

Latest Hip-Hop Albums

Jay-Z, Trey Songz and Kid Cudi's albums are all put to the test
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Spotlight Approved

Metro Diner Cafe in downtown Atlanta offers an All-American menu with a Greek twist and a lively karaoke floor.
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Spelmanite

Makes iDex
Spelman junior makes iPhone application.
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Vol. 46, No. 1

SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT

spelmanspotlight@gmail.com

September 30, 2009

The Voice of African-American Womanhood

College Mourns Loss of Jasmine Lynn

Administrators and students react in wake of fatal shooting

Michelle D. Anderson
Managing Editor

Within 24 hours of the shooting and subsequent death of Jasmine Lynn on Clark Atlanta University's campus on Sept. 3, road blockages, identification checks and residence hall lock downs were in full effect. The incident has since generated increased campus security and new safety protocols - especially at CAU.

Lynn, a 19-year-old sophomore at Spelman College from Kansas City, Mo., was hit in the chest by a stray bullet fired in the midst of an altercation between two groups of young adults near CAU's Heritage Commons apartment complex.

In an official statement addressed to The Spelman Spotlight on Sept. 16, CAU president Carlton E. Brown said he requested a temporary shutdown of James P. Brawley Drive within hours of the incident. The University's public safety department requested the barricades set up by the Atlanta Police Department later that day, Brown said.

The barricades block James P. Brawley Drive between Parsons Street and Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive. Barriers also block Mitchell Street between James P. Brawley Drive and Raymond Street.

Joey Greene, a CAU freshman who lives in Ware Hall, a dorm right across the street from where the shooting occurred, said he first noticed the barricades the day after the accident.

Greene said he was happy to see the road obstructions, but said he wished they were erected earlier.

Greene, an accounting major, first heard the gunshots while studying early in the morning. "Why did it take someone to get killed for barricades to go up?"

Greene said campus safety is not as effective as it should be.

"They're focusing on the

Continued on page 5

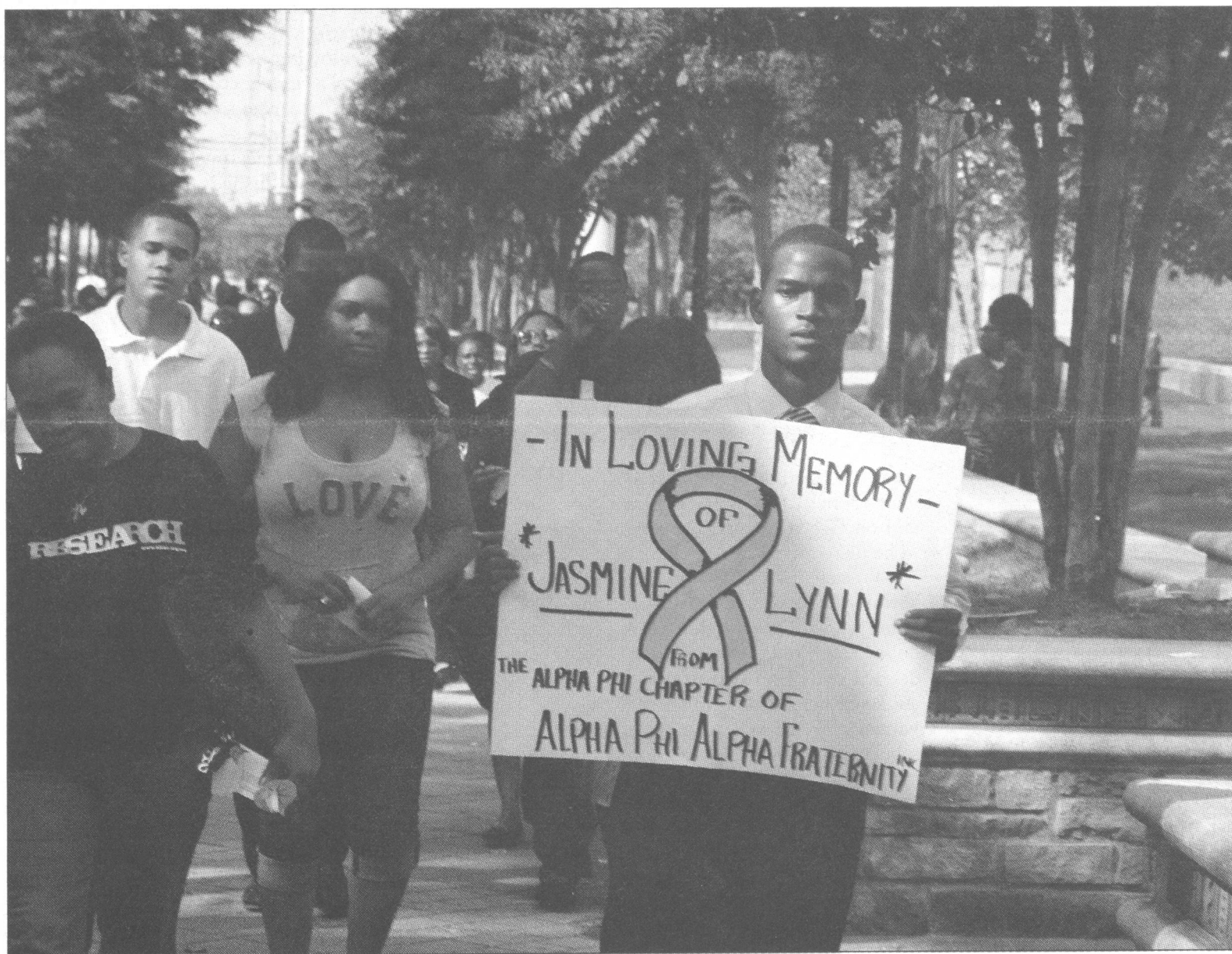


PHOTO BY: FURERY REID, SPELMAN COLLEGE

Students march for Atlanta University Center unity in memory of the late Jasmine Lynn

Spelman alumna runs for Atlanta Mayor

Ashley Brooke Brown
Staff Writer

As a Spelman woman, choosing to change the world is the name of the game. Alumna Tiffany Brown, 30, says she's rapidly taking steps to embody this goal by running for mayor of Atlanta.

