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THE HILLTOP



The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

80th Year in Print

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Exclusive Interview With Cast From College Hill

By Ruth L. Tisdale
Campus Editor

While walking through the Yard at Howard University on a crisp Saturday morning, Jabari "the nerd" and Nina "the cheerleader" from "College Hill" were approached by a fan.

"Can you please talk to my brother?" she excitedly asked Jabari as she gave him her cell phone.

"Sure," he said with a laugh. Fans and occasional stardom are just some of the perks from starring in BET's newest reality series.

While the two have seen glimpses of stardom from around the country, they say that back home they are just Jabari and Nina.

"We have to go to class just like other students," Nina said. "Our teachers like to mess with us because we've been on the show." Jabari added that he still has to turn in homework just like regular students.

"There's a definitely no preferential treatment from being on the show."

The two stars were selected for "College Hill" through different means.

"I was selected for the show in the spring and Jabari was selected for the show during the fall," Nina said. "I tried out for the show just because my friend dared me and I never back down from a dare."

Jabari, a computer engineering major, said that he thought he would not be selected because many mass communication majors were auditioning for the show.

"I was like 'Man I don't have

See COLLEGE page A10



Georgetown students protested a racial comic strip and Affirmative Action bake sale at Columbia University. The students said that they will continue to protest until change is made at Columbia and Georgetown Universities.

Columbia University Student Paper Publishes Racist Comic Strip

Cartoon Depicts Negative Images of Black History Month

By Ruth L. Tisdale and Shari Logan
Campus Editor and Contributing Writer



In addition to the comic strip, Georgetown students protested racial disparities at Georgetown University.

On Feb. 28, The Post-Columbia University student-run newspaper published a cartoon entitled "Blackie Fan Whore." The cartoon, as well as other incidents of racism, has many students at Columbia and Howard in an uproar.

The cartoon depicts the "evolution" of the African American race through the eyes of cartoonist Ben Schwartz. The cartoon featured sayings such as "Black people were invented in the 1700's as a form of cheap labor."

Columbia University stu-

dent Lindsay McDonald said that the depiction goes against almost 40 years of civil rights.

"We have been working towards civil rights, but it will never change how white people see us," McDonald said. "We could be doctors, lawyers and politicians and white people would still have that perception of us."

McDonald said that blacks at Columbia have to work twice as hard as whites just to have their work accepted.

The newspaper that published the comic strip ran a disclaimer that read, "We don't censor anything. But a

See CARTOON page A10

Haitian President Leaves Country

Country in Turmoil After Rebellion and Coup

By Ruth L. Tisdale
Campus Editor

According to an interview conducted by CNN.com, Michrè Aristide, wife of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, gave Congresswoman Maxine Waters a call in the wee hours of the morning to tell her the coup, that took her husband from power, had been completed.

Because of the coup detail, the United States government has come under fire by many Black leaders.

Waters told CNN.com that Undersecretary of State for Latin America Roger Noriega was responsible for many of the problems in Haiti.

"It is the worst kind of 19th century gutshot diplomacy," said African American activist Randall Robinson in an interview to CNN.com. "If this is President Bush's order, the Congress needs to investigate and determine if it's an impeachable offense."

Students at Howard are also unsure of the stance that they take concerning the coup of the Haitian President.

He was illegally elected as President and was basically a dictator," Ralph Aboey, a freshman physical education major said. "However, I don't know if it was the best thing to take him out of power because now the country has no leader and anarchy is running rampant. It is just more cause for more bloodshed."

Howard Law, Yale Team Up to Sponsor Brown at 50 Conference

By Charreah Jackson
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University School of Law joined with fellow students of Yale Law School last weekend to celebrate the historical Brown vs. the Board of Education case.

On Thursday evening Howard Law school graduates and Board of Trustees member Vernon Jordan delivered the opening keynote address.

Jordan opened his address with his experiences as the only African American student at DePaul University and honored the crowd over his joy in coming to Howard School of Law, after four years of no black females.

Forty-four years since graduating from Howard, Jordan reflected on the vitality of Brown, his own experi-

ences as a civil rights activist, and the unfinished business to be completed.

"America's color line remains. Thankfully it has become blurred and permeable, but it still exists. America can change because I have seen it change, and hopefully I had a little hand in it," Jordan said. "Without Brown, I would not be what I am, and you too would find the doors of opportunity closed. I have not seen nor heard of a limit to what blacks can do united."

Although the focal point of the conference was the Brown vs. Board of Education case, Jordan made clear the case was not an isolated event, but a combined effort of dedicated fighters in a

See BROWN page A10



Trustee Vernon Jordan speaks to the audience at Howard Law School about the Brown case.

By Shara D. Taylor
Hilltop Staff Writer

Last week, as a part of the commemoration of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, the Howard University School of Law and Yale University Law School hosted a series of panels that analyzed the impact of the ruling of the court case.

On Friday, the conference brought in high school students from various parts of the D.C. metropolitan area. During the day, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. of Illinois addressed the attendees, giving them the historical ramifications of the judgment of the United States Supreme Court.

He shared with them his personal experiences of fighting for equal rights as a young man during the Civil Rights Movement.

"Depending on when and where you tell our story [as black Americans] will depend on where you stand on particular issues," Jackson said. "We should be striving to build a more perfect union for every American."

He told the students that the racial issues plaguing America have yet to be fully resolved.

"The struggle over who has the power will never be settled by one generation. It was with this nation at its inception, and it will be with this nation at its conclusion," he added.

Jackson also cited miseducation as one of many factors behind the continuing fight for racial harmony within America.

"Race has been taught in such a way that it immediately makes [people] defensive. It should be taught in a purely ac-

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INSIDE

See why Mississippi river pass in closed...

A8

NATION & WORLD



Find out who remixed Jay Z's Black Album and why...

B1

METRO



See what new tennis shoe is spinning around town...

B4

BUSINESS & TECH





HU ELECTIONS 2004

Experience and Leadership: Daniel Blakemore

By Shara D. Taylor
Hilltop Staff Writer

Junior political science major and current Howard University Student Association (HUSA) president, Daniel Blakemore plans to remain active in student government after he has completed his term.

As a candidate for Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) representative for the College of Arts and Sciences, Blakemore wants to bridge the gap between various organizations within his school.

Under the platform "Experience and Visionary Leadership," Blakemore looks to bring a new perspective on student representation. He wants to see unity among all students within the College of Arts and Sciences and the entire undergraduate student body. He also plans to reach out to all of the organizations housed in Arts and Sciences in order to gain a broader spectrum of student perspectives.

