

The Spelman Spotlight

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Spelman students say campus life is lacking

Charlie Penn

Contributing Writer

Since day one in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church, Spelman College has prided itself on sisterhood and the unique and diverse opportunity that is "the Spelman Experience."

Lately, many of the sisters of Spelman College are beginning to notice the sisterhood is deteriorating rapidly, and they fail to see a strong presence of social activity, development, or support on Spelman's campus.

Spelman is said to provide a safe haven for young women to grow, learn, and

develop academically, mentally, and socially. Although Spelman's primary focus is to educate young women, it is understood that there are only so many hours that can be dedicated to the books. The remaining time is then available to take advantage of the diversity at Spelman and to establish and maintain social relationships. Although many students are satisfied with the social environment here at Spelman, just as many are not.

Campus kiosks and bulletin boards show an abundance of colorful flyers and announcements, which appear to offer students a variety of social and academic events on campus. Yet,

according to many students, these events are redundant, and there is little change in events posted each month.

"It's the same old stuff on all of the kiosks, we need more variety," said sophomore Wynter Jacks.

While she spoke surrounding sisters, who gave generous head nods, eagerly supported her thoughts. Is there really a lack in creativity when it comes to orchestrating campus events here at Spelman? Are the events that are posted appealing to the students or are they just wasting space on the kiosk? Many commuter students can be found heading towards the parking deck directly after class has ended; anxious to begin their

commute home for the day.

"I choose not to participate in campus events because they don't really interest me. If something did then I would want to stick around, or if it's really worth it, come back," states sophomore commuter student Kimberly Clarke.

Many students feel that the majority of commuter students here at Spelman can only be found during the time allotted for classes, and that after that they're hard to catch. Why do commuter students lose the desire to spend time on campus for anything other than class? Was the desire ever there?

"Everybody is trying to get away from campus," says a junior who would like to remain

anonymous. "What is really here for us other than class?"

When asked what is truly so unappealing about campus events and what in turn could be done to increase student attendance to these events, the students had lots to offer.

"There should be more events that cater to the needs and interests of the entire student body, rather than just freshman, or health science majors. And, in terms of seminars, how many getting motivated discussions do you really need to attend?" asked sophomore Zoma Wallace.

Other students suggested that Spelman's SGA see campus life on page 2

Parking fee has students furious

Thecle Gonda
Campus & Local

"That'll be three dollars ma'am," said the parking attendant. The woman looked at him incredulously.

"You can't be serious! I'm just going to the cafeteria to get some food and I'll be right back," she replied impatiently.

"It doesn't matter ma'am. You still have to pay," said the man. After paying her dues, the woman walked away angrily mumbling to herself.

When Spelman faculty and students returned from Christmas vacation, they were greeted with a rude awakening: the parking lot directly facing the back gates of the school was no longer free. In order to use the service, a \$3.00 fee was charged. Many students were enraged.

"I think it's ridiculous that the school can't even provide free parking for us. This is an inconvenience for us," said sophomore Natalie Crawford.

This has been the reaction of commuter and on-campus students; however, many are not aware of the true reason why parking fees are established.

"First of all, there is no college that provides free parking for its students. No where on a college application does it ask the student whether or not she owns a vehicle nor is it the school's responsibility for the student's personal commodity," commented Director of Public Safety Steve Bowzer. "However, see parking on page 2

P.H. Polk is honored at Spelman museum

Astrid Thomas
Campus & Local Writer

If you have not visited the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art once this year, then you are missing a treat. Spelman College Museum of Fine Art is hosting Through These Eyes: The Photographs of P.H. Polk, an exhibition to commemorate the museum's fifth anniversary.

When the Cosbys' gave Spelman College the generous gift to build the Cosby Center and the museum of Fine Art, the mission of the Spelman Museum was to create an art showcase of African American women of the past, present, and the future. Spelman College Museum is the only museum that focuses on art of African American women in a unique position.

P.H. (Prentice Herman) Polk is originally from Bessemer, Alabama and served as the official photographer of Tuskegee Institute from 1939 to 1948. P.H. Polk began his talents at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute and studied under Cornelius M. Bailey (1873-1927). Polk has photographed political, social, and intellectual elite such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Martin Luther King.

Polk's artwork illustrates rural subjects, also known as "Old Characters," which are among his popular subjects. He photographed images of middle class African Americans, farmers and laborers who worked the cotton fields of rural Macon County, because they captured the

aspects of African American life. The exhibition tells riveting stories of the importance of the segregated South. In 1998, Through These Eyes: The Photographs of P.H. Polk was organized by the University Galleries of the University of Delaware and has been showcased in prestigious museums and galleries throughout the nation. Spelman College Museum of Fine Art concludes the

tour of the exhibition because the exhibit's owner currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia. The exhibition started last semester with various events to kickoff the celebration of P. H. Polk's art and career. One event, Starbucks Coffee Night, allowed students to discuss issues concerning the P.H. Polk exhibit.

"I think that the museum has good student participation and the museum also is doing a lot to increase the student participation," stated Ms. Kara Anderson, Museum Coordinator.

The highlight of this semester for students is the Open Mike Night "Mocktail" Party on March 5, 2002. This is an

opportunity for students to come out and perform their own creative interpretations and forms of art about Polk's photography. This event will be open to other AUC students.

"The College Administration is being very supportive and pleased with the initiatives to get student participation," said Anderson.

Since Spelman College emphasizes service, the museum offers volunteer opportunities to all interested students. At the museum, students can become tour guides, work the desk, and learn how to put up and take down artwork. The museum's volunteers consist of mainly freshman with a few returning students.

"Without the students, the museum can not stay open," said Anderson.

The Spelman College Museum of Fine Art's goal is to continue to offer significant art exhibitions of many disciplines for students to learn, understand, and appreciate art. The museum staff plans to implement and expand more programs for students because each year the museum gets better and better.

Spelman College Museum of Fine Art has scheduled

many events for this semester to celebrate one of the most accomplished African American photographers.

Spelman College Museum of Fine Art is open to the public on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 AM to 4 PM

Open Mike Night "Mocktail" Party Mar. 5, 2002 at 7pm The student social features mock cocktails and students will be able to perform their own creative interpretations of Polk's photography.

Family Day 2002 Mar. 23, 2002 from Noon to 4 p.m. will be a fun-filled afternoon of events including an "African American Personalities" gallery tour, hands-on activities, "Flight Stories" featuring the Tuskegee Airmen, and a disposable camera contest. The highlight of this event is a portrait studio where families can use props, don costumes, and have their pictures taken by a professional photographer to recreate the allure of the 1930s and 1940s.

1881 Reception Apr. 7, 2002 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Created especially for Spelman and Tuskegee alumni to commemorate the historic founding of both institutions in 1881. The reception will be held in conjunction with Founders Week 2002. Special Guests will include the College's Golden Girls and Tuskegee Airmen who reside in the metro-Atlanta area and throughout the Southeast region. Guest presenters are Taronda Spencer, Archivist, Spelman College Archives, and Cynthia Beavers Wilson, Archivist Tuskegee University Archives.



Cynthia's Editorial

My walk down the hall of Morehouse James the other day was more like a walk down memory lane. It couldn't have been three years ago that I would wake up and hope that this would be one of those lucky mornings where we had hot water. Three years ago, when my favorite Ben & Jerry's cookie dough ice cream would mysteriously disappear from the refrigerator. Three years ago when my visitation depended on whether the desk aide had a date or not and if she was free, I had to yell man on the hall to announce that my date had arrived.

Although dorm life certainly left a lot to be desired, it fulfilled many other areas of my life. Reminiscing with my roommate yesterday, I realized that dorm life was the best thing that could have happened to us during our four-year stay at Spelman College.

Where else can you open your door to use the restroom and find six girls sitting in the hall at 2 in the morning eating Papa John's and comparing their latest new gear and the hottest new songs? Where else can you enter your next-door neighbor's room and exit with a new wardrobe, if only for one night? Only in the dorm, can you find a Spelmanite knocking on doors and asking for products that are too personal to write in this editorial right now. To the ladies in Manley hall: I understand, I saw the rodent trucks parked outside. But just think of it as part of your Spelman experience and the even larger umbrella of the HBCU experience. Maybe that rodent understood what it took me four years to discover: those years in the dorm will be like no other time in your life, so take the good with the bad, enjoy them, and hide your ice cream underneath all the freezer burned items so no one, sometimes not even you, can find it.

Cynthia Daniels



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Campus Life...continued from page 1

play a more active role in surveying the student body and uncovering what type of events the students would really like to attend. Yet, many students are content with the events that Spelman offer and say there is plenty to get involved in.

"You control how positive and negative your experience is going to be. Students do not take advantage of the many events that are offered on campus, thus their experience at Spelman is limited," responded SGA president and graduating senior Christina Williams.

Many students feel that sisters at Spelman tend to socialize in small groups that are classified by and limited to classifications and/or organizations. Should a person's classification matter when deciding who to speak to or socialize with? Does it really matter to the women of Spelman?

