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THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University



VOLUME 85, NO. 40

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2002

First Union Bank Robbed

By JOSEF SAWYER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Police are still searching for two suspects they say robbed the First Union Bank on Georgia Avenue Friday. There were several Howard students inside the bank during the incident. According to eyewitness accounts, they were unmasked. An undisclosed amount of money was taken, police said.

According to police reports, the two suspects entered the bank about mid afternoon and waited before approaching a teller. They stood near a station in the rear of the bank, then stood in line and waited to be served.

One suspect approached the teller window and gave her a handwritten note telling her to keep her right hand on the counter and hand over all of the loose bills according to police reports.

She handed the suspect an undisclosed amount of money and both suspects fled the scene. The two were last seen traveling south on Georgia Ave. eyewitnesses said.

The Howard students and other customers in the bank during the robbery said they were unaware of what was happening.

Senior psychology major David Pulley was waiting in line at the time of the robbery and was shocked to learn the robbery occurred while he was inside it.

"We first found out the door was locked and a man asked why, and the teller told him the bank had just gotten robbed and people began asking questions," Pulley said.

The suspects conducted the robbery so quietly that only a few

Please See Robbery on A5

South African Rebel Killed

By AKEYA DICKSON
News Editor

Jonas Savimbi, a rebel leader from South Africa, was ambushed and killed on Sunday by government troops, according to a senior Angolan official. Savimbi, a 67-year-old radical who fought 27 years for control of Angola, was killed in a gun battle between troops and Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, or UNITA.



File Photo

There has been no confirmation outside of the government's account of what happened, and UNITA has been unavailable for comment. According to an article in the Washington Post, military analysts believe that there is enough evidence to support the accuracy of the government's report, including video tape footage viewed by foreign intelligence officers.

"Certainly we're going to display Savimbi's body for photographs," said Aldemiro de Conceicao, a spokesman for President

Please See Rebel on A5

L.I.V.E. Adds Extra Voting Booths for Elections

By STEPHANIE CROUCH
Hilltop Staff Writer

The University's General Election Committee is looking forward to drastic changes in the March 6 election due to an increased number of voting stations for students' convenience.

The current L.I.V.E. 2002 co-chairs Khalfani Walker and Megan Moore have added three stations in an attempt to bolster voter turnout. L.I.V.E. plans to have four booths in Blackburn, two each in the School of Communications and the School of Business and one in the Schools of Engineering, Divinity, Law, Medicine and Dentistry.

"We are trying to make sure no students are marginalized, meaning that we want every student to get the proper opportunity to vote," Walker said. "We felt that by having booths within each of the schools it would be more convenient for students to vote."

L.I.V.E. realized the limited amount of interaction that occurs between the students and the candidates. To remedy the problem the committee has attempted to hold more speak-outs and increase their public relations. In the days prior to election, L.I.V.E. plans to hold the speak-outs in the Cafeteria, Punch-out, Schools of Law and

Business as well as Slowe and Carver Halls.

General elections co-chair Megan Moore understands the students' cautiousness and hopes the speak-outs will put the candidates on a more personal level.

"I'm just hoping the students will find it easier to approach the candidates after the speak-outs," Moore said.

L.I.V.E. is also sponsoring programs to highlight the importance of voting.

"If students are not willing to vote on the University level, most likely they won't be willing to vote on the national level," Walker said.

L.I.V.E. will be circulating 5,000 flyers, poster and e-mails to promote the importance of the elections.

"I want things to be different this year," Moore said. "Our goal is to get more students out to vote so the person who best fits each position will win, follow through and execute their platform."

Fortunately, some students have noticed of the efforts of the candidates and have an optimistic outlook on the election process.

"Although some candidates are just handing out flyers, some are actually addressing the issues and entertaining any questions the students may have," freshman computer engineer Howard Baker said.



Photo By Melanie C. Nesbitt
LEGACY slate candidates Genia Wright and Alexis Casillas present their platform at a SpeakOut in the Blackburn Cafeteria on Sunday. After all candidates presented their platforms, they spoke with students throughout the cafeteria and answered questions.

"I believe the candidates that actually want the job are doing whatever it takes to let students know where they stand and what they plan to do. These are the candidates that will win."

Some students, however, find themselves deterred from the elec-

tion procedure since the outcome is not entirely based skill or intellect.

"For the most part I don't know who the candidates are," junior television and film production major Wally Cambridge said. "Most of the time elections are based on how [well] Kinko's

[made] your poster."

Other students said a voters' attitude and the candidates' approach is the benchmark for whether students turn out at the poles on election day.

Author of 'Nigger' Holds Book Discussion

By COURTNEY K. WADE
Hilltop Staff Writer

Harvard professor Randall Kennedy said too many blacks allow the word *nigger* to control their lives, during a forum discussion in Blackburn Friday.

Kennedy's recently published book titled, "Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word" grapples with the usage of the word *nigger* and its influence on race relations. Contrary to what some believe, he is not oblivious to the fact that the derogatory word is engrained into American culture.

"By trying to make it unmentionable, you give the word more power than it ought to have," Kennedy said.

In the forum, he defended his views based on his extensive research of popular culture, court cases and American society. Kennedy wants people to have a better understanding of the word in order to make better choices in the usage of the word.

The forum, sponsored by the Department of Afro-American Studies and the Department of History, began with a brief introduction of Kennedy. Kennedy attended such institutions as Princeton and Oxford and is currently a professor at Harvard University Law School.

Kennedy, in his research on the derogatory slur discovered variations of the word

nigger originated in the 1600s.

Through the years, it has evolved and transformed into a word with two main opposing meanings: a colossal insult from mainly non-blacks or an endearing term reserved exclusively for usage amongst blacks.

Adrian Frazier, a freshman television production major, used the analogy of a caterpillar changing into a butterfly to illustrate her point.

"Something can not be transformed unless it is no longer viewed by all as what it was before," Frazier said.

The word *nigger* escapes those restrictions. Dr. Russell Adam of the Afro-American Studies Department said the words have the power to change reality.

Still, many in the Howard community continue to disagree on whether or not the usage of the word is proper or offensive.

The room seemed to be split along a line of age. The younger participants in the discussion generally voiced views as to why the word spelled with an 'a' instead of the traditional way should continue to be used. The changed spelling alters the meaning and it then becomes a term of endearment and greeting—not an insult.

Aminata Jutte, a freshman political science major, admits the negative connotations of the word, but said the spelling of the word does make a difference.

"The term does have a derogatory attachment, but the spelling changes the meaning especially among in the hip hop generation," Jutte said.

However, members of older generations held a different view that expressed the pain that was not just exclusive to the past. The word and its usage hint to the regression of blacks as a race to a time when white supremacy was the law.

Many of the older participants in the discussion referred to their upbringing and how their elders forbade the use of the word. Some said it is difficult for them to consider evolving their usage of the word now.

meet.

"I worked security at local clubs, worked at UPS and held a job at Motown just to pay the bills," Spikes said. He held this determination that would not only pay his rent for his Manhattan apartment, but would also move him up the

FEATURE

corporate ladder with his undying work ethic.

After auditioning for numerous plays and movies, he felt that it was high time for the industry to trans-

form the stereotypical images of black males.

