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CAMPUS

A new study says Freshman are becoming more politically active. Read about it.... **A2**

THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

VOLUME 86, NO. 38

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2003

www.thehilltoponline.com

General Assembly Resumes Elections

By Kerry-Ann Hamilton
Campus Editor

The General Assembly met on Sunday to, among other things, discuss and approve election guidelines put forward by General Elections chair Corey Cunningham.

The Assembly, after some deliberation with Cunningham, voted to accept the revised guidelines.

The approved guidelines require candidates running for Howard University Student Association president and vice president, as well as undergraduate trustee, to pay \$300 and \$200 respectively, as a good faith deposit. The sum is refundable if the candidates do not incur fines during the election process.

Election activities, which were suspended by the General Assembly on Wednesday, will resume today with a speak out at Meridian Hill Hall at 7:30



Ja'Ron Smith said he will not step down as HUSA financial advisor, to avoid a possible conflict of interest presented by him running for HUSA president.

p.m. The event was previously scheduled for Monday.

Cunningham said the temporary suspension might cause Election Day to be moved back.

"I am not sure if we will set a new day for elections,"

Cunningham said. "I have to revise the calendar for the lost days [during the suspension] and also consult with Elections USA [a company that provides voting machines] to see if that is feasible."

If the General Assembly did not accept Cunningham's revised guidelines, the guidelines approved by the Assembly for last spring's election would still be in effect.

After almost three hours of deliberation, Joel Moore, the vice president of the College of Engineering Architecture and Computer Sciences motioned that the meeting be closed to non-voting members to discuss the controversy surrounding Ja'Ron Smith's (HUSA financial advisor) current campaign for HUSA presidency. Two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly voted to

See GA page A6

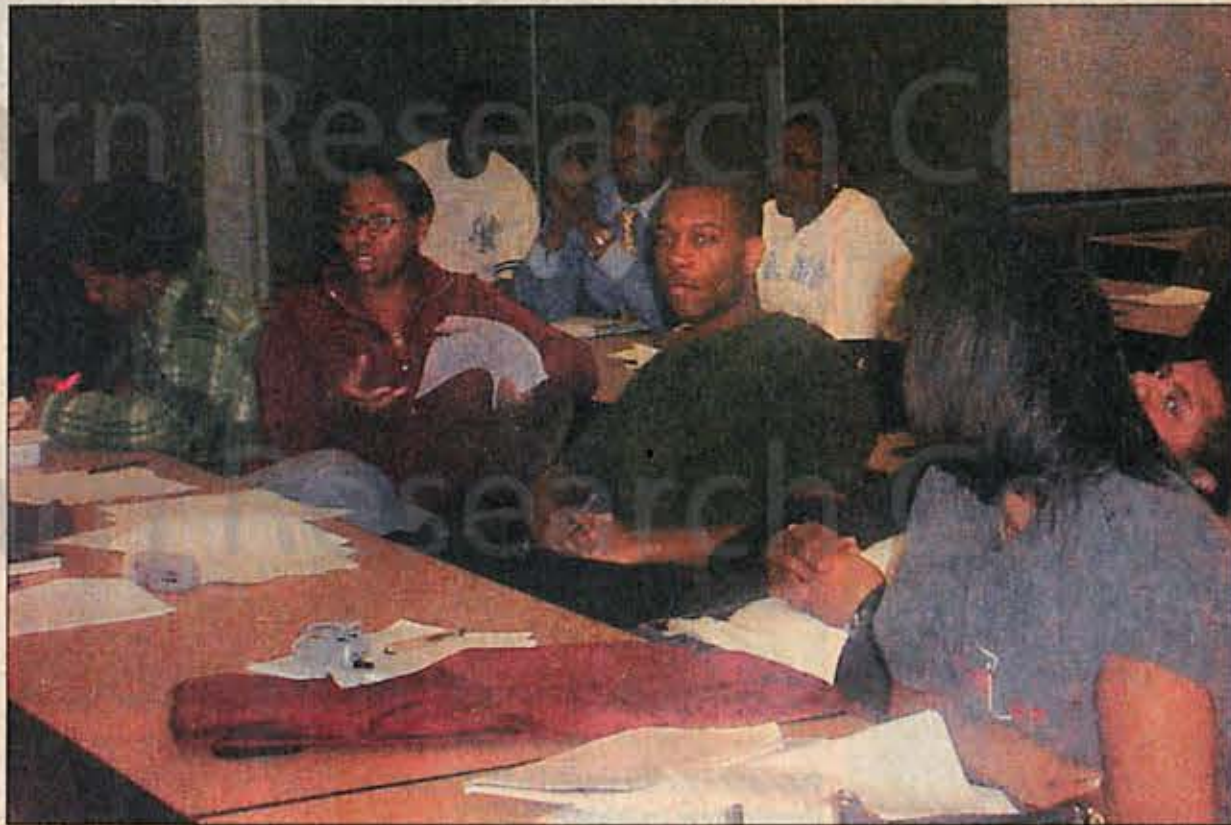


Photo by Kerry-Ann Hamilton

The General Assembly held an emergency meeting Sunday evening and passed the general election guidelines.

HUSA Holds Chicken Finger Taste Test in Punch Out Friday



Photo by Lauren Bayne Anderson

Friday the Howard University Student Association held a chicken finger "taste test" in the Punch Out. HUSA President Cornell Williamson said students have complained about the high prices of chicken fingers. Dining services officials said the high prices are reflection of what they pay for the chicken. Williamson held the taste test to allow students to decide if they will switch to a cheaper chicken, which was offered for sampling. Williamson will announce the "winner" of the two choices tonight at the Town Hall Meeting.

Johnson Gives \$4 Million to Howard

By Josef Sawyer
Managing Editor

Howard has accepted a monetary gift from John Harold Johnson, owner of the Johnson Publishing Company, to the tune of \$4 million, which will go toward the construction of a new School of Communications as a part of the Capital Campaign, a five-year initiative to raise \$250 million.

The new School of Communications will be named after Johnson, who is currently the publisher of EBONY and JET magazine. Johnson has long been a supporter of Howard who he said has always promoted achievement.

"I have been a big admirer of Howard ever since I attended the first NAACP meeting in Baltimore when Thurgood Marshall was named assistant counsel," Johnson said. "I knew that he was a Howard graduate and I have been so inspired by the marks that he and so many other alumni have made on this nation."



Photo courtesy of www.liu.edu

John H. Johnson.

Johnson said he was honored to make a donation and hopes his contribution will help to advance Howard, which has been a leader in providing educational opportunities for African-Americans.

University President H. Patrick Swygert thanked Johnson for his contribution on behalf of the University.

"Mr. Johnson is a pioneer in African-American publishing," Swygert said. "His contributions to journalism have played an extraordinary role in chronicling the struggles

See JOHNSON page A8

HU Law Students File Brief to Supreme Court on Affirmative Action

By Ruth L. Tisdale
Hilltop Staff Writer

Four students, Robin Konrad, Nadine Jones Francis, Danielle Conley, and Hillary Browne, from Howard Law School felt the need to a write amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief to the Supreme Court in support of the University of Michigan admissions policy.

The two class-action lawsuits that were filed against the University of Michigan and its law school claimed that the university discriminated against white students in its admissions procedures. These two cases, which have now been taken to the Supreme Court, are feared to be a threat to affirmative action policies in all uni-

versities and colleges.

The four students said they wrote the brief because they thought it was necessary to support affirmative action and racial diversity in universities and colleges.

"After the Supreme Court granted certiorari on the Grutter case, a few students were discussing the issue and the need for Howard's voice to be presented," Konrad said. "We felt that if HUSL [Howard School of Law] did not respond to the possibility of race-conscious admissions programs being abolished then we would basically be letting down those leaders who came before us and worked so hard to end segregation in public schools."

See LAW page A8

Morris Brown Tells HU Not to Visit

By Amie McLain
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Save Morris Brown student coalition is back in full gear after a meeting last weekend with Morris Brown's President Charles E. Taylor. He was previously reluctant to have Howard Students protest the institution's revoked accreditation during All-Star Weekend (Feb. 7-9).

According to Howard University Student Association Vice-President, Nicole Merritt, plans to rally at Morris Brown this weekend were put on hold because Morris Brown President, Taylor, told Howard students not to come.

"He said that it will cause negative press and it may prohibit what they are trying to do. But, he said they would be interested in us coming down to talk," Merritt said.

Olu Burrell, the undergraduate student leading Howard's coalition to save Morris Brown met with the University's president over the weekend. Burrell said the meeting was used to clarify Howard's intended purpose of going down to Atlanta over the All-Star weekend.

"We first told Morris Brown's student government president, Edmond Richardson, about our plans to rally. He some how misrepresented our purpose for going down," Burrell said. "In my meeting with President Taylor I outlined our mission, which he now accepts."

It is too late for the coalition to go Atlanta this weekend so the group plans to rally in March. Burrell said a trip then would be more feasible.

"We also have to take into account that Morris Brown students are in each class for 110 minutes Monday through



Photo courtesy of morrisbrown.edu

Morris Brown University is located in Atlanta.

Saturday and we would not have their support," he said.

"We plan to go a week before graduation so we can rally along with Morris Brown students."

Corey Barnes, a senior mass media major, is one of approximately 1,300 students who have left Morris Brown. Others have returned home or transferred to neighboring institutions.

"I'm disappointed because I was supposed to graduate this year, but now I have to sit out a year. I'm going to transfer to Georgia State," Barnes said. "It's sad because Morris Brown is a good school as far as bringing students in and giving them a place to learn."

Some members of the campaign said other HBCU's do not appear eager to assist Morris Brown and an attitude of apathy seems to be lingering over

See BROWN page A8



VOICES & VIEWS

Would for vote for Al Sharpton as a Presidential Candidate?



Alan Evans
Freshman
Chemistry

"No, because first, I don't have enough information surrounding his platform. If he had better public relations solidifying his stance on certain issues, maybe. For now, however, no."



Koro White
Junior
Film

"I really cannot respond to that question because today I feel as though many students and educated citizens have turned away from politics. People do not know who to trust anymore. [The system] is corrupted."



Chantelle Bateman
Freshman
Business Marketing

"No. I don't believe I will be voting for Mr. Al Sharpton. For all of his talking, I believe he is quite ignorant. [His attitude] is more of look at me than look at the issues."



James Brandon Lewis
Sophomore
Jazz Studies

"No, I would not vote for him because religion and politics don't mix."

Bison Weighing In Students Question Sharpton's Bid



File Photo

Reverent Al Sharpton announced recently his bid for the Presidency in 2004.

By Danielle Scruggs
Hilltop Staff Writer

For over 20 years, the 48-year-old civil rights activist and head of the civil rights organization National Action Network, Al Sharpton has provoked thought, incited anger, and provided fodder for countless stand-up comedians and tabloid magazines.

On January 21, Sharpton made an official bid to 2004 Presidential race.

In a January 21 Newsday article Sharpton explained, "The Democratic party cannot win unless it expands its base."

Sharpton also said he wants to change American politics and reach out to what he calls "disaffected voters"—namely Latinos, Blacks, gays

and lesbians, and young people. Sharpton also pointed out that he is the only candidate who is "anti-war, anti-death penalty, and anti-tax cut across the board."

In a January 5 CNN.com article, two weeks before he officially entered the presidential race, Sharpton said that he wanted to bring the Democratic party back to its liberal roots and he would bring diversity of views as well as color to the currently crowded Democratic candidate roster that consists of U.S. Senators Joseph Lieberman, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Gary W. Hart, Joe Bidden, Fern Penna, former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, former governor of Vermont Howard Dean, M.D., Congressman Dennis J.

Kucinich, Congressman Richard A. Gephardt, John A. Estrada, U.S. Senators John R. Edwards, Christopher J. Dodd, Randolph W. Crow, Wesley K. Clark, D. Robert Graham, and Willie F. Carter.

"Without me in the race, it will be part of the exclusive club picture again," Sharpton, said in the CNN article. There are two other Black candidates (Mosley-Braun) and two Hispanic candidates (Penna and Estrada).

Senior acting major Loreina Roberts has mixed emotions about Sharpton's political move. "I don't know if he'd be a good president. I wonder how much pull and leverage he'd have with the Senate and Congress," Roberts said. "But if he's going up against Bush, I'd vote for him."

Vincent Spriggs, a freshman physical therapy major is a little more optimistic about Sharpton's decision to run for President.

"I think he'd be a good president despite the adversity he has faced because he can relate to Black people. He'll do his best to represent the Black community," Spriggs says he would support Sharpton and vote for him.

Frederick Uku, a senior electrical engineering major who hails from Nigeria is far more critical of Sharpton's bid.

"I think Al Sharpton is an embarrassment to the Black race and it's an insult that he's running [for President]," Uku said. "Al Sharpton has done nothing for the Black community. There are hundreds of more qualified individuals that should consider running."

Uku points to Lyndon LaRouche, whom he says has the reading and writing skills of a nine-year-old but is "a political genius." He also says

See SHARPTON A8

Increase In Freshman Activism, New Study Shows

By Veronica-Marché Miller
Contributing Writer

A recent survey found that after 36 years of declining interest in current affairs, an increasing proportion of college freshman have a renewed interest in politics.

The UCLA Higher Education Research Institute study surveyed incoming freshman at a number of colleges and universities during orientation week and the first week of classes. The fall 2002 assessment found that for the second year in a row, student dedication to politics has increased.

The first survey, done in 1966, showed that 60.3 percent of college freshman regarded politics as "very important." Since then, the percentage has been declining. It hit an all-time low of 28.1 percent in 2000. In 2001, 31.4 percent of students showed interest in current affairs; that number increased to 32.9 percent this year.

After five years in which students most likely identified with liberal political views, 2002's survey saw a slight shift back toward moderate and conservative orientations.

A UCLA press release suggests that the controversial 2000 presidential election and the events of September 11, 2001 are partly responsible for re-igniting political interest.

For Howard University freshman Peta Lindsay, September 11 was a signal to get involved. While still in



File

Peta Lindsay, a Howard freshman, led last month's anti-war youth rally.

high school she joined the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) Coalition. This year she is the national Youth and Student Coordinator for the organization, helping to coordinate last week's King Holiday anti-war demonstrations on Washington.

Lindsay appreciates the ANSWER Coalition because it allows youth to get involved and take a stand for what they believe in.

"All the strong social movements have been started by young people," said Lindsay. Citing the Vietnam War protests and the anti-apartheid movement, Lindsay believes that student protest could also affect the impending war on Iraq.

Lindsay also said that more and more students are coming to looking for political involvement, which describes the case of Stephen Nichols, freshman class president of the College of Arts and Sciences.

See FRESHMEN A8

First in a Series Looking at those Running for HUSA Executive Office A Closer at the HUSA Candidates

By Danielle Scruggs
Hilltop Staff Writer

Daniel Blakemore, Faith Walls, Sean T. Parker and Maya Morton, Ja'Ron K. Smith, Tarshima Williams, Christian Dorsey, Grace Watson all have one thing in common.

They are prospective Howard University Student Association (HUSA) presidential and vice-presidential candidates and they are campaigning to gain 51 percent of the electorate's vote on March 4.

HUSA presidential candidate Daniel Blakemore is a sophomore political science major from Cleveland, Ohio.

He is currently the executive treasurer of the College of Arts and Sciences, the newly elected treasurer of the student alumni group, and is a member of the HUSA political action committee as well as the NAACP. Blakemore said he brings experience to the race for presidency. He is the only HUSA candidate who has been elected to a student government office.

Blakemore explains that he and his running mate Faith Walls' platform is to make student government more student-friendly.

