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Hilltop Staff

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RAPTURE: LEGEND IN THE MAKING
Homecoming

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Various tents and a stage are set to adorn the Yard today in celebration of Howard University’s 2003 Homecoming.

Today as thousands congregate in an area many Howard students experience on a daily basis, most people will fail to realize the significance that the University’s landmark holds to all students. The huge patches of grass, with their concrete accents, are more than neatly trimmed scrubs and well maintained flowers, they are essential to the Howard experience.

Regardless of their major, Howard students always find some place of comfort on the Yard. On a nice day there are many different types of people in different locations. Hot spots range from the Fine Arts Building, to freshman in front of Blackburn to Caribbean Students near the benches.

According to Keith Leadbetter, the Yard has always been a place of social gathering. “The Yard provides a quiet place for friends to talk,” says Leadbetter.

Sophomore computer science major Rasheed Ali agrees. “Fridays at 12 noon is definitely the best time to come out and see Howard students interact with one another,” Ali said.

Throughout the years Howard has had countless events that have changed the lives of everyone who has experienced them. Many Howard students begin and end their Howard experience on the Yard.

“As freshmen we began with the pinning ceremony, and throughout our time at the University we travel on the Yard and finally we graduate on the opposite end of the Yard,” last years Howard University Student Association President Cornell Williamson said. Years past were marked by tours from Colgate, Vibe, Tampax, And One, and Essence, with each organization providing anything from free products, to massages and advice. Many other events such as the memorial service for the victims of 9/11 and rallies for the murder of Prince Carmen Jones, took place on the Yard. It’s events like this that help to shape students to become the leaders of tomorrow, Williamson said.

But this diverse experience seems to change with the seasons. The extent of the experiences on the Yard is a personal one. But whatever the case, each of these experiences helps us to create ourselves into the type of people we want to be in the future.

To some students it’s not the big events that make the Yard special, it’s the little memories that you can share with friends, said sophomore physical therapy major Suzette Smith. “When I think of the Yard, I think of the Yard fest in the fall, big snowball fights in the winter time, and hide and go seek games in the spring when it starts to get warm outside.”
The Ins and Outs of Homecoming Style

By Jennifer Williams, Asst. Life & Style Editor

Homecoming is upon us yet again. For many, Homecoming time is a never-ending fashion show, rich with both men and women dressed up in the latest fashions. However, there are always those individuals who take fashion too far. So for those who are wondering, here are the things that you should not wear, as well as trends not to follow, to avoid being ousted on the yard.

For the Women:

Over-Coordination: Okay, so we all agree that matching is indeed a good thing. However, overkill is definitely not, and it is the difference between being fashionable and becoming a fashion victim. So, if you happen to be the young lady with the Von Dutch hat, with the matching shirt, with the matching headband and coordinating wristband, you might just be doing a bit too much.

Excessive Displaying of Self/ No Video Girls: Okay, to review? The adage of “just because it comes in your size, does not mean you should wear it” definitely is applicable. It is unacceptable to parade around the yard in booty shorts and/or a halter top, etc when it is barely 60 degrees outside. Fashion and nakedness don’t always equate. Moreover, Yardfest is not a BET video open call, and our campus in: Walking in heels correctly is definitely an under appreciated art, and there are far too many females on gracefully falling in front of a crowd of people. Furthermore, for an event like Yardfest, it makes no sense to spend your time sinking into grass with pointy heels. You can still be fashionable in a pair of flats.

For the Men:

Army Fatigues: For all of you who truly believe that you NBA Collages on are an “army of one:”

Pants/Jackets/etc: let it go. Fatigues as There is nothing fashion de riguer has wrong having love for become a stale, tired trend. Leave the your favorite basket- team. However, there is no reason fatigues to those who whatsoever that truly have business wearing them, and any article of clothing stop being a ‘N 0 Limit’ soldier.

No Video Boys: A need to bust out your brand new winter jacket trend has (unfor- tu8ately) become a fashion staple for men, but there is a limit. Please cease and desist with wearing your hat with a bandanna, and a headband, and a do-rag. Likewise, if you can tuck your “iced out” chain in your pocket while you are wearing it? It is entirely too long.

Army Fatigues: For all of you who truly believe that you are an “army of one:” let it go. Fatigues as fashion de riguer has become a stale, tired trend. Leave the fatigues to those who truly have business wearing them, and stop being a No Limit’ soldier.

Wearing Avirex/ Vanson/ North Face Jackets: Repeat after me: No bubble jackets before winter. While you might feel the need to bust out your brand new winter jacket, Homecoming is not the appropriate time to do it. You will ultimately look ridiculous roasting away in a leather coat.

