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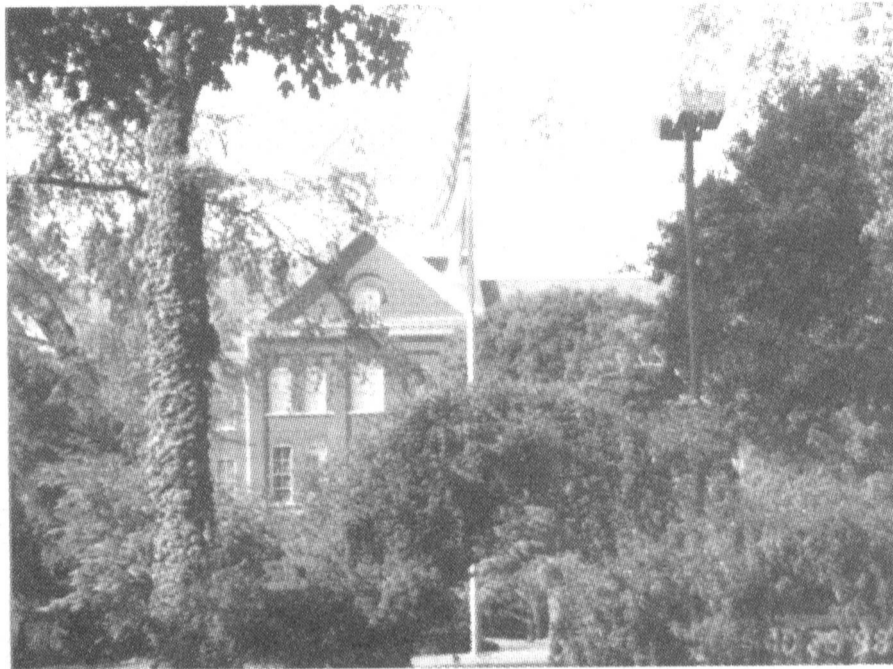
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## Spelman ranked #1 College for African-American students

*by Angela Green, On-Site Staff writer*

Spelman College is ranked as the number one college for African-American students in the January 1999 edition of Black Enterprise Magazine.

DayStar Research began with more than 3,000 colleges and universities and then narrowed the field to accredited four-year institutions with at least 1.5% African-American enrollment. The remaining institutions were rated by higher education professionals including college presidents, faculty, and admission administrators from the surveyed institutions. The schools were rated on four criterion: the academic environment, the social environment, the percentage of black undergraduates in the student body for the 1996/97 school year, and the percentage of black students in the graduating class of the same academic year. The Black Enterprise article notes that historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) were "weight adjusted to compensate for the overwhelming advantage on the measure of proportion of African-Americans in the student body."



*Giles Hall, Spelman College  
Photo: S. White*

This study was conducted by DayStar Research under the direction of CEO Thomas A. LaVeist. LaVeist, who is associate professor of health policy and management and sociology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, exhibited concern about the number of African-American students whose undergraduate performance is not comparable with the experience of their white counterparts. LaVeist explains, "The reason for the poor performance was just that many black students are making the wrong choices in trying to select an environment in which they can flourish." LaVeist wanted to create a ranking that catered specifically to black students' desires, interests and needs.

Several Spelman students were not surprised about the outcome of this study. Spelman has also ranked as a top regional liberal arts college and as a

top HBCU in several other studies including the annual survey by Money Magazine. Junior Raena Harwell agrees, "The outcome of the study affirms that Spelman is the place to be. Students here grow academically as well as personally. However, I hope that this will inspire more administrative professionalism as well as a shift toward more African-American scholars, experts, and academics in the body of knowledge taught at Spelman."

## President's Commission on Women in History held in Atlanta

*by Tiffany Edwards, Beyond the Gates Section Editor*

The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History held an open meeting on Friday, January 22, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site Visitor Center in Atlanta. The purpose of the Commission was to gather information and ideas nationwide, on ways to best acknowledge and celebrate the role of women throughout American History. In March 1999, the Commission will submit a report to the President with the recommendations and ideas.

The session held on Friday was the last in a series of five nationwide meetings. The meeting included testimonials from a number of women who have made significant and diverse contributions to American history.

Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, Commission Member addressed the crowd and gave the welcoming speech, welcoming all the delegates and speakers to Atlanta. Following the welcome was an update on activities, and testimonials and discussion. Ms. Mashadi Matabane, a senior at Spelman College majoring in Women's Studies, gave a testimonial at the event.

# spotlight

## Letter from the Editor



What does it mean to be ranked the #1 college for African Americans?

The notion of the Black Ivy League has always fascinated me. And this fascination has only been highlighted in my recent visit to a local sportswear store where I purchased a Spelman College: Black Ivy League sweatshirt for a friend. I went into the store with the intention of buying a Spelman sweatshirt, but did a bit of browsing as well. In my browsing, I noticed that the only other college that bore the subtitle "Black Ivy League" was Morehouse.

My educational experience here at Spelman has been phenomenal. I say phenomenal because it has been comprehensive in its preparation (as I have found out in internships), as well as enhancing my personal development over these past three years. With Spelman currently ranking #5 in Money Magazine's Best Buy, I can't be the only one who thinks this is so.

