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THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University



VOLUME 85, NO. 15

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2001

Campus Police Acknowledge Breakdown in Security

Motive for Homecoming Shooting Still Unclear

By BRAKKTON BOOKER
Campus Editor

Despite an increased police presence on campus during Homecoming weekend, there was a slight breakdown in security Saturday that enabled a "malicious" fatal shooting to occur in front of the Howard Towers, Campus Police Chief Reginald Smith said.

Smith said due to last weekend's festivities, and the large influx of people congregating in front of the dormitory, Campus Police loosely enforced the "no loitering" rule in the Howard Plaza Towers courtyard. It was the first insight into what campus police were doing before the fatal shooting of Tavers M. Tayzio, 22, last week.

The officer on patrol in front of the Towers, was summoned inside the building to call communications dispatch. The shooting occurred "moments later," Smith said.

"As soon as he stepped inside, that's when it happened," he said.

Tayzio was shot once in the chest and taken to Howard University Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 10:21 p.m.

Though no arrests were made, nor suspects

identified, Metropolitan Police officials are interviewing eyewitnesses in an attempt to piece together an account of what happened, MPD officials say. A motive for the shooting remains unclear.

"It is my understanding that D.C. Police have developed a number of leads they are aggressively pursuing," Smith said.

University officials still have not indicated whether Tayzio, a resident of the 2100 block of Dexter Avenue in Silver Spring, was a Howard student.

"Nothing, as of today (Wednesday), has been uncovered to suggest he has an affiliation with the school," Smith said.

For the protection of University students, Smith cautioned students to be more aware of their surroundings. He warned students to be careful of who they form bonds with because "outsiders seek to befriend students."

"Know your acquaintances before you invite them into your room," Smith warned.

The shooting, which cast a pall over the end of an otherwise successful 2001 Homecoming, left students feeling vulnerable on campus.

"There were no police officers out there," Ron Jones said about the night of the murder.

Jones, a junior marketing major, who admits he hasn't felt safe since he lived in Drew Hall, said the incident wouldn't have taken place if there were officers in front of the building.

Jones suggested having officers on patrol in designated areas so that students could have a safe route to navigate around campus.

Derek Kindle, a junior legal communications major, agrees with Jones.

Please See Security, A3



Photo by Edward Leneus
Chief of H. U. Police Reginald Smith

HUSA Set Sights on Instructor Evaluation Process

New Program Aimed at Reducing Course Selection Uncertainty

By MELANIE NESBITT AND
COREY CUNNINGHAM
Hilltop Staff Writers

The Howard University Student Assembly revealed details of a program aimed at easing the course selection process for students, during its monthly meeting Wednesday.

The Task Force for Fair Class Evaluation is designed to help students make educated decisions about courses and instructors based on student evaluations completed each semester.

The task force is responsible for outlining the web-based service, which would evaluate faculty performance in a variety of areas.

A pilot program is set to launch Nov. 6, in time for the Spring 2002 General Mandatory Registration. Students enrolling in classes within the School of Business will be able to log onto the HUSA website to view teacher evaluations. The business school was selected as the test site because of the availability of the evaluation forms.

HUSA has also drafted a letter to Provost A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert asking for support for the program.

Junior Kyle D. Bacon was also named Community Outreach Coordinator during the monthly meeting. As Outreach Coordinator, Bacon will be the liaison between Howard and the community.

"We recognized that HUSA is critical in the implementation of commu-

nity service. This person will help to facilitate our goals," said HUSA Vice-President Alex Dixon.

Bacon, a former HUSA volunteer, has worked with the United Way, American Red Cross, and K.B. Clean-up. Bacon plans to continue to work with these organizations as well as others like Big Brother/Big Sister.

"Bacon's position grew from a necessity in HUSA. People are always looking to Howard for volunteer opportunities. Kyle will serve as the traffic light for these parties," Dixon said.

Community outreach projects coming up include programs with Washington Parks and People, Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy, and Feed the Needy. A salary of \$200 every two weeks has been allotted for Bacon's position, this salary will exceed \$3,000 per academic year.

Plans for the student capital campaign were also announced. The purpose of the program is to assist the school in raising funds for the University endowment. HUSA hopes to raise at least \$5,000 in the campaign.

Other housekeeping news discussed at the meeting included a report from the financial advisor. Funds in the executive account stands at \$42,408 and the amount paid out in wages totaled \$6,790. HUSA expenditures for the year included, a bus trip, staff dinner meeting, yearbook, and wages, according to the report.

Journalist Explains Sentiments Towards U.S. at Bunche

By DERRICK K. NAYO
Hilltop Staff Writer

Renowned journalist and author of *Yellow Journalist: Dispatches from Asia*, William Wong, visited campus Wednesday to discuss the implications of the recent terrorist attacks, and the recent conference on racism held in South Africa.

Wong tackled many of the issues surrounding the recent tragedies in Washington and New York and stressed that many Americans did not care about why the tragedies occurred, but only the quickest way to retaliate against the terrorists.

"Americans should ask themselves why 15 men decided to do something like use planes as a weapon of destruction," Wong told an audience at the Ralph J. Bunche Center. "Humans have a tendency to respond with action without really thinking at times."

Wong was interested in examining the discipline, long-term planning and "zealotry" that the terrorists showed in preparing for the attacks, though he did not agree with their actions. He emphasized that America will continue to deal with terrorism and anti-American resentment even if Osama bin Laden is killed.

Then he highlighted his experience in Durban, South Africa during the World Conference Against Racism, which was held from August 31 to September 7, 2001.

"There was a heavy tone of anti-west and anti-American feeling," Wong said. "I saw a common strain of hate for the United States. Has U.S. foreign policy contributed to the negative feeling for America? I don't think that Americans know how people view us."

Wong said the atmosphere in Durban was informal with shouting matches between Palestinians and Jews. But Wong seemed exhilarated when he noted the speech made by Fidel Castro—a speech he compared to the resonance of an opera performance. Castro said that the economic order is unstable and proves to be

Annex Residents Ask: 'Why Do Mosquitoes Buzz in Your Ear?'

By COREY CUNNINGHAM
Hilltop Staff Writer

Every morning sophomore, Barbara Mitchell, wakes up to the buzzing of mosquitoes in her ear. Mitchell and many other residents of the Bethune Annex have been plagued with an infestation of the insects since the beginning of the school year.

"Everyday I wake up and kill at least three. I have spots on my arms and they swell up badly," Mitchell said.

Because of the intense rain that fell during August and September, the mosquito population in the dorm is on the rise. During the storms the District area flooded and left an environment ideal for mosquitoes. Mosquito thrive in environments where there is stagnating water and warm humid air. The garage level of the Bethune Annex provided the ideal conditions for mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes also come in through the Annex doors because they are frequently opened.

For many residents there is no relief from the infestation. They complain that even after killing lots of insects, there are still more that come up through the vents.

"My bathroom was the worst. After I kill five I think that maybe I have gotten them all, but they keep coming back. Finally I realized it was the vents," said Jennifer Burell, a sophomore Psychology major.

For Burell the situation got so bad that she had to sleep in one of her friend's room. "One day I woke up with bites on my face, neck, and arms. So I decided to sleep in my friends room, because she lives on an upper floor," Burell said.

But while many students complain among themselves, few complaints have been made to the Annex staff.

"Spray has been made available for residents, but

not many people know about it. They don't come to find out about it," said senior Resident Assistant, Jeanell Marshall.

Marshall as well as senior Resident Assistant, Marsha Nivins both agree that some residents have not taken the proper steps to formally notify hall staff.

Marshall and Nivins recommend that residents fill out forms for exterminations. Forms can be obtained from the front desk in the Annex, Marshall said.

With the change of the seasons, mosquitoes are beginning to die out. According to the Annex staff, resident informal complaints have decreased and people are starting to sleep in their assigned rooms again.

"In the beginning of the year mosquitoes were a major complaint at the floor meetings, but now the complaints are less. I was getting several complaints every day, but now it has died down to one or two a day," Marshall said.

Got Mosquitoes?
Ways to guard against mosquitoes:

- Buy insect repellent and killer (spray only on clothes). Repellent can be obtained from hall staff.
- Buy a mosquito net.-Report mosquito infestation and fill out extermination forms.
- Make sure windows are screened. Screen or close vents.

Source: Bethune Hall Resident Assistants

Cuban Grooves



Photo By Vince Smith
The College of Arts and Sciences hosted the "Master Class in Cuban Dance" with members of the Cutumba Dance Company of Santiago, Cuba on Wednesday in the Fine Arts dance studio.

Inside

The Hilltop

Campus

More students track news after attacks.

A2

The District

Nervous Sentiments Remain in D.C. following Sept. 11 tragedy.

Life & Style

Watch Out Now!

Hot wristwear for the Fall. B1

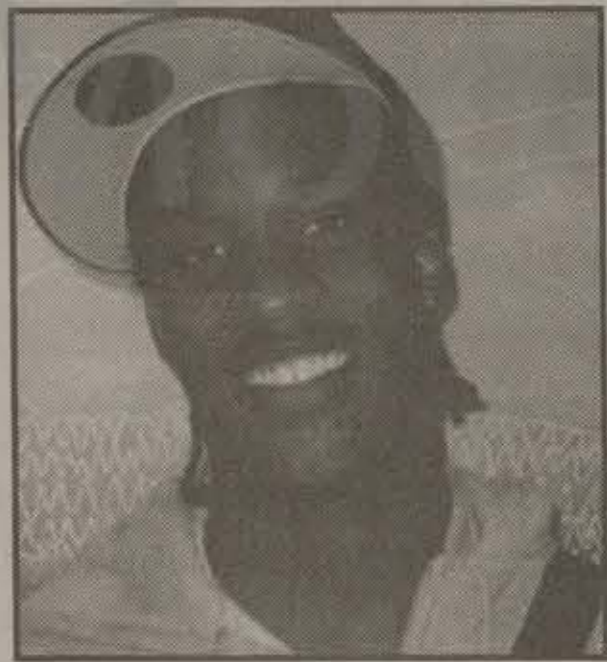


Please See Journalist, A3

CAMPUS

Voices & Views

Are you concerned whether or not the country can handle a large-scale anthrax attack or bio-terrorist attack?



"Yes ... because new cases are being found everyday. It's all scary because it's hard to feel safe now with all the crazy things that are going on. You no longer know what is safe and what isn't."

Kerel Thompson
Sophomore
Afro-American Studies



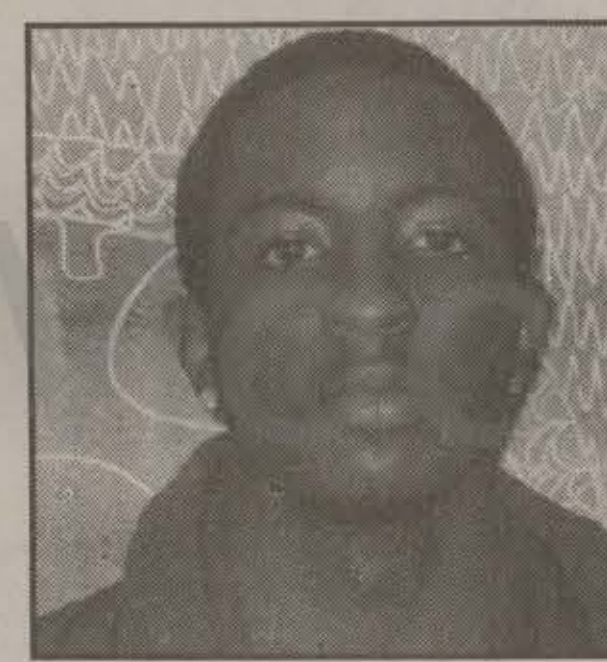
"It hasn't hit me that the issue is so serious, but I think that we as a country handle it, after all, there are cures."

Nicole Harrison
Sophomore
International Business



"I don't feel safe or comfortable with the recent events because I don't feel we are prepared for anything that the terrorists may be planning."

Ashley Honore
Freshmen
Theater Major



"It will be hard, but with all of the technology America has access to the government should be able to subside the terror of anthrax before it becomes too big."

Terrence Payne
Freshmen
Pre-Pharmacy Major



"I am concerned about the fact that there may be another terrorist attack on America, but I have confidence in our govt. and military because President Bush is putting an earnest effort into Operation Infinite Justice."

Lakedra Evans
Sophomore
Chemistry Major

Compiled by: Vince Smith

More Students Follow News After Attacks

By EBONY GIBBS
Contributing Writer

Scanning the headlines of the Washington Post, sophomore Theater Arts major Symphony Hayes, reads more than just the headlines each morning to find out what is happening in our world. With the current state of affairs in the country and throughout the rest of the world, Hayes has found solace in personal information gathering. "I read the newspaper more than ever now. I am just interested in finding things out for myself and making judgments as opposed to watching their [anchor's] interpretations," Hayes said. "Since September 11th, I think I've probably picked up either a Washington Post or New York Times every day," she added.

Many students have also had an added interest in reading and watching the news to find out about current events. "My parents used to have to beg me to read the newspaper every day, but now I just do it on my own because I like to know what's going on," said freshman Biology major Dameon Dickerson.

In a national study performed by a youth activism group, Young Nation, the poll of students between the ages of 17 and 24 showed that 44 percent more people in this age range have an increased interest in national and international events since the September 11th tragedy and related events.

"I just want to know what's going on now before someone else has to tell me. Everything that is happening now is unprecedented, and I just want to understand as his-

tory unfolds," said junior anthropology major James Kendrick.

In a survey conducted on campus, 36 out of 100 students randomly selected said they had more interest in the news because of these very different current events. Students attribute their renewed interest in current events to this new wartime experience.

"This is the first time that I think our generation has really experienced a war so this is interesting to read about," Dickerson said. "Recently, I have been following coverage of the destruction in Afghanistan and anthrax," he said. Dickerson also says that he has noticed his fellow classmates' interest in the news as this international saga continues.

"I walked across the yard every day, and almost everyday I saw students reading

newspapers trying to find out what's going on," Dickerson added.

Many students have noticed that simple class discussions have improved because of their classmates' knowledge of current events. "In my Poli-Sci class yesterday, we had a debate about our [U.S.] foreign policies, and most people really knew what they were talking about," said sophomore Journalism major, Cecilia Conders.

However, some students think that coverage of the current news is repetitive and unnecessary. "It's not that I don't like reading the paper or watching the news on television, but I feel like I'm already so informed because we are bombarded with the same news over and over again," said Heather Gordon, freshman Sociology major.

Campus Crime Report

This is a service of the Howard University Campus Police.
This report was compiled by Campus Editor Jennifer Cummings.

Oct. 14	Cook Hall Sick transport	Law School Library Stuck elevator
Blackburn Center Unlocked door	6 th & Howard Pl. Simple assault	HPT Lost property
Human Ecology Bldg. Unlocked door	Student Health Center Sick transport	Houston Hall-Law Campus Suspicious Letter
East Towers Homicide	2600 blk Georgia Ave. Destruction of property	Banneker Field Armed kidnapping and robbery
Douglas Hall Unlocked door	Bethune Annex False fire alarm	Slowe Hall Theft II
Bethune Annex Stop and frisk	HPT Hazardous elevator	9 th & Barry Pl. Tampering w/auto
Lower Valley Assault w/ a deadly weapon	2400 6 th St. Theft from auto	Cook Hall Destruction of property
Carver Hall False fire alarm	Oct. 16	HPT-West Hazardous elevator
Cook Hall Destruction of property	HPT front Sick person	Administration Bldg. Suspicious letter
HPT-East Lot Stolen auto	5 th & V St. Damaged property	Student Health Center Sick transport
Oct. 15	4 th & Bryant St. Theft from auto	Oct. 17
Service Center Lost property	Cook Hall Lost property	Cook Hall Theft I
West Campus Hazardous elevator	Social Work Suspicious persons	HUH Garage Damaged auto
West Campus Lost property	Administration bldg. Suspicious letter	600 Bryant St. Lost property
200 Elm St. Theft from auto	HPT-West Sick transport	Mudd Bldg. Suspicious letter
School of Business Sexual harassment		

Excitement High for Midnight Madness Tonight

By ALEXIS MCMURPHY
Contributing Writer

Tonight spirited University students, faculty and staff will gather at The Burr to celebrate the beginning of the men and women's basketball season as both teams introduce themselves to the winter sport's season and fans. This annual event, held mid-fall, is both a welcoming of the teams and a University wide social gathering. With the festivities kicking off at 10:30 tonight, a capacity crowd will witness the introduction of both teams and welcome the winter sports season.

