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H.U. alumna, publishes new book...

Black Farmers Make History with Cuba

By Tara Curtis
Metro Editor

With the assistance of the NAACP, the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) reached a historic agreement with the Cuban Government last week.

The agreement was part of the NAACP's efforts to aid black farmers in finding business in new and emerging markets. With this agreement, Black Farmer's will have full access to Cuba's \$1.5 billion agriculture market.

According to a press release by the NAACP, Pedro Alvarez, director of ALIMPORT (Cuba's Food Import Company) as a result of this agreement has made plans to purchase over \$1 billion of food from black farmers within the next year.

Some black farmers said getting assistance from the U.S. government has been difficult and they have been forced to look for alternative means to sell their food.

Sean Parker, sophomore Political Science major and president of Howard's Chapter of NAACP believes that this is a step in the right direction.

"Black farmers have been neglected by Congress and it is good to see that they will be able to expand their import and export markets to Cuba," Parker said.

Fidel Castro, Cuban president, showed his support for the trade agreement by meeting with the NAACP

See NAACP page A9



Photos by Chandra Anderson

Above, students from George Washington University volunteer at Miriam's Kitchen.

Miriam's Kitchen Helps Homeless

By Chantel Harley
Contributing Writer

At 6 o'clock a.m. while most are still turning over in sleep, there are hundreds of dedicated volunteers cooking and preparing to serve breakfast to the homeless.

Monday through Friday, doors open at 6:30 a.m. and a hot breakfast is served to about 150 men and women in Foggy Bottom Washington DC.

Meals include scrambled eggs, bacon, ham, or sausage, fresh collards, and on specific days grits, toast, pancakes, home fries, and French toast. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays daily specials are served that may include lasagna, soup, chili, stir fry, meatloaf, or tuna casserole.

Founded in 1983 by churches and local businesses, Miriam's Kitchen is a volunteer-driven, non profit organization seeking to help the homeless. In 2001, it was deemed for outstanding management achievements and awarded first place

with a \$5,000 cash grant by the Washington Post and the Washington Council of Agencies.

Not only do they cook and serve breakfast, but there are a variety of projects that churches, universities, schools, and the public can volunteer in, especially during the holidays.

Volunteers can participate by helping with a deep cleaning project, Transitional Housing program, painting, helping with the newsletter, cooking, serving, or sorting food at the Capital Area Food Bank on Saturdays.

Miriam's Kitchen also provides case management, legal services, podiatry clinic, after-breakfast creative writing and arts groups, resume clinic, lending library, veterans outreach, alcoholics anonymous, a mailing address, and a voice mail system for it's clients.

The creative writing and arts group allows the men and women from Miriam's Kitchen to express themselves artistically. The group meets after breakfast every Monday, Wednesday,



Photos by Chandra Anderson

Steve Badt, volunteer coordinator of Miriam's Kitchen gathered food on Thursday.

and Thursday morning. On Mondays there is a visual arts group, which works in a variety of mediums, led by Sylvia Van Voorthuizen. Some of the artwork has appeared at Howard University's Blackburn Center Gallery, Tryst Cafe, George Washington University's

Colonnade Gallery, Studio 1019, and the Martin Luther King Library. On Wednesdays, a poetry workshop is led by Patrick McGovern. The group meets to write, share, and enjoy visits from aspiring and profes-

See MIRIAM page A5

Maryland Gov. Elect Accused of Illegal Poll Practices

By Christopher Rutledge
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday November Fifth, Baltimore County Congressman Robert L. Erlich, Jr. made history when he became the first Republican to win Maryland's gubernatorial race in thirty-six years, soundly defeating John F. Kennedy's niece, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, in what most consider "Democratic territory".

Now, three weeks later, Governor-elect Ehrlich and his election campaign are being investigated for illegally soliciting workers to distribute materials on Election Day promoting voters to cast their ballot for Ehrlich. Under Maryland law, it is illegal to pay people to work at the polls or to campaign on behalf of a candidate or political committee on the day of the election while the polls are open.

Dozens of Prince George's County, Maryland college, high school, as well as junior high students are complaining that they have not been paid, as promised by Ehrlich campaign officials, for handing out literature promoting the new governor. These allegations are only the latest to surface involving illegal activities on behalf of Ehrlich's successful campaign.

Nearly 200 homeless people from a Washington D.C. shelter claim that, on Election Day, they were bused out to Prince George's and Frederick counties to hand out Ehrlich fliers in return for money and food. Unlike the students, however, these workers were paid \$150 apiece the day following the election, although only after police

See GOV page A9

Steele, Area College Republicans Mingle

By Danielle Scruggs
Hilltop Staff Writer

Maryland's first Republican Lieutenant Governor-elect Michael Steele was a special guest at the College Republican Mix and Mingle held in the Blackburn Center on Friday.

The postmodern artwork and live jazz band gave a sophisticated and posh feel to the event. Howard's College Republicans invited their counterparts from Georgetown and American Universities.

The recently elected African American republican

lauded the young Howard republicans.

"I'm proud of the leadership of the Howard University College Republicans," said Steele. "I hope the students embrace them like any other organization. It's great to see the diversity of opinion and thought."

Keila Foster, a sophomore public relations major and chairperson of College Republican Week says the major goal of last week's events were to make the Republican party's presence known on Howard's campus.

"It's an opportunity to

expand the political thought of African-Americans and show that we are not monolithic," Foster said.

Foster also explained the motives behind the Mix and Mingle. "I wanted to do something so that Republicans from other universities and from Howard could meet in a comfortable atmosphere."

From various accounts, Republican Week has been successful. However, she was a bit disappointed with the student turnout.

"We've gotten a big response from administrators. I wish we had bigger numbers

of students at our events," Foster said. "I think people are scared of Republicans, especially Black Republicans."

Some members of organization said now that the GOP now have control of the White House, House of Representatives, and Senate, they hope their colleagues will come to view the Howard College Republicans as a powerful and influential club at Howard University.

Adam Hunter, chairperson of the College Republicans, on

See STEELE page A9



Photo by Maya Gilliam

Republican Lieutenant Governor-elect Michael Steele speaks with Ja'Ron Smith, an attendee at the College Republican Mix and Mingle on Friday.

Sessions Held on Safe Sex

By Janelle Williams
Contributing Writer

Rumors around campus suggest that the rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases at Howard University are extremely high and in recent weeks, several information sessions on sexually transmitted diseases and safe sex have been held on campus.

Beginning with the Department of Health, Human

Performance and Leisure Studies, Undergraduate Student Assembly program, 'So Contagious' followed by the Campus Pals' Safe Sex Session during the organization's week-long activities.

A Hilltop article printed on September 27 entitled "Uncovering the Truth: STDs on Howard's Campus," confirmed

See SEX page A8

Poor Attendance for Trustee Forum

By Ruth L. Tisdale
Hilltop Staff Writer

Jaha Howard and Marwan Porter, undergraduate and graduate student trustees respectively, hosted a forum to discuss some of the myths of the Board of Trustees and some of the goals of the Board.

The event was sparsely attended.

Among the top projects the student trustees have tackled is Capital Campaign, which aims to raise 250 million dollars.

The campaign so far has raised over 70 million and is said to be ahead of schedule.

"With the Capital Campaign we hope to raise funds for the

See TRUSTEE page A9



Photo by Harvey Jenkins

The student trustees hosted an informational session in the West Towers on Thursday. Despite advertising, the forum was poorly attended.



VOICES & VIEWS

Do you think the resources in the iLab are sufficient?



Desmond M. Grimball
Architecture
Sophomore

"No. I know that it is not sufficient enough for me since I am an architecture major. We need more than just computers and printers."



Edna Hammett
Political Science/
Administration of Justice
Freshman

"I do. Everything that you need is right there. If you are unlucky and don't have a computer you can use the computers there and use the Internet. There are also private rooms. If all else fails you can find it at the iLab."



Jon Howard
Pre-Physical Therapy
Junior

"Yes, I do think that [the resources] are sufficient. They have enough computers in there for you to do what you need to get done and then get up out of there."



Sean Ward
Economics
Freshman

"The resources are not sufficient because there are not nearly enough workstations to accommodate all of the students that come [to the iLab]."

Compiled by Melanie Nesbitt

Students Voice Grips

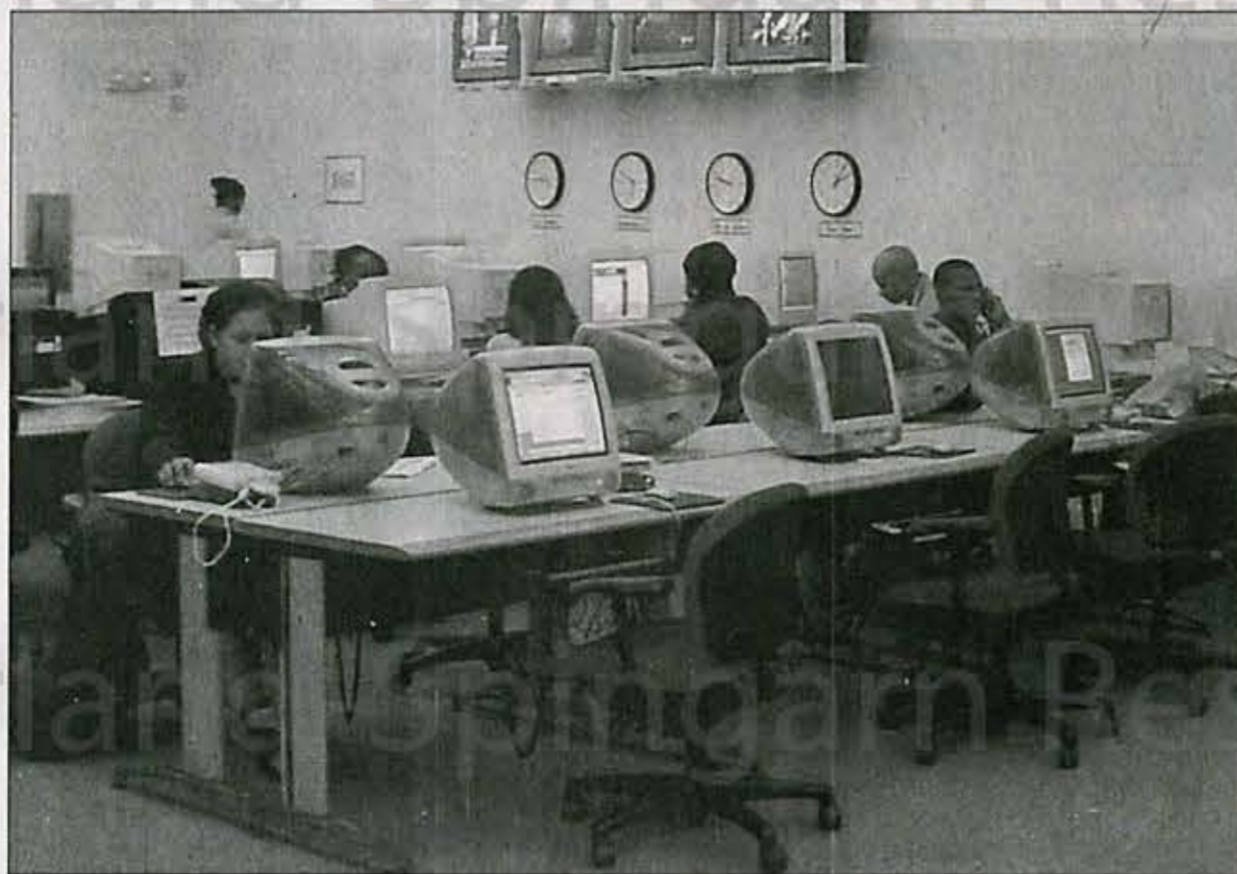


Photo by Maya Gilliam

The Information Lab houses approximately 200 stations, but students say it is not enough.

Students Demand More of iLab

By Veronica-Marche Miller
Contributing Writer

It is becoming more and more difficult for Howard students to get sufficient use of the University's Information Laboratory @ Technology Center, better known as the iLab.

The difficulty does not lie with faulty computers or printers, but stems from a problem of overcrowding.

The iLab, was a part of President H. Patrick Swygert's ambitious Strategic Framework for Action I, which gives students seven-day-a-week access to about 200 networked workstations. Its opening was a milestone for Howard University in April 2000, but now some students like Jasmine Edouard, a sophomore graphic design major, said it is not enough.

"They should have more than just one level of computers," Edouard said. "Maybe at least two floors of computers and they should all work."

Marinda Stevens, who

works as a graduate assistant in the iLab, agrees.

Instead of renting the lower level of the Technology Center to State Farm Insurance, she thinks the University could have installed more computers so that the main lab wouldn't become so congested.

Edouard appreciates the iLab because she does not have a personal computer in her dorm room, and she does not mind the \$125-per-semester technology fee that supports Howard's information technology initiative.

"If you go [to the iLab] you'll get your money's worth," Edouard said. "But sometimes there are so many people there that you don't want to wait."

Charles Moore, interim viceprovost and chief information officer of Information Systems and Services, said students have options to meet their computer needs.

A new Commuter Computer Lab opened in the Armour J.

Blackburn Center this fall. It houses 38 wireless computer workstations and mounted televisions, a mini-iLab.

"This newest facility operates on a five-day-per-week schedule and caters to our commuting students, although all students are welcome," Moore said.

Stevens also suggests that students come early in the morning rather than late in the evening to use computers.

"In the nighttime, it's so crowded," she said. "The best time to come is in the morning. It's quieter and more computers are available."

The staff at the iLab is in place to offer technical assistance to students.

Students can go to the help desk to print a document when the main printers are disabled. The help desk also loans floppy and ZIP disks to iLab patrons for printing purposes.

See ILAB page A9

UGSA Hosts Grievance Week

By Teniece Thurston
Contributing Writer

Every day, countless Howard students can be heard complaining about some aspect of the University, from the bad food in the cafeteria to shuttle bus drivers. The Undergraduate Student Assembly decided to facilitate the plethora of student complaints by hosting a Grievance Week last week.

The Assembly wanted to gain and document the concerns of the student body before the Thanksgiving break in an effort to map out their plans toward a resolution for the spring semester.

The undergraduate representatives had a table in the basement of the Armour J. Blackburn Center with questionnaires and grievance forms available for students to voice their concerns.

"We wanted to know how students feel about the services here and whether or not we are doing our job of representing them," said Kristin Tanner, grievance director of UGSA. The questionnaires were used to measure how students felt about different aspects of student affairs including security, dining services, financial aid and housing.

"Many of the students don't know the process to get problems fixed so this is a good way to help students out," Tanner added.

The Undergraduate Student Assembly described the response to the event as positive. The complaints were overwhelmingly geared toward financial aid services. Several students voiced concerns over being qualified for financial aid services but not receiving them.

UGSA is not the only organization on campus attempting to hear student grievances. The Howard University Student Association has placed grievance

boxes in each dorm as another medium for students to express discontent.

Monica Williams, assistant director of internal affairs for HUSA, said the reason for the grievance forms in the dorm is for accessibility.

"We wanted to make them more readily available for students since everyone doesn't have the chance to come in Blackburn and talk to HUSA directly," Williams said. "All in all, the boxes have received a good response."

Whereas UGSA has found the primary student gripe to be financial aid, the majority of the grievances filed with HUSA related to the shuttle service. HUSA has plans to do a more complete analysis of the service.