"At Ohio Wesleyan University, it didn't matter what your classification was, you just hung out, but it's not like that here at Spelman...I don't get the feeling of sisterhood at all" said junior exchange student Allyson Rainey.

Exchange students at Spelman have the benefit of

coming from another institution and comparing the campus life at Spelman to that of the institution that they came from. According to some exchange students, Spelman has not been what they expected it to be at all.

"It just doesn't seem like there's a lot going on. It's way too quiet around campus!" says Melissa Minor, exchange student from Dickinson College.

Some say that a lack of social interactions comes from being an upper classmen and having already done it all. If so, then how do the freshman feel being at the bottom of the barrel? Are they happy with the social life on campus? Many upperclassmen wonder about the future of campus life at Spelman and they recognize that it begins with the underclassmen, and especially the freshman.

"I look at the freshman and I think 'are they really enjoying themselves?'" wondered senior Vanessa Green.

Freshman Brenda Pacouloute complains, "We only saw school spirit during freshman orientation week. After that it's been non existent. As a freshman, I don't feel the so called sisterhood at all."

Although many students are highly dissatisfied with the amount of sisterhood and campus activity, there are still students who are content.

"It's not really a relaxed and friendly campus environment. I would like to see Spelman's campus become a more relaxed environment. Yet, on the other hand I was never really sure what to expect, so I'm not necessarily disappointed, I've just adjusted to how things are," said Sophomore Tahirah Walker.

In agreement with Tahirah, senior "Dice" Williams says, "Spelman has always been like this, I just make my own fun."

Although, Spelman does offer a variety of campus events and activities, are these events what the students want? Are there really enough events to satisfy the social needs of students? Has the lack of appealing social events become the cause of what some students feel is the "rapid deterioration" of sisterhood at Spelman? Some feel that Spelman has the social tools and that it is up to the students to utilize them while others feel that Spelman should offer more events and activities in order to restore the decline of sisterhood and unity within Spelman. If campus life at Spelman is really lost, then it's up to the sisters to find it and bring it home.

If you have any suggestions for campus activities you can contact SGA at (404) 215-7904 anytime.

...Parking

I do understand that for some students a car is a necessity, and not simply a luxury," added Bowser.

Prior to 1995, parking on campus was free for everyone. When Spelman decided to build the Cosby building and the Science Center, it was required by state law for them to provide parking for its faculty and students because there would be a larger amount of employees than before.

"The parking deck enabled the building of Cosby and the Science Center. If parking was still free after the deck was built, people who were not driving would pay parking for the individuals driving, and that would be very unfair. Thus, the school decided to start charging for the deck," said Bowser.

Furthermore, the building of parking spaces is very costly. One parking space costs approximately anywhere between \$35,000 to \$50,000. Therefore the total cost of the parking deck ranges in the vicinity of \$5 million dollars.

With a 20 year mortgage for the deck, Spelman's revenue does not meet the payments. Thus, the Atlanta University Center, which owns the property

directly in front of the back gates of the school, chose to use the land to generate revenues.

AUC Inc. plays a vital role in all the AUC schools and in the parking matter. The schools collectively created AUC Inc. as a neutral ground for administrative relations. AUC Inc. has nothing to do with program and academic activities on any of the campuses, however they own the Woodruff Library, the Career Development Center, and the parking lot.

Contrary to widespread belief, Spelman is not the party charging students the \$3 fee for parking. Many students blamed the school for these changes. Moreover, the school was not made aware of the parking lot fee before students left in December.

"Spelman did not have notice of this change before students left for the break and if we had, we would have shared that information with the community," added Bowser.

The reality of the issue is that the \$3 fee for using the parking lot outside the gates of the school helps Spelman pay the subsidy loan for the parking deck. In order for current students to even see Cosby or the Science Center, this deck had to be built.

"I understand now why we are being charged for the deck. I'm not so angry anymore because this is for a good cause," said an anonymous student.

Abortion movie night allows one million voices to be finally heard

Tiffany Austin
Contributing Writer

In an attempt to educate the Spelman community about the necessity of abortion rights for all women especially women of color, the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA), a fairly new feminist organization on Spelman's campus, hosted an abortion movie night on Jan. 23, 2002 in the Cosby's Women's Center.

Representatives of the FMLA said that the film was shown in an attempt to educate women of the often deadly consequences of illegal "back alley" abortions and to show women that we should fight for the right to choose.

The event began with a clip from a film starring Demi Moore, titled, "If these Walls Could Talk" which detailed the life of a woman in the 1940's who was desperately seeking an abortion so that she might not shame her family by having a child out of wedlock.

The crowd of Spelman women gasped while watching this desperate woman risk her life as she inserted crocheting needles into her womb, unsuccessfully attempting a self-abortion.

This scene and many others, displayed the possible outcomes if women were no longer granted the right to have safe legal abortions.

"[The film was]

disturbing yet eye opening," said senior GERALYNN SAVAGE with a grim expression. "They made you realize how important it is to keep your choice so you don't have to go back to kitchen table abortions. [They were] very graphic but not too graphic because that's reality. If you sugar coated it, it wouldn't be real."

Abortion movie night, the third activity in the FMLA's week of "one million voices" was held on the 29th anniversary of Rowe vs. Wade, the supreme court decision which legalized abortion. Although there was not a large turnout for the event, the women in attendance held a genuine interest in abortion rights for all women.

When asked why she attended the event, Savage said that she "wanted to learn more about the organization and to offer support for their cause."

Similarly, junior BUSISIWE MTHIMUNYE added that she was "interested in the perspectives of black women on abortion issues."

"[The intent of tonight was] to highlight the dangerous conditions women around the world are subject to when they don't have access to safe and legal abortions," said current president of FMLA CASHAUNA HILL.

Hill, a Portland Oregon native, along with 5 other members of FMLA decided to bring this organization to

Spelman's campus after interning with the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) in Washington, D.C this past summer.

Hill says that this organization was brought here because of the need for a feminist organization on a woman's campus and the misinformation and dissatisfaction of so many Spelman women.

The FMLA, which discusses issues such as feminism and how it relates to African American women, meet every other Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the Women's Center of Cosby. All interested students are welcome to attend.

World News Brief

Kristal McKanders
World News Columnist

As Spelman Women we should be properly informed about what is going on not only locally but around the globe. Here are two events which recently happened that effect citizens of the world.
Volcano Erupts in Congo Killing Fifty People

On January 21, 2002 in Goma, Congo lava from a volcanic eruption ignited killing fifty people. The people killed in the incident were at the gas station stealing gas and diesel fuel when the tanks ignited and then exploded killing them immediately. Other tanks ignited after this initial explosion, but there were no reported casualties from these explosions.

Mount Nyiragongo, which is one of the two volcanoes located in the region, began to erupt four days prior to the fuel incident. The eruption sent residents of Goma to tented camps set up in Rwanda because of the volcanic eruptions destroyed nearly forty percent of the city. The aftermath of this volcanic eruption left Goma split in two, divided by the devastating remains of hardened lava.

The 300,000 Congolese refugees were discouraged from returning home due to the air pollution and instability of the volcano. Though warned against going home, many decided to risk the journey due to the harsh living conditions at the camps.

Volcanic experts were sent to the area to determine the long-term effects on the weather and health of the citizens. The Red Cross also sent help to assist in rebuilding the water treatment plants and to provide materials and other goods to the refugees.

The Congo eruption was said to be one of the worst volcanic eruptions Africa had seen in over twenty-five years.

United Nation Countries Commit to Aiding Afghanistan

On January 21, 2002, more than fifty countries around the world pledged nearly three billion dollars for the reconstruction of war-devastated Afghanistan during a meeting in Tokyo. The United Nation's ultimate goal is to raise ten billion dollars to reconstruct the country.

The United States pledged to give three hundred million dollars to aid in reconstruction while Japan promised five hundred million dollars over a time span of three years. The European Union also vowed to send a total of five hundred million throughout the year.

The money sent from these nations will go towards agricultural, health care, and security programs as well as refugee assistance. It will also help fund basic necessities such as clean water and new roads. The idea is not to leave Afghanistan in despair, but to rather help rebuild the country.

In order to fulfill this task, Afghanistan will need about ten billion dollars over the next ten years. Before air strikes against Afghanistan began, the country was already in dire need of assistance and was among the poorest nations in the world. The military strikes against Afghanistan only made their unfortunate situation worse.

The United States vowed to remain committed to the reconstruction of the nation and stated that three hundred million dollars is only the beginning of long-term assistance to the troubled nation.

The Soul source presents Food for thought

Cynthia Daniels
Editor-in-Chief

The crowd in the Soul Source bookstore on Monday, January 14th was not prepared for the feast offered to them: a lesson in rap music and black female sexuality, given by Spelman College's own Jalyah Burrell.

Monday's talk was the first of many sessions of Food For Thought, a venue where young scholars can publicly present their research or academic papers.

The collective welcomes all majors and encourages the presentation to be both visual and engaging.