Blakemore intends to be more visible for his constituents by reaching out to them and fully understanding their needs and concerns to express them to the General Assembly.

"I will remain dedicated to the students in my college, and I will have [steady] com-



Blakemore plans to take his experience as HUSA president to UGSA next year.

munication with the students in these organizations," he said. "Different students have different perspectives and concerns. I will do something that has not been done recently, which is keep strong links between the organizations in UGSA."

Education, Collectiveness: Ololade 'Lola' Fawole

By Ruth L. Tydale
Campus Editor

Accountability, new programming, and collectiveness are three things that Ololade Fawole, current Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) financials advisor, hopes to implement next school year.

Fawole said that the experience gained from working in UGSA would help her achieve her goals quickly.

"I worked with UGSA previously and the experience will help me better program for UGSA and HUSA," Fawole said.

Fawole wants to add not only social programming, but also bring more academic and educational programming to UGSA.

"It is important to have educational and academic programming to better inform the student body," Fawole said.

During her tenure in UGSA, she lobbied for amendments to be made to the HUSA constitution that would eliminate the HUSA President as the chairman of General Assembly.

"The executive head should not be the head of the legislative body," Fawole said.

Fawole said that her experience extends far beyond UGSA. In addition to serving as financial advisor of UGSA, she also serves as the public relations director for Circle K and the Vice President of College Democrats.



Fawole wants to implement academic and educational programs if elected.

Fawole added that because of her work with College Democrats she hopes to bring a more diverse political view to Howard's campus.

"I want to bring not only Democrats to campus, but also Republicans and other parties so that students can see a wide array of viewpoints," she said.

Byron Stewart: Candidate for School of Communications Student Council President

By Jonathan Davis
Contributing Writer

As the Program Director for the School of Communications Student Council, sophomore print journalism major Byron Stewart has very substantiated the busy workings of student council.

"From my perspective, the School of Communications has done a good job in bringing clear direction and leadership," Stewart said. "By my running for the School of Communications Student Council President, I can offer more to the school."

Stewart's platform is "Visibility," and he plans to make revisions in the School of Communications and change its communication between the students and faculty.

"I believe that in good cases, the communication between the faculty and the student body should be symbiotic," Stewart said.

According to Stewart, the student body can see other students leaders making changes, but can not see those changes put in place within the School of Communications.

"I feel the changes that need to be made need to be obvious and recognizable by both the School of Communications student body and



Stewart stresses visibility in his platform.

faculty," Stewart said. "Arts and Sciences and the School of Business are on top of the hill while the School of Communications is at the bottom. If I am elected, I want to bring the School of Communications back on top of the hill."

UGSA Rep Candidate: Tunisia Christian

By Jonathan Davis
Contributing Writer

Having served as political director of Howard University Student Association (HUSA) a year ago, junior political science major Tunisia Christian decided that it was her time to run for a position in student government.

Christian's platform is "Clarity to Action," a three-tier platform that consists of involvement, awareness and activism.

Involvement, according to Christian, is the Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) hosting programs that involve students.

The second tier, Awareness, is students being aware of their UGSA representative so that they can voice their concerns and UGSA can present those concerns to the General Assembly.

"I realized that you have to remain involved with the students because it is impossible to represent students if you do not know what their concerns are," Christian explained.

Christian said that the third tier, Activism, will involve students and student government in taking a more active role in the campus community.

"You have to realize that you have a respon-

"I realized that you have to remain involved with the students because it is impossible to represent students if you do not know what their concerns are."

-Tunisia Christian

ability to serve other people. It is not enough about you. It is about the students you are serving," Christian said.

VOICES & VIEWS

Who will win HUSA president and vice president?



Jumana Abdul-Malik
Junior
Print Journalism

"In my opinion it won't make a difference who ends up running our student government."



Brandi Peters
Sophomore
Legal Communications

"I think it will be a tight race between Crystal Woody and Taberna Bradley."



Charles Mills
Junior
Math

"Taberna Bradley."



Johnna Rowe
Senior
Radio-TV/Film

"Crystal Woody and Imah Thom."

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

General Registration

Fall 2004

Monday, March 22 - Friday, April 2

9am - Midnight

SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	CLASSIFICATION*
Monday	March 22	Senior
Tuesday	March 23	Junior
Wednesday	March 24	Sophomore/Unclassified
Thursday	March 25	Freshman -Unclassified 2 nd Year Law 3 rd Year Law
Friday	March 26	Graduate 1st Year Law
Saturday	March 27	All Students
Sunday	March 28	All Students
Monday	March 29	All Students
Tuesday	March 30	All Students
Wednesday	March 31	All Students
Thursday	April 1	All Students
Friday	April 2	All Students

*If you are not sure of your official classification, please refer to BISONWeb.

- ❖ Students are required to meet with their academic advisors for discussion and approval of proposed course selections before using BISONWeb (www.howard.edu).
- ❖ Students must meet all prerequisite requirements.
- ❖ Alternate PINs are required for all students (see your advisor).
- ❖ Special procedures are required for all LLM students before registering (see your advisor).
- ❖ Students should print their schedules from the Web in a campus computer center.
- ❖ First deferred payment for Fall 2004 is due August 1st.



HU ELECTIONS 2004

Accountable, Visible: Candidate Keila Foster

By Cathy White
Contributing Writer

Accountability and visibility are Keila Foster's plans for the School of Communications UGSA Representative candidacy. "I want to be accountable and visible as a representative of the School of Communications," said Foster, a junior public relations major, who feels the responsibilities of UGSA representatives is misunderstood by a lot of Communications students.

"In student government people only look at the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer," Foster said. "That's why you see a lot of people who don't know who their representatives are. I want to be visible to the students, so they know they can come to me and talk to me, not have a slip of paper in a box."

Foster, who has volunteered with UGSA for two years and serves as vice president of the Howard Student Alumni group, has many ideas of how to communicate better with students.

"As a student who has been on the outside of the government, I know what students want," Foster said.

Foster's ideas include establishing an African American History week program during the month of February, encouraging and fostering relationships with local African American businesses and developing a women's history program. Foster would also like to see mandatory



Foster plans to hold UGSA accountable for their actions.

office hours for each school's UGSA representative.

"I want the students to be able to come to me and tell me what their problems are, tell me what they think and what they feel," Foster said. "UGSA is here for the student body of the University and we are here to voice their concerns and implement the programs that undergraduate students want to see."

