

October 5, 2010

THE SPELMAN

# SPOTLIGHT

Volume 47, Issue 4

The Voice of African-American Womanhood Since 1957

## This Mecca is not for Muslims

Laini A. Davis  
Staff Writer

September 11, was supposed to be a commemorative day for Atlanta's Muslim community, as it marked the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Two Muslim music promoters, Morehouse alumnus Basheer Jones and partner Nardin Jihad, planned to host a concert at The Fox Theatre to celebrate the end of the fasting period, but were turned down by the popular venue due to their religious affiliation. What was meant to be an opportunity to put on an event to inspire the youth, turned into another example of this group's battle for basic civil rights.

Since 9/11, Muslim Americans have dealt with an onslaught of prejudices and consistent harassment; in the workplace, in train stations, and of course – in airports. After the incidents that occurred on that horrific day nine years ago, Muslim Americans across the country relinquished their basic rights in the name of the protection of the greater population. If asked to be searched by authorities, these citizens are forced to comply – or risk being treated as a terrorists.

So, here we are, nine years later, and the "land of the free" still fails to provide the freedom promised to all. America has developed such a collective hatred toward Muslims that no one thinks twice about denying this group the right to celebrate in a private venue. While the Fox Theatre argues that a scheduling conflict is the real reason why Jones and Jihad could not host their event on September 11, the two are not convinced and have filed a lawsuit in a state court in Atlanta.

Unfortunately, when one considers the events that have taken place over the past few months; plans to burn the Qur'an, rallies against the building of a Mosque and Muslim center near the remains of the World Trade Center. It is hard to believe that the Fox Theatre rejected this event due to a scheduling conflict.

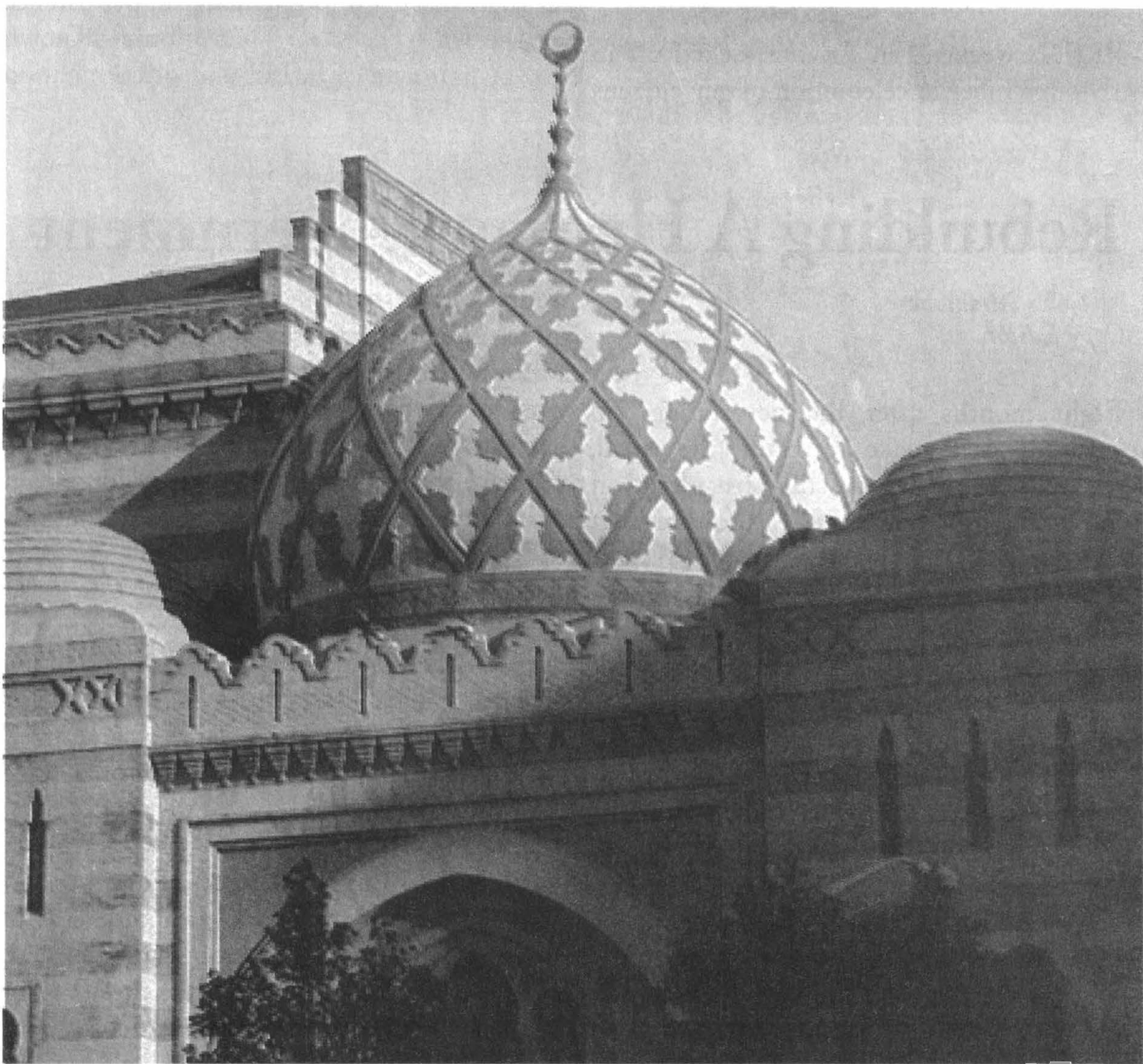
Jessica Dinac, a junior, understands why some Americans believe it is unjust to expect society to immediately accept a group of individuals who had a devastating impact on Americans all over.

"You don't want to discriminate, but people don't want to let their guards down," Dinac said.

Making my way through Atlanta's airport security on my trip home for summer break, a young Muslim behind me in line, about 17 years old, was removed from the line and taken into a private room for a full body pat down. We both had one too many overstuffed bags, but our religious beliefs and ethnicity separated us, and the actions of individuals almost a decade ago – to whom she most likely has no relation whatsoever.

While the reasons behind these cautions are fully understood, no one wishes to relive the horrors of 9/11. Perhaps, it is too much to ask Americans to simply allow Muslims to reenter this society on a leveled playing field. That purpose being to provide equality all across the board? So what message is America sending to its citizens when it fails to practice what it preaches?

It appears that, America is gradually closing its doors on more people – moving further and further away from the model it originally



Mike Schinkel Flickr.com

The Fox Theatre, based in the heart of midtown Atlanta, is architecturally influenced by great mosques of the world. Yet, rejected a Muslim event supposedly due to "scheduling conflicts."

provided as the ideal home for all individuals; regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background. When the Fox Theatre closed its doors to Jones and Jihad, it only contributed to perpetuating the hatred some Americans have towards Muslims. It starts with one venue, and

it catches fire until all the venues in the city, every city in the state and every state in the country has a closed door policy. If we're lucky, this won't be the case, but it is our job to ensure that every citizen in America is treated fairly.

## A Job to Die For

Faith Porter  
Staff Writer

Firefighters, police officers and soldiers risk their lives everyday in order to provide a service to their communities. While the hazards associated with being a journalist are less commonly thought about, they are just as real and deadly. According to the official website of the International Press Institute, 54 journalists around the globe have lost their lives since January. Although 4 less journalists were killed in 2010 than 2009, this number is still disheartening. The IPI, a global organization dedicated to protecting free press, calculated that casualties in the Americas contributed most to this "Death Watch," with 20 reported journalist deaths. Asia was named the second most deadly region for journalists, with six killed in Pakistan, three killed in the

Philippines, two killed in Afghanistan, and several other deaths documented in Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and India.

The death of these innocent journalists, all of whom were simply attempting to report the truth, posed an important question: Why were their lives lost? Alison Bethel McKenzie, interim director of the IPI, made the following statement at an IPI meeting in Vienna: "Journalists continue to systematically lose their lives to conflict, militants, paid thugs, governments, drug dealers, corrupt politicians, unscrupulous security officers, and others." In most cases, the more war or violence in the area, the greater the chances that a journalist will be killed in his/her efforts.

One such example is the slaying of Luis Carlos Santiago, a Mexican photojournalist and the wounding of his colleague, Carlos Manuel Sanchez in Ciudad Juarez. According

to Globe Newswire, Santiago was shot and killed on Thursday, September 16 in a mall parking lot. Santiago and Sanchez had just left a photography workshop and were on their lunch break. While the shooters' identities and the exact motive for the crime remain unknown, it appears that the two journalists (both of the daily paper El Diario) were targeted as part of an "ongoing wave of violence," started and perpetuated by rival drug cartels. These acts of violence have plagued the city since 2008, the year in which the first journalist was slain in Juarez. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, an excess of 30 journalists have been killed or disappeared in Mexico since 2006.

Such chilling statistics pose a second question: What is being done to help? One form of aid is the IPT's "Justice Denied" campaign. This crusade seeks to tell the stories

of journalists who have been killed, injured, or wrongly imprisoned simply for doing their jobs.

"Justice Denied" ensures that the public and key decision-makers stay continually informed about the cases of such journalists. It also pushes decision-makers at all levels of government to act on behalf of the journalists, and provides support for their family and friends. This campaign also charges individuals to act by publicizing cases through his/her own media outlet, speaking out against the wrongful imprisonment, injury or death of journalists, and donating to the campaign.

## MARTA Money Problems Affect Our Wallets

Morgan Clark  
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Oct. 3, MARTA increased their prices, and reduced bus and rail routes on Sept. 25 in order to make up for a \$69.34 million budget deficit for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. MARTA increased the cost of most of their day passes. A one way ticket will still cost \$2.00 and a one day pass will remain \$8.00. However, 2,3,4,7, 30 day and mobility passes rates increased.