"I thought Food For Thought was an excellent sharing of minds. This is actually the school I have intended to come to and missed out on all this time," said Spelman College senior, Tai Dixon.

Food For Thought began as an inspiration of Spelman professor, Dr. Akiba Harper who saw the need for a place where undergraduate students and the community could share in scholarly discourse with one another. Spelman College senior, Philathia Bolton transformed Dr. Harper's concept into a reality.

"I want to be a professor and I was interested in creating a space where scholars at an undergraduate level could experience talking about their work outside of class and in a completely different environment. Dr. Harper allowed me to take her vision and help it come into being," said Bolton.

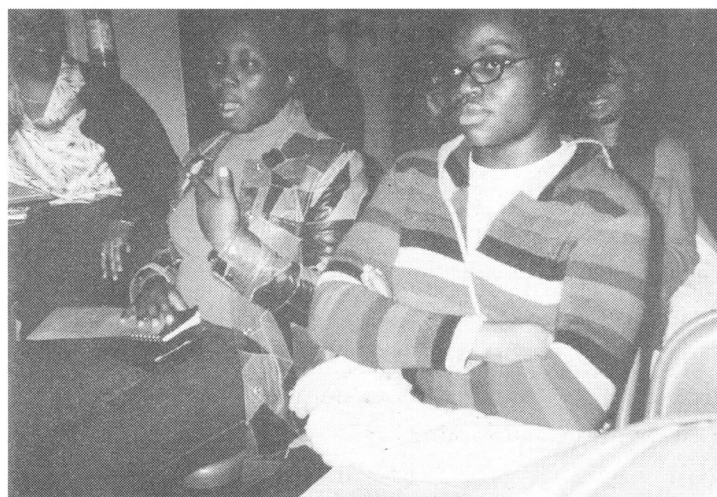
Students, faculty and members of the community crowded into Soul Source to hear Burrell read a paper she wrote for her "Image of Women In the Media Class." The paper, which traced black female sexuality from the "Hottentot Venus" to modern-day songs such as Salt N' Pepa's "It's Your Thang," Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back," ignited the crowd into a lengthy discourse after Burrell's reading.

"I was really excited at the turnout and the thoughtfulness of the questions. I wanted to help

get Food For Thought started well," said Burrell who has presented at honors conferences but really enjoyed the relaxed yet scholarly atmosphere of Food For Thought.

Morehouse senior, Charles Joseph came to the event as a spectator and is now next week's presenter.

"I was very pleased at the level of scholarship that I witnessed tonight. I think it is insightful and intriguing. Hip-hop is something that is such a big part of the lexicon of young, black America that I think it is something that everyone can relate to. Yet, this paper was a good entry point into scholarship,"



said Joseph.

"I am so gratified to see people pursuing their intellectual extra-curricular activities. I hope that the sign up-sheet fills up," said Professor Opal Moore, chair of Spelman College's English Department.

Dr. Moore does not need to worry. By the end of the night, the sign-up sheet for Food For Thought was full with presenters well into February.

When the scholarly discourse ended, students helped Soul Source return to its normal construction: a bookstore full of African-American heritage. The gleam on Dr. Harper's face was much like the gleam on the faces of well-known African-American figures, such as Langston Hughes, who grace Soul Source's wall.

"This is about inventing. It is a space for intellectual dialogue to be important. To see this extend beyond Spelman's campus and be an AUC wide event really makes me glad," said Dr. Harper.

And Dr. Harper should be glad. Her vision and Bolton's determination has established an event that will continue to feed the AUC every week.

New & Upcoming Artist: Snake Eyes

Natashia McGough
Campus & Local Editor

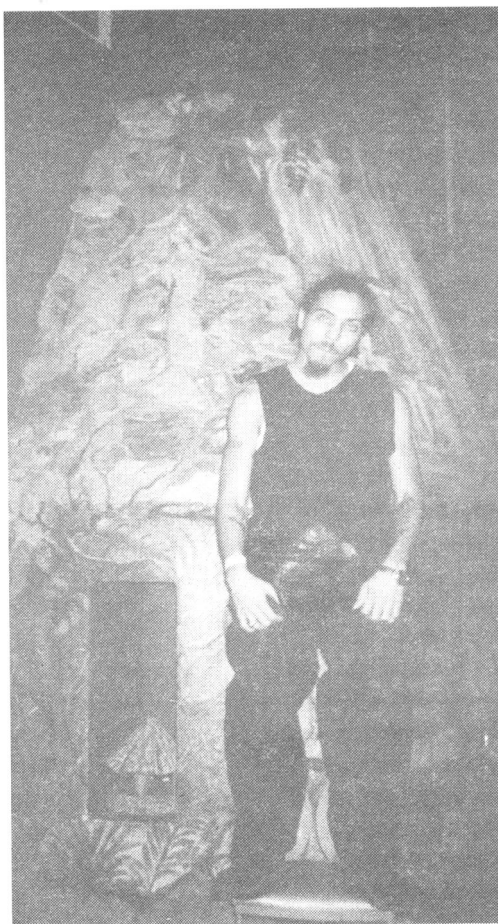
Michael Carmello Venvenutti, better known as Snake'Eyez, smiles as he thinks about the great future he is embarking upon. This upcoming rap artist, a native of Brooklyn, New York, is already making his mark in the fluctuating music industry. At the age of 24, this young entrepreneur has established an entertainment company as well as independently distributed his groundbreaking CD titled "Radical Vizion." Snake'Eyez Entertainment is a distribution, promotion, and graphics company that currently has a few new artists, like Rebel and Chino, engulfed into its folds.

By observing his sister, a street promoter for MC Lyte's former label First Priority, her boyfriend Darryl, a DJ, and some other friends who performed the business side of the industry, Snake'Eyez's interest in the rap game began to pique at a

young age. His interest soon turned into a life long goal after the death of his sister's boyfriend, Darryl, who dedicated his life to the DJ industry. Darryl's death was a tremendous inspiration that taught Snake'Eyez the importance and value of life. From this inspiration, Snake'Eyez vows to always remain true to himself and his public by rapping about issues that have substance and meaning.

"I go through struggle, that's not to say everyone doesn't go through struggle, but I feel like when artists make it, they forget to talk about their cousin who is in jail or their grandmother. It is so many other issues out in the world like poverty or kids growing up without their father, I feel like if we don't talk about these issues, then we are going to forget about them," explains Snake'Eyez.

Snake'Eyez has hosted, directed and performed at several of the March of Dimes Events and has worked with a production company in



Birmingham, Alabama that hosts cancer charities. He hopes to carry his efforts of

good deeds into his debut album, *Radical Vizion*, which will have uplifting songs with a variety in tempo. Most of the songs on the album are a reflection of Snake'Eyez's life experiences. He hopes everyone can relate to some of the issues he has gone through, like respecting his baby's mother and the art of going to war.

The rap game has definitely been a journey for Snake'Eyez. He tries to portray a useful image to other aspiring artists that will hopefully inspire them to become entrepreneurs and major innovators in

the industry. The main problem that hinders most artists from being marketed

well is the egos of other mainstream people.

"The industry straight up and down, is all about politics. Many rappers are now trying to cut out the middleman by writing their own songs. Anyone who has originality has to show that their originality can draw a crowd. So really everyone has a strike, some just more than others and some dudes don't want to help other dudes get in the game because they don't know you. Everyone in the industry has their crew. So really that is why I started Snake'Eyez Entertainment because I figure, if the industry is formatted on this, then I have to get out of it. I have to start my own revolution," Snake'Eyez stresses.

Snake'Eyez is definitely making moves. He is currently working on a movie titled "Echo in the Cube" to be released sometime this summer while he finishes promoting his album. As future advice to upcoming artists Snake'Eyez advises that entrepreneurship be the first priority as well as industry awareness.

The Greatest Movie Ever: No Joke !

Moya Bailey
A&E Writer

Recently, I saw *Mulholland Dr.* and it is quite possibly one of the best cinematic features I've ever seen. The plot, which is almost too convoluted to flesh out, centers around two female leads as one helps the other piece together her identity after a car crash leaves her with amnesia. So what makes this movie so wonderful, you may ask? While the highly original plot and cinematography is unparalleled by any movie out today (David Lynch is a genius), the real shining point of the movie is the Oscar worthy performance by Naomi Watts.

Though Watts has been in the biz for a long time, this may be her big break. You might remember her from such B list hits as *Tank Girl* and *Children of the Corn IV: The*

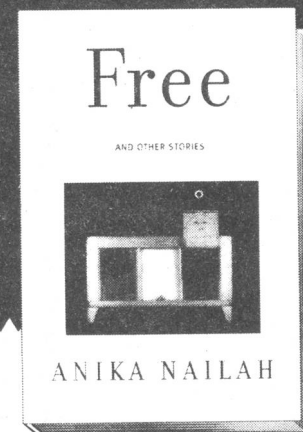
Gathering. Very rarely have I seen an actress possess her character so completely. From sweet and innocent to psychotic and crazed, Watts' range is vast and her ability to commit completely to the scene is admirable.