Without a doubt there are benefits of a Black college (I say this to all of those who contest that the world certainly is not all black neither all female, so how could Spelman possibly prepare us for the real world?). There's a level of confidence that comes with four years of in-depth discussions with professors who know our names (not just our social security numbers) and genuinely want the best for us. And for those who sit in class and say nothing — osmosis (the diffusion of fluid through a semipermeable wall of a living cell) is always helpful.

And yes, there's a bit of elitism that accompanies this #1 ranking as it follows a long list of accolades received by Spelman College. Without getting into the debate of the stereotypical Spelman woman and the fact that *none* of my friends fit the bill, I will say you can pick a Spelman woman out of a crowd. In my four years I have come to appreciate that. If you misconstrue my confidence with arrogance, that seems a shortcoming on your own self-esteem... and if you think I'm snobby now, you should have seen me *before* I came to Spelman.

I don't know what the implications are of this recent ranking. This definitely raises the standards for future Spelmanites and administration. More so, this is a impetus for Spelman alumnae to invest into their school to maintain this tradition of excellence.

## Spelman Spotlight

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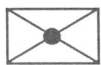
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*The Spelman Spotlight welcomes all submissions. Submissions will be reviewed and considered as space permits. Work is subject to editing. The Spotlight reserves the right to retain any submitted work.*

*Editorial opinions expressed are not representative of the Spotlight or Spelman College.*

*All submissions should be sent through Campus Mail (Box #1234) or placed within the folder on the Spotlight Office door (Lower Manley Room 104).*

# On Site Info

## Dr. Billingslea -Brown heads Writing Center into new semester

by Danica Tisdale,  
On-Site Staff Writer

This past August, English professor Dr. Alma Jean Billingslea-Brown was chosen as the interim director of the Spelman College Writing Center.

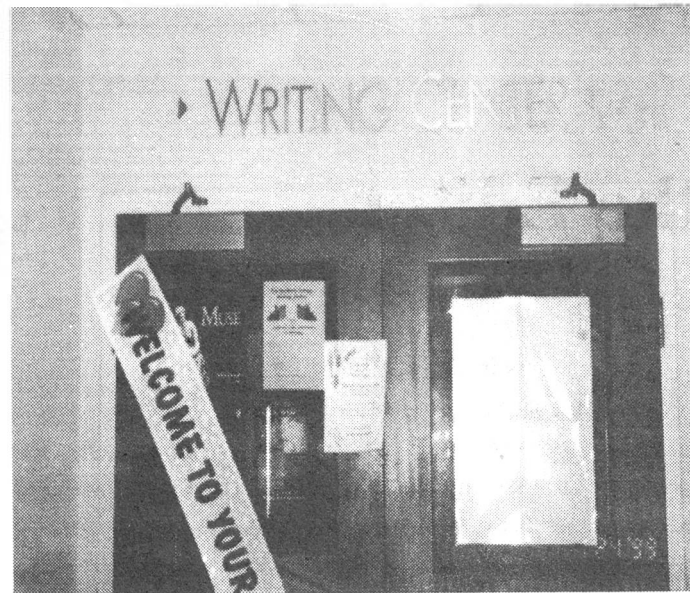
Dr. Alma Jean Billingslea-Brown, faculty member since 1989, is a native of Albany, Georgia, but was raised in Orange, New Jersey. After receiving an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, Dr. Billingslea-Brown received a Master's degree from Atlanta University

where she studied under such distinguished educators as Richard Barksdale, Richard Long, and Lucy Grisby. Later, Dr. Billingslea-Brown earned a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Texas.

Dr. Billingslea-Brown holds the distinction of being a member of the first faculty team to develop the African Diaspora and the World (ADW) course here at Spelman. In addition, this past semester Dr. Billingslea-Brown piloted the Seminal Writers in the African-American Tradition course that will become a new requirement

for English majors. Dr. Billingslea-Brown is also the author of the recently published book *Crossing Borders Through Folklore: African-American Women's Fiction and Art*. Although busy, Dr. Billingslea-Brown manages time to do some of the things she loves best—refinishing furniture, framing, and interdisciplinary work.

Located on the third floor of Cosby, the Writing Center was developed as a supportive environment to help students in all stages of the writing process to refine their written communication skills. Formerly under the direc-



The Writing Center is open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Photo: S. White

tion of Dr. Mary Hocks, the Writing Center staffed with peer and professional tutors is available to students Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last week the Center hosted an open house before normal operation hours began on Monday, January 25.

As director of the Writing Center, Dr. Billingslea-Brown says

she hopes to "carry forth the faculty mandate to establish a college-wide writing requirement, help realize the full potential of the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program here at Spelman," and last, but not least, dedicate herself to "[making] writing the center of academic and intellectual activity."

## "Follow A Leader": President Manley mentors local student

by Erin Johnson,  
On-Site Staff Writer

Recently junior Monique Harris of local Avondale High School spent a day at Spelman shadowing her mentor President Manley.

Harris was one of nine students to win the second annual "Follow a Leader" contest.

This contest sponsored by Macy's department store spotlights eight distinguished Atlanta area professionals who have proven through their vision and achievements to be ideal role models for today's youth. Dr. Audrey

F. Manley was selected as one of this year's "movers and shakers." Students in grades four through twelve were asked to write essays of three hundred words or less that explained why education is key to achieving one's career goals and why the student would like to follow in the footsteps of his/her selected leader.