MARTA has also enacted a 10.2% reduction in bus service and a 14.2% reduction in rail service. Out of the 131 routes that MARTA are currently operating, only 91 will remain active. MARTA is even eliminating 734 positions

and laying off a minimum of 300 employees. All of this translates into even longer waiting times and lower customer service for those who ride the MARTA. Davida Pete, a student at Spelman, says, "Yes, I will be doing a lot less traveling on the MARTA," when asked if this increase in fare price and time waiting for the bus will affect her traveling. However, often times it turns out that MARTA is the easiest or only way to commute to campus. Our AUC shuttle is great, but it only goes so far. Taxis are also a viable option for students, but they can be pricey, especially if you want to go a long distance. They also aren't as useful if you are going out with a large group of friends.

Yet, even with these increases and cuts, it seems that Marta is hemorrhaging money

needlessly. 57 Marta laptops have seemingly disappeared, out of an original 316 and the two employees who were supposed to be overseeing them were fired. They are valued at \$55,000 dollars at used value and \$127,000 at new value. This summer Marta was forced to pay a \$79,000 fine to the state because their vehicles went thru the G.A. 400 Cruise Card lane without paying the toll. While the total amount for regular sized vehicles that went through the toll without paying only added up to \$2,600 this year. The assistant to CEO Beverly Scott was fired in August due to alleged abuse of her MARTA issued company credit card. So all together, MARTA lost about \$134,000 worth of money that could have contributed to decreasing the deficit. This lack

of oversight and continued loss of money is coming out of the pockets of the customer.

On the other hand, Monae White, a student at Spelman says that "I think that it is an understandable action considering their current position," in response to MARTA increasing the cost of passes and cutting off services and routes.

Harold Buckley, MARTA board member said, "I would say that 99.9 percent of our assets, I can absolutely unquestionably say that we can know where they are, we have control over those things." Yet, the 1 percent of their assets that they can't find cost them \$134,000. With all these fare increases, who will be able to afford MARTA in the long run?

marta's  
price changes

2 Day Pass  
\$11.00

3 Day Pass  
\$13.00

4 Day Pass  
\$15.00

7 Day Pass  
\$17.00

Monthly  
\$68.00

Mobility  
\$115.00

for more information visit:  
itsmarta.com

effective October 3, 2010



# The Presence of the Ku Klux Klan Remains

Kirstin Evans  
Assistant News Editor

About 40 Ku Klux Klan (KKK) members gathered in the back parking lot of the Gilmer County Courthouse in north Georgia for a demonstration. After the success of 2010 PRIDE weekend in Atlanta, KKK members gathered to protest illegal immigration, homosexuality and Barack Obama, in order to display their opinion on these issues in American society. Although police did not report any major incidents during or after the demonstration, its occurrence leaves citizens wondering if America is more understanding of different lifestyles, or is racism and discrimination still a large threat to American society.

PRIDE weekend in Atlanta kicked off in early September in celebration of gay citizens

around the nation. Many gathered to embrace their lifestyles and to surround themselves with accepting individuals. The celebration took place at well known spots in Downtown Atlanta such as Piedmont Park and the famous Georgia Aquarium. Festivals were held and parties were thrown in celebration of a lifestyle that many people are beginning to openly express and accept. A Spelman student, said that "Gay PRIDE in Atlanta was a cultural experience witnessed and embraced by not only homosexuals but straight allies as well." Although, there are efforts made to acknowledge homosexuality, there are groups such as the Ku Klux Klan that still insist on protesting against it.

Many have forgotten about the existence of the Ku Klux Klan. Their group is known for blatant acts of racism and discrimination

towards others. During the Civil Rights era, the Ku Klux Klan committed acts of violence such as lynchings and bombings in order to send a message pertaining to their need for white supremacy. In today's society, racism still exists, but its effects are more secretive. The recent gathering of KKK members was a shock to hundreds of individuals who gathered across the street to watch the demonstration. At least one hundred law enforcement officers were instructed to limit the interaction between the two groups in an effort to avoid confrontation. Many of the onlookers of the demonstration carried signs protesting the KKK demonstration.

As Spelman College continues to educate women, does awareness such as KKK demonstrations hinder our progress? Does the existence of radical groups present a threat to

African-American citizens around the nation? AFREKETE, a campus organization, promotes social, political and sexual justice for women of color. Instead of being blind to the presence of discrimination in America, Spelman students continue to uplift themselves in ways that overcome racism. As acts of discrimination such as the recent KKK demonstration continue to occur, African Americans and other minority groups participate in events that unify their beliefs.

Some believe that attending schools within the Atlanta University Center blinds students from the racism that occurs outside of this community. Spelman College equips its students with knowledge of pertinent racial issues by offering numerous opportunities such as AFREKETE.

## Rebuilding A Haitian Government

Natasha Abellard  
Copy Editor

Eight months after the devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti, the small, impoverished nation is still struggling on a political scale. With an earthquake that killed approximately 300,000 people and left another 1.5 million homeless, natives of Haiti are now seeking a new start. Nov. 28, is the official date of one of the most important events that will take place in Haiti, courtesy of the international community that donated \$29 million to fund the elections. As of now, details about a recent meeting between current Haitian President, René Prèval, and members of Haiti's election commission, have stirred up new governmental corruption accusations.

The "secret" meeting was held a few days prior to the disqualification of 14 potential candidates. Confirmation from several alleged

sources have suggested that the election has been under manipulation on what is supposed to be an independent body election (which ensures that the elections are neither tampered nor swayed). According to a few credible sources, the decisions on who could remain on the presidential list were made during this meeting. Many feel as if this is just a further attempt to continue controlling the elections.

"Logically, a president must be independent. Rene Preval said he would support Jude Celestin. The presidential campaign hasn't even started, yet he has declared a candidate," states, Jean Norgaisse a Haitian professor, at Spelman College.

Recently, Prèval has also kept in contact with the remaining candidates allowed to run in the election. Among the 14 candidates who were rejected was the well-known hip hop star, Wyclef Jean. In order to become president of Haiti, a candidate must have been a resident

for at least five consecutive years. They must also meet certain tax compliances. Lawyers for Jean argue that he has had consistent presence in Haiti since the year 2005. Furthermore, he was appointed as Haiti's "ambassador at large" in 2007. In this responsibility, Jean was assigned to represent Haiti in numerous affairs. His lawyers made a point to also clarify that the job of an ambassador requires inevitable absence.

Professor Norgaisse displayed no signs of being fickle in his opinion on the matter. "Everyone has the right to be a candidate if he fulfills the requirement. Unfortunately, Wyclef doesn't fulfill the requirements to become president. He doesn't even have basic education. If he is not educated, how can he manage a country?" questions Norgaisse.

The controversy over Preval's rumored efforts to seize the elections behind closed doors, are also the commentary concerning

United States efforts and presence in Haiti. Following the earthquake disaster, there was a huge fear that this tragedy could be used to exploit the impoverished island.

While U.S. officials deny the accusations, speculation still occurs. Professor Norgaisse states that "In the past, as well as today, U.S. presence has and will remain permanent. Therefore we need the U.S. but those who are in charge of Haiti need to know how to use (the U.S.). We need them, but they're not supposed to impose their own decisions upon our country."

Unfortunately, Haiti has not completed its process of rebuilding. Transportation is very limited due to machinery and debris remains left in the streets, thus it is questionable as to which method everyone will use to find their way to the voting polls.

## Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy: With Hope, Education and Action

Brittany Fennell  
Copy Editor

Sept. 16—Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy in South Africa visited Spelman College. When the young ladies came into the room, they were immediately greeted with hugs from Spelman ambassadors and students. The mission of the girls visiting Spelman College was to give them a global perspective on the United States.

"Spelman is the first campus tour for the girls," said Erica S. Johnson, the Associate Director of Admissions. These young ladies will be traveling to many schools around the nation. Some include Harvard University and Howard University. Out of all the schools the academy will be visiting, Spelman was chosen as one of the schools to be filmed.

These young ladies are the first graduating class from their school. They will be in the United States until October visiting at least 17 schools in the states.

This academy was established by Oprah Winfrey on Dec. 6, 2002, two years after her visit with Nelson Mandela. The academy was officially opened on Jan. 2, 2007 to 7th and 8th graders, with a mission to uplift and motivate these young ladies to achieve the unthinkable.

Ingrid Hayes, the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions, presided over the event. Ms. Hayes humbly presented President Tatum to the young ladies for words of encouragement.

President Beverly Daniel Tatum greeted the young ladies with open arms and kind sentiments. "Spelman is a global leader for women of African-American descent," said President Tatum. She emphasized that

Spelman College is making more of an effort to give students a global perspective on life, whether it be through studying abroad opportunities, fellowships or programs.

President Tatum introduced the Gordon Zeto- Endowment Fund for International Initiatives, which will give Spelman students a chance to think critically, while experiencing a life changing global perspective. This initiative

the first time you are with your whole class," said McAlpin. She remembers this being an empowering, yet nervous moment for her because she was beginning a new journey in her life.

Senior Christina Whatley, shares one of her greatest experiences at Spelman has been with the Bonner Scholars Program. "We get the school's support to do service and reach

Program will go onto graduate school and become professors through this program.

The Mellon Mays scholars were each able to provide the young ladies with a brief description of their future goals, ambitions and dreams.

Mellon Mays scholar and senior Gabrielle Hamilton emphasized her love for the art of music. "I don't want to be an opera diva," said Hamilton jokingly. She shared with the young ladies that her field of concentration, includes studying the craft of beat boxing as a form of music. Hip-hop is often times featured in a negative connotation, rather than a positive connotation.

"Hip-hop needs to be legitimized because the media has attached such a terrible stigma on hip hop collectively. It's difficult to actually think of hip-hop, as a form of music let alone a unique crafted style of music," said Hamilton.

This visit gave these young ladies an opportunity to see women of color, succeeding in multiple fields.