"Students don't feel welcome and we hope to rectify that," Blakemore said. "Our slate name is 'Restoration'

and we want to bring order and integrity to HUSA because there is a great lack of order right now."

The Restoration slate plans to create an interactive website for HUSA where people can see photos of the HUSA representatives, get the minutes from [General Assembly] meetings, see what legislation has been passed and provide volunteer opportunities for HUSA as well other organizations all over campus.

"We want to make sure that students feel represented and make ourselves available to address issues students have. HUSA traditionally has not been there for



File

Right- Daniel Blakemore and Faith Walls HUSA Candidates. the students. We want to change that," Blakemore said.

Although Blakemore's

running mate Faith L. Walls, a sophomore psychology major from Chicago, has not

See HUSA A9

Talented Actors Add WIT to the Campus

By Rochelle K. Hussey
Contributing Writer.

The Ira Aldridge Theater was filled with an anxious audience at Wednesday's opening of Margaret Edson's 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "WIT," presented by the Howard University Department of Theater Arts and directed by Mark Jolin.

As the lights dimmed, the show began.

The stage was covered with white drapes to put viewers directly in the hospital where the audience journeyed with Vivian Bearing, PhD through her treatment of ovarian cancer. Suli Myrie, an acting major and recent Howard graduate,



Photo By Maya Gilliam

Student actors display their talents on the stage over the weekend.

portrayed Bearing.

"The character is a middle-aged professor of 17th century poetry who is diagnosed with terminal cancer, Myrie said."

She is fiercely intelligent with no interest in much else other than her literature."

Myrie added the play is really not about cancer, but

cancer is the vehicle for which the story is told. It's about the relationships this victim encounters while in the hospital and in her past.

Viewers marveled at the use of language in this play. Poetry was quoted from renowned poet John Donne and the use medical terminology was precise and thorough. A medical doctor was brought in to speak with the cast to help provide a certain level of authenticity.

Myrie explained that the role took much preparation and study of the script, as well as another factor she had not expected, shaving off her hair completely.

See WIT A8

Black History Month

Feb 3-5

2:00 pm Daily

Undergraduate Library,
Media Center, Sub-Level 1
University Libraries,
Multimedia Services
Wonders of the African
World with Louis H. Gates
Jr., -Parts 1,2, &3

Feb 4

3:00-4:30 pm HUB Book
signing: Vernon Robinson -
"If I Should Die Before I
Wake"

See BLACK A8

BUSINESS

Radio One, Comcast Starting New Black Network mid-2003

Radio One not in competition with BET, says prez; students doubt new network's success

By Ashley Kelly
Hilltop Staff Writer

71.4 million people are tuned into BET. A new television network on the horizon may threaten the company's position in the future.

Radio One, the owner of 65 radio stations, has partnered with Comcast, the nation's largest cable operator, to start a new television network that will be geared towards an African American audience. Radio One will spend \$70 million and Comcast will split the remaining \$60 million with three additional investors in order to begin setting up the new network.

Radio One is the largest radio broadcasting company in the United States that targets African Americans. Cathy Hughes, the owner of Radio One, bought WOL-AM in 1980 and has since turned this media company into a \$6 billion operation.

Hughes' son, Alfred Liggins, is currently the president and chief executive of Radio One. In an interview with the Washington Post, he said his vision is to form a television net-

Radio One
comcast

VS.



work aimed at an adult African American audience.

"We are very excited to have found Comcast a that partner," said Liggins in an interview with the Washington Post. "Their cable distribution and network expertise combined with our experience in programming to African Americans, and marketing and selling to the African

American demographic is an absolute formula for success."

A name for the new network has not been finalized. The new network, which is scheduled to be available in mid 2003, will target the age group 24-54, an age group older than that of its greatest competitor BET.

Some Howard students are skeptical as to whether or not this new network will be able compete with BET.

Charles Bull, a junior economics major, believes that BET's established name will be in its favor.

"I don't think it will be able to compete with BET because BET has been out for much longer period of time," said Bull. "New does not always mean better."

Liggins had a reply for critics such as Bull.

"When I wake up in the morning and think of competing, I don't think of the next black guy," he said. "Bob [Johnson] is not competition; Viacom and Clear Channel are. Those 200 guys above Bob Johnson on the 400 list, that's who I've got my sights on," he told the Washington Post.

Although this is the most recent attempt of starting another African American network besides BET, it is not the first.

Evander Holyfield and Marlon Jackson have expanded MBC, but it has not been nearly as successful, as BET. Drawing in only 21 million compared with BET's 71.4 million. The new network may have better luck.

Although BET is the number one channel that targets an African American audience,

many are dissatisfied with the quality of its' programs and are looking forward to the new network.

Sophomore musical theater major Adia Thomas is one such person.

"I feel that another black network that provides quality entertainment would definitely be able to compete with BET," she said. "It would attract a broader audience base and allow people to watch something other than videos, 'girls gone' wild commercials, and the infamous show, 'uncut'."

The new network plans to have entertainment, opinion, news and sports-related programming.

Nkeiruka Ikeama, a senior physical therapy major, agrees with Thomas that the company

will have a chance to beat its main competitor.

"I think if Radio One produces programs that BET lacks such as more educational base programs like teen summit, then it will draw people's attention."

Business in a Glance

Beginnings:

Founded in 1980 by Catherine L. Hughes (presently the Chairman of the Board)

Leadership:

Headed by Hughes' son, Alfred C. Liggins III

Holdings:

Owns and/or operates 65 stations in 22 markets and five channels on the XM Satellite Radio System

36 radio stations (26 FM and 10 AM) are in 14 of the top 20 African-American radio markets.

DC Holdings:

WKYS-FM, WMMJ-FM, WOL-AM and WYCB-AM

"When I wake up in the morning and think of competing, I don't think of the next black guy. Bob [Johnson] is not competition. Viacom and Clear Channel are. Those 200 guys above Bob Johnson on the 400 list, that's who I've got my sights on."

- Alfred Liggins, president, Radio One

Black Pioneers in Business: First in a Series of Four

Entrepreneur "Madam" C.J. Walker

By Maryann James
Business Editor

"Madam" C.J. Walker grew from a farm laborer and laundress in Louisiana to become one of the foremost successful women entrepreneurs of the 20th century.

Born Sarah Breedlove, Walker lived the first 23 years of her life in relative obscurity. However, in the 1890s, after beginning to suffer from a scalp condition that made her lose her hair, she started to create homemade hair remedies.

Working as a sales agent for Annie Malone, another black female entrepreneur (and maker of some of the hair treatments that she experimented with), Walker



photo courtesy of madamcjwalker.com
Walker was not only a successful entrepreneur but also an active figure for community issues.

training school in Indianapolis.

She also organized local and state clubs with agents that would sell her products across the country. Her 1917 Madam C.J. Walker Hair Culturists Union of America convention in Philadelphia was arguably one of the first national meetings of black businesswomen in America.

In addition to being a successful businesswoman, Walker also contributed to the black community, at one time donating \$1,000 to the "colored" Indianapolis YMCA building fund and encouraging her agents to be politically active.

"This is the greatest country under the sun," she said in 1917. "But we must not let our love of country, our patriotic loyalty cause us to abate one whit in our protest against wrong and injustice. We should protest until the American sense of justice is so aroused that such affairs as the East St. Louis riot be forever impossible."

She died two years after giving that speech, on May 25, 1919 at the age of 51.



photo courtesy of madamcjwalker.com
Madam C.J. Walker's Vegetable Shampoo was just one of the many products that was sold under her company.

moved to Denver in 1905. She then married newspaperman Charles Joseph Walker, changed her name to "Madam" C.J. Walker, and started her own business selling Madam C.J. Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower, a scalp conditioner and healer. Walker's business flourished as she promoted her products door to door in black southern households and churches. She temporarily moved her base to Pittsburgh in 1908 to train Walker "hair culturists." By 1910, Walker had built a factory, hair and manicure salon, and

Business Briefs

BellSouth Blocks Exec From Leaving

ATLANTA — A Fulton County, Georgia Superior Court judge granted BellSouth Corp., Inc. a restraining order

against one of their executives this past weekend.

According to a BellSouth spokesman, the telephone giant filed a brief late Friday that would prevent Vice Chairman Gary Forsee from leaving the company to work for BellSouth's rival, Sprint.

Forsee recently informed the company on his plans for leaving. In response, BellSouth filed an order with the court, citing Forsee's potential to release "intellectual capital" to one of its competitors, which includes information on plans for pricing, mergers and acquisitions.

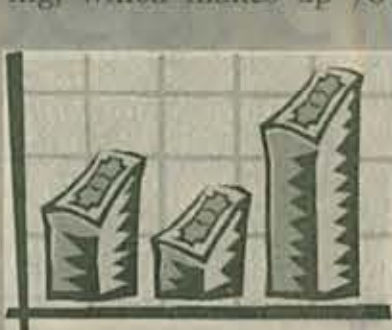
Sprint is the third-largest long distance provider and the fourth largest wireless provider in the nation. BellSouth is the largest phone service provider, with 44 million customers. (AP)

WASHINGTON —

Economic Growth Down, Says Government Officials

According to the Commerce Department, economic growth dropped dramatically in the last three months of 2002, as consumers grew cautious with looming possibilities of war and fewer jobs.

The gross domestic product rose only .7 percent for the quarter, the lowest since the recession started in January of 2001. Consumer spending, which makes up 70



percent of the economy, was minuscule too, rising a mere one percent.

However, excluding a major economic event like a spike in oil prices, for example, economists expect economic growth to pick up this year. (Washington Post)

Drama Continues to Unfold for AOL as Levin Breaks Silence

NEW YORK — In his first interview since he resigned in May, former AOL Time Warner CEO Gerald Levin cited his strained relationship with

AOL Time Warner

former AOL chairman Stephen Case as a main reason for leaving.

According to Levin, Case forced him to resign by threatening to have him ousted by the Board of Directors if he did not leave of his own volition.

Their problems were rooted in a difference of opinion on the direction of the company, said Levin: he wanted to focus on merging AOL Time Warner's technologies while Case wanted to stick with current opportunities.

Levin, who worked at Time Warner for 30 years, also took the blame for overpaying for AOL. The 2000 merger between AOL and Time Warner was priced at \$165 billion.

Automakers Predict That Truck and SUV Sales Will Grow

SAN FRANCISCO — As auto industry executives met with dealers at an annual conference this weekend, they rebuffed current criticisms of SUVs and other big body vehicles, stating that sales of trucks and SUVs will grow in the next year.

General Motors head G. Richard Wagoner Jr. addressed issues of safety



and environmental issues, saying that while environmentally friendly cars are not high on customers' priority lists, they are quickly becoming a

priority for car makers.

Despite current controversies and a need to address the current problems with SUVs and other big body vehicles, Wagoner said he expected industry-wide sales upwards of 1.8 million vehicles in the U.S. by the end of the decade. (NYT)

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NATION

Observation
Deck



Drone-Mounted Gas Detectors

The SnifferSTAR, developed at Sandia National Laboratories, is a tiny warning device capable of detecting deadly airborne contaminants while mounted aboard drone aircraft. Secretary of State Colin Powell said last weekend that Iraq was concealing such gases, based on the lack of accountability for 30,000 munitions capable of carrying biological and chemical agents in their 12,000 page weapons declaration.

Other gas monitors exist, but none nearly as efficient as the SnifferSTAR. The detector would fit among a batch of other minute sensors mounted on the aircraft, that sit on a platform "the size of a pat of butter" which rests on a micro-processor smaller than a credit card. The sensor requires little power to operate and offers rapid analysis not currently possible in any other device as compact.

Where is Jonathan's Mom?

Lyle Montgomery, 42, is the man believed to have left 3-year old Jonathan Jacob Corpuz at a Salt Lake City ShopKo last Saturday. The store's security tapes show that Montgomery walked into the store with Corpuz; his stepson gave him a toy to play with and walked out alone. Police are continuing the search for Montgomery's wife and the boy's mother- Jeannette Acord who has not been seen in over two weeks.

According to reports, when police arrived at Montgomery's house to question him, he was found lying on the floor, "lucid

[and] very lethargic". It is not believed to be a suicide attempt.

North Carolina Explosion

Three people were killed and 37 others injured in an explosion and fire on Wednesday at a plastics factory in Kinston, North Carolina. The cause for the explosion in the 40-foot tall section of the West Pharmaceutical Services plant is as yet undetermined. Debris scattered into surrounding woods and homes for miles, setting off minor fires.

There were approximately 130 people in the building at the time of the explosion, but by Thursday, the company had accounted for most who had been thought missing. Up till Thursday, ten people were in critical condition at the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill, and some at the risk of dying with severe burns up to 70 percent of their bodies.

Spooky Action

In coming years, teleportation similar to Star Trek's "Beam me up, Scottie" device might be possible given scientists' recent developments with quantum mechanics. They "have taken particles of light, destroyed them and then resurrected copies more than a mile away," according to reports, using what Albert Einstein referred to as "spooky action at a distance".

Previous experiments allowed teleportation of light particles about a yard away, but the new experiment using longer light wavelengths, and copying light through ordinary glass fiber enables copies about every fifty miles, and coded messages sent across unlimited distances.

However, attempting to teleport everyday masses such as humans is still far-fetched, because of the trillion trillion atoms we contain, as even with light photons, only one in a bout a thousand were received at the other side.

With or Without UN

By Sean Jackman
Hilltop Staff Writer

With the second month of UN inspections and a January 27 briefing to the Security Council gone, the US continues to insist that Iraq has failed to meet its obligations. US Secretary of State Colin Powell says that, "If it can't be solved peacefully and if the UN should fail to act... then the United States reserves the right to do what it thinks is appropriate... we will be joined by many nations."

On December 7, Iraq submitted a 12,000-page weapons declaration to the United Nations which should have contained a complete and current accounting of its weapons programs. Hans Blix, the head of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), reported on Monday that while inspections have not turned up any weapons of mass destruction, Iraq still has not accounted for some of the documented material including biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, nor have they proved that they destroyed material that was left

unaccountable by inspectors back in 1998.

Inspectors are confident that Iraq has no nuclear weapons though even as they turn up undocumented materials. The Security Council convened to discuss the US's argument that "time has run out" but some members opinions that the inspection should be allowed to continue reconvened the inspections on 29 January. Blix is still considering Baghdad's offer to return for further discussions on disarmament since he claims they have not increased their efforts to cooperate.

UN backing for military would greatly influence the public view. While an overwhelming majority of Americans supports a UN sanctioned war, less than 40 percent would support the US acting without UN backing. France, Russia, Germany and China have all expressed reservations about using force to disarm Saddam's regime. Since they hold veto power over any resolution and with Germany in the chair for February, controlling the council's agenda, the bid for support by the Bush administration seems destined to fail.

As French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said, "We are no longer in pre-historic times when whoever had the biggest club would try to knock the other guy out so he could steal his mammoth skin."

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair has stated he will support the Bush administration against Iraq. However, over 80 percent of the British electorate opposes military action without UN backing. Blair confirmed, that Britain would support military action authorized by a UN resolution, or in a situation "where it was clear there was a breach by Saddam and there was unreasonable blockage of a Security Council resolution."

With increasing opposition to war, Blair will most likely council Bush to remain patient and to continue seeking UN authorization for military action. Other supporters of military action include Australia, Italy, Spain, Eastern Europe countries that are members of NATO and some other members of the European Union.

In his State of the Union Speech on 28 January, Bush reiterated that, "America will not accept a serious and

mounting threat to our country and our friends and our allies." He further stated that, "The United States will ask the UN Security Council to convene on 5 February to consider the facts of Iraq's ongoing defiance of the world," where intelligence about Iraq's deceit will be given.

