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THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University



VOLUME 85, NO. 12

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Students Endorse Military Strikes; Condemn Civilian Deaths

By CHRISTOPHER WINDHAM
Managing Editor

Students say they support the U.S. airstrikes launched Sunday on military targets in Afghanistan, but disapprove of violence against civilians.

"I support the action, but I don't support how they are going about doing it," said junior psychology major Damian Boler. "It's messed up because they're punishing the whole [Afghanistan] country."

However, Boler said he is not afraid of retaliation from terrorist on American soil.

The U.S. launched missiles at military and communications facilities and suspected terrorist training camps following the Taliban's refusal to release the whereabouts of Islamic militant Osama bin Laden, accused of directing the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

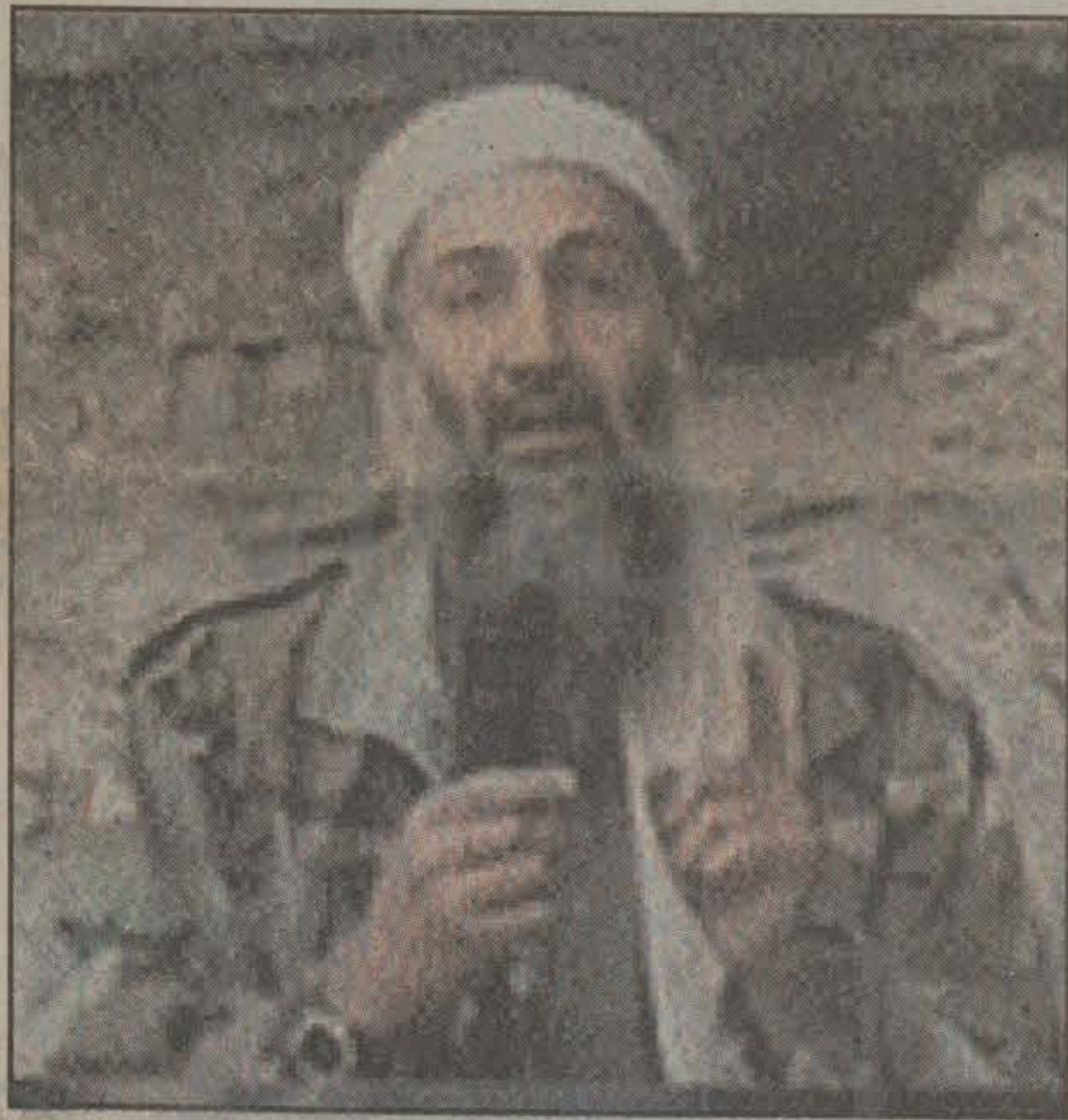
The Taliban ambassador to Pakistan said bin Laden and associates survived the drive of attacks.

According to Pentagon officials, 15 bombers, 25 strike aircraft and 50 cruise missiles took part in the first round of attacks including B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers. British submarines fired cruise missiles.

A Taliban official said civilians were killed attacks, but did not say how many. The Pentagon said Sunday it's too early to say if there were civilian casualties.

President Bush's declaration of military action is almost 11 years after his father, former President George Bush, announced the start of the Gulf War against Iraq.

Please See Attacks, A3



Osama bin Laden

Dixon, Muhammad Crowned as New Mr. and Ms. Howard

Masquerade Pageant Peeks Audience Attention

By Shelia L. Hill
Contributing Writer

The 2001 V.I.B.E. Homecoming began with the crowning of Alex Dixon and Kamilah Muhammad as the new Mr. and Ms. Howard University at the annual pageant in Cramton Auditorium Friday.

This year's pageant differed from any in recent history. Staying in stride the theme, "Masquerade," the contestants opened the show with a theatrical performance that kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

With faces hidden behind masks and clothed in elaborate Shakespearean costumes—the women in long ball dress and the men wearing hats topped with a feather in the brim—executed a well choreographed number, appropriately titled, "The Ghetto Waltz."

Dixon representing the School of Business and Muhammad of the College of Arts and Sciences edged out the runners up, Mr. School of Communications, Larry Brown Jr. and Adrian West the delegate of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences.

The newly crowned pair has high expectations on what they can accomplish during their reign as Mr. and Ms. Howard.

"I want to see a new spirit of activism amongst Howard students. If changes of the Howard University family need to be made then the level of student activism needs to change," said Muhammad, who ran under the platform "Ununna" an ancient Ibo proverb meaning: if the student is ready then the teacher will come.

"We, the student body, have to be a voice for what we want to see changed and what we want to see done not only within Howard, but also within the global community," said Muhammad.

Dixon's platform, EMERGE, is identical to the one he currently serves on as Vice President of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA). The platform was described by Dixon as "emerging into a new era of consciousness and becoming the leaders we were all destined to be."

About his platform, Dixon said it would more practicable to use his status as Mr. Howard to emphasize what his mission was, than as vice president.

"I didn't think that it would be feasible to create a new platform. I want to use my position as Mr. Howard to reinforce what I have already created with being vice president of HUSA."

Ashley McFarlin, pageant coordinator and stage manager had high hopes of what to accomplish coming into the pageant.

"I wanted this pageant to be more of a performance, than just a pageant. I added more visual



Photo by Shala D. Wilson

Alex Dixon and Kamilah Muhammad were sworn in at the Coronation Ball as the Mr. and Miss Howard 2001-2002.

effects, customs and made the pageant more appealing for the student body."

Homecoming chair Melva Jones agreed with McFarlin.

"Ashley and I both wanted to add more stimulating effects to this year's pageant. We wanted the pageant to hold students attention so we added choreography and props to aid in creating a eye appealing production."

There were some that felt that the event began a new era for Homecoming pageants.

"This year's pageant has it's own style in comparison to the pageants in previous years. This pageant will definitely be a setting for the standard of all future pageants," said Oscar Jones, Associate Director of Student Life and Activities.

The Masquerade pageant garnered the reaction Jones and McFarlin sought after.

Junior African-American studies major Ithian Osagie found the pageant to be exceptionally entertaining.

"This was my first time attending the Homecoming pageant. I enjoyed the theme of the pageant. It was extremely well organized and the costumes and the choreography



Photo by Shala D. Wilson

Alex Dixon answers his question about privacy and protecting American rights.

Please See Pageant, A3

What Exactly is the Taliban and What Does it Stand for? AIDS Walk Gives a Name to the Faceless Many

Groups of *taliban* ("religious students") were loosely organized on a regional basis during the occupation and civil war. Although they represented a potentially huge force, they didn't emerge as a united entity until the *taliban* of Kandahar made their move in 1994. In late 1994, a group of well-trained *taliban* were chosen by Pakistan to protect a convoy trying to open a trade route from Pakistan to Central Asia. They

proved an able force, fighting off rival *mujahideen* and warlords. The *taliban* then went on to take the city of Kandahar, beginning a surprising advance that ended with their capture of Kabul in September 1996.

The Taleban said their aim was to set up the world's most pure Islamic state, banning frivolities like television, music and cinema.

The Taliban's popularity with the Afghan people

surprised the country's other warring factions. Many Afghans, weary of conflict and anarchy, were relieved to see corrupt and often brutal warlords replaced by the devout Taliban, who were successful in eliminating corruption, restoring peace, and allowing commerce to resume.

During 15th Year, Fight Continues Against Disease

By MELINNA ALLEYNE AND
LEESA DAVIS
Contributing Writers

On the shoulder of Elizabeth Kreamer's yellow AIDS Walk Washington 2001 t-shirt, sits a large picture button of her son, Gregory. In 1996, Gregory's life was claimed as one of the many AIDS cases that have helped garner the support of the 15th annual AIDS Walk.

Kreamer has served as an activist for AIDS research and programs for the past 10 years. This year she served as a volunteer in the registration building of the event.

"What's happening here is just the tip of the iceberg," Kreamer said, "(look at) what's going on in Africa... We need to be involved."

Saturday, despite the rain and gusty winds, people still turned out to participate in the 15th Annual AIDS Walk Washington. Volunteers from all across the District area gathered in the morning on monument grounds to participate in what has, in passed years, been the District's largest single-day fundraiser

held in the city.

AIDS Walk Washington is a volunteer walk-a-thon held annually to raise money for the HIV/AIDS programs of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, a non-profit, volunteer based, lesbian and gay community health organization serving the District metropolitan area. The clinic provides a wide range of medical and social services to thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS, in addition to health and support services to the gay and lesbian community throughout its four operational sites in the Metro area.

In light of the September 11th tragedy, this year's walk brought many concerns about volunteer participation and contributions. Michael Cover, the Associate Executive Director of the Whitman Walker Clinic expressed that he was "...a little worried about the walk, people have been really focused on news... September 11th relief funds. We're concerned we may not see the generosity."

The walk began at the Washington Monument and traced the perimeter of the National Mall, passing some of the national landmarks and concluded with a closing ceremony on the Monument grounds. Funds raised from the

Please See AIDS, A3

INSIDE

Sports

Student Athletes discuss juggling busy schedule with games on the road and school work.

A4



Engage

It's birthday time again. Singer Usher is a Libra. Find out what your horoscope says.

A8



CAMPUS

Voices & Views

What are You Most Looking Forward to This Homecoming?



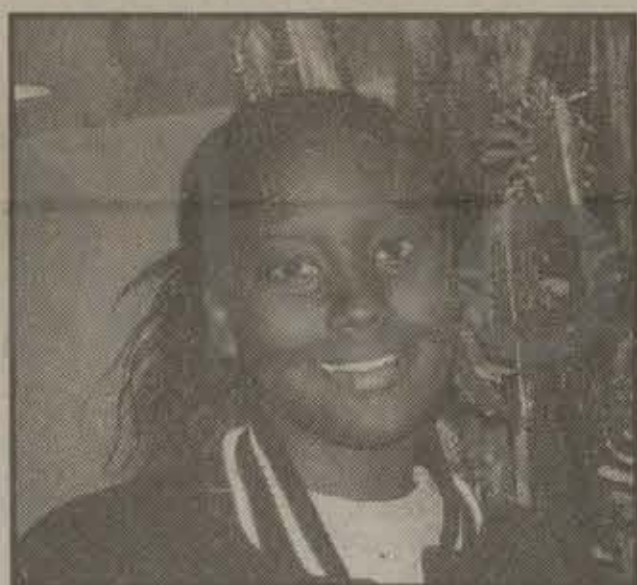
"Just the Howard spirit of Homecoming with people from the East coast and other colleges that come together,"

Nathaniel Williams, Sophomore, Administration of Justice



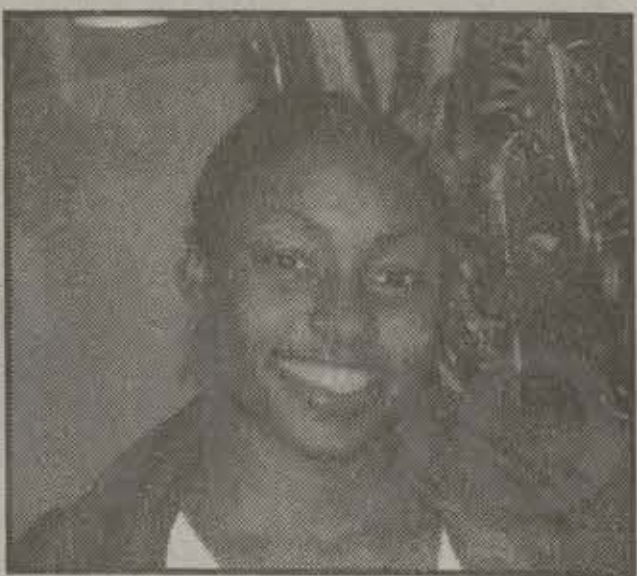
"The excitement that people have when they come together,"

Sean Layne, Sophomore, Computer Science



"The Yard Fest because it is always so nice to see the Bison family get together in a positive way,"

Tanya Rigby, Senior, Chemical Engineering



"The Step Show is first on my list, but it was sold out when I tried to get tickets,"

Shawntel Hebert, Sophomore, Public Relations



"I'm most looking forward to the Reggae Concert and the Yard Fest. The Yard Fest is generally the best event,"

Kwaku Gyabaah, Junior, Electrical Engineering

Compiled By Shala Wilson

Libation Continues Despite Absent Fireworks

By ELENA BERGERON
Contributing Editor

Dozens of students huddled on the yard Sunday night, braving suddenly frigid weather, to pay homage to ancestors in the University's 4th annual Libation ceremony. Despite a 45-minute delay and temperatures that dipped into the low 40s, students and faculty gathered for the annual ritual that has come to mark the beginning of Homecoming festivities.

The Gospel Concert's late start made for an odd mix of tradition in Cramton Auditorium. NSAA dancers kicked off the Libation ceremony in the auditorium's lobby with traditional African

dance accompanied by drums and chanting as the concert came to a close, marked by clapping, tambourines and a choral refrain. After their lovely start, the dancers ushered participants to the solemn ceremony on the Yard.