Her platform, "Reinvest in Atlanta, Creating a better community for future generations," focuses on seven key areas of improvement for the city: public safety, infrastructure,

Continued on page 6

American Idol inspires Spelman women

Kirstin Cherise Evans
Assistant News Editor

"American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino shared her trials and tribulations and offered inspirational words of wisdom to Spelman College students during a recent visit to the campus. Barrino, current star of the Broadway musical "The Color Purple" engaged students in a candid discussion where she encouraged young women to be comfortable and honest in everything they do.

Barrino spoke in Sisters Chapel on Sept. 17. Characteristic of

Continued on page 2



...because you can't change the world if there's nothing left of it

Fantasia Barrino visits Spelman

Continued from front page

her welcoming personality, Barrino choose to speak from the isles rather than a podium, creating an intimate and comfortable atmosphere for the students.

Barrino's message centered around encouraging Spelman students to reach out to young girls and become positive role models in their communities. "Help this crazy world we live in today," she told students, who packed into the chapel to listen to the R&B/Soul diva.

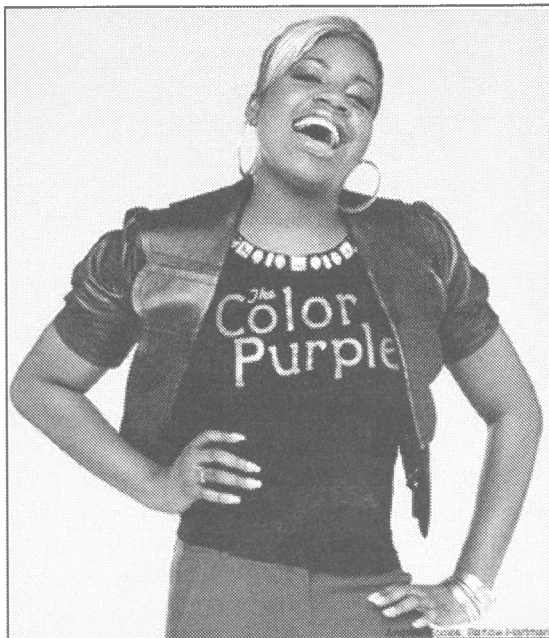
Barrino shared her own trials and tribulations on her road to fame. She spoke about the hardships in her personal life and her struggles throughout the American Idol competition.

"The things that I went through made me who I am today," she said.

Barrino also spoke about her abusive relationship and the challenges of being a teen mother. Ridiculed by naysayers, Fantasia said people looked down on her for being an uneducated mother from the country.

Determined to overcome her turmoil, Barrino made a life-changing decision to try out for "American Idol."

As a contestant on the popular re-



Barrino reprised her role as Celie in the North American touring production of the "The Color Purple" on Sept. 15 at the Fox Theatre. The Atlanta tour ends on Sept. 27.

ality competition show, Barrino received a lot of backlash, but she did not allow the negative criticism about her potential affect her progress on the show. She said she remained confident, keeping God first in her life.

"An idol is someone who is expected to be perfect but no one is perfect but the man upstairs," she said. "I

don't pay attention to the media because, once again, that's someone getting in the way of my destiny."

The star also talked about her evolving career and her transition from singing and performing in live concerts to acting and bringing a character to life on stage.

Prior to joining "The Color Purple" Fantasia said she had never witnessed a Broadway show. However, her role as Celie gave her the opportunity to explore another aspect of the entertainment world, she said.

In the film and play adaptation of Alice Walker's award winning novel, the character Celie is uneducated, abused and struggles with self-esteem issues.

Similar to the embattled character, Barrino faced domestic violence, allowing her to connect with the musical's central character.

"I live her life," Barrino said.

Fantasia walked out of Sister's Chapel singing "Summertime," and afterwards, students rushed to the front to take photos and capture a final glance at the star.

JAGUAR ATHLETICS

Show your jaguar spirit at these upcoming athletic events:

CROSS COUNTRY

10/8/09, 4 p.m., AUC Invitational, Jonesboro, Ga.

10/10/09, 9 a.m., Southern Challenge, Marietta, Ga.

10/17/09, 9 a.m., Oglethorpe Invitational, Atlanta, Ga.

10/31/09, 10 a.m., GSAC Championships, LaGrange, Ga.

SOCCER

9/30/09, Away, 7 p.m., Emory

10/6/09, Home, 4 p.m., LaGrange

VOLLEYBALL

10/1/09, Home, 7 p.m., Toccoa Falls

10/2/09, Home, 6 p.m., Maryville

10/6/09, Home, 6:30 p.m., Piedmont

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER

The AUC Council crowns a new king and queen

Cherise Lesesne
News Editor

The Atlanta University Center Council transformed Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel into wild forest during the 11th annual Mr. and Miss AUC pageant on Sept. 15.

With the theme, "Welcome to the Jungle," the AUC Council presented seven candidates who each assumed the persona of a different animal to complement the pageant's theme.

By the end of the night, Err-

ion "The jaguar" Boyd emerged as Mr. AUC 2009, while Amanda "The snake" Green seized the title of Miss AUC 2009. Boyd's court also includes First Attendant Lionel "The lion" Daniels and on Green's court, Danielle "The phoenix" Myers.

In order to partake in the voting process, the council asked supporters to donate a dollar as an indication of their desired vote. Consequently, the audience helped determine the winners by offering the most monetary support to the top contestant.

During the question and answer portion, participants answered impromptu questions ranging from ways to improve the AUC and the tragedy of Jasmine Lynn's death to the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards.

The judges asked contender Gerron "The cheetah" Gaynor, "In consideration of Kanye West's most recent reaction at

the VMAs, what would you do to prevent this as it pertains to the AUC?"

Some audience members gasped at the question and appeared anxious for Gaynor's response.

"I believe I have respect and pride for all the institutions in the AUC in order to prevent such happenings among the AUC community."

During the talent segment, Myers performed a spoken word verse titled, "A New Year."

Gaynor followed with "In love with Another Woman," his rendition of Jazmine Sullivan's "In love with Another Man."

Green sang "Born to Love Again" with a saxophone and piano accompanist.

Daniels followed up with his personal tribute to Michael Jackson where he finger painted a portrait of the late pop star while simultaneously performing to songs "I'll Be There,"

"Billie Jean" and "Thriller."

Council members recognized Daniel's performance to be record-breaking because he completed his painting in less than three minutes—the maximum time allotted to candidates during the talent showcase.

Sebastian Gaudin performed a dance routine where he combined aspects of modern dance along with jazz and ballet movements.