Proactiveness, Dedication: Candidate Ravin Johnson

By Jonathan Davis
Contributing Writer

Sophomore English major Raven A. Johnson wanted to run for the position of Undergraduate Representative for the College of Arts and Sciences because there are changes that need to be made in the undergraduate system.

"Rather than be reactive, I have chosen to be proactive in attempting to return Howard University to its excellence," Johnson said.

Johnson's campaign consists of a three-tier platform: academic, community involvement and communication.

Academia, according to Johnson, is sponsoring more academic programs, which will include a series of lectures.

The second tier of the platform is community involvement. This will be accomplished by instituting a yearlong food and clothing drive to keep shelters open in the District of Columbia area.

"I believe that if the students are given the responsibility, they will realize their ability to make change," Johnson said.

Communication is the third tier of Johnson's campaign platform. Johnson says this can be accomplished by publishing a bi-weekly newsletter that will alert the student



Johnson said that proactiveness is needed in returning Howard to excellence.

body of what is going on in the General Assembly.

"If I am elected, I am dedicated to making changes in our University," Johnson said.

Restoring Order to UGSA: Candidate Jade Beckett

By Kristal Knight
Contributing Writer

"Restoring Order and Involvement" is the platform that Jade Beckett, UGSA candidate for the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health Sciences, is running under. Beckett, who is currently a sophomore physician assistant major, plans to make her college more visible on campus. She also plans to decrease the gap between nursing student government and the allied health students.

Although Beckett is a sophomore, she is not new to UGSA. She is the current representative for the school. She is also the public relations director for UGSA and feels that her current experience makes her more than qualified for the position.

This year she plans on implementing a new program called the Book Swap. This program will allow students in the school to exchange books with their classmates, as opposed to buying them new from the bookstore. She said because many students have the same classes, this would be very beneficial to students who are often low on money.

Beckett also wants to get students in the school more involved in programs. "Decreasing the gap between nursing students and the rest of

"Decreasing the gap between nursing students and the rest of the allied health students is very important to me."

-Jade Beckett

the allied health students is very important to me," she said.

Beckett added that the nursing school works independently and she wants to restore the relationships between all students and faculty.

Knowledge, Notification: Candidate Tiffany Battle

By Tiffany Osborne
Contributing Writer

Under the platform "Howard University: One in One, Knowledge and Notification," Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) representative for the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Science (CEACS) candidate, Tiffany Battle, intends to provide a union between the community and CEACS students. Battle is a fourth-year chemical engineering major from Michigan who plans to be highly involved in UGSA.

Battle feels that through this platform she will be able to bring the Howard University community to CEACS and raise awareness about the events taking place on campus. "Students in the CEACS are seldom involved with the activities of the Undergraduate Student Assembly and The Howard University Student Association," she said.

Battle is very passionate about improving the amount of involvement of the CEACS students on campus and in the community.

"I have been through four years in the College of Engineering and I've seen that we don't get involved," she said. "Last year in the Howard University homecoming pageant we

"Last year in the Howard University homecoming pageant we were not represented and that hurt me."

-Tiffany Battle

were not represented and that hurt me."

No matter the outcome of the election, Battle wants to make sure that CEACS students are very involved with the University and don't settle for just being students.

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Advertising a Cause for Lack of Attendance

By Allison D. Christopher
Contributing Writer

Despite systems that students are too preoccupied with schoolwork or job to attend speak outs, students have said that with sufficient notification about speak outs, they would have attended.

"I didn't know about the first [School of Communications] speak out," freshman broadcast journalism major Andrea Hill said. "I was in my room reviewing work; if I was told about the speak outs, I would have been present. It wasn't like I was busy or anything."

Lauren Paulwell, the current president of the School of Communications Student Council, agrees that there should be more advertisements in the speak outs.

"I think it's necessary for

people to know who will be running their student government," Paulwell said. "The lack of fliers and posters will be remedied immediately," she said. "Out of three boxes, two fliers were lying around the Student Council office."

The students that do attend speak outs said that the events prove to be insightful and informative.

"I liked hearing the different views and issues," Brandon Wallace, a freshman legal communications major, said. "It gave a way to see the issues, not who's friends with who."

When asked how he heard about the speak out, Wallace said that a candidate asked him to attend on his way to class.

Students feel that with adequate advertising more students would attend events.

During the first speak out,

Byron Stewart, a School of Communications' presidential candidate and current Program Director for the school's student council, addressed the lack of advertising.

"We need more fliers, more postings and more people yes-sing the speak outs," Stewart said. "Every class I go to I try to remind students of the speak outs. But it has to be a group effort—I don't want people to think that we don't care if they're present or not present at the debates."

Another problem that students cite is that candidates are not rallying for student interest and support.

Sophomore broadcast journalism major Charanna Alexander complains that the candidates are not visible.

"I would have attended the speak outs if someone would

have announced it in class or something, but I had no idea that events were going on," she said. "I feel disconnected to the student council."

The School of Communications student council said that they have worked to resolve the lack of advertisements. The council assures that there will be seven postings, in both the dorms and the Communications building and advertisements in The Hilltop.

But some students are not convinced that the student council will do anything to change the current state of advertising speak outs.

"I want to see results from the student government," sophomore public relations major Blaise Edwards said. "You get to see a flier on the speak outs. I hope the council will stick to their word this time."



HU ELECTIONS 2004

Experience is Key to UGSA: Cortney Nelson

By Lehora Anderson
Contributing Writer

Cortney Nelson, a junior psychology major, is campaigning to continue her position as a representative to the Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) for the College of Arts and Sciences. She stated that she would like to continue to fulfill the constitutional duties that come with being a UGSA representative.

"I would like to continue to work as a UGSA representative because I enjoy representing the student body at large," Nelson said. "I've worked with the Undergraduate Student Assembly's executive board on events such as the Lasso, the host role and the Spring Black Arts Festival."

She has also worked closely with division programming committees such as the Division of Natural Sciences, who are concerned about lab conditions in the Biology building. Nelson can also be found at general assembly meetings where she voices the concerns of the students of Arts and Sciences.

Nelson voiced her opinion on the importance of a UGSA representative and their position at Howard University.

"As a liaison between the general student body and student government officials, I feel that it is extremely important to be student active at all general assembly meetings, and to know and understand the needs of the students



Nelson plans to use her previous experience in UGSA.

in order to voice these opinions within the meetings and take action."

Although Nelson's platform is simply "to represent," she stated that she would like to unify campus organizations.

"I want to rally student organizations together so that we can put on bigger and better programs that will affect the entire student body and unify us as one."