This year's ceremony marked the first time libations have been poured on campus without a fireworks display. The decision not to put on the display was made by the University's administration in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks. Roberta McLeod, Director of the Blackburn Center, agreed with the University that the appropriate decision was made.

"It was all talked about and decided in respect of the people

who died," said McLeod. "There are a lot of people individually touched on this campus. And in the community, can you imagine the sound of things exploding in the sky right now? I think it was a wise decision."

About the ceremony, McLeod explained the elaborate symbolism associated with the homecoming libation.

"Libation is a ceremony that is done at the beginning of any activity, program, or celebration. When the Nanna (chief) pours the libation onto the earth, he calls out to all of those who have gone before us to make it possible for us to be here," explained McLeod at the start of the ritual.

With this, Dr. Kwaku Ofori-Ansa, a professor in the fine arts department, and his brother Kwasi Odaaku, both of Ghana, began the ceremony by entreating ancestors to intervene on the University's behalf.

Odaaku lowered his robe, a symbol of respect for departed ancestors and audience members, and poured gin onto the yard recanting the names of forefathers including Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. with each drop. Odaaku then asked audience members to add the names of their own beloved departed.

"Libation is a form of prayer. It's a prayer also coming from home in Africa. When we pour libation,

we acknowledge, we remember Almighty God and all the attributes He stands for and also Mother Earth who is the source of our energy and our way of life," Odaaku said.

The libation ceremony ended with a non-denominational prayer for those lost in the September 11th tragedies and a note of the irony of the United States' attack on Afghanistan on a Sunday.

McLeod closed, "On this day, a holy day, America has chosen to bomb another country on our Sabbath. We must pray for our own country and peace everywhere because your future depends on it."

Bison In Britain

American Students Abroad Yearn for Home

Since last month's terrorist acts, the emotional impact, for some citizens, is overwhelming. Yet, being at home, instead of within the Britain's borders, is where most Americans at Richmond, The American University in London, would rather be.



KERRY ANN HAMILTON
Contributing Writer

want to be in the U.S., despite the potential dangers at home.

"There is a certain sense of security that one gets at home [like] the comfort of knowing where to go to get help," said Shannon Calizo-Stollenmaier, a junior from Hawaii. She said she feels nervous about being in Britain. "We are in close proximity to where the potential war is brewing. Britain is also a possible terrorist target," said Calizo-Stollenmaier.

Calizo-Stollenmaier's fear is not in vain. According to *The Guardian*, a national newspaper of the United Kingdom, the British Prime Minister Tony Blair has managed to garner much international support in the war efforts against terrorism.

"Thursday night in Moscow with the Russian president, Friday night with Pakistan's military ruler. Behind him, a fevered round of international diplomacy: Berlin, Paris, Washington. The prime minister is at the very center of the world stage," *The Guardian* reports.

England's support to the US in the terrorist war has boosted the security level of John Kemin, a junior from Boston University.

"I am happy I have chosen Britain for my study abroad because of the amazing support Britain has given to the US and its citizens. I cannot imagine being in a country where there was a language barrier as well as anti-American sentiment. Britain is closest to home at this time," said Kemin.

As civilians abroad, Americans wonder, are we safe? The question is not so simply answered. The question becomes how can an Americans not be conspicuous. Some

have sarcastically suggested that Americans wear plain T-shirts and discard the neon trimmed Nikes.

To be incognito as an American is a lot to ask and is virtually impossible, explained Marin Graney, a senior business major from University of Virginia.

"Our accent and demeanor is distinct. We are in a foreign country. It is hard to totally 'blend in' and still live normal lives," said Graney. "In addition there is a sign outside our building which says American International University. How can I begin to live a low profiled life?" said Graney.

While studying in London many students capitalize on the opportunity to visit to neighboring countries. In light of the present situation, many students are apprehensive about traveling by plane. Graney further states that the initial attack and now the prospect of war, has put a damper on the semester.

"I would want to be at home to share in the grief as opposed to being in Britain, having a blast, while millions at home suffer," Graney said. "I have postponed my post semester travel plans to Italy [and] will be going home."

Being away from home in a time of crisis is painful. Students describe their feelings as helpless, detached, surreal, and with a strong sense of nostalgia.

"One feels helpless and unpatriotic to an extent. If I were home I would be able to give blood and volunteer in some form. Being thousands of miles away, I am a mere onlooker," said Jennifer Scott, a junior from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Jennifer Weikle, a junior, Advertising major from Mackinaw, Illinois also resents being a passive observer.

"I am lost in a sense, being away from my home country. I don't feel safe. I feel as though I could be sitting on a time bomb and oblivious. It is rather scary," Weikle said.

Where would one rather be? A vast majority of students yearn to be with family and friends. Yet, the semester is at its midpoint, and we take exams this week. But until December, we can't hum the theme song of the television show 227:

"There's no place like home. With your family around you you're never alone. When [you] know that you're loved. You don't need to roam. Cause there's no place like home," (words of Ray Colcord).

This is the fifth in a series. Kerry-Ann K. Hamilton, junior, broadcast major, studies abroad in London. Emails are welcome at bisoninbritain@hotmail.com

Praises Go Up

Halleemah Nash, the Gospel Show hostess, and Precious Umunna, the coordinator, show great enthusiasm for the 2001 Gospel Show: *A Piece of My Soul*.

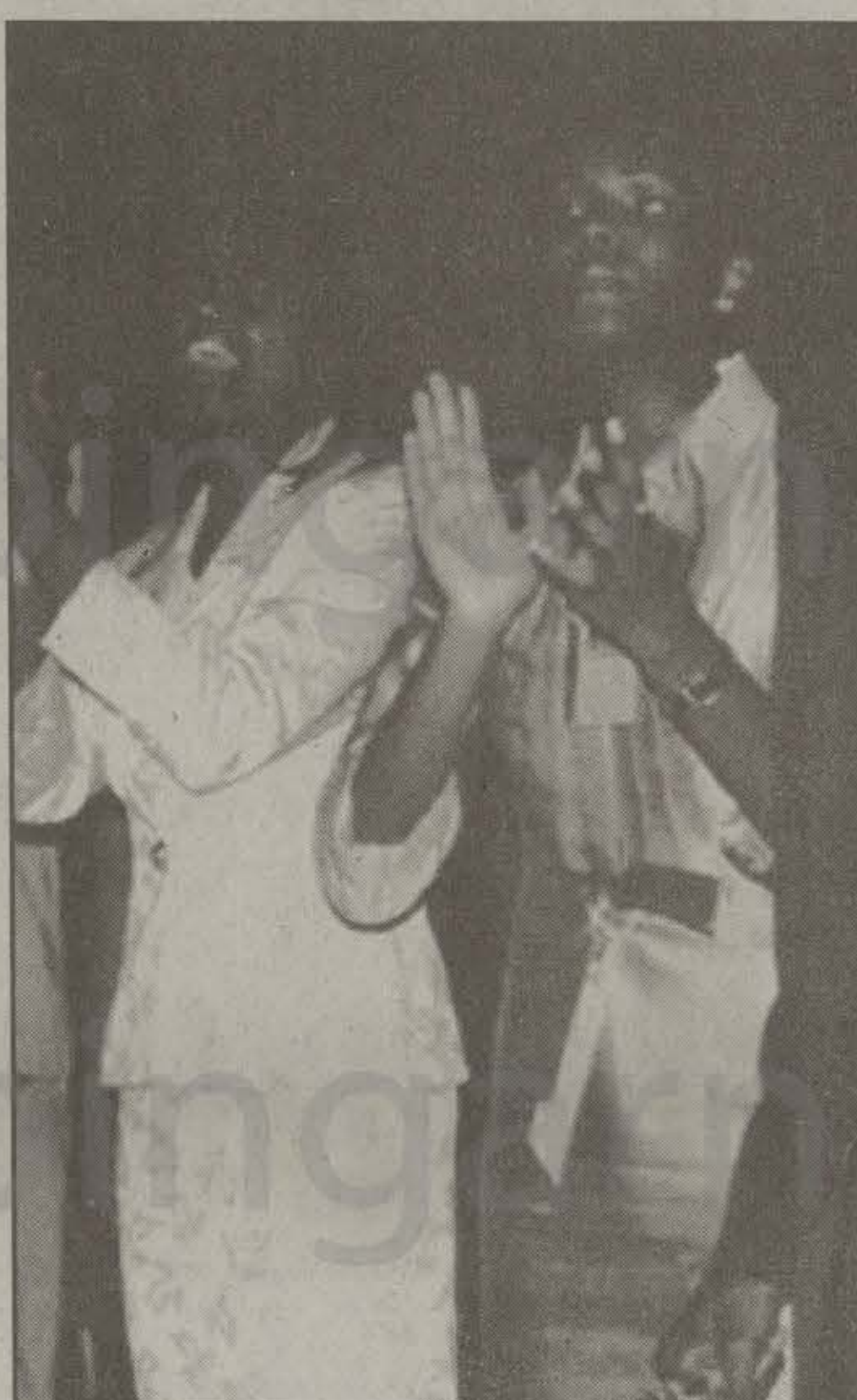


Photo by
Crystal Anderson

CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

Oct. 3	HUH	HUH
<i>Crandall Hall</i> Burglary II	Assault w/ deadly weapon	Simple assault
Health Service Domestic violence	HUH Employee complaint	Oct. 6 HPT Unlawful entry
HUH Bomb Threat	<i>400 Blk. College St.</i> Theft from auto	HUH Simple assault
<i>Human Ecology</i> Theft II	<i>2300 6th St.</i> Theft from auto	<i>Meridian Hill Hall</i> Theft I
<i>Blackburn Center</i> Theft II	<i>Dental School</i> Prison breach	<i>1500 Blk. Euclid</i> Theft from auto
Law School Damaged property	Oct. 5 <i>Annex</i> Hazardous elevator	Oct. 7 <i>Annex</i> Sick transport
<i>6th St. Lot</i> Destruction of property	<i>Health Service</i> Sick transport	HPT Unlawful entry
<i>Louis Stokes Library</i> Hazardous doors	<i>500 Blk. College St.</i> Theft from auto	HPT Disorderly conduct
<i>Slowe Hall</i> Injured person	<i>13th & Otis St.</i> Simple domestic assault	<i>2112 Ga. Ave</i> Fire
Oct. 4 <i>Meridian Hill Hall</i> Unlawful entry	HPT Fire	This is a service provided by Howard University Campus Police. This report was compiled by Campus Editor Brak-ton Booker.

A Message of Self-Assurance For 2001 Homecoming

By MONICA ALMOND
Contributing Writer

With many Howardites expressing concern about the behavior students will exhibit during this week's Homecoming festivities, alumna Patricia Russell-McCloud spoke about the importance of understanding one's purpose on campus in a Chapel service held in Cramton Auditorium, Sunday October 7, 2001.

Russell-McCloud, a professional orator, author, and president of a speaking association, Russell-McCloud and Associates in Atlanta, took her message titled, "Homecoming: Don't Major in the Minor," from the book of Psalms 8:1-9.

Just as Russell-McCloud was concluding her message on being safe, Dean of Chapel, Bernard L. Richardson, reading from a sheet of paper handed to him during the latter part of the service, informed the audience that the United States had begun air attacks on Afghanistan.

He immediately asked the audience to join hands, and he proceeded to lead them in prayer. Richardson prayed for wisdom for our leaders, safety for those innocent in Afghanistan and peace among nations. The sound inside Cramton was noiseless, except for a few snuffles.

Prior to the long prayers that followed the bombing announcement, Russell-McCloud's message on becoming "caught up" unknowingly, focused mainly on the students being aware and using one's better judgment.

"Don't get confused about who you are or whose you are. It's the time to hold on to who you think you have, or it's a time to seek to be chosen," said McCloud, cautioning the congregation about the University's annual

celebration.

Being an alumna of the University, Russell-McCloud is aware of the countless activities that surround the campus at this time of year, and she wants students to understand that homecoming is a time for reflection.

She said that Homecoming is a reunion time; a time to be with friends and associates, greet alumni and acknowledge the common bond that distinguishes Howard students from the rest.

"Howard is the Mecca and there is no Homecoming like a Howard Homecoming," said Russell-McCloud. In addition, McCloud warned students that great pleasure could also surmount great pain. "The reality is how you will balance and play catch-up when this weekend is over."

The message of self-assurance and self-determination gained a positive reaction from many students.

"I thought her message was really inspiring," said Richard Owens, a senior information systems major. "It offered a mix of teaching and preaching. It spoke to all genres and all people and was relevant to the message that we need to focus on what's important and not on the minor things in our lives," said Owens.

Russell-McCloud's sermon serves as an outline for students during this time of celebration, and her inspiration will remain in the minds of many students like business major Averlyn Coates.

"Although it's Homecoming and although I'm still going to party a little, I have realized that I still need to focus on the important things like my education as well as the war that our country is getting ready to face," said Coates.

Timeline of the Taliban

1979
1979
Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.

1980
Soviet troops install a puppet regime in Kabul. The U.S., Pakistan, China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia offer support to *mujahideen* "freedom fighters" as they begin a guerrilla war against the Soviets.

1988-89
Soviet troops withdraw.

1992
Mujahideen forces, led by Ahmed Shah Massoud, remove the Soviet-backed government of Mohammad Najibullah. Rival militias vie for influence.

1993
The factions agree on the formation of a government with Burhanuddin Rabbani as president, but infighting continues. Lawlessness is rampant.

1994
September
The Taliban are appointed by Pakistan to protect a trade convoy and quickly emerge as one of the strongest factions.

1996
September
The Taliban seize control of Kabul and implement a strict interpretation of Islamic law. They exile President Rabbani and execute Najibullah. The Taliban offer Osama bin Laden refuge.

1997
Sept.-Oct.
The Taliban fail to capture and hold the city of Mazar-i-Sharif (held sacred by Shiites as the site of Ali's grave). Pakistani religious schools send reinforcements to the Taliban.

1998
Aug. 20
The U.S. launches missiles at suspected bin Laden bases in retaliation for the bombing of embassies in Africa.

Sept. 13
The Taliban take over the city of Bamian.

1999
March
A UN-brokered peace agreement is reached between the Taliban and their main remaining foe, the Northern Alliance under Ahmed Shah Massoud. Fighting breaks out again in July.

October
The Taliban take Mazar-i-Sharif. There are unconfirmed reports of mass arrests and executions (numbering in the thousands) of Shiites, especially of the Hazara ethnic group.

November
The U.N. imposes an air embargo and freezes Taliban assets in an attempt to force them to hand over bin Laden for trial.

2000-2001
Record cold, drought, and civil war push an estimated 200,000 more Afghans into refugee camps.

2001
January
The UN adds an arms embargo against the Taliban.

March 12
Ignoring an international outcry, the Taliban blow up two 2,000-year-old Buddhist statues in the cliffs above Bamian.

May
Religious minorities are ordered to wear tags identifying them as non-Muslims; Hindu women are required to veil themselves like other Afghan women.

July
Taliban bans the use of the Internet, playing cards, computer discs, movies, satellite TV, musical instruments, and chessboards, after declaring them against Islamic law.

