

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS

Bombs over Baghdad

Car bomb explodes in Iraqi capital and claims multiple lives. This and other news briefs.

page 2

FEATURES

Is Bad Boy Bad Luck?

Bad Boy artists have developed a record of living up to the company name.

page 4

Gay Blacks face opposition

Sunday's AJC named city the Black gay mecca; gay Atlantans still have their share of problems here.

page 5

Special Feature: Election 2004

The Spotlight takes a look at the Democratic nomination process and faces off Bush vs. Kerry.

page 6

PERSPECTIVES

Makes Me Wanna Holler

Just one black woman's opinion: the aftermath of Janet Jackson's Superbowl appearance.

page 9

INDEX

NEWS	2
FEATURES	4
ELECTION 2004	6
PERSPECTIVES	8
HEALTH	9
LAST WORD	12

Sisters Chapel opens WISDOM Center



PHOTO | Shelly Robinson

The entrance to the newly renovated Bessie Strong (inset). The renovations were paid for with funds from a grant for the recently initiated WISDOM Center. The dormitory will house students involved in the program.

Lauren Smith
News Reporter

The renovated Bessie Strong dorm officially reopened with eight students, dedicated to a new initiative, on Friday, Jan. 29.

Rev. Lisa Rhodes jumpstarted the W.I.S.D.O.M. (Women in Spiritual Discernment of Minority) program to help develop the spiritual and ethical potential of Spelman women and increase the national need to nurture women of African descent who are interested in ordained ministry.

While the program focuses on Bessie Strong residents, it is promoted to all students. Rhodes describes her goal as part of the Spelman family as reclaiming, reviving, and revolutionizing the spiritual life at the college.

"We are activists here. The WISDOM Center is a space of progressive religion. We uplift the idea that all humanity has a connection to the spirit. We aim to use this force for the positive," said Sara Thompson, a resident of Bessie Strong.

The WISDOM center began with a phone call to Rhodes concerning the Lily Endowment, a philanthropic agency based in Indianapolis.

See *WISDOM*, page 3

Caution: Tour Crossing

It's that time again. The tours of next year's Spelman hopefuls are invading campus. Watch your step; a mob of high schoolers is sure to be close behind.



PHOTO | Shelly Robinson

Love Doctor makes AUC house call

Terricha Bradley
News Writer

The critically acclaimed poet, author, professor and relationship expert known as the "Love Doctor", Dr. Tyi-E Muhammad visited Spelman Tuesday, Feb. 10 for a special Valentine's Day lecture about

the do's, don'ts, lessons, and advice about love in 2004.

The evening began with spoken word about the differences in love by students Safiya Reid, Teresa Leggard and -Mwikali Mwindi.

The event sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and P.U.L.S.E (Planning Unique

Activities for a Lively Spelman Experience) was held to give students some advice about how to have healthier relationships, and how to date with knowing the right things to do.

"Since relationships have changed so much within the last

See *LOVE*, page 2

Relay for Life kicks off at Spelman

Astrid L Thomas
News Editor

"Everybody is involved," said a cancer survivor.

Spelman's Student Government Associations sponsored a cancer awareness forum in collaboration with South Fulton neighborhood on Tuesday night.

The Spelman community has teamed up with South Fulton neighborhood to participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. This year Relay For Life survivor activities will kick off on Saturday, April 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Tri-Cities High School and will end on Sunday, April 18.

Relay For life is an international as well as a nationwide event for cancer survivors and advocates to raise money for the

See *CANCER*, page 3

Spotlight

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FDA delays OTC status of emergency contraception

Press Release

In a final push to win non-prescription status for emergency contraception (EC), the Feminist Majority Foundation is urging college students—especially young women—to protest the FDA's move to delay action in making EC available over-the-counter (OTC).

On December 16, 2003, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's reproductive Health Drugs Advisory and Nonprescription Drugs Panel voted overwhelmingly 23-4 to recommend approval of OTC status for the emergency contraceptive Plan B.

However, buckling under pressure from pro-life members of Congress, the FDA announced that it would delay by 90 days its decision on OTC status for Plan B. The decision

was originally slated for February 20 of this year. The FDA claims to need more time to evaluate the use of Plan B, despite the recommendations of the FDA's own expert panel that Plan B should be approved for over-the-counter status without a prescription.

The scientific evidence and health benefits to women propelling this request for OTC emergency contraception access are undeniable. "Access delayed is access denied," said Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation. "We are urging college students to protest the FDA delay and send an unmistakable message: For the sake of women whose lives and futures are at stake, the FDA's decision on OTC status should be based on scientific merit - not politics."

With the largest pro-choice

college activist network in the U.S., the Feminist Majority Foundation is working with students and campus health centers to maximize access to EC on the nation's campuses and to mobilize student support for a final FDA decision to allow OTC non-prescription status for EC.

Celebrity endorsers of this campaign include Amy Brenneman (creator and producer of *Judging Amy*), Camryn Manheim (*The Practice*) and Lisa Gay Hamilton (*The Practice*), all having recorded special 30- and 60-second radio public service announcements for campus radio to increase publicity on EC.

Campuses nationwide are participating in the national Back Up Your Birth Control Day campaign on March 22 to make a unified push for EC

access and to educate their campuses.

EC is a method of preventing pregnancy after unprotected sexual intercourse. When taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse, EC lower a woman's risk of becoming pregnant by 75-88%. Taken within 24 hours, EC is up to 95% effective.

Access to EC is often limited on college campuses because college health centers do not offer EC or have limited hours of operation. A nationwide survey of EC access from campus health clinics found that only 61% provide EC or prescriptions for EC, and only 16% of those campus health centers were open on weekends.

For more information on EC and campus action strategies, log onto www.feministcampus.org.

News in Brief

■ Bomb destroys Baghdad hotel; kills 27

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A car bomb tore apart a five-story hotel catering to foreigners in the heart of Baghdad on Wednesday night, killing 27 people and showing the continued vulnerability of civilians to terror attacks just days before the anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

There was no official word on who carried out the attack but a U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking anonymously, said Jordanian Islamic militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is among those suspected of playing a key role.

■ Ohio sniper suspect caught

LAS VEGAS - The man wanted in a deadly string of sniper shootings that terrorized Ohio drivers was captured at a motel Wednesday after a tipster spotted him at a Las Vegas casino reading a newspaper story about himself.

Charles A. McCoy, Jr. was arrested without incident less than 36 hours after Ohio authorities released his name as a suspect in the attacks.

McCoy is suspected of committing 24 shootings in the Columbus area since last year.

■ Group claims truce with Spain

CAIRO, Egypt - The Islamic militant group that claimed responsibility for last week's Madrid train bombings has called a truce with Spain to give the new government time to withdraw troops from Iraq, a London-based Arabic-language newspaper said Wednesday.

The Al Hayat daily newspaper said it received a statement from the Brigade of Abu Hafsa al-Masri, which earlier said it orchestrated the bombings to punish Spain for supporting the U.S.-led war in Iraq. The blasts killed 201 people.

■ Kerry criticizes Bush's Iraq policy

WASHINGTON - Democrat John Kerry assailed President Bush on Wednesday for clinging to a failed policy that leaves Americans mired in Iraq "with the target squarely on their backs" while Vice President Dick Cheney argued that his boss' rival lacks the judgment to be commander in chief.

Kerry delivered a broadside to the incumbent's strategy toward Iraq, focusing on the unending hostilities, alienated allies and the loss of lives.

Cheney, speaking on the other side of the country, praised Bush's victories in the

war on terror and portrayed his boss as a strong, decisive leader — characteristics required for a wartime president and ones, he argued, that the Democrat lacks.

■ Eight killed in Kosovo ethnic violence

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Serbia-Montenegro - Ethnic Albanians traded gunfire with Serbs on Wednesday after blaming them for the drownings of two boys. The clashes left eight dead and more than 300 injured in one of the worst days of Serb-Albanian bloodshed since the end of the Kosovo war in 1999.

Riots broke out in virtually every city in the province — and in at least four enclaves where Serbs live — illustrating the failure of U.N. and NATO efforts to snuff out ethnic hatreds and set the province on the path of reconciliation.

■ U.S. minority groups on rise

WASHINGTON - For as long as there has been an America, whites have made up a clear majority. But that will change by 2050 when minority groups will be 49.9 percent of the population, the Census

Bureau says.

