The Spelman Spotlight

THE VOICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMANHOOD

Vol. LIV— No. 4 November 30, 1999

On-Site
Are you safe in West End? Page 4

Voices
N. Cognito strikes again... Page 16

On-Site
Spelman gets a Y2K website. Page 6

Modern-day Feminist Pioneer Gloria Steinem visits Spelman

Jamilla Coleman
Senior Editor

Gloria Steinem, feminist icon and political activist, told a capacity crowd at Cosby Auditorium on Wednesday, Nov.10, "In this room there is a unique combination of souls that has never happened before and will never happen again."

Steinem spoke of how through history, men have experienced human rights politically, while women have experienced them culturally. For example: an American citizen has the right to leisure from work. Motherhood is a form of work, but is not acknowledged as such by government or society, which means that technically, a mother is not guaranteed the right to leisure.

Saying she was pleased to see men in the audience, she joked, "your presence here alone will keep you safe if there is a revolution."

"We must show that men can do what women can do," she said. "Feminism is about looking at the world as if everyone matters."

Addressing the economic disparity between the sexes, she said most women cannot reach the

Steinem (l.) and Dr. Guy-Sheftall converse before Steinem gives her speech.

figurative glass ceiling that bars them from gaining higher positions in the workplace because they still work on "the sticky floor of the 'pink-collar ghetto.' If equal pay were administered to all, the number of poor would be reduced by half."

Steinem, 60, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College in 1956. She co-founded *New York* magazine in 1968 and became a major feminist leader in the late 1960s. In

Continued on page 3

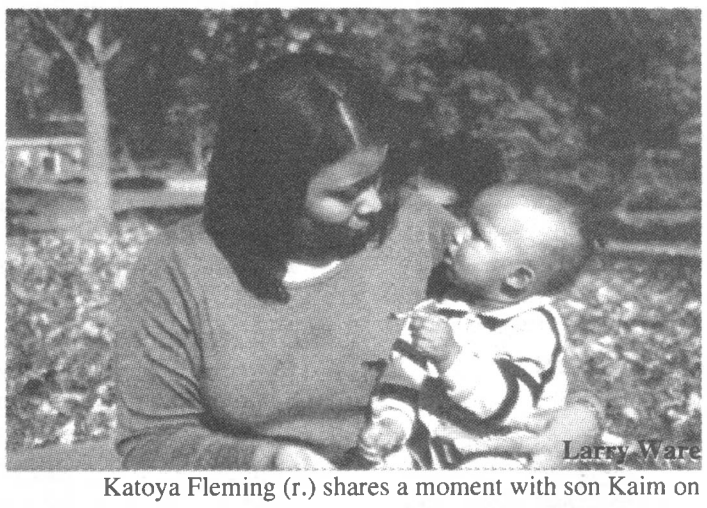
Motherhood 101: Students balance babies and books

Reagan Taylor
On-Site

Junior psychology major Carla Walker is one of a growing group of Spelman student mothers who must balance being a mother and a student.

Walker discovered that she was preagnant with daughter Danielle, now 8 months old, the summer after her freshman year.

Walker says she had mixed emotions about her pregnancy. "It was unplanned, so I was very confused. Then I got used to it." says Walker. She adds that her parents were initially upset but have been supportive.



Katoya Fleming (r.) shares a moment with son Kaim on Spelman's campus.

After Danielle's birth Walker took off a semester.

Danielle's father plays an active role in her life, but for Walker finding time for school is still a problem.

"I have no time," she says. "I don't do any work until [Danielle] goes to sleep, and that doesn't leave much time for anything."

Because Danielle is such a young age, few child care centers--including the campus nursery-will care for her during the day. Walker says that understanding professors have been a tremendous help in allowing her to bring her daughter to class.

Finding a daycare center for 10-month-old Kaim has been very helpful to senior English major KaToya Fleming. With inexpensive and convenient child care available for her son, she did not have to take time off from school.

But between school, an internship, and caring for her son, she says that she rarely finds time for herself.

Fleming believes that Spelman has done little to acknowledge pregnant students and student mothers on campus.

"Pregnancy seems almost abnormal on campus."

"Students and faculty could do much more in supporting students through an already difficult period of their lives," she says.

Director of the Health Services Center Brenda Dalton says that there are limited services offered to student mothers, and that there are no services available to pregnant students.

Continued on page 5

Announcements

Spelman's new scholarship office provides Spelman students of all majors, classifications, and financial situations with information on scholarships and internship opportunities. To obtain more information about these scholarships, make an appointment or contact Ms.McQuay at extension 2589. The office is open three days a week: Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 to 12:45; 2:00 to 4:00 and Thursday 2:00 to 5:00.

Spelman Student Government Association is asking for students to submit scripts for **Celebration in Black** to the S.G.A. office no later than December 2,1999. No exceptions will be allowed.

The Institute of Women's Studies at Emory University is sponsoring a forum **"Gender Talk II"** on Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. Panelists include Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Johnnetta Cole, Frances Smith Foster, and Rudolph Byrd. The forum will be hosted in Emory's Bishop Hall, room 311.

Students are wanted to represent **The American Scholars National Honor Society** on Spelman's campus. Scholarships totaling $19,000 are available. Apply online at www.aaces.com/American Scholars.

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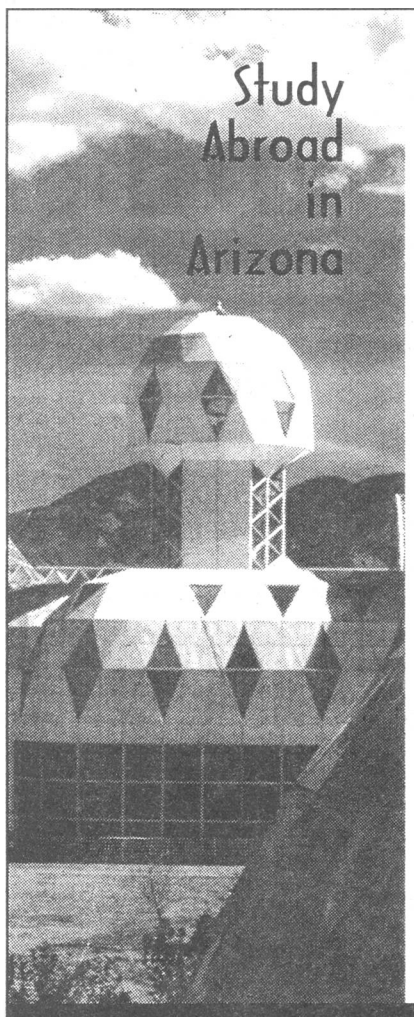

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An Interview With Gloria Steinem

Mesha Williams
Senior Editor

Witty and thought-provoking are the words to describe Gloria Steinem. In an interview following her speech and panel discussion, Steinem talked about her experiences and vision for the women's movement in the twenty-first century.

MW: Do you think there is a real difference between the definition of a womanist and feminist?

GS: There are some differences behind the thought processes in using the words. Alice Walker is the one who coined the term "womanist" because it sounded stronger and reflected women of color. A lot of issues do overlap in terms of what both groups are fighting for and that is basic civil rights. We all ought to pick any words we want to describe ourselves, but women in the U.S. have always been encouraged to do otherwise.

MW: Do you think there is such a person as a female chauvinist?

GS: Theoretically it is possible to have a dominant woman like that, but frankly I haven't come across any (laughing).

MW: How do you think women have been portrayed in television shows like Ally McBeal in trying to depict the independent woman of the 90's?

GS: Well, I know Calista Flockhart and she is a feminist. As far as her t.v. personality, I think it shows a balance of a woman being powerful and feeling sexual. I think her character wearing short skirts to work, having a job, and social life is to show people that she can still be a woman, and still be powerful. This is a different concept from yesteryear.

Kanika Lyon

MW: What issues do you think the women's movement will focus on as the twenty-first century approaches?

GS: I think violence against women is something that we need to conquer. It needs to be opposed. I am not too sure in how we can solve the problem. I don't understand the concept of that type of abuse. Also, I really think the stereotypical notion of what a woman's role is still needs to be re-evaluated. Such as, I think that children are seen as only the woman's responsibility; it needs to be seen as a man's role in caring for them as well. It's so hard to predict the future because you cannot control it. I hope the movement will still be progressive and handle any challenges in the future.

MW: What do you want people to remember about your legacy?

GS: This is somewhat of a hard question. (She pauses). Well, I want to be remembered as someone who left the world a more compassionate and caring place. Also, I want to be remembered as a person who loves to dance and laugh. Hopefully, these will be some of my accomplishments.

***Steinem* from page 1**

1971 she co-founded *Ms. Magazine*, and still works as a contributing editor and Editor Emeritus. In 1972 Steinem helped found the MS Foundation for Women, which raises funds to assist underprivileged girls and women. She is a founding member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Steinem also has authored two best-sellers, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions* and *Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem* .

Sharing the stage with Pearl Cleage, author and playwright; Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall of The Women's Center at Spelman, and Loretta J. Ross of the National Center for Human Rights Education, Steinem answered "yes" when asked if ther was room for young African-American women in the feminist movement.

