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WHO CAUSES FINANCIAL AID WOES?

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WHO CAUSES FINANCIAL AID WOES?

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It is no secret that there is some kind of disconnect between the Office of Financial Aid and the students here at Morehouse College. However, what is less apparent is the cause of this disconnect or who may be to "blame." The students believe it's the office's fault, and the office believes it's the students.

In a verbal survey of 100 Morehouse students, 78 claimed that they were dissatisfied with the efficiency of the Office of Financial Aid. It would not be hard to see why if one just judged off of sight. Through the first two weeks of school, the office was consistently full of seemingly disappointed students, and even some were seated in the hall.

A reoccurring theme among the students is the idea that there are not enough people working in the financial aid office.

"The ratio of staff to students isn't there," junior Ernest Turner said. "More people need to be around to supervise these problems."

The issue with that is there may not be enough funds to hire the amount of staff it would take to satisfy the students. According to Sheryl Spivey, the Director of Financial Aid, the office is taking steps to make it easier for students to get everything they need. This includes four new employees and what she called "one stop shopping" that will allow students to handle issues with the Financial Aid, Registrar and Admissions offices in one space.

IS AUC UNITY FAKE?

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Upon entering Clark Atlanta University, the oldest and youngest institution in the Atlanta University Center, in the Fall of 2014, I was excited not only about my school, but also about meeting my fellow AUC brothers and sisters. Instead, at the yearly AUC freshmen welcoming Olive Branch event, I felt the total opposite.

Leading up to Olive Branch, the new incoming classes had the typical quarrel with one another via Twitter. It mainly consisted of Clark and Spelman women who felt the other was throwing some sort of shade. It is no secret that overall, the two schools aren't too close aside from the short distance between each campus.

While the AUC is called the "AUC" for a reason, it is visibly split in half. You have SpelHouse, which is obviously Spelman and Morehouse, and then CAU. During Olive Branch, there was a speaker who invited the new Men of Morehouse to chant their infamous, "I got my brothers' back," but to the ladies of the AUC. This also led to the speaker telling the girls, which Clark assumed was referring to Spelman, to chant back, "I got my brothers' back."

All you hear is "I got my brothers'/sisters' back," but you only see the new Spelmanites and Men of Morehouse standing and saying it to each other with the hand signs in the air. All of my fellow CAU brothers and

"We spent weeks this summer training everybody on the questions they should be able to answer for all the different areas," Spivey said. "Eventually, in the next couple of weeks the big desk will be gone and there will be three small stations where the students can go, plus Admissions will be the fourth station."

Spivey was also clear that responsibility for the issues students have with Financial Aid fall on the students themselves more often than not. As an example, she pointed out the training sessions that the office held in residence halls and for off-campus students last year. They were poorly attended, which has a direct correlation to the number of people who didn't know what they were doing.

"We don't have problems with new students," Spivey said. "They do as we have requested. Returning students have a habit of not filling out their forms."

Spivey estimated that at least 40 percent of the students don't read the emails that are sent out by Financial Aid.

Another big issue that Spivey mentioned is that students are taking too long to graduate from Morehouse. The federal government offers Pell Grants and loans for up to six years. After that, the "federal bank" is closed.

"We can look at it and say it's not us," Spivey said.

Spivey is very confident that the majority of the issues within the office are not caused by the staff, which puts into question all of the complaints that students have had over the years. Does the blame really lie with them?

sisters continued to sit, even laughing at the apparent division between the schools. After the ceremony, I remember saying that I didn't stand solely because I did not feel the need to have their backs because they are quick to turn their backs on Clark.

The more visible divide is felt between Clark and Spelman women. "I feel like the majority of the divide is with Clark girls and Spelman," Nye'Dia Harris, a freshman Psychology major at CAU, said. "I think this is because of that stigma that one group of girls is better than the other."

There is nothing wrong with friendly competition, but when you lose out on opportunities solely on the fact that you go to a different institution, things turn sour. When you constantly feel left out, then you feel the need to distance yourself all together.

For the Fall 2015 semester there was talk of an AUC Homecoming that people were for and against. The majority against it, surprisingly, were students from CAU. Spelhouse has their yearly homecoming a week before or after CAU, and every few years there is a unified homecoming. This year, Clark students simply said "No," and that seemed to only further validate the divide in the AUC.

Besides the many quarrels these institutions may have with each other, when it matters most, we do manage to unite in some form. There is no better learning experience for so many talented Black minds than in the historical Atlanta University Center.

KILGORE 2.0



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As the academic year began, returning students were amazed at the numerous campus updates. One in particular is the renovation of the not so inviting student center: Thomas Kilgore Hall.

Kilgore, which triples as a student center, residence house and administrative office space, is a central point of the college's campus. Many activities take place there from Hump Wednesday, organization fairs, meetings and simple day-to-day conversation. Because of the numerous encounters students have with Kilgore, the college's administration is trying to make Kilgore more inviting.

On the outside of Kilgore, banners have been added to embrace the spirit of Morehouse. These banners speak to what it means to be a Man of Morehouse as well as how Morehouse molds its students into becoming Morehouse Men.

Inside of the main lobby, wall banners indicating the top organizations on campus have been installed. These organizations include but are not limited to: SGA, CASA, The Maroon Tiger, and banners for each of the NPHC Greek Letter Organizations represented at the college.

The hope for Kilgore 2.0 is that more students would feel comfortable in engaging in camaraderie or fellowship in a location dedicated to enhancing social interaction. Campus life took a huge leap when Chick-Fil-A was added just last year, and as the freshman class has rolled in, Morehouse has been adamant in creating more of a college atmosphere for its students.

It is apparent that Morehouse not only wants to receive students, but is doing all that it can to keep its students and make them feel as comfortable as possible as they partake in the transition from high school to college and beyond.

Could this lead to a new and improved Morehouse College as well?

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SELECTIVE BLACK PRIDE

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In the day and age of Black celebrities bleaching their skin and changing their features to look more Euro-centric, there has been a lack of pride in being Black. If a person has any pride at all, then it does not cover the full Black spectrum.

This “selective Black Pride” stems from what many would say is a lack of knowledge. So what does it mean to exhibit overall Black pride?

“Black pride means knowledge of self. I think that knowledge of self means knowledge of history,” said La’Niece Littleton, an Adjunct Humanities Professor and doctoral student at Clark Atlanta University. “When one is knowledgeable about their history, it allows them to have a certain level of confidence in all that they do.”

“Black pride just comes from a place of knowing that you come from a great lineage, and that our lineage doesn’t begin with enslavement.”

This lack of knowledge has made some people forget the great legacies that Black people come from. When people don’t know all the greatness they come from, it is nearly impossible to feel pride in their people and themselves.

“Black pride is a continuous decision to center oneself and one’s people and their history at the center of your life and studies,” Courtney Terry a M.A, Professor and doctoral student at Clark Atlanta University, said. “I make it my business to be aware of what’s going on in the black community.”

“I seek out alternative forms of media, both news and in print. I continuously seek out the work and words of my elders; and in my own life I’ve committed to valuing black people and the diasporic experience for people of African descent.”

When having selective pride, one tends to skip parts of the Black experience to take in some of that lost pride. The Black community and a Black education are two that primarily get looked over. Some don’t see the value in getting an education from a Black institution, or going back into the same Black communities that reared them.

Colorism, Euro-centricity and other forms of internalized oppression all contribute to people only wanting to have Black pride when it is either trendy or convenient for them.

“Yes, we have issues and yes, we have fissures in our community, but to keep exploiting them for means of fame and popularity or money or access is detrimental on every level,” Terry said.

Black education is also underappreciated – not to say every Black person has to attend an HBCU – but Black people must know the historical importance of these colleges and universities in the Black community, then and now.

“We have to stop being an emotional people, and start being an active people,” Littleton said. “We must see education as our own responsibility.”

You cannot have Black pride without having respect, knowledge, and love for all aspects of Black life. Lack of this is truly what selective Black pride means.