Green performed spoken word to Alicia Key's "Why the Caged Bird Sings." Boyd ended the talent portion by also performing his spoken word piece titled "N.I.G.G.E.R."

Donning formal attire, contestants shared their activities and platforms in hopes of landing the top title. Many aspirants' platforms promoted AUC unity.

"My initial platform was to initiate Operation PEARLS, presenting education and re-

newing life through service, but now I plan to first assist Amanda Green with her platform in addition to also carrying PEARLS," said Myers, the first attendant to Miss AUC.

Last spring, pageant organizers postponed the event because it struggled to requisition King Chapel as its venue. It was postponed again this fall because of time conflicts with other events, Gaynor said.

"The most enjoyable part of the pageant is getting it done and finally being able to do the show," said Daniels, Mr. AUC's first attendant.

All contestants received certificates of participation. The council, contestants and judges also gave special awards such as "Most Improved," "Mr. and Miss. Congeniality" and "Best Talent."

LOCAL

LOCAL NEWS BRIEF

White Mayoral Candidate Leads Race In Light of 'Black Mayor' Memo Controversy

As Atlanta gears up to select a new mayor, the competition for the mayoral seat has intensified in light of recent poll results and a racially-charged memo that has been circulating since late August. Currently, the election's front runners are Atlanta councilwoman Mary Norwood, City Council President Lisa Borders and state senator Kasim Reed. A Georgia Insider Advantage poll released last week indicated that Norwood had 42 percent of the vote; Borders, 34 percent, and Kasim Reed, nine percent. If Norwood wins the seat, she will become the first white mayor in 35 years. Despite her lead, Norwood's campaign has been met with some controversial opposition. In late August, an e-mail issued by the Black Leadership Forum and written by William Boone and Keith Jennings, both political science professors at Clark Atlanta University, began circulating. The memo urged local Black citizens to support Borders in an effort to avoid a runoff that would put Norwood in the mayoral seat. The e-mail, which has been dismissed by all three top candidates, contends that a Black mayor would fulfill "a black agenda" and cater to the interests of local African-American citizens. Both professors said the media misconstrued the memo's analysis in a recent press conference. Atlanta citizens elected its first Black mayor, Maynard H. Jackson, Jr., in 1973. U.S. Census Bureau figures from 2007 indicate the city is 57 percent Black and 38 percent white.

NATIONAL

The "Liberal Lion of the Senate" dies at 77



CHIP SOMODEVILLA, GETTY IMAGES
Senator Kennedy addressing a crowd.

Kelly Harper
News Editor

Last month, America lost a prominent leader who worked to change the lives of countless Americans for nearly 50 years.

Sen. Edward "Ted" Moore Kennedy lost his battle with brain cancer on Aug. 25, leaving politicians and citizens mourning the life of a man known for striving for equality for all—regardless of race or creed.

"Senator Kennedy was a crusader for the common man, and was truly loved and admired in the office. The aura that

surrounded him when he entered a room is unlike any that I have ever seen before. He truly was a strong believer of an excellent education for all citizens," said Darrell Bennett, Jr., a Morehouse alumnus and a current Harvard Law School student, who interned in Kennedy's office on Capitol Hill in 2005.

In tandem with the legacy of his famous family, Kennedy campaigned for civil rights and equality. First elected to the Senate in 1962, Kennedy went on to be elected nine times and served for 47 years in the U.S. Senate. At the time of Kennedy's passing, he was the third longest-serving member of the Senate. He gave his first major speech on the booming Senate floor at the age of 32, nearly four months after his oldest brother was assassinated.

As a newly elected member of the Senate, Kennedy tried to learn and watch. However, after listening to his Senate colleagues deliberate over the

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Kennedy said he could no longer remain quiet.

"My brother was the first president of the United States to state publicly that segregation was wrong," Kennedy said in 1964. "His heart and soul are in this bill. If his life and death had a meaning, it was that we should not hate but love one another; we should use our powers not to create conditions of oppression that lead to violence, but conditions of freedom that lead to peace. It is in that spirit that I hope the Senate will pass this bill."

Kennedy worked with Coretta Scott King to establish a federal holiday in honor of her late husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her son, Martin Luther King III called Kennedy the country's "greatest statesman in modern times."

Kennedy's life has significant meaning in the Atlanta University Center because his political support allowed many students to attend Morehouse School of Medicine. When former Atlanta mayor Andrew Young requested assistance to create the medical school, which has a mission of educating physicians to work in underserved communities, he consulted Kennedy to see his dreams come to fruition.

Sophomore Mahogany Hanks believes Kennedy's death is a great loss to American politics, especially to the African American community.

"His legacy influenced the progression for African Americans and American culture, and will always be appreciated," Hanks said.

Kennedy also publicly endorsed President Barack Obama, which propelled the presidential candidate into closer contention for securing the Democratic Party's nomination.

"We've lost the irreplaceable center of our family and joyous light in our lives, but the inspiration of his faith, optimism, and perseverance will live on in our hearts forever. We thank everyone who gave him care and support over this last year, and everyone who stood with him for so many years in his tireless march for progress toward justice, fairness and opportunity for all," the Kennedy family said in a statement released on Aug. 26.

Kennedy is survived by his wife Vicki and five children Kara, Edward Jr., Patrick, Curran and Caroline Raclin, and his sister Jean Kennedy Smith.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Rwandan Genocide Trial Reopens in Finland

Francois Bazaramba, a former Rwandan pastor, has gone to trial in Finland after being charged with having a role in the massacre of 5,000 Tutsis in his home country in 1994. Bazaramba, a Hutu, has been accused of planning and carrying out the killing thousands of women and children and will face a life sentence if found guilty. During the Rwandan Genocide, an estimated 1 million people died when the Hutu majority began killing their rivals, the Tutsis, and anyone who supported or helped them. Life sentences in Finland require a minimum 12 years in jail. The 58-year-old, who came to Finland in 2003 seeking asylum, has denied all the charges. Authorities expect the case to last until the end of the year. A court official said Bazaramba's trial will feature no jury and will be heard by four judges. Finland refused to transfer Bazaramba to Rwanda earlier this year, stating that he would not receive a fair trial in his native country.

