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BUSINESS

Businesses
turn toward
trend of online
dating.

A9

THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

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Swygert Honors Law Students' Brief

By Ruth L. Tisdale
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University President, H. Patrick Swygert, recently honored the four law students who wrote the "friend of the court" brief in support of the University of Michigan's affirmative action admissions policy.

In April, the Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments in the two cases against the University of Michigan. In both cases, white applicants say the University turned them away to make room for less qualified African American students.

President Swygert also discussed the brief filed on



H. Patrick Swygert poses with the Law students and professors who who penned an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of University of Michigan's affirmative action policy.

behalf of the University. He whole case is race and not said the main issue of the diversity.

"Many times people use diversity as a catch phrase," Swygert said. "But race trumps diversity. Race brings you further than diversity. Most people would be comfortable working in a diverse setting, but not a race sensitive climate."

Swygert also said that Howard University is one of the few companies, organizations, or schools to take the stance of race sensitivity.

"Many other companies and organizations will be focusing on the diversity issue," Swygert said. "We [Howard] felt that it was necessary to focus on the main

See LAW page A6

School of Business Projectors Stolen Again

By Danielle Scruggs
Hilltop Staff Writer

The School of Business was recently robbed of four smart room liquid crystal display (LCD) projectors between the hours of 9 and 10 p.m.

This problem occurred last semester during the first week of classes. According to Chief of Campus Police Reginald Smith it is not solely a Howard University problem.

Many District schools have been targeted, including American University and even schools in as far away as Baltimore have been affected by similar crimes Smith said.

The classroom projectors are valued at approximately \$4,000 each.

"These items go on the market at a reduced price and people are using them, not for classroom studies but for personal use," Smith said. "They're taking them home and installing them into televisions and projecting those images on a wall, giving the illusion of having a large screened television."

The campus police have been working in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Department to investigate this robbery, since this is a District-wide problem. Smith believes persons connected with the University are taking part in the robberies on campus.

"It disheartens me to know that we have people affiliated with this University who would rob our very bright future leaders by taking valuable equipment," Smith said. "The University is constantly pushing forward to make this state of the art equipment available and to have a small group of people here who would permanently deprive the population of valuable essential equipment is extremely disappointing."

Dean Sirjue, the assistant dean of the School of Business is outraged by the theft.



Four smart rooms in the School of Business were recently robbed.

"Anytime we lose equipment we're upset because we want to be the leading edge in technology," Sirjue said. "This is a step backwards for us."

However, Sirjue says this is only a temporary setback. In the interim, the loss of the LCD machines is affecting the teachers' ability to teach using the high-end technology. He adds that students have to be very vigilant and think of the building as belonging to the students themselves.

Tanika Williams, a sophomore finance major who is running for the School of Business vice-president agrees with Smith's theory.

"I think a student or employee is taking [the projectors]. It's unfair because it hinders our learning process," Williams said. "We're in classes where the teachers don't teach anymore because the equipment's gone."

Smith says the Campus Police are implementing further security measures, such as purchasing more surveillance equipment and additional locking devices, as well as making students, faculty, staff and visitors sign in as well as present their Capstone Cards.

Snow Shuts Down D.C. and Howard



PHOTO BY MELANIE NESBITT

Washington, D.C. saw its sixth worst snow storm ever after 16 inches of snow fell this weekend. Above, the main "yard" covered with more than a foot of snow Monday. The University was closed over the weekend and remains closed today. The Howard v. FAMU basketball games have been rescheduled for tonight.

Some 'Majority' Universities Abandon Minority Programs



PHOTO COURTESY OF APS.ORG

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has cut some programs benefiting minorities.

By David Johns
Hilltop Staff Writer

President Bush's recent opposition to affirmative action may have led many universities to abandon programs initially instituted to provide additional educational opportunities for minority students.

Some summer institutes designed to give qualified candidates of underrepresented races the opportunity to experience graduate, research, and professional development are being reevaluated or abandoned.

done.

On Jan. 17, the Bush administration filed two briefs with the Supreme Court deeming the University of Michigan's admissions programs in both undergraduate and law schools disguised quota systems and thus unconstitutional.

In expressing his opposition to the Michigan program Bush proposed diversity methods like those presently employed in Texas, Florida, and California as more appropriate alternatives. As Governor of Texas, George

Bush instituted a program guaranteeing college admission to the top 10 percent of each class, and has advocated the national use of such criteria.

Similarly, President Bush has praised Governor Jeb Bush of Florida and his "talented 20" percent program as a race-neutral alternative to affirmative action. Such Incentive programs are designed to remove the race narrative of affirmative action replacing color quotas with ones based achievement.

Some schools have expressed a reluctance to con-

tinue race-based programs and are under pressure to switch to race-neutral programs. Last Wednesday, The New York Times published an article, on Massachusetts Institute of Technology's plans to open two new summer programs open to minorities and students of all races. MIT officials told The Times they changed the program, which was previously reserved for qualified students of underrepresented back-

See PROGRAM page A7

Fire Breaks Out in Towers

By Kerry-Ann Hamilton
Campus Editor

At approximately 10:10 p.m. Saturday, smoke was reportedly seen coming from room 323 in the Howard Plaza Towers West.

According to campus police reports, the smoke developed when a resident on the third floor left a pot on a heated stove. There were no damage to property or injury to residents.

Monique Marshall who resides in room 325 was the first resident to alert the front desk staff to the smoke on her floor.

"I saw thick smoke coming from room 323 and I went downstairs to report it," Marshall said.

The sophomore resident grabbed her lap top computer, car keys, and cell phone before evacuating the building.

One of the residents of suite 323 who wanted to be unnamed confirmed that the smoke came from a burning pot.

"It was not a big deal," the resident said.

When asked if the fire alarm in the suite was activated the resident said no. The resident also said she left her suite

immediately after hearing the engaged fire alarm on her floor.

Shesly Gouraige, a sophomore marketing major, did not leave his room on the 10th floor.

"I did not go downstairs because the fire alarm off goes off a lot and it is never a real fire," Gouraige said. "I tried to find out what was the reason for the alarm. I knocked on Resident Assistant's door and she was not there."

Three fire units were on the scene within minutes. After the building was deemed safe, close to 400 residents who had evacuated reentered the building.



PHOTO BY KERRY ANN HAMILTON

A fire broke out in the Towers Saturday evening. Above, fire fighters exit the building after putting out the fire, caused by burning food in room 323.



Voices & Views

What do you think about the increased gas prices?



Charlett Samuel
Junior
Legal Communications

"Since I have a truck that is a gas guzzler, it makes it inconvenient."



Lakishia Lockhart
Senior
Psychology

"It makes it extremely difficult to drive, unless you always drive with a group of people."



Lemont Williams
Business Management
Graduating Senior

"I think they are pretty fair considering that we are about to go to war. The [gas prices] will never be at the set prices we want them to be."



Nicardi Cook
Physical Therapy
Sophomore

"The gas prices are ridiculous. It is to the point where I don't even want to drive. I want to ride the bus or take the metro."

Compiled by Melanie Nesbitt

Bison Weigh In

Students Bemoan Soaring Gasoline Prices

By Janelle A. Williams
Contributing Writer

In light of a possible war with Iraq and an ongoing strike in Venezuela, gas prices have significantly increased — making a trip to the gas station a dreadful experience for some college students.

According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), in the last month the cost of regular unleaded fuel has fluctuated by as much as 23 cents. As listed by www.gasolineprices.com, the average price of unleaded fuel has increased ten cents from \$1.48 to \$1.58. The highest price was listed as \$2.07 per gallon in New York City.

The Motor and Equipment



PHOTO BY HARVEY JENKINS

Students are faced with high gas prices.

Manufacturers Association declared that personal vehicles alone use 115 billion gallons of gasoline fuel each year. Furthermore, American citizens drive more than 2.6 trillion miles

per year, which is equal to 14,000 round trips around the sun.

Iraq supplies approximately eight percent of U.S. oil imports. However, with the threat of war Hussein has suspended oil delivery to the United States. This has resulted in a decrease in oil supply.

"Iraq knows that America is dependent on oil," said senator Charles E. Schumer, (D-NY). "They know that by withholding delivery, gas prices go up and the American people suffer."

Iraq has suspended the delivery of over 2 million barrels of crude oil per day to the United States.

"Even if war is averted in Iraq, motorists should be ready

to pay at least a dime a gallon more for gasoline this spring," said a representative of the U.S. Energy Department.

The removal and later reinstatement of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez also contributes to the instability of gas prices.

Since Dec. 2, oil workers in Venezuela have been on strike in an attempt to force Chavez to call early elections or resign. These strikes have shut down gas stations and factories and have ultimately dampened oil production.

As the fifth largest oil supplier, Venezuela supplies between 13 to 15 percent of imported fuel

See GAS page A3

Larger, More Expensive Chicken Fingers Win

By Ruth L. Tisdale
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Chicken Finger Taste Test, held by the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) proved that students wanted the more expensive chicken fingers. The test came in light of students' complaints about the high-priced chicken fingers.

On Jan. 31, approximately one hundred students filled out surveys and tried the expensive chicken fingers and the less expensive chicken fingers. "We offered students the chicken fingers that the Punch Out sells now and less expensive chicken fingers," HUSA president Cornell Williamson said. "Students decided to keep the chicken fingers that are sold in the Punch Out."

Donna McCants, the unit manager of the Punch Out, said she was not surprised by the outcome of the HUSA ran test.

"I knew that when students saw the size and the quality of the alternative fingers, that students would pick the fingers that are being sold in the Punch Out," McCants said.

McCants said that the Food Advisory Committee tried to find chicken fingers that are tasty as well as inexpensive.

"The tenders that were inexpensive were of the same quality, but the size of the chicken finger was significantly smaller than the



FILE PHOTO

Students who participated in the Chicken Finger Taste Test chose the more expensive chicken.

current ones," McCants said. Williamson said because of the high prices companies sell chicken fingers it was impossible to have students pay lower prices.

Students also agreed that the current chicken fingers are the best and worth the money. "[Chicken fingers] are the best thing that the 'Punch Out' sells," Kim Weatherspoon, a junior biology major said. "That is the reason why I spend seven dollars for the chicken fingers."

Other students, however, disagree with the notion that chicken

fingers should be seven dollars. "Last year, I ate chicken fingers all the time," junior biology major Weafue Saab said. "Since the price went up I haven't eaten one chicken finger."

Saab said that there were more things on the menu that students could enjoy other than the expensive fingers.

Because the chicken fingers were expensive I had to start eating other things," Saab said. "The chicken sandwich is something that I have come to enjoy at the Punch Out."

McCants said that the Punch Out wants to hear more from the students so that the it can do more to serve the students.

"We want to have more programs in the Punch Out, but need to know what students want to have," McCants said. "The only way we can know what students want is through students' feedback."

The Punch out is open from Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kareem Merrick: Undergrad Trustee Candidate

By Monica Almond
Contributing Writer

Third generation Howard student, Kareem Merrick is working to expand his family legacy on campus by running for the position of undergraduate trustee.

Merrick, a junior biology major said he has been a keen observer of progression at Howard since 1990 and says he wants to be instrumental in the continuation of its success.

"The call to become undergraduate trustee extends from desiring a candidate willing to work hard for the student body and the advancement of Howard University," Merrick said. "I campaign with the objective of making the voter fee my sincerity regarding this position."

Campaigning under the platform, "Activism: Elevating student represen-

See MERRICK page A3

Black History Month's Relevance Questioned on Campus

By Venus B. Taylor
Contributing Writer

With 10 days to go before Black History Month comes to an end, some members of the black community accuse others of ceasing to celebrate.

LaToya Mixon, sophomore marketing major, says many students are complacent with the idea of celebrating Black History Month.

"People have forgotten the struggle and feel that it doesn't pertain to them," Mixon said.

Throughout history, the month of February has been a landmark month for African Americans. The 15th Amendment, which still allows Blacks the right to vote, was passed in February. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which still fights for equality, was founded in February.

Most would find such milestones reason to celebrate. Nevertheless, many students don't even bother to observe



PHOTO BY HARVEY JENKINS

A calendar of important Black History Month dates, as well as posters of famous African Americans are displayed in the West Towers.

Black History Month.

For the past two weeks many organizations on campus have held events to commemorate the month. The Howard University Bookstore has had five book signings. The Blackburn Center has had musical programs in the Art Gallery every Wednesday. The Undergraduate Library has

had two showings in its Black History Video Series.

Students are not attending these events en masse because of alleged feelings of indifference about Black History Month.

It has become merely a time when people hear Martin

See BLACK page A7

History Department Features Black History Through Dance

By Kellie Carter
Hilltop Staff Writer

The History department recently sponsored a Black History Month program called "Ambassadors with Hips: Katherine Dunham and Pearl Primus, Defining of an African Diaspora."

The presentation was given by Dr. Julia Foulkes, a core faculty member at the New School University in New York City and author of "Modern Bodies."

Allen McPherson spoke of the History department's mission to sponsor events such as this several times a semester that often intersects and incorporate other disciplines particularly the arts.

Professor Shell Bernin-Johnson said dance is a discipline that can be encompassed with any other discipline. She also introduced the keynote speaker, Foulkes,

to discuss how through dance, Katherine Dunham and Pearl Primus tried to convey political and social issues.

Both Dunham and Primus were famous international dancers. They performed on numerous world tours and began dance schools all over the world.

Both dancers created powerful pieces called "Southerland" and "Strange Fruit" to combat lynching and terrorism against African Americans. These choreographed pieces were vivid and soul-wrenching performances, which interpreted the ruthlessness of lynching at that time.

