

# The Spelman Spotlight

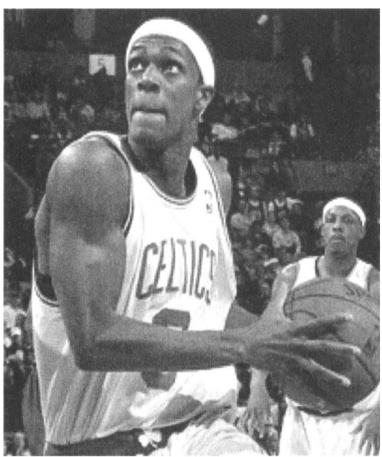
The Voice of African-American Womanhood Since 1957

VOLUME XLVIII , ISSUE IV

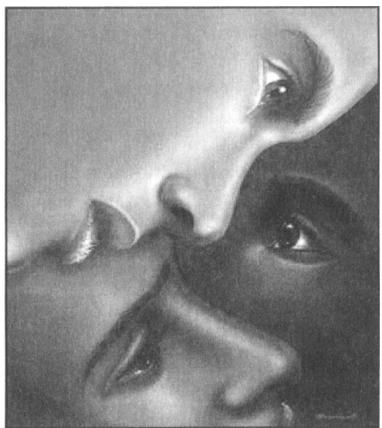
MARCH 16, 2012



Featured in this issue's GLAM CAM with a passion for fashion is freshman, Fennella Miller. PG 5



As the NBA is noosing black athletes many wonder: is it really worth it? PG 3



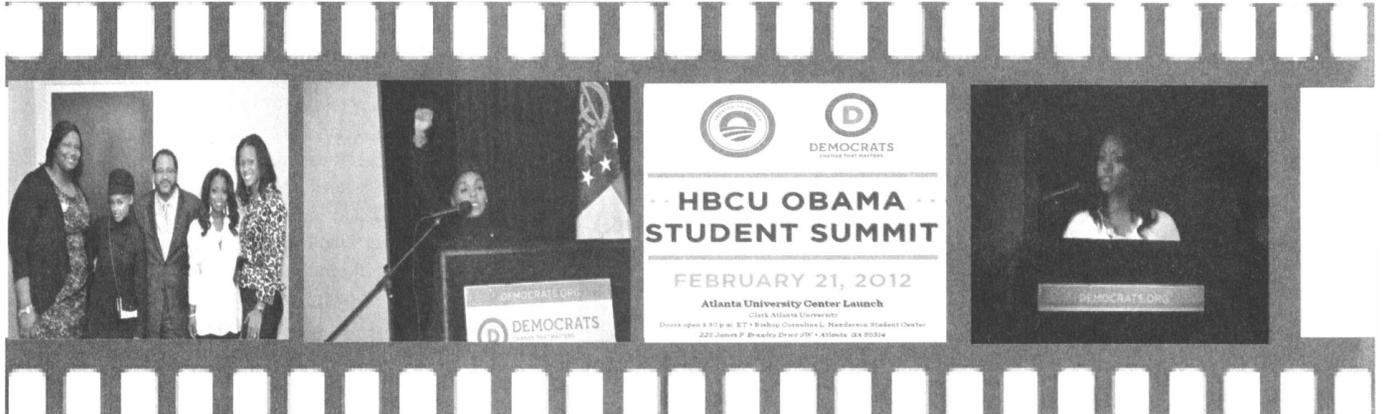
The debatable subject of light skin versus dark skin surfaces in another Forum...again. PG 3

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## My President is Black

Rabiah Elisa Forum Editor



Clark Atlanta's Student Center was flooded with AUC Students on February 21st at 5:30 to rally together in support of re-election for Barack Obama. The HBCU Obama Student Summit was put together by the Democratic National Committee in hopes of raising awareness, advocacy, student volunteers and voter registration. The DNC wants to get the AUC excited to vote and engaged in the Obama Administration efforts to see that Obama is re-elected for his second term.

SGA President of Clark Atlanta University was the first speaker. She introduced her fellow sorer and CAU Alum, Kimberly Marcus, who for the past four months has been working as the director of African-American outreach in various communities nation-wide for the DNC. In her speech, Ms. Marcus noted that the President doubled numbers for Pell Grants for an additional 200,000 students and as of 2008, 46% of African-American students receive Pell Grants, more so than any other group. Over 40 states have raised their education standards- teacher training since Obama was deemed presidency as well.

As Ms. Marcus shouts out the name of each school in the AUC, the crowd was moved by the presence of representatives from Morris Brown whom has recently just recovered from a troublesome period of lack of accreditation. Everyone was glad to have them back and active in such an important event.

Dr. Dyson of Georgetown University gave a riveting speech exposing some of the hypocrisy within the United States regarding the misuse of our tax money and the abuse of other means of financial support. "Thank God we have a leader who.." was a phrase Dyson reiterated. He thanked God that a leader such as Obama is in the White House to clear such problems from the thread of America's stitching. Dr. Dyson also stated "don't think its because you cute and colored you do what you do...now y'all are in the mall chillin, watching television, doing everything but what you need to be doing...they want you tripped out, tricked out, marginalized." Dyson

pleads that we do not let politicians pass laws and policies that subsidize our own oppression.

Though Dyson was humorous, slightly informal and incorporated a great deal of colloquialism in his speech, his message was very clear and well-received all the same: Our ancestors were lynched, beaten, brutalized, barricaded, raped, pillaged, and stripped of all rights to simply step on the grounds of the voting polls and we have the nerve to stay silenced and not exercise our right to vote.

Spelman's SGA President, Taylor Allen, opened by telling a captivating personal story regarding her interaction with a homeless man. The nucleus of it being, "Can YOU sacrifice any more?" Taylor stressed the importance of registering to vote, and then taking the steps to actually vote in the elections. While referencing Dr. Dyson's speech, Taylor accidentally referred to Dr. Dyson as "Mr." Dyson one too many times- an innocent but remarkable mistake. Taylor introduced Keisha Knight Pulliam, Spelman Alum class of 2001, better known as Rudy from

The Cosby Show.

Ms. Pulliam stressed that this country has been built on the blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors. "So many of us have gotten so comfortable and say 'oh this is how it is' but do you know how it got there? Do you know how many people had to die?" Ms. Pulliam remarks that it was the people that were our age who were the cornerstone of the fight for civil rights. "Understand your power," Ms. Pulliam urged.

She also commented that "The same way you pass the word about Beer Bash, you need to pass on the word to VOTE with the same vigor."