"The school will teach girls to be the best human beings they can ever be; it will train them to become decision-makers and leaders; it will be a model school for the rest of the world," says Ms. Winfrey.

Though these young ladies have come from poverty stricken and disadvantaged backgrounds; the academy is dedicated to strengthening and encouraging the students to prevail to greater heights.

Spelman students embodied pillars of character and moral integrity for these young ladies. The visit to Spelman College showed the Leadership Academy girls that with hope and education can prevail.

*The school will teach girls to be the best human beings they can ever be; it will train them to become decision-makers and leaders; it will be a model school for the rest of the world,*

was named after Nora A. Gordon, C'1888, who was the first Spelman woman to teach in the Congo, and after Flora E. Zeto, C'1915 the first woman from the Congo to graduate from Spelman.

These International Initiatives give Spelman students the chance to be free-thinking women beyond the domestic sphere.

Current Spelman students shared their viewpoints on their unique experiences here at Spelman College. The panel members, showed authenticity and poise, as each Spelman student shared with these young ladies and Spelman students their experiences with this excellent institution.

Senior Lauren McAlpin, recalls that one of her fondest memories at Spelman thus far was the parting ceremony. "Everyone gets [all] emotional leaving their family, we walk in Sisters Chapel and you get through it, its

out to those less fortunate communities," said Whatley. Spelman has given her the opportunity to not only help those around her, but to change the world through community service.

Junior Charity Ndao, who is from Zambia, was very interested in Spelman after meeting a current student.

"The Spelman sisterhood is alive and well," said Ndao. She emphasized that the sisterhood at this institution is still a thriving quality which sets Spelman apart from other schools.

There were United Negro College Fund Mellon Mays scholars at this event as well. Their presence allowed for the students at the Leadership Academy, to see Spelman students who are interested in pursuing their doctorate degree, in a specific discipline.

Many Spelman students who are a part of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

### Advisers

Sylvia Maddox  
Renita Mathis

### Editor-in-Chief

Jasmine Leal-Taylor

### Executive Editors

Deaweh Benson  
Jordan Harris

### Managing Editor

Kelly Harper

### A & E

Alana McKinney  
Dajae Gillard-White

### Fashion & Beauty

Gabrielle Hamilton

### The Forum

Stevi Darden  
Briana Haymon

### Lifestyle

Nicole Smith

### News

Kirstin Evans  
Jelissa MooYin

### Layout & Design Editor

Kevin Reeves

### Layout & Design Staff

Ashley Jones  
April Rushin

### Photography Editor

Lea Scruggs

### Web Editor

Briyyah McClain

### Copy Editors

Natasha Abellard  
Brittany Fennell  
Passion Hemphill

### Business Manager

Toni Cannady

### THE SPELMAN

## SPOTLIGHT

350 Spelman Lane, Box 1234  
Atlanta, Ga 30314  
Albert E. Manley College Center  
404-270-5969

### Advertising

advertise.spelmanspotlight@gmail.com

### Other Inquiries

spelmanspotlight@gmail.com



# Let's Get Physical: Personal Training at Spelman's Wellness Center

Margaret West  
Staff Writer

The cafeteria's buffet serving style is enough to help any student get comfortably out of shape. However, Spelman College's Wellness Center, located in Read Hall, offers tools and assistance for healthy living. Not only does Read Hall house all of Spelman College Sports, but a plethora of ways to attain and maintain fitness. The little known secret of Read Hall is finally being revealed.

There is a bounty of opportunities presented to get in shape and maintain your fitness in the Wellness Center. A program that is often overlooked is the personal training service offered by Wellness Coordinator and Equipment Manager, Chavonne Shorter.

The personal training consists of the trainee keeping a food log everyday and meeting with Shorter once a week to receive advice on her diet.

The student constructs the workout portion of the personal training. By attending the workout programs offered throughout the week such as Zumba dance classes, PiYo (a hybrid of Pilates and Yoga), Urban Hip Hop classes, as well as regular gym workout sessions.

"It's good to have someone to be accountable

to. The food logs help make me more conscious of my diet. Also, you dictate the workout plan, so you can maintain it and go on your own time. When I exercise I feel better about myself and have more energy throughout the day," said Imani Hester, a first-year student at Spelman.

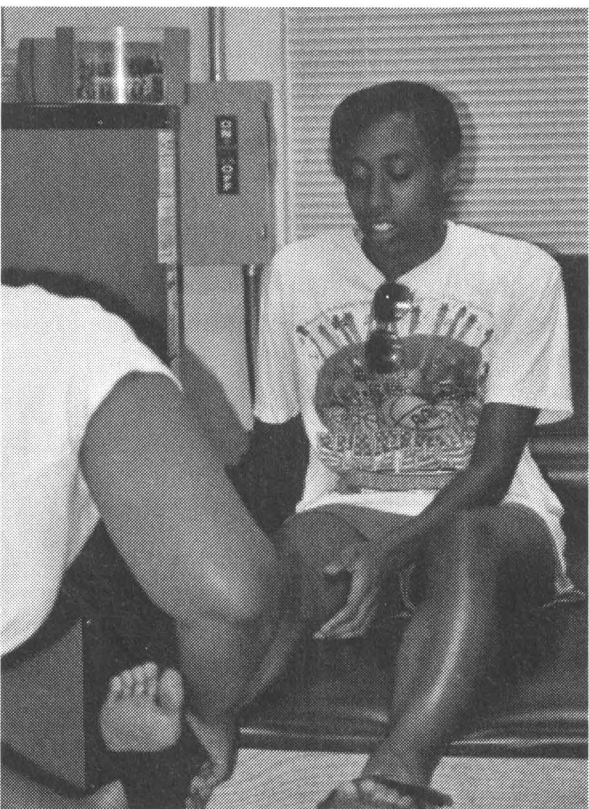
Physical ability is not the only thing developed with the personal training sessions, but also a relationship with a valued faculty member.

"Shorter immediately was willing to help me with my health and she genuinely cares about my well being," Hester said. "A good relationship began with her quickly. Every time I see her, she encourages me to keep up with my exercise and food logging."

The encouraging relationship Shorter fosters with the women she trains is just another example of the Spelman experience. Students are able to form positive relationships with faculty and staff members like Shorter.

The health services offered are beneficial and also cost effective compared to regular gym fees that, according to FatWallet.com, range from \$500 to \$950 for a two to three year period.

Personal Training at Spelman accompanied with the gym in Read Hall is more geared



Sport trainer in Read Hall assisting an injured athlete.

towards the college student budget.

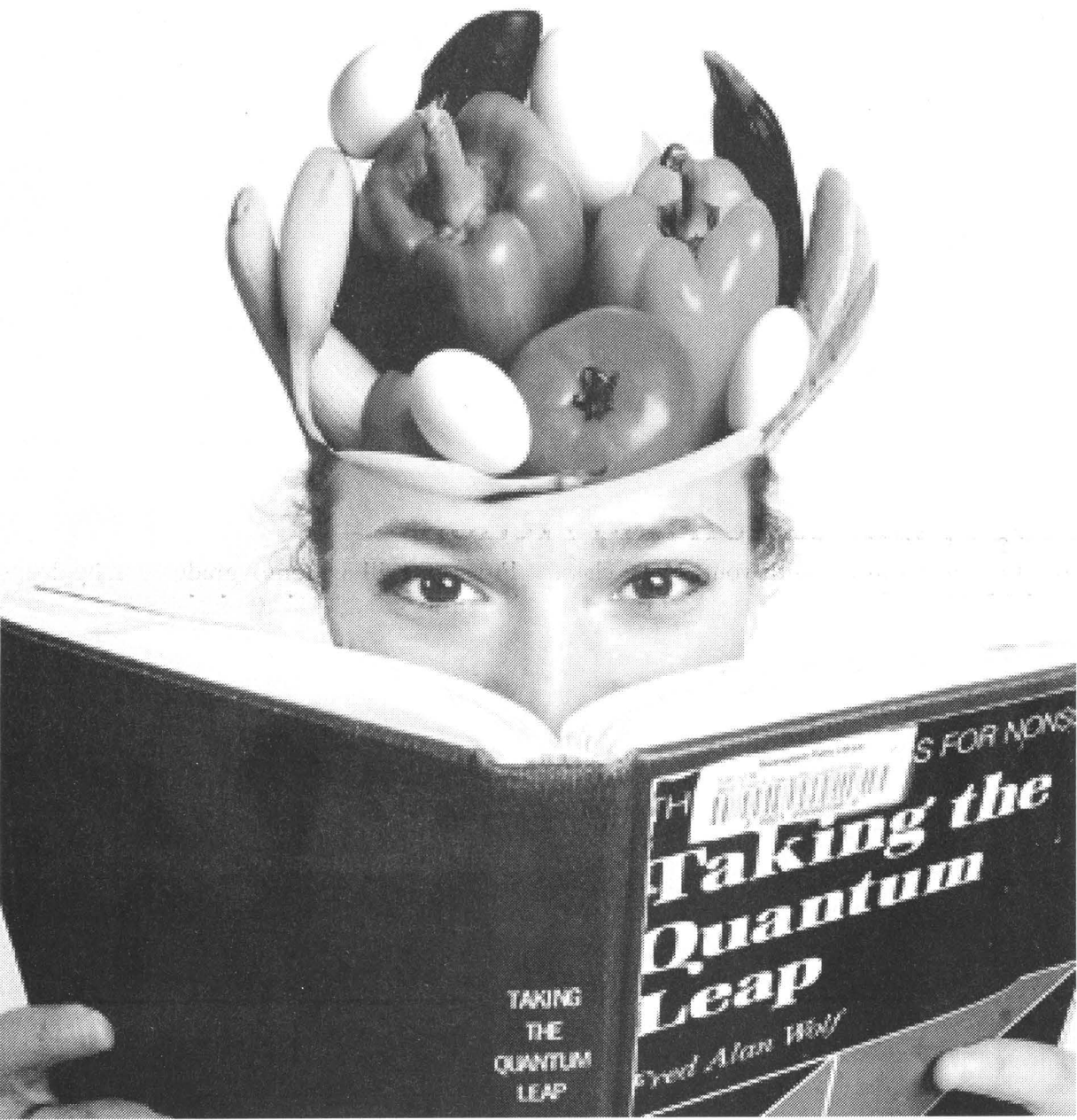
The health services offered at Spelman College greatly impact the students. Creating a preventative mindset among these women that can decrease the number of people who suffer from diseases attributed to poor diet

and inactivity like diabetes, hypertension and other ailments. The knowledge acquired about their own health can be shared with family and friends to encourage them to lead a healthier lifestyle.