THE SILENT KILLER OF BLACK MEN

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Most people are unaware that September is National Prostate Cancer Month, and they are even more oblivious to the impact that prostate cancer has on African-Americans.

“In the African-American community, most men [with prostate cancer] do not get their prostate examined until it is far too late and they are in the late stages of the disease,” Dr. Walter Falconer, a 1982 Morehouse graduate, said. “This results in painful and sometimes avoidable deaths.”

Since its discovery in 1853, prostate cancer has claimed the lives of millions of men around the world, but African-Americans are the most at-risk group. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this year that the rate of deaths caused by prostate cancer in the African-American community exceeds that of any other race.

The imbalance in the distribution of prostate cancer across races raises many questions about health disparities and how history has shaped the landscape of public health. “Many factors contribute to this unequal distribution,” Falconer said. “Genetic predisposition, improper diet, and heavy smoking – to name a few – are heavily present in the Black community and increase one’s risk of prostate cancer.”

Although there has been tremendous progress in prostate cancer research and treatments throughout the years, it still claims the lives of a disproportionate number of African-American men.

“It [reproductive health] is something men simply don’t want to talk about,” Falconer, who is an Atlanta oncologist and prostate cancer specialist, said. He believes that the culture of silence regarding reproductive health has plagued the African-American community.

Such silence has made most Black men not consider the disease to be nearly as serious as breast cancer when, in fact, the statistics are comparable:

- About one in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime, and about one in four Black men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society.
- Prostate cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death in American men,

behind only lung cancer. About one man in 38 will die of prostate cancer. (ACS, 2015).

- The ACS predicts that in 2015, 220,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 28,000 will die from the disease, compared to 230,000 expected cases of breast cancer and 40,000 expected deaths.

Access to healthcare, prior to Obamacare, was unfavorable to minority populations. Screening, which is a highly recommended preventative measure, requires insurance coverage.

“Prostate cancer awareness is crucial in order to prevent its pervasion within our community,” Falconer said. He added that it is important for every African-American man to be familiar with preventative measures, such as proper diet and exercise, avoiding tobacco products and getting prostate exams annually after they reach 45. Even college-age men are capable of dictating their fate when it comes to this disease, as prevention and early detection are the keys to survival.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 11 a.m., the Morehouse Presidential Ambassadors will host a discussion about prostate cancer. Falconer will be joined by Dr. David Cooke, Chair of the Biology Department and a prostate cancer survivor. The conversation will feature an informative presentation, along with a question-and-answer portion.

This information will not only be beneficial for the health of students and staff, but for the family members of the more informed as well.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF KATRINA IMPACT ON AUC STUDENTS

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On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina reached land and brought in a wave of devastation to much of the Gulf Coast. KayCeï Moton-Melancon, a junior Biology major at Spelman College, sits in the cafeteria two weeks after the 10th anniversary of this unfortunate event. Though not sad, she tears up a little while mentioning how she wasn't able to go home this past anniversary.

"When bad things happen in New Orleans, no matter what it is, you don't harp on the bad," Melancon said. "You celebrate the good and you celebrate what it was and what you know it can be."

She recalls watching the TV with her family the night before the storm hit.

"The weather man got into a basket crane, and he was like 'at 7 o'clock this is where we think the water will be, at 9 o'clock this is where we think the water will be' and by 10 o'clock he was at the roof of the building," Melancon said.

In retrospect, Melancon explains that Katrina felt somewhat surreal to her. Only 10 years old when the city flooded, she feels as though Katrina has in some ways defined her New

Orleans experience.

"Even when you talk about things that were, it's always post-Katrina or pre-Katrina," Melancon said. "We used to go to this park but that was 'before Katrina happened' people will say."

Spelman sophomore Biology major Unique Hayes describes the anniversary as both a joyous time and a somber time that will never leave her even 30 years after the storm hit.

"Aug. 29, 2005, is always going to have a strong tie to me because I lost everything I had," Hayes said. "There's always going to be that thought of devastation in the back of my head."

While describing the changes she's seen in the 10-year period, Hayes also emphasizes the changes she hasn't seen.

"I don't think the city is really worried about rebuilding the 9th Ward," she said. "There are still remnants of Katrina there."

Hayes is not the only individual from New Orleans in the AUC who has commented on the lack of rebuilding in certain areas of the city.

"There are a lot of places that look like the flood happened a year ago," Spelman College Math professor and New Orleans native Kiandra Johnson said.

Many people looking from outside might not understand this, but there seems to be a general understanding among New Orleans residents about why this is. It's the tourism industry, primarily located uptown of the city, that suffered the least amount of damage.

"Instead of going into a lot of the areas that were affected and trying to rebuild, they're doing a lot of gentrification," Melancon said. "We have a lot of young, white professionals coming to work for Teach for America and places like that and it's really transforming the neighborhoods."

Though it is generally agreed that Katrina has really changed New Orleans, the 10th anniversary of the storm should not be regarded negatively.

"I think Katrina 10 is not about remembering all the bad things and how New Orleans has changed, but remembering that a horrible natural disaster came and wiped out pretty much the whole city and we were able to come back," Melancon said. "That's just New Orleans' culture, that's just New Orleans' spirit, we're fighters, we don't give up."

CONSEQUENCES OF A HOMELESS SANTA...

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Picture a disheveled Saint Nicholas, wandering around, a shadow of his former self, homeless, hungry, and uncertain about the future. The idea of a homeless Santa is one that the entire world – our children especially – would lose sleep over if only everyone understood the consequences of this unprecedented phenomenon. Surprisingly, an ice free North Pole, or a "homeless Santa Claus," has actually occurred every summer dating back to 2012. As a result of climate change and melting Arctic sea ice, a homeless Santa is only a dramatic symbol of a changing time and an unstable planet.

According Dr. Peter Wadams of Cambridge University, "The issue of the disappearance of the arctic sea ice is the greatest issue of our time."

Since the 1980s, the volume of the Arctic ice sheet has lost over 75 percent of its mass. To illustrate this picture more vividly, the rate of melting is 41,000 square miles per day. This is equivalent to losing half of the state of Kansas covered in ice every 24 hours. Experts from institutions ranging from officials at NASA to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change agree that the central cause is the dramatic increase in CO2 emissions, which began with the rise of fossil fuel use destabilizing the atmosphere.

The climate change process occurs as a result of heat not being able to escape our atmosphere. Greenhouse gases,

such as CO2 and methane, act as insulators of the sun's heat and radiation, allowing less of that heat to be reflected off of the planet and back into space. Stuningly, Wadams, along with many other climatologists and geologists, predicts a completely ice-free Arctic in the summer months as early as September of 2016.

Well, what does all this mean for you? In addition to the destruction of the habitat of all Arctic species, and the decimation of the way of life for many coastal cities around the world, the most noticeable change will occur as a result of a shift in the jet stream.

The jet stream is a global current of air that controls much of the earth's weather patterns and is directly influenced by the low pressure area that is created as a result of the cooler temperatures that have historically categorized the Arctic. An unpredictable jet stream will directly impact food production for many areas around the world, as well as cause others to become uninhabitable. This means drought, famine and flood being the cause of millions of people being displaced.

If these consequences were not dire enough, the greatest threat is the release of methane (which has already begun). In the past, the planet has trapped the Greenhouse gases as well as other organic material deep within the earth or in the solid state which lines the floor of many of Earth's oceans and frigid coasts. Some of this material is referred to as permafrost, or permanently frozen "mud" that, when thawed, releases methane.

In the Arctic alone, there are 500 gigatons of methane trapped in permafrost deposits that have slowly begun to release due to the lack of ice, which has historically kept the permafrost frozen and out of our atmosphere. If that isn't scary enough, methane is 23 times as potent a Greenhouse gas as CO2. This occurrence would dramatically speed up what scientists call a positive feedback loop, which refers to the process of warming as a result of more Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and more Greenhouse gases being released and causing more warming.

I write not simply to call attention to the warming of the Arctic and a homeless Santa, but to let you know that as goes the Arctic, so goes the world. Do the politicians and world leaders that represent you address this issue? If not, why? And if climate change is as bad as scientific models suggest, is human survival under extreme conditions a question that we really want to know the answer to ... or are some questions better left unanswered?