The annual start of the basketball season is an enjoyable event for many students. "My friends and I go to Midnight Madness every year, and it's always fun," said junior Psychology major Candice Brandt. "It's just one of Howard's events that everyone goes to and hopefully, the team will make their debut and bring good results during the season," said Brandt.

Graduating senior Psychology major, Ationne Davis said, "This is my last Midnight Madness, and I will definitely be there cheering on both teams. I hope that the ladies will have just as good of a season as last year. Who knows, maybe the guys will too."

Bison clad in blue and white will show their school spirit at tonight's event. "For all the football games and sport(ing)

events, I come in my HU gear. I like coming to events like this because I can show how much I appreciate going to school here," said Keyanna Simms, a sophomore Journalism major. "I always represent well," said Simms.

Attendees of tonight's event can expect a performance from The Bionettes as well as a mini-stepshow and a guest DJ to emcee the festivities.

While this event promotes school spirit and togetherness, last year's festivities went array. There was a damper on last year's Midnight Madness, as some in the crowd got out of hand and fights erupted. Also, the West Towers was victim to water damage caused by pranksters who pulled fire alarms and ignited fires causing the sprinkler system to be activated. Howard Plaza Towers Property manager Larry Freelew said, "We don't expect anything of that nature this year. Due to recent events our security measures have increased."

In the wake of last Saturday's tragic event which occurred in front of a crowd of on-looking students outside the Towers, many students are rallying for a good night of fun without any negative incidents. "I think it'll be really fun. People should just be mature about situations and handle them like they have respect for other people," said Tomas Ezcueo, a freshman History major.

U. Michigan Hopes to Avoid Changing Admission Policies

By ELIZABETH KASSAB
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. — In the past decade a number of public universities have been ordered to change their admissions policies to be completely race-blind, often resulting in drastic declines in minority enrollment.

"The classroom became a whole lot whiter," said Douglas Laycock, a law professor at University of Texas, which was forced to abandon affirmative action admissions policies after losing a lawsuit in 1997.

"The minorities tended to blame us even though we had fought this about as hard as we could," Laycock said. "Part of our problem has been to assure minority students who can come to Texas that they are still welcome."

As University of Michigan prepares to defend its use of race as one factor in admissions before the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals next Tuesday, schools in other states are beginning to see the results of their alternative efforts to attract minorities.

Many schools are reporting increases in the number of minorities who enroll, but most are still below the levels they achieved under affirmative action.

"The policy we have now is the one that best promotes the University's interests in excellence and diversity," said Jeffrey Lehman, dean of University of Michigan Law School, which along with the College of Literature, Science and the Arts is a defendant in the cases. "I fully expect that we are going to prevail."

None of the alternative policies have proven as effective as affirmative action

in achieving those goals, he added.

"If they were we would have adopted them a long time ago," he said.

The University has been very careful to follow the guidelines established by the 1978 Regents of the University of California v. Bakke case, which allowed the use of race as one factor in higher education admissions, Lehman said.

Lawsuits challenging the interpretation of the Bakke decision in Texas and Washington state resulted in split decisions at the appeals court level.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld University of Washington's interpretation of Bakke, but a voter initiative blocked the use of race as a factor in admissions. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 1997 the use of race as a factor in admissions is unconstitutional, and the University of Texas system was required to alter its admissions policies. The decision stood after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

The effect of the 1997 Hopwood ruling varied across University of Texas undergraduate and professional schools. Minority enrollment throughout the system plummeted after the ruling.

Texas' Law School enrolled four black students into a first-year class of hundreds for the year after the Hopwood case was decided. Enrollment for Hispanic students also dropped drastically that year.

Laycock said the university is recovering "by virtue of intense recruiting efforts": individual phone calls, alumni efforts, private scholarships and bringing students to the campus.

U. Florida study: Blacks face bias in leisure travel

By TENIA KING
Independent Florida Alligator (U. Florida)

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Discriminatory incidents that black tourists experience have been disclosed in a new University of Florida study, which found that college-educated blacks face overwhelming racial bias during leisure travel.

The survey, completed earlier this year, found that black tourists encountered the most discrimination while staying at hotel or motels, dining out, traveling by airplane or private vehicle and partaking in such leisure activities as shopping and going to the beach.

"It's an atrocity that in our supposedly color-blind society, the likelihood of blacks being discriminated against is great," said Cynthia Willming, who conducted the study for UF's recreation, parks and tourism department.

Willming compiled 131 mail surveys from randomly selected black men and women who attended UF. About half of those surveyed had advanced degrees.

"Not one single study has investigated whether or not blacks have encountered discrimination while traveling," said Willming, who did the research for her doctoral dissertation at UF and recently became a professor at California State University in Chico.

The survey defined racial discrimination as any behavior that results in rejection,

harassment, threats or verbal or physical attacks simply because of race.

About 77 percent said they were discriminated against while eating at sit-down restaurants and 51 percent said this treatment was displayed at hotel or motel restaurants.

A 43-year-old black woman who participated in the survey described entering a restaurant. A white male, who was leaving the establishment, boldly approached her. "Your people like to eat at the restaurant down the road," he said.

The problems that blacks deal with while traveling is more of a class bias than a racial one, said Patricia Dovell, who is assistant director in UF's Office of Instructional Resources. Dovell said she is not certain if her negative experiences were because of racism or assumptions that she was of a lower class because she is a black woman.

About 70 percent of the participants said they were discriminated against when staying overnight in a motel or hotel. Some respondents reported being refused a hotel or motel room, while others said they were forced to pay for accommodations in advance.

The survey showed that 72 percent of the respondents recalled discrimination while shopping, making it the second most frequent act experienced by black tourists.

"The message is clear," said Willming, who will be following up on her research this summer.

Campus Police Acknowledge Breakdown in Security

From Police, A1

"Security needs to be put in the walking areas between campus to the dormitories, some of which are not within close proximity," Kindle said.

Other students are not relying heavily on Campus Police to protect them. Sophomore Malaika Beckford said that security on campus was at best "shaky" and she "wasn't surprised" that security wasn't in place to prevent the murder.

Beckford said that campus security doesn't respond to calls promptly.

"(Campus Police) need to be around the campus, and know their job is to keep us safe—and not at their earliest convenience," Beckford said.

Metropolitan Police is offering a \$10,000 reward to anyone with information leading to the arrest of any person or persons responsible for the homicide. Anyone with information about the shooting is advised to call (202) 673-6914 or the DC Crime Solvers Unit at (800) 673-2777.

Journalist Explains Sentiments Towards U.S. at Bunche Center

From Journalist A1

a greedy and selfish philosophy. Castro said that it would not save the species, and Wong was highly impressed by Castro's delivery, rather than what he actually said.

After further discussions on the history of Asian-Americans and his confrontation with racism in the newsroom, Wong conducted a question and answer session.

"I found it intriguing that he has great ancestors born in Augusta, Georgia though he's of Asian descent," said Angela Davis, a junior broadcast journalism major. "The forum was far more than I

expected. He proved to be well read, and a heavy influence on multi-cultural study."

Wong attended the University of California at Berkeley and later attended Columbia University Graduate School where he received his Masters degree. He spent nine years at The Wall Street Journal, moved to the Oakland Tribune, wrote for The San Francisco Examiner, and then The San Francisco Chronicle. Wong is presently a freelancer, writing on issues mainly relating to the Asian and Asian-American community.

HUSA Set Sights on Instructor Evaluation Process

HUSA hopes to raise at least \$5,000 in the campaign.

Other housekeeping news discussed at the meeting included a report from the financial advisor. Funds in the executive account

stands at \$42,408 and the amount paid out in wages totaled \$6,790. HUSA expenditures for the year included, a bus trip, staff dinner meeting, yearbook, and wages, according to the report.

Note:

Please don't forget to come to our weekly budget meetings to pick up a story.

We meet Tuesdays at 7.p.m. on the plaza level of the West Towers.

When you come ask about our staff writer positions.



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

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PERSPECTIVES

Charles Coleman, Jr.

PROTECTING OURSELVES FROM OURSELVES

The month's aftermath of the recent attacks on America have brought on a vast array of responses throughout the nation from various groups of people. For some, it has helped them find a new appreciation for life, family, and that which we should never take for granted. For others, it has strengthened the resolve of our country and given them a renewed sense of nationalism. There are those for whom the attacks served as an all too real awakening to the reality of our vulnerability and susceptibility to the violence and terror which not only plagues the world in which we live, but that we ourselves often perpetuate and facilitate in other countries across the globe. Still, there are those who have framed this experience as an opportunity to widen the leverage that the government has on the rights, privileges, and liberties of common citizens. Since the attacks, numerous dialogues have begun concerning the immediate future of our civil liberties in this country and it is of crucial importance that as the leaders of today and tomorrow, we actively engage ourselves in such discussion and take the reigns of the society which we lead to ensure that our normalcy of life remains secure and intact.

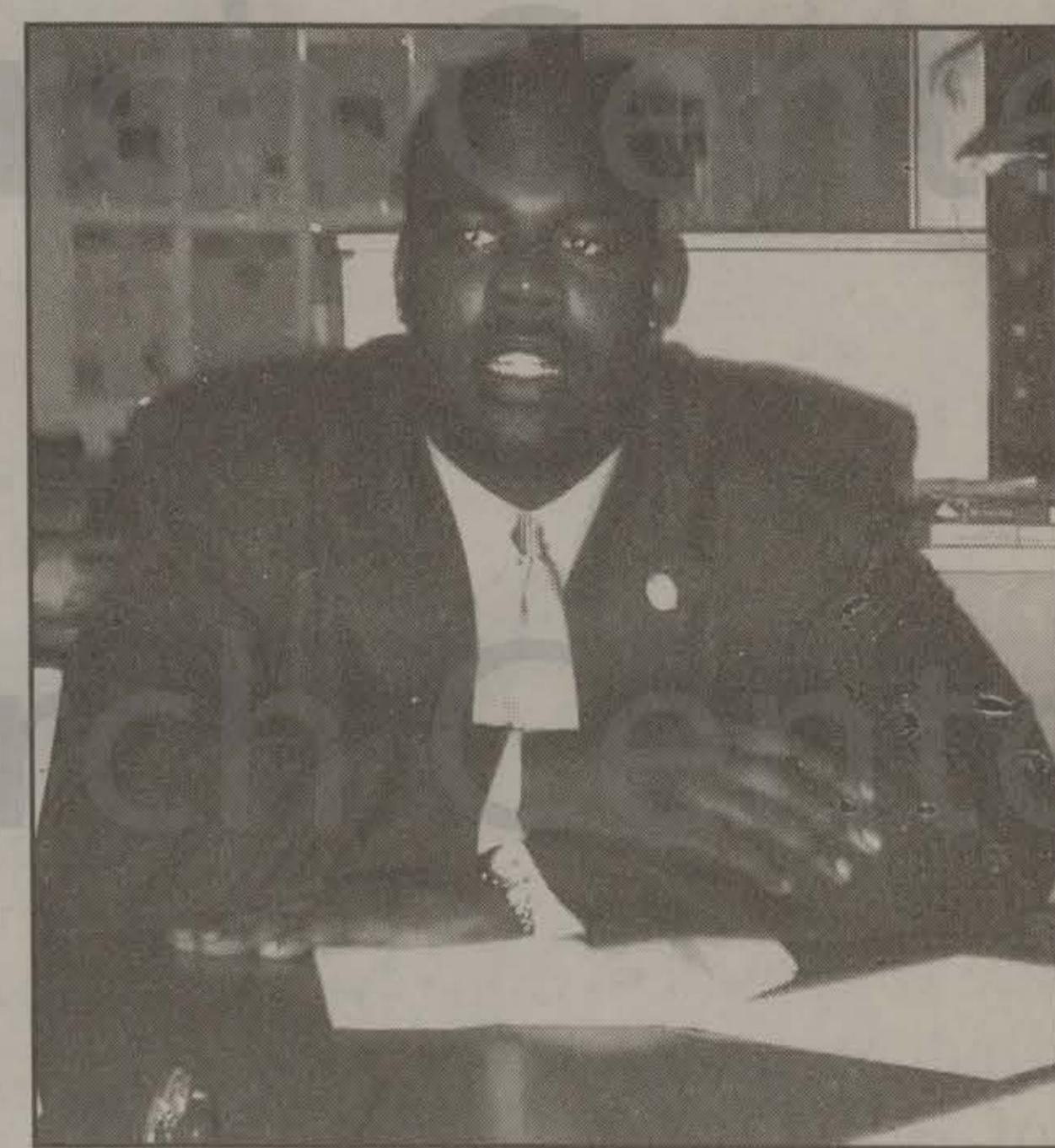
As young people fortunate enough with the opportunity to receive a college-level education, we assume a responsibility as the social engineers and architects of the moral and civil future of not simply this nation but the entire world. We are obligated to those who are likely to be most affected by certain changes because those are likely to be the same individuals who belong to the same group able to do the least to defend their position and constitutional rights. Accordingly, it is imperative that we look at everything with a heightened eye of criticism and analysis. Recently, the Washington Post ran reports from United States Attorney General John Ashcroft warning of the likelihood of new terrorist attacks and linking the

recent findings of Anthrax cases across the country to Osama Bin Laden's al Qaeda network. At the same time that the Department of Justice has issued these precautionary warnings, it is also seeking special authority from Congress to infringe on the constitutional rights of citizens through arbitrary background checks for students, weaker authorization requirements for phone and wire tapping, and inadvertent racial profiling. To the naked eye, these measures seem to have spawned from a desire to avoid and protect against other acts of terror in America. However, a closer look at the ideology of both Attorney General Ashcroft and President George W. Bush's administration helps to not only place things into the proper context, but also a greater connection and cause for attention.

It is not by accident that despite the fragile state of America's psyche, Ashcroft has consciously contributed to the paranoia by keeping alive the insecure feeling that comes with not knowing when or where an attack could occur, but living with the fear that it may and probably will. The result—which is also not an accident—has been a loosened grip on the part of the American people on their own civil rights to privacy and other related liberties in efforts to allow themselves to feel safer. Still, the truth is that the government already has and has had sufficient power and authority to protect us against widespread attacks, but is faced with the challenge of bending and re-shaping their approach to guard against new strategies from our adversaries. There is little reason why the new levels of power Ashcroft seeks to obtain for the federal government through the passing and implementation of his proposed measures are needed for the function which they are claimed to exist. Still, an alarming number of Americans, minorities included, have fallen blindly into the trap and rallied support behind Ashcroft and the quasi Big-Brother-like regime that he seeks to impose.

What many of these people fail to realize is the very thing that we cannot afford to lose cognizance of. Once we have relinquished our basic civil and constitutional rights, regardless of the circumstance, we will have twice as fierce a battle attempting to reclaim them. Once we open the door to accepting and condoning racial profiling for some groups along ethnic or religious lines, we will be unable to stop the runaway train that will undoubtedly continue toward socio-economic status, and race. We will not be able to avoid becoming direct targets ourselves and in some ways, prisoners to a society that we gave too much power in haste.