Vision, Cohesion for UGSA: Muhammad Salaam

By Lehora Anderson
Contributing Writer

"I want to choose a different route than the other UGSA representatives have taken before me. I not only want to be involved in the College of Arts and Sciences, but also with the student body at large."

These are the words of Muhammad Salaam, a junior biology major who is running for the Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) representative position in the College of Arts and Sciences. Muhammad Salaam's political platform is entitled "Vision."

His vision is to create a cohesive student government that represents the students of the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the students of Howard University. He plans to implement more educational and international programs.

"I want everyone to feel as though they are a part of Howard University. Part of my agenda is to make sure all students, no matter where they are from, feel like they are included," Salaam said. His goal is to give the alienated student a role in the Howard Community.

Muhammad's platform includes three tiers: Cohesiveness, Accountability, and Representation.

"Cohesiveness means working together with HUSA, UGSA and Student Council to get things done. Accountability refers to holding



Salaam said that he is the best candidate to bring cohesiveness to UGSA.

the student leaders accountable to the students, and also making sure that student leaders are proactive in working with the administration. Representation is having leaders that represent all students and their concerns."

As a UGSA representative, Muhammad Salaam feels that it is his constitutional duty to bring forth referendums from the students to the General Assembly.

School of 'C' UGSA Rep. Candidate: LeAnn Laury

By Tiffany Osborne
Contributing Writer

LeAnn Laury, Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) Representative candidate for the School of Communications, is determined to make sure that Howard University Student Association's (HUSA) legacy grows and improves in certain areas.

Laury, a junior broadcast journalism major, plans to organize active campaigns for platform is called "A Fresh Start."

"To work with HUSA and make sure that they are doing what they're supposed to do as we perform our duties, it's like a give and take," she said.

As a former staff member of HUSA, Laury was able to see some of the issues first hand.

"As I worked actively on the staff I decided that I wanted to make changes or continue the legacy of what was already going on."

Another aspect of her platform is to set up a program to help students deal with transition.

"There's no other program to help students get back into the swing of things as they are recovering from such events," she said.

Through this program, she would like to set up a correspondence among the students and teachers as they do not feel as if they are falling behind in school.

Laury is active on campus through organi-

"I'm not doing this for recognition; I'm doing this because I want to see change in the environment that I'm in, and to improve it for those who come after me."

-LeAnn Laury

zations such as America's Promise and Delta Sigma Theta Society Interpreted, and plans to stay involved on campus regardless of how the election turns out.

"I'm not doing this for recognition; I'm doing this because I want to see change in the environment that I'm in, and to improve it for those who come after me."

Rebuilding Unity in UGSA: Candidate Trinity LeFlore

By Kristal Knight
Contributing Writer

Trinity LeFlore, a sophomore physical therapy major, is a candidate for the position of Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) Representative for the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health.

Running under the platform "Rebuilding Unity," LeFlore plans to implement new programs as her school's UGSA representative. LeFlore currently serves as executive secretary for the school's student council.

"I have had the chance to work with different divisions of my school and I noticed a lot of division," she said. One way LeFlore plans to rebuild division is by the Accent Mentoring Program. The program's focus is on helping freshmen become acquainted with the school and environment.

LeFlore said that she also plans to institute a program called "Awareness Week" for undecided voters.

"This program would allow students to see what each discipline does and help the school get more recognition on campus," she said. Through active leadership, LeFlore wants to start programs within the school that focus more on community service. She believes that many students do not get involved because they don't feel like the

"This program would allow students to see what each discipline does and help the school get more recognition on campus."

-Trinity LeFlore

opportunity presents itself. That is why she plans to spearhead community service programs within the school.

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HU ELECTIONS 2004

Student Candidates 'Endangered Species'

By Shara D. Taylor
Hilltop Staff Writer

An election season heats up, and candidates' personal records are scrutinized, some students feel the pressure of campaigning is too extreme.

According to 3rd year atmospheric physics student Rasheen Council, many students feel as though positions in student government require too much time, causing them to shy away from the responsibility of holding office.

"I could never try to run for anything because there are a lot of politics involved, and people are put out

into the open," Council said.

Council believes that some students do not want to face the possibility of having their past records scrutinized by the entire student population.

"People find out dirt about you and mistakes that you made in the past, and this causes some people to not want to run [for office]," he explained.

General Elections chairwoman Shaawntel Hebert realizes that the positions within student government involve a high level of commitment and a large amount of work. Although she would like to see more students

run for certain positions, she thinks that students should only run if they are serious about the job.

"I would like to see more candidates for undergraduate and graduate trustee, but those positions require a lot of time and dedication. Being a trustee is very hard work," she said. "However, it is wise for students not to run without [knowing] the extent of work that the position entails." Hebert also acknowledges the fact that many students pass up the opportunity to serve their individual schools and colleges within the local student councils.

"Unfortunately, improvements

could be made through student councils, but students may overlook these positions for the opportunity to be in Power Hall."

Hebert also notes that there is usually a lower turnout rate for government positions within the smaller schools on campus due to lesser participation rate among the students.

Council attributes the lack of participation to the outside responsibilities of many students.

"A number of students, especially graduate students, do not run because they have families or are writing dissertations, which calls for an extensive amount of time," she said. "There

is a lot of work involved, and people do not want to make that commitment to the students unless they feel as though they can make a difference."

Aqul Meeks, sophomore biology major, views running for office as a large distraction from other campus activities and friends.

"At Howard, students in general are not involved in [student government] activities, and there is such a small number of people involved," he said. "I do not feel as though I have enough information, and I am not really into [campus politics]."

Egyptian Organization Speaks on African History

By Natasha L. Williams
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Kemetic (Egyptian) based fraternity and sorority, The Ancient and Noble Order of the Shemsu-Heru: The Companions of Heru, held their interest meeting last Friday to spread awareness about their organization.

The Shemsu-Heru was started in 1998 as the founders realized that there was a need for Howard students to research and learn about the history and traditions of Egypt and Africa.

During the meeting one of the founding members and President of Shemsu-Heru, Adrian Taylor, discussed the significance of knowing Egyptian and African history.

Taylor spoke of the Africans contributions to civilization and encouraged the audience to recognize those contributions in order to make their own contributions.

"We wanted to create a phenomenon where people know about the history of Africa. We need to put ourselves in positions to define our own reality," Taylor said. Taylor also spoke of contributions of prolific writer and educator Carter G. Woodson.

The organization is built on three principles: knowledge of self and love, community service and development, and fellowship. In the first principle, knowledge of self and love, the members believe that one will know him or herself through intense research of the knowledge of Man, Earth, and Cosmos. Love for one's self is also of importance.