Mankind as a whole must challenge itself to understand the concept of balance, and ask, "What benefit do we provide for this planet, and does it equal that which we demand from it?" If something drastic is not done by all of us, we may find ourselves as a human species much like our beloved Santa Claus, homeless, hungry, and uncertain about the future. And they said that the revolution would not be televised.

WOMEN VOTING IN SAUDI ARABIA

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History was recently made in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. For the first time in the nation's history, women were allowed to register to vote. The move was initiated by the late King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, who put the plans into action back in 2011.

This new decree would ensure that women would not only be allowed to register to vote, they would also be allowed to participate in municipal elections. Prior to this, as far back as the 1950s and 1960s, women were forbidden from doing all three.

One of the major reasons female voting participation was forbidden was due to gender segregation, a practice that has been ingratiated in the culture for decades. Up until 2008, women were not allowed to be a part of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the city of Jeddah. That year, two women were elected to the board.

While women have not been allowed to participate in elections, they have been voted to various positions within the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia, the governing body that serves the monarchy of Saudi Arabia. Thirty seats on the council were granted to women in 2013; a small margin considering the size of the predominantly male governing body.

The suffrage movement in Saudi Arabia has been a major topic of discussion in recent years, invoking strong reactions on both sides of the spectrum. Saudi Arabia is one of the few countries in the world to still have a gender-specific ban on political suffrage in the 21st century.

This is why the country's decision to allow women to vote is seen as a forward-thinking move.

"Female suffrage is inextricable from socio-economic advancement and development in Saudi Arabia. As long as women are marginalized, regardless of the state, said state will never reach its full potential," senior Political Science major Joshua Drumming said.

It's an opinion that much of the world shares. Many Western countries, the United States in particular, have attempted diplomatic means to convince Saudi Arabia of the necessity of gender-inclusive elections.

The question then becomes, why is the change happening now? It is possible that decades of pressure from other countries have led to Saudi Arabia's change in perspective, but the step forward does come with a few stipulations.

Voting is not open to all women. In fact, a woman is only eligible to register to vote and participate if she follows the restrictions which include wearing the traditional wrap which covers one's hair and mouth.

Additionally, the elections tend to center around the whim of the king of Saudi Arabia, who chooses his own government cabinet. Then, is this really a victory? Saudi Arabia is one of many countries whose voter turnout could possibly be determined by the issues being voted on.

Instances of gender inequality are just one of the many things facing the world that students in the AUC will face. Our voting rights are in danger of being infringed upon. With the turn of an election, much like the one that will take place in Saudi Arabia in December, we could easily enter into a society that will plunge us back into a world where one is kept from voting based on something as simple as gender or skin color.

It then becomes our responsibility to see to it that we do not take a similar step backwards. In order to prevent actions against our own voting rights, and continued progress, like what was seen in Saudi Arabia, the people must breed the next group of political leaders. The millennials have need to take an active role in our government.

#BLACK LIVES MATTER (TOO)...

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It is sometimes assumed that #BlackLivesMatter, the social movement that emerged as a result of the outrageous and unfortunate deaths of hundreds of Black lives, believes that only Black lives matter. This is far from the truth. Constant disputes about the true meaning of the movement sparked arguments on social media and left many annoyed and frustrated after the shooting deaths of two Virginia news team members in late August. These two victims just happened to be white.

The initial shock came early morning on August 26 when CNN reported that reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward were gunned down by an unknown shooter. That shooter turned out to be their former co-worker Vester Flanagan II, who the WDBJ-TV news team knew as Bryce Williams, a Black man.

Many news outlets questioned his rationale for shooting the two co-workers, and a few days later, Flanagan's document about wanting to start a "race war" emerged. Flanagan cited the shooting of nine Black people in Charleston, S.C., and constant instances of racial discrimination and harassment at his former workplace as reasons for his pent up anger. Still, this did not mean that the #BlackLivesMatter movement backed his actions.

Several members of the "Black Twitter" community gave their condolences to Parker and Ward's families and friends while also expressing that Flanagan's actions were

unforgivable. The violent death of anyone is tragic and the victims deserve respect. As a human, condoning violence or harm against anyone – regardless of race or ethnic differences – is appalling.

People claimed the #BlackLivesMatter fueled Flanagan's actions with ignorant comments: "If a disgruntled white ex-employee had shot 3 blacks, killing 2, the #blacklivesmatter crowd would already be in the streets looting. #WDBJ" - @Average559Guy "WDBJ shooter was a black SJW. Feminists and #blacklivesmatter are at fault here. Racists" - @cookiesinnymouf

"#BlackLivesMatter Is at fault for #WDBJ. Make no mistake about it. We live in a world where you can lose a job and its "Racism's fault." - @awyattman88

"I wont be surprised if the shooter is a member of #BlackLivesMatter mob, he seems as braindead as them. #WDBJ" - @EnemyWithinn

To say that a movement that seeks to bring justice and equality for the protection of Black lives IN ADDITION TO other lives was used to justify shooting two innocent people is revolting. To say that one man who killed for his own personal reasons is the product of #BlackLivesMatter defeats the purpose of the entire movement.

This is why it is necessary to not only acknowledge the oppressive and damaging psychological effects of systemic racism, but violence in our society as a whole must be acknowledged, too. #BlackLivesMatter cares about white lives, too, but their lives aren't in as much danger right now. Ours are.

GEOFFREY GOLDEN: "KINGDOM... LIVE!" ALBUM RELEASE CONCERT

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The Maroon Tiger sat down with Season 7 Sunday's Best winner and Morehouse senior Geoffrey Golden, after his album release concert Aug. 28 celebrating his debut album "Kingdom...LIVE!" Gospel music heavyweights, including Kirk Franklin and Donnie McClurkin, made appearances at the concert, and Casey J., Y'Anna Crawley, IZ and Totally 4 Him performed. Golden shared his reactions surrounding his album release and concert in the following interview:

MT: How did it feel to finally share your work with the world, especially here at Morehouse College?

Golden: It was surreal, incredible, and indescribable. Over the last year since Sunday's Best, I've sung and ministered at many different venues, such as schools, churches, and concert halls, but this was probably one of the most special for me because I love Morehouse, I love the AUC, just everything that we represent. And so to be able to celebrate the release of the album with the AUC was just something that meant so much to me. Several weeks ago, I got to do my first album release back home in Cleveland, Ohio, but this one was no less amazing because it was family.

MT: What did it mean to have Kirk Franklin, Donnie McClurkin, the Sunday's Best All Stars, and other contestants from Season 7 come and support you?

Golden: It meant so much to me. Many times you know that you're supported and you know that people love you and that people care about you, but to see that in such a tangible way was a really incredible feeling. When I think about people from different facets of my life, I had church family who were there. I had immediate and extended blood family that was there and then to have my Sunday Best family there and then, of course, these gospel icons, who I look up to and learned so much from being a young child and watching these guys and being amazed at what God was doing through them and then for them to celebrate this night with me, just to say Geoff, welcome to the gospel community, welcome to the big leagues, was really such a blessing. I actually didn't know Uncle Donnie, that's what we call him, was coming until he showed up that night, which was also such a blessing.

MT: What is it like to look back at your Sunday's Best experience, see your transformation over time, and start your journey as a gospel artist in the industry during the album release concert?

Golden: You know for me, things really come full circle. I was thinking just about what God has done in my life since I got to Morehouse, having been a fan of Sunday's Best since I was 12 or 13, and saying I would really like to go on there. And then looking to my freshman year at Morehouse when I went to the audition for the first time and didn't make it through the preliminary audition round and then to see that next

year roll around and I went to the audition and this time I made it through to the top 20 for Sunday Best. Just all throughout, there were these connections to Morehouse. So to see what God has done since I've been here, and even while I was on Sunday's Best when it was time to vote and there was so much support and then to Friday night with the album being released, things just really come full circle.

MT: Was it difficult for you to open up and be transparent and vulnerable when you shared your story with everyone during the concert?