"The caste systems of sex and race are intertwined," she said, pointing out that in 1971, the number of black women who called themselves feminists was twice the number of white women who did.

"Young African-American women are the women's movement," said Steinem. "They were there from the beginning."

"There is something in white media that wants to wipe out black women [from the feminist movement]," added Ross.

Steinem said there are two problems with feminism: one is that people do not know the actual definition of it: equal rights for women and all people. The other is that women who do know what feminism means are afraid it would "turn off men."

"Feminism is about empowering each other to make our own decisions," she said. She advised the audience to travel, vote, and be organizers.

"However hard it is to do it, it's harder not to do it," she said.

"The flap of a butterfly's wing can change things hundreds of miles away," she said, drawing upon a physics theory. "Together in this room, we make one hell of a butterfly."

The speech was part of the Eleanor Roosevelt Lecture Series, "Human Rights—The Unfinished Agenda for the New Millennium," commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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On-Site Info.

Danger:

Study reports neighborhood surrounding Spelman to be one of the most dangerous in the nation

Jamilla Coleman
Senior Editor

A national report predicting the likelihood of becoming a victim of a violent crime in neighborhoods surrounding colleges and universities has ranked four AU Center schools in the top five, with Spelman College placed at number three.

Many are angered by the study. Director of Public Safety Steve Bowser is no exception.

"It is a seriously flawed approach at attempting to give an accurate picture of the safety of a college campus," he says.

The report is the result of a study conducted by APBnews.com, a news-centered website that covers crime, justice and safety, and CAP Index Inc. The study has determined the 25 highest-risk and 25 lowest-risk campus neighborhoods in the country.

The study focused on the risk of violent crime, which it defined as murder, rape or robbery.

The CAP Index, whose name stands for "Crimes Against Persons," has provided assessments of neighborhood crime risks to large corporations such as Exxon, Bank of America, McDonald's, and to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Despite its credentials, a number of school officials nationwide are displeased with the manner in which CAP conducted the study.

Spelman Director of Public Relations W. Christopher Cason issued a formal statement to APB News, saying that "no attempts were made to contact Spelman College, or the other campuses, to gather safety-related information and data" before the analysis was completed.

The focus of the study was not to measure the occurrence of crime on campus, but the potential for crime in the surrounding neighborhood.

The study based its findings on a set of 21 criteria which included family income, single or dual head of household, population density, education level of the population, and others. It does not measure actual crime rates, but estimates the future risk of crime for the coming year.

Race was not a criterion.

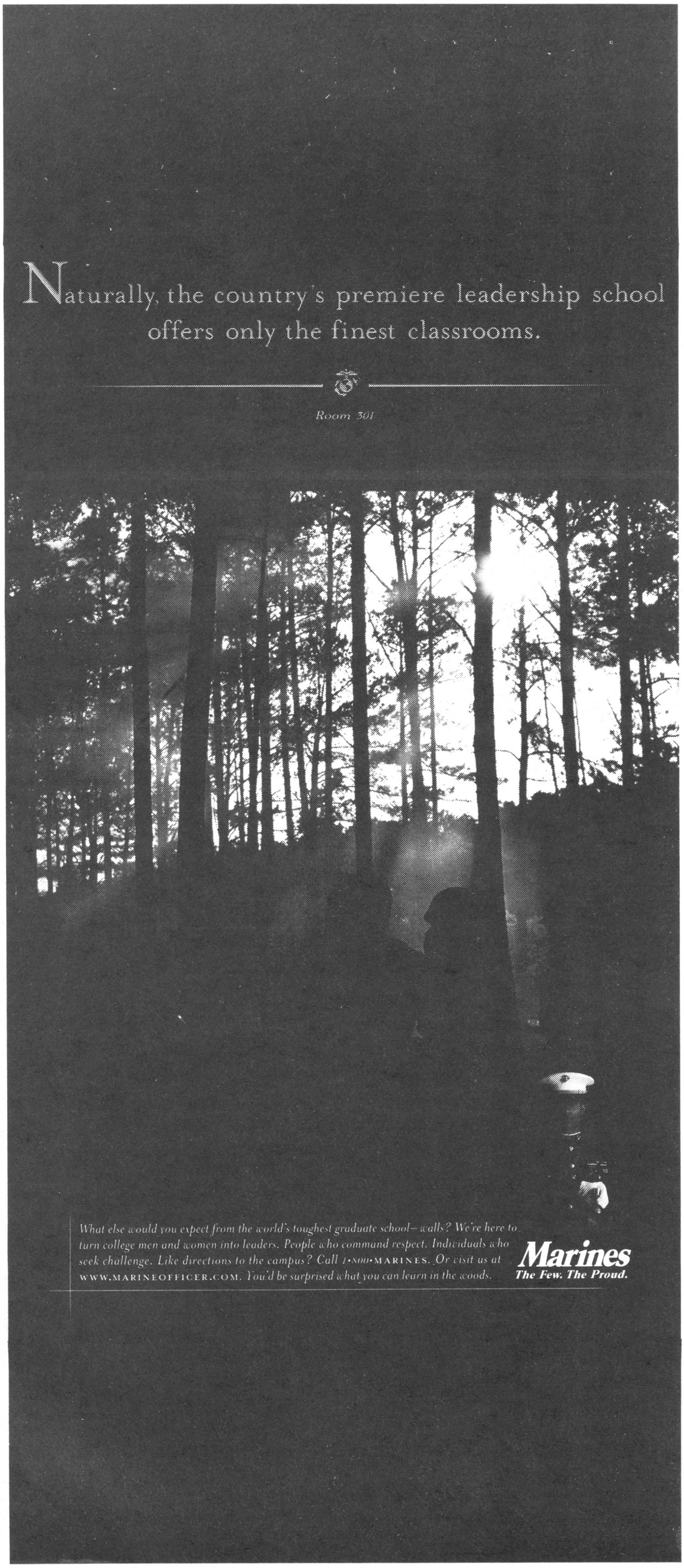
Bowser emphasizes that the findings do not mean that Spelman College has the third most dangerous campus in the nation, yet is aware that people may misinterpret the data.

"People look at the expectation [that a crime will occur] rather than the actual incidence of crime," he says. "We do ourselves a disservice if we buy into the information in that report."

Bowser adds that "the victimization [of students] that does occur can be attributed to poor decision making [on the part of the student] or crimes of opportunity."

"To maintain safety, we need the full participation of all of our team members," he says. "This includes students, faculty and staff."

Morris Brown College ranked number one. Clark Atlanta University placed at number four, while Morehouse College rounded out the top five.



On-Site Info.

Planned Demonstration Hangs Violence out to Dry

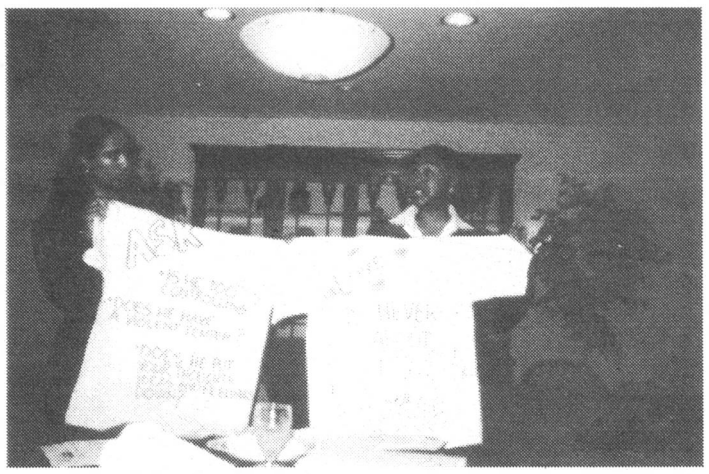
Andei Williams
Senior Editor

In an effort to raise awareness about violence against women, campus organizations including Counseling Services, Peer Education Program (PEPPERS) and others have collaborated to sponsor The Clothesline Project in the spring.

Participants in The Clothesline Project each create a shirt representing an episode of violence they have observed or personally experienced.

Schuyla Goodson, a class of '87 alumna and survivor of an abusive relationship, says that she wants to bring The Clothesline Project to Spelman because she has not seen the college be proactive about the issue.

She recalls an experience she had as a student.



Andei Williams

"I have a vivid memory of living in Abby Hall and one day seeing my [resident assistant] being pushed against the wall by her boyfriend," she says. "No one said anything about it."

Goodson says that creating a symbolic shirt "can provide a key to helping a survivor break through the barrier of silence.

"The very act of hanging up the shirt gives a woman an opportunity to leave behind some of the pain of her experience and move on to the next phase of her recovery."

The Clothesline Project is in its developmental stage at Spelman. It is scheduled to run March 27-31 to coincide with Women's History Month.

Goodson hopes that the Spelman community will produce 1,000 shirts during the proposed dates.

Organizers anticipate that the project can include both the Spelman and surrounding communities.

PEPPERS president Hawanya Miller says, "I would love to get students from surrounding high schools to participate because abuse is beginning to involve those who are younger."

"I think [violence against women] is more than just a women's problem," says Sheretha Bell, president of the Eta Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta.