Bush publicly endorsed the idea of exile for Saddam but made it clear that with or without UN sanctions, his armada, which is being amassed in the Gulf, will justly lead a coalition against Saddam if the need arises. He warned that the diplomacy window was now "weeks not months" and added "for the sake of peace, this issue must be resolved." The Democrat party supported this move stating that the US needed allies to deal with this world threat.

Many countries are split as to whether a US led assault, without unambiguous UN endorsement, would violate international law. Said Michael Frankson, a senior Psychology major at Richmond, "It is a diversionary tactic equivalent to playing jenga blindfolded with the precarious balance that is the Middle East."

State of the Union

By Ria Marie Davis
Hilltop Staff Writer

"Every year, by law and by custom, we meet here to consider the state of the union. This year, we gather in this chamber deeply aware of decisive days that lie ahead." This opening statement set the tone for the President's address, which began with an account on the Administration's plans for domestic reform.

Outlining the sluggish economy brought about by "recession, terrorist attacks, corporate scandals, and stock market declines," Bush stated that economic growth had occurred but that it was too weak and too slow to really impact the economy.

With unemployment on the rise, he emphasized the need for small business entrepreneurship, investment and organizational expansion, and for "more employers to put up the sign that says Help Wanted."

"Jobs are created when the economy grows; the economy grows when Americans have more money to spend and invest; and the best and fairest way to make sure Americans have that money is not to tax it away in the first place."

To stimulate domestic spending, Bush proposed that every income tax reduction set for 2004 and 2006 be made "permanent and effective this year, and that the extra money from these tax cuts will start showing up in workers' pay cheques as soon as he signs the bill."

Danielle Spencer, a sophomore Finance major, was not impressed by the proposed tax cuts. "Much of what he said, it seems to me, is just another way to make the people in power get money, because some of the requirements to put these things in place, put a lot of disadvantaged people out of the running."

Another second-year Finance Major said that, "In the long run the tax cuts would

encourage investment and decrease employment, but that its effect would not be felt right away."

Bush asked companies to end the "double taxation of dividends" which he said was unfair. "It is fair to tax a company's profits. It is not fair to again tax the shareholder on the same profits."

In the arena of health care reform, Bush pushed for more affordable health care for all Americans. He said that, "Health care reform must begin with Medicare, because Medicare is the binding commitment of a caring society." People should receive the health care that they need with good insurance policies and seniors should have "access to preventive medicine and the choice of a health care plan that provides prescription drugs."

Medical liability reform would also help to reduce the costliness of the health care system by protecting hospitals and doctors against "frivolous" lawsuits.

With reference to the environment, he cited technology and innovation, as facilitating "energy efficiency and conservation, to develop cleaner technology and to produce more energy at home." To do so, \$1.2 billion in research funds would be allocated to the development of "clean, hydrogen-powered automobiles" producing only water as a byproduct and not exhaust fumes.

In dealing with domestic problems, Bush asked for a more compassionate America, focusing on "the spirit of service" and volunteerism. A \$450m initiative "to bring mentors to more than a million disadvantaged junior high stu-

dents and children of prisoners," would be implemented along with "a new \$600m program to help an additional 300,000 drug-addicted Americans receive treatment over the next three years."

Touching on the AIDS crisis in Africa, Bush announced his \$25 billion Emergency Plan for Aids Relief, which he describes as "a work of mercy to prevent seven million new Aids infections... treat at least two million people with life-extending drugs... and provide humane care for millions of people suffering from Aids, and for children orphaned by Aids."

Bush made it clear that America's war on terror continues and assured the American people that every step was being taken to ensure their safety and security. "We have intensified security at the borders and ports of entry... posted more than 50,000 newly trained federal screeners in airports... begun inoculating troops and first responders against smallpox... and are deploying the nation's first early warning network of sensors to detect biological attack."

Project Bioshield which would cost six billion dollars to implement would also make available anthrax, botulinum toxin, plague and Ebola vaccines and treatments.

Jason Morancie, a sophomore Math major, expressed concern at the amount of money that was being spent. "That money would run the budget into a deficit, which could take many years to be resolved. What does that mean

for the future of the American economy?"

Turning to the Middle East, Bush asserted that, "We will answer danger and every enemy that threatens the American people." He reported the substantial progress that had been made by intelligence and law enforcement agencies in tracking down key international terrorists and suspected Al Qaeda operatives. "We have arrested and detained several key and suspected terrorists, and the United States is cooperating with other nations to stop these attacks."

To a still audience, Bush continued that, "This war on terror is a contest of will. "America will renew its pledge tonight not to allow the violence of war, but to let free people set the course of history." These assertions undoubtedly bolstered the Administration's resolution for military action against Iraq, if they fail to surrender their alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Bush claimed that Iraq still continues to manufacture nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and that Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein has given no evidence that he has destroyed weapons which were discovered during prior UN weapons inspections. He stated that, "Clearly the Iraqi dictator has much to hide. He is not disarming, but rather deceiving."

In a convincing rhetoric, President Bush went on to say that the American people must recognize Saddam Hussein as an increasing and ongoing threat, and that the Administration is going to be steadfast in its goals of disarmament. If there were any questions or uncertainties about the reality of a war against Iraq, President Bush dispelled all doubt, when he avowed to the world and to the United States that, "Whatever action is required, whenever action is necessary, I will defend the freedom and security of the American people."

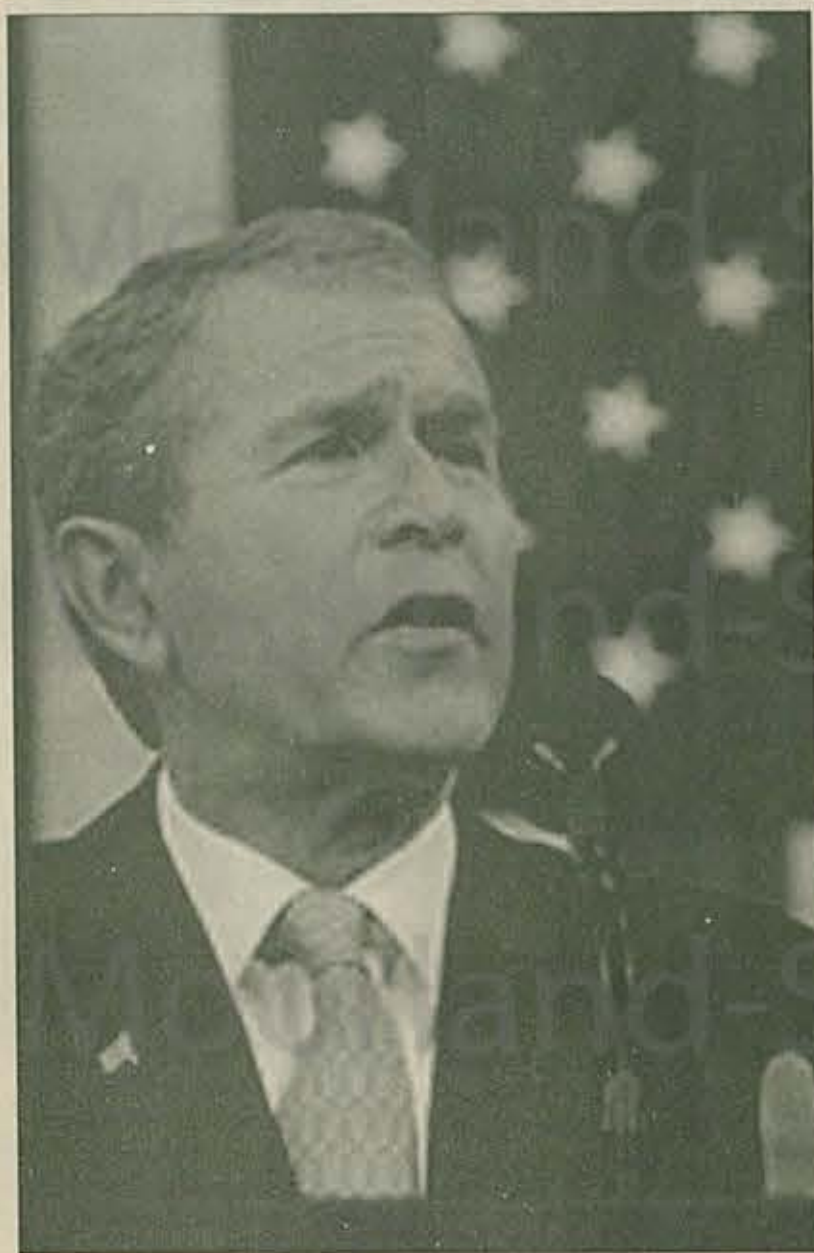


Photo courtesy www.state.gov

During his State of the Union Address, President Bush declared, "Our nation is at war, our economy is in recession, and the civilized world faces unprecedented dangers. Yet the state of our union has never been stronger."



The State of Israel

Separating the Facts from Fiction: Part 2 of 3

By Bilal Iddin
Contributing Writer

In 1948, the Jews kicked the British out of Palestine and declared the independence of Israel. After Israel and Palestine reached a cease-fire in 1949, Israel ended up with 78 percent of historic Palestine and in the process, Israeli forces massacred hundreds of Palestinians, completely destroying over 418 Palestinian villages. Many cities were cleansed of their Palestinian population.

Over 750,000 Palestinians became homeless refugees. In the Six Day War of 1967, Israel attacked Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, and occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, Syrian Golan, and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. The United Nations passed Resolution 242 calling for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories. Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula but annexed the Syria Golan and remained in occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem.

The indigenous people of Palestine prior to the creation of Israel were 75 percent Muslim, 20 percent Christian, and about 5 percent Jewish. All of the three religious groups in Palestine were Palestinian Arabs who were living in peace

with one another for generations. It wasn't until the ideology of Zionism and its followers came to Palestine that the Middle East Conflict came about.

The most popular definition of Zionism is the idea that Jews are entitled to homeland in a newly established state of Israel. However, some people like Jewish scholar Alfred Lilienthal refer to Zionism as a political and social movement that seeks to establish and advance the state of Israel by imperialistic and colonial measures in the land of Palestine. Theodore Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement, described his movement as that of "a people without a land for a land without a people."

In fact many times in recent history Zionism has been accused of being a racist ideology and movement, and in 1975 the United Nations ruled Zionism to be a form of racism. Lilienthal is quoted to have said, "Zionism is not Judaism, and Judaism is not Zionism; and to be anti-Zionist is no way to be anti-Semitic. Zionism is a political movement devoted to the founding and advancement of the state of Israel."

"On the other hand, Judaism is a religious faith—a relationship between man and God, requiring no political loyalty to any country. Too often

religion and nationalism have become mixed."

The current conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis must be put into perspective. The Palestinians are the indigenous peoples of the Holy Land and they were forced to give up 78 percent of their land to European imperialists who in turned created a state of their own.

Next, the Palestinians saw the 22 percent of land they had left military occupied by Israeli forces in 1967, an occupation that is 36 years old and counting.

In addition, Israel has set up illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem that total more than 700,000 illegal Israeli settlers in the three territories combined. Israel's occupation and settlement building violate international law; Article 49, paragraph 6 of the Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly stipulates, "The occupying



Photo courtesy: www.studentweb.edu
The existing state of Israel.

power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."

Information was sourced from *The Middle East Conflict Magazine*, produced by The United Association for Studies and Research and the American Muslims for Global Peace and Justice.

Much Ado about Politics

By Jonathan Grannum
Hilltop Staff Writer

What is politics? Is it just about the excitement and rigor of the election process?

Does the examination of politics focus solely on campaigning and promises made by our politicians of a better economy, international relations and improved facilities and benefits for the poverty stricken among us?

This phenomenon which we term politics, extends far beyond the run-up to Election Day and the short term aftermath experienced by those that actually follow the news during this time period. Politics as defined by The American Heritage College Dictionary—the methods or tactics involved in managing a state or government; and further, the activities or affairs engaged in by a government, politician or political party.

Thus, if we wish to talk shop, as far as politics is concerned, the talk must continue past sitting on one's couch watching the poll count up, or even catching up over the internet if you happen not to be home during all the excitement. Politics should be discussed among us as we have seen our

elders conduct it on their front porches or backyards, keeping up with each other's affairs, the neighbors' business, as well as the affairs of the nation to which they may belong.

This conversation must become natural to us, because whether or not we become involved in politics; politics involves us and therefore we have a vested interest. Consequently, it is imperative that we understand the world around us and have the ability to sieve through the propaganda that is funneled to us on a daily basis and can analyze the facts as they are and not as they seem.

Having said all of that, it seems like a good idea for me to shift focus from my international election coverage to examine some of the politics that characterizes the countries of our world. Maybe in that way, we can all learn a little bit more about the way our own system works, and in effect gain an appreciation for the politics around us and our role in ensuring that we never settle merely for being a spectator in a sport that needs our involvement in order that it runs as it was designed to. Now; I managed to say politics ten times, well eleven, what does that say to you? Nothing? Excellent! Now we're getting somewhere!

Noches en Granada

By Eleisha John
Contributing Writer

My second week in Spain has been an experience to say the least. My roommate had made it her personal mission to get us out of the casa and into the pubs and clubs of Granada... and so it was that I found myself on the town last weekend. The Spanish must have invented the term 'nightlife' because the city doesn't really come alive till the sun goes down!

The more modest entertainment starts around 10pm, with Teterias (tea-houses) and Chupeterias (pubs) filling with those intent on putting themselves in "high spirits".

My roommate is a first-year law student, and so it came as no surprise to me that she was more experienced in matters of the Bar. Exotic names like "Menthe" and "La Mancha" rolled off her tongue, and one by one, copitas appeared on the counter.

Later in the evening, I found her teaching the bartender how to make a Tequila Sunrise. He was openly amazed

at this new concoction. I suspect it will be named "El Americano", added to next week's Bar-List, and placed just under their most recent additions- the "Clinton" and the "Lewinski".

Somewhere between twelve and two, the people pour out en masse, onto the calles and into the discotecas. Unlike any club you've ever seen is "Camborria"- a popular discotheque in the caves of Sacromonte (which, ironically, translates to "Holy Mountain").

In a grotto the size of a dorm suite, coloured lights and Spanish techno swirl the crowd into a euphoric frenzy. Apparently, this party doesn't get started till about 2am, and doesn't stop till the morning sun makes the heat unbearable. (I say "apparently" because in all honesty, I've never been there myself.)

Not being much of a party person, I can speak with more experience on the other aspects of Granada's nightlife- like the Salsa classes and Flamenco performances... but those are stories for another day.

E!

Vocational England

By Sean Jackman
Hilltop Staff Writer

Long since hailed as a trademark, the secondary school system of England may soon undergo a drastic change according to education ministers. Under new plans revealed by the government, vocational options will be made available to students who may not desire to pursue an academic based system.

School Standards Minister, David Miliband, claimed that the lack of vocational education had been an "historic weakness" of the English education system. "We're opening the door to long-term reforms that could be the most significant since 1944," said Miliband.

Britain currently has one of the lowest staying on rates, in

the education system, in the civilized world. The presence of a vocational system would encourage more students to stay within the education system, albeit whether on an academic or vocational path.

Offering some form of vocational studies to everyone would help to build better links between education and work. The government hopes that many on the vocational route will go on into higher education creating an expansion.

The two-fold aim would be to increase the country's skill base, thereby promoting economic growth, and also to re-motivate those who are uninspired by the academic process, supporting social growth.

Within the new system, all students from age 14 would be encouraged to undergo some

form of apprenticeship. This may be a general apprenticeship following an academic path, a modern apprenticeship following a vocational path or a combined apprenticeship.

"Learning coaches" would assist students in making the right choice out of the multitude that would be available. Modern languages would no longer be compulsory after 14 however, a move that has angered many people, especially in today's world where being multi-lingual is a sought after skill.