Golden: It's gotten easier because some people say the more you share something, the easier it gets to share. When I went through the struggle I had with suicide when I was younger, it's so interesting because sometimes we're going through spiritual or even emotional things, we feel embarrassed to tell someone about it, even though that's where the help is. As I begin to have victory over it, there were a couple times during that time that I just broke down and had to share with someone because it was just so much on me and my spirit. But over the last few years, I realized that some people just need to know that they can make it, they can endure. Over the last few months, the Lord really blessed me with the confidence to share that part of my story because I think that some people need to hear it.

MT: How long did "Kingdom...LIVE!" take to make and produce?

Golden: We finalized all the songs in two weeks. But the process really began in October of 2014 when I had my first meeting with the label and it was such an incredible feeling. So we began the dialogue and began to take song submissions from people we had known were great writers. In February, there was another meeting we had to finalize those songs. There were eight songs and we were waiting for those last two songs, and they were Kirk Franklin's songs, then two weeks before the recording we finally got the songs from Kirk and it was like puzzle pieces. It was so beautiful how his contributions just added to the body of work and the night of the recording, God just really blessed us.

MT: How did it feel to be an official recording musician in a studio recording music that would eventually go on an album that would be all yours?

Golden: Some days I think I've grasped it and figured it out, and then other days, I'm reminded that I really haven't. And it's still surreal to think about how this boy from Cleveland, Ohio, who just loves God and loves to sing gospel music, just to see what can happen in a short time as you stay faithful, and continue praying and seeking God. To think about the production team, you know Kirk Franklin, who was one of the producers on the album, and then also others who are gospel legends in the industry, and they are singing, writing and playing on my record. Once we listened to the masters of the album, I was really just like, "Wow, God,

you did this. You had a plan and a purpose for my life all along." I'm just grateful.

MT: What was the vision you had and vibe you wanted for your album? And what was it like having the album release here in the AUC?

Golden: It was really important for me that my album felt cohesive, that it felt like one body of work, that it didn't feel scattered, but at the same time it was versatile enough for different generations to be able to appreciate it. I've always been a church kid, so sometimes even Kirk Franklin's music for me, which I love, has always been on the edge for me. I feel like my musical taste may be older, so it was important to me, being a part of his label, which is such an honor, to capture a sound that my grandmother could listen to the album and could get with some of the songs, that my mom and father could get with some of the songs and that my peers could as well. And I thank God because I believe that the songs that we received and the way they were produced really did capture that. It's something on the album for everybody. I also wanted each song to have a message, so for me it was very important that these songs were heavy content that you were going to get some good Biblical, theological meat, and be more than just feel good music.

MT: What is to come for Geoffrey Golden in the near future?

Golden: Of course, we're moving full speed ahead pushing the album, trying to take the message of Kingdom everywhere we go. I've pretty much traveled mostly every weekend, so I just kind of want to keep that up. Beyond that, I'm really not sure of the next step. I've been praying about it with graduating this year, so I've been thinking about grad school. I'm praying about it all and hoping I get an answer soon. But I'm really just trusting God with that next step.

MT: How do you plan to expand your ministry and your brand in the future?

Golden: In addition to singing, I started preaching about two years ago, so I do that as well. And that's another area that I'm praying for direction as well as far as if pastoring is something I will be doing in the future. And I don't want to rush that, it's not something I want to rush into, but at the same time if that's what God is calling me to do, then I want to do it. I want to start my own non-profit organization called Jacob's Well that will primarily deal with issues internationally, missions and economic development. ... Who knows, maybe after I lose this 50 to 60 pounds I can do some modeling! I learned building your brand isn't just about singing, but you have to have various things that you're involved in for the people and your own development.

Golden is signed with Kirk Franklin's label, Fo Yo Soul Recordings/RCA. His album "Kingdom...LIVE!" is now available on iTunes and other music outlets.

DISTRICT OF 'KILLUMBIA'

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It is no secret that the AUC is heavily populated with people from the DMV. No, this is not place where driver's licenses are issued, but rather Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Despite all the historic monuments and buildings the capitol is known for and students may be proud of, D.C. is also crime ridden and experiencing an unforeseen spike in homicides compared to last year.

As of Labor Day weekend, the death toll of 11 individuals rose to 109. This is already more than the 105 homicides for the entire 2014 year.

Chief of Police Cathy Lanier has blamed the spike in crime on the release of repeat violent offenders, a rise in synthetic drug use and an increase in domestic violence resulting in fatalities. Lanier, along with Mayor Muriel Bowser, look to increase law enforcement and to have All Hands on Deck (AHOD) on weekends throughout the rest of the year.

Wards 5 and 7, which include the neighborhoods in Northeast like Brookland, Ivy City and Trinidad along with Naylor Gardens, Barry Farms and Anacostia in Southeast, have been the scene of more than half of the year's homicides. Along with Ward 8, they are where almost 90 percent of crime has concentrated.

Many feel more police involvement will not help but be counterproductive to the situation, creating an intense atmosphere.

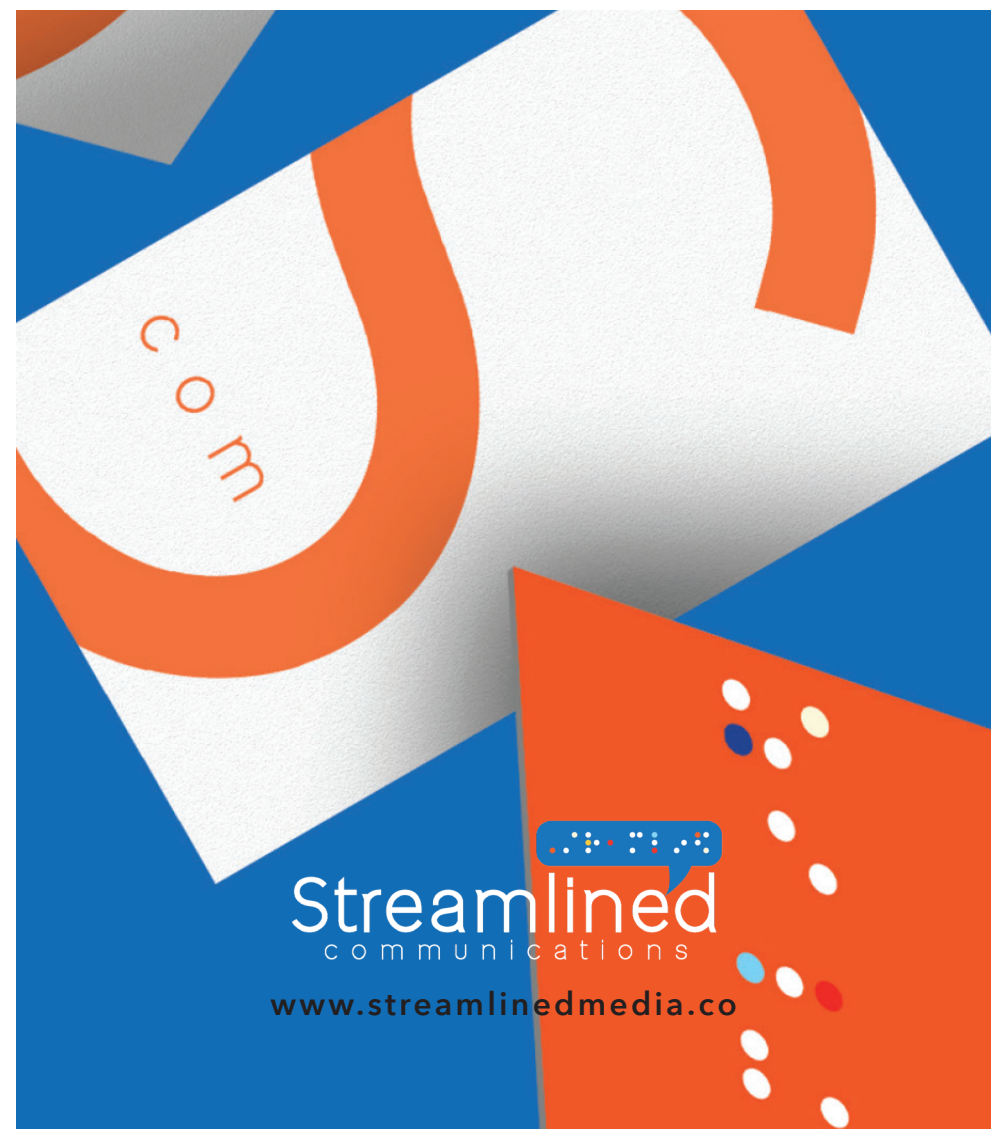
"When a generation's survival becomes indeterminable because of the mishaps of poverty and gentrification, violence becomes the impoverished [people's] first resort," Morehouse sophomore Monte Prillaman said.