August
Eight Christian foreign-aid workers are arrested for proselytizing. Two are American citizens.

Sept. 9
Northern Alliance Commander Ahmed Shah Massoud is wounded in a suicide bombing, allegedly by al-Qaeda operatives. Massoud dies from his wounds several days later.

Sept. 11
Terrorist attack on World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Mid-Sept.
Fearing U.S. reprisals, Afghans begin fleeing Kabul. Within a week more than 4,000 people a day try to cross into Pakistan.

U.S. demands that the Taliban hand over bin Laden and al-Qaeda members.

The Taliban offers to turn over bin Laden if presented with evidence of his guilt. They also suggest that they will allow him to be tried by Muslim clerics.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE cut off diplomatic ties. Pakistan pulls diplomats from Afghanistan but maintains ties.

U.N. and Red Cross aid efforts are halted.

Sept. 16
Pakistan's president, General Musharraf, pledges support for U.S. efforts to arrest bin Laden and appeals to his nation for support. Taliban supporters mount demonstrations.

Sept. 24
The Taliban calls for a *jihad* against America if U.S. forces enter Afghanistan.

Oct. 7
United States strikes Afghanistan in a series of air attacks after they refuse to give up Osama bin Laden.

Students Endorse Military Strikes; Condemn Civilian Deaths

From A1

"This military action is a part of our campaign against terrorism, another front in a war that has already been joined through diplomacy, intelligence, the freezing of financial assets and the arrests of known terrorists by law enforcement agents in 38 countries," Bush said in his address to the nation Sunday.

But for students, the strikes symbolize increased violence. "After we bomb them, they will retaliate with terrorism against us," said junior advertising major Allen Wing. "The fighting will only continue and more civilian lives

will be lost."

The Taliban had made an effort to prevent U.S. attacks by detaining bin Laden and try him under Islamic law if the United States made a formal request. The Bush administration rejected the Taliban proposal.

In a televised statement from the White House, President announced to the country that military strikes had begun—more than half an hour after the first explosions were reported in Kabul, the Afghan capital.

More than two weeks ago, Bush gave Taliban leaders a series of demands that included closing terrorist training

camps, handing over leaders of the al Qaeda network and returning all foreign nationals, including American citizens, detained in Afghanistan.

"None of these demands were met," Bush said. "And now the Taliban will pay a price. By destroying camps and disrupting communications, we will make it more difficult for the terror network to train new recruits and coordinate their evil plans."

Nations from across the globe have joined the U.S. in its fight against terrorism including Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Germany and France.

AIDS Walk Gives a Name to the Faceless Many

From A1

AIDS walk are used by the clinic to provide medical care, legal services, food, housing and mental health treatment services for people with HIV and AIDS.

Howard students were dispersed throughout the event, some walking in teams to support the cause, others assisting by passing out water and food to the walkers.

Some attendees felt that it was up to them to be the first one to institute the changes in their community. Russell Drake, a senior computer science major, attending the walk with the Phi Sigma Phi Fraternity spoke that "If I don't go, who else will?"

Roberta Cordova, an AIDS Walk Washington volunteer expressed that the apprehension of many people this year may pertain to their uncertainty of the security of walking throughout National Monument grounds. Cordova believes that with Saturday's event, not only will the purpose of the AIDS walk be pushed but, "People (will be) getting and gaining confidence to do things in mass."

Optimism about the walk was held

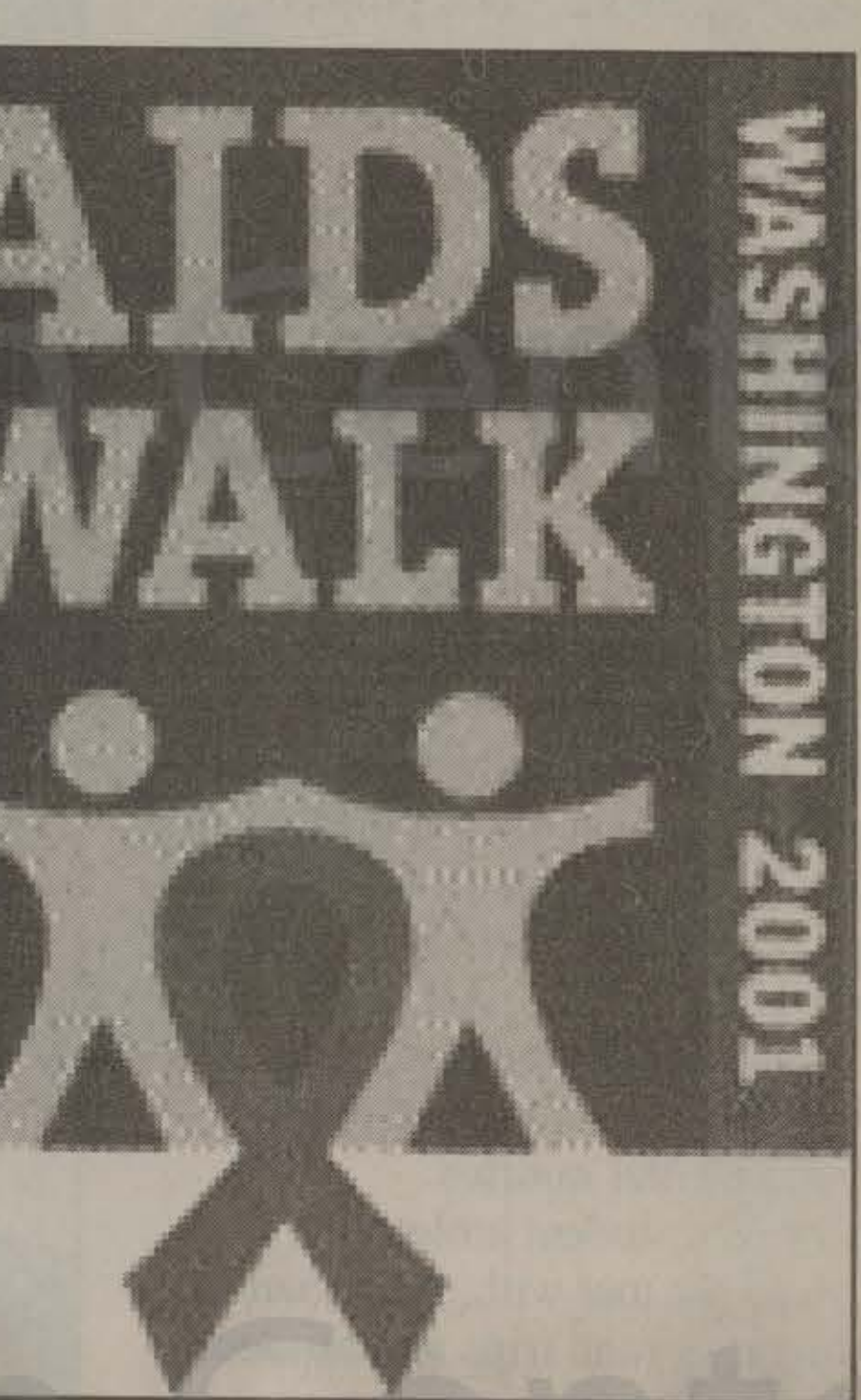
high by the hundreds of volunteers and organization sponsors. Cover discussed that part of the celebration of the walk will be toward some of the newest advancements in treatments for HIV.

Fusion inhibitors, a new method of attacking the virus, will soon be another option provided for people who have become intolerant to the current protease inhibitor treatment. Along with many other community organizations, the Whitman-Walker clinic works closely with the Howard University Medical School.

Krystal Little, a junior Biology major, attended the AIDS walk with the NAACP organization, one of the many participating Howard student organizations.

"It's for a good cause and many people suffer from AIDS," she said.

The latest reports have that of 1 and 20 District residents are infected with the virus. In 1999, more blacks were reported with AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group, accounting for 21,900 (47%) of the 46,400 reported



cases. Drake finds that these reports prove that there is "more of a reason for people to assist and find a solution for the problem."

Dixon, Muhammad Crowned as New Mr. and Ms. Howard

From A1

made it visually appealing," said Osagie.

The pageant, hosted by radio personality Jeannie Jones from WKYS 93.9FM and host of BET's 106th and Park A.J. Calloway, took a respite midway through the proceedings to feature some additional entertainment. A troupe of high school students, the DC Showbiz Dancers, performed a ballet and hip-hop number to pay tribute to the victims of last month's terrorist attacks. The members, outfitted in American flag design garments, danced to the National Anthem and Destiny's Child's *Survivor*.

McFarlin and her assistants selected the judges for the pageant, which ranged from the University's new

provost Dr. A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert to current and past Ms. District of Columbia.

All contestants were judged on introduction, based on how each contestant delivered their name, year and major, as well as on talent, evening wear and an essay that outlined their platform and goals for the 2001-2002 school year.

The pageant, Homecoming's least expensive event, aside from the three free events drew a packed house, with many of Cramton's rear seats occupied.


"The student turnout for this year was excellent. It is great to see Howard students giving full support to their peers. It is not easy getting on stage and performing to an audience of your peers," said McFarlin.

Jeezy, this is all the space I could find because you kicked behind this week. I'm proud of you. Keep doing what you do! Fortunate to have you on the team is an understatement.

---Porter

Don;t forget to come to our story conference today at 7 pm. in the West Towers. We are located on the Plaza Level. The Hilltop. Get your byline into it!

STUDENT TRAVEL



Get me the \$%#!&@ out of here!

(We understand completely.)

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The Howard University Library System Announces a New Photocopier Service

After several months of planning, the University has negotiated a new photocopier contract with IKON Office Solutions. The implementation was phased-in during August-September, and we are pleased to announce that the system is up and running in all libraries.

It is our foremost desire to provide our users with the best facilities, equipment and services. We hope that the new photocopiers will meet your standards of service and performance. We further ask for your patience as we continue to fine-tune the system.

Highlights of the new copier service:

- Duplexing (2-sided copying) is now available at many locations
- Cost of original VendCards, with \$0.70 worth of copying value, is \$1.00 (add value up to \$20.00)
- Cost of copying with VendCards: \$0.13/copy
- Cost of copying with coin: \$0.15/copy
- Dedicated on-site technician for prompt service
- Distribution of blank complimentary VendCards (schedule TBA)
- More VendCards dispensing machines

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On the Road Again

Student Athletes' College Journey Doesn't End When They Reach the Mecca

By PAUL CREWE
AND TIFFANY MITCHELL
Contributing Writers

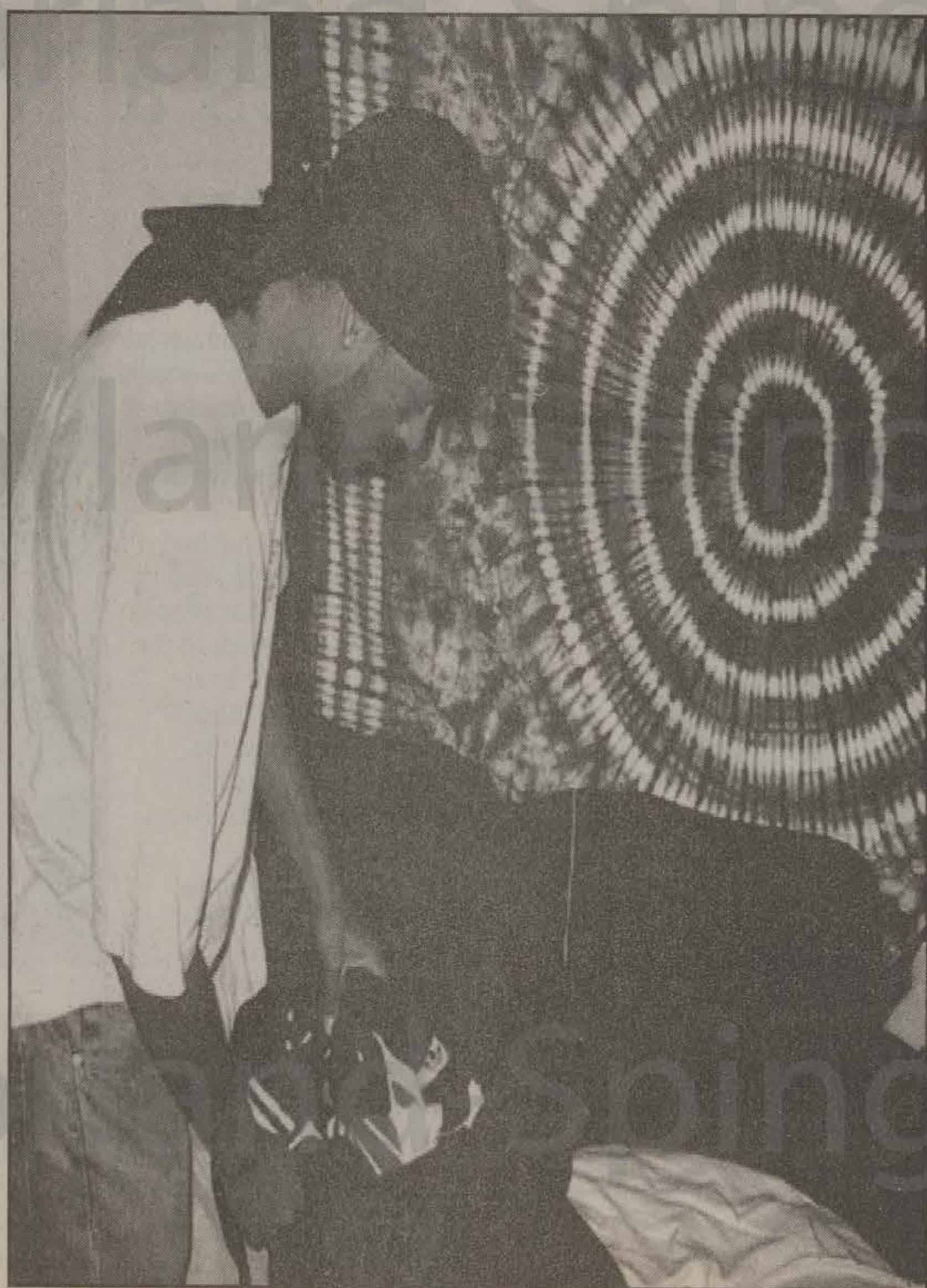
Take a moment and think about having to juggle anywhere from five to eight classes per semester. Then, think about homework, class projects, and last but not least, exams. Now, visualize long training camps and workouts that are physically and mentally grueling before and after class. Does this sound like some sick scenario from one of Dante's hells? If so, you're probably not one of Howard's numerous student athletes, because this is what they face on a regular basis.

Every student athlete here at Howard must play away games. The football team plays six of its eleven games on the road, while the men's and women's soccer teams play 20 of their 31 games on other team's fields. All of this travel means makeup exams, sleep deprivation and a myriad of physical and mental injuries.