Dunham attended the University of Chicago and was often noted for being beautiful tall, lean and lovely in her dancing. She was very successful and was on the cover

See DANCE page A8



CAMPUS

Part I in a series on Undergraduate Trustee Candidates

Kareem Merrick Makes Bid for Trustee with "Activism"

MERRICK from A2

taion through enlightenment, collective interaction and application."

Merrick plans to broaden the students' awareness on a variety of issues so that they can be aware of the information that is available to them and make informative decisions.

The issues he will focus on include improving the welfare of the community as well as campus technology and safety. He also plans to tackle financial issues, including tuition, student fees, and the renovation of new buildings and old facilities.

Additionally, under his plat-

form Merrick plans to hold trustee forums every two months open to the entire student body to discuss student issues and concerns.

"This is the most important portion of my platform," Merrick said. "When dealing with such a large student body it is quintessential to remain visible as well as vocal regarding governing issues," he says.

Preparation for this position has come in the form of community service, political and business experience.

Merrick, a current Teach for America mentor has served as a Documentarian for the United States House of Representatives as well as an assistant in the

Democratic Cloakroom. In addition, he is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and has interacted with esteemed businessmen such as Magic Johnson and Earl Graves.

"I have the business awareness and speaking skills to interact with the various business leaders on the board," Merrick said. "I believe that I can articulate the objectives of the student body within the structure of the board meeting."

According to Merrick, the implementation of his slate begins immediately.

"I do not intend on beginning my duties as trustee when next year arrives," he says. "I want to hear the expectations of

my fellow Howardites now."

Focusing on long-term goals for the advancement of the University, Merrick emphasizes that he is a trustworthy candidate who is committed to sticking to the objectives, which he has set forth in his platform.

"I am not here to fill my resume with titles, be popular, or advance my name," he said. "I am here to represent every undergraduate student so that we can all say indefinitely that a positive step forward was made in 2003-2004."

Merrick said he will continue to remain an active student, irrespective of the outcome of the election.



Kareem Merrick is a candidate for the Undergraduate Trustee position.

Howard Students Angry over High Prices of Gasoline

GAS from A2

to the United States.

Oil workers are refusing to return to work until their demands for fair treatment, guaranteed job security and the resignation of President Chavez are met. They have even ignored a Supreme Court injunction ordering them to work until the court decides if the strikes are even legal.

Unfortunately, these strikes will probably continue because demands for an early presidential election before Chavez's seven-year term ends would require a change in the Venezuelan constitution. As a

result, the U.S. will not receive its regular shipments and gas prices will continue to increase.

With a variety of other financial obligations, this increase in gas prices has become a serious burden for student drivers.

Student commuters, who make up a large percentage of the campus population, are looking for more efficient ways to get to school on a daily basis. They are beginning to cut gas prices out of their weekly budgets.

Most commuters are trying to cope by relying on public transportation, cutting out unnecessary trips and charging people when they ask for rides.

The gas hike outrages sophomore Kim Williams, who drives



PHOTO COURTESY OF REYNOLDS GROUP.COM

a compact car.

"On a trip to the Exxon station the other day, which is usually where I purchase my gas, regular was being sold for

\$1.90," Williams said. "I had to go to another station because over time high prices like that can really hurt your pockets."

Since the increase, Williams has had to take almost ten extra dollars out of her expenses because instead of \$12, it now takes \$18 to fill up her tank.

Many Americans are calling for the Bush Administration to tap into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to solve this problem. However, according to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, the administration is not seriously considering releasing oil from the SPR.

Rashard Willingham, a junior architecture major, agrees that tapping into the SPR is not

necessary at this point, although he spends \$25 to \$30 a week to fill up his SUV. He argues that students need to change some of their traveling habits instead of calling on the government for help.

"It is not necessary to tap into the oil reserve, because the increase is explainable," Willingham said. "You never know if a more serious emergency such as war will occur so in the meantime, we just need to buy less gas and only go places we absolutely need to go."

However, Jim Jalbert, owner of C.J. Trailways, does not believe that the increase in gas prices will push people to drive less.

"If you had a three dollar per gallon gas price, there are probably some people that would look at other means of transportation," Jalbert said. "But for the most, people will still choose the single occupancy vehicle."

To reduce gas prices, an article entitled "How Gas Prices Work," suggests several things including: reducing breaking, using cruise control, driving slower, minimizing air conditioning use, removing extra weight, combining errands into one trip and relying more on car pools.

To report high priced gas at specific stations in the Metro Area, go to www.gasolineprices.com.

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02-0005



Observation Deck



'Dell Dude' on Marijuana Charges

(CNN)— Benjamin Curtis, better known as the "Dell Dude" from the computer company's television commercials, was released from jail Monday after being arrested on Manhattan's Lower East Side on suspicion of trying to buy marijuana. Curtis was arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court on Monday after being held in custody overnight.

He was released and the case was adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, meaning it will be dismissed and Curtis' record expunged if he stays out of trouble for the next year, said a spokesman for the Manhattan district attorney's office.

Curtis was arrested at 11:30 p.m. Sunday and charged with criminal possession of marijuana when an officer saw him making the purchase from Queens resident Omar Mendez, a police spokesman said.

Puncture might have caused Columbia Explosion

(CNN)— NASA engineers said they are convinced Columbia's left wheel well was punctured, allowing super heated gas to leak into the wing during the shuttle's last minutes of flight.

A preliminary analysis, made public Thursday afternoon, has determined that the temperature inside the wheel well was too hot for it to have been caused by one missing tile.

"There is no question that wheel well was breached," said a space shuttle program source. "But who knows how? Did it start there, or was this part of a domino effect?"

The super heated gases can reach temperatures approaching 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The inner wall of a shuttle wheel well is made of unprotected aluminum, which melts at about 1,220 degrees Fahrenheit.

NASA will continue its analysis while looking for scenarios to explain the puncture and show how the gas entered the wheel well or elsewhere in the wing.

Washington DC Backyard Lion, Tiger Causing Uproar

(AP)— In Tonasket, Washington, the first roar woke Dick Riddle at 1:14 a.m. Another jolted him awake at 2:28 a.m., and one more at 5:05 a.m.

"It'll make the hair on the back of your neck stand up," said Riddle, recalling the "gut-wrenching" sound and a sleepless night a week ago.

The noise was coming from

the yard of Riddle's neighbor, Stacey Storm, who keeps two big cats— Jonathan, a 600-pound African lion and Selena, a 500-pound Siberian tiger— in her yard.

Riddle has complained to the sheriff's office and the County Commission, and has testified at a House Judiciary Committee hearing last month in favor of a bill that would allow only trained professionals or certified institutions to own dangerous wild animals.

But Storm compares Jonathan's bellows to the barking of a dog. "It's not an annoying thing. He roars when he hears a stranger around," she said. And Selena only makes a growl, purring sound that doesn't carry across the valley, she said.

Last November, Okanogan County cited Storm for a noise ordinance violation. The county prosecutor wants her to pay a \$150 fine and keep the lion quiet for a year. But Storm said she won't do it.

US Cyber Security Plans Revealed

(BBC)— The United States Government has released a much-anticipated online security plan, outlining a national strategy to protect computer systems from possible cyber attacks.

The 76-page plan urges internet users and private companies to practice "safe computing" and develop greater coordination with government agencies. But unlike earlier drafts, which required the private sector to protect systems, the revised plan only states that the government should lead internet users by example.

Some experts have already criticized the new strategy as toothless, saying online security in the U.S. will remain dismal unless businesses make it an absolute priority.

\$50m Claim for 'Slack' Anthrax Security

(BBC)— The widow of a Florida man who died after inhaling anthrax has filed a \$50m compensation claim against the United States Government.

Robert Stevens died in October 2001 from pulmonary anthrax after inhaling spores of the deadly bacteria contained in a contaminated letter.

Lawyers representing his widow Maureen Stevens are blaming lax security at a Maryland army base for his death, even though it has not been proven that the anthrax was stolen from there.

Stevens worked as a photo editor at American Media Inc. — the first target of the anthrax attacks.

He was the first of five people killed in the nationwide anthrax outbreak, which infected 18 other people, shut down parts of Washington, D.C. and terrorized an already anxious American public in the wake of the 11 September attacks.

Seeing the Light

By Sean Jackman
Hilltop Staff Writer

It has become such a habit in our everyday lives; entering a dark room and switching on the 'lights.' Most of us don't even think about it anymore, it's like a reflex action.

Well, the light bulb may soon find itself in antique stores along with the gas lanterns they replaced almost a century ago.

Incandescent bulbs, neon tubes and fluorescent lamps are quickly finding themselves taking a back seat to light emitting chips.

Researchers have already begun to predict a rise in the domestic sale of the chips, which are known as Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), as early as 2007. But why are they so confident?

The LED has huge performance advantages, especially in mundane tasks. They consume 80 percent less electricity than they bulbs they replace. Light bulbs force electricity through a metal filament in a vacuum but only 6 percent of the energy is converted to light — whereas the chips are nearly 5 times as efficient.

Last July, when Kopin announced that they had a design that would cut the amount of voltage needed, battery-operated electronic manufacturers became very interested. The LEDs last much longer than traditional lighting sources, up to 10 times as long, and they don't unexpectedly burn out like their predecessor, but instead gradu-

ally fade out.

Buses, trucks and autos already contain LEDs within the brake lights. This is because the LEDs light up a fraction of a second faster than incandescent lights when the brakes are applied.

Studies have shown that for a car trailing at 65mph, this fraction of a second would give the driver 19 more seconds to react to the truckers' movements. They are also in use in outdoor signs and in lighting the contours of buildings like fast food restaurants, a market which was dominated by neon signs just a few years back.

Already, a third of the United States' traffic lights have started using these diodes as well, a smaller market yet significant in the rapid growth of the diode's use. There are many proposed uses for the chips in other daily activities.

"The ability to do things you couldn't do before is what will trigger mass adoption," said Michael Holt, president of Lumileds, a leading diode producer.

Architects and building designers would be able to mimic the variability of natural lighting as the day progresses, hopefully relieving some stress and improving people's mood.

From a gamer's perspective, the lights will enable dynamic coloration. Simply imagine the lights in the room shifting to correspond with the environment in the game.

"It's fantastic how much

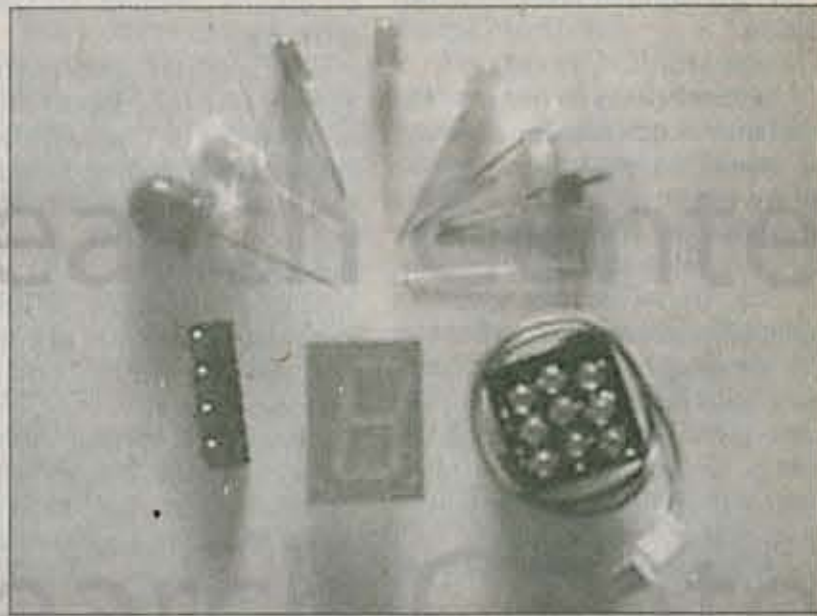


PHOTO COURTESY WWW.MICROELECT.COM

Different types of LEDs.

more immersive the game becomes," said Ian Davis, founder of Mad Doc Software, the company who designed this tool.

The chips are so small, they can be used almost anywhere, including night lighting on small devices such as cell phone keys.

The uses are virtually infinite; coordinate lighting effects with a theatre performance to add to the realism, alter color and brightness in health care facilities at appropriate times to help soothe residents or even use them as the back lighting in liquid crystal displays.

The multitude of uses is made possible by the fact that the 16.7 million or so colors generated by the chip can all be controlled by a computer. Programs simple enough to run on a hand-

held personal digital assistant can alter the intensity, pattern and colors produced by solid-state lights.

"LEDs are only limited by what we put in the computer," said Fred Oberkircher, director of the Center for Lighting Education at Texas Christian University.

This ease of mating the computer and the chips is a driving factor behind all the research, and the impatience to introduce this technology to the domestic market.

If these chips are able to improve their performance while decreasing their price in much the same fashion as the computer did, we may soon find ourselves trading in our light bulbs on eBay.

Airplanes Watching their Weight

By Ria Marie Davis
Hilltop Staff Writer

A heavier America is leading to growing concerns by the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) as to whether weightier baggage or passengers are causing possible overloading on small planes. The FAA's concerns for small-plane overloading, stems from the Jan. 8 crash of a US Airways Express twin-engine Beech 1900D at Charlotte, which killed 21 people.

To investigate its suspicions, the FAA will introduce this month a 30-day program that will study "U.S. registered planes carrying 10 to 19 passengers." The program is expected to examine the validity of governmental standards on weight estimates for passengers and baggage on small planes; a needed investigation— for estimates have not been updated since 1995.

Current FAA standards assume that "the average male passenger and one carry-on bag weighs 180 pounds in summer and 185 in winter because of the extra clothes, and that the average weight of checked baggage is 25 pounds and 30 pounds for international travel. Children ages 2 to 12 were also estimated to weigh 80 pounds in the winter and summer. But the accuracy of these figures is being questioned as it is believed that "Americans and their carry-on bags have gotten heavier, and also that checked bags often weigh more than 25 pounds."