This means that more than two-thirds of the timetable will be open for vocational subjects with students being able to spend time in work placements and further education colleges as well as in school.

Employers have praised the

move, as they have already stated that England needed more skilled employees working to continue build the infrastructure needed.

Since the end of the apprenticeship scheme, the idea that everyone should head off to university gained popularity.

Institute of Policy Director, Ruth Lea, said that, "We need more plumbers and fewer media studies graduates." She added that many students were re-sitting tests, until they got the right grade, only to move on to what she termed an "inappropriate" degree.

By focusing on vocational studies, it allows students who are not motivated by academic work to concentrate on work-related lessons.

Other plans in progress include replacing the A-level exams with a broader-based baccalaureate style qualification after the next decade.

Regeneration

Recent scientific developments have heightened the possibilities for regenerative cells in humans. Like many animals and their kin, amphibians can re-grow large sections of their hearts if damaged; they can replace tissue, organs, even entire limbs. Research with a mutant strain of mice repairing sustained damage to heart tissue has proven that this regeneration is possible in mammals too. In fact, if the limb of a newt is amputated, it will fully regenerate in 10 weeks- meaning new joints, bones, skeletal muscle, nerves, veins and so on.

It is not known why some animals can perform this procedure and others cannot, but scientists are hopeful that further studies will lead to finding related human genes that are capable of regeneration. Biologists suspect that this skill was lost in the descendants of mammals who once had the

capability, and that the blueprint for it still lies hidden in our genes.

Zero Hunger

Newly elected leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, better known as Lula, has launched his program designed to end hunger in Brazil's 170 million population. The plan called Zero Hunger, was announced after the President toured the poorest regions of the country, and is meant to supply 1.5 million of the poorest families with sufficient monthly income to cover the cost of basic foods by the end of the year. The plan relies on cash handouts and an electronic card which will allow families to claim their \$15 every month for food. Currently, about 46 million people live on less than \$1 a day.

Lula has called on world leaders to initiate a global anti-poverty fund, and he has

appealed for the assistance of the wealthy in Brazil citing that hunger can not be defeated by "isolated government measures." Brazil's government has budgeted \$500 million for the program and the people such as supermodel Gisele Bundchen have already started contributing in amounts up to \$30,000.

Aid will start in regions badly hit by the drought, and in poorer areas of Guaribas and Acaua, in the northeastern Piaui region.

Round the World Record

Britain's Ellen MacArthur has begun her quest to beat the round-the-world sailing record.

Her maxi-catamaran Kingfisher 2 crossed the start line at Ushant, off northwest France, at 0648 GMT on Thursday. And it plunged straight into stormy weather, which may help to sweep the

boat south towards The Equator at a rapid rate.

The boat had spent more than 24 hours having repairs to its mast after it was forced to abort its first start. However, in a show of rare sportsmanship, MacArthur was lent replacement equipment by rival Tracy Edwards.

MacArthur and her crew of 13 are aiming to beat the present record of 64 days, eight hours, 37 minutes and 20 seconds, set last May by Frenchman Bruno Peyron.

Cambodian Riots

Cambodia has offered an apology and compensation to Thailand after riots in its capital this week drove hundreds of Thais to leave the country. The statement, carried by national TV and radio, blamed Wednesday's riots in Phnom Penh on "extremists" exaggerating reports of attacks on Cambodians in Bangkok.

Expressing "most profound regret", the Cambodian Government promised to compensate for the destruction of the Thai Embassy and to safeguard the property of Thais who had fled the country. One Cambodian man died in the riots and seven were injured as mobs attacked Thai-owned businesses and the embassy.

Phnom Penh appeared to have returned to normal on Thursday evening apart from a heavy military presence in some areas, particularly around the airport.

Gorilla-nappers

Three poachers made off with a baby gorilla in May last year after they killed two females protecting it in the hope of selling it. This was the first such attack by poachers in almost two decades in Rwanda.

The endangered species of mountain gorillas brings in much-needed tourist income in



the volcanic mountains on the borders of Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

The three men, who were former employees of the Virunga park, aimed to sell the baby abroad, tourism official Rosette Rugambwa said. The three were also fined up to \$8,000.

Six others, convicted of soliciting a market for the gorilla abroad, were sentenced to two years and fined up to \$3,200.

"Gorillas are an endangered species in the world - even if one is killed, we count it a big loss," Ms Rugambwa said.

NEWS

GA from A1

close session.

Smith's bid for president while serving as the financial advisor in the current HUSA administration came under scrutiny at Wednesday's General Assembly meeting. The Assembly consulted with Smith in Sunday's meeting. Smith said he did not see it necessary to resign and the Assembly accepted his decision.

In an interview following the closed session, Smith said the following.

"It is not a conflict," he said. "I am advised by Mr. Rooke [Associate Director of Student Activities] and if the General Elections chair finds problem during the election process he can also speak with Dean Watkins."

However, Spencer Chenier, vice president of School of Education Student Council, remains resolute that there is a potential conflict of interest.

"By addressing this issue now we are being proactive rather than reactive," Chenier said. "Ja'Ron has control over the money and someone may file a grievance in the future saying a budget request was processed slowly because they are not in support of his candidacy."

By extension, Chenier believes this issue has nothing to do with Smith's competency, but a perception that his control of the purse can be misused.

Russell Drake former Chair of HUSA Policy Board and two-time CEACS Student Council President said he was appalled by the Assembly's

decision to close the meeting after students and potential candidates sat in the meeting for over three hours of deliberation.

"I think the removal was trivial and unnecessary," Drake said. "What is really upsetting is that several of the members that voted to close the meeting are running for major student government positions now. I hope that this close-mindedness does not carry over into next year's administrations."

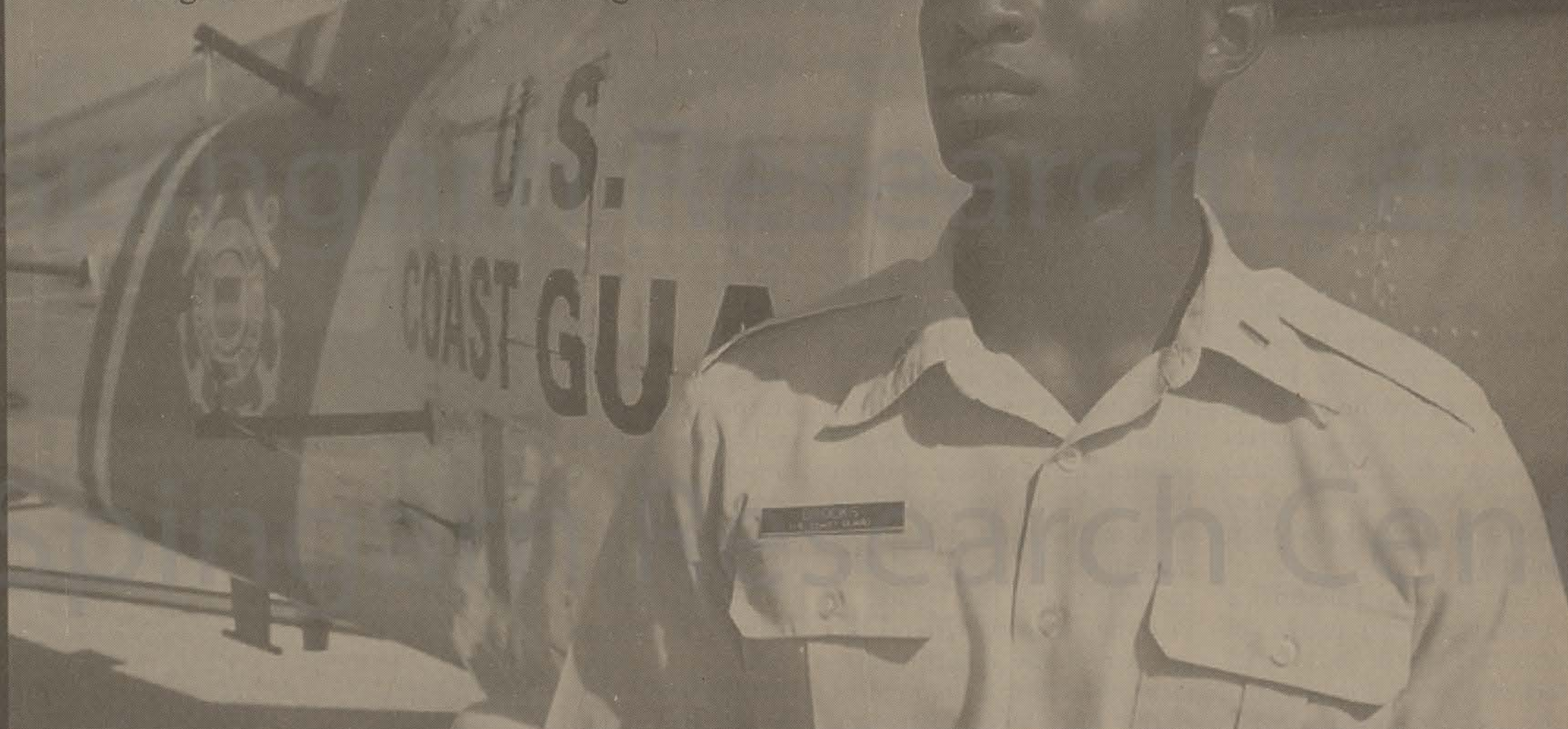
In other business, the Assembly reallocated funds for the coming Historically Black Colleges and Universities Think Tank slated for February at Tennessee State University. Approximately \$3,000 was taken from the public relations/ newspaper advertisements allotment. An additional \$1,000 was removed from the unallocated item of the HUSA budget to also offset the cost of the trip. Students will now pay a further subsidized cost of \$50 as opposed to \$70. An additional \$3,000 was previously approved for the trip. The cost now totals almost \$9,000.

General Elections also had their budget increased by the Assembly. The operational budget for the Spring 2003 elections is \$14,150. Organizational Funding to the tune of \$35,748.66 was also approved.

The General Assembly meeting was slated to begin at 7 p.m., but began about 50 minutes late. The meeting lasted until 11 p.m. The Assembly is slated to meet again on February 19.

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All applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA, be currently enrolled, and be in good standing at time of application and for duration of term. Additional requirements for both positions outlined in the application packet.

All candidates must be present for interviews on Wednesday, February 19th, 2003 beginning at 5pm.

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NEWS

JOHNSON from A1

and successes of African Americans in all facets of life for six decades."

Swygert says Johnson's background as a journalist and publisher qualifies him as a worthy selection for dedication of the new communications facility.

School of Communications Dean Jannette Dates is excited by Johnson's generous donation.

"The idea of a new John H. Johnson is exciting," Dates said. "When someone of his stature is willing to lend his name and give his

support to what we are doing here at Howard that is rewarding."

Johnson was born in 1918 in Arkansas City, Arkansas. He moved from Chicago from Arkansas during the depression. Johnson used a \$500 loan from his mother to begin, what is now, a publishing empire.

Today his wife, Eunice W. Johnson, is secretary-treasurer of the corporation and producer-director of *Ebony Fashion Fair*. Daughter, Linda Johnson Rice, is president and CEO of the family-owned publishing company.

The School of

Communications was founded 31 years ago, and is currently named in honor of physician C.B. Powell who owned the New York based *Amsterdam News*. The old hospital building was remodeled and dedicated to Powell after he donated Howard \$1 million.

According to Dates the C.B. Powell building may become a possible site for the College of Pharmacy.

At a faculty meeting last week President Swygert announced ground for the new Johnson building will be broken a year from now and construction should be finished in about 18 months.

LAW from A1

Patricia A. Broussard, the faculty supervisor for the brief, agrees that affirmative action helps bring diversity to universities and colleges.

"Many times minorities cannot go through elementary, high school, and college and have great education without at least once being in a diverse setting," Broussard said. "That is not always the case for white students. It is possible for them to go their whole lives without being in a diverse classroom, and the myths that they may carry about minorities will play through to the work place. That is why it is important that schools have affirmative action so that these myths can be displaced."

The students who wrote the brief were bonded by their belief that affirmative action is necessary. Browne said that process for finding students who wanted to work on the brief was a word-of-mouth process.

"The students involved all had a shared interest and volunteered their time and energies to make it happen," Browne said. "The four students listed on the brief took an active role in actually writing the legal arguments, but there were many others involved with the research and editing portions of the brief." The students had a short deadline to write the friend of the court brief. They said there were many difficulties.

"We only had less than 2 weeks to pull this off," Konrad said. "We wanted to make sure that there was nothing in the brief that anyone could throw back in our faces and we want-

ed to make sure that we were truly presenting Howard in the best light possible."

Another difficulty that arose was that the only people able to present amicus curiae brief before the Supreme Court are licensed attorneys.

"Because I am a licensed attorney, I was able to send the brief in for the students," said Gwendolyn Roberts Majette, a professor at Howard Law School.

The professors who supervised the writing also encountered many difficulties while overseeing. Broussard said that juggling responsibilities was one of the harder aspects of writing the brief.

"It is hard to do a project like this when you have classes to teach," Broussard said. "It was also hard to narrow our focus and concentrate on the issues at hand. Since we had four authors, it was hard to make sure that brief sounded like one person wrote it rather than four."

The authors of the amicus curiae brief said President George Bush's support of the white students not only hurts affirmative action but also racial diversity in universities.

"President Bush has addressed the importance of diversity but undervalues the importance of race today," Francis said. "We still live within a society plagued with racial disparities and inequalities—today race still matters."

Conley said that the president's support for the white students negatively affects everyone regardless of color.

"The President's opposition to Michigan's plan not only hurts those underrepresented persons but white stu-

dents as well," Conley said. "His so-called support of white students is a hindrance upon all students' opportunity to have an enriching educational experience shaped by the benefits of learning within a racially diverse environment."

The students also agreed that Howard undergraduate and graduate students should get involved in helping the University of Michigan's case.

Konrad said that because HBCU students still benefit from affirmative action, they should help support the University of Michigan.

"Because the majority of students at HBCUs are people of color, we benefit [from affirmative action] by entering a workforce where the majority population (white graduates) have had the opportunity to experience a 'robust exchange of ideas' and have been exposed to other people of color," Konrad said.

Konrad added that racial diversity in the classroom allows non-minority students to challenge their misconceptions related to race and in turn will hopefully combat hostile work environments.

"Students at Howard University should show their support by being informed, communicating with each other, and mobilizing together to share one voice that diversity matters and that the use of race should be considered as one of the many factors that make up student diversity," Conley stated.

Howard University will also write its own separate brief to the Supreme Court.

as a unit," Butler said.

"WIT" previewed Tuesday, January 28, 2003 in the Ira Aldridge Theater at 7:30PM.

Performances run January 29 - February 1 at 7:30PM, January 31 at 9:30AM, February 5 - 8 at 7:30PM, and February 8, 2003 at 2:30PM. Ticket prices are as follows: General Admission, \$12.50; Students/Senior Citizens \$7.50. To purchase tickets contact the Ira Aldridge Theater Box Office at (202) 806-7700.

WIT from A2

"At the call back, we were told the lead would have to shave her head bald. For a couple of months people would keep bugging me about it and eventually by January I was ready to cut it" Myrie said. "Two hours after midnight, on my birthday January 24, I shaved off all of my hair and donated my 17 inches of hair to 'Locks of Love.'"

There is notably a high level of talent within the Department of Theater Arts. This cast presented this complex piece with ease as the play

was also well directed.

"The writing is impeccable. It's multi-layered, and in it we find so many nuances. It lends itself to production and is crying to be produced - that's how good it is. I think it allows students to look at the face of mature work. It's profound," said Director Mark Jolin.