Jason Dunbar, junior broadcast journalism major from New Jersey, welcomes the grievance forms.

"It's nice that these organizations are taking the time out to hear students and that we're being heard. I believe it's the first step toward making things happen," Dunbar said. "But the next step is to make sure University officials are hearing us. The next step needs to be taking action."

Both of the aforementioned organizations plan to do just that. UGSA will take these grievance forms to the administration officials. The forms will be reviewed and the respective parties will be invited to a UGSA meeting where steps will be taken to resolve the issue.

If the concern is outside the parameters of the UGSA, they will then turn it over to HUSA. The HUSA Investigative Committee reviews the forms they receive and uses them to voice student concerns with respective departments.

UGSA coordinator Larry Brown Jr. maintains that his office will continue to meet student needs all year round.

Congresswoman E.B. Johnson Visits Campus

By Ruth L. Tisdale
Hilltop Staff Writer

Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas, engaged an audience filled with college women on the topic of African American women in politics recently in the Chemistry Building.

She also covered other pertinent issues currently facing the African American community.

The ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. sponsored the program.

Johnson began her speech by telling the audience about the role of African American women in Congress.

"A white man's responsibility in Congress is to take care of his constituency and African American women have to do the very same thing," said Johnson.

"Being a member of Congress is not a job of glamour, but it is a high-profile job that requires a lot of time and energy. Members of Congress regularly put in 15-18 hour days, and the only personal time has to be scheduled," she said.

The demography of America is changing rapidly. Johnson pointed out that the Hispanic population is the fastest growing minority population and the

Asian population is not that far behind.

"In my district alone, there are 92 languages which are spoken," said Johnson. "The CBC [Congressional Black Caucus] along with the Hispanic and Asian caucuses have formed a coalition that will hopefully help build trust among minorities and voice the concerns of the minority community in Congress."

Melissa Black, a sophomore psychology major, wanted to know what the Hispanic, Asian, and CBC agreed upon.

"All of the caucuses agree about the need for Social Security and education reform and the increase in minimum wage," said Johnson. "A community is only as good as those in the community, and you don't have to be poor to understand what being poor is all about."

Johnson's theme for the night was for the African American community to take responsibility.

When India Daniels, a sophomore marketing major, asked Johnson what can citizens do when elected officials are not getting the job done, Johnson's

See EBJ page A9

Shuttle Safety Continues to be a Concern for Students

By Robin Allison Davis
Hilltop Staff Writer

In the latest incident, in front of the Howard Plaza Towers, the shuttle rolled down the street after the driver forgot to engage the parking brake.

The driver had left the bus to help a physically challenged student board because he allegedly did not know how to operate the rear door, which allows wheel chairs to enter the vehicle.

The driver then returned to the bus and engaged the brake.

This led to an investigation of the incident and the overall safety of the shuttle by the Internal Affairs Department of the Howard University Student Association.

Other incidents reported to the Office of Parking and Shuttle Operations include drivers talking on the phone, eating, drinking and stopping to speak with colleagues in the middle of the street. Last week, an incident was reported of a driver stopping at a Chinese restaurant to see if his food was ready while students were on board.

Adam Hunter, director of Internal Affairs for HUSA, has assembled a group of students to ride all the shuttle routes and



File Photo

Students complain that Shuttle Bus drivers do not know their routes, stop the bus for meals and there is a concern about overall safety.

rate them on an assessment form he has created. This form evaluates the demeanors of the driver and students, safety and speed, timeliness and correct route taken.

The forms will be taken to Alphonzo Horton, director of Parking and Shuttle Operations, to assist him with shuttle service

conditions. According to Hunter, there should be a big improvement in shuttle service next semester.

"HUSA is at the forefront of revamping the shuttle service," Hunter said.

The incident in front of the

See SHUTTLE page A8



Walking Like a Lion Shows Off HU Actors

Play Review

By Sarah-Jane Thomas
Contributing Writer

The Experimental Theatre in the Division of Fine Arts was filled to capacity on last Wednesday's opening of "Our Infinite Variety."

The pastel lighting and the background music of Lauryn Hill's "The Conquering Lion," further enhanced the relaxation of the audience.

As the lights dimmed, the show began.

Ntozake Shange was the featured playwright.

Born Paulette Williams in 1948 in Trenton, N.J., she studied the inequities of the American society on black females.

The plays were among Shange's unknown pieces, and were directed by pre-directing majors at Howard University, and performed by Howard Theater Arts students.

The first act was based on Shange's book "Lilliane: The Resurrection of a Daughter".

This act featured four scenes with an analyst, played by Amede Saunders, and his four patients.

The act encompassed both comedic and dramatic elements, which the actors portrayed beautifully.

Senior acting major Jessica Fontaine played a woman who was reluctant to receive counseling that day because her friend was just killed in an act of domestic violence, and later revealed that her mother was killed in the same way.

"It was my first theatrical experience here and I am glad that this experience was one of

Seniors Prepare for Life After Graduation

By LaToya Pumphrey
Hilltop Staff Writer

For hundreds of Howard students, the time is rapidly approaching to the point of graduation.

Seniors recently completed registration for the last semester of course work bringing them closer to graduation, but many find themselves in a dilemma as to what comes next.

For some, post graduation involves two choices: continuing education or getting a job. Although the choices are limited, the decision is not as simple.

In making a decision as to which road to travel, students need to be well informed and strong enough to continue when times get rough.

The Office of Career Development for the School of Communications has been working diligently to assist students with the process of applying for jobs or with choosing a graduate school to attend.

Career counselors have worked with students on some of the fundamentals such as writing cover letters and filling out applications.

Carol Dudley, coordinator for the Office of Career Development in School of Communications, encourages students to advance their education.

"Going to graduate school make students better prepared for the working world, as well as more knowledgeable," Dudley said. "If students are unable to find a job, grad school is the best alternative."

Recently, the economy has taken a strong blow and employment is scarce due to lay-offs and economic cutbacks.

Dudley says during such times, students must work



File Photo

Many Graduating seniors are anxious about leaving the Mecca, what has been home for four years.

harder to find employment and may be forced to settle for entry-level positions, instead of the higher ones they are qualified for.

"Consider the entry-level positions. Once you have a job, demonstrate your skills, and excel as only a Howard grad can," Dudley said.

She also mentioned to think broadly when opting for employment and not to focus on one particular position in that field.

Statistics show an increasing amount of college graduates are going to graduate school instead of the working world.

The labor force has grown, however due the fall in the economy, the availability of jobs has not.

For the 2003 Howard graduates preparing to look for work, they should start now.

It could take a student from 6- 12 months after graduation to find employment when the economy is

raging.

That time range has increased.

Director of Career Services, Kim Wells said the job market continues to be very competitive this year because of the sluggish economy.

"This is definitely an employer's market, which makes it even more important for all students who are expecting to enter into the job market this year," Wells said. "Students should invest quality time in registering at the Career Services Office for our recruitment and career programs (www.howard.edu/careerservices), spend time researching job opportunities, developing effective resumes, and getting consultation on the job search process."

However, Wells maintained Howard students still have the advantage of graduating from a university

See FUTURE page A8

Bison in Ghana

By J. Malaika Beckford
Columnist

As in most places, the lifestyle that you live can greatly depend on how much money you have as well as your nation's endowment.

Ghana is a country that does not have a lot of money being distributed through the society.

There is a considerable percentage of the population that falls in the middle and upper class, but those living in poverty are much greater.

Poverty here is different from poverty in the United States.

In the U.S. poverty means making below \$20,000 per year, but in Ghana poverty is literally having no money at all and usually, no job.

Many of the poor in Ghana are at least able to have food because of farmland and agricultural skill.

In the United States, most people don't know how to farm, so no money means no food.

Most of the upper class here make their money by traveling to the states for business or having a U.S. contact for export.

Because the U.S. dollar is so powerful here, there is a serious greed for it.

Many people dream of going to the U.S. to make money, and then return to Ghana to live comfortably.

There appears to be a great job shortage, which further contributes to poverty and the desire for the educated to leave Ghana.

There is a great thirst here for the American culture because people believe that it is superior.

On campus, Ghanaian students wear clothes that can easily be seen on Howard's campus.

Girls dress like they are in videos and guys wear knock off Sean Jean and Echo, baggy jeans and even Timberland boots.

It is very rare to see a Ghanaian in traditional dress.

It is more common to see a



J. Malaika Beckford

foreigner, such as myself, sporting and African print dress.

Many students don't understand why people from the West are so anxious to don African garments because so many are willing to give up their culture in order to assimilate into Western culture.

In Accra, Ghana's capital city, there are attempts to westernize businesses, but these attempts are often futile.

Service is slower than slow and customer service is nonexistent.

Technology is not as expansive as it is in the United States, blackouts are regular and you may have to go a few days with no Internet connection, but people are still able to live well.

As Ghana attempts to bring its culture closer to that of the West, it seems that more harm may be done than good.

Will westernizing Ghana make life easier?

Maybe for an outsider like me (who is not used to less technology), but for those who are native to this land, it may not be necessary.

What I realize is that what we have here, is progress at looking western, but not being western in theory, which can either be very bad, or good, depending on your own views about western culture emerging in Africa.

J. Malaika Beckford is a junior film major studying abroad in Ghana

Law Library Director Spearheads Community Outreach Program

By Ayanna Partee
Contributing Writer

The Howard University School of Law Library staff presented Bread for the City with four boxes of canned food and a turkey on Friday.

The HUSL staff contributed greatly to the food drive hosted by the library staff this year. Boxes of food and clothes lined the student lounge as several student organizations ran food and clothing drives since the beginning of November.

Rhea Ballard-Thrower, the Library's new director from Atlanta came to HUSL last year with a vision based off of the theme of the Law School, "Excellence Starts Here."

"I want to create an environment that the law school and the students deserve," Ballard-Thrower said.

While working to make the library more efficient and user friendly for students, she has not forgotten the community, implementing partnerships with local high schools and charitable organizations.

"Howard University is about more than education," Ballard-Thrower said. "We have a history of relationships with the community, starting with Brown v. Board of Education, which will hold its 50th anniversary celebration at the Library in 2004."

The director of the



Photo courtesy of www.law.howard.edu

Howard University School of Law Library Staff bridges gaps between HUSL and community.

Northwest chapter of Bread for the City, Jeanine Sanford, was happy about the Howard donation.

"We are delighted to have been fortunate to have a partnership with their legal clinic and collaborate with Howard University Law School in other endeavors as well," Sanford said.

Stacey Long, the director of the new Southeast office of Bread for the City is also pleased with the efforts of the Law School to build Bridges with the community.

"This is the first of many collaborations with Howard University School of Law, especially as Southeast DC is tragically underserved in the community," Long said.

Despite the daily grind of

law school and the stringent budgeting of these professional students, many of whom have families of their own to care for, they give without hesitation.

Cleon Cauley, a third year student at HUSL prides giving back.

"We should be grateful for what we have. Law school isn't even a reality for many of these families," Cauley said. "I'm fortunate just to be here."

This is the second year the HUSL library staff has collected goods for a Thanksgiving dinner for the less fortunate. Last year, the staff collected and donated two boxes of food and a turkey to the House of Irma Jean homeless shelter.

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Homelessness in Washington, D.C.

By Holland Johnson
Contributing Writer

The 2001 United States Conference of Mayors statistics regarding homelessness in America show that more than 750,000 are without food or shelter and living on the streets on any given night. With only 250,000 estimated shelter spaces available, 500,000 are left to roam the streets.

Nearly one out of five district residents live in poverty. The poverty level for a family of four is approximately \$17,184. In 1998 through 1999 the average poverty rate in the district was 18.5 percent, which was the second highest of any state. Approximately 44 percent district children under age six live in poverty, which is twice the national average of 22 percent.

These factors add to the growing homeless crisis for many District residents. Over the course of a year as many as 15,000 people may experience homelessness. Of the approximately 9,000 people who are homeless, half are women and children. Nearly half of all homeless children are under the age

of five. Approximately two thirds of single homeless adults have special needs for critical conditions such as HIV/AIDS, mental illness, substance abuse and serious physical health problems. In addition 46 percent of homeless surveyed found that domestic violence was the primary cause of

homelessness.

In order to combat the problems occurring many solutions like the 'continuum of care,' also known as the 'D.C. Initiative.' The initiative has tried to respond to the situation by developing outreach programs such as emergency and transitional shelters and

finding permanent housing arrangements.

Continuum's programs have served more than 8,000 homeless. The continuum program has assisted approximately 2,500 who are living in public and private emergency shelters; about 3,100 reside in transitional shelters and housing; and another 2,900 are living in permanent housing.

Approximately 600 are living on the streets in the downtown area and are served by outreach organizations. But there continues to be inadequate resources to meet the growing need.

An average of three hundred twenty families are on the waiting list for emergency shelter. Families can wait up to six months for a space in the system. Often families are placed in overcrowded housing, settle for living in abandoned buildings or never get housing.

The district set aside \$18.5 million for homeless services in 2001. The proposed budget calls for \$16.5 million to be allocated for service in 2003.

According to the federal definition of homelessness set forth in the McKinney Act of 1987, to be considered homeless, a person must fall into one of the below categories:

- * Lack a regular, fixed, and adequate nighttime residence.
- * Live in a shelter or transitional housing residence for homeless persons.
- * Live in a temporary residence for persons waiting for institutionalization.
- * Are sleeping in a place not intended for human beings.
- * Will be evicted within one week from their home.
- * Will be discharged within one week from institutions where they have lived for more than 30 days in a row and they have not found a place to live and they have no money or other resources to find a place to live.

Spotlight: 'Warm Nights' Homeless Shelter

By Krissy Posey
Contributing Writer

According to the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless 2001, D.C. streets are home to 9,000 homeless people a day with nearly half being women and children. Of this figure 320 families are currently on a waiting list for emergency shelter. The issue of homeless people outnumbering the number of provided shelters is a growing problem for many city's.

The Community Ministry of Prince George's saw the need to provide a temporary solution to the shortage of shelters in their area. 15 years ago, Warm Nights began, a project funded by P.G. county's Department of Social Services and private donations, in an effort to help the rise of homelessness.

During November and March, a collaboration of churches in P.G. county come together to offer shelter and meals for the homeless.

Churches are recruited to

help participate in Warm Nights, and some contact Community Ministry after they have heard about the program and want to extend their help.

Wvette Rawley, Director of Ministry Crisis goes out to various churches to spread the word about the program and to recruit churches. "We invite churches to go to other host churches to see what the program is all about," she said.

This year, 34 churches from various faiths will host 25 guests in one week intervals. The homeless request shelter space by calling the P.G. county community support service homeless hotline.

Cots are provided by Community Ministry, by a hosting church must provide physical space for the guest to sleep, breakfast and dinner. "Some churches even provide a bag lunch for the guests to eat while they are out," said Rawley.

"We have hundreds of small churches extending their services as well," said Rawley. "They help prepare meals, bring towels,

linens, and toiletry."

Kettering Baptist Church in P.G. county has been participating in Warm Nights for seven years and offers literacy activities for the guests to engage in. "We offered a job skills workshop for them in the past," said Toni Mingo volunteer and member at Kettering Baptist church. "One year we even had a job fair."