"I would recommend the program to everyone, even if you feel healthy and in shape. It's good to have someone who cares to encourage you on the road to good and better health," Hester said.

So, if you are looking for a way to get in shape and maintain your fitness level, stop by Read Hall and pick up a brochure or speak with Shorter. Personal Training isn't just if you're concerned about your health. It's for every Spelman student, from couch potato to star athlete.

Meetings with Shorter are based on your availability as well as hers, and are only offered during the academic school year. Make an appointment today!



## Top 10 Best Foods to Stimulate Your Mind

Lauren Hawkins  
Staff Writer

You have a test Friday and lately you have not been able to concentrate. Your brain is fried from the long, hectic school week and you have run out of methods of studying to try. You may have wondered what foods would help stimulate your brain during these hard times. Instead of relying on caffeine in soft drinks and coffee, the following foods will give you more brainpower and may even help you ace your next test.

**1. Salmon.** Salmon has a high concentration of Omega 3 fatty acids and is a good choice when it comes to stimulating the mind. The human brain contains about 60 percent structural fat and salmon adds to this amount with its healthy omega 3 fats.

**2. Blueberries.** These small, navy blue hued fruits have been proven to protect the brain from stress. They are also low in calories and can be eaten with yogurt, ice cream or even by themselves.

**3. Whole Grains.** Whole grains include wild rice, brown rice, whole wheat, oatmeal, whole oats and barley. These grains are a good source of vitamin B, Vitamin E, magnesium, iron and fiber.

**4. Eggs.** This breakfast favorite is a good source of the nutrient choline. This nutrient helps regulate the brain,

nervous system, and cardiovascular system.

**5. Mixed Nuts.** Nuts are full of protein and they also provide a good source of healthy fats. Nuts also contain many antioxidants and minerals which can be included daily for a healthy diet.

**6. Peppermint.** This aromatic herb has been tested and used by herbalists for many years. It is commonly used in tea and it has been proven to increase brain function.

**7. Flax seed.** Flax seed is an ingredient found in many common everyday foods such as crackers, frozen waffles and oatmeal. It has Omega-3 essential fatty acids, lignans, and fiber all important for good brain function.

**8. Spinach.** Studies show that the consumption of green leafy vegetables like spinach may help the decline in brain function over time.

**9. Potatoes.** Potatoes are high in carbohydrates and potatoes maintain a good level of glucose in the blood. This combination stops fatigue from creeping up on the brain.

**10. Coffee in moderation.** Who would have ever thought this caffeinated drink would make the list? Coffee in moderation is the number one source in the American diet for antioxidants.

### Trending Topics

#didyoreallythink God would appreciate you singing to him and the Omegas?

#didyoreallythink you were going to place with that wack poem?

#didyoreallythink you wouldn't get keyed?

#didyoreallythink a leotard was sufficient?

#didyoreallythink no one knew you really weren't dressed up for "meetings" all week ?

#didyoreallythink that was ambitious?

#didyoreallythink no one would notice you tripping in your dress?

#didyoreallythink that you would get a brochure in jeans? There's a fine line between discrete and dumb!

#didyoreallythink you would be able to be in the pageant and your still on probation?

#didyoreallythink it was ok to have a rush during your week?

#didyoreallythink it was cool to wear your paraphernalia? You're not even in the Divine 9...#wheretheydothata?

#didyoreallythink your after party would be poppin? #fail

#didyoreallythink you could sing? Did you ever sing that song before the pageant? Why did they let you come out like that? #epicfail

## Is She Really An American Idol?

Seanna' Dark  
Staff Writer

After visiting Spelman to give an empowering speech during a convocation last semester, students have a right to be upset with the recent actions of American Idol, Fantasia Barrino. After she told the Spelman student body to never take life for granted, find a good man, and not listen to the negativity of others, Barrino had an affair with a married man and then tried to commit suicide.

Fantasia's life has been open to the public since she earned the title, American Idol. Still, nothing about her story has been more surprising than the events that have occurred over the last month. It is only fair that she takes full responsibility for her actions and is confronted. Fantasia was not the only person who was hurt by the incidents that occurred. Many fans that depend and look up to her were impacted as well.

While the suicide attempt alone was disturbing enough, what made matters worse was that she made a joke about it. According to several anonymous sources, when asked if she had taken any Aspirin recently, her response was that she switched to Tylenol. No one is sure what the so-called American "Idol" was thinking, but most would agree that suicide is not a joking matter. You do not need a GED, or any degree for that matter, to know better than to respond so poorly to such a sensitive question.

In Fantasia's defense she is only human and we all make mistakes. However, what separates her is that the public can see all of her shortcomings. As a celebrity and most importantly as a mother, she has taken on the responsibility of being an example for others.

While the constant attention from the media or the pressure from society may seem unfair, it is the role she chose to take on as a celebrity.

In the past, she has talked about the negative stigma that society has given her because she was an illiterate young mother, African-American and an abuse victim. She has definitely not been dealt the best cards in life, so one would think that she would have been more careful. Sadly, it appears as if she is regressing.

Has Fantasia learned from her mistakes or is she just like everyone else who does not practice what they preach? Her actions have proved everyone that doubted her to be correct. It looks like she is not deserving of the title as America's "Idol."





# 4 | The Spelman Spotlight Protecting the Prestige: The Truth About the Class of 2014

Stevi Darden  
Forum Editor

What does it mean to be a Spelman Woman? That question provokes numerous answers and suggestions. Some believe that a Spelman woman is a person with class and eloquence. Others think that Spelman women are self-centered and narcissistic. Some people even associate beauty with the idea of a Spelmanite. Those stereotypes are debatable, however, one label is not ... Spelman women are the cream of the intellectual crop. But how long will we be able to claim that title?

Unfortunately, students have been whispering that the class of 2014 had the lowest incoming grade point average of any freshman class in decades. This "fact" is completely false. The freshman class did not shift the records of grade point averages. In fact, the freshman had higher incoming GPAs and standardized test scores than the class of 2013!

When asked about the supposed drop in grade point averages, Ms. Hayes, the Director of Admissions, stated, "I would like to know where this information is coming from. I am not aware of that statistic." Hayes assures students that the selection process is still competitive.

"We use a holistic review that considers not only a students' grade point average and test scores, but also their essays and how they perform relative to their peers," Hayes comments.

The administrative office has even taken a new approach to the selection process, "We have been conducting interviews with some students for the past two years," says Hayes. By implementing these in-person, telephone, and Skype interviews, Spelman is attempting to stay ahead in the recruitment process. With an average GPA of 3.65, the class of 2014 filled the dorm rooms with hopes of successful matriculation through Spelman. Unfortunately, many upperclassmen subjected these first-years to the humiliation of being perceived as incapable or "unworthy" of a Spelman education. It has to make you wonder why these rumors and worries are brewing.

According to USnews.com, Spelman ranked number one in the Historically Black College

and Universities Ranking for 2011. This is not a new statistic. Let us be honest, the women at this school are accustomed to winning and have no intention on stopping. Spelmanites are typically involved, ambitious, and have a commitment to excellence. Although we occasionally receive some criticism for our extreme focus, our reputation is irrefutable. Contrary to popular belief, private institutions are very different from public schools and our livelihood depends on student performance. Spelman is a private institution that thrives heavily on alumnae contribution and endorsements. Sadly, being the second best Historically Black College will not bring in the same amount of support. There is an unseen pressure that lingers on the backs of the students.

These "GPA rumors" are stemming from a place of fear and concern within the Spelman students. The future of Spelman, whether it is in academics, reputation, majors or cafeteria food, always keeps students and faculty alike on the edge of their seats. We constantly worry about the prestige of our school being flushed down the toilet. Some of us are even haunted by the ghost of Morris Brown's past, and shudder at the thought of our school's untimely demise.

The nonsense needs to end here. We, the students, are in complete control of where the institution will go in the future. If the school means so much to us, then statistics and society should not be able to dictate its value. We are responsible for the legacy that we leave behind to future and potential Spelman graduates.

If we truly believe that we are sisters at this institution, then a hand should be extended to help the new Spelmanites as opposed to pushing them down. Now do not misunderstand, the freshmen are far from perfect, but starting rumors implying that they "do not deserve to be here," is petty and has the stench of high school sabotage. We are better than that. It would not hurt to give a freshman a ride to CVS, edit one of their papers, or even give them advice about the Atlanta University Center as a whole. Sometimes we become so engulfed in who we are now, that we forget who we were. We were all lucky enough to have the "freshmen experience," so try your best not to deprive the class of 2014 of theirs.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

Taren Marsaw



Deaweh Benson  
Executive Editor

Where there is a need, there also needs to be someone courageous enough to fill the void. Senior English major, Taren Marsaw is just the right person for the job.

The Houston native realized that young adults are dealt an extreme disservice. After reading numerous financial self-help books, Marsaw realized that the material was written in a fashion that did not attract young adults. Faced with staggering statistics revealing that \$27,650 was the average debt for students attending private non-profit schools, she was compelled to make a difference.