Asians and Hispanics will see the most dramatic increases between now and midcentury, when the U.S. population will have grown by almost 50 percent to reach 420 million, according to bureau projections being released Thursday.

America will get older, too. Nearly 21 percent of its residents will be age 65 or older, compared with 12 percent now.

■ R. Kelly child pornography charges dropped

TAMPA - R. Kelly escaped child pornography charges in Florida when prosecutors announced Wednesday they were dropping all 12 counts against the top-selling R&B singer.

The decision followed a judge's ruling last week that detectives illegally seized photographs allegedly showing the singer having sex with an underage girl, meaning they could not be used against him.

Prosecutors decided not to appeal the ruling by Circuit Judge Dennis Maloney, choosing instead to abandon the charges.

The 37-year-old Kelly — whose real name is Robert Sylvester Kelly — still faces 14 child pornography charges in Chicago.

LOVE, from page 1

decade, relationships are surrounded by sex," said Muhammad.

Different aspects of relationship and life were discussed, including self-love. Topics ranged from sexual relationships to relationships with God. According to Muhammad, people need to give up the external

factors and baggage in order to be equally compatible and focused on the relationship.

"Safety in the relationship is also an issue, because women do not need to let strangers into their homes and souls. Everyone needs to identify their purposes, or else their souls will not be at rest," said Muhammad.

PULSE member Rebecca

Chattman felt that the main point of the event was for the education of women on relationships.

"I wanted the lecture to show the ladies that they do not always need men in their lives. It was great that he talked about working out the problems in relationships," said Chattman.

Muhammad stressed that college students need to be

more patient with love and put God first.

According to Muhammad, a couple should value unity, their minds, souls and their bodies.

Muhammad has appeared on the Ricki Lake Show and is a professor of psychology at Clark Atlanta University, has contributed to JET and Ebony magazines, is a radio personality and author of two books.

CANCER, from page 3

American Cancer Society and for research to find a cure. This event has at least 2 million people participating every year and has raised \$1 billion since it began in 1985.

The South Fulton/ Spelman relay will consist of teams from the Atlanta University Center (AUC) and the surrounding communities within South Fulton. Each team member must pay a registration fee of \$10 and every team must raise a minimum of \$100.

"I believe the forum was very informative. I am glad to see the student body get involved with the community for a worthy cause," said Allyson Belton, a sophomore biology major.

The South Fulton/Spelman Relay have created a theme called "Relay Through Time: Evolution for a Cure." Each team will be allowed to select a decade, from the 50s to the present era and the team can display their spirit through costumes and decorations during the relay. This year's goal is for

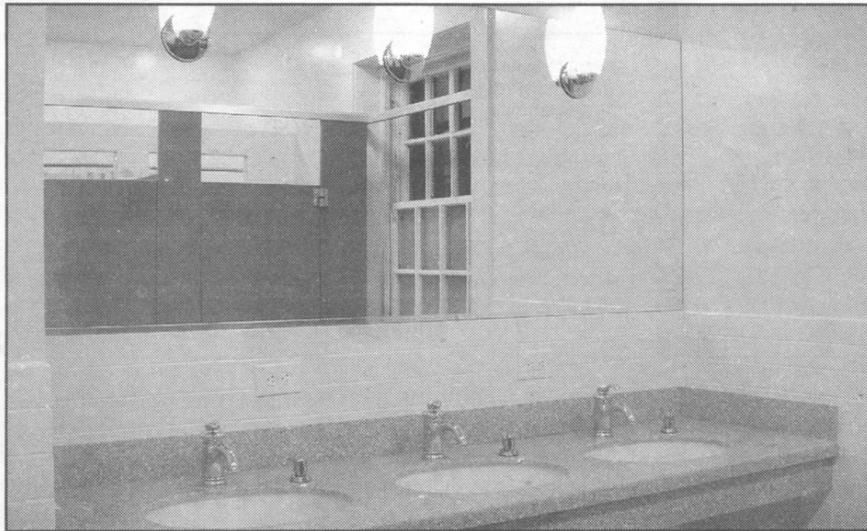
the South Fulton/Spelman Relay to have 50 or more teams to participate and raise \$50,000.

For more information about the South Fulton/Spelman Relay for Life event, contact a member of Spelman's Student Government Association or call 1-800-ACS-2345 or look on the website, www.cancer.org.

Relay for Life is a unique, challenging and fun way to raise money for the American Cancer Society, and more important, to raise awareness of cancer and cancer survivorship.

For More Information on RELAY FOR LIFE

See a member of the Spelman SGA, or Contact Kendra Cross at (404) 315-1123 or email kendra.cross@cancer.org



PHOTOS | Shelly Robinson

Newly renovated bathroom (above) and kitchen (right) in Bessie Strong.

WISDOM, from page 1

Its objective is to ensure that colleges and universities around the country are nurturing students in faith tradition, which will ultimately influence their vocation choice.

Rhodes began writing a proposal for the WISDOM Center in September 2001. The col-

lege received a planning grant of \$50,000 in March 2002 and an implementation grant of \$2 million in December 2002. Out of 88 participating schools, Spelman is one 5 historically Black colleges and the only majority Black female institution involved.

Rhodes believes that women of color should be in religious leadership positions. According to Rhodes, women make up 75% of the church body, but while succeeding in law, business, and politics, they lack high status in ministry.

Jamila Little, a Bessie

Strong resident, is interested in pursuing a career in business law or investment banking. She settles that conflict with the notion that, "God will be able to use me in that space just as much as He can use me behind the pulpit."

Rhodes and her staff-- Melva

Sampson, Renee Leonard, Inira Ngaka, and Laurette Quaye--are using this new space to hold early Monday morning prayer meetings, weekly mediation, and create community fellowship.

"Sister's Chapel has given birth to a baby," said Rhodes.



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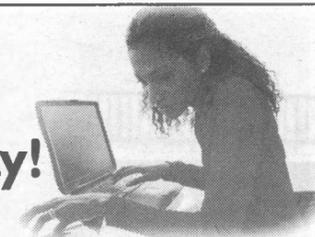
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Perhaps Biggie's murder was an omen. The chain of events that followed is an undeniable string of misfortune submerged in death and, legal trouble. With Shyne's unfortunate incarceration, Diddy's time in court on gun charges and Loon's pending attempted murder charge, hip hop fans around the world are starting to wonder...

Is Bad Boy Bad Luck?

Writer
Section

With the recent arrest and attempted murder charge for a Los Angeles nightclub stabbing, Bad Boy rapper Chauncey "Loon" Hawkins is going to be singing 'I need a lawyer' before we'll hear him singing 'I need a Girl' again.

The incident took place during the NBA All Star Weekend in the early morning hours on Friday, February 13th outside of The House of Blues where Lil Jon & The Eastside Boys hosted a release party for their new adult DVD series.

A security guard was stabbed in the upper torso during confusion at the front door as partygoers attempted to forcibly enter the club. Loon and two other men were later identified as the alleged assailants. Loon was charged with attempted murder and released on bail the next day.

Bad Behavior

This isn't the first time a rapper from the New York based Bad Boy Records has been faced with some jail time. In 2000, labelmate and rapper Jamal "Shyne" Barrow was convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison for first degree assault, reckless endangerment and gun possession after admittedly firing a gun during an altercation at Club New York in New York City in December of 1999. One woman was severely wounded after being shot in the face.

Shyne was cleared of the additional attempted murder charges of three others who were wounded during the shooting, which could have led to the maximum charge of 25 years in prison.

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs was his co-defendant in the incident but was cleared of gun possession and bribery charges at the trial in March of 2000.

Three years prior to Shyne's run in with the law, Bad Boy rapper Christopher "Notorious B.I.G" Wallace was murdered outside of the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles on March 10, 1997. His murder occurred six months after that of rapper Tupac Shakur, and many believe B.I.G's death was the result of a music industry beef between the East Coast Bad Boy Record label and the West Coast Death Row Record label.

More recently, the Notorious B.I.G's widow Faith Evans was charged with her new husband, Todd Russaw, for drug possession after a routine traffic stop in January 2004. With all of their run-ins with the law, the Bad Boy camp is not leaving a good impression on many of their fans. Many view the reckless behavior of the artists to be a reflection of the label as a whole.