Dr. Dorothy Powell (Title) at Howard University provided Kettering Baptist with Howard nurses and student nurses. They offered oral and physical exams to the homeless housed in the church shelters.

Other services churches offer for the homeless are recreation nights, which include movies and games, care packages, which contain washing powder, soap and other grooming products, showers, and worship services.

"We even had a couple get married one year," said Mingo. "We provided the groom with a suit and the bride with a dress."

Town Hall Meeting Discusses Parking Solutions for District

By Porsha D. Summerville
Cocontributing Writer

It's no secret that the lack of adequate parking in the Washington D.C. area can be stressful and leave both drivers and pedestrians with a big headache. Parking is a matter that has to be dealt with by every shopper, employee and resident. These parking problems are problems that can be solved, but not by themselves. The man with the solution is Adam Millard-Ball, a San Francisco-based transportation planner who offered D.C. officials, residents, and commuters with advice on how to solve the parking problem at a town meeting on November 7.

Ball presented his audience with a power point presentation that gave his audience an understanding of the goals, problems, economics and solutions surrounding parking.

The goals that surrounded Ball's presentation were set in place to help congestion, transit

rider ship, pedestrian friendliness, local bus development, employment retention, housing and supply affordability, and social equality.

"Much of the congestion caused is a result of the commuters and available free parking." Ball stated. Ball explained that free parking encourages people to drive their cars to work which lessens the chances of people riding the metro or any other form of public transportation. Ball proposed that free parking be limited and economic incentives made for employees that do not drive their cars to work.

"My goal is not to be a parking monster," Ball said in a joking manner, "but I would like the money that is charged for parking to go back into the communities and help improve roads and other problems." Ball also pointed out that an increase in parking charges in San Francisco reduced drivers by 8-21% in various areas.

A woman in the audience

quickly pointed out, "Politicians don't want to make people mad, so they make parking cheap or free which in result will encourage people to drive into town."

Ball again pointed to the money going into the communities and not into the hands of employees. Ball also made it clear that parking is never free. Though the driver might not pay for it directly, they pay indirectly in lease fees and sale prices.

To lessen car congestion Ball proposed to promote carpooling, financial incentives for employees, secure bicycle parking and offer transit information. Ball offered design solutions as well; these solutions suggested a structure for the parking lots that would allow cars to stack on top of each other.

Hopefully Ball's ideas will be implemented in the D.C. area and the headaches that pedestrians and drivers experience will lessen sooner than later.

MIRIAM from A1

sional poets. On Thursday mornings poetry and creative writing workshop are led by Caroline ("C.C.") Ramsay Merriam. Readings for the writers are scheduled to be performed in the community and guest poets including E. Ethelbert Miller, have been invited to share with the group. C.C. produces an annual anthology of writing from the Thursday morning work-

shop.

Miriam's Kitchen's legal clinic is open on Wednesdays. Also, case managers are usually available during breakfast to help those looking for work, filling out forms, trying to contact family members, needing medical care, or looking for rehab programs. There is an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting on Thursdays and doctors are available on Fridays.

Now, you may not be a

morning person, but if you are still looking to contribute in anyway, on Saturday, November 23rd, you have the opportunity to help fight homelessness in the DC metro area. There is a 2002 Help the Homeless Walkathon which will take place on the National Mall. For more information about the walkathon or other activities Miriam's Kitchen provides, please go to the website: www.miriamskitchen.org.

Walk Raises Money for Homeless



Photo by Melanie Nesbitt

The Washington D.C. Homeless Walk is an annual event. Proceeds from the walk will aid the homeless in D.C.

Security Breakdown Raises Concerns for Area University Students

By Nagilia Greaves
Contributing Writer

Recent violent events on area campuses raise concerns about campus safety. During the past month three Howard students were stabbed on campus and Howard is not the alone. 19-year-old Brandon Malstrom, a student from the University of Maryland at College Park was fatally stabbed during the university's homecoming weekend.

As a result, of the recent outburst of violent attacks, students are worried about their safety and wondering how is campus security at their campus looking to improve? "Campus security is alright but it can be improved if the campus

police respond faster to their calls and become more physically fit." Said Junior Anthony Bobcombe.

A Howard University campus police officer who wishes to remain anonymous said, "It is very difficult to guard people from being stabbed. Everyone carries pens and pencils and they can be used as weapons. The university would have to shut down like a prison and everyone would have to be strip searched."

The unidentified campus police did however say that Campus Police has been having meetings to discuss the ways in which campus security can be improved. According to the campus police, there is an underlying problem with improving the

security on campus largely because there is an insufficient amount of officers. "They can't get anyone to work here! Half of the force is ready to retire and the other half is ready to relieve due to poor salary and working conditions, and also the lack of proper equipment and training." Said the campus police officer.

Campus Police believe that despite the lack of manpower they have close relationships with the students. They see themselves as being proactive with the use of programs such as the Rape Prevention Program and the Emergency 806-7777. They rely on the students help to do their job and solve cases.

See SECURITY page A9



Drag Racing in the U.S.A.

By Sean Jackman
Hilltop Staff Writer

The flag drops and you are off. Side by side all the way you drive, until you kick into another gear and barely beat your opponent. It's only been ten seconds since the start but it is already over and your heart, as well as those of the spectators, is beating like you just ran a marathon.

This is the world of the drag racer. Despite all the legal tracks available for drag racing, the numerous competitions hosted by the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), the incredulous fines imposed on offenders and the multitude of crashes that occur, illegal street racing has been around since the dawn of automobiles.

For years, the NHRA, the

world's largest motor sports organization, have stated that such street races and those normally illustrated in movies do not portray the true spirit of drag racing. President Tom Compton goes on to say, "drag racing is an organized sport for high-performance vehicles conducted on a safer, controlled race course."

No nationwide statistics are kept concerning the casualties involving drag racing, but police authorities all agree that it contributes to many of the accidents they have witnessed.

In one of the most tragic, ironic cases, Dwight Samples met Jerrod Abbot and the two decided to race. The night ended when Samples crashed into and murdered his own mother. However, authorities adhere to the belief that racing



is not intuitively bad, but doing it on the city streets unsupervised is.

Greg Sloan of San Diego's police dragnet unit states that kids taking part in drag racing end up learning chemistry and physics when they fix their cars, and engage in a highly effective anti-drug and alcohol program. Despite the recent increase in these activities, the San Diego Police Department may have

found a novel solution to the illegal actions.

In San Diego, it was not unusual for police to break up races that had drawn over 1,200 cars and 3,000 spectators. Only one year later, those numbers have dropped drastically to around 50 cars.

In addition to making the viewing of such activities illegal (punishable by up to six months in jail), the city has employed

undercover surveillance units to help stamp out the activity altogether and has built supervised, legal drag racing strips.

The racecourse, set up at Qualcomm Stadium, offers racers a safe, legal venue to show their metal. Named RaceLegal.com, it attracts over 2,000 spectators and 225 racers on Friday nights where the racers have their cars checked, don helmets and sign liability waivers before being able to race the night away, sometimes as much as 20 times a night.

The father of the program, Stephen Bender, further persuades judges to let youngsters convicted of drag racing to serve their probation under his tutelage, when he introduces them to the legal circuit. The move is well backed, especially by parents who have lost loved

ones to the violent pastime.

"If I had to, I would say that the supervised tracks would be the safer choice," said mechanical engineering senior and a drag racing enthusiast, David Manning. "They are legal and, being supervised [is] obviously safer."

Even though the drop in convictions proves that it appears to be a success, there are those who still believe that nothing will beat the thrill of a street race.

Michael Frankson, a senior psychology major at the University of Richmond said, "Pulling around two corners and getting the car up on two wheels is not easy to do on a track. There's also a certain thrill with racing down deserted, dangerous roads."

Norwegian Cruise Line's 'Dirty Little Secret'

By Jamila Morgan
Contributing Writer

The cruise ship known as the Norway, owned by Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Line was fined \$1 million after a guilty plea to illegally dumping oily waste in the ocean, and falsifying records.

"The violations at Norwegian were some of the worst we've ever seen," according to Rick Langlois, special agent in charge from the Florida-based Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The cruise ship, which sails to the Caribbean, not only poured hundreds of thousands of gallons of oily bilge water into the ocean, it also illegally dumped raw sewage mixed with hazardous, even cancer-causing chemicals ranging from dry cleaning and photo development into the waters and has been secretly doing it for sever-

al years.

In recent years, the same type of violations reaped expensive consequences. Royal Caribbean Cruises was fined \$27 million and Carnival Corp., \$18 million. What makes this situation different is that the current CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line, Colin Veitch voluntarily reported pollution problems, and as a result the Justice Department only imposed a \$1 million fine to reward the company's forthcoming to wrongdoing.

"It's definitely troubling," says Teri Shore, an activist for Bluewater Network, a San Francisco-based environmental group. "It's like telling the industry it's OK to pollute, so long as you tell us later."

Cruise ships generate various man-made toxins, ranging from perchloroethylene (PERC) from dry cleaning; benzene and toluene from paint and sol-

vents; and oily waste from fuel and machine oil. PERC has been linked to cancer and birth defects in humans. The smallest trace of PERC in water has proven toxic to aquatic animals.

Benzene is a human carcinogen. Oil in the smallest concentration can kill fish. Consuming oil can kill birds and cause internal hemorrhaging even death in marine mammals.

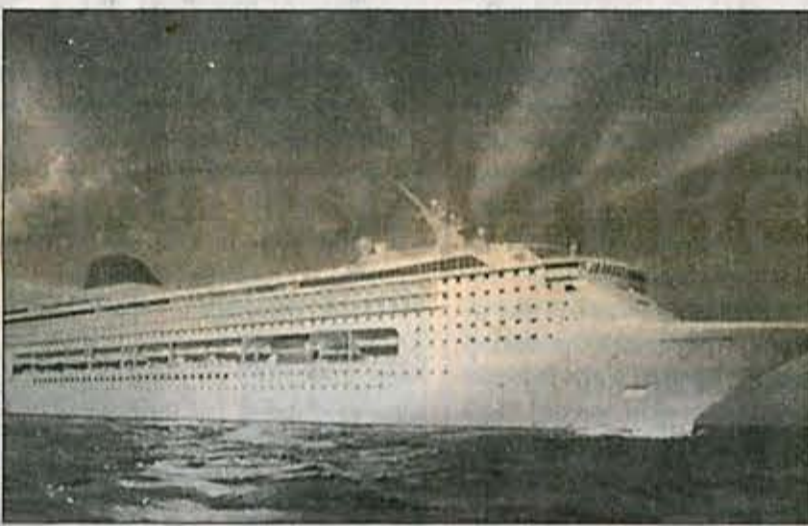


Photo courtesy www.ship-technology.com

The Norwegian Sky Cruise Ship is one of the fleet of Norwegian Cruise Line that has been fined for illegally dumping waste into the ocean.

"Knowingly dumping hazardous waste into Miami's Biscayne Bay is a crime," says Richard Udell, a Justice Department senior trial attorney for environmental crimes. "In this case, Norwegian provided cooperation above and beyond what any cruise line had done in any prior case."

By avoiding proper disposal, the cruise line saved hundreds of thousands possibly millions of dollars a year. Proper disposal of waste is costly. Royal Caribbean released figures that a typical cruise produces 110-gallon drums of photo chemicals, five-gallon drums of dry cleaning waste and 10-gallon drums of used paint. Handling the waste properly costs \$300 per gallon drum.

"I can tell you the senior management of my (cruise) lines is focused on improvement," says Michael Crye, pres-

ident of the International Council of Cruise Lines, which represents the biggest cruise lines. "Gone are the days when oceans were viewed as a dumping ground."

Still others aren't persuaded.

"We see the same practices that cruise lines have been convicted for happening over and over," says Tracy London, policy director for Oceans Blue Foundation, a Vancouver, British Columbia-based environmental group.

To date, the Norway has installed a three tamper-proof machine that separates oil from bilge water and recycles the oil. In addition, the wastewater tank capacity has been nearly doubled, and the water company is installing a treatment system that will sanitize wastewater before it's sent overboard. Toxic wastes are packaged and offloaded.

Observation Deck Disturbing Disappearances

Erika Dalquist, 21, vanished on Oct. 30. She was waiting for a cab outside the Tropical Nites bar in Brainerd, Minn. Christopher Jenkins, 21, a student at the University of Minnesota, disappeared Nov. 1, and was last seen outside the Lone Tree Bar & Grill. On Nov. 6, Michael Noll, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, vanished after celebrating his 22nd birthday at the Nasty Habit Saloon. And Joshua Guimond, 20, of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., disappeared Nov. 10 after playing cards in a friend's dormitory room.

All four students disappeared within the same time frame, after leaving a bar or party in the span of two weeks and within 120 miles of Minneapolis. The string of disappearances that began Oct. 30 is unusual and particularly disturbing because no more than a few dozen college students are reported missing each year. Officials say they do

not believe the cases are linked.

Top Secret Equipment Missing

More than a million dollars in equipment has disappeared from the Energy Department of Los Alamos National Laboratory, including computers from a top-secret division that designs nuclear weapons.

The computers were among hundreds on a list of items stolen or missing from the lab in fiscal 2001, according to an April memo by the lab's chief financial officer. In all, about \$1.3 million in property was on the list, which also included cell phones, digital cameras, printers, handheld electronic organizers and other equipment.

The Energy Department refused to comment on whether classified information was on the computers, saying only that the equipment losses are under investigation.

Fish Hunting Brings California Conflict

Of the 92 public piers along the California coast inhabited by fishermen of all types, there is only one, in

Imperial Beach, the last town before California succumbs to Mexico, where hunting fish with bow and arrow is allowed.

On most days and nights, a handful of bow fishermen take up stations on the 1,500-foot-long pier, staring down with arrows ready for the telltale shadow or flash of scales of the corvine or white sea bass, their most prized prey.

The ocean currents occasionally bring swimmers and surfers within the bow fishermen's range, setting off angry confrontations, although no humans have yet been impaled. But Imperial Beach officials, reflecting the town's rough-and-tumble character, have so far refused to ban the sport despite repeated protests from surfers and lifeguards.

India Holds Top Foreign Student Spot

India has become the largest exporter of foreign students to the United States, according to statistics released by the Institute for International Education. In the 2001-2002 academic year, the number of Indians studying in the United States shot up 22.3 percent, compared with growth of only 5.5 percent among students from China, which held the No. 1 spot in the past.

Forging University Credentials

By Jamila Morgan
Contributing Writer

As more foreign students seek graduate programs in the United States, the problem of forged credentials has become so serious that the University of Texas at Austin scheduled a conference this month to allow experts in spotting false transcripts to share their tips with admissions officers at Texas colleges.

Since October of this year, students in China, Taiwan, and

Korea have to take the Graduate Record Examination Test (GRE) on paper. The Educational Testing Services (ETS) suspended the computer-based test for one year due to security breaches in those countries.

"Students believe they are gaining an advantage, but they are turning the test into a test of their ability to memorize," said Tom Ewing, an ETS spokesman.

Even with ETS's tight security, which included test takers being videotaped while testing, and taking digital photos of the test taker - taken the day of the test - with test scores to prevent impersonation, ETS was still unable to prevent students from memorizing questions, reconstructing these questions and sharing them on the Internet.