The constant displacement of low-income residents and small businesses, and the resulting effects on the community, are the real underlying causes for increased violence. Though their behavior is inexcusable, some people committing these horrific crimes are only trying to make a way or dangerously exerting their anger.

Ashley Younger, a sophomore at Clark Atlanta University, lost her brother to the rising homicidal violence. She feels that the constant competitive nature of D.C. and surrounding areas is what gives fuel to the violence.

"Everybody is out for themselves," Younger said.

The D.C. community is anxious to see how Lanier and Bowser will handle this very dangerous situation. So far, the community is not pleased with the little progress being made. With a quarter of the year left, many hope the death toll does not continue to rise.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE ABROAD

Live, learn and work with a community overseas.
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Contact Morehouse Recruiter Leslie Jean-Pierre
for more info and help with the application:
Ljeanpierre@peacecorps.gov | 404.562.3457

peacecorps.gov/openings

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Imagine you and your friends are part of a book club, and are taking a wine train to Napa Valley. You all are having a great time meeting other guests and the overall experience. Everything's going beautifully until you are asked to leave the train and are escorted off by policemen.

You and your friends – all Black, I might add – are escorted through six train cars full of passengers who do not look like you until you are greeted by more law enforcement when you get off. For what exactly? For laughing too loud, and maybe for being Black in the process.

What may just be a thoughtful scenario for you was a humiliating reality for “Sistahs on the Reading Edge,” a book club composed of 11 African-American women ranging from ages 39 to 85. According to train officials, its members were acting in a “rambunctious” and “obnoxious” manner.

The staff stated the women were asked to lower their noise level three times before the incident occurred. When they did not comply, the police were called and escorted the women off the train. However, another passenger had an alternative version of the story. Danielle, another passenger aboard that day, wrote in a Yelp review:

“Definitely not an organization I would recommend or ever support again. I watched in

disbelief as staff harassed a group of people who were merely drinking wine and laughing. I'd like to think it wasn't a racially motivated act, but given the fact that other, non-black guests were behaving in the same way and not removed, I can only conclude that it was discrimination. This business belongs in the 'what is wrong with our country' category. Steer clear if you would like to be part of the solution, rather than the problem of white supremacy and racism.”

Other guests also recalled other passengers laughing and taking photos with the group. So the question is, why was this group of women singlehandedly picked out when they were not the only ones exhibiting this “rambunctious” and “obnoxious” behavior?

Regardless of other passengers' accounts, the women of “Sistahs on the Reading Edge” knew it was discrimination against them from the start. Although they were reimbursed and received an official apology from the company later – note that it was only issued once the Twitter hashtag “#LaughingWhileBlack” went viral – the ladies expressed that the incident was a defamation of character. Club member Lisa Johnson stated, “Laughing while black – that's the only thing we were guilty of.”

So a question arises: What can people do while Black? Or, rather, what can you do while Black in public?

Laugh? A small giggle will have to suffice.

HBCU FASHION EDUCATION

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When choosing to go to a school for fashion, one may look into going to the Parsons School of Design or the Fashion Institute of Technology. While they are both illustrious fashion institutions, neither is a predominately black school. But due to the current state of the fashion industry, would attending an HBCU to further your study of fashion be beneficial to your education?

Absolutely!

Let's just face the facts. African American people and their culture have heavily influenced many of the latest fashion trends. Urban and street styled clothing are just two of the many pieces that have been inspired by African Americans. Nowadays, it is impossible to walk into a clothing store and see clothing that doesn't incorporate either of these things. Items like bomber jackets, ripped jeans, and footwear designed by Kanye West are things that are in everyone's closet, no matter what style of clothing you identify with. Dressing with an urban edge has honestly become mainstream. Because of the heavy influence of urban culture on fashion, I believe that attending an HBCU allows fashion students to be

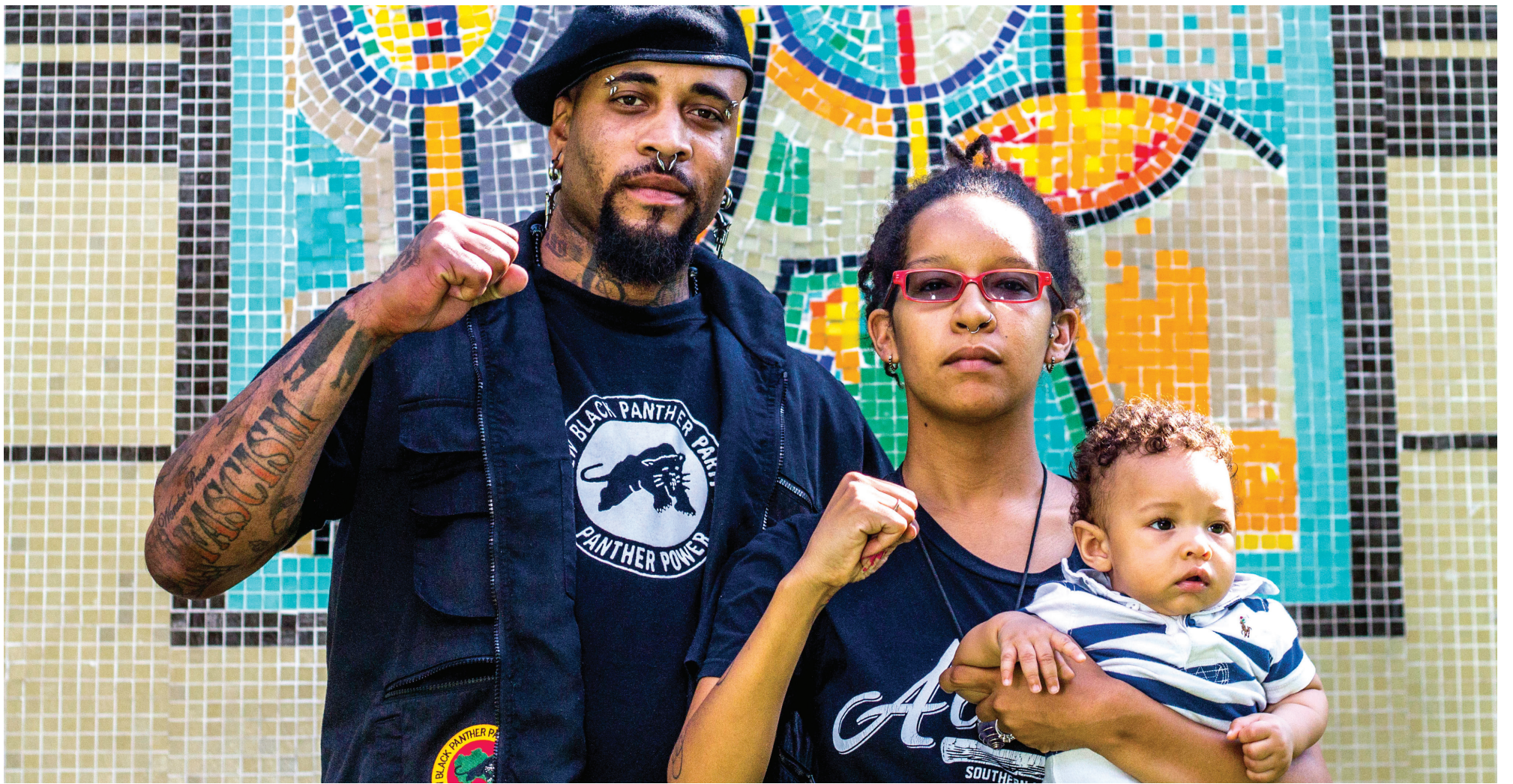
ahead of the game.

