

# MT

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### NEWSLINE

#### WALTER RODNEY LIVES:

LAST WEEKEND, WOODRUFF LIBRARY HOSTED THE 11TH ANNUAL WALTER RODNEY SYMPOSIUM. THE SYMPOSIUM FEATURED PRESENTATIONS FROM DR. BOBBY HILL AND WELCOMED A HOST OF ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD.

#### MY BROTHER'S KEEPER:

MOREHOUSE IS HOSTING THE BLACK MALE SUMMIT THIS WEEKEND. OFFICIALS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WILL BE DISCUSSING EDUCATION REFORM AND PRESIDENT OBAMA'S #MYBROTHERSKEEPER INITIATIVE.

#### PERDUE AT MOREHOUSE:

DAVID PERDUE, CANDIDATE FOR US SENATE IN GA, VISITED THE COLLEGE LAST WEEK. HIS VISIT COMES DAYS AFTER A NEW 11 ALIVE/SURVEY USA POLL HAS HIM ATOP THE GOP FIELD.

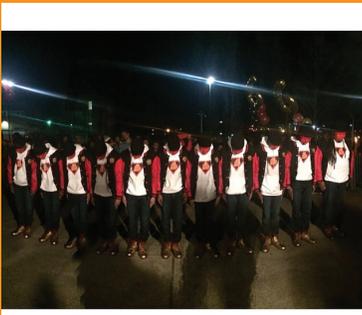
#### SGA RESULTS COMING SOON:

RESULTS OF TODAY'S SGA ELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE STEPS OF KILGORE ON FRIDAY AT NOON. CAMPAIGNING REACHED A PEAK AFTER CANDIDATES FOR SGA PRESIDENT HURLED ATTACKS BACK AND FORTH ON TWITTER YESTERDAY.

#### HAPPY PRIDE WEEK:

ICYMI, SPELHOUSE PRIDE WEEK KICKED OFF ON MONDAY, BEGINNING A WEEKLONG SET OF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES TO BRING AWARENESS TO LGBTQ ISSUES. AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS WAS A TWITTER DISCUSSION LED BY MOREHOUSE'S SAFE SPACE. #WEARECOMING-HOME14.

### #INSTAPHOTOOFTHETWEEK



SPRING '14 INITIATES TO THE GREAT AND GRAND XI ETA CHAPTER OF PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA FRATERNITY OF AMERICA, INC

POSTED BY: @PMA\_MOREHOUSE

53 LIKES

1 DAY AGO



## SWINT

## GATEWOOD

# A TALE OF TWO EXTREMES:

## Why We Cannot Endorse Either SGA Presidential Candidate

In honor of the Student Government Association presidential debate season at Morehouse College, The Maroon Tiger editorial staff was asked to produce an editorial endorsement for an SGA presidential hopeful for the 2014-2015 academic year. Holistically, the staff believes that a suitable candidate should be balanced, being both innovative and personable while also being professional and guardedly responsive when necessary. Unfortunately, this year's candidates represent two ultimate extremes: one is vastly outspoken, which, at times, translates as scattered and unrefined, while the other is forcibly calculated, and perceivably opaque. After interviewing both candidates, and following much deliberation, the editorial staff has decided not to publicly endorse either SGA presidential candidate.

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# EDITORIAL STAFF ENDORSEMENT: PICK YOUR POISON: GATEWOOD VS. SWINT

## EDITORIAL STAFF

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Campus News Editor

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Associate Campus News Editor

Junior Calvin Swint openly expressed his dissatisfaction with the administration's approaches to students' concerns while fellow Morehouse College junior Michael Gatewood, in many responses, seemed to embody the role of President John Wilson's unofficial protégé. Swint listed many problems, including the lack of bills proposed by the current SGA, very little communication from current members, and few SGA-led programs. He also highlighted his grievances with decisions made by Wilson's administration that have negatively affected some students. However, unlike his opponent, Gatewood did seem to see many changes to the SGA that should be made. He also spoke highly of Wilson's upper-level staff members whom he has become very close with. Relationships with administrators are important for all students, but it appears that Gatewood does not intend to challenge any administrative policies or decisions. Furthermore, he often explained his presidential goals by using the jarringly similar wording that Wilson has used in presenting his own. For example, Gatewood mentioned his vision for "a Morehouse that is not yet here," and his desire to achieve

"preeminence." In many of his statements, Gatewood seemed to advocate more on behalf of administration than on the behalf of students.

While both candidates are personable and possess an admirable passion for the institution (two factors we deem necessary for assuming such a position), this alone will not cater to the needs of the student body. During his interview, Gatewood appeared well prepared and promptly responsive to most issues, but seemed disconnected from underrepresented students. We specifically asked about those who may be without housing due to financial constraints, and unable to afford meal plans, and also extended this to include members of the LGBTQ community. Swint, who survived homelessness and vocally expressed his identification with the LGBTQ community, clearly represented these groups but did not offer initiatives to address their issues.

Additionally, Swint was very open about previous financial, familial, and personal issues that he has overcome. Contrastingly, Gatewood was much more guarded, censored, and politically correct in his demeanor.

"That's what separates me a part from [the other candidate]; I represent the community," Swint said.

Gatewood's failure to provide any personal testimonies about his Morehouse experience made it difficult to see how he could sincerely appeal to his constituents. Swint spoke openly about his road to Morehouse, but though his responses were thoughtful in theory, they were

delivered under layers of profanity and inconsistency.

In reviewing the resumes of both presidential hopefuls, it appears that neither possesses appropriate leadership experiences in which they formally presided over others. Under leadership, Gatewood's resume cited his roles as treasurer of Collegiate 100 of Atlanta, student trustee on the Morehouse Board of Trustees, and research analyst for the Morehouse Business Association. Swint's resume listed positions including interning for several legislators, and organizations in Newark, N.J., and Atlanta, Ga.

Overall, many of Swint's detailed plans seemed overly ambitious, while Gatewood offered few changes to students' current experience. Swint explained his five-year \$20 million fundraising initiative but only presented vague descriptions on how this could actually be executed. He also prepared a schedule listing dozens of events he would organize for the upcoming year, and thoroughly outlined his intended partnerships with specific student organizations. Gatewood's initiatives, though realistic and achievable, were minor and uninspiring. All four of his platform points focused on improving communication by responding to all inquiries from students within 48 hours, releasing SGA progress reports, creating a database to include all college announcements, and working more closely with class councils to plan events, including a community service competition. As far as any additional issues are concerned, Gatewood had few plans.

"The last few days, my

running mate and I went on what we call a 'listening tour' where we met with students to listen to some of the problems," Gatewood said. "A lot of [the problems] are effective from year to year; a lot of those aren't changing. The cafeteria, and some of the physical structure of the campus, the accessibility to Douglas Hall and Archer; those things aren't changing, quite frankly."

It must be noted that Swint also arrived to his scheduled interview two hours late without any prior warning of his tardiness. He did, however, account his tardiness to an on-going illness.

The conclusions presented in this article were based on the editorial staff's interpretation of the in-person interviews and campaign materials that were provided by each candidate. We believe that all students should use their own discretion when voting, and do not wish to unfairly influence anyone's decision. It was important that the staff critically analyze each candidate's statements so that the student body could ultimately make an informed decision. We thoroughly examined two political figures on campus, but none of the aforementioned critiques were personal. Though our final decision remains not to publicly endorse either candidate, we undoubtedly possess the sentiment that both Swint and Gatewood seem to be well-intentioned Morehouse brothers who desire to better the institution.