



Looking for that Perfect Valentine Mate This Year?
DON'T FRET!
PG 4



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT!
MS. DESIREE BOOKER,
FRESHMAN ENGLISH MA-
JOR WITH A DESIRE FOR
PERFORMING AND SONG
WRITING **PG 6**



Red Tails;
Is it Worth Seeing?
(Or at least seeing the cast?)
PG 8

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PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE STATE OF THE UNION

Jasmine M. Ellis **News Writer**

On January 24, 2012, President Barack Obama gave his State of the Union address to the nation. This State of the Union address was President Obama's third since being sworn into office in 2008 as well as his first State of the Union address of 2012. President Obama spoke on a variety of issues with America such as banks, small businesses and taxes.

President Obama began his speech by addressing the American people about the progress made in Iraq. President Obama also talked about how al Qaeda is being defeated slowly, but surely and that the United States troops are making their way back to US soil. "For the first time in nine years there are no troops fighting in Iraq. For the first time in two decades, Osama Bin Laden is not a threat to this country. Most of Al Qaeda's top lieu-

tenants have been defeated. The Taliban's momentum has been broken, and some troops in Afghanistan have begun to come home," said President Obama. Next on the President's agenda was the down spiraling economy. President Obama assured the American people that he wants to build an economy that is "built to last" and called for a "fair shot economy" where "everyone plays by the rules."

President Obama also addressed the unemployment rate and banks calling the activities of banks "wrong"

and "irresponsible." Mr. President shared with the nation that he has been making an effort to create jobs.

"In the six months before I took office, we lost nearly 4 million jobs. And, we lost another 4 million before our policies were in full effect. Those are the facts. In the last 22 months, businesses have created more than 3 million jobs," said President Obama. The state of the education and classrooms throughout America are a crucial aspect to our country's development. Educa-

tion has been decreasing in America during a time where other nations are competing intellectually. President Obama reminded Americans the value of good teachers.

"Teachers matter. So instead of bashing them, or defending the status quo, let's offer schools a deal. Give them the resources to keep good teachers on the job, and reward the best ones," said President Obama.

In addition, President Obama proposed "every state require students to stay in high school un-

til they graduate or turn 18." The cost of college and making college more affordable for Americans pursuing a higher education was also touched in during President Obama's state of the union address.

"Extend the tuition tax credit we started that saves millions of middle-class families thousands of dollars, and give more young people the chance to earn their way through college by doubling the number of work-study jobs in the next five years," said President Obama.

President Obama also warned colleges and universities about the repercussions of what will happen if tuition continues to rise stating, "If you can't stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down." As the state of the union address came to a close President Obama reiterated to the American people how important it is to have unity throughout the United States, especially between Democrats and Republicans within Congress in order to ensure that American has a bright future.

Picture courtesy of: cfnews13.com



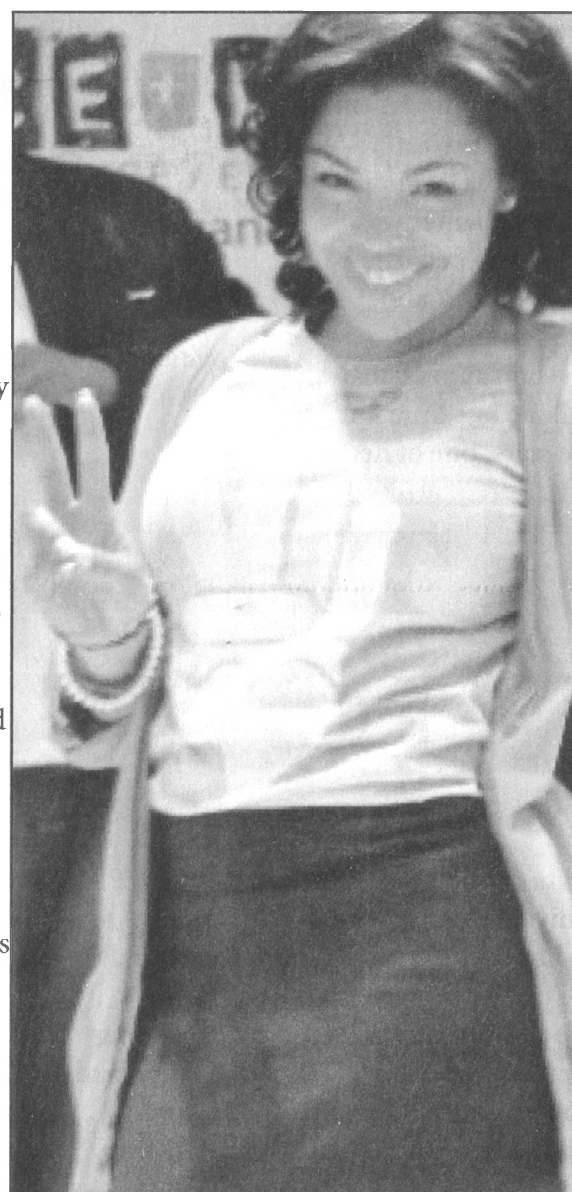
PEACE AND LOVE AUC

Rabiah A. Elisa **Forum Editor**

Brittany "Reeci" Botts, Miss RHA, has brought the Peace and Love movement to the AUC not only as her RHA platform initiative but also as the organization in which she sought salvation following her traumatizing childhood experiences. At a young age Reeci was molested by her uncle and upon joining Peace and Love, mustered the courage and strength to share her stories with others. Reeci has been to countless schools to speak about her experience and the topic in general, usually starting with mode of spoken word.

In Philadelphia, Reeci's hometown and the birthplace of Peace and Love, Reeci began her mission to help herself and others when she joined the organization. The Peace and Love movement promotes and encourages people to seek peace to replace the violence with our cities, our country and the world. It aims to speak on behalf of various troubles and struggles that others may not have the courage to discuss on their own. With this, Peace and Love hopes to promote and implore peaceful resolutions and positive progression.

Before Reeci joined the group, they did not have someone to speak on behalf of victims of rape and molestation. This unprecedented topic of discussion within the organization brought a lot of new members and listeners and inspired a great deal of others to open up. Reeci noted her surprise at how many people would come up to her, following her presentation, and



for the first time, admit to having been raped and/or molested. This goes to show that sometimes it only takes one person keen on sharing their life to influence other to follow suit.

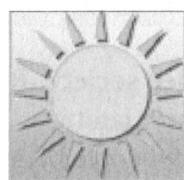
At the Peace and Love event held last week, Reeci stated that she does not know where she would be without Peace and Love. The event consisted of powerful acts of spoken word and songs that other members performed. The floor was also opened for discussion amongst the large audience, over crowding the room, to share any ideas on the topic of where violence and abuse derives and how we would contribute to the seizing of such treatment.

Peace and Love AUC has created a page on Facebook (Peace and Love Atlanta University Center) as well as a Twitter (@PeaceandLoveAUC) in order to grasp more public awareness and participation. Anyone can be apart of the organization. It is not limited to those who have a story to tell or to poets or artists but to those who are simply anti-violence. Other ways of being an active participant in Peace and Love consists of selling shirts, promoting and publicizing, and organizing tours and agendas.

Those who remain as bystanders, conscious of violence taking place around them are liable to the guilt and crime committed by the offender. Reeci's Peace and Love initiative in the AUC is a call to arms. So take a stand in the names of peace and love and don't be afraid to speak up and out!

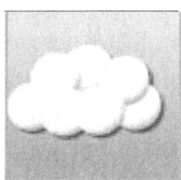


Tuesday



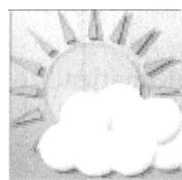
61°

Wednesday



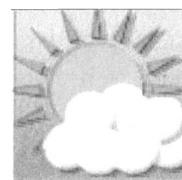
63°

Thursday



56°

Friday



56°

Campus Life

January 16, 2012-- AUC students traveled to the Federal Reserve Bank located in downtown Atlanta to participate in the Occupy the Dream Movement to protest against economic injustice. Morehouse Freshman, DeVante Hudson, explains how Occupy the Dream came into fruition.

"The Occupy the Dream movement began with two preachers Dr. Benjamin Chavis and Morehouse alumnus Pastor Jamal Bryant. They wanted to show Wall Street and corporate America that the church and black community will not stand for the economic injustice at hand," said Hudson.

Hudson goes on to explain the reasons why Occupy the Dream was created and touches on how the movement has spread across the nation. Hudson also touches on the economic downfall that has plagued the nation.