"I'd like to get a male perspective involved," she says. "They need to be educated, too, because some of the men on the other campuses are the ones abusing Spelman women."

Colleges in Massachusetts, Mississippi, and Florida are among the campuses that have previously hosted the program. Georgia Tech also participated in The Clothesline Project as part of its Women's Awareness Week in October.

Motherhood from page 1

"Pregnant students are referred to an off-campus ob-gyn," she says. "Expectant students are only covered under Spelman's insurance plan if they become pregnant during the academic school year beginning August 15th."

There are no statistics available on student mothers attending Spelman or pregnancy rates among students.

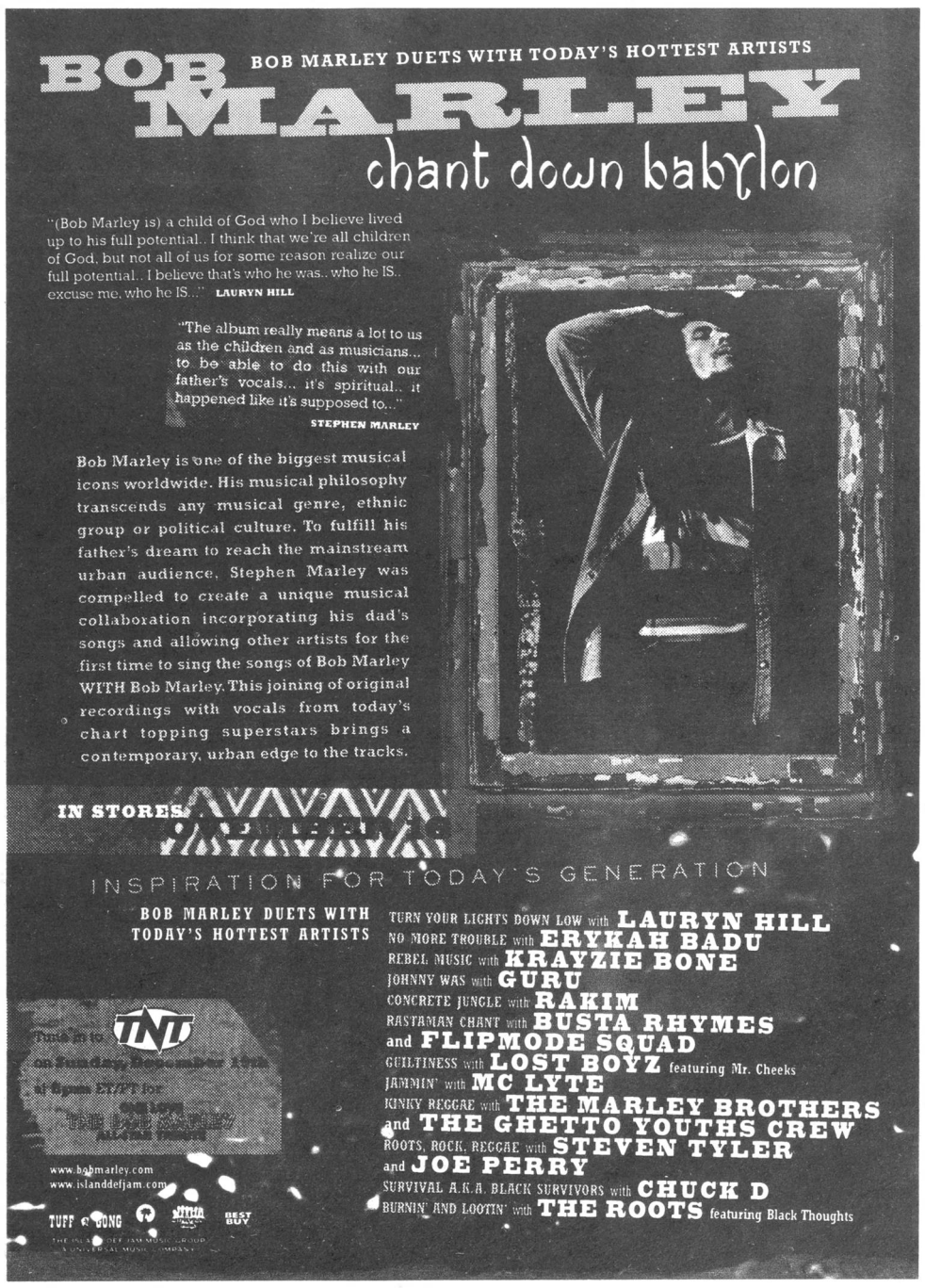
Director of Counseling Services Vanessa Mahmoud says that her department provides a "listening ear" for concerns from mothers and offers support for pregnant students.

"For student mothers we offer individual and couple therapy and try to provide adequate support on a campus that is not particularly set up for students with children," she says.

In the past Counseling Services has provided support groups for student mothers and pregnant students, but the groups have been unsuccessful.

Mahmoud attributes this lack of success to the students' hectic schedules.

Counseling Services does not provide a list of child care centers for student mothers, but usually refers them to Families First, an organization that provides support in parenting.



On-Site Info.

What Africa Means to Me

Spelman student documents her time in Senegal

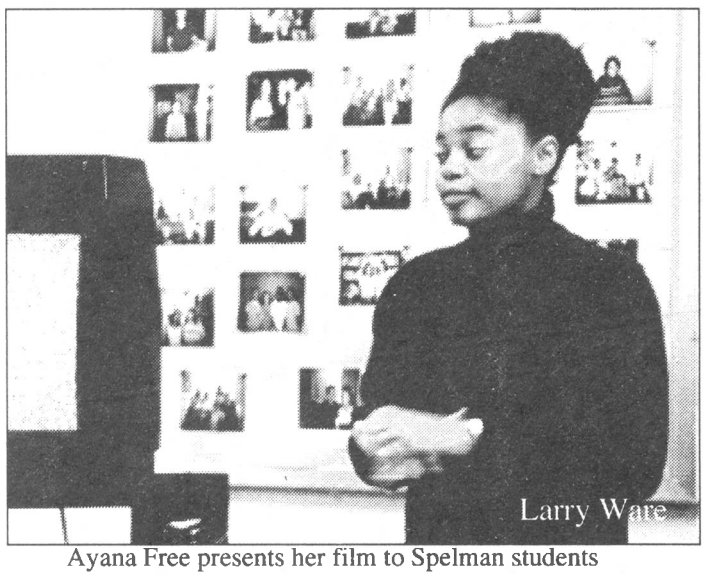
Jamilla Coleman
Senior Editor

Most travelers may return home from a trip to Africa with the customary souvenirs—art, cloth, and photographs of villages and safari animals.

Ayana Free left with the knowledge that a film documenting her experience was in the works.

Called "Letter to Countee," the 26-minute film includes Free's narration—a combination of her personal journal entries and prose—and footage of her daily life as a student at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.

Taped during Free's junior year and directed by documentarian Hamet Fall Diagne, the film debuted in the United States at Emory University's African Film Festival in November.



Ayana Free presents her film to Spelman students

Free's narration is a figurative letter to Harlem Renaissance writer Countee Cullen, whose poem "Heritage" explores the stereotypical images that American blacks may have about Africa.

Free says that her perceptions of Africa were greatly altered by her stay.

"All of my images [prior to my visit] were colored by exoticism and mysticism," she narrated in the film.

Free says that her southern upbringing and what she learned from books read in her "African Diaspora and the World" classes helped her to prepare for cultural differences. But she occasionally felt like an outsider because of her American culture and her blackness.

Free was also "irritated" by the judgmental attitude she observed some white students to have regarding certain aspects of Senegalese culture, like polygamy.

Her feelings prompted her to write a poem called "Baobab Circles." Free submitted the poem to a student-founded literary magazine, where it caught the eye of director Diagne.

Free admits that initially, she was not interested when Diagne approached her about being the subject of his first film, but eventually accepted the idea.

"Some of my friends and I had been complaining about how African-American films don't present true images of black people…how could I not take the opportunity to make my own [film]?" she says.

Free says she has lived "a small sliver of the many realities" that exist in Africa. Her host family, which consisted of a fourth wife and her daughter, lived in the suburbs.

"Americans feel betrayed when their perceptions of Africa don't turn out to be true," she says.

Free advises people not to go to another country "expecting a Garden of Eden where people open up their arms to you and all your problems are solved."

"Accepting African heritage is an internal voyage that every African-American makes for himself."

"Letter to Countee" is now being dubbed for marketing to a French television station.

Spelman Explains its Preparation on Y2K Website

Jamilla Coleman
Senior Editor

With little or no information provided about the measures that Spelman College is taking to make the campus Y2K compliant, many students expect mayhem when they return to school in January.

But with the posting of Spelman's "Year 2000" website on November 19, Director of Computing and Information Technology (CIT) Adrienne Evans says that all systems have been "updated, tested, and certified" in preparation for the new year.

As Chair of the Spelman Year 2000 Task Force, Evans oversees a committee comprised of 13 administrators who work in areas on campus "where Y2K may have an influence."

Task force members include Public Safety Police Chief Joseph Milligan and Associate Director of Physical Plant Albert Smith.