Now questions from the paper test are discarded immediately after the test and are not reused. In addition, the availability of the test will be limited to only a few times a year. ETS is also withdrawing the 2002-2003 GRE computer science subject test for China and India.

As a result, the admissions center at Texas created the Texas International Education Specialist (TIES), a statewide

organization devoted to discussing international information including applications, immigration, testing and visas.

But, this is not just a problem in Texas; on Howard's campus the same incidents have occurred.

"Although there have been attempts, with our checks and balances and help from independent services who verify international credentials, the likelihood of false documents getting through is nil," said Karen Nash, Howard University admissions coordinator.

While there are no standard disciplinary actions on fraudulent credentials, Howard students shared their opinions.

"They should be denied admission for a certain period of time to any college, at least five years," said Crystal Newsome, senior psychology major from California.

"The punishment that is held for American students cheating and forging documents should be the same for international students. Cheating is cheating and should be the same all around the board," said Llewellyn William, senior computer science major from Sierra Leone.

Country	Number of students	One-year change
India	66,836	+22.3%
China	63,211	+5.5%
South Korea	49,046	+7.4%
Japan	46,810	+0.7%
Taiwan	28,930	+1.3%
Canada	26,514	+4.9%
Mexico	12,518	+17.3%
Turkey	12,091	+10.1%
Indonesia	11,614	-0.1%
Thailand	11,606	+3.7%
Germany	9,613	-5.1%
Brazil	8,972	+1.4%
Pakistan	8,644	+24.4%
Britain	8,414	+3.4%
Colombia	8,068	+19.3%

SOURCE: Institute of International Education



Weapons Inspectors Preparing for Iraq

Ria Marie Davis
Hilltop Staff Writer

Chief Weapons Inspector, Hans Blix and his 24-member advance team of UN Weapons Inspectors arrived in Baghdad last week to begin their mission of disarming Iraq of its alleged weapons of mass destruction. The UN Inspection Team, backed by the new Security Council resolution, has been granted "immediate, unrestricted and unconditional access to any site, including all of the Iraqi leader's presidential palaces."

Rosemary Hollis of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London stated that this unprecedented power of access implies that "the Iraqis are going to have to fling open their doors, invite the inspectors to go anywhere and everywhere, and reveal anything that they can think of about their capabilities."

Additionally, the inspectors

will relay to the UN any "material breach" of the resolution as committed by Iraq, including any signs of non-compliance which can impede the progress of their inspections. Blix has stated that "even a 30-minute delay in granting access to a suspect site would be regarded as a serious violation," and if any such instance of Iraqi non-cooperation is reported to the UN, the Security Council will be required to meet to discuss subsequent courses of action, including the possibility of a military campaign.

Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein has agreed to provide a "currently accurate, full and complete" declaration of Iraq's suspected weapons by Dec. 8, the stipulated deadline for the said document as set out by the UN. If the Iraqi declaration is later found to contain any "false statements or omissions," Iraq will still stand in "material breach" of the resolution, and may be subject to subsequent

military action.

The US is putting forth a "zero tolerance" policy towards the weapons inspections, which are being looked at as Iraq's final chance to disarm or to prove its disarmament. Currently Blix and his counterpart Mohammed el-Baradei, from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), are leading talks with Iraqi government officials, while other members of the team in Baghdad are currently working on setting up logistical and communication offices, living quarters and arranging vehicles for transporting the inspectors around Iraq.

The team is hopeful that the inspections which are carded to begin on November 27 will see greater cooperation by Iraq, and are confident that the process of weapons inspections will be performed effectively, because of new powers of access and the unanimous support of the UN Security

Council. Blix has also stated that the team is better equipped for the inspections because of new technology which is capable of detecting even the best hidden weapons.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, has stated that his "government is ready to comply with the arms inspectors" and that "they have given instructions to all responsible people and many government areas to respond immediately to any request to enter their sites and inspect them."

The Inspectors have not specified the number of sites to be visited, but are likely to visit 20 sites initially because of their tainted history. According to Jacques Baute, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection team "I can't say that there are 100 sites that are very important and another 300 more that are significant. For us it doesn't matter. We have a mandate to search the whole country."



Global Politics Brazil's Lula is Victorious: What's next?

By Jonathan Grannum
Hilltop Staff Writer

In an election that shaped up to be totally different at its top than at the bottom, it is time for President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, leader of the Worker's Party, to show what he is made of.

Up until the election date, the polls depicted an increasingly popular vote for da Silva. Meanwhile, at the local government level and the congress, the people seemed to want the more right wing candidates in power.

This phase shift may seem surprising to most looking in from outside until you understand that the leader of the centre-right coalition, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil, has already served eight years and thus can no longer run for president.

This sets us up for an interesting term ahead for the new president, who must now fill

the shoes of Cardoso, who ended three decades of inflation and was able to establish an open, market-based economy after sorting out much of Brazil's public finances.

Cardoso was in power since 1994, then Finance Minister, and has made a name for himself as the president for the poor. During his time in office, he made it possible for the poor in Brazil to have access to the benefits that we take for common, such as phone lines and tertiary education.

Now that the economy is in better shape, voters were willing to take a risk, as it were, with da Silva who has taken his leftist policy closer to centre and taken steps to ensure that the policies of Cardoso will be continued, some of which are without compromise such as the payment of the \$30 billion IMF loan which Cardoso endorsed in August of this year.

Brazil unfortunately is plagued with poverty and violence and thus this new administration must be cautious in coming into power with a fresh perspective and new ideas.

Perhaps the best thing for them would be to maintain their moderate agenda and try to adopt some of the better techniques employed by the last government. Sometimes the best way is the old way.

Some information was obtained from The Economist.

Bandicoots... Next 5 km



Photo courtesy www.australia.com
The Long Nosed Bandicoot is one of 21 species of Bandicoots found on Australia's East Coast & Tasmania. They hop around like Kangaroos on their larger hind legs though they are much smaller. Depending on the species their fur can be orange, grey, brown or striped. They are nocturnal creatures and spend the daylight hours hiding in crevices, logs or tunnels.

By Jonathan Grannum
Hilltop Staff Writer

It wasn't until 1770 that the land down under, known as New Holland, was presented to the world as a viable country of exceptional beauty by Captain James Cook and his crew of several scientists and a botanist.

Approximately 200 years after total British rule, Australia became a Commonwealth nation and gained much of the autonomy that any country should wield.

Australia makes use of separation of power under its constitution and is divided into three groups: legislative, executive and judicial. There also exists the position of governor-general who is the Queen's representative in Australia.

The governor-general appoints the prime minister, who is typically the leader of the party that has a majority of seats in the House of Representatives and presides at the House of Representatives meetings.

Today, Australia is deemed by some as their dream destination. Standing as the sixth largest country in the world, with a land mass 50 percent larger than Europe and the lowest population density in the world (two people per square kilometer), one may be tempted to think, however, that it is little more than a huge desolate rock.

Take a moment and think of what first comes to one's mind when one envisions Australia: kangaroos, desert land, Aborigines, the Sydney Opera House. However, Australia has so much more to offer as a country diverse in culture and rich in history.

Festivals abound in this land down under. From January through March a person may experience anything from Australia Day to the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, both of which are held in Sydney.

Australia Day is deemed the largest single public event in the country and involves tall ship and ferryboat races, a military flyover and free outdoor concerts. Mardi Gras attracts

up to 500,000 people to the parade, which is a celebration of gay and lesbian rights and lifestyle.

This year is a special one for Australia. It has been dubbed The Year of the Outback, and will focus attention on Australia's Outback - the recognized symbol of the world's great island continent. Its aim will be to demonstrate that the Outback not only represents an ageless past but also holds the key to the nation's future.

New Holland, New South Wales, the land down under - Australia is big, beautiful and bountiful. When making plans to visit, there are a couple things one should remember. Mainly money. Luckily the exchange rate runs at approximately 1 USD to 1.79 Australian dollars.

Far Out Facts

Beaches Galore

Australia boasts more than 7,000 beaches, more than any other nation.

Little Beauties

Australia produces 95 percent of the world's precious opals and 99 percent of black opals.

Beef Exports

With 24 million head of cattle, Australia is the world's largest exporter of beef.

Long Fence

The world's longest continuous fence known as the dingo fence runs through central Queensland for 5,531 kilometers. It is 1.8 meters high and is designed to keep sheep safe from Australia's native dog.

Long Haul

The longest stretch of straight railway track in the world crosses the Nullarbor Plain. From Nurina in Western Australia to near Watson in South Australia, the track is dead straight for 478 kilometers.

(Facts obtained from www.australia.com)

Photo courtesy www.viprez.com



Nigeria to Launch Satellite

Nigeria is hoping to launch its first satellite in July 2003. The satellite, which will be built in partnership with a British company, will be used for weather observation and will later become a communications satellite.

In July 2001, the Nigerian government formally adopted a National Space Policy with the objective of launching its own satellite and space research programs.

With the initiative, which will cost about \$2.5 million a year, there are hopes that the launch of dedicated satellites will greatly improve communication links.

Saudi Arabia Tourism to Fetch SR4.5b

Saudi Arabia expects SR4.5 billion in revenues from tourism by 2007, according to a five-year tourism development plan prepared by the Supreme Commission for Tourism.

The commission believes that the tourism sector will promote small and medium projects, and attract domestic and foreign investment to establish tourism infrastructure and create more jobs.

The number of domestic flights would be increased from 350,000 to 600,000 in the next five years as part of tourism development. Flights from Gulf countries will be increased from 50,000 to 75,000.

Bill Gates Welcomed with Huge Condom

Microsoft Chairman, Bill Gates was greeted with an eight-foot tall air-filled condom in India's rising technology hub of Hyderabad, where his company has opened its first software development center outside the US.

The special welcome occurred on Thursday during a four-day visit to the Indian city as a tribute to mark his gen-



erosity in fighting AIDS.

On Monday, Gates announced a \$100 million contribution from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to spread awareness on AIDS.

India has the second largest number of HIV/AIDS victims in the world after South Africa.

Beauty Queen Protest Ends in Bloodshed

At least 12 people have died in Kaduna, in the north of Nigeria, after protests against next month's Miss World beauty competition descended into bloody violence. Many more are also believed to have died after thousands of Muslim youths rampaged through the suburbs of the city, setting fire to tires and buildings, and attacking churches.

Protests started after the newspaper "ThisDay" published an article that said that the Prophet Mohammed (upon whom be peace) would probably have chosen to marry one of the contestants if he had witnessed the beauty pageant, which Nigeria is hosting next month.

Kazakhstan to Import Nuclear Waste

Kazakhstan, a country deeply scarred by the legacy of the nuclear arms race, plans to import other countries' civil nuclear waste. It hopes to earn enough from the trade to pay for the disposal of its own waste stockpile, but it has no depository able to accept any waste consignments from abroad.

To the dismay of many Kazakhs, the country's Parliament is to be asked to amend the existing law banning the import and burial of foreign radioactive waste.

Student Organizations Promote Safe Sex

SEX from A1

that of 1,089 students screened for STDs at the Student Health Center, 19 tested positive for gonorrhea, and 86 tested positive for chlamydia.

Some students are questioning the need for so many sex-related panel discussions.

People between the ages of 20 and 24 have experienced an increase in the number of STD cases over the past years. According to the Washington Post, the total number of residents in the D.C. area living with AIDS is 13,899.

The STD and AIDS rate within this country is also at an all time high.

In a report on sex in the United States, Surgeon General David Satcher said STDs account for 87 percent of the ten most commonly reported infectious diseases.

He also argued that schools should provide access to education about sexual health and responsible sexual behavior.

Human Sexuality Professor Clarence M. Stewart Jr. was the University Liaison for the event sponsored by the Department of Health, Human Performance and Leisure Studies.

He believes that Howard has been extremely helpful in educating its students and the commu-

nity about issues of human sexuality.

"The University is definitely aware of this situation that is plaguing its students and the community," Stewart said. "It is definitely a University initiative that this pattern is existing."

Programs like these are said to be of great importance, especially within the minority community where the STD and AIDS rates are extremely high.

According to the National Minority AIDS Council, AIDS is the number one leading cause of death among blacks between the ages 25 and 44.

The Washington Post reports also indicated that African-American women make up 96 percent of the city's new AIDS cases.

The human papilloma virus also known as HPV is the most prevalent STD among women on Howard's campus.

According to the Student Health Center, of the 1,176 women who received Pap smear tests last year, 50 percent of them tested positive for some form of HPV.

Asha French, a junior film major and Vice Chair of the Campus Pals, agrees that these programs are essential.

"In an age when minority teens and early adults are becoming statistics in terms of STDs,

knowledge is power," French said. "So if we can teach people to have safe relationships, we can begin to combat the spread of these diseases within our community."

Although students attended the discussion sessions for different reasons, some to fill a requirement for a class and others to become more informed, the attendance at each session was comparatively high.

Arizona Newsum, a freshman theater major, attended the Campus Pal session called "Staying Safe in Sex" to be informed.

"I've had a lot of conversations with people and a majority of them aren't practicing abstinence," Newsum said. "I attended this program to reinforce my reasons for saving sex until marriage."

Despite the high number of students in attendance, some question whether students gained anything from these sessions.

Gary Boston, sophomore marketing major, attended the symposium sponsored by the Department of Health, Human Performance and Leisure Studies entitled "STDS/STIS Update."

According to Boston, the program was poorly organized and the presenters jumped from section to section.

"They didn't teach me too much that I didn't already know," he said.

Other students argued that hearing the information and the statistics regarding STDs and AIDS only affects them for a short period of time.

"Once you are involved in the sexual act, you are not going to think about that," Darnell C. Keys, history major said.

Meanwhile, many students like Tosind Osho, a sophomore civil engineering major, found the panels to be beneficial.

Osho attended the UGSA panel "So Contagious."

"It was an eye-opener. It taught me always to stay on point when it comes to sex," Osho said.

Metro Teen AIDS spokesperson and former Campus Pal, Trina Scott was a speaker at the events sponsored by the Campus Pals and UGSA.

She believes that at black colleges, many students have identity issues when it comes to sex.

"If you don't have self-respect, you won't practice safe sex," Scott argued.

For more information or questions you can call the National AIDS Hotline at 1-800-342-2437 or the National Minority AIDS Council at 202-483-6622.

MD Governor Elect Accused of Illegal Poll Practices

GOV from A1

had been called to the shelter to investigate a disturbance complaint.

According to Andrea Henry, a Bowie State University junior, fliers were posted on campus the week before the elections seeking poll workers. She said the flier gave a phone number to call for further information, but did not indicate party affiliation or the name of the candidate seeking workers.

Henry said that when she called the number, she was told that the Ehrlich campaign was paying workers from \$85 to \$125, depending on the hours worked, to hand out campaign materials. She also said that she, along with other Bowie State students and high school and junior high students

attended a training session the Sunday night before election Tuesday, which was held by a group called "Democrats for Ehrlich". The purpose of the meeting, she claimed, was to be assigned to a poll, as well as to pick up literature and an Ehrlich t-shirt - which featured a picture of Ehrlich's running mate, African-American Michael S. Steele.

On Election Day, Hines worked outside of Tabernacle Church in Laurel,

Maryland. She and other students said that the campaign had promised to bring them breakfast and lunch, but the meals never arrived.

"We were passing out fliers and T-shirts," said Henry, adding that they continued working through the rain.