Sudanese Government Convicts Woman for Wearing Pants

A Sudanese court fined a woman after she wore pants in public on Sept. 7. The court excused the woman from her initial sentence of 40 lashes because she violated the nation's decency laws. Many women's rights activists say the law, Article 152, is vague and unfair. The woman, Lubna Hussein, 34, plans to appeal the fine and continue to fight for the right to wear pants in public. Hussein has been joined by supporters, who, during her trial in the nation's capitol, gathered in front of the courthouse wearing pants in solidarity. Witnesses said riot police officers fired tear gas at the crowd and beat at least one woman with a baton before arresting several others, according to published news reports. "I am Muslim. I understand Muslim law," Hussein said in an interview. "But I ask, what passage in the Koran says women can't wear pants? This is not nice." Sudan is partially governed by Islamic law while other citizens follow the Christian faith. Some women in the country wear veils and loose-fitting garments while others, specifically, in the southern part of the country, do not.

New Scientific Research May Help Combat Neurodegenerative Diseases

A publication released last month highlighted the use of stem cells in combatting neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's. Dr. Yoram Cohen, a chemistry professor at the Tel Aviv University in Israel, has been tracking the use of mesenchymal stem cells in the brain with in-vivo MRIs. Cohen and his team ran a series of experiments on animals with a case of Huntington's disease. These animals experienced the same neuropathology as humans with the same disease, which has caused scientists to believe the results in the animals will be similar for humans. As Cohen's team monitored the experiment they found that the mesenchymal stem cells were making successful attempts to repair damaged parts of the animals' brains. The use of stem cells has been the center of debate because the majority of stem cells originate from embryos. The implication of using human cells means that the cells would not resist other cells because they come from the patient and not an outside donor.

Sources: *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Associated Press, The New York Times, CNN, BBC, Reuters, Al Jazeera*

The Spelman Spotlight

Ms. Ouleye Ndoeye, Adviser

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Rebecca Clayton

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Aierelle McGill

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Jasmine Leal-Taylor

FEATURED WRITERS
Ashley Brooke Brown, Jessica Gibbs,
Monica Melton, Brittany O'Garro,
Sydney E. Robinson, Nicole S. Smith,
Kiki Stenson

350 Spelman Lane SW,
Campus Box #1234,
Atlanta, GA 30314
Albert E. Manley College Center,
Lower Level, Room 104

Office: 404-270-5969
Fax: 404-270-5970

Advertising:
advertise.spelmanspotlight@gmail.com
News tips, corrections and other info:
spelmanspotlight@gmail.com

CORRECTIONS:

Staff writers Sydney E. Robinson and Ashley Brooke Brown were not listed in the August 2009 Orientation Edition masthead. The Spelman Spotlight regrets this error.

A stray bullet hits sophomore Jasmine Lynn in the chest, causing a fatality and a major aftershock in the AUC. The accident occurred by the CAU Commons at approximately 1 a.m. Student witnesses said Lynn and another student were struck in the midst of an altercation between some AUC students and other young adults who were not AUC students. Police began questioning several individuals and detain one "person of interest."

SEPT. 4

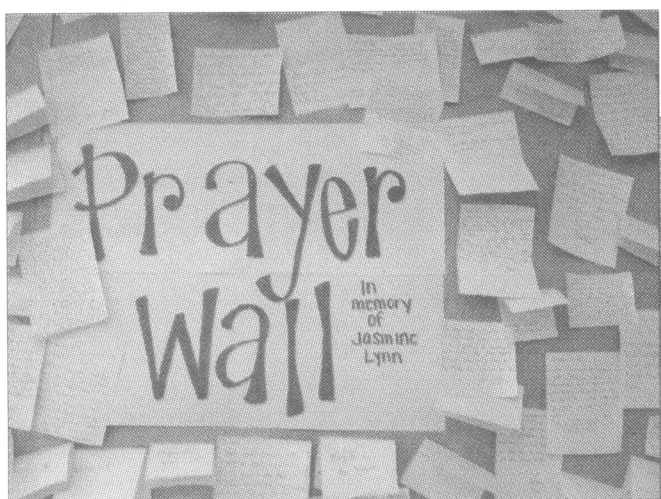
Authorities release the "person of interest." APD police Lt. Keith Meadows said the city police department had been working with school officials to locate security footage, according to an Atlanta Journal-Constitution report. CAU residences halls remained on lock down.

SEPT. 6

Sunday Worship Service at Sisters Chapel
Family and friends continued to remember Lynn for her outgoing and bubbly personality. Lynn's mother said her daughter dreamed of attending Spelman since the seventh grade. During the fall 2008 semester, upon her entrance into Spelman, Lynn began her journey to become the first person in her family to graduate from college.

SEPT. 3

AUC Remembers and Mourns



MICHELLE D. ANDERSON

Above: The Prayer Wall, dedicated to Jasmine Lynn by Miss Spelman and her Court, holds words of encouragement for the friends and family of the late Jasmine Lynn. Students were allowed to submit these words of prayer during Market Friday on September 4th.



FURERY REID, SPELMAN COLLEGE
The Service of Rememberance, where students and staff gathered to offer condolences and extend prayer to the Lynn family.



"When I heard about what happened with Jasmine, it just got me upset. Here we are on a college campus, a place where we all as young black men and women have come to better ourselves and try to escape the violence and ignorance of the streets, and yet it always seems to follow us. I know that Jasmine Lynn was by no means the first student to be gunned down through senseless violence, and sadly she won't be the last. Something needs to be done to better protect our students: better security, a more responsive campus to the needs of the student... maybe Clark Atlanta will finally get that gate that it so badly needs to keep the general public off its campus."

Kevin M. Morris, Senior, Morehouse College

"On Sept 3, 2009, I experienced one of the most tragic events of my young adulthood. On the campus of Clark Atlanta University a young sophomore from Kansas City, Mo., and also a student at Spelman College was shot and killed by a stray bullet. It saddens me that the crime has become so prevalent in Atlanta that it has trickled down to the Atlanta University Center. This tragic event inevitably has strengthened the Atlanta University Center and I realize that the students of all the surrounding institutions are beginning to possess a true spirit of being one's keeper. As we all know that God makes no mistakes, the question, "Why?" always seems to come to light. As we continue to make our campus safer our prayers go out to Ms. Lynn and her family. Clark Atlanta University will do everything in our ability to ensure that a rare incident [like] this will never happen again."

Kevin M. Reeves, Senior
Clark Atlanta University Undergraduate SGA, President

SEPT. 8

Students celebrated and recognized Lynn's life by marching and participating in an anti-gun violence effort under the direction of the "Do You Care?" campaign. The movement originated at Howard University after Mr. Howard 2008-09 brought the issue to college campuses, according to The Hilltop student newspaper. AUC students marched to Georgia State Capitol and to other downtown locations while HU students marched around the LeDroit Park neighborhood in southeast Washington, D.C.