Passenger weight on larger airplanes may essentially be of no consequence, but it constitutes "vital" knowledge for pilots and flight dispatchers of smaller planes. Even weight distribution on these smaller planes may lead to passengers' relocation to other seats, or even given the conditions, "passengers or cargo



PHOTO BY SEAN JACKMAN

The FAA has launched a program to investigate and update the estimates for weights of checked and carry-on luggage, especially on small planes, where overloading has been cited as the reason for numerous recent crashes.

and baggage may be left behind to prevent overweight conditions."

President of the Air Travelers Association David Stempler, believes that the agency will find these estimates to be extremely understated. "People go out with these roll bags that weigh 40 to 50 pounds."

The FAA announced plans to commence the program so as to investigate the possible causes of the Beech 1900D crash. An inspection of the elevators, "the flaps on the tail that move up and down and cause the plane to climb or dive," will be carried out on all Beech 1900 series planes, as "elevator malfunction, in addition to excess weight" is being looked at as a contributing factor to the Jan. 8 crash.

Louis C. Cusimano, Deputy Director of the FAA's Flight Standards Service said "the FAA still believes the weight estimates are valid but wants to conduct the survey to make sure."

The airlines can choose to ask some passengers their weight or to weigh each passenger individually on an approved scale. Carry-on bags and checked bags must also be weighed and the airline must also automatically add 10 pounds to any weight declared by a passenger. The FAA also said that "passengers who refuse to divulge their weights will also be barred from their flights."

All passengers will not be weighed in, as the survey will only be done for "30 percent of the routes between the cities served by small planes, and only

15 percent of the daily flights between those cities." FAA inspectors will also examine "aircraft cargo compartments and cargo restraint systems to determine if cargo and bags are being properly stowed and restrained from movement in flight."

Ron Wojner, Deputy Director of FAA's aircraft certification service, said, "Worldwide, 688 Beech 1900s are in operation and that nothing that turned up during the investigation of the Charlotte crash indicates the planes are dangerous... These aircrafts are safe," he continued, "We've had 20 years of safe operation."

The survey will affect passengers on about 200 Jetstream 31s, Metro 23s and Beech 1900s.



The NATO Deal

By Sean Jackman
Hilltop Staff Writer

Formed in 1949 to counter the threat of post-war Communist expansion as the Soviet Union sought to extend its influence in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) - is the world's most powerful regional defense alliance.

Its general aim is to "safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization" of its members by promoting "stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area". Members agree that an armed attack against one shall be considered an attack against them all, and that they will come to the aid of each other.

The alliance has been shaken up by disputes in the past, and has never failed to make swift decisions, despite the difficulty often involved. However, its 54-year existence, NATO is facing its most serious threat to date,

as internal bickering runs rampant.

When Turkey formally invoked NATO's mutual defense treaty to request alliance help on Feb. 10, the decision by France, Germany and Belgium to block the plans that will bolster Turkey's defenses in case of a war with Iraq threatens to damage NATO's future as a collective body.

Turkey is the only NATO member bordering Iraq and it is also the only Islamic member of NATO. The forces, mainly air defense units, would not be used directly in a possible war against Iraq but will instead be used to defend the Turkish territory and airspace in the advent of a retaliatory Iraqi strike.

The three nations opposing the move argue that sending NATO military equipment into Turkey imply that diplomatic efforts to disarm Iraq and avert war had already failed. They wish to stick to

the process that was agreed to at the Security Council.

President Bush confirmed that Turkey will be defended no matter what but also said, "I don't understand that decision. It affects the alliance in a negative way."

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the U.S. and other alliance members would proceed with planning "outside of NATO if necessary."

The Dutch have already said that they will ship Patriot anti-missile batteries to Turkey.

Amidst the controversy, the three nations have affirmed that they will honor their commitment if Turkey comes under any serious threat.

NATO spokesman Yves Brodeur said, "The issue here is not whether, it is when, that has not changed, it is still a timing issue. They still feel that the time is not right for NATO to make a deci-

sion."

With the third report from chief weapons inspector Hans Blix being handed in on Feb. 14, the alliance decided to consider the report before debating the issue. Meetings were cancelled on Feb. 13 and none were scheduled for the weekend after a series of emergency meetings left the alliance in a deadlock.

Said Brodeur on Thursday, "No progress could be made in the formal surroundings of a North Atlantic Council meeting, therefore, the meeting has been cancelled for today."

Jesse Peoples, senior electrical engineering major said, "Between NATO and the U.N. the U.S. is going to do what they want no matter what they [NATO and U.N.] say. We're the strongest single power in the world and probably have the largest effect in the outcome of any world organization."

Columbian Rebels Seize Americans

(BBC)— Colombian President Alvaro Uribe has said an American and a Colombian were shot in cold blood, after a light plane came down in an area controlled by left-wing FARC rebels.

The four Americans and one Colombian were all reportedly alive when their single-engine Cessna came down in the jungles of Caqueta province.

FARC rebels reached the survivors before local army units could find the plane, and killed the two "execution-style, in cold blood", according to General Jorge Enrique Mora, Colombia's senior military commander.

It is the first time during the four-decade Colombian civil war that an American working for the US Government has been killed by rebels.

The other three Americans have been taken hostage.

Water Stakes High In Malaysia

(BBC)— Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has pledged to supply water to neighbouring Singapore until "doomsday", but said the city state should pay more.

Mahathir said Malaysia would stop selling its untreated water when a water pact with Singapore ends in 2011, and instead wanted to offer filtered water at "a reasonable price".

Experts say the offer is likely to be rejected by Singapore, which currently buys about half of its water from Malaysia at low prices and has already developed plans to become



Observation
Deck

water sufficient.

The BBC's Jonathan Kent in Kuala Lumpur says relations between the two nations have been at a low ebb recently because of disputes over water supplies and also over a small island which both claim.

Secret Nazi Files

The Vatican is opening up archives documenting its relations with Nazi Germany amid accusations that the then Pope failed to speak out against the Holocaust.

The archive includes the office records of Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, the Vatican's ambassador to Berlin from 1939 to 1958, who went on to be pope during the war.

As Pope Pius XII, who led the Roman Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958, he has long been accused by Jewish groups of turning a blind eye as many Jews were marched off to concentration camps.

The archive is being opened on Saturday - but only to scholars by special appointment.

According to archive custodian Sergio Pagano, much of the material in the documents has already been published.

"More interesting material is due to be made available to historians in three years time," he told Italy's Corriere della Sera newspaper.

He added that delays in opening the archive were due to a "shortage of personnel, and not a desire to hide anything."

Polska!

By Jonathan Grannum
Hilltop Staff Writer

When many people think of Poland, the first thing that comes to mind is the capital Warsaw. Of course the mind immediately goes to what is known of how the country and city suffered during the second World War. Due to the movie, "The Pianist" which depicts the life of a Jewish pianist who survived the war while living in Warsaw, images can be added to that knowledge.

Yet, there is much more to experience in Poland than war memorials and memoirs of the holocaust. Poland is bordered by Russia, Lithuania, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany and the Baltic Sea.

Although Poland is mostly low-lying, its landscape is very varied and is famous for its lakes and rivers. In a total of 32,000 square km, there are 9300 lakes, the biggest of which is the Sniardwy, which is 12.9 square kilometers.

Poland is populated by roughly 38,644 million people whose ethnicity ranges from

Polish to German to Belarussian, with Polish dominating the mix by approximately 96 percent.

Their currency is called the zloty (gold) which equals 100 groszy and consists of banknotes and coins.

Poland has much to boast of in terms of contributions to the world sphere, as a number of their nationals have won Nobel Prizes including Marie Sklodowska-Curie in 1903 with her husband Pierre Curie in Physics, for discovering polonium and radium, as well as in 1911, in Chemistry, for her work on chemical and physical characteristics of polonium and radium.

If we wish to take an excursion to Poland however, it would be foolish of us not to embrace the longtime tradition of spas.

These spas, which offer visits with or without medical treatment, are located mainly in the south of the country in the Carpathian and Sudeten Mountains and on the Baltic Coast. A few of the most popular spas are Krynica, Zegiestow and Pwoniczna in Beskid, as



Map of Poland.

well as Konstancin near Warsaw, which is becoming a world famous rehabilitation center.

Even though these names may not mean anything to Americans, the curative properties of Polish spas have been known for a long time. People have traveled to the waters for health as well as for social reasons.

One of the oldest spas in Poland is Cieplce Zdroj and its records date back to the year 1281.

These spas regularly treat a variety of complaints including

rheumatic conditions, circulatory disorders, respiratory disorders, digestive tract complaints, gynecological problems and throat and skin diseases.

So when planning the next visit to the doctor or local specialist, consider making the vacation one motivated strictly by health reasons and visit one of the hidden pearls of Central Europe. Who knows what else may be discovered within the borders of this historically rich nation.

Some information for this article was taken from www.polandtour.org.

Worsening Famine in Africa

By Ria Marie Davis
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Zambian Government announced its plans to allocate 90,000 hectares (ha) of free land and capital to commercial farmers in order "to raise food production and attract new investment in farming."

The allocation comes in the wake of the severe drought which has led to "total crop failure" in the southern part of the country and which has left more than two million people in need of food.

Agriculture ministry officials said that each farmer will receive a 1,000 ha plot of land to grow products such as maize, fresh vegetables, fruit, flowers, coffee and tobacco.

However, Deputy Finance Minister Patrick Kalifungwa indicated that, "If an investor

wants 10,000 ha and can show that they have the capacity to till it, we shall give it to them. The idea is to ensure that we start putting all our land to proper use."

So why is it that the land in Zambia remains underutilized, given the country's arable soil, rivers and many other conditions which lend themselves to irrigation farming?

Besides the fact that most of the population is concentrated in urban areas, Agriculture Minister Mundia Sikatana said that the food shortages were a direct result of the farmers' laziness.

"We must feel ashamed. It's not the issue of the drought, it's ourselves. It is because we're not working hard," Sikatana said. "I have told my own people, we are lazy."

A senior government official

attested to the fact that white farmers were more diligent in utilizing the land. He said, "They have shown their commitment to land in other regions such as Zimbabwe, and we feel that Zambia could gain from their professionalism."

Officials said that the government was hopeful that Zimbabwe's white farmers, who had lost their lands to blacks under President Robert Mugabe's scheme, would show an interest in Zambia's proposal. Thus far, the response has been promising and "more than 130 Zimbabwean white farmers have bought land in Zambia, while others have leased land in Mozambique."

But drought is not the only reason, that more than 30 million Africans have frequently suffered "famine and widespread malnutrition," and have had to

rely on aid agencies for "supplying thousands of tons of food and seed across the region."

Most African countries lack self-sufficiency in food production, and as such are reliant on food imports and the "income to pay for them."

Additionally, other factors such as "armed conflict, corruption, the mismanagement of food supplies, environmental degradation, harmful agricultural trade policies and the long-term economic effects of AIDS," have played pivotal roles in creating these widespread food shortages.

To make matters worse, food reserves which have been providing famine relief for thousands of these starving Africans have now been exhausted, and people must now wait lengthy periods before they can get food from harvests.

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NEWS

President Swygert Honors Law Students Who Filed Brief

LAW from A1

focus point of this whole case-race."

Dean of Howard University School of Law, Kurt Schmoke, said that the writing and researching of the brief was an interdisciplinary effort on behalf of Howard's faculty and outside sources.

"One of the main focus points that the University brief touches on is that race conscious measures are constitutionally admissible to avoid discrimination," Schmoke said. "Another point made in the brief is that the University of Michigan is furthering the goals of the United States in having equality."

During the program, the four law students who spearheaded the writing of brief were presented with hard copies of the briefs. Patricia Broussard and Gwendolyn Roberts Majette, the two pro-

fessors who helped supervise the students, as well as Gregory Berry also received copies.

"I, along with my colleagues were overwhelmed with a sense of accomplishment when we received a hard copy of our brief on behalf the law students," Hillary Browne, one of the authors of the brief, said. "We were not expecting this, so it was a spectacular moment that I will remember for a lifetime."

Nadine Jones-Francis, a co-author of the brief said she felt that it was an honor and privilege to be included in Thursday's program.

The law students agreed that the University of Michigan case is a direct relation to the Brown vs. Board of Education case.

"The Michigan cases are Brown's last chance for survival," Francis said. "Statistics tell us that America's primary and secondary schools are as

segregated today as they were in 1954 when Brown first came down. White America has been running from the Brown mandate for the last 50 years."

Francis also said that diversity in schools of higher education is the last stop to schools becoming segregated once again.

Another topic during the program was the march in Washington to be held on the day of the hearings of the University of Michigan case.

There was a question in the audience on whether Howard would close for the event, but Swygert quickly dismissed that notion.

"During the million man march, Howard was a vital part of the march, but we did not close our facilities," Swygert said. "If we closed the university we would be saying that education is not important."

Robin Konrad, another

author of the student brief, said that the march is vital in making the world aware of the importance of the case.

"I think that this march is very important to make the public realize that this is an issue that will impact all people and an issue about which thousands of people care."

Francis said that the march is important because it shows the world that students care enough about the issues in this case to mobilize and organize around them.

"The march will be an act of solidarity," Francis said. "It will also show the Supreme Court justices — who, rumor has it, are aware of the upcoming march — that the decision they make will impact thousands of people."

The final day for filing briefs in the Supreme Court is February 18, 2003.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAW.HOWARD.EDU

Four students at the School of Law filed a brief to the Supreme Court defending affirmative action.

NEW!