Janelle Monae's entourage Nate Wonder and Chuck Lightening mad a statement right after Pulliam about the importance of voting and not being complacent. They shared a story about how democrats are trying to create an economy that is built to last, emphasizing the importance of voting and how we are "agents of change." They introduce Janelle Monae who performed at the White House for President Obama and is a strong

advocate for the Obama Administration as well as his family and his person. Toward the end of her speech, Monae had everyone in the room stand up and put our right fist in the air, a powerful act of black pride, and promise that we will do everything in our power to spread the word to "vote vote vote."

Travis Randall, the final speaker, is a senior political science major at Morehouse, and SGA President. Declared that we need to be "making the commitment to stop the Republican party from rolling back the progress of this nation."

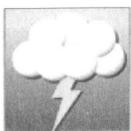
What I love most is that we are no longer trying to mull over Obama's identity as a black man to avoid the shallow discrepancy of supporting him because he's black. Yes, he is black and yes, I will vote for him because he is black amongst numerous other reasons. People cannot possibly convince us to not vote for him because we are black, can they? I am proud to be an African-American and proud to see myself in the leader of the free world, in a powerful intellectual, excellent orator, outstanding crisis manager and a morally strong President. As Ms. Marcus said, "African Americans for Obama." Obama is a representative for something far greater than America. He is a challenge and a symbol of resistance to the self-filling destiny of entrapment many African-Americans are forced or retreat in to. He may not have grew up exposed to or enabling drug abuse or on a street with boarded up houses or without stable education, parenting or financial income. He may not have struggled in the same ways many blacks struggle that drive us to abandon or dreams and our futures but he is undoubtedly a clear indication of being able to avert the too long perpetuated myth of race being a factor of our worth and worthiness.

On November 6th, peel yourself from your couch, turn off your music and television, remove yourself from your house or dorm, get off Twitter and Facebook and VOTE VOTE VOTE. If you are not registered to vote, get in contact with our SGA President, Anita Foster or go to democrats.org or rockthevote.com.



Photos Courtesy of thyblackman.com, minorityrecruitonline.com, mcecenter.com, qfsusa.com and jbh.com

Saturday



75°

Sunday



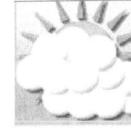
79°

Monday



81°

Tuesday



77°

# Campus Life

## Career Wise

Sierra Stokes Campus Life Writer

Spelman College only produces lawyers, doctors and/or teachers... true or false? The answer to this question is definitely false. To believe that students are limited to only a few professions is a ridiculous myth, considering the vivaciousness of all of the ladies at Spelman. As the institution known for "free-thinking women," the fact that people believe that the number one HBCU only has graduates who enter a few professions is ludicrous. Being an English major and Writing minor myself, I often get the question, "Oh, so you

want to be teacher?" It baffles me every time I am asked this question, because it makes me realize how ignorant many are to the employment opportunities that come with various majors and minors. When I give the reply that I do not plan on being a teacher, but instead a journalist, I am greeted with astonishing faces, as if that choice in a career never came to their mind at all. This lack of knowledge towards various career options began to make me question whether

or not my fellow Spelman sisters even know the professional choices they have. Knowing that the employment field is full of a vast amount of professions should be a given to Spelman women, but is that known? No longer are people being limited to typical nine to five jobs, not to say anything is wrong if that is your preference, but let it be known that 2012 is full of endless possibilities. Take it from fellow English major and Writing minor Alex Ebanks, Ebanks immediately immersed herself in the Public Relations world as soon as she entered Spelman. Starting off as merely an active member of the Black Public Relations Student Society and by her Junior year becoming president, displayed Ebanks passion for the particular career arena. In addition to this, Ebanks participated in several internships, her most recent one being with breaking news network CNN.

When asked about some events that she has done for the Black Public Relations Student Society, Ebanks said, "We have various events that 'spring' up around campus. Members of the industry offer advice to students and offer internships to those interested. Recently, we had a big event where we brought a prominent Spelman alum back. This was a really exciting chance for the members to meet a fellow Spelman sister who was a part of the industry."

Sociology major and Writing minor Jasmine Mazyck also plans on entering a career that is not the usual. Mazyck plans on pursuing a career within the hospitality industry.

When asked her reasoning for entering that particular occupation, Mazyck said, "I actually became interested in the career gradually from the experiences and environments I have been exposed to while being at Spelman College and also through the many

opportunities I have been given through living in Atlanta. I have always had an interest in people, running events, making sure people are satisfied when it comes to events and just in making sure I put my all into any event I work."

Ebanks and Mazyck are just two examples of students pursuing alternative careers. It is important for all students to remember that in order to be successful in a profession, they must have a love for that career. Taking the time to truly think about what you want in life is the most important step to having a prosperous career.

In conclusion, Ebanks said these words for any Spelmanite with a desire to pursue an alternative career, "It's really all about being proactive and seeking people out within your profession of interest. Within my club, I receive emails about various opportunities in relation to Public Relations. I am able to piggy back off of other people and they are able to piggy back off of me as well. Making a connection with your Spelman sisters is also important, because you are able to expand your network."



## The Golden Key International Honor Society: Born to Stand Out

Ruby Erdmann Contributing Writer

The Golden Key International Honour Society was established in 1977 by faculty and undergraduate students at Georgia State University which is located right here in Atlanta, Georgia. It is the world's largest collegiate honor society with over 2 million members and 400 chapters established for the purpose of encouraging academic excellence among college and university students of all academic disciplines.

Each year the top 15% of college and university sophomores, juniors and seniors, and top-performing graduate students are invited to join this prestigious organization.

On February 16, 2012, The Spelman College Chapter of The Golden Key Honour Society, inducted the following Spelman sisters into this elite group of academic scholars:

Gloria Aboagye-Agyeman	Camesha Jones
Janet Akayenzi	Danielle King
Amanda Alexander	Raquel King
Victoria Apenteng	Stephanie Lee
Sascha Betts	Fasmine Levitt
Nijah Burris	Michelle Lewis
Amanda Carrington	Brooke Martin
Kayla Conti	Kinnari Matheson
Inez Daniels	Kendra Mells
Kelsey Darden	Yanesia Norris
Stephanie Deltor	Hadiya Sewer
Chaina Dobbins	Anita Shears
Nicole Ezeude	Darcy Sorinmade
Deborah Faulk	Terrisa Stewart
Marcelle Grair	Brinesha Taylor
Dominique Gratsy	Jasmine Taylor
Marjani Hall	Assata Thompson
Kelly Harper	Alana Tunstel
Daltonise Harvey	Margaret West
Gabrielle Horton	Devin Williams
Chelsea Johnson	Asia Womack
	Racheal Woods

You might be wondering about some of the more prominent members of this prestigious organization. You won't believe the company we keep. Members include Julian Bond - Civil Rights Activist & Chairman of NAACP; William J. Clinton, 42nd US President; Bill Cosby, entertainer; Archbishop Emeritus

Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Ronald W. Reagan, 40th US President; and, yes, believe it or not, Tupac Amaru Shakur, entertainer, to name a few.