"Most of the auditions that I went to were looking for black men to play an 'in the hood' role. It was discouraging because I know that all black men are not like that," Spikes said.

At age 19, opportunity knocked, and Spikes answered. He negotiated a deal with the Rhythm and Blues Group Boyz II Men and became their product manager. "My time spent with Boyz to Men changed everything," Spikes said. His ambi-

Please See Spikes on A5

Graduate Students a Concern During HUSA Elections

By COREY CUNNINGHAM
Campus Editor

With election underway many students question what candidates are doing for graduate students.

"Sometimes I feel that because the students who run for HUSA are undergraduates they tend to only focus on what they experience," graduate student Tamara Langley said.

When questioned about his plans for graduate students, HUSA candidate Cornell Williamson stated that he has several programs he would like to initiate.

"When we looked at the law school we noticed that parking was one of the biggest problems that the students faced," Williamson said.

Williamson, part of the Awakening slate along with Nichole Merritt, says he has been working with the METRO public relation department in an effort to secure discounted or free metro passes for the law students and ultimately the rest of the student body.

The Awakening slate also is working to secure patients

for third year dental students. They also want to get more chairs for dental students.

"They can't do what they need to get done if they are rotating chairs," said Merritt, "also most students don't know that they can receive free dental service at the dental school."

ENVISION presidential candidate Arabella Lit-

we hear their need."

Littlepage also wants to work with those students who have been selected to sit on the committee that will search for the new law school dean.

Alexis Casillas, the vice-presidential candidate of the LEGACY slate, said that his main goal is to make sure that the GSA and the various school student councils do their job of communicating the grievances of their students to the General Assembly.

"The executive branch of HUSA has a responsibility to make sure they bring together all of the other branches of student government," said vice-president candidate Casillas, "If the issue is brought to our attention then we can bring it to the forefront, and make some change."

LEGACY presidential candidate Genia Wright added that the HUSA administration will do more joint programs with the graduate students and associations.

The next General Elections speak-out to address will be held at the School of Law.

Elections 2002

Vote for your HUSA and school candidates
Tuesday, March 6.

Littlepage said that her major goal for graduates is to include them in the organizational funding, and visit each school at least once a month.

"We want to go to each school ourselves, drop off the forms, and then come back and get them personally," Littlepage said. "We also want to make our presence felt by coming to the grad school and making sure

INSIDE



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-Oops! Students discuss the art of masturbating.....B3

-See what the stars have in store for you.....B5

CAMPUS

Voices & Views

How can the student government candidates win your vote?



Gibson Kagni
Junior
Language

"They need to bring some new issues to the table."



Danelle Mason
Freshman
Psychology

"By doing what they say they are going to do and not just what we want to hear."



Jamin Powell
Sophomore
Undecided

"The best way to earn my vote is if I've seen you once before you run for office; I want someone who has seen struggle and can fight for it."



Zac Wright
Freshman
Marketing

"I find most candidates to be pretentious and somewhat self-absorbed. The best way to win my vote is to feel my questions on a one on one basis. People who take the time out to talk to people are those that I would vote for. Accessibility and integrity are key."



Tachelle Young
Freshman
Political Science

"By being truthful and not by promising things that are out of your reach."

Compiled By Melanie Nesbitt

Cell Phones Become Major Problem in Classrooms on Campus

By Les Flanagan
Contributing Writer

With cellular phones becoming increasingly en vogue, disruptions during class periods due to the devices student's are becoming more frequent. However, according to officials in the Provost Office, the University is allowed to take action if cell phone usage becomes too much of a problem.

Officials from the office of the provost said any behavior or activity distracting to the learning environment is unacceptable.

Special Project Analyst S. Tyrone Barksdale from the Office of the Provost gave the University's stance on the issue.

"If any student is becoming a nuisance or is found to be violating the Student Code of Conduct the professor has a right to report them," Barksdale said.

Barksdale said cell phone ringing is a "disservice" and the University will maintain the integrity of the learning environment, yet doesn't want to be heavy handed on its students.

"It's hard enough for professor to get the job done under normal circumstances," Barksdale said.

Most people following the commonly accepted cellular phone etiquette find it inappropriate to have phone conversations in a variety of social venues including movies, plays, concerts, and church services.

Cell phones have already been cited as direct distractions in driving, and now it seems as if the little credit



Photo By Melanie C. Nesbitt
The University will crack down on cellular phone usage if students allow them to continue to disrupt classroom settings.

destroyers are prohibiting learning as well.

Some teachers made provisions at the beginning of the semester in order to minimize the ringing in classrooms.

Freshman English professor Rosemarie Wilcox outlined cell phone policy on her syllabus. Topping her list of guidelines for classroom courtesy and cooperation is: "Please, turn off all phones, radio, beepers, etc."

While most would agree phones are distracting and detract from a healthy learning environment, there are conflicting opinions on how to combat the problem.

"I think they should be controlled," Please See Cell Phones A5

Students Fight to End Rat and Roach Infestation in Dorms

By ALLISON GENTRY
Contributing Writer

Roaches and mice plague buildings on Howard University's campus such as the Towers, Meridian, Drew and even Blackburn. Many students are bothered by these critters, which are often associated with dirt and filth.

Some students have strong fears of roaches and mice and having to live with them can be difficult to cope with.

"My next door neighbor had a mouse and a couple of days later, I saw something shoot across the floor and a tail hanging out of a hole in the wall," said Baionne Williams, a sophomore legal communications major.

Williams told the front desk of her dorm, and they said there was nothing they could do at the time. Her mother later called residence life, and they told her that someone would plaster the holes in the wall. They never followed through on this promise so Williams stuffed paper inside the hole in the wall and has not had a problem since.

"I know people in the Towers and Drew that have roaches. If I had to pick between the two, I'd rather have a mouse because there is only one of them, not 5,000 crawling all over the place and you may never know," said Williams.

Over the Christmas break, Meridian Hill dormitory was exterminated because of mice infestation. The problem may have been due to nearby construction, or trash. However, no matter to whom the blame was given, it was a serious problem that got the attention of the dorm council.

While some students handle seeing a mouse or a few roaches, others feel that they should not have to live in such conditions.

"I feel I that since I paid for a single room, there should be no other living creatures besides me," said Williams.

Larry Frelow, the property manager for the Towers assured that everything was being done to combat the nuisance of roaches in the dorm.

"All the students have to do is let us know. Plus, we encourage them to put trash in the trash containers because it is picked up six times a week," said Frelow.

According to Frelow, Terminex has a contract with the Towers. They come in once a week to exterminate in rooms where there is a problem, plus the surrounding rooms.

"Once a room is vacant, we also exterminate in that area," said Frelow. "We do what is called a clean-out once a year in which all the rooms are exterminated."

Chinelo Ray, sophomore information systems major, lives in the East Towers and has had a personal experience with roaches.

"When I first moved in, there were dead roaches. My mother and I basically exterminated the place ourselves, and I put in a work order to have my room exterminated," said Ray.

Living near a trash chute, Ray said she takes extra precautions because a graduate assistant told her rooms near trash chutes tend to have more problems. She keeps the place clean, has roach spray on hand, and takes out the trash regularly.

"My roommate and I put in a work order every month or two."

Ray's advice for others is to simply use common sense. Keep everything clean, mop the floor, wash dirty dishes, take out smelly trash and don't leave food lying around.