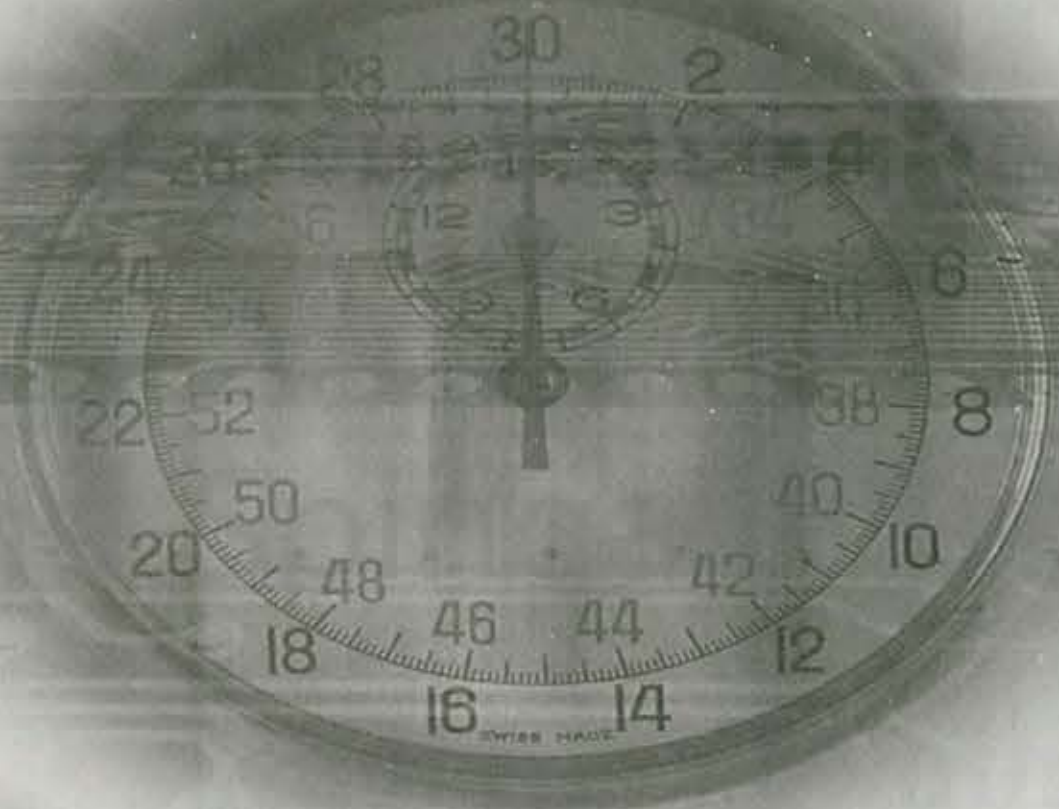
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NEWS

Some Majority Universities Abandon Minority Programs

PROGRAM from A1

grounds, out of "fear that the programs, which are under federal investigation, would not withstand a court challenge."

The Junior Summer Institute at Princeton University has temporarily 'amended' a program designed to encourage study at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International affairs. Originally designed for "applicants of color from historically underrepresented backgrounds," the program will follow MIT and be extended to include all races or be discarded altogether.

Princeton also hosts a Summer Research Experience offered by its Graduate School. Not yet updated, the website for the program announces a "nine-week summer research

experience for up to 20 American ethnic minority students from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education and on the faculties of American colleges and universities.

The purpose of the program is to motivate and prepare students of color to make competitive applications to research doctoral programs, with a view to completing the Ph.D. and then going on to teach and do creative research.

However, students who applied to this program received an electronic notification from program director, David N. Redman, saying "Princeton will not be admitting any students to the program for summer 2003. The program may be offered in a different form in subsequent summers."

According to the previously



PHOTO COURTESY OF JERICHAIRNES.COM

Princeton University is among a number of universities that cut programming for minorities.

cited Times article, the changes prompted by complaints from the mother of a white high

school student interested in one of the programs. Two conservative groups, the Center for Equal Opportunity and the American Civil Rights Institute, are asking for changes in MIT's programs.

Edward Blum, director of legal affairs at the American Civil Rights Institute cited Title VI of the civil rights code when speaking of the program as "completely racially exclusionary."

Title VI, a product of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, declares "it to be the policy of the United States that discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin shall not occur in connection with programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance." The effects of Title VI can be traced historically as the increased enrollment of Black Americans climbed dramatical-

ly in 1965.

Walter B. Hill, Howard University professor and archivist, said affirmative action has merit.

"If it were not for the initiation of the Civil Rights laws in 1965, in 1966 when I graduated from school I probably would have gone to a historically black university," Hill said. "The laws the government provided grants, assistance programs, and scholarships, allowing Blacks a greater selection of colleges to gain admittance to."

The Michigan case has ignited a debate about affirmative action. However, the Bush administration's stance on the case has continued countered by critics who stress the value of affirmative action.

-Information and some quotes compiled from Associated Press, New York Times and USA Today reports.

Black History Month's Relevance Questioned on Campus

BLACK from A2

Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. It has become merely a time when little kids learn about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

Renee York, sophomore physics major, argues the display of Black History Month at Howard is limited.

"I've seen Black History Month celebrated in so many different ways in various places," York said. "At home we attended museum exhibits, plays, and other functions.

Now that I'm here at Howard, all I see is 'I Have a Dream' posters of Martin Luther King."

According to history Ph.D. student Michael Firven, Black History Month has been reduced to "Black Personality Month."

"We always hear about the first person to do this and that but we never get how," Firven said. "Some of our richest history lies in the dark recesses."

Sophomore information systems and analysis major Wynnaea Ebron urges student to seek knowledge of black history outside the classroom.

"Attending a black institution like Howard, where many of the classes are by and about black people, a lot of students think they are doing their part by just attending these classes," Ebron said. "However, there is so much more to be learned about black history than what our professors teach us."

Mixon also maintains Black History Month is not long enough.

"Black History Month should be celebrated for more than 28 days a year. It should last all 365 days," she said. "Our rich history cannot be

expressed in one month."

Selwyn H. H. Carrington, Ph.D., a history professor agrees with Mixon.

"Black History Month should be all year long, not just one month," Carrington said. "Blacks have always been inhibited in history, why should we continue?"

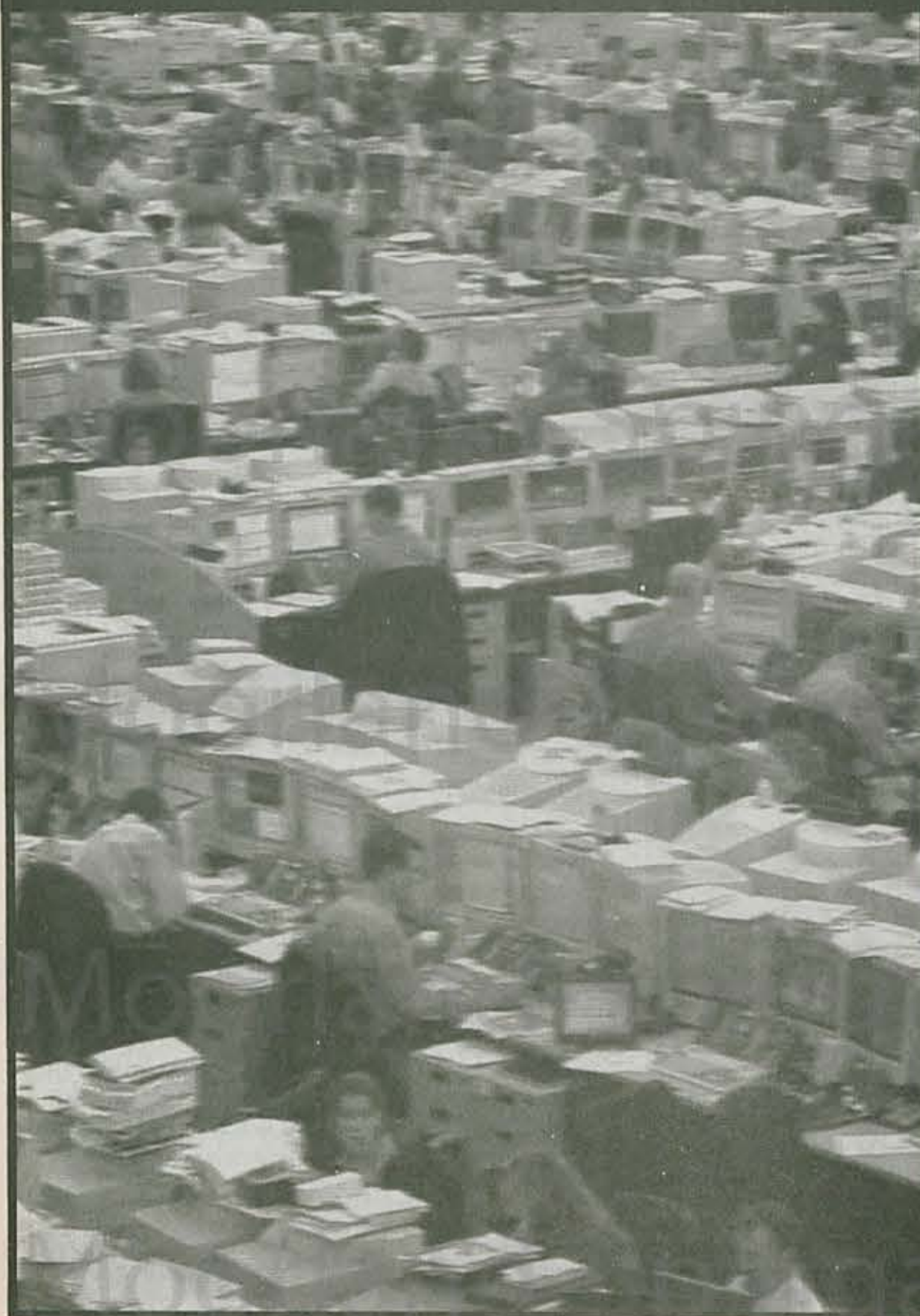
For more information on black history happenings this month, visit the Black History Month Campus Events page on the Howard Libraries website at <http://www.howard.edu/library/BHM2003/Events.htm>.



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- > Gain insight from bankers of all levels - Analysts to Managing Directors
- > Learn how to land a job in Investment Banking from Howard alumni
- > Opportunity to sign up for Resume Review / Office Hours

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- > One-on-one advice on how to prepare a top notch resume
- > Drop in to ask any industry or recruiting related questions
- > Sign-up for a time slot at our presentation on Feb. 11th or at the CC on Feb. 12th

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NEWS

History Department Features Black History Through Dance

DANCE from A2

of W.E.B. Dubois' "The Crisis" magazine in 1941.

Primus, born in Trinidad and raised in New York, was celebrated for her athleticism, strength and vibrant gyrations.

Foulkes said these women were depicted in different lights because of their skin complexion. Primus was always referred to as strong and wild, while a more fair-skinned Dunham was always associated with being beautiful and graceful. The contrast was obvious and often offensive to conscious readers.

Sophomore dance major, Rohiatou Siby found the impact of skin complexion hard to believe.

"The impact of complexion



IMAGE COURTESY OF ESSENCEART.COM

on how an artist is seen during that time was horrible," Siby said. "It was as if the media tried to place them against each other."

However, Siby was glad she attended the session because she wanted to find out more about two of the most influential African American dancers. Their legacies have opened the door for many forms of expression and inspiration in the art of dance.

"[Dance] is the highest way of expressing everything about who I am and life," Siby said.

Dance major Maria Harris said she could not imagine working toward anything else other than dance.

"Dance is my future and I'm just working towards it," Harris said.

She added that she has studied Primus, but this event allowed her to see dance can be political and how important is to incorporate activism into the art.

Kristin Reid, Public Relations Major, said she attended the dance forum at first for the extra credit, but is grateful for the knowledge gained.

"I was really good, it kept my attention," Reid said.

For more information on other Black History Month activities visit the Library web site at <http://www.howard.edu/library/BHM2003/Events.htm>.



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Checks? What Checks?

Students jump on the debit card bandwagon; fewer use checks than in the past

By Ashley Kelly
Hilltop Staff Writer

Electronic payment is on the rise among Americans. As a result of this, the Federal Reserve recently announced that it would close 13 of its 45 production sites. Students at Howard seem to be following this national trend, as many find using debit and credit cards more convenient.

The growth rate of debit cards has risen 18 percent from 1979 to 2000, which is higher than checks' growth rate in the same time period, which was at 1.2 percent. The Federal Reserve reports that this may be the result of banks accepting more debit cards.

Local D.C. banks said convenience drives them to push debit cards to their customers.

"We encourage them to use debit cards because it is more convenient than writing a check," said Doris Villatoros a bank teller at Bank of America.

Freshman biology major Nicole Perkins agrees with Villatoros in regard to the convenience of a debit card over writing a check.

"Using a debit card is faster and you can do more with it," said Perkins. "You can make purchases as well as withdraw money from the ATM," said Perkins.

Paul Connolly, the first vice president of the Federal Reserve of Boston, addressed the issue of the decline of checks in his New Year's message.

"During the past year...the

use of checks in the United States has begun to decline. Our best estimates are that the decline began in the mid-1990's, and continues at a rate of about 3 percent per year," he said. "We believe there were about 49 billion checks written in 1995 and about 42 billion in 2000."

In Connolly's message he draws young Americans in by saying that most of them have had more experience with using electronic payments versus writing checks.

"My guess is that this decline will accelerate as more electronic choices become available to American consumers and businesses, and younger people who never adopted check writing habits continue to enter adulthood," Connolly said.

It has not been determined if some Howard students do not write as many checks because they do not know how as Connolly suggests about young people, but what is more evident is the convenience some students feel because of using electronic payments.

