

## Spelman Sisterhood

The Spotlight takes a closer look at Spelman sisterhood.  
page 4

## The DMV's Owns Wale

Wale's importance to his hometown fans.  
page 7

## Black Monsters

Do blacks have any chance of succeeding in entertainment without being misrepresented?  
page 8

# SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT

Vol. 46, No. 2

Friday, February 12, 2010

The Voice of African-American Womanhood

## Students Respond to Fatal Haitian Earthquake

By Rebecca Clayton  
Editor-in-Chief

Gripping accounts of survival have emerged from Haiti as the poverty-stricken nation endures the aftermath of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake. The massive earthquake that ravaged the small Caribbean country on Jan. 12 uncovered the tales of resilient survivors that stirred a sense of urgency in the heart of the Atlanta University Center. As a result, the community quickly responded to the Haiti relief efforts.

Students played a prominent role in spearheading

various events on campus. Many of their initiatives were successfully executed only a few days after the earthquake. With the support of the larger student body, faculty, and staff, AUC students were able to raise awareness and support for Haiti. The Spelman Spotlight highlighted three individuals and groups who brought together their talents and abilities in a special feature, "How I've Helped Haiti."

### Crushed Pearls

Crushed Pearls, a fashion company founded by Morehouse student Malcom Mitchell, specializes in

hoodies, t-shirts, and hats. The company added a limited edition "I Helped Haiti" t-shirt to the 2010 spring collection on Jan. 20. The t-shirt design was inspired by Sean Comb's "Vote or Die" campaign t-shirts.

Crushed Pearls hopes to encourage activism and promote awareness through fashion. The shirts cost \$25 and 100 percent of the proceeds will be donated to Yele Haiti. To place an order, please contact Suliman Chillis at s.chillis@crushedpearls.com.

*Continued on page 2*



PHOTO COURTESY OF BONNER OFFICE  
A young girl paints a star as part of the arts and crafts activities during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Plunge.

## Bonner Office Hosts "You Are What You Do"

By Alexis Carter  
and Toni Cannady  
Staff Writers

In commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy for service, the Bonner Office of Community Service led a celebratory three days of service at Spelman College from Jan. 17 to Jan. 19. Spelman students and community members welcomed the challenge to be more like King, even if it was just for a few days.

"This year's theme 'You Are What You Do,' challenged individuals to change themselves and their communities through acts of service," commented Stacie Bruce, community service coordinator for the Bonner Office.

The week's events began in Sisters Chapel on Sunday. Dr. Al-

ton B. Pollard, III, dean and professor of religion and culture at Howard University School of Divinity gave the sermon. Pollard, known for his essay in such notable publications as The US News and World Report, reminded the congregation of King's compassion for civil rights and equal opportunity for all. He spoke candidly of the importance of community service to sustain interconnected communities. "Interconnected communities will build a better world for all of our people," he said. Pollard charged the attendees to emulate Martin Luther King Jr.'s compassion for humanity.

"MLK Service Plunge" held on Monday morning and afternoon, engaged volunteers from the Spelman community and Atlanta area in an array of service activi-

ties in the areas of health and wellness, environmental stability and education.

The event, which took place in Upper Manley Concourse, attracted over 600 volunteers. The youngest volunteers, from local area elementary schools, tried their best to stay within the lines as they painted artwork for poor Costa Rican hospitals. Volunteers also made "no-sew" blankets for the homeless and Valentine's Day gift baskets for homebound seniors. Many of the young girls who attended also received tours of Spelman's campus. Additionally, Spelman provided free tours of the historical West End for visitors.

"My husband and I feel like it is important to begin to expose our children at a young age to the

## Little Rock Nine Member Debuts Book

By Kelly Harper  
News Editor

A living legend visited Spelman College last semester to have an open dialogue and book-signing with students and members of the community. Carlotta Walls LaNier recently finished her memoir, "A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School," co-authored with Lisa Frazier Page, which chronicles her

experience as the youngest member of the "Little Rock Nine." The book details LaNier's perspective on some of the most pivotal historical and private moments of her life while at Central, and the faith and courage she required to survive it all.

Carlotta Walls LaNier began her journey into history as a freshman in high school. She was a part of nine students chosen to integrate Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957. When she began high school at Central, she had no idea that her simple desire for a quality education would have such a significant effect on American history and education.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009 the Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Eta Kappa Chapter welcomed

*Continued on page 2*

## India Arie Visits Spelman College

By Kirstin Evans  
News Editor  
and Alexis Carter  
Staff Writer

Musician, India Arie, shared words of inspiration and the importance of her music with the Spelman community during convocation on Jan. 21 in Sisters Chapel. After a powerful introduction, Arie took the stage and began to share her journey from feeling insecure to completely accepting herself through the help of God, poetry and music.

Arie spoke about learning to understand herself and coping with her experiences from a past that brought her sadness and lack of self confidence. Music became her outlet and she believed it was indeed her destiny in life. Arie soon realized that it was not her job to define her destiny. Instead, she allowed God to guide her path and define her destiny through his eyes. So far, God has kept music a prominent part of India Arie's path and she uses her talents to uplift her-

self and others. "It was always my intention and my prayer to make music that would actually be a positive contribution to the world," Arie said.

According to Arie, song writing allows us to evolve and see ourselves as beautiful. Arie's hits such as, "I Am Not My Hair" and "Brown Skin," both written by Arie, contain powerful words that are inspirational for African American females. These singles address the dogmatic views of who

*Continued on page 2*

# Students Organize Haitian Relief Efforts



A US Navy helicopter lands in front of the damaged presidential palace in Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince.

*Continued from front page*

## His and Her Friday Night Chats, Courtney King & Ethan Brisby

Spelman student Courtney King and her co-host Ethan Brisby, a Morehouse student, dedicated their Jan. 15 radio show, "His and Her Friday Night Chats," to Haiti coverage. The show, which was broadcasted in front of a live student audience from Kilgore Student Center on Morehouse's campus, featured appearances from Jacques Pape, a Haitian Morehouse student and Roosevelt Ducleus, a Haitian Morehouse alumni. During the show King and Brisby led an informative

discussion about Haiti's history and current events. Audience members also enjoyed the sounds of Haitian music. Throughout the evening, many listeners called in to share their sentiments on air. In addition, the show also encouraged listeners to bring donations, such as food, clothes and toiletries. "His and Her Friday Night Chats" is streamed through [www.blogtalkradio.com](http://www.blogtalkradio.com) every Friday from 9 to 10 pm.