Many of these celebrated leaders started with very humble beginnings. In most cases they might have considered themselves to be quite ordinary people- people who exhibited a strong work ethic and a burning desire and passion to succeed. They were leaders who were "Born to Stand Out." or were they? There are some who would argue that Leaders are made, not born! In fact, some would say that leaders become who they are and achieve success because they develop a personal blueprint or strategic plan.

What does it mean to be a leader? It's not position, rank or title. Being a leader really means being a person of influence. It means being a person others look to for answers, and/or may want to follow. Being a leader means Dreaming big for yourself! Knowing who you are! Knowing what you can and cannot do! Figuring out what you want to do! It means having a sense of purpose and direction. As you grow more certain of your purpose and talents, you will learn to rely on your own passion and abilities.

According to David Niven, noted psychologist, social scientist and author of 100 Simple Secrets of Successful People, average people entice you into being more like them by offering their acceptance and by leading you to believe that everyone else is more like them than you! So, Spelmanites, there are plenty of average people everywhere you go. Being average means sacrificing your goals, individuality and unique ideas. Dr. Bayse, professor of Chemistry/Biochemistry shared a famous quote: "Never give up! If a task is going to be done, never leave it 'til it's done. Be thy labor great or small, do it well or not at all!"

Spelmanites, step beyond the average in everything you do. Remember, you will one day be a graduate of Spelman College. There's not debating it— Spelmanites are Born to Stand Out!

## "From Spelmanites to You."

Stephanie Deltor Contributing Writer

How many times have prospective students and incoming students so eagerly and specifically questioned you about the practices and lifestyle of Spelman College? How many times did you find yourself wishing at the end of the conversation you could have provided even better answers for them to help them in making their future choices? With the incoming of new freshman every year at Spelman College, there comes a desire to know more about the Spelman College experience. Freshman simply wanted to be comforted in knowing that they truly made the right decision in selecting this illustrious

college. Stephanie Deltor, a junior Psychology Major and Creative Writing minor seeks to address this issue. Her sophomore year, she developed an idea to publish a booklet for incoming Spelmanites from the current and alumnae Spelman students that shared quotes about the college from our points of view. "From Spelmanites to You" would serve as a collection of quotes from different students under a range of topics interesting to incoming students. The booklet would address campus life, academics, extracurricular activities, and more painting a personal picture of the Spelman experience. With

respect to Spelman's special traditions and regulations, the book would not tell all, but enough to be able to guide students successfully throughout their years. Stephanie ultimately plans to distribute her booklets to incoming freshman at NSO in the upcoming years. Today, her quotes will be distributed within the pages of the future Spelman planners. Stephanie quotes, "I would have wished to have somewhere or something I could refer to for help. Who best could help new Spelman students but those at Spelman themselves?" She looks forward to the planner project and hopes to leave her legacy after graduation.

## Spelman Sustainability Internships

Ruth Wangia Contributing Writer

Did you know that shoe boxes and pizza boxes are recyclables?? Sustainable Spelman's efforts to achieve climate neutrality calls for collective action from every Spelmanite. Our collective efforts start by reducing our ecological footprints through efforts that conserve energy, minimize waste, reduce the use of raw materials in all industrial processes, and of course practice sustainability as a way of life. This is a noble cause! A Choice to change the World!

It all begins with you. To actualize the vision of the Sustainable Spelman initiative and have the GREEN world we want for future generations, we have to address our ecological impact. One green initiative

that is most effective is reuse and recycling of materials. It costs less to dispose items through recycling.

Making use of the recycle bins in our residence halls and Separating plastic/water bottles and paper from other garbage are two simple things that we can embrace to start living green.

Have you heard of Blue Cleaning in most facilities at Spelman? This is an environmentally friendly cleaning program that uses electrically activated water in place of chemicals.

In an effort to inspire the Spelman academic community to embrace green practices, Sustainable Spelman initiatives have always encouraged participation of the

greater AUC in its major events. For instance, recycle mania managed to collect more than 5 tons of recyclables for recycling according to Michelle Cheatham, Facilities Management.

The little steps that we take daily will help us fully realize a green campus. It is an attainable goal. United We Stand

Every Spelman student, faculty, and staff member can contribute to a more sustainable Spelman. Here's how you can help:

- Turnoff lights when not in use
- Set your computer on sleep mode or hibernate to save energy
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth
- Additionally, engaging in projects

that give us a platform to plan for conservation such as research and internship opportunities will equip us to be better prepared and serve as advocates for environmental justice.

To sum it up, lets pause and reflect on Dr. Tatums words of wisdom- "A choice to change the world also means taking responsibility for the ways each of us is always changing the world - and not always for the better - through our excessive consumption of the world's resources. Understanding our own environmental impact and seeking to reduce it is a choice that all of us can make every day."

-Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, Presi-

dent, Spelman College, Opening Convocation Speech, August 30, 2007.

"The sustainability theme continues to be important as we continue our work as signatories to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment... and we will continue that effort this year as we look to reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our stewardship of our natural resources... each of us can make a difference in our effort to reduce our environmental impact at Spelman!"

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President, Spelman College, Opening Convocation Speech, August 25, 2011.

## Ohio Shooting and its Relation to Bullying

Jazmine Tillman **News Writer**

Many are aware of the tragic Chardon High school shooting, better known as the Ohio shooting. The Ohio school shooting left three students dead, and several students and parents extremely distraught and disturbed. It seems as if we hear about a tragic school shooting every few years. One of the most well-known American school shootings, being the Columbine shooting in Colorado, occurred in 1999. America has seen many additional fatal school shootings previously. There were nearly ten other fatal school shootings prior to the infamous Columbine event. However there has definitely been an increase in the frequency of these tragic occasions.

Often times, people forget that with every violent explosion, there are other underlying details that caused the event. Russell King was one of the three victims that alleged shooter T.J. killed in the shooting. King was also the boyfriend of Lane's ex. A group close to Lane's ex-girlfriend believed Lane purposely targeted King in his killing pursuits. The group even went as far to claim that Lane's outburst may have had something to do with the suspected threats King made to Lane. Russell King had become irritated by Lane's continued display of interest in his girlfriend (Lane's ex) and it has been stated by close

friends of the victims that King had threatened to fight him. Considering that Lane is a fairly small teenager, Lane's violent explosion could very well have been brought about because of King's alarming threats.