Geonard F. Butler, II, who plays Jason Posner, a young doctor in the play.

"This has been a very sobering experience. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a talented group of actors. We merged

BLACK from A2

Feb 5

Noon Blackburn University Center Art Gallery and the Department of Music, Division of Fine Arts presents Dr. Raymond Jackson, Concert Pianist, A Lecture Recital demonstrating and performing The Piano Music by 19th and 20th Century Classical Composers of African Descent.

Feb 6

5:30-7:00 HUB Book signing: Benilde Little "Acting Out".

Feb 7

5:00-7:00 Howard University Bookstore DC Area Writing Project "Coffee House". Located in the Starbucks Coffee Cafe.

BROWN from A1

minority institutions particularly the ones located in Atlanta.

Burrell notes that the problem could be the result of immature thinking.

"Maybe other HBCU's are taking competition too far. They could be thinking, 'Now we won't have anyone else to compete with,'" Burrell said. "Or maybe they think it's a waste of time and so they've given up. But that's not the attitude that needs to be taken. They need to, they really, really need to help."

Students that attend colleges within the Atlanta University Center (AUC) say their lack of interest stems from the failure to believe that Morris Brown College can be helped.

Chief Operations Officer for the Student Government

Association (SGA) at Morehouse College, Matthew Van Freeman, believes that students in the AUC cannot offer much assistance aside from the AUC's extension of the their spring transfer deadline.

"We [Morehouse] accepted transfer students from Morris Brown this semester up until the start of class when the cut-off date was October 15th," Freeman said. "I have to admit that students are apathetic, but it's more of an understanding of what you can do. It would be more effective if there was something we could do to help like a petition, but that won't help; Morris Brown has a lot of debt."

Howard's "Coalition of Concerned Students," as they have titled themselves because they plan to assist other schools facing the same prob-

lem, not just Morris Brown. The coalition is working on a design for t-shirts to promote the campaign. In addition, the letter-writing campaign is well underway and Burrell hopes to extend the participants.

"Now we're working on different versions of the letter to put on the website, because I have gotten emails from people that say, 'I'm not at an HBCU but I want to help,'" Burrell said.

Soon postcards will be available for distribution providing information about the "Save Morris Brown" campaign, as well. Burrell is delighted that students are taking an interest in the cause.

There will be a meeting held Tuesday in the Blackburn University Center at 7pm. The exact location has not been confirmed.

SHARPTON from A2

Jesse Jackson and Colin Powell are more qualified to run but is skeptical of them as well. Although Uku cannot vote since he is not an American citizen, he says if he could vote, he would not vote for Al Sharpton.

Associate political science professor Don G. Davis, PhD is skeptical of the impact Sharpton will have.

"I think in terms of the larger picture it's of minimal significance. It will not be comparable to the two previous Jesse Jackson bids," Davis said.

"It's likely to have minimal effect on the Democratic Party considering the Jackson bid was taken seriously and attracted broad support and still ended up not producing much change."

However, Davis points that Sharpton's bid could possibly force the Democratic Party to reevaluate itself.

"The party, in my opinion has become callous and disregardful of Black issues and problems and has made little difference for us in spite of the fact that we remain the party's most loyal constituency," Davis

explained. " [Sharpton's bid] is an attempt to bring the party back to a progressive posture especially in regards to minority issues. Sharpton's bid won't achieve much but he is not the buffoon people make him out to be."

Davis thinks Sharpton would have had a greater impact on the Democratic Party if he had run as an Independent instead of a Democrat because that way he could muster a real Black ran as a Democrat for the U.S. Senate in 1994 and for New York City mayor in 1997 and was unsuccessful in both bids.

FRESHMEN from A2

The Sacramento, CA native began his interest in politics long before the elections or 9/11. He comes from a long line of politicians in his family. He encourages the idea of more college freshman becoming involved.

"The freshmen usually have a bad rap," Nichols said. "But I'd like to show that freshmen can make a difference."

While in office, Nichols has a few programs in the works, including a career workshop for students with

undeclared majors.

"I want people to see that we can do more than just throw parties," he said.

Nichols has also worked with ANC Ward 1 representative Jarvis Houston. Freshman students made up the majority of Houston's campaign and administrative volunteers. Some started as early as freshman orientation week. He believes many students became interested in working with the ANC because he, a fellow student, was running for office.

But with the natural

adjustment to moving away and beginning college, is there any concern of freshmen attempting to do too much too soon? Houston, Nichols, and Lindsay say no.

"Involvement is good," Nichols said. "When you become active, you do better."

Lindsay sees no conflict between adjustment and involvement.

"A lot of people come to college looking for something to do."

Houston encourages students to get involved as soon as they can.

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NEWS

A Closer at the HUSA Candidates, First Enstallment in a Series

HUSA from A2

held an election position in student government she remains confident.

"Being a student here at Howard is political enough," Walls said.

She has served as a College of Arts and Sciences volunteer, a HUSA volunteer, and as a member of the Howard chapter of the NAACP's student e-board.

Walls also explained that it is important to be more visual to the student body and be their advocates.

"We're about meeting people and talking to them and making ourselves more visual. It's not about looking good for the cameras or getting too caught up in professionalism," Wall said. "It's about being able to throw on a Howard sweatshirt, get out there and speak with the students and find out their concerns."

Sean T. Parker and his running mate Maya Morton are also making a bid for the 2003-2004 HUSA administration. Parker is also a sophomore political science major is an Ohio native, hailing from Cincinnati.

Parker has taken advantage of the numerous activities Howard offers. He has taken part in HUSA's political



Sean T. Parker and Maya Morton are also for bidding for 2003-2004 HUSA President and Vice President positions.

cal action committee, the Gentlemen of Drew social club, and the school's student ambassador program. He has also worked at a political research firm and currently works at the

Congressional Quarterly.

Parker says his platform is entitled "HU Renaissance: Rebirth Of A Legacy." He explains that the slate name speaks to the need for a rebirth of Howard University

values.

"In the 60s and the 90s, Howard was a hotbed of political activity," Parker said.

"When it came down to facing political and social

issues we were the source of the general Black census. We hope to increase political activism on this campus."

Also on Parker and Morton's agenda is to tackle the problems students face

with housing, parking, visitation, receiving student discounts from local businesses, increase student involvement in community service, increase communication on campus, increase security and "create a more cohesive environment between all the schools and colleges."

Maya Morton, a sophomore sociology major, campus pal, founder of Howard's sociology club, Three Rivers Union member, Phi Sigma Pi member and College of Arts and Sciences student council member, is eager about her and Parker's bid for HUSA office.

"I like to put my input in and make Howard a better place," says Morton. "It's my passion. I have a great love for Howard and I want to make Howard what I want it to be. I'm not saying it will happen overnight but I can lay the foundation for Howard to be number one."

Be sure to read next week's issue and meet the other candidates for HUSA office: Ja'Ron K. Smith and Tarshima Williams as well as Christian Dorsey, and Grace Watson.

File

The College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Sciences (CEACS) Student Assembly Presents:

CEACS Week: Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders

Monday, February 3, 2003: Resume' Workshop and Critique

Have the pro's tell you the DO's and DON'T's of resume' writing – then have them take a look at it

Time & Location: 6:00 p.m. in the Lewis K. Downing (Engineering) Library

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**** Sponsored by Accenture**

Tuesday, February 4, 2003: Salary Negotiations & Dress for Success Workshop

Let the professionals teach you how to get the salary you REALLY want – and how to dress to get it.

Time & Location: 6:00 p.m. in the Lewis K. Downing (Engineering) Library

FREE FOOD and a RAFFLE WILL BE HELD!!

**** Sponsored by the Lockheed Martin Corporation**

Wednesday, February 5, 2003: Interview Preparation

Learn what to say and how to say it...

Time & Location: 6:00 p.m. in the Lewis K. Downing (Engineering) Library

FREE FOOD and a RAFFLE WILL BE HELD!!

**** Sponsored by San Diego Gas and Electric Company**

Thursday, February 6, 2003: Mock Interviews

You now have all the skills you need to get the job.... put them to the test!

Time & Location: 6:00 p.m. in the Lewis K. Downing (Engineering) Library

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!!

**** Sponsored by: Various Organizations & Corporations**

Saturday, February 8, 2003: Non-Profit Community Service Event:

Playground Clean Up for the Apple Tree Institute for Higher Innovation

Time & Location: Meet in Engineering Lobby at 10:00 a.m. at (680 I Street, SW).

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MEAC Sport Scores

Men's Basketball

Morgan State (4-15, 3-6 MEAC) 90
MD Eastern Shore (2-16, 2-7 MEAC) 69

Coppin State (6-12, 6-3) 68
Howard (5-13, 3-6) 60

Delaware State (8-9, 6-3) 71 (OT)
Hampton (11-6, 7-2) 66

South Carolina State (11-7, 9-0) 87
Bethune Cookman (3-14, 2-7) 64

FAMU (9-8, 5-4) 86
North Carolina A&T (0-16, 0-9) 61

Women's Basketball

MD Eastern Shore (7-11, 4-5 MEAC) 88
Morgan State (1-16, 0-8 MEAC) 64

Howard (5-13, 5-4) 79
Coppin State (6-12, 3-6) 63

Hampton (12-6, 10-0) 75
Delaware State (9-8, 8-1) 56

Bethune Cookman (9-10, 6-11)
South Carolina State (6-11, 3-5)
(Game Rescheduled)

FAMU (9-8, 5-3) 66
North Carolina A&T (2-14, 2-7) 60

Track Teams Blazes at Penn State; Oliver Qualifies for Nationals

By Josef Sawyer
Managing Editor

This weekend, Howard's men and women's track team took on competition at the Penn State National Open Track Meet. Howard battled the likes of Penn State, Tennessee, Virginia, St. Joseph's, Temple, Clemson, and Wake Forest.

Despite the magnitude of this invitational that included 50 schools, and select professional athletes the team refused to be intimidated by the powerhouse competition.

The biggest success of the weekend came from junior 60m hurdler David Oliver. Oliver finished first in the 60m hurdles with a time of 7.88, which qualified him for the NCAA and USA Track and Field Championships. This type of performance has become expected from the Denver native. "I felt real good and just ran my own race," Oliver said.

Oliver is currently ranked 15th nationally, number one among black colleges, number one in the Eastern Track rankings and number one in the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference [MEAC].

"I am very pleased with my performance even though my groin injury is still slowing me down." Oliver's main focus is now to make the trip to Fayetteville, Arkansas for



Photo courtesy of allprophotos.com

David Oliver on his way to victory in 60 Meter hurdles Saturday at Penn State.

NCAA Championships.

A couple of surprise performances according to Coach Merritt were turned in by freshman Khary Kenyatta who ran 1:55.61 in the 800m run to qualify for the MEAC Championships and the 4x800m relay which is comprised of Kenyatta, and sopho-

mores Leon Snyder, David Wynn and Edgar Sams. They finished fourth with a time 7:41.23.

Dennis Washington also qualified for the MEAC Championships in the 200m dash with a time of 22.22

Other top performances on the men's side were junior long

jumper Lance Gross finishing 10th out of 37 competitors in the event. But a reoccurring ankle injury would keep Gross from completing all of his jumps.

"I refuse to let this injury get the best of me. I will take the necessary steps to strengthen the ankle and return in top

form."

Juniors Andrew Murphy and Vaughn Cleveland finished 19th and 23rd in the 60-meter dash respectively. Sophomore David Wynn finished with a time of 1:56.34 in the 800m run. Taj Alvaranga and Adetola Adewodu finished with times of 48.97 and 49.85 respectively in the 400m Dash.

They all have qualified for the MEAC Championships in past competition.

On the women's team, junior Phakiso Collins tied for seventh place in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.67 seconds. Collins proved that she could compete with some of the top athletes in the country. She is poised to make a run at the conference championship in the short sprint event. Collins also ran 24.99 in the 200m dash and finished 12th.

Freshman long jumper LaClaire Carter finished fifth out of 45 competitors with a jump of 18 feet 10.50 inches. She also ran 25.01 in the 200m dash to finish 13th.

Sophomore Erica Day ran a time of 57.03 in the 400m dash to finish 11th out of 64 competitors.

Last weekend's invitational will give even more confidence to the team. This weekend the team will be traveling to Landover, Maryland for the National Black Colleges Track Classic.

Tennis Team Gears Up For 2003

By Soraya McDonald
Contributing Writer

It is second semester, and what does that mean? Move over soccer and football. Spring sports are taking center stage and that means the Howard University tennis team is doing last minute preparations for their first team match of the season, the women this Saturday in New York and the men and women next Saturday in Pennsylvania.

Last year, the Bison men finished at third place in MEAC and the women's team at fourth place in the conference. Both teams made it to the semifinals of the MEAC championships.

According to head coach Larry Strickland, Hampton and Florida A&M will both present themselves as strong challengers to the men's team while Howard tries to elbow its way to the top this season. In the past three years, Hampton and Florida A&M have played each other in the MEAC finals, with Hampton claiming the title of champion the past two years. The women are concerned with the Spartans of Norfolk State when it comes to formidable opponents as well as Hampton and Florida A&M.

While Strickland has high hopes for both teams he acknowledges that they have already been riddled with setbacks before any balls have even hit the court. The Bison men lost their number one, two, and six singles players who were expected to return this season. Strickland said the crucial absences were due to "various reasons" and refrained from commenting further.

Spectators can anticipate seeing good performances

from senior team captain and Kingston, Jamaica native Dwayne Pagan. Pagan has been the team captain since his sophomore year. Besides him, the team has only two other returning players from last year and will be starting four freshmen.

"We have to perform extremely well because we're the only experienced guys on the team. We have to show our leadership to make a run in the MEAC championships," Pagan said.

As team captain, leading by example is a must for Pagan. "I emphasize everyone being there for each other. They're very disciplined and their quick learners; the team comradery is there," he commented of the freshman.

While he had every intention of bringing back the same starting lineup from last year's women's team, it appears that coach Strickland will not get his wishes. Number two starter Kim Strickland will have a delayed debut this season due to a stomach disorder and number three singles starter Danielle Blancada is also sidelined due to tennis elbow. Former team captain Tanya Okpala admitted that there would be an air of uncertainty surrounding the team's first match given the absences, but that overall she still felt confident that the team would do well.

"We're working and we're ready and it's looking good for us. We're going to do our best," she said.

The women face Army and Temple in a tri-match this Saturday in West Point, New York, while both teams will be traveling to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for a tri-match with Lehigh and Wagner next Saturday.

Yao Over Shaq: Highway Robbery



Photo courtesy of espn.com

Rookie center Yao Ming selected as the starting center for the Western Conference over Shaquille O'Neal.