Monique Harris says that she selected Dr. Manley as her mentor on the basis of Manley's numerous outstanding achievements. "She has encouraged me and many others to extend ourselves beyond intellectual development, and develop the

## Jaguar Basketball Team Defeats Rust College in Overtime

by Andei Williams,  
On-Site Section Editor

Saturday, January, 23, the Spelman Jaguar Basketball Team defeated Mississippi's Rust College 74-65 in a feverish, close call game.

#13 Kimberly Reagans made the first Spelman basket to begin catching up with Rust's

initial lead. At half-time, Rust College was up 26 to Spelman's 20. The Jaguars came back packing the heat, scoring 9 points in the first two minutes of the half. Quick maneuvers by #21 Nicole Bullock kept Rust players on their toes. Spelman's #22 Mary Stone finally tied up the game at

58-58 with only 11 seconds remaining on the clock.

As the clock was set for five minutes overtime, Spelman's Head Coach Mercer called Jaguars back into a huddle to regroup. Rust College quickly scored the first few baskets of overtime, but their repeated fouls gave Jaguars the opportunity to gain single points. #04 Malika Lee's successful free throw shots gave Spelman the deciding gap over Rust. Spelman maintained control of the ball to score additional points and defeat Rust College 74-65. After this victory, the Jaguars' record for the season so far is 5-9.



Jaguars huddle with team coach  
Photo: S. White

cont. on pg. 6

# On Site Info.



## ***MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER***

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# Beyond the Gates

## NCNW Tribute to Black Women Community Leaders

*"We want to provide encouragement to the many unsung heroes in the African-American community."*

Reggie Moore, Assistant Brand Manager, Aunt Jemima Brands.

by Tiffany Edwards,  
Beyond the Gates  
Section Editor

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and Aunt Jemima Brands of the Quaker Oats Company are recognizing the special role that African American women have in our communities.

The eighth annual Tribute to the Black Women Community Leaders Program will salute 28 African-American women for their community leadership and involvement.

"Aunt Jemima Brands recognizes the many contributions African-American women have made and continue to make. We want to provide encouragement to the many unsung heroes in the African-American community," says Reggie Moore, Assistant Brand Manager, Aunt Jemima Brands. As in the past, the goal of the Tribute Program is to encourage volunteerism, humanitarianism and community involvement for the continued advancement of African American women and their communities.

Based on their civic and community involvement in churches, healthcare and family ideas, three women and one college student (ages 18-22) will be selected in each state as "Community Leader of the Year" or "Student Community Leader of the Year". Aunt Jemima Brands and NCNW will host a break-

fast in each state to honor the state winners and award each with a \$500 cash prize. All of the state winners will then be an eligible candidate for the National Award and win an additional \$2,500 in cash and a trip for two to Washington, DC, to attend the awards program.

Additionally, Aunt Jemima Brands and the NCNW will announce the winner of the Dorothy I. Height Dreammaker Award. The Dreammaker Award is given to a nationally recognized African-American female whose civic involvement furthers the work of the NCNW's mission. Past

Dreammakers include Dr. Johnnetta Cole in 1998, Jackie Joyner Kersey in 1997 and Gladys Knight in 1996. According to Dr. Johnnetta Cole, "It was very exciting and important to me to be named the 1998 Dreammaker. I know, just as I have committed my life to making a better world through education and mentoring, other African American women have also toiled to do the same, and the Tribute to Community Leaders Program provides a forum for recognition and encouragement for these women."

The nomination process began on December

1, 1998 and will continue until March 14, 1999. African American women in California, Georgia, Illi-

(1-888-626-9874). Individuals can also visit the web page at [www.quakeroats.com/](http://www.quakeroats.com/)

*"...just as I have committed my life to making a better world through education and mentoring, other African American women have also toiled to do the same, and the Tribute to Community Leaders Program provides a forum for recognition and encouragement for these women."*

Dr. Johnnetta Cole, 1998 Dreammaker

nois, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas may be nominated for the program. Ballots can be obtained by calling 1-888-NCNW-TRIBUTE

ncnw. Nominations must be filled out completely and mailed before the March 14, 1999 deadline. Anyone can nominate that "special woman" age 18 or over.

## RNC Chairman calls for investigation of Larry Flynt

by Sommer Brokaw,  
Beyond the Gates Staff Writer

Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson supported a request for a Justice Department investigation from the conservative Washington-based Landmark Legal Foundation. A letter from the foundation said Larry Flynt's efforts along with his investigator Dan Moldea, revealing the extramarital affairs of Republican lawmakers could constitute obstruction of a Congressional investigation. According to the letter, Flynt may have violated federal law by allegedly "threatening, intimidating, or coercing Republican members of Con-

The letter accuses Larry Flynt of revealing the extramarital affairs of Republican lawmakers which could constitute obstruction of a Congressional investigation.

gress" to remain silent about their personal lives. The letter also added that obstructing Congress is "a felony punishable by five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000."

Flynt also opposes what he views as Barr's hypocritical stance on abortion. Republican Rep.

Bob Barr is a member of the Pro-Life Caucus. However, Larry Flynt claims that the affidavit of Gail Vogel Barr also shows that Bob Barr supported his wife having an abortion.

When asked about Larry Flynt's investigation into the "hypocrisy" of Republican lawmakers,

Spelman student Rachelle James said, "I like that the hypocrisy is being shown, but I don't like that the person who is showing the hypocrisy is Larry Flynt. I don't think it is right to interfere in someone else's private life."