After the polls had closed, Henry said that the workers were told they would be paid the next day at the campaign headquarters in New Carrollton, Maryland. However, upon returning the following day, they were told to come back on Saturday by campaign workers. But when workers returned that Saturday, there was no one at the headquarters.

Tai Dozier, another Bowie State student, called what happened on Election Day a "scam from the start", saying she only agreed to do the work



Photo courtesy www.usda.gov

Maryland Governor Elect Robert Ehrlich.

because she was out of money and her mother's birthday was coming up.

"They had young African-Americans standing out there like we were supporting him, when they know most African-Americans are Democrats," Dozier said.

Spokesman Paul E. Schurick denied that the Ehrlich campaign acted illegally. "The Ehrlich campaign did not hire anyone to work on election day, period," said Schurick. "It's against the law and it did not happen."

But between 40 to 50 students and their parents disagree, saying they have been misled and deceived by Ehrlich's campaign.

In an interview with the Baltimore Sun, Sherita Bellinger, a woman from Upper Marlboro, Maryland whose two teenage children were recruited to hand out literature at Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, is on of those parents. She said that the Ehrlich staffers just disappeared and stopped taking phone calls from the unpaid workers, including her children.

"This is a very, very horrible thing to do to kids on their first exposure to our political system," said Bellinger.

The offense is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$25,000 fine.

Lack of Resources in iLab Concerns Students

ILAB from A2

In spite of the help desk's efforts to aid students, Stevens said she frequently hears complaints.

The help desk is often unmanned because workers are around the lab, tending to student complaints about the computers.

"They'll say computers aren't working when they're working, they'll say printers aren't working when they're working," Stevens said. "I have seen students flip over the 'this workstation is being serviced' signs, settle into the computer chair, and then grumble that the terminal [not] working."

Stevens believes many of the problems students face in the iLab are a result of student abuse of the equipment. Sometimes students aren't sure how to correctly operate terminals and printers. As of yet, the iLab does not offer computer training courses to students.

For many students, the iLab is the only place where they can access the Internet, check e-mail, and write papers.

Senior theatre major



Photo by Maya Gilliam

Some students have voiced concerns with the conditions of the iLab, saying the iLab lacks resources.

Mulvenia Hemmings frequents the iLab despite minor glitches.

"I get the most out of the technology fee because there is a lot you can do there," Hemmings said.

According to Moore, the iLab and other information technology resources are important to the University because they are intended to extend the reach of students as they pursue aca-

demic goals and objectives.

The iLab is open Monday 8:30 a.m. to Friday at 7p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays 12:30 p.m. to midnight.

SHUTTLE from A2

Towers also prompted Jarvis Houston, Howard University Student Association Chief of Staff, to take action.

"Some of the students are scared to take the shuttle on a daily basis due to inadequate services," he said.

Houston spoke with Horton and one of the managers of the International Limousine Service, the company that owns and operates the shuttles, to discuss the conditions of the services.

Houston said he does not believe that the problem lies with the company.

"We believe that the International Limousine Service has been doing an adequate job with the students, but the problem could be just the bus drivers," he said.

Horton said he received a notice from the company that the driver of the runaway bus was reprimanded and would be terminated if there were any further problems. Company officials also told Horton that their

first priority is the safety of the passengers.

Horton pointed out that the shuttles transport 32,520 people a week, and in light of that number, and the risk of inner city driving, he said that he believes that the shuttle services have performed well.

He agrees with Houston that bad drivers are the problem and that they need to be pointed out and fired.

However, not all students experience problems with the shuttle service.

Kristin Tanner, a junior human development major from Atlanta, said she feels safe.

What she does complain about is the shuttle's tardiness.

Students can fill out grievance forms, which are available in both the HUSA and Undergraduate Student Association offices. The grievance board will then address the forms.

Students can also file a grievance online or go to the office of Parking and Shuttle Operations.

PLAY from A3

such a deep and inspirational playwright," Fontaine said.

The second act featured nine scenes.

The first (For Colored Girls...) was of a painter, played by junior acting major Akilah Knight, whose work was her joy and escape from the world, and who did not want to fall in love, because in her eyes love was equal to pain.

"I enjoyed the journey traveled through Ntozake Shange's expressive works, not to forget the liberating paint I was covered in," Knight said. "I'm glad God gave me the opportunity to experience these expressive works."

The second act featured nicely choreographed and well-rehearsed scenes, including several dance sequences.

It touched upon issues of

low-self esteem, and the bond between mothers and daughters, and trust between friends.

The final scene, From Okra to Greens, starred Jermaine Small and Goldie Patrick who played the roles of young poets engaged in a love affair. One of the sexiest scenes of the night, it was a crowd favorite.

"It was excellent. The two actors were phenomenal. The intimacy of the space provided the audience with more of a realist approach to the scenes," said senior Larry Brown, Jr. These scenes were performed so elegantly and credibly that one could feel as though they were right in the middle of the action.

All in all, the play was worth the five dollars it cost for admittance, and then some.

The Infinite Variety series of plays ended on Friday.

FUTURE from A3

which is on the primary recruitment list of many top employers due to our strong reputation in graduating some of the best and brightest African American graduates in the country.

Several students in the graduating class have already attained employment through their respective schools.

For example, Adam LeGrand, senior finance major, will be working with Goldman Sachs Investment Bank after graduation.

"I got that job by interviewing with the School of

Business through the Center for Professional Development," LeGrand said.

Some students prefer to work and attend school, while others have a hard time balancing work and their studies, so they choose one or the other.

Megan Moore, a legal communication's major, is applying to law school and is also exploring the possibility of entering the labor force.

"If I get accepted, I will attend law school and as a plan B, I plan to apply to Teach for America," Moore said. "I was also thinking of starting my own business in event planning."

Have a Happy Thanksgiving from The Hilltop!

Student Trustee Event Poorly Attended in West Towers

TRUSTEE from A1

advancement of the University," Howard said. "We want to build a new gym and a new School of Communications and these funds will help the University to obtain these goals."

The student trustees attempt to keep students informed and get a greater understanding of the needs and concerns to take to the Board of Trustees meetings.

"We have already passed out surveys to more than 300 students and we plan to also go to dorms and get the word out," Howard said.

While it is the Howard and Porter, plan to keep students

informed, the trustees said it is up to the students to want the information.

"We can host an event, but it is up to people to come out," said Porter. "It is up to students to attend forums and town hall meetings because this is where we hear what students want to happen."

The student trustees said the Meet and Greet, held on November 15, was an attempt to let the student body see the trustees.

"Trustees only meet four times a year so we tried to provide a program where students could meet the trustees," Howard said.

The trustees also tried to dis-

pel many of the myths that the student body has about the board.

Robert Anderson, a sophomore political science major, wanted to know what the Board of Trustee members are like.

"The majority of the members are just like us. Just because they make a lot of money does not mean that they are out of touch with the Howard student body," Howard said.

Porter said that the common love for Howard has helped the Board work efficiently toward the goal for a great Howard University.

Justin Hansford, a senior English major and a former candidate for Undergraduate

Trustee, asked why President George W. Bush was nominated to receive a honorary degree and if the reason for the nomination stemmed from the University feeling loyal to the federal government because of the money Howard receives from Congress.

"The reason why President Bush was nominated was only out of respect," Howard said. "We have heard the displeasure of the student body, and when the Board votes on the issue then we will tell the Board that the student body emphatically does not want Bush."

"One of the reasons why we started the capital campaign is so that when the funds of the government stop coming we can

have something to fall back on," said Porter.

The trustees also explained what issues the Board handles.

Howard explained that the Board is for the highest concerns only.

"If you have a problem with the cafeteria then you go to HUSA, if you have questions about the University's partnership with Marriott then you would talk to the Board," Howard said.

Those who attended the forum wished that there were more students in attendance, but found the forum very informative.

"The forum was very informative, I just wish that more people

would have attended so they could hear what the trustees are doing," said Anderson.

"It's important that people attend these forums so that they know what's going on," said Richard Spencer, a graduate student in the arts and science. "Hopefully we can have more of these forums."

Howard and Porter were elected as student trustees last spring.

Both members are on the Board's committees of academic excellence and development. Howard is a senior chemistry major, and Porter is a third-year law student at Howard University School of Law.

College Republicans Host Talk with Maryland Lt Governor-Elect



Photo by Maya Gilliam

Lieutenant Governor elect Steele, spoke at an event hosted by the College Republicans on campus.

the other hand was pleased with the student attendance at the various was more optimistic about the week's student turnout.

"It was what I expected it to be. We had some powerful dialogue about African-American politics at Monday's discussion ["What Is A Black Republican?"] and when Star Parker [author of "Pimps, Whores, and Welfare Brats"] was here."

Hunter also thinks that Black people are scared about the shift in power between the Democrats and Republicans. However, he feels that Black people need to learn the importance of political action.

"We can't play this sideline politics...the time to be active is now," Hunter emphasized.

Ramon Bradley, sophomore public relations major, came to the event to see what the Howard College Republicans' intentions were.

"I'm bipartisan, but I'm also a political person. I wanted to see what their mission was and what their goals were."

Sophomore John Jett, Georgetown's College Republican chairperson also attended the event.

"I came because Adam invited me and other Georgetown Republicans and also for the chance to hear Michael Steele speak; he's an impressive guy."

Jett feels that there will be a greater focus on Republicans everywhere including various college campuses since the shift in political power.

The main focus of the evening was to give Republican students from Howard, American, and Georgetown the chance to network with each other and celebrate Republican activism on their respective college campuses.

NAACP Helps Black Farmers, Cubans

NAACP from A1

and the black farmers during the negotiation process.

A U.S. law that was enacted in 2000 allows Cuba to make cash purchases of food and agricultural products from U.S. farmers.

However, since the law was created, black farmers had failed in their attempts to negotiate an agreement with Cuba until recently.

The ability of the black farmers to reach an agreement with Cuba was due largely in part to the support by the NAACP. Commenting on the NAACP's involvement Parker said, "It is good to see an organization that I respect at the negotiating table with world leaders."

John Cleveland Newkirt, Jr., Georgia resident and spokesman for Southern Black Farmers, part of the NBFA, after learning about the arrangement agrees that this is one of the best things could happen to black farmers.

"This [the trade agreement] will give the black farmer a little boost and a little hope for recovering from the current economy," Newkirt said.

Kwesi Mfume, president of the NAACP explained the motivation of the black farmers in a recent press conference.

"African American farmers want to aggressively pursue business opportunities in Cuba the same as major farm cooperatives and agribusiness corporations that have traveled here and sold hundreds of millions of dollars worth of food to Cuba in the past two years," Mfume said.

The food products that will be exported include rice, chicken quarters, flour and other grocery items. John Boyd, president of NBFA, will sign the contract with Cuba after finishing up the final details.



Photo courtesy of angelfire.com

Black farmers will benefit from a new partnership with the NAACP and Cuba.

Security a Concern for Area University Students

SECURITY from A5

Campus Police stressed how important it is for students to keep in contact with them in the event that there is a problematic situation.

When asked for their opinion on Campus police, students shared a different view. Junior Omotunde Sowole said, "They are alright, but we need more of them and sometimes I don't feel safe." Sophomore Justin Wilson adds, "Campus Police is unreliable I called them three times on three separate occasions when the shuttle had stopped running and they never came."

At the University of Maryland, Major Cathy Atwell, Public Information Officer said that their University too, has many security programs in place to make their campus safe. For example, there are video cameras installed around the campus, emergency phones, escorts, and like Howard 24 hour security, and shuttle bus service.

Both the Campus Security at Howard and the University of Maryland have a close relationship with their area police departments in that they sometimes work collectively.

The recent string of violent events serves as a wake up call to many about the dire need for Campus Security to improve in order to ensure the safety of faculties and students.

EBJ from A2

response was that if people wait for elected officials to get the job done, it will never get done.

"Citizens in the community know more about the needs of the community more than their representative does," Johnson said. "If people see that there are houses in their community that need to be painted, then members of the community should take it upon themselves to fix the problem."

Some students who attended the program questioned what the CBC was doing to educate the African American community on politics.

"It is the responsibility of the individual to find out the information for themselves," Johnson responded. "People are able to read so they can pick up a newspaper and find out what is going on, and if people cannot read, they can watch CNN."

"There are some [leaders] that are good and there are some

that are bad," said Johnson. "It is the voter's responsibility to find out, and if these new leaders are not that good, then it is the voter's job to vote them out of office."

Rubyna Abbey, a junior anthropology major, said the program was very beneficial.

"I didn't know much about politics or the CBC, but I learned a lot through the program," Abbey said.

"Today they are not lynching African Americans through rope, but through policies and legislation," said Bria Lewis, a senior marketing major. "Black women are making great strides, but there are more places in society that women are going to go."

Johnson has been involved in public service for more than 30 years. She serves on the committees of science and transportation and is also chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.



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00048883	00090960	01128161	02001103	02032585	02058611	02108705	02116716	02168192	02179576	02185646	02190270	02227146	
00049915	00091079	01128191	02001150	02032592	02058611	02108713	02116756	02169450	02179585	02185733	02190397	02227153	
00049989	00091158	01128345	02001194	02032940	02058611	02108816	02116777	02170353	02179590	02185779	02190767	02227460	
00050157	00091556	01128748	02001313	02032950	02058611	02108938	02116777	02171146	02179639	02185799	02190969	02228122	
00051085	00091888	01129128	02001791	02033591	02058611	02108960	02116785	02171283	02179649	02185800	02191018	02228299	
00051335	00092273	01129325	02001806	02034004	02058611	02109017	02116813	02171310	02179655	02185836	02191382	02228833	
00051335	00092273	01129398	02001999	02034389	02058611	02109243	02117012	02171310	02179655	02185836	02191429	02230100	
00052296	00092297	01129977	02001999	02034585	02058611	02109351	02117140	02172247	02179666	02185836	02191511	02230116	
00052896	00092404	01129978	02004097	02034738	02058611	02109351	02117140	02172301	02179667	02185836	02191511	02230255	
00052953	00093256	01130048	02004279	02035108	02059023	02109371	02117210	02172548	02179683	02185836	02192416	02230271	
00053172	00094226	01130539	02004354	02035123	02061343	02109502	02117216	02172665	02179685	02185884	02192542	02230292	
00053233	00095410	01130627	02004365	02035437	0206134								

Howard Student Starts Company, Records CD

By Tracey Austin
Contributing Writer

Student, promoter, producer, entrepreneur, "multi-instrumentalist" - all of these titles may seem to describe a variety of individuals engaged in interesting activities, but instead, they describe a variety of roles that one individual has made his career.

Omar Clennon, a.k.a. "Super Fuzz", is a Howard University senior architecture honors student who, by the age of 22, has managed to accomplish much.

His academic career is branded by accomplishments including a 3.9 grade point average.

He is an award-winning design student, and was selected by Carnegie Mellon to participate in a graduate school internship.

He was also selected by Howard University to visit Germany and participate in an urban design charette put on by the world famous Bauhaus.

But above all, Clennon is the CEO and founder of Zero Gravity (Zero G), a "world-wide entertainment conglomerate" with a Caribbean theme that is seeking to create a brand new genre by using vehicles such as music, film, fashion and comedy.

His latest feat: he has just released an album "Generation Z", which in the first week sold 25 copies on Howard University's campus and is now available in the Howard University Bookstore and on several other Washington, D.C., area campuses.