By Keith Sneed
Contributing Writer

As we all know this coming weekend marks the 52nd NBA All-Star game, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. This mid-season exhibition is where the greatest players in the NBA get together to showcase their skills for 48 minutes. Fans worldwide vote for their favorite players to determine who starts the game, and the coaches select the reserves. By observing the 2003 starters I think, no, I am certain that sports fans have finally lost their minds. Yes, I said it! Sports fans must be insane to vote Yao Ming (12.6 ppg, 8.7 rpg) as the starting center for the West over Shaquille O'Neal (26.5 ppg, 10.8 rpg). For the past three rings, excuse me, for the past

three years there has been a guy by the name of Shaquille O'Neal that has totally dominated the game of basketball from the center position. I guess the arrogance of Shaq and the Lakers has finally moved them out of first place in the NBA's popularity contest. But wait, Kobe still received the most amount of votes for the game. So wait a minute, I am confused. Did Shaq's arthritic toe lose him the right to start? I am no expert or anything, but if Shaq had the most extreme case of arthritis in all ten toes and a torn ACL, Yao Ming still would not be better than the Diesel. Charles Barkley even kissed the backside of a donkey on television because Yao scored 30 points in one game, which Barkley said Yao would never accomplish. Does that sound

like a bet someone would make on an all-star? Not that anyone cares what Barkley thinks, but if you were an all-star there would be no ridiculous bets placed upon a player that is considered one of the best. Laker fans across the country must be outraged. How can Yao be starting in the All-Star game as a rookie? He is not even the best player on his team! I understand that the league wants to promote itself by having a 75 rookie from China receive some of the hype of the weekend, but they have a rookie vs. sophomore challenge for that. It must have been the American Express commercial that aired during the Super Bowl that put Yao over the top. At first I thought that it might be the Lakers' under .500 record that would make fans not want to see Shaq

in the starting role for the West, but when I look at the East and see that Vince Carter is starting, I am once again puzzled. Carter has been labeled as one of the most fragile players in the league, and his team's record is not even worth mentioning Yet and still, Vince Carter, who played only 12 games thus far, has been voted to be a starter. O'Neal will have to ask some of his teammates how to act while he sits on the bench during the tip-off. I'll conclude by saying how disappointed I am in this decision, but by this point, you could probably already tell. But wait, I have finally figured it out. Yao is starting for one simple reason, his free throw percentage is 76% and Shaq's is 58%, why didn't I think of that earlier?



Fall Sports MVP's

Football

Offense: Jay Colbert (Jr)
Defense: Tracy White (Sr)
Special Teams: Vincent Neclos (Sr)

Volleyball

Margaret Alexander (Sr)

Men's Soccer

Defense: Christopher Serrano (Jr)
Offense: Kwesi Graham (Jr)

Women's Soccer

Offense: Ranieka Bean (So)
Defense: Lindsey Walton (Fr)

Cross Country

Men: Troy McArthur (Jr)
Women: Tasha Harris (Fr)

Howard Basketball Triumphs over UMES

By Thomas Savage Jr
Sports Editor

Burr Gym filled as excited fans came to see the Howard take on UMES. The men came into the game with the return of freshmen guard, Louis Ford who sat out most of the early season.

The Hawks came into the game and looked to be well prepared as they out shot the Bison early, and took a 37-31 point halftime lead. Poor shooting from the Bison seemed to be the reason that Howard fell behind early, as they shot just 4-14 from behind the ark.

"Normally we get shots to fall for us", said senior Donald Clark. "We were not able to score from behind the line, so we were forced to score in other areas of the court."

Whatever plans were drawn up during halftime proved to be just what the doctor ordered as the Bison were able to come out the second half and eventually take a 56-46 point lead midway through the second half. Led by the 17 second-half points of Seye Aluko, the Bison went on several runs, the Bison were able to turn the game around and

get the crowd behind them.

"Seye has been playing a lot better this year," said senior Ron Williamson. "He has been able to step up his play, and help out the team. He is a big part of the success we have had this season."

With Aluko's career-high 23 points (17 in the second half), he was able to lead the Bison to a dominant second half. Just as the Bison looked to put the game away, the Hawks launched a comeback. Following the lead of Thomas Trotter (43 pts, 7-14 3 pt), the Hawks tied the game at 68 with under a minute left in the game. With a chance to end the game, UMES junior Kenyatta Rowel missed a last-second lay-up, and sent the game into overtime.

"We should have been able to hold them off and get the win", said senior Ron Williamson. "When the game went into overtime we knew that we had to step up and just get the win."

In overtime the Bison battled back and forth, but was able to seal the game at the free throw line, and come away with an 83-76 victory. Seye Aluko led all Bison in scoring with 23 and grabbed nine



Photos courtesy of allprophotos.com

Seye Aluko Goes Up Between Two Defenders As He Scores Career-High 23 Points.

rebounds. Ron Williamson added 17 points and Kyle Williams added 19 points as the backcourt was able to get some rest with Louis Ford playing 30 minutes. Mario Grove gave the Bison 11 points and nine rebounds.

The victory for the Bison showed the Howard fans the depth of talent that the team has this year. With the high-scoring ability of Kyle Williams

and Ron Williamson, Bison fans have not had that many chances to see some of the other talent such as the inside game of Seye Aluko, and the high-flying ability of Mario Grove.

With the return of freshman Louis Ford, the Bison look to be much stronger as the prepare to enter the second half the their conference schedule.

Lady Bison Beat UMES

By Bernard Murray
Sports Editor

The Lady Bison are back at .500 with a win over the UMES Hawks (6-11 Overall, 3-5 MEAC) 90-76 Thursday night.

The Bison were lead by Courtney Kirk who had a game high of 20-points. Simone Agee [14-points] and Daisha Hicks [15-points] also contributed for Howard.

The Bison outscored the Hawks 26-41 in the first half and continued to roll by building a 23-point lead in the second half.

"We are always going to score a lot of points. That's our style of play," said Coach Cathy Parson.

The Bison did, but they allowed the Hawks to score big as well.

In the second half, the Hawks outscored the Bison 50-49 and were able to pull within nine points with 2:29 left to play.

The key was turnovers. In the first half, the Bison and the Hawks turned the ball over 41 times.

The Bison showed a full court press that seemed to frustrate the Hawks. Their double-teaming in the paint caused several jump balls that resulted in the Lady Bison gaining possession.

In the second half, the turnover situation continued.

The Bison turned the ball over 34 times and the Hawks capitalized by scoring 17-points off turnovers.

"There were a large number of turnovers from the point guards and other key players. They were unforced turnovers because UMES was not pressing," Coach Parson said.

Petty and Hicks turned the ball over a combined 12 times.

Coach Parson said that Shauna Ruglass had a great game. She ended the night with a double-double, scoring 16-points and grabbing 10 boards. However, she turned the ball over 6 times.

Turnovers were not the Lady Bison's only problem.

The main factor for the Hawks cutting the Bison lead was the defense down the stretch. The fast pace game they showed the Hawks in the beginning of the second half slowed down.

"Psychologically, we got to a point of comfort," Coach Parson said.

The Hawks chipped away at the lead by going on short spurts. They scored seven unanswered points with 3:56 to go.

The Hawks main contribution didn't come from their starting five, they scored 34-points off the bench.

Guard Octavia Thompson was a big factor in the Hawks attempt to comeback.

Thompson came of the bench and scored 12 of her 17-points in the second half.

She camped behind the three-point line and the Hawks passed and found Thompson open behind the arch, shooting 5-8 from 3-point territory.

Her shooting wasn't enough as the Bison held the Hawks scoreless in the last two minutes of the game.

"We need to clean up our game. We're not fully mature and need to stay healthy," Coach Parson said.

They look to maintain their success against Norfolk State, February 8, and Hampton, February 10, on the road.

Howard Women Hold Off Lady Eagle's Comeback

By Thomas Savage Jr
Sports Editor

The Lady Bison were able to jump off to an early lead, as they beat the Lady Eagles 79-63. The Lady Bison, lead by senior guard Asia Petty (20 points), were able to end the first half with an 18-7 point run. The Lady Eagle's turned over the ball 18 times during the first half, allowing the Lady Bison to enter the locker rooms with a 42-30 halftime lead.

"We came out ready to play", said Asia Petty. "The team played well, and the score reflected it".

Howard came out in the second half with the same energy as the first and led by as



file photo

Shauna Ruglass Gave the Lady Bison 10 Points and 10 Rebounds.

many as 17 points. With a Lakesha Wills free throw, the Lady Eagles cut the score to 65-57, but never got any closer. Six straight points by Shauna Ruglass, gave Howard the insurance points to seal the victory.

The Lady Bison had four players in double digits as Simone Agee scored 16 points. Ruglass grabbed 10 rebounds to go with her 10 points. Courtney Kirk blocked six shots before fouling out late in the second half.

The Lady Bison improve to 5-13 (5-4) and sit at fourth place in the conference as they have won five of their last eight games.

Jordan, Shaq Headline List of All-Star Reserves

By Ethan Zagore
Contributing Writer

Last Tuesday, the National Basketball Association released the names of the reserves for the 52nd Annual All-Star game to be held in Atlanta this weekend. Topping the list for the Eastern Conference is Washington guard Michael Jordan, selected for his 14th All-Star Game. Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal tops the list for the Western Conference for his 10th All-Star appearance.

Other reserves for the East include Boston guard Paul Pierce, Boston forward Antoine Walker, New Jersey guard Jason Kidd, New Orleans forward Jamal Mashburn, Indiana center Brad Miller and Cleveland center Zydrunas Ilgauskas. This will be the first All-Star appearance for Mashburn, Miller and Ilgauskas.

As for the West, other reserves include Phoenix guard Stephon Marbury, Phoenix forward Shawn Marion, Dallas guard Steve Nash, Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki, Seattle guard Gary Payton and Sacramento forward Chris Webber. This will be the first All-Star game appearance for Marion. Due to an ankle

injury, Webber will be forced to miss the game. Commissioner David Stern named Webber's teammate, forward Peja Stojakovic, to the squad as a replacement.

According to most NBA analysts and fans, both Jordan and O'Neal should be starting this weekend in Atlanta. However, because the NBA allows worldwide fan voting to determine the starters, Jordan and O'Neal both had to wait until last Tuesday to learn they were selected as reserves.

In the past two weeks, the NBA's method of allowing fans to vote the starters has been under much scrutiny, especially because Jordan, who will turn 40 later this month, believes this is his last season and most feel he deserves to start in what is most likely his last All-Star game.

As for who should not be starting, popular opinion points toward Toronto star forward Vince Carter and Houston rookie center Yao Ming. Although Carter is primarily a fan favorite, he has only played in 13 of his team's 46 games due to injury.

Adding fuel to the fire is the fact that the East's other two perimeter starters, Philadelphia guard Allen Iverson and

Orlando guard/forward Tracy McGrady both asked Jordan to allow them to step down so that he could start.

Jordan declined the offer but thanked both publicly for the gesture. Carter made no such offer, although most agree he should have been the first one to offer his spot.

Gaining much less attention is Yao Ming, who was voted a starter over Shaquille O'Neal. Although Ming is one of the better rookie's in the league, most knowledgeable fans agree that O'Neal is not only the best center in the West, but also the best player in the league.

Complicating the issue is the fact that Phoenix forward and leading rookie of the year candidate Amare Stoudemire were not even selected as a reserve. However, due to injury O'Neal missed the first 12 games of the season, making it a bit difficult to argue his case.

Most notable players that received the All-Star snub are Elton Brand of the Los Angeles Clippers, Golden State's Antawn Jamison and Washington's Jerry Stackhouse.

Eagles Extend Win Streak to Four as Bison Men Fall

By Thomas Savage Jr
Sports Editor

The Bison entered the Coppin Center in Baltimore, Maryland coming off of two strong conference victories.

With the Bison having only two players in double figures, the game was dominated by the defense of Coppin State. The Eagles held the Bison's 2nd ranked MEAC offense to just 16 first-half points, and came

away with an impressive 68-60 victory.

"Sometimes things just don't go your way", said senior Mario Grove. "We weren't able to get anything going in the first half. We just did not start the game ready to play."

The Bison were not able to get anything going until late in the second half when they put together a couple of eight point

runs. With the Bison backcourt of Williams and Williamson averaging over 35 points a game, the Eagle defense held the two to just 5 first half points and a total of 28 points.

"The first half we couldn't find the right shot", said Ron Williamson (17points, 5 rebounds). "You can't win them all, so hopefully we'll be able to learn some things from

the game and move on".

The Bison made a few attempts at a comeback, narrowing the Eagle lead to five a two times, but Larry Tucker (18 points, 6 rebounds) sealed the victory with 3 key free throws down the stretch.

The Bison fall to 5-13 (3-6) with the loss and sits in the middle of the MEAC's standings. With the As the Bison

prepare for their next couple of games, it does not look good, as two of their next three games are against the rival Hampton, Norfolk, and Morgan State. Hampton and Norfolk have a combined four losses in conference the entire season.

LIFE & STYLE

Dru Hill: Sultry Soul at Its Best

By Jennifer L. Williams
Hilltop Staff Writer

Good music is always a pleasure to hear. Good music delivered by a dynamic, melodious group is even better. That's why, in the age of mediocrity and similarity in music, Dru Hill's newest disc, "Dru World Order," has music lovers everywhere mesmerized.

To be sure, Dru Hill's "Order" is a CD that the group waited a while to do. It has been four years since Dru Hill's last release, the multi platinum "Enter The Dru." What contributed to the long delay?

"People had things to deal with in their own lives," said Woody, a group member. "We all needed time to do that and then be able to come back

fresh."

Additionally, solo projects pursued by Sisco ("Unleash the Dragon" and "Return of the Dragon") and Woody ("Soul Music") also contributed to the wait. However, the wait is now over, and Dru Hill integrated a few surprises into the group, including the introduction of a fifth member.

Scola, the newest member of Dru Hill, isn't as new of an addition as he seems.

"Scola's been down with Dru Hill since the beginning, but due to contractual matters, he wasn't able to record with us," Nokio, another group member said.

With the contractual woes now out of the way, Scola is able to record with his long time friends.

Adds Scola, "I'm here to help enhance the Dru Hill sound."

With strong vocals, Scola's addition adds a touch of vibrancy to Dru Hill's already impressive, hypnotizing sound.

The versatility to perform soul-stirring ballads, as well as catchy, up tempo songs has always been at the core of Dru Hill.

Named after Baltimore's Druid Hill Park complex, Dru Hill began singing together while they were teenagers. In 1992, the group's shimmering harmonies and overall musicality caught the attention of a local manager. By 1995, the growing word-of-mouth brought Dru Hill to the attention of the head of Island records; the group has been

creating music and scoring chart topping singles ever since.

"The lord has definitely blessed us, so, so much," Jazz, one-fifth of the group, said. "Because of that, we owe it to ourselves and to the fans to keep making good music for as long as we can."

In terms of good music, "Order" is sure to satisfy. From the bass-laden "I Love You," to the sensual, suggestive "I Should Be," Dru Hill brings song after song to life with dazzling harmonies and magnificent arrangements. Additionally, Dru Hill got the opportunity to control even more of their sound, as this album was primarily produced by the members of Dru Hill.

"Creative control is some-



Dru Hill releases new album entitled "Dru World Order."

thing every group wants," Sisco said. "This time around we were stubborn about receiving it, and we did a bang up job."

Dru Hill is a group that has had its share of ups and downs, but thankfully, all their problems were solved, and Dru World Order is the end result of

the group's ability to put the past behind them and start anew with a dynamic music project. Rejuvenated and blessed with a collection of poignant, sincere songs, Dru Hill is poised to regain the R&B crown by doing what they do best: delivering melodies from

Let's Talk About Stress

By Melanie M. Clarke
Staff Writer

Getting overrides, crossing campus in freezing weather, scheduling group projects...stressed out yet? Managing college life is tough, with the biggest challenge being, well, college life.

Don't pull your natural or relaxed hair out just yet. Relief is just a stretch, smile away with some simple anti-stress tips from experts and students alike. Stress produces adrenaline, which is great for pulling all-nighters, but extended stress causes many unexplained aches and pains.

"Stress constricts your arteries and can create hypertension, coronary artery disease and can cause renal failure," nurse Karin Hall said. "Anytime you have stress, it increases your sugar levels, blood pressure, heart rate and prevents you from healing."

Before the stress takes its toll, take charge. Start by heading to the gym. The Stairmaster, treadmill, stationary bikes and pool get the heart pumping and a short run or walk will produce endorphins, the natural stimulant that energizes the body and mind.

If the cold is keeping you at home, use an exercise tape. Tapes range from eight minutes to an hour in length and can easily fit into a busy schedule.