"I haven't seen a roach all semester."

PRSSA to Host International Jeopardy Show

By COURTNEY K. WADE
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Public Relations Student Society of America or PRSSA is hosting a game of International Jeopardy this Tuesday and Thursday to promote international travel amongst college students on ground floor of Blackburn Center.

Every year the national PRSSA sponsors the Bateman Case Study Competition, in which chapters from colleges and universities all over the country enter to win. Contiki Holiday, an international motor tour company, is the corporate sponsor. It makes sense that Contiki Holiday would sponsor a competition like this because they assist college students in traveling internationally by doing all the pre-planning work that many people disdain. They offer their pre-planned tours to

a myriad of destinations including: Australia, New Zealand, parts of Asia, and North America. They also give discounted student rates.

Howard has never won the Bateman Case Study Competition, but the team selected to moderate the competition on campus: Danielle Mitchell, Allison Conyers, Chaia Odums and Paula Pendleton have a positive plan for action this year in addition to the games of International Jeopardy. Their efforts could win them a trip to Hawaii to present their proposal to Contiki Holiday in person this May. Working diligently, they have been setting up information tables on the ground floor of Blackburn to pass out brochures on study abroad opportunities, passport applications and renewal forms, information on the trips that Contiki Holiday offers and flyers advertising related

forums. They even are responsible for showing a promotional video on the Meridian shuttle bus.

International Jeopardy will be today and Thursday from 11:30 to 2 PM. The rules are just like original Jeopardy. There are five games of six questions asked to the players. The three players with the highest points are then entered into a drawing for a dinner for two at a local international restaurant. Those who do not advance to the drawing for the dinner, receive candy instead as a constellation prize.

So far the student reaction to International Jeopardy has been positive. Partly because many students who are not from the District and the surrounding area are open to travel based on their college choice. Danielle Mitchell agrees that international travel helps students, "think

beyond our borders."

Other students agree as well. Ebony Simpson, a Public Relations major and Brooklyn native believes the lessons learned through the opportunity helps to spread one's wings abroad. She feels that Americans need to step out of the self-absorbed glass bubble that encompasses them. She has traveled to Canada, Texas, Florida, and Jamaica and would not trade her experiences for the world. "Travel is a manifestation of continuing the learning process," said Simpson. Learning of other cultures and broadening of one's horizon is what life is all about, according to Simpson.

Campus Digest

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

The Office of Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Student Employment presents "Money Matters," a chance to meet with Financial Aid Representatives for assistance in completing your 2002-2003 FAFSA on the Web. Come to the I-Lab from 10AM-1PM.

HBO presents, "A Journey to Today," a film screening of the original movie "Middle Passage," and a panel discussion featuring acclaimed actress, Vivica A. Fox, producer and director, Spike Lee, Congressman, Jessie Jackson, Jr., artist and scholar, C. Daniel Dawson, and NAACP National Youth And College Director, Jamal Harrison-Bryant. There will be giveaways and a chance for one student organization to win \$500. The program is in Cramton Auditorium and begins at 7PM.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. presents the Celebration of Finer Womanhood Week. Learn about "Women's Struggles, Women's Voices" in Douglass Hall Room 133 at 7:20 PM. Refreshments will be served.

The School of Communications presents "Talking Tuesdays" Speak Out Sessions where candidates present their platform and answer your questions. These sessions will be held in the C.B. Powell Building, Room 211 at 8 PM.

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Whither Africa? The Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Walter H. Kantsteiner addresses "African Policy

Goals and Strategies for Implementation," at the Ralph J. Bunche Center for International Affairs, at 11 AM. Come and join in on the discussion.

Do you design? If so, the University Fashion Council is gearing up for the premiere spring fashion event. Come to the Human Ecology Building prepared with 2 or 3 samples of your completed work at 6 PM in Room G-128. For more information, call Rakiyt Zakaru at (202) 465-1852.

Howard University General Elections Committee, L.I.V.E. 2002 is hosting "Student Government Past and Present" from 6 to 9 PM in the School of Business Auditorium. Refreshments will be served.

Get caught up in the Crossfire! Join the College of Arts & Sciences Student Council in the Hilltop Lounge at 7 PM to voice your views in the Final Speak Out. "Be there...Or don't complain."

New Yorkers Unlimited are meeting at 7 PM in Douglass Hall to honor the memory of the late, great Christopher Wallace a.k.a. Notorious B.I.G. Shout outs to Brooklyn!

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. presents "Dress for Success" in Douglass Hall, Room 133 at 7:20 PM, in continuation with their Celebration of Finer Womanhood Week.

Please See Digest, A5

A Day of Honor



Photo By Melanie C. Nesbitt

University Provost A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert addresses the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List honorees for academic year 2000-'01, Thursday in Blackburn.

Entertainment Showcase Features Campus Talent

Show Draws More Than 500 to Event

By Leesa Davis
Hilltop Staff Writer

The talent show, co-sponsored by Chief Element Entertainment and Beta Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, drew a crowd of more than 500 people in Blackburn, Thursday evening.

The show, hosted by Alex Dixon, Vice President of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA), consisted of 22 contestants showcasing artistic abilities through song, dance, and poetry reciting. Contestants were judged based on their stage presence, physical appearance, type of talent, and crowd approval.

The top three contestants won cash prizes. Frenchie Davis, a junior musical theater major from Los Angeles, California walked away with the top prize of \$100 with her rendition of Jennifer Holiday's "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going." Davis received a resounding ovation while crowd chanting her name.

"The crowd was very receptive; they made me feel special," Davis said.

Second place finishers were Vic and Kennedy, a duo who walked on stage to H-Town's "Knockin' Boots." Wails and screams, mainly from the women attendees, filled the ballroom. Vic and Kennedy then sang Jodeci's "Lately."

Takeeah, an R&B male trio, earned the final cash prize. The trio, decked in black leather outfits, performed an original piece, followed by their own version of H-Town's "Knockin' Boots." Takeeah's vocal performance garnered a huge response from the female population in the audience.

The talent show began when partners, Maurice Brown, founder and CEO of Chief Element Entertain-

ment and Co-CEO, Roosevelt "Rowz" Sharpe, approached Yves Louis-Jacques, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Brown, senior marketing major from Harlem, New York said, "We wanted a campus organization to collaborate with, and we know that Alpha Phi Alpha is widely respected, so we knew the show would be successful."

Another participant, Nikki Jean, a junior sociology major, performed an original piece "When You're Gone." The audience listened as she played the piano and sang with soulful emotion.

After her performance, Jean admitted the audience was more receptive than she anticipated. It was wonderful to get out there and perform. The Howard audi-



A ballad-belting trio attempts to woo the crowd during the talent show held in the Blackburn Center Ballroom on Thursday.

Photo By Melanie C. Nesbitt

ence is usually hard to please, but they were definitely supportive throughout my performance," Jean said.

Precious Umunna displayed her vocal skills when she sang Donnie McClurkin's "Speak To My Heart." Umunna said that she performed for reasons other than winning. "I wasn't a contestant, I performed to minister and convey a positive message,"

Attendees of the event seemed to be pleased with the outcome of the show.

Raiquel Cole, a sophomore chemical engineering major said, "I thought it gave Howard students something to do on campus, and my favorite act was Frenchie, because she put effort into her performance."