"We have seen too many foreclosures, too much poverty, too many unemployed friends and relatives to just stand and let it continue so therefore the Occupy the Dream movement began. On January 16th, 11 other cities across the country including Atlanta demonstrated in front of their Federal Reserve Bank to protest," added Hudson.

Freshman at Spelman, Emma Jackson, decided to participate in Dr. King's holiday in a different way this year. For Jackson participating in Occupy the Dream was not only a way to make a difference in the community, but also gave her the opportunity to connect with her family members.

"I participated because it was a good cause and I didn't want to do the traditional church service or community service I wanted to do something my older family members did. Protest for what is right," said Jackson.

Tuwa Karnley, a freshman at Spelman, describes how she

felt while participating in Occupy the Dream. Karnley was proud to witness such a monumental moment in history. "Wow! Before I had just talked about making a change within our governmental system but now I'm standing out here actually doing it! It is an indescribable feeling," said Karnley.

AUC Students Occupy the Dream in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jasmine M. Ellis **Campus Life Writer**

Once the demonstration ended, Hudson was very enthusiastic about the protest stating that he was "overcome with great satisfaction". Nevertheless Hudson does not believe that his

goals as well as the goals of the American people have been completely accomplished.

"No, I do not feel like we accomplished the goals pertaining to occupy the dream. The demonstration on Jan. 16th was not the goal of occupy the dream," said Hudson.

In addition, Hudson shares what the main purpose of Occupy the Dream truly is and how it affects not only all Americans, but also specifically African Americans.

"The goal of Occupy the Dream is to seek economic justice and show the one percent of America (which are the wealthy) that as students, African-Americans, citizens of the United States that we are standing for lower taxes and less foreclosures. And, as you can see in this current economy that we are far from the goal as a nation," said Hudson.

Hudson, Jackson and Karnley each plan on participating in more Occupy movements to insure that change will be made within the United States government.

"I have a Dream"

-Martin Luther King Jr.

At Last

The loss of the great Etta James causes the AUC to mourn

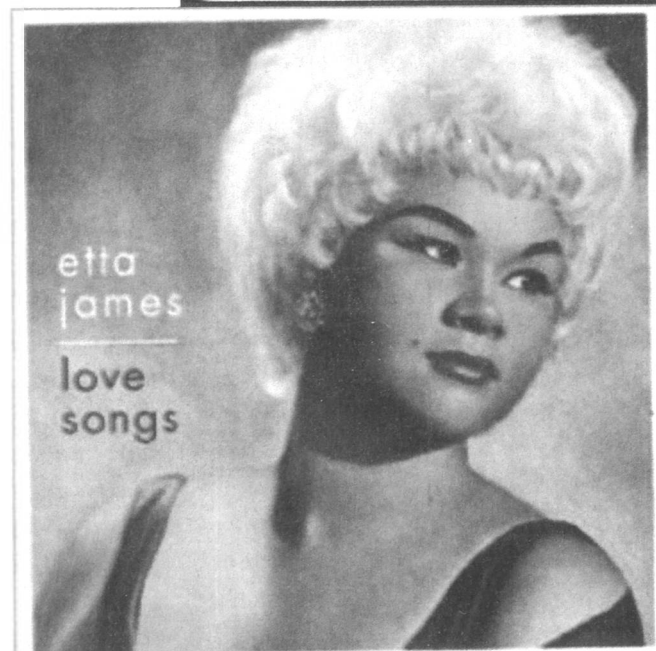
Tristin Travis **Arts and Entertainment Writer**

Dorothy Hawkins was only 14 when she gave birth to Jamesetta Hawkins. Jamesetta born on January 25, 1938, in Los Angeles, California knew at a young age that she wanted to sing. At the age of five James received her first professional vocal lesson from James Earle Hines. Hines was a musical director of the local church choir, in Los Angeles. Jamesetta Hawkins known as Etta James had a variety of musical styles. Her style touched some of every music genre like blues, rhythm and blues, rock and roll, soul, gospel and jazz. Starting her career in the mid-1950s, she gained fame with hits such as "Dance With Me, Henry", "At Last", "Tell Mama", and "I'd Rather Go Blind". Throughout her life she faced a number of personal problems, one of the more memorable was her battle with drug addiction, before making a musical resurface in the late 1980s with the album *The Seven Year Itch*. By the mid-1990s, James' earlier classic music was played in different commercials "I Just Wanna Make

Love to You". Due to exposure of the song in a particular UK commercial, the song reached the top ten of the UK charts in 1996. James continued to record for Private Music, she released a blues album entitled "Matriarch of the Blues" in 2000. The release of this album had James returning to her R&B roots with Rolling Stones hailing it as a "solid return to roots", further stating that the album found the singer "reclaiming her throne". In 2001, James was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame and the Rockabilly Hall of Fame, the latter for her contributions to the developments of both rock and roll music and rockabilly. In 2011, James was voted one of the 11 Best Singers on Earth by viewers and representatives of the Encyclopedia of Popular Music. In recent years, James was seen as bridging the gap between rhythm and blues and rock and roll. In 2009 James was able to make a final television appearance, as she performed one last time on *Dancing with the stars*, one of her

more famous singles "At Last". In November 2011, James released her final album "The Dreamer", which was critically acclaimed upon its release. James released a statement that this would be her final album. Early 2011, James was diagnosed with leukemia. The illness became terminal and on January 20, 2012 just days before her 74th birthday we lost the beautiful, talented soul diva. Although she lived a full and beautiful life Etta James will be missed by all those that she has influenced throughout her life.

ETTA JAMES 1938-2012



AUC AND THE FOUNDATION OF RELIGION

Jasmine M. Ellis **Campus Life Writer**

Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University, and Morehouse College also known as the AUC are just three out of 105 historically black colleges and universities founded in Christianity. However, the AUC is composed of various students who have different religious backgrounds and some that do not have any spiritual beliefs at all.

It is often questioned that comfortable students who are not Christians feel about professing their spiritual beliefs throughout the AUC. Jainabou Barry, a freshman at Spelman College and practicing Muslim, feels comfortable about sharing her beliefs with other students in the AUC.

"I do feel comfortable professing my faith in the AUC due to peoples openness and my firm belief in my religion," said Barry.

While there are some AUC students that are comfortable listening to students of non-Christian beliefs share their religious views not everyone is willing to express their views. Felice Payne, a freshman at Spelman College and an agnostic has had some difficulties with other students respecting her views on religion.

"People have tried to impose their views on me because they automatically assume that I am an atheist," said Payne.

Many AUC students are divided on the issue of whether or not the AUC is accepting of all religions. Corey Reed, a sophomore at Morehouse and a Christian, believes that the AUC is accepting of all religions.

"I think it is accepting, but it is clearly Christian based. I see nothing wrong with that, seeing as though the AUC was all birthed in Christian churches and they are all private institutions, minus Clark," said Reed.

While some students do believe that the AUC helps them to grow in their faith not everyone agrees. Payne does not believe that the AUC is helping her grow and express her views as an agnostic.

"No, because there's nothing around campus where I can feel that I'm welcomed to express my views as an agnostic," said Payne.

In today's society, religion is considered a taboo topic that has the ability to cause conflict and division between human beings. Religious discussions can sometimes end with one or both parties feeling offended. However, Barry believes that religious discussions are crucial to maintaining harmony throughout the world and does not feel offended by others sharing their religious views with her.

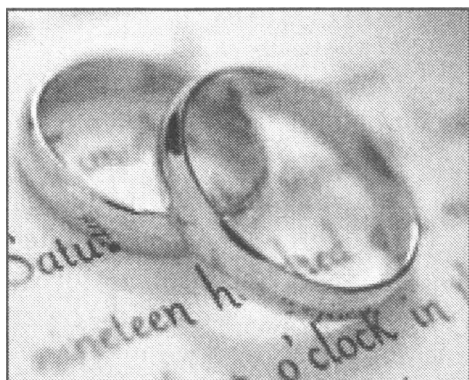
"No, I am heavy into the interfaith movement and the only way to have world, religious peace is through understanding and having knowledge of another religion, therefore, that interfaith dialogue and sharing of knowledge is essential," said Barry.

Stereotypes are blemishes placed on the religions from a misinformed society. Reed touches on some of the pre-conceived notions that individuals have about Christianity.

"Christianity has been known to be an inherited religion, thus many people believe that Christians are gullible, dependent thinkers. They are criticized to have never explored their faith for themselves," said Reed.