But Watt's performance is not the only stellar one in this unique and varied work. Laura Harring, the other lead actress, gave no small performance either. Her transformation was just as startling as Watts'. Surprise appearances by Dan Hedaya, Billy Ray Cyrus, and Ann Miller contributed brief but great supporting performances along with lesser-known actors who helped make this movie a masterpiece.

While I haven't said too much about the plot (if I told you, you wouldn't believe me anyway), It's nothing you've ever seen or could imagine. This

brilliant beyond brilliant screenplay was the brainchild of David Lynch, who already brought us the classics *The Straight Story*, *The Elephant Man*, and "Twin Peaks." The movie was actually a pilot pitched to ABC for the fall season, which they rejected (they are really kicking themselves, especially since this movie was nominated for four Golden Globes).

Critics have hailed *Mulholland Dr.* as a representative of the true hallmark of great cinema. Unfortunately, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association didn't think so, the film won in none of the categories in which it was nominated and Naomi Watts was completely overlooked. If there is any justice in the world, Watts' will walk away with an Oscar. If you spend any money on movies this month, this is the film to see.



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"The stories in *Free* are plainspoken, understated, and deceptively complex.

Anika Nailah makes everyday interactions between black and white, young and old, into capsules of insight about who we are culturally and how we interact across the barriers of race, age, and class."

—David Anthony Durham, author of *Gabriel's Story*

"As fluid as the turn of the page, Anika Nailah's timeless...collection quietly gives voice to those screaming to be heard. In lesser hands, clarity, strength, and hope would not prevail."

—Brian Keith Jackson, author of *The View from Here*

"Brilliant. The language is soothing yet biting, and you are constantly challenged by unique metaphors and fresh perspectives. *Free* is a stunning debut."

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An Interview With Upcoming Recording Artists: Tigah

Shelby Larkin
Arts and Entertainment

You may remember him from the remix to Jagged Edge's hit single, "Where the Party At?" Or you may have caught a glimpse of him kickin' it with BET's Tigger on *Rap City's In tha Basement*. You may have witnessed his flow right here in the AUC when he performed at the CAU as well as Morehouse/Spelman 2001 Homecoming concerts. Who am I talking about? It would have to be Tigah, the newest rapper to join the platinum dynasty of Atlanta-based So So Def Recordings. If you don't have a clue who I this guy is, get ready because you're about to hear his name buzzing throughout the entertainment industry real soon. I had the opportunity to chat with Tigah briefly about his background, goals, and ideas about the music industry in the following interview. So check it out:

Glomour Girl : So let's begin

with you telling me a little about your background.

Tigah: I'm 22 years old. I was born in Fort Lauderdale, FL. I also lived in Statesboro, GA. I moved to Atlanta at the age of 15.

G.G.: So now for the million-dollar question, how did you end up breaking into the music industry with such a successful label as So So Def?

Tigah: I've been producing tracks for some time now. A little over a year ago now, one of my boys sent my demo to someone he knew at the So So Def office in NYC. Within four days, JD called to set up a meeting with me the next day. That was that. It's kinda funny because I was in Florida at the time so my cousin and I drove all night to get to Atlanta in time for the meeting. We were flying down the highway. Luckily, we made it to Atlanta just in time. So we went straight to the meeting after an eleven hour road trip.

G.G.: What sparked your interest in the music

industry?

Tigah: I have been surrounded by music my entire life. I eat, sleep, and talk music. Throughout my childhood I listened to all sorts of genres of music mostly gospel, blues, R&B of the late 80's and early 90's, as well as the funk bands of the 80's (like The Gap Band). Believe it or not two of my favorite artists are Bobby Brown and MC Hammer.

G.G.: Really! Why is that?

Tigah: Man, back in the day they put it down. I was amazed by them because they could sing, dance, rap; just do it all.

G.G.: Oh, so you like to dance? Do you plan to dance in your own videos?

Tigah: I can't front. I'm a Florida boy. You know we love to dance. I don't know yet if I will dance in my videos, but my family does have some old home movies of me rapping and dancing back when I first started.

G.G.: Speaking of rap videos, how do you feel about all of

these rap videos that exploit women in what we now call hoochie videos? Do you plan to have the same theme going on in your future videos?

Tigah: People have to realize that these types of videos are marketing tools. That is why those types of videos keep getting made. I have nothing against it. As far as my own videos, it is a little premature to say if they will include any of that. Fans also have to remember that the artist doesn't always have a lot of control or say-so over video concepts.

G.G.: So getting away from the videos, I want to know more about the groupies. Have the groupies already started to get after you?

Tigah: Yeah, they're there, but I like to stay in the house. I'm not always on the scene. I'm really a homebody. Plus, I've learned to keep a small circle of friends. This way I remain in control.

G.G.: What about your lyrics? Are they degrading towards women or just

downright vulgar?

Tigah: I don't have degrading lyrics. I do use some profanity, but not a lot. You won't find the f*** word anywhere in my lyrics. Now I can't speak for others who I collaborate with on some tracks. But I just wasn't raised to talk like that. When I write the words b****es and hoers just don't come to mind.

G.G.: So for all the Spelmanites that may be reading this interview, give us the scoop on your personal life.

Tigah: I'm single at the moment.

G.G.: So where can the ladies spot you kickin' it in the ATL since you're a "homebody"?

Tigah: I'm always out doing different things in the city. I just did a celebrity fashion show for Meoshe. So I am around. Just let the ladies know that my cologne of choice is Angel by Men. So if they want to find me just follow the scent.

G.G.: What are your plans beyond the music industry? I know some of your labelmates, like Lil' Bow Wow are crossing over into acting. Do you see yourself doing the same?

Tigah: Yes, I could definitely see myself getting into acting in the future. When I got to walk the red carpet at the premiere of the movie "Hardball," I was like I could get used to this. So acting is definitely an option, but I want to set it off in the music industry first.

G.G.: What exactly is it that you think sets you apart from anyone else in the rap industry?

Tigah: That would definitely have to be my voice.

Everyone says that no one has a voice like mine. It is very unique and different from anything that has already been heard. There are only so many topics that a rapper can talk about. This is why delivery is so important. Some artists rap about a lot of good stuff, but they don't have effective delivery.

G.G.: What's next? What can readers expect from you next?

Tigah: Well, my album is scheduled to drop this April. So definitely be looking out for that. Plus I just did a remix to Usher's latest single, "You Don't Have To Call." It's already in rotation at Hot 97 in NYC so it's only a matter of time before it heats up here.

The WORST Valentine's Day Gifts EVER

10. An old Six-Flags hard Stuffed Animal

9. A burned, bootleg CD single

8. Stale Candy

7. A Timberland T-Shirt

6. An alarm clock

5. Flannel Night Gown

4. A bag of those hard small hearts with miscellaneous phrases

3. A Valentine's Day Card with another woman's name on it.

2. Nothing!

1. A new pack of wife beaters (because he thinks they're sexy)

Happy Valentine's Day

How to be Cute in the Cold

Nailah Timberlake

As everyone knows, fashion is an everyday part of our lives. Most people don't want to admit that they're fashion conscious, but for many women, what they wear is a top priority. Most of the time, women are dressing for the approval of others, but the majority of women concentrate on their outward appearance because it makes them feel good to know they look good. It's always important to keep up on the latest trends so that when the newest item is out, you're the first to rock it.

For those on a budget, there are a few choice items that everyone must have as part of their winter wardrobe. These items are guaranteed to enhance your wardrobe this season because they're versatile and can be matched with numerous other items. The following are the top five.

#1. 'The Little Black Dress' - Most people know about the importance of having a simple black dress as part of their wardrobe. For those who don't own one yet, you can purchase one virtually anywhere. The ideal dress is no shorter than knee length and should preferably be sleeveless. You can dress it up with jewelry and sandals for a night out, or put on a casual black blazer and a pair of closed toe heels for a more conservative look.

#2. The Pea Coat: A dark colored pea coat is a great addition to anyone's wardrobe because of its versatility. It's a great winter coat that can be worn over business casual attire or simply with a pair of jeans.

#3. A Wrap Cardigan Twin Set: This is a popular style that can be seen almost anywhere. The matching set can be worn conservatively with slacks or even dressed up by

getting rid of the shell and replacing it with a lacy camisole.

#4. High Heeled Boots: This Winter's craze has been the boots! The most popular style for the season has been an ankle to calf length boot of any material. What sets your boots apart from others will be the heel. The clunky heel is out, and a more sophisticated stiletto heel is in. For those who can't wear a stiletto, then a regular to slim heel will suffice.

#5. The Belt: This Winter, belts have made a comeback! Many women have been sporting the thick, oversized belt that can be dressed with casual jeans or worn on a night out. Another favorite is the rhinestone-studded belts. These come in various shapes and sizes and can be customized to say your name.