Another audience member, sophomore marketing major, Kellie Johnson agreed with Cole.

"I was mad that the show didn't start on time, but other than that, it was cool because a lot of students came together and the show was in dedication to

black history," Johnson said.

Not all students were pleased with the production. Christina Crocker, a freshman biology pre-med major from Queens, New York said that the Thursday's event left something to be desired.

"I wish I saw more talent than the usual singing and rapping. A lot of the rap artists performed too long, it was becoming redundant. It seemed like they (the sponsors) were scouting for new artists," Crocker said.

The purpose of the talent show was to audition students and local residents to gain exposure for the newly formed record label Chief Element Entertainment.

The event, which received sponsorship from TGIF Friday's and Sam K. Records, originally had a cover price, but was made available to all because the promoters did not want to turn anyone away.

"A lot of people came out, so we just decided to make the event free," said Louis-Jacques, a senior, COBIS major and coordinator of the show.

Robert "BT" Theodore, a senior legal communications major and President of Chief Element Entertainment was pleased with the show overall.

"We plan on having more talent shows in the future, so that we can add talented people to our company," Townsend said.

So far, Chief Element Entertainment has only Khaleef Chiles, a New Jersey native signed on their label.

EMSL 2nd Annual Conference

a Hit With Attendees

By MEAGAN D. FORD
Contributing Writer

The Howard University Entertainment, Media, Sports, and Law Club, presented its 2nd annual conference, SYNTHESIS: The Fusion Of Business and Entertainment, on Saturday morning.

Students interested in fashion, entertainment, media, sports, and law gathered in the reading lounge at Blackburn to hear panelists and learn information about these particular careers. The panelists ranged from the up-and-coming, to the movers-and-shakers in the business and entertainment field. Beginning at 10:00 AM, the conference ran workshops, seminars, and discussions every hour, and closed with an awards ceremony and networking reception.

Topics of discussion ranged from controversial issues facing the entertainment, media, sport, fashion, and law industries as well as lectures from major company representatives. Representatives from Sony, Universal Distribution Group, VIBE Magazine, and ESPN spoke on the different panels. Some famous names included Doug E. Fresh, a rapper, Emil Wilbekin, the editor & chief of VIBE magazine, Louis Oliver, former NFL player and owner of Louis Oliver Productions, and Vickie Redmond, CEO of Exquisite Modeling Agency.

A helpful tip that was repeated throughout the day was to begin interning while in college. Panelists agreed that Howard University and the city of Washington have abundant resources for entertainment, sports, media, and law opportunities. They also stressed being innovative and unafraid to take risks.

"There are many different opportunities within entertainment law. I can do many different things, like produce if I choose to, because of my connections," said Owen H. Lamb from the law panel.

Students arrived at different times during the afternoon in business suits and nametags, soaking up information.

"The speakers were informative, and we felt comfortable asking them questions. I learned how to tap into several resources at HU," said sophomore business management major Monique Williams said.

The media and law panels were voted as two of Saturday's favorites. An intimate setting allowed for students to network with other students and the panelists during the lunch break, or after their designated hours.



Panelists answer questions from the audience during an Entertainment, Media, Sports, and Law Club conference in Blackburn Saturday.

Photo Courtesy of Melanie C. Nesbitt

Many students took advantage of the opportunity to network, and learned about interning and job opportunities. Another sophomore, Elnora Allen, was elated about the event.

"I learned that entertainment law is all about hard work and persistence. I felt that the speakers were very real and made me feel comfortable. I had a good time, and it was very nice," said Allen.

The conference convened shortly after 7:00PM but positive comments continued.

Many students had the desire to come by the conference, but had other plans, or opted to attend the Basketball game. The conference was heavily promoted, and generated a buzz weeks before the event.

It served as a resource for students whose interests in media, entertainment, sports and law inspired them to learn more. Overall, the 2nd annual conference was a success, and students look forward to more from the EMSL club. To find out more about EMSL, visit the website at www.HUEMSL.com.

Flake Preaches to Near Capacity Crowd in Cramton

By SHAWNTEL HEBERT
Contributing Writer

Taking his sermon from the book of Isaiah, guest preacher Rev. Dr. Floyd H. Flake told a near capacity crowd that their current situation is not permanent and "by the power that God has given [them], change will inevitably come" in Sunday's Chapel service in Cramton Auditorium.

Flake said no matter what you may be dealing with in your life or no matter where you may be spiritually, God is able to take you farther than you ever dreamed possible.

"You can't believe everything you see or hear. You have to believe in yourself; and in doing so, your perception will allow you to be greater than your current situation," Flake said.

In his sermon, entitled "Seeing and Perceiving a New Reality," Flake reached to many in the congregation. Flake touched on topics such as the approaching change in the status of blacks as they now claim the second largest minority group behind Hispanics and setbacks that currently remain present within the African-American community.

"Whether there is affirmative action or not, I have an affirmative spirit," Flake said. "It is not what they see, but what you perceive."

However, Flake did not come to console or to sympathize, but rather to deliver a message. He said blacks as a people have to put our past "in its proper perspective" in order to continue to move ahead.

Upon the conclusion of the service, many Chapel

Please See Flake on A5

CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

February 21

2216 6th St. NW
Alarm Activation

Quad
Sick Transport

Drew Hall
Hazardous Elevator

SOC
Threatening Note

Student Health Service
Sick Transport

11th & Spring St. NW
Theft from Auto

Service Center
Damaged Property

Ira Aldridge Theater
Simple Assault

Student Health Center
Sick Transport

HUH
Missing Property

Engineering Bldg.
Simple Assault

February 22nd

UGL
Lost Property

Douglass Hall
False Fire Alarm

Student Health Center
Sick Transport

Douglass Hall
Lost Property

2100 Blk Ga Ave.
Damaged Property

HUH
Damaged Property

Wonder Plaza
Simple Assault

Drew Hall
Hazardous Elevator

West Campus
Unlocked Doors

HPT
False Fire Alarm

Meridian Hill Hall
Assault

iLab
Lost Property

February 24

HPT
Lost Property

1400 Blk V St.
Gunshot

Annex
Sick Person

HPT
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What to watch...