Only time will tell if more religious programs will be implemented for students of all religious backgrounds to partake in throughout the AUC.

State of the Marriage Address



Sierra Stokes

Lifestyle Writer

When the announcement was made that Heidi Klum and Seal were getting divorced so many people were shocked by the news. Klum and Seal seemed as though they were happily married to outsiders looking in. Little did the world know, this power couple was seeing a decline in their marriage like many more couples today.

Enrichment journal gives the statistic that the divorce rate in America for first marriages is a high 41%. This number is at an all-time high in comparison to previous years. There was once a time when divorce was unheard of amongst people. No matter what issues a couple was given, they were to stick together. If a man were to decide to divorce his wife, especially if they shared children, he was seen as less of a man. If a woman were to divorce her husband, which was rare, she better not even think about remarrying.

In today's society, getting a divorce is seen on the same level as breakups between boyfriends and girlfriends. Celebrities, such as Jennifer Lopez, wed and divorce multiple times. Upon getting a divorce, these celebrities even go as far as to flaunt their new flames all over Hollywood. As if to make the media forget they are going through divorce settlements that will rob them of half their riches.

Closer to home, the Current Population Survey (CPS) reports that for the past several years about 70% of black women are unmarried. On the other hand, the US Census reported that other racial groups have a dramatically lower unmarried number, especially Latina women with only 32%.

90 year old Lillian Allen sat down to speak with me about what marriage meant when she was growing up. Marrying at the young age of 18, Allen knew that this was the man she would be with for the rest of her years. "In my day, divorce was a scandalous word that was not to be mentioned. When we exchanged the words 'I Do,' we knew that meant that we were stuck to each other no matter what. This is not to say marriage was easy, but you made it work," said the Windsor, NC native.

Women are more progressive than ever and no longer have to depend on men for benefits, making women far more independent. With songs praising a woman that has her own, such as Ne-Yo's "Miss Independent," Destiny's Child's "Independent Women" and Drake's "Fancy," you have to admit it sounds good. Career minded women are emerging all over. This is especially true amongst black women. With the lack of marriages amongst black women, this has to lead one to know where the divorce rate stands.

"I enjoy the thought of paying for whatever I want with my own money. Therefore, I know no one can ever take it from me," said Defense Attorney Tonza Ruffin.

Ruffin, like many more women of color, are climbing the career ladder and enjoying the benefits.

With this shift in mentality, it makes me wonder what the love life of America, especially black women, will look like in the future. Will divorce rates and unwed numbers continue to soar, or will relationships go back to the olden days? Only time will tell.

New Year's Resolutions Jazmin Tillman Lifestyle Writer

Did you make your New Year's resolution yet? Maybe not. You may not be the type to who constructs these intricate, lofty New Year's Resolutions every year. But still, there are many who look forward to creating a new goal for themselves ten seconds before the ball drops. Everyone knows what happens when you make an unrealistic New Year's Resolution. More than likely, you don't reach all your goals, and before you know it, it's December again and you're now feeling like you could have done more.

A main reason why New Year's Resolutions are often flukes is because they are constructed out of guilt from the last year's unfulfilled goals. This approach to making a New Year's Resolution is all wrong. I can recall an old New Year's Resolution that I made for myself.

1. Stop eating meat
2. Take better care of my dog
3. Clean the whole house every Friday
4. Give more compliments
5. Get a job
6. Make all As in school
7. Join five more clubs
8. Work out six days a week, for four hours a day
9. Get five scholarships
10. Read one novel every week

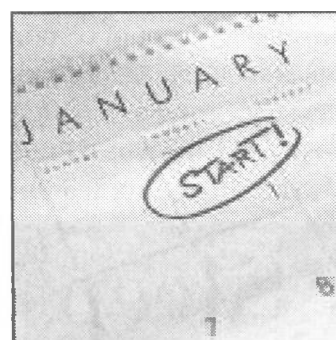
Do you see where this goes wrong? I've constructed a long list of tasks out of guilt from the last year's unresolved goals.

So then, what is a good resolution? A good resolution is a resolution that is not done out of guilt or regret. Your resolution should not be a list of chores or tasks. It should not look like you are punishing yourself.

The whole point of a resolution is to make goals for your own improvement and more importantly, your own happiness. Also,

your goals should mean something to you personally. These goals should be constructed for your betterment. Feeling guilty or overworking yourself is not going to help you feel optimistic about the new year. It's the small steps that actually help you get to where you want to be. If you want to eat healthier, maybe you should put in your resolution, "Stop drinking soda." Or, if you want to make better grades maybe you should start off by studying for a couple more hours than you did last year.

Whatever it may be that you want to improve, the main point is to be realistic and fair with your goals. Taking minor steps towards improving yourself will be more effective than beating yourself overworking yourself just to give up after the first week. The key idea to remember is that hard work must also be rewarded. Even though you couldn't meet all of your goals, pat yourself on the back for anything that you did right and move on to doing better and being better—lightly bigger, and much better things.



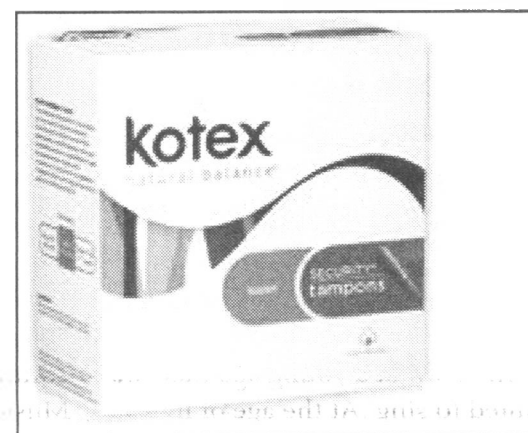
BEWARE! Of the Tampon?

Briana Nneka Nwobi Lifestyle Writer

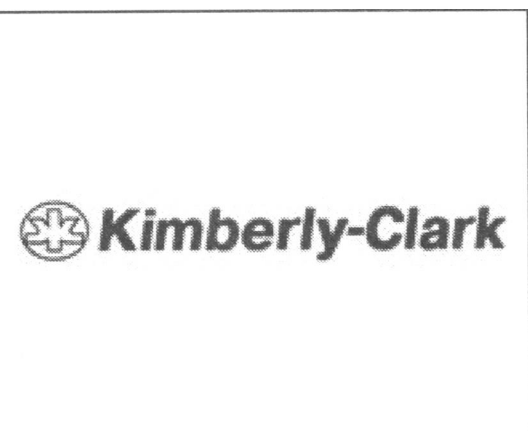
Unfortunately, recalls are fairly common in the day and age of mass production. It is not an obscure ideal for meat, spinach and other like items to be recalled due to some type of cross contamination of bacteria or fungi. Recently however, something unexpected had to be taken off the shelves in mass panic. And no, it's not another E-Coli scare. On Nov. 9 2011 Kimberly Clark, the corporate giant that is responsible for producing many hygienic products like Kleenex and Scott toilet tissue; released a public statement announcing the recall of 1,400 Kotex Natural Balance Security Unscented Tampons, the "regular" absorbency kind. The recall of the Kotex product was cited to have been manufactured with a material that contained the bacteria *Enterobacter Sakazakii*, a rare cause of invasive infection with a high case of fatality rates. The bacterium was detected within one plastic applicator after a series of tests were done by Kimberly Clark. The bacteria, commonly referred to in the science world as *E. Sakazakii* for short, may cause health risks like vaginal infections, urinary tract infections and pelvic inflammatory disease-- all life threatening infections. Women with health problems such as HIV/Aids, cancer, or any other compromising immune condition should especially be

on alert, as their risk of infection is greater. The recalled product consists of both the 18 and 36 count packages of the Kotex Natural Balance brand of tampons. These infected tampons were distributed between October 29 to November 2, to Wal-Mart location in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico and Texas. They were also shipped to Fry's stores in Arizona and Smith stores in Utah and Arizona. It is recommended to consumers that purchased Kotex tampons between the end of October to November ninth should be medically checked. The barcode is at the bottom of the packaging for inflicted lot numbers 15063 and 15068. While it is quite concerning that not even our tampons are safe, do not fret; there has been no reports on their being any adverse effects on women that have used the product. However, if you have used the product and are experiencing any symptoms like unusual vaginal discharge, rash, fever, headache, vomiting, or abdominal pains, you should contact a doctor immediately. Also, contact the Kimberly-Clark Consumer Service Division at 1-800-336-6839 so that the infected products can be properly retrieved and disposed of.