I support the notion that we should not live in fear as a nation. I believe that the government should have what it needs to reasonably protect its citizens. However, I also support the security of our own civil and constitutional rights and feel that they should remain intact. I frown upon the idea that as America comes to grips with the shocking nature of our current state, there are those that seek to use this as a doorway to execute their own ulterior motives. I am not suggesting that there is some huge and multi-leveled conspiracy waging to bring our country to a Beirut-like police state. I am simply pointing out that there are those who stand to gain much by the continued presence and advancement of a fear and paranoia in America, the nature of which seems dubious at this juncture immediately following last month's attacks. In plain words, you are more likely to move from California after an earthquake if state officials continue to purport that more are coming, than you would if you were told that the situation was under control. However, if you miss the point of examining what might the state stand to gain through a mass exodus from a certain area, you run the risk of being blindsided in the future as we are coming dangerously close to at this current time. Howard Uni-



Charles Coleman, Jr.

versity School of Law alum and former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall once declared "History teaches that grave threats to liberty often come in times of urgency, when constitutional rights seem too extravagant to endure". It seems as if in times like these, those are words not only to heed, but also a warning to live by.

Charles Coleman, Jr. is a 2001 graduate of Howard University, a former Undergraduate Trustee, and a first year student at Howard University School of Law. He can be emailed at trusteecoleman@hotmail.com.

Letter To The Editor

To whom It May Concern;

I am writing in reference to the October 9th article entitled "On the Road Again." The purpose of this article, as I understood, was to inform students of how difficult it is to be a student athlete here at Howard University due to all the rigorous activity they go through season after season. I find it quite upsetting to think that athletes should be given any more understanding than the rest of the students on this campus. (Notice I said "understanding" and not "special treatment.") Now let me explain why I feel this way. As stated in the article, it is a very difficult transition to come from playing a sport in high school to playing in college and for that particular reason teachers should give them a little more understanding when dealing with that particular student. However, is that any different than a student who has come all the way from West Africa or the Caribbean? They don't receive any more "understanding" because they are in a completely different culture and are now experiencing a

totally new way of life. Now I do understand that athletes go through a lot physically and mentally. They have practices sometimes twice a day, video to watch, practices to go to, meetings to attend, and not to mention the traveling. But what about the many students here who are working two to three jobs, taking up to 20 credits, live all the way out in Virginia and have a family to take care of? I'm sure we all know at least two to three people personally who have children on this campus, but they still manage to get up everyday, go to class and complete all of their work! Sometimes their schedules are just as hectic as an athlete if not more so, because their responsibilities are year round.

Another argument I hear in favor of the athletes is that because they bring so much revenue into this school, that they are an integral part of this.

Yanique Johnson

Raymond Watson

THE ALARM HAS SOUNDED

As the alarm sounds in the darkness of what still feels like night, you hit around the night stand trying to find that gold old snooze button on the alarm clock. It's ringing in your ear loud as can be and finally you hit and it stops, "ahhh", you sigh, as you roll over and back to sleep. Well, today the alarm is sounding in this darkness of what feels like night. The only difference is, we're not pushing snooze on the clock alarm clock, but our lives. And rather than hearing the alarm going off in our ears we simply roll over and go back to sleep. Now before you simply blow off the article, please, take a minute to just read it, you never know, you may get something out of it. I simply want to shout to you "WAKE UP". How many people are going to die in the blink of an eye before we really see and understand that tomorrow really is not promised to anyone, especially now. How many diseases have to start and get even worse and worse before we say, "hmm, maybe somebody is trying to tell us something"? Believe me AIDS was not the first hint, and it won't be the last. Let's realize that there aren't some 20-50 types of sexually transmitted diseases that just popped up by coincidence. Let me ask this, why would there be so many things hinting at stopping what we're doing if it was ok (friends dieing, STD's spreading, etc.)? Hmmm. Tazio Travers (22), Aaliyah (22), TuPac (25), and Biggie (24), all died in the blink of eye.

Tazio was simply at the wrong place at the wrong time and now he's gone, was he covered in his death, only God knows. Aaliyah, right at the peak of her career and, now she's gone, just like that. But, who's to say where their spirits are now that they're gone, only God can judge them. All I know is that on any givenday if I were to die I want to die knowing that I have done what God wanted me to do and all I have left to do is go. Not, "come on Lord I was just about to get right, you caught me just before" or "awww, come on God as soon as I dropped this last album I was gone live for you" and "God, I was just about to go tell people about you and what your son did, you just caught me a bad time." Believe me, if we don't wake up now when the signs have never been more clear and the alarm sounding any louder, then we never will. The micro chip in the skin (mark of the beast), the unidollar (one world monetary unit), and a world totally divided on religions, cultures, and such...it's all been revealed or being revealed, you just have to know the source to look. I urge you, recognize what is going on in the world today and realize that all that is happening is not just "by coincidence"—it is God, sounding the alarm for us to... "WAKE UP".

Raymond Watson is a junior Theater major from Detroit.

Khalfani D. Walker

THE BOURGEOISIE, TALENTED TENTH, AND THE HOWARD ELITE — TIME TO FIGHT

Frantz Fanon said it best — everyone will not get this. Someone will probably read this title and not continue, which is good because they are not ready yet and we will have to come back for them later. I just hope that if that one brother or sister takes hold of this, they too may begin to see with their own eyes what has taken me years to see.

I was blind. I came to the Mecca where the greatest African American minds gathered under the guise of scholarship. The sons of lawyers and daughters of doctors became my comrades as we enlisted at the training camp for the future leaders of America and the global community. I felt enormous pressure, knowing that the Jamaals, Shawannas, and LaKeishas of my community were looking to me to lead them to the next level. I wanted to succeed and I was told that Howard University was the best place for me to learn.

I tried to prepare myself for the role I was to assume. I served in student government, volunteered in the community, joined Americorps, but it was not until I started to read that the construct that is collectively known as Howard University began to deteriorate. As I read on I realized that there was no "talented tenth" and that a largely bourgeoisie African American population had replaced the revolutionaries that walked the campus some odd years ago. I became angry, and I wanted to find answers. At the African American Studies Department in the attic of Founders Library, I wanted to speak with anyone who might be able to help me decipher the questions that had been forming in my mind. However, there was no one there to help me. That is when I came to my senses. I realized that I had been in a false state of existence. The university had been given to us, and we had been told to play nice with each other. For the most part, we did, but there were a few who had to push, kick and strike out and they were labeled as the rebels and radicals, but they were the revolutionaries (we see that now and thank

them). They did not come to Howard to learn the rules, and fit into the mold; they were the trendsetters. I developed the sense of smell and realized that my sh*t did stink as well as that of others, and I stopped trying to pretend that I could not smell it. Somewhere we have lost it, and the bourgeoisie, talented tenth, or collective "Howard elite" wanted nothing to do with being true leaders and had long since abandoned the idea.

A young student I tutored asked me once, "Where are all the black leaders now?" I had no answer then and I struggle for one now. Howard University — leadership for America and the global community; the Capstone for Black education, the top HBCU. I think the former Mr. Howard Joe Hawthorne said it best: Howard University is supposed to be preparing leaders for America, but all I see is a bunch of followers waiting for the next order (I think they missed it Joe). The current Howard students want to be leaders, but not leaders like our forefathers. Instead, we would like to be the leaders of capitalism, industry, and exploitation. We want to tell our children that we protested tuition increases and participated in marches, but we will leave out that we were at the protest between our lunch break from twelve to one to see what all the commotion was about and that the only real reason you attended the march was to get your face known to others. We will invite Presidential candidates to our school, and act astonished when billboards read *African American* and not simply *American*, further reinforcing our "otherness" that they see when they look at us. But we will still vote for them; we would rather cast down our buckets (see Booker T. Washington). We will ride the coattails of the past leaders and replace the definition of leader with one synonymous with "who can make the most money", conforming to their standards of success, begging to be accepted in their world through their eyes. Well, my eyes see clearer (will they ever see clearly?) and I have come to the realization that many are lost and that

it will be years before they see what happens. The same group that will give us money will dictate what we learn, how we learn, what we will say and what we will become. But these same leaders will never give back to Howard after it has made them successful, and the university will never break free, remaining corrupted.

Many people will not understand though, and I will be accused of being a racist, unpatriotic, and disgruntled. However, I can have no faith in a country where each star represents a Native American tribe they murdered and every stripe represents the stripes on the back of the displaced African in America who refused to be considered less than a man, three-fifths of a man, or separate but not equal to any other man. A government that can bomb a country one day then send them food and supplies the next day is the same government who will pacify the bourgeoisie and alleged elite and perpetuate a false sense of

security and leadership. I heard Lawrence Fishburne say, "Wake Up!" and I listened.

I realized further that indeed the revolution won't be televised, much to the dismay of those want to sit at home, and that I would have to start now to make up for lost time. There are questions, and people will want the answers. The funny thing is that there are no true answers yet, and they will be forced to think for themselves; this is when the new leaders will emerge. I look out at Howard University, and all I see now is the remnants of a worn battlefield that has not seen a true battle in years, and I prepare for my time to fight.

Khalfani D. Walker is a senior, English Major from Houston, TX. He can be reached at kdwalker@howard.edu.

PLEASE NOTE:

The views expressed on the Perspective pages of The Hilltop are the opinions of the authors names above them. They do not reflect the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board.

THE DISTRICT

CITY DESK

Senate Offices Closed Due to Anthrax Finding

Congress suspended work and three Senate offices were closed as 31 people, 26 members of the Senate staff and five Officers were determined to have contacted Anthrax through mail delivered to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. FBI officials have disclosed similarities between this letter and the one sent to NBC's Tom Brokaw's office.

Vendors Speak Out at DC Council Meeting

Over 120 vendors attended the DC Council's hearing on a proposal by Downtown DC Business Improvement District to allow businesses and community organizations to oversee or manage vendors in the District. Vendors worried that the proposal was an attempt for larger businesses to dominate the smaller ones.

Workers Deemed Negligent in the Wrongful Jailing of Man

Joseph Heard, a mute, deaf, and mentally ill man was wrongly incarcerated for nearly two years. Four DC jail employees are facing charges for the illegal lock up of Heard, who was incarcerated without proper paperwork. The workers are negligent in that they did not properly monitor Heard's case.

DC Educators Push Advanced Placement Courses

DC Educators are pushing Advanced Placement courses at high schools to the school's brightest at several District high schools including Wilson and Cardozo. This is an attempt to make AP courses apart of the curricula and to give students a better opportunity, increasing their chances to continue on to college.

Metro Free Fare Weekend Creates Surge in District Business

Due to Metro's free fare weekend last weekend, many businesses including TGIF's and ESPN Sports Zone and the Washington Hilton reported a surge in business. One of the weekend's goals were to increase the tourism in the District.

District Still Shaken From Terrorist Attacks

By CRISPIN BROOKS
Contributing Writer

The District continues to be in high alert following the Sept. 11 attacks, as most Americans return to daily schedules.

The terrorist attacks, forever etched in their minds, has given rise to the question, do Washingtonians really feel safe?

"There is no way that the government can protect us all. Protection is an illusion", said Alicia Johnson, a resident of the District. "If someone wants to harm us there isn't much that we can do to stop them."

For some, optimism and a renewed sense of patriotism are the only things that were needed to continue life as normal.

"I feel safe here. I don't feel threatened in any way, I think the government has done enough to ensure the

safety of all residents of the city and its surrounding areas," responded a Howard University student who wished to remain anonymous.

Normalcy and the city's sense of being protected come compliments of the government's strategic planning.

"We are still in a state of high alert here in the district. We still maintain our day to day duties, however, we have obviously put certain things in place in or to protect the residents of the city and of the country as a whole," said Media Liaison Officer for the Metropolitan Police Department Kenneth Bryson.

Officer Bryson also stated that local police were co-operating and communicating very much with other agencies within the district to ensure the protection of the people.

"We are adjusting our strategies everyday to suit whatever information we receive. We are all working

together to protect this very important city," said Bryson.

In addition to stepped up security, the district has also seen several other steps taken, security wise, as a result of the attacks. Numerous streets surrounding important buildings have been either closed or restricted including, the White House, the Capitol, the Washington Monument and the State Department. Several main veins in the districts' traffic system including portions of Constitution Avenue and South Capitol Street have been slightly paralyzed in order to ensure the safety of both residents and buildings. Several streets have also begun parking restrictions.

More police officers have been summoned to some 26 locations within the district to assist in the rerouting of traffic around the Capitol grounds, to pass out leaflets and to ensure the general safety of the area.

Fredericksburg Named as Site for New Slavery Museum

By CRISPIN BROOKS
Contributing Writer

Former Governor of Virginia Douglas Wilder announced recently that Fredericksburg is to be the site of a new national slavery museum. The site was chosen because of its historical significance, as Fredericksburg is positioned near the site where African slaves first entered the country. Fredericksburg was also the location of numerous battles during the civil war. The city's close proximity to the nation's capital and the area's two major airports were a plus.

The 25-acre property that will overlook both I-95 and the Rappahannock River will come at a cost of \$100 to \$200 million dollars. According to an article in the Washington Post, officials of the Silver Cos., developer of Celebrate Virginia, have pledged \$10 million to \$12 million in order cover the cost of the land and extending utilities and roads to the site.

The article also stated that the state of Virginia has promised \$1.1 million dollars toward the project. This

was met with some hesitation by the city's mayor Bill Beck: who according to the article had reservations about pledging city funds to the project. Beck was surprised to note that Wilder and the committee for the site had chosen the city. The mayor despite his reservations was supportive of the project.

"From this point, we look forward to working with the organization and trying to blend it into existing historic sites here to make it some thing we can all be proud of," said Beck.

The museum will boast a library housing some 250,000 books concerning slavery, a theater, virtual reality exhibits and a reproduction of a slave ship. When it is completed it is expected to host up to 2 million visitors on an annual basis. The museum's main purpose is to serve as a center for education on slavery and the African American experience in America.

This, according to Howard University, Associate Professor of History, Dr. Edna Green Medford is what makes this project "so marvelous."

"Having a museum of this nature in this country is an

excellent idea. It will not only serve as a place of knowledge for students but scholars as well."

She continued "Many Americans both black and all other races have no knowledge of the African experience in and contribution to this country."

Dr. Green Medford added that such an institution would serve as a superb resource center for the entire country. She warned however that the museum should not become "Disneyesque" in nature.

"It should not be a place of entertainment, rather, it should act solely as a place to learn."

While most see the good in the museum, some residents of the Fredericksburg feel that the museum highlights an ugly period in the country's history. One which they do not want to be directly associated with their city.

The next step in the process of making the museum a reality is to gather the knowledge and expertise of several curators, professors and experts from Howard University to begin design work on the project. The museum is slated to open its doors to the public in three years.

Dear Bison,...



Dear Bison,

Lately it seems like I can't get out of my bed. I don't have the will to go to class, and it seems like all my friends are acting like "straight bamas." I can't find a date. I feel like nobody likes me on this campus. Yet, I know I'm an all right woman, a "catch" even. I definitely have my "wifey" skills down. All of my friends are going out, everyone except me. I need help. What's wrong with me?

Signed,
Dateless in the Annex

Dear Dateless in the Annex;

There is totally nothing wrong with you unless you want it to be. You should practice what I call "T-n-T," thinking and talking positive. Try to watch your vocabulary. You are only what you say you are. Instead of using phrases like, I don't, I can't and nobody likes me, use I will, I can and everybody likes me, and if they don't, it's okay, because you're special. Try something for fun—everyday think of at least three good qualities about yourself, and write them down. Before you know it, you will have a book worth to share with others what makes you unique.

Dear Bison,

There's a girl on campus. I love her style, and she's "all that." She's always handling her business. There's only one problem. She's a "big" girl. I think she's pretty and all that, but I know my friends would clown me. I consider myself to be pretty popular on campus, and although I don't care what people think about me, I don't know how cute of a couple we would make. Should I forget everything and holla at her or just find someone who may fit better with me?