However, student athletes at Howard are met with more than just weekly road trips and missed tests. In addition to competing, some must also maintain their scholarship, and conform to college life. Just like any other college student they have to become acquainted with increased freedom, more responsibility and harsher consequences.

"It's a difficult adjustment because people's grades [decline] from high school to college when they play a sport," said junior Mark Owens, offensive lineman for the Bison football team. "Sometimes we travel all weekend. In addition to long practices, we have meetings with coaches and even though you're tired you still have to study."

Along with performing academically and athletically, student athletes have to deal with disgruntled sports fans. How many times have



Senior stopper Michael Simontacchi-Gbologah packs for one of the Men's soccer team's road games. The Men's and Women's teams will play over half of their games on the road.

you gone up to a football player on a Monday morning and asked "what happened out there?"

Although school and sports cause a lot of stress, athletes and coaches agree that the pressure emitted from Bison fans to win games is even greater.

"People have a tendency to forget that our players are students too," said Bison football coach Steve Wilson. "They have to maintain their scholarship, work with

instructors who aren't always understanding and deal with adjusting to life at college."

Because coaches realize the difficult transition from high school to college, they provide counseling on a personal level to the students.

"We have to develop the students because in [sports] you have teammates from all across the country and [we] expect them to work as a team at the beginning of each semester simply because they wear

the same jersey," said Wilson.

However, for several Bison teams, this adjustment process, along with practice and competition, is conducted away from home. For some teams, there is no such thing as a home game. Players on the baseball, bowling and cross-country teams, conduct all their meets and games away from campus.

Currently, the baseball team practices in the gym, football field and Banneker field, when it's accessible. Their home field is in Laurel, Md. a 30-minute drive from campus.

Junior business management major Richard Harris, a baseball player, said that because of the incontinence of traveling the team misses out on a lot of practice time. Harris also thought that teams without a practice or game field lose out on having "home field advantage" and that sometimes more fans show to support the opposing team because of location.

"Many times you've got a lot of hecklers that support the opposing team, but over time you've just got to learn to block that out," he said.

Ayana Ball, a junior physical edu-

cation K-12 major and member of the Bison women's basketball team, said that the team's strenuous travel schedule can make it hard to perform well.

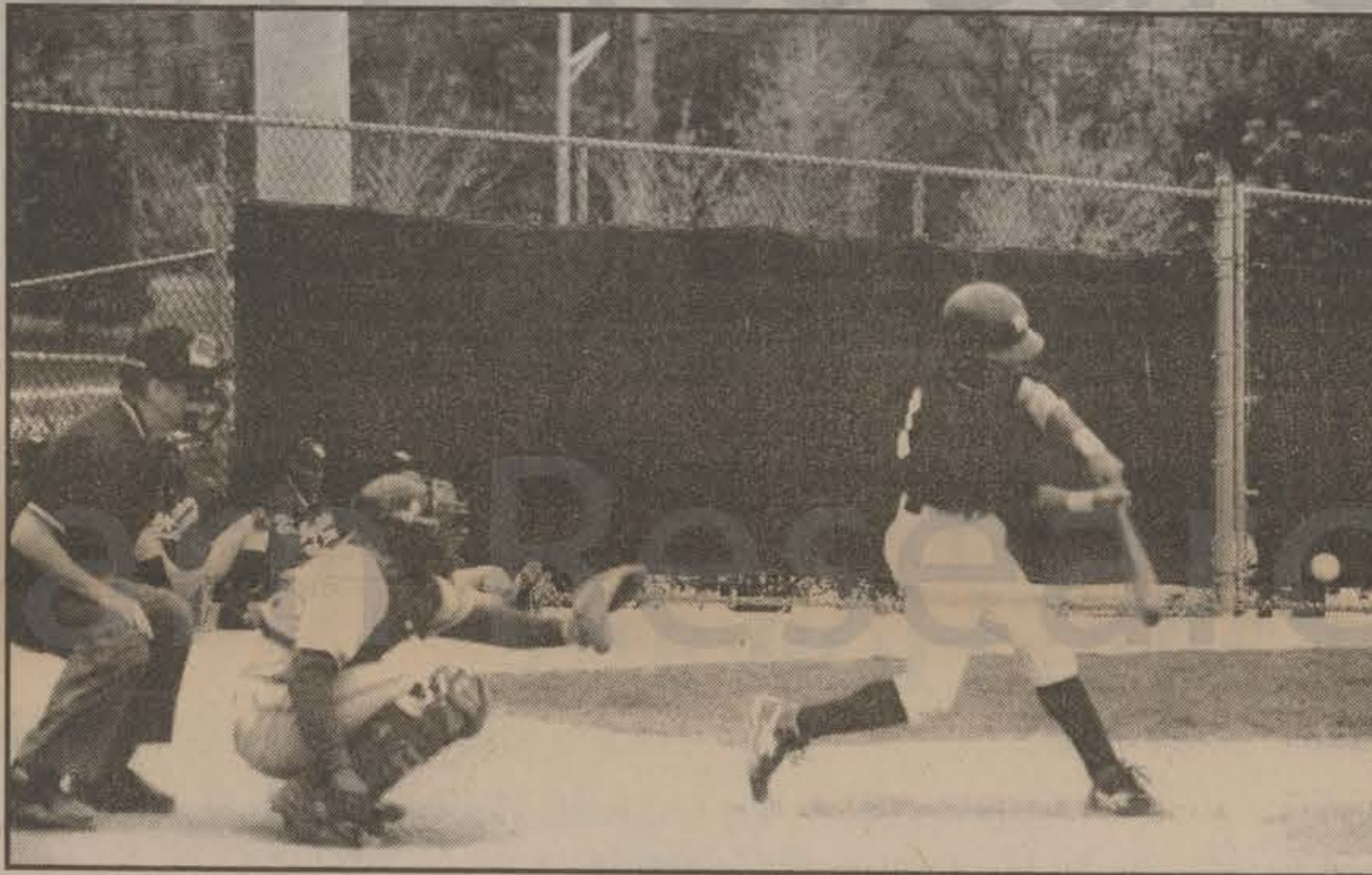
"Sometimes we have take a long bus ride and get right off of the bus, warm-up, and then play. It's difficult because you're tired and it sometimes leads to a lack of motivation," she said.

This lack of motivation, combined with what women's basketball coach Cathy Parsons called the home team's "sense of ownership," makes competition fierce whenever the Bison take their show on the road.

"Naturally, in hostile environments it's really tough, but we play well on the road and we fair well at neutral sites as well," Parsons said.

However, most coaches and players pointed to completing their academic workload as the biggest challenge they face from constant travel. Athletic Director Sondra Norrell-Thomas said that she and her staff use a variety of strategies

See STUDENTS, A6



Homefield advantage is an impossible dream for Howard's baseball, cross country, and women's bowling teams. All three of these teams will spend their entire season competing off-campus.

Sports Briefs

Redskins Fail With Dignity, While Ravens Fail to Leave Titans Any

In a game against the New York Giants that was fairly competitive for the first three quarters, it was the Washington Redskins horrible offense that cost them a victory and dropped the team to 0-4 for the season. The Redskins fell to the Giants (3-1) 23-9 Sunday due to two fourth quarter interceptions by Washington quarterback Tony Banks that killed late rallies. The Redskins are off to their worst start in half a century, and had looked completely inept on both side of the ball before Sunday's loss. The team will battle a winless Dallas Cowboys team on Monday Night Football next week.

In the other area game, the Baltimore Ravens (3-1) thoroughly dominated a winless Tennessee Titan team that looked completely overmatched. The Ravens completed controlled every facet of the game, including limiting Pro Bowl running back Eddie George to just 26 yards rushing. The Ravens finished with over 400 yards total offense while not allowing an offensive touchdown in a game for the second time this season. Baltimore tight end also became the NFL's all-time leader in receiving yards for tight ends Sunday.

Bonds Breaks Long Ball Barrier, Then Hits Three More

San Fransisco slugger Barry Bonds finished the season off in style Sunday with his 73rd homerun of the year, firmly entrenching himself in the annals of baseball history. Bonds 385-foot blast came in a 2-1 Giants victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers. Bonds finished the season with the highest single season homerun total, and highest single season slugging percentage. Future Hall-of-Famer Tony Gwynn also finished out his career Sunday, while longtime great Rickey Henderson finally joined the 3,000 hit club.

Bison Thrashed By Tigers

By AISHA CHANEY
AND ALLISON GENTRY
Contributing Writers

A crowd of 51,060 came together Saturday for the 18th annual Circle City Classic in Indianapolis and watched as the undefeated Tennessee State Tigers shut out the Howard Bison 45-0.

This is the first time in the Classic's 18-year history that a team left without scoring a single point.

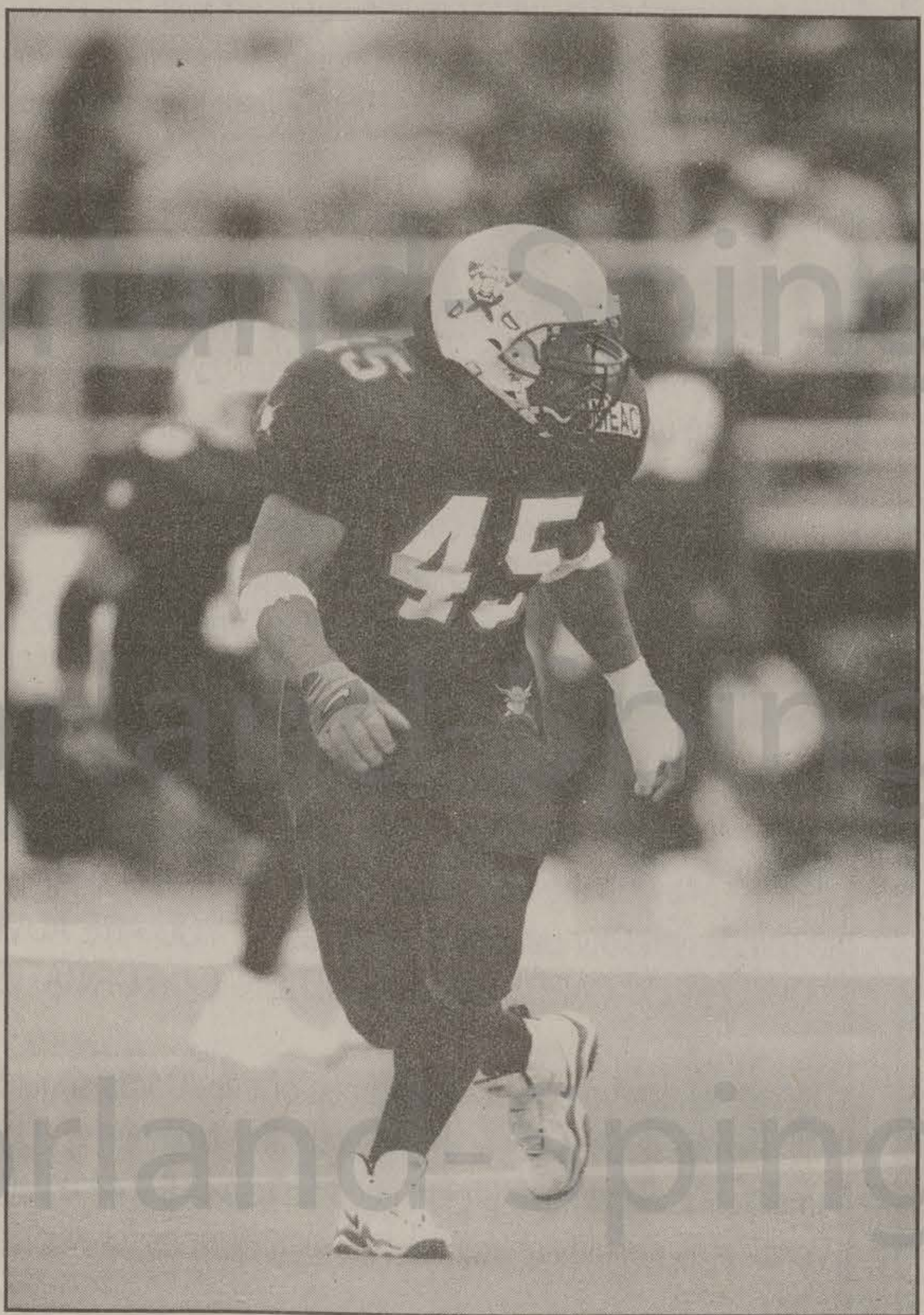
"It was good to see the defense play the way they did. This is the first shut out we've had at Tennessee State in a while," said Tiger Head Coach James Reese.

The Bison (1-4) struggled throughout the game, while the Tigers played consistently well, offensively and defensively. However, solid defense and overthrown passes by both teams resulted in a scoreless first quarter.

The first half of the second quarter was similar to the first, but midway through, things started to go downhill for the Bison. A partially blocked punt placed the Tigers on the Bison 35-yard line. After a 23-yard run by senior fullback KaRon Key, senior quarterback Shannon Harris completed a 12-yard touchdown pass to sophomore wide receiver Carlos Wright. The extra point by freshman kicker Joey Hudak made the score 7-0 with 7:28 remaining.

On the Tigers' next drive, they were able to capitalize on yet another blocked punt, this time placing them at Howard's 19-yard line. Despite a holding penalty by the offense, Harris was able to complete a 21-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Patrick Jenkins, making the score 14-0 after another successful extra point by Hudak.

With only 1:11 to go in the half, the Tigers' started their drive on the 20-yard line after a touchback by sophomore punter Mike Sanders. In just 4



Junior All-American linebacker Tracy White and the Bison defense couldn't contain the Tennessee State Tigers, as TSU rolled to a 45-0 beating of Howard.

plays lasting 29 seconds, they ended an 80-yard drive with a 26-yard touchdown reception from Harris to sophomore wide receiver Batavia Weldon, leaving the score 21-0 at halftime.

In the second half, Bison Head Coach Steve Wilson made a couple of quarterback changes, replacing

junior Donald Clark with senior Travis Coleman in the 3rd quarter and freshman Marcus Moreno in the 4th.

"Their agenda was to put pressure on the quarterback and disrupt the running game. But at this point, we're

See FOOTBALL, A6

Intramural Sports Make Big Splash With HU Students

By ELENA BERGERON
Contributing Writer

Howard intramural programs have long provided an outlet for students frustrated by the rigors of daily campus life. Whether it be a game of spades or billiards or a weeknight basketball game, intramural activities on campus have been a valuable outlet for students.

"It's a good atmosphere for students, regardless of classification, to get acquainted with one another. It's a common bond," said Sean Blondell, a junior international business major and former intramural basketball player.

For Kyle Bacon, Jr., intramural athletics play another role. "For those of us who played basketball in high school, intramurals provide a platform to continue," said Bacon.

With a newly remodeled facility and beefed up activities schedules, intramural coordinators have started the school year ready to expand student participation. A summer-long overhaul of the recreation area, located on the lower level of the Blackburn Center, included giving the neglected structure a new coat of paint, re-tiling the floors, and repairing the ceiling, which had been plagued by leakage.