Looking back, there have been countless styles of fashion that have been inspired by African Americans, but specifically celebrities. Michael Jackson for example, is a person whose fashion sense has inspired many current trends. Bright colored leather jackets and jackets with structured shoulder pads are articles of clothing that are still emulated today.

Kanye West is another celebrity whose style has influenced fashion. Like mentioned before, bomber/leather jackets and Yeezy Boosts are articles of clothing that have been made extremely popular. Clothing stores like Topshop and ASOS have recently added these items to their merchandise, and they have sold out almost immediately.

With this being said, it just makes sense that an HBCU would be the best place to further your fashion education. African American people have inspired so many things in fashion, and they will definitely inspire more things down the road. Attending an HBCU would give you a unique experience, and definitely allow you to be ahead of your peers, and be even more informed than a fashion student who did not attend an HBCU.

Black cultures presence in the fashion industry is something that will be here to stay, so attending an HBCU as a fashion student will always be a great idea!



THE NEW BLACK PANTHER PARTY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
CHAD RHYM





DONALD YOUNG STILL CLIMBING IN TENNIS RANKS

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With a career some people believe could have been better by now, the question being asked is where Donald Young, ranked 68th in the world, goes after his encouraging fourth-round appearance at the U.S. Open that ended in defeat.

Young, who is 26 and 10 years into his professional career, has only made it to the fourth round in a Grand Slam tournament twice, his first appearance coming in 2011. Earlier this year, in the other three major tournaments, he did not make it past the second round. This comes as a surprise to some considering his success in the Junior Championships. Young won his first singles tournament at 14 in the Chanda Rubin American ITF Junior Classic held in Texas.

“Usually it’s somebody older winning those tournaments, like a 16, 17, or 18-year-old,” Atlanta sportscaster Sam Crenshaw said. “He’s 14, He’s not big enough to do that.” Young’s success in Juniors Tennis did not end there. He went on to win enough

tournaments that eventually skyrocketed him to being ranked the No. 1 junior tennis player in the world, according to Crenshaw.

With Young’s success in junior tennis, people have wondered why he has not been as successful in professional tennis. Crenshaw, who is a friend of the Young family, believes he knows why he is not.

“His parents signed for him to go pro and threw him out there,” Crenshaw said. “They keep putting him in big tournaments and he’s blown off the court. He’s being entered into pro tournaments he’s not physically prepared for.”

Young has shown some upside lately, making it to the fourth round of the U.S. Open before ultimately losing to No. 5-ranked Stan Wawrinka, someone he beat once before. “He’s definitely a different player than I played in 2011,” Young said to U.S. Open. Young still feels like he has room for improvement.

“If I can keep doing this and build upon it, I don’t know what can happen,” Young said in a U.S. Open press conference. “Hopefully it will be at least winning, and that’s what I want to do.”

BLACKS IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY

COLUMN



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It is no surprise that African-Americans are few in number within the fashion industry. However, with immeasurable talent and eye for creative detail, those who have pursued careers within the highly selective industry have paved the way for upcoming generations. For those who have aspirations to become a fashion editor, stylist, buyer, designer, etc., it is pertinent to have a role model that one can identify with.

Four individuals have withstood the test of time to become a trailblazer for black youth in the fashion industry – Edward Enninful, Kahlana Barfield, Olivier Rousteing and Shiona Turini.

Edward Enninful is a Ghana native raised in London. Like most, he started his career modeling and at the age of 18, he became the fashion director for *i-D Magazine* after two years of interning and the abrupt departure of the former director. In 1998, he became a contributing editor for *Italian Vogue*.

During his time there he led the renowned “Black Issue” that only featured black models because he desired to change the all-white pages of magazines and high-end runway shows. The issue did so well that the company had to print 40,000 extra copies. Eight years later he became a contributing editor for *American Vogue* and was featured in the famed documentary “The September Issue.” As of now, he is the fashion and style director of *W Magazine*.

Kahlana Barfield is a Seattle native who graduated from Howard University. She started her career in the fashion closet of *Suede magazine*, a daughter publication to *Essence*. She then went on to intern for *InStyle*, where she is now the fashion and beauty editor-at-large.

Not only is she working for the illustrious, celebrity-driven magazine, she is also a fixture on television talking beauty and fashion tips, and a regular invitee to the most exclusive events like the Oscars and Golden Globes. If you do not fall in love with her career achievements or her impeccable style, than her smile will make you crumble.

Olivier Rousteing is the creative

director for *Balmain*. At the age of 17, he began his career at *Roberto Cavalli* as a designer in the women’s division. Eight years later he became the youngest black creative director for the notable French fashion house - *Balmain*.

Earlier this year, Rousteing admitted in an interview with *Out Magazine* that his age and his race constituted a problem within the fashion industry. People were shocked that a young black man could produce such fantastic, detail-orientated work. He has taken the label to new heights and has created a following through celebrities and models like *Kim Kardashian West*, *Kendall Jenner*, *Jourdan Dunn* and *Justin Bieber*. He has spearheaded an exciting collaboration with *H&M* for an exclusive line to be held in their stores starting in November 2015.

Lastly, *Shiona Turini* hails from the beautiful island of *Bermuda*. A *Hampton University* graduate, she had no prior experience upon graduation and started her fashion career interning in the PR department of *Yves Saint Laurent*, which eventually turned into a position as a PR assistant. From there she did time at *W Magazine* as the accessories editor and *Teen Vogue* as the accessories director.

Upon leaving the youth driven magazine, *Shiona* became the market and beauty director for *CR Fashion Book* – a magazine/look book started by former *French Vogue* editor-in-chief *Carine Roitfield*. After one year in that position she took a position at *Cosmopolitan* as the fashion market director. As of now, *Shiona* has ventured into her own endeavors and started a consulting and brand development company under her own name.

It is refreshing to see the many accomplishments of blacks in the fashion industry. Often overlooked, our race has achieved much success in many areas and is striving to make the industry a more penetrable and accepting place for minorities. With the help of professionals liked *Edward*, *Kahlana*, *Olivier*, and *Shiona*, we all have the ability and the role models to pursue our dreams and goals.



NO. 1 PLAYER DEFEATED BY UNSEEDDED

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According to ESPN, the odds were 300-1 in favor of top-ranked Serena Williams against unseeded Italian tennis player Roberta Vinci in last week's 2015 U.S. Open semifinals.

Statistics clearly favored Williams over Vinci: 69 singles titles compared to nine, a 732-122 record to 508-353. Additionally, Williams had won the last four Grand Slams over two seasons whereas Vinci did not make it past the second round in any of those tournaments. To make matters worse, in four previous meetings between them, Williams won every match without giving up a set in any of them.

Reasonably few believed Vinci had a chance of defeating the unquestioned best female tennis player in the world who was aiming to achieve the first calendar year Grand Slam since Steffi Graf in 1988. Vinci even doubted herself, as

would anybody in that predicament. She was thought of as a mere bump in the road for Williams, however that bump in the road ended up wrecking Williams' chance at history.

"When I wake up, I say, I have a semifinal today," Vinci said to ESPN. "I did not expect that I would win." According to USA Today, Serena entered the semifinal on a 33-match Grand Slam winning streak whereas Vinci had 30 wins in total this season.

Vinci understood how important this match was. "It's an incredible moment for me," Vinci said to ESPN in a post-match interview. "It's amazing, it's like a dream, I'm in the final, and I beat Serena.

"I think this is the best moment of my life."

Vinci was even seen apologizing at one point in the match. "For the American people, for Serena, for the Grand Slam, and everything, but today is my day. Sorry guys," Vinci said.

Vinci's game plan for beating the No. 1-ranked women's

tennis player seemed pretty simple.