So ladies, check your boxes and be aware of the tampon scare.



Kotex Natural Balance Security Unscented Tampons manufactured by Kimberly-Clark, recalled November 9, 2011.





Manufacturer of hygienic products (Kleenex, Scott toilet tissue, Kotex Products, etc).

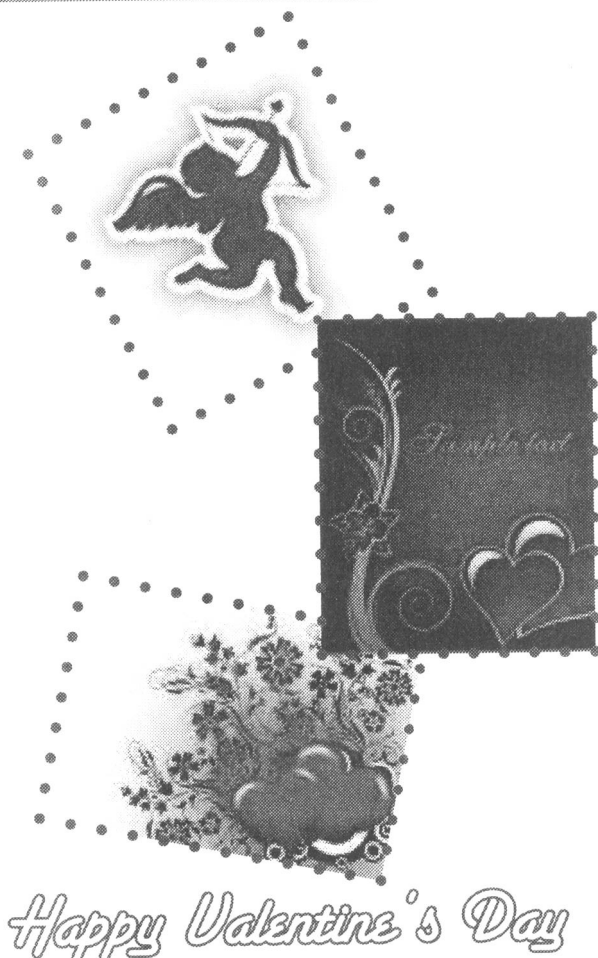



Spelman College

A Choice to Change the World

Forum



My "Special" Valentine

Amiri Lampley **Forum Writer**

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, the anxiety coupled with wishful thinking can be sensed within the air. A new year has come with new resolutions that have most likely already fallen through the cracks, and yet, many singles still hold on to the hope of finally finding that perfect Valentine mate this year. It is true, no one wants to be alone. But the idea of having a Valentine for one day of the year and nothing more, leaves a lot of open ended questions. What happens after Valentine's Day? Where do we go from here? And most importantly, what exchange comes from getting that cute cuddly teddy bear? Is it worth it for a moment of companionship?

Valentine's Day comes and goes, and as a nation we give it more credit than need be. Hundreds of dollars spent on candy and stuffed furry woodland creatures, gift

cards and over priced Hallmark sentiments. Facebook showcases a mass of Valentine's Day statuses as friends anticipate who could be potential "one-date mates" for such an important day. For stable relationships, Valentine's should only reaffirm the love that is already there, but even still, simple acts of love should be shown all throughout the year. Figuratively speaking, it seems that we singles are the ones who get our panties all in a bunch for one love hurling weekend. Literally speaking, some of us ladies seem to completely forget those same much needed undergarments in return of a candlelit meal.

In our younger years we worried about our "boyfriends" breaking up with us the week before Valentine's because they hadn't saved up enough of their allowance to purchase a gift. Now, the price of a dozen roses, if that, often comes with us putting a

price tag on our virtue that should be invaluable. Sometimes we even start to question our own identity, and ask the all too popular question "Is something wrong with me?" Valentine's Day can be very significant to some and even warp us in a tragic state where we wallow in our lonesome and solitary depression.

I think it is safe to say that all the commotion over "xoxo's" is slightly overrated. If only we could come up with something comforting to do on "single-awareness day" that doesn't involve men bashing and eating ice cream, singing classic love songs or living vicariously through the heart wrenching romance between Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams in the tear jerker, *The Notebook*. We should be looking for more than an exchange of gifts for Valentine's.

Crime Never Sleeps, Neither Should Safety

Alysha Phanord **Forum Writer**

Crime Statistics

[Download Crime Data](#)

Crime	2012	2011	2010
Aggravated Assault	40 ▲ *17.85 %	664	765
Auto Theft	80 ▲ *81.82 %	981	766
Drug Arrest	0 ▼ *100.00 %	242	760
Larceny	60 ▲ *17.85 %	1,146	1,091
Non-Residential Burglary	11 ▼ *21.43 %	159	206
Residential Burglary	81 ▼ *4.71 %	1,453	1,605
Robbery	24 ▼ *0.00 %	461	421
Vehicle Larceny	49 ▼ *0.00 %	865	854

[Disclaimer](#)

* as of 01/21/2012

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If you were ever to browse the Spelman's Health & Safety page on the College Prowler website, you would notice that the general consensus, of those students who commented on the website, was that they felt safe while on campus. Spelman's health and safety averaged an "A" grade. The only crimes committed on campus, according to College Prowler, were 20 burglaries. This may seem like a lot, but with over 2,000 students attending Spelman, it is actually quite the feat. However, how many students live on campus?

I live off campus, and I remember one situation when I had to arrive on campus before the AUC began operating for the day. I had to walk from the Marta station to campus, by myself. All I kept thinking was that I was going to get robbed or worse. I clutched onto my bag and made what seemed like the longest trek known to woman. And of course, there was a person following me, almost the whole entire way.

Is it enough just to guard and gate Spelman's campus? Is sending out patrol cars enough? It doesn't seem to be. Not when we still receive weekly emails of off campus crimes. While drug arrests, burglaries, vehicle larceny, and robberies have gone down in the 30314 area since last year, aggravated assaults have increased more than 17%, auto

theft increased more than 81%, and larceny 60 %.

My question is this: Are Spelman police doing absolutely everything that can be done to protect us? The Library shuttle comes on campus, and has stops throughout the West End, that can take you to the Library and MARTA station (West End and Vine City). Brawley Escorts are also available, in which a Public Safety Office will escort you to and from the library. Shuttle On Request has the Spelman Shuttle drop or pick you up at the West End MARTA, Robert Woodruff Library, and Spelman Parking Deck. There are procedures created to keep Spelmanites safe. Sometimes it's about utilizing those options and planning accordingly.

At the same time, many students go out past midnight, when most of the travel options end. What about their protection? They are left vulnerable. Although they choose to go out, that does not mean they deserve to be any less protected.

Crime is a fact of life. Where there are rules, there are people who will follow and others who will break them. So talk to Public Safety more about your travel options and some helpful travel tips to guarantee the protection you need.

The Awkward Sh** the Black Girl Said...

Kamron Taylor
Forum Writer

YouTube sensations, The Awkward Black Girl and Sh** White Girls say to Black Girls have gained an increased amount of attention amount the YouTube culture. The videos and portrayals speak to the overwhelming masses of black women who tend to test the stereotypical boundaries laid out by society. The messages outlined by each series speak to their audiences about the type of black female, customarily overlooked by the media, but still prove themselves prevalent in today's culture.

The Awkward Black Girl follows "J" a girl in her early 20s. Through the course of her daily schedule, she runs into situations that would make anyone uncomfortable but viewers wonder why she gets so singled out so frequently. Simply, looking for someone who understands her, she falls in like when a guy at her job who only likes her lighter complexioned boss. We see her deal with situations like these in a manner most difficult, but also in a fashion that the media tends not to highlight or recognize. However, many African-American women have been able to identify with J's struggle and appreciate the alternative form of the black female being portrayed. That is to say, an African-American female with a job, goals and morals who has to deal with her predominantly white counterparts is refreshing to see on television.

With respect to Sh** White Girls say to Black Girls, the series illustrates many of the awkward and uncomfortable situations experienced by black females who don't fit the customary stereotypes. With questions like "can I touch your hair?" the series shows many of the difficult situations African-American women deal with amongst the Caucasian majority, many of whom are their friends and close associates.

These videos have gained both a powerful and positive response amongst the African-American community and have a tendency to correspond with African-American male struggle. I find it both positive and encouraging to see videos like these upheld by social media because there is more to African-American's than chains and gold teeth.