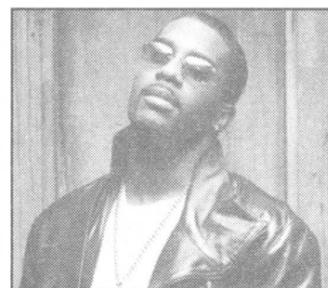
Bad Business

The early 1999 retirement of Harlem Bad Boy rapper, Mason 'Mase' Betha led to a snowball effect of many Bad Boy artists wanting to disperse from the



Jamal "Shyne" Barrow (left) is currently serving a 10-year sentence for assault. Sean "P. Diddy" Combs (shown above with mother Janice Combs and attorney Johnny Cochran) had his own share of legal trouble. Chauncey "Loon" Hawkins (right) faces pending attempted murder charges for the stabbing of a bouncer at a Los Angeles club during the NBA All Star weekend.

PHOTOS | Launch



label. After releasing two platinum albums and starting his own label, Mase announced that he would be retiring from the rap game and heading down south to become a preacher.

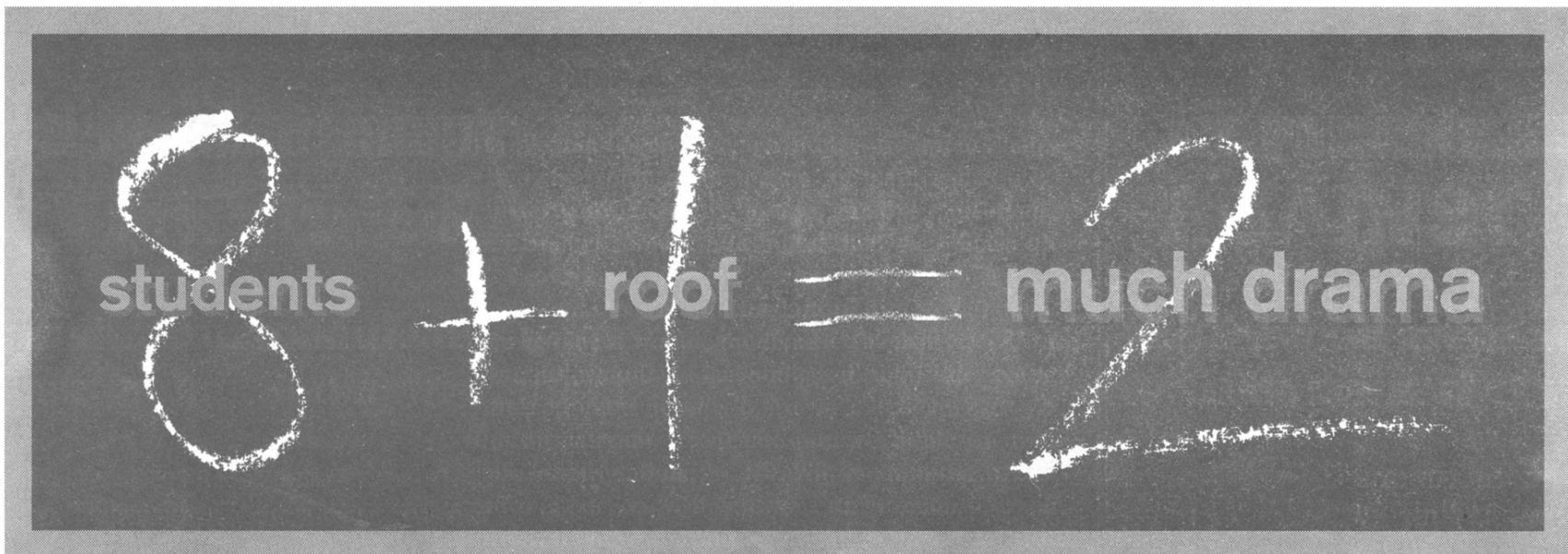
After Mase's departure, rap trio The Lox, also signed to Bad Boy, made it clear that they were unhappy with Combs' business tactics and believed that they were not being fully compensated for their work. After initiating a 'Let the Lox Go' campaign throughout the streets of New York, they were eventually released to Ruff Ryders Records during the summer of 1999.

In the summer of 2002, yet another Bad Boy group made an

exodus from the label. R&B quartet, 112 signed a deal with Island Def Jam after citing irresolvable differences as their reason for leaving the label. The group members claimed that even though they wrote and produced the majority of their songs, they didn't receive any of the group's publishing royalties for the six years that they were signed. They also stated that Puffy put himself as an artist over those signed to his label and neglected to feature the group at awards shows and for guest appearances.

Somewhere within the Bad Boy camp, there is a structural breakdown concerning Diddy's

business dealings as well as artist's loyalty to the label. Without firsthand knowledge of the tactics used with their artists, opinions can only be based upon the actions that the artists take within the public realm. The bright lights and shiny suits are blinding fans to the reality and negative implications that stardom has had on the Bad Boy label. With their misconduct and misuse of the limelight, there aren't enough overused beats that can drown out the sounds of discontent from its artists and their weak record sales. If the label doesn't revamp its style and image, there won't be a 'Bad Boy for life.'



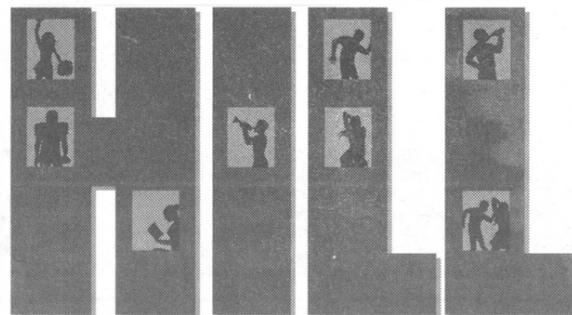
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BET banned in Bahamas; new African American channels emerge

Maya T. Prabhu
Features Writer

Black Entertainment Television (BET) network, a popular viewing choice among young Bahamians, is no longer available as part of the Basic Program Package with Cable Bahamas, the leading cable company of The Islands of the Bahamas. Many black entertainment alternatives, however, are appearing in America.

Now only available to premium Cable Bahamas subscribers as part of a bonus package or as an individual channel on its "Freedom TV" service, BET's slot has now been occupied by Boomerang, an offering of the Cartoon Network.

The channel has been moved to premium programming because core of the network's programming is its increasingly sexually suggestive music videos, negatively influencing the Bahamian youth. By moving BET to premium programming, adults have the control in monitoring the network.

Members of the Bahamas Christian Council, as well members of a group identifying themselves as "Members of the Radio Cabinet" were at the forefront of the efforts to restrict BET. In a letter reportedly sent to Cable Bahamas by the Members of the Radio Cabinet, members stated that Bahamian children's development was at risk by exposure to some of BET's programming.

An international Spelman student from Trinidad explains how BET on cable has affected her country.

"In the past five to ten years [since Trinidad has had cable] BET has affected everything from the music and dress of the people to their belief system," she stated. "Children look at the station and adopt the fashion the music greatly influences them."

The international student also says that the network's move in the Bahamas was a positive thing because of the affect it has on the community as a whole. "BET changes the culture; it becomes more Americanized."

Clair Watson, a Bahamian freshman at Clark Atlanta University, agrees that there are some negative aspects of BET, but in the end it is completely up to parents to control what their children watch.

"I understand where the Christian Council is coming from," commented Watson, but I don't think [Cable Bahamas] needed to take [BET] off [of basic cable]. I think it's up to

the parents to control what [children] watch."

Watson continued, "Parents shouldn't have to rely on Cable Bahamas to do their job for them; they should have more control over their own children."

In light of the negativity surrounding BET in the Bahamas, many cable channels have surfaced as alternatives to BET in the States. Some channels will perpetuate the sexually suggestive videos shown on BET; two recently announced premium cable ventures will feature uncensored music videos. However, there are a few channels in the works that aim to show another side to black entertainment.

TV One, LLC, sponsored largely by Radio One, Inc., the nation's largest black owned radio company, aims to eschew sexy hip-hop videos for more traditional TV fare like sitcoms and talk shows. The network has already launched in seven major cities.