Samuel Amoaka-Atta, Assistant Director of Intramural and Recreational Activities, says the renovations are just the first step of a planned expansion of the program. Additionally, Amoaka-Atta hopes to meet the center's need for new equipment.

"The renovations gave the whole

area a new face lift. Now, we're hoping to get the equipment coming. There is an order for four new pool tables to augment the ones we have and also [arcade] games are on their way," said Amoaka-Atta. The recreation center has already received six Olympic quality table tennis tables and fifteen barriers in an effort to make a bid to host a regional collegiate table tennis tournament.

Amoaka-Atta cites the bowling league, table tennis and billiard teams as the centers most popular and successful programs, but has added a schedule of social events including a Halloween party and a Super Bowl party to get students to visit the updated center.

Intramurals Coordinator Dexter Harris notes the success of the wildly popular basketball and indoor soccer leagues at Burr Gymnasium, saying that the basketball league attracted 32 teams last year and easily counts 500 participants in the soccer league, but sees room for expanded involvement.

"[Participation] is not as great as I would like for it to be. We always get a great turnout for basketball. For all the other sports it could be better," said Amoaka-Atta.

Harris says an active female presence in intramural athletics is one of the goals of his program. "I felt like it was important that we get more female involvement into our program. It was disturbing to me that the females here just didn't participate in things. If you didn't open a women's league or direct anything toward them they won't come."

Three new programs, Powder Puff

football, coed golf, and wiffleball, have been added to the fall schedule in an effort to generate increased coed participation. Harris will also continue last year's aerobic classes. So far, however, the programs have not seen as much interest as the established programs with only three teams having signed up for the football league.

Unlike Amoaka-Atta, however, Howard's facilities have been more of a hindrance than drawing tools for Harris' programs, many of which are housed in Burr's lower gymnasium, which has been closed for the past month due to flooding. "It's been frustrating," said Harris. "It's stopping basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer. Guys are going across the street to Banneker to play basketball. I don't know when it's going to be finished." Harris has had to push back a 3-on-3 basketball tournament originally scheduled for this weekend.

To counter these setbacks, Amoaka-Atta and Harris have implemented an aggressive campaign to get students to come out to events. The two have organized 6 teams of student workers who canvas the campus to assist in their marketing of the programs. "Their business is to disseminate the word by passing out flyers and going out to the dormitories to get the word out," said Amoaka-Atta.

Those interested in intramural recreation and sports can contact Samuel Amoaka-Atta at 806-7228 or Dexter Harris at 806-4129 or visit their offices on the lower level of the Blackburn Center.

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Student Athletes' College Journey Doesn't End When They Reach the Mecca

From STUDENTS, A4

to help students' transition from athletics to academics. For instance, laptops are made available for students to check out when they travel so that they can keep up with assignments more effectively. Norrell-Thomas also said that many of the teams conduct study hall while traveling and with some teams, an academic advisor or tutor travels with the team to assist on a personal basis. She added that professors should try and be understanding of the student's situation.

"It's important that professors understand that the student represents Howard University when he or she travels to participate in competition."

Although the athletic department reaches out and helps in many ways, the regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) control the department and students have many mandated academic requirements to meet. Norrell-Thomas as well as many players attributed much of the program's success thus far,

to academic advisor, Sharon Fletcher. "Ms. Fletcher is a big help. She conducts a study skills course and I go to her for advice," she said.

Fletcher explained that she advises all of the student athletes to notify their instructors that they are athletes at the beginning of the semester. She also recommends that the students give their professors a copy of the schedule so that the two can sit down, discuss any conflicts and develop a resolution efficiently.

"Most professors comply and do what they can to aid the student," said Fletcher. She stresses that the students must attend class regularly.

So, the next time you're griping about having to write that paper you waited until the last minute to start, or having to sit down and study for that mid-term that you know is going to be crucial, imagine having to do all of those things after having ran, jumped and competed for three hours. It's probably not that bad.

Chasing a Bear: Two Coaches Looking for Number 323

By JOE ARNOLD
The Post (Ohio U.)

(U-WIRE) ATHENS, Ohio — Some records are just meant to be broken. In college football, the standard for coaching excellence remains as Paul "Bear" Bryant's 323 victories. But this season, two coaches are sharpening their pencils, ready to rewrite the record books.

Penn State's Joe Paterno leads all active Division I coaches with 322 wins, one shy of Bryant's mark. Since arriving at Happy Valley in 1950, Paterno has spent 16 years as an assistant and 33 years coaching the Nittany Lions. He won national championships in 1982 and 1986 and has coached five undefeated teams during his tenure in Happy Valley.

In a teleconference, Paterno said he knows there is pressure on him to break the record, but his focus is still on win-

ning games for his team.

"The team gave a good effort against Iowa, and I know everyone's squirming around and concerned (about the record)," he said. "But from my end, I know we have to try to work hard and get better. Whether we're good enough to handle Michigan we'll have to see."

But Penn State's tough schedule, coupled with its 0-3 start, may be Paterno's most difficult hurdle to Bryant's record. If Paterno cannot catch Bryant, Florida State coach Bobby Bowden and his 318 career wins might.

Bowden, another of college football's patriarchs, is in his 26th season at Florida State. While Bowden and Paterno race to the magic 322-win mark, St. John's coach John Gagliardi has been there. Gagliardi is in pursuit of Eddie Robinson's all-time career mark of 408 wins. Gagliardi has 379 victories since assuming his first coaching position.

Bison Thrashed By Tigers

From FOOTBALL, A4

not a team that can convert on 3rd and 15's and we were in a lot of those situations," said Wilson.

Despite the Bison's effort to turn the offensive game around, the Tigers continued to dominate for the rest of the game, scoring 3 more touchdowns and 1 field goal, making the final score 45-0.

Due to the pressure by the Tigers' defensive line, Clark was held to only 3-16 for 43 yards in passing and sacked 4 times.

"They came in with a very good game plan, to put a lot of pressure on our line. Certainly, we succumbed to that pressure," said Wilson.

Coming into the game, senior wide receiver Jevonte Philpot led the MEAC in touchdowns with 7, scoring in all of Howard's previous

games. However, he was held to only 1 catch for 14 yards.

"They weren't giving Donald Clark time to throw the ball and I was double teamed, which basically took me out of the offense," said Philpot.

Junior wide receiver Kevin Simmonds was also held to just 2 passes for 32 yards.

Defensively for the Bison, senior free safety Keith Webber recorded 7 solo tackles, 3 assists, and a fumble recovery, while junior All-American linebacker Tracy White had 4 solo tackles, 4 assists, and a forced fumble. Sophomore defensive back Rontarius Robinson also performed well making 6 solo tackles and 1 assist.

Webber's performance won him the Circle City Classic 2001 Defensive Player of the game.

For the Tigers, Harris received the award for

Offensive Player of the game, completing 15-31 passes for 280 yards and 4 touchdowns.

"He's a seasoned quarterback—very accurate, athletic, and has tremendous poise. You put all that together with great wide receivers and you've got a great team," said Wilson.

Sophomore wide receiver CJ Johnson led the Tigers' offense in receiving yards with 146 on 5 catches.

"We've got running backs, tight ends, and wide receivers catching touchdowns; we're really coming together. Once we establish our offense in the 1st half to go with the way we perform in the 2nd half, I feel we'll be unstoppable," said Johnson.

The next game for the Bison will be Homecoming against Benedict College this Saturday in Greene Stadium at 12:00.

Virginia Tech Set to Battle West Virginia in Similar Situation

By M.W. ROBINSON
The Collegiate Times (Virginia Tech)

(U-WIRE) BLACKSBURG, Va. — Two years ago, the Virginia Tech football team was in the thick of a national championship race when it went into Morgantown, W.Va. The Hokies (4-0, 1-0 Big East) barely escaped with a victory that time, winning 22-20 on a last second field goal.

Saturday, Tech will again travel to West Virginia, and again has hopes of a national championship at the end of the season.

Facing the Mountaineers (2-2, 0-1) at home is no easy task. Their crowd is considered to be one of the most hostile in college football.

"I like fans that get on you when you come into the stadium, that means you are somebody," said head coach Frank Beamer. "If they don't scream at you then you aren't doing much."

Tech's players also refuse to be rattled by the chatter.

"You got to be on your game," said cornerback Ronyell Whitaker. "You can't listen to what the crowd is saying to you. You just have to go in there and have your mind focused on what's at hand."

The last time WVU beat the Hokies was in 1997 at Mountaineer Field.

The raucous environment is just one of the factors the Tech defense must face against this season. While the Hokies are currently the No. 1 ranked defense in the nation, allowing just six points and 175.5 yards per game, they have a new challenge to combat this week.

Two of Tech's starting three linebackers have been hampered by injuries. Senior Jake Houseright has been diagnosed with torn cartilage in his left knee. He is expected to play, however, if he can deal with the pain.

Senior Brian Welch will get the start in Houseright's place, it will be his second career start.

Another starter, sophomore Deon Provitt, was lost for the season due to a torn ACL in the game versus Central Florida last weekend.

"It's going to be tough," Whitaker said. "It's going to be a dogfight. Everyone has to play a little harder now, a little tougher than last week."

A defender who is healthy and will be on the field for the Hokies is senior Kevin McCadam, who returned an interception in the UCF game 69 yards for a touchdown. McCadam also contributed four tackles and was named Big East Co-Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts.

Tech will be hard pressed to stop the Mountaineers' rushing game. Junior tailback Avon

Cobourne has amassed 544 yards and four touchdowns this season and has gone over 100 yards in each of his last three games.

Leading the aerial assault will be senior Brad Lewis. Lewis has thrown for 882 yards and three touchdowns this season. He has also launched six interceptions, including four last week against Maryland.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Hokies can only hope for another performance like last year from flanker Andre Davis. Last year when Tech faced off against WVU in Lane Stadium, Davis scored three touchdowns, each a different way. He scored once on a reception, once on a reverse, and once on a punt return to lead the Hokies from a 14-7 halftime deficit to a 48-20 win.

All three touchdowns came in a span of 6:06 in the third quarter.

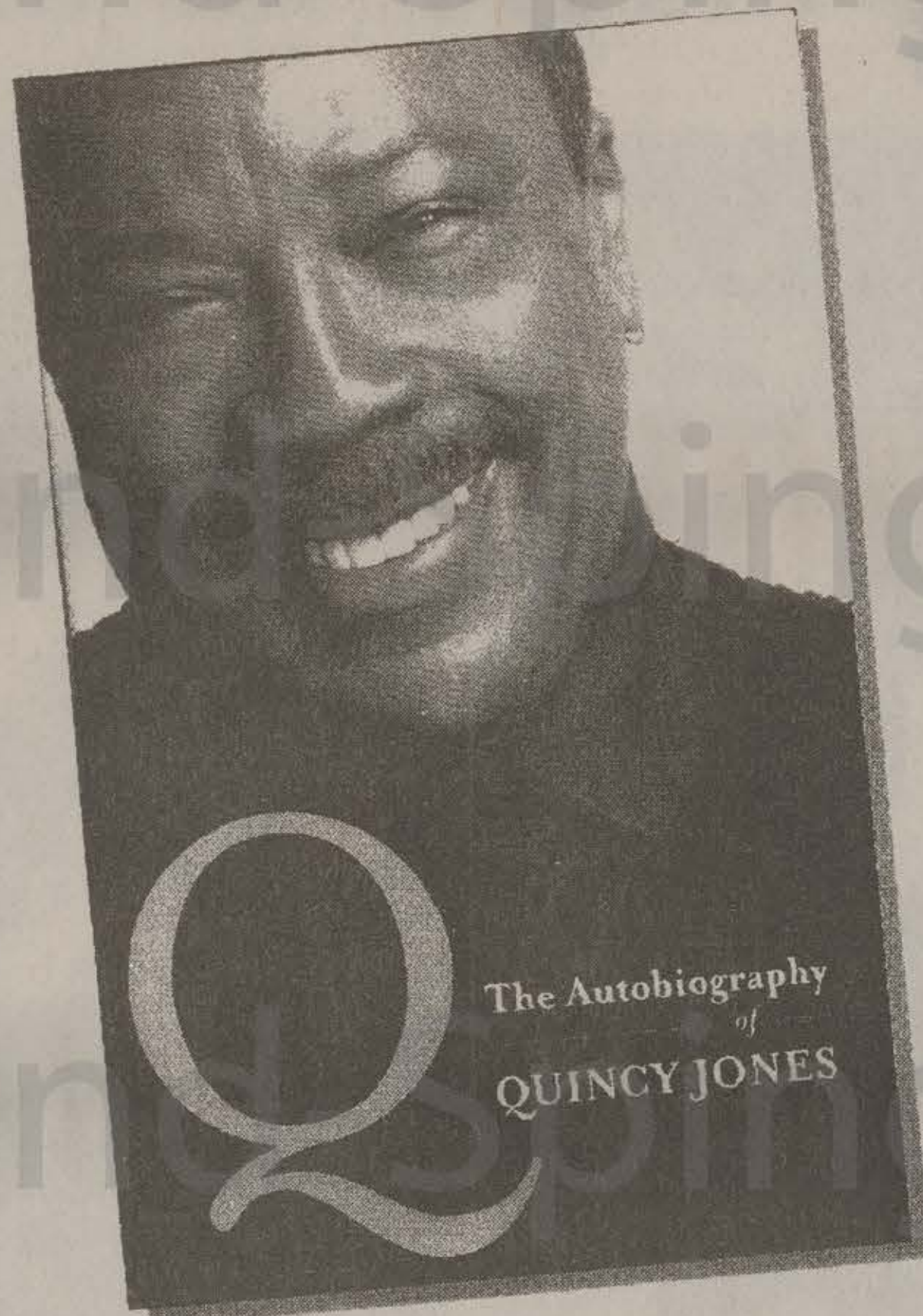
The game will be a homecoming for Grant Noel, Tech's junior quarterback who hails from Ridgeley, West Virginia.

His hometown is approximately 60 miles from Morgantown.

Noel has 745 yards, eight touchdowns and has not thrown an interception in his first four games as a starter.