"Try to put the ball on the court," Vinci said. "Don't think about Serena on the other court, and run, don't think, run, and then I won."

Williams also acknowledged Vinci's incredible performance against her.

"I thought she played the best tennis in her career," Williams said during a post-match interview. "You know, she's 33, and you know, she's going for it at a late age. So that's good for her to keep going for it and playing so well."

When Vinci played 26th-ranked Flavia Pennetta on Saturday, it was the first major finals appearance for both of the Italian women. Without Williams there was an apparent drop in popularity; tickets for Saturday's final hit \$1,500 on Stub-hub recently. Before the Vinci-Pennetta match, they could be bought for as little as \$62. It was a very small price to pay to see Pennetta win her first Grand Slam title at 33, and then shock the tennis world by announcing that she will retire after this season.

MADE IN AMERICA'S LEADS TO CULTURAL DIVERSITY

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At music festivals, there is always an unfortunate trade off: a lost voice from screaming for your favorite artist, empty pockets from buying nourishment, near dehydration because you didn't want to leave your seat with a clear view of the stage. Most people can't handle the type of exhaustion associated with being at a festival for back-to-back 12-hour days with little time for sitting and resting. To some, it's pure torture to be on their feet for just eight hours.

The suffering, however, comes to an abrupt end once the first chord is played and the crowd ignites into pandemonium.

College-age students from everywhere flocked to Philadelphia, The City of Brotherly Love, this Labor Day weekend for the 2015 Budweiser Made in America Festival (MIA), curated by Jay-Z.

The festival on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, now in its fourth year, featured artists from all genres such as J. Cole, Axwell & Ingrosso, The Weeknd and Beyoncé. While many came for the outstanding hip-hop lineup that included big names such as Future, Big Sean and Fabolous, they stayed to get even a slight glimpse of Beyoncé.

"Seeing Beyoncé was amazing," 19-year-old Richard Bussey of Delaware said. "It's like watching a living legend. She truly is a cultural icon."

Four years ago, Shawn Carter (Jay-Z) approached Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter with hopes of creating a festival that would unite all cultures through music. At the time, Philadelphia was still trying to recover from the financial crisis of 2007-08 and Nutter knew this festival would dramatically improve the city's economy. Carter, however, knew it would do more than that; it would promote acceptance as well as reassurance in the American Dream.

"If you take away the genres, music is really the same thing: it's emotional," Jay-Z said in the film "Made in America," a documentary about the organization of the festival. "[It's about] passion, pain, love, and I want everybody to experience that."

The most surprising sight of the festival was Atlanta-born rapper Future, who drew one of the biggest crowds despite not being on the main stage. Despite Philadelphia being approximately 44.2 percent African-American (per the U.S. Census Bureau), most of his crowd was Caucasian.

"I am so mad I didn't get to see Future," fan Mark Christie said. "I knew his show was going to be packed but I certainly wasn't expecting this."

One of the best performances was by California-born DJ Bassnectar, whose bass heavy songs accompanied with pulsating visuals attracted many, and even earned him a few fans.

"Wow, just wow," Maryland's Leiana Griffith said while breathing heavily as she hustled toward the main stage to see Beyoncé. "I was supposed to leave 30 minutes in to get a spot for Beyoncé but I couldn't tear myself away. I had no idea who he was until my boyfriend dragged me here."

The Philadelphia Inquirer estimated that 64,000 people were there to see the final performance of the festival, The Weeknd. Being that he is a Canadian-born artist, his closing performance for the festival based on the American dream was oxymoronic, yet the extremely diverse crowd didn't care. They bellowed every word to "Can't Feel My Face" as if they actually were on stage.

Unlike in years past, Carter chose a closer whose musical catalogue appealed to many. At past festivals, rock 'n' roll bands such as Nine Inch Nails, Kings of Leon and Pearl Jam were picked to close out the festival, allowing hip-hop fans an early exit.

"By far, his [The Weeknd's] performance of 'The Hills' was my favorite," Kellyn DeFusco from Philadelphia said. "It was a great way to end the festival and I'm really excited about next year."

How many tricks does Jay-Z still have left up his sleeve? One can only speculate just how big the upcoming festival will be.

NEW MUSIC ALERT

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Every month it seems like artists are dropping new music. Can't keep up? Well, don't worry; we got you on the latest albums and EPs hitting the streets (Internet) by artist like Travis Scott, The Weeknd, and more!



ARTIST: GEOFFREY GOLDEN
ALBUM: KINGDOM...LIVE!

Season 7 "Sunday Best" winner Geoffrey Golden takes us to church on his first new album. This debut album features praise and worship songs like "All of My Help" that are touching to the soul.



ARTIST: THE INTERNET
ALBUM: EGO DEATH

This Odd Future group is coming back with more soul and funk in their new LP. A list of 12 new hot tracks with heavy hitters such as Janelle Monae and Tyler the Creator are featured on "Ego Death." These California natives are artists for the ears as they combine live instruments with the sensual voice of lead vocalist Syd tha Kyd.



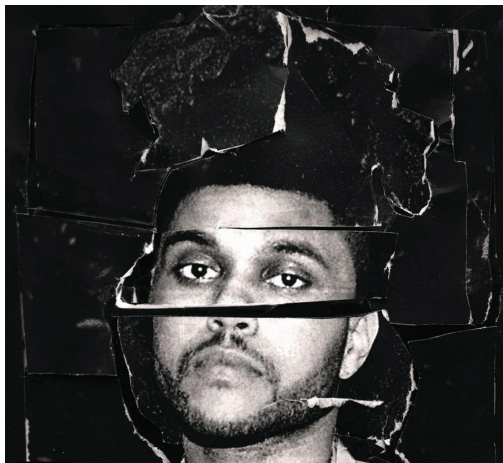
ARTIST: DR. DRE
ALBUM: COMPTON

Music producer and former N.W.A member Dr. Dre is repping for his city with his new-featured soundtrack "Compton" for the new hit film "Straight Out of Compton." This playlist takes listeners on a journey to Dre's hood and brings back that old school West Coast flavor.



ARTIST: TRAVIS SCOTT
ALBUM TITLE: RODEO

GOOD Music artist Travis Scott is known for his trap and eclectic style that always seems to keep the bass jumping. His songs "Mamacita," "Sloppy Toppo," and "Upper Echelon" have set the stage for making him an artist to watch out for. "Rodeo" is no different, taking listeners on a wild ride of rock and trap with a hint of Kanye.



ARTIST: THE WEEKND
ALBUM: BEAUTY BEHIND THE MADNESS

The master of dark R&B is back with a more emotional and dramatic album that takes you on the usual journey through pain, love, and heartbreak. Unlike many of his past albums "Beauty Behind The Madness" seems to be more inspired by Michael Jackson's "BAD" album with more upbeat pop tempos.



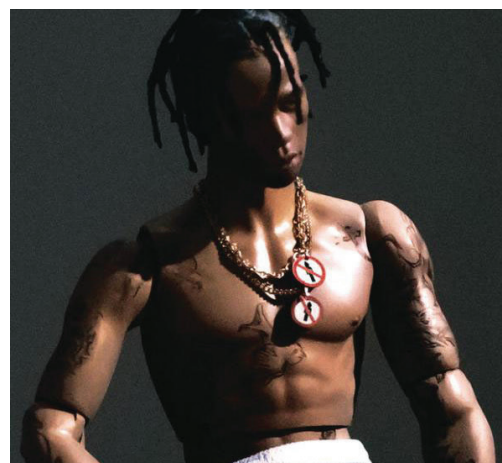
ARTIST: ALESSIA CARA
ALBUM: FOUR PINK WALLS

Pop Canadian artist Alessia Cara is taking over your radio stations with her new single "Here." Her soulful and pop sound is brought to the forefront as she deals with the life struggles of the teenage social life in her new EP "Four Pink Walls."



ARTIST: TY DOLLA \$IGN
ALBUM: FREE TC

Ty Dolla \$ign is locked up ... well, in a metaphoric sense. Many people know him for his Beach House EP, paranoia in "Paranoid" and how he coined the phrase "Or Nah." Recently, he released the cover for his new EP "Free TC" that features his hit single "Blase" with Future and more.