Another popular trend on the rise, since the September 11th tragedy, is patriotic gear. Clothes that have the American flag or logos such as, "I Love N.Y." Many popular designers have picked up on the red, white and blue trend. Diesel makes a canvas tote bag that's says, "I © N.Y." and a leather belt with an American flag and bald eagle buckle. Monya makes a beaded, hobo style 'Flag Bag', Tommy Hilfiger has pictured the American flag on the back of a denim jacket and Links of London has introduced 'Stars and Strips' cuff links. American flag pins are also popular, and go very well with the many different articles of clothing with red, white and blue accents.

The popularity of winter hats and scarves is on a rise. This season, hats have come in various different styles. The most popular style has been the brimmed hat. A two to three inch brim is ideal, and for those who

can pull off a larger brimmed hat, more power to you. Ski skullies have also made a comeback. They are no longer just for men, but many women have picked up on the style. Try to stay away from headgear that hides your facial features. Scarves have also gained a great deal of popularity.

Extra long scarves are great with any winter coat, and can be worn with one end crossed, and thrown over a shoulder. The simpler the scarf, the better. It is wise to stay away from chunky scarves that envelop your neck and face. Since many winter coats are basic blue, black, brown or camel, a pastel scarf of any color will offset a coat nicely.

To go along with any outfit this season, one must have the right purse. There has been a craze for handbags designed by Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior, Gucci and Fendi. Many other popular designers are Dooney and Bourke, Kate Spade and Coach. Designer name aside, it is important to invest in a well-made bag that is going to last.

Buy a bag according to your lifestyle. If you are a woman who carries around everything she will ever need in any situation, you should buy a shoulder bag big enough to accommodate your needs; if you are a woman who carries only her car keys, I.D. and a bottle of lip-gloss, you should look for a smaller, hobo styled bag.

Since it is the middle of the winter season and many of us are looking forward to warm weather and Spring fashions. Yet, remember, it is important to invest our time and money into clothing that we can depend on next season.

Many styles come and go, but there are a few concrete necessities that are imperative to anyone's wardrobe. As the winter continues, bundle up and Happy Shopping!



WINTER FASHION DO'S AND DON'TS

- ◆ DO wear a cute, fitted turtleneck sweater
- ◆ DON'T hide your figure in an oversized sweater
- ◆ DO wear a fitted, cropped denim jacket
- ◆ DON'T overdo the denim from head to toe
- ◆ DO wear a fashionable A line skirt
- ◆ DON'T wear a too tight skirt
- ◆ DO wear skin toned stockings to keep warm
- ◆ DON'T bring back the 80's with fishnet stockings
- ◆ DO wear earth tones
- ◆ DON'T wear bright or flashy colors
- ◆ DO bundle up with a stylish winter coat
- ◆ DON'T bear the weather without a jacket
- ◆ DO match your shoes to your bag
- ◆ DON'T wear a handbag too big or too small
- ◆ DO wear long length slacks
- ◆ DON'T wear Capri pants with knee high boots

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Features

Volume XVI No. 5

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Thanks For Coming Out, God Bless, Good Night



A timeline of the life of Russel Simmons in honor of his new show Def Poetry Jam.

Autumn Adeigbo
Contributing Writer

| | | |
|------|--|---|
| | | foundation of hip-hop culture |
| 1958 | Russell Simmons is born into a lower-middle class family in Queens, New York | |
| 1974 | Simmons, while working on a sociology degree at City College in Harlem, begins promoting Parties in Harlem and Queens with friend Curtis Walker (also known as rapper Kurtis Blow). Disc Jockeys, Rappers, Graffiti Artists and Break Dancers start coming together, forming the | 1975 Simmons begins to manage a hand full of artists. This hand full includes his younger brother Joey who went by the nickname Run. Simmons groups his brother together with two men by the names of MC Darryl McDaniels and DJ Jason Mitzell. The three would later form the legendary rap group Run-D.M.C. The future pairing of Run-D.M.C. with the rock group Aerosmith to remake Aerosmith's "Rock This Way" would make the |

Its not too late to get involved

Jerrice Boyd
Features Writer

Still looking to get involved in campus activities? If so, this article will spotlight three organizations that may strike your interest. It is never too late to join organizations in order to make changes within your Spelman community and the Atlanta area. These organizations are always looking for volunteers to help with events and provide insightful ideas about raising awareness for their causes. On any given afternoon you can look around and see many students hurrying off to campus activities or club meetings.

The variety and sheer number of clubs to choose from makes the fact that students

develop interest in organizations and dedicate themselves to their specific causes truly amazing. The Spelman community in general remains fairly active in terms of campus activities and the desire for involvement increases with each passing year.

The Community Relations Board is a fairly new organization that promotes community related activities and often provides volunteer service within the Atlanta area. The Community Relations Board is affiliated with the Spelman Student Government Association, and members are appointed at the beginning of each academic year. The theme for this year's events is "Education first: strengthening families through literacy."

During the first semester, the Community Relations Board held a book drive for area shelters and transitional homes. The books were donated to young children in the metro area in order to increase

song the first ever rap song to break the Billboard top five.

1983 Simmons meets Rick Rubin, a wealthy, white male with a love for rebellion. The two would then form Def Jam Records. The first single released by the label was entitled "I Need a Beat" by a then 16 year old L.L.Cool J. Def Jams would go on to jump-start the careers of notorious artists by the likes of: the Beastie Boys, Method Man, Slick Rick, Public Enemy and The Fresh Prince (Will Smith) among others

1992 Simmons produces the popular comedy series "Def Comedy Jam" for the Home Box Office Cable Network. Def Comedy Jam was a huge success that helped to launch the careers of Martin Lawrence and many other comedians.

1996 Simmons starts his own men's fashion apparel label by the name of Phat Farm Clothing. With it's main store in SoHo, New York, Phat Farm markets a preppy/collegiate/street look with a retail genius analogous to how Simmons brought Hip Hop to mainstream culture in the 80's.

1999 After a decade of super-model filled bachelorhood, Simmons settles down with a 6ft tall goddess by the name of

Kimora Lee. Lee was the former muse of design legend Karl Lagerfeld for the fashion House of Chanel. Simmons brother, now a born-again Reverend Run, performed the matrimonial ceremony. The two celebrated the birth of a daughter later that year. In 1999, after just four years of business, Phat Farm reports \$50+ million revenue. Simmons would assign his wife Kimora to head Baby Phat, the women's counterpart clothing line of Phat Farm.

October 19, 2001

Simmons drops by Spelman College for a book signing to promote his book "Life and Death". After seeing the startled look on my face



followed by complete elation once I realized whom I was staring at, Simmons laughed at my facial expressions. Mr.

Simmons was then nice enough to wish me a Happy Birthday and took time to grant my birthday wish- for him to take a picture with me. After meeting him, it was hard to believe that he was Russell Simmons, the king of Hip Hop, Media Mogul and multi-millionaire. In retrospect, Russell Simmons, the head of Rush Communications, a conglomerate that includes a record label (Def Jam), a management company (Rush Artist Management), two designer labels (Phat Farm/Baby Phat), a movie production house (Def Pictures), television shows ("Def Comedy Jam" and "Russell Simmons' Oneworld Music Beat"), a magazine (OneWorld)

and an advertising agency (Rush Media Co.), is nothing more than a humble man on a not so humble mission.

Fraternity Inc. of Morehouse College to dispel the myths of feminism. This panel discussion encouraged both female and male students to comprehend feminism and gain a better tolerance of its concepts. The FMLA recently hosted a "One Million Voices" week during January to increase students' awareness of reproductive rights and threatening issues in reproductive health.

Many members of the FMLA are active in community service and advocates for the rights of women. Meetings are held every other Monday at 6:00pm in the Women's Studies Center. More information can be obtained by contacting Cashuana Hill, president at shauna9025@aol.com or by visiting the Women's Studies Center.

Another organization that focuses primarily on the empowerment of black women is

the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW). Founded in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune, this organization has a foundation that is rich in history. The NCNW has grown over the years yet still remains involved in community outreach to help women improve the quality of life for their families and themselves. The goal of all NCNW projects is to "achieve equality of opportunity and eliminate prejudice and discrimination based upon race, creed, color, sex, or national origin." For more information contact Kelly Mitchell, secretary, at kmitchell@spelman.edu for more information on meeting times and activities.

If you are not yet involved in any activities please check out these organizations and start making a personal effort to change our society and increase awareness about the issues that you believe in.

Is It More Behind Just Being "Thickey-Thick"?

Teresa Smith
Health

Obesity is the underlying cause of many diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, stroke, depression, and many types of cancers. Several of these diseases exist at high numbers in our community, and they are caused by the increasing rate of obesity. Obesity is not an issue of aesthetics, but more importantly a health concern.

Those who suffer from obesity are at greater health risk than others. According to the National Institute of Health, "Overweight people are more likely to have high blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke, than people who are not overweight. Very high blood levels of cholesterol and triglycerides (blood fats) can also lead to heart disease and often are linked to being overweight." Their publications go on to say that a major symptom of obesity is angina, chest pain that is caused by a lack of oxygen getting to the heart. We all know at least one person, whether in our families or a friend, who suffers

from hypertension. Most of us, probably know more than one person, and that is because 50 million Americans have high blood pressure, and about 90-95% of

race.