### Nakaiya Turk

Nakaiya Turk, a mathematics major at Spelman, was deeply saddened by the tragic events that occurred in Haiti. Though Turk is a member of various organizations on campus, she was inspired to act quickly and

## WAYS TO HELP HAITI

**Action Against Hunger**

[actionagainsthunger.org](http://actionagainsthunger.org)

**American Red Cross**

[redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

**Doctors Without Borders**

[doctorswithoutborders.org](http://doctorswithoutborders.org)

**UNICEF**

[unicef.org](http://unicef.org)

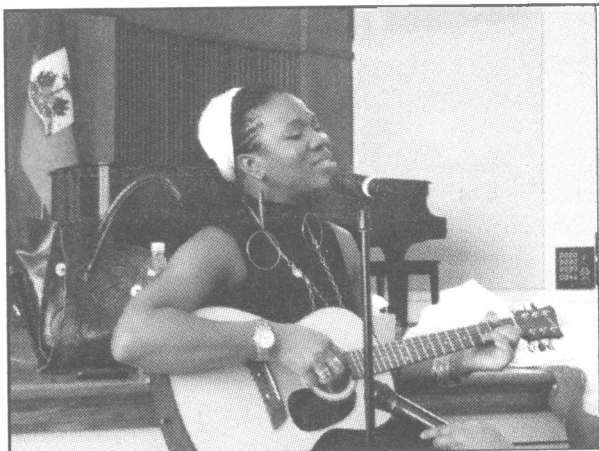
**Yele Haiti**

[yele.org](http://yele.org)

For more organizations, please visit <http://www.google.com/relief/haitiearthquake>

decided to respond independently. After soliciting the support of some of her fellow Spelman sisters and receiving approval from Dr. Lumpkin, Turk began to implement her fund raising initiatives. Turk set up a table in Upper Manley and used handmade signs to advertise her relief efforts. Over a four-day period and spending a total of 15 hours in Upper Manley, Turk raised over \$1000. "I was amazed by the amount of money I raised, considering many of us are struggling to pay tuition and rent," Turk said. The donation will be sent to Yele Haiti. If you would like more information on how to get involved with Turk's efforts, please contact her at [nturk@scmail.spelman.edu](mailto:nturk@scmail.spelman.edu).

# India Arie Uplifts Students



India Arie shares her inspirational life story with Spelman students for Convocation in Sisters Chapel.

*Continued from front page*

we are and how we falsely define ourselves based on skin color and hair styles. Arie wishes to eliminate these views through her music and instill self-confidence and self-acceptance in others.

India Arie advised Spelman students to reject the thoughts of others and embrace individuality. She said, "what others think about you is none of your

business." She charged, strong black women to move to the forefront and make a difference in their communities. When asked about her thoughts of black women's role in building stronger communities, Arie responded by saying, "As humanity begins to move more consciously in the spiritual realms, women will lead the way and hold that space."

Females who wish to make a difference in their com-

munities need not talk about it, but be about, said Arie. Arie concluded her discussion by empowering women to make a choice to redirect the pain in their lives elsewhere in a positive light. With a humble spirit India Arie will continue to spread love, healing, peace and joy through music.

# Spelman & Bennett Colleges Host Women of Color Conference

By Alexandria Smith  
Staff Writer

Women and men of all ethnicities and backgrounds attended the highly anticipated Women of Color Conference this past semester. Spelman and Bennett Colleges hosted the two-day event in conjunction with Spelman's Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and the Feminist Majority Foundation. The Third Annual Women of Color of Conference was held on Oct. 8-9, 2009. One of the main initiatives of the conference is to advocate and increase the political activism towards the equality movement for all women of color.

The Women of Color Conference welcomed over 200 attendees from area colleges and universities, such as Agnes Scott, Clark Atlanta University, University of Georgia, as well as the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. With special appearances and per-

formances from the renowned poet Alice Lovelace, Bennett alumna Maleeka Freydburg, and noteworthy Spelman faculty, including Dr. M. Bahati Kuumba and Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, the conference exceeded expectations for many students. "Prior to going to the event, I was looking forward to being exposed to an array of scholarship and political activism from phenomenal champions of the movement," comments Sade Adeeyo, co-president of FMLA. In comparison to her initial expectations, the conference surpassed her vision for its success.

With only two days for the conference, event organizers said it became impossible to incorporate the multitude of events they had originally planned. In order to compensate for the short time span, both FMLA and FMF arranged various activities ranging from empowering lectures to outdoor jams; incorporating diverse entertainment mediums. Many students attended Fri-

day's event entitled "SpeakOUT," an outdoor jam that served both as a kickoff to the weekend's events and an activity to increase awareness of the conference to students. "SpeakOUT" became an opportunity for students to both speak up and out on relevant issues pertaining to women of color.

In addition to "SpeakOUT," FMLA and FMF conducted a seminar on the politics of black women's bodies. For many attendees, this session was a critical aspect of the conference and its relevance to mainstream society. Rakhee Devasthali, a senior at UNC Chapel Hill, who attended the session with her school's feminist organization, said, "In our society, the burden of keeping everyone safe is on women and women's bodies."

During the session, participants discussed the controversial issue of implementing Gardasil, a vaccination for certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV), as a prerequisite for young wom-

en attending public school in Washington D.C. and for those seeking to obtain refugee status. At the termination of the session, Spelman's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning group, led breakout discussions to further reflect on the controversial issues that arose.

First year student and FMLA member Maeghan Leonard found both the seminars and the breakout sessions to be culturally relevant and intellectually stimulating. "I wanted to see what everyone was talking about. I met a lot of sisters from Bennett and Agnes Scott."

Leonard evaluates her experience from the conference as inspiring, yet disappointing. "Everything was perfect except for one thing, I didn't see a lot of Spelman sisters and it was kind of disappointing. Just because it was held there, it seemed like we didn't take it seriously," comments Leonard.



## Students Serve to Honor Martin Luther King Jr.

significance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and community service," said Mrs. Lieberman, a community member who brought her two young children to the event.

On Monday evening, organizers of the event received acknowledgment for their philanthropic contributions from the Atlanta City Council. Michael Bond, Councilman-At-Large on the Atlanta City Council presented Spelman College with the distinguished "Day of Service" award.

On Tuesday evening, Spelman hosted "This I Believe" a panel discussion with community leaders that discussed their beliefs about social activism. Speakers for the event included, State Representative and Spelman alumna, Alisha Thomas Morgan; CIO of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Lance Lyttle; former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and Bonner scholar, Nakeita Stewart. Each panelist presented a 250-word essay centered on the theme of "This I Believe."

According to the Spelman website, "This I Believe" was started by Edward

R. Morrow in 1951, with the purpose of facilitating a higher standard of active public discourse by inspirational people, to reflect and share their personal values and beliefs that can shape a life, a community and a society. The concept has now become a weekly series on National Public Radio. The series asks people to write brief essays stating the core beliefs that lead their daily lives.

Stewart shared her perspective that we as a society need to open our minds to different ways of thought and perspective. In turn, commitments are needed from each individual to exchange ideas and help solve life's problems, she said.

Lyttle added to Stewart's remarks stating that it is always good to not only understand where other people are coming from, but also to know why they think the way they do. According to Lyttle, "why provides purpose," thus, if it is understood why a person is doing something then, in turn, what they are doing will make more sense.

Franklin, who is one of the newest William and Camille Cosby Endowed Professors, left students with the mes-



Students engaged in various community service-oriented activities throughout the week to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

sage, "I believe that I can help create the future by changing it."

Spelman's recognition of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy reflect the college's commitment to community

service. Over 700 students, professors and community members attended the week's events.



Carlotta Walls LaNier and Lisa Frazier Page engage students and community members in a discussion of their book, "A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School."

## Civil Rights Pioneer Speaks with Students

*Continued from front page*  
LaNier and Page to discuss their book as part of HK Book Club.

The integration of Central became a national controversy as it became a display of [the tension between] states' rights and federal rights, LaNier said. The young nine students were caught in the middle of a national power struggle, but LaNier won the fight, being one of three students to graduate from Central.