"Before you can love someone else you have to first love yourself," said Clifford Davis a member of Shemsu-Heru. "A lot can be solved in our community if we as black people just start to love and understand ourselves."

Community involvement, entrepreneurship and interaction with children are essential to the organization.

"We need to get involved in our own communities so we can make our own money and have our own jobs so we can teach our children," Taylor explained. Members tutor children in the metropolitan twice a week. During these tutoring sessions the members try to help children learn how to apply what they learn in school to real life.

"We try to teach children how to think and address reality," Taylor added. "We try to make school real and help them realize what is going on in their neighborhoods."

According to the members, fellowship is the success of any organization.

"Life is hard and sometimes you need to take time and communicate with people to get back to the center," Davis added.

The members do not endorse hating of any type and like to think of their initiation as a "cultural



Under the principles of self-knowledge, love and community service, Shemsu-Heru plans to make D.C. children more aware of their African American history.

al baptism."

"At the end of the day we want the members to know what it means to be an African," Taylor explained.

Some students think that this organization is needed on campus and allows students to learn a different point of view.

"The organization itself addresses something new," said graduate student and mechanical engineering major Dennis Khemut. "It offers a different perspective and this is something that is lacking on campus."

Sophomore English major, Orlando Jones, added, "We need organizations like this because it is a good step for gaining knowledge of ones self. I do plan on joining the organization and I'm very interested in knowing where it's going to go."

Speak Out Fails to Draw Crowds

By Khellia Koonce
Contributing Writer

Platforms were delivered to a room full of empty chairs at the Speak Out hosted by the School of Medicine last Thursday.

Lack of attendance did not deter candidates from fully expressing their plans for the upcoming school year. The panel developed plans that will attack customer service in the administration building, help fund raising for better programs, improve the mentorship's programs on campus and utilize The Hilltop to keep the student body involved.

Though many candidates plan to keep students involved during their tenure, students blame their officials for lack of information.

"In general I think the students aren't involved because they don't know what's going on," said Terri Taylor, a sophomore journalism major. "I'm supporting Talanza [Bradley] and Alexis [Logan] because of the initiatives they are going to take in help student's know what's going on."

During the speak out the Movement slate mentioned

that cultivating awareness is a key point in their platform.

"The role of HUSA is to make noise and I don't think we are doing a good job at that," said Talanza Bradley, Howard University Student Association (HUSA) presidential candidate.

Students from the medical school expressed their concern over teachers and curriculum and wanted to know what the HUSA candidates planned to do about it.

"We are having problems with the curriculum, the teachers are not covering information effectively and then we are being tested on it," said Eilesha Flanagan, a freshman in the medical school.

The Accountability platform, advocated by Taron Johnson and Jason Raven stated that they wanted to publish teacher evaluations in The Hilltop to better inform students.

"These evaluations and grades would be posted three weeks before registration. That way students can know what they are getting into," Johnson explained. "We plan to get you what you pay for."

The Takeover, launched by

Spencer Chenier and Christian Dorsey, focused on a multi-million dollar fundraising plan for Howard's campus and organizations.

"We have a poor learning environment and we plan to change that," Christian Dorsey said.

Students such as freshman political science major Erin Ferguson are a little skeptical of the Takeover's plan.

"If you fundraise but misappropriate funds you still will have money issues which is the problem with Howard now," Ferguson said.

HUSA presidential and vice-presidential candidates Conrad Woody and Freda Henry plan to redefine the positions, and swing towards change if elected.

The Redefinition team plans to work with the attitudes of the administration building and also with the complaints and problems of the students," Henry said.

Students like sophomore public relations major Celeste Bishop asked for more shuttle buses for Meridian and better drivers.

Howard's History and School of Divinity Intertwined

By Timothy Traylor and
Tori Seaborough
Contributing Writers

After the Civil War, the influx of slaves created an atmosphere of disorientation and a need for social control. Howard's Charter, signed by Andrew Johnson in 1867, was originally set as a religious school.

According to author Rayford Logan, before Congress approved its inception, Howard was first called the Theological Seminary and was later changed to The Howard Normal & Theological Institute.

"Due to the influx of newly freed illiterate slaves, the First Congregation Church, which was a creation of General Oliver Howard of the Freedmen's Bureau and Union General in the Civil War, envisioned a religious institution of training colored preachers and teachers to help uplift some of the 4 million recently emancipated slaves," Logan said.

Today Howard's School of

Divinity has trained a vast amount of church and community leaders.

In 1958, current Dean of The School of Divinity Evan Crawford journeyed through the School of Religion and ultimately found himself staying at the school.

Students such as Tanikka Cox, a first year Master student, agree that The School of Divinity for past students and current graduate students has played a visible role in their success.

"I believe that the Howard University's School of Divinity is very rich in its history and the selection of its professors. Howard has pushed me beyond my traditional boundaries, thus allowing human growth and spiritual development," she said.

Currently located at 1400 Shepherd Street, NE Washington, D.C., The School of Divinity offers three higher education programs. These include a Master of Divinity, a Master of Arts in Religious Studies and a Doctor of Ministry.



Benjamin E. Mays is responsible for getting the School of Divinity Accredited.

The Master of Divinity is a 75 credit hour program that aims to equip individuals to enter the professional religious arena of ministerial duties.

The Master of Arts in Religion, a 48 credit hour program, prepares students for a world of religious academia, which include religious journalism, vocational & guidance counseling and religious education.



EMPLOYEE WEEK



Tyrone Pitts

By Nicole Marie Melton
Hilltop Staff Writer

As an auditor for the largest African American accounting firm in the America, Tyrone Pitts, now the director of cost management, was ready for a change. His former position required extensive traveling, and after missing his daughter's birthday, he knew something had to be done.

"I did a lot of traveling at my former job and that's what brought me to Howard," said Pitts, a native Washingtonian. "I was home less than two weeks of the month, and when I heard about the position at Howard, I came in for an interview."

That was in November of 1998, and is his current position. Pitts handles the daily cash operations of the University. He monitors the cash flow, making sure University money is working to fund the University. Pitts also manages some of the bank relationships and oversees the distribution of credit business checks. Since he took over the distribution of credit business checks, he has met with students, an aspect of his position that he truly enjoys.

"The interaction that I have with the students is interesting," Pitts said. "Before I started with the refund checks, I pretty much didn't have any interaction with students. Now I'm dealing with a lot of students because of the refund check process."

His growing work with the students is gratifying that has earned him their trust. Many students have come to rely on Pitts as a helper and a friend.