The Real Hip-Hop Network (RHN), a new channel devoted to hip-hop culture, plans to give a more real representation of hip-hop by showing what BET overlooks in its portrayal of the hip-hop world and is scheduled to launch early this year. Public Enemy front man Chuck D, who has long stood in opposition to the materialistic mentality of most mainstream hip-hop, will help sponsor the new hip-hop network. RHN will give hip-hop the exposure it deserves and integrate hip-hop history and activism as well as highlight the significance of the music.

With the emergence of new "positive" black entertainment channels and the restriction of BET in the Bahamas, a black nation, BET is no longer the only big cable television channel aimed at black viewers.

Watson stated her observation of what might be BET's last days, saying, "BET just might have something to worry about."

Opposition apparent for gay blacks in Atlanta

Maya T. Prabhu
Features Writer

Powerful Change Ministry Group International (PCMGI), a religious group that helps people of color who struggle against homosexuality, challenges the claim of the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) that African Americans support homosexual marriage.

NBJC is a coalition of black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered leaders who have come together to fight against discrimination in African American communities. Morehouse College graduate Darius Hubbard says he's not sure of his position on the idea of homosexual marriage though for many it is a very black or white issue.

"On the one side, I think it [homosexual marriage] is okay and you can marry whoever you want to, but the other side of me questions the morality behind it."

A recent CBS/NY poll found that most Americans oppose gay marriage, with 54 percent opposed to civil unions and 39 percent supportive.

Hubbard said he thinks that the majority of Americans are against homosexual marriage because once marriage is legalized it closes the door on any further opposing dialogue.

"Marriage is like the ultimate acceptance," said Hubbard, "and that may be why it is hard [for most people] to accept."

NBJC stated that the majority of African Americans support an

end to discrimination against gays and lesbians, propelling a homosexual marriage campaign. PCMGI said that ending discrimination and supporting homosexual marriage are two different things.

The coalition argues that there are 1,049 benefits to marriage, including access to military stores, sick leave to care for a husband or wife, primary medical decision rights and Social Security survivor benefits.

NBJC also argues that marriage is a civil rights issue using quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to support its campaign for marriage equality.

In a press release from BlackNews.com, Pastor Darryl L. Foster, executive director of PCMGI, stated, "as a gospel preacher, Dr. King knew that homosexuality was a moral malfunction and was in now way equal to the civil atrocities being heaped upon African Americans.

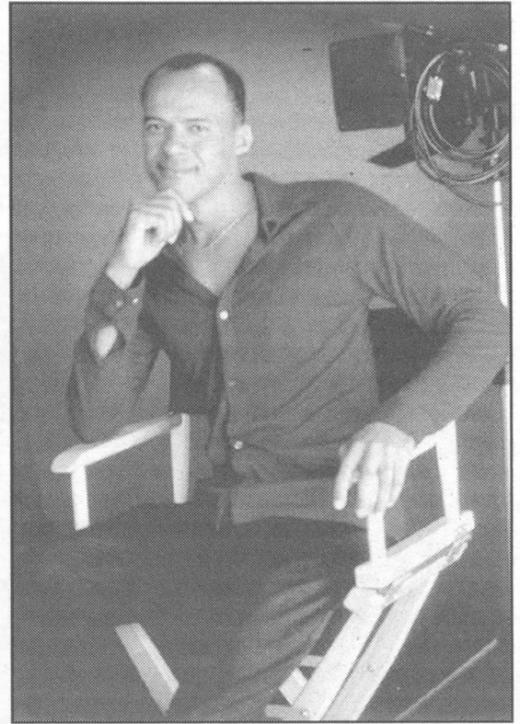


PHOTO | Atlanta Journal Constitution

Trevor Pettiford, FOX 5 on-air personality, relocated to Atlanta from Orlando in 1998. "It's so nice to see yourself in other people. You get a sense that you can make it here because you see other African-Americans who have made it, straight or gay."

"Those who invoke his name and legacy as a defense of this moral mistake ought to be ashamed for assassinating the dream all over again," said Foster.

PCMGI has vowed to send 1000 letters to major black Christian pastors and leaders around the country urging their public suppression of homosexual marriage.

Black women's film festival celebrates fourth anniversary

Chelsey Rogers
Features Writer

As the anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education (which tore down the precedent established in Plessy v. Ferguson that "separate but equal" is legal and ruled segregation unconstitutional) recently passed, it is amazing how African Americans have been burdened for so many years and now are finally beginning to make defining strides in society. They can be seen venturing into every possible outlet, defining themselves and their strengths and even leaving a lasting impact on whichever industry they encounter. Ms. Adrienne Anderson is one such woman that has taken it upon herself to overcome the racial bias in the film industry and has done just that with the creation of the International Black Women's Film Festival.

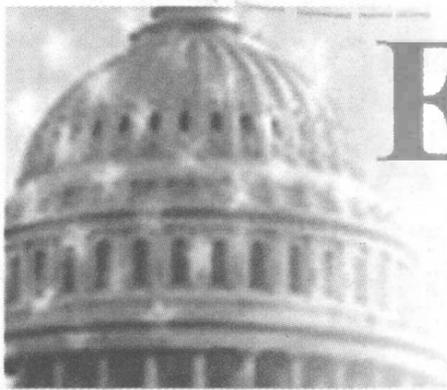
The International Black Women's Film Festival is

approaching its third year and after much deliberation, it has chosen a location as lively and diverse as many of its films, San Francisco. The Festival, created and directed by Ms. Adrienne Anderson, has inspired many and has even helped several women in launching their careers, including, but not limited to Brazilian filmmaker Dandara, Canadian filmmaker Sylvia Hamilton, and Kimberly Holt of the United States. Submissions from these countries as well as the United Kingdom, Cuba and Brazil will be presented during the festival.

Ms. Anderson developed the idea of the film festival in 2001, hoping to offer an opportunity to show innovative films describing the numerous experiences undergone by African American women. Her idea came from her disgust and disappointment with the roles that many African American women had played in film and she

decided to take it upon herself to better the societal roles of women in film and she has done just that with help from Mr. George Lucas of Lucasfilm, Ltd. Ms. Anderson's goal of increasing the audience of black women filmmakers and allowing that audience to look into the world of black women has been made possible through Mr. Lucas's sponsorship of the film festival.

The festival will take place in San Francisco's South-of-Market district and the opening screening will run the last Saturday of this month. The opening film is *Black Orpheus*, a classical musical, and *When Spirits Dance the Mambo*, a documentary on the mambo by Dr. Marta Moreno Vega. As well, the festival will feature live performances by Bogo Quartet and the women's marimba ensemble of The Dmitra Smith Trio.