SEPT. 18

Prayer Walk, Vigil & Service of Remembrance at Sisters Chapel
Lynn's mother, father and aunt attended the service, which featured words from Lynn's friends, family, President Beverly Daniel Tatum, Rev. Lisa D. Rhodes, Dr. Sherry L. Turner and CAU president Carlton E. Brown. "We know we cannot control everything that happens in the lives of our students but we need to do everything in our power to restore a sense of security," Tatum said during the ceremony.

Jasmine Lynn

"It's stunning. There's no other word for it. You hear more about the violence at Morehouse or Clark Atlanta, or even around Atlanta, and it's unfortunate that we've almost become apathetic about it, but to hear this happened to a Spelman student is a real wake-up call. After the initial NSO-bred caution wears off, we Spelman girls tend to think we're invincible, whether it's because we came from a rough neighborhood ourselves or because Spelman itself is so fenced in. But this is a harsh reminder that wearing a "Black Ivy League" t-shirt doesn't make you invisible to the bigger problems of the world. May she rest in peace. Hopefully this moves students to action to prevent something like this from ever happening again."

Lauren Harper, Senior, Spelman College

"The news of the violent act against one of my Spelman sisters is still so surreal to me. I keep thinking it didn't happen, [that] I'll wake up tomorrow morning and know nothing about this horrendous tragedy, but reality is that it happened. It's sad to think that a young black woman making efforts to be an educated member of society has passed away while people who commit violent acts such as this one still have the opportunity to live. This tragic event makes me even more grateful for my time here on earth and I cherish the time I have to spend with loved ones, and the relationships that I've built. It's also very scary to think that this monstrosity occurred on a college campus, and furthermore an area that I have walked passed countless times. It's sad that I cannot even feel safe at school, a place that is commonly seen as ticket away from violence; a safe haven. I think that this is a wakeup call to all people to be aware of your surroundings because it can happen to anyone at anytime at any place."

Onyx Olivia, Sophomore, Spelman College

The Aftermath of a Tragedy

Continued from front page

wrong stuff. They are more focused on getting students off the steps of Ware Hall and to stop playing loud music than stopping a fight," Greene said.

Arieon Ford, a CAU freshman who lives in the CAU Suites, agreed with Greene saying that she thought public safety was "too lax."

"After the incident, I didn't want to go out," Ford said.

Brown said the school would like to gain control of James P. Brawley Drive to Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive, particularly around the CAU Suites and Beckwith Hall.

"Those street closings will be in effect until we achieve street abandonment and until we have a larger plan for how we will manage this area," Brown said.

In order to gain control of the public streets near the CAU Commons, the University must initiate a legal process in which it would request and obtain a notice of street abandonment for its use, Brown said. "Obtaining street abandonment will not reasonably occur within the next few months."

Local news reports confirm that the summer season has ended with a wave of crime in the metro Atlanta area.

Earlier this month, an elderly woman was shot and killed in a West End laundromat in the early hours of the morning. Two weeks earlier, a man living in a private home used for student housing was fatally shot, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. The man's roommate sustained a gun wound. In July, CAU police officers shot an armed man near the campus entrance.

Atlanta Police Department data indicates that there were about 25 reported crimes, including assault and theft, near the Atlanta University Center and the surrounding community between July 1 and Aug. 18.

Morehouse College Campus Police Department Deputy Chief Willie Bourda said the city has increased patrol in the area around the Robert W. Woodruff Library, the Morehouse Suites and the CAU Common, a high crime area.

Just recently, on Sept. 12, several APD officers conducted, "vehicle spot checks," where officers temporarily block roads to make sure "everything's in order," Bourda said. During these spot checks, officers check driver's li-

censes and may request other documents.

Bourda said APD is conducting these checks in response to the historically high crime rates in the area-not just in response to Jasmine Lynn's death.

In a recent e-mail addressed to the entire campus community, President Beverly Daniel Tatum said even before the fatal shooting, she, along with the presidents of CAU, Morehouse and Morehouse School of Medicine, had met to discuss collective efforts to reduce crime.

"Today those efforts have a new urgency, and the four schools of the AUC are joining in an unprecedented manner to address safety concerns even more vigorously," Tatum said in the e-mail.

"The increased patrols and heightening visibility of a police presence is intended to send a message of aggressive enforcement and zero tolerance for criminal behavior in our neighborhood," she said.

On Sept. 10, Steve Bowser, director of public safety at Spelman, sent an e-mail to the Spelman community announcing that the college's police department, in collaboration with other AUC police departments and

the Atlanta Police Department, would increase patrol activity to curb crime in the area. Recent data released from APD indicates high numbers of theft of and from cars parked near campus side streets, Bowser said.

Bowser urged students to comply with campus parking regulations because it would allow enforcement officials to "shift a greater percentage of [its] patrol allocation from on campus parking enforcement to patrols of the streets adjacent to campus."

Each of the AUC police departments has always patrolled areas where there are overlaps of jurisdiction, Bowser said.

However, campus police have recently intensified this practice. The overlapping patrols include Spelman and Morehouse monitoring areas south of Fair Street and CAU and Morehouse monitoring areas north of Fair Street, Bowser later shared with The Spelman Spotlight in an e-mail sent on Sept. 15.

Spelman and CAU will jointly patrol Lawshe and Roach streets between Greensferry and Fair, he said.

Spelman alumna runs for Atlanta mayor

Continued from front page

transportation, environment, urban planning, revenue generation, and accountability.

Brown says her campaign is based on leadership, which she believes requires more than rhetoric, but a strategy that supports it.

"Real leadership begins with listening," the Atlanta native says. "There is no specific timeline on being a leader. God appoints you an opportunity [at any] time and you have to run with it. Everyone's timing is different."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2001, Brown earned a master's degree in public administration from Clark Atlanta University and a doctorate in public policy and administration from Walden University.

Brown previously worked for the United States Government Accountability Office, Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Georgia Law Center for the Homeless, the Supreme Court of Georgia, Equifax and the Atlanta Bar Association, according to her official Web site.