ARTIST: TRAVIS SCOTT
ALBUM TITLE: RODEO

GOOD Music artist Travis Scott is known for his trap and eclectic style that always seems to keep the bass jumping. His songs "Mamacita," "Sloppy Toppo," and "Upper Echelon" have set the stage for making him an artist to watch out for. "Rodeo" is no different, taking listeners on a wild ride of rock and trap with a hint of Kanye.



LAURYN HILL AND THE ONE MUSIC FEST

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In its sixth year, the ONE Musicfest came through with some incredible entertainment to wrap up the summer festival season. The day-long festival was the epicenter of culture, music and art for the weekend in Atlanta. Including three stages: Zeus (main stage), Hercules (small stage) and the DJ stage – the event was on fire.

With a lineup that included Ms. Lauryn Hill, Janelle Monae, The Roots, A\$AP Rocky and Jidenna, the festival set the tone for those to follow. Also listed on the roster for the festival were Wale, Big K.R.I.T., Ghostface Killah, Raekwon, Scarface, 8Ball and MJG, Bun B, SZA, Ryan Leslie, Raury, The Internet and a host of DJs. Hosted at Aarons Amphitheatre at Lakewood, the venue was packed and rocking with entertainment from the lawn to the parking lot.

At the Hercules stage, Raury successfully opened the show as one of the leading performers. With a smaller crowd and even smaller stage, The Internet trailed with an hour-long performance, followed by a short 15-minute set by musical genius Ryan Leslie. Surprisingly, the smaller stage consisted of larger hip-hop legends. The list included Ghostface, Raekwon, 8 Ball & MJG, Big K.R.I.T., Bun B, Scarface and The Roots.

As the headline artist on the bill and the larger stage, Ms. Lauryn Hill – initially struggling with some tech issues – sang into the hearts of fans allowing a brief moment to experience the intersection of music and culture. Having not released an album in over 20 years, Hill still remains an artist whose body of work represents a culture and musical masterpiece.

The audience gathered on the lawn at the main stage as Hill preformed remastered classics that included, “I Gotta Find Peace of Mind,” “Mystery of Iniquity” and “Ex-Factor.” Although relishing in the presence and sounds, there was a bit of uneasiness with the audience who seemed to yearn for the MTV Unplugged 2.0 Lauryn Hill with the sweet, yet strong, voice – not the remastered version.

On the same stage earlier in the afternoon, SZA, Wale and A\$AP Rocky graced the stage and performed. An atmosphere of facsimiled free spirits, hip-hop aficionados and just overall music enthusiasts, the ONE Musicfest was a place where culture was being curated and shifted.

Returning to Atlanta just weeks after their sold out and successful show, Janelle Monae and the Wondaland camp

took the stage and set it off. Nate “Rocket” Wonder and Chuck Lightning of Deep Cotton appeared first. They were followed by their label mates Alex Belle and Isis Valentino of St. Beauty. The Wondaland set ended with Jidenna performing his hit single “Classic Man,” featuring Roman Gianarthur.

Celebrating ONE Musicfest’s economic impact, Atlanta Council member Andre Dickens presented some form of documentation declaring Sept. 12 as “ONE Musicfest Day,” an official day of music, culture and entertainment.

With its leading roster this year, there’s no telling what will be done to top next year’s roster.



MOREHOUSE LOOKING PAST NCAA PROBATION

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Morehouse College has always held a powerful reputation as an institution where young men display educational excellence. The dedication of students and faculty alike has given Morehouse such prestige.

For all of the greatness of Morehouse academics, the same cannot be said about the often overlooked sports teams on campus. With the National Collegiate Athletic Association cracking down on Morehouse with a 3-year probation that began on July 15, the odds seem to still be turned against the College's athletics.

According to a report issued by the NCAA Division II Committee on Infractions on July 15, Morehouse College was punished for actions during the 2010-2014 academic years that allowed 29 student athletes to compete even though the individuals did not meet the NCAA progress-toward-degree requirements or simply weren't in good academic standing.

The report stated that these situations occurred because Morehouse "improperly allowed three remedial courses to be used in the calculation of student-athletes' fulfillment of credit hours ..." The report stated that football, basketball, cross country, golf and baseball players were involved, with 21 of the 29 being football players. The student athletes involved were not named.

Once the issue was brought to Morehouse's attention in 2013, the College conducted its own investigation and took actions to report the issue directly to the NCAA enforcement staff. The NCAA described the penalties for the infractions as "three years of probation, a \$5,000 fine and a vacation of wins in which ineligible student-athletes competed."

Vacating wins means that the wins will be deleted from the team's records but not added to opponents' records.

With the punishment in place, Morehouse College is ready to continue moving past the issue and into the right direction.

Following the College and NCAA investigations, a July 15 Morehouse press release said that the following actions throughout campus have taken place. A new compliance officer, academic advisor Ravenell DuPree, has been hired. A compliance task force has been created, which is made up of both faculty and staff, and finally, there will be mandatory technology and training for all athletics staff, faculty and student athletes.

The NCAA also required other measures that Morehouse agreed to. Morehouse teams still will be eligible to qualify for the Division II playoffs.

In the press release, the 11th president of Morehouse College, John Silvanus Wilson, spoke briefly about the probation and process.

"Morehouse College's requirements for good academic standing are higher than the minimum requirements for the NCAA," he stated. "It is those higher standards to which we hold our student athletes."

The majority of the students involved in the violations during the four-year period have gone on to graduate from Morehouse or study at other colleges. There also are students that were involved with the violations who still attend Morehouse. Morehouse's press release said that those students who have athletic eligibility left have been reinstated and now can participate on teams.

Dr. Timothy Sams, the vice president of Student Development at Morehouse, gave his thoughts on the issue.

"We take seriously the grooming of our student athletes," Sams said in the press release. "Athletic competition and scholarship are key components of character development and that of the student in full. To that end, we are committed to ensuring that our student athletes have accurate data upon which they can rely in assessing their progress toward pursuing a degree at Morehouse, as well as their eligibility to participate in collegiate athletics."

SAFETY AT MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES

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As Alex Rodriguez approached home plate at Turner Field in Atlanta, a section of the crowd let out a disturbing shout. The players were unfazed by the noise and chatter in the stands, but those nearby the shouting witnessed a man come crashing down from the upper deck of the field.

That fan was later identified as Gregory Murrey, an Alpharetta, Ga., native who was hospitalized and pronounced dead later that night, according to a statement by the Atlanta Braves.

"Gregory 'Ace' Murrey was a husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend to many," his family said in a statement to CNN. "He dearly loved his family, Atlanta, and the Atlanta Braves. Greg was a season ticket holder with the same seats for 23 years. The night Greg passed away, he was doing one of his favorite things – watching the Braves." The Atlanta Braves organization addressed the stunning and unfortunate events involving Murrey shortly after the game was completed.

"The Atlanta Braves are deeply saddened by the loss of Greg Murrey at last night's game,"

the team said in a statement. "Greg was a valued and longtime season ticket holder and an incredibly passionate Braves fan. This tragic loss is felt throughout Braves Country, and the thoughts and prayers of the entire Braves organization continue to go out to his family and friends."

This type of accident, which Atlanta police did not believe was caused by foul play, isn't the first time Turner Field has dealt with fatal events.

In what was ruled a suicide during the 2013 season, a man jumped from 85 feet in the upper levels of the field all the way to his death. In a 2011 game between the Braves and Rangers, a fan fell to his death as he reached out with his glove trying to catch a baseball that was fouled into the stands. The fan lost his balance, flipped over the railing and crashed head first into an outfield scoreboard.

In the same 2011 season, a man who was under the influence died while attempting to slide down a railing at Coors Field during a Colorado Rockies home game.

A fatal event is the last thing anyone is expecting to occur while at a Major League Baseball game. The league has yet to make any changes to safety specifically in the upper balconies. However, if this becomes a more frequent trend, look for changes to be made.