"Don't Quote Me on This but..."

NEW!

"Don't quote me on this but..." is the Spelman Spotlight's premiere section of expression. With short statements, questions or comments conveying how students at Spelman College truly feel, there is no doubt that freedom of speech is the prevalent. Of course confidentiality is key, so feel free to add your very own opinion by emailing one of the Spelman Spotlight Staff Members or the editor-in-chief via: kevans14@scmail.spelman.edu.

Questions

1. Don't quote me on this, but when did it become acceptable to wear bonnets and scarves in the Cafe?

2. Don't quote me on this, but does anybody really know where our tuition money is going?

3. Don't quote me on this, but do they HAVE to mow the lawn every day??

4. Don't quote me on this, but when did we get hawks on this campus??

5. I do not understand why laundry prices have increased in the dorms from a dollar to a dollar and ten cents.

6. Don't quote me on this, but were they really not allowed to cross through the promenade?

7. Don't quote me on this, but can we really not walk on the grass?

8. Don't quote me on this, but too many Spelmanites can relate to the "Things that Spelmanites Say" video

9. Don't quote me on this, but everyone has definitely tried to get their roommate to swipe their I.D card for convocation.

10. Don't quote me on this, but did she really run through the arch while playing manhunt?

Statements

Statements

Questions

Opinions

Statements

Statements

Opinions

Questions

Well...Traveled?

Sierra Stokes Lifestyle Writer

With Domestic Exchange and Study Abroad being offered at Spelman College, the options to explore are endless. Programs are put into place to give students the opportunity to learn outside the gates of Spelman, while still fulfilling their undergraduate requirement at the institution. Spelmanites are making their presence known everywhere from Switzerland all the way to Ghana.

Undergraduate school is the first time young adults are really given the opportunity to declare themselves "grown." A young adult being on their own in college gives him/her the chance to have full freedom and a chance at decision making. With that responsibility, comes the opportunity for the student to dictate their future and decide how they want it to go. One of those decisions students should take advantage of is making sure they take advantage of Study Abroad and/or Domestic Exchange.

When applying to Spelman, a majority of the applicants also applied to other schools that they set their eyes on. For whatever reason, these young ladies enjoyed what these other institutions had to offer, but preferred Spelman.

Domestic Exchange is a chance for students to study at different institutions in America. This can give Spelmanites the opportunity to expand their minds at some of the best colleges/universities in the country. Just think, wouldn't it be great to spend a semester at New York University, Duke, Stanford, or even Berkeley?

On the other hand, Study Abroad gives students the opportunity to go all around the world. Spelman students are repre-

sending the institution globally and doing it well. They are showing the world that we are a school of women who are ready and able to compete with any student anywhere.

International Studies major Aliya White spent a semester in Grenada, Spain. While there, White was introduced to so many experiences she will never forget. White had a once in a lifetime chance being that she actually lived in another country.

When asked what White enjoyed the most about Studying Abroad, White responded, "I liked that I was in Europe and I was close to other countries. I was able to go to Amsterdam, Portugal, Italy and Morocco.

White only was required to take the necessary amount of classes that are set at Spelman, giving her the chance to explore Grenada as if she were in school in Atlanta. During that free time, White was able to observe the Islamic influence that ruled Spain before it became a Christian country. For her the experience was unique and exhilarating.

When concluding the interview White stated, "I would recommend the experience to anyone, because it makes you learn a lot about yourself and it takes you out of your comfort zone."



Creepy Crawlies

Ayanna I. Runcie
News Writer

Creepy crawlies in your hair, crusty sheets, and rotten food particles everywhere you turn. When talking about personal hygiene in the AUC, those are things that come to mind for freshman Jani K. Mikel who has experienced it all. She says, "Maintaining proper hygiene, my fellow AUC students, is a very important thing." If you or someone you know have any of the faults listed above, don't fret; the Spelman Spotlight is here to help:

Did you know that the average person drools two pints of saliva while they sleep?

Doing laundry at least once every two to three weeks can help fend off any unwanted odors and critters that may come as a result of such unwanted but completely natural bodily functions. It has been scientifically proven that the average person sheds an entire body of skin cells in one month, thus it is important to wash your sheets to avoid sleeping in dead skin cells which is not only unhealthy but it can also lead to bad smells. If you do not wash your sheets often, you can accumulate up to ten million bed bugs!

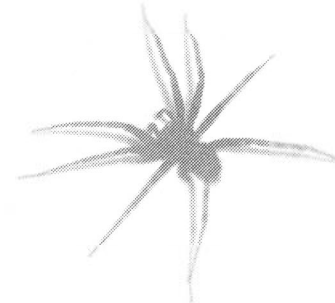
Did you know that the notion of black people not being able to contract lice is a myth?

Although black people are less likely to contract lice than people of European descent because of a difference in their hair shaft, it is still possible for black people to contract lice. Most people of African descent have oval shaped hair while those of European descent have round shaped hair which is easier for lice to crawl through, thus lice prefer European hair because the shape of their hair makes it easier for lice to crawl into. However, if you are a person of African descent that happens to come in contact with lice, the lice may just choose to reside in your hair. So be careful with sharing hairbrushes, combs, hats, and even sleeping on someone else's pillow.

Did you know that bacteria grow most rapidly in the range of temperatures between 40 ° and 140 °F doubling in number in as little as 20 minutes?

Thus, it is very important to not leave old and rotten food lying about because every minute it is left lying on your desk, in your book bag or even in a cabinet or fridge it is growing bacteria and as you continue to breathe in the bacteria, it can become very dangerous and cause you to become ill. Likewise it is very important that everyone washes his or her hands very thoroughly after using the restroom. Use warm water when washing your hands (not hot or cold), make sure you use soap, and that the soap gets lathery. Also make sure to wash under your fingernails and up to your wrist. To prevent re-contracting those germs after washing your hands, it may be helpful to dry your hands first and then turn off the faucet using that same paper towel. It is also a good idea to open the door with that same paper towel and throw it in the garbage on your way out so that washing your hands would not have been in vain.

Some of these things may seem very obvious to you, but they are not obvious to all people, so make sure you show your friends these helpful tips to prevent the spread of germs and sickness throughout the AUC.



NEWS

CAMPUS

STATE

NATIONAL

Occupy Wall Street:

The 99 Percent Wants Their Voices to be Heard

Jasmine Ellis News Writer



On September 17, 2011 Occupy Wall Street began in Liberty Square in Manhattan's Financial District. The movement was composed of demonstrators opposing what is considered to be the richest one percent of people in America and the economic decisions that they have made. Since September, Occupy Wall Street has sparked protests in various cities throughout the nation. Although the occupy movement as a whole is composed of peaceful protests, demonstrators have endured a lot of suffering at the hands of the police through violence. From having mace sprayed in their faces at close range to having their hair ripped out by police officers these protestors also identified as the 99 percent have risked their lives in order to have their voices heard in a diminishing economy.

Freshman Danielle Moody is supportive of the occupy movement and finds the strength that the demonstrators possess to be quite astounding.

"I think it is amazing when Americans come together as one to try to enact the change they want to see. These people are not solely complaining about the industry and waiting on the government to save them. Instead, they are taking action," said Moody.

Many Americans are questioning where President Obama has been during the evolution of this movement. Although President Obama has embraced the Occupy Wall Street movement some Americans feel as though President Obama isn't fully supporting the movement and are labeling the president a "corporate puppet". Despite the negative comments Senior Stefany Tomlinson believes that President Obama is handling the situation to the best of his ability.

"I believe that Obama is doing what he can to stay neutral which is the safest place for him as the President, and possibly winning the next election. We don't know what's happening

outside of the public eye, and we don't truly know what Obama has been working to do to make these situations better," said Tomlinson.

With the 2012 election being held next year it is only appropriate to question how the Occupy Wall Street movement will affect the votes of American citizens. Moody believes that in the end the Democratic Party will benefit from these protests.

"This movement will definitely affect the presidential election. Because the Republican Party is more closely aligned with corporate interests, it seems reasonable to expect that most of the Americans who support the movement will not support the Republican Party. Democrats will gain those lost votes," said Moody.

America is supposed to be a nation that promotes democracy, but given the recent events involving the Occupy Wall Street movement several Americans believe that the United States of America hasn't been living up to its standards. Junior Quanisha Wright thinks that as of right now the government is only concerned with making money.