Currently, Brown serves as the owner of Your Luminosity, a non-profit social networking Web site and Brown Vending, a snack vending service.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. TIFFANY BROWN
Spelman alumna Dr. Tiffany Brown, candidate for Mayor

An aspiring politician since childhood, Brown says, "Ever since I was class president in the second grade I was interested in politics."

Brown first ran for an Atlanta mayoral seat four years ago at the age of 26. She dropped out of the race early to assist her family in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Brown says she's a fervent representative for social justice and political change. She participates in various community service projects including the IRS Volunteer Program and the Hutchinson Elementary After School Program.

In response to Atlanta students'

safety concerns, Brown wants to implement a campus watch program where campus safety has a direct link to the Atlanta Police Department.

"There will also be text message alerts so if something happens in or around school the student will be warned through text," Brown says. Spelman recently launched a similar emergency communications system called Spelman ALERT. The system allows students, faculty and staff to receive urgent time-sensitive warnings in the form of e-mail, voice and text messages.

Reflecting on her days at Spelman and Clark Atlanta, Brown says the envi-

ronment and faculty helped nurture her success. She recalls when Dean Desiree Pedescleaux served as the head of the political science department and how the rigor of courses helped prepare her for the challenges she faces today.

Brown believes Spelman does a good job preparing women to develop strategies for career and academic development, but feels the college can also work on helping students cultivate personal and political relationships.

"The AUC [should] strongly encourage AUC unity. There is Olive Branch but there should be a deeper bond between the AUC students outside of that," she says.

Brown often cites her college friends as some of her closest companions. She knows what it is like to be a young woman, figuring it all out. Her advice for young women: "Follow your own voice. People may not always understand it but you have to carve your own path. Older adults may try to make you think because it's not the path they took that it is wrong, but you have to make your own way."

According to Penny Haygood, Brown's publicist, Brown will participate in the race as a write-in candidate.

Students receive new e-mail accounts

Kiki Stenson
Staff Writer

Upperclassmen received a message in their e-mail accounts in August informing them that their new Gmail accounts were available and ready for use.

"Spelman is moving towards progress. They're following technological trends," said Damien Sears, a Help Desk support technician in the Media Information and Technology division (MIT) at Spelman.

Students said they were satisfied with Spelman's technological advances when asked if they preferred the new Gmail accounts to the older system powered by Lotus Notes, a software program developed by IBM.

"I really like the Gmail accounts. Before, I wasn't able to attach documents because I have a Mac," said sophomore Janaye Walker.

Marquita Hardy, a junior, said she likes how she can now access her e-mail from her cell phone.

"I would feel overwhelmed every time I opened my [Lotus Notes] e-mail. Now, I know I'll never miss anything since the e-mails come to my phone," Hardy said.

The accounts give students the option to attach larger documents and send e-mails en masse. In comparison to the older system, in which e-mails sent to the entire student body had to be initiated through a staff or faculty member.

MIT officials say the new Gmail accounts offer more reliability than the Lotus Notes accounts. The new accounts are stored on Google Inc.'s Internet server and not on the college's server, which allows students to access their e-mail accounts even when Spelman's network is down.

Sears said MIT has received several inquiries from sophomores, juniors and seniors who are used the old system. Many have asked why they no longer receive e-mails in their Lotus Notes account.

"The Lotus Notes accounts are no longer active and students should set up their new accounts," Sears said. He added that MIT has scheduled to take the old system off line in mid-December.

Unlike students, professors, administrators and staff members did not receive new Gmail accounts because faculty and other employees require the use of Lotus Notes to complete tasks related to the phone system and Banner Web, an online portal that offers registration and personal account management for students, faculty and staff.

Spelmanite develops top iPhone application

Monica Melton
Staff Writer

Jonecia Keels, a junior and dual-degree engineering major, has received a lot of recognition lately for the success of her iPhone application, inspired by the Pokemon game franchise. The program, iDex, reached the Apple App Store Top 25 list this year, beating over 2,000 other reference applications that are downloaded from the Web site.

Keels, who also serves as co-captain of Spelman's award-winning robotics team SpelBots, recently sat down with Spotlight staff writer Monica Melton to talk about her success as a rising technology star.

Spelman Spotlight: What sparked your interest in technology?

Jonecia Keels: I was always fascinated with technology. I remember when I got my first computer in the fifth grade and my mom bought me educational software, which I thought was the coolest. My interest grew from there.

SS: What kind of child were you?

JK: I never thought I was smart enough. I always saw white males in technological fields. I never thought it was something that I'd end up doing although I liked it...in high school I was a cheerleader and I didn't really see myself doing anything with technology.

SS: You mentioned earlier that you saw technology as a field typically reserved for white men. Do you think that we will begin to see an increase of people of color in technological fields?

JK: I think it will be a while. Programmers need to go into inner-city schools and mentor to kids so they can broaden possible career fields. Let these kids know there is more out there for them besides being an athlete.

SS: Do you think that in the near future technology we will be at the center of the way we learn?

JK: I think that in ten years it will be standard for everyday people to be programming their own applications.

SS: What went into creating your application?

JK: Well, it's kind of a long process. In program-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JONECIA KEELS
Spelman Junior Jonecia Keels, who created the iPhone application iDex.

ming you make everything yourself. There is no template. So my application itself is kind of like a phone book. Lets say you want to look up Pikachu for example. You select the character and all their information-you can imagine how tedious it was to input everything for all four hundred ninety-three characters.

SS: How does one go about creating an application for Apple? You don't just call them on the phone do you?

JK: No. Usually you pay \$99 a year to have your application with Apple. However, I was selected for a special program. Only 25 people nation-wide were accepted. It is called "Cocoa Camp." It was a crash course on Apple applications. So they let me publish my app for free...I was one of two women in the program and the only Black.

SS: Does that fact shape things you might create in the future?

JK: Not necessarily. My app users will know that I am Black. There is a picture of me when you access it. I want people to know that we [Black women] are out there as well working in this field.

SS: Is the application available for purchase?

JK: I did this application for free because this is my first program. I want to get my name out there. I plan to release another one.

SS: When do you plan to release your next application?

JK: November or December of this year. Getting it approved by Apple takes a while.

SS: Is there a message you want to leave with people?

JK: Yes, Neece [Jonecia] is no super genius. Anyone can create an app, no one should feel intimidated with anything they do-not just science.

Are we safe beyond the gates?

Shannon Palmore
'The Forum' Editor

Despite its prestige and sturdy gates, Spelman College is not immune to the violence and crime surrounding its campus. The death of our Spelman sister Jasmine Lynn is more than needed proof of this reality.