Charles Siransy, a second year MBA student, said he uses debit cards because of the quick turnaround.

"I like using a debit card because you can draw the money directly from your account, unlike with a check which often takes 3 to 5 days and often a week for your money to clear," he said. "Often you forget about the check you wrote, leaving a \$20 check to grow into a \$50 one as a result of a \$30 overdraft fee."

Senior international business major Robyn Morrow sees checks as a way to keep up with her expenses.

"I like writing checks because they don't automatically take the money out of your account," she said. "If you don't have the money you can still make a purchase."

Businesses Turn Toward Trend of Online Dating

By Jennifer L. Williams
Hilltop Staff Writer

Becoming a player in the dating game is becoming as easy as clicking a computer mouse, due to the boom in online dating. Now more than ever, a person that is searching for Mr. or Mrs. Right has a myriad of seemingly-successful avenues at their disposal, due to the success of online dating companies such as Match.com.

Due to the fact that the neg-

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ative stigma attached with online dating is slowly deteriorating, more and more people are jumping online and getting hooked up on e-dates. However, where do African-Americans find themselves in the middle of the e-dating melee? Chiefly, are Howard University students partaking in the electronic courtship fever that has swept the nation?

"Dating online just seems like an unintelligent idea," states Shari Davis, a sophomore Legal Communications major. "You can never tell who is being truthful, and who is exaggerating about how they look and what they do."

Truly, the concerns about the integrity of the individuals one comes across using internet dating services are warranted, being as it may that the Internet is a forum where it is easy to receive questionable information. According to Market Media data, it is estimated that roughly 30 percent of the people using Internet dating services are married. Furthermore, even among



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORBIS.COM

As more Americans turn to the Internet to find love, more websites are popping up to fill the need. Websites like Match.com and Blackplanetlove.com are two such examples.

those users that are justifiably single, there still remains a small problem with lying.

However, even with these stats, the online dating industry continues to flourish. "I use online dating services because it is a fun way to meet new people,"

said Lauren Williams, a sophomore Broadcast Journalism major. "I can look at people's profiles and decide who I want to meet."

Many users of online services enjoy the freedom of screening individuals at their discretion, without having to go through tedious, routine conversations. Moreover, the online dating service takes the guesswork out of finding someone you might

enjoy by matching your profile with someone that has similar interests.

Other websites not specifically tailored to e-dating are jumping on the

bandwagon and cashing in on the online dating explosion. Blackplanet.com, a site many college students are familiar with, has successfully launched a dating site of their own, the aptly titled Blackplanetlove.com. Being as it may that Blackplanet.com is geared toward Black men and women, who already have access to a innumerable amount of detailed web pages, the hope is that a site tailored especially for dating will

match
LOGO COURTESY OF MATCH.COM

generate a bigger e-dating buzz in the African American community.

In a recent study found on Africana.com, it was discovered that 29 percent of African-Americans online between the ages of 18 to 35 have attempted to use an online dating site. However, the same study revealed the advent of a growing online gender gap: Black women are increasingly more likely to use the Internet than Black men. This means that, in terms of online dating options, Black men are provided with more options than Black women.

Like it or not, online dating is a promising dating channel that is sure to be around for a long time. Though opponents of online dating view the impersonal nature of e-dating as problematic, online dating users are eagerly using the available services to their advantage. Likewise, Howard students seem to be advocates of online dating, proclaiming ease of use as the main reason one would use an online dating site. Therefore, keep an open mind and you too, might find "computer love" of your own.

Window Shopping: Turning Artistic Vision Into Profit

By Ashley Kelly
Hilltop Staff Writer

Yolonda Vonn, a junior Fashion Merchandising major, is one of the few students at Howard who balances both books and having her own business.

Vonn started her own visual merchandising and store planning business while taking a class called visual merchandising and display two years ago. During this class, Vonn learned how to design different types of displays for companies.

Although the techniques of the class fascinated Vonn, the final project is what became the motivating factor in her starting her own business. Vonn was assigned to design the display window of a local business. Her teacher assigned her to Phoenix, an apparel store in Georgetown that Vonn described as carrying upscale yet creative clothing.

After she completed the project, the reaction of satisfaction the owner of the store expressed encouraged her to continue designing store windows. From this experience, Designs By Yolonda was born this past October.

Vonn loves her business, but says that she enjoys some aspects more than others. She loves creating attractive displays, but doesn't like advertising to promote them as much.

"Getting customers is hard sometimes because I have to walk store to store in order to get clients and advertising is not my strength," said Vonn.

She set up a web site to reduce the amount of time she spends walking from door to door. She also hopes she can use

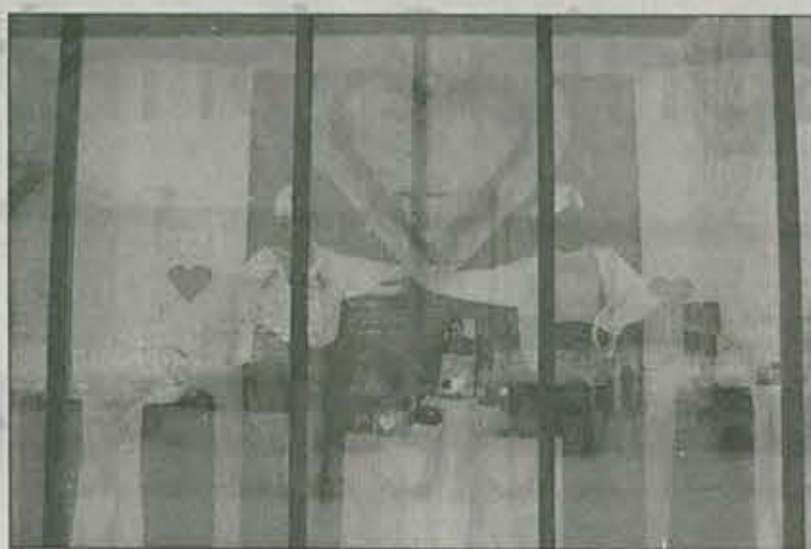


PHOTO BY MARYANN JAMES

Vonn's Valentine's Day display at the Howard Bookstore is just one of the many designs she has created for area shop windows.

the website to convince store-owners to hire her to design their storefronts.

Vonn says her web site (<http://www.geocities.com/windowsbyyolonda>) will display her various window designs and will be set up in a week or so.

"It is easier selling a product when people can see it compared to telling them about it," said Vonn.

The February window display in the window of the Howard bookstore was one of Vonn's own. Vonn said she charges different prices for her displays, but a project the size of the bookstore usually runs between \$100 and \$200.

"When I have to make things to go with the display or, for example, sew drapes, I have to charge more because it takes more time," said Vonn. Most of Vonn's prices are lower than \$200.

She said designing windows the size of the bookstore takes

about three days.

"I like going back and looking at it [the display] after I finish, which usually allows me to go back and make any changes," said Vonn.

Vonn's business not only creates creative customer-catching windows, but also does in-store displays, store planning, merchandising, and fixture sourcing, which is finding specific items for the store which help promote and sell the store merchandise.

Designs By Yolonda also offers store branding. Vonn said store branding is creating a logo or slogan for a business that allows the customer to automatically recognize the business.

Vonn's future plans include starting a design firm and going on to graduate school to learn how to design furniture.

"I like what I do," Vonn said. "It's good when you have a job that speaks to you."

Black Pioneers in Business: Third in a Series of Four

Trailblazer Maggie Lena Walker

By Venus B. Taylor
Contributing Writer

Born July 15, 1867 to former slaves, Maggie Lena Walker grew to become the first female president of a bank in the United States.

Walker gained her first business experience at a very early age. When her father died, she assisted her mother in running the family's laundry business.

After graduating from Armstrong Normal School in 1883, Walker began teaching at the Lancaster school. She taught



PHOTO COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.JA.ORG

By the time Walker died in 1934, she had acquired all of Richmond's black-owned banks.

there for several years before taking the position of executive secretary-treasurer at the Independent Order of St. Luke (IOSL) in 1889.

Walker had been a member of this charity organization since the age of 14. Because IOSL was struggling financially at the time, she volunteered to receive

a reduced salary at \$8 a month.

Three years later, Walker began publishing a newsletter entitled the St. Luke Herald. Its purpose was to inform the public of the order's activities and mission.

In 1903, Walker became the first female of any race to own a bank in the United States. She opened the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank. It was one of the few financial institutions of the time to make loans to African Americans. The Penny Savings Bank helped purchase 600 homes within 18 years.

By 1924, Maggie Lena Walker had not only helped IOSL out of debt, but had also helped the order to obtain assets of approximately \$400,000.

Walker created The Richmond Council of Colored Women in 1912. They fundraised for philanthropic efforts such as the Janie Porter Barrett's Virginia Industrial School for Colored Girls. She also helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter in Richmond, Virginia.

Walker's bank acquired all of Richmond's black-owned banks in 1929. Its new name was the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company. Walker was the board's chairman.

She was also a member of the National Urban League, the International Council of Women of the Darker Races, the National Association of Wage Earners, and the Virginia Interracial Committee.

Walker accomplished all of this in spite of much personal

adversity. Of her three sons, the first one died as a baby. She fell



PHOTO COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.WEB.COM

An early portrait of Walker.

off of her home's front porch in 1907 and damaged nerves and tendons in both knees. They gave her major problems for the rest of her life. In 1915 her son Russell mistook his father for a burglar and fatally shot him. Traumatized by the incident, Russell died two years later. Walker had lost her husband and two sons.

Walker was confined to a wheelchair because of diabetes by 1928. She died in Richmond, Virginia on December 15, 1934 from "diabetes gangrene." The Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site in Richmond is the home in which her family lived from 1904 to 1934.

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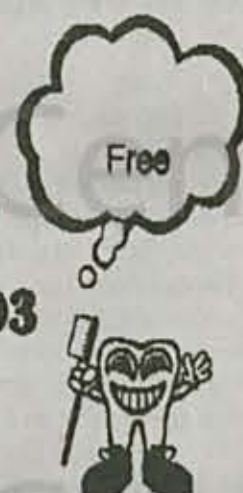
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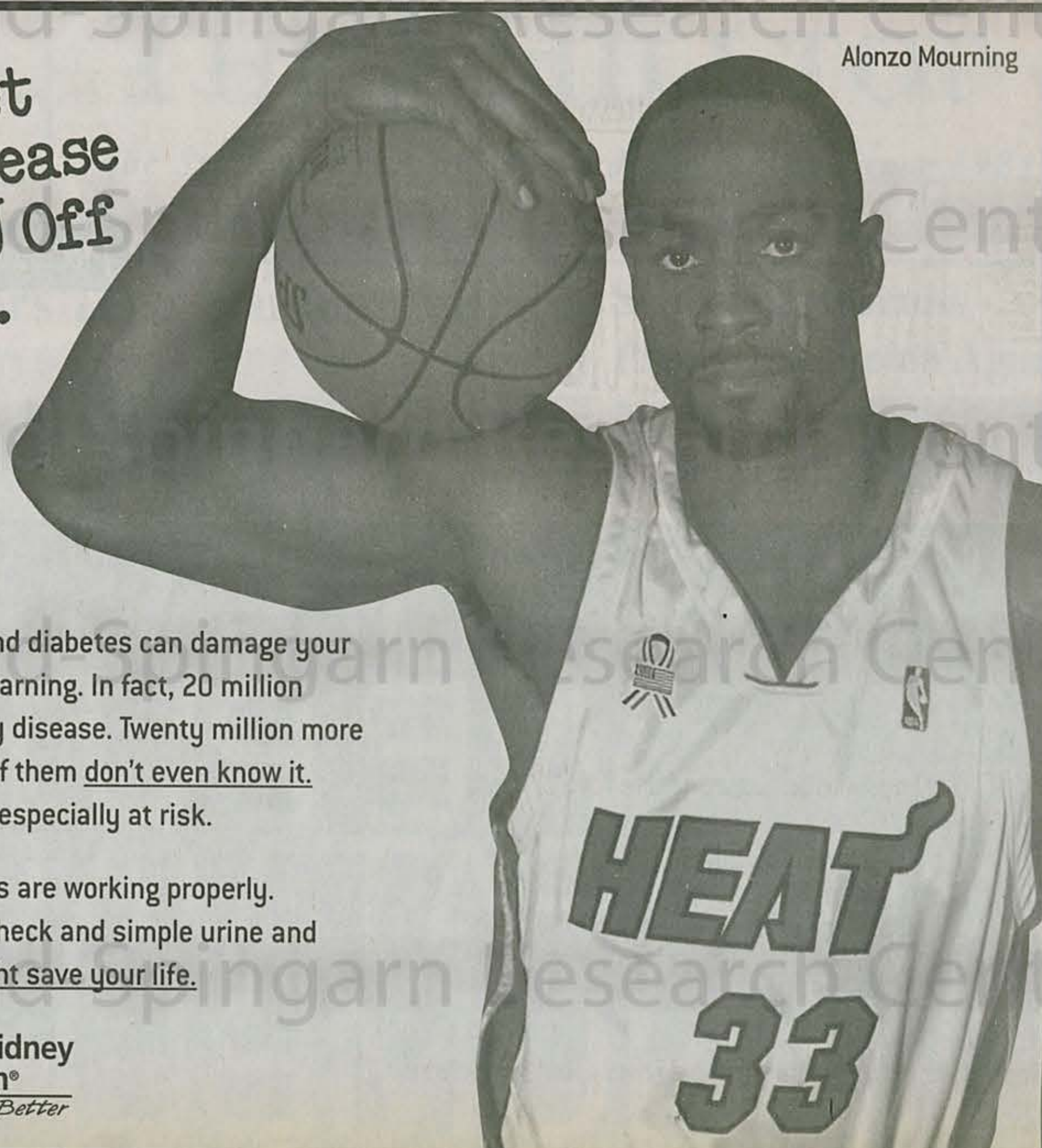
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D'Mello Uses Life Experiences for Debut Album 'Best Love Story'

By Alysha Cobb
Life & Style Editor

When D'Mello sings, her lyrics are driven by a voice filled with the emotions of old-fashioned love, heartbreak, and determination all at once. On her Warner Bros. debut album, "Best Love Story," D'Mello puts her best foot forward as she takes the art of storytelling to a new level.