The committee also includes Jack Alewine, who recently resigned as Spelman's Senior UNIX Network Administrator to work for the Atlanta University Center as a database administrator.

Excepting Evans and Alewine, none of the committee members are skilled technicians.

"We have hired out contractors, consultants, and also staff members to implement some of the remediation for the year 2000," says Evans.

The Task Force was selected by President Manley a year and a half ago. Evans responds vaguely as to why a web site has only recently been posted and why a formal statement to the Spelman community or to the parents of students has not been issued.

Despite the delayed trickling down of information, he assures that Spelman has sufficiently been preparing itself.

In 1996, Spelman purchased the Systems Computer Technology, Inc. (SCT) Banner system. The system uses the Oracle database to store student accounts, payroll, alumni data, financial aid and admissions information.

The system stores dates as four-digit entries and is Y2K compatible.

Evans says that embedded chips, which control things like elevators and voice communication, have also been tested and corrected throughout campus. "Physical plant has made sure that air conditioning systems, elevators, security systems, and circuit boards" will function.

In addition, Evans says that external services like Georgia Power, BellSouth, and Bank of America have reported that they will be intact for the new year.

But while such companies have made guarantees, Evans says that he and the Task Force believe that the outside world will pose problems.

The Y2K website outlines the school's contingency plan if problems such as loss of water supply, heating and air conditioning, and access to phones occur.

To offset some of the potential problems, Spelman administration and the other schools in the AUC have changed the first day of registration from January fourth to the tenth. This will hopefully ease the difficulty for students in terms of traveling back to school after the break and registering for class.

"Something's going to happen, and we don't know what it is," says Evans. "It may be minor...but even minor issues [for a college campus] can cause disruption."

Evans recommends that students carry cash and have copies of their records on hand in the first days of the new year.

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Health/Jaguar Spirit

Women and STDs

Cynthia Daniels
Jag/Health

Not only are women more prone to sexually transmitted diseases or infections, but African-American women "bear the brunt of STI infections."

So reports the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI). The institute also reports that women account for about half of all sexually transmitted infections or diseases (STIs or STDs) that occur each year, and they suffer from more frequent and severe long-term consequences than men.

Angela, a counselor at Planned Parenthood who did not want to disclose her last name, says that the most common STDs among young women ages 18-24 are chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis. All of these diseases are contracted through direct contact with bodily fluids.

In 1996 chlamydia was reported to be the most frequently reported infectious disease in the country. A microscopic parasite, chlamydia infects the cervix and possibly the urethra, fallopian tubes and ovaries in women, and the urethra and possibly testicles in men.

Some common symptoms of chlamydia include vaginal or penile discharge, pain during urination, excessive vaginal bleeding, and inflammation of the rectum or cervix. Seventy-five percent of women with chlamydia have no symptoms.

"Most young women come [to Planned Parenthood] for testing because their partner has told them that they are infected," says Angela.

Eighty percent of women infected with gonorrhea show symptoms of the disease, which is a bacteria that can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women. Some common symptoms are menstrual irregularities, pelvic or lower abdominal pain and a yellow-green discharge from the vagina. According to the National Center for HIV, STD and TB prevention, the rate of gonorrhea among African Americans is thirty times higher than that of whites. A woman who has sex on only one occasion can have a 60 to 90 percent risk of contracting gonorrhea.

Up to three million Americans develop trichomoniasis every year. The symptoms of trichomoniasis develop in three to 28 days. Men rarely have symptoms while a frothy, smelly discharge and itching around the vagina are some symptoms found in women.

There are successful treatments for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis. And none of them are fatal. Once you detect your symptoms, immediately get tested at the nearest clinic. A pelvic exam is the typical test associated with these diseases. It will take about one week for the results to determine a diagnosis of gonorrhea or chlamydia while trichomoniasis can be diagnosed immediately.

Condoms are the most effective protection against these sexually transmitted diseases, in addition to protecting against HIV infection.

PREVEN-ting Pregnancy

New contraceptive drug approved

Crystal Flowers
Jag/Health Editor

Recently the FDA approved PREVEN specifically for emergency contraception for women in the United States.

Formally known as the "PREVEN Emergency Contraception Kit," PREVEN is 75% effective in preventing pregnancy when taken correctly. The kit contains four oral contraceptive pills that contain progestin and estrogen. They can be taken up to 72 hours after a woman has had unprotected sex or if she believes her method of birth control has failed.

PREVEN is not the morning-after pill or the RU486 abortion pill. It does not abort a fetus. According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, pregnancy occurs when a fertilized egg embeds itself in the uterus, which usually occurs about six days after it is fertilized. By taking PREVEN, women delay or prevent the release of an egg from the ovary or change the lining of the uterus and subsequently prevent implantation of a fertilized egg.

PREVEN is expected to prevent and reduce an estimated 800,000 induced abortions and 2.7 million unintended pregnancies in the United States each year.

The kit also provides a urine pregnancy test and a step-by-step Patient Information Book.

PREVEN is not a substitute for abortions or contraception, and it does not prevent STDs.

Although PREVEN prevents the mishap of unintended pregnancy, it is not exempt from side effects. Most common side effects include nausea and vomiting. However, some more serious risks are heart attacks, blood clots, and strokes.

More information may be found at www.PREVEN.com and 1-888-PREVEN2.

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Arts & Entertainment

Talking With Ky-Mani Marley

Another Marley child records an album--but it's not only reggae

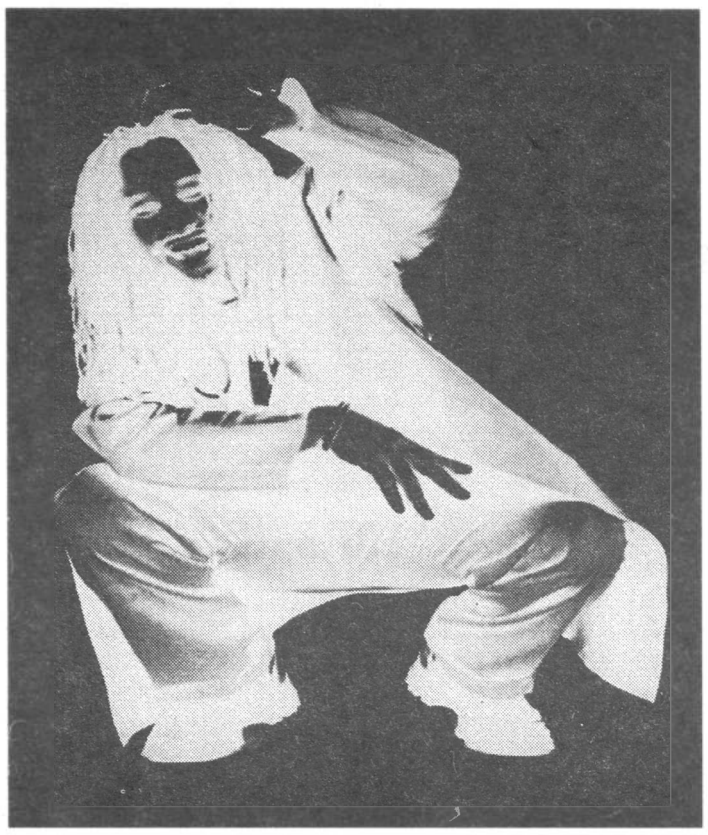
Rashida Rawls
A& E

Ky-Mani Marley, the tenth of Bob Marley's eleven children, recently passed through Atlanta on a twenty-eight city tour promoting his debut album "The Journey."

Presenting a versatile album of hip shaking, salsa beats to hip hop vibes, Ky-Mani assures his audience that this isn't just another reggae album.

In an interview with *The Spelman Spotlight*, Marley, a soccer-star-turned-musician, said, " I started dee-jaying for recreation. One thing led to another and kept building and building until now." Of the change from soccer to song, Ky-Mani said, "I find that it's not something that I had to decide to do, but something I had to do."

Here are other excerpts from Ky-Mani Marley's interview with *The Spelman Spotlight.*



Piotr Sikora

SS: Who are some of your musical influences?

K.M: I listen to a lot of Eric Clapton, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Jimi Hendrix, and a little Michael Bolton. I like a lot of R&B and rap too. Basically everybody that's on the scene right now like Puff Daddy and Jay-Z.

SS: How do you feel about the current music scene now—the whole hip hop vibe?

K.M: Hip hop is beautiful; the music scene is nice. And also right now, the Latin thing with Ricky Martin and everybody else, they got a lot of flavor going on now.

SS: Reggae's not new to mainstream America, so how do you feel like you fit in ? And we've talked about the whole Latin craze? How do you plan to fit in with this whole globalization of music?

K.M: Well, I don't only consider myself to be a reggae artist. The album has a wide variety and my fittin' in is just me putting my foot in through the door. The album has many different mixtures: we have a salsa remix on "Rude Boy," some hip hop and some alternative beats going on, then a few reggae. So I couldn't really label the album as a reggae album.

SS: Your CD does demonstrate that you should not be labeled as a reggae artist, but how are you going to go out of your way to clear yourself of that label?