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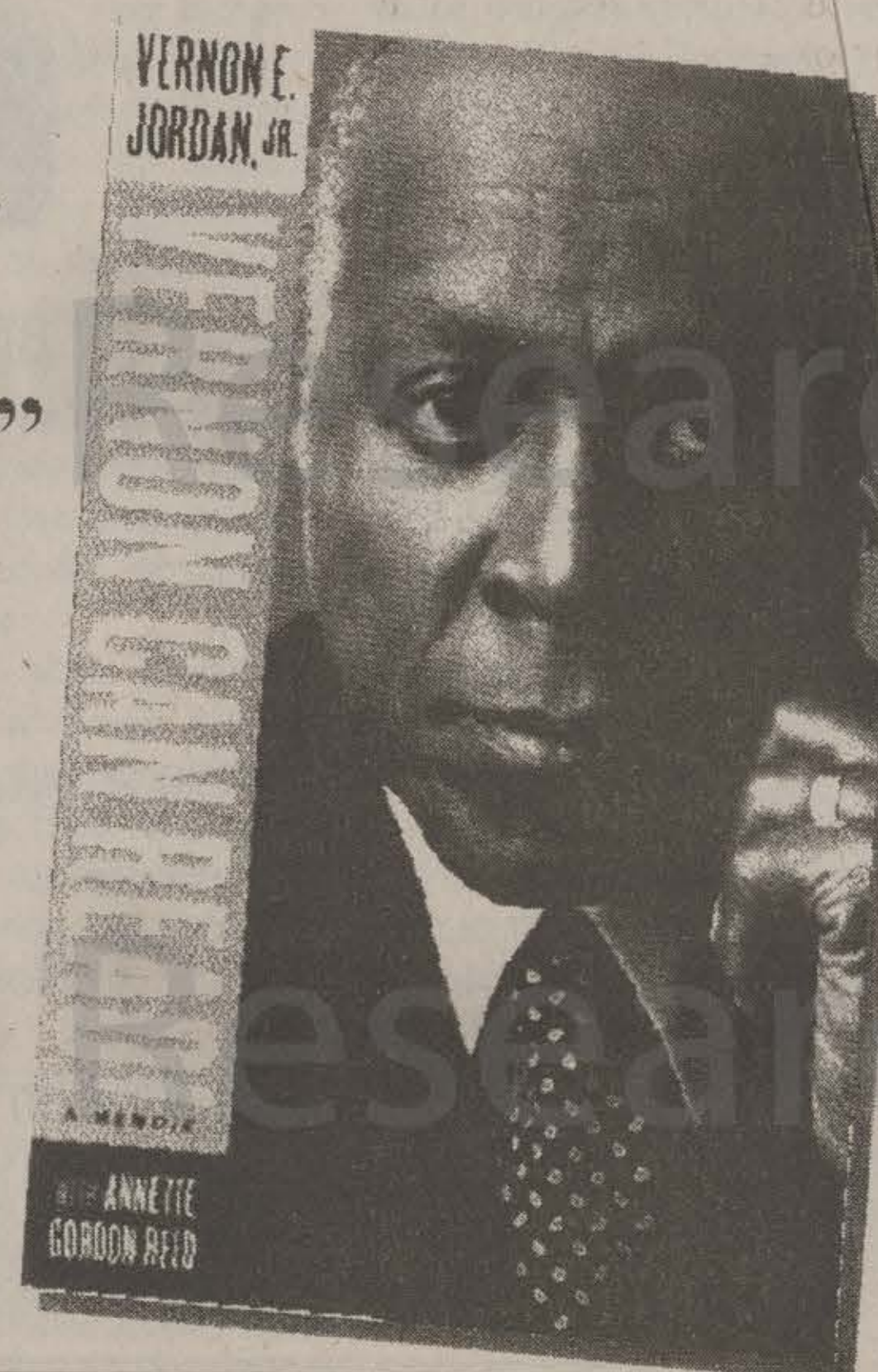
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Vernon Jordan, Jr.

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Life With AIDS Takes Center Stage

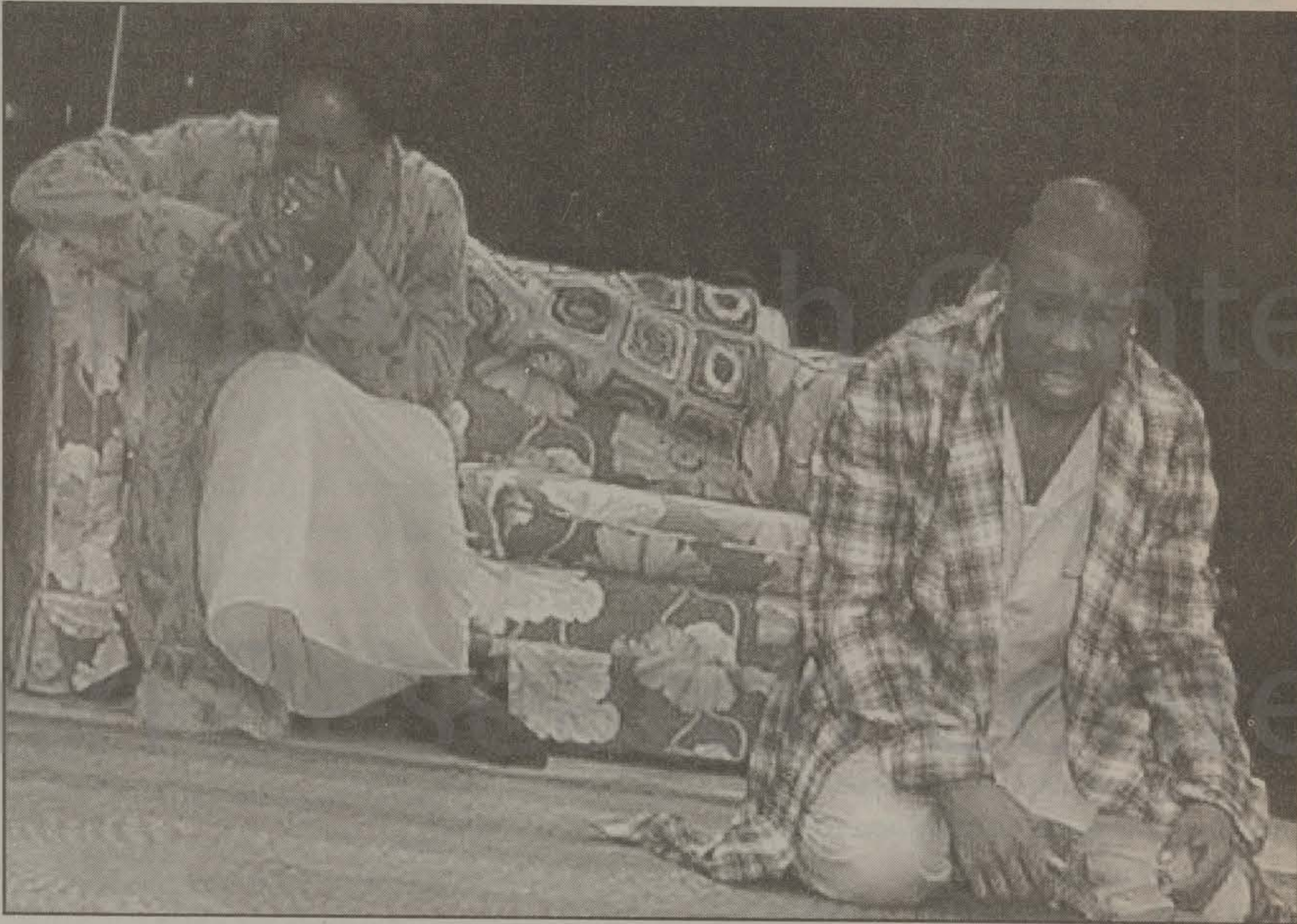
By ALYSHA COBB
Contributing Writer

During a time when mentioning AIDS was taboo, playwright Cheryl West tackled the subject head-on in her play *Before It Hits Home*. Howard University's Theatre of Arts division of the Fine Arts Department presented a production of the play directed by professor Mark Jolin, which ran from September 25-29 and October

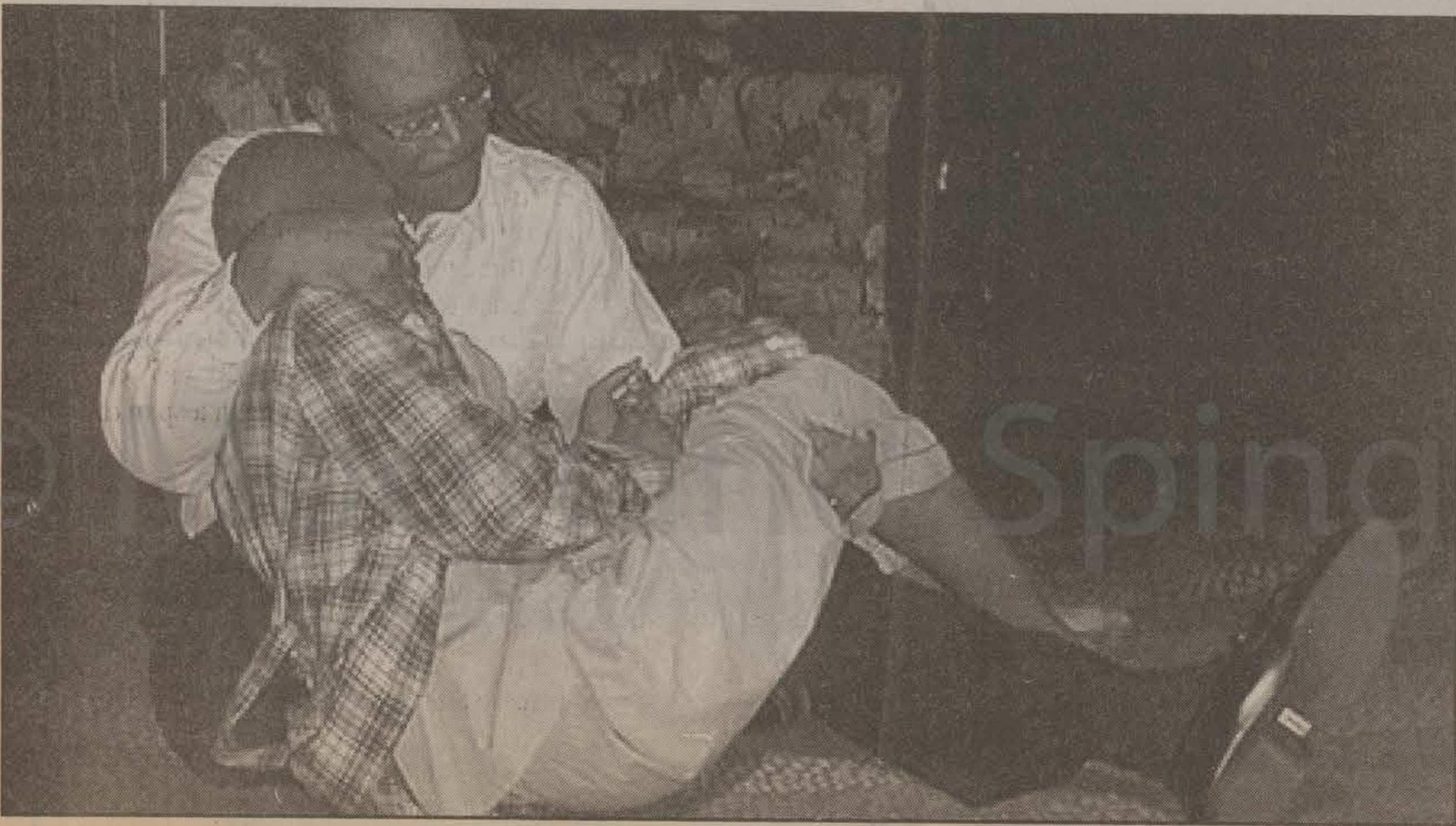
2-6. Jolin's production of *Before It Hits Home* completely embraced the devastating effects of the AIDS virus on an African American family. Each character made the audience sympathize with their position, ultimately contributing to the success of the play. *Before It Hits Home* gives a passionate, unflinching look at, not only the effect of AIDS on the African American family, but homosexuality

as well. It also gave a brief glimpse at its effect on the community, with the inclusion of extended family in the play (in this case the character of Auntie Maybelle - Kibibi T. Dillon). Wendal Bailey (Steven A. Claiborne), a sexy jazz musician, is infected with the AIDS virus and decides to return home to regain his strength and find comfort in the family he loves. Instead, he is greeted by bigotry and fear.

The ability of each character to play



Wendal (Steven A. Claiborne) and his mother, Reba (Denise J. Hart) go through the motions in West's *Before It Hits Home*.



Bailey (Charles A. Coward) embraces his son Wendal (Steven A. Claiborne) in the Department of Theatre Arts production of *Before It Hits Home* directed by professor Mark Jolin.

their role so convincingly, was almost spine tingling. This, coupled with the intimate space of the Experimental Space Theater forced the audience onto an emotional roller coaster ride – you are not sure if you should be angry about Aunt Maybelle's ignorance, or at Wendal for putting himself in this predicament. This play forces you to step back and reevaluate yourself, as Reba (Denise J. Hart), Wendal's mother did in the play. The juxtaposition and the irony of the situation also assists in the play's success. After his fourth visit to the clinic, Wendal knows he has to inform his partners, Simone (Jovan Hicks), his girlfriend, and his married lover, Douglass (Ronald Hysten). The playwright includes all three characters on the set for a two-sided conversation.

The overlapping of the lines and general rhythm of the play create a scene so intimate and revealing, you feel like you are invading the privacy of all three characters. This technique is also used when Wendal and his father are reminiscing about a train ride from his youth. It makes you want to jump on the stage and make Wendal's father, Bailey (Charles A. Coward) understand how much Wendal appreciated their time together. The irony in this work added a needed angle to its performance. When Wendal confessed to his family the stereotypical roles of a black mother and father were reversed. You cannot help but to cry when Reba, a seemingly strong black

woman, rejects, denies and disowns her own flesh and blood. The father who never "thought [Wendal] would ever amount to nothing" is forced to step up and embrace his son when the world has turned its back to him. The actors and actress were so convincing in this scene that your heart broke for the mother, your eyes welled with tears for Wendal, and your soul smiled at the courage of the father. I would recommend any family who has had to deal with heartache to see this play. Whether you have had to deal with AIDS, or homosexuality is irrelevant. The Bailey family will force you to take a step back and reevaluate the value of a real family.

Sex and the Chocolate City

'Where are Your glasses?'

By TIFFANY D. JACKSON

I hate to disagree with about half of the female population on campus, but I have to declare this: there are some really good men here at Howard University. I know it's hard to get past the ones that have hurt you, the ones who still hurt you, and the ones you think are going to hurt you, but it's true. Many women have come to the conclusion that there are no good black men on campus, so they've given up their search. But let me ask you something- where are your glasses, cause I see one right next to you! Personally, I don't define a man by what he wears, what he drives, or how much money he's got on the side. But many women do look for the rims that still spin when the car stops moving. Have you stopped to notice, however, that man is not looking for you. If you want a thug in your life, you won't find one here at Howard (how ya goin' be a thug and be in my Calculus class? Pleezzzz). What makes you think you're so special that he's going to make you exclusive when you and another 100 girls want him too. He knows his options and you pretend not to notice your competition. While you spend hours on your hair and makeup just to walk by the spot your sought after thug usually chills at, the perfect man for you is sitting

next to you in Chemistry; opening the door for you in the A. Building, and listening to you complain about your insensitive boyfriend. You want the definition of a good black man? It's what's right in front of you, staring you in the face. It's the one you'll never see till it's too late. See, I was once sitting on a bench by myself outside Douglass Hall, hysterically crying. Right next to me was a group of "super thugs" who watched me cry but never spoke a word. Then, out of the blue, some guy with roughdry clothes and scrubby Timberlands approached me, offering me a tissue, convincing me that everything was going to be ok. I don't know who he was, but if I see him again I'll take the opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for showing me that there are good men out there in the world and that I just need to keep an open mind about it; that there are some men out there who actually do care and don't want me just for the pleasure of sex. My advice: DO YOU and the world will come to you. The perfect man is out there waiting for you to get some sense! And fellas, don't give up hope. Keep opening those doors. We'll come around, eventually. But hey, don't listen to me, I just live life and write about it.