This newcomer is not your average run of the mill R&B diva – In a market saturated by commercial artists more concerned with rocking designer gear and pushing the latest car, D'Mello is only concerned about the success of her album and her future as an R&B superstar.

Born and raised in Phoenix Park, a small province of Trinidad, D'Mello grew up listening to the music of her homeland – Calypso and Reggae. However it was the American phenoms Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, and Patti LaBelle who inspired this rising star to pursue her singing career.

"The very first time I heard Mariah Carey's song Vision of Love I knew there was no other path for me than to song. I just knew what I had to do," D'Mello said.

Born Winsome Singh, the 20-year-old reflects on a time long ago, when she began on her long path to stardom. When she was just four-years-old she used to strut through her house sporting her favorite outfits and a pair of headphones, singing along with her favorite tunes.

Already comfortable on what had become her natural path, D'Mello began singing in her high school choir, performing in whatever musi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNERBROS.COM

Songstress D'Mello's latest album plays out like a romance novel, each song a chapter in the story. Her album is entitled "Best Love Story."

cals she could get her hands on. She also attributes her drive to the experiences she had singing in her church choir.

While performing in high school, D'Mello fell in love with a new genre of music when she discovered the aria "Waltz Without End."

"I was drawn in by the nuances

and mood of the music," said D'Mello. "It was so different and a new way to develop my voice."

At the tender age of 15, this young star packed up and relocated to New York City's Coney Island, leaving behind all she knew to pursue her dream of landing a recording contract. She immediately began working

part time in retail, joined a local choir, and spent a bulk of her time writing.

"I wasn't going to waste precious time waiting for something to be handed to me. I was determined to get to where I am today so I surrounded myself with positive people, I began to form relationships and

contacts – I was not about to be given the runaround so I started paying my dues early."

And her method for success definitely paid off – soon after she began writing her own material D'Mello hooked up with music industry veteran Andrew "Dice" Ramdhanny. With friend and writing partner Adeka Stupart by her side, D'Mello has woven together a finely crafted storybook that explores the ups, downs, ins, and outs of relationships.

"This album is a reflection of the woman I have evolved into, it's about where I am right now – definitely a little soul with a twist."

The album plays out like a romance novel, featuring a collection of songs that read like chapters – each one is different in its approach to love and life but like a well-written novel, they are perfectly pieced together.

The first single titled "Best Love Story" couples D'Mello's sultry and powerful voice with the raw lyrics of the dynamic duo Mob Deep. The songstress' favorite ballad however is "Honey Baby."

"It's rare that you hear a song that praises good relationships and that is what this track does," D'Mello said.

According to D'Mello, there is lots more where that came from. With her album now in rotation she is already earning the approval of DJs around the country.

"I want my music to touch the souls of my listeners – that is what good music does," D'Mello said.

With an already promising CD, keep room on the shelf for part 2, because this love story is far from over.

Daisy: For the Creative, Expensive Shopper in You

By Ebony Simpson
Contributing Writer

Daisy is a perfectly packaged store, but it lacks the substance that keeps a faithful shopper coming back for more. It transports young ladies back to a time when it was fashionable to wear pink hair bows and doodle your boyfriends' name all over your notebook.

The store's color scheme relies heavily on soft pinks and blues with a pale green covering the walls. A ceiling fan gives the store a country coastal flair, making the intimate space feel airy. The dressing rooms offer the

minimum amount of space needed for an average sized woman to try on clothes comfortably.

The boyfriend bench, situated next to the entrance, is a cute and vital addition to the store. It showcases whimsical artwork and is big enough to seat four small boyfriends. The other sitting area in the middle of the store, most likely the girlfriend bench, is appropriately supplied with a bowl of dark Hershey chocolates.

Daisy also features whimsical paintings of prom dresses with captions below that read "Who wants a spanking?" and "Cool as a

Cucumber," each priced at \$30. The vibe in the store is friendly and stress-free and according to the salesperson, that's exactly what the owners were shooting for.

Storeowners Andrea Paro and Fabiana Mesquita opened Daisy in Adams Morgan two years ago and recently opened a Daisy Too in Bethesda, Md.

Daisy features designs by Diane Von Furstenberg, Miss Sixty, Paper Denim cloth and Theory. Prices range from \$100- \$350 for dresses, shirts tend to be around \$70, and pants \$110, surely out of the average college student's price range. The prices as

well as clothes are geared toward young urban professionals.

But wait; there are regular sales during the transition from one season to another. The sales discount was an alarming 75 percent, but with most prices starting at \$180, prices may still be out of reach. With the exception of a couple of summer shirts to be found at a \$45 sales price, there weren't many affordable items.

One particular customer, who fussed around for about 30 minutes and left with nothing in hand, described the clothes as eclectic with a cape cod feel. She liked the

clothes but said the designers, not Daisy, are overpricing. The styles were lightweight, feminine, and very flattering on waif figures.

Disappointingly, there was nothing particularly unique or fresh. The wrap-around style dress was in excess and peasant style shirts were in surplus. Most of these designs could easily be found in any high-end department store at roughly the same price.

Daisy is for the urban professional, what a stylist is for a celebrity. Daisy scours the high-end department stores, finds the best designs and brings them together in

one place, saving the urban professional much needed time.

The store also features hair accessories, watches, belts, handbags and jewelry adorned with stones, beads and crystals. Prices range from \$15-\$30 for jewelry and hair accessories, \$30- \$45 for belts, \$50-\$100 for handbags and the watches are \$110.

By making hot designs easily accessible, Daisy is a perfect place for those who love to dress stylish without going on a frantic search through a department store.

You've Got Fashion: Internet Shopping

By Jennifer L. Williams
Hilltop Staff Writer

On Howard's campus, you are prone to see a variety of different people wearing a variation of the same outfit. Too often, someone buys an outfit that they believe is original, only to have their clone stroll across the yard. What can one do? Shopping on the internet is an option that allows for a greater range of fashion exclusivity.

Internet sites such as Bluefly, Ebay, Verzzano, Gojane and Dr Jays are all places one can find a variety of clothing that does not look like apparel straight out of a chain store.

Why shop online? To begin, online shopping is both a convenient and quick way to search for clothing, footwear and accessories. "I shop online because it gives me a way to find items I like without having to walk into a store," states Wajoli Ward, a sophomore human development major. Moreover, shopping online takes a minimal amount of time; an item of



your choosing can easily be located without having to search intensely for it.

Bluefly.com is an internet site that offers fine clothing, and accessories for men and women at discount prices.

Bluefly.com specializes in designer clothing from Michael Kors, Tahari, A.B.S, Fendi, Prada, Calvin Klein, BCBG, Dolce and Gabbanna, Diesel, and limitless other designers. The site also fea-

tures clothing from quirky, less-known designers such as Clique and Desmo. Since the Bluefly.com site is neatly organized and has easy to follow instructions, one can peruse the site with relative



PHOTO COURTESY OF VILLAGEHATSHOP.COM

ease and swiftly find an item of their choice.

Ebay.com is a favorite among many Howard students. "Shopping on Ebay is extremely convenient, and I find a lot of different items online," states Tiffany Osbourne, a sophomore fashion merchandising major. Ebay is a superior site because it houses an enormous amount of fashion items for guys and girls. However, unlike any of the other sites featured, one has to bid on an item they wish to purchase, as Ebay is an auction site. In order to buy an item, one must

bid on it, and if you have placed the highest bid, you receive the item. Ebay offers an extensive amount of clothing, shoes and accessories to choose from. However, one catch is that Ebay auctions clothing that may have been used, so use caution when bidding.

Verzzano.com is a site that caters exclusively to selling women's intimate apparel and accessories. One can choose from an assortment of bras, corsets, lace bustiers, and the like, all moderately priced. In

See FASHION page B3

LIFE & STYLE

'Daredevil' Tries Hard, Falls Flat

By Daniel Hamamura
Daily Trojan

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES - Besides the "Superman" and "Batman" franchises, the more recent successes of "X-Men" and "Spider-Man" have proven that comic-book-to-film adaptations aren't just for comic fans. The latest property to try its luck is Marvel Comics' "Daredevil."

With an interesting hero, a top-notch cast and passionate director, it seems that nothing could go wrong, right? Unfortunately, "Daredevil" comes off flat and uninspired, rather than exciting and interesting.

For those who haven't read the comic, "Daredevil" follows Matt Murdock (Ben Affleck), a blind man who works for justice during the day as an attorney and at night as a superhero. Murdock lost his sight when he was 10 years old in an accident. When he awoke, however, he found that he could still "see" through the sound waves that his now-superhuman hearing picked up. "Daredevil's" fight takes place primarily in Hell's Kitchen, which is controlled by the evil Kingpin (Michael Clarke Duncan).

As Murdock attempts to free his town of the Kingpin's influence, he also crosses



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME.AUSTIN.RR.COM

Daredevil tops weekend box office charts grossing \$43,500,000 but receives last luster reviews from critics

paths with another vigilante, Elektra (Jennifer Garner) and the Kingpin's hired assassin, Bullseye (Colin Farrell).

There's a lot to like about "Daredevil," however, despite its problems. The fight choreography of Cheung-Yan Yuen is well crafted, showing off the skill, energy and creativity of Hong Kong cinematic stunts. The actors were well cast, as Affleck and company put together good, if not great performances throughout. In particular, Farrell steals the spotlight every time he's on screen. Playing up a one-dimensional villain to perfection, Farrell looks like he's genuinely having fun, and it fits Bullseye perfectly.

Also, the sequences between "Daredevil" and Elektra are nice, for the most part. Affleck and Garner have good on-screen chemistry and brought the romantic

angle to the story without seeming too out of place or pointless. Finally, director Mark Steven Johnson's work shows that he really cares about "Daredevil" -- both as a movie and a comic. His passion comes through as he focuses the story on Murdock, rather than taking the approach of splitting the character development between the hero and the villain.

This approach is, however, the biggest problem with the film. Because the movie focuses so much on Daredevil, there is not enough attention paid to the supporting cast. The lack of development for Elektra, Kingpin and Bullseye's characters not only takes away the back story of three genuinely

See DARE page B3



PHOTO COURTESY OF FILMFORCE.IGN.COM

Colin Farrell stars along side Ben Affleck in Daredevil

Game Review: Devil May Cry II

By Temi Adebambo
The Maneater

(U-WIRE) COLUMBIA, Mo. - In the realm of gaming, people have come to expect many things. One of those expectations is the sequel never seems to live up to the original. Capcom has always been notorious for delivering what fans of original games loved so much -- usually in larger quantities -- without changing much of what made the original so damn good.

After the huge success of the PlayStation2 hit "Devil May Cry," Capcom decided to make a sequel, which was released last month. "Devil May Cry 2" comes on two DVDs -- one tells the story of the game from the perspective of Dante, the main character from the first game. The other shows the perspective of Lucia, the newest character in the "Devil May Cry" universe.

Both stories end just about the same way, they just have different encounters throughout. Some levels are similar, but the two quests are different enough to be worth playing.

However, the game's story is largely a throw-away,

reducing the release to a simple action game. This isn't a bad thing, though, because the first "Devil May Cry" had a pretty uninspired story as well.

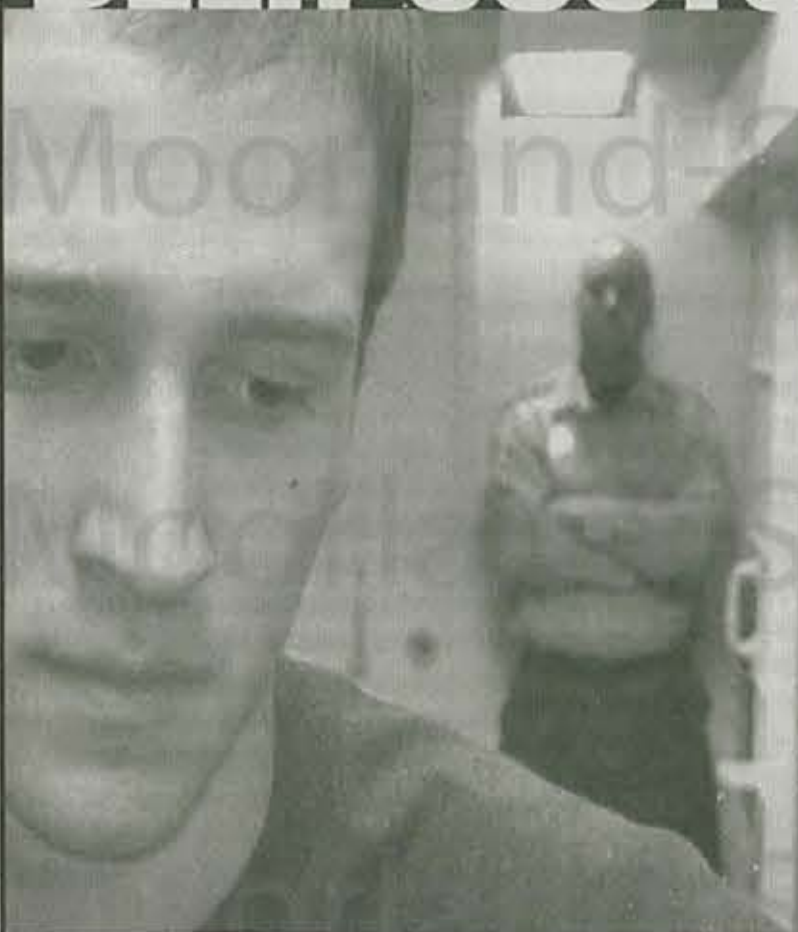
However, there's no doubt the original is better than the sequel. Almost all the improvements made in "Devil May Cry 2" have an adverse effect on the game. For example, the environments are vast, but at the expense of the graphical detail and personality found in the first edition. There is no doubt the game has quality graphics, but it is still not perfect.