K.M: I'm gonna keep doin' what I'm doin'. I'm always tryin' to do somethin' different. I'm not trying to stay on one musical path. I'm always out for something new. Actually we have a studio on the bus that we built, so we're workin' on the salsa rhythms and different beats so we can really cross lines of hip hop.

"Next Friday" Among Movies for the New Year

Theia Washington
A&E

According to cast member Don "DC" Curry, the movie "Next Friday," scheduled for release on Jan. 14, 2000, will offer the same humor and outrageous material that made the original "Friday" one of 1995's biggest movie hits.

The sequel will feature several members of the former "Friday" cast and pick up where the plot left off last time.

Craig (Ice Cube) is still battling his rival, Debo, who has spent two years in prison and is hell-bent on getting revenge. Fearing for his son, Craig's father (John Witherspoon) sends his son to live in the suburbs with Uncle Elroy (Don "DC" Curry) and his cousin Day-Day (Mike Epps).

"This movie is just as funny as the first one," says Curry. "But I think a lot of its success will come from the combination of humor and challenges that Craig is faced with when he moves to the 'burbs."

Besides returning as Craig, Ice Cube is working behind the scenes as producer and co-writer of "Next Friday."

This sequel was inspired by the success of the first "Friday" in 1995. The movie was a hit in theaters and a video best seller for approximately one hundred weeks.

"Friday" helped launch the careers of cast members Nia Long and Chris Tucker. While "Next Friday" won't feature these actors, Curry guarantees the movie will be a good laugh.

"If I could describe 'Next Friday' in one word," says Curry, "I'd have to say 'hilarious.'

"I mean, John Witherspoon and Mike Epps just crack me up. All I gotta do is look at them and I start to laugh."

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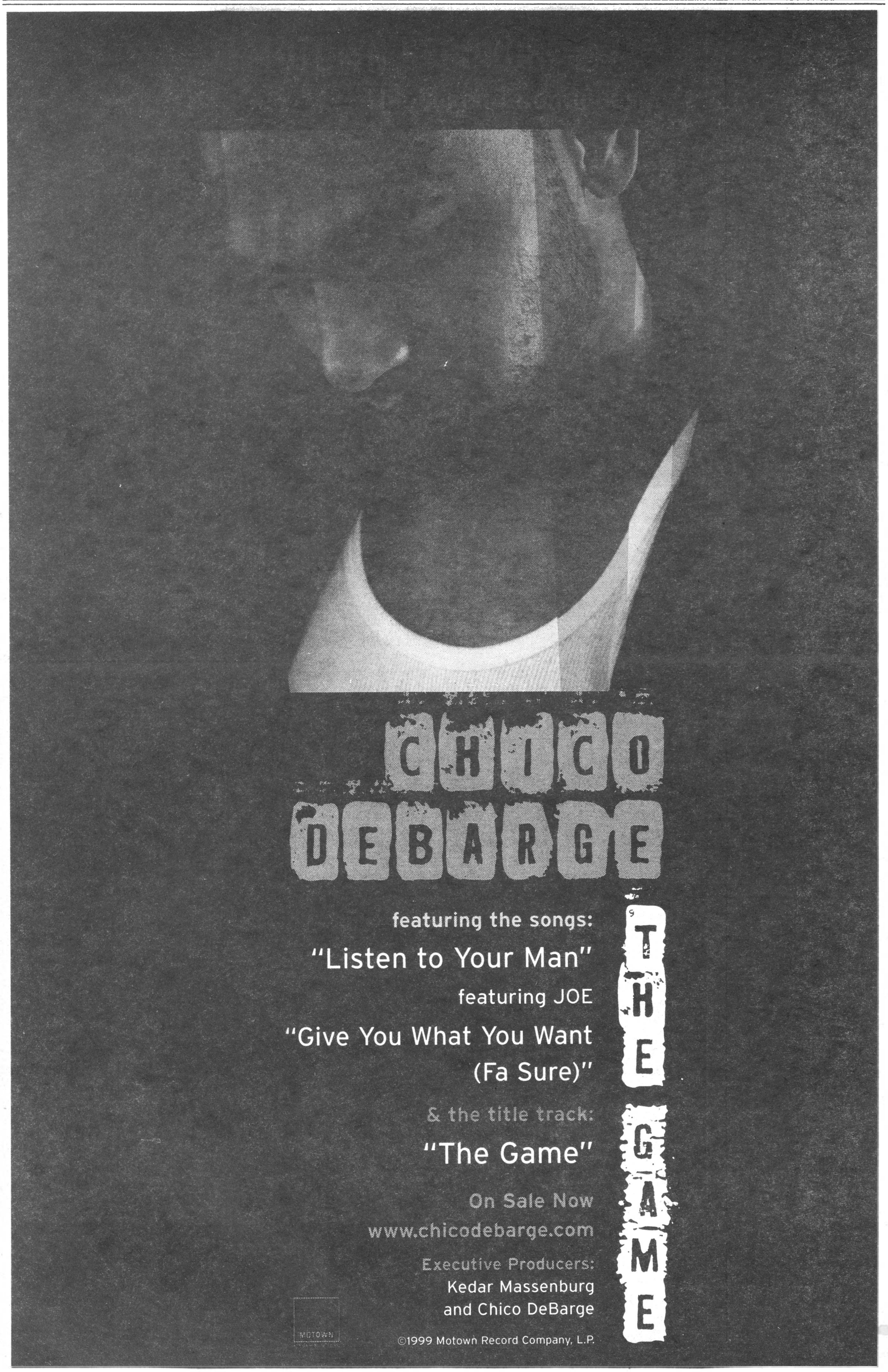
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"Listen to Your Man"
featuring JOE
"Give You What You Want
(Fa Sure)"
& the title track:
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Arts & Entertainment

The Wonder Years

Looking back on the past two decades that most of us have lived through, there are a few things that can make you reminisce about when you weren't old enough to go to that New Edition concert or where you were when 2Pac & Biggie were assassinated. We at *The Spotlight* have compiled lists of yesteryear to help you in looking back at your favorite memories.

Best TV Shows

Different World: it made everybody want to go to a black college **Cosby Show:** showed that every black family isn't dysfunctional **Martin:** proved that coonery does pay- with a price **In Living Color:** the black Satuday Night Live **Good Times:** home is where the heart is even if it's Section 8 **Jeffersons:** finally a rich black bigot on the air, **What's Happenin':** hey hey hey **Fame:** you gotta sweat **Fresh Prince of BelAir:** yo' homes to Bel Air **New York Undercover:** it was all about Malik

Best Black Talk Shows

Arsenio Hall: "Let's get busy!!!" **Oprah:** the most "beloved" talk show in America
BET Tonight: Tavis Smiley droppin' science on the masses
Chris Rock: Pookie is finally making his mark
Jerry Springer: Even though Jerry isn't black, what would the show be without "Rufus" and Tanisha's baby daddy?

Best Cartoons

Thunder Cats
HeMan/SheRa
Transformers
Smurfs
Fraggle Rock
Ninja Turtles
Richie Rich

Best Black Movies

The Last Dragon
Purple Rain
School Daze
Coming to America
Krush Groove
Friday
Lean On Me
The Wiz
Beat Street

Best Sex Scenes

Jason's Lyric
How Stella Got Her Groove Back
Waiting to Exhale
Set It Off
Any old Wesley Snipes movie
Do The Right Thing
Purple Rain
Beloved
Soul Food

Best One-Liners

"Damn, damn, damn!"-Good Times **"You told Harpo to beat me."**-The Color Purple **"Hercules, Hercules, Hercules"**-The Nutty Professor **"Follow the drip, follow the drip..."**-House Party **"It's Friday, you ain't got no job."**-Friday **"Sit cho five dollar ass down before I make change."**-New Jack City **"His momma name him Clay, I'ma call him Clay."**- Coming to America **"Why can't LaLa get paid?"**-He Got Game **"Get cho hand outta my pocket!"**-Malcom X **"They used to call me Crazy Joe, now they call me Batman!"**-Lean on Me **"M-m-m-mookie."**-Do the Right Thing **Ricky!!!!"**-Boyz N Da Hood **"Wake uuuuuuup!"**-School Daze

Best 80's R&B Acts

DeBarge
New Edition
Guy
Prince And The Revoultion
Force MD's
Troop
Janet Jackson
Keith Sweat
Michael Jackson
Whitney Houston
Luther Vandross
Anita Baker

Best 80's Rap Acts

Run Dmc
LL Cool J
Public Enemy
Eric B. & Rakim
Fat Boys
Jazzy Jeff & the Fresh Prince
NWA& Eazy E
Doug E. Fresh & The Get Fresh Crew

Best 90's R&B Acts

R. Kelly
Boyz II Men
BBD
Mary J. Blige
Lauryn Hill
Maxwell
Faith
Jodeci
D' Angelo
TLC
EnVogue

Best 90's Rap Acts

Roots
A Tribe Called Quest
Souls Of Mischief
No Limit Camp
Cash Money Camp
Busta Rhymes
Nas
OutKast
WuTang Klan
The Pharcyde
Gang Star
Dr. Dre & Snoop Doggy Dogg
Tupac
Notorious B.I.G.
Arrested Development
De La Soul

One Hit Wonders

Vanilla Ice
Young MC
God's Property
Adina Howard
JJ Fad

College Hits

Songs that will take you back to your college days long after you've graduated.