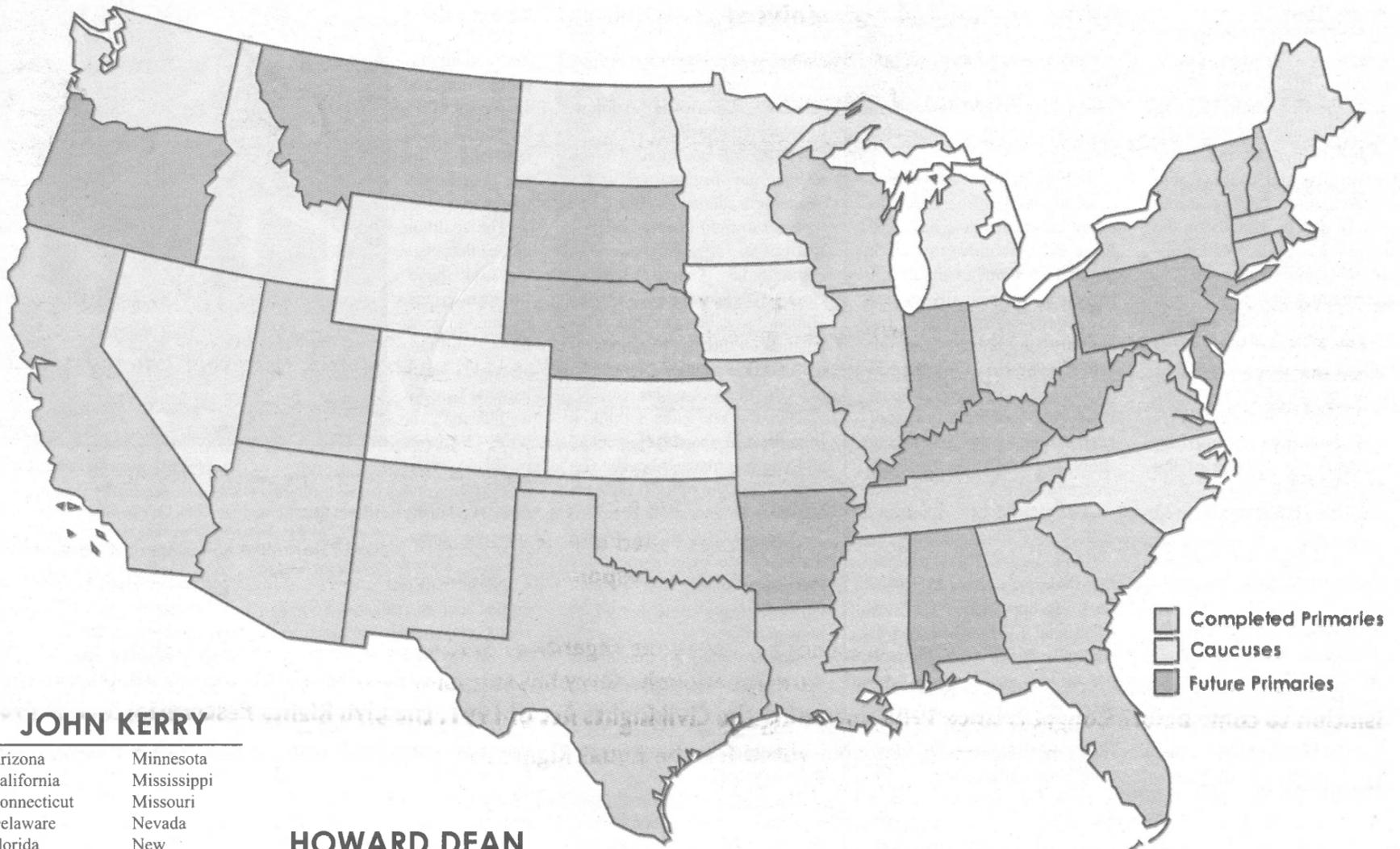
ELECTION 2004

Nailah Timberlake, Features Editor



SPECIAL SERIES

The public, the press and the powers that be have all but giftwrapped the Democratic nomination for Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts. "Super Tuesday" primaries only served to solidify Kerry's hold on the race for the presidency. The Spotlight takes a closer look at the candidate-to-be and puts both he and incumbent Republican George W. Bush under the microscope.



JOHN KERRY

Arizona	Minnesota
California	Mississippi
Connecticut	Missouri
Delaware	Nevada
Florida	New
Georgia	Hampshire
Hawaii	New Mexico
Idaho	New York
Illinois	North Dakota
Iowa	Ohio
Kansas	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Maine	Utah
Maryland	Virginia
Massachusetts	Washington
Michigan	Wisconsin

HOWARD DEAN

Vermont

WESLEY CLARK

Oklahoma

JOHN EDWARDS

South Carolina

Dennis Kucinich, Al Sharpton, and Joseph Liberman failed to secure majorities in any of the completed primaries.

Aptly named 'Super Tuesday', March 2nd became the most recent of a string of victories for Democratic hopeful Senator John Kerry.

With the passing of the March 2nd Georgia State Presidential Primary, Kerry's dominance continued. Since the primaries held on that date, two Democratic contenders, Rev. Al Sharpton and John Edwards, have dropped the race. Despite the rise in turnout for this year's primary, several Georgia voters had a lot to complain about as they left the polls.

According to the Georgia State Election Division, the Georgia primary is an 'open primary' where Georgia voters do not have to register by political party, therefore allowing voters to vote across party lines.

While open primaries have their benefits, the open primary system also means that you must distinguish yourself as a supporter for one party or another, and your party affiliation determines your ballot content.

Several Georgia voters went to polls unaware of the need to identify themselves as Democrats in order to vote in the Democratic primary and got one of two remaining ballots that did not list the four Democratic hopefuls. While all Georgians were able to vote on the non-binding flag referendum, several found themselves unable to choose a presidential candidate,

and went unaware of the problem until it was too late.

Moderate candidates like North Carolina's John Edwards probably hoped that the open primaries held on Super Tuesday would help to reclaim some ground in the Democratic nomination process. Because moderates like Edwards appeal to members of both the Democratic and Republican parties, many predicted he would do well in Georgia, given his 'middle of the road' stance his southern roots.

Along with Georgia, the Minnesota Caucus, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Vermont held their respective primaries on March 2nd.

The Democratic National Convention will take place July 25th through July 29th, 2004 in Boston. The delegates that will attend are determined by the states' electoral votes and the strength of support for democratic presidential candidates in the last three general elections.

There are 4,321 total delegates in 2004. To win the presidential bid, Kerry must secure a majority of the votes at the Convention, at least 2,161 votes.

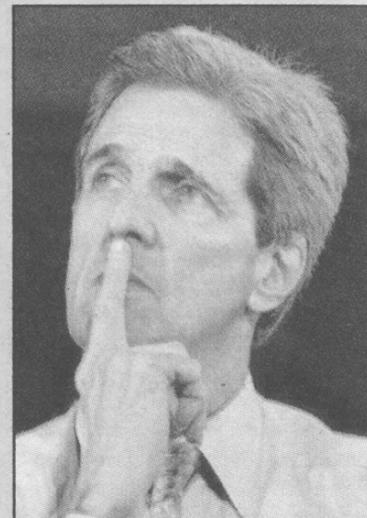
Once the presidential candidate is chosen, he (along with his chosen vice president) will have four months to campaign before the November 2nd national election.

Comparing the Candidates

HEAD TO HEAD

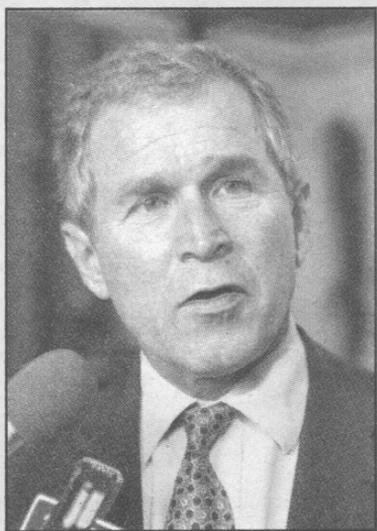
SENATOR JOHN KERRY

As the frontrunner in the majority of Presidential primaries and caucuses so far, Senator John Kerry has been successful as one of the more liberal candidates. After receiving his bachelors from Yale University, Kerry enlisted in the Navy and served in Vietnam where he received a silver star, bronze star and three purple hearts. He then received his law degree from Boston College, and served as an Assistant District Attorney and Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor before moving onto the Senate in 1984 where he served for four terms.



WHERE KERRY STANDS ON...

- **The Domestic and International AIDS Crisis:** Kerry is the author of the most comprehensive HIV/AIDS bill ever to pass the Senate. Kerry believes that HIV/AIDS is the great public health and humanitarian crisis of our times – and a fundamental security issue. He believes that fighting AIDS – and tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, the other two most deadly global infectious diseases – must be at the forefront of America's foreign policy and national security agendas.
- **Education:** In terms of improving education, Kerry calls George W. Bush "the photo-op President" who "stands next to children and teachers for a picture, but...doesn't stand with them when it comes to improving our public schools." Kerry proposes a new 'Education Trust Fund' that means fully funding education, no questions asked.
- **Women's Issues:** As a prosecutor in Boston, Kerry established one of the country's first offices to assist rape victims. As a senator, he supports a woman's right to choose. He also cosponsored and helped pass the Violence Against Women Act.
- **Civil Rights:** Kerry believes that "justice belongs to everyone regardless of race or gender or sexual orientation," and recognizes that historical strides toward equality are not enough. Kerry has supported every major piece of Civil Rights legislation to come before Congress since 1985, including the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. He also voted for the Equal Rights Amendment, and supports the Employment Nondiscrimination Act.



PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Republican George W. Bush, son of former President George H.W. Bush, currently serves as the 43rd President of the United States. Bush received a bachelors degree from Yale University. Bush served as an F-102 fighter pilot in the Texas Air National Guard and later received his Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School. Before serving as president, Bush established a career in energy, worked successfully on his father's bid for the presidency, and became one of the owning partners of the Texas Rangers baseball franchise. He was the first governor in Texas history to be elected to two consecutive four-year terms.