Signed,
Watching the Big Girls

Dear Watching the Big Girls;

You must follow your heart in this situation. Don't let love pass you by. Life is too short, and tomorrow is not promised. If you have any aspirations for her, go for it. Your friends who are really your friends, will support you, and the ones who don't, drop them like a hot potato. That way you accomplish two things at one time, getting closer to someone you care about and getting farther from those who don't care about you. Always remember they don't say, *Watch Out For The Big Girl*, for nothing. The bigger the better, and the more love they have to give.

Do you have a problem that needs to be solved badly? E-mail Dear Bison at thehilltop@hotmail.com.

Dear Bison

I have been in a relationship with my girlfriend since last semester and we have taken it to the next level. Everything is cool until she introduced me to her girls. Last week I went to Happy Hour at Republic with one of her girls because she had to work. After a few drinks, her girl told me that she (my girl) had been cheating on me with some dude on the football team. Since I was mad and twisted, her girl and I went back to her place, and went to another level. I messed up, but if my girl did it, I wouldn't feel as bad. I feel guilty now, so should I tell my girl about what happened, confront her about what her girl said, or keep it on the "DL?"

Signed,
Messed up in Meridan

Dear Messed up in Meridan;

This can be solved with a few words—just be a man about it. If you tell her the truth, you have a chance to be honest instead of caught lying. This is your opportunity to redeem yourself. If you believed the scenario in the beginning, then that means there was a lack of trust on your part and hers too. This reveals that there are some other issues in your relationship that need to be worked out. Humans make mistakes. You do have choices, and they are not always consequences. If your girlfriend refuses to understand and appreciate your courage in telling the truth, give her time at first. Most importantly, forgive yourself, move on with your life, and learn from the past. Experience is a great teacher, pay attention.

THE HILLTOP

WE SPEAK THE TRUTH.



EDITORIALS



THE HILLTOP



IRA PORTER, *Editor-in-Chief*

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Founded in 1924

“Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff”

Although University sponsored events, such as tonight’s Midnight Madness and other social gatherings, are supposed to provide outlets for students and friends of Howard to enjoy each other’s company and entertainment, too many times these events end in tragedy. Last year’s Midnight Madness was just that, chaos. With students fighting in the Burr, others igniting flames in order to activate the sprinkler system in the Towers, what began as an enjoyable event turned into real midnight madness.

And with the recent murder of a visitor on campus, in front of hundreds of students, during last weekend’s Homecoming festivities, we must stop and say, “Enough is enough!”

As students of higher education, we should understand the implications of our collective social actions. In a country where, now, our biggest fear is fear itself, we should be able

to find sanctity in our cultural unity. However, last weekend’s tragedy that transpired in front of the East Towers showed that we are far from this positive end.

Our View

The media has not served its purposed as balanced information givers.

The negative results of this violence are inevitable and long lasting. The unity that should exist does not, and, as a result, we find ourselves fighting and killing each other over things of little or no

real importance. These counterproductive actions are just that. With all that plagues our direct community, violence only fuels the fire of negativity.

At too many events, whether they are concerts, annual celebrations or just Saturday nights at local clubs, tempers run unnecessarily and dangerously high. Fights that begin as small disputes escalate into street gun battles. Our actions are serious. The results can be grave. Lives are at jeopardy. When will we understand the importance of life and the trivialness of our “beef?”

What’s Going to Happen

Although many students come to Howard having lived in the nation’s roughest surroundings, few have been forced to experience death first hand. Last Saturday, 22 year old Tavers M. Tayzio, was shot and killed in front of the East Towers. His death, witnessed by students and those who simply came to Howard trying to be apart of the Homecoming festivities, created a sense of fear and insecurity among students especially Towers’ residents.

Where was the counseling center? Emergency meetings? Campus Police have failed to publicly address the shooting and students’ safety concerns. Remember, “isolated incidents” on our campus are our business and these situations must be addressed. Students should not have to feel uncomfortable or unsafe entering and exiting their respective dormitories or any University facility for that matter.

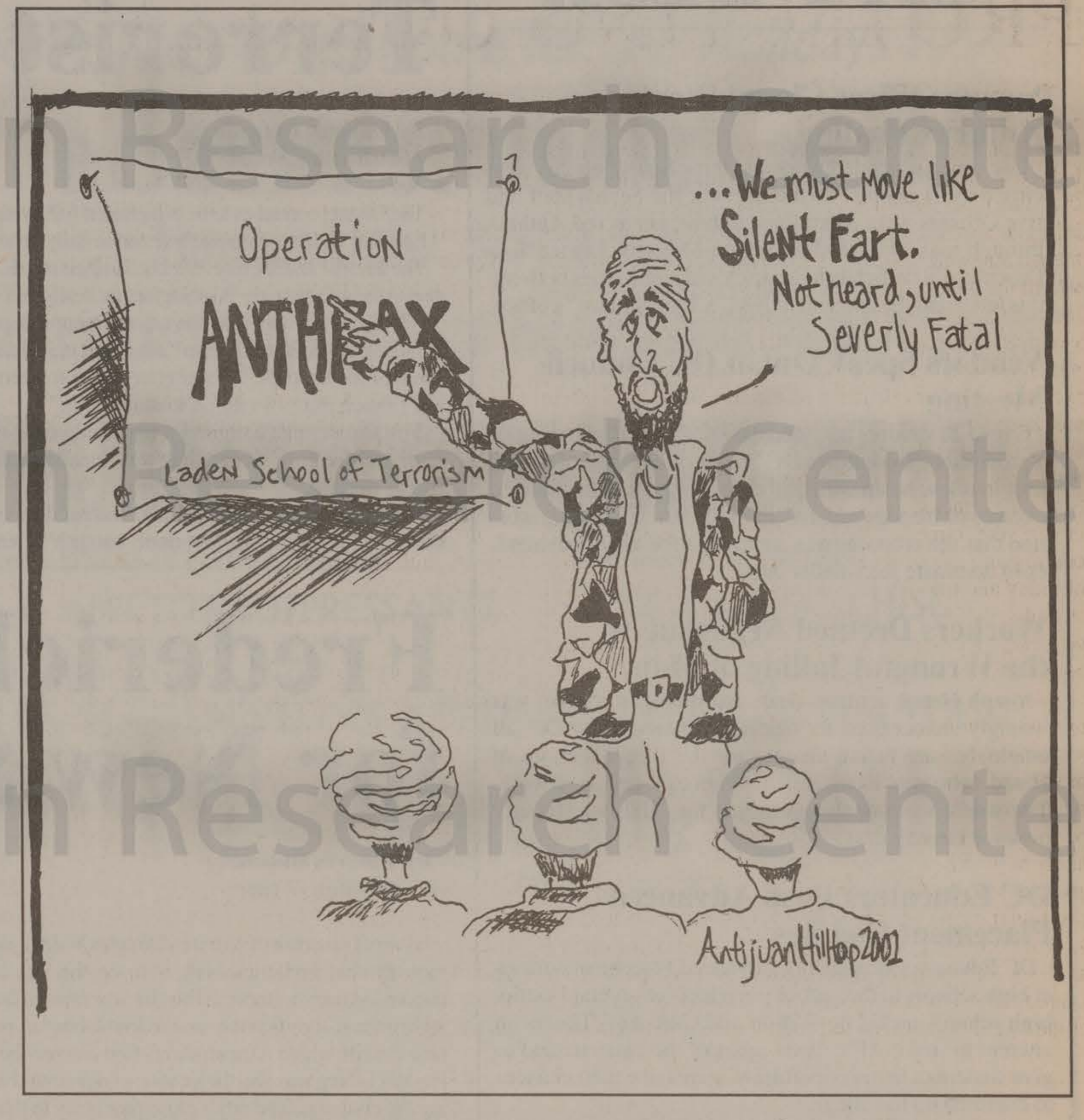
Our View:

Making sure the campus is safe is important, but some of your demands make no sense.

In an attempt to both cope with and to recognize the tragedy that occurred, students placed flowers on the brick wall where Tayzio was shot. However, University maintenance removed the memorial, disposing of it with the rest of the trash outside. If it wasn’t for the power of “word of mouth” and the couple of articles written on the incident, the University might have been able to sweep something else under it’s rug and forget that it happened.

Why must highly attended events on our campus and in the community draw negative elements? Howard, we have been lucky that these events have not captured the life of one of our own. However, how long will this luck last? Tayzio could have easily been replaced by that girl in your Physics class or that boy in student government. Advice: It’s better to walk away from an incident looking like a punk, than not to walk away at all.

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

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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

Charles Coleman, Jr.

PROTECTING OURSELVES FROM OURSELVES

The month's aftermath of the recent attacks on America have brought on a vast array of responses throughout the nation from various groups of people. For some, it has helped them find a new appreciation for life, family, and that which we should never take for granted. For others, it has strengthened the resolve of our country and given them a renewed sense of nationalism. There are those for whom the attacks served as an all too real awakening to the reality of our vulnerability and susceptibility to the violence and terror which not only plagues the world in which we live, but that we ourselves often perpetuate and facilitate in other countries across the globe. Still, there are those who have framed this experience as an opportunity to widen the leverage that the government has on the rights, privileges, and liberties of common citizens. Since the attacks, numerous dialogues have begun concerning the immediate future of our civil liberties in this country and it is of crucial importance that as the leaders of today and tomorrow, we actively engage ourselves in such discussion and take the reigns of the society which we lead to ensure that our normalcy of life remains secure and intact.

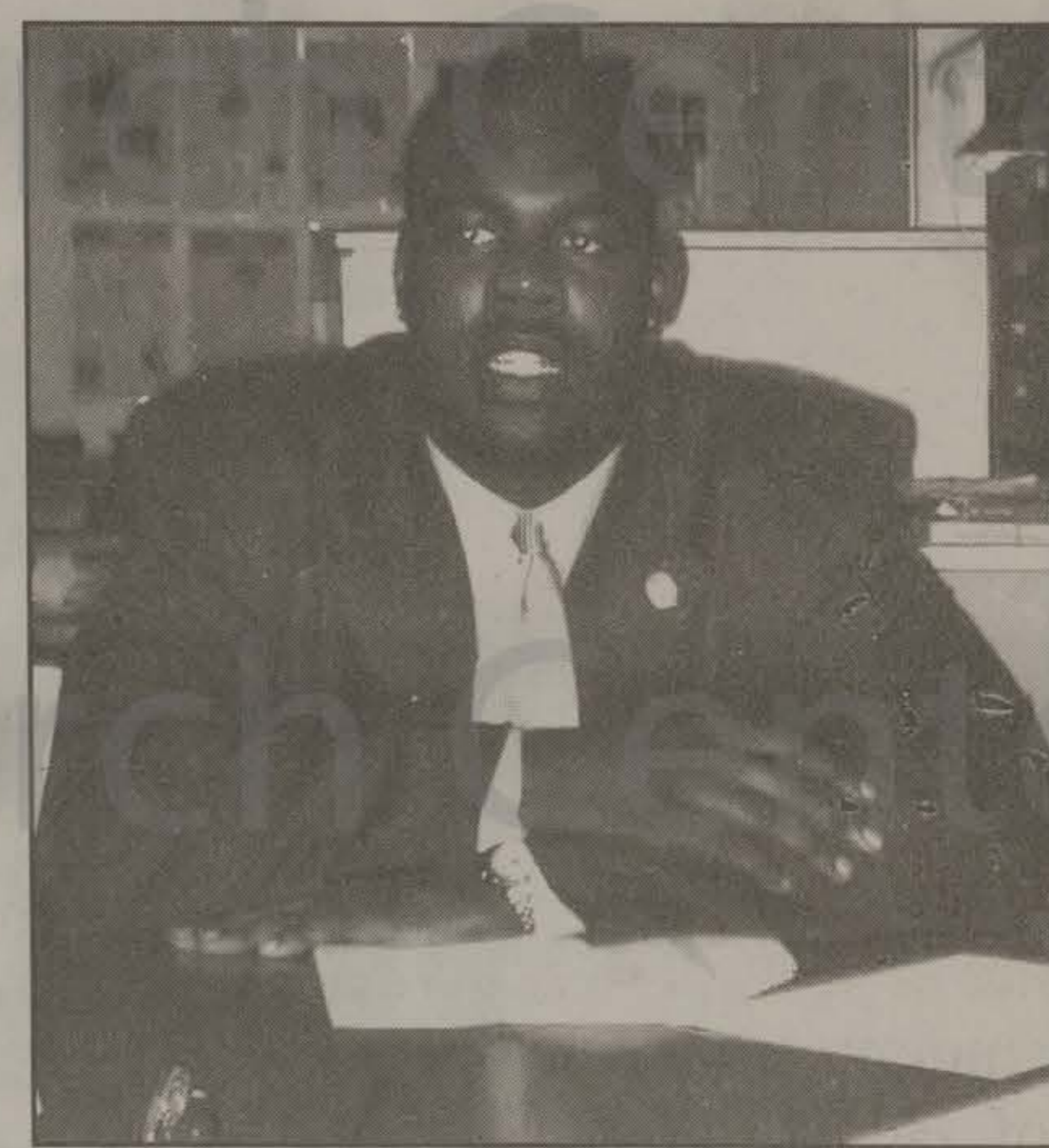
As young people fortunate enough with the opportunity to receive a college-level education, we assume a responsibility as the social engineers and architects of the moral and civil future of not simply this nation but the entire world. We are obligated to those who are likely to be most affected by certain changes because those are likely to be the same individuals who belong to the same group able to do the least to defend their position and constitutional rights. Accordingly, it is imperative that we look at everything with a heightened eye of criticism and analysis. Recently, the Washington Post ran reports from United States Attorney General John Ashcroft warning of the likelihood of new terrorist attacks and linking the

recent findings of Anthrax cases across the country to Osama Bin Laden's al Qaeda network. At the same time that the Department of Justice has issued these precautionary warnings, it is also seeking special authority from Congress to infringe on the constitutional rights of citizens through arbitrary background checks for students, weaker authorization requirements for phone and wire tapping, and inadvertent racial profiling. To the naked eye, these measures seem to have spawned from a desire to avoid and protect against other acts of terror in America. However, a closer look at the ideology of both Attorney General Ashcroft and President George W. Bush's administration helps to not only place things into the proper context, but also a greater connection and cause for attention.

It is not by accident that despite the fragile state of America's psyche, Ashcroft has consciously contributed to the paranoia by keeping alive the insecure feeling that comes with not knowing when or where an attack could occur, but living with the fear that it may and probably will. The result—which is also not an accident—has been a loosened grip on the part of the American people on their own civil rights to privacy and other related liberties in efforts to allow themselves to feel safer. Still, the truth is that the government already has and has had sufficient power and authority to protect us against widespread attacks, but is faced with the challenge of bending and reshaping their approach to guard against new strategies from our adversaries. There is little reason why the new levels of power Ashcroft seeks to obtain for the federal government through the passing and implementation of his proposed measures are needed for the function which they are claimed to exist. Still, an alarming number of Americans, minorities included, have fallen blindly into the trap and rallied support behind Ashcroft and the quasi Big-Brother-like regime that he seeks to impose.

What many of these people fail to realize is the very thing that we cannot afford to lose cognizance of. Once we have relinquished our basic civil and constitutional rights, regardless of the circumstance, we will have twice as fierce a battle attempting to reclaim them. Once we open the door to accepting and condoning racial profiling for some groups along ethnic or religious lines, we will be unable to stop the runaway train that will undoubtedly continue toward socio-economic status, and race. We will not be able to avoid becoming direct targets ourselves and in some ways, prisoners to a society that we gave too much power in haste.