Tiffany Jackson can be reached at Honeyasweet82@hotmail.com.

Tech N9ne Tackles Tough Issues on Latest Release

By VICTOR BLACKWELL
Contributing Writer

Grade: B

Satan was born in Kansas City. Well, that's what I thought when I first listened to Missouri-born, Tech N9ne's latest release, *Anghellic* (anj-Hel-ik). The self-acclaimed "in your face" rapper has had a substantial underground following for some time now, but has yet to get the mainstream attention that he thinks he deserves. This 22-track CD tells the story of a man who I initially thought was very disturbed. With tracks titled "Suicide Letter" and "Purgatory," what else is one to think? The CD has a demonic vibe that is so strong, I had to play some Yolanda Adams after I got through it the first time. But after the second, third, fourth and fifth time, I got a completely different message. Tech N9ne is the Jill Scott-Heron of Rap. Many of the tracks speak of the struggles

that he has endured or are currently going through. The first time I listened to track seven, "Real Killer", I was appalled! The lyrics describe the abortion of five of his babies. But after doing a little research, I learned that the song's dark imagery is an anti-abortion initiative. The entire CD views common issues from very creative angles. From infidelity to religion, fatherhood to manhood, Tech N9ne talks his way through life on *Anghellic*. And after I got past the hard edge, I was glad to listen. The CD has more of a West Coast sound than anything else. If you can get past the image, it is worth listening to. I wouldn't buy it because I can't take that much, "in your face" emotion on the regular. I think that's why Tech hasn't caught on as a mainstream artist. He isn't into the "bling, bling," and until people stop rapping about how well they rap or which car they've leased, he won't be one of the hot eight at eight. Tech N9ne's *Anghellic* receives a B.



Fiction

For All the Right Reasons

By Aurellia Anderson

All I could take was one more insult, one more, "Stupid bitch!" "Loser!" "Whore!" All I wanted to feel was one more punch. One more cut. The last one meant the last time I had to deal with the pain. I hid it well from my family and friends, so I think. I tried to hide it from myself when the blood was too thick to swallow. However, I could not hide it from God. I ran to Him every morning after and told

Him all about it (as if He did not already see what was happening). I asked Him questions like, "How could he let my husband do this to me? What had I done to deserve this?" I even asked, "Did I have to stay?" It seems like I heard nothing, but now as I sit in my girlfriend's kitchen, I realize that He did hear my cry. He tried to tell me through the last hospital visit when the doctors pronounced me dead. He tried to tell me through the agonizing

fear in my chest. He more than anything tried to tell me when my four-year old baby boy came up to me one evening, spit in my face and screamed, "You're not my mother. You're just a stupid HOE!" God, you gave me so many warnings, but as a Christian woman, I felt I had to stay. How could I twist God's Holy words around? Clearly it states that a husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church. He didn't. The Bible says that there is no fear in perfect love. I feared

him everyday. Lord, as I sit here with my life shattered right before my eyes, I don't know what to do. I have no money of my own, no well-respected job, and a little boy who doesn't even respect me. I am here alone. All I ask is that you please hold my hand.

This is the second installment in an occasional series of fiction.

The Hilltop

...Its In Here

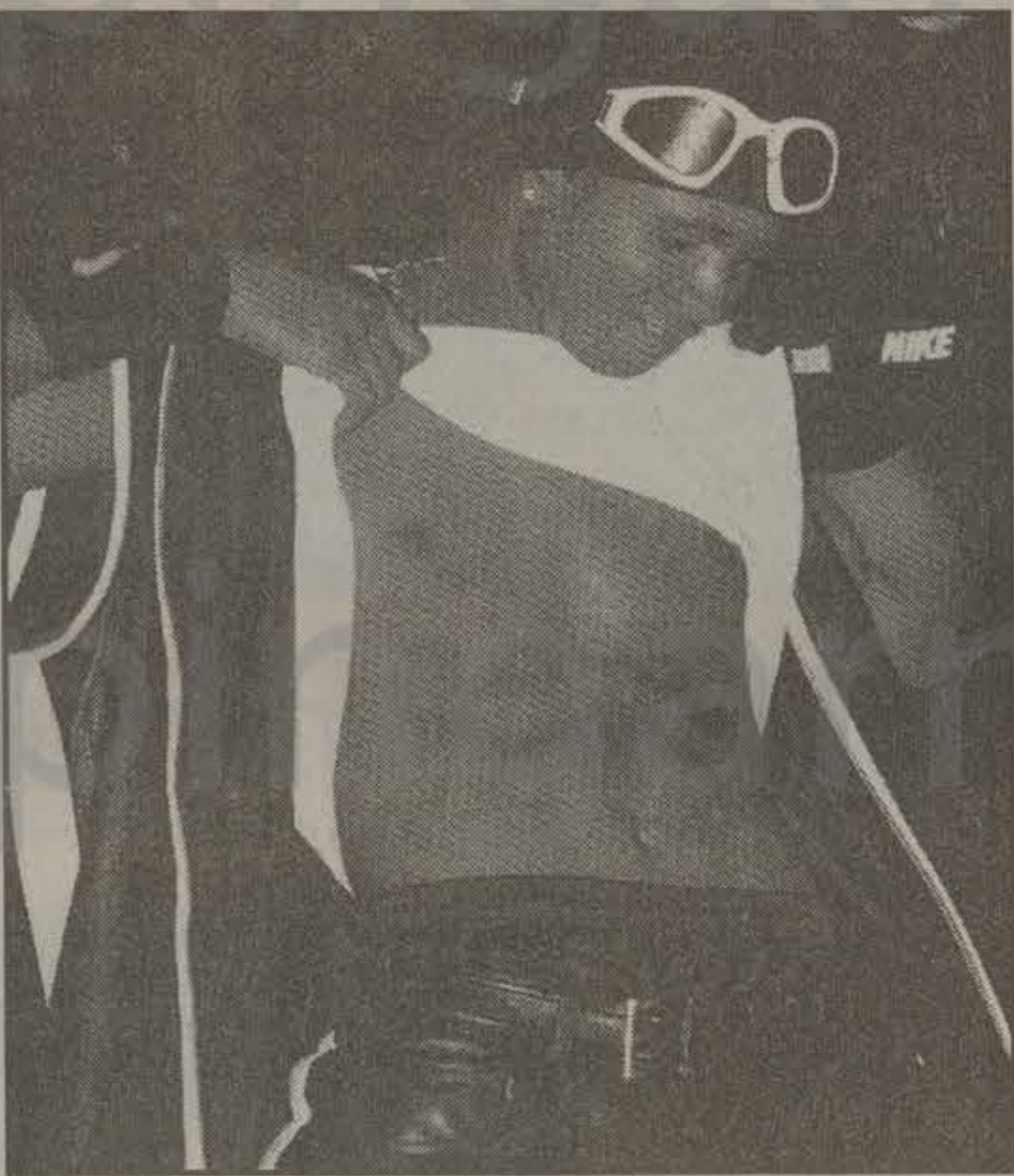
Have a Safe 2001 Homecoming

Horoscopes

Monthly Feature:
Libra (Sept.23- Oct.22)

Right now, you are thinking of love and relationships. However, you are not currently satisfied with your mate. There is someone else who has been occupying your thoughts lately. For all you single Libras, love is in the air real

soon. On Saturday, wear an outfit that will have all heads turning. Libras are best known for their keen sense of fashion.
Famous Libras:
Will Smith (9/25/68)
Usher (10/14/78)



Usher: He's a Libra

The Weekly Horoscope

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.21)
This week you are feeling very hyped. Your charisma will draw the attention that you love. Your lucky colors for this week are burgundy and black. These colors make you stand out and add to the aura of your mysterious and sexual personality.

Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21)
You're feeling very spiritual this week. You are also being watched. You have many projects and responsibilities this week. People are looking at your work. Go on with your bad self. All eyes are on you right now.

Capricorn (Nov.22-Jan.19)
This week promises fun and lots of social activity. You want people to know that you are not only about work. You want people to see the outgoing and fun side of you. You have been thinking of love lately. When the time is right, your dream person will come into play.

Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18)
You've been thinking about everything a lot lately. Although you are an optimistic person, things haven't been going the way you hoped they would. For some reason, you are not too thrilled right now. Everything is like, "whatever" to you. You've decided that

you will just go with the flow.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)
You have a crush on someone but you are too shy to let the person know. Stop stalking that person and just let it be known! You've also been slacking off with schoolwork. You are in lazy mode right now. Watch out or those grades will slip.

Aries (Mar.21- Apr.19)
In the beginning of the week, you have many responsibilities. There are certain expectations that you have to fulfill and you feel pressured. By mid-week, you will reach your goal and feel more relaxed. Your hard work and effort would have paid off. The end of the week is a good time to chill with close friends.

Taurus (Apr.20- May 20)
You are a social butterfly this week. You will have many phone calls and offers for dates. Be careful- you are leading someone on. You don't know it but your flirtatious gestures are being taken seriously.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
Your flirtatious nature has people noticing you more now. There is someone that likes you but doesn't want to tell you. This week calls for you to spend time with Capricorns and Scorpios.

You are all very social this week.

Cancer (July 21- July22)
You have a lot of work that's due and you didn't start on it yet. You have been so pre-occupied with other activities and engagements. Be careful of what you say to others- your tactful manner will hurt someone's feelings this week.

Leo (July 23- Aug. 22)
For all you Leo guys out there, you are feeling like a King right now. This week has many females flocking to you like pigeons to a piece of bread. You definitely do not mind; you embrace the attention. As for the female Leos, you have an ex-boyfriend thinking about you. You know this, but you enjoy playing mind games with him. Be careful because what goes around comes around.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You have a high sex drive this week. Maybe you should hook up with the Scorpio who you've been checking out. You end up doing something that you never thought you would.

The horoscope was written by Leesa Davis. She can be reached at thehilltop@hotmail.com.

Poetry Corner

The True Woman

Right now I need a love
like no other.
A smooth sexy lady, a sweet deep lover,
Not just a woman that's good undercover.
A deep set mind,
cool, collected kiss...
A sweet embrace,
to send me into bliss
Yet along with this, she must keep up with the
times.

Seductive in her fashions, easy on the eyes.
Yet, despite the temptation, Loyalty is key.
I don't need a woman that's out to play me.

A deep understanding, a kind open will
The ability to plan and not come and spill.
To keep on going, helping through hard times.
To take you to the dance floor, and help create a rhyme
To be an inspiration for all people to see.
A kind-hearted woman...
That's what I need for me..... Truth.

— Gregory A. Gwaltney


A Call For Submissions:

***'I'm A Poet,
But Nobody Knows It'***

If You've Got Poems, Stories and Essays
Let Somebody Read 'em. Send Submissions to Monica at
thehilltop@hotmail.com

**Have a Safe
Homecoming**

From The Hilltop Staff
and Class of 2002



OCTOBER 2001

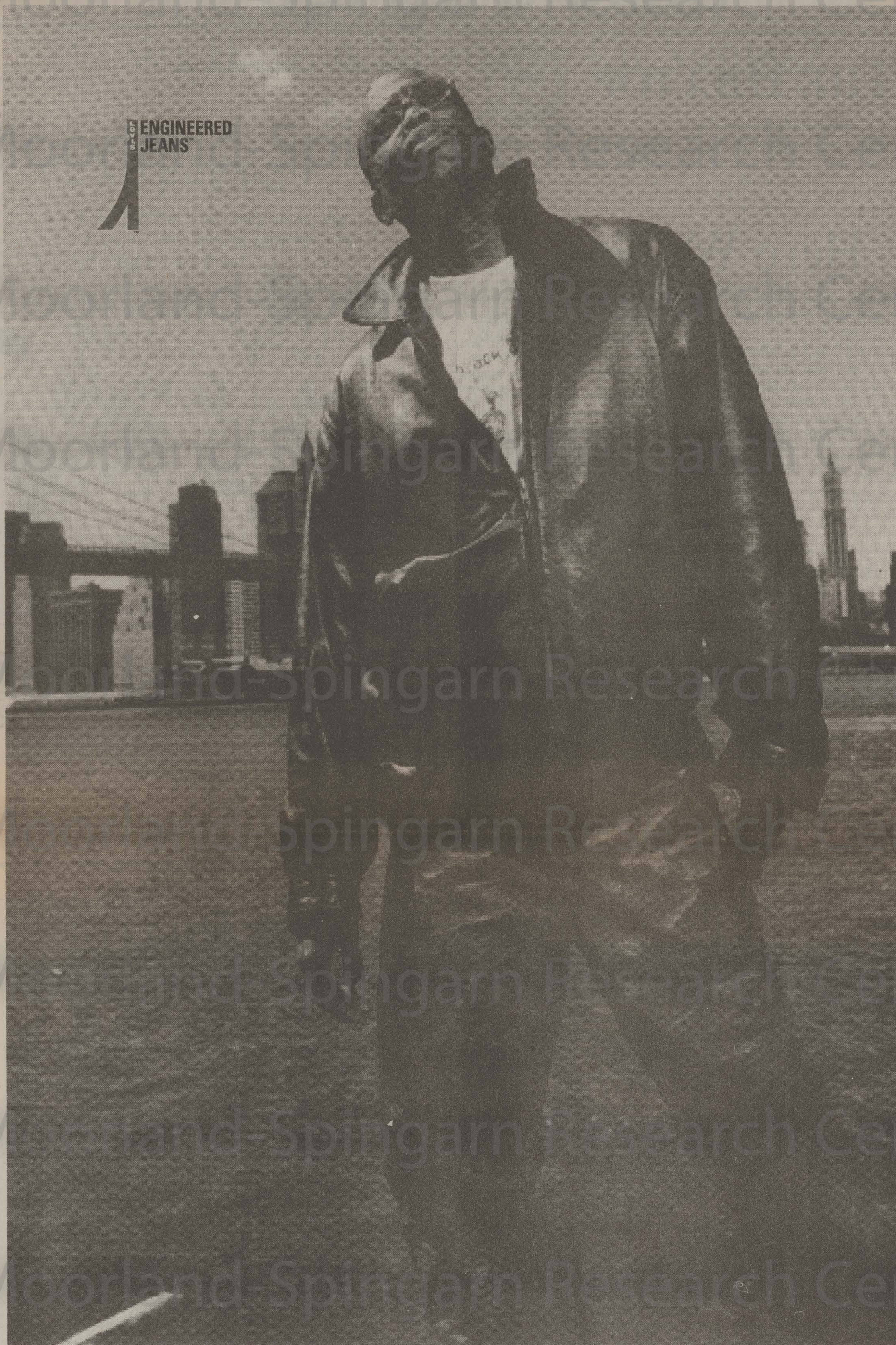
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The HUB of the African-American Cultural Experience