The album is being supported by an innovative and creative promotion and advertising strategy.

The strategy entails attractive, eye catching flyers highlighting the Zero G name in red on a blue background and another "count-up" tactic (as opposed to a countdown) that will continuously update the public on the progress of the album's sales.

These flyers are deliberately posted at chosen locations on various Washington, D.C., area university campuses as the first target market chosen to experience "Generation Z" are college students.

Clennon has leveraged his relationship with the local Caribbean community and Caribbean students to sell and promote his album.

However, Zero G and the album's "avant-garde" styles are bound to become well-accepted and popular amongst people of all nationalities.

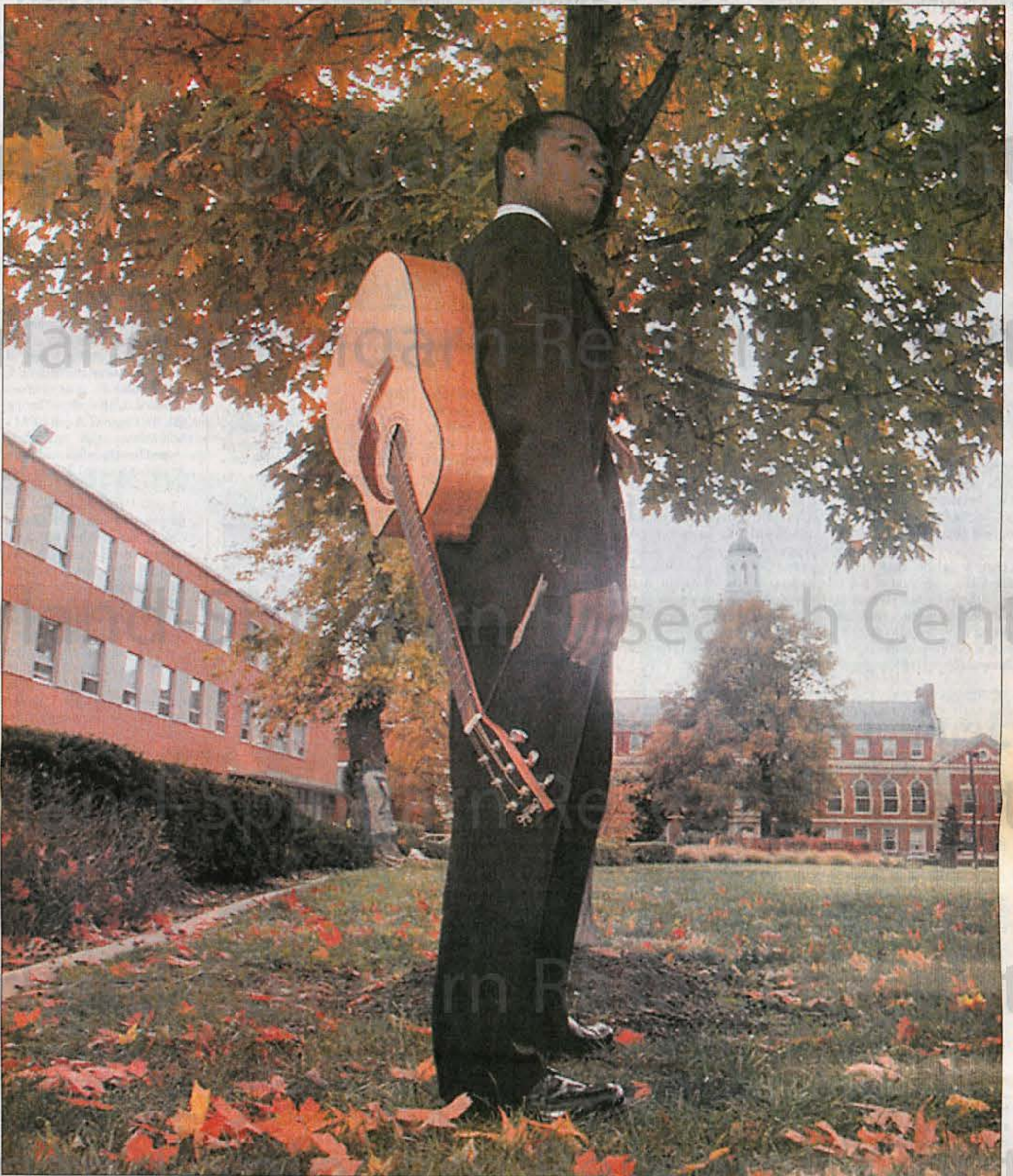
The foundation of the "Generation Z" genre is Jamaican and reggae music.

Clennon, is a Jamaican who received much of his inspiration from reggae music.

In addition to his Jamaican inspiration, Clennon also credits his music's "cross-over appeal" to his international experience.

Clennon has lived in Canada where he adopted a "skateboarding, rock music listening, radical spirit".

Clennon's Jamaican, Canadian, and present Howard University experiences have allowed him to be the innovator behind this brand new cultural experience that he wishes to share



Photos by Chandra Anderson

Omar Clennon, an award winning designer and architecture major is the founder and CEO of Zero Gravity entertainment.

with the public so we all may live by the concept of "Generation Z", an ultimate cultural and entertainment experience.

"Zero Gravity is a new way of thinking, an amalgamation of my experiences representing something that has never been done before," said Clennon.

He identifies VP Records and Island Records as his models for success and his competitors.

However, he foresees Zero G surpassing the accomplishments of these two very successful record labels.

Clennon began his career in the music industry as a local DJ in his neighborhood in Jamaica at the tender age of seven.

He began to build his popularity and recognition throughout the years and venture into other areas of music such as piano/key-board, and his "#1" instru-

ment, the guitar.

Zero G has been a vision of Clennon's for many years and he has been preparing for its launch since.

However, the official launch of Zero-G occurred just earlier this summer (2002).

Clennon compares himself to businessman and Island Record's owner and founder, Chris Blackwell (an icon in the reggae music industry) and wishes to accomplish all that Blackwell has accomplished and more.

Clennon also gains his motivation from the likes of Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, Jimmy Hendricks, who he says, is "the greatest guitarist that ever lived," and

Eric Clapton, who he identifies as, "the greatest presently living guitarist."

Another near and dear



is his father.

His father was a jazz enthusiast, chemical engineer and businessman who had many business interests including the ownership of a gas station in Jamaica.

Clennon is looking to add some talented individuals to his management team who are skillful in the same areas of entertainment that Zero G includes in its business model.

These individuals should be Jamaican, Caribbean or familiar and fond of Caribbean culture and entertainment while being creative, versatile and willing to explore creative and innovative artistic forms.

In terms of artists for his record label, Clennon feels that there is not one specific type of artist that he looks for. He just seeks talent but believes timing is an important element involved in leveraging that talent.

He says that it is, "secondary—who you are, where you're from and what you look like—[because] Zero G is a company that unifies a lot of different cultures and genres."

Clennon also says, "the most important thing in terms of artistry is finding your voice and being distinctive - who are you, why should anyone listen to you and what are you trying to say?"

In one year, Clennon plans to promote Zero G on a larger national scale while running his record label steadily and progressively.

In three years, Clennon plans on integrating the film aspect of his business into Zero G with a movie completed.

Long-term goals include global expansion and becoming the leaders in their field in approximately ten years.

Lady Liberty: Who's That Girl?

By Jennifer L. Williams
Hilltop Staff Writer

Anyone who attended the fashion show remembers seeing her: the petite phenomenon sporting a red hat and a smile whose poetry skillfully and effectively brought two grown men, fighting for her attention, crashing down to their knees, to the pleasure of the audience. However, Liberty is much more than what originally meets the eye.

Liberty is originally from Atlanta and graduated from Howard University in 2000. During her period at the Mecca, she put her plans of pursuing her artistic talent on hold in order to appease her parents.

"My parents wanted me to have a real job; they wanted me to go to medical school," said Liberty with a smile. "Needless to say, it didn't happen."

In 1999, with only a year left in college, she decided to finish her training in biology and chemistry, but she also took various acting classes to appease her creative urge within.

Liberty's latest book, *New Moon*, is a collection of pieces that dabble in topics such as love and romance, politics, existing while being young and black and internal revolutions. Liberty calls her *Moon* project

"her baby", as she put a lot of time and energy into its creation.

While poetry is definitely a passion for Liberty, she is also quick to acknowledge the unfair standards that poetry mainly projects on female poets.

"In this patriarchal society, men don't have rules, but we as women have so many boxes that we must fit into," said Liberty. "I could write a poem about screwing some guy, and that would override all of the other poetry I ever wrote. Let a man write something like that, and he'd get all of the praise and none of the criticism."

With that being said, it's is easy to see how Liberty had to battle a few of her own demons in order to create the "Pimp Harder" piece she presented at the fashion show.

"I actually wrote that piece a day before the show," said Liberty. "I battled with my image and not counter-affecting everything that I as Liberty stand for by writing something so extreme. Finally, I appeared myself with this thought: some people will like it, and some people won't." A powerhouse of talent and knowledge who confesses that she "lives off of coffee and music," Liberty is driven and inspired to write by a variety of things.



Photo courtesy of allaboutliberty.com
Liberty, a poet and Howard alumna, recently had a book published.

"Setbacks and pitfalls make me work harder and cause me to reevaluate my work and my goals," said Liberty. "My life is also an inspiration, as I haven't lived an average life, and I honestly don't believe that creative people lead average lives." Liberty is as refreshingly creative as she is business-minded, and her entertainment company, *Femme Fatale Productions*, is a direct result.

Liberty's "Fatale" is comprised of three divisions, which are publishing, independent film production, and a record

label.

Now in its second year, *New Moon* was *Femme Fatale*'s first project, and a number of attention-grabbing, note-worthy projects are to be seen in the near future. As candid as she is imaginative, Liberty is an embodiment of the all-too-rare individual that follows her heart and truly aspires to live life to its fullest.

With a promising poetic career, and limitless creative prowess, Liberty is destined to become a successful individual in all of her future endeavors.

Jene: The Heart of Soul

By Jennifer L. Williams
Hilltop Staff Writer

For those consumers who are wary of allowing their ears to listen to the fly-by-night singer that seemingly appears from nowhere and fades back into obscurity just as quickly, fear not. Jene is the artist of the moment that will make listeners want to hear more.

Jene, though a newcomer to the music scene, has a voice that far belies her newness. A self-described "force of nature," Jene is an artist with sharp enough skills and a well-honed talent that can turn a simple song into a smash hit. For evidence of this, all one needs to do is take a quick listen to Jene's debut album, "Jene's Reign".

Jene holds her own on every song she sings, from up-tempo songs to slow, bluesy ballads. Also, Jene makes the most of her voice and her range, as her album showcases collaborations from top producers that include Daron of 112, Chris Henderson, Teddy Bishop, and Full Force.

Through each and every song, Jene's talent shines through... sometimes despite herself.

"During the recording process, I have to confess that I'd have flashes of fear. It all happened very quickly, and there would be moments in the day when I'd feel overwhelmed," said Jene. "But then, I'd be in the studio with headphones on and the music would kick in. I would start to

sing, and all the fear would wash away." Jene, who was born in Shreveport, La., began her musical training as a member in her church choir.

"I never took formal lessons in my life," said Jene. "I just always sang from my heart. I've been blessed in that it comes naturally to me."

Jene began considering pursuing a music career shortly after her family moved to Orlando, Fla. Jene recalls watching a music program and watching Mariah Carey sing "Hero".

"I found my calling - my focus," Jene said of the experience. "Jene's Reign" is an album full of creativity and experimentation, with wonderful



Photo courtesy of 2002 Motown Records Inc.

Jene.

results. From Jene's party anthem, "Get Into Something", to her inspirational, soul-stirring ballad "Believe in Love", Jene has the voice and the drive to become a staple in the music scene for many years to come.

Stripe up Your Fashion with Zebra Child

By Natalie Swain
Contributing Writer

Are you getting tired of the same old department stores like Macys, Nordstrom's, and Hecht's? Or perhaps it is stores like Neiman Marcus, Coach, and Lord & Taylor that have you spending more than you can afford.

If so, Zebra Child may be the boutique for you. This boutique sits on the corner of Georgia Avenue and Missouri, just minutes away from Howard University. During this first year of Zebra Child's operation, the privately owned boutique has sold from \$7,000-\$10,000 dollars per month.

Jill Candi-Morefield, the 38-year-old owner of Zebra Child, sells only the most unique, custom made clothing she can find. She handpicks her gear from other shops, boutiques, and private designers located mostly in New York and New Jersey.

When asked about what shoppers are guaranteed to find, Candi-Morefield answered, "Denim. In my boutique there are tons of different styles of jeans. Here, in D.C., they are hot commodities. I always make sure there is a variety."

Now, just because the store is entitled Zebra Child, do not think it only consists of black and white striped clothing for children. When you enter the store, the selection is so vast you won't know where to begin. There is something here for every occasion. Denim, tanks, tops, dresses, and skirts are only a few of the items that Zebra Child has to offer.

At Zebra Child, the emphasis on mainstream clothing is dead. This boutique invites a place for shoppers to become unique and defined. The store gives them the ability to choose from a selection of excellence. Zebra Child has something for everyone, without having to

spend a lot of cash. The average price of denim, tanks, and tops range from \$35-\$85. The quality, as well, reiterates the value of the dollar one may spend at this boutique.

Though mainly younger adults are caught up in the fashion world, an ample amount of middle-aged women are more than satisfied with the options they have to choose from at Zebra Child.

For those of you who are ready to stop everything you're doing to check out this new boutique, feel free. Zebra Child's hours of operations are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and are closed on Sundays.

What inspired Candi-Morefield to open this up-and-coming, black-owned business was her love for fashion. This young entrepreneur enjoys providing clothing for customers that look and feel great in them. Those factors make the existence of Zebra Child even more worth her while.

Jacwana Leatherman, a junior broadcast journalism major, is a regular shopper at Zebra Child.

"It keeps me in style, and at the same time it keeps me clothed in my own method of dress," said Leatherman. "Some people believe that you must have a DKNY or Gucci logo to be styling and profiling. I believe in originality and individuality - at Zebra Child you are guaranteed to find just that."

Candi-Morefield expressed that the opening of her boutique is the best decision she could have ever made. She not only loves what she does, she loves her products-and why wouldn't she--they are handpicked. For those of you who are interested in developing an unforgettable clothing scheme for your mother, sister, or friend this Christmas, Zebra Child is the hook-up for you.

Drumline: Halftime is Game Time

By Rhasheema Sweeting
Hilltop Staff Writer

Although the marching bands at historically black colleges are popular among fans across the country, no filmmaker has ever made a movie about them, until now. "Drumline" places the spotlight on the excitement of the historically black college marching band experience. The previously unexposed joys of the classic marching band ensembles are represented precisely and brilliantly in this accurate portrayal.

The movie is appropriately set in Atlanta, a notably intense core in the marching band grooves of the south. "Drumline" follows the life of Devon Miles (Nick Cannon) as he is recruited by Atlanta A&T's marching band with a full scholarship.

Harlem native Devon Miles is an arrogant,

wannabe thug who also happens to be an extraordinary drummer, determined to out-perform all members of the band. Despite his freshman "crab status," he snags top rank in the band, thus securing his performance in each game.