I support the notion that we should not live in fear as a nation. I believe that the government should have what it needs to reasonably protect its citizens. However, I also support the security of our own civil and constitutional rights and feel that they should remain intact. I frown upon the idea that as America comes to grips with the shocking nature of our current state, there are those that seek to use this as a doorway to execute their own ulterior motives. I am not suggesting that there is some huge and multi-leveled conspiracy waging to bring our country to a Beirut-like police state. I am simply pointing out that there are those who stand to gain much by the continued presence and advancement of a fear and paranoia in America, the nature of which seems dubious at this juncture immediately following last month's attacks. In plain words, you are more likely to move from California after an earthquake if state officials continue to purport that more are coming, than you would if you were told that the situation was under control. However, if you miss the point of examining what might the state stand to gain through a mass exodus from a certain area, you run the risk of being blindsided in the future as we are coming dangerously close to at this current time. Howard Uni-



Charles Coleman, Jr.

versity School of Law alum and former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall once declared "History teaches that grave threats to liberty often come in times of urgency, when constitutional rights seem too extravagant to endure". It seems as if in times like these, those are words not only to heed, but also a warning to live by.

Charles Coleman, Jr. is a 2001 graduate of Howard University, a former Undergraduate Trustee, and a first year student at Howard University School of Law. He can be emailed at trusteecoleman@hotmail.com.

Letter To The Editor

To whom It May Concern;

I am writing in reference to the October 9th article entitled "On the Road Again." The purpose of this article, as I understood, was to inform students of how difficult it is to be a student athlete here at Howard University due to all the rigorous activity they go through season after season. I find it quite upsetting to think that athletes should be given any more understanding than the rest of the students on this campus. (Notice I said "understanding" and not "special treatment.") Now let me explain why I feel this way. As stated in the article, it is a very difficult transition to come from playing a sport in high school to playing in college and for that particular reason teachers should give them a little more understanding when dealing with that particular student. However, is that any different than a student who has come all the way from West Africa or the Caribbean? They don't receive any more "understanding" because they are in a completely different culture and are now experiencing a

totally new way of life. Now I do understand that athletes go through a lot physically and mentally. They have practices sometimes twice a day, video to watch, practices to go to, meetings to attend, and not to mention the traveling. But what about the many students here who are working two to three jobs, taking up to 20 credits, live all the way out in Virginia and have a family to take care of? I'm sure we all know at least two to three people personally who have children on this campus, but they still manage to get up everyday, go to class and complete all of their work! Sometimes their schedules are just as hectic as an athlete if not more so, because their responsibilities are year round.

Another argument I hear in favor of the athletes is that because they bring so much revenue into this school, that they are an integral part of this.

Yanique Johnson

Raymond Watson

THE ALARM HAS SOUNDED

As the alarm sounds in the darkness of what still feels like night, you hit around the night stand trying to find that gold old snooze button on the alarm clock. It's ringing in your ear loud as can be and finally you hit and it stops, "ahhh", you sigh, as you roll over and back to sleep. Well, today the alarm is sounding in this darkness of what feels like night. The only difference is, we're not pushing snooze on the clock alarm clock, but our lives. And rather than hearing the alarm going off in our ears we simply roll over and go back to sleep. Now before you simply blow off the article, please, take a minute to just read it, you never know, you may get something out of it. I simply want to shout to you "WAKE UP". How many people are going to die in the blink of an eye before we really see and understand that tomorrow really is not promised to anyone, especially now. How many diseases have to start and get even worse and worse before we say, "hmmm, maybe somebody is trying to tell us something"? Believe me AIDS was not the first hint, and it won't be the last. Let's realize that there aren't some 20-50 types of sexually transmitted diseases that just popped up by coincidence. Let me ask this, why would there be so many things hinting at stopping what we're doing if it was ok (friends dieing, STD's spreading, etc.)? Hmmm. Tazio Travers (22), Aaliyah (22), TuPac (25), and Biggie (24), all died in the blink of eye.

Tazio was simply at the wrong place at the wrong time and now he's gone, was he covered in his death, only God knows. Aaliyah, right at the peak of her career and, now she's gone, just like that. But, who's to say where their spirits are now that they're gone, only God can judge them. All I know is that on any givenday if I were to die I want to die knowing that I have done what God wanted me to do and all I have left to do is go. Not, "come on Lord I was just about to get right, you caught me just before" or "awwww, come on God as soon as I dropped this last album I was gone live for you" and "God, I was just about to go tell people about you and what your son did, you just caught me a bad time." Believe me, if we don't wake up now when the signs have never been more clear and the alarm sounding any louder, then we never will. The micro chip in the skin (mark of the beast), the unidollar (one world monetary unit), and a world totally divided on religions, cultures, and such...it's all been revealed or being revealed, you just have to know the source to look. I urge you, recognize what is going on in the world today and realize that all that is happening is not just "by coincidence"—it is God, sounding the alarm for us to... "WAKE UP".

Raymond Watson is a junior Theater major from Detroit.

Khalfani D. Walker

THE BOURGEOISIE, TALENTED TENTH, AND THE HOWARD ELITE – TIME TO FIGHT

Frantz Fanon said it best – everyone will not get this. Someone will probably read this title and not continue, which is good because they are not ready yet and we will have to come back for them later. I just hope that if that one brother or sister takes hold of this, they too may begin to see with their own eyes what has taken me years to see.

I was blind. I came to the Mecca where the greatest African American minds gathered under the guise of scholarship. The sons of lawyers and daughters of doctors became my comrades as we enlisted at the training camp for the future leaders of America and the global community. I felt enormous pressure, knowing that the Jamaals, Shawannas, and LaKeishas of my community were looking to me to lead them to the next level. I wanted to succeed and I was told that Howard University was the best place for me to learn.

I tried to prepare myself for the role I was to assume. I served in student government, volunteered in the community, joined Americorps, but it was not until I started to read that the construct that is collectively known as Howard University began to deteriorate. As I read on I realized that there was no "talented tenth" and that a largely bourgeoisie African American population had replaced the revolutionaries that walked the campus some odd years ago. I became angry, and I wanted to find answers. At the African American Studies Department in the attic of Founders Library, I waited to speak with anyone who might be able to help me decipher the questions that had been forming in my mind. However, there was no one there to help me. That is when I came to my senses. I realized that I had been in a false state of existence. The university had been given to us, and we had been told to play nice with each other. For the most part, we did, but there where a few who had to push, kick and strike out and they were labeled as the rebels and radicals, but they were the revolutionaries (we see that now and thank

them). They did not come to Howard to learn the rules, and fit into the mold; they were the trendsetters. I developed the sense of smell and realized that my sh*t did stink as well as that of others, and I stopped trying to pretend that I could not smell it. Somewhere we have lost it, and the bourgeoisie, talented tenth, or collective "Howard elite" wanted nothing to do with being true leaders and had long since abandoned the idea.

A young student I tutored asked me once, "Where are all the black leaders now?" I had no answer then and I struggle for one now. Howard University - leadership for America and the global community; the Capstone for Black education, the top HBCU. I think the former Mr. Howard Joe Hawthorne said it best: Howard University is supposed to be preparing leaders for America, but all I see is a bunch of followers waiting for the next order (I think they missed it Joe). The current Howard students want to be leaders, but not leaders like our forefathers. Instead, we would like to be the leaders of capitalism, industry, and exploitation. We want to tell our children that we protested tuition increases and participated in marches, but we will leave out that we were at the protest between our lunch break from twelve to one to see what all the commotion was about and that the only real reason you attended the march was to get your face known to others. We will invite Presidential candidates to our school, and act astonished when billboards read *African American* and not simply *American*, further reinforcing our "otherness" that they see when they look at us. But we will still vote for them; we would rather cast down our buckets (see Booker T. Washington). We will ride the coattails of the past leaders and replace the definition of leader with one synonymous with "who can make the most money", conforming to their standards of success, begging to be accepted in their world through their eyes. Well, my eyes see clearer (will they ever see clearly?) and I have come to the realization that many are lost and that

it will be years before they see what happens. The same group that will give us money will dictate what we learn, how we learn, what we will say and what we will become. But these same leaders will never give back to Howard after it has made them successful, and the university will never break free, remaining corrupted.

Many people will not understand though, and I will be accused of being a racist, unpatriotic, and disgruntled. However, I can have no faith in a country where each star represents a Native American tribe they murdered and every stripe represents the stripes on the back of the displaced African in America who refused to be considered less than a man, three-fifths of a man, or separate but not equal to any other man. A government that can bomb a country one day then send them food and supplies the next day is the same government who will pacify the bourgeoisie and alleged elite and perpetuate a false sense of

security and leadership. I heard Lawrence Fishburne say, "Wake Up!" and I listened.

I realized further that indeed the revolution won't be televised, much to the dismay of those who want to sit at home, and that I would have to start now to make up for lost time. There are questions, and people will want the answers. The funny thing is that there are no true answers yet, and they will be forced to think for themselves; this is when the new leaders will emerge. I look out at Howard University, and all I see now is the remnants of a worn battlefield that has not seen a true battle in years, and I prepare for my time to fight.

Khalfani D. Walker is a senior, English Major from Houston, TX. He can be reached at kdwalker@howard.edu.

PLEASE NOTE:

The views expressed on the Perspective pages of The Hilltop are the opinions of the authors names above them. They do not reflect the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board.

HOWARD SWIMMING AND DIVING



WOMEN AND MEN
TODAY, 2PM, FRIDAY, OCT. 19
HU SHARKS vs. Loyola College
@ THE BURR

"MIDNIGHT MADNESS @ THE MECCA"

TONIGHT, FRIDAY, OCT. 19, 10:30PM

BOOKBAGS, TOTE BAGS, BACK PACKS, ETC. WILL NOT BE PERMITTED
ALSO, NO BOTTLES, CANS, COOLERS OR ALCOHOL IN THE BURR

AT THE BURR !!

ONE FREE TICKET WILL BE ISSUED TO EACH STUDENT, FACULTY OR STAFF PRESENTING THEIR
CAPSTONECARD TODAY, FRIDAY, 11AM TO 8PM - LOWER LEVEL OF CRAMTON AUDITORIUM

- WHILE SUPPLIES LAST -

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S TENNIS @ SC INVITATIONAL & ITA REGIONALS
BEST WISHES> BISON FOOTBALL @ NC A&T <BEST WISHES
VOLLEYBALL in Norfolk and @ American and Morgan
MEN'S SOCCER @ Florida International and George Mason

Women's Volleyball

NEXT HOME MATCHES:

DIG!!

HOWARD vs. American U.

SET!!

7PM, TUESDAY, OCT. 23 @ THE BURR

SPIKE!!

HOWARD vs. Morgan State

7PM, FRIDAY, OCT. 26 @ THE BURR

CONGRATULATIONS TO VOLLEYBALL:

UNDEFEATED (6-0) IN THE MEAC !!!!!!!

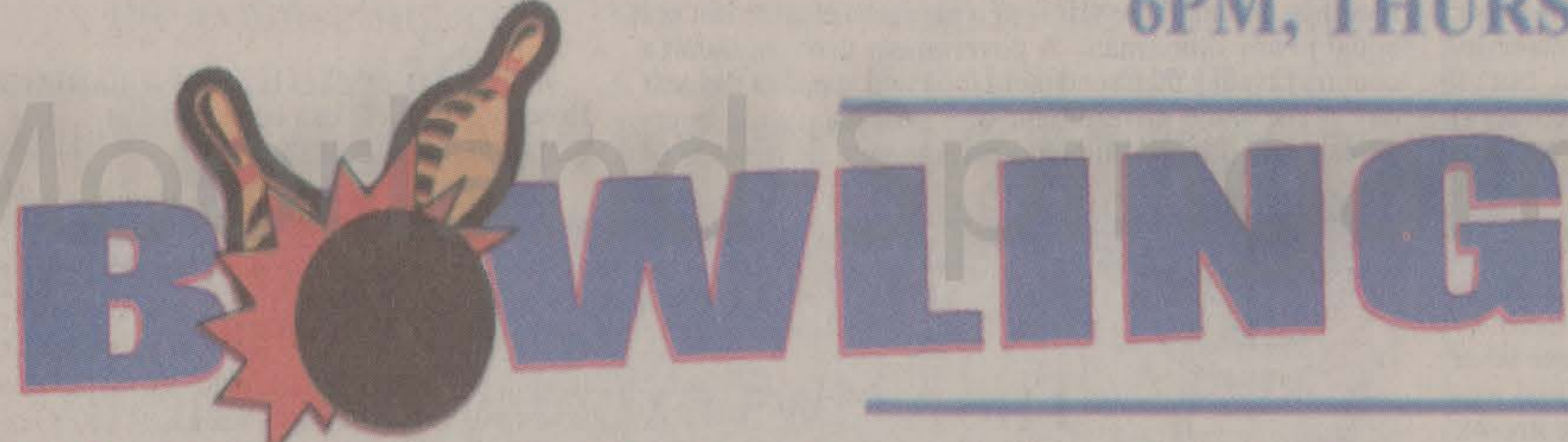


OFF TO THEIR BEST START EVER - 7 WINS, 3 LOSSES

Women's Soccer

HOWARD vs. Virginia Tech

6PM, THURSDAY, OCT. 25 @ GREENE STADIUM



HOWARD @ EPMIBC Tournament
Harrisburg, PA, Oct. 20-21
& @ MEAC North, Oct. 27-28

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISON FOOTBALL FOR THE HOMECOMING WIN!!

Division of Student Affairs

& THANKS TO ALL SUPPORTERS!!

October, 2001



Who Is Omar?
You didn't know! Read more about him
on B2.

1st Person

Don't Call Me Baby....

By ALYSHA COBB
Hilltop Staff Writer

Everyone is familiar with the old saying "Men — you can't live with them and you can't live without them". Well, the other day I met this "man" and he took aggravation to another level. This "man", who shall remain nameless, came across as calm, cool, and collected. We are both involved in serious outside relationships so I honestly thought I found a friend whom I could communicate with on a relatively mature level. Our conversation was deep, but something in the back of my mind (an intuition that only another woman could understand), softly whispered for me to slowly back away.

Before I acknowledged the red flag waving blatantly in front of my face, it was too late. I had been sucked into a twisted, unwanted association with a man who had the nerve to attempt to analyze me after our second conversation. Now, he had been forewarned. I specifically said, "Do not attempt to analyze me. You will fail, and inadvertently continue to make mistakes". He chose not to heed my warning and became the epitome of what I personally despise — a man who thinks he knows it all.

I do not know who died and made him god of psychoanalysis and it was obvious that he needed to be reborn. As I predicted, his feeble attempt to analyze my complex character led to his own demise. It is not a sign of your superiority or manhood to play "Miss Cleo" — you will not find me in your crystal ball.

As I laughed inside my head, he proceeded to tell me what type of woman I am. You know the spoiled, materialistic type who could only be satisfied with a man like himself. Next, he went on to compare me to all other women he has dated, repeatedly stated that he could not trust me, but still wanted to know where our supposed relationship was heading.

Then he called me baby. As the skies came crashing down around us, he continued to babble, unaware of his mammoth mistake. Under normal circumstances this and other terms of endearment would be more than accepted — what women doesn't want to be a little spoiled every now and then? I began to slowly back away, tempted to break into a quick sprint to relieve myself from his temporary insanity.

This brief conversation made me re-evaluate the validity of that infamous cliché. Where did this self-professed prophet come from? Did this man, who was more than three years my elder, forget to grow up? "Can't live with them, can't live without them". Obviously nature has its own imperfections and some of them we just cannot live without.

Alysha Cobb is a sophomore public relations major from Florida, she can be reached at thehilltop@hotmail.com

"Just Like Musiq...." Levi's Rocks The Nation

The rumors quickly spread among Howard's hip-hop community like deadly Anthrax cases in Florida. The burning questions needed to be answered and curiosity levels sky rocketed.

What? Who? Where? When? Why? It was a free concert with several big name line ups and even a few new comers including: The Roots, DJ Jazzy Jeff, Jaguar Wright, Jazzyfatnastees, Musiq Soulchild, N'Dea Davenport, Talib Kweli, Omar, Vinnie Bernard, and YahZarah. It was held at the Nation in Southeast DC, last Thursday (October 11).