What could be the cause for the increase in the fatal shootings like these? After a tragic event like the Ohio shooting, background information concerning the victims and their relationships with the shooters comes out of the "woodworks." Although King's supposed threats to Lane would serve as no excuse for his violent behavior, they still could have arguably had something to do with Lane's actions. No one can judge how someone else will handle being bullied no matter how minor you may find the bullying to be. Bullying can be linked to many of these tragic occurrences like the Ohio shooting. What we as students can do to prevent situations from exploding to this extent is to be very careful in how we interact with one another. Spelman does not seem to have much of a problem with bullying, but it is still important that we maintain our civil treatment towards one another because no one may never know how someone may react to even the most "minor" form of bullying.

## Spring Forward!

Kamron Taylor **Forum Writer**

Coming back from Spring Break is always exciting. Here marks the revival of campus energy since the start of the New Year. Of course, you'll be enthusiastic about hearing from your friends about their spring break escapades, and we all know campus life has its fair share to offer the last half of the spring term! Things to look forward to: The return of Hump Wednesday, Spel-Bound, Freshman Week and the influx of anxious touring families excited to see what freshman year holds for them in the fall. And still, one can't forget the eager senior Spelmanite ready to

start the new chapter of her life and embark on competition in the real world. Not to mention, spring applications are out for those of us interested in joining a cool new spring org, or for those of us in search of that perfect summer internship that will make the resume look on point! You'll probably see a faction of fresh-women looking to complete their community service hours that they've hopefully already started, but probably never did. Soon they'll be rejoicing about the completion of their last few ADW classes! And of course, this term has been much anticipated by the

graduating seniors completing their college experience this May. Many of our senior students have graduate school plans and others have jobs lined up. As they reflect on their journey thus far, and younger students admire at all they've accomplished and we also take the time to reflect on our goals and aspirations and what we hope to accomplish by graduation. In all, it's a great time of year in the AUC. As the last leg of classes quickly approaches we should be savor every moment while it lasts and keep striving for the best through finals and end of the year exams.

## Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement: Freedom, Justice and Democracy for Arab Countries

Brittany Fennell **Executive Editor**

CNN Dialogues hosted "The Arab 'Spring': A Path to Democracy?" This event was held on Emory University's campus in partnership with the National Center for Civil Human Rights and The James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference.

The event was hosted by CNN International correspondent Hala Gorani. There were several different panelists who openly expressed their opinions and views about the issues facing people in Syria. Additionally, this dialogue was intended to shed light on the conflict arising in Syria as well as Egypt, Morocco and Libya. All of these countries desire equality and democracy for their nations and people. As a result, these nations are gaining global coverage of their united yearning for justice, peace and most importantly democracy. Nic Robertson, a senior CNN International correspondent says, "It's a shame that people have to lose their lives in order to get media coverage." It is a

tragedy that people in Syria and other countries must lose their lives in order to fight for freedom, justice and democracy.

Likewise, Dalia Ziada the director of the American Islamic Congress (AIC) Egypt Office spoke thoughtfully about Egypt. Ziada believes that the people of Egypt are "looking for liberal democracy" and "reshaping their history." Moreover, people in Egypt desire for democracy and civil rights for everyone in their country.

Carrie Wickham is an associate professor of political science at Emory University and an expert about politics in Arab countries and in the Middle East. Wickham asserts that people in the United States should be mindful of the women and minorities facing unfair treatment at large in countries like Syria. Wickham says, "Dictatorship does not dissolve overnight." As a result, people in Syria continue to feel great suffering and pain, in attempts to gain their civil liberties and rights.

Also, Ahed Al Hendi is a nonconformist who fled from his native country Syria four years ago. Hendi says, "We don't have a homogenous society." As a result, people continue to fight for their lives every day in this country. People in Syria are dying for freedom in order for future generations to live. It is extremely powerful and selfless that men, women and children sacrifice their lives, in order to bring about heartfelt change, both now and in the future.

Lamees Dhaif, a Bahraini journalist in the Bahraini resistance campaign says, "We are universal citizens [and] you should care about the people who are far away from you." As global citizens of the world it is important to remain dedicated to fighting the unfortunate injustices that paralyze people all across the globe from living their lives. They desire change. Until the people living in Arab countries gain democracy, they will continue to fight for their individual rights and the rights of others.

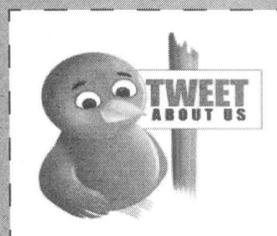
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FAST CASUAL

AMERICAN PURPOSE CASUAL™



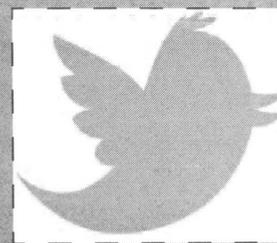
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THE  
SPELMAN  
SPOT  
LIGHT



S.A.G.E.

2012 STUDENT AFFAIRS GLOBAL  
EXPERIENCE (S.A.G.E)



Application Deadline: Friday, March  
23, 2012 by 5:00 PM

Return applications to the Sisters Chapel WISDOM  
Center  
Bessie Strong Hall Room 100  
350 Spelman Lane, S. W. - Box 357  
Atlanta, GA 30314  
404.270.5729 phone  
404.270.5689 fax

# Forum

## LightSkin Versus DarkSkin... Again?

SierraStokes **Forum Writer**

"I Like A Long Haired Thick Redbone" turned in a large crowd as everyone gathered to discuss the all too common issue that plagues black society. While note taking at the event, the continuous discussion of "light skin versus dark skin" began to marinate in my mind, causing me to grow concerned with the state of my people. To think that in the AUC there are constant panel discussions about skin complexion when we have so many more prevalent issues is disheartening... even frightening.

Politics, global warming, the state of Spelman are just a few topics that seem worthy of discussion, but why are they hardly talked about? Having an intelligent panel ponder problems that will ultimately impact this generation as well as generations to come lives are more important, but for some reason there seems to be a stand still on dead matters.

This is not to say that colorism should not be addressed, but how often should it be done? Taking the time to replace the typical panel discussion with one that will elevate the mind is the goal. As Spelman women, it is unacceptable that we even continue to entertain such idiotic talk. The fact that a week later another panel discussion was held reiterating the same matter is redundant.

Often times, we have panel discussions without professionals in the particular field causing the validity of the argument to be questionable. The Panel discussions turn into screaming matches between the audience and the crowd and often times disrespect is being shown to those who volunteer to actually do the panels.

Being a native of North Carolina, I have been able to visit great schools, such as Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill,

for panel discussions. At these discussions, certified people are invited to speak on relevant matters and the audience is there to be receptive of what is being taught. Unfortunately, this cannot be said for any panel discussions I have covered in the AUC. The mere thought of an audience member yelling out while someone is speaking on a panel is utterly frightening to the host of these events at predominantly white schools, but when it happens in the AUC it causes laughter and further uproar. Junior Class President Sheryl Means was another attendee at the "I Like A Long Haired Thick Red Bone" panel discussion who expressed concerned about the event.