"One thing I've noticed here at Howard is that when you help someone and you give them good service, they tend to come back to you whether you will help them or not," Pitts explained. "A lot of times I get students here that I can help, and I get some that I can't help, just because I was a friendly face."

Being altruistic is nothing new to Pitts. Two years ago, Pitts donated his kidney to his father, a situation that changed his outlook on life forever.

"Donating a kidney to my father was the most giving thing that's ever happened to me over the last couple of years," Pitts added. "I was the perfect match."

See EMPLOYEE page 10

Candidates Discuss Issues at School of 'C' Speak Out

By Natasha L. Williams
Hilltop Staff Writer

During the School of Communications speak out, candidates addressed issues such as obtaining better equipment, establishing better communication between staff/faculty and students, and student leader accountability.

Both parties were adamant about holding staff, faculty and administration accountable to make sure work gets done.

"The communication between the administration and the students is not on the level that it should be," said Bryon Stewart, presidential candidate for the School of Communications and current Program Director of the school's student council. "We not only need to hold our faculty and administration accountable, we need to hold our janitors and custodians accountable as well. Not only is this the School of Communications, this is a working environment."

Tamara Byrd, vice presidential candidate, said that holding the administration accountable is about the students having a voice and being able to use it. "Communication is definitely lacking in the School of Communications," Byrd said. "Students shouldn't have to wait an hour to ask their advisors one ques-

tion."

When asked about the allocation of the \$4 million donation from John H. Johnson, Stewart responded, "I'm not exactly sure where the money is going. That would be something that would have to be discussed with Dean Dates. We do know that there is supposed to be a new building for the School of Communications. However, we need to concentrate on fixing the problems inside the school before we try to work on the outside."

Presidential Candidate Oryl Attamus feels that more alumni should give back to the School of Communications. "Four million dollars is not really a lot of money to build a new building," said Attamus. "We need to raise more money to supplement what we need. We also need to bring more School of Communications alumni who are willing to give back to the school."

When questioned about their personal attitude now versus when they get in office, Byrd responded, "If students see the hard work that goes into our platform, then they will see that it is the same hard work we will carry out when we get into office."

See ISSUES page A11

Moment in HU History: Hip Hop Conference at HU

By Candice Jones
Hilltop Staff Writer

While many entertainment organizations on Howard's campus have just begun their development, more than a decade ago members of Public Enemy and other Hip Hop stars met at Howard University's Hip Hop conference in 1991.

The conference was called 'Hip-Hop: Its Crossroads: Seizing the Cultural Initiative.' This conference included well-respected members of the entertainment industry such as Public Enemy member Chuck D, Doug E. Fresh, Cool Moe De, Paris and Daddy-O. The only female in attendance was rap artist and Public Enemy member Sister Souljah.

In 1991, according to a Hilltop article, the Backstreet Bulletin was filled with eager Howard students who wanted every-

thing from interviews to record deals.

One young man was described as "dramatically dressed in hip-hop garb from 'heads to toe'" organizing his package "so he could perhaps leave with a deal." The standing-only audience was all ears, listening to professionals tell them the pros and cons of the industry, the growth of hip-hop, and how to break into the music industry.

Hip-Hop activist Barry Allen, who described himself as a "media assassin," pulled out a popular rap magazine with Vanilla Ice on the cover. Everyone from Allen to Sister Souljah blasted the newly famed artist and urged the starving artists and future music executives in the audience to not jump to the bandwagon.

"Don't mimic the next guy, just do what you do," Sister Souljah said.

See HISTORY page A10



Parking on Howard's Campus A Struggle for Students

By Carmen Muhammad
Contributing Writer

Parking on Howard's campus is a fact that many students try to avoid. However, the students that decide to park have to face the inevitable pink slip.

With 24 lots, a number of university faculty and students remain excluded from the parking process. There are 15,000 requirements for patrons, but there are only 2,000 spaces, including the car and van programs. These figures, however, do not include parking on campus and the Howard University Hospital parking structures.

The parking spaces are allocated through the lottery system, which is a random selection process. Done each spring semester in April, students who complete an application form will be put in a



Students can receive up to \$200 worth of tickets from D.C. parking enforcement for parking violations.

pool to compete to be placed in the lot of their choice.

Because this system is random, many students do not receive parking in desired lots. The Office of Parking and Shuttle Operations sells approximately 1,000 parking permits yearly, about 900

more spaces than actually exist. This is made possible because certain lots are reserved lots of movement, where permit holders are in and out of the spaces.

With the limited amount of

See PARKING page A11

Pastor Butts Inspires Howard Students

By Jennifer Nichols Hunter
Contributing Writer

Calvin O. Butts III, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, urged the bright minds of Howard University students to rise up, stand on their feet and become whatever it is that they want.

Butts, who is also the President of SUNY College at Old Westbury, encouraged the young congregation to use education as a tool for survival.

"The past century is the age of the concentration of power," he said.

Butts said that this century denies individuals of any sense of significance and it forces people, especially the young, to ask "what can I do, and how do I matter?"

Butts explained how the public school systems are becoming more black and

less white, while resources and teacher salaries are getting lower. Black people can gain a lot of wisdom if they took the time to read. He says that reading helps one gain wisdom as well as knowledge, and adds that it is becoming a loss of wisdom of wisdom.

The next thing he urged the youth to do is to be more cultured.

"You can't influence the world without knowing your own culture," he said. Butts explained that to culture something is to fit the soil and prepare, and that students must know how to handle themselves in any situation and never be unprepared.

"The world belongs to you," Butts said. "But only if you're a person of wisdom, culture, and a sense of

See CHAPEL page A11

Hair Stylists Abuse Students' Time

By Isoke Nimmons
Contributing Writer

Although students love the way they look when they get their hair done, they have concerns about the time they spend in clients in the salon.

Yvette Pulkenberg-Gretn, owner of Yvette's Hair and Nail Salon, feels that it is extremely important for both the stylist and client to be on time.

"Time is money in our business," Green said.

Stylists at Green's salon are expected to arrive at the designated time, or each stylist represents the shop.

"I had an appointment at 10 and I walked out at 5."

-Kollin Hoskins

"When a client waits a long time on a stylist, they don't single out the stylist but will make assumptions and comments that reflect the salon," Green said.

Sophomore radio-TV-film major Kollin Hoskins had to wait an hour at the salon before she was seen.

"I had an appointment at

10 and I walked out at 5," Hoskins said. She feels that clients should understand that it can easily take two hours to get a basic style done, which includes washing, conditioning, setting under the dryer and styling.