Part of the reason that the free concert was actually a reality instead of a fallacy was because of the hard work and money many sponsors donated for an important cause. Some of the sponsors that were involved were Lifebeat, Trojan condoms, the *Fader* magazine, and probably the biggest of them being Levi's Jeans. Most importantly, the concert was held to educate young adults (who also happened to love hip hop) about the HIV/AIDS epidemic that continues to hit the minority community hardest.

As stated above, the concert was free with a special invite flyer that allowed one to bring along a lucky friend. It was held at the Nation and began around 10, however doors opened at 8.

When one walked through the door and into the lobby area of the club, the greeting was a familiar, friendly face, DJ Jazzy Jeff spinning the wheels on the 1's and 2's. He got the crowd hype and played everything from "Tezilla" to "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now (We're on the Move)". In front of the stage was a standing only section that allowed concertgoers to freely rock to the beat or even to break (dance). Up above the "pit" were the two VIP sections were located. There were several bars located conveniently just about everywhere one might go. The general atmosphere was a good one as everyone was able to take pictures and even record the show. For the price, it couldn't be beat.

The performers rocked the stage and it can easily be compared to a jam session showcasing Philly born and bred artists. However, two of the performers were from "the area". They are singers Vinnie Bernard and YahZarah. One of the other performers even had to cross and ocean or two to get here. His name is Omar, and he has been a huge success in the UK long before anyone ever heard the name Craig David.

Each artist performed two to four tracks, yet



Musiq rocks the Crowd at the Levi's Re-engineered Tour this past Thursday

the Roots acted as the Masters of Ceremonies and held the stage down. They showed love for all of the artists performing and even had a moment of silence in memory of the people whose lives were lost in New York and Washington, DC. Practically giving an oral history of themselves, The Roots also teased the crowd with a couple of new tracks that will appear on their forthcoming album.

Talib's message, "Move Somethin'" was synonymous with what should be the community's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He rocked the crowd and preached simultaneously through his songs about love, a revolution, and "real hip hop".

Of the ladies performing Jazzyfatnastees,

N'Dea Davenport, YahZarah, and Jaguar Wright, Wright seemed to grab the crowd and never let go. "The What Ifs" was the song that most of the ladies in the audience seemed to jump at as they related their own past experiences with relationships to those of Ms. Wright.

At the end, the concert was not complete without grabbing a (again) free bag of goodies that advertised Levi's newest styles of jeans for ladies and gentlemen. There was the newest copy of the *Fader* (with Kelis on the cover), a Levi tambourine, a copy of the pamphlet *The Deal*, numerous CD samplers, and even Trojan condoms. *The Deal* is a pamphlet appeals to young adults and provided vital information about new music, fall fashion,

relationships, tattoos, HIV/AIDS myths, and even contact numbers and Website addresses for advice and support.

The purpose of awareness is to provide prevention power that cannot be overcome. Young people who possess knowledge are enabled to make better decisions for all the right reasons. There were a few Howard students in the crowd representing at the concert and their unanimous response to the concert was: "It was HOT!" It proved that not all artists are selfish, tightfisted, and careless jerks. The artists that participated displayed their concern for their people, their community, and the diseases indirectly and directly affecting them as well.

Time is of the Essence The New Era of Wrist Wear.

By: HAROLD EICHELBERGER
Hilltop Staff Writer

The days of wearing two or three watches set on different times is gone. However, to be fashionably in time is back. The styles of watches continually change and to be in style this season, your wrist should be the first place to start.

Different styles include the square face, the circular face, and the rectangular face. There is even an array of brands to choose from: Fossil, DKNY, or even Fendi and Gucci. Whatever the brand of choice, the watches set for the fall and winter season are shaped to fit the persona of any man.

According to employees at the Watchzone in Georgetown, this

face. According to retailers, consumers admire timepieces that have larger faces than normal.

Consumer's love Fossil watches because of the various levels of design that Fossil administers in their fall and winter lines.

Fossil is well known because of the levels of versatility. Versatile in the ways that they can be sporty and dressy at the same time, consumers appreciate the stark personable areas of design that Fossil has to offer.

Watchzone also explains that the circular watches and square watches are the ruling trend in timepieces.

Some people just love and appreciate the visionary taste of the shine that the variety of watches have to offer. "Bling! The shine, the color of the face, those are the important elements that I consider when selecting a watch. I have different color faces of watches from white,

to blue, and to black. The type of links matter; also the name brand," said Donald Darling, sophomore computer science major.

Based on fashion information given from the Kenneth Cole store in Pentagon City Fashion Center, timepiece trends for the upcoming season are very elaborate and unique. "The main trend change that the style of watches have made is moving away from circular watches to rectangular watches.

The rectangular watches are in for the fall and for the winter," said Dave, sales associate at the Kenneth Cole store.

"The hottest selling watches are the simple watches. The simpler the better. In our store, the rectangular watches are the best sellers. Despite the shape transition of watches, the square faces are picking up," adds Dave.

An athletic flavor goes into the design of some watches. An

example of a manufacturer who designs and produces athletic watches is Nike. The athletic style is one that



has picked up for male athletes who spend their time regularly on the football field, the track, or even cycling down the streets of D.C.

"Watches have to be different from what I have seen before. The watch also has to be something different than what everyone else has. The watch has to be smooth with clean lines of contour," adds Sho Small, a sophomore Howard University student.

"I try to look for a watch that I can wear everyday, one that compliments my style; my style of dress, and my style of living," said Jerel Keels, sophomore psychology pre-dental major.

No matter how fashionable of a male you may or may not be, style simply comes down to personal taste and attitude. Whatever type of timepiece that dons your wrist, it is a reflection of one of the elements that makes a man — personal style and resilience.

'5 Minutes' Proves to Last Longer

By BRANDON A. MILLER
Hilltop Staff Writer

to fit each artist's personality. This is evident on Pizo's "Nation Wide Takeover". The thumping bass line and hyper sound fits Pizo's energetic flow perfectly. With the catchy hook and witty lyrics, this song is destined to find its way into the club.

The braggadocio title track featuring Shak C, Rukuss and Puda Pimp is heavy on lyrics, while "The Jump Off" has Mister Cliff and



NWT Entertainment
'5 Minutes of Fame'
Grade: B

Compilation albums are always risky business. With a number of different artists and styles, there is often creative conflict that harms the music's quality. But NWT Entertainment's "5 Minutes of Fame" compilation, exclusively featuring Howard students, manages to sound consistent and flows from track to track.

One of the main reasons the album doesn't lose its focus or sound helter skelter is the associate executive producer and Beethoven, who produced all tracks on the album except five. His sound is very versatile and he creates beats

former Verbal Armageddon champion Perfecto passing the mic back and forth spitting venom like "words will spray the youth/like Rae Carruth/ double layer goose/ quite hater proof", "Itz Nuthin'" has the contrasting techniques of New York native Shak C and Miami's Pizo, but they successfully collaborate displaying unabashed confidence. "Thatz Gangzta" by Corporate Thugz is a laid back posse cut with a definite West Coast feel.

There are some tracks on the album that fall flat such as 3 Series "Your Life" and Queen Zenobia's "Mango", but all in all, this compilation shows enormous potential for NWT and its artists. If they keep this up they may be famous for more than just five minutes.

Next Week In
Life & Style....

The Greek Life

Inside the mind
of Musiq

The Burning
Question Of
STD's

The Season of
Leather

Get Into It!

Omar Who??

Omar is the best soul singer you've never heard of.

Profile & Interview

By SHANNON WASHINGTON
Life & Style Contributing Writer

You know who Omar is.

Somewhere in the back of your mind you've heard infectious melodies blended with intricate arrangements and soul stirring lyrics. You've listened to a song and sworn that it was written especially for you. While most of us are in or early twenties, we've all been in relationships, experienced love, pain, and the feeling of wanting to escape from everyday life. If this holds true to you- then you know who Omar is.

Before D'Angelo, Maxwell and Bilal there was Omar, and please don't think that British soul started with Craig David and Lynden David Hall.

Undoubtedly one of the best soul singers to come out of great Great Britain, Omar started his career with the critically acclaimed album *There's Nothing Like This* (Talkin' Loud/Kongo Dance) in 1990. Recognized as a soul artist, Omar's blend of reggae, and hip-hop along with soul melodies ensured him success in the British dance scene. After releasing *Music* in 1992 he started to gain an even stronger following and in January 1993, RCA Records won the race to sign Omar after departing from Talkin' Loud. Due to confusion as to how to properly promote his album to an American audience and abroad he was subsequently dropped from RCA after completing 1994's *For Pleasure* and 1997's *This Is Not A Love Song*. Recently, Omar has released *Best By Far* (Naïve/Oyster). Omar's popularity continues to remain underground, while sell-

ing far beyond the limits of most underground artists. With a strong fan base in the United States, most notably in New York, one is always amazed that an artist of his caliber is not receiving the proper credit that is deserved.

He was born Omar Lyefook in 1969 in Canterbury, Kent, England, the child of a Chinese Jamaican father and an Indian Jamaican mother. A former principle percussionist of the Kent Youth Orchestra, he later graduated from the Guildhall School of Music in London.

His debut singles were "You And Me" and "Mr. Postman" (featuring backing vocals from Caron Wheeler best known for her work with Soul 2 Soul), before his debut album was released, through Harlesden's Black Music Association's Kongo Dance label, which was created by his father.

Throughout his career he has collaborated with notable R&B/Soul heavy weights such as bass player Derek Bramble (Heatwave), Leon Ware (arranger for Marvin Gaye) and Stevie Wonder, who contacted Omar after hearing his "Music" cut. He has attracted singers such as Erykah Badu, Eric Benet, Jill Scott and even Ol' Dirty Bastard who all are attracted to Omar's work.

Best By Far, which was written and produced by the man himself, is packed with a unique blend of jazz and African drums and traditional soul melodies. But he also adds to his formula with more mainstream music forms like garage, best heard on the single "Something Real". Omar also includes two of the funkiest duets with "Be Thankful" featuring Erykah Badu and "Come On", with Kele Le Roc.

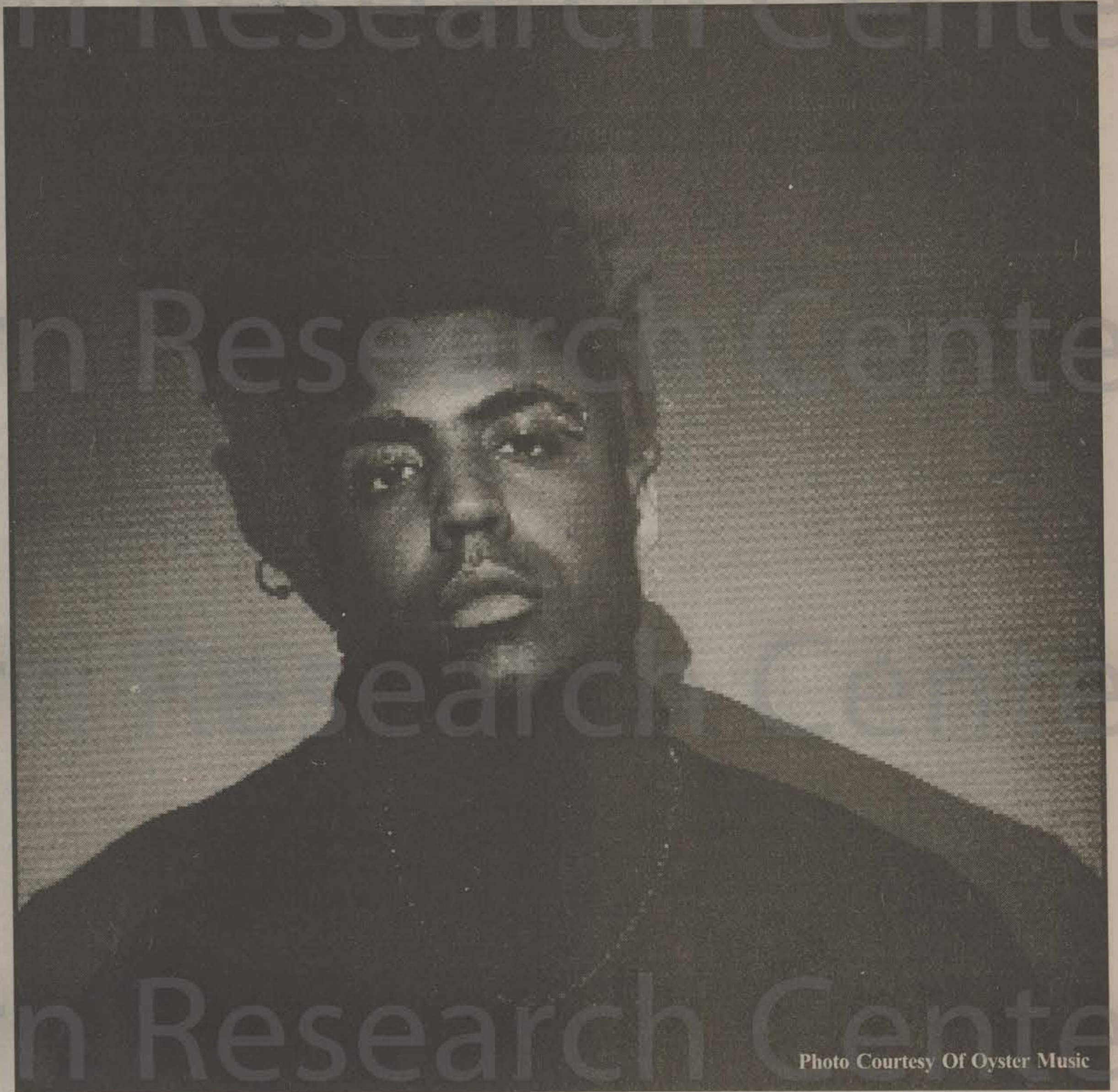
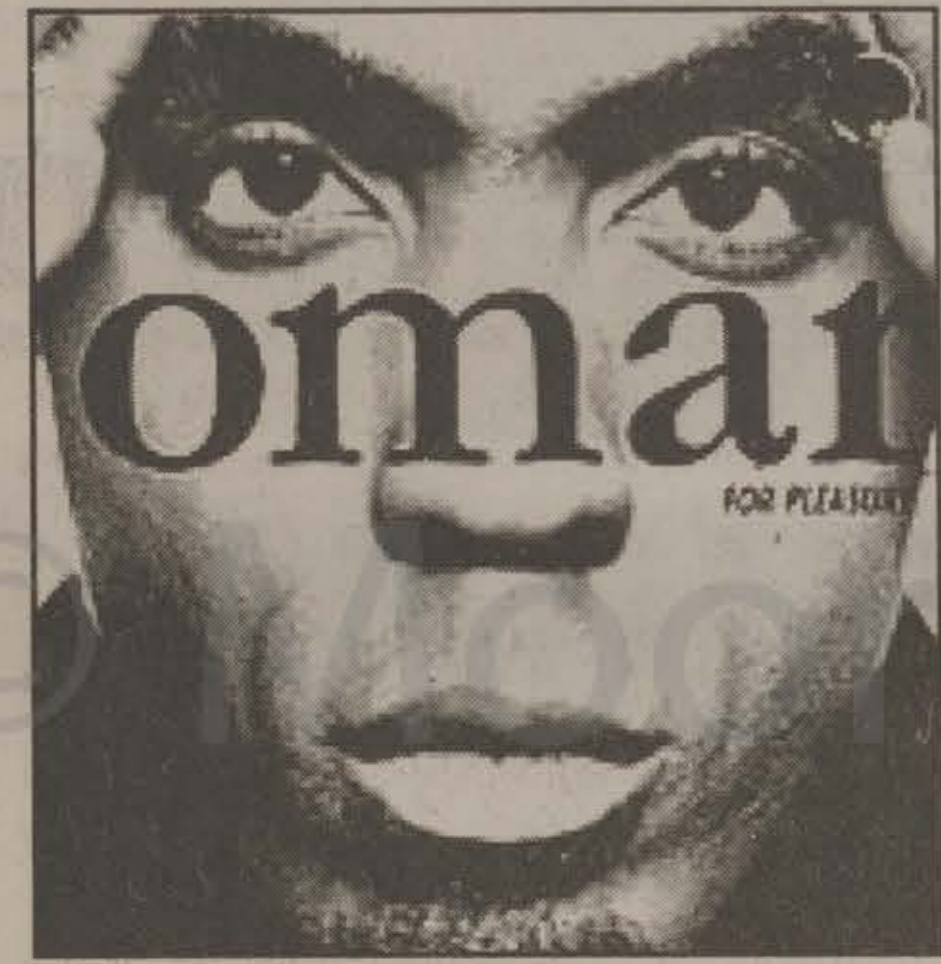


Photo Courtesy Of Oyster Music

Straight From The SourceQ&A with Omar



Recently the Hilltop had a chance to sit down with Omar before the on-the-low Levi's Engineered tour that came to Nation on the 11th, in which Omar made an appearance.