When asked her opinion of the overall affair Means said, "I always have a problem with these AUC panel discussions, because I feel like there is not a focus on what is going on and secondly there is no actual follow up. You talk about it, you talk about it, you talk about it, but what is solved? People say they are coming in with an open mind, but are they really ready to accept that change?"

In addition, selecting panelists who are able to identify with the crowd and make sense of the discussion at hand is imperative.

"I have a problem with the panelist that was strictly up there to entertain. Towards the end of the discussion, that is when he [Renaldo Nehemiah] really started to focus on the issue, but that was only after he was called out by an audience member," added Means.

As Spelman women we like to consider ourselves "The Cream

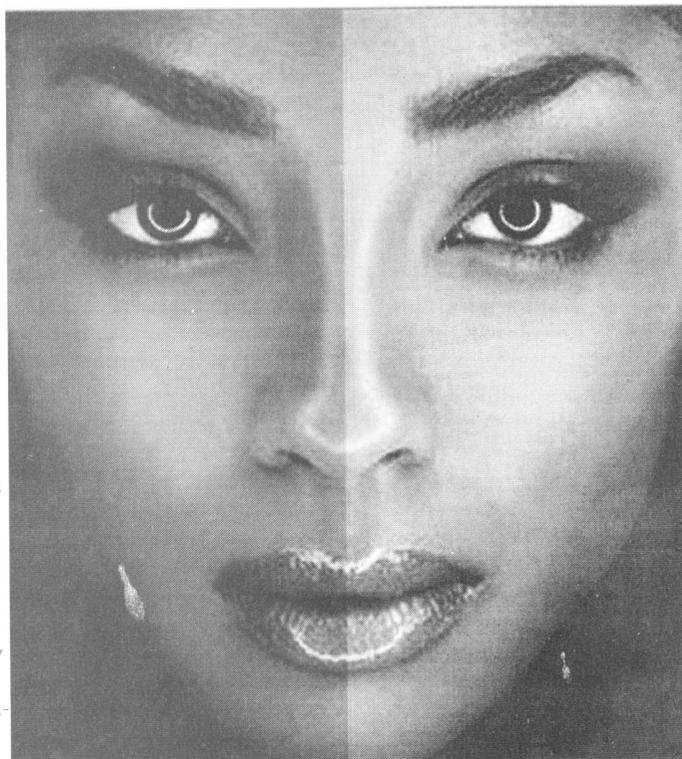


Photo Courtesy of lynndove.wordpress.com

of The Crop." Claiming this title means we should represent ourselves as the ladies we are, at all times, and the allowance of such behavior on our campus should never be tolerated. Furthermore, as educated women it is time to expand our topics of relevancy to national and global issues.

## Valentine's Day: **THE AFTERMATH**

Margaret West **Arts and Entertainment Writer**

"Margaret! Marrrrrrrrrr-ggggarettttttttt! They wanna sing to you, come see! Go inside! It's you!!"

I was mortified. In the midst of my Valentine-less day, ecstatic Spelman sisters summoned me into Alma Upshaw Dining Hall to be serenaded by some members of Morehouse College Glee Club in the most romantic way a woman would want to be honored: In front of EVERYONE. As the men crooned the knickers off of a roomful of ladies, I sat there in confusion wondering why I was the target of this affection. I had no Valentine, and the card given to me was from "my Nigerian prince". As the story materialized, my heart sank and I realized this gesture was definitely for a Margaret, but not Margaret West.

To say the least, I felt alone. Even though I had a great day, amazing friends and family who love me, I felt reduced to my relationship/Valentine status. People told me I should be grateful regardless of who the gift was intended for, but I couldn't help but feel as if the whole monstrosity was a fla-

grant reminder of being single.

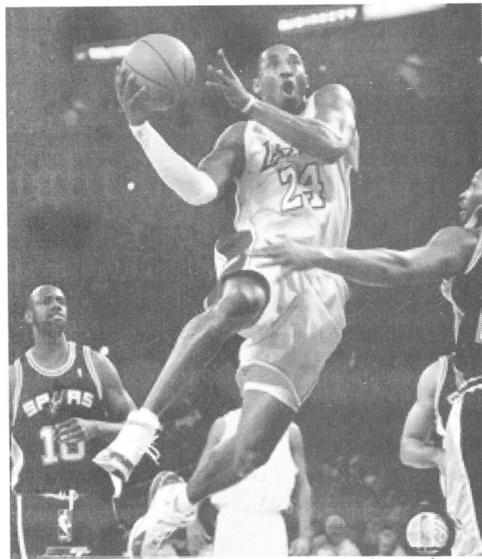
We all know what Valentine's Day means at Spelman: An overloaded mail center full of girls brimming with excitement and angry sisters glaring at the exchange from parcel to present. A spectrum of intensified emotions and their displays sounds like bliss for some and chaos for others. Dates and gifts are in a commercial exchange, dinners are had, and love is expressed. Hours later, flowers are on their way to wilting and chocolates are gone. The mail center is back to normal, and romance is stale in the air. So if there is only a twenty-four hour span where love appears to be on crack, why do women (single or committed) determine their self-worth by the measurements of gifts, texts, and I Love You's? I've been guilty of it myself, as a woman who is confused why I'm single. But what I've done is realize that sometimes, the days following Valentine's Day, cupid's arrow returns to sender. Most of the time, we assume that the girl with the biggest teddy bear and the tallest Edible Arrangements has the great-

est love. But honestly, do we acknowledge how many people have a VALENTINE, and not a BOYFRIEND? Society prods women into believing that on February 14, if you're not being showered with gifts and affection, you're lonely. More people are concerned about having someone to share their day with than having someone to share their life with, making for false displays of what everyone thinks they should have. When the right man comes along, love will always be in the air.

Self-love is the most important love. Regardless of our relationship status, we've got to understand not to covet someone else's blessing because there's plenty more where they came from. When a good man recognizes that you don't do it for the men because they never notice (courtesy of Drake), he'll know he's pursuing a whole woman to compliment him and not a half who needs completion. So next Valentine's day, don't look for a Valentine. Pursue healthy love year round instead of a quick fix for February 14.

## NBA: Noosing Black Athletes

Lexi Williams **Forum Writer**



For many young African American boys, the sports industry represents the dream of being acknowledged and having it all which is a model of social mobility. Black boys look up to black athletes and strive to be them. The National Basketball association has especially become an avenue that has become an inspiration for young black boys because of the number of blacks that are apart of it. This makes the dream of becoming a sports superstar even more attainable. What people don't know is that the NBA still models a structure where black men are meant to be dominated. The noose which was used to kill black men is now a symbol that our progression has still been masked by systems which work to undermine the achievements of blacks.