Today, February 26

Grammy All-Stars Live, VH-1 (22): A compilation of performances from the past year by Grammy nominees Lenny Kravitz, U2, Train, Mary J. Blige and India Arie. Also included in the special are exclusive interviews with the artists regarding their nominations. **Time: 6:30 PM**

Snakes: The Big Squeeze, Discovery Channel (11): Take a closer look into these creatures who have tormented the lives of humans for years. Some snakes that are going to be examined closely are African rock pythons, the reticulated python of Asia and anacondas in Venezuela. **Time: 7:00 PM**

Journeys in Black, BET (20): BET takes us into the life of gospel and R&B legend Bebe Winans. Learn all about this Grammy nominated singer and songwriter as well as what fellow contemporaries think of him. **Time: 9:00 PM**

Wednesday, February 27

Dumb and Dumber, WB (26): Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels star in this hilarious (but outrageously dumb) comedy about two friends who go on a manhunt to return a woman her briefcase. The 1994 comedy was also the directorial debut of the Farrelly Brothers who went on to direct other comedy hits like *There's Something about Mary*. **Time: 8:00 PM**

When Dinosaurs Roamed America, Discovery Channel (11): John Goodman narrates this two-hour cable documentary, which uses computer animation à la the Emmy-winning *Walking with Dinosaurs* and its *Allosaurus* sequel to show how the ancient creatures once ruled the U.S. **Time: 8:00 PM**

Anatomy of a Murder, AMC (31): This 1959 classic was nominated for 6 Academy Awards including best picture. While the movie alone may not be enough to peak some of our interests the soundtrack was the first and only one to have been done by legendary jazz composer/musician Duke Ellington. **Time: 8:00 PM**

Thursday, February 28

A Huey P. Newton Story, WHUT (2): Writer-star Roger Guenveur Smith brings his award winning, one-man stage show about the life of the co-founder of the Black Panther Party (1942-89) to the screen. Spike Lee, who has used Smith in seven of his big-screen features, including "Do the Right Thing" and "Malcolm X," directs the film, which was shot before an audience. **Time: 8:00 PM**

Sade Concert, BET (20): One of the greatest vocalists to have transcended the generation gap, Sade comes alive in concert. The R&B chanteuse performs in Los Angeles. The set list includes "Smooth Operator," "Cherish," "Somebody Already Broke My Heart," "Jezebel," "Flow" and "Paradise." **Time: 8:00 PM**

House Party 3, VH-1 (22): The last installment in the hilarious trilogy made famous by former 80's rap group Kid n' Play. Kid (Christopher Reid) worries about his impending wedding, while Play (Christopher Martin) plans the ultimate bachelor blowout. **Time: 9:00 PM**



Calendar

What's Going On This Week?

Tuesday 2/26

Boogiehawg bring the funk to the Metro Café tonight.

Metro Café, 1522 14th Street NW
10 PM
\$7
202-588-9118

Rising British hip hop sensation Gorillaz performs tonight, right down the street at the 9:30 Club.
9:30 Club, 815 V Street NW
7:30 PM
\$27.50
202-432-7328

Wednesday 2/27

Howard University Professor Dr. Joseph P. Reidz leads a discussion about African American sailors in the Civil War.
Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, MD
7 PM
Free with admission to the museum
401-385-5188

Samurah S. Muhammed's work "Black Gal Needin' to be Loved" dealing with matures themes is featured

at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.
Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th Street NW
7 PM
\$15-\$20
202-639-1770

Thursday 2/28

Kofi Dennis and Kwame Brew bring the culture of Ghana through music, games and dance as part of Ananseghromma of Ghana.
National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW
12:15 PM-1:15 PM
Free
202-272-2448

Celebrate the 100th birthday of poet Langston Hughes with Collective Voices.
Oxon Hill Branch Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, MD
7:30 PM
Free
301-839-2400

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Flake Preaches to Near Capacity Crowd in Cramton

From Flake on A3
attendees were on a spiritual high from Flake's sermon.

"I thought he was extremely powerful. He spoke to us to be better Christians and to trust God with our potential," Bianca Robinson, chapel assistant and first year graduate student of the School of Divinity said.

On the last Sunday in Black History Month, Rev. Flake's sermon was "right on time," according to freshman, chemical engineering major, Montreal McMorris.

Another congregation member enjoyed Flake's sermon because it encouraged him to think.

"It's good reflecting on the past. We have to have a different perspective to be where we are and see how much further we have to go," Derrick White, senior, political science major said after the sermon.

Another chapel attendee, Jennifer Martin, was happy the sermon was one she could relate to.

"I thought it [the sermon] was very good and very energetic. It is always good when the preacher can relate their sermon to the congregation," Martin, a sophomore, undeclared major said.

A native of Houston, TX, Rev. Flake has done tremendous work within the African-American community through the government and through the church. A minister of the 12,000-member Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Queens, New York, Flake is a former U.S. Representative and President of Edison Charter Schools which is the nation's largest schooling company with a capitaliza-

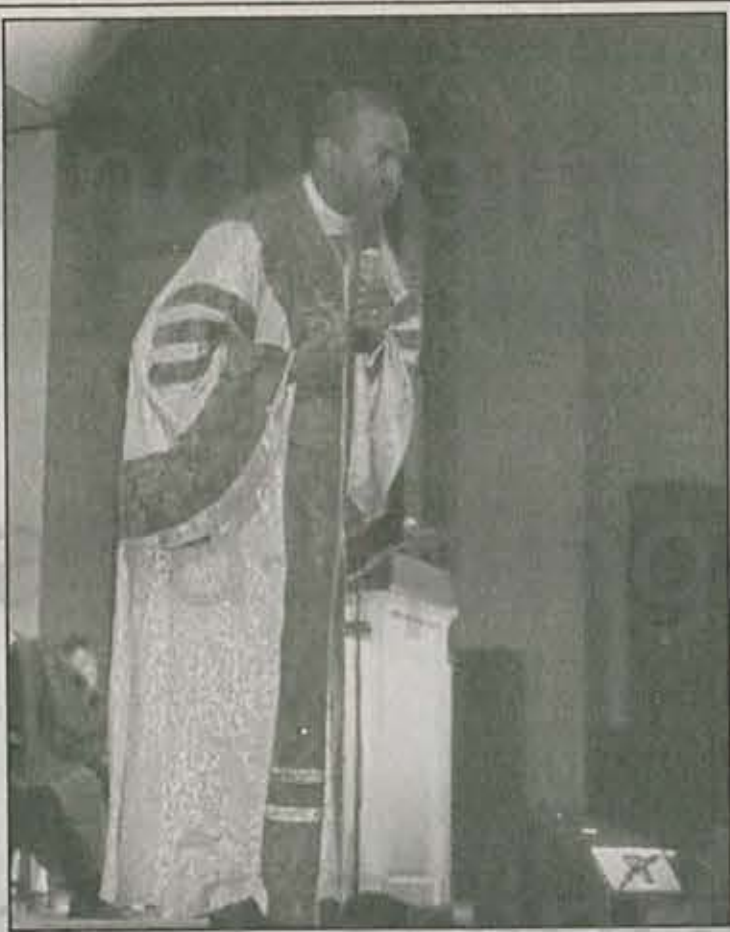


Photo By Melanie C. Nesbitt

Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake tells the congregation that change is inevitable to come during Sunday's chapel service in Cramton.

tion exceeding \$1 billion dollars.

Campus Digest

From A2
Thursday, February 28, 2002

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. presents a discussion on "Binge Drinking: It Affects Us All" in Douglass Hall, Room 133 at 7:20 PM.

Howard University General Elections Committee, L.I.V.E. 2002 pushes on with week 4 of campaigning to bring you the Slowe/Carver Halls Speak Out in Slowe Hall at 7:30 PM.

Office of the Dean for Student Life and Activities will host a panel discussion with upperclassmen titled, "Academic Survival" for new entrants. Come learn about how you can better develop your skills to succeed in a collegiate

atmosphere. It will be in the Blackburn Auditorium at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Friday, March 1, 2002

Howard University General Elections Committee, L.I.V.E. 2002 brings you the Punch Out Speak Out at Noon.