Page also co-authored The New York Times bestseller "The Pact: Three Young Men Make A Promise and Fulfill a Dream."

"It is as much a story about the dedication of family, perseverance, and sacrifice as it is about history," LaNier said. LaNier made it a point to highlight the role of her family

during her time at Central. She credits her parents with giving her the strength and the wisdom to continue her journey.

Her book offers an introspective and personal look into the life of a young girl, who never set out to make history - but did. Audience members told LaNier that they took the journey with her as they read her story.

LaNier answered questions from the audience and ended by reading a few excerpts from the book. Towards the end of her reading she became emotional, telling the audience that she can still relive those painful moments in her life.

The author's appearance was made possible by collaborative efforts between LaNier, Page, Erica Johnson, Associate Director of Admissions at Spelman and Eta Kappa Chapter.

"We both had a mutual sorority sister, and Lisa expressed to me that she wanted to visit Spelman to promote and discuss her book. She really wanted [Carlotta] to tell her story to this generation, and she is living history," said Johnson.

"It was by sheer coincidence that we found each other," says Topaz Sampson, co-chair of HK Book Club. "After reading the book, I was really excited to meet her. She is such an amazing woman, with an incredible journey. We are so happy to have her at Spelman to share her story with us."

Over 100 students and community members, including friends and family of the authors, participated in the discussion on Tuesday evening.

"Her presence in the room was empowering as a black female. She charged me with the courage to push through barriers when faced with troubles," Spelman sophomore Cynthia Iyekegbe said.

HK Book Club is a pilot program of the sorority's national program Delta Bookmark. The book club reads one selection each month and is open to all students in the AUC.

*Students interested in joining the HK Book Club should contact co-chair, Topaz Sampson at topaz.sampson@yahoo.com.*

## The Spelman Spotlight

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Rebecca Clayton

**LAYOUT & DESIGN EDITORS**  
Whitney Skippings-Dupree  
*Chief Editor*  
Lakreesha Evans  
*Assistant Editor*

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Yasmine McMorris

**NEWS EDITORS**  
Kirstin Evans  
Kelly Harper  
Cherise Lesesne

**THE FORUM EDITORS**  
Brittany Fennell  
Shannon Palmore

**LIFESTYLE EDITOR**  
Dymond Hayes

**FASHION & BEAUTY EDITOR**  
Ashley Mayes

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**  
Briana Haymon

**PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR**  
Aierelle McGill

**DISTRIBUTION MANAGER**  
Danielle Augustine

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**  
Jasmine Leal-Taylor

**FEATURED WRITERS**  
Alexis Carter  
Toni Cannady  
Denia Moreland  
Brittany O'Garro  
Lea Scruggs  
Kiki Stenson

### Address:

350 Spelman Lane SW,  
Campus Box #1234  
Atlanta, GA 30314

**Phone:** 404-270-5969  
**Fax:** 404-270-5970

### Advertising:

advertise.spelmanspotlight@gmail.com

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

# To Commute or Not to Commute?

By Kiki Stenson  
*Staff Writer*

With room and board cost totaling over \$5,000 per semester, upperclass Spelman students are finding themselves more likely to move off campus. Spelman has a two-year on campus living requirement, which means all first and second year traditional students must live on campus. Despite the drawbacks, living off campus is still an enticing option for many juniors and seniors for a variety of reasons.

Living off campus gives students more freedom and more peace, but what a majority of commuter students dislike about off campus living is the lack of accessibility to Spelman and the rest of the AUC. Candice Cannon, a junior at Spelman, feels "disconnected" from the AUC. "You don't really know what's going on and you're only connected through email and bulletin boards. You're disconnected from

Morehouse. You don't really have a reason to go over there anymore."

Not only are commuter students unable to be as involved as they would like, some non-traditional students find it difficult to be involved at all because they have never lived on campus. If given the opportunity to live on campus as a non-traditional student, senior Stefanie Williams said, "I would absolutely live on campus. I'd be here, right in the midst of everything."

Besides students feeling disconnected, some off campus students are struggling to make ends meet. In order to pay rent and other expenses, some students are working multiple jobs, or in some cases working both a job and an internship. Even still, these students still have serious difficulty paying all of their bills. With the inconvenience of commuting and the dreaded financial struggle, the question remains, why live off campus? Surprisingly, all but one of the commuters interviewed said

that if they were given the opportunity to move back on campus, if the costs were the same, said they would not move back.

Many students still choose to live off campus for the real world experience. "Living off campus gets me prepared for how it will be after I graduate," Veronica Smith stated. Smith is currently juggling an internship, being a full-time student and a job. She pays 50 percent of all living expenses with her roommate, who is also her sister. Even with these costs, she states that living off campus is less expensive, and she would not move back on campus even with all of the stress and hassle of the off campus lifestyle.

Commuter students agree that off campus living teaches time management, responsibility, and provides two important things they have apparently been missing on campus - privacy and being treated like adults. Jessica Walker, a junior, stated that some

of the "perks" of living off campus include better food and being able to sleep in peace. When asked about living on campus and being treated as an adult Walker said, "They're infringing upon our rights as adults. At Spelman, you're an 'adult,' but you still have to go to mandatory hall meetings."

After reflecting on the benefits and disadvantages of both options, most commuters find that privacy, independence and less expensive monthly living expenses outweigh the convenience and safety that comes from living on a guarded campus. These commuters say that until Spelman changes some of its on campus policies, such as mandatory hall meetings, fire drills and strict visitation policies; off campus is where they will stay.

## How to Manage Your College Budget

By Kelly Harper  
*News Editor*  
and Briana Haymon  
*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

We have all been there - the sheer euphoria that you experience when money has just been directly deposited into your banking account.

Extra money for many students means new clothing, shoes or purse purchases from one of Atlanta's many shopping destinations. The possibilities and choices seem endless. But do we ever notice the faint voice, deep inside our subconscious, that suggests we should...save the money?

Money mismanagement can place students in a tight financial bind, so The Spelman Spotlight has

highlighted four tips to help you manage your budget, no matter how big or small.

### Prioritize Your Money: Create A Budget

Analyzing your personal expenditure is the first step to money management. In order to track where your money goes, create a spending journal of your spending throughout the course of the week. How much did you spend in The Grill? How much did your hair and manicure cost? How much did you spend on gas? From this diary you should be able to tell how much you are spending and whether your purchasing behavior is rational or in need of a transformation. From this information, create a monthly budget and decide how much you will spend on food, clothing, entertainment and other miscellaneous items.

### Set Up A Closed Bank Account

A closed bank account will help you save money by keeping funds completely out of reach. It's easy to dip into an accessible savings account whenever your checking account is running a bit low. A closed bank account will eliminate the ability to do so. Set up a closed account and forget about the cash you contrib-

ute periodically. Before you know it, your money will grow exponentially.

### Monitor "Plastic" Use

It's easy to swipe a debit or credit card when making purchases and eating out. Debit cards are especially susceptible to abuse because they quickly swipe and take up less space than cash. Overdraft fees from your bank can occur if you use your card with a negative balance and those fees can add up quickly. Try to withdraw the amount of cash you budget per week so that you have a tangible idea of the amount of money you are spending. Additionally, you will not need your credit or debt card to make purchases.