"Devil May Cry 2" is an easy game for the most part. The original was set at a perfect difficulty level. It let your skills build up as the enemies got tougher. If you weren't skilled enough, the game opened up an easier mode to help you through.

But the original "Devil May Cry" was also able to straddle the fine line between hard and fun, creating a challenging and enjoyable game you felt accomplished in beating, even on normal setting. Normal on the sequel is too

See CRY page B3

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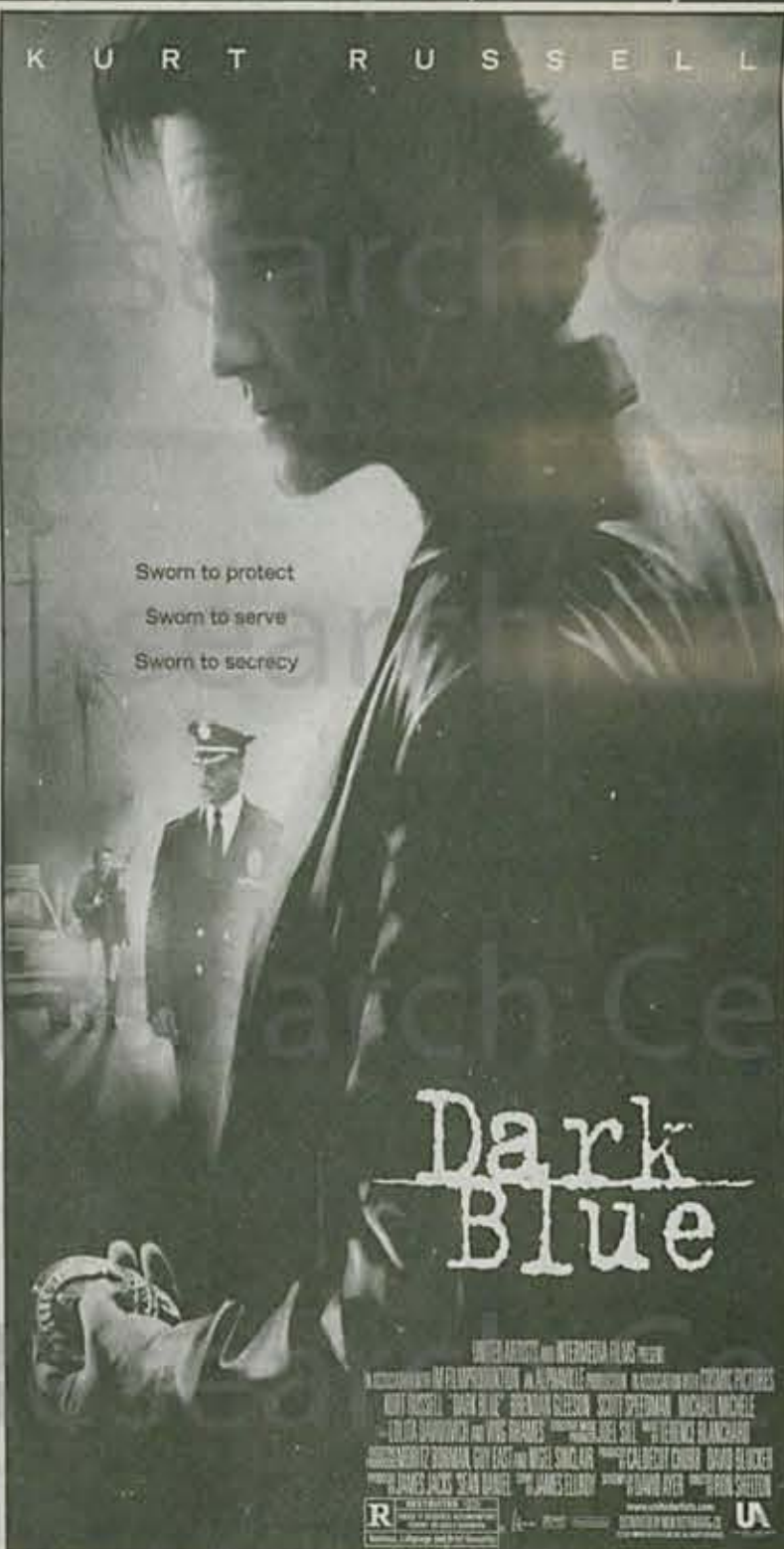
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OPENS IN THEATRES FEBRUARY 21

LIFE & STYLE

Daredevil the Movie Bottoms Out With Fans

DARE from B2

interesting characters but also means that Daredevil has to carry the story by himself. The problem here is that Johnson attempted to show too much development of Murdock, as he goes through several rushed metamorphoses rather than one or two

well-developed ones. With less Daredevil and more about the supporting characters, the story could have been much more interesting. The other significant problem with the movie lies in the action sequences. Most of the sequences are far too dark, almost to the point of making the images unrecog-

nizable. Although the original goal was to make the film feel gritty and more "real," many sequences simply come off as unclear. This is inexcusable because the darkness masks the creative stunt choreography. Johnson proves that in almost every fight sequence, he doesn't know how to film

Hong Kong-style action, choosing to push the camera in and cut quickly rather than letting the camera sit back and take in the sequences fully. Hong Kong-fight choreography has sometimes been compared to an complex dance; instead of showing the beauty of the entire dance, "Daredevil" chooses to direct

the audience's attention by showing only portions and hiding the rest of the dance from the screen. While "Daredevil" had its moments, these were few and far between. For every cool and stylish sequence, there is another that is too slow or too dim. For every good fight scene, there is one that is

almost impossible to decipher. And for every layer of character development the filmmakers reveal about Matt Murdock, there's less for the supporting characters. While there was a lot to like about "Daredevil," ultimately it falls short both of expectations and its potential.

Internet Shopping Zone

FASHION from B1

addition, intricate and delicate dresses and gowns are available at this site. Additionally, Verzzano offers the added perk of free shipping to its customers. Gojane.com is a site that is full of original and imaginative, as well as affordable, fashion items for women. The site is full of standard clothing, such as jeans and sweaters, but it also offers distinctive, glamorous evening-wear and accessories at prices

that are sure not to break the bank. Drjays.com is also a superb website that offers the newest styles for women from hot brands such as Puma, Triple 5 Soul, Flame by Johnny Blaze, J.Lo, Baby Phat, and various other designers. For men, the site offers various clothing from Enyce, Phat Farm, Polo, Ecko, and numerous others. Because of its uncluttered layout and easy point and click selection process, this site is both easy to navigate and effortless to buy from.

Shopping online is definitely growing in popularity, especially among Howard University students. In terms of ease, there is nothing easier than pointing and clicking on a specific item of your choosing. In addition, with benefits such as no shipping and handling charges and gifts, shopping online is, at times, cheaper than purchasing clothing in a store. So, give individuality a shot and let your fingers do the walking on a computer near you! (Unless, of course, you enjoy looking like everyone else.)

'Devil May Cry' II Disappoints



The game Devil May Cry II diapioints fans as the first edition set a huge precedence for gamers.

CRY from B2

easy. The best part of the game is the crisp and accurate controls. The characters have some slick new moves. Dante can now double jump, run

along walls, jump and fire straight down and roll out of harm's way.

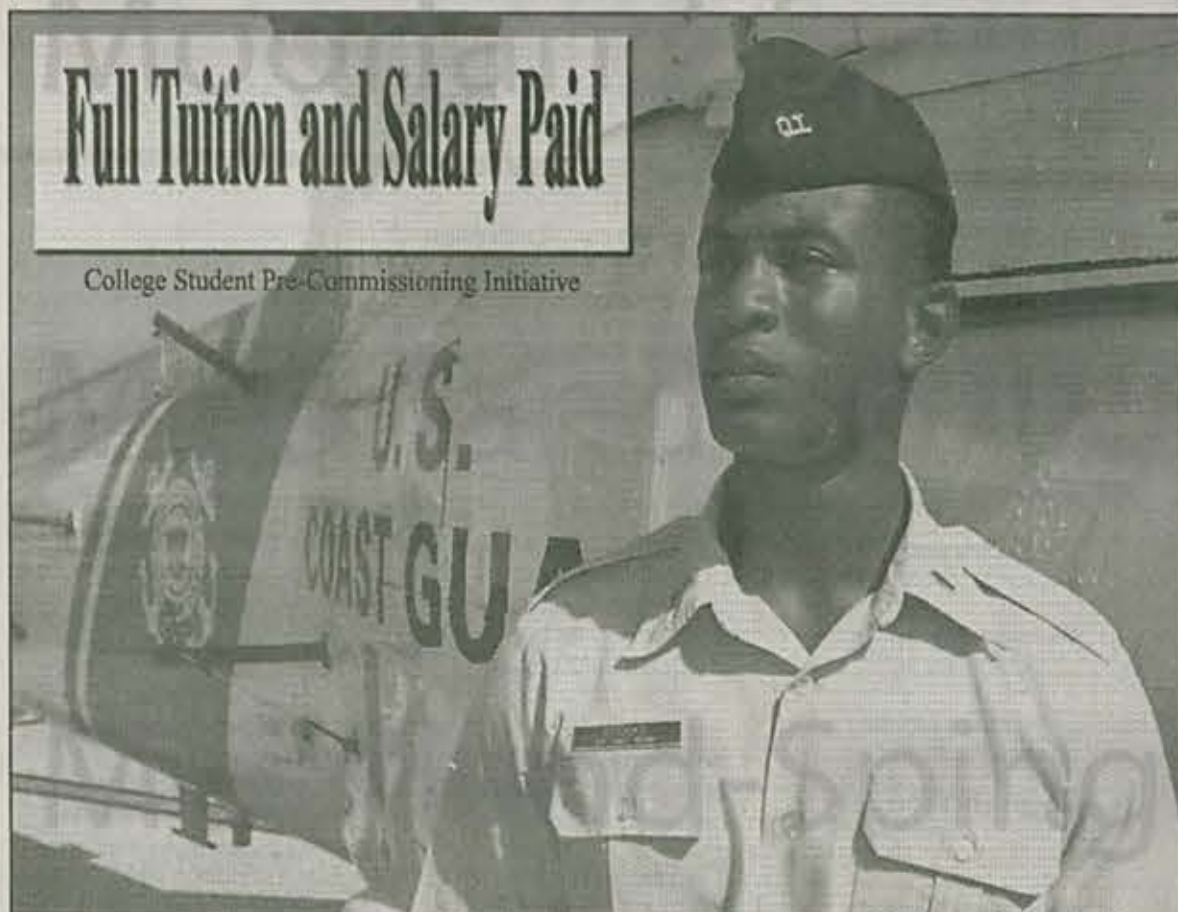
All the moves make him look like a complete badass, and they add to the flair of the original. Control is just as tight as the first, so pulling off every move is smooth as silk. This

makes the game fun and exciting to play. "Devil May Cry 2" might disappoint high expectations of fans of the original, but it's still a good action game with lots of fun in it. And it is definitely worth playing.

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GRAPHIC BY LAUREN BAYNE ANDERSON

We Need To Fight For Frenchie

Over the past week, people across the nation have expressed their outrage over the dismissal of Frenchie Davis from "American Idol." There is even a website that has been established solely for this reason — www.savefrenchie.com.

Frenchie was unjustly kicked off the hit Fox television show for having posed for an adult website four years ago.

Many people may argue that this is fair because the ideal "American Idol" should not have such a past. This may or may not be true, but if the flawless past of the "American Idol" is a standard the producers wish to be upheld, then that is something that needs to be maintained across the board.

What are we talking about? Well, one of last year's finalists, Nikkie McKibbin, is a former stripper who ended up being one

of the final four contestants on the show. Why then, were such drastic measures taken against Frenchie, who was hands down one of the most talented contestants on the show?

Sadly, we believe the answer is racism. Think about it. Was

Subtle racism is one of the worst types of racism and we should not let it go by unnoticed simply because it is not blatant.

Forget that she has the voice, the ambition, the presence, and the style to compete with any traditionally All-American girl. The producers of the show were only concerned with something that happened four years ago in her life — something that she informed them about from the beginning.

This brings us to the moral issue that occurs here. Why would they allow her to advance in the competition knowing that she would be kicked off because of her association with the website? Our theory is that they didn't expect her to go as far as she did and they had to end it before America got a chance to vote her in based on her impeccable talent.

Our View:

We believe that the dismissal of Frenchie was race-related.

America prepared to have a strong Black woman — full figured and flashy — as their "American Idol?"

Though we will likely never hear it stated, the producers of the show did not envision their "Idol" as Frenchie Davis.

NAACP Is Recognized by UN

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has served as a leading force in the struggle of African-Americans for decades. Now, the NAACP is expanding its mission to include international concerns.

Here's the deal: The NAACP will not only be recognized by the United Nations as a "non-governmental organization," but the historically significant organization will have special "consultative status" with the UN Economic and Social Council.

Needless to say, this is one giant leap for blacks. The NAACP will be able to propose agenda items and make presentations relevant at UN meetings. Though the UN has been involved in international affairs before, its place as a rec-

ognized world leader has now been solidified.