During New Student Orientation we're handed shiny silver whistles engraved with the initials "SC." No, this whistle is not meant to signal campus security to come handle that annoying Morehouse guy and no, it's not the accompanying instrument to rapper Too Short's "Blow the Whistle."

This whistle, as explained before being placed in our hands, is for our protection. It doesn't literally protect us, but it is meant to alert those who can protect us if we're in danger. Thankfully, I have never needed to use my whistle, but to me, it serves as a constant reminder that the West End is not safe beyond our gates.

The tailored beauty of our campus— with its manicured lawns and clean sidewalks—are mesmerizing enough to make one forget about the world that exists beyond the entrance. Our loved ones leave us here confident that within these gates we will be all right.

But our college experience extends beyond those bars. We are a part of a larger community: the Atlanta University Center.

We have cemented relationships with students from Morehouse College and

Clark Atlanta University; we attend classes at those institutions and share a library together. Walks to Publix and local eateries run straight through Clark Atlanta's campus, which unlike the campuses of Spelman and Morehouse, remains exposed to the public.

Proper security of the area is difficult. James P. Brawley Drive, part of which is known as "The Strip," is a major street that travels Clark Atlanta's campus. It's a popular hangout spot for students and its walkway leads directly to Robert W. Woodruff Library. Promenading through this area late at night will likely be more dangerous than walking through Spelman's campus. That's a fact. And it's a problem.

Part of the college experience includes the freedom of hanging out with friends at any time, group trips to get food and spending long nights studying in the library. Involvement in these activities should not be at the risk of being robbed, assaulted or possibly killed.

I was not surprised when I received news about the shooting on Clark Atlanta's campus. However, learning about the death of our Spelman sister was a shock and continues to devastate me.

President Tatum informed students during the memorial service in Sisters Chapel that this incident could have happened anywhere. She's right, it could— but it shouldn't.

Spelman's LGBT community remains unheard

Shannon Palmore
'The Forum' Editor

They are lesbian. They are bisexual. Some identify with neither, but these women are attracted to women, or have fallen in love with another woman.

They are Spelman women.

And despite campus organizations such as Afrekete and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, which accept and support these women, this population remains relatively obscure and their voices go unheard.

That such a community is silenced on Spelman's campus baffles me. Administrators and professors encourage students to be confident, cultured and scholarly, and to embrace the diversities of their sisters. Yet, there's a noted silence and disregard for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community at Spelman.

Spelman works arduously to create an image of the Spelman woman who invalidates the negative and sexual stereotypes of Black women portrayed in the media. As a result, people often identify her by her endearing characteristics rather than her sexuality.

Pauline E. Drake Scholar, Lauren Brown Jarvis, says a Spelman woman is an educated, articulate and strong leader.

"Sexuality should not even come into play when defining the Spelman woman," Jarvis says.

Disassociating Spelman women from sexuality does not, however, extinguish her sexuality.

Because heterosexuality is considered the norm in our society, an individual's sexuality is always implied to be just that— unless a person gives the impression that he or she is something different.

Senior and FMLA member Sade Adeeyo says people often make the mistake of linking a woman's sexuality with appearance.

"Because there are no 'conspicuously gay' women on campus, that doesn't mean

there aren't any. What do 'conspicuously heterosexual' women look like?" Adeeyo says.

The Spelman community's silence towards the sexuality and identity of its LGBT community denies this population's existence to a certain extent.

Afrekete president and senior Jeshawna Wholley, says that at one time she felt alienated and excluded on campus.

"I feared social backlash if my true identity was revealed," says Wholley, who does not identify herself as a lesbian because of the label's limitation.

Spelman's silence and weak acknowledgement of its LGBT students suggests that it's not in full support of the community, and further, that there's some intolerance among the greater Spelman community.

Ginger Walker, a senior and member of Afrekete and FMLA, says Spelman does not adequately represent its lesbian and bisexual students.

Walker represents one of the Spelman students who challenged the college's decision to use New Birth Missionary Baptist Church as a venue for spring Commencement. The church's pastor Bishop Eddie Long has made remarks against the LGBT lifestyle. During one sermon he said homosexuality and lesbianism were "spiritual abortions."

"It is unacceptable [that as] a senior lesbian female that I would even have to consider stepping foot into a sanctuary, where I am celebrating one of the greatest achievements in my life, and have to feel anything but acceptance," Walker says. "I would not take that walk to graduate."

Despite their beliefs that Spelman does not recognize its LGBT community, FMLA and Afrekete members, which also includes heterosexual students, say they represent the ideal Spelman woman.

"I think that as [Spelman] women, who enter to learn and exit to serve, it is our duty to be aware of and contribute to all social realities [and] injustices," Adeeyo says. "The ideal image of the Spelman woman is relative and evolutionary."

OPINION & EDITORIAL POLICY:

The Spelman Spotlight welcomes letters to the editor and opinion articles for "The Forum." Letters should be no more than 300 words and opinion articles, no more than 400 words. All submissions should include contact information. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for typos, grammatical errors and clarity. Unsigned staff editorials reflect the views of the editorial board. Opinion articles do not reflect the views of The Spelman Spotlight, its advisers or the Spelman College administration.

Spotlight Approved: Metro Cafe Diner

By: Briana Haymon

Your source for fun and exciting happenings in the Atlanta area. From cultural events and smooth lounges to fabulous restaurants and quirky spots - we've got you covered!

No one can knock a good night on the town. A trip down Peachtree Street can offer just that and more thanks to Metro Café Diner, an establishment tucked away on a side street near popular places like Hard Rock Café and The Westin Peachtree Plaza hotel. The diner attracts a diverse group of patrons who come to have a great time in the center of downtown nightlife.

If you don't see the sign for the restaurant immediately, you will hear music from the eatery's live karaoke area streaming from surround sound speakers placed outside of the diner. With its neon colors and retro styled décor, Metro Café Diner gives the impression of a 1970s restaurant or club. The 24-hour establishment offers an All-American menu with a Greek-inspired twist.

The breakfast options boast regular ticket meals. For \$6, patrons can enjoy a stack of light and fluffy buttermilk pancakes; for \$8.50, the Traditional Egg Benedict, an English muffin topped with poached eggs, Canadian bacon and hollandaise sauce.