### Create a Self-Reward System

Give yourself incentives to monitor your spending and adhere to your budget with a modest, low-cost self-reward system. For instance, if for one week you stay within your allocated budget, you can treat yourself to a manicure or a meal at your favorite restaurant.

## Students Continue to Define "Spelman Sisterhood"

By Denia Moreland and  
Lea Scruggs  
*Staff Writers*

Cheers and the festive school song can be heard walking through the gates of Spelman College for the first time. Passing a group of smiling girls laughing in unison and giving each other hugs, the warmth of sisterhood can be felt everywhere. But as the crowds wear away, smiles turn to frowns and the painted claws come out.

Attending an all women's institution provides an opportunity to be in a nurturing community surrounded by women who are motivated, knowledgeable and supportive. However, how sisterly is the sisterhood?

"Spelman students need to recognize that in order to capitalize on this sisterhood, it's a matter of give-and-take," said Class of 2007 alumnae, Sarah Thompson in the Spelman Messenger. "I would encourage [students] to broaden their definition of sisterhood, to embrace the spirit of camaraderie we have at Spelman that can sustain you during the good times and the bad. We should walk in gratitude for what we have here."

While black women have come a long way in removing stereotypes and educational barriers, one of the remaining

obstacles is how we treat one another. Like real sisters, there are going to be trivial arguments and catty behavior. It is impossible to assume that because "we are sisters" all personalities will mesh. Some would say that instead of helping to build one another's confidence and establish relationships with each other, we can sometimes damage them.

There is a blue elephant lurking in Sisters Chapel that should not be ignored. For instance, brown-nosing to get ahead in social settings, turning noses up to girls wearing jeans under \$200, wanton verbal attacks resulting from the lies and infidelity of male students, and creating negative competition in classrooms. In one case of malicious behavior resulting from an undisclosed dispute, one student put Nair in another student's shampoo.

"Obviously there are some people who do not exemplify the qualities of sisterhood, but I think [sisterhood] could improve if people took the time to see how their actions affected others," said Alicia Sheares, a sophomore.

A recent study by the Workplace Bullying Institute examining office behaviors found that female bullies aim at other women more than 70 percent of the time. Since school is essentially a job, these behaviors can be compared to those found in a college setting. There

is much speculation as to why women challenge each other in social settings.

"I think it is out of jealousy, lack of self-confidence or looking for the wrong kind of attention," said Tiffany Dance, a senior. Stevi Darden, a sophomore, agrees that women act in this way.

"They're insecure of their capabilities and appearance," Darden said.

To address these dilemmas of working in a professional environment, Spelman invests a lot of time and money throughout the year. Leadership conferences, professional etiquette workshops and academic development programs are intended to improve confidence in black women in the corporate world. But workshops tackling the issue of women mistreating each other in social settings are scarce.

"I don't think much is being done to bring to the surface why sisterhood can sometimes be threatened," said Sheares. "And even when Spelman does address it, I feel like it goes in some people's ears and out the other."

Programs that address these issues are essential to the sisterhood that is instilled in Spelman students. One program that does discuss sisterhood issues is SisterFire, a program that is held every third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. in the Women's Studies department. SisterFire addresses com-

plexities of sisterhood and is the AUC's exclusive "women-only" open mic event that offers "a safe and healing space for women," according to Class of 2007 alumnae, Chantal James, who moderates the event.

While walking on individual paths to success, Spelman women may forget that the "sister" with whom you began this journey should be with you in the end.

"This doesn't mean that you have to like all of the people who attend Spelman, but having respect for one another and being there when it really matters is what sisterhood is about," said Sheares.

Chelsea Richardson, a sophomore still questions sisterhood.

"If we aren't united and sisterly, how can they [Spelman] expect to unite the entire AUC into the kind of unity that they press for?" she asked.

Like a household, the dynamics of the Spelman community mean that the survival of one is the survival of all. In order for this household to function, the attitude should be "us against the world" not "me against you."



# Spelman Presents "An American Consciousness"



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN HOLDER  
Artist Robin Holder working on her collection, currently on display in the Spelman Museum of Fine Art.

By Briana Haymon  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Robin Holder displays the vast array of human emotions in her new collection in "An American Consciousness: Robin Holder's Mid-Career Retrospective." Her work tells numerous stories about historical and global issues experienced by others and in her personal life.

"The core idea of my collections was to make them [emotions] universal," said Holder at the Preview Reception held on Jan. 20 at 6:30 pm. in the Spelman Museum of Fine Art. Holder described each piece as an attempt to reach out and convey a message that would essentially identify with everyone. Throughout her collection, she used hand drawn stencils and a

unique printmaking technique that she developed to illustrate her vision. The work was also accompanied with passages that discussed topics such as, immigration, racism, child abuse, and even jazz.

In her collection "Warrior Women Wizards: Mystical Magical Mysteries," feminine figures lay bare against array of wistful colors layered with melancholy patterns in order to portray the various experiences that women face simply for being women. "These women are black, Asian, and Native American," said Holder. "The layers and patterns emphasized how their shared experiences go far beyond race." Holder herself has a diverse background, her father is African-American and her mother is of Russian and Jewish descent.

A New York based artist, Holder portrays Brooklyn's culturally diverse neighborhood in "Behind

Each Window, A Voice" through a bleak and weary color palette. In another series, "What's Black and White and Red All Over?," Holder illustrates actual moments in her life where she encountered racism and her responses to those acts of racism. For Holder it was necessary for her to share these experiences in order to open up discussion and emphasize a shared understanding.

"I find that it is my responsibility to be a bridge for people," said Holder.

*The exhibit will be open until May 15, 2010. The museum is free for Atlanta University Center students and \$3 for general admission. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday from*

12 pm to 4 pm.

The Spelman Museum of Fine Art will also host a series of events, which delve deeper into Holder's work.

**Saturday, March 20, 2010, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Beyond the Blackboard: Community Day**

Children of all ages are invited to the Museum's Community Day that will include interactive gallery walks of the exhibition, a make-and-take workshop on stencil and printmaking techniques based on the work featured in "An American Consciousness," and more. Admission is free but registration is required. To register, call 404-270-5607 or e-mail [museum@spelman.edu](mailto:museum@spelman.edu).

**Friday, March 26, 2010, 6:00 pm**

**Warrior Women: The Art of Robin Holder**

Anne Collins Smith, Curator of Collections, will lead a gallery walk of Robin Holder's "Warrior Women Wizards: Mystical Magical Mysteries" series. This body of work, which Holder began in 1985, depicts women in various states of empowerment. This gallery walk is organized in partnership with the Women's Resource and Research Center and the 10th Annual Toni Cade Bambara Scholar-Activism Conference.

**Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 6:30 pm**

**The Power of the Between and the Art of Robin Holder**

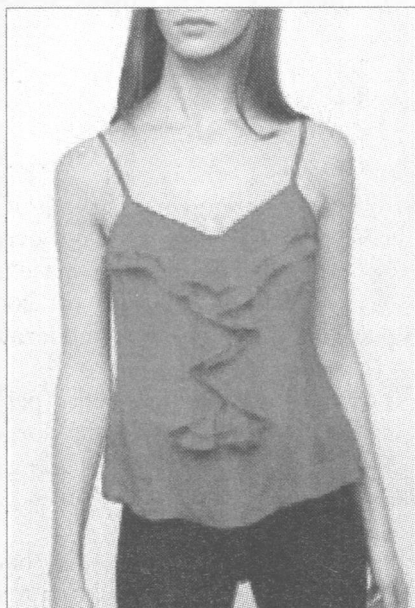
Maurita N. Poole, Graduate Assistant, will lead a gallery walk of the exhibition highlighting the intersection of anthropology and Holder's work. This gallery walk is organized in partnership with the African Diaspora and the World Program and the Department of Anthropology.