For Pleasure, Omar's 3rd (and one of the best) albums

What have you been doing between releasing *This Is Not A Love Song* & *Best By Far*?

It's always taken me 2-3 years for each album; recently I've been trying to promote this last album.

The name of your latest is *Best By Far*, in naming this album are you stating that this really is your best work or is it just a play on words?

No- well, in a way I would say yes 'cause I always want to get better with each album. I was just looking through the titles and that seemed to be the right one.

In looking at this album, it definitely stands out from the rest- almost going in a new direction. In making this album what did you do differently, was it intentional?

With "this is not a love song" and "for pleasure" I was basically in America. I decided this time I wanted to be close to home in London. I wanted to work to a budget because I was kind of extravagant with the last record.

Being in L.A. you know, having a car and the apartment and working with a big studio- you don't really need to do that to create the music. With this album because I was close to home I took sandwiches to the studio- I just made it really simple and just thought about what I wanted to do with the direction of the music. This is just the 2001 version of what I've always done. I have to create music with a bit of old and new school flavor.

With *Best By Far*, you collaborated with Erykah badu, as well as in the past collaborating with Mica Paris, Stevie Wonder, Ol' Dirty Bastard and others. Who are you looking to work with now for the next project?

I just did some stuff with Common Sense for his album. I just met Jazzy Jeff for the first time today; he's a wicked producer so I would want to hook up with him in the future. In terms of old school, I always like to work with one person. I've been fortunate enough this time 'cause Stevie Wonder wrote me a song. I've waited eight years for it! He said that in '93 and he just now decided to pay up. I'd also like to work with Bill Lee- Spike Lee's dad. I have a lot of respect for his orchestral arrangements.

How do you decipher who it is that you're going to work with, what factors do you look for in a collaborator?

Well the vibe has got to be right. It's always gotta be down to the actual moment when you two sit down and create something or perform together or whatever it's going to be. I've worked with certain big artist, legends if you will, and sometimes it hasn't worked. I always want them to inspire me to make good music.

Being in America now and looking back on the tragic occurrences that have happened, has that affected your touring schedule or hindered you in promoting this album here in the states?

Well, I'm a little bit worried about my name being Omar! I might have to change my name to Jim until they

get used to the music- then it wouldn't matter what my name is!

Seriously, you know I spoke to Common about this because we've got to do a lot of traveling, a lot of flying- it's just part of the job. You just gotta get on with it and hope that it's not gonna be you. What I do is make music and a part of that is the traveling as well. I just think about the victims and their families and am grateful that no one in my family has been affected by this tragedy.

Right now, you have a younger audience that isn't very familiar with your music, are you looking to reach out to them while still maintaining your current fan base here in America?

I've been building on what I have, I seem to have quite a big following underground and I'm quite happy about that. That's not my first intention when I'm making music. I'm an artist who's just expressing himself and his music. I'm just fortunate that people just love and listen to the music. It is a big question for me as to how I spread the word of Omar.

Do you think that because you do have such a large underground following, that the love from listeners is more genuine and heartfelt? When you walk on stage, how is the feeling of knowing that the people really know who you are rather than being there because they heard about it on the radio make you feel?

I actually never thought of it that way but what you just said is very true. If the people know your music, it's a very sure thing that they're really gonna be into what you're doing as opposed to your latest video. With my music, it's something that you really have to choose to like since it isn't on the radio and video. Hopefully with this album it will be more radio friendly, one can only hope.

Right now you have artists like Jill Scott, India Irie, Julie Dexter, Bilal and Ledisi who are bringing soul music into the mainstream. How do you feel about the re-emergence of soul music or neo-soul that is hap-

pening right now?

I think it's wicked, I mean obviously it's a form of music that I can identify with and agree with that getting some props now, it would just to get some props too. It's good music so I can't give anything but praise to it.

Being as though you produce and write 99% of your own material, what comes first the songwriting or the production?

It's always the music first- then the lyrics. That's the only way I can work, I always here the music. It can start from anything, it could be the bass line with the drum-beat, it could be the chords, either way its music first.

Where does your main source of inspiration lie? Does it come from growing up in a musical household with your father being a musician, does it come from the street or is it all internal?

It's a bit of everything, when I was young the major influences I had were my father. When I first started writing songs, production wise, he was the one who showed me how to put stuff in the right spaces and showed me what good production is. Before that I was classically trained, I was always in a youth orchestra or a brass band, choir, or a percussion ensemble. It's just different for every song; you give a different approach and pick different elements. When I try to do a string arrangement, I go back to my classical training etc.

What's your favorite instrument?

(Pauses) Bass drums, keyboards- any one at any time.

Tell me three things you love.

-My Mum
-Little kids who sing really, really well.
-Hearing people sing my music.

Tell me three things you hate.

-Terrorism
-Ignorance
-Racism

"Stranger" Things: Lina Defines the True Meaning of R & B

By ALYSHA COBB
Hilltop Staff Writer

Imagine walking into a Prohibition-era speakeasy in New Orleans, Louisiana. Or Harlem's famed Cotton Club watching legendary performances by Duke Ellington or Lena Horne. Fuse these moments and the talents of these stars, into the 21st century and you have R&B's newest diva, Lina.

Inspired by the priceless heritage of African American music, Lina has managed to surpass the hip-hop generation and take music back to its roots. She has already begun to take the world by storm, wowing audiences across Europe in London, Amsterdam, and Hamburg and now the United States. She attributes her contemporary yet old and soulful sound to the likes of Bessie Smith, Josephine Baker, Sarah Vaughan, and Billie Holiday.

Merging the past with the present, Lina makes a phenomenal introduction with her Atlantic Records debut, "STRANGER ON EARTH." Accompanied by a plethora of instrumentation and fine musicianship, she moves gracefully from track to track.

Playa no mo' is a hauntingly soothing track about a women's vow to quit her cheating ways. On the next track, she brings together classic and modern soul and challenges her friend to make her wayward man Step up. On It Ain't Me featuring Boo of Philly's Most Wanted, is sure to become a hit with the ladies. Its catchy lines warn all those hating women to check their man before they step to another female about his wondering eyes.

The slow-paced Don't Say Nothin' sports a unique blend of hip-hop and jazz, while issuing an ultimatum to the man of her life - shape up or ship out. The distant beats and powerful lyrics on I'm Not The Enemy, coupled with Lina's amazing ability to switch from jazz to the blues are sure to make you pump this self-love anthem in your system.

Along the lines of I'm Not the Enemy, Lina is

almost prophetic in her next track God Loves Me. She picks up the pace on It's Alright, a song about a man who may not have all the dough, but still has the right stuff to make everything all right in his woman's life.

A song strictly for the ladies, Batches, is a swing-inspired song delivering instructions on how to keep your man in line "If that n***a got you trippin' like that, actin' how you act, send that trick back." The r&b fueled beat of Watch Yo Mouth, is a humorous warning to any man "who calls you out your name." Its upbeat tempo should get this track played in clubs across the country.

The only non-original track on the album Stranger On Earth, gives honor to the great Dinah Washington.

With this album, Lina has brought over a century of black music history together. If this is any indication of what is to come, this singer, songwriter, and producer is going to make major waves in the music industry.



Wireless But Still Connected

By: METANOYA WEBB
Contributing Writer

It's 10:00 am, Thursday and Senior Finance Major, Ronnie Bascom heads to class while answering his cell phone. He picks it up and on the line, a representative from Sprint PCS begins to speak. The representative reminds him of his contractual obligation while persuading him to lengthen his contract with them.

Cell phone contracts are often binding, leaving the consumer with no choice but to continuously support their providing company. "They are in the business to ultimately make money and can care less about the consumer; as long as our payments are on time every month," said Corey McQueen, a sophomore legal communications major said.

McQueen who switched his plan with Sprint PCS right before his old contract ended had to renew it for another full year or pay a \$150 cancellation fee.

How many owners of cellular phones have special features on your phones that they were never aware existed? Or how many people signed a cell phone contract with out completely understanding or realizing the serious obligation of having to stay with the providing company. Cell phones are very convenient and helpful for college students but cell phone companies are making millions off young consumers with their confusing obligatory agreements.

According to Kenneth Tuitt, office manager for VoiceStream Wireless on Georgia Avenue, most cell phone agreements are for at least one year, and during a contract, if the customer decides to switch the plan that they originally agreed to, the time starts all over again.

If the company comes out with a plan, with more nation wide daytime minutes for less money

than what students are currently paying, they can switch, but if they haven't completed a one-year agreement it will start over again from the day the new plan was activated.

After completing a one-year agreement with VoiceStream, the company is supposed to notify customers that they are no longer obligated to stay with this company and if they choose, the plan can be canceled at anytime without being charged a cancellation fee. The company is also supposed to give you the option of either doing a monthly agreement or starting another one-year contract after your original one is up, said Tuitt.

Most cell phone companies however, do not notify the consumer of these things and immediately give him a new contract without the customer's consent.

"I currently have Sprint and feel as if I'm obligated to the company and it's a contract," said Nia Hamilton, a sophomore Broadcast Journalism major. "They never stressed the importance of sticking with your plan and I feel trapped because all the other companies are the same way."

Another trap some cell phone users fall into is going over the minutes allotted in their plans. "The cost per minute for all calls over the time allotted in your plan depends not only on the company but also, the specific plan you have," said Tuitt. Some plans charge as little as 10 cents per minute, but Sprint charges anywhere from 30-50 cents for minutes gone over depending on what type of plan you have.

"Cell phones are rip offs," McQueen said. "Ever since I got a cell phone all I've had is trouble, trouble with service, trouble with billing, trouble with everything."

"When talking to a customer representative over the phone about your account be sure to ask the Rep. for their individual customer service number. If a change was suppose to be made in your plan that was never made you can trace it back to the individual you spoke to," said Mr. Tuitt. The best thing for individuals who are interested in purchasing cellular phones that involve any sort of agreements is to fully understand the obligations of your contract before you make a 12-month or longer commitment.

Ask questions and get as much information so things that happen within your contract will not come as a surprise.

Calendar

What's Going On This Weekend??

Friday October 19, 2001

Don't Judge a Book by its Cover! Just read it! 7:00 PM @ the **National Museum of Women in the Arts** Mary Karr, author of *The Liar's Club* (1995), is known for humorous, edgy memoirs of her tumultuous youth in an East Texas refinery town. Karr will read from her published works, including *Cherry* (2000).

Let's Get Happy! Happy Hour at the Republic gardens starts at 6:00 pm with a free complimentary buffet for its gets, Eat, Drink, and Socialize, while dodging that tired guy with the gold tooth and the high top fade

Sunday October 21, 2001

Find out the reason why they sing! The Cathedral Choral Society hosts a concert in the Cathedral's nave by London's Choir of Westminster Cathedral under the direction of Martin Baker. time: 4 PM cost: \$20-\$50 contact: Cathedral Choral Society: (202) 527-8980 location: Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin Aves, NW city: Washington, DC

Allow her to open up her heart. Yolonda Adams plans to give a spiritually moving performance today at Constitution Hall @ 7:00 PM. If you saw her performance months ago on Oprah you know its something worth waiting. Praise the Lord!

Tuesday October 23, 2001

I'm a Survivor! I'm not gonna give up! Check out these real life survivors as **Survivors of Modern Genocide Lecture at American University!** Hear first hand accounts from witnesses to modern genocide, followed by Q&A. check our website for this and future events time: 7:00 PM cost: Free, donations accepted contact: The Genocide Prevention Center, info@improvetheworld.com, 703-836-8269 location: Main Campus, Mary Graydon Center 6th floor 4400 Massachusetts NW city: Washington DC

And you thought the Towers had Drama! The only place to see drama

Thursday October 25, 2001

The In Crowd! Try to be popular tonight at the DC SOCIAL INSIDER PARTY AT BLACKIE'S DÉJÀ VU (1217 22nd Street NW city). With free valet parking and the coveted Vincent Van Gogh Cocktail this event affirms that DC is great for parties. For \$10 this is definitely the best bet for tonight unless you have Maxwell tickets. With a complimentary cuisine and a strict dress attire Republic might want to watch out.

When does Alcohol and an Automobile ever mix? Well tonight it does at the RED HOT ROAD TRIP Party! The Bacardi girls are running into DC with a cool contest tonight at LULU's 22nd Street NW as they prepare patrons to win a trip to Bacardi Gras and A Red Hot Road Trip Winnie. Who said drinking never paid off!

Saturday October 20, 2001

The Block is Hot! From 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM @ the Black Fashion Museum for its annual block party. Learn about African Americans' contribution to fashion and engage in hands-on demonstrations of how fashions are made. Enjoy an ensemble performance of "Where Eagles Fly", a riveting look at the rich history of the Shaw neighborhood.

If you like art then you will love this outdoor event. The annual Harvest Festival goes on today. It is all about the arts and arts community. This popular festival lasts from 12-11 PM on North Carolina Ave SE. This full day is even more special because its free.

Before there was Smokey the Bear there was Smokey Robinson. Check out Smokey Robinson this Saturday at Constitution Hall @ 8 pm. This promises to be a big event for all of you rhythm and blues heads.

Monday October 22, 2001

The Talented Tenth! Check out what the Nations Capital have to offer at Bar-Nun on U street. The latest poetry and performances will definitely leave DC crunked up.

Wednesday October 24, 2001

The Bike Rally comes home! Hard Rock Café presents Harley Davidson Bike Night starting @ 7:00 PM. It's planned to be a big crowd so get their early to hitch the ride of your life.

Whenever, Wherever, Whatever! You do Go to this concert! Maxwell performs an Encore performance today and tomorrow Oct 25th at Constitution Hall. Rising star Res opens for the man behind the musze. Show starts @ 8 PM Get there early and Get into it!