Here I Go- Mystical
No Limit Soldiers- TRU
ATLiens- OutKast
Po' Pimpin'- Do or Die
They don't dance No Mo- Goodie MoB
Back dat thing up- Juvenile
Rosa Parks- OutKast
Shawty Swing My Way- KP & Envi
De Ja Vu- Lord Tariq & Peter Gunz
Quiet Storm Remix- Mobb Deep w/ Lil' Kim

Magazines

Fresh(we took it there)
Right On(remember that Ralph Tresvant poster?)
Black Beat
Jet
Seventeen
The Source (before all the No Limit ads)
Vibe(before FuBu)

Best Books

The Color Purple
The Autobiograpy of Malcom X
Native Son
Beloved
Their Eyes Were Watching God
Invisible Man
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings
Iceberg Slim's Pimp

Best Toys

Big Wheels
HeMan
Gem
Barbie
Comodore 64
Transformers
Atari 2600
Easy Bake Ovens
Anything Tonka
G.I. Joe
Nintendo

Best and Worst Trends

Lee Jeans/Fat Laces/ Kangols/Troop/Fat Goose/ Dookie gold ropes/four finger rings/Sweater Dresses/Men in Tight Jeans or short shorts/Big hair and bright makeup/ Braids with beads and foil tips/Hammer pants/Acid washed anything/Bomber jackets/Bootleg Gucci, Louis Vutton, MCM, or Fendi/Cazals/Nameplate belt buckles/Gumby haircuts/ Cross Colors/ Pump sneakers/Hightop fades/African medallions/ Hip pouches/Dwayne Wayne glasses/Biker shorts/Jams/Pouches/ Jellies/Raiders hats/Finger waves/ Shirley Temple curls/Halle Berry cut/ Bamboo or dolphin earrings/Coogi anything/ Wearing your clothes inside out/Wearing your clothes backwards/ Airbrushed anything/ Jodeci boots/Coveralls with one strap hanging/ Stopwatches

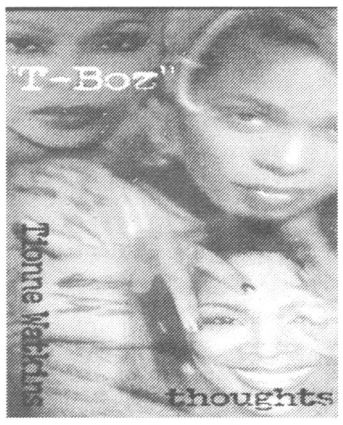
Hood Games

"That's my car"
"Red Light, Green Light"
Double Dutch
Hand Games (Miss Mary Mack, "Twee A Lee A Lee")
Dodge Ball
Stick Ball
Street Football
Heads up, 7up
Hide and Go Get it
Kick Ball

Arts & Entertainment

T-Boz's *Thoughts*: TLC member releases new book

Rashida Rawls
A& E



On November 3, Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins of the female R&B group TLC released her book of personal poems and essays entitled Thoughts.

Watkins' poems cover a wide range of topics including romantic and family relationships, heartbreak, abortion, body image, and racism in society.

In the book's preface, Watkins says, "All these observations and impressions built up inside me, and ultimately they're expressed through my music. Usually. But TLC was between albums, and I had no other way to release myself. Finally, I had found a viable alternative to my music."

Thoughts is touching because T-Boz has composed and compiled works to which many people can relate. In her poem and essay "Unpretty," she shows that even celebrities see themselves as being not-so-beautiful sometimes. In her poem "Weight, " T-Boz discusses the issues involved in being over or under weight. Her message is straightforward: life is too short not to enjoy it and love yourself just as you are.

T-Boz's voice and style as a poet is relaxed and simple. Some poems may even sound as though they were written by a third-grader as when T-Boz begins the poem "Hatred" by writing "Hate is evil / Hate is not good." Still, the poet manages to assert thoughtful and inspiring messages promoting self-reflection and progress.

Watkins shares a guide for self-improvement, her favorite recipes like oxtails, insights on how TLC was formed, and pictures of herself, family, and friends. She also includes a long list of fans' names and answers fans' questions through writing this book.

After reading Thoughts, a reader can gain a better understanding of who T-Boz is as an individual rather than making assumptions about her as an entertainer.

A & E Editorial: Learn from a true diva

A few weeks ago, Mariah Carey was whining about how she got no respect for her work.

Well, what can we say about a singer who, in her short career, has already suffered both a divorce and a racial identity crisis? The marriage to the "oh-so-oppressive" Tommy Mattola ended in early 1998. And the latest word on Mariah's racial background was that she is born to a half-Venezuelan, half-black father and an Irish mother. It's no good to be a half black and half white entertainer anymore.

Her latest accomplishment was setting a singles record back in September when "Heartbreaker" sold 271,000 copies in its first week. "Heartbreaker" reached number one on Billboard becoming Mariah's 14th number one song. Mariah has had a number one single every year this decade.

While her achievements are notable, I still ask: how can we respect an artist whose album titles have consistently been one word long for the last eight years (Emotions, Daydream, Butterfly, and Rainbow...as though she can think of nothing else)?

And we can't forget her attempt to be the "over 25" version of Britney Spears, scantily clad, with a bubble gum image worse than Debbie Gibson's. Her current release, *Rainbow*, fails to reflect the past year's emotional rollercoaster ride that Mariah claims to have suffered. Critics and listeners alike are wondering where the emotion is. And this woman wants respect?

On the other hand, Tina Turner has not only celebrated her 60th birthday, but also released another album. Now that's a woman who deserves respect. We all saw "What's Love Got to Do With It" and we know what Tina's been through. Last spring, Tina worked on VH1's Divas Live with Cher, Brandy, and Whitney. While the semi-divas were disappointing, Tina's performance was no less than phenomenal.

So when Mariah Carey screams about how she doesn't receive respect for her work in the industry, no one listens. There are women who have been breaking boundaries for years. And when Mariah puts on some more clothes, stops screeching in her songs, and has creative album titles with more than one word, then maybe the industry will take her a little more seriously.

Najeema Washington
Senior
A&E Editor

The Haps

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Nellie Mae Rowe: "Ninety-Nine and a Half Won't Do"
Art exhibit includes work from the 1940s to present day.
The High Museum of Art, Folk Art and Photography Gallery
Admission is free.
On display through February 26, 2000
Call 404-577-6940 for details.

The Spotlight will be recruiting in January--and we want YOU! Be on the lookout for further information or stop by the office, Lower Manley 104.

Voices

The New, Steadily Improving *Spotlight*

Dear readers,

You've probably noticed a change in *The Spelman Spotlight*.

We've changed our layout, the dynamics of our staff, the content of the newspaper. And this leads to a change in the overall tone that we are striving to establish.

This year, there are three editors. This has been questioned by a number of people, but there is strength—and integrity—in numbers. And besides, the obsession with a title is useless when everyone ends up doing more than her job description says.

For better or worse, part of our jobs as editors is to bear the brunt of criticism that might arise when we print a controversial story. We face a number of challenges. Here are three:

Despite the myth of the "virtuous woman" to which Spelman students are said to cling (even if they're acting differently behind closed doors), I feel it's *The Spotlight*'s responsibility to provide information about birth control and overall sexual health, as well as other issues that matter to young women. Two thirds of the 15 million people who are diagnosed with STDs each year are between the ages of 15 and 24. In addition, AIDS is the leading cause of African American deaths in people ages 20-44. How can we pretend these conditions don't exist? It's more offensive not to acknowledge the issues.

Perhaps the most controversy has arisen over our editorial "Voices" section, which in our last issue included a reader's "20 Questions+1." A few people were offended, many enjoyed the humor. But I question why *The Spotlight* so hastily meets with disapproval when we tastefully do what other publications have been doing—in the nastiest and most offensive manner—for years. Maybe you think boys will be boys. But I think it's about time they stepped up and acted like men when the women offer a good-natured challenge.

Finally, just because *The Spotlight* proclaims itself to be "The Voice of African-American Womanhood" does not mean: a) that we are the *Lifetime* channel of college journalism or b) that we do not welcome men's perspectives. We welcome contributions from anyone. Our generation appears to lack the activism many of our parents experienced at our age. Writing for or to your college newspaper is a way to act—without necessarily risking arrest.

So whether you like *The Spelman Spotlight* or not, I, and my colleagues who co-edit it, thank you for reading it. We encourage you to respond when you feel the need, or to join the movement whether you write for us or find another way to make some change in the world.

—Jamilla Coleman
Senior Editor
c/o 2000

A Reader Responds

In response to the recent [November 5] edition of the *Spelman Spotlight*, I would just like to comment on the stark change in the contents of the paper.

I never expected the *Spotlight* to stoop to the level of the *Maroon Tiger* by creating a feud, real or imagined, between other students and displaying it for all to see in a campus paper. My expectations of a campus newspaper center around the freedom of expression and an outlet to promote change. I would hope that the *Spotlight* would set a standard for other newspapers who boast high readership and sponsorship but continue to publish demeaning and degrading material. The *Spotlight*, even with its low budget, has risen to the challenge thus far. But this past edition seemed to resemble too closely the very newspaper that it was criticizing.