Another effect of obesity is the greater risk for obtaining cancers of all kinds, as well as diabetes. The National Institute of Dia-

and high-calorie diet." However, they continue by saying that high-cholesterol, excess body weight, and decreased physical activity, is major characteristics of Type II

a source of counseling, gathering, celebrating, or an alternative to boredom. An excessive amount of any one thing is not healthy, especially, over eating. Despite the mass concern with the food offered in the cafeteria, we eat it. The freshmen fifteen becomes the sophomore twenty. Our bodies are temples to be cherished; enjoy every meal; however, remember that exercise is important. African American women are beautiful in every shape, size, and shade; and it is for this reason that we must remain healthy.

To check your BMI (body mass index) use the following:

Body weight in pounds

= BMI

Height in (inches squared) X
704.5

BMI greater than 30 marks obesity; however these numbers may be deceiving when considering muscle mass.

Source: Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 1995 pgs. 23-24.



those cases have no exact causes as to why; however the most prevalent risk factor is race (American Heart Association, 2001). African Americans have the highest cases of hypertension out of any other

betes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, cannot identify the reason that obesity leads to cancer; they report, "...It is not clear whether the increased risk is due to the extra weight or to a high-fat

diabetes. Type II Diabetes can be controlled with an increase in exercise and a healthy diet.

It is the diet of African Americans that is questionable. As African Americans, we use food as

Keeping Our Hair Healthy after Harsh Chemicals

Danielle Wright
Health Writer

Black hair has been one of the most essential beauty entities to all African-American women since the beginning of time. Annually, a new style is introduced that we are trying to perfect in our hair. Now, because we have such a wide variety of hair textures, the secret to our beauty is versatility. We can go from natural to bone straight, curly to wavy, and every braided hairstyle imaginable to mankind. Yet the constant struggle with our hair is the fight to keep it healthy throughout all of this versatility. There are so many existing myths about keeping black hair healthy that one gets confused about what exactly to listen to. The truth is healthy hair is specific to an individual's hair texture, so the key is to first classify your hair texture and then learn how to care for your own hair.

"My roommate can blow dry her whole head straight in 20 minutes, I don't understand that," says Sindi Sheppard. Sindi opts to roller wrap her hair after every wash to keep the texture healthy and shiny, while her roommate Amber Moore opts to blow dry hers for a sleek

straight look.

Here are two girls, both with beautiful hair and two different hair textures. Their routes to sleek straight styles are totally different, as one hair texture can not remain healthy and give the achieved look by taking the route of the opposite girl.

Healthy hair starts at shampooing and conditioning. When selecting a shampoo avoid shampoos that strip your hair and leave it dry. While shampooing, the method that you use for cleansing your scalp is very important. Individuals with short naturally straight hair can scrub their scalp with little to no damage. On the other hand, those individuals with long, relaxed or colour treated hair should be very gentle while shampooing. Scrubbing the hair is out of the question because it can result in damaging the cuticles of your hair in the process. The shampoo should be gently massaged into and through your hair as you work it into lather on your scalp, gently removing dirt and dead scalp cells.

Directly following the shampooing process, the hair should be conditioned. A deep conditioning can be very time consuming after every wash. A

conditioner that rinses out in a few minutes can be used in a case you don't have a lot of time. Whatever your time availability may be, you must condition your hair after every wash. Although conditioners will not repair damaged hair, they can affect the way your hair looks and feels.

In a case where damaged hair needs to be repaired, a reconstructor is necessary. When selecting a reconstructor, you will need to find one that has been formulated with the proper ingredients to repair external and internal damage.

Another important product in the process of washing your hair is leave-in-conditioners. These conditioners seal and protect your hair from airborne pollutants and weather elements. They also help prevent damage from the thermal styling tools (flat irons, curling irons, and blow dryers) that most of us use.

When perming your hair, hair care expert, Paula Poindexter of Nubiance Hair Salon says, "You should be consistent in the strength that your hair is permed, because if you perm your hair very straight once, then not so straight and so on the hair will break."

"I once had a client with

about 5 or 6 different kinds of perms and it was evident in that her hair had about 5 or 6 different textures," she explained.

Perming the hair bone straight and taking out all of the natural curl is only recommended for extremely short styles. The hair should be permed only about 80% maximum to allow elasticity, strength, body and bounce. Poor elasticity results in breaking through styling, because the hair is too weak to be pulled and bounce back. Instead it is pulled, and then it pops out.

When rinsing a relaxer out of your hair you must be sure that all of the relaxer is completely rinsed out. One Spelman student remembers a disastrous experience where her hair stylist did not rinse out all the relaxer.

When relaxing your hair, the hair should be thoroughly shampooed 3-4 times, even a small amount of chemical left in the hair can lead to what is called residual chemical action. When this occurs the left over perm continues to work, causing your hair to overprocess and then break off.

Now we come to the most popular hair trend for all women: colouring. When colouring the hair one must be very

careful.

Hair care expert Paris explains "When you are constantly applying permanent color it is best for your hair to be natural because permanent color is very harsh on the hair. If you do want to colour permed hair it must be deep-conditioned bi-weekly. Permanent colour should be applied 10 days after a perm. Semi-Permanent colors are at its best results when applied on the same visit as a relaxer. At this time cuticle the colour will penetrate deeper into the hair shaft.

If you decide to rise your hair black, make sure that this is what you want. Black rinses can take up to a year to grow out. If you decide to apply permanent colour to that black rinse before it grows out, it probably won't take.

"I will never get a black rise again," said Amber Kingsley whose hair turned green when she tried to apply permanent colour over a black rinse.

When washing and styling your hair remember these small tips in an attempt to keep your hair healthy. Versatility in hairstyles is very trendy, but healthy hair is always beautiful.

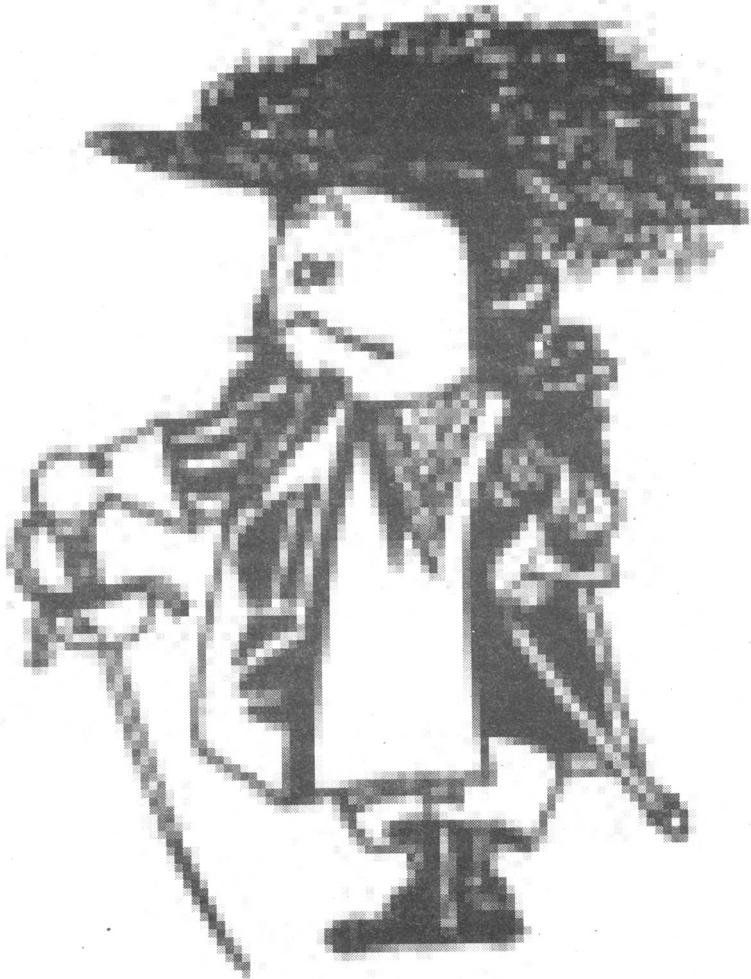
Get Fit with Fencing!!

Selena Harper
Sports

There's a new P.E. course on campus this semester, and it's all the rave. Fencing, was recently approved by the curriculum committee and is just one of eight new courses.

Dr. Lydia Woods, coordinator of the college's Health and Physical Education program, brought the new courses to Spelman. In an effort to "update the curriculum," Dr. Woods has introduced fencing, which teaches students the art of swords(wo)manship, along with other courses such as step aerobics, self-defense for women, aqua aerobics, weight training for women and yoga, which are all very popular.

The fencing course had not been approved until now because of its lingering concerns around the issue of safety. However, Dr. Woods is certain that there is "no liability" in teaching the



course, since the Health and Physical Education department spent \$3,000 on protective combat gear to outfit twenty women.