Embrace Maxwell, October 24th & 25th

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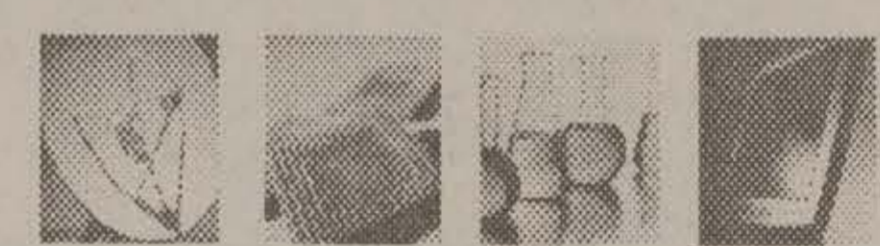
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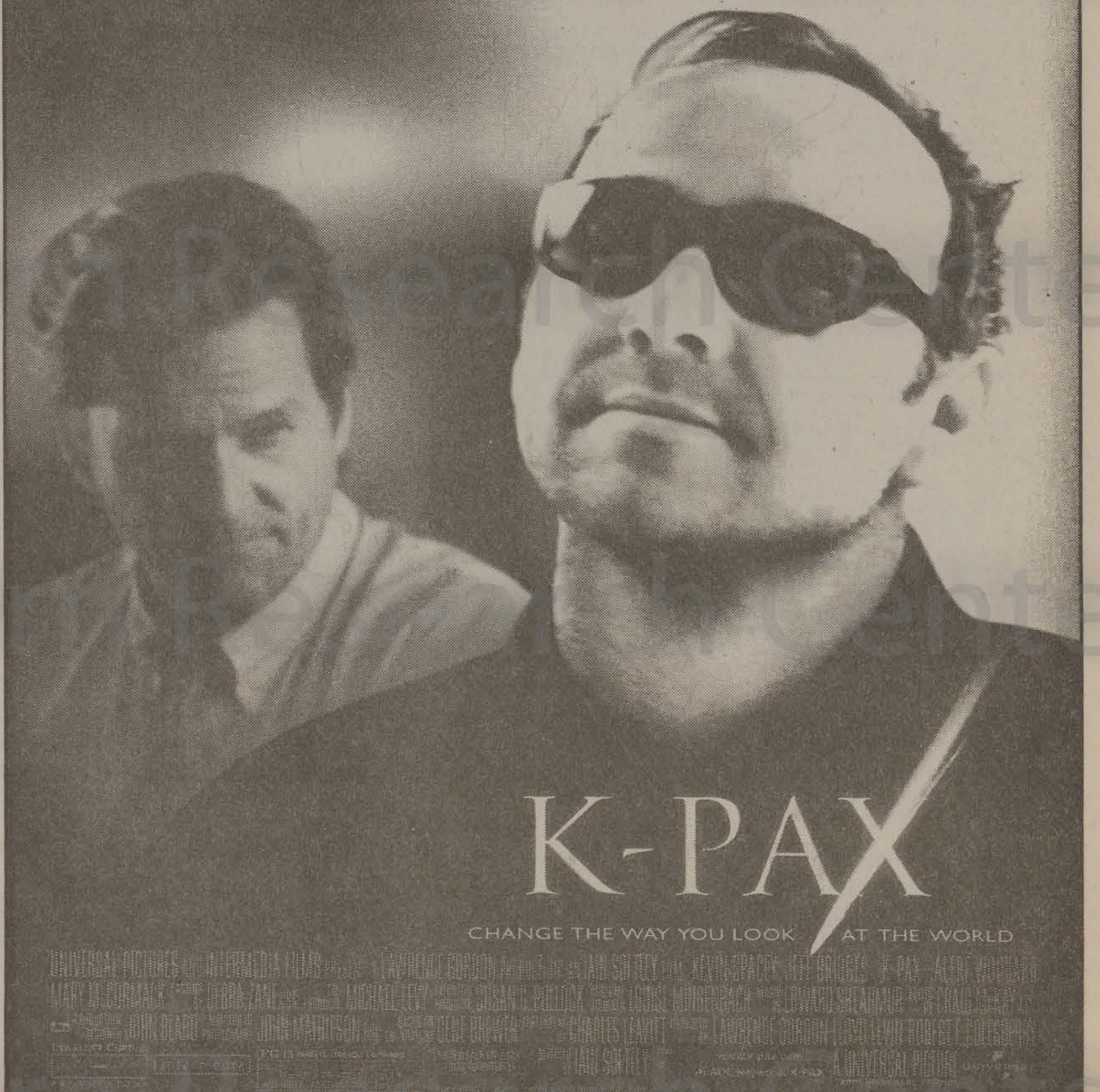
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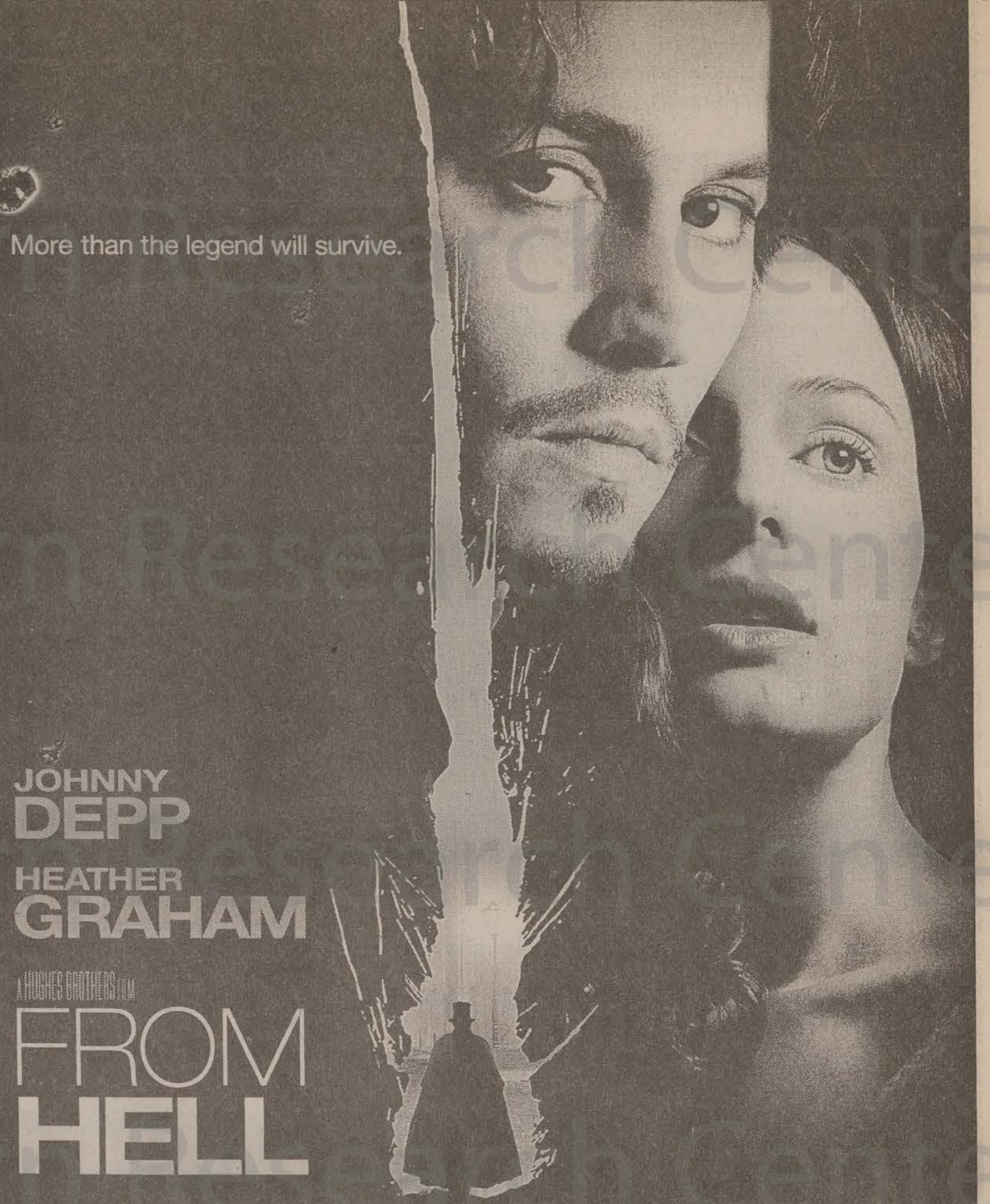
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Howard University family I hope that you enjoyed your 2001 Homecoming....

V.I.B.E.

I am so grateful to have served as the 2001 Homecoming Chairwoman. But the **V.I.B.E.** would not have been possible without the support, love, and encouragement of the following people:

Therefore, I must say thank you too....

My Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for keeping me strong, focused and determined

My parents unbelievable patience, love and support. I am truly blessed.

My belated grandma (May 22, 2001) who has been watching over me since I received this position.

My friends, "Thank you to those who asked how I was doing, verses how **HOME**COMING was doing. You know who you are.

President Swygert, "Thank you for the support on so many levels."

Provost Caldwell-Colbert, "Thank you for your participation and interest in my vision."

Mr. Raymond Archer, "Your support made the **V.I.B.E.** vision possible. Thank you.

Dr. Chambers, "Sometimes it was good to know that someone understood me, thank you for listening."

Mr. Steven Johnson, "For being concerned, involved and supportive, I thank you."

Mr. Victor Montgomery, "Thanks for letting go but holding on when I needed you too."

Mr. Steven Claiborne (2000 Homecoming Chairman, for your unwavering support)

Mr. Terrance Samuels, "You are my second dad. I am glad that we did this together from day one."

Dean Richardson, "Thank you for supporting our Gospel event."

Ms. Roberta McLeod, "Your ability to gather the masses and educate Howard University about Libation is a gift. Thank you for teaching us one more time."

Mr. Bernard Moon, "Thank you for working with us even when we attempted to change the *script*."

Designsdot.com "The flyers, handbills, jackets, dedication, professionalism...I am still overwhelmed about how hard you worked for me, thank you."

2001-2002 Homecoming Policy Board, "I appreciate the respect and trust you gave me."

Mr. Rasheem Ameid Rooke, "A brother, mentor, advisor and backbone."

Mr. Oscar R. Jones, "Advisor of the century."

Ms. Dana Williams, "You go above and beyond even when you don't have too and every thing you touch is excellence. Thank you."

Mr. Keith Miles, "The parade was visually astounding. Thank you. "

Ms. Lavern Freeman "For having a smile, even when I didn't."

Ms. Porter. "For looking out for me."

Dean Watkins, "Your wisdom amazes me."

Ms. Kim Banks, "Words cannot describe how much I appreciate your honesty and warmth."

Mr. Lannie Guster, "Thank you for your expertise at the Step Show."

Mr. Pat Walton, "Your work ethic made our productions that much better, thank you for pushing us."

Cramton family especially (Jonathan, Dwayne, Drew, Vernon, Wes, Byron, Nicole and Dizzy) I love you all! I am so happy to have met each one of you.

Mr. Richard Dawson, "For taking the time to explain financial policy and procedure."

Ms. Workman, "Thank you for working with us on short notice"

Ms. Edwards, "Thank you for working with us on the Yardfest."

Ms. Deborah Boatwright, "You are my superwoman!"

Chief Smith, "Thank you for recognizing where we can be better and helping us to get there."

Officer Ford, "Thank you for sticking with us throughout the week."

Mr. Jim Watkins, Mr. Zeke Zanders & WHUR 96.3 family, "Thank you for allowing me to broaden our promotional campaign."

WKYS 93.9 family especially Mr. Darryl Huckaby, Ms. Dionne Burkett, Two Face, Antonio, Sixth Sense, Russ Parr, Olivia Fox, Jeannie Jones, Lorenzo, PStew, KB, Tiffany "I am deeply appreciative of the relationship we were able to create. The **V.I.B.E.** was all over the DC, Maryland and VA!!!"

VIBE magazine family especially Ali "One word: Yardfest, thank you."

THE DEDICATED V.I.B.E. VOLUNTEERS ARE AWESOME!!!! Special recognition to: Johnna, Rakeyah, Rita, Yasmeen, Jessica, Tiffanie, Jamila, Steve, Amie, Valerie, Donovan, Christina, David, Antoinetta, Dior, Corey, Jennifer, Michele

The **V.I.B.E.** would have been nothing without the **BEST** staff in the world....

Djinge Lindsay(Treasurer), **Jaida Bender**(Vice-Chair), **Jewel James**(Operations Manager), **Lakesha Robinson**(Operations Assistant/Volunteer Coord.), **Siobhan (Sunshine)Walker**(Chair's Assistant), **Brandi James**(Vending Coord.), **Asha French**(Treasurer's Assistant), **Kori Young**(Office Assistant), **Brandon Jones**(Office Assistant), **Shayna Richardson**(Office Assistant), **Amanda Hunt**(Fashion Show Coord.), **Precious Ummuna**(Gospel Play Coord.), **Ashley McFarlin**(Pageant Coord. and the **MOST AWESOME STAGE MANAGER!!!**), and **Lavonda Willis**(Step Show Coord.)

Even though I tested you with my high standards, you exceeded my expectations as a staff. I love each one of you. I have grown because of you. Together you helped me to achieve a vision, my dream. I am humbled by your professionalism, commitment, strength, focus, resolve, work ethic and perseverance. I do not think words will ever express how much I appreciate all that each of you have done. I always knew that I would only be as good as my staff. You, each of you, are excellence. Thank you.

Howard University thank you again

Melva L. Jones
2001 Homecoming Chairwoman

All HILLTOPICS are due, paid in full, the Tuesday before publication date. Announcements by campus organizations for meetings, seminars or nonprofit are charged as individuals advertising for the purpose of announcing a service, buying or selling are charged \$5 for the first 20 words and \$1 for every additional five words. Local companies are charged \$10 for first 20 words and \$2 for every 5 words thereafter. Personal ads are \$2 for the first 10 words and \$1 for every additional 5 words.

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Personals

A Quote to Know from an SGRho
"The question is not whether
we will die, but how we live"
- Jean Borysenko

Congratulations Fall '01
H Phi H.
It's been a long time
"coming"
but you've made it.
We always knew you guys
had it in you,
it just took a while for it to come
"out"
and for you sistas to let it
"in"

**Give Us Your Pennies, Nickels,
Quarters and Dimes Yearning to
Breathe Free!!**
Support the School of
Communications
Class of 2002
by dropping off your change in
the S.o.C. Academic Advising
Office!!!

Psst...Remember me? Yeah, you
still have **100 points** out of a
possible **100!** Check it, see if you
can pencil me into your schedule
this weekend, aight?

*House of Drew '98, et al. ... I ain't
forgot y'all. I've just been caught
up out here in VA, is all. We still
dawks. Sup with that Happy Hour
at 5 p.m. today?*

Sudari, how was your siesta?
**I hope you got all your questions
answered... Remember to keep
on climbin', reachin' landings
and turning corners!**
**Cause life for me ain't been
no crystal stair either!**
Sanji!

Monica:
**I don't think they're quite ready
for Engage'. Work it Miss!**
Glad to have you
-Miss M.E.

Brakk:
My fellow Sunday night warrior.
We've come a long way.
Midnight is the goal. Thanks for
the duets and hard work.
-The 1st Lady

Al:
Sports *Tuesday* is on point.
Keep it up. I still owe you one.
-Miss M.E.

From the Guy that Brought You
SOC the pageant (Even though
I haven't been paid yet)
I bring you All Access Life & Style
Something DC could never handle.
Lights, Camera, Action!
— Mr. Cheeks

**"C" I love you and I apologize
for Wednesday, I am a man of my
word and will make it up to you
this weekend. Aight Babe Holla!**

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can keep your
love alive



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- Early AM Hours, 7 days a week.
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- Must have reliable vehicle and insurance.

SERVICE ASSISTANTS
- Hourly position, usually 3 am to about 7 am
Candidates will assist with all aspects of our depot operation, including customer service and general support. Must be organized, a team player and willing to help out with a variety of projects. Some lifting is included. Possession of a car, clean driving record, and a high school diploma or equivalent is required.

BOOKBAGS, TOTE BAGS, BACK PACKS, ETC. WILL NOT BE PERMITTED
ALSO, NO BOTTLES, CANS, COOLERS OR ALCOHOL IN THE BURR

**"MIDNIGHT MADNESS
@ THE MECCA"**

TONIGHT, FRIDAY, OCT 19, 10:30PM

AT THE BURR !!

ONE FREE TICKET
WILL BE ISSUED TO HOWARD STUDENTS,
STAFF AND FACULTY WITH CAPSTONE CARDS
At Cramton Auditorium, Lower level
TODAY, FRIDAY, Oct. 19 from 11am-8pm
- WHILE SUPPLIES LAST -

MIDNIGHT MADNESS IS AN EVENING OF MUSIC, EXCITEMENT,
CONTESTS, PRIZES, STEP TEAMS, PEP BAND, CHEERLEADERS,
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WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS TO YOU!!

Division of Student Affairs

October, 2001