While the audience and the university president are pleased, the band director, Dr. Aaron Lee (Orlando Jones) and the bitterly jealous senior drum major, Sean (Leonard Roberts) are disgusted with his attempts to show off in front of the crowd.

In retaliation, Sean exposes Devon's inability to read music, one of the requirements for all band members, thus subjecting him to take a superfluous course: an insipid music theory class.

Additionally, Devon's showboating tendency is exposed at the beginning of

the movie as he butts into Sean's solo, insultingly turning it into a duo, in an overt attempt to take over, in front of a massive audience.

Devon must learn that the crowd does not only hear his drum but they hear the drums of the entire line.

However, after this close encounter with what could have been an egregious catastrophe, Devon has obviously not learned his lesson. During a local one-on-one band competition, he sharply steps out of line, causing a debacle. As a result of his repeated offenses and insubordinate mind-set, he is cut from the band.

Devon's poor attitude and unsportsmanlike conduct are the primary causes of his tribulations with the band. Accordingly, he must understand and accept one important axiom: He must learn how to follow before he can lead.

As the Atlanta A&T band prepares for the most anticipated competition of the year, the Big Classic, they must compete without their best band member. The outcome of the battle of the bands is the climax of the movie.

With plenty of quality musical influences from both the past and the present, a touch of soul, jazz and hip-hop, fused with captivating dance moves, the marching band is depicted in this movie as a thoroughly enjoyable and integral ingredient to black college life.

As the most anticipated performance at a typical black college football game, many consider halftime game time. This movie forcefully thrusts the audience amidst the stands of the typical black college football stadium, successfully exposing neophytes and seasoned veterans alike to the passionate



Photo courtesy of drumlineevents.com

Drumline, a new movie, depicts the lives of members of a black college band.

empire of the black college marching band.

Overall, "Drumline" is a must-see movie.



BISON BRIEFS

MEAC FOOTBALL

Howard	7
Delaware St.	14

BCC	37
FAMU	10

S. Carolina St.	26
NC A&T	9

Norfolk State	32
Morris Brown	19

Hampton	42
Morgan State	52

MEAC STANDINGS

1. Bethune-Cookman (7-1, 11-1)
2. Florida A&M (5-3, 7-5)
3. Morgan State (5-3, 7-5)
4. Hampton (5-3, 7-5)
5. South Carolina State (4-4, 7-5)
6. Howard (4-4, 6-5)
7. Norfolk State (2-6, 5-6)
8. Del. State (2-6, 4-8)
9. N. Carolina A&T (2-6, 4-8)

*Bethune-Cookman plays Georgia Southern in the first round of the I-AA playoffs this Saturday in Statesboro, GA.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Howard	68
St. Francis (PA)	70

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Howard	45
G. Washington	96

'Roller Coaster' Screeches to Halt Bison Feel Loss of Clark, Passing Game

By Soraya N. McDonald
Hilltop Staff Writer

Saturday's 14-7 home loss before a crowd of 3,241 to the Delaware State football team was a surprise for many, who predicted an easy win over the last-place Hornets judging from their record of 3-8 overall and 1-6 in MEAC.

However, the game proved to be more difficult than Ray Petty's Bison had fathomed, especially with starting senior quarterback Donald Clark sidelined due to an injured MCL.

"This season has been like a roller coaster for us, we've really had some ups and downs" Petty said. "To start the season off beating a big team like Texas Southern, then getting beat real bad by Hampton and Maine, and beating powerhouse teams

like FAMU, A&T, and South Carolina State and then losing to teams like Morgan and Del State."

On Howard's first possession, back-up sophomore quarterback Marcos Moreno threw an interception to Delaware senior defensive back Stephen Brown on the first play of the game. The play was later ruled a fumble, recovered by the Bison.

The mistake characterized the rest of the game for the Bison and for Moreno, who completed just eight out of 18 passes for 60 yards. The misfortune left spectators wishing for Clark, who led the MEAC in passing yards until he injured his ribs in Howard's October 26 win over North Carolina A&T.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Hornets came out and

scored a touchdown early in the second with a 17-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Andrew Blackston to sophomore running back Rashod Coleman. The touchdown capped a seven-play, 27-yard drive for Delaware.

The Hornet's first point after attempt would have made the score 7-0, yet an egregious mistake by a Hornet lineman, who streaked in from the sideline to lay out corner Serge Sejour, voided the kick because of the illegal motion.

Delaware's second and final score of the game came late in the third quarter, when Blackston threw a pass to Thomas Bolden for the touchdown, followed by a successful pass to tight end Bridge Burditt for the two-point conversion. The Hornets win came via their running game, according to head coach Ben Blacknall.

"If we're going to have a chance to win, we have to run. We want to throw it better, but that's going to take a little time," Blacknall said.

Junior redshirt William Ross proved to be instrumental to Delaware's running game, leading his team with 83 rushing yards. Ross, a DC native, partially attributed his enthusiasm to the fact that 27 family members in attendance to see him play. Blacknall noticed the difference in Ross' game as well when he plays in or around the D.C. area.

"I just love coming home," Ross said in agreement. "It just feels good."

The running back also had a personal rivalry to settle with his sister, who is a sophomore at Howard. "I told her we were going to win," Ross said.

The Hornets' defense proved its effectiveness in shutting down Howard's running game in the absence of a passing attack to open up the field. Junior running back Jay Colbert, who leads the Bison in rushing yards, rushed for 67 yards in Saturday's game, only one more than he needed for to reach the 1000-yard mark to end the season.

Despite the accomplishment, Colbert still felt disap-



Photo by Lawrence Johnson

Senior All-American linebacker Tracy White reeled in an interception, but found himself on the short end of the Bison's loss in his last collegiate start.

pointed. "It was a bittersweet achievement [because] I wanted to send the seniors out with a win...I would have much rather had the win," Colbert said.

The Bison's only score of the game came with 4:46 left in the fourth quarter when the offense finally found a rhythm. Senior wide-out Kevin Simmonds caught the last touchdown of his college career, a three-yard pass from Moreno.

Led by All-American linebacker Tracy White and free safety Vontrae Long, who recorded five solos and two assists before being ejected from the game in the third

quarter, the Bison defense held the Hornets' offense to only 14 points, compared to the nearly 50 per game Delaware averaged in the two teams' past three meetings.

Though the Bison took a loss Saturday, the team finished the season with a winning record of 6-5, a marked improvement over seasons past. The last year the football team had a winning season was 1998.

When asked what was next for the Bison, Petty replied, "official recruiting starts tomorrow [Sunday] night. We'll be on the road; we've got 22 seniors we've got to replace."



Photo by Lawrence Johnson

Junior running back Jay Colbert scrambles on one of his 19 carries for 67 yards Saturday. Colbert's performance gave him 1,001 rushing yards on the season, the first Bison back to do so since Fred Killings in 1988.

Bison Fall to St. Francis 70-68

By Aisha Chaney
Sports Editor

Erick Wills scored 18 points, including three clutch free throws in the final 17 seconds, to seal St. Francis' 70-68 victory over the men's basketball team Friday night in a non-conference match-up in Loretto, Penn.

The loss marks the first of the season for Howard (0-1), while the Red Flash start their season off 1-0 and tie the overall series with the Bison at 1-1.

Led by senior Kyle Williams' 14 first half points, the Bison were able to maintain a slight 27-26 advantage at the half, despite being out-hustled and giving up points off second shot opportunities.

Forward Mario Grove added five first half points and created problems for the Red Flash forwards in the paint, blocking three shots.

But the relentless Red Flash came out of the locker room full of intensity that stayed with them the entire second half. They quickly went on a 5-0 run to start the half before Williams sank a three-pointer at around the 18 minute mark to bring the Bison within one, 31-30.

After a quiet first half, senior Ron Williamson found

his touch and hit 17 of his 19 points in the second half, including three, three-pointers, to keep the Bison close, but they never led by more than one due to the stellar play of Wills and freshman Darshan Luckey.

Tied at 53 with 5:58 remaining, St. Francis went on a 9-2 run over the next two minutes and the Bison were never able to catch-up.

Williamson drilled a three with 34 seconds left to play that cut the deficit to one, but Wills' free throws put the game out of reach for the Bison.

"I'm really proud of these guys," said St. Francis head coach Bobby Jones. "They found a way to finish the game down the stretch and get a two point victory against a very, very good Howard basketball team."

Luckey led all scorers with 27 points on nine of 22 shooting, including four of six from the foul line, in his collegiate debut.

"Darshan Luckey is a budding star; he made some big baskets down the stretch," said Bison head coach Frankie Allen about the Baltimore native. "They played really well and they made big plays when they had to."

St. Francis finished the

game shooting 73 percent from the free throw line (17-23 FT) while the Bison shot a lackluster 50 percent, making only five out of 10. Allen admits that was a difference in the game.

"We had our opportunities. I think we can play better, we just gave up too many second chance points and we especially need to work on free throws," Allen said. "This is a game we can hopefully learn from."

Williams finished the game with a team-high 21 points (8-15 FG, 3-3 FT) and seven rebounds for the Bison. He says the difference between this game and last year's game was that St. Francis played a lot tougher.

"They came out and took the fight to us early on defense," Williams said. "They were a tough team, a lot tougher than they were last year. But they played good; I have to tip my hat to them."

Junior Seye Aluko had a solid performance for the Bison as well, scoring 11 points (5-9 FG) and three rebounds and center Qadir Habeeb added six points and eight rebounds.

The Bison will travel to Radford, VA tonight to play Radford University. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Intramurals Corner

The Silent Assassins, an Intramural Flag Football team at Howard, were crowned champions of the MSOA Regional Flag Football Tournament at the University of Maryland Sunday. The team posted decisive wins over Galludet and Monmouth Universities over the weekend. They will go on to compete in National's in New Orleans on December 27.



Colonials Trounce Lady Bison, 96-45

By Chauna Bryant
Hilltop Staff Writer

Friday night the Lady Bison took on the George Washington Lady Colonials at George Washington for both teams' first pre-season game. The Lady Colonials breezed past the Lady Bison in a 96-45 blow out.

The Lady Colonials got off to an early lead going on a 13-

point run in the first five minutes of the game during which the Lady Bison turned over the ball four times. The Lady Colonials shifted into cruise control and led by 20 points at the half.

The Lady Bison held the Lady Colonials to a 20-point lead for much of the game, until the last seven minutes of the game when GW kicked it into

high gear and finished the game with a 51-point lead.

Lady Colonial Head Coach Joe McKeown said the score was not indicative of the level of competition in the game.

"Howard is better than they played tonight, and when it is all said and done I think they will have a solid year," McKeown said.

Junior 6-4 All-American powerhouse Ugo Oha dominated, scoring a game-high 25 points mostly coming by way of 10 to 15 foot jumpers. Oha also snatched 17 rebounds.

"I just thought she was phenomenal because she recognized that she didn't have to be stopped at all," Parson said. "The superior post player had her way tonight."

Oha says she just tried to do her best, and that her teammates played a major role in her success.

"I just wanted to go out there and do the things I do; rebound, block shots and score. My teammates also did a great job at getting me the ball," Oha said.

The Lady Colonials out-rebounded Howard 61 to 36 and the Lady Bison only shot 16 for 73 from the field.

According to Parson, size and speed played a big factor in the win. The Lady Bison starters stack up at an average 5'8" while the Lady Colonials' average is 6'0".

"I think you are definitely at

a disadvantage when your team is already half the size of the opponent," Parson said.

Four-time Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year McKeown, set a new conference record Friday. The win over Howard gives McKeown 294 career victories at George Washington, making him the Atlantic 10's winningest coach in conference history. The Lady Colonials also set a school record for the biggest margin of victory in a game.

Parson does not feel the team has reached its full potential and will be much better by the end of the season.

"I'm not discouraged because I know we aren't fully ready yet. We are young in the post. We have some post players that are injured right now," Parson said.

Included among the MASH unit are senior guard Danielle Shelton, who has just begun playing after suffering from a broken hand, and junior guard Ayana Ball, who is still in rehab from a knee injury that occurred early last season. Six-four freshman Tracy Shuggs is also out, after recently undergoing arthroscopic surgery.

Senior guard Asia Petty and junior guard Laura Askew led Bison scoring with 11 points each.

The Lady Bison will play the Villanova Wildcats in Villanova, PA tonight at 7:30 p.m.



Photo by Mark Coleman

Forward Shauna Ruglass attempts a shot over George Washington's Ugo Oha in Friday's game.



Photo by Mark Coleman

Sophomore point guard Dalsha Hicks looks to avoid the trap against the Lady Colonials' suffocating defense.

Badminton at Howard: What All the Racket is About

By Melanie M. Clarke
Contributing Writer

Anybody who thinks "we" don't play badminton is wrong. Very wrong. With an intensity and focus to rival Tiger Woods, the Howard University badminton team steps onto the court with their A-game every time.

As a matter of fact, quiet as it's kept, the badminton team is number one in collegiate nationals and boasts two No. 1 players (Amy Nguy and Ademola

Ogunseye) as well as two champion doubles teams (women's and mixed). The team has played and won at places such as William and Mary, Duke, and Princeton.

Howard University puts the "bad" in badminton.

Coach Joyce Barker wouldn't accept anything less than the best from her team. Barker is not just a coach with a bucket full of shuttlecocks and nets, she is Dr. Barker, recipient of three medals in the Senior Olympics and the sole owner of the gold medal for women's singles in badminton in the nation. When people come to watch and compliment on her team, she says, "now that's what I've been saying."

On Monday and Wednesday evenings, Barker enters the basement gym of Burr, which is inevitably occupied with the intramural basketball team, to set up for practice.

She tells them it's time to clear out, and though they don't necessarily understand her game, they respect her request and head to the other end of the gym without hesitation.

Practice is smaller than usual this week because most of her team is busy studying for finals. Barker realizes the importance of study time because most of her students are here at Howard because of academic, not athletic, scholarships.

"They are making a contribution to the University," Barker said.

Badminton maybe a popular sport worldwide, but here at Howard, it's an intramural sport and therefore does not have the benefit of a budget for scholarships, recruiting, or uniforms.

The team pulls together in the crunch, though, with players even surfing the Internet for the best travel deals to get the team where they have to go.

"Everybody in the club can't be the absolute cat's meow," she says of the team members helping out to get the job done. The price for getting travel prices low...is big."

But a small budget doesn't stop the team from winning, it only selects where and when they can compete. Last spring, the team turned down an invitation from Queen Mother Seniane B. Molotlegi of the Royal

Batokeng Administration to compete in South Africa because the funds for travel were not available.

Barker refuses to accept defeat however.

"We are not cancelled, we are postponed until the time gets better," Barker said.

Barker has found not only American players, but players from the West Indies, Jamaica and Nigeria. She has created a team by lobbying for scholarships based on their academic achievements. She travels to

the Administration Building and will continue to, as long as her players continue to bring her something to work with.

Barker advises badminton players, "If you're very bright and you want to grow with your sport...come to Howard."

Amy Nguy, the women's singles champion, is a pre-med student with a 3.7 GPA. Arthur Alexander, a men's doubles competitor and engineering major, boasts a 3.9 GPA.

Shackera Cupidon, a Business major, maintains two jobs while playing badminton. She's also the female half of the mixed doubles championship team. Her partner, Ademola Ogunseye, now a Howard alumnus, was the men's singles champion this spring. He continues to practice with the team and competes in open tournaments.