Moreover, the usage of random, cut - off portions of the aforementioned cut-up shirt as accessories (arm-bands, headbands, etc) is a laughable practice. So, don’t do it. Wearing stilettos (that you can’t walk in): Walking in heels correctly is definitely an under appreciated art, and there are far too many females on gracefully falling in front of a crowd of people. Furthermore, for an event like Yardfest, it makes no sense to spend your time sinking into grass with pointy heels. You can still be fashionable in a pair of flats.

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By Jennifer L. Williams  
Asst. Life & Style Editor

Musiq is best known for his artistic lyricism and his smooth, silky tenor voice. On his sophomore effort 'Juslisen,' he comes with this voice, but in a more mature way. "Juslisen" finds Musiq making use of his ability to add his own mark to the few songs he decides to remake. "Something," a ballad that was originally recorded by The Beatles, gets a jazzy, Neo-Soul facelift, thick with accents from a wah-wah guitar and a bass drum. Musiq skillfully adds his own spin onto the song, interspersing his new found directness with musiq's talent shines throughout the duration of Juslisen. From mulling over the perils of love, to reassuring a lover of his undying devotion, Musiq and his songs demonstrate his evolution into a bonafide star. Ultimately, Musiq has created an aural tour de force, full of passion and creativity. Buy Juslisen, and do just that.

By Jozen Cummings  
Life and Style Editor

Let's just get the word out of the way now. I know it's the "n" word, and most of us hate using it, but to avoid the use of this word from here on out, we have to say it now. Neo-soul. There, now we can move on.

The reason we must avoid the word is because an artist like Dwele is beyond this simple description. On his successful debut album "Subject," Dwele, who will be performing tonight at Cramton Auditorium, is better than the "n" word. His music is not snobbish; it's accessible. Sure, Dwele can evoke memories of Marvin Gaye, but that's only because the man is a native of Motown. But other than those similarities, Dwele is something of a different breed. He's that third person, after D'Angelo and Maxwell, that you can start comparing other singers to.

The beauty in an album like "Subject" is the way it covers certain subjects. Who knew a ballad about the ills of being under 21 ("Day at a Time") could be so poignant? Or a subject as trivial as money not meaning anything ("Money Don't Mean a Thing") could make the hippest martini-sipping crowd get up and dance.

This is what Dwele does best. He's not breaking any new ground with his subject matter, nor with his approach, but what's done is make every song uniquely his. On "The Truth," Dwele has to tell his girl that it's over, but he holds no punches as he tries to say what he's wanted to say for so long, which was that he never really loved her anyway. Brutally honest? Yes. But with a slick bass line groove, and a stripped down drum pattern, Dwele gives a certain type of class to telling a woman he's lying to her all along.

But what tops them all is "Lady at Mahogany." From the interlude where the listener is eavesdropping on Dwele breaking up with his girl, we follow Dwele and a friend of his to a club for a night of relaxation. Once they arrive at the club, Dwele is ready to revel in his newfound bachelorhood and does so by speaking to an attractive young lady. We are allowed to listen to Dwele's advances and the girl's giggly responses, but then the girl he has just broken up with shows up at the club. She gets on stage and spits a hateful poem towards her ex-lover. Never one to be embarrassed, Dwele responds with his heartfelt delivery. His performance of "Nothing but Love" is also notable, listen worthy songs that showcase Greene's range.

However, few sing of the subject so poignantly as Vivian Greene, Neo-Soul's newest siren.

For the 23 - year-old Greene, much of the album reflects her creativity, as many of the songs were penned by Greene herself. While her skills were perfected during her stint as a background singer for Jill Scott, her sound is distinctly and refreshingly all her own. Greene's voice, as sweet and harmonious as a wind chime, is a pleasure to listen to as you follow her through her tales of love and discovery that unfold in A Love Story.

Greene certainly delivers emotion in her work. The result is an album rich with the heartache of falling in love and not getting it quite right. However, the album also highlights the joy of love, and the ever-present drive to find the ideal relationship that results in "happily ever after."

Greene's lilting voice and powerful delivery standout on songs such as "What Is Love?" a song that tells of a woman who has fallen for the wrong man, and even with winning from her friends, she can't seem to extricate herself. "...Why should I listen to those/ who feel that I should move on. Maybe/ what they see as drama/ I see more as art..." Greene muses. Greene shines on slow-paced, emotional ballads such as "Emotional Roller coaster" and "No Sitting by the Phone," a track that evokes memories of jazz greats of a bygone era.