# Beyond the Gates

## Y2K: Why the Fuss??

by Temi Oluyemi,  
Beyond the Gates Staff Writer

This is the age of computers. People all over the world depend on computers for everything from utilities to banking services. So why the fuss over Y2K? Our computer dependent society is being threatened by a bug, a glitch in computer programs that could shut down computers for a while.

**What is this glitch?** Computers that are not reprogrammed to accept digits after 1999 will either fail or crash. Computer programmers used two digits instead of four to represent the year. As a result, when the computer hits '00, it will read the year as 1900 instead of 2000.

So let's say Y2K really is a problem. Can't our government and computer programmers handle it? They won't let a bug cause so much damage. The problem is not fixing it, but the short amount of time they have to fix it.

First, programmers must manually check millions of lines of code and correct errors wherever they appear. Fixing the systems is only half of the problem. The most time consuming step is testing the systems to see if they are Y2K compli-

ant. Unfortunately, several businesses don't have until January 1, 2000 to fix their computers. Such businesses work a year in advance and are already experiencing the effects of Y2K. For instance, Corning, a company which writes contracts for chemicals and other raw materials, experienced difficulties when they started entering contracts expiring in the year 2000. "The system aborted with a programming error which took several weeks to fix," recalls Jim Scott, Technology Director of Corning's Science and Technology Unit.

In fact, merchants from Godiva Chocolatier chain to the Produce Palace Supermarket in Michigan report credit card terminals refusing cards.

Unfortunately our government doesn't fare as well, either. The most recent report by the President's Office of Management and Budget reports that 21 percent of more than 7,000 critical computer systems in 24 Federal agencies are fully Y2K compliant.

Indications like these are why hundreds of people are attending BCY2K's public meetings to learn about the problem. To prepare for Y2K, one must not tackle the problem alone, but make it a community effort. As Peter de Jager, Millennium Bug Guru says, "I will leave it to you to contemplate what happens to the worldwide economy if businesses lose the ability to do business."

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## President Manley mentors local student

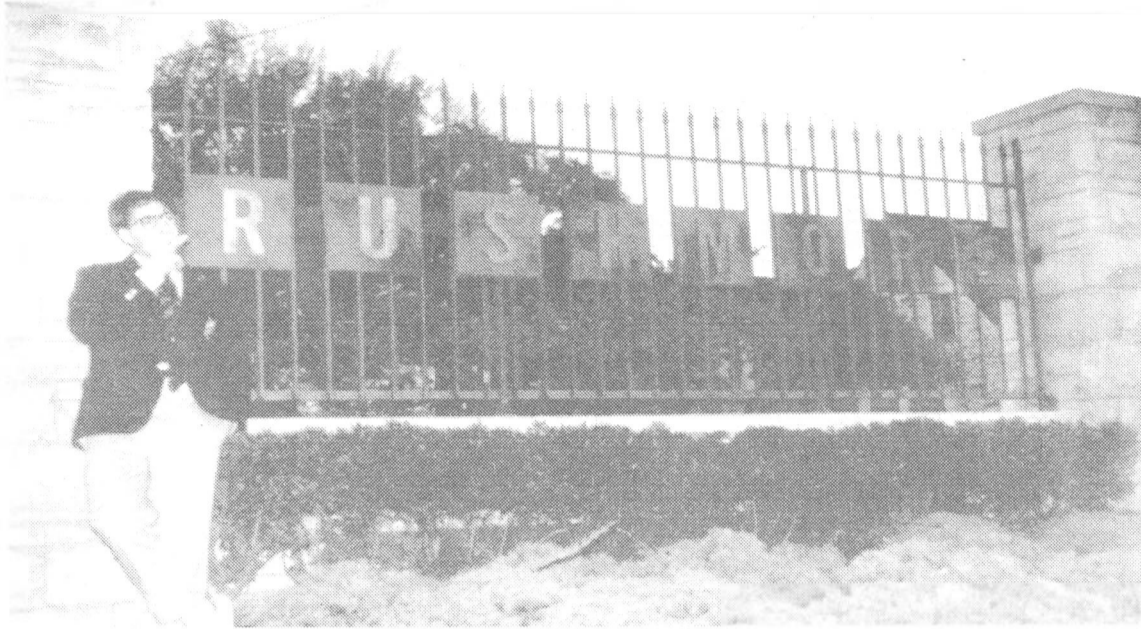
**cont. from pg. 3**  
whole person. She represents a warm, smart, loving, and beautiful person and in doing so she has earned my utmost respect and admiration," says Harris in an excerpt from her winning essay.

Miss Harris was selected as a winner not only because of her outstanding essay, but because she herself has demonstrated many leadership skills within her own community. As a four-year member of the Beta Honor Roll, a winner of the "Do Something" Community Affairs Award, a three year student body officer, and a

member of the performing arts program DANCE, Harris is already becoming a mentor for many youth in her community. In addition, she has been recognized as a talented award-winning poet.

As a winner of the "Follow a Leader" contest, Miss Harris was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship to the school of her choice. During her day at Spelman, Harris attended lunch and meetings with the President, toured the campus, and talked to student leaders across campus including staff members of the *Spelman Spotlight*. Miss Harris aspires to major in journalism and minor in dance to become an entertainment reporter.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## W i t t y , Energetic: Rushmore a surefire classic

Photo Courtesy of  
Touchstone Pictures

### Broadway comes our way

by Najema Davis  
Washington,  
Arts & Entertainment  
Staff Writer

An elaborate cast of characters quickly sauntered and purred across the stage of the Fox Theater as the Broadway musical *Cats* entertained sold out audiences from January 12th until the 17th. The musical is the product of the Broadway genius producer Andrew Lloyd Webber. Webber is perhaps best known for his work on *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*. The accomplished composer and producer is the recipient of six Tony Awards, three Grammy's, a Golden Globe Award, and an Oscar.