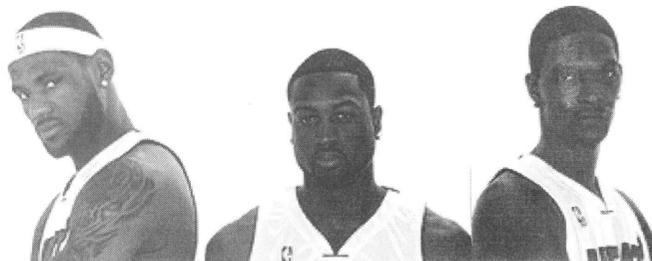
No one seems to be asking questions like why was Allen Iverson considered such a bad boy? Is the dream of being an NBA star really everything that it seems? In many ways it is a false reality being that the chances of becoming a sports professional are very slim and the repercussions of being a Black

athlete due to white domination through coaches and highly-focused media attention on mistakes is seldom discussed. Although there is no question that Black male athletes benefit economically, many other people also benefit from the commodification of their talents. The male athlete subtly appears as the boy, who with training and structure by rules, can be made into a "proper" man. Since most of the coaches, owners, and even fans of the National Basketball association are mostly white, black men are fastened with the belt of white standards. This not only forces them to answer and their white superiors but it also limits them as a result. Since the NBA consist mostly of black players there is an underlying assumption that they have come from bad neighborhoods and lack father figures which shapes their behavior.

In an article from ABC news called "Why So Many NBA Players Get in Trouble", it states "Many of today's NBA stars came from urban America, where basketball is seen as an inexpensive ticket to fame and fortune. In some cities, the image of streetwise "gangsters" is celebrated and emulated. And that can carry over into young adulthood" (Redeker). This shows that there is an idea that black people want to be gangsters and of course in a white middle class world, where their NBA players dare to step into, that is unacceptable and has to be erased. This explains some of the reason Allen Iverson was labeled as a bad boy. His cornrolls and connection with his old friends made opposed the alteration which made him unruly. The need for discipline of these Black players arises because they need to know how to leave their culture off of the stadium floors. For this reason coaches take on the "father roles" and unavoidably reenact the race script where Black males are subjected to white control. NBA practices constantly show that the Black boys need the help of white authoritative figures to transform into better men. Although this is apparent in the NBA because of the proportions of black players to white coaches and authority, it is not only the NBA that faces this problem. A recent Acura advertisement featuring a black NFL athlete reinforced this same idea

when he was stripped of his uniform and placed in elegant formal attire as the voice-over concludes "Aggression in its most elegant form". Not only is his aggression being tamed, but a closer look reveals that this make-over is done with white hands. This commercial symbolizes the message that the sports industry has been sending out, black athletes have to be renovated. The term renovation not only signifies that these males are objects but also that there is a need to repair their behavioral impotence.

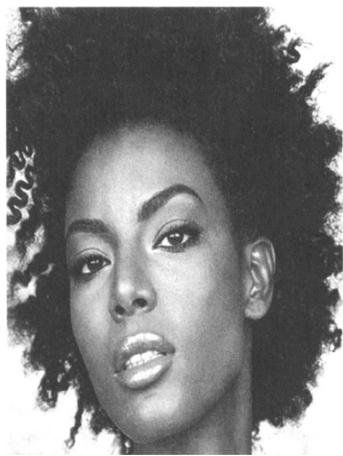
In order to ensure that Black athletes are subjugated, the law and the media work to makes example of Black athletes who do not follow the rules. Although there have been incidents with athletes from an array of ethnic backgrounds, there seems to be a highly disproportionate level of Black athletes in trouble with the law in the media even for many would consider minor offenses. However, although athletes may have economic advantages, they still cannot escape their place in society it seems. Even when Black athletes do things that seem minor, there are major consequences that they have to face. When Michael Vick of the Atlanta Falcons was convicted of dog fighting not only did he face consequence with the law but even his career suffered and he was released as quarterback. Being that he was seen as the leader of his team, it seems that by punishing him so severely, it was a message that put Black athletes in their place. Hopefully in due time black athletes will gain the respect they deserve and help to make a difference in the community so we can ensure our black men and boys aren't reliving the horror of the noose.



# Fashion and Beauty

## Fresh Face: The No Makeup... Makeup

Chelsea Cardell Fashion and Beauty Editor



Full coverage foundation, black eyeliner, eye shadow, false eyelashes, lipstick, and blush are some of the typical products in every makeup bag. Until recently, flawless skin, contoured cheeks, immaculately arched eyebrows, thick lashes, and pouty lips were chic. Picking up the heavy makeup bag off of the vanity and dumping out a myriad of products onto the counter in order to pile on the makeup, is a routine that needs to be broken. It is time to have a fresh approach to our habitual makeup applications. It is time to embrace the imperfections that make us unique. Less makeup is not a bad fad; there is a new look to natural. Makeup should enhance your beauty and bring out your features, not hide them. Instead of wanting a perfectly painted on face opt for makeup that will give you dewy

skin and a natural glow. According to Glamour magazine, natural makeup should give you healthy looking skin, understated eyes and a touch of color on your cheeks and lips. You are perfectly gorgeous, so let your natural beauty radiate this coming spring. Showcase your natural glamour.

### Foundation

Put aside the heavy full coverage liquid foundation and pick up a great mineral powder or tinted moisturizer that will even out your skin tone. The wonderful thing about mineral powder and tinted moisturizer is that they are both light weight and long-lasting. Both are a great investment for your makeup inventory. But most importantly, both leave your skin looking healthy and refreshed.

#### TRY THESE:

Cover FX Mineral FX Pure Mineral Foundation SPF 15, \$37  
Bobbi Brown Skin Foundation Mineral Makeup SPF 15, \$38  
Clinique Moisture Surge Tinted Moisturizer SPF 15, \$24.50  
Mary Kay Tinted Moisturizer SPF 20, \$18

### Highlighters

In order to obtain a sun-kissed mesmerizing glow, purchase a great facial highlighter. Highlighters, when utilized properly, give

your skin an incandescent pop. According to the beauty blog Beautylish, you want to highlight the top of your cheekbones, the bridge of your nose, your eyelids, and the inner corners of your eyes. Beautylish also recommends that women with darker skin tones use a facial highlighter with a bit more gold or peach for a more natural look.