Sophomore public relations major Blair Edwards decided to switch to a new



Students complain that while hairstylists do a good job, the overall experience is far too long.

stylist after waiting over an hour to get her hair done.

"Stylists need to respect

their clients' time and make a better effort to run their business like a real business," Edwards said. She feels it is sad that students complain about their wait to be taken care of, but continue to support the same stylist.

Stylist Meera Masari hears student complaints similar to that of Edwards.

"Some clients like the work of their stylist so much that they don't care how long they wait, as long as they get serviced," said Masari. However, she feels it is unprofessional for stylists to consistently keep their clients waiting for a long period of time and feels they should

See HAIR page A11

Observation Deck

National Zoo Director Resigns

The embattled director of the National Zoo in Washington DC will leave her job. **OFFICIALS** announced Wednesday after release of a report critical of care in the wake of a host of animal deaths at the 334-year-old, high-visibility capital attraction. A spokeswoman for the Smithsonian Institution, which oversees the zoo, said Lucy Spellman will depart as director at the end of the year.

A National Academy of Sciences panel of veterinarians, zoologists and others began investigating the zoo last year after several well-publicized animal deaths, including two red pandas that succumbed after eating rat poison buried in their yard by exterminators trying to get rid of rodents.

Martha Stewart Fraud Charges Dropped

The justice in the Martha Stewart case dismissed the securities fraud charge against her Friday, saying prosecutors had failed to present enough evidence for jurors to consider the matter. Stewart said her co-defendant and former stockbroker, Peter Brancovic, will face charges of obstruction of justice, making false statements and conspiracy, related to Stewart's sale of her Time Warner shares in December 2001.

US District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum announced the dismissal in court Friday morning. Sentences stand as the most serious charge against Stewart, carrying a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

Chicago Drop-Outs must Sign Consent Form

The Chicago school system has a new requirement for would-be dropouts and their parents: they must sign a consent form warning of the possible pitfalls of quitting school, including jail and unemployment. Arnie Duncan, chief executive of the nation's third-largest school district, said the form is a way of being "brutally honest" about the consequences of dropping out. Duncan said he knew of no other U.S. school districts taking Chicago's approach.

The letter, adopted this week, is a change from an often-criticized policy that allowed students to merely telephone their schools with the news they weren't coming back.

Students 16 to 18 and their parents now must sign a waiver of their "educational rights" and acknowledge that among other things:

"I will be less likely to find good jobs that pay well, but jobs that don't pay well, or maybe no jobs."

"I will not be able to afford many things that I will see others acquiring."

"I will be more likely to spend time in jail or prison."

"I will be more likely to rely on the state welfare system for my livelihood."

"I will be considerably less able to properly care for and educate my children."

Star High School Student Arrested for Murder

Gary Hirtz, a high school athlete, star athlete and Eagle Scout whose name seemed to be in the Weyauwega, Wisconsin's local paper all the time, is accused of committing murder — not for money, or revenge, but just to see if he could get away with it. The Weyauwega-Fremont High senior was charged last month in an arrest that was met with shock and disbelief in this small town of 1,800, where Hirtz has long been the golden boy. He was accused of killing 27-year-old Glenn Kopitske.

Hirtz, 18, told friends about the crime, but none of them, coach, him, seriously, ultimately said. Finally, two months after the slaying, a girl he knew dated went to police because she feared he would commit suicide out of remorse.

Hirtz apparently sought out and stalked Kopitske, a substitute teacher who ran unsuccessfully for state Assembly in 2000, authorities said. Kopitske was found dead August 4 in his rural home outside Weyauwega. He had been shot in the head, stabbed twice in the back and other in the heart.

Hirtz was the city's first Eagle Scout in 20 years. He was an honor student and a 6-foot-4, 270-pound member of the track, wrestling and football teams, and has a steady 14-year-old girlfriend. Readers of the town's weekly paper knew all about his achievements.

SOURCE: CNN

Google Creators on Forbes Billionaire List

The creators of internet search engine Google have joined the Forbes magazine list of world billionaires. Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page are among many new additions to the list, which has a record 587 names this year compared with 476 in 2005.

Forbes said the economy is above prices over the past year had helped to swell the number of billionaires. Microsoft chairman Bill Gates topped the list for the 10th year in a row, with investor Warren Buffett in second.

SOURCE: BBC NEWS

Mardi Gras Ship Wreck Lifted; Mississippi River Re-Opened

By Ria Marie Davis
Hilltop Staff Writer

The supply boat which sank off the coast in the Mississippi River near New Orleans on Saturday 21 February was raised and hoisted onto a barge on Monday. The bodies of four of the five sailors said to be onboard at the time of the collision have been recovered, but officials continue to search for the body of one more crew member. Coast Guard Petty Officer Chad Taylor told the BBC that, "We hope to bring some closure to the families that have been waiting."

The supply boat had been submerged near the Southwest Pass after it collided in the fog with the 534-foot *Zim Mexico III*, a container vessel which sustained damage with its reported injuries. A traffic buildup caused the collision as ships with passengers leaving before or arriving for the Mardi Gras celebrations were forced to wait while rescue missions were carried out by authorities.

The timing could not have been worse given the number of cruises that had been sold out for the Mardi Gras Celebrations. Passengers had to be directed to other ports or ordered to just wait in the city. Rob Wyman, a Coast Guard spokesman said that, "About forty ships too big for alternate routes were waiting to enter Southwest Pass (the only channel in the Mississippi deep enough for large ocean-going vessels) as a number of, and about the same number were waiting to leave port."

One of such ships was the Royal Caribbean's *Conquest of the Seas* carrying 2,500 passengers, some of which were happy to stay longer to enjoy the parade, while others were eager to escape the congestion.

The river had been just been reopened following another collision on Thursday, between a freighter and oil tanker, causing an oil spill of 23,000 gallons. According to the CNN report, the missing crew members of the *Lee III*



Cruiseships such as this, packed with Mardi Gras cruisers, were delayed as a result of the shipwreck which blocked the Southwest Pass in the Mississippi last weekend in New Orleans.

were: *Laetitia*, Glass, 65, of Mobile, Alabama; and four Texas men: *Joseph Brown*, 44, of Vidler; *David Lopez*, 31, of Port Arthur; *Ramon Norwood*, 27, of Galveston; and *Baldemar Villarreal*, 54, of Lake Jackson.

The cause of the accident has not yet been determined and the coast guard said that an investigation could take several months.

Amie McLean, a New Orleans native, said that no one she knew was affected by the accident, but that it was indeed an important occurrence. "It seems like a freak accident," she said. "It is unfortunate that such a tragedy would occur at New Orleans' biggest tourist event, the Mardi Gras."