WHERE BUSH STANDS ON...

- **Affirmative Action:** Bush the Son went on record during the University of Michigan Supreme Court case saying that Michigan's quota system were, at their core, "a quota system that unfairly rewards or penalizes perspective students, based solely on their race." His administration filed a brief with the court arguing that the University of Michigan's admissions policies were unconstitutional. Bush is the son and grandson of Yale alumni; he was accepted to the institution with a 1206 on the SAT.
- **Same Sex Marriage:** Citing the Defense of Marriage Act as precedent, President Bush wants to continue to define marriage in terms of a relationship between a man and a woman. "My administration will vigorously defend [the Defense of Marriage Act] of Congress." Bush proposes a constitutional amendment to enforce the act and strike state rulings in support of same sex marriages.
- **Education Reform:** President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act creating exacting standards for primary and secondary educators and their students. The act has been said to subject students to unnecessary standardized testing, historically known to be culturally biased against students of color, and programs created to enforce the act have been underfunded in all fifty states.

EDITORIAL

Becoming apart of the Spelman solution

Erika Parrish
Executive Production Editor

If you aren't apart of the solution, then you are apart of the problem.

That hackneyed saying had been hurled at me so many times in my short life that it hardly meant anything anymore, until I decided to join the *Spotlight* staff.

As a sophomore, I was upset at the quality of our student newspaper. I witnessed mass movements and a general gravitation of the Spelman student body toward Geoffrey Bennett's journalistic work at *Morehouse*, and I found myself appalled that Spelman students did not hold their publication to such a high standard.

Having a background in graphic design (but absolutely no experience in newspaper or magazine layout, mind you) I decided to make it my mission to give 100% into making our paper *look*, at the very least, comparable to the *Maroon Tiger*.

During my long hours locked away in the *Spotlight* office, I have lots of time to reflect on my junior year as the chief Layout Editor ("chief" meaning "only") and my promotion this year to Executive Production Editor. Given all the ups and downs, I am pleased with my decision to have been apart of the *Spotlight's* solution.

Did I perfect the staff writing? No, but I do what I can to correct the mistakes I catch. Is my revamped layout flawless? Probably not, but I know that my contribution to the aesthetics of the paper did not go unnoticed, and I don't believe that I'm bragging when I say my changes brought the paper a long way. Have I completely eliminated the Spelman preference for the *Maroon Tiger*? Not by a long shot, but I haven't printed any half-naked women on our cover in honor of breast cancer awareness, either.

So I bring to my Spelman sisters the challenge to follow my example. I challenge--I double dare you--to stop complaining and do something.

You might think food in the cafeteria is horrible. It used to be a lot worse, but Spelman

graduate Candice "Dice" Williams decided that her money should pay for better.

She raised a lot of complaints and started a campus wide movement to improve the cafeteria, and we returned the following fall to a newly renovated Alma Upshaw and a wider variety of choices. The best part of the story? Dice did all this during her senior year, proving that it wasn't just for her; it was for the betterment of her Spelman sisters' experience.

Apathy is a disease that afflicts all of us in some way, but sadly, Spelman women have it the worst. It sometimes seems that we like nothing more than to live in sub-par dormitories, read a sub-par student newspaper and have a sub-par college experience so we can spend day after day complaining about our lives as Spelman women.

The most active of us take our talents to *Morehouse*. The reigning Ms. Maroon and White is easily remembered as one of the most pro-woman feminist minds of my freshman class; her talents, however, have all been channeled across the street. (I respect her deeply, as I do all my Spelman sisters, but this is an editorial.) While the most talented and active of us do all we can to improve the *Morehouse* experience, the rest of us remain content to be discontent.

I will not continue to play victim. For example, we should've been raising Cain about the renovations in Packard. Yes, the Registrar's office is integral to the survival of our campus, but when was the last time any of them had to sleep here? We live on this campus, and we should be demanding better facilities for students, the twenty-four hour residents, instead of accepting renovations for staff who, according to a survey of students, foster "unhelpful" and generally negative relationships with Spelman women.

I recognize that all improvements take time, and Packard was indeed the oldest dormitory on campus, but such extensive renovations should be put towards students' convenience, not staff. Seventy-six girls had the displeasure of living in that

asbestos factory that doubled as an oven or freezer (depending on the season) three years ago; seventy-six more girls should be reaping the rewards of those renovations.

If you don't know where on the renovation list your dormitory falls (if it even appears), find out. If it's not on Spelman's to-do list, you should be doing all you can to make sure it gets there before you graduate. It's time that we demanded as much of our institution as it demands of us.

Let me put it in terms that everyone can understand and no one can dispute. Assume that tuition and fees stay the same for the next four years (which is unlikely; CAU's tuition will be raised 5% next year, and ours has been on a steady increase since my entry in 2000). By the

time they graduate, the Class of 2007 will have paid a total of \$108,404 for a Spelman education.

If you paid that much for a new house, you wouldn't settle for leaky ceilings and a faltering foundation. If you spent that much on a new car, you'd return it if it had a faulty transmission or busted radiator. You would demand your money's worth in both of those scenarios; it's time to do the same in Spelman's case.

Once upon a time, white folks decided that educating blacks was wrong, and educating women was a waste. Two women decided they were wrong on both counts. As a result, Black women from all walks of life have a place to call theirs and theirs alone, a place to pursue higher education and

greater empowerment on their terms.

Our founders could've married rich and settled down; they instead decided to do something that probably seemed to them only a small step toward the betterment of the lives of Black women. Their contribution, however, created an institution that would mold Black women for generations to come.

Demanding air in Howard-Harrelld or redesigning your school paper may not seem like a big step to you now, but even a tiny step in the right direction is better than standing still.

(PS: Not everyone will agree with me, and that's okay. In the spirit of disagreement, I invite all of you to respond; at least then we'll know you really are reading the paper we work so hard to produce for you.)

Miss education: the comedy of the spelman experience



Erika Parrish '04

notable QUOTABLES random bits of profound knowledge

Chris Rock on the state of the world

You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, the tallest guy in the NBA is Chinese, the Swiss hold the America's Cup, France is accusing the U.S. of arrogance, Germany doesn't want to go to war, and the three most powerful men in America are named, "Bush," "Dick," and "Colon." Need I say more?



makes me wanna
HOLLER just one black woman's opinion
Nailah Timberlake

Most of us found somewhere to post up and watch the NFL Super Bowl a few Sundays ago, right? Some of us watched because we generally enjoy the sport; most of us watched because we're social butterflies and wanted to be where the party was and not enough of us because we're actually genuine football fans. Needless to say, enough of us were present and in front of a TV at some point. I personally used the halftime show as an opportunity to rush to the bathroom and grab some more snacks before I missed any of the game, but I did make it back in enough time to catch the end of Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake's performance. The majority of people who watched barely paid the halftime show any mind because we see the same scantily clad women gyrating up against superstars everyday on BET and MTV, but enough of us did catch the violent ripping off of Janet Jackson's bustier at the conclusion of the song. Everyone's initial reaction was one of shock and surprise, but no one really could say for sure what happened. When her boobie flew out and bobbed around for a little bit, I thought it was an unplanned accident and it wasn't until the next day that I realized that it had become a national incident. Call in the National Guard, Janet Jackson has once again pushed the limits with her sexuality! I mean she is

'Miss Jackson if your nasty,' but what's problematic for me is the way in which she has been portrayed within the media spotlight since the incident. Both she and Timberlake apologized for the incident, both stating that it was an unplanned 'wardrobe malfunction,' (what?) but yet it seems that only Jackson is paying the price for their mistake. Both Jackson and Timberlake planned to attend the Grammy's, yet only Jackson's invitation as a presenter was withdrawn. She has been dropped from the lead role in Lena Horne's biographical movie while Justin continues to play victim to her hyper sex drive. Every television news channel has played the scene over and over again, accompanied with Timberlake backing away from the situation, "shocked and appalled" by what happened. Every time I see the scene, I can help but think of the slave auction block where black slave women's clothing was ripped off to display their bodies for everyone to see. This obsession with our nakedness and the violence in which we are (and continue to be) exposed is being taken too lightly as just another joke in which the woman is the only offender. I'm not excusing Janet for having been apart of this act, but the ridicule that she's faced is far beyond that of her accomplice, and that's just something that makes me wanna holler!