## Valentine's Day Gift Guide

*Contrary to what Cupid may lead you to believe, Valentine's Day is the perfect time of year to show love to yourself, rather than expecting to be showered with love from someone else. Here are some delightful gift ideas (just for you!) under \$50 that will indulge you more than a box of chocolates.*

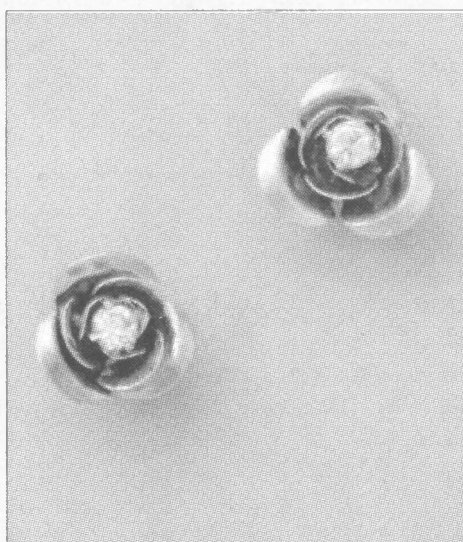
By Rebecca Clayton, Editor-in-Chief

### #1: The Trendsetter



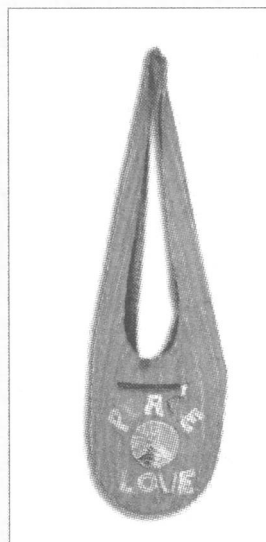
Be romantic with a bit of unexpected edge in a flirty silk cami in racy red or rosy pink with layers of soft ruffles and a zipper closure on the back. Silence & Noise Ruffle Zip Back Cami, \$48; Urban Outfitters.

### #2: The Romantic



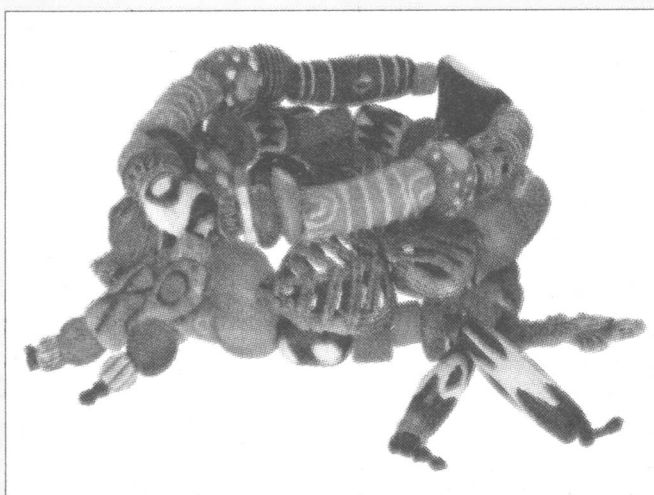
A delicate golden rose gets a little bit of sparkle with a crystal center. Juicy Couture Stud Earrings, \$48 Bloomingdale's.

### #3: The Artist



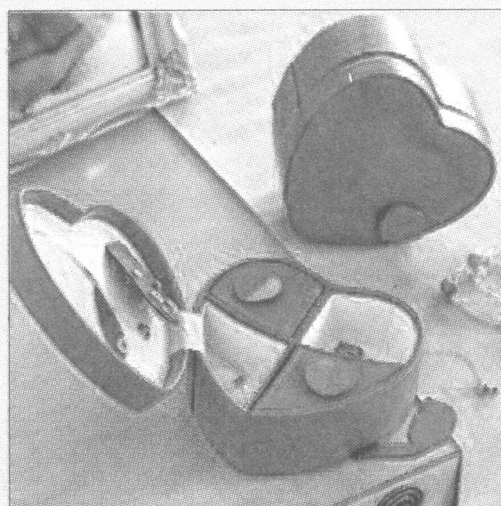
Show your passion for love and peace with a colorful striped hobo tote. Recycled Stone-washed Cotton Peace/Love Sling Bag, \$26; [earthlovershopping.com](http://earthlovershopping.com)

### #4: The Humanitarian



Adorn your wrist with colorful handmade bead bracelets while benefiting H.E.L.P. Malawi. All of the proceeds go towards providing education and other resources for children in Malawi. Chifundo African Trade Bead Bracelets, \$40; <http://shop.helpmalawichildren.org>.

### #5: The Classic



Show your jewelry some tender love and care in this heart shaped red genuine leather jewelry box with a soft velvet ivory colored interior. This jewelry box is also the perfect size for traveling. Leather Heart Jewelry Box, \$34.95; [RedEnvelope.com](http://RedEnvelope.com)



# Spotlight Approved: Jack's Pizza & Wings 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!*

Jack's Pizza and Wings is a fantastic reprieve from the mundane start of the week, otherwise known as Monday. If you are ever interested in taking a quick break from your busy schedule, Jack's is has the perfect quirky, yet inviting atmosphere. Tucked away in the Virginia Highlands neighborhood, located right off Highland Avenue, it's roughly about a 10-15 minute drive from Spelman's campus. The restaurant is easily identifiable by its logo – a flying pizza with wings. While street parking may be sparse, Jack's has a parking lot for customers conveniently located at the rear. Ideal for grabbing



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK'S PIZZA AND WINGS  
A quirky restaurant and bar tucked in the Virginia Highlands neighborhood. Jack's Pizza and Wings, is best known for what its name suggest – pizza and wings and great daily entertainment.

a midday lunch or late-night bite to eat with friends, Jack's is a nearby alternative to the many fast-food chains located in the AUC.

Their menu serves up the regular variety of specialty pizzas ranging from \$4 slices to an 18" box for

around \$20. They also have an extensive variety of Italian dishes, such as chicken Parmesan, lasagna and their delicious calzones. If Italian cuisine isn't what you crave, Jack's menus also has made to order subs, tasty salads and wings. All menu items can be ordered as carryout.

The bar is typical, and offers reasonably priced beers, wines and cocktails. The bar area is complete with widescreen TVs for watching sports, and classic video games, such as "Pac Man" and "Tekken." A couple of days during the week there are food and drink specials – half-priced wings, \$1 beers and \$2 shots. Jack's is your average moderately-priced chill lounge and bar scene, with the exception that the food is actually good and made-to-order.

For students looking to do more with their night than grabbing a bite to eat and drink, Jack's hosts trivia nights, with topics varying from Sunday night hip-hop to Monday cartoon trivia. For those of you who may not be interested in trivia nights, Jack's also hosts poker on Wednesday nights at 8 pm. Half of the fun of going to Jack's is being in an eclectic, carefree environment. Jack's draws a mixed and diverse crowd, so if you come with a small group of friends, you're bound to meet some really chill Atlanta folks.

