity of Black Twitter, but the rise in celebrity participation in activist spaces on social media. Yes, people's favorite rappers, singers and artists are tweeting to express their frustration with police brutality and the injustices Black people in this country face.

Most recently in the wake of the suspicious death of 28-year-old activist Sandra Bland, who was arrested and detained for three days for not signaling by Waller County, Texas police. Not only have top #BlackTwitter activists taken to posting links and dishing prophetic tweets on the case but also some favorite celebrities.

Celebs such as Jesse Williams, Nicki Minaj, Kerry Washington and Kim Kardashian have all taken to Instagram and Twitter to speak out and stand up with the #blacklivesmatter movement that has swept social media.

"We are people who have watched the state kill, lie & steal without penalty or remorse," well-known twitter activist Deray Mckesson said.

Hollywood and the world took to Twitter with the hashtag #SayHerName and #SandraBland to speak out against the suspicious nature of Bland's death. Kim Kardashian specifically took to twitter to speak on the matter.

"#WhatHappenedToSandraBland We need answers!!!! This is NOT ok! This is all shady! They need to own up to this & tell the truth!" Kardashian said.

Other celebrities such as Kerry Washington and Nicki Minaj all spoke on the Bland case giving condolences and expressing outrage on the matter at hand.

"This quote hit me hard this morning. Ugh. Need to breathe," Kerry Washington said after posting on Twitter a response to a Zora Neale Hurston quote posted by comedian Margaret Cho. This type of social media activism does of course look different for some celebrities such as actor Jesse Williams, who has a long history of posting full discourses on race, police brutality and privilege on Twitter. Most recently, his full discourse on Bland's case was the talk of Twitter. In the critique, Williams spoke on how connected police brutality is to the Black experience and just how white privilege plays into the justice system.

Rappers such as Meek Mill, P.Diddy, Ja Rule and many others posted on Instagram to honor Bland's life and give support to the search for answers in Bland's case. Go on your Timeline to see what your favorite celebrities and artist are saying about #SandraBland and the fight to end racial discrimination!



STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON CONTROVERSY

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“Straight Outta Compton” is the box-office success that gives an account of the rise and fall of N.W.A., the hip hop group credited with pioneering the rap style that became prevalent in the 1990’s. While the film has generated good reviews overall, much like the group itself, the film has come with a bit of controversy.

It has incited strong reactions from both the general public and the individuals who were affiliated with the group at the time of its greatest triumph. For some, the film is prompting violence in a time when distrust in the police is at an all-time high. For others, the film is inaccurate, leaving out any portrayals of key character flaws in young Dr. Dre, Ice-Cube, Eazy-E, and others.

The film’s biggest controversy, accuracy; or rather the lack thereof. A number of individuals have come forward stating the film misrepresented a number of events that occurred when the group members were in their prime. On June 10, MC Ren, one of the group’s former members, took to Twitter to voice his dislike of how he was, or rather wasn’t portrayed in the film’s trailer.

“Man fuck these bitches at universal pictures leaving me out the movie trailers tryin’ to rewrite history,” MC Ren said via Twitter.

The trailer that was initially released for the film showed little of MC Ren and focused mainly on Eazy-E, Dr. Dre, and Ice Cube. Ren was understandably upset considering his status as one of the founding members of N.W.A. It doesn’t stop there however, Gerald “Jerry” Heller recently hinted with TMZ that he may be seeking legal action in response to the film.

“I’m still not willing to comment right now on that movie because I think sooner or later it may be part of an ongoing litigation,” Heller said. Besides MC Ren and Heller, a number of women who were in relationships with Dr.

Dre before or while he was with N.W.A. have come forward saying the film did not appropriately portray the misogyny and abuse the group used against them and other women. In an interview with Vlad TV, singer Michel’le, who had a son with Dre, described how they got into an argument that resulted in the producer pulling a gun out on her. “I had just made it to through the bathroom door and he shot. He missed me by that much,” Michel’le said.

She later describes how she left the bullet lodged in the doorframe as a reminder of what he did. She mentions that her role as one of the women Dre beat up is why she isn’t in the film. She isn’t the only one. Journalist Dee Barnes wrote a piece for Gawker blatantly entitled, “Here’s What’s Missing From Straight Outta Compton: Me and the Other Women Dr. Dre Beat Up”. In the pieces, Barnes compares the instances of police brutality depicted in the film to the many times Dre physically abused her.