While fencing, students wear three essential pieces of equipment: the mask, the jacket and the gloves. The mask, made of heavy wire mesh, covers the face and has an attached bib made of thick cloth, which covers the neck. The jacket, especially made for women, zips up to cover the neck, arms and chest, and is also quite thick. Obviously, the protective gloves serve to keep the hands safe from injury. As if all this weren't enough, in fencing, students use the foil as the weapon of choice. The foil has a very thin, flexible metal blade, a circular guard, and a rubber tip. Students are encouraged only to touch their opponents in the torso area, not to jab them.

Since its introduction,

the fencing course, taught by Mr. Harold Head who has been fencing for twenty years now, has been a hit. Both sections of the course are filled, and apparently, there is demand for another section. Fencing, with its difficult technique is definitely giving the students a good work out. The stance positions are said to be exceptionally good for the quadriceps, so health buffs and people just looking to get in shape will no doubt find this course both enjoyable and beneficial.

Future plans for the course include session tapings, collaboration with instructors and students from Morehouse on classes (although Spelman's sections won't be able to accommodate men until the fall), and possibly a Fencing club, if the collaborative classes run successfully and a proper sponsor can be commissioned. All that being said, fencing looks to have a bright future ahead of it, so ladies, "En Garde!"

We're Playin' Basketball!!

Christine Tejada
Sports

Saturday January 26, 2002:

In a lively game attended by the presidents of both colleges, the Spelman Jaguars basketball team defeated rival Bennet College, 100-32.

The Jaguars, led particularly by Dione Gilmore and Danielle Nellis, had a very aggressive game. The game was punctuated by a persistent hustle of both teams who wanted a victory.

Spelman's Jaguars are now 6-15, however this record should not dissappoint anyone. There have been no blowout losses this season and the Jaguars have faced many evenly matched teams.

"The game proves that there is a true future for athletics

at Spelman," said senior Nadine Russell, President of the Jaguar Spirit Club.

Adding to the fast-paced games is the support of the usually full crowd. Many Morehouse men come out to

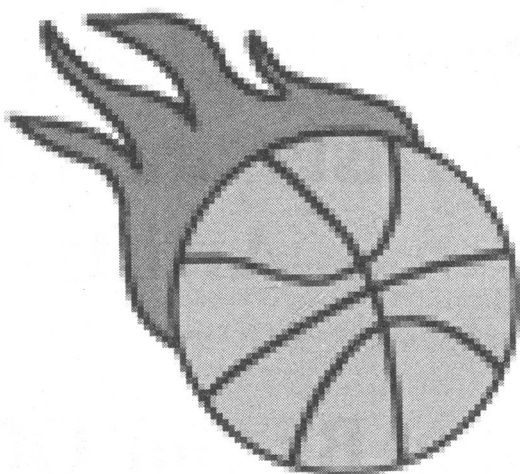
a common occurrence on the team. The lack of athletic scholarships at Spelman make every year a building year. All of the Spelman students are here primarily to learn, with athletic involvement taking a secondary

role to studying. As a consequence, it is up to the players as to the level of commitment that they have. The majority of the players have a 3.0 GPA or better. They play as a family and support each other wholeheartedly on and off the court.

Despite the team being often hindered by funds, including the lack of scholarships that would attract students to get involved in the program and stay, the Jaguars play hard, have fun, and continue to enjoy their season.

support the Jaguars, as well as students of Clark Atlanta. There were actually more students from the aforementioned schools than from Spelman itself, a curious fact.

This year the team is populated by eight freshmen,



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at the Athletic
Office in Reed
Hall!!!*

Spelmanite Lessons of Love: 101

Portia K. Murphy
OpEd Writer

What is love? Please remember love is a tricky thing, and it is even trickier trying to define it. Webster's Dictionary defines it as a strong affection or liking for something or someone. But isn't love much more than that?

With Valentine's Day around the corner, I figured we all could use a little help on the relationship scene. I actually wanted my first article with the Spelman Spotlight to be about something we all could relate to. So instead of bashing men or preaching about the frightening effects of STDs, I wanted to share with all of you some words of wisdom about love. Now, I am definitely not what one would call a "love expert," but like a lot of you, I have been in love. These are some of the lessons I have learned throughout my short lifespan and some lessons that I have heard from others (including my Spelman sisters.)

Lesson #1: Love does not conquer all. As a good friend reminded me, love is not enough.

It is great to love someone but that does not necessarily make that person right for you. A healthy relationship has to have an equal balance of giving, taking and, most of all, sharing. Some obstacles require more than love to get over.

Lesson #2:

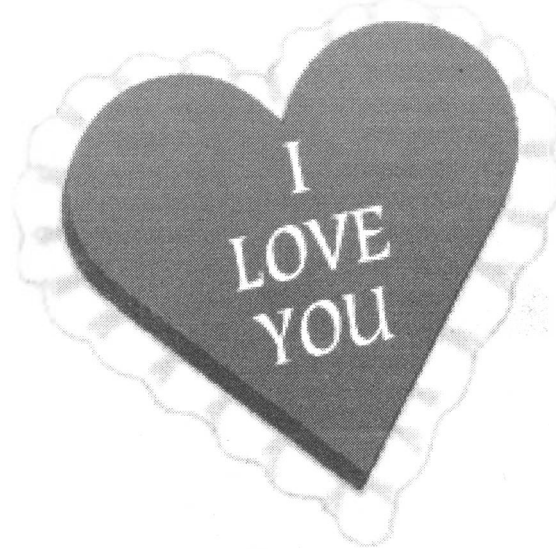
The person worth crying over will not make you cry. The person you love should love you enough to not to hurt you. It is often we find ourselves in enormous amounts of pain over a man or woman that is not deserving of our tears. The tears we shed for our "favorite companion" should be tears of joy and happiness, not hurt.

Lesson #3:

People make mistakes. We are all humans and we do dumb things sometimes. The question at hand is not whether we are sorry or regret the decision we made, but if in fact we are willing to put the mistake behind us. Unfortunately, some people

simply cannot get over certain "mistakes." It is important to analyze whether or not your "love" is bigger than the mistake and if you are ever going to be able to look at yourself same way.

Lesson #4: Love hurts



and, we all know this. Love can be the greatest thing ever and at the same time it can be the hardest. You can love someone so much that it hurts. I know some of us

have had that feeling before. Problems can arise and it is like we left our heart out to dry. Like all good things that last there is also a flip side to it.

Lesson

#5:

Communication is key. It is pertinent to communicate with your partner. Without communication no one knows what is going on. And often enough, what one thinks she knows is wrong. You have to be honest and outspoken with your partner in order to have a healthy and flourishing relationship. The two parties should feel comfortable enough with one another to talk about their likes and dislikes. Communication helps to eliminate confusion and misinterpretation.

Lesson #6: Only you can tell if you are in love. It is great to

have that safety net of friends and family. However, no one else can tell you if you are in love or give adequate advice on your relationship. This is because, as I stated earlier, love is different to everyone and only you know how your definition of love affects you. The mysterious aspect about love is discovering if the receiving partner is as much in love as the giver. But the answer to that comes from communication as well. So before you ask someone else what you should do about your relationship, look deep into yourself to find the answer.

Lesson #7: Don't give up.

Love like everything else we want to achieve has obstacles. But if you truly love the person you are with and are willing to make it work, you will "over stand" these obstacles and convert them into victories. A lot of people do not realize that love is an ongoing process and it is not perfect. We all have to continuously try to make it work.

I hope some of these words have sparked up some conversation and will help you get a better understanding of what love means to you.

Letter to the Editor

Welcome back Spelmanites! For my commuter sisters I am sure you have noticed the Christmas present that Spelman gave us, not one but two paid parking lots.

Personally, I and many other students felt betrayed when we saw the Parking Stand erected in the front parking lot, not surprisingly during a break, sort of like behind our backs. It is ironic to note that teachers, who get paid to be here pay less than us to park on our campus, while most of us are giving all of our money to Spelman and then having to take out loans to pay for parking (sarcasm intended). It is hard enough being a student on a budget, and then having to suddenly come up with 3 extra dollars a day. For some Spelmanites this money had already been allocated for lunch or books. Contrary to popular belief, everyone that goes to school here is not independently wealthy.

The fact is Spelman College is not located in a city with an extensive and functioning railway system. The MARTA system is a joke and for the many of us who live off campus (some of whom are only commuters because Spelman did not have room for them on campus)- driving our cars is the only way to get to school. It was bad enough last semester when Spelmanites had to continuously drive in circles around the one front parking lot, competing with students from Morehouse and visiting adults for a free space.

So now there is no free parking, forcing us to come up with \$ 400 a semester for the parking deck, \$15 a week for the front lot, with no in/out privileges and only if there is room, or compete for space on the side street Greensferry w/ students and teachers from Clark and Morehouse and the people who live in the housing located there. Not to mention this side street has been the site of many criminal acts toward our Spelman sisters and hardly the safest place for young ladies to walk, especially now that public safety has disappeared from their 1st semester positions, perhaps those posts being only a passing reaction to the activism present on campus last semester.