#### TRY THESE:

Benefit Watt's Up Highlighter, \$30  
Physician's Formula Powder Palette Mineral Glow Pearls in Bronze Pearl, \$13.95  
Splurge: Cle de Peau Beaute Limited Edition Vintage Palette III, \$125

### Mascara

To perfect your fresh face look, retire your black volumizing mascara and try a dark brown, one coat, nourishing mascara stick instead. Try to navigate away from the smoky eye craze and lean more towards modest and soft lashes. Let your eyes naturally sparkle without the typically overdone black spider lashes.

#### TRY THESE:

Almay One Coat Nourishing Mascara Lengthening in 04 Dark Brown, \$6.75  
Korres Deep Colour Mascara, \$18  
Splurge: Dior DiorShow Iconic Mascara, \$28.50

### Eyebrows

Thin, perfectly plucked, and drawn on eyebrows are not the trend this year according to Marie Clare magazine. Shelve your eyebrow pencils and go for eyebrow brow powders. The beauty blog Eyebrowz suggests that powders dissimilar to pencils, give eyebrows a natural and beautifully soft darkened appearance. Powders blend smoothly and give the eyebrows a clean form without being overpowering.

#### TRY THESE:

Anastasia Brow Powder Duo, \$22  
Benefit Cosmetics Brow Zings, \$30  
Illamasqua Eye Brow Cake, \$20

### Lips

Cream, nude, peach, and pink are splendid colors to choose from when completing a naturally beautiful look. You should not feel limited to lip glosses alone albeit they do add a great finish and shimmering pop; lip balms are a fabulous option as well.

#### TRY THESE:

Burt's Bees Tinted Lip Balm in Honeysuckle, \$7  
L' Oreal Paris Colour Riche Le Gloss in Nude Illusion, \$7.95  
CoverGirl Outlast Lip Stains in Nude Kiss, \$7.29

## FAB FINDS



Hair: For a free rinse, deep condition or trim, make an appointment at Inter-mix Salon (404) 758 0155.



Makeup: BHcosmetics.com is offering up to 40% of select makeup palettes

## FOREVER 21

Clothing: Forever21 Blazers are going on sale starting at 19.50

# GLAM CAM

Interviewed by: Stranjae' Ivory  
Fashion and Beauty Writer

Name: Fennella Miller  
Class: Freshman

FAB: How would you describe your fashion sense?  
FM: African aesthetic or culturally inspired.

FAB: What inspires you?  
FM: My family is from Sierra Leone, so sometimes looking at photos of African children and going to the thrift store, but mainly Africa. I'm the kind of person that can never plan an outfit the day before, so I'm inspired by whatever I'm feeling or thinking about.

FAB: Who is your favorite fashion designer and why?  
FM: Michael Kors. I think anyone can wear Michael Kors. His pieces are simple and classic, which is great because I like mixing crazy with simple, when you mix crazy with simple you get a really nice look.

## In with the old, out with the new!



Aaliyah Nurideen Fashion and Beauty Writer

Have you ever envied you parents' 80's fashions after looking through their college yearbooks? From acid denim jeans, blazers, leggings, leg warmers, red lipstick, and readers, vintage clothing along with vintage stores are the new vogue. It must be stated however, that vintage shopping is not for the easily flustered fashionista; vintage shopping requires a lot of stamina, vigor and time for a successful and fabulous experience.

It is imperative that you have patience and a positive attitude. Shopping in a vintage store is unlike shopping in a department store or a boutique. The clothes are not categorized by size, material, and season so you need to devote a good amount of time to finding the right items.

In almost every city, there is at least one vintage shop or thrift store. Some local vintage shops and thrift stores include the Goodwill, Value Village, Lucky Exchange, and Stefan's Vintage Closet in Little Five Points. If you are not so lucky to travel to a vintage shop, the option of online shopping is a great alterna-

tive. Sites like modcloth.com offer great affordable vintage fashions. On your first visit to a vintage shop or thrift store, it might be useful to have a fashionable friend accompany you. The more experience you have vintage shopping, the better you will become with deciding between what works and what doesn't work. While shopping for vintage wear, it is pertinent that you keep an open mind. If you see a grandpa blazer, distressed denim high waisted shorts, or even a glamorous flapper dress, give it a try. If it looks stylish BUY IT. The great thing about vintage shops and thrift stores is that the garments and accessories are very affordable. Lastly, the best part of vintage shopping is putting it all together. The key is to experiment. If a vintage blazer has polka dot detailing on the inside or on the cuffs, then pair it with a striped tee and solid colored bottoms. You can never go wrong with mixing and matching vintage and new clothes. Even if it is a pair of earrings, glasses, or a hat, a little vintage can go a long way.

## RETRO: The New Fad?



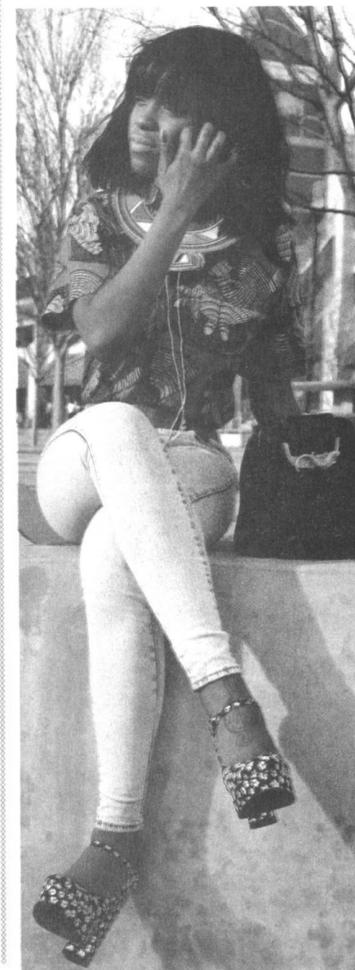
Stranjae' Ivory Fashion and Beauty Writer

Rambunctious, enticing, renewable, and original are all words that describe the retro fashion trend. The retro fashion craze encompasses new and innovative designs, art work, and reinventions of previously popular clothing fads. Retro can sometimes be considered as "outdated, unattractive, and dull" according to smashingmagazine.com, but it is definitely an artistic trend that is taking the fashion world by storm.

Fads are always being recycled and for the past few years retro trends have been on the forefront in the fashion world. Retro fashion has been a quintessential part of the fashion evolution for several decades. What is referred to as retro clothing today was once the style of dress in the 1950's. Both the casual and formal attires of the 1950's have transpired into the 21st century fashion world. Elaborate jewels, geometrical patterns, high-waist trousers, kremlins, lace, and flawless pin-up hairdos are all the more reasons for one to delve

into the retro trend movement. Websites such as pinupgirlclothing.com and bettiepageclothing.com are great instruments to help one to achieve a classic, vintage, and chic look. Retro clothing serves as a wonderful outlet for expression, charisma, confidence, originality, and creativity.