Two years ago, Marsaw established Tender Magazine and is now the Chief Executive Officer and Creative Executive for her publication. The magazine focuses on business and financial literacy for young adults with the core mission to inspire the youth to think creatively about the opportunities they can create for themselves.

"Tender Magazine holds a double-meaning. For one, the word tender refers to cash and legal tender. On the other hand, tender describes the age group of my young audience," Marsaw comments.

When asked about the importance of her publication, the Chief Executive Officer comments, "I think it is necessary for young adults to understand that the choice to be boxed in a [financial holding cell] is their own. The choice to succeed is just as much of a choice as the food you eat for dinner."

Some of the topics covered in previous issues of Tender include, reinvesting refund checks, how to network for network and an ongoing stock market column.

"Tender exposes young students to resources

that they might otherwise overlook while at the same time inspiring them to think about the opportunities that they actually have," Marsaw continues.

Though running a magazine is a highly desirable feat, the work is anything but easy. Balancing the tasks of business CEO, Creative Executive, and full-time student is a great challenge.

In order to overcome these battles, Marsaw is looking for help. She plans on developing an internship program that will provide students with course credit and valuable experience.

In addition to managing the day-to-day affairs of Tender, Marsaw is also a photo-retoucher and studio production intern for Derek Blanks photography. In this role, Marsaw is able to assist the photographer on set lighting and any aspect of the actual product.

In the future, Marsaw hopes that Tender becomes a well-known resource for every student attending historically black colleges and universities.

Taren comments that, "I am excessively myself." When giving advice to other aspiring moguls, she states, "First, write down what you want to achieve. Then think, breathe and sleep the things you have wished to accomplish. Finally, do not think about your goals as work, think about them as life."

The next issue will be available in late October, and will feature topics on domestic violence in honor of domestic violence awareness month. Hard copies can be found on Spelman's campus.

Read the magazine online at [www.tendermag.blogspot.com](http://www.tendermag.blogspot.com).

If interested in getting involved, contact [tendermag@gmail.com](mailto:tendermag@gmail.com)

# is writing your passion?

Then Visit The Spelman Spotlight Staff Meetings  
Mondays at 6:30  
Cosby LL 30

## Letting it All Hang out

Nicole S. Smith  
Lifestyle Editor

Spelman Women are free-thinking women with big personalities and even bigger senses of style who often use fashion as an avenue of expression. Some students, however, are pushing the envelope by wearing extremely revealing clothing around campus. So the question now is what are you trying to express?

Several Spelman professors had a lot to say about the revealing attire that some students choose to wear to class.

"You don't know what to do. If I speak with the student I don't know what her reaction would be. It's a matter of being polite to your professor, your classmates and your community," Dr. Georges Nana of the Spanish department said.

"Your practicing to become a professional woman, and if you don't take this opportunity your doing yourself a great disservice," said, Dr. Natasha McPherson, a history professor at Spelman.

There have been several instances around campus in which professors have had to ask students to leave their class due to the

provocative nature of their clothing. Many professors have had memorable encounters with students wearing questionable attire.

"Last week a student was wearing blue jeans, but you could see her whole body because the jeans are completely ripped and you see too much. So I asked her 'What happened to your jeans?' And she laughed and I thought she would see maybe she shouldn't wear that again. But she came back next week with the same pants," Nana said.

Numerous students feel as though, some of their Spelman sisters are taking their wardrobe too far.

"I have seen the dark meat," senior Tendayi Kuumba said.

"This girl came into weight training. She had a big t-shirt on, which is fine. No bra on, and some short shorts that if she even tipped over a little bit you would've seen all her cheeks hanging out, I feel like nobody needs to see all of that," freshman Amanda Cooks said. "And she was still walking around campus like that like two hours later, after weight training. I think girls just think it's cute. But if you are trying to say something about your style, not like that. There is a time and place for

everything. You have to be mindful of who is around you."

"You are a reflection of your school and your friends," freshman Kai Hervey said.

In some cases, the lack of clothing is not a form of self expression, but a simple solution to an unavoidable problem.

"Atlanta weather is unbearable and I can not wear sweatpants. I can't wear jeans without my legs feeling sweaty. It's just not comfortable. As long as your booty isn't hanging out, then I think your fine," freshman Amber Evangelista said.

Society often negatively stereotypes African American women, and because of this black women sometimes go to the extremes in the way they dress to refute these stereotypes.

"We go over and above sometimes, the black middle class, to refute those stereotypes, like oh we are not slutty and no, we are not hypersexualized. To go overboard, we put the dictates out there and on ourselves that are sometimes constraining to people expressing themselves," Dr. M. Bahati Kuumba of the Women Studies department said.

Regardless of whether you are rebelling against the norm, attempting to find some

form of comfort in the notorious Atlanta heat or simply making a fashion statement, skimpy apparel will often cause you trouble. Many students choose to look down upon or speak negatively about the various females on campus who are scantily dressed, however that will not fix the problem.

"What I usually do, if I feel that it's something to their detriment, I just talk to them. I just say honey look I want to talk to you. I'm talking to you because I care about you and I'm not trying to judge you at all, but I just know because what I'm looking at, that from the prospective of the viewer, what you are wearing is going to cause you some problems," associate director of continuing education Jamila Canady said. "I know one girl, I talked to her and she was really hot. She was wearing some stuff. I mean she was coming out of her shorts. So I just talked to her one day and we talked and we just had a wonderful conversation. She was so appreciative. You just have to be honest with people. If you're doing it from a place of love, then they are not going to be offended. They'll appreciate that you took the time to care about them. It's really about a place of love and loving one another."



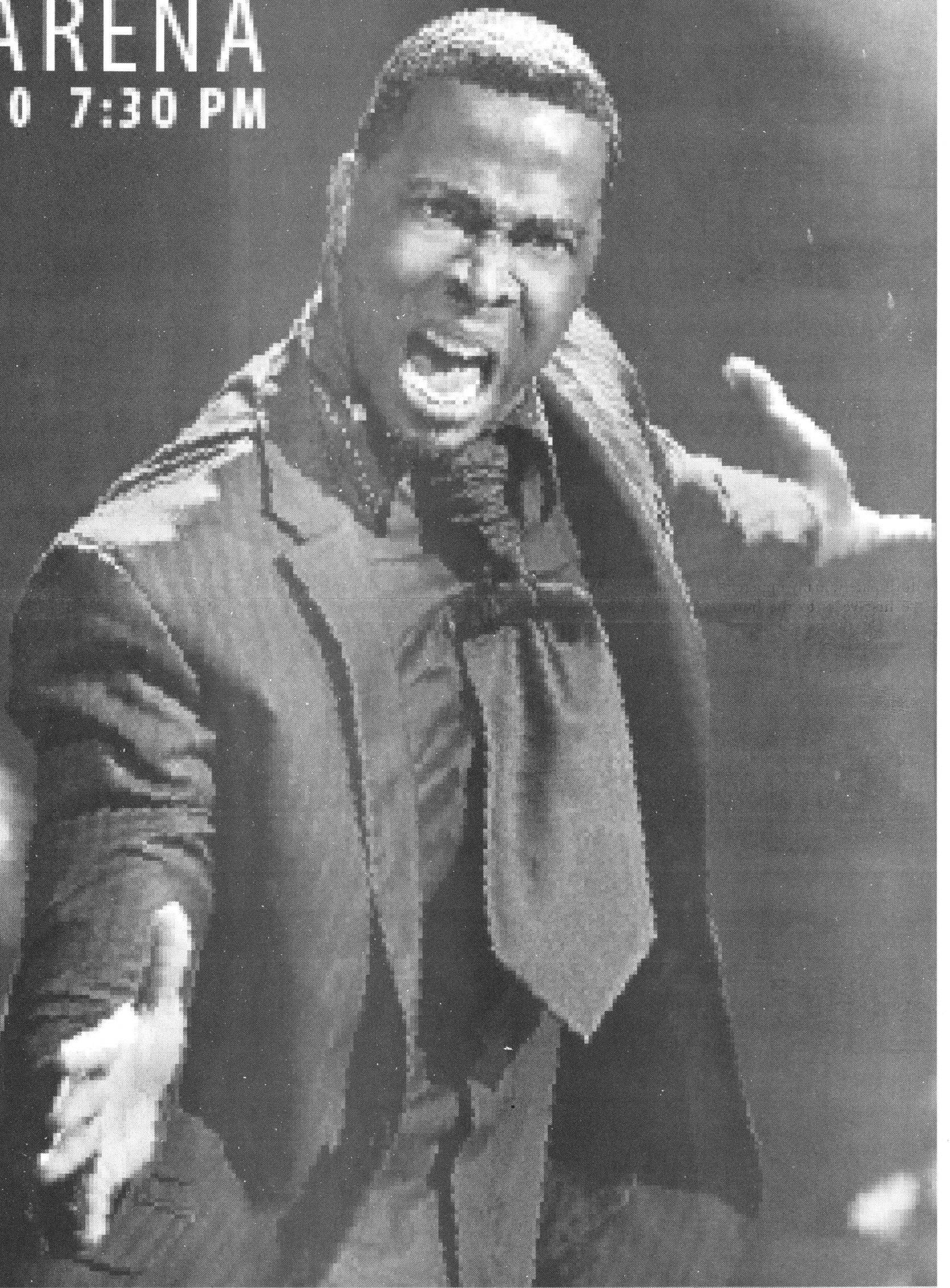
A V E R I Z O N E X P E R I E N C E

*How*  
**SWEET | SOUND**

**ATLANTA**

**PHILIPS ARENA**

**OCTOBER 2, 2010 7:30 PM**



**THE SEARCH FOR THE BEST CHURCH CHOIR IN AMERICA  
HOSTED BY DONALD LAWRENCE & CECE WINANS**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM FOR PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES**

Tickets available at the Philips Arena Box Office, Ticketmaster outlets, [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com),  
[www.PhilipsArena.com](http://www.PhilipsArena.com) or Ticketmaster charge by phone 1.800.745.3000.