**Address:**  
676 Highland Ave.  
Atlanta, Georgia  
**Phone:**  
404-525-4444  
**Online:**  
www.jpofw.com

## I Pledge Allegiance to AmERYKAH

By Brittany O'Garro  
Staff Writer

After what seemed like a dry spell, Erykah Badu returned to Atlanta last year better than ever to a jam-packed arena at the Atlanta Civic Center on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009.

The phenomenal Badu appeared on stage adorned in a black top hat, sequined tights, and beige trench coat. Accompanied by a full band, two backup singers and an Apple laptop. Badu warmed the crowd with her opening song "Brighter Days." It was hard to fathom that the strong sound resonating from Badu's small frame was truly her own.

Addressing speculations about where she's been, Badu offered nothing more to her audience than a brief biographical timeline and the notion that she's been working on her music. Badu has never been one to say much about her personal life – other than what she reveals in her music.

Following a brief intermission, Badu returned to the stage – this time without the trench coat. Badu swayed her hips back and forth to the melodic sounds of her band. However, while Badu moved around, her audience remained static. Badu condemned her reserved Atlanta audience for being "seat bouncers."

Dissatisfied by her unresponsive audience, Badu stopped the show to reprimand a nearby security guard who was preventing the crowd from dancing.

Almost immediately, like children released for recess, the crowd erupted into screams and applause. In an effort to get her audience into the state of merriment that is "Baduizm," Erykah took the audience on a trip down memory lane as she revisited some of music's greatest classics – and some of her own.

She pleased the crowd with her own hit singles such as, "Love Of My Life" and "On And On." The audience recited many of the words with Badu as if they were performing alongside her on stage. "Didn't Cha Know" and "Other Side of The Game," (a song dedicated to her first child's father), were among the crowd's favorites. Throughout her performance, Badu called upon the gods of blues and hip-hop to bestow their blessings. Audience members who were not dancing in front of the stage or between



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.SOULBOUNCE.COM

aisles found themselves standing in place, head nodding to every beat. Badu now had the crowd where she wanted them and was officially in her zone.

Then the lights dimmed and Badu was gone from the stage. Looks of bewilderment, excitement, and even disappointment colored the faces in the crowd – but the show wasn't over yet.

Badu surprisingly returned to the stage to sing "Tyrone" and "Bag Lady." As females sang to a love they once knew, and men to the man they once were, Badu sang of a place she too was familiar with. The last song she sang was appropriately a gospel song, as her concert fell on a Sunday.

Badu left the audience with the message, "One smile is so contagious that it can spark one million." She continued to tell fans to live in the moment, for thinking about tomorrow and its problems causes anxiety. Throughout the show, Badu engaged her audience in witty conversation, social reflection and most importantly a good time.

If the first half of Badu's show was dedicated to highlighting the troubles of life and love, then the second half was about laying those burdens down and reveling in your own happiness. By the show's end it was clear – Badu had not gone anywhere, she was still the Erykah we all have grown to love.



# DMV's Homeboy Wale Puts D.C. on the National Music Scene

By Rebecca Clayton  
Editor-in-Chief

As a semi-representative of the DMV, the sheer euphoria surrounding Wale and his album, "Attention Deficit" is clear even to an "outsider" like myself. The importance of this one artist – the prodigal big brother to a generation of D.C., Prince George's and Montgomery county kids, cannot be overlooked. In less than six months he's put their lifestyle, a unique blend of go-go and hip-hop on the scene for the rest of the world to absorb.

The first time I heard Wale was during Christmas break in 2008, driving in the car with my boyfriend – a self-proclaimed D.C. boy, when he played "Nike Boots." (And yes, he was wearing a pair himself.) My unfamiliarity with the song drew a slight eye slant as he assumed I would be more than acquainted with our hometown rapper. I have been listening to Wale since then, so he's not as new to me as he is to many others. However, for those of us unaware of the go-go lifestyle and the DMV, our newfound love for Wale doesn't hold the same meaning or importance as it does for the native kids.

Go-go was never an integral part of my growing up in the DMV. However, for my boyfriend and many others, go-go became a part of them, and was ingrained into their way of life. Their fondest memories from middle and high school were made "beating their feet" in sweaty, packed gyms to Race Essence and UCB, wearing Solbiato sweatpants or neon LVLX shirts and the newest pair of Jordans. Go-go for them is not just a genre, it's their music, their culture, and their lifestyle.

For those of you not familiar with go-go, it's a unique fusion of heavy percussion, jazz and funk. Many bands include a bassist, drummer, guitarist, percussionist and vocalist. The music style has evolved over time since Chuck Brown, the originator of go-go

and a D.C. native, introduced the nation to go-go in the 1970s. Today's sound is more influenced by hip-hop beats rather than jazz and Afro-Caribbean rhythms.

Many outside of the DMV haven't been able to develop the same liking and connection to the music as the natives. For many of those born and raised in the D.C. area go-go is their first love with hip-hop falling a close second. The ownership and preference they ascribe to go-go is a result of the fact that hip-hop has never been truly their own. Unlike the urban hip-hop

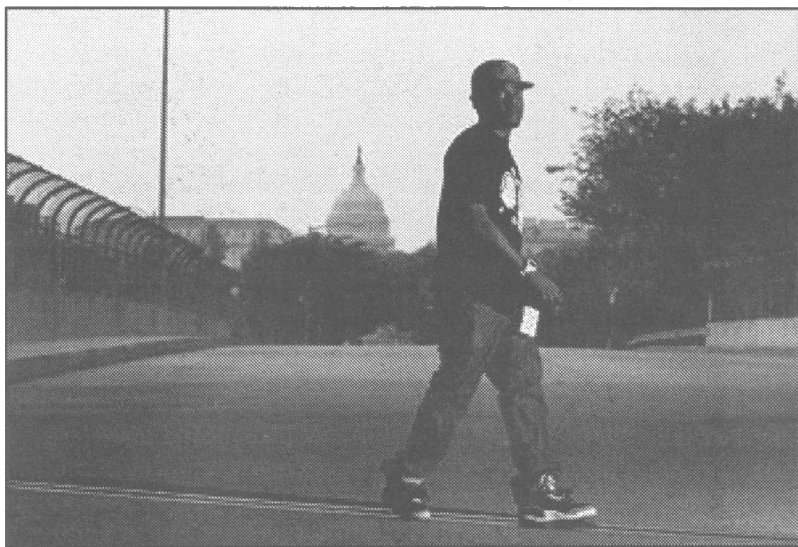
ing to Largo, in Prince George's County. He fits into their definition of a "cool kid," with a personality that is unpretentious, chill, savvy and energetic. His style is their own too. He's an avid collector of Nike Foamposites and is often seen with a navy or red Washington Nationals fitted, just like them.

With his highly anticipated first major label album release, "Attention Deficit," in November, he's blended their love for go-go and hip-hop in an authentic way, which they overwhelmingly approve. Not only does Wale have the pressure of introducing the world to the capital's own distinctive blend of hip-hop on his shoulders, but also he's seen to hold the key to re-invigorating hip-hop itself; as one of the members of hip-hop's new holy trinity, alongside Kid Cudi and Drake.