Anti-Gravity and Entertainment 3000 is hosting "Open Mic and Then Some," tonight at 6 PM in the Punch-Out in Blackburn Center. There will be food, a DJ, and special guests. This program might be held every other week, so look out. Admission is \$5 with a student ID and \$10 without one. Call (202) 612-8960 for more information or VIP passes.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. presents "Nutrition and Fitness for Young Women," in the Bethune Annex Community Room at 7:20 PM.

Compiled by Hilltop Staff Writer
COURTNEY K. WADE

Cell Phones Become Major Problem in Classrooms on Campus

said Dr. Charles Jarmon, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "But it's the students who should have awareness to turn off their phones and then it won't be a problem," Jarmon said.

Students, like Richard Spencer, agree with Jarmon. Spencer said some people aren't courteous of others.

"I hate when girls are always answering their phones in class. When it rings one time and then it rings five minutes later that's the worst," said Spencer, a COBIS major.

Although students' phones ringing in class is becoming a nuisance, some professors are actually adding to the problem.

Tecomblah R. Crussin, a pre-med major remembers one situation when the tables were turned.

"In a certain class the professor

had his cell phone go off twice and his policy is no cell phones in class," Crussin said.

Professor of reporting and writing Mike Tucker admits he adds to the problem.

"Cell phones are not only problematic in classrooms but everywhere. I am part of the problem. I use the phone as a tool to have constant contact with my family and its almost always on," Tucker said.

Tucker, however, said he always keeps his phone on vibrate.

Several more students also blamed professors for the on-going problem.

"My African Studies teacher brought his phone to class and he would leave to answer it," said Tiffany Jackson a film major.

Another student remembers when a professor was guilty of a

similar offense.

"Somebody else's phone was going off and he thought it was his and left the class," said chemical engineering major Tiffany Battle.

Despite who abuses good cell phone etiquette, some people use the devices for emergency situations.

And while most students say that they will or do turn their phones off, everyone should be able to put their phone on vibrate, a feature that comes with all phones. Some students however, are not bothered either way at all by the cell phones chiming during the class period.

Shormari Brooks said continuous madness of cell phone ringing doesn't bother him much. "It's not worse than somebody talking in class or they're watch going off while the teacher is talking."

and appeared agitated when the customers had little or no information about the robbery suspects.

"One man who was standing very close to the suspects in line was one of the few who could give a description to police," Pulley said.

No one was hurt in the incident according to Pulley, but it was an eye opening experience for him.

"I wasn't scared at the time, but later on as I reflected on what happened I counted my blessings because one wrong move by the teller could have turned it into a hostage situation, and people could have gotten hurt," Pulley said.

As of Sunday, police had not recovered the money stolen and the FBI was notified.

From Page One

The Top of the Reel: The Story of Stacy Spikes

Continued from Page One

tion quickly translated the \$300 into millions.

But music was only a transition into his true passion-film. "Music is spontaneous, but slow. With black film, there is room for spontaneity, because the audience is so big."

Spikes landed a job as an executive for Miramax and October films where he gained invaluable experience in cinematography. However, Spikes was still not satisfied with the type-casted roles of blacks in film. Through this disappointment in the film industry Spike would create what would become his empire.

In August of 1997, he launched Urbanworld Films, an independent film distribution company that primarily focuses on films produced by blacks and other minority groups. For the past six years, Urbanworld has been showcasing the works of independent minority filmmakers' short and documentary films around the globe. Today, the Urbanworld Film Festival has developed into the largest internationally competitive festival of its kind.

If there is one thing that Spikes did manage to take from his experience with music, it would have to be the concentrated passion that music possesses. Most of the films produced by Urbanworld Films are "raw."

"I like controversy," said Spikes.

Films such as "Punks" portray black life in a more

realistic perspective. The film, a portrayal of four black gay men, hits a range of issues from the comedy of drag queens and drama of HIV infection. "We did it our way," Spikes said.

Spikes didn't just stop there. In 'Murder One Sunday Morning', Spikes captures the realistic aspects of trial life. The movie forced the viewers to take the controversies of blacks in the court system in consideration.

In the next ten years, Spikes hopes to control at least 20 percent of the gross box office annually. To achieve this goal, he plans to diversify his company by beefing up the marketing schemes. Urbanworld has already solicited the assistance of Bazaan Entertainment and The DuVernay Agency, two firms experienced in tapping into the black film market.

Urbanworld Films is currently working on other film projects including "Black Art House" and "Belly of the Beast."

When asked how he feels about his gradual success, the young entrepreneur felt that it was due to things bigger than him.

"God works in mysterious ways," Spikes said.

His advice to aspiring filmmakers is to study your craft and get better with time. While the film industry may be hard to break into, Spikes suggests that you must, "stand on a mountain of no's to get to the perfect yes."

South African Rebel Killed

Continued From Page One

Jose Eduardo dos Santos on Sunday. "We had a problem that just now has been removed."

The Washington State Department has heard from numerous sources of Savimbi's death, but is still awaiting reports from an independent source.

Savimbi was a key figure in the civil war that began after Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975. During this Cold War era Savimbi and UNITA received much support from the United States and the minority whites of South Africa while fighting against the Angolan government, which was heavily supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union at the time.

When the Cold War was over and much of Angola's support was withdrawn, however, the civil war was reduced to a battle over Angola's diamonds and oil. After peace treaties in 1991 and 1994, both UNITA and the government continued the fighting. The death toll in this struggle is believed to have reached as high as 1 million.

Angolan army officials had been tracking Savimbi for the past few months, saying that he was "untrustworthy" and used "ceasefires only to rearm rebels".

Foreign intelligence officials don't know if Savimbi's death will bring peace to Angola.

"It's a bit early to predict what is going to happen until we see who comes to the fore to lead UNITA," said Hannelie de Beer, a military analyst to the Wash-

ington Post. "The instability almost certainly won't cease immediately. This is a bush war, and so the word won't even reach everyone that Savimbi is dead for a while now."

Outnumbered, UNITA has fled to the bush of Angola and begun to rely on guerrilla war tactics. Discouraged and without adequate equipment and manpower, the rebels have resorted to attacking passenger trains, power stations, and the peasants who live in government-controlled areas.

Western officials have called the government of using the war as a "smokescreen for corruption and failure to provide basic services", leaving Savimbi as the only hope for civil rights in Angola for years.

Savimbi was born in the central highlands of Angola, and was educated in Portugal, Switzerland, and China as a physician, and learned seven languages. He founded UNITA in 1966 when Angola was still under Portugal's rule. Savimbi began to lose support from the U.S. after the Cold War ended, and the Angolan government began to develop closer ties with the American government, one of the biggest buyers of Angolan oil. The support of the white minority was lost when their rule ended in South Africa.

Human rights groups have accused both the government and UNITA of several human rights' violations, most of which were against the villagers of the countryside.

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First Union Bank Robbed

Continued from Page One

people actually knew what was going on or sensed something was not right, he said.

After the incident occurred, the bank asked everyone to stay and those who wanted to leave had to give their personal information in case they were called upon to testify as witnesses according to Pulley.

"My girlfriend and I stayed behind to talk to police while others left without giving their personal information for fear of being questioned or called upon to be witnesses," said Pulley.

Pulley said the police questioned all who stayed

EDITORIALS



THE HILLTOP

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Founded in 1924



It Doesn't End Here

So today is February 26th and you have just two more days. Well if you don't meet your three requirements to black history month then it doesn't stop there. It is time for us to take advantage of what has always been ours. Black history should never be defined in one month. You have the entire year to celebrate your great history. It is not just a month to reflect on your ancestors.