"America is such a hypocritical nation. Democracy is an illusion to keep people from overturning the government. Everything is for sale- government, healthcare, anything you can think of. There's a saying that I heard "Whoever controls the water, controls everything." The same is true in America except water here is a metaphor for money," said Wright.

There are parallels that can be made between Occupy Wall Street and the recent uprisings with countries in the Arab Spring such as Egypt and Tunisia. Moody explains that the connections these countries have is attributed to the strength of its people.

"The greatest similarity between the two movements is the unification of courageous people to solve a problem in their countries and to put power back into the hands of the citizens," said Moody.

Since the Occupy Wall Street Movement is still taking place people can only speculate how effective the movement will be in the end. Tomlinson thinks that this movement will bring about some changes.

"I think that it will make some difference and leave with at least something that is changed. I'm not saying it will be highly effective or it will cause a drastic difference, but I do believe that something positive will come out of the Occupy Wall Street movement," said Tomlinson.

Only time will tell what the outcome will be for the 99 percent of the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Alumna Spotlight

Brandalyn Rodgers
Class of 2007

Margaret West
Arts and Entertainment Writer

Spelman College gives the charge to change the world to every student upon entering Spelman College. Brandalyn Rodgers, Class of 2007, is still challenging herself each and every day to be the catalyst that sparks innovation and touches the lives of the Dallas community. Rodgers has set the bar high since graduation, leaving Spelman with an internship and a job at Southern California Edison as a Legislative Assistant in Sacramento, CA. Rodger's love for politics and prowess to translate political actions into effects distinguish her from her peers. Elected officials and community members from California to Texas can attest to her work ethic, dedication to excellence, and genuine empathy action in the community.

Her passion for service propelled her into the world of Non-Profit organizations. In the past, she was Program Coordinator of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, where she touched the lives of many citizens in the Dallas Metroplex and set a standard in her office that forced her colleagues to go above and beyond requirements to make an extraordinary impact. Currently she gives her time to the youth of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, TX and is involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters. Her successful career has garnered membership in the Greater Dallas Urban Young Professionals and she is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She has received numerous awards for the work she's done professionally and personally. She received the 2009 Sacramento Unified School District Outstanding Mentor, and was recognized as one of the 30 Remarkable Young Professionals Under 30 in Sacramento, CA.

She now works for the City of Dallas as Legislative Assistant, monitoring legislation that can possibly affect the City of Dallas. Her efforts in combating bills that can change Dallas for better or worse require close relationships with elected officials and other influential members of the community. She works closely with Dallas City Council and United States House of Representatives Member Eddie Bernice Johnson. Her impact extends far and wide, and her different endeavors have inspired young girls to strive for the best in whatever their field of interest may be.

She has a passion for education, and plans on furthering her expertise by obtaining a law degree from an institution in Texas. Her love for education and providing equal opportunities for those who not afforded a chance at success by their communities are two areas of interest she wants to become involved in during her lifetime.

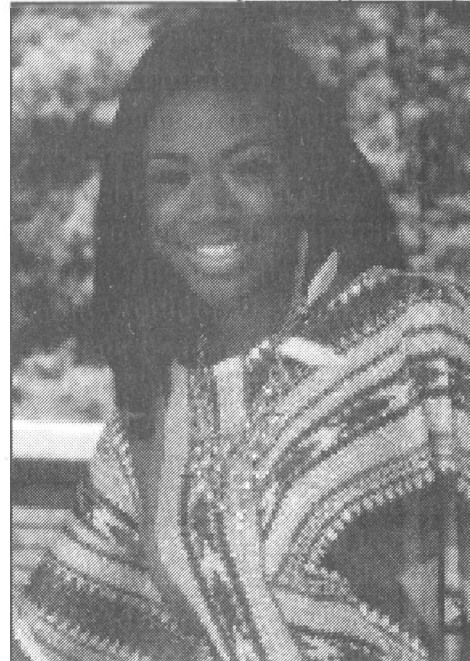
Her choice to attend Spelman College provided her with the educational foundation to go forth and conquer inequality, pursue her passions, and maintain a healthy, admirable work ethic that all of her colleagues can attest to. She enjoys spending time with her family and enhancing her quality of work by staying informed with the political climate of country. Brandalyn Rodgers is an example of the Spelman Women we all aspire to become, and staying true to ourselves despite our career field is a vital part of success that she has mastered. She is among the number of Spelman sisters who answered the call to change the lives of communities around the country, and eventually, the world.

Student Spotlight

Rabiah Elisa **Forum Editor**

environment with people who are striving to express themselves in a more positive light and bring progress to their communities and furthermore the nation, is empowering and enlightening. The atmosphere truly inspired Desiree and gave her more hope in the possibility of a better future not only for herself put for her generation as well.

Booker came to the AUC already with a strong support system from both her immediate family and her growing fan base. Booker's mother and sister have continued to encourage her to practice and perform her craft and her fans, ranging in age, ethnicity, and lifestyle, give her the fuel to keep writing and improv-



ing. However, Booker is also faced with opposition from extended family members who haven't ever been supportive of education and being bigger and going further than Philadelphia. Furthermore, Booker receives a great deal of criticism as she is only 18 and some people tend to doubt her ability as a strong lyricist in the genre of black conscious rap. Booker has not let this deter her though and has brought her talent down to the AUC with the utmost confidence and fervor.

Booker has performed at multiple

events so far such as Spelbound, New Student Orientation, and the Mr. Freshman pageant.

Most recently, Booker will be in an upcoming Larry Alexander documentary filmed by the Morehouse Film Crew called AUCypher: A Conscious Hip Hop Documentary. Prior to the filming, auditions were held for rappers throughout the AUC. Of everyone who auditioned, four were chosen: one man of Morehouse, two Clark students, and Desiree- Spelman's representative. The four collaborated on three cyphers. The first top being legends of hip hop. The second cypher regards the exploitation of women in hip hop and the third is a freestyle that still reflects the critical thinking and critical consciousness topic. Originally, there was to be a fourth cypher however Clark objected to filming taking place on their campus. The subject of this documentary falls completely in line with Booker's focus as a rapper. She has a passion for expressing the needs of the black culture and a call to arms to combat the problems in our community that keep us from progressing as a people. She finds that a great deal of these issues are also reflected in contemporary rap and intrinsic with the rap industry in general, which has left Booker disheartened. When being compared to rappers such as Nicki Minaj, Booker aims to disassociate with her use of profanity and exhausted sexuality and explicit concepts.

Booker is excited for the documentary's release as it is her first official production that could possibly go mainstream. A few big names are expected to be present at the premieras well, which will surely be great exposure. Booker is finally receiving the recognition she has wanted in the light that she has wanted it. She has been doing conscious hip hop her entire life but has been booked for events that were not focused on this idea. Thus, this opportunity has revived Booker's love for hip hop and has even almost solidified Desiree's desire to pursue music as her occupation.

Microcredit and Financial Literacy: Creating Opportunity for Bangladeshi Women

Chelsea Williams **Golden Purse Group**

This past winter break I embarked on an experience that has undoubtedly changed my life. I took part in a winter study abroad program focused on 'Microcredit and Economic Development' in Bangladesh through Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Unsure of what to expect from the program, I stepped out in faith with only a beginner level understanding of microcredit and its impact in the developing world.

Having a genuine passion for financial literacy education I was surprised to discover the parallels between the microcredit practice and helping to build financial saviness amongst women of color. Financial mismanagement, a major problem in the United States, also serves as a problem in the developing world. Financial mismanagement or lack thereof, negatively impacts everything around us from housing and transportation, to education and environmental sustainability. My experience in Bangladesh refocused what it means to be financially literate through understanding microcredit, a practice designed to empower those most needy through the power of entrepreneurship.

The word microcredit did not exist until the seventies yet today, microcredit is known to provide credit as a human right (Grameen). Through microcredit those who may not have been able to receive loans through traditional banking institutions are provided an opportunity typically through non-governmental institutions, or one similar to the Grameen Bank. Microcredit focuses on helping families; particularly women work their way out of poverty and create future opportunities that may not have otherwise existed. The practice of microcredit has swept through the developing world impacting families within Africa, South America, and Asia. Recently the microcredit practice was introduced in the United States

through the Grameen Bank and provides credit to women in New York City, Indianapolis, and Omaha. Though there is controversy over the impact microcredit practices leave within a community, it cannot be denied that women borrowers receive a dynamic benefit from being able to individually sell their own products, gain money that goes directly into their pockets, and meet the diverse needs of their family. Additionally, women build confidence, extraordinary organization, and effective communication skills that are critical in growing their social enterprises.