With Wale's emergence on the national music radar, a new generation of boys and girls from the D.C. area will now hear their hometown streamed through the lyrics of mainstream hip-hop hits.

The love and support, the praise and encouragement from his little brothers and sisters, most notably seen through the constant influx of Twitter posts before and immediately after his album release, has helped promote him to the national star that he is becoming. While his album leaked early on the Internet, an overwhelming amount of supporters have purchased a copy of the album from iTunes or from the store, in some instances buying multiple copies – a forgotten practice amongst many of my generation. Their rationale for switching their habits for Wale is quite simple; he's their boy.

How close he will remain to his extended siblings, only time will tell, but for now they're just "boosted" and "geeked" to have their hometown boy on the map.



Wale in his hometown of Washington, D.C., is the capital's first mainstream hip-hop artist. PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.WASHINGTONCITYPAPER.COM

centers of Atlanta, New York, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans or even Chicago, D.C. has never birthed a nationally recognized hip-hop artist – until now.

Their relationship with Wale, an up and coming national artist, isn't that of artist and fan, but rather one more personal; reminiscent of the bond formed with an older brother. Wale's just a little bit older than his fan base, at age 25, and was born and raised in their hometowns, graduating from Quince Orchard High School in Montgomery County and later mov-

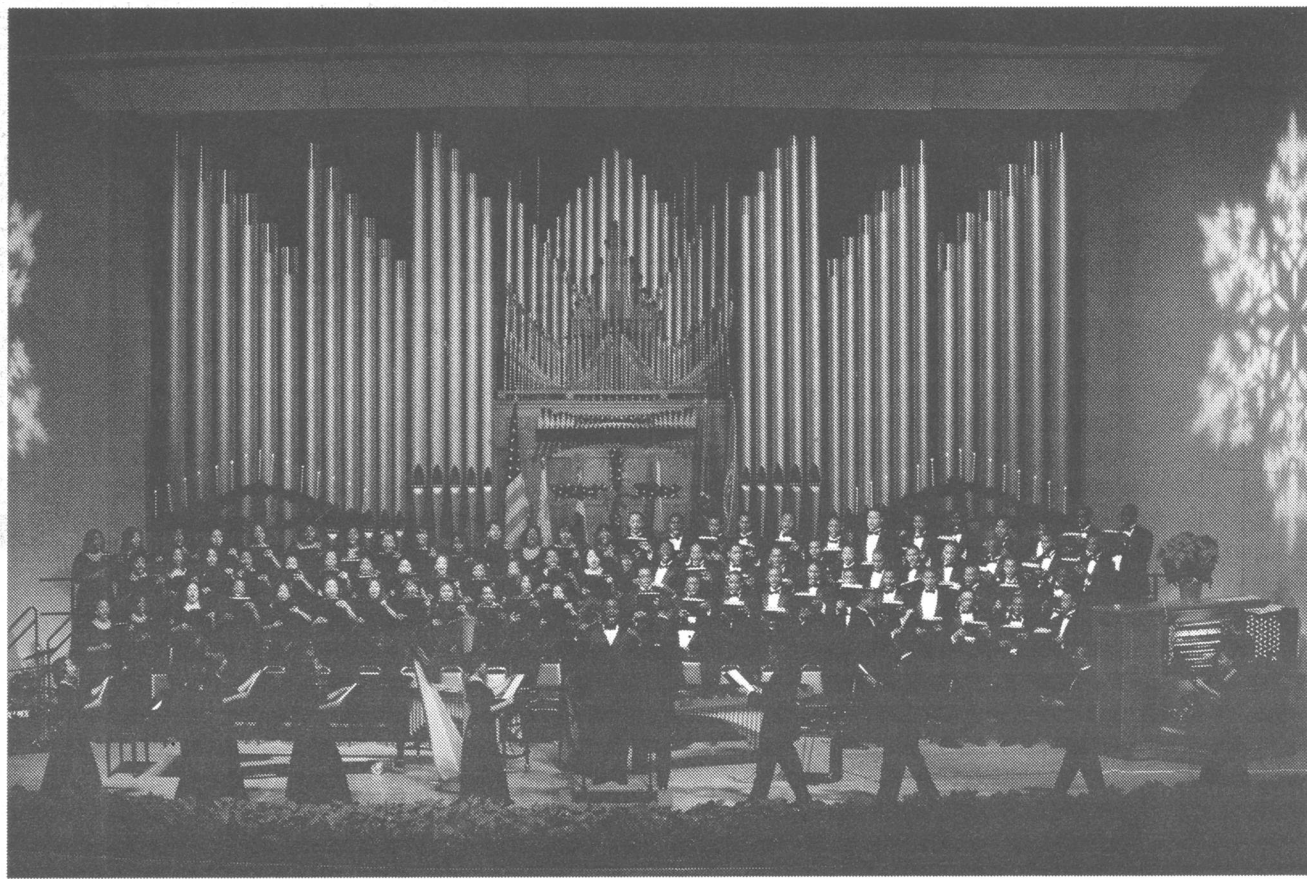
## WALE TOUR DATES

Feb. 2 Los Angeles, CA	Feb. 22 Vancouver, Canada	Feb. 25 Winnipeg, Canada	Feb. 27 Ottawa, Canada	Mar. 16 Austin, TX	Apr. 23 Easton, PA	May. 29 Quincy, WA
Feb. 7 Miami, FL	Feb. 24 Calgary, Canada	Feb. 25 Ruby, VA	Mar. 2 Toronto, KS	Apr. 10 Wooster, OH	May. 2 New York City, NY	

# Glee Club Performs Annual Christmas Carol Concert

By Jasmine Leal-Taylor  
Executive Staff Assistant

The 83rd annual Morehouse-Spelman Christmas Carol Concert launched the holiday season in the Atlanta University Center and the Atlanta metropolitan area. The Morehouse College Glee Club, directed by Dr. David Morrow, and the Spelman College Glee Club, directed by Dr. Kevin Johnson, rehearsed tirelessly throughout the fall semester in preparation for the historic three day concert. Some would say that the Glee Clubs rehearse too much and too often, since the rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Concert began in the month of October. But the young women and men of these organizations look at it from a different perspective. "I simply love to sing. I knew that the rehearsals would be numerous, long, and tiring. However, we have to work hard in order for our concerts to be good," said Hanan Davis, a sophomore in the Glee Club. Deanna Jackson, a junior member of the Spelman Glee Club, commented on the



The Spelman-Morehouse Glee Club proudly presented their annual Christmas Carol Concert. Highly acclaimed, the joint glee club will also go on nationwide tour this Spring Break.

level of work put into the music to make this concert spectacular. "Although the preparation is stressful, seeing the crowd's reaction and appreciation of our hard work makes it worth it."

Spelman and Morehouse's mixed-chorus featured about 60 students from each institution. These talented

individuals performed traditional Christmas music including "O, Come Emmanuel" and "The First Noel," and a few crowd favorites such as "We Are Christmas" and "Betelehemu." Chanel Bailey Class of 2006 said, "When I was in the Glee Club we also sang 'All Men Draw Near,' but it didn't sound as good as what I heard that night. I was thoroughly impressed."

The Christmas Carol Tradition was started by Spelman College's former President Florence M. Read in 1927. The concert began as one night in Sisters Chapel, but quickly evolved into the Holiday festivities that it is today.