The captivating musical, which has enjoyed an unprecedented successful career on Broadway, is based on the poems of the American expatriate writer, T.S. Eliot. It was Webber and his director Trevor Nunn who decided to transform Eliot's collection, *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. On the stage, Webber, Nunn, and the cast of Jellicol cats mesmerize audiences of all ages. The plot may be a bit

convoluted for a young theater-goer to maneuver and comprehend, but it basically deals with the myth of a cat's nine lives.

Even after determining that Jellicol cats do not really exist, any audience member is still fascinated by the idea of one of these fabulous felines being granted another chance at life. Who will be granted this ultimate gift? Will it be Rum Tum Tugger, Skimbleshanks, Jennyanydots, or the more memorable Macavity, Mistoffeless, or Grizabella? The cats give you a taste of their talents, holding mothers and children in attendance both equally in suspense.

Broadway is something that should be experienced, especially if the greatest musicals are brought to a theater nearby. Tickets are relatively inexpensive, with prices beginning at fifteen dollars, before Ticketmaster fees. And even though *Cats* has left the Fox Theater, two other award winning shows, *Miss Saigon* and *Les Miserables* are a part of the Fox Theaters Broadway series.

by Ivy Redd,  
Arts & Entertainment  
Section Editor

Movie lovers get ready for Touchstone Pictures new release, *Rushmore* opening Friday, February 5th. This cynical comedy, is sure to have audiences in hysterics and

in love with first grade teacher, Miss Cross, played by Olivia Williams. As a plan to win her affection, he decides to build an aquarium at the school in her honor, but in order to raise enough money, he goes to one of the schools wealthiest benefactors, a steel tycoon named Mr.

### As a plan to win the affection of his first grade teacher, Max decides to build an aquarium at the school in her honor.

will also be a hit in the box office. *Rushmore* is the story of a young boy named Max Fischer. Max, a 10th grader at *Rushmore Academy*, is currently: editor of the yearbook and school newspaper; president of the French Club, German Club, Chess Club, Astronomy Club; captain of the debate and fencing teams; and director of the Max Fischer Players, an acting troupe that performs his plays about inner-city violence and police corruption.

The prodigy Max wants to be considered an expert in every conceivable field, and is applying for early admission to Oxford. (Harvard is his safety.) Max is also the worst student in the school, and has been recently placed on academic probation. Max finds himself

Blume, played by Bill Murray. A friendship develops but Blume also falls in love with Miss Cross, and both will stop at nothing to ruin the other and win over her affection, and what happens next is what will have you falling out of your seat in laughter.

*Rushmore* is the second feature film from director Wes Anderson, and is based on an original script by Anderson and his writing partner Owen Wilson. The two came up with the setting through their shared experience at school in their hometowns of Houston and Dallas. The film is shot on-sight at St. John's in Houston.

The character of Max, who is played by Jason Schwartzman was the film directors biggest challenge. Schwartzman was cast after an extensive nine-