The diner offers a great lunch and dinner selection providing hamburger specials, exotic wraps, sophisticated pasta dishes and traditional Greek fare such as the Combination Greek Gyro Platter. The platter



PHOTO BY: MICHELLE D. ANDERSON
Located in Downtown Atlanta, the Metro Café Diner is known for its mixture of Greek and All-American classics. It also has a superb karaoke stage with an extensive song library.

comes with a pita bread stuffed with chicken and beef or gyro meat or spanakopita and dolmades served with crispy french fries for about \$14.

The first level is strictly reserved for the bar so students under the age of 21 will have to move swiftly to the second floor which boasts a comfortable dining

area.

While the second floor is away from the bar, its lively scene offers much entertainment.

What's great about Metro Café Diner is that the food is always fresh, tasty and sets guests up for the next phase of their visit: the karaoke floor.

The restaurant boasts an extensive music collection with songs by Whitney Houston, Ne-Yo and even the Spice Girls and classics such as Motown's "Dancing in the Streets" by Martha and the Vandellas, and 1990s country hits like "Kiss" by Faith Hill. If you're not exactly pumped about getting down on the microphone, feel free to get down on the dance floor when the DJ regularly busts out with the "Electric Slide" and the "Cupid Shuffle."

Address:
229 Peachtree St. (Suite B-17)
Atlanta, Georgia
Phone:
404-577-1420
Marta:
Peachtree Center Station.
Online:
www.metrocafediner.com

Spelman goes 'Undercover'



Nicole S. Smith
Staff Writer

Many students have never stepped foot in the Spelman Museum of Fine Art, but the new exhibition, "Undercover: Performing and Transforming

Black Female Identities," has many people talking about the museum's latest showing.

The exhibit, which debuted on Sept. 10, looks at the way Black women disguise themselves and the way others attempt to disguise themselves as Black women.

"It deals with sensuality and not being negative," said Anne Collins Smith, museum curator of collections.

The concept behind this exhibition centers on the idea that Black women have different motives for altering their outward appearance. It considers their reasons for camouflaging and its influence on race and gender. The artwork presented in the exhibition makes no attempt to be delicate or repress central themes.

Encompassing over 50 works dating back to 1926, the exhibition features 33 artists, including Gordon Parks, Renee Cox, James Van Der Zee, Emma Amos, Lyle Ashton Harris, Coreen Simpson and Cindy Sherman.

Students who have already seen a preview of "Undercover" say the photographs, paintings, sculptures and multimedia are contentious and thought-provoking.

"We went to the museum to decide upon the layout. We ended up debating what the work was about and what the artist was thinking about. It's in your face and controversial," said Everett Dixon, a Morehouse student who works in the Spelman Art Department.

Upon entering the exhibition, the artwork may conjure up concepts from the

course, African Diaspora and the World. One particular photograph by Renee Cox features the contemporary artist's photographic interpretation of Saartjie Baartman, commonly known as "The Hottentot Venus."

"I believe it will create a lot of buzz. Those who see the exhibit will tell others," Dixon said. "I'm definitely trying to get my family to see the exhibit."

The Spelman College Museum of Fine Art is located in the rear of the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby Academic Center.

The exhibition will be open from Sept. 10 until Dec. 5, 2009. The museum is free for Atlanta University Center students and \$3 for general admission. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Album Reviews

Blueprint 3 - Jay-Z

In his final installment of the Blueprint sequence, Brooklyn-bred rapper Jay-Z proves once again why New York ("Empire State of Mind") is everyone's favorite city and why he's everyone's favorite rapper ("A Star is Born"). On BP3, he holds no bars when boasting about his success and maturity as an artist. His punch lines hit hard as he never forgets to represent his hometown. Yet, it's the smooth sounds of a full band heard on BP3 that make it the perfect soundtrack for an intimate Saturday night. But perhaps the most commendable trait about this legend is the humility he exhibits over various tracks. He shows no qualms about sharing the spotlight with fellow Roc-Nation artist Kanye West, producers Pharrell and Swizz Beatz, and newcomers Kid Cudi, Drake and J.Cole. Indeed, BP3 solidifies Jay-Z's role as the Tony Soprano of rap and unequivocally asserts that he's "jigga, jigga, that n***a jigga."

-Brittany O'Garro

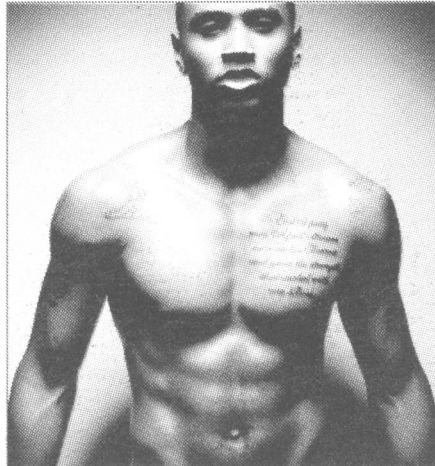


Ready - Trey Songz

Trey Songz's highly anticipated album "Ready" represents a new and fresh generation of R&B. Favorites like Usher and R. Kelly will have to make room. Popular for his previous singles "Replacement Girl" and "Can't Help But Wait,"

Trey Songz does not disappoint his fans. His latest effort, which debuted last month, features a diverse range of tracks, consisting of a few upbeat songs and several lover-approved slow jams. Released singles comprise of "Need a Girl," "Invented Sex" featuring Drake and "LOL" featuring Soulja Boy Tell 'Em and Gucci Mane. Other album highlights include "Neighbors Know My Name," "Say Ah" and "One Love." This album has an old time quality to it and the varied track selection allows listeners to play every song continuously without having to skip over sub-par songs.

-Jessica Gibbs



Man on the Moon - Kid Cudi

Music fans looked forward to Kid Cudi's "Man on the Moon" because of its New Age music sound. On this album, Cudi exemplifies the transformation of hip-hop/rap. His production deviates from the sound of earlier emcees like Notorious B.I.G and Tupac, but also contemporary rappers such as Jay-Z and Kanye West. Cudi's previous single "Day 'N Nite" was a huge hit nationally for its dope beat and fresh originality. Other already-released singles on the album include "Make Her Say" which samples "Poker Face" by Lady Gaga, and features Kanye West and Common. "Up Up & Away," "Sky Might Fall" and "Pursuit of Happiness" will most likely become fan favorites. However, because of Cudi's alternative and futuristic sound it might be hard for listeners to completely immerse themselves in his latest effort.

-Jessica Gibbs