Homecoming Book Signings

9 th	3:00-5:00	Marlon Green “ <i>Making Love In The Rain</i> ”
10 th	2:00-4:00	Debrah Harris-Johnson “ <i>The African-American Teenager’s Guide to Personal Growth, Health, Safety, Sex, & Survival: Living and Learning in the 21st Century</i> ”
10 th	3:00-5:00	Barry Fletcher “ <i>Why Are Black Women Losing Their Hair?</i> ”
10 th	4:00-6:00	Alfred Fornay “ <i>The African-American Woman’s Guide</i> ”
11 th	3:00-5:00	Van Whitfield “ <i>Guys in Suits</i> ”
11 th	5:00-7:00	Stephanie Stokes Oliver “ <i>Seven Soulful Secrets: For Finding Your Purpose and Minding Your Missions</i> ”
12 th	12:00-2:00	Audrey B. Chapman hosted by Tricina Gray WHUR 96.3 “ <i>Seven Attitude Adjustments For Finding A Loving Man</i> ”
12 th	2:00-4:00	Omar Tyree “ <i>Just Say No</i> ”
12 th	4:00-6:00	Christopher Chambers “ <i>Sympathy For The Devil</i> ”
13 th	2:30-4:00	Kwame Alexander “ <i>Kapenda : Love Poems</i> ” and “ <i>Do The Write Thing: 7 Steps to Publishing Success</i> ”
13 th	2:30-4:00	Kirk Nugent “ <i>The Unpopular Truth</i> ”
13 th	3:00-5:00	Ras Ben Anu Israel “ <i>Rocks of Ages</i> ” & Imani’s Creations (Jewelry)
13 th	4:00-6:00	Eduardo Jackson “ <i>Ever After</i> ”
13 th	4:00-6:00	C. Kelly Robinson “ <i>Between Brothers</i> ”

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EDITORIALS



THE HILLTOP

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JAMYE SPILLER, *Managing Editor*

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Here We Go

Sunday morning, the United States and Great Britain pounded the country of Afghanistan. This air attack may have demobilized the Taliban, but the regime and Osama bin Laden still live. But is war still the answer? Osama bin Laden released a pre-recorded videotaped statement to the press stating that the event on September 11th in the U.S. “was hit by God in one of its softest spots.” Though the U.S. bombed five cities in Afghanistan and mainly the training camps of bin Laden, Afghan press reported that there was no major damage and reported no casualties.

Is the U.S. impact truly felt in Afghanistan? If this war is against the Taliban regime and terrorists especially bin Laden, is this war really valid? If the thought of government and defense officials is to take out bin Laden then war is going to be won, they are truly mistaken. Bin Laden has had a regime for years that stands mainly on its own in its actions. His network is also global, evident with this week’s past arrests in Spain, and other foreign territories. His global terrorism network will not be shut down just because he is caught or killed. Killing bin Laden is only going to make the situation worse.

Another question that comes into consideration when looking at this whole U.S. conflict: How do we know bin Laden is 100 percent responsible? His name has been used loosely since the attack, but what proof do we as Americans have that he actually did it. Great Britain’s prime minister addressed his

nation and told them the facts and the proof of why bin Laden was the figure responsible. Britain was not directly affected by the attack and their citizens are informed. Why on the other hand have Americans been left in the dark? The American government has proved their “Enemy of the State” power with pictures of the terrorists at Wal-Mart, and

ATM pictures of the hijackers, but they have failed to provide US citizens with resourceful information on why bin Laden is responsible. Americans needs concrete proof. The American government had reported terrorist threats

from bin Laden’s terrorist before the September 11th assault and went uninvestigated.

Given America’s actions on Sunday, isn’t it contradictory that this week we will drop off food to the country that we just bombed? The U.S. is wrong for being inconsistent in their actions.

The United States may continue to be the superpower on the global scene, but if we continue to have this attitude others will only seek to dismantle us. It is time for our government to be more open with U.S. citizens so that we know what we are getting ourselves into. No one wants to fight without a valid cause. Though more than 6,000 lives lost is a big price to validate, if we go about it wrong not only innocent lives, but also our own country’s doctrine will be lost. It is America’s obligation to notify its citizens on what is really going on. That is what Americans truly deserve.

Please Be Safe

It is Homecoming time again and Howard students, faculty, staff and administrators should know that there will be thousands of people flocking to the campus this week.

While it is important to have fun and get the most from this experience, the responsibility that comes with having fun is doing it safely.

To those of you who will be drinking this week, please do your best to do it in moderation. If not, please take a cab home or have a designated driver. To those of you who may test crazy social waters and try new things, if anything you decide to do involves sex, be safe.

Robberies tend to increase near and around campus during Homecoming. It is best to use public transportation when not using your personal vehicles or those that belong to friends.

Here is a list of safety tips for Homecoming.

Always walk in well-lit areas.

Do not accept rides from people you do not know.

Travel in large groups, especially if traveling by foot. Do not walk alone.

Always be responsible for the guests that you check into your dorms.

If you are drinking at the club, do not leave your cup unattended.

These are some precautions people should take to have the safest Homecoming possible. This is a time for people on campus to enjoy the festivities. This is a time for alumni to come back and enjoy themselves. This is a celebration.

Our View:

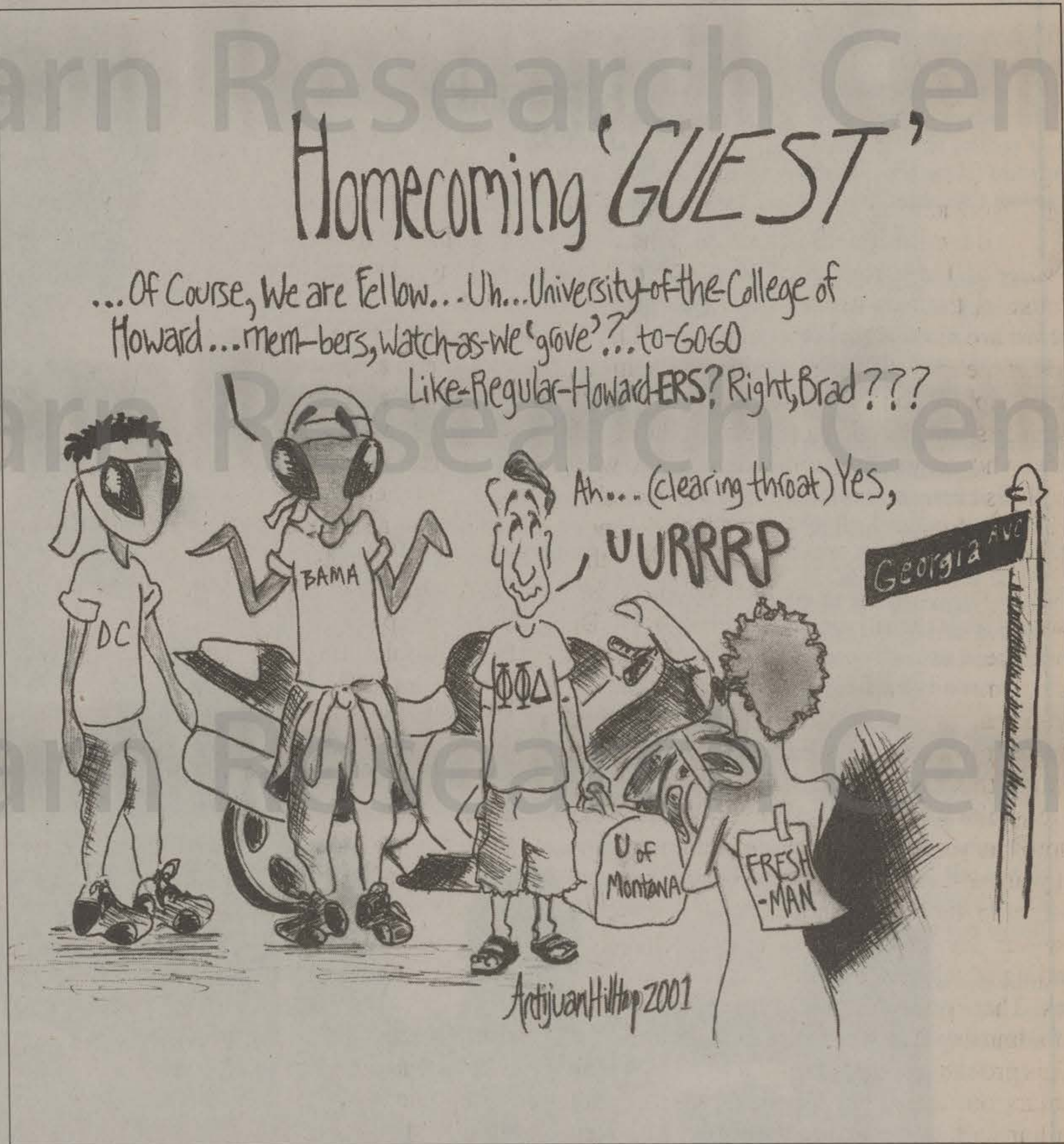
The U.S. Government Needs to Lay Out Its Case Against

Osama bin Laden to the American People.

Our View:

Have fun during Homecoming but protect yourself and be safe

Illustration By Antijuan Jackson



What’s Your Opinion?

We encourage our readers to write letters to the Editor. Tell us what you think about the paper and its contents. We strive to produce a quality weekly with news pages that are devoid of slant or personal bias. Please address all letters or comments to The Hilltop, 2251 Sherman Ave., NW, Washington DC, 20001. You can also e-mail us at thehilltop@hotmail.com

The Hilltop. Be Heard.

THE HILLTOP

THE NATIONS LARGEST HBCU NEWSPAPER

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Now in its 77th year, The Hilltop is written and produced every Tuesday and Friday by the students of Howard University. With a readership of more than 10,000 students and community members, the Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not directly reflect the opinion of Howard University, its Administration, individual Hilltop Policy Board members, or the student body. The opinions expressed on the Perspectives page are those of the writers and do not represent the view of the Editorial Board.

The Hilltop encourages you to share your opinions on articles published in the newspaper. The Hilltop Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors. All letters should be typed, signed and include a complete address and telephone number. Please send letters to: 2251 Sherman Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Questions, comments and letters can also be sent via email to: thehilltop@hotmail.com.

The deadline to submit ads to the paper is the Friday preceding publication. The advertising department can be reached at (202) 806-4749. The editor can be reached at (202) 806-4748.

PERSPECTIVES

Do We Have A Misplace Of Values?

Michael Bakeley

Considering the trials and tribulations our collective Black people (inclusive of the entire Diaspora) have been through in this country, it is most unfortunate that we are here in the 21st century, and many of us somehow still find ourselves placing so much emphasis on the consumption of material trinkets that we do not even produce. For those who may need some clarity on what exactly is material trinkets, they are inclusive of all of the name brand or shall I say the most recognizable clothing, cars, and jewelry that many of us are consciously or unconsciously yearning for without even acknowledging it. Do you agree that it's a problem when you rather work numerous part-time jobs during the academic year as compared to devoting the same energies towards your studies? I will not even mention that of credit cards.

I am quite sure that of many of you "Howard Bison," may even feel that it is your right, and that you can wear whatever you want. This may be true to the fullest meaning of the word. However, we should at least have an understanding of why we exhibit such behavior patterns. The first step in rectifying a problem is first admitting that we have a problem.

This probably sounds familiar to many of the scholars out there, but for those who are not familiar with this process, this is the first step in solving a problem in all aspects of life. It does not matter what you are majoring in, what you are teaching, researching, or even your socioe-

conomic background. Now that we are all on the same sheet of music, lets began to examine what is taking place amongst our collective Black people.

According to the World Bank, African-Americans spend an estimated 40 Billion dollars per year on apparel. Many may even dispute this amount, however, many will agree that we spend greater amounts proportionally as compared to other groups in this country. This is inclusive of anything that we purchase that can be worn on your body.

The interesting thing about that amount of money we spend on apparel is we, as collective black people, do not own the comparable amounts in land. Better yet, as one Black Farmer on the Joe Madison show even stated "We do not own enough land to even feed all of the Black people in the United States." Has any one even thought about that?

At present, you can find so many of our Black people (young and old respectively), here in the United States of America allowing themselves to have been mentally maneuvered to subconsciously placing more value on their clothes, as compared to themselves or even their respective brothers or sisters.

I know many of you really disagree with that last statement, but there is a great amount of validity to that statement. For those of you that may disagree, just merely look to your immediate left, right, front, or rear and you may even think some these same people are paid endorsers

of a particular product. If you ask many of these individuals if they owned a personal computer (desktop or notebook), many will say an outright no.

Many of the so-called Black leaders (local, state, federal) make the claim that we have a digital divide in our community because it is politically feasible. Yet, one of the main components needed to have a digital divide is the absence of a phone line, and according to the Department of Commerce, 95 percent of Blacks have a phone line. Therefore, shouldn't we call it what it really is, "A misplace of Values."

Case in point, if Johnny lives in an area in much need of economic development (aka the projects, set, or the hood to some), and has five pairs of shoes priced from \$90 and up (can anyone say Timberland, Lugz, Sean Jean, Karl Kani, Phat Farm, DKNY just to name a few), then his parent(s) will even claim they can not afford a computer.

We must come to the realization that marketing has become a fine tuned science, in which one studies the habits of the consumers and see exactly what they will fall for. In addition, when was the last time has anyone ever heard of the owners of Timberland boots, DKNY, Coogi, Guess, Iceberg, Coach, Macy's, Nordstrom ever donating substantial amounts of money to any Black cause? One of the most sad parts about this is that these same European owned companies use identifiable Black people (sports/entertainers) to showcase their prod-

ucts.

Even on that note, I am not prosecuting these individuals for participating in such behavior because they clearly do not know any better. Would expect for P.Diddy, Ludacris, Destiny's Child, or Lil' Kim to know anything about economic development? Really! As Karl Marx, states, they are the "Lumping Proletariat," For those that do not know what that means, ask you professor and hopefully they will know.

In close, before we as collective Black people begun to move forward in all aspects, we need to gain understanding that our value was given to us by our creator (Jesus, Buddha, Allah, etc). Meaning, we do not have to have someone else's name on our back in order to feel that we are somebody. In many cases, people, who overindulge in such practices, do this in effort to compensate for where they feel they are lacking, ranging from self-confidence, self-esteem, self-value, and self-assuredness. Once we realize our true value, this type of behavior will cease and many companies that have no real vested interest in us as collective people will go bankrupt.

Michael Bakeley is a doctoral student in the political science department from Detroit, Michigan. He can be reached at m_bakeley@hotmail.com.

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