Taryn Jackson, senior Broadcast Journalism major and Production Manager of Student Training at WHUT-TV, combined the Billy Blanks' Tae Bo workout with a running routine and lost 35 pounds in three months after the birth of her daughter.

"Besides the obvious...it was definitely my release from an otherwise very busy schedule and it gives me the energy to run after a one-and-a-half-year-old."

Yoga with Rodney Yee is another videotape alternative. For people with mental stress,



Hilltop file photo

Students dealing with stress can seek help from the Student Counseling Center located in the C.B. Powell Building.

Yoga reduces blood pressure faster than any other form of relaxation.

Exercising your sense of smell with aromatherapy can stimulate or calm your senses in one breath. Essential oils do more than smell good, they also do therapeutic work, according to the book, Aromatherapy A Holistic Guide.

Add essential oils to a base oil, liquid soaps or lotions, but never directly to the skin. Two or three drops of lavender or sandalwood in a hot bath can soak away tension. Peppermint or juniper can be added to create an energizing morning bath. And for those muscle aches and pains, try a few drops of marjoram or rosemary to get the kinks out.

You can also use a scented room spray or keep a basket of scented potpourri on hand to decorate the room and freshen the air. These solutions make "scents" and avoid the dangers of burning candles or incense to keep you from lighting up your room in more ways than one.

Meditation is one of the simplest ways to take a mini-vacation without the cost of airfare, so take a few moments to rid yourself of the day's concerns.

"Back up and gain perspective," Christopher Morrison says,

doctor of hypnotherapy and worldwide trainer. "One can not have perspective and stress."

Meditation is best done in a place that is private and quiet, seated or lying down comfortably. Concentrate on breathing deeply, inhaling through the nose and exhaling through the mouth. Using a rhythmic count is also helpful.

"Relaxation is essential," Morrison said. "Your mind is designed to give you what you focus on."

Tea can also promote relaxation because teas contain antioxidants, which are excellent for curbing or reducing stress. Green tea has been known to aid in digestion, assist in dissolving fats and regulate cholesterol levels. So before you grab a cup of coffee, reach for a cup of tea instead.

And finally, "Laughing stimulates your endorphins, relaxes the heart and muscle tissue, and increases blood flow to your vital organs," Hall says. "It also provides the proper oxygenation that your brain needs to function at the highest level."

So before you toss your books and study partner out of the window, get your senses together, starting with your sense of humor.

Managing a Hectic Schedule

By Melanie M. Clarke
Hilltop Staff Writer

The semester has just started and assignments are being handed out like government cheese. Managing classes, group projects and work is not impossible with planning and preparation. Try some advice from students, good professors and experts to make your semester successful and enjoyable.

"The successful student is the prepared student," says Lynette Wood, professor of Accounting. "It never fails to amaze me that students expecting to do well in a course show up to a machine-graded exam without a pencil. Diligence in the small things pays off."

The best place to work is at a designated study space to prepare you to concentrate. Clear away anything that doesn't relate to what you're studying.

"You have to keep the main thing you're working on as your priority," said Olu Burrell, senior English major and leader of the "Save Morris Brown" campaign. "If you give a lot to a lot of different areas, none will be complete because you're diluting your efforts."

Writing things out helps you prioritize, avoid time conflicts, and gives you freedom and control. Create a schedule of the semester, starting with a weekly schedule of classes, regular meetings, work, meals and sleep. Add exams and assignments, including due dates.

Now schedule time for studying, keeping in mind what works best for you. Remember if you more alert in mornings or evenings. Don't plan four hours of Algebra when one is all you can handle.

Be reasonable.

Be sure to include breaks, especially leisure or social time. If a favorite show comes on during study time, it makes it harder to concentrate. Check the TV listing so you can record shows that conflict with study time. This allows enjoyment later without feeling guilty or getting off track.

According to the book How to Study, schedules should be broken down and time limits set. Alternate activities should be scheduled with those that are generally put off to keep motivation.

Keep a copy of your schedule with you at all times and update it as the semester goes along. Planning now will save the strain of catching up later.

Concentration is vital to successful studying. Sitting in your room or the iLab watching TV is comfortable, but the noise can be distracting. If you must be in an open space, steer away from the center of the action.

If you work better around noise, leave the TV or the radio on at a low level in the background. Playing it too loudly will tempt you to watch or sing along. Instrumental music and

tapes like "Effective Studying and Test Taking" are designed to help you concentrate.

Turn off the ringer on your phone, pager or two-way unless you're expecting a call from a study partner. "The College Success Seminar" suggests letting everyone know your schedule so they can leave you alone or expect your voice mail. People will respect your need for space as well as your discipline.

Anxiety will crush your ability to concentrate. Students who can ace a test without studying have discovered one of the keys to successful studying and test taking. Even doctors say your mind will access everything you know if you simply relax.

Most importantly, you should never lie down to study. Junior radio-television-and-film major Cristina Payne learned this lesson the hard way saying, "I was taught to read before I fall asleep, so now I can't read when I lay down or else I fall asleep."

Experts say when you lie down, the body thinks of two things that begin with "s," but studying isn't one of them.



Hilltop file photo

Overexertion can lead to the body shutting down.

Texas Club Searches for Howard Version of American Idol

Ashley Traynum
Contributing Writer

The Texas club in conjunction with Arista Records is searching for the first Howard University Icon. The search will begin on February 12 at six in the Human ecology auditorium. Students will have the opportunity to perform for record executives as well as student judges.

The idea for the Howard Icon program came to Ashley Lee, president of the Texas club during the summer while brainstorming for ideas of

events for the upcoming school years. The idea became a reality when Lee met Faruq an A&R representative for Arista records while he was on business scouting in the Houston area. Faruq was interested in hosting an event here at Howard University and the rest is history.

"A lot of talent has come out of Howard University on many planes within the entertainment industry. This is definitely an untapped market with lots of talent," Faruq said.

So what are the requirements for students who want to

audition?

"Talent is what we are looking for," Lee said. "Anyone can come — you can be a singer, rapper, or spoken word artist — we just want good talent. The competition is also open to faculty, we want to get the best talent out there" Lee explained.

Faruq agreed with Lee, stating that individuals would also be judged on the ability to sing, charisma and image.

"I think this is a great opportunity for students. I am in fine arts and I have seen the talent just in fine arts so I know

that the rest of the school has a lot of talent to offer," Caroline Dennis, music education major, said.

Faruq said, "I would like to see some artists achieve their dreams and become stars. Depending on the artist's direction, coach ability, and most importantly talent, it's very likely that the winner will be signed to Arista's Spear Records."

The talent search is a fast paced event considering that finding talent typically takes time and involves more showcasing, networking, scouting

and word of mouth according to Faruq.

The Texas Club will also be offering a two-day event in March. The first will be March 7; the event will include a forum on the music industry with record executives sharing their expertise and experiences. The following day there will be a final performance given by the talent selected during February talent search.

The winner of the Howard Icon search is not only going to have the opportunity to perform in front of record executives but the winner will win

five hours of studio time, a biography, and photo session to be included in a press kit that will be shipped around RU entertainment. Faruq owns RU entertainment and his job is to find talent for various record companies.

"RU entertainment's goal is to educate Howard University Students on the world of entertainment by hosting a forum with key industry people," Faruq said.

EDITORIALS



America Mourns

When pondering the implications of a war between America and Iraq, we cannot overlook the brutality factor. War is Hell. With war come death, destruction, and devastation. The recent explosion of the Columbia space shuttle was yet another national tragedy in which innocent lives were lost. With the thought of war approaching, we begin to wonder if we should be accustomed to the idea of senseless deaths.

America mourned when the thousands of Americans lost their lives on September 11, 2001. America mourned when everyday people like you and I were victimized by a sniper's bullet late last year. Now, America mourns for the loss of seven bold men and women who died doing their jobs. The motif of large scale tragic deaths has

become an uncomfortably familiar presence in our society. With war seemingly on its way, it seems as if this is only the beginning.

Some people may be wondering what connection we are making between the

far larger scale than the fatalities the Columbia explosion begot.

Moreover, it has been posed that lift off damage caused the disaster. The leadership of our country has its sight set on war. It seems that it is more important to fund a war than to better fund NASA so that it can have the means to ensure the most sophisticated safety precautions.

The tragic loss of the astronauts should make us all take a step back and look at life from a different perspective. Life is too precious to go about unnecessary wars. And more importantly, we are not prepared to settle into the norm of hearing of tragedy so much that it does not bother us. Every life is precious and we should not be so eagerly willing to risk thousands.

war on Iraq and the deaths of the seven astronauts. The answer is simple. The unfortunate deaths of these men and women should serve as a reminder to us of the value of human life. If we go to war with Iraq, know that it will mean the loss of American soldiers as well as Iraqi men, women, and children – on a

Our View:

The fatal explosion of the Columbia space shuttle should be a reminder of how precious life really is.

Howard Law Students Take A Stand

A recent survey conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA said that college students are slowly but surely becoming more informed about politics. Where students once held attitudes that politics were not relevant to them, they now are becoming directly involved in the political process.

Howard University School of Law students are no exception. Four students have put Howard's legacy of leadership into action. The School of Law students filed a brief with the Supreme Court in which they supported the University of Michigan's race-conscious admissions policy. The "amicus curiae," or "friend of the court" brief was filed by a Howard law professor on

behalf of the students.

We are proud that these students stood up, not only for the Black race, but for minority groups who are not given a fair chance. It is fit-

to see students standing up for the cause in spite of the status of the opposition.

It is our hope that the brief will positively influence the court to drop the class action suits against the University of Michigan. We hope that the example that these students set is followed. We can get up and do something to become involved in the political and judicial processes that will ultimately affect us.

It is up to us, undergraduate students included, to continue taking action and standing up for such issues. It is not something that we should do, but something that we must do. Not only will affirmative action policies in the school and workplace affect us, but future generations as well.

ting that students of the Mecca take the initiative to address policies that are counterproductive to establishing racial diversity and equal opportunity. Though President Bush and even Condoleezza Rice support the suit against the University of Michigan, it is encouraging

Our View:

We are proud the HUSL students have taken a stand against Bush's affirmative action policy.

THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

LAUREN BAYNE ANDERSON, Editor-in-Chief

JOSEF SAWYER,
Managing Editor

AISHA CHANEY,
Managing Editor

CASSAUNDR A CUMBESS, Editorial & Perspectives Editor

A Moment of Gratitude

Often times, it is necessary to pause and say thank you to those who are dedicated to the betterment of Howard University. John H. Johnson, chairman of Johnson Publishing Co., and publisher of Ebony and Jet magazines, recently donated four million dollars to the Howard University Capital Campaign.

The Capital Campaign is President Swygert's five-year initiative to raise \$250 million dollars for the enhancement of the University. So far, the campaign holds \$75 million dollars in contributions.

Mr. Johnson's benevolence is much appreciated that the School of Communications will be named in his honor. His

prominent media figure giving towards the enhancement of Howard University. Mr. Johnson is not an alumni, but simply a great admirer of our institution and its leadership in providing educational opportunities for African Americans.

Hopefully Mr. Johnson will set a trend for other media moguls to want to contribute to

the Capital Campaign. We are grateful for his contribution and truly acknowledge him as a friend to Howard.

It is good to see such a

Our View:
We thank Mr. Johnson for his charitable contribution to The Capital Campaign.

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 40,000, 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 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001. The Hilltop can also be reached via email at TheHilltop@Hotmail.com. The office phone number is (202) 805-6866. The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

PERSPECTIVES

War is Not the Answer

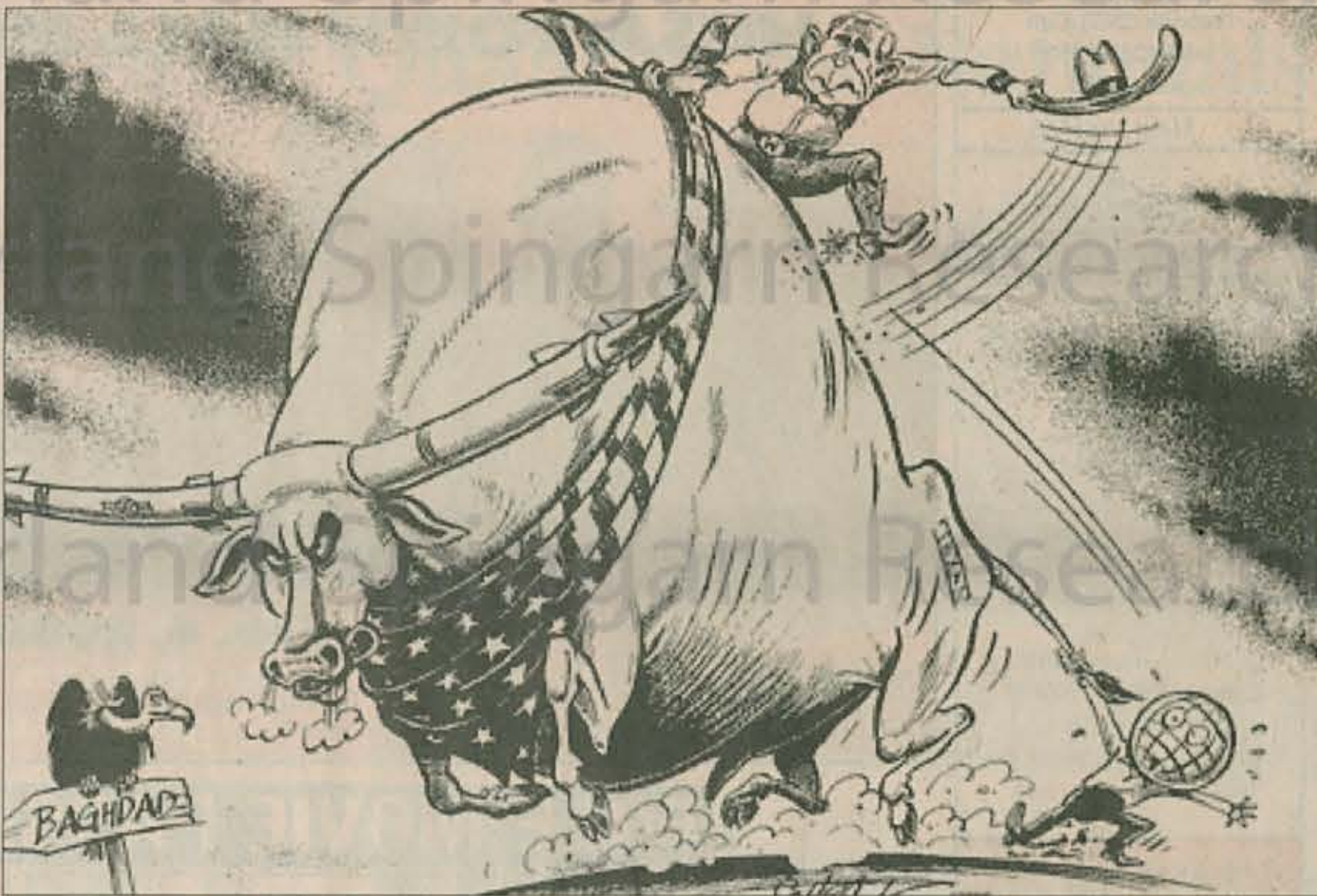
Nadia E. Brown

Last night, I noticed an unusual sign in the window of a bypassing car. It read 'Democrats are stupid and Republicans are evil. Evil wins over stupid every time.' I was shocked and a little offended by the sign because I consider myself to be an active Democrat. However, the sign made me think - how much of a Democrat was I really?