“That must have been how it looked as Dr. Dre straddled me and beat me mercilessly on the floor of the women’s restroom at the Po Na Na Souk nightclub in 1991,” Barnes said. One instance involved Dre getting violent with her after a package that she helped produce for television portrayed N.W.A. in a less-than-flattering light. The incident so inflammatory that it had a permanent effect on both her relationship with Dre, and her journalistic career. One of the film’s major arcs centers on police brutality and how the group dealt with being racially profiled by police officers in their Compton neighborhood. The result, the single “Fuck the Police” which was just as controversial today as it is now. The focus on this film and the group’s troubles with law enforcement even prompted an increase in security nationwide.

Some see this as a precautionary measure that was taken to decrease the likelihood of a violent act happening in the movie theater, understandable considering a violent shooting in a Louisiana movie theater had just occurred one month prior. However, others claim that this is yet another instance in which people of color are being profiled by those in power. Consider how no other film that opened in the month of August required extra security. Conservatives are alleging that the film is only lending to the problems police are having with doing their jobs in minority neighborhoods. But the controversy hasn’t done anything to stop people from seeing the film. In fact, as of Friday Aug. 28, “Straight Outta Compton” was slated to pull in a total of \$133 million dollars.

WHAT'S THE 411?!?!?

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KENDRICK LAMAR SONG-INSPIRED SCHOLARSHIP AFTER HIGH SCHOOL VISIT

High school and college students do not seem to be the only fans of rising rap superstar Kendrick Lamar. Mr. Brian Mooney, an English teacher at High Tech High School in North Bergen, N.J., seems to be a fan himself. Kendrick's sophomore album, "To Pimp a Butterfly," was used as a curriculum basis in Mooney's class. Students would take lyrics and draw parallels between the album and Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye." After news of this assignment, Kendrick personally visited Mooney's class, listened to students' poetry, participated in an impromptu classroom cypher and gave an exclusive performance. Proceeding this special classroom surprise, Oogee Woogee, a Philadelphia-based organization, launched the "Be Alright" scholarship. This scholarship will award one High Tech High student with \$1,500 towards university tuition and book fees. Students are required to make a 2-3 minute video using their own individual talents to explain the positive effects of hip-hop.



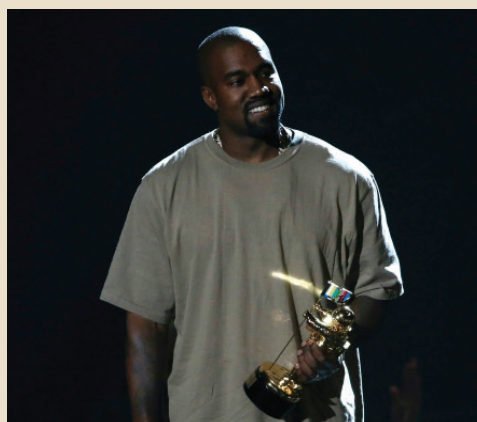
JENNIFER HUDSON TO BE CAST AS ARETHA FRANKLIN IN BIOPIC

Scott Bernstein has been credited for producing movies such as "Confidence," "Hollywood Homicide" and more recently "Straight Outta Compton." He has just completed his role as executive producer for "Ride Along 2" starring Ice Cube and Kevin Hart. Now, he's dabbling into producer biopics. According to The Wrap and Essence Magazine's online platform, singer-actress Jennifer Hudson will star as Aretha Franklin in Bernstein's biopic of the late singer. The movie does not have a title nor a scheduled release date, however it would primarily shed light on Aretha's height of fame in the late 1960s to early 1970s.



TRACY MORGAN JUMPS BROOM WITH LONGTIME FIANCÉE

On Sunday, August 23rd, actor-comedian Tracy Morgan finally ties the knot with girlfriend and the woman who's stood beside him since his nearly fatal auto accident Meghan Wollover. According to People Magazine, the ceremony was quite moving and emotional. "After almost losing Tracy last year, I am so grateful to finally be marrying the love of my life," Meghan said to People. Congratulations to the newlyweds! Maroon Tiger wishes you nothing but happiness and prosperity in your marriage.



KANYE WEST ANNOUNCES HIS 2020 BID FOR PRESIDENT AT THE VMAS

During his acceptance speech for the Vanguard Award at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards, rapper Kanye West closed by declaring his plans to run for president in five years.

"“And yes, as you probably could've guessed by this moment, I have decided in 2020 to run for president,” West said.