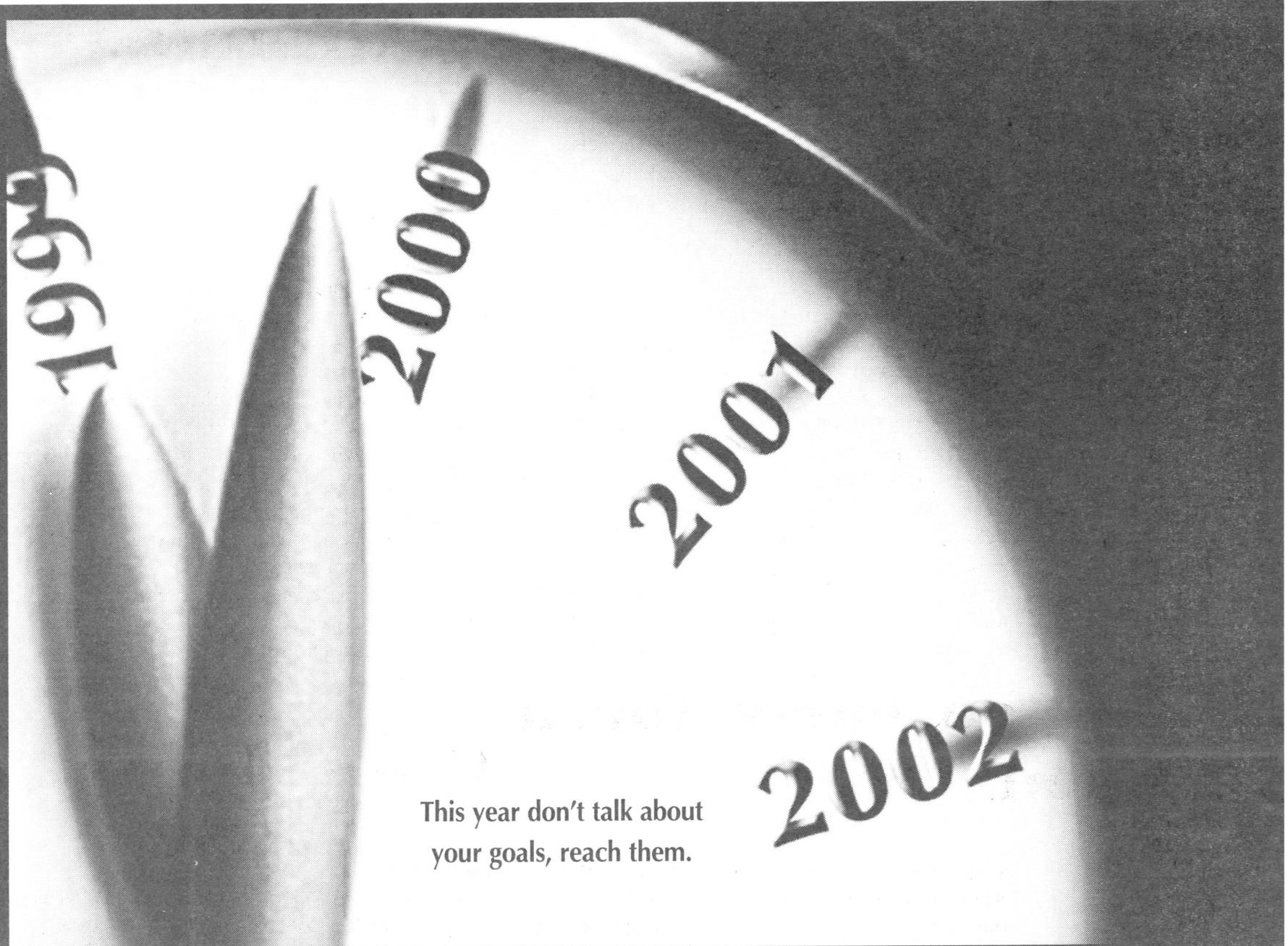
month search that took them across the United States, Canada, and England, and through more than 1,800 candidates. Schwartzman is also a musician and a drummer in the band *Phantom Planet*, which is signed to Geffen Records.

Bill Murray, a sure laugh, will surprise a lot of people with this somewhat unusually dramatic role, in which he draws on his depth as an actor and gives a painful yet comic performance. He plays a manic depressive, who is a Vietnam Veteran and a man who has no ties with his family. This performance will surely surpass a lot of people and may be the tip of the iceberg of what Bill Murray is capable of as an actor.

Olivia Williams, who plays the first grade teacher Miss Cross, will be making her second film debut. Mason Gamble plays Dirk Calloway, Max's fourth grade chapel partner, and academy Award nominee Seymour Cassel plays Bert Fischer, Max's father.

The music featured in *Rushmore* comes from the British flavor of the 60s, and was chosen because of its energy. An energy that combined with the rest of the characters, made up of wonderfully diverse cast, will make *Rushmore* a sure classic.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Aiming for a career in music?

by Ivy Redd,  
Arts & Entertainment  
Section Editor

Anyone with aspirations of having a career in the music industry need not miss the next music seminar entitled Back Stage Pass to the Record Industry, hosted by Silver Lining Entertainment. On January 23, 1999, the national seminar was held at the Georgian Terrace Hotel from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Immediately followed by a networking reception and artist showcase at The Shark Bar from

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The featured panels ranged from landing a record deal, the role of A&R, the legal perspective of the record industry, promotions, managers, artists, to the lucrative money behind publishing.

Representatives from LaFace Records, SoSoDef Records, ASCAP, BMG, RCA, Left Eye Productions, Arista Records, Organized Noize, Savvy Records, Sony/Columbia Records, FunkTown Productions, Hitco, and BET Holdings, Inc. National Recording Artist Tamika

Scott of Xscape was also on one of the panels.

Silver Lining Entertainment, the vision of Angela Yvonne White is based in Teaneck New Jersey. It was started with the vision to promote African-Americans through knowledge within the fields of entertainment and sports. The seminar touched on everything from the importance of the artist need to be accessible, versatile and creative, to the importance of establishing good relationships and strong contacts with people in the industry. Administrative

Director, Tricia Gunter, felt that the seminar "is an excellent source of knowledge and we take it to where the may not be a venue for the music industry, and we focus on what people need to hear."

If you're out there and you're an aspiring rapper, singer, song writer, or a producer, attend the next seminar which will be held in Miami on February 4th, 1999. For registration information, contact Silver Lining Entertainment at (888) 836-8086. Remember you can never read enough or ask enough

questions about this unstable business even recording artist Tamika Scott from Escape had this to say, "The day was very exciting and fun, even I learned about things that I didn't know, I can't wait until next year. I will definitely be here." The fact still remains that creatively African-Americans are taking over the industry, but we are still battling over who controls our money. We must get in the game, learn the game, and quickly manipulate it to our benefit!

## Never too early for a vacation

by Najeema Davis  
Washington,  
Arts & Entertainment  
Staff Writer

Although Atlanta University Center Students were blessed with the celebration of the King Holiday, many students are already looking forward to warmer weather, a bit of a break, or for the graduating seniors, a permanent vacation - from school that is. Xenon Entertainment out of Santa Monica, California has released straight to video a romantic comedy that addresses the ups and downs of one black college couple over the span of one particular summer. *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*, directed by John Fisher, is the antithesis of any black film released in the last five years. Shot in a documentary style, nobody dies, no one calls anyone their "baby daddy," there is no abundant drug use, sex, or violence, although there is a mini discussion of a drive

by, but that can be overlooked. Overall, there is nothing in this film that young African Americans have come to view as typical in the way that mainstream (the white man) portrays us in films.