It is encouraging to see the NAACP take on a more international agenda, and realize that the advancement of colored people is a tremendous issue that exceeds the boundaries of the United States. Frankly,

bringing black issues to the forefront, fighting for the economic, social, and political empowerment of blacks, and being a leader in legal movements throughout history are attributes that the world needs now more than ever.

Moreover, the NAACP will be able to have a broader focus. As it has been in the past, the organization will be able to assist in issues of human rights as a whole.

As black people, and specifically as Howard University students, it is our goal to provide leadership for America and the global community. In its successful attempt to be recognized by the United Nations, the NAACP has set a glowing example of doing just that. With black leadership at the pinnacle of government, we hope that our voice will now be heard in

Our View:

We are proud that the NAACP has been recognized as an organization for world leadership.

there is more to be concerned with regarding our people when you take a look outside of America — such as the AIDS epidemic in Africa. The services that the NAACP provides in

School Politics are Serious!

If you have been keeping up with campaigning, speak outs, and Hilltop coverage of school elections lately, then you know there have been some questionable things going on. To name a few, Paris Pickett dropped out of the race for Undergraduate Trustee because it didn't fit into her grand scheme of things, and Christian Dorsey is no longer a candidate for HUSA president because his GPA is below 2.0.

These things lead us to believe that it is necessary to tell our fellow Howard University students of the gravity of school elections. This is not something you do just to put on your resume, or to get into other organizations. Running for a student government or leader-

ship position is serious. It is something that should be done for no other reason than you having a desire to make positive

ship position when your grades are not up to par? One of the most important aspects of leadership is to lead by example. If you do not have your current priorities in order, it is not wise to want to take on another time-consuming priority.

This is not to bad-mouth the candidates that dropped out of their respective races, but to let their experiences be a reminder to all students of how serious school politics is. Know what you're getting into before you get into it, and make sure you're getting into it for the right reasons.

It is our hope that in the future, students will think more critically about running for office and know what they are getting into before they announce their candidacy.

Our View:

Students who run for student government positions need to take elections seriously.

changes on campus and represent the student population to the best of your ability. Any other selfish reasons should be examined and thought out well before you start campaigning.

More importantly, know that grades are our primary concern here at Howard. How can you aim to hold a leader-

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 78th year, The Hilltop is published every Tuesday and Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Howard University, its administration, individual Board members or the student body.

The opinions expressed on the Perspectives Page are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at www.thehilltoponline.com.

The Hilltop is located at 2251 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at TheHilltop@hotmail.com, by phone at (202)806-6866 and by fax at (202)806-4758.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.



Let's Talk Affirmative Action

David Johns

Programs that were the result of years of protests, marches, and demonstrations against the unequal, inhuman, and separatist politics of post Reconstruction America, are being reversed while many of us are blinded by hyper visualized attempts to use war and political propaganda as diversions.

There exist blatant histories supported by laws and embedded deeply within the ideological formations of American ideals that support race distinctions and perpetuate inequalities that subsist solely based on color. White people have benefited from privilege in all aspects of American life from the so called discovery of a previously populated, yet "new world". Conversely, Black Americans have been taught and forced to define ourselves from the condition of negative in opposition to white. This is evident in the stability within the conception of whiteness in America. Present in everything from language to voting majorities, white culture is more unwavering, institutionalized, and empowered. For the past three hundred years, including present day, Black Americans have been forced to resist and react to the omnipresent, often invisible, cultural condition of whiteness and Europe.

As a result of the Trans

Atlantic slave trade and its effects upon the formation of the "United States" (who have interestingly only recently become united), and white supremacy manifested in privilege, the masses of Black Americans have been rendered powerless, economically, politically, culturally, and personally. Moreover, although people argue slavery ended long ago and none of us experienced it, we have all experienced its legacy both in terms of racial ideology and in the legal discrimination that formally ended less than a generation ago but in reality continues today.

The fundamental element in maintaining this system is education. Those with the education possess the greatest access to power, authority, and understanding. The institution of slavery was predicated upon slaves being denied an education: the ability to logically assess their situation and enact change. There exist an evident historical exclusion of Blacks from colleges and universities. While it seems that the increase in the Black middle and upper-middle class has come a long way from slavery the recognition of that success has prompted a retraction of legal attempts to make things in American "fair."

With an insurgence of fear educed by law suits and attacks from anti-affirmative action activists many universities are abandoning programs designed

to provide qualified minority candidates with opportunities to prepare and excel in academic endeavors. Universities such as MIT and Princeton have abandoned programs specifically designed for applicants of historically underrepresented backgrounds.

After reading that changes to the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs would not affect students this summer because acceptance students were already notified, I received a six sentence e-mail from another program at Princeton. Not so lucky, students who applied to the Summer Research Experience, like me, received an electronic notification that reported "Princeton will not be admitting any students to the program for summer 2003. The program may be offered in a different form in subsequent summers." The "different form" referenced in the e-mail likely replicates the amendments made in the abovementioned programs, complete abandonment or inclusion of whites.

It does not take a Howard University student, or a student, for that matter, to realize that American ideologies are embedded within a hyper-divisible society that is separated between those who have access and those without. While the qualifications of access are contingent upon time and space, those who possess privilege have remained constant.

Adding insult to injury Bush, arguably the poster child for the benefits of affirmative action seeks to reverse the very legal amendments that were intended to begin rectifying the divisions upon which American society is rooted. Following his address in which he prostituted the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to support his stance of affirmative action, he continues to ignite flames that mirror those of a time where biting dogs were highly visible and water hoses stung.

In a time where Patriotism is being used as a diversion for the political advancements of conservative politicians, it is imperative that students and youth from all walks of life dispel notions of rampant complacency. The refusal to accept inferiority from the onset of the Transatlantic slave trade cannot be in vain and erased before our very eyes while flags fly high, and states rights trump federal legislation. Be aware of what is happening. Employ the talents that are bestowed upon us, the descendants of those who struggled, those who survived, and those who refused to give up. Please don't take for granted the obstacles our ancestors overcame, the advancements they pursued and the opportunities they made available for you.

Perceived Privilege or Reality?

Lauren Bell

I was deeply disturbed as well as offended by the comments made by David Johns about Howard University. As a PROUD (financially contributing) Howard alum, I not only appreciate Howard for its "live basketball games" or the other superficial benefits outlined by David Johns, but I appreciate and respect Howard for its long-lived legacy of educating leaders, its worldwide network of profes-

sional and academic alumni, and the strength of the Howard family.

Mr. Johns may not understand that yes, we do have a socially and politically active campus, but in addition, the educational experience that one receives at Howard is world class. Currently, I attend UC Berkeley and am enrolled in the top Civil and Environmental Engineering Department in the country. The amazing thing is, I am

also surrounded by Howard Students both at Berkeley (Howard Alumni are a significant portion of Berkeley's minority graduate student population) and all top-level graduate institutions.

Of my group of friends, all four of us are enrolled at top 10 engineering graduate programs on full academic fellowships. We all know the foundation was laid at Howard.

I do not blame Mr. Johns for his comments, nor

his ignorance about Howard or HBCU's in general, but it is unfortunate that he will never be able to fully embrace the Howard family, take advantage of the school's wonderful and unique resources, or appreciate what Howard pride really is. Not everyone can be so lucky.

Lauren Bell is a 2002 graduate of the College of Engineering Architecture and Computer Sciences.

A Poor Choice of Words 'Clearly'

Nell C. Bradley

In Webster's Dictionary there are possibly 65 different ways to use the word clear in a sentence. On the campus of Howard University students prefer to express their interpretation through manipulation and gave it a trendy spin with the use of clearly. There is no

actual date that this word began to obtain its growing popularity.

This closely addictive word which can be used as a very simple and effective tool especially when there is a need to add clarity, defiance, and a slight touch of humor to a statement. But, the repetitive usage in every sentence will make it

looses its touch. The continual use of the word has become just as played out as talking about OJ, or trying finding Tupac.

I must admit it was cute and sophisticated the first three million times I heard it in a sentence. Then, I even started using this innovative colloquial term. But, it was not until I

had a recent conversation with friends, in which someone used the word clearly, that I realized it started to get irritating and something needed to be done about it. Mainly, because when we say it, it is completely used out of context. But, I'm surprised saying clearly is not

Continues at right

Telling the Truth About Israel... Again

Michael Twitty

Once again, Mr. Bilal Iddin spreads lies about Israel. I am an African-American Jew and a member of the Howard family. Since Mr. Iddin, wishes to quote famous Black leaders, let's quote Martin Luther King, "When people are talking about Zionists, they mean Jews."

What did he mean by this statement, and what does it have to do with the distortions that Mr. Iddin wants to spread? Better yet, why is the accusation that Israel is an apartheid state completely and patently false and racist in and of itself?

This business of "European Zionists," is a MYTH. As I said in a previous written rebuttal to Mr. Iddin's claim, most of the Zionists in Israel are people of color. Just over half the Israeli population are Jews from the Middle East, Mediterranean, Africa and Southern and Eastern Asia. Israel is not nor has ever been a European production. The racializing of Israel is an attempt to turn the conflict between Israelis and the so-called Palestinians into a racial war, which it is not. In the minds of people like Mr. Iddin, Zionist is used as a catchword for "Jew," and "Jew," is a dirty word only when the person using it hates the Jewish people.

He talked a lot about what Israelis allegedly do to Arabs. For example, apart from obvious fighting as a result of a 50 plus campaign of terrorism against Jews in Israel; the Arab Israelis---Arabs who chose to stay and live in Israel---are members of the Knesset, enjoy freedom of religion, and can acquire an education for themselves in Israeli universities. 99 percent of the so-called Palestinian population lives under its own authority, not Israeli "occupation." This is hardly "apartheid."

Scroll back in time to how our Sephardic forefathers lived in Muslim countries. Some of the worst cases of rape, theft, murder and rioting prior to Bosnia and Rwanda happened during the early years of Israeli statehood, when 800,000 Jews were forced to leave their homes in the Arab world. Contrast this with the 700,000 so-called Palestinians who VOLUNTARILY left their homes after being promised that Arab states would help conduct genocide against Jews and push them into the sea.

Continued from left

replaced by the normal greetings we give each other on campus, put in thesis statements, or transformed into a hit T-shirt sold from street vendors in front of the school of business.

From this word there are a variety of users that range from heavy to moderate. If you are unclear of the one that fits you a moderate user might say, "Clearly, we say this word too much." And a heavy user might say "Clearly, you need to be in class because clearly your mother did not send you to school to become one of the bums outside of it...clearly"

Thus, Howard University does offer word building reinforcement classes that will allow you to explore the usage of other words such as obviously, evidently, or basically.

The exile of the surviving Jews of the Muslim world capped centuries of discrimination at the hand of Islamic rule. Though Jews fared better in the Muslim world than the Christian world, this did not mean that Jews were considered equal or were citizens of the countries they were a part of.

A closer parallel to apartheid would certainly be the way Jews were consistently segregated in the Muslim world, EVEN IN THEIR OWN when ancient synagogues built before Islam were destroyed by royal decree and Jewish children were forcibly converted to Islam and taken from their parents.

Iraqi Jews recall that after having a 3000 year presence, long before Islam, they were raped and murdered and expelled from their homes. In many Muslim countries Jews paid a special tax, wore humiliating bells and had to kowtow before Muslim nobility--hopping off the sidewalk and bowing their heads in submission. You want to talk about desperation Mr. Iddin? Try this--you're an Israeli Jew--your mother came from societies where these conditions were endemic, your father came from Poland where he was in a concentration camp--and now you are a soldier defending your right to never be subjected to this discrimination in a land promised to you by G-d Almighty. If anyone has the right to claim desperation, it's us.... 40,000 Ethiopian Israelis included!

All of this kind of discrimination brings to mind something my grandmother told me about our family's history in Alabama--from man couldn't hold his head up, had to hop off the sidewalk, his wife was in danger of being raped or assaulted and his children could be taken away from him. Sounds much like what Jews had to endure in the Muslim world.

Zionism isn't about "European Jews" taking over, it's about seeing to it that just like my grandparents sought their "Promised Land," and escaped Alabama; that Jews can go to their Promised Land and demand that the Arab world lets them live in respect and dignity.

One more thing my survivor grandmother taught me, Mr. Iddin--"home is where you don't have to run from NOBODY."

The word clearly just started as a trend that someone started saying, then everybody just caught on. Therefore, it proves why we as Howard Students need to find things within ourselves that are unique. And, for one-day can we just wake up and not allow our goal to be how many peers we can imitate but how many we can motivate. As a student body we do encompass greatest individually and collectively. Therefore, we are supposed to be leaders of the global community, not followers of our neighbors. And, I know clearly is just a word but, it only serves as an example of what is to become of us. Hopefully, this is a just a trend that will end before I graduate because at the rate, we are going we will simply turn into Howard clones that go around doing and saying the same thing.

HILLTOPICS

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

Announcements

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Cook Hall Lounge
7PM
For more info contact
Micah Thomas
mthomas@howard.edu

Living Water Word Women's Bible Study

2-19-03
Harriet Tubman Quadrangle
7PM
For more info contact
Aurelia Anderson or
deredpath@yahoo.com

Howard University Graduate student seeks 5 children for research project. Children's Cognitive skills will be tested and scored. Parents interested in the free test should call Crystal at 202-277-7518. Children 8-10 will receive a \$20 gift certificate to TOYS R US. Children 11-16 will receive a \$20 gift card for AMC Theatres. All participants are eligible for a drawing for free season passes to Six Flags America. Parent approval is required.

White Volunteers

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The Hilltop Budget meeting will still take place tonight- 7 pm, West Towers, plaza level.

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