Spelman should be concentrating more on the student than outside moneymaking ventures. Speak with Spelman officials and the excuse for the price is that the parking lot does not belong to the school. The truth is that everything has a price. Now we know that Spelman has found the price where they are comfortable selling out their students. Maybe they can negotiate to buy back the front lot and with it our trust.

Sincerely,
Ain Bailey

The Spotlight Wants YOU!

Calling all Photographers, Visual Artists and Layout Artists

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A Spelman Sister's Reflections of Dr. Martin Luther King

Natrielle Powell
Contributing Writer

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is noted for his outstanding contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, which was a revolutionary period of social and political unrest for African Americans, women, and those bound by poverty. The results of this revolution brought about several changes in the world, not solely for the benefit of African Americans, but for the benefit of the entire world. Dr. King and other civil rights activists have had a most profound effect on my life as well as the lives of others.

When I think about the contributions made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and those

who shared his dream, my soul rejoices! I realize that their struggle was in no way shape or form easy, but it was extremely worthwhile. As a result of the many sit-ins and marches, I can now walk into any restaurant or department store without worrying about being escorted off of the premises. In the past, my removal would

not have been based on the fact that I am unable to pay for my purchases or because I am

behaving in an unseemly manner, but because of the creamy complexion of my black skin. I realize that if I decide to let my pants sag, if I decide to let an assignment go undone, or if I decide to allow myself to fall prey to a stereotypical status, I am degrading myself and disrespecting my trailblazing ancestors. I am discounting every march and boycott. Through my



actions, I am saying that the arrests and the many deaths meant absolutely nothing to me. I might as well stand as a commanding officer with my billy club placed prominently and proudly in my right hand. No, I refuse to be an accomplice to such an awful crime.

I appreciate all that was done so that I could have the assurance that my voice is very important. I respect those who fought so that I could become a productive entrepreneur if I choose to do so. However, these efforts were possible because God endowed a couple of brave soldiers with the necessary strength and perseverance to help make the world a better place for those around me and myself. I thank God for the many

Malcolms and Martins who paved the way for the up and coming Mayas and Michaels to express themselves without restraint.

I consider Dr. King a trailblazer and an innovator. He is a true leader and his efforts will never be forgotten. Not surprisingly, the Civil Rights Movement changed the face of America and allowed each American equal opportunities, regardless of race, gender, or economic status. There is no denying the fact that one man can make a difference, igniting a spark that will travel from person to person for many years to come. Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement have inspired my life-long motto: there are no limits, the sky is just a step on the ladder of success.

Dear Feminist Activists,

January 22, 2002 marked the 29th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide in 1973. In the last twenty-five years, the Supreme Court has ruled on a number of cases that have severely restricted full access to safe, legal abortion and family planning.

These laws, which disproportionately affect young women, women of color, and low income women, force an untold number of women to seek out dangerous back alley abortions each year. This year, we must mobilize to protect our rights to access legal abortion. Never has the right to safe, legal abortion been in greater jeopardy. The most recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on abortion rights was a razor-thin, 5-4 decision. With the present Court so narrowly split, the appointment of even one anti-abortion Justice could result in the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*.

Since 1973, an anti-choice right wing movement has systematically attacked and impeded a woman's right to a safe, legal, and accessible abortion. In 2000, 1 in 5 abortion clinics experienced some form of severe violence, including arsons, bombings, blockades, invasions, death threats, stalkings and murders at the hands of anti-abortion extremists.

In an effort to mobilize the pro-choice majority in honor of *Roe*, the Feminist Majority Foundation coordinated *One Million Voices*, a nationwide week of reproductive rights activism to raise public awareness about the impending threat to *Roe*. Through *One Million Voices*, we participated in a grassroots, nationwide campaign.

In preparation for *One Million Voices*, an innovative new website at www.onemillionvoices.com was created. This interactive site spreads the word about grassroots events with the posting of information online. Likewise, the accessibility of pro-choice actions across the country, locations of pro-choice actions taking place in the Atlanta community, and contact information for community organizers to attend Spelman College is provided.

For equality,

Spelman College Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

The Race Issue: Neatly tucked under the carpet

Nkechi I. Olisemeka
Opinion & Editorial Editor

One issue that never ceases to cause a whole range of emotions is the topic of racism. Although it causes tension that does not mean that the subject should be ignored. Traveling has taught me several things about people, and how people view others in different countries. During winter break I spent some time in Canada, and I learned a lot of new things about some of the people there and how they perceive the United States' ongoing struggle with racism. A lot of Canadians criticize the United States for all its race problems. Not that there's anything wrong with this criticism, but couldn't the same thing be said about the situation in Canada? I have heard time and time again that Canada has no real problem with racism. Is this a fact or an illusion?

Ironically, while a group of friends and I were holding a heated discussion on politics, education etc. in a

Canadian bar called "The Honest Lawyer," we were approached by a Caucasian man. He then whispered something to one of my male friends. Although I could not hear the conversation, the facial expression on my friend's face showed that he had been greatly offended. After the Caucasian man left, my friend explained what the guy said to have offended him. Apparently, the Caucasian man came up to our table (which consisted of three Black men and two Black women), under the impression that since we were black, we had weed or some type of drug to sell.

We can look at this brief encounter as one of two things. One, it was just a harmless comment so don't take it too personally. Two, we can choose to see it for what is really is, and that is pure racism, and it does exist across the border. I choose to see it as the latter because there are no truly "harmless comments." Personally, I feel that what a person chooses to say is directly related to how they

feel. The reason words are so powerful is because it lets one person tap into how the other person feels, whether it's a temporary or permanent feeling. Obviously some things are said in the heat of the moment and should be ignored, but what should not be ignored are ignorant comments addressed to label a specific group.

I was very angry and my first instinct was to tell my friend to kick the guy upside his head, and if he wasn't going to do it, then I would. I honestly believed that the Caucasian man would comprehend a left hook rather than a lecture on why his comment was inappropriate. My friend explained to me that nothing would come of a beat down except feeding into the stereotype that the Black man is only capable of communicating with his fist; and clearly that is not the case. In addition, my initial reaction would play into the angry-irrational-Black woman stereotype. We decided to inform the manager (a Caucasian man) about our

treatment, and unfortunately not to my surprise the manager was nonchalant about the whole situation. In fact, he had a smirk on his face that did not show any sign of concern or sympathy.

This occurrence is not the only one I have heard of, or experienced in Canada, or anywhere else in the world. Unlike the United States, some nations are just better at hiding their dirty laundry than others. Just because something is not brought to the forefront does not mean it's not there. I have heard people say that the idea of racism is old and shouldn't be discussed. Yes racism is old, and some may say it is played out. People need to get over themselves and realize that the idea of a superior race is passé. Should racism continue to be discussed? Of course it should. As long as we still have people moving away from us when we sit next to them on the bus, moving out of their neighborhoods because our presence brings the property

value down, or we have people come up to us asking for drugs (because we are all drug dealers), then the topic should not be put aside. Racism is there and it is also here. I do not know if we are any better off than we were in the past, maybe people are working very hard to make us believe it's a thing of the past, but in actuality it is not. Many people still see blackness as a bad thing, almost a handicap, and although it may not be our job to change everyone's way of thinking, I feel it is our responsibility not to ignore it, or pretend that racism is ancient history. When I look back at the situation, I wonder if there is anything I could have done differently. Sometimes in a situation like this I feel helpless because the ignorance is still there, deeply embedded in a person's mind, and I do not know how to reach it, and that makes me very angry. It is a tricky situation, and sadly I don't know if it gets any easier.

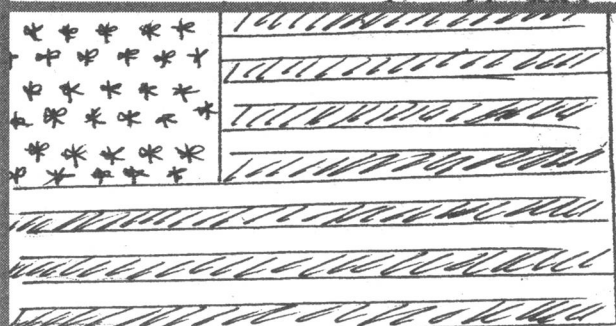
A little bit of Spelman Wit

But babe,
a picture is
worth a thousand
words!

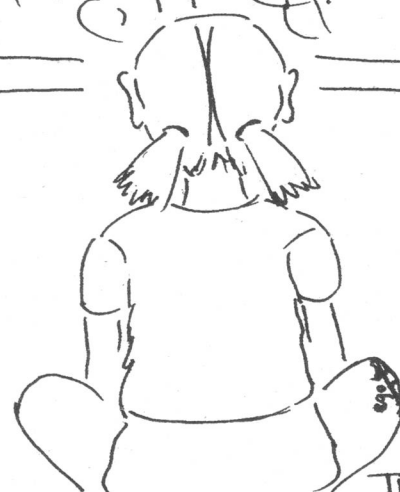


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