However, just because this film is atypical, doesn't mean that it can't be enjoyed by youthful audiences, 'cause Stephanie and Perry have so much going on. After a few breakups, they decided to end it for sure, until it becomes Perry's mission to win Stephanie back. And being a man, don't put it past you that he will have some pit stops along the way. The man becomes desperate, the way I like to see them sometimes, begging, showing up at her house trying to play it off, calling her roommate, talking to her male "best friend" who has always been there for her.

And because his methods were a tad bit off the wall, Stephanie has her own solution for the Perry

situation, and Perry's straying, quick to have relations with just anybody, and without a condom, well he learns his lesson.

The cast consists of new up and coming actors that hopefully will gain some more screen experience, Deanna Davis plays Stephanie, and Ronreaco Lee plays the role of Perry. Lee can be seen weekly as the boyfriend of one of those twin girls on *Sister Sister*. The cast would not be complete without a best friend for Perry, Joseph, played by E. Roger Mitchell, and also a trifling, no job, no girlfriend experience having character, D'Angelo, played by Mike Ngaujah.

Look for more from Xenon entertainment group, including Black College Spring Break, waiting in your local video store.

## the haps...

### Poetry & Jazz

*Shelf Expressions Rio Mall*. A unique blend of Jazz and Poetry makes this event a must see. Hosted by Poet Kemi and music by Guy Pigott & Ojeda. For times and admission call 404-874-6634.

### Self Expression

Katherine hosts an open Mic poetry night at Borders Bookstore every second Sunday of each month. The event will be held on the 2nd floor of the Borders History Department. All poets and singers are invited to share their talent. For more information call 404-237-0707.

### Journalists Listen up

The Atlanta Association of Black Journalist is an organization dedicated to supporting and providing assistance to journalists. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month in the Balcony Level Events Room at the Woodruff Arts Center. For more information call 770-593.

### Dance?

Jomandi Dance Company is holding auditions for their new production, Slam. Serious inquiries only. For more information call 404-876-6346.

### Our Story

*And I Still Rise*. The Apex Museum, the museum of the African American Panoramic Experience features this film chronicling African American history. 153 Auburn Avenue. Admission \$3-6, Hours 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Tues-Sat.

# VOICES

## The Trial

by A Politically Curious Sister

As I was watching the impeachment trial of President Clinton, it occurred to me that I have become obsessed with the details of the Monica Lewinsky scandal. However, being the "inquisitive" person I am, I continued to watch. One thing occurred to me. The only thing that concerns me now about the whole Clinton scandal is the person we have not yet heard from. Hilary Clinton is the missing piece to the puzzle. The position her husband has placed her in is simply intriguing to me. Yet, the first lady has continued to publicly support Bill Clinton and insists that their marriage is solid.

As an enlightened Spelmanite, I am very suspicious of Hilary Clinton's position. Her husband obviously cheated on her. He desecrated the commitment he made when he got married. So what does Mrs. Clinton gain by keeping quiet about her disgust and anger? Well, that's a stupid question. POWER!!!! It seems to me that when she gets out of office her "solid" marriage will most likely dissolve before our very eyes. Do you really think that the Clinton marriage will last?

Honestly, I cannot wait for Mrs. Clinton's tell-all book for it seems she is the smarter of the two. Hilary makes Monica Lewinsky look very childish. Think about it. Who is still in the White House? Who has become the laughing stock of the coun-

try? The answer to this question has to be Monica Lewinsky. This is not to say that Hilary has not suffered. However, she has wisely chosen to keep her private life "private" (sort of) until she leaves the White House. Monica, on the other hand, has freely shared her sexual escapades with the entire world.

As a woman I am intrigued by the First Lady's response to infidelity. Would you have done the same thing as she has done, standing by her man? Is Hilary Clinton much like the oppressed women we read about in ADW? Alternatively, is she actually a liberated woman?

## United we stand...Distant we fall

by Laquawn Thompson,  
Voices Staff Writer

It's 8:30 am. The sun glistens over last night's rain puddles, as a handful of dedicated individuals collect old beer bottles, diapers and chicken bones. What am I describing? Why, the community clean-up day of course! Students from Spelman, Morehouse, Clark-Atlanta and Morris Brown gathered at Spelman's back parking lot with the goal of making the West End community environmentally "free" to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I can't tell you how good it felt to see others like me up at the crack of dawn to pick up trash and plant flowers. Yet, even among the abundance of Krispy Kreme doughnuts and laughter from people meeting for the first time, I was disturbed. There are about 15,000 stu-

dents enrolled in the AUC, about 1,000 showed to be apart of the project. Out of these numbers included some people from the West End community. Though in my opinion we did a good job of cleaning the streets, there awaits a larger "mess" for our shovels and rakes to clean. I like to refer to it as the "Distant Syndrome." We, as African Americans are simply too distant from each other to be truly called a community. Our inability to unify in larger groups is the cause for our dwin-

dling numbers in schools and professional work places. A new millennium is quickly approaching, and we cannot afford to drift any further away from our unity as a community. Individual from the West End and AUC must become one powerful voice in order to be heard throughout America and the world. Sisters and brothers, instead of turning your nose up at the local wino begging for a dollar, why not give him a book and send him in the direction of an adult edu-



Spelman Students at the Inaugural Clean-up  
Photo: A. Williams

### 7 Often Asked, but Never Answered Questions at Spelman College

- 1) Why do they have to put those impossible- to - remove orange "VIOLATION" stickers on your car window?
- 2) How do all the computers "freeze" at the same time during registration?
- 3) Why aren't there any street lights on the east side of campus?
- 4) Why are there only 2 people scanning cards after convocation?
- 5) Why do the people in the registrar's office always say, "You all are going to have to come back tomorrow."
- 6) Why is there no women's bathroom on the second floor of Tapley?
- 7) The cafeteria food...Why?