"Makes Me Wanna Holler" will become a permanent installment of the *Spelman Spotlight*, and we invite your submissions. To contribute to this column, email your 450-500 word piece to sspotlight2002@yahoo.com. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. All submissions become the property of the *Spelman Spotlight*.

XI
INQUISITIVE

a tribute to the overworked, underpaid
spelman *spotlight* staffers

1. We don't even have a printer.
1. You do realize that the "underpaid" means not paid, right?
2. Insert your two cents here so you'll feel included.
3. Can I get some credit hours? Hell, even Glee Club gets one.
4. Fax machine: property of Ms. Davenport?
5. And the laptop, too?
6. If you worked here, would you donate the printer?
7. If you did, would you feel obligated to include everyone's opinions here?
8. Are we a little angry?
9. Did this get your attention? (and we didn't use a single Greek symbol...)
10. Will ten minutes in this office make you wish you went to Morehouse?
12. Did you know that not even English majors at this school can write 500 coherent words?
13. Sidenote: Was this the first thing you read when you picked up this issue?
14. Can we get a little credit for continuing to indulge the Questions?
15. Did you notice they disappeared from the Tiger?
16. Did you even care?
17. Proof that boys are smarter than girls?
18. So now you can complain that we can't count either, huh?
19. So Spelmanites can't operate cameras?
20. Write about sports? When was the last time you were in Read Hall?
21. Did you know we only did TWO Greek stories all year, and one was about children's books?
22. None of these questions were about you...do you feel out of the loop again?

Feeling a little
CRAZY?
Want to try something
DARING?

**Are you independent enough to go
AGAINST THE GRAIN?**

Then we invite you to find your home
with the rest of the *Spotlight* staffers.

There are no perks. There is no salary. We can't guarantee our staff members popularity, collegiate success, or a spot on Alpha-Delta-Zeta's next line. But if you're dedicated to the job, we can promise you a place where your journalistic, photographic and layout talents, and faults therein, will be valued, appreciated, and put on display for the entire Spelman community (and a few Morehouse guys who are in touch with their sensitive side...)

Feel up to the challenge? Join us!
Mondays - 4:30 pm - Lower Manley, 104

The STD Corner

Real People, Real Testimonies

As long as I could remember, I have always been an extremely cautious person. I have always been scared of contracting an STD, so I always made it a habit to use condoms whenever I had sex. One night my boyfriend and I decided to try something new. We decided to have sex without any protection. Not long after that night, we broke up, so I decided to meet other people.

Within a month, I met up with another guy. He was very intelligent and charming so I was instantly drawn to him. Before I knew it, I decided to go to his place alone one night. We ended up having sex without using a condom. Nothing happened to me the first time I had sex without a condom, so I thought nothing would happen with this new guy either.

About six months after I had sex with the last guy, I went to get a Pap smear. The doctor told me I had genital warts on my cervix. I was shocked because I had absolutely no idea. I had no symptoms, so I couldn't believe what the doctor told me. With some more tests, the doctor then concluded that I had HPV. She told me everyone has HPV naturally in their bodies. Most people aren't even aware that they have it.

I began to wonder who gave me the HPV, but there was really no way of telling. I could have contracted it from either one of the guys I had unprotected sex with, or I could have gotten it from something as simple as sitting on a toilet, which is rare. HPV is very easy to contract. The doctor told me I could still get it even if I chose to wear a condom.

Of course, I had to tell my mother, who was also very shocked and disappointed with me. The one thing that did come out of all this was that my mother opened up to me and told me that she had also contracted HPV when she was in college. I asked her how she got rid of it and she told me it went away on its own after about a year. My mother even told me that her doctor warned her that HPV can be genetic, so it could be passed on to her children. Therefore, it was a possibility that my mother gave me the HPV.

I continued to go to the doctor for more Pap smears. Each time I went, they detected less presence of HPV. I am happy to say that I no longer have HPV. Apparently the strand of it that I got is able to go away by itself after sometime. Even though I no longer have HPV, I have gone back to my cautious ways. I have vowed to myself not to have unprotected sex until I get married. From now on, it's safe sex or no sex. I still realize that even that can cause me to contract HPV again, so the best thing to do is be abstinent until I find the right person.

HPV stands for human papilloma virus. It is estimated that over 100 million people have HPV. There are more than 100 different types of HPV. Some HPV produces warts on the feet, hands, and genital area. Currently, there are about 30 types of HPV that affect areas such as the vulva, vagina, cervix, anus, rectum, penis and scrotum.

Some types of HPV cause changes in cells, which increases risks for cancer. Some women develop cervical cancer as a result of HPV. Other types of HPV either cause genital warts or have no real harmful effects. HPV is spread through anal, oral and vaginal sex. In rare cases, HPV can also spread non-sexually.

In order to avoid getting HPV, using condoms can help although they are not a sure way to protect against it. The only sure way to protect against HPV is through abstinence. Getting Pap tests regularly can also help the detection of early signs of HPV.

Most HPV infections go away by themselves within six months. Most women develop an immunity against various types of HPV. If it does not go away by itself, a person must continue to get Pap tests regularly in order to make sure that the cells do not get cancerous. Source for HPV facts: www.msnbc.com

Brain enzyme may regulate weight

Alex Dominguez
Associated Press

Scientists say an enzyme in the brain that monitors energy in cells also appears to regulate appetite and weight, a discovery that could lead to new treatments for obesity.

The enzyme is known as AMP-activated protein kinase, or AMPK. Its activity is regulated by the hormone leptin, which previously was linked to appetite suppression.

Harvard researchers found in experiments with mice that when AMPK was inhibited, the animals ate less and lost weight. When AMPK levels were boosted, the mice ate more and gained weight.

Barbara B. Kahn, the lead author of the study, said the work identifies a new leptin signaling pathway and a promising new target in humans.

"It will affect drug development and approaches for new preventions and treatments," Kahn said.

The study appears Wednesday in an online version of the journal *Nature*.

Dr. David Cummings, a University of Washington obesity researcher who was not involved in the work, said the findings complement recent work in Britain in which the hormone ghrelin, an appetite-

stimulating hormone, also was found to affect AMPK levels.

Almost a third of American adults are obese, up from 14 percent a generation ago, according to government data. Only a few prescription weight-control drugs are on the market, and they produce only modest weight loss, either by using suppressing appetite or by preventing the body from digesting and absorbing fats.

Cummings said studies show that hormone replacement therapy won't be a simple cure for the nation's obesity woes. Studies on using leptin to control weight found that obese people had lost sensitivity to the hormone, Cummings said.