I am not, in any way, denouncing the paper. I am one of its biggest fans. I will always defend *The Spotlight* over any other paper driven by ad money and trashy controversy. But *The Spotlight* should uphold its standards and not become part of a campus feud that undermines the purpose of the newspaper.

Jessica R. Page
c/o 2000

Keepin' up with the Joneses

Armani, Kenneth Cole,
and Prada too.
A black Expedition, it
must be new.
A new bag is a must-
Coach is nice,
the off brand at Rich's
just won't suffice.
With winter comes
boots from DKNY—
the Spelman way, you
cannot deny.

There is certainly something that distinguishes the Spelman woman.

Yes it is that lovely air of self-assurance. It is indeed the delightful combination of intelligence and activism.

But let's not front, ladies. It's also that desperate desire to rock those oh-so-fly clothes, shoes, and accessories that we Spelmanites are nationally notorious for. It is rumored that Spelman women spend more time cruising Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza than they do in class. The Spelman parking lot is described as an exotic car show, featuring the newest and most expensive luxury vehicles.

Obviously people shouldn't believe the hype.

Yet, is it possible that the average Spelman woman is just a tad stuck on the quest for material objects?

Now let's keep it real. Nobody expects you to roll out of bed and into a pair of raggedy, wrinkled sweats before heading to your first class every morning. Men or no men around, we all have our pride.

But let's face it-many Spelmanites are "bling-blinging" more than some professionals with paychecks and pensions. Why is this and why do some of us feel as if our self-worth is determined by what we have on our backs?

Perhaps what Spelman women have or do not have is not exactly the problem. Indeed, if you can afford to carry a $300 purse, who is anyone to object?

The real problem is a much more latent one that we do not realize if we do not take the time to look.

This issue is the implied assumption that one does not measure up to the so-called Spelman mystique if she is not "ballin." Additionally, it is the feeling that one must live up to some imaginary criterion of outward appearance to be accepted among her Spelman sisters. Don't believe me? Take a look around during the next Market Friday gathering. So just what's the deal with Market Friday anyway and why does it look like an audition for a No Limit video?

Like it or not, Market Friday (commonly known as Fashion Friday) has become just that- a fashion show. What began as an opportunity to socialize with peers has become somewhat of a competition. Is it just me, or is it obvious that students feel *obligated* to dress a particular way on Fridays?

This *obligation* is quite significant. It suggests a feeling of inadequacy if one does not meet the invisible standard. This is particularly ironic considering the emphasis that Spelman, as an institution, places on self-pride and inner confidence. Women of the new millennium are confident and self-assured, regardless of the designer labels which adorn their chest or feet.

So what ideals are we fostering behind these gates? What legacy are we leaving future Spelmanites? It is unfortunate, but perhaps we are inadvertently perpetuating those "tired" stereotypes that we claim are so untrue.

Either way, keepin' up with the Joneses is indeed contagious.

There is nothing wrong with appreciating nice things. Clearly, the issue at hand is not your preference to wear what you want to wear or drive what you want to drive. The issue is your Spelman sister's feelings of inadequacy when she cannot do the same. The issue is not your shopping spree at Lenox Square, but your classmate's assumption that she does not measure up in her economical, off-brand clothes.

You may think of this

continued on pg. 14

Voices

A Maniac's Mantra

-Anonymous

I should have brushed my hair this morning, to remind my tresses of how your fingertips felt
I could have hung up the phone before you picked up, but I like the hopscotch games you play with my heart, I suppose
I would have taken the blindfolds off of my eyes, and ripped the **"S"** off of my chest, but that would force me to look in the mirror, and you don't want **that** person on your arm

I should have eaten lunch today, but then I wouldn't have been able to fit into that little black dress that you like, and no matter how much we front, neither Shanequa nor Becky have hips, and no matter how much y'all say you like "thick" girls, you really wouldn't floss with one, anyway
I could have talked to someone about my melancholy, but black girls don't have those kinds of problems
I would have finished my application to Yale, but I had to make this pilgrimage to the "Mecca"; besides, I didn't really want an Ivy patch on my arm

I should have gone to bed at a decent hour last night, but just getting by isn't good enough
I could have gone to chill down the street with the homiez, but look where they are now (still chillin' down the street)
I would have listened more in history class if you would have noticed my raised brown arm

I should have lifted the "covers" from over my head, but *little girls* cry in the dark, too
I could have slowed down long enough to smell the...dandelions growing through the cracks in the concrete
I would have not been at the top of the class, but the ghetto lifted me with its arms

I should have realized that he was not my hero, by the way that he Crip-walked in and out of my life
I could have seen the facade through his glazed-over light brown eyes
I would have been a better daughter if he knew that "love" wasn't just putting "ice" (that he couldn't even afford) on my arm

I should have paid more attention to every crease in their wrinkles if I knew that I wouldn't be able to see them anymore
I could have learned how to struggle instead of just how to survive
I would have been content with nestling my head in their sweet potato pied/chicken fried arms

I should have been my mama's baby, but I settled for being her friend
I could have not been born a bastard, but the Isley Brothers, some dimples, and some CH3CH2OH got in the way
I would have like to have just kept quiet, like that pacified baby in my mama's arms

Ask Jaguara

Dear Jaguara,
I am dating this guy and his friends do not like me. It is beginning to interfere in our relationship. What should I do?
-Concerned about his friends

Concerned about his friends,
You are with your man and not his friends. You possess qualities that your boyfriend admires and respects. I think that you should worry less about what his friends think of you and be more concerned with the relationship itself.

Dear Jaguara,
My roommate likes this guy who has been trying to talk to me. What should I do?
- Trying to keep the peace

Trying to keep the peace,
If you are truly trying to keep the peace then you should tell your roommate what's up with Slick Steve. Just let her know that you are not interested in him, if that's true, but you just wanted to let her know before she pursues him any further. It's better for her to hear it from your mouth before she hears it from the cafeteria.

Keepin' up (cont.)
as "their problem." Yet, if this so-called Spelman sisterhood thing that we speak of is so true, just maybe, it's *our* problem.

Erica D. Johnson
Voices
c/o 2000

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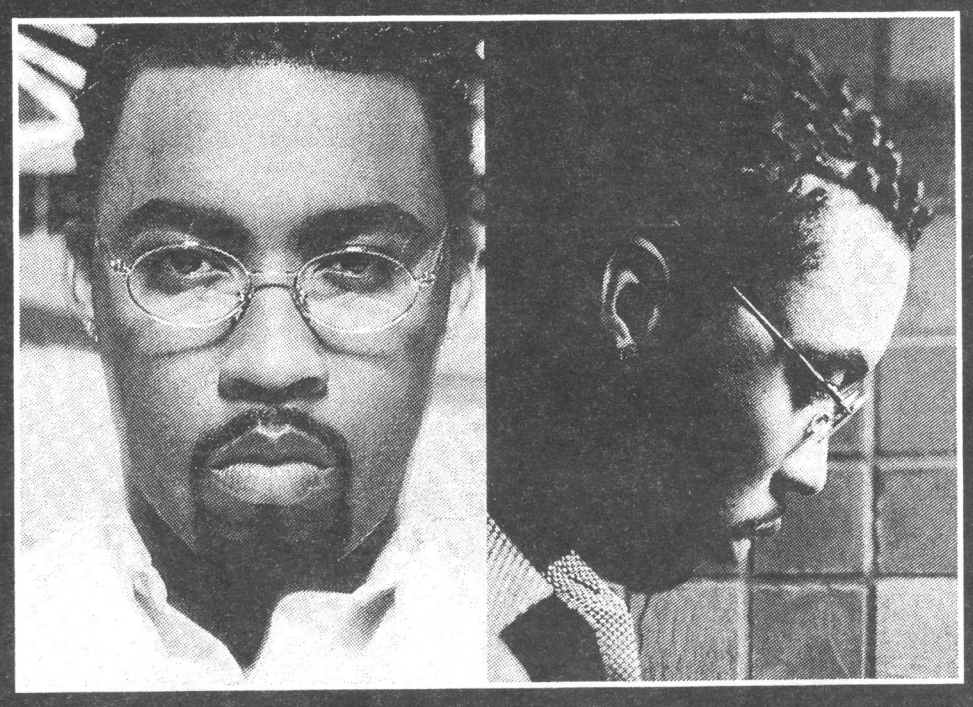
SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE IN PARIS

Voices

Whether You Like It Fast...
Or You Need It Slow

Montell Jordan

Is Back To Help You
Get It On...Tonite



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Accepting the Charge

There is a disease that is annihilating the black race, killing us off in record numbers. This disease is far-reaching, killing the mind, the body, the spirit and the soul, all at once.

What is its name?

Complacency.

What is it about this disease that makes it spread like brush fires on a dry summer day? And why so quickly within the black race? And why specifically within the confines of the number one institution in the world for black women?

On October 8, 1999 the Spelman Spotlight released its first issue of the semester.