After watching President Bush's State of the Union Address last Tuesday night, I was appalled by the Democrat's rebuttal (or lack thereof). I expected Bush to say exactly what he did say. After all, he is not the sharpest pencil in the box. But, I did expect the Democrats to stand up and fight for the Americans who would have the most to lose if Bush gets his way. Instead, the Democrats tap-danced around the main issues.

Let's face it: The war with Iraq is inevitable. I believe that we will be at war by the end of February or early March at the latest.

The Democrats never pushed Bush to answer the real question - Why are we REALLY going to war in the first place? It is not over oil, Bush citizens of Iraq, nor does he care about the supposed weapons of mass destruction that Saddam is 'hiding' from the UN inspectors. Bush wants to make his daddy and his daddy's friends happy by finishing a war with Saddam that Bush Sr. started over 11 years ago.



Let's get real: The writing is on the wall. We are going to war. The real picture is that Black men and other Americans with low socio-economic status are going to be sent to Iraq to die.

Moreover, Bush does not care about us. That is evident in his standing on the University of Michigan case. Black men and women are

enlisting at highly disproportionate rates into the military straight out of high school. They become the grunts, the lowest rung of military and the first to die in combat.

As Black people, we need to realize that our place is not in the military - unless we have officer positions. The United States does care about us at home, why will they care about

us over seas? The war with Iraq is not our battle! The Democrats failed to stand up for us.

As historically disenfranchised and marginalized people, we need to stand up for ourselves. It is a pressing time. We cannot wait for neither Republicans nor Democrats to critically question our presence in Iraq. A new leadership must

emerge - a leadership that does not blindly follow. One that understands that Bush's State of Union should not be our reality.

I urge all Howard students to actively take a stand against the war on Iraq. The time is now. Our Black men are going to be sent off to die if no one speaks up.

Ignorance is Contagious

James Blanton

While sitting at home over Christmas break watching Black Americas "favorite channel" BET, it all came to me. The market is flooded with rap music with absolutely NO substance. This music dominates our airwaves and televisions from coast to coast. Our young black children and teens that hear this music and watch these videos need alternatives to this often-redundant "nigga music."

If they [children/teens] hear glorified tales of drug dealing, sex and materialism all day long on these stations then of course they are going to think that it is the cool thing to do. They may not run out, start dealing rocks and put a down payment on a Bentley, but it is going to change their mentality as a young black person.

The media has been sending out these brainwashing images in videos, on the radio, and on CDs for years. While we have mainstream cats like Jay Z, Nelly, and Ja Rule whom many would say that their talents are notable, these artists are not saying anything groundbreaking and inspiring.

How about giving kids something that they can use, which is knowledge of self and their community. Flat out we need to bring back the political consciousness in rap music. If an emcee can write an entire album about the drug trade, then surely he can write an album about the corruption of the judicial and prison system and the disenfranchisement of ex convicts.

We have bigger and better things to think about than money, jewelry, cars and how low we will stoop to get these materialistic items. With all of the issues that are affecting black Americans, we cannot afford to have our only rebellion be apolitical music.

I can remember being in high school and having a strong distaste for hip-hop on the market and what it produced. I saw how it impacted my black suburban middle class counterparts at school, and I wanted no part of it. I became Mr. Anti-Black pop culture. I did not buy into the materialism and fashion. I shunned the No Limit and Bad Boy era of hip-hop of the late 1990s.

However times change and people change. I have learned that if you take things too seriously then you won't be able to enjoy anything. Some stuff you just have to let go. I like all kinds of hip hop. I can listen to Common one day and by night be listening to the Three Six Mafia.

Some might call this hypocritical but I just look at it as being young and multidimensional. I balance out my intake of music by reading the Washington Post, the Final Call and the Washington Afro? I look at rap music the same way that I look at the movies: I recognize that it's all not real and treat it as such. I also realize that it is a form of escapism for many, myself included. This form of entertainment can be frustrating to listen to sometimes, but nonetheless it is entertainment. However, I know that

not all young black kids think like this.

Too many youths watch too much TV and don't read enough books or newspapers regularly unless a teacher forces them. They are terribly uninformed and will remain so if we allow this trend to continue. We can empower a whole new generation by putting them on the right path. Our music should promote taking back our communities and other dilemmas we as blacks should act upon.

Bringing the political emcee back into the mainstream is a key to this. The mainstream artists that are political are few and far between. I feel that even the ones that are currently on the market have had to tame their views in order to fit in with the status quo of rap. Or else they will be labeled as a "player hater."

My friend Brandon once said to me that black people would listen to anything if it had good beats. If the KKK put out a song people would listen to it, if Juicy J or the Neptune's produced the track. Sometimes we have to own up to the content that we are listening to. There was a day when we had songs like "The Night of the Living Base Heads" by Public Enemy, condemning dope dealers and the toll that they take on our people and our communities.

Now we have songs like "Grindin'" by the Clipse that gives tales of small time hustling and dreams on being the neighborhood drug lord. The beat on the song is on point, but I personally don't give a

damn how much drugs you sold or how much weight you push. Committing genocide on your own people is not cool no matter how you look at it.

With this in mind, could you imagine the possible good that these artists and producers could do if they put their talent towards a positive cause? The talents of these artists are being manipulated and wasted because the mainstream tells them that in order to make it big they have to rap and sound like everyone else.

The question remains do rappers have a duty to be political? Some say they do, some say that they don't. What is undeniable is that rap and its celebrities have a big influence on our communities. Hip-hops influence can be seen in the way we dress, and the way we talk.

An example of this is the young black 'middle class' fascination with the word nigga, which can be partially attributed to the constant use of this word in hip hop. Now I don't expect the Ying Yang Twins to be rapping about the reparations movement, but I do feel that the biggest thing hip-hop needs right now is balance. We need to balance the rap that is in the mainstream with rap that is spreading knowledge to our people.

We can dance, we can party, we can be gangsta, and we can even have cats rap about smoking weed. But this should be a part of hip hop; it shouldn't be hip hop itself. We must keep in mind that the rap music industry is run by white men in business suits. The product that these white

men promote and put out on the market is sold to mainly white people. The rappers and producers are merely pawns in this game and for the most part are not seeing any of the big money that they so often flash in their videos.

We have to take back our music and shape it in the ways that we want it to be. We must demand more from these big monopolistic media centers and their record companies that produce the same music with different artists. We also need to keep in mind that Ignorance is contagious and we need to limit the amount of "nigga rap" that we listen to as well as that of those younger cats coming up after us.

But on the same token, knowledge is also contagious and we should start spreading it now. I realize that some of the problems in this piece are bigger than hip-hop, but hip-hop is a part of the problem and it must be a part of the solution.

For further listening of some inspiring political music I recommend checking out Public Enemy's "It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back", The Fugees "The Score", and Jeru The Damaja's "The Wrath of The Math." And look out for the CDA Hip Hop forum coming up next month. Peace.

James Blanton is a Senior History major from Cleveland, OH. He can be reached at theoboom@yahoo.com.

To Future Student Leaders

Russell M. Drake

Election time is here again and a whole new group of students are jumping into the political arena. Before you get in over your head, peep my perspective.

Being a student leader should NOT have just started when you saw the application two weeks ago or because you think you can do a better job than him or her; it should have started when you saw that hole in the wall or the lack of air-conditioning, or when you were tired of complaining and just wanted to solve the problems. If you are really trying to make a change, you should already have some basis in being active on the campus. You should NOT be running for UGSA representative when you have NEVER attended a UGSA meeting. You should NOT be running for Student Council President if you do not know what the HUSA Policy Board is (page 156-157 in the H-Book). What you should be doing is trying to become aware of the student government. More than that, you should evaluate what a leader really is.

Leaders are people whose basis is in serving their constituents. They are there to guide you by educating, motivating, and uplifting you. Leaders are also truthful with you; they don't hide things and they don't make excuses. Leaders are confident, but humble; knowledgeable, but still learning; think outside of the box, yet know their limitations; bold enough to make decisions, and mature enough to take responsibility for their decisions; striving for success, but not afraid of failure; stern enough to handle business, yet mellow enough to have fun; lead when they need to, and know how to follow when others take the lead.

Leaders must also lead by example. The value of good leaders is not just measured by their accomplishments, but more so by their ability to inspire others to lead. More than that, leaders are there to listen to you and work with you as equals, for no matter what titles they may hold, we are all human beings, none better than any others.

That brief description of leadership should apply to everyone who thinks that they are leaders. If you think that you are a leader and that does not apply to you, you may need to re-evaluate yourself. If you do not think that you are a leader, and that description does apply to you, then you are a good leader in the making.

I'm not trying to discourage anyone; everyone can be active and make an impact. However, if you want to become active start at the ground level and work your way up - if you start at the top, you'll finish at the ground level.

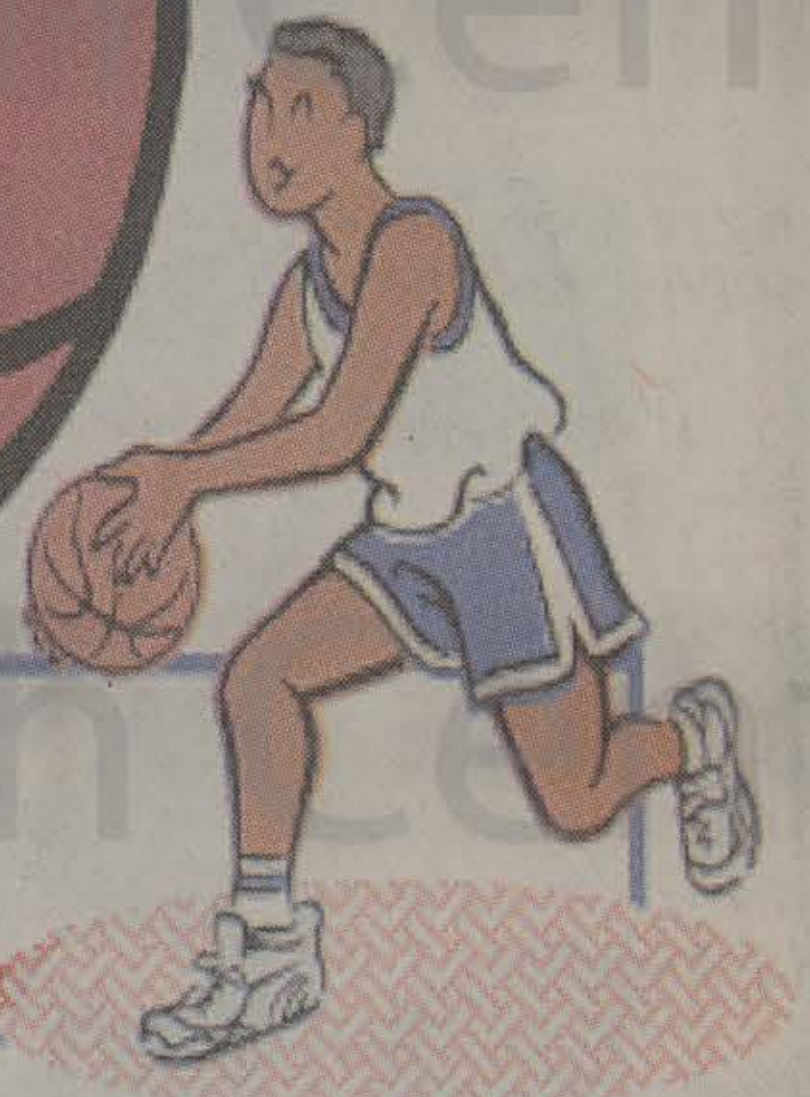
My purpose in writing this article is to effectively communicate with the student body and help others to understand student government. My time at Howard will end in May; I'm just trying to give some tips on what I've learned along the way.

So if you really want to be a student leader, re-read this article and try to apply it to yourself. And if need be, holler at me. From one bison to many others, keep your heads up, and make things happen.

Russell is a senior computer science major from Gary, Indiana. He is the two-time President of the Engineering, Architecture & Computer Sciences Student Council, former HUSA Policy Board Chairman and Keeper of Records & Seal for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He can be contacted at big_drake@yahoo.com

LAST HOME GAMES – SENIOR DAY!!

Bison Basketball



Free Student TICKETS will be
DISTRIBUTED ON FRIDAY,

FEB. 28, 11AM TO 6PM IN BLACKBURN CENTER

GAME: MONDAY, MAR. 3, 6 & 8pm, HU vs. Delaware St.

No Free Student Tickets on Game Day, unless HU is closed on Friday.

CONGRATULATIONS to the LADY BISON AND BISON

for their recent wins vs. NC A&T and to all the SENIORS!!

WOMEN

#1-Ayana Ball, Guard, Mitchellville, MD
#11-Asia Petty, Guard, Perris, CA
#25-Courtney Kirk, Forward, Fairfield, AL
#30-Ebony Rector, Guard, Manassas, VA

MEN

#3-Donald Clark, Forward, Statesville, NC
#10-Kyle Williams, Guard, Burlington, NJ
#22-Ron Williamson, Guard, Columbus, OH
#33-Mario Grove, Forward, Cincinnati, OH
#45-Brannon Terry, Tulsa, OK

And CONGRATULATIONS to the BADMINTON CLUB TEAM

For dominating the ACU-I Regional Championship

- Winning First & Second in Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles,

- Winning Second in Men's Singles

- And in the Consolation Rounds

- Winning First & Second in Mixed Doubles

- Winning Men's Singles

BEST WISHES TO ALL HOWARD TEAMS ON THE ROAD:

WOMEN'S LACROSSE @ Marist College, Mar. 1

MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING @ Delaware St., Mar 1

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD @ NCAA National Championship, Mar. 7-8

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LADY BISON AND BISON BASKETBALL TEAMS

The Howard Women are currently #4 (of 11) in the MEAC!

The Howard Men are currently #5 in the MEAC!

NEXT HOME GAMES – Monday, March 3 - SENIORS WILL BE HONORED!!

CHECK OUT the MEAC Tournament Web site: www.meachoops.com/#

Order your MEAC Tournament Tickets: www.ticketmaster.com/artist/856315/



March 10 - 15, 2003
Richmond Coliseum
Richmond, VA

CONGRATULATIONS TO INDOOR TRACK @ MEAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN:

55M Hurdles: **FIRST-** David Oliver

Long Jump: 4th Lance Gross

Triple Jump: 4th Michael Sampson

4x400 Relay: 6th Adetola Adewodu, Lance Gross,
David Oliver & Taj Alvaranga

WOMEN:

Women Distance Medley: **FIRST-**

Indira Garcia, Erica Day, Maya
Cadwell & Krystal Perkins

3000M: 3th Indira Garcia

One Mile: 4th Indira Garcia



CONGRATULATIONS HU BISONETTES DANCE ENSEMBLE!!!

*** 2003 BLACK COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS ***

Nia Wallace, Marletta Boyd, II, Horecee St. Cyr, Anique Oliver, Vanessa Wilson, Carla Rutledge,

JeJuan Stoot, Jennifer Brown, Kimberly Mitchell, Sheri Frierson, Danielle Smith

At the 8th Annual Black College National Cheerleading and Dance Team Championships held in Atlanta, Georgia, the Howard University Bisonettes defeated the 5x champions from Tennessee State University to become the 2003 Black College National Champions.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE HOTTEST CD ON CAMPUS!!

"Traditional Songs of the

HU SHOWTIME MARCHING BAND" is NOW on sale.

Simply go to The Howard Center (above the HU Bookstore), 2225 Georgia Ave., NW, Suite 901

Cash, checks or credit cards accepted. You can also order by phone at (202) 238-2340.

Supplies are limited and the price is only \$15.

ALSO, NOW ON SALE AT THE HU BOOKSTORE

Proceeds benefit the MARCHING BAND through the BISON EXPRESS.

Division of Student Affairs



February 2003