Greene also fares reasonably well on mid to up-tempo tracks such as "Fanatic," which finds Greene likening her love to a habit-forming drug. "All the time I want you baby/ All the time I need you honey...I'm fanatically, addicted see/ the way that he be loving me..." sings Greene. "Music" and "Ain't Nothing but Love" are also notable, listen worthy songs that showcase Greene's range.

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Produced by Vivian Greene
Wrap-Up 2003
"It was just one of those things when you are 20- or 21-years-old and everything comes together. You believe that you are capable of doing anything," explains Jay "Sky" Walker, Howard's dynamic and highly touted quarterback in 1993.

For Howard, that year was one of those plateaus that set an unprecedented standard for the Bison, a moment in time that will be relived at this Friday's 1993 Bison reunion at Ooh La La (Corner of 18th & M) at 5pm. Ten years later, that legacy still lives.

In that memorable year, the Bison racked up an impressive 13-0 record in regular season play. An arsenal of offensive talent blew away opponents with regularity. Even Tennessee Titans star quarterback Steve McNair, then with Alcorn State fell short in his plight to conquer the Bison.

"McNair was unbelievable in that game," says Sports Information Director Edward Hill. "Defensive back Neal Downing stole McNair's towel just before the half and gave it to his mother in the stands. That set McNair off and he went into a frenzy. In the last play of the game McNair dropped back out of the shotgun and nearly won it with a 70-yard bomb, but the ball sailed out of the back of the end zone. It was a remarkable win for us."

Walker and Howard's "Bomb Squad" churned defenses into pulp as his mark of 3,536 passing yards still stands as an all-time HU record. The offense also set an all-time high in points scored (a whopping 424 points), which is a statistic that both Walker and Gary "Flea" Harrell attribute to a tremendous summer work ethic.

According to Harrell, "We wanted to do something special in our senior year. We worked so hard as a unit all summer long even before preseason training began. Coach Wilson gave us that drive and determination. Jay and the whole crew just wanted to be the best and stay determined."

The Bison romped through divisional play that season terrorizing defenses with a fleet of highly talented receivers. Jimmy Cunningham, Gary "Flea" Harrell and Germaine Kohn were all exemplary in their drive as tight end David Sierra provided another big target for Walker. After eventually beating Alcorn State 38-36 in the second game of the season, HU went on to outplay Florida A&M 31-13, Bethune-Cookman 21-7, Morehouse 34-9 and Morgan State 66-37.

However, the most memorable moments came in the fifth and sixth games of the season as Howard overcame a highly dynamic Towson State team 44-41 and NC A&T 41-35.

"For me, the moment that defined the entire season was that Towson State game," says Harrell. "We went down 21-0 at the half, but the guys hung in and we managed to pull it together. That team was a special group of guys. We never stopped believing for an instant that entire season."

Harrell himself set an all-time record with 11 catches in that game as Walker completed a record 38 passes. Kohn, who had earlier transferred from Ole' Miss caught the winning touchdown, his first of the year, as Howard romped to victory at Towson's homecoming. Walker, Howard's most celebrated quarterback, was named National Division II player of the week – an honor that would be bestowed upon him again just one week later when he ran for the winning touchdown in overtime against a ravenous NC A&T side at Aggie Stadium.

Now a decade later, the legacy of that defining season still lingers like an enchanted aroma that not only outlines Bison football as a perennial element of this institute, but underscores the history of Howard itself. In essence, the ghosts of an undefeated season act as a constant reminder to fans and players alike: this is why we love this precious game.
How to Get Good Seats at the Game

Stephanie Crouch
Campus Editor

Get up early. For those of you who have classes, work and or appointments at 9am and choose to sleep until 8:30, this is not the time to practice your usual routine. Arriving an hour and a half to two hours prior to kick-off is not such a bad idea especially since Howard has been known to give out more tickets than Greene Stadium can hold. Plus tickets sold out Monday afternoon; think about it!

When choosing seats, consider the length of time the person in front of you might be standing. For example the first four rows might not provide the best view of the game, due to the constant flow of the crowd. However, that same seat would provide you with up close pictures of celebrities. Figure out what you are at the game to see, and choose accordingly.

Consider eating a complete meal before coming to the game. With arriving early you run the risk of concession stands not being set up. Furthermore think about the type of bag you carry; (no backpacks allowed) and beverages are only permitted on an individual bases. To avoid confusion, buy your beverages before the stadium becomes too full. Leaving while the stands are crowded might run you the risk of watching the game from a different seat.

Meet all of your friends in a central location; then, find seats together. It would be ideal if everyone could sit with all their friends however, things don't usually work like that. Just remember saving seats only works for so long.

Use the lavatory before you locate your game seat. Of course we all know that when nature calls you have no choice but to answer. However, remember that leaving your seat during the game might not afford you the opportunity to return back to your original seat.