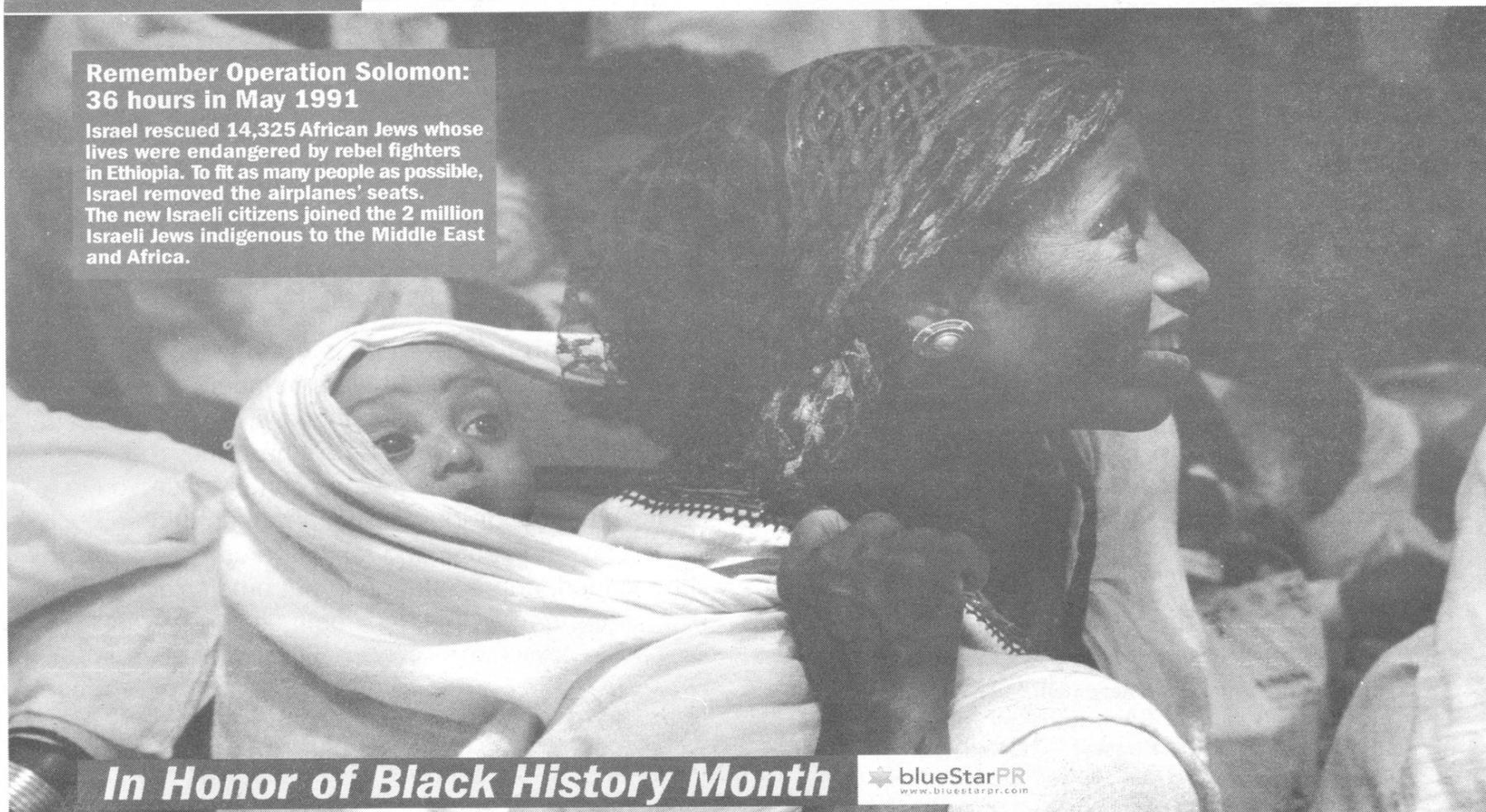
Some researchers believe AMP-kinase might be more effective in weight control than leptin because it works more directly on appetite signaling at the end of the biochemical pathway in the brain. Clinical trials on human patients will take years to complete, researchers said.

Did You Know?

More than 50% of Israeli Jews are Indigenous to the Middle East and Africa

Remember Operation Solomon: 36 hours in May 1991

Israel rescued 14,325 African Jews whose lives were endangered by rebel fighters in Ethiopia. To fit as many people as possible, Israel removed the airplanes' seats. The new Israeli citizens joined the 2 million Israeli Jews indigenous to the Middle East and Africa.



In Honor of Black History Month

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Black smokers more prone to lung disease than whites

Danielle Wright
Health Editor

Recent research at Temple University found that Blacks who smoke contract chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) faster than whites. On average, the black smokers with COPD started smoking later in life than the white smokers, yet developed the disease at a younger age.

COPD diminishes the elasticity of the lungs (causing a hardened lung) until they can no longer deflate which causes the victim to breath deeper for fresh air. The disease is incurable but the only way to levitate suffering is by a lung transplant or lung-reduction surgery.

Dr. Norman H. Edelman, a consultant for the American Lung Association, stated "that cigarettes seem to have a greater deleterious (harmful)

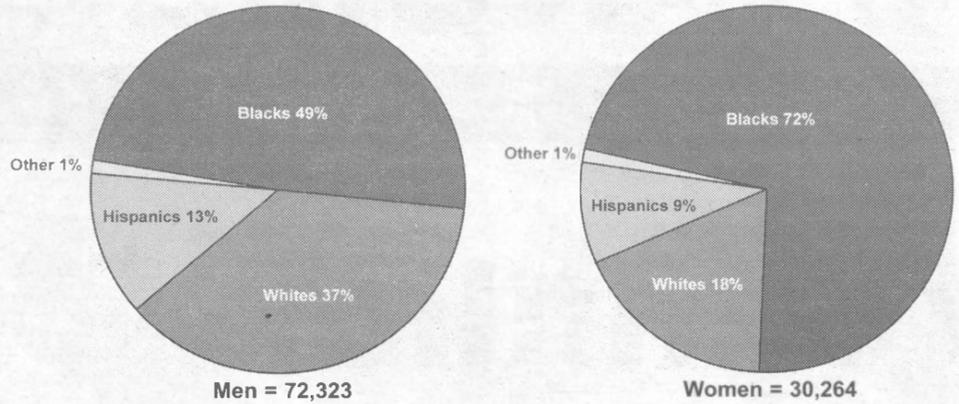
effect on blacks." Researchers are not sure of the racial differences that potentially come into play with the effects of cigarette smoking.

However, they are going to research a larger group of COPD patients to determine the reasons for racial differences.

In the last couple of years, Blacks have taken first place with diseases and illnesses. With another disease added to the list alongside prostate cancer, colon cancer, heart disease and breast cancer Black America really needs to take a step back and reflect on health.

A lot can be prevented, such as COPD, by not smoking. College students in particular should take note that that everything they do has a result sooner or later. To find out more about COPD and Blacks, check out <http://www.temple.edu/pulmonary> or <http://lungusa.org>.

Estimated Number of Diagnoses of HIV/AIDS in the US by Race & Sex, 1999-2002



SOURCE: Center for Disease Control

HIV epidemic grows at NC colleges

The Associated Press

Researchers are alarmed by a recent HIV outbreak among college students in North Carolina in which 53 male students - most of them black - have contracted the virus.

For the first time in two decades of HIV research, the figures identify college campuses as high-transmission areas for HIV, according to University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and state researchers.

"This is the first indication that there may be a resurgence of HIV happening in a vulnerable population, in this case young black men in the South," said Christopher Pilcher, assistant professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill medical school and co-author of the report.

Researchers made the dis-

covery after evaluating the results of new HIV tests that detect the infection within about two weeks after it occurs, rather than about three months as with traditional tests. County health departments and private clinics began to administer the new test in November.

Over three months, the new test found that five people in the local area were HIV-infected - two of whom were black male college students. The report's authors declined to identify the school these students attended.

The authors then looked at confirmed HIV cases in Durham, Orange and Wake counties from January 2001 to February 2003. They discovered that 146 men and 88 women contracted HIV during this period. Among the men, 25 were students at public, private or community colleges, and 88

percent of those were black men who had sex with other men.

Researchers examined data from Guilford, Forsyth, Mecklenburg and Pitt counties, home of other large urban areas and places where some HIV patients reported having sex. Another 28 HIV cases were found among college students during that span of almost two years, and a disproportionate number of the infected students attend some of the state's historically black colleges and universities.

"We're really, really concerned because it's potentially just the tip of the iceberg," said Peter Leone, associate professor at UNC-Chapel Hill and medical director of the HIV prevention branch of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society

RELAY FOR LIFE is a fun-filled overnight activity that mobilizes communities across the country to celebrate survivorship, remember those who lost their lives to cancer, and raise money for the fight against cancer.

RELAY FOR LIFE
begins April 17 at 7 pm
REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

For More Information, or to register a team
Contact a member of the Spelman SGA,
call Kendra Cross at (404) 315-1123
or email kendra.cross@caner.org

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APL
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
Applied Physics Laboratory

by the **NUMBERS**

*a statistical examination of
the world we live in*

76 million

Dollars made in *Passion of the Christ's* opening weekend.

6,453,971,611

Estimated world population at time of this issue's publication.

65

Percent of South Carolina's male prison population that is African American.

1 out of 9

South Africans that are HIV positive.

400,000

President George W. Bush's annual salary in American dollars.

63.7

Percent of a man's salary a woman could expect to make twenty years ago.

13.3

Percent the wage gap has lessened in twenty years.

7,648

African Americans who were victims of homicide in 1999.

6.3

Years that the average African American female will outlive the average African American male.