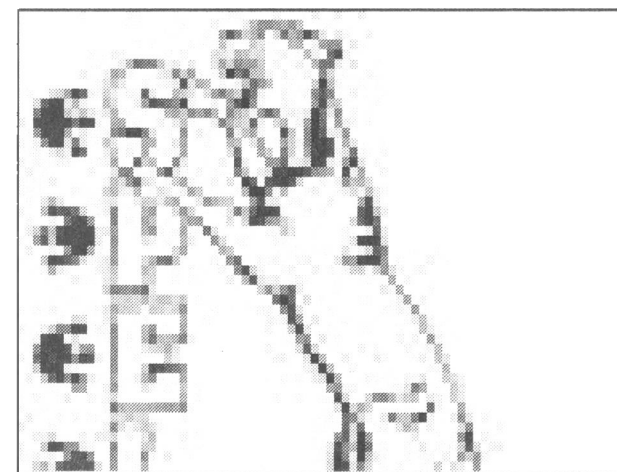
While in Bangladesh I visited a number of villages and observed first hand the income generating activities of women. I also heard testimonials from Grameen Bank and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) women borrowers who used microcredits towards agricultural and furniture social enterprises. The microcredit practice is just one example of a system put in place to break the cycle of financial illiteracy by providing unique resources to underprivileged individuals.

Is there a product or service that you feel would best solve issues around financial literacy, particularly amongst women of color? If so, what are the biggest challenges and opportunities? Could the proposed initiative be evaluated here at Spelman and transformed into something dynamic? If there is one thing Bangladesh taught me it is the importance of innovative thinking to solve social problems. There is no one "right" idea, nor will everyone support the ideas you put forth however, when it is all said and done at least a sincere effort has been made to contribute towards making the world a better place. Spelman prides itself in producing women who have a choice to change the world. We are given all the traits and qualities we need however we often left our dreams slip away right in the palm of our

hands. We are what we need to solve social injustices that plague communities and those of the majority of our world's population who live in complete poverty.

Please join me in pledging financial fitness by first making a change in your personal life to effectively manage finances and begin taking the steps to save (even if only \$1 a day) and then working to positively impact those around you. If interested in learning and leading in the financial literacy space please join the Spelman College Golden Purse Group!

Golden Purse Group



Fashion and Beauty

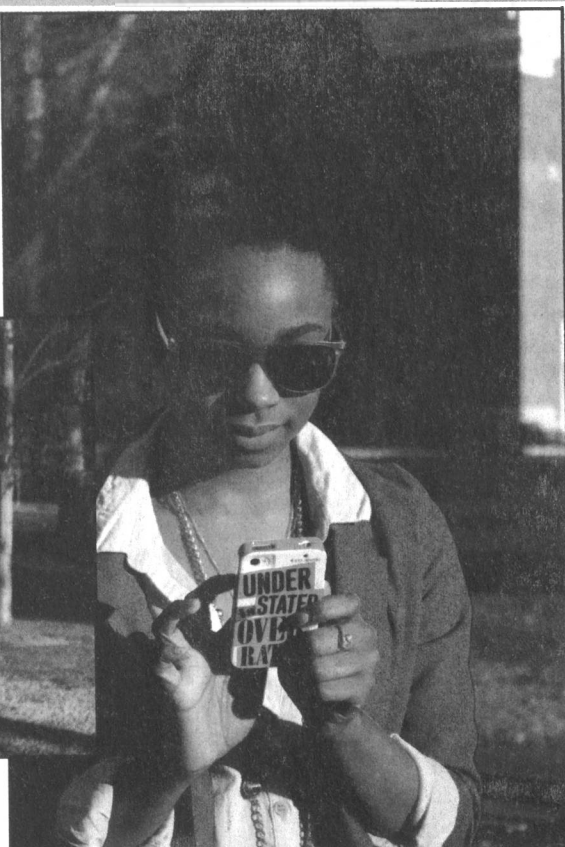
GLAM CAM

Margie Cadet

Interviewed by: Chelsea Cardell
Junior (Domestic Exchange student from
Banard College)
Psychology Major

FAB: How would you describe your fashion sense?

MC: "Laid back and eclectic. I get random pieces of clothing from different



dress stores
or wherever I
am shopping.

I think of myself as budget trendy. Sometimes I am afro-centric; I just like to switch it up."

FAB: What inspires you?

MC: "I am a domestic exchange student from New York City, New York. I draw a lot of my inspiration from what I see people wearing in the city. I am inspired by the whole atmosphere of New York."

FAB: Who is your favorite fashion designer and why?

MC: "Alexander McQueen. His clothing is innovative and edgy. Every piece is unique and stylish; everything has flair."



Step into the Jungle

Aaliyah Nurideen
Fashion and Beauty Writer



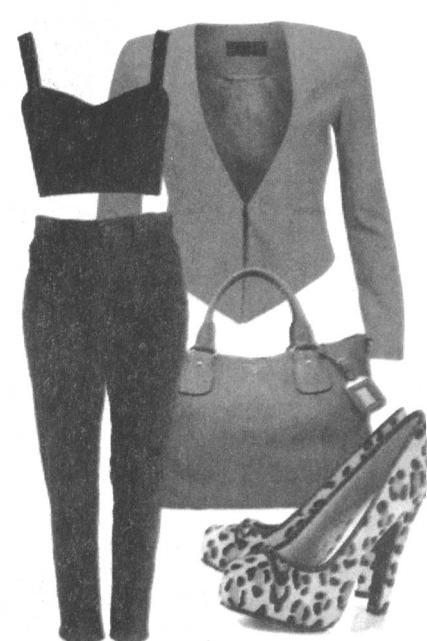
It is no secret that animal print is on the prowl right now. From the looks of Beyonce rocking a cheetah print scarf with a vibrant red blazer or Kim Kardashian's signature leopard print ensembles; celebrities are influencing animal print closets everywhere. Be cautious of the overdone animal print violators like Jersey Shore's Snooki. Snooki gets animal print crazy and should be fined by the fashion police. It is important to know that animal print is not as hard to wear as one might assume. It can be very flirtatious and fun if worn the right way. Stray away from the traditional ways of matching, with just browns and blacks and use animal print to bring some flair into your outfits. Here are some tips that can help you step into the jungle.



Because of the orange and maroon undertones in cheetah and leopard print, it is always fun to pair them with red and maroon jeans or cardigans. Don't be afraid of wearing two items that are of the same or different print. Just don't go overboard and be careful with the spacing of the items.



Zebra print is a little more difficult to match tastefully, but it can be done. Since zebra print is black and white, pairing it with a black and white outfit is expected. Try pairing zebra heels or zebra accessories with black and yellow to add a bit of color to the look. A chic yellow skater dress makes for a great look with zebra heels.



Giraffe print is very similar to cheetah print. With this print, try accenting red and green for color, and then tie it all together with a giraffe print heel. This ensemble works really well together. It will look effortless! Giraffe print is easily paired with earth tone colors.

Dressing Like A Million Bucks!



Adrienne Porter Fashion and Beauty Writer

As spring suddenly approaches, we expect the flowers to bloom, the birds to chirp, and the temperature to rapidly increase; however, along with the change in season come career fairs, deadlines for scholarships, and interviews for internships and jobs. The fashion-forward college student must present herself in a sophisticated, refined, and chic manner. Not only does one need to have a proper formatted resume, but it is pertinent that one's business attire is up to par. First impressions are lasting and we are judged off of what we wear, so one cannot only be business savvy, one has to be fashion savvy as well. As Spelman women, our legacy of being pristine

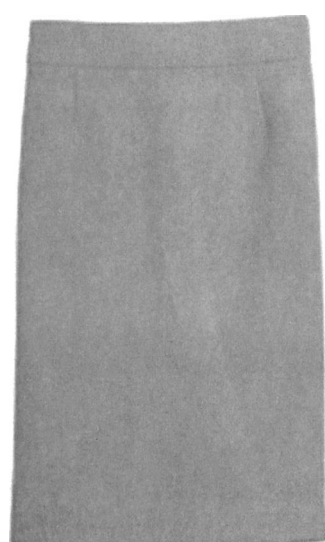
academic scholars must continue to hold true when we are choosing what to formally wear to the interview of our dream job!