If all else fails... pray.

Tell the people who are in your desired seat that celebrities are in front of Blackburn signing autographs.

Befriend an usher in hopes they will let you sit in the reserved section.

Fake a broken leg to sit in the front or aisle seat.

Spill some food or drink on the person in front of you to get a better seat.
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Friday Yard Fest
Saturday Inside of the Game, and On the Yard
Money

The Business of Paying for Homecoming at Howard

By Chizoba Udeorji

Hilltop Staff Writer

"I'm trying not to go overboard this time," said Renne York, junior physics major. This is York's third Homecoming, and one thing she has learned over the years is self-control. "I spent most of the money that was supposed to last for two months in one week! After that experience, I knew I had to slow down around Homecoming."

Homecoming week is often seen as a period of excessive spending for many Howard students and people in the local community. To attend all major Homecoming events would cost a total of about $100 per student, not including extra expenses that include traveling, shopping and eating. With all this to bear in mind, few students actually know how much work, time, and funding is invested into this infamous, annual event.

Financial preparation for the week-long festivities usually begins in the Spring of the previous school year. Committees are formed, ideas are either approved or dismissed, and connections are put into use. The treasurer and the chair then agree on a practical budget that reflects the monetary situations of past Homecomings. Later the budget is reviewed by the Assistant Provost, who accepts or rejects it.

The exact budget amount is confidential information, but Homecoming Chair, Siobhan Walker insists that spending for Homecoming is more than rational. Spending is not nearly as extravagant as many students are led to believe.

"Funding for Homecoming comes from many sources," said Walker. "Besides funding from the University, we get sponsorship coverage from many private businesses like General Motors, National Events, Ben's Chili Bowl, and even The Hilltop. We are grateful for their support, and the support of local businesses."

Despite this, they intend to stay open later this Homecoming, and hope that the later hours will bring in more revenue.

With the support of many local and national businesses, it came as a surprise that one of Howard's Homecoming's most consistent supporters, Vibe magazine, is not a part of the magic this year. Vibe Magazine usually gives Homecoming support by sponsoring the Yardfest activity. There was no comment from Vibe magazine at press time.

Although we can expect no heart-stopping one-liners from LL Cool J this year, the Homecoming committee promises a festival to remember.

"The Yardfest activity is free, but most activities are priced starting at about five dollars. This may not sound like much, but many students believe that buying tickets can get too pricey."

"I was picky with the events I bought tickets for this year," said Apryl Shaw, junior marketing major. "Last year I bought tickets to almost everything, and I only enjoyed half of it. Also, it seems like the ticket prices are rising," said Shaw.

The prices have not risen from last year. "This year's event prices have not risen. They are stable or are lower than last year," said Walker. "In fact, has been challenging, but promising," said Walker. "Fortunately we were able to pull things together with the help of the community and the University."

Funding for Homecoming comes from many sources. Besides funding from the University, we get sponsorship coverage from many private businesses like General Motors, National Events, Ben's Chili Bowl, and even The Hilltop. We are grateful for their support, and the support of local businesses."

— Siobhan Walker,
Homecoming Chair

October 10, 2003

The Hilltop Magazine
The 2003-2004 Hilltop Editorial Staff

Welcome back all Returning Hilltoppers

(Top row, from left: Ruth Tisdale (Campus Tuesday), Maryann James (Copy Chief), Shani Hilton (Nation&World Friday), Leslie Flanagan (Asst. Sports Editor), Naessa Azziz (Staff Writer), Jodi Hurt (Online Editor)

Next row, from left: Stephanie Crouch (Campus Friday), Soraya McDonald (Sports Tuesday), Jennifer Williams (Asst. Life&Style), Leesa Davis (Mind,Body&Soul Editor), Cassaundra Cumbess (Editorials&Perspectives Editor); Danielle Scruggs (Asst. Campus Editor)

Next row, from left: Ashley Kelly (Business&Technology Editor), Charreah Jackson (Staff Writer), Arion Jamerson (Paginator), Melanie Holmes (Copy Editor), Miriam Ahmed (Nation&World Tuesday)

Next row, from left: Jozen Cummings (Life&Style Editor), Cory Thomas (Illustrator)

Bottom row, from left: Bernard "Poet" Murray (Sports Friday), Josef Sawyer (Editor-In-Chief), Aisha Chaney (Friday Managing Editor), Nakisha Williams (Asst. Editorials & Perspectives Editor)

Not pictured: Corey Cunningham (Tuesday Managing Editor), Sean Parker (Asst. Nation&World Editor), Maya Gilliam (Photo Editor)

Photo by Maya Gilliam

Photo Editor