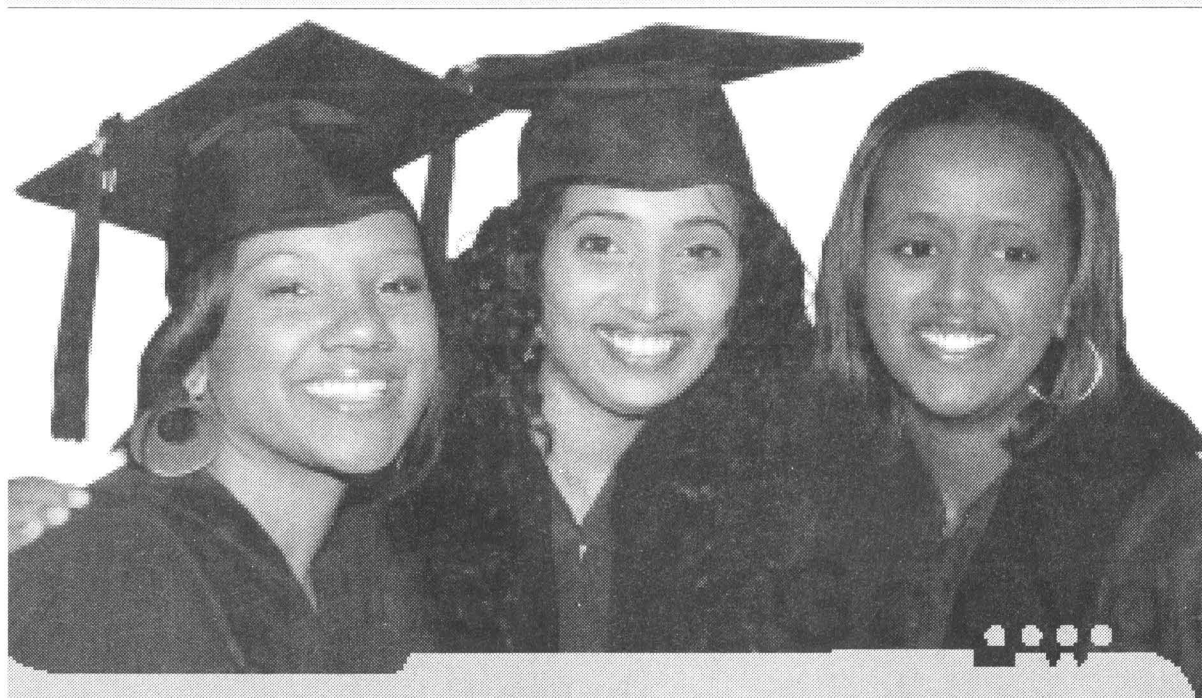


**HowSweetTheSound.com**





**Nominate the next Student Spotlight!!!**  
 e-mail us a short paragraph saying who and  
 why at:  
[spelmanspotlight@gmail.com](mailto:spelmanspotlight@gmail.com)  
 Open to all AUC students.



**FIND YOUR RUSH.**

**WHERE PASSION MEETS PROFESSION.**

*Are you looking for the real-world experience you can only get from training in a rich variety of clinical settings that mirror the world's diverse populations?*

Offering more than 30 unique degree or certificate options in medicine, nursing, allied health and biomedical research, Rush is a small private university with full access to a large academic medical center. Rush University is the academic component of Rush University Medical Center, a leader in health care in Chicago and in the Midwest for more than 170 years. To learn more about Rush University visit [www.rushu.rush.edu/spelman](http://www.rushu.rush.edu/spelman).

Rush University is known for its:

- Focus on community and global health
- National rankings
- Practitioner-teacher model
- Nurturing academic environment
- Translational research

Rush Medical College   College of Nursing   College of Health Sciences   Graduate College

**RUSH UNIVERSITY**

[www.rushu.rush.edu](http://www.rushu.rush.edu)

**LIVE  
CREATIVELY  
AT AN AUTHENTIC PRICE.**



Castleberry Point is at the epicenter of Atlanta's only true art and loft district, Castleberry Hill. Very livable, very walkable and a real find. Now you see them, soon you won't.

**Unheard of Pricing!  
Unheard of Financing!**

- FHA Financing  
Only 3.5% Down\*
- Down Payment Assistance\*
- Buyers Receive up to 2% in Closing Costs!

**Studios NOW  
from \$88,900**

**1 BR NOW  
from \$142,900**

**2 BR NOW  
from \$192,900**

**FINAL 3 BR NOW  
from \$306,900**

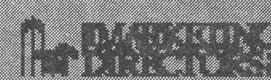
**CASTLEBERRY POINT**

**MOVE IN NOW!**

Sales Center Open Daily  
 404.688.9900 [CastleberryPoint.com](http://CastleberryPoint.com)  
 327 Nelson Street, Atlanta, GA 30313



\*For qualified buyers. See lender for details. All information is believed to be accurate but is not warranted.



**Got your keys?**

**Got your cards?**

**Got your condoms?**

[www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)

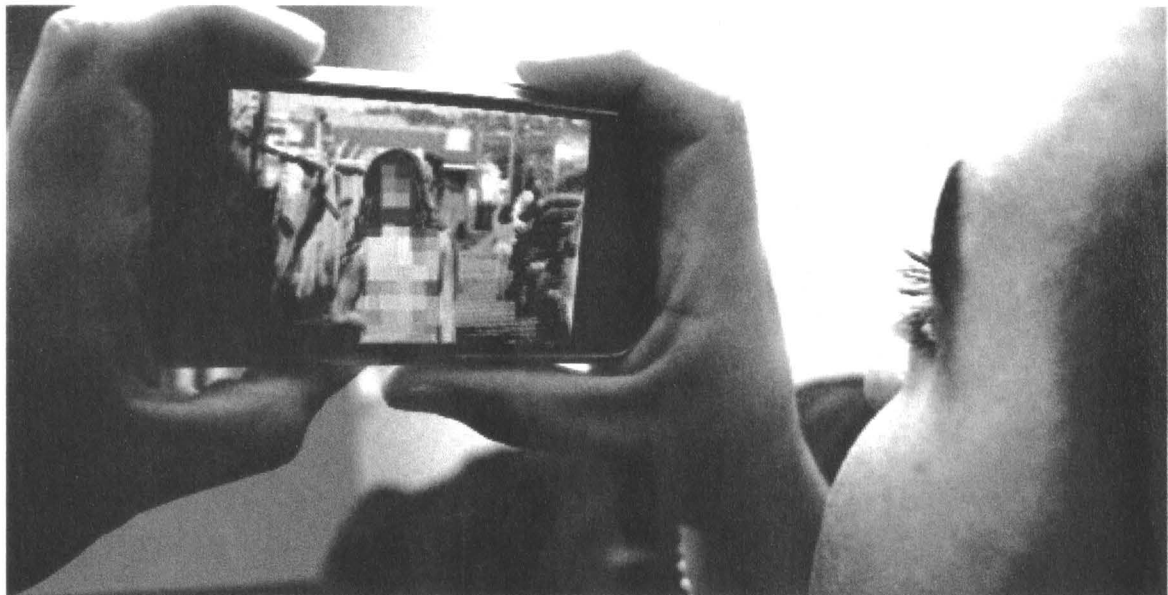
[www.mysistahs.org](http://www.mysistahs.org)



**TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS. TALK TO YOUR PARTNER.  
TOGETHER, WE CAN STOP HIV.**

2000 M St NW, Ste 750 | Washington, DC 20036 USA | P: 202.419.3420 | F: 202.419.1448





## SEX-TING!

Lea Scruggs  
Photography Editor

After a few weeks of talking to a guy, “Ashley” notices he is growing more and more distant. In hopes of gaining his attention back, she sends him a photo of herself ‘spread eagle’ in the bathroom mirror. Two days later, the only attention she got were laughs and a top spot on the latest Trending Topic: #TheBlacklist.

Although Ashley is a fictional character, we have all heard horrific stories about girls or guys whose naked bodies were publicized to the student body and throughout cyberspace. For some students, this nightmare can quickly become a reality when placed in the wrong hands while others feel that sexting is simply a fun and flirty way to keep a relationship interesting.

According to the Urban Dictionary, sexting is “The act of text messaging someone in the hopes of having a sexual encounter with them later; initially casual, transitioning into highly suggestive and even sexually explicit.”

This social phenomenon has become as normal as texting, and according to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (NCPTUP), a reported 1 in 5 teens and young adults do it.

However, these ‘sexual encounters’ don’t always end happily. When searching Google for the word, one discovers links to teen arrests or cases of infidelity ‘caught on text.’ In many states, “sexting” is considered a crime when a minor is involved. Either party can be charged with the distribution of child pornography, or placed on a local sex offender list.

The NCPTUP in collaboration with CosmoGirl reported that 1 in 5 teens have sexted even though the majority knows it could be a crime.

Junior, Denia Moreland expressed, “I can see how it’s creepy for an 80 year-old man to “sext” a 15 year old girl, but I don’t think it’s a crime for teens to sext each other.”

Despite the stigma associated with “sexting,” most students agree that “sexting” is a great

communication tool for adults in committed relationships, especially for those in long distance ones. Still, there must be a huge amount of trust when sending erotic texts or pictures of yourself to other people.

Two Morehouse students, junior Daryl Fortson and senior Maurice\*\*, both believe that sexting is good for people in long distance relationships who trust each other.

Fortson explained, “[Sexting] keeps the relationship juicy for the next time you see that person.”

While Maurice\*\* feels that, “You still want to keep that connection, and sending pictures or texts helps.”

On one hand, this is college and many students make poor decisions when it comes to sexting. It is important to know that not everyone keeps those risqué photos you share with them.

“I have guy friends that have albums of naked girls, and have no problem showing them to other people,” said junior, Stevi Darden.