Natasha Thomas

cational center? We can no longer take Dr. King's legacy of service for granted. To neglect those who need us the most is to neglect ourselves. Our leadership must start here. Our legacy of service must be rooted both in and outside of the Spelman gates. I challenge you to make the first step towards unification. I challenge you to adopt a West End grandparent. I challenge you to spend time volunteering at Dean Rusk Elementary School. Most importantly, I challenge you to open your minds, hearts, and souls to those who do not share in your present quality of life. To be unified is to stand tall and firm. To be distant is to stagger and fall apart. May we continue to strengthen the ties that bind us as a brand new year continues to unravel.

# VOICES

**When students were asked whether or not 1999 would be the last year, here is what they had to say.....**

*"No, I don't believe that 1999 will be the end of the world. I think that world will end when its least expected and not when its been popularized. Some people think that Y2K will be the end. It's just too easy."*

Maya Moore, senior, Psychology major

*"No. The world could possibly end as we know it; however, it will not be a concrete ending. We are moving into an abstract/information age. We may change technology or the way we purchase things."*

Shadimah Ahmad, senior, Biology major

*"No, I don't think that the world will end in 1999 because I have to graduate in 2001!"  
(smile)*

Crystal Flowers, sophomore, English major

*"No, so much emphasis has been placed on it and so many people are preparing for it. I don't think that it will happen."*

Shanell McGoy, junior, Comparative Women's Studies

## Roving Reporter: Rayna Ward

## My First Kwanzaa

by Ayana L. Gabriel

As inquisitive as I always am regarding my African heritage, I must admit Kwanzaa never really caught my fancy. I knew the principles, understood some of the symbols, however I never truly made an effort to celebrate it. So when my mother made her annual empty promise to "really" celebrate Kwanzaa this year, I paid no attention. However on December 26th I found myself in the back of our car holding a *kinara* (candle holder), *Mkeka* (placemat), and *Mishumasa saba* (seven candles), on the way to my first Kwanzaa celebration.

Kwanzaa is a kiswahili word meaning

three green (for the Mother Continent/hope), and three red (for the blood shed).

The first day was a bit shaky. My extended family consists of six families of various backgrounds including Trinidadian, Creole, and Hindu; therefore many in attendance knew little about Kwanzaa. We reflected on the principle for the day (*Umoja*), and everyone spoke after they took a symbolic sip from the *Kikombe cha umoja* (communal unity cup). I was quite surprised at the spirit of everyone, the usually antisocial fathers did not complain about attending, and the teenagers didn't find something else to occupy their evening. As the week went on the celebration definitely became more refined. By the 30th we had a full-fledged production including poetry, dramatic acts, and historical accounts — *Kwanzaa: The Broadway Musical*. Being the skeptic that I am, I did not think

we would see the week through, yet every day I found myself at a different family's house surrounded by African motifs, tables of food, gifts, and people ranging from 4 months to 90 years old. Not even the death of one of the hostess's sister ended the celebration, it only made it that more important. Whatever doubts I had about the meaning of Kwanzaa were dismissed forever.

Despite this revelry not all attending the celebrations were enthused with the religions, beliefs, and cultures that surfaced in various forms every night. Particularly my brother who is an advocate of Afrocentricity, and definitely subscribes to the original intentions of Dr. Maulana Karenga. On the last day several people mentioned how glad they were that Kwanzaa "was not just for Black people," and how they didn't think it should be that way.

Therefore he decided to give a brief history of the origins of Kwanzaa. Yet I still did not agree with my brother's view, and it was not until one of the Hispanic women asked my brother if Maulana Karenga was one of those "militant black racists" that I saw how easily the celebration of Kwanzaa could be contorted into a confusion of multicultural, I-Have-A-Dream rhetoric. I don't believe in separatism, but Kwanzaa is a time for Black people to discuss Black issues. How comfortable will the Hispanic woman be when we begin to discuss the use of the "n" word, or the political unrest in Africa?

Whatever the case, even if our family celebration of Kwanzaa does not reflect what Karenga intended, it has created a bond between the families in my community, and it is a celebration that I hope continues for generations to come.



**Come Support the Jaguars**

**1st Annual Women's Roundball  
Classic**

**Saturday, January 30, 1999**

**Tuskegee vs. Fayetteville State  
Spelman vs. Bennett College**

**Morehouse Olympic Arena  
4. p.m.**

Tickets \$8 gen. admission \$5 students  
for ticket info. (404) 681-3643 ext 2203

**Pep Rally and Block Party  
Spelman's Parking Lot 1-3 p.m. preceding game**

**Keep a look out for  
Freshwoman Super Bowl Weekend  
January 30-31, 1999**