There is a time and place for us to honor our ancestors. Carter G Woodson's had a vision to celebrate Black history for a week. The next vision expanded for a month and now it time for us to expand to a year. History is the integral part of any people, and for us to identify with ourselves we must get to know our history. We have come a long way but still the road is half traveled.

With the great names of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey, Angela

Davis, W E B DuBois, and Frederick Douglass, how can we give them justice? How can we put their great works into the span of the shortest month of the year? We can celebrate other people throughout society, but can't celebrate our own.

It is time for us to uphold our legacy. February shouldn't be the only time we visit the National Museum of African Art, remember the Middle Passage other than its role on HBO, or go experience African cuisine in Adam's Morgan.

We should feel obligated as students at the premiere

HBCU in the nation and world to reach out to our roots beyond the boundaries of 28 days. It took over 28 days for our ancestors to help build this country and we should celebrate it to the best of our ability. Because if we don't who will?

Our View:

Black History Month should extend beyond the month

Genocide: AIDS on the Continent

By Melissa Mitchell

We have all attended programs and assemblies about "safe sex" and HIV. But rarely do these programs address the severity of the HIV pandemic in terms that span outside of the United States borders. Through the news and other mass media networks, we have been trained to believe that HIV became prevalent in the mid 1980's primarily through homosexual sex and intravenous drug use. We are also taught to believe that HIV originated in Africa, randomly jumping from monkey to human. But if we look just a little below the surface, it becomes painfully obvious that HIV/AIDS is a problem affecting primarily communities of color, and specifically, the whole African continent. This can hardly be a surprise, given the history of atrocities inflicted upon Africa and its Diasporas.

Over 70 percent of the 40 million infected with HIV live on the African continent. Another 16 percent live in South and Southeast Asia, which means that 86 percent of those infected are people of color. Consistent with unemployment, consistent with poverty, consistent with oppression, the victims of this form of genocide are also the historical victims of white supremacy and racism.

It is within this context that we must also examine U.S. government programs of "population control". In 1968, John D. Rockefeller was appointed by President Nixon as Chair of the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. Within this commission, the growth of "third-world" countries is proclaimed to pose a serious threat American security. In 1978, the CIA published an internal memorandum entitled "Black Africa and the U.S. Black Movement," in which the need to control the African continent, its population, and most importantly its resources is expressed. In 1984, Dr. Gallo, the scientist credited with discovering AIDS proclaims that HIV originated in African monkeys and spontaneously spread to the human population. Dr. Gallo has since participated in the "U.S. Special Virus Program", and evidence strongly suggests that he participated in the inoculation and study of African Monkeys as early as 1970. All of the above information is readily available in libraries across the nation, and in abbreviated form on the Internet. The evidence of the "laboratory birth of aids" is profound, and easily supported by scientific evidence and chronology.

If the above sounds outlandish, radical or revolutionary, then let's explore the role of multinational pharmaceutical corporations in this scheme. We know that

treatments such as triple therapy are available, which almost render the virus inactive in the human body when taken correctly. We know that these therapies are available to those who can afford it at a cost of about \$12,000 a year. And we know, that Magic Johnson, whose health and appearance are incredible given the duration of his illness, can afford triple therapy. We also know that generic forms of HIV treatment can be made for a fraction of the cost. So why is an entire continent of people being extinguished by a virus that can be treated, controlled and even prevented? Is it because it is not profitable for pharmaceutical corporations to save the lives of millions? Is it possible that the HIV virus was created to destroy humanity on the continent of Africa? Is it possible that capitalists, imperialists and neo-colonialists benefits from genocide because the resources of a continent are more easily controlled when the people of the continent are dying in mass? It is not my intent to leave the reader in suspense, so I assert that yes, it is possible, probable and proven that the destruction of the African continent is profitable for those who seek to exploit

it. Let is not forget that this new form of genocide comes less than 200 years after the end of the mid-Atlantic slave trade, the greatest crime against humanity in the history of the world.

Africans (this includes you BLACK PEOPLE,) cannot be content to gawk of statistics and organize programs about safe sex. Our people, African people, are being slaughtered wholesale again. We must reject the excuses and explanations of those who have proven over and over again to be interested only in our work capacity, and not in our humanity and welfare. How can we expect the U.S. government, which participated in the slave trade, and pharmaceutical corporations, who profit primarily from sickness to help a people who have been proclaimed "sub-human" under the world domination of white supremacy? It is OUR obligation to help OUR people.

The Howard Chapter of Amnesty International will host a forum entitled "Genocide: AIDS on the Continent" on Tuesday, February 26, 2002, in rm.104 of Locke Hall, at 7:30pm. This program will feature activist Dr. Boyd Graves, author of *State Origin: The evidence of the Laboratory Birth of AIDS*

Melissa Mitchell is a senior Biology major and Coordinator of the Howard Chapter of Amnesty International. She may be reached at Huanmesty@aol.com.

Illustration By Antjuan 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
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THE HILLTOP

THE NATION'S LARGEST HBCU NEWSPAPER

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Now in its 78th 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.

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The deadline to submit ads to the paper is the Friday preceding publication. The office phone number is 202-806-4732

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Thanks to Brak, Jeezy, Melanie the hot shot, Jon with all the style, Bones with the jokes on jeezy and T-neck, and Mak with the late night appearances. Josef thanks for the hustle. T-Neck get the next one right and tell your pop I said what's up. Scott I found it man, so you know I'm sleeping better these days. Akeya what happened this week? Let's not do that again. Sim, you are so funny, what happened to you. Money bags I'm still going to find it for you. Diahann, Ernest, Melissa and Denise all these ads look real good. Welcome to Erica and Greg. I see the work. Jeezy how do you like this insert? Ha, Ha.

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HBO

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MARCH 1, 2002



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at

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*Contact Diplomat in Residence, Ms. June Carter-Perry for information
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Sports Tuesday

THE HILLTOP

B1

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 2002

Sports Feature

The Gil Goodrich Story: How he's Fitting in with the Bison and Adding to Their Winning Record



By AISHA CHANEY
Hilltop Staff Writer

With 1.9 seconds remaining in the game and Howard leading, 56-55, Gil Goodrich stepped up to the free throw line and calmly sank two clutch free throws to seal the Bison's 58-55 victory in a recent game against Florida A&M University on the road.

Less than 48 hours later in a game against Bethune Cookman, Howard trailed by 11 points with a little more than a minute remaining. It was again Goodrich's turn to work some magic and he nearly did by scoring 10 points on a variety of spectacular plays including a rare four-point play. His three-point attempt that would have tied the game and sent it into overtime just missed.

Earlier this season, this probably would not have happened, as Goodrich played sparingly as a backup to senior point guard Ali Abdullah.

Then things changed. Abdullah chose to leave the team and Goodrich was given the starting point guard position.

"Gil brought his own level of confidence," said junior guard Jonathan Stokes. "He always knew that he could play; it was just a matter of being given the opportunity. So now that the opportunity is being given to him, he's had the chance to step up and play."

Goodrich has made the most of the opportunity. In the past eight games, he has scored 60 points, dished out 24 assists, and seen increased playing time.