Another student from Morehouse admitted to doing just this. Steve\*, a senior, expressed that.

“It depends on who the girl is, if she is a random, I would probably send the photo around to friends.”

Junior, Fatima Elswify, was not surprised to hear about people doing this and emphasized that, “If you are not in a committed relationship, don’t be surprised if your goods show up in a twitpic.”

At the end of the day, sexting may seem like harmless flirtation, but nude pictures or explicit messages you send could end up circulating throughout the AUC. So, please remember to press delete or just don’t send them.

If you do, keep in mind that those sexts could result in a criminal offense or even end up on the dreaded blacklist.

\*name changed for privacy  
\*\* last name held for privacy

## I Got Your Back...For Now

Mariah Colon  
Staff Writer

High-profile romance? Check.  
Beautiful family? Check.  
Fairytale wedding? Check.  
Criminal record?... Check.

Exactly one month after they exchanged vows, newlyweds Clifford ‘TIP’ Harris and Temeka ‘Tiny’ Cottle took a new approach by capturing honeymoon memories with mug shots. The couple was arrested on Sept. 1 for drug possession. This isn’t Clifford’s, (also known as T.I.), first run in with the law. He was arrested on gun charges and served a 366 day sentence between an Arkansas prison and an Atlanta halfway house, where he was released this past May.

After his release from prison, the couple was finally able to take the walk down the aisle after an eleven-year-long, on-and-off relationship. Now, their love is being tested once again with this recent arrest. The rapper



Clifford “TI” Harris and his wife, Temeka “Tiny” Harris at the his first produced film, “Takers.” could be facing more years behind bars for violating his probation, especially now that the results of his drug test showed there were indeed illegal drugs in his system the night of

**Retraction Statement:** On September 17, the Spelman Spotlight released an article entitled “Breaking The Silence: Embezzlement May Have Hit Close to Home” about staff members alleged financial misuse at HBCUs, more specifically at Spelman. The article stated that not many staff members were willing to discuss the issue, and while this is true, miscommunications left us unable to speak with one faculty member who was willing to give answers. Dr. Killian, Vice President of Student Affairs, later contacted us and informed us she was willing to answer questions that we have. According to Dr. Killian, there has been no embezzlement at Spelman and the faculty holds the integrity that encourages them to never partake in such acts. The Spotlight is here to bring you accurate news, based solely on fact. If our article expressed duplicity our apologies are extended to the administration and students of Spelman College.

## The Basics: Skin Care

Gabrielle Hamilton  
Fashion & Beauty Editor

Cleansing, exfoliating, moisturizing, and applying sunscreen are basic concepts in preserving the radiance and clarity of your skin. Cleansing washes away dirt, oil, makeup, and other impurities that can clog the pores. Exfoliating creates a healthy, vibrant complexion by removing the top layer of dead skin that can dull your complexion. Moisturizing helps to keep the skin hydrated. Applying sunscreen, even in the winter, can help keep the skin from becoming damaged. Finding a cleanser and a moisturizer that works for you can be difficult. So, it is helpful to know what type of skin you have before you go to the skin care counter at a department store or browsing down the aisles of Target, Walmart, or even CVS. Here is a test for you to determine your skin type and what type of products will work for you:

1. Wash your face with warm water.
2. Pat it dry with a towel.
3. Wait 15 minutes and press a tissue or blotting paper to the face.

**Normal Skin:** If you have normal skin, the tissue will come off and there will be no visible oil residue. Your face will not feel tight. It will look clean and smooth with a healthy complexion. This skin type is the least problematic. A mild, soap-free and oil-free, cleanser is all you need accompanied by a light moisturizer.

**Dry Skin:** If you have dry skin, the tissue will come off but you may feel some tightness on your face. Your skin may even be flaky. Dry skin is prone to irritation. Try using a creamy cleanser. These cleansers will not take away any of your essential oils, but they will remove dirt, makeup, and other impurities. Also, use a facial cream that will help keep your skin hydrated without clogging your pores.

**Oily Skin:** If you have oily skin, the tissue will have visible spots where the oil has been transferred. Oil is usually found around the cheeks, nose, and forehead. This skin type is often shiny and tends to have blackheads and blemishes. Use a cleanser that will help manage acne without leaving the skin too dry and use a gel moisturizer because they are very light.

**Combination Skin:** If you have combination skin, the tissue will have oil spots around your T-zone. The T-zone includes the forehead, nose, and chin. The combination skin type has both oily and dry skin. This type of skin requires various types of care. Use a cleanser that is mild, but will thoroughly cleanse the pores. Use a creamy moisturizer around dry areas like the cheeks and eyes, and use a light moisturizer for the rest of the face.

**Sensitive Skin:** If you have sensitive skin, the tissue will have no oil residue. The face may be tight because sensitive skin is usually very dry. It is easily irritated and inflamed. Use a gentle cleanser that is fragrance-free. Also, use a fragrance-free creamy moisturizer.

## Trending Topics



#didyoureallythink it was ok to be drunk at your own pageant?!  
#didyoureallythink anyone was going to come to your free pageant?  
#didyoureallythink your old pledging stories were appropriate for the forum?  
#didyoureallythink we wouldn’t find out who your girls were before Friday?  
#didyoureallythink that it was okay to show up to the party with a talent no one wanted to listen to?  
#didyoureallythink cooking was a talent? No seriously, did you?  
#didyoureallythink they deserved to win? C’mon now be honest?  
#didyoureallythink we would be impressed with the homecoming theme?

Have an idea for a trending topic?  
DM us:  
@scspotlight  
and it might be featured in the next issue!

his arrest. Where does this leave Tiny?

Throughout this highly-publicized ordeal, I could not help but admire the love between T.I. and Tiny until now. Selfish, careless, and inconsiderate was all I could come up with when I actually sat down and thought about the situation. Before, they were a beautiful example of everything someone would want in a relationship. To have a woman that is willing to stand by her partner’s side during a time that would have shattered any other relationship, seems to be any man’s dream, right?

A woman like that is hard to find. Yet, Tiny is that woman. While T.I. did his time, Tiny took care of home, managed the business and supported her partner in every way possible. I just knew that once he made it back home he would do everything in his power to avoid putting his lady through that pain again.

That was far from the truth. Barely four months after his release, T.I. finds himself dealing with the law yet again.

Now, I find myself questioning exactly what it means to be a “rider.” Does it mean to

compromise your own mental health for the person you love? Does it mean to put aside any goals you have for yourself because of selfish choices made by the one you adore?

The entire country watched while Tiny struggled to deal with the absence of T.I. throughout her reality show, “Tiny & Toya.” She was always on a mission to find things to occupy her time, keep her mind busy, and play the role of a single mother. Instead of enjoying life and spending time with her entire family, she was alone. She had her kids, her parents, and her bestfriend, Antonia ‘Toya’ Carter, but none of that could fill the void that could only be filled by her love.

Love should not be an excuse to make the inconsiderate choices that T.I. has made. These recent decisions could ultimately end with Tiny being alone for yet another extended period of time. By staying in the unhealthy relationship, Tiny is leading T.I. to believe that what he does is okay. Hopefully, T.I. can learn to appreciate his woman before she decides that coming back is not an option.

## Future Forecast

| Tues    | Wed     | Thur    | Fri     |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 71° 43° | 73° 45° | 77° 50° | 79° 52° |

Source: The Weather Channel



## 8 | The Spelman Spotlight

# Kanye West: Back In Power

Dajae Gilliard-White  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Just one year after his infamous incident with country singer Taylor Swift at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards, entertainer Kanye West is back on top.

Despite being booed at last year's award show, the audience chanted "Kanye" at the closing of his performance, and viewers praised West for his VMA appearance on the blogosphere, Twitter, and Facebook.

This love-hate relationship causes West lose fans, but continues to attract more. He understands his strengths when it comes to dealing with those in the public, hence his lyrics in "Power."

In his new single, "Runaway," West focuses and comments on the public's view of him and alludes to an apology singing "I always find something wrong; you been putting up with my s\*\*t just way too long."

Honestly, why do we continue to put up with West? It seems as though that man can get away with anything.

From his comments about President George Bush in 2006 to his award snatching in 2009 West has the power to maintain his fan base and sell albums out of this world.

West is considered arrogant, vain and simply a jerk. While many may try to excuse his behavior as a response to the sudden death of his mother, we must remember that West was walking on award show stages complaining about not winning long before his mother's passing.

West's courage to say what is on his mind



Kanye West featured in his micro video "Power," centered in the "moving art" work.

and not censor himself, regardless of how others will feel, is fairly admirable to some.

"Most of us agreed that Beyonce deserved that award last year and were confused as to why Taylor Swift won it. Some of us did feel sorry for her, but he was just being honest," junior Danielle Tidline said.

"He definitely could've gone about it in a different way, but did Taylor really need to prolong the issue after Beyonce gave her time to shine that same night?"

West has apologized numerous times and after Taylor's ode to him at this year's show some like Tidline no longer pity her. The debacle actually garnered her more attention and probably a broader fan base.

Senior Sean Fling feels that West always goes too far, but his behavior can be related to the talents that he possess.

"I think he has lost his mind, but most people who are talented in a way that deviates

away from the average level of talent are considered abnormal," Fling said. "He says what a lot of us want to say but don't have the nerve or lack of coif to do so."

Sophomore Nandi Spencer agrees and wonders why people are ever shocked by West's antics.

"If you look at his past actions you wouldn't be surprised by anything he does," Spencer said. "If he were to slap Taylor Swift I would've thought 'That was really messed up; he went too far', but I definitely wouldn't have been surprised. This is the same man that called out the President. He's Kanye!"

Is West's behavior acceptable? Because we know how he is does that mean we should become accustomed to his behavior and not set boundaries for him?

Some believe West's ill manners are unacceptable and the vilification he receives is necessary for the way he behaves.