Shopping at Market Friday is a fantastic way to attain a cool and edgy vintage look on a strict budget. Almost all of the Market Friday fashion vendors supply an assortment of retro styles and Afro centric garments, but Nykki is the vendor and fashion guru to see. Nykki has been serving the Spelman community with her fabulous vintage wear for the past two years. She sells exquisite vintage clothing and apart from Market Fridays, she can be contacted via facebook.com/purpletigris where she regularly posts contests and giveaways. You can also visit her shop along with other vintage boutiques in Little Five Points located off of Euclid Avenue.



# Arts and Entertainment

## Too Much of Bad Minaj

Alysha Phanord **Forum Writer**

"When I'm assertive I'm a bitch, but when a man is assertive, he's 'bossed up'. No negative contention being 'bossed up' but lots of negative contention being a bitch." If you ever watch Nicki Minaj's documentary "My Time Now" on MTV, you would've heard her ranting about the inequalities and double standards that women face. It was quite a shock for me, to hear that same Nicki release a song entitled "Stupid Hoe". How could that same woman, who asked, "Is that wrong for wanting more for myself, wanting people to treat with respect?" release a song so demeaning to women. Well, I have an answer to

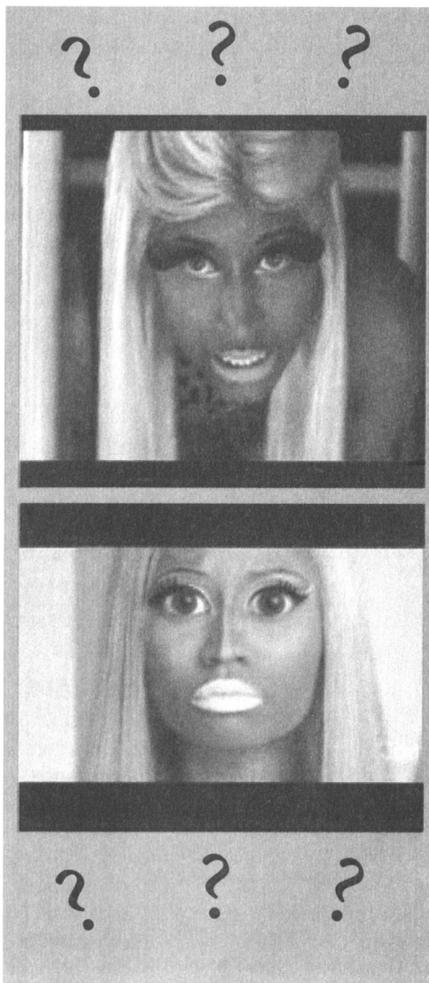
your question about respect; generally people don't respect people who have to bring others down to get themselves to the top.

In the offending song, the phrase "stupid hoe" is used approximately 37 times. The use of the term itself is offensive, but what happens to be more disturbing, is that the song is supposed to be performed by one of Nicki's alter egos "Roman Zolanski", a male persona that Nicki has adopted. I find the alter ego business itself disturbing, but does this mean this how how a male is talking to a female? BET also refused to air the video on its network, while BET has de-

clined to offer reasoning for its decision, Minaj tweeted why it wouldn't air, tweeting "Can't premiere on a network b/c it's important that my art is not tampered with or compromised prior to you viewing it for the 1st time [sic]."

This controversial song and the bad publicity that has been consistently accompanying might actually prove the old Hollywood adage "There's no such thing as bad publicity" false. On YouTube the video has accumulated over 29 million views (as of 2/14/12) but it also has more than 370,000 dislikes (more than the 181,000 likes). Her Grammy performance, where

the concept was to exorcise her alter ego, Roman, has also left her fans confused. It has also angered the Catholic League. Many just don't understand her intent, other than to spark controversy and increase publicity. One person tweeting "Wished Kanye had come and interrupted it [her performance]". Another general consensus was that tweeter thought Nicki Minaj was "trying to hard to act like Lady Gaga". If this is what Nicki Minaj has in store for her fans when Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded is released in April, than I for one, do not want any part of it.



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## WHO HOLDS

Tristin Travis

**Arts and Entertainment Writer**

For her wisdom and talent and a beautiful personality to match Whitney Houston was found in a Beverly Hills hotel, she appeared to have drowned. As we know Whitney Houston, was a wonderful woman with talent for days. She touched the lives of musical artists from all genres and walks of entertainment. Artists from the likes of Bob Marley to Amy Winehouse and paved the way for what we know as real music today. Lately there have been touched with numerous deaths of many lives throughout the musical industry. From actors to singers across the world fans across the nation have learned to cope with all these losses while still adjusting to the new era of music we are exposed to today. With true talent, especially within the music industry dying off to unfortunate causes and health issues where can we turn for artistry and positive touching and influential talent. It seems like there are new artists on the come up everyday in the music industry. From local artists to those across the waters there's a new era of talent emerging right before our eyes. But is it talent? Or just another way of making fast, money?

Less than a month ago we also learned that two special figures in music Soul train host, Don Cornelius and world-renowned singer, Etta James also passed away. Don Cornelius



created the path for many careers and opened doors for singers, actors and other performers throughout the 70's and 80's. He intrigued us with his creative themes and flavorful taste in music, as he helped expose and inform us to the different artists that we look up to today. Many artists can truly say that Soul Train was the show that inspired them to move forward in the entertainment industry and sculpt them into the talented people they are today. But now we must ask ourselves who can we look at for music? Real Music? Who is worthy enough to hold the torch for real Music? Sound with purpose, substance. Artists like Beyonce, Adele, Lady Gaga, Kanye West, and Chris Brown have all mentioned being inspired by different musical lyricists and talented artists. These artists like many others obtain the talent and creativity it takes to stand out and survive as the music legends we look up to.

Now we have artists that seem to be more

## THE TORCH NOW?

focused on partying and having a "hit" record as opposed to feeling the music and telling a story through the lyrics. Entertainers like Rich Kids, and F.L.Y. with songs like "My Potna dem", and "Swag Surfin" have fallen into this realm of entertainers because they make music not to create a healthy personable fan base and possibly change lives, but to make money off of the audiences

they create at a party. Parties have a tendency to make songs popular because it brings a lot of people together. When people are in big groups the songs that are playing can create a certain atmosphere or vibe making the audience like or dislike the songs. Lately because of the lack of passion for music I believe that Party songs have really taken over the music industry. Hopefully upcoming artists can focus more on their talent and more personable music as opposed to just, making money! Unfortunately we lost another talented musically influential artist; hopefully this generation is able to look past the fame and parties to make real music, keeping the legacy of those who made the music we love.

**Would you like to write for the Spelman Spotlight or contribute an article?**

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