Last year more than 10,000 people attend the free concerts and watched the live stream on the internet. The performances were also broadcasted on Georgia's Gospel Music

Channel, which is accessible to more than 40 million viewers in the United States. Last year's two-hour long concert left audience members impressed and excited to see what is in store for the 2010 concert.

## It's Complicated...Oh Really?

By Brittany Fennell  
*The Forum Editor*

One of the most common things young people do is label. While on Facebook this week, I had what I consider an "aha moment" about relationships. Have you ever heard someone say, "I like him" or "I'm really feeling her" and then respond by describing the relationship as "It's complicated." This is the new fad of labeling relationship statuses on Facebook and in real life.

Many young adults have taken dating to another level by labeling their relationship status as "It's complicated," but what exactly does this label mean?

Senior psychology major, Timothy Wright from Morehouse College says, "If a relationship is complicated that could mean any number of things." Labels mean different things to different people. Too many times we generalize everyone under a particular category.

Depending on the situation, people may assume that two individuals with "It's complicated" relationship statuses are in an open relationship, just like each other, or may be taking a break.

Renita McKnight, a junior, believes that "Love and relationships in general

are complicated." Love can be associated with being in a relationship, but not in all cases. Men and women think differently and consequently view relationships differently, McKnight adds.

Other factors, such as family and friends, school, extracurricular activities, or simply a hectic schedule may delay a relationship from growing into something more meaningful. It can be difficult to strengthen a relationship if there are situations that prevent two individuals from uniting their courtship into a relationship. "It's complicated means two people who have feelings for each other, but [are] not sure what to call [their relationship]," says Kamilah Haynes, a freshman.

"It's Complicated" label is 'a cop out.' Either you're in it or not. If you have to describe your relationships as 'complicated' [then] there is too much complication," says Alexia Noble, a sophomore. Having a complicated relationship creates more complication if "boundaries are not set," says Danielle Augustine, a sophomore.

When we are taken in by a label, we are taken in by opinions and beliefs of that label. We willingly accept statements without evidence of their validity. If you are in a relationship, define it by your standards, not by the perceptions of others. Labels mean different things to different people. Never allow a label to define you, or you may end up being defined by that label.

## The "Spelman Look"

By Whitney Skippings-Dupree  
*Chief Layout & Design Editor*

Her image lies closer to the forefront of our minds than we realize. The minutia might vary slightly across the population, but every image of the "Spelman Woman" has undoubtedly strong similarities: long dark hair, caramel-skinned, dressed both fashionably and feminine. The reality is a hackneyed, overwrought subject all have discussed: that the real Spelman College is home to a wide array of women. Not all of these women fall into—or even wish to—this classic image.

For an institution that prides itself so strongly on its ability to empower its students, Spelman College and the Spelman Student Government Association made a distinctly disenfranchising move in their decision to term the orientation dress code the "Spelman Look." This title wittingly continues the mischaracterization of the illustrious "Spelman Woman," labeling her as a young woman that wears exclusively feminine clothing.

Let it be stated that there is nothing wrong with the tradition; Spelman is built on tradition, and our respect for such is very much ingrained in the very fabric of the Spelman culture. By exposing first-year students so early to these traditions, the institution is successfully ensuring that they too will understand the gravity aligned with such rituals.

What it does, is give a motivating title to a venerable practice. Titling the orientation dress code the "Spelman Look" is a great political move for those who

believe that their prized image of the well-dressed sophisticate is part of the rapidly declining Spelman culture. It encourages the new generation of Spelman students to fit this mold before they have set foot through campus gates.

Furthermore, it gives them a false impression of the image that the vast majority of Spelman students project—which is, more than anything else, one of individuality and aesthetic creativity. After all, if Spelman students are women who change the world, the saying does not specify a dress code. If anything, Spelman students wear thick dresses of self assurance, and stand balanced on heels of intellectual stimulation. Whether the dresses are silk or the heels Jimmy Choos is irrelevant.

By titling it the "Spelman Look" what they also have managed to do is alienate a significant portion of the population, and continue the stereotypical image of the "Spelman Woman." There are many who have not a prayer of living up to the image this presents, and even more who have too much properly placed dignity to even attempt to be something they are not.

Sown into the very fabric of Spelman College is our respect and devotion to longstanding institutional traditions. To lose hold of this devotion would be tantamount to losing hold of an essential part of the college. However, if we are to define the "Spelman Look" in relation to women who have made academic and occupational success a virtue, we should hope that it is closer to a business suit than a sundress and flats.

## Blacks Win As Monsters In Movies

By Jessica Gibbs  
*Staff Writer*

As the new year begins, actors and actresses prepare for the awards season. This season, the very controversial film, "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" has been nominated for several awards. The majority of the nominations and wins surrounding the film have been awarded to Mo'Nique, for her performance as Mary, a physically and verbally abusive mother who lives on welfare. After winning the Golden Globe, Critics' Choice and Screen Actors Guild Awards for Best Supporting Actress, the old age question has been raised again – Why does it appear that African-Americans actors and actresses are constantly rewarded and revered for roles that portray them as archetypes of blacks.

"Precious" is the story of an obese, illiterate and poor teenage mother who faces verbal, physical and sexual abuse at the hands of both of her parents. The protagonist, Precious shows little prospect for a future until a kind teacher at an alternative school, played by Paula Patton, shows Precious that she has a voice and encourages her to use that voice through writing. Throughout the film, Precious is constantly attacked by her mother Mary. Mary's character is an unemployed bitter, hateful and condescending character. She constantly degrades Precious and blames Precious for the absence of her husband. In essence, Mary's character aligns with the 'sapphire' depiction of African-American women.

The nominations and awards that Mo'Nique has earned add to the controversial

nature of the film, in respect to the type of character she is winning for. However, this is not the first time a black actor or actress has been rewarded for playing a negative archetypal role. In 1940, Hattie McDaniel became the first African-American to win an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of a 'mammy' in "Gone With the Wind." Sidney Poitier made another groundbreaking achievement in 1963, when he won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1963, for his Uncle Tom-esque character in "Lilies of the Field."

Most recently in 2002, both Halle Berry and Denzel Washington received the Academy Award for Best Actress and Actor for their negative stereotypical depictions in "Monster's Ball" and "Training Day." Berry's character represented as modern-day 'jezebel' and Washington's a modern-day 'brute.'

Within the Spelman community, there are many different responses to Mo'Nique's accolades for her performance as Mary. Dr. Tarshia Stanley, a professor at Spelman who teaches a course titled "Images of Women in the Media" said, "We have to be careful that we are always looking to majority white audiences to tell us who deserves awards. I'm suspicious of any awards that keep going to these very problematic representations of blackness."

"I believe she could have won the awards for a better role than this typical 'sapphire'. Her performance was outstanding and accurate according to the novel, but it does not justify winning a Golden Globe," said Ashley Walton, a junior. However, these awards do not just go to great actors and actresses; they are given to great talents who add depth and complexity to otherwise one-dimensional roles.

### OPINION & EDITORIAL POLICY:

The Spelman Spotlight welcomes letters to the editor and opinion articles for The Forum. Letters should be no more than 400 words and opinion articles, no more than 500 words. All submissions should include contact information and be sent to [theforum.spelmanspotlight@gmail.com](mailto:theforum.spelmanspotlight@gmail.com). 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 or the Spelman College administration.