Even West understands that he can surpass limits sometimes. In the October issue of XXL, which he interviewed himself for, West said, "How could I not, at a certain point, be like, I'm sorry."

West goes on to say, "I knew I wasn't in a great spot publicly after the incident, but I would just block it out and work as hard as possible and let my work be my saving grace."

Is his music the "saving grace" that forces us to not be too upset with him or is it his capability to wear a women's blouse and a bag that resembles a purse, but still date attractive women that causes us to respect him?

Regardless of what it may be, West has insisted that the brutality he received after the 2009 VMA fiasco is enough to make him change his image.

In an interview with the US's OK Magazine! West said: "I've become a way nicer person, way more empathetic, way more humility and I had to grow as a person because I was very spoiled."

This may be true, but honestly, can West change the way people perceive him at this point? If he does will he be as popular? Will we finally be able to concentrate more on his music rather than his crybaby antics?

When thinking about how we want to answer these questions we must keep in mind that like us West is a human. Regardless of his behavior we should be open to offering people second chances.

As a celebrity he should not be put on a pedestal nor should his actions be disregarded, but he also shouldn't be overly reprimanded.

## Flip Burger Boutique

Briana Haymon  
Forum Editor

There are plenty of ways to make an entrance. If you plan on making a debut at Flip Burger Boutique, make sure you do yours with style.

Located on Howell Mill Road, Flip is the ultimate dinner party spot if you are searching for a place to look chic while devouring burgers and sipping on milkshakes. Flip features both indoor seating, as well as a funky outdoor patio where pop music, Christmas lighting, and bright red chairs set the scene for refined, yet casual dining. If you decide to sit inside, don't expect to be able to see your food because lighting is kept at a sensual dim. But don't worry, it works. With the urban graffiti designed back walks and flat screen television sets that illuminate the fully stocked bar, Flip definitely personifies a cool, laid back atmosphere.

Boutique is such an appropriate title for

Flip, because it is anything but a regular burger joint. I thought I was in for the typical burger and fries combo, but I was definitely wrong. Their menu features a variety of eclectic selections from Confit Duck Nuggets to Parmesan Zucchini Fries. The idea of duck nuggets threw me off. My meat selection does not venture far from the basic chicken, fish, and beef conundrum. But if you do venture out to Flip, I suggest you try a few of their more adventurous items. You never know what you might come to like.

The Steak Tartare is extremely appetizing. Made with a juicy hanger steak, fresh garlic, chili, capers, Worcestershire, pickled onions, frisée, smoky mayo and topped with soft poached egg yolk, it definitely sounds like a lot to handle. But the seemingly conflicting flavors works together to create one unique "burger" that will keep you satisfied until the very last bite.

If you want to try something a little more All-American, I suggest the Philly Beef Burger. It is made with caramelized onions, green peppers, and something that was completely foreign to me: American cheese foam. It looks slightly foreign too, so don't be as caught off-guard as I was when my waiter presented it to me. The foam makes for a more light and airy flavor that plays nice with the more distinct tones of the onions. Made well done, the burger was deliciously tender.

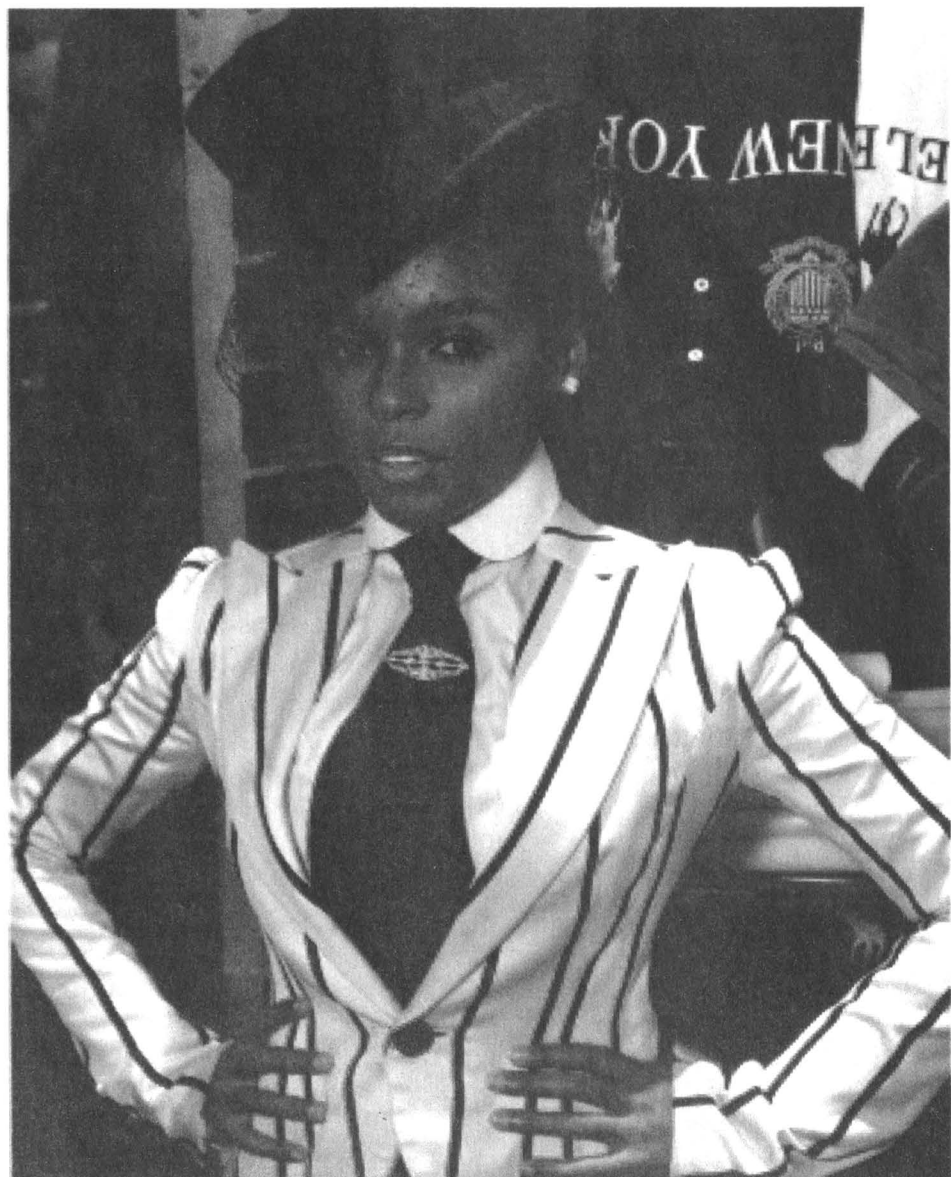
Flip has been named one the Best Burgers in Atlanta by Access Atlanta, as well as one of the Top 10 Burger Spots by MSN and Bon Appetite Magazine. But the burgers are not the only things keeping patrons coming back for more. If for nothing else, come in and try one of their specialty milkshakes. I tried the Krispy Kreme Doughnut flavored milkshake, and was oddly surprised when I began slurping on a liquid doughnut. The titles hold true, and that adds to Flip's impressive ability to pay

close attention to details and to execute each meal with flair. The thing I loved most about Flip is that it always delivers.

*Flip Burger Boutique is located at 1587 Howell Mill Road, Atlanta GA 30318. Call 404-352-FLIP (3547) to make early reservations. The hours of operation are from 11am to 10pm Mondays through Thursdays, closing at 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and closing again at 9pm on Sundays.*



## Fashion's One Night Out



Janelle Monáe visiting Ralph Lauren's reopening flagship store in New York.

Gabrielle Hamilton  
Fashion & Beauty Editor

Imagine a world where Janelle Monáe rocks out in Ralph Lauren's SoHo store window. Joss Stone performs at Macy's. Naomi Campbell dances in the street in front of Dolce & Gabbana. Gwen Stefani sells her fragrance out of a truck in the Meatpacking District. And, Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen judge a karaoke contest at Rag & Bone. This string of shenanigans by celebrities, models, designers, and beautiful people can only be experienced one night only in New York City.

"It's a new holiday", Michael Kors exclaims of Fashion's Night Out. A new holiday indeed. Shoppers received free manicures at Chanel in SoHo and on September 7th the city hosted an enormous runway show at the Lincoln Center that featured supermodels Giselle Bündchen and Naomi Campbell along with 170 other models to show the trends of this season. N.E.R.D. also provided the soundtrack to this electrifying show.

In a culture that is becoming increasingly more party-centric with reckless dance anthems from Ke\$ha and constant examples of club hopping from New Jersey natives Snooki and The Situation, there has to be more to the carefree celebration of Fashion's Night Out. In the true dramatic and surprising form of the fashion industry, there is more to Fashion's Night Out than schmoozing with celebrities and beautiful faces.

Anna Wintour, editor-in-chief of Vogue,

wants to salvage the relationship between consumers and retailers. Stores are to have extended hours on that decadent night. The initiative is to get people back in stores and have designers reconnect with their customers. Thus, Michael Kors, Donna Karan, and Vera Wang were present at the celebration. Also, because it is about boosting the economy the initiative is about creating an unforgettable atmosphere that induces people to shop without discounts. That's right! Anna Wintour wants shoppers to shop without the lure of mark-downs and exclusive bargains.

There is also an air of all-inclusiveness and community service to the mission of Fashion's Night Out. Fashion is diversity and it crosses many racial and socio-economical lines. Contributing Editor of Vogue, André Leon Talley, says "It is not an elitist showcase of fashion." Anna Wintour also adds that "Everyone can come to the fashion party. We want everyone to come to the party." Fashion's Night Out has also spread to over 100 cities in the United States and 16 countries globally since its inception. Also, a portion of the money from sales of the Fashion's Night Out t-shirt, hoodies, tanks, and long-sleeved shirt goes to the NYC AIDS Fund in the New York Community Trust.

## Recycle The Spotlight