He began the season averaging nearly 10 minutes per game. Then, he

entered a phase where he played very little. Despite the up and down season, Goodrich is still on the ballot for the MEAC All Rookie team.

While Goodrich says he is pleased that he is getting more playing time, he admits that it was difficult for a while.

"It was real hard playing 32 minutes a game in high school and never coming out [of] the game and then coming to college and having to sit out and wait my turn," admits Goodrich. "I had to talk to the coaches every day. [Assistant] Coach [Aki] Collins helped me out a lot with it because he told me to keep working hard in practice and my time [would] come. It just so happened that in my freshman year Ali left and they needed a point guard to step in and play. I'm the only point guard on the team other than Ali, so I had to step up and that's what I'm doing."

With his open court quickness and sweet ball handling skills, you will often find the 5'10 freshman dribbling past would-be defenders and dropping dimes left and right to scoring machines Kyle Williams and Ron Williamson, or down low in the paint to center Aki Thomas.

Goodrich's ability to see the court so well combined with his speed enables him to know when he should pull up and take the short "J" or if he should dish it to his teammates.

"Gil plays really well, especially offensively," said Bison head coach Frankie Allen. "He's really good at pushing the ball up the floor and making plays on the offensive end. In every game that he's played, he's gotten better and better, so I'm very optimistic and very much pleased that going into the tournament, Gil may really be developing and coming into his own and can really do the job out there and lead us."

Junior guard Ron Williamson explains what it is like playing with his teammate.

"It's a fast-paced game when Gil's in the game, always up and down," said Williamson, the team's second-leading scorer. "He sees the floor really well, better than anybody else on the team. He's been playing more these last few games and he's really maturing and stepping up. He's lowering his turnovers and making good decisions on the court. It's just real exciting when he's on the floor."

Another great aspect of Goodrich's game is the fact that he is such a great competitor. Coach Collins explains how he's the type of player that never gives up and leaves it all on the court every game.

"Gil is a competitor. When we were recruiting him, we went to see him play Oxon Hill and they just got crushed. Oxon Hill was like a freight train out of control," said Collins. "They were down by about 20, maybe 30 points, and the last few minutes of the game and even the last few seconds, Gil was still diving on the court after loose balls. So he's really a competitor from buzzer to buzzer."

Goodrich says basketball has been his first love since he started playing it at age seven, but it isn't the only sport that he's ever played.

"I played soccer and baseball too, when I was younger, but my freshman year of high school, my father told me I had to pick one sport and excel in it. So I just decided I was better in basketball than any other sport," he said.

He transferred from Towson Catholic to Newport Prep where he finished out his two years of high school, playing basketball and improving his grades.

"He had a very good high school career," says Keith Stevens, his assistant coach at Newport Prep. "He averaged 17 points during his junior and senior years when he transferred from Towson Catholic and he was very instrumental in everything that we did. He was one of our key players on the team. In both years that he played, he was the second leading scorer."

Not only did Stevens serve as his assistant coach; he also played a key role in Goodrich's decision to come to Howard.

"He had to go to a level where he could be competitive and we thought that Howard would be a good situation for him as far as coming in and contributing to a team right away," said Stevens. "Also, the relationship that we had with the coaching staff and with Mr. Ed Hill [Howard's Sports Information Director] was an important factor. So we felt very comfortable that we had turned him over to them."

In addition to Howard, La Salle University in Philadelphia and the University of Richmond in Virginia recruited Goodrich. He says he chose Howard because he felt comfortable with the coaches and he liked the area.

Although he says he is very pleased with his decision, he admits that there were quite a few adjustment periods for him.

Goodrich is the first Caucasian to play basketball for Howard, but says

that the biggest adjustment for him was academically, not culturally.

"I've been around Black people all my life so it wasn't that hard for me to adjust culturally," said Goodrich. "But academics have been the most difficult for me because in high school I just slid by. I got what I had to get in order to play."

But coming here, they told me Howard was a very strong academic school and I was going to have to work, and first semester, I found that out. I've gotten used to the academics now and I'm just trying to study more and go to class more, and try to get better as the years go on."

When he's not playing basketball, he just loves having fun, joking around, and making people laugh.

"I don't like being serious when I'm off the court because I'm always serious in the games," says Goodrich. "But when I'm off the court, I'm the class clown, I'm the jokester on the team; just taking stuff, joking with people and getting beat up for it. I just love having fun. That's just me, that's my personality."

His goals for the remainder of this season are to "keep playing hard and keep trying to lead his team to victories."

"My ultimate goal for this season is to go to the NCAA tournament."

Howard hasn't been there in 12 or 13 years so if I can, as a freshman, come in and lead us to the promised land, then that would be good for me and it'd be good for the program," said Goodrich. "Coach Allen is coming in here in his second year and if we get to the tournament, then that's good for him."

Goodrich has hopes of making it to the NBA one day, but if that doesn't work out, the psychology major has something else in mind he'd like to pursue.

"My ultimate goal for the future is to go to the league (NBA)."

It's a far shot, but I've believed in my heart since I was seven that I could do it and if I set my mind to it, I can do anything I want," said Goodrich. "But if that doesn't work out, I'm majoring in psychology so I'd want to try and help people out with their problems. I've been through a lot growing up so I know a lot of stuff. Some things I don't know, but I do know a lot, so I'd like to help other people out."



Baseball Team Plays Virginia Commonwealth in Doubleheader

By ETHAN ZAGORE
Contributing Writer

The Bison baseball team faced off against Virginia Commonwealth last Monday in Richmond, Virginia. The Bison entered the game well rested after a week off since their season-opening series against the College of Charleston.

Similar to the team played in their last series, Virginia Commonwealth presented an extremely challenging non-conference opponent, especially with home-field advantage. However, the Bison are no strangers to playing on the road as they play their first nine games away before finally coming home to play Towson University next Saturday (March 2nd). The Bison went to Richmond with high hopes but in the end, Virginia Commonwealth's offense proved to be too strong.

In game one of the doubleheader the Rams of Virginia Commonwealth immediately got to work as they scored five runs in the bottom of the first. Bison starter Carlton Howard and his team scored two runs in the top of the third on R.B.I.'s by junior Keith Sneed and sophomore Omar Shakoor to make the score 5-2. However, the Rams responded with a run in the bottom of the third and three runs in the

fourth as the game began to get out of reach. In the end, the Bison fell 14-4 in game one with pitcher Carlton Howard picking up the loss.

"The first inning really hurt us (five runs for VCU) because it's hard to come back on the road, especially in a non-conference game," said junior infielder Brad Burris. "The teams we play in preparation for our conference games are very challenging and you have to play excellent baseball right from the start to pick up a win."

Game two began on a bad note for Howard as the Rams picked up six runs in the first inning and really never looked back. By the end of the third VCU had a commanding 9-2 lead and continued their offensive output as they scored six runs again in the bottom of the fourth. The final score was 22-2 with pitcher Keith Sneed credited for the loss. VCU sent four pitchers to the mound, giving up a total of two runs on four hits. Howard dropped to 0-4, but have yet to play a game within their conference. The Bison continue to travel, playing three games against Virginia Military and one game against George Mason University before coming home to play Towson University next Saturday.



File Photo

The baseball team faced off in a double header.