"I am so blessed to be in touch and touch the lives of these individuals," Barker said.

Barker has been the coach of the club since its inception in 1979. She has enjoyed the changes and success the club has had since then.

In fact, Howard will host the No. 1 ranked badminton tournament in the country this spring. It will offer \$10,000 in prize money, donated by Andre Stevenswartz, a founding member of the Howard badminton team.

The tournament, though not sponsored by the United States Badminton Association, will host ten courts in play with full participation from teams nationwide. Stevenswartz, now an architect, told Barker he offered the sponsorship, so that "we can get the notoriety and the growth."

Alonzo Mourning

High blood pressure and diabetes can damage your kidneys without any warning. In fact, 20 million Americans have kidney disease. Twenty million more are at risk and many of them don't even know it. African-Americans are especially at risk.

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EDITORIALS

THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

LAUREN BAYNE ANDERSON, Editor-in-Chief

BRACKTON BOOKER, Managing Editor

CASSAUNDR A CUMBESS, Editorial & Perspectives Editor

NAACP Helps Black Farmers

Recently, the NAACP with Cuba because of Castro of farmers nationwide. In recent years there has been mass protest from black farmers not being supported by the major industries. With this new contract with Cuba comes the promise of profitable game for Black farmers.

Our View:
We are glad that the NAACP stepped up to help black farmers.

made a billion dollar deal with Cuba to receive exported goods from black farmers. Despite the fact that the United States has not been having trade relations with Cuba, the NAACP decided to step in and use Cuba as a means to help the black producers that have been continually unsupported in this country throughout history.

Many people will speak against the NAACP for initiating trade between Cuba and the United States because of the tense relationship between the two. But let us ponder this issue for a moment. The U.S. initially stopped commercial trade

and communism. However, one of America's most profit-yielding trading partnerships is China, the world's largest Communist country ever. Thus, there is no reason not to re-open trade with Cuba.

The fact of the matter is, the U.S. has a habit of not supporting black farmers' industries, or any minority farmers for that matter, despite the fact that they make up a large percentage

Though people too often criticize the NAACP as being "no longer necessary" it is instances like this that truly show how helpful the organization is. America should be happy that the NAACP is doing its job - helping to advance our race by opening lucrative trade relations between Cuba and black farmers. They should be commended or that - not criticized.



Too Little Turkey Time

Finally, it's that time of year again - the time to get together with family and friends and visit home for the Holidays. While students have their sights (and stomachs) set on turkey, ham, candied yams, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, and all the festivities that go along with the feast, the spirit of the season is dampened by the knowledge that this won't last long. After all, we have to attend classes up until the actual day of Thanksgiving, and come right back afterwards.

Many students whose homes are no where near the DC Metropolitan area have to amend their Thanksgiving plans to visit home because of the short break. They see it as a waste to go home for that minute period of time - four

days to be exact, and really three considering traveling time. They opt to stay here or go with a friend who lives nearer. It's unfortunate that so many are unable to be with their families on a day when we reflect on the importance of just that - family. But with

off across the board. In other words, it should be written in on the University calendar. It happens every year - students who want to be with their family for the holiday are packed and gone on Monday or Tuesday in preparation for Thursday.

So why do we only get two days off for Thanksgiving? Unlike many schools, Howard gets all the "little" holidays off, such as Columbus Day, in accordance with other schools in the District. However, when weighing the cost, it seems that it

would be more beneficial to the student body as a whole to have a longer Thanksgiving break. After all, a mini-vacation is much needed before the final exams we will all encounter immediately after the holiday. It's time the University made an extended Thanksgiving break official.

Our View:
Thanksgiving Break should be longer than just two days.

only two days of no classes, there is virtually no other choice. Or is there?

Frankly, students have tended to take the week of Thanksgiving off regardless of the fact that classes are still being held. Some teachers cancel class, but others do not. The week of Thanksgiving should be given

Be Smart: Protect Yourself

In light of the frightening statistics concerning sexually transmitted diseases on Howard's campus, it is commendable that several campus organizations have recently stepped up to host safe sex forums. The Campus Pals and the Physical Education Department both put on safe sex awareness programs this month. Also, UGSA's mysteriously titled "So Contagious" event during UGSA week drew a large crowd to learn more about protecting one's self from the diseases that run rampant on Howard University's campus.

So, the question is, if the information is completely within our reach, why are the number of

STD's and unwanted pregnancies so staggering? We have the opportunity to be exposed to safe sex education on a daily basis here at Howard. Pamphlets and condoms are even made available at the Health Center and Women's Clinic. Many people

these things in our own academic environment, what is our excuse? The fact is, there is no excuse. There is no reason for informed individuals to behave as if we were ignorant to the facts about safe sex.

As the saying goes, you can bring a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. Various organizations have done an outstanding job of trying to educate the student body on an issue that hits uncomfortably close to home. However,

it is up to each individual to put this education into practice. In 2002, it is no secret that AIDS is alive and well, as are the many other viruses that can be contracted through unprotected sex. It is no one's responsibility but our own to protect ourselves.

Our View:
As educated Black people, there is no excuse for us to not be practicing safe sex.

become infected with sexually transmitted diseases due to a lack of knowledge. They are uninformed about the different diseases, the different ways to contact them, and methods that can be used to prevent them. So as young people who are made aware about

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 78th year, The Hilltop is published every Tuesday and Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not directly reflect the opinion of Howard University, its Administration, individual Policy Board members or the student body. The opinions expressed on the Perspectives Page are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Hilltop Policy Board. The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number. Please send letters to The Hilltop, 2251 Sberman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001. The Hilltop can also be reached via email at TheHilltop@hmail.com. The office phone number is (202) 806-6366. The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

PERSPECTIVES

Seeing for Myself



Lauren Bayne Anderson

Wednesday, 11 people died in a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem, Israel. The bombing was the third major attack on Israel by Palestinian militants in less than two weeks.

Now, officials are warning that the Palestinians may accelerate the pace of their attacks as the country approaches elections in January.

These events are normal occurrences for Israelis and Palestinians. They are not normal for us—they shake our beliefs in day-to-day safety and scare us to the core.

But on December 28, I will get a taste of what we read and hear about in the news everyday. On December 28, I will be traveling to Israel.

The program I'll be traveling with is for the Editors of college student newspapers. During the course of the 10-day trip, most of our time will be spent in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

We'll meet with top Israeli and Palestinian political and military leaders, journalists stationed in the Middle East, attend press briefings, visit historical and religious sites and overall, learn about the conflict in the Middle East, through the eyes of those who live it everyday.

Roughly 10 other Editors will be going on the trip, including the Editors of the American University and the Duke University student newspapers.

The last Editors from The Hilltop chosen to go on the trip, which takes place annually, were Natalie Moore, Editor-in-Chief 1997-1998 and Steven Gray, Editor-in-Chief 1998-1999.

I am proud to represent Howard University on this trip and re-emphasize the idea that we are concerned with the happenings of the global community and are willing to do whatever it takes to tell the stories of the world.

Some have expressed concern about my trip. My favorite journalism professor, the same one who encouraged me to go to the Pentagon immediately after it was hit, is worried. Even my mother, who is Jewish and has family in Israel, doesn't want me to go.

No, I am not the crazy, daredevil type, but I am a journalist.

As journalists it's our job to travel, to be fair, to try to see things from every point of view. It's our job to go to places others don't want to go—and bring back stories and pictures to tell the rest of the world.

If we didn't do this, what good would we be to you—the American public?

Lauren Bayne Anderson is a junior print journalism major and the Editor-in-Chief of The Hilltop. Letters to the Editor can be sent electronically at www.the-hilltoponline.com.

Hair and Self Hatred: To Be Natural or Not?

Naeesa S.Aziz and Moyin M.Ayinbiola

Recently I overheard a disturbing conversation between a few young ladies in my dorm. Aside from the usual gossip about rude roommates and cafeteria-induced food poisoning, they were talking about how much they hated themselves and people like them. If this statement sounds in the least bit strange then the actual content of the conversation should give you the same jolt, however unfortunately, I don't think it will.

While speaking about hair, a common topic for women, the ladies used words such as: dirty, nasty and ugly to describe "natural" hair. Webster's defines natural as 'innate, lifelike, to be expected'. However, one of the young ladies commented, "If I didn't come out my mama with dreadlocks, then it ain't natural."

Now, I will agree that perhaps the "style" commonly referred to as dreadlocks is not natural or innate because neither is any hairstyle. However, when one calls dreadlocks "natural", they are referring to the texture of the hair and not the style. I'm sure the young lady is aware of this distinction, but upon reading this she'll probably respond with one of the comments she used that day: "I don't care what nobody says, that's not natural." Also, I made this distinction with the hopes of giving her comment some kind of intellect and credibility, no matter how small, because any



type of hair, if left to its own devices (meaning not combed or touched) will eventually form locks.

Many sisters will agree (natural or processed) that there is nothing wrong with relaxed hair - it is a preference. The part I can't seem to understand is why some black women are in constant denial about who they really are. I'm not asking for anyone to throw away their relaxers, I'm asking you to open your minds. If you don't want to relax your hair, fine, but don't call me dirty because you call on the assistance of Dark & Lovely (or whomever) to style your hair.

I've seen many unkempt

weaves and braids that haven't seen water in about 6-7 months, but no one dares to call that dirty. I know for a fact that I wash my hair twice as much as the average sister with a relaxer, but I don't give others the ridiculous excuse that my hair is natural because relaxers are "dirty". Which brings me to another point; why do some sisters give excuses about why they must have a relaxer? Are you guilty? Most relaxed women would answer no.

If you aren't guilty, then stop acting like you're at a bar after an AA meeting when you run into someone with natural hair. Whether you claim it's

because you "don't have the right face for it" or that your hair is "just too nappy," your explanations are not necessary. But maybe I'm getting it wrong. Are you feeling guilty, trying to make conversation, or just trying to hold your tongue so you won't tell me my hair is nasty?

When James Brown first patented the phrase "I'm black and I'm proud" it became the theme song for a rebirth in African American culture. We no longer thought of natural hair as a reminder of our true selves, but instead it stood for empowerment. So what makes this natural hair movement a "fad"? I resent that and every-

one reading this should slightly cringe at the thought of a social movement being thought of as a fad.

Natural hair is a stepping stone into finding your true self. If a sister or brother wants to hop out of their mouth and truly say white culture has had no bearing on how they view themselves and other sisters and brothers, they are walking around with blindfolds on. When a sister decides to cut her permed hair off, it's like she had taken her blindfolds off. She then looks at herself and finally begins to see herself for who she really is. It is empowering and it says to the world: I'm black and I'm proud.

This One is for the Couples: To Hold or Not To Hold?

Tiffany Turner

Relationships. Many people are in them, but who is bold enough to admit it? Many couples opt not to inform others whether they are single or not. But for the many that do acknowledge having a significant other, why is it that the affection that they share behind closed doors does not shine through in public?

To hold or not to hold hands on the yard, that is the question. Many people feel that this way of displaying affection does not justify the depth of one's relationship. But why does he or she have

to show the public their most personal thoughts and feelings about one another through the joining of hands?

Many students choose not to show love to their girl or guy because of the ever over populated "I don't have no business of my own so I'm going to be all up in yours" class. Students stress that when it comes to their personal lives, it is kept deep inside and safely guarded by lock and key. Outside influences have the potential to interfere with an otherwise good relationship, so instead of having to deal with others opinions and judgments, they are just never told.

While observing the scene, I heard one girl replied, "Yes, I am involved in a relationship, a committed relationship and I have encountered haters. Whenever I am seen with another man or he is seen with another woman people take it upon themselves to try to tell us about our relationship. If we could just all mind our own business, things would work out fine. I don't hold his hand in public and don't ask to. He is able to tell how I feel about him by the way I smile when he looks in my eyes".

Although people see others business as their own and

use and abuse their broadcasting skills by telling others someone else's useless information, remember a wise woman once said, "What someone else says about you is none of your business".

Some may say that holding hands is a juvenile way of showing affection. A guy who also participated in the conversation replied, "Little kids hold hands. Let's not forget what we do behind closed doors by trying to disguise it with the innocence of holding hands in public."

Couples who practice monogamy and are in relationships built on trust may not have to resort to public

displays of affection in order to show their love. But a guy or girl who does not trust his or her mate may see this way of showing affection as a way to inform others through non-verbal communication that "Jack" or "Jill" is taken. But don't assume that the only students that show love are the ones who have deeply rooted problems within their relationships. There have been rare instances where it has been reported that there have been sightings of the almost extinct students-holding-hands species on the yard. But after that gesture is seen as being taboo, what is the new alternative?

Playing the Field at Howard University

K.E. Riley

Relationships between males and females on this campus are such an enigma. We all discuss it with our friends, always asking each other why the opposite sex isn't acting right and why is it so difficult to be in a relationship here. Howard is plagued with bewilderment and as often as we talk about it, nothing ever changes.

I remember back in my freshman days at the Annex, talking to my girls about guys, wondering when they were going to start behaving like the men I knew they could be; we came to the conclusion that around our junior year they would start acting right, you know what I

mean, settling down and not trying to be in every females bed every other night. Sufficed to say, this hypothesis was incorrect.

As I have come to realize, a majority of the men on this campus aren't trying to commit to any one woman and that's all good as long as all you ladies who are trying to find a man to commit to understand that that is the case. As I have learned from a male friend, there is "just too much temptation on this campus". And as uncanny as that sounds, that really is the truth. Look at that freaky male-female ratio. It is stating the truth and as frustrating as that is, I, like so many other women on this campus, have to deal with that.

There are other options outside of Howard men, just take a trip to the museum or go visit another campus. The point is to not allow some of these triflin' guys to stain your perception of what a good man is. In all honesty, Howard does have them, far and few, but they are here, willing to console you when you've had a bad day or just chill and watch cartoons when you're feeling bored. And that is the sad part - that these rare guys also get caught up in the myth of the "Howard dog." But if you aren't trying to troop too far for a new companion, then be patient and wait for one of those truly nice men to come holla at you.

As for you other men, just

be honest and let us know what you want; if you just want to hit, say so but don't leave women with the impression that they are the only ones you are messing with. Let us know from jump what you are about.

But for you disreputable men, continue your leap frog from one bed to the next, but remember that you won't be here forever. That basically means that you will never in your life be surrounded by strong, beautiful black women that were willing to work with you when you had nothing to begin with. If this isn't the most opportune time for ya'll to find someone you can trust and not go after what you got (because ya'll don't have much now like us

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Announcements

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Chandra-- Thanks for coming through this week-- as usual! Great pics!

Ira-- Congratulations on the Philadelphia Inquirer.
--Lauren

Kerry-Ann-- Congratulations on Meet the Press! We know you will do great!

Staff-- Great issue! Ya'll held it down despite everything that's happened. You are the best!
Lauren

Josef and Aisha-- my up-and-coming Managing Editors-- Thanks for coming through on Monday -- before your time. You will learn quickly and you'll both do wonderfully. --EIC

Jazelle-- Thanks for helping out yesterday. We really appreciated it!

Mama, I'm coming home and I'm not leaving 'til I do all my laundry and gain 15 lbs. --Josef

Congratulations Joy Adams on your big hit! You are on your way...
--Jazelle

Happy Thanksgiving HU!

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