In my opinion, there are some essential pieces that every woman should have in her wardrobe in regards to business attire. These items of clothing are very simple: a button down, white/cream/light blue collared shirt, a pair of black slacks, and an appropriate length dress skirt.

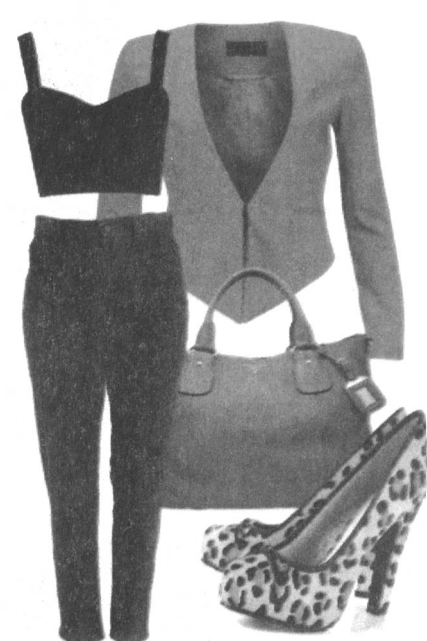
When it comes to shoes, be sure to wear shoes that are COMFORTABLE for you. Whether they are dress flats or high heels, it is imperative that you look and feel comfortable. Ladies, there

is such a thing as an appropriate heel height in the workplace. The heel should be no more than two inches. Remember to always dress in a respectable manner.

After you get the job: Although there are some vital articles of clothing that every woman should have in her business-clothing repertoire, one should feel free to have several bold statement garments that give career ensembles a dash of color and a unique fashion sense. Try adding a cream or pastel colored blazer to your button down top or select a vibrant color skirt that will give your professional wardrobe a pop of color!



Business Attire 101



Arts and Entertainment

Vision is Perception: What's "Real" About Reality TV?



From Left to Right: VH1's Basketball Wives, Bravo's The Real Housewives of Atlanta, and VH1's Love and HipHop
Margaret West **Arts and Entertainment Writer** and Alexis Barnes **Forum Writer**

We know reality television is not real it is one of the most successful genres. Why is that even though these shows do not model our own lives we find them so entertaining?

The concept of what's reality and what's scripted is a once definitive line that has become blurred by the infatuation of overtly expressive women from different racial backgrounds bound by one common thread: status. Each once of these women dominate in their communities and garner respect from the Press and Hollywood. Chrissy Lampkin, Evelyn Lozada, Big Ang, and Nene Leakes have become household names that bind women across the country with a sense of fantasy that the average woman can only live through television. The lack of the effective communication skills and the evidence of emotion: primarily anger, guiding all logic within their interactions sends interesting messages to the U.S. and the world about American womanhood.

So what keeps us coming every week? Before Basketball Wives, Football Wives, Mob wives, The Housewives and everyone else's wives, who can remember what was on TV? How did a bunch of "grown" women fighting and having drama with one another turn into America's favorite television shows?

According to Lauren Berlant, Reality TV is "a porous, affective scene of identification among strangers that promises a certain ex-

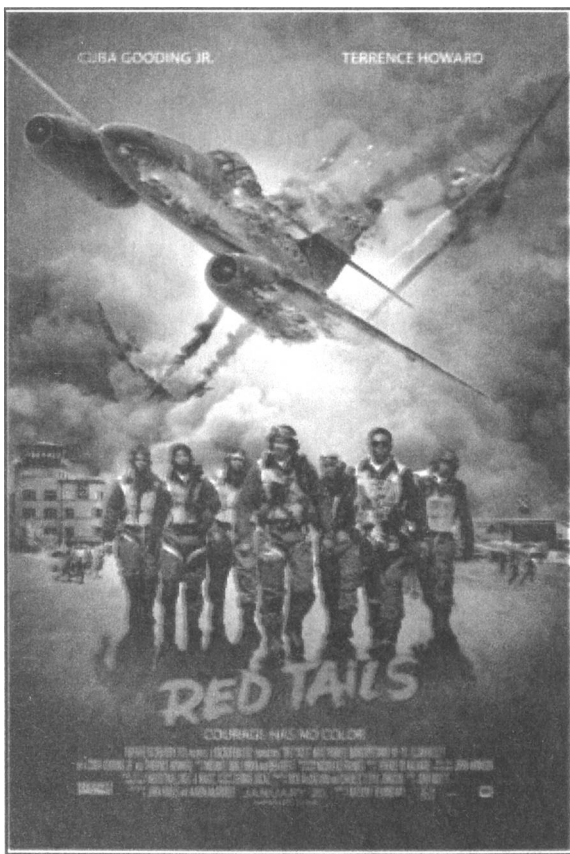
perience of belonging and provides a complex of consolation, confirmation, discipline, and discussion about how to live as an x. "That variable allows viewers to change the differential to fit their own lives and create discussion points. This bind shared by so many women can be seen and a yoke to the heavy burden of societal ills that reinforce negative, yet sometimes relatable issues. Viewers have gotten so caught up in superficial glamour that they are blind-sided by the fact that an ill representation of women exist. The "bling" is blinding us so well that we don't see the effects on our communities.

Viewers and participants are being sold a fake dream. This truth is hidden behind the commonalities of success with businesses and families. The vacation settings, big mansions, and VIP club sections ultimately portrays living luxuriously. And let's not forget the fights that have become major parts of these shows. The desire to be like the stars contradicts the statements to excuse them from the drama. "That's not me." Who is it, then? The reality of a negative impact on society is more real than the premise of unscripted raw behavior that viewers and producers call reality.

One Spelman Sister, Ayjah Thomas C/O 2013, is a cut from a different cloth than the average quilt of reality TV subscribers. "Reality TV is sheer entertainment that's out of the norm from my life personally." The level of

"coonery" is too high for personal participation from Thomas, and many other mature women in the black community, popular to contrary belief. Other young black scholars who enjoy some humor after a long day or week of academia share her sentiments.

But where does the female community draw the line between entertainment and reinforcement of poor images of women in the media? Is a laugh worth the damage to the character of women, especially the overwhelmingly large amount of minorities participating in Reality TV? As socially conscious female scholars, we owe it to ourselves to disassociate our support from the glamorization of ignorant exchange that reinforces gender roles in our society.



Red Tails; Is it Worth Seeing?

Lauren Hawkins
Arts and Entertainment Writer

Is it just me or was there no significant publicity about "Red Tails," a historical movie about the Tuskegee Army? Before the movie debuted, I may have seen one commercial, if that, advertising the film. Red Tails, an action-packed film based on the lives of the triumphant and skilled Tuskegee Army, America's first black pilot fleet who fought in World War II, debuted in theaters on Friday, January 20, 2012. Backed by tremendous support from viewers and especially the black community, Red Tails received more support in the box offices the entertainment industry expected. Since George Lucas, producer, first pitched the idea of a movie about the Tuskegee Army, he explains that he was faced with lack of interest from many studios that had little faith in a movie that featured an all-black cast. As a result, many African Americans felt the need to prove that a movie like Red Tails would be supported and interest viewers, by going to see it the first weekend it came out. Since its release, many critics have argued that although the movie made a good attempt at honoring and explaining the significance of the Tuskegee Army, it does a subpar job at delivering an interesting and meaningful storyline. The flying and battle scenes add to the plot and make the movie interesting to watch, but many scenes begin to tell a story and later leave the audience hanging and wanting more. Although the movie satisfied some and disappointed others, At Spelman, some women agreed that they would have loved to see the movie portray an

African American woman as the love interest of one of the airmen. They also expressed that although women played a vital role in the armed forces during World War II, they were not included in the storyline. Although I understand and identify with their concerns, I do not think these aspects would have made a big difference in the plot of the film. As women, of course we want to be able to identify with someone in the movie were watching, but in Red Tails the love interest and other volunteers during WWII would have only provided a subplot that would not have affected the main storyline in one direction or another. There have also been comparisons between "The Tuskegee Army" another film about the airmen that debuted in 1996. Some people believe this movie did a better job at focusing on the discrimination the airmen faced in the armed forces, and the choice of actors, created better scenes and a more fulfilling plot. It is up to you to see if Red Tails lives up to your expectations and provides an interesting film that you will be happy you supported. I went and saw it at 12 am Friday, when it came out and it lived up to my expectations. I look forward to seeing "The Tuskegee Army" and comparing it to Red Tails, two movies that made an attempt to share a piece of African American history with Hollywood and viewers all over the world.

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