In this issue, I wrote an article about Public Safety and their lack of competency in handling safety issues on Spelman's campus. Their botched reports, apathetic attitudes, and unwillingness to act were all addressed in this article which focused on a situation that I faced in particular, as well as other incidents that happened this semester.

The paper disappeared from Spelman's campus and the Spotlight Office. Of course nobody knows of their whereabouts- or so they say. It was brought to my attention that the papers "might" have been removed by administration because of my article and its "directness." I was told that the timing was wrong-that homecoming weekend was not a good time to put a negative article about Spelman College in the paper.

I wrote a letter to Dr. Manley on October 20, 1999, stating my intentions in writing the article. I obviously was not out to make Spelman look bad, but there were serious safety issues that needed to be addressed on Spelman's campus. Students had been missing, robbed at gun point, etc.- all within a couple of weeks. However, nothing was done to notify the Spelman community. Public Safety tried so hard to protect Spelman's reputation that they may have endangered students' lives. As of yet, I have received no response to my letter.

Many Spelman students heard about my article, and told me of other students who have left Spelman because of rapes and other incidents that were not handled correctly.

However, nobody was willing to act on this problem. Why? They were afraid that if they spoke out against administration, they somehow could be expelled from school, or kept from graduating on time. Some just didn't feel that these matters concerned them.

This fear, this lack of concern, this apathetic attitude is what makes Spelman what it is as opposed to what it could be. This complacent air is why African-Americans are in the position that we are in today. As long as injustices are done so that they do not affect us, we don't act. Can you imagine what America would be like today if African-Americans did not stand up for their beliefs? Can you imagine Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and other civil rights leaders not wanting to stand up against injustice because of what their "superiors" would do to them? If everyone had the attitude of some of my Spelman sisters, we would be in slavery at this very moment.

Do not wait until it happens to you to take action. Do not wait until somebody is killed on Spelman's campus, or you get a phone call saying that your roommate, best friend, or classmate is missing. If you are/were being stalked or harassed and Public Safety did not take action, do it yourself. Do it now. Let Spelman College know that as $80,000 investors, we expect and demand that they listen to our concerns and do something about that wreck that they call Public Safety. If they won't listen, tell your parents. Spelman College has a reputation for responding to parents faster than they do students (alumnae and media have a lot of pull too). Get others involved. Join Peppers, SWAC, Toni Cade Bambara.

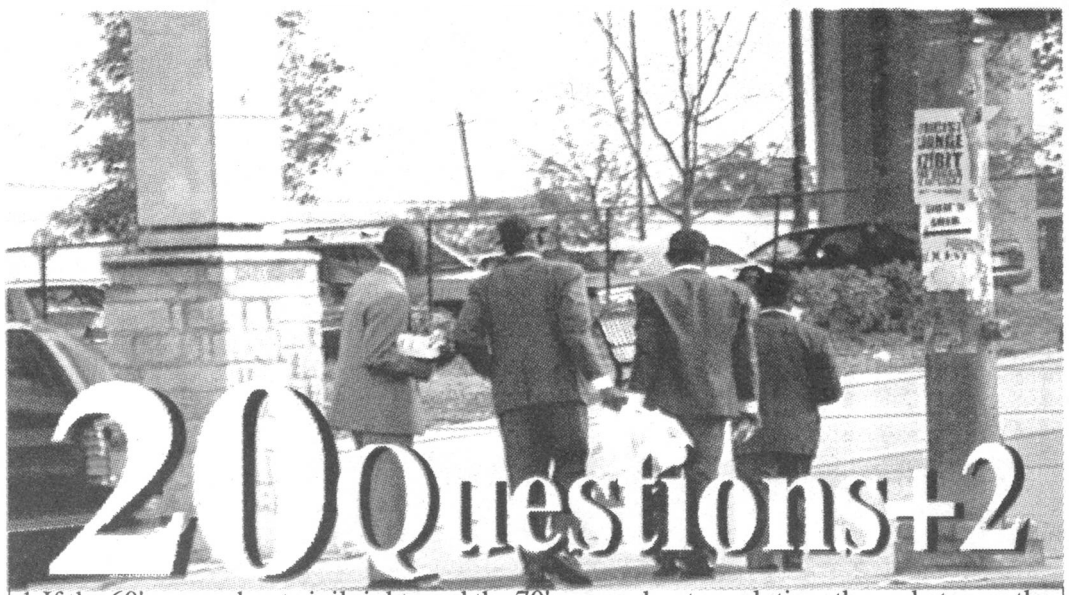
If expulsion is your concern, don't let it be. There is no possible way for Spelman College to expel students for standing up for what they believe in. The media would be on our campus faster than Public Safety responding to an emergency.

Don't wait until it's too late.

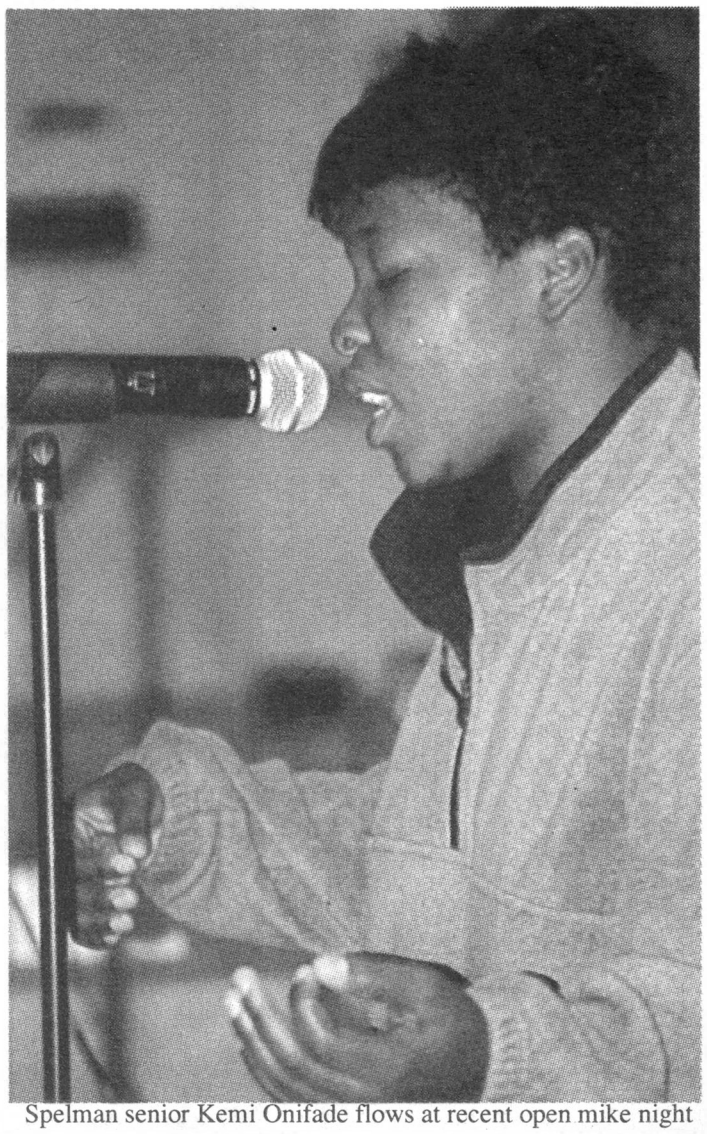
And for all you know, tomorrow could be the day that it happens to you.

Do you accept the charge?

-Shironda White
Voices
c/o 2000



1.If the 60's were about civil rights and the 70's were about revolution, then what were the 90's about? 2.Why is it that *The Maroon Tigger* staff got all bent out of shape at our 20 Questions+1? 3.If they're really that sensitive, shouldn't they just call themselves The Maroon Pussycats? 4.What exactly has the SSGA done for you lately? 5.Aren't you tired of being overcharged and underappreciated? 6.Why is it that we get more slaps on the wrist than pats on the back? 7.Where in the World is ~~Carmen SanDiego~~ Dr. Manley? 8.How come the same panhandlers have been on the Lee Street exit ramp since freshman year? 9. Do you think that we should throw the pregnant one a baby shower? 10. Can somebody please buy a damn bean pie so they'll stop blocking traffic? 11.Shouldn't Hot 97.5 just change their name to HotBoy Radio? 12.Exactly which one of your freshman years are you talking about (and don't you think that it's time you graduated, or at least retired)? 13.If my name starts with an "N" and her name starts with an "N," then we must be the same person, huh? 14.Why are the soda, ice cream, and two-day-old pizza the best things going for Upshaw? 15. And why are the condiments the only things I'll consider eating? 16.How many of y'all think that most dangerous neighborhood report is bogus? 17.But how many of y'all still scared to speak to somebody from the 'hood when you're walking to the Marta station? 18.Why is it that y'all be shootin' blanks? 19.Aren't y'all just about sick of CooneRy? 20.How come there are a bunch of followers and no leaders? 21.How many people know the difference between being spiritual and being religious? 22.What if I told you that N.Cognito can be reached at ncognito@graffiti.net? -N. Cognito



Spelman senior Kemi Onifade flows at recent open mike night sponsored by *Focus* literary magazine.