Haiti: Ousted Aristide leaves amid Claims of U.S. Coup d'Etat

By Gregg Wallace
Contributing Writer

US President George W. Bush on Sunday acknowledged the constitutional succession in Haiti after the departure of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and sent Marines to help quell violence on the turbulent island nation. Aristide left Port-au-Prince onboard a jet Boeing and has arrived in the Central African Republic.

His departure was followed by claims that the United States had assisted in the "coup d'etat". CNN reports that Rep. Charles Rangel, D-New York; Rep. Maxine Waters, D-California; and Randall Robinson, an African-American activist were told by Aristide that he was forced by US officials to resign and leave the country. The White House has denied all such claims.

President Bush stated that Haiti now has an interim president "as per the constitution in place," but did not refer to the new leader. Supreme Court Chief Justice Boniface Alexandre, by name, President Bush urged Haitians to reject violence and "give this break from the past a chance to work."

The crisis in Haiti resumed last week with rebels fighting to oust the president claiming to have captured the nation's second city, Cap-Haitien. There was little resistance as rebels entered the last government stronghold in the north. Rebels said about 200 fighters swept into the port city of 200,000 people and captured its airport. At least two people were reported to have been killed.

A police proposal brokered by diplomats remained on the table, but political opponents did not accept it. President Aristide had agreed to the power-sharing plan which would have curtailed his powers, but the armed rebels were not convinced. The political opposition — which does not seek the rebellion — said they would only accept Aristide's resignation.

Sophomore english and history major, Christine Clarke, writes

about "Why is there a need for a rebel uprising if the Haitian president had already imposed a plan to give up his power?"

Junior insurance major, Timothy Mc Master, comments on Aristide's recent decision to relinquish his power: "In the situation that the Haitian president is currently in, it is hard for him to step down and diffuse any further uprising that may otherwise ensue in the situation."

All four police stations — symbols of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's power — were looted and set on fire, while hundreds of prisoners were reportedly set free. There were scenes of anarchy and jubilation as teenagers paraded in police hats and body armor and beer-drinking widely handed over car keys to residents, according to one report. Cap-Haitien police commissioner Charles Chéry said he had requested support from the capital. "They said they're coming. We're waiting," he was quoted as saying. Thousands of people chanting "Down with Aristide!" marched with a series of eight shots commencing by the rebels, it said. Some people chanting, "We're free!" tore posters of the president off walls, as looters began ransacking stores and homes.

The rebel movement of former gang members and disgruntled ex-soldiers is believed to be in control of about 12 towns and cities across the country. More than 30 people have died in the two weeks since the most recent violent uprising began against President Aristide. The political opposition, which does not support the rebels, and the armed gangs, accuse Aristide of rigging elections four years ago which saw him voted in as president until 2005.

Meanwhile, UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency, is urging neighbouring countries not to turn back Haitians fleeing for safety. The Bush administration planned to consult with allies about sending a UN Security Council resolution that would authorize international support for a peaceful and constitutional transition of power.



SOURCE: UN OFFICE for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Quote of the Day

Do not wait for leaders. Do it yourself, person to person. Mother Teresa

Massive Polio Immunization Drive Begins in West Africa

By Rita Marie Davis
Hilary Staff Writer

Immunization drives against polio have begun in ten West African states. The vaccinations, seen as the last effort to eradicate the disease in the region, will be administered to about 60 million children in three days.

Northern Nigerian states, Bauchi, Kano and Zamfara, will not participate in the drives because they believe that the vaccines are unsafe. BBC News reports that word from Muslim clerics purport that the vaccines were "contaminated with an anti-fertility agent as part of a US plot to render Muslim women infertile."

Kano government spokesman, Idris Ya'a Idris, said that, "unless we are convinced by our committee (of health experts) that the

oral polio vaccines are safe, the exercise remains suspended in Kano state."

Research showed that the vaccines were safe, but a report produced a month ago discovered that it contained elements of the reproductive hormone estrogen.

Ylke Charles Idoocoli, a PhD organic chemistry major from Africa said that, "The Islamic states in Nigeria have always had a fear for the western-driven effort to eradicate disease in the region. They believe that the US will put stuff in the drugs that will make them impotent or cause sterility. All of a sudden, they think it is a scheme to attack their population."

The World Health Organization (WHO) in response to the vaccine contamination rumors held an emergency meeting last month to encourage countries,

particularly those where polio was widespread to continue their fight against the disease. "We risk reversing our gains. We can't eradicate polio globally if everyone does not take action," said United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) spokesman, Gerrit Boger.

Fifty percent of recent polio cases worldwide have occurred in Nigeria, with Kano being the hotbed for the recent upsurge of the disease. The oral vaccines will be distributed on a door-to-door basis by thousands of volunteers.

Factories are also said to be involved. The BBC reported that an informant in the Nigerian city of Kaduna witnessed mothers opening the jaws of infants to give them the vaccine.

Health officials stress that it is important for the disease to be contained so that it does

not spread to children elsewhere who are no longer immunized, or to countries across the world. Vaccination of children at this time is hoped to stop transmission of the virus which is said to be currently at its weakest.

In response to the rumors about the contaminated vaccines, the Health Ministry of Nigeria has established a team to oversee tests on the vaccine in labs in South Africa, India and Indonesia. The teams were said to be working diligently to present the results as early as possible.

A United Nations Children's Fund spokesman told the BBC that any delay could result in the spread of the virus crippling more innocent children, both in Nigeria and neighboring countries.

Observation Deck

Hand Chain Protest against China Missiles

More than a million people have linked hands in the length of Taiwan in a demonstration against China. The 500,000 human chain, organized by supporters of President Chen Shui-bian, was in protest at China's deployment of missiles against Taiwan. China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province which should be reunited with the mainland - by force if necessary.

Brazil Nun Dead After Exposing Organ Trafficking

A Brazilian nun has been found dead in Montebelo after some of her colleagues said they had exposed an organ trafficking network. Doraci Edinger had reportedly been strangled and beaten in her home in the southern city of Nampula. The traffickers are said to target the sex organs of children, which are said to make magic charms.

The nun from the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate said they had received death threats since their report. On Tuesday, the authorities said they had found no evidence of a trade in human organs. But the nun says they have spoken to victims who managed to escape the ring and have photos of dead children with missing organs.

MS to Remove Controversial Contract Clause

Microsoft has announced it is to ditch a controversial contract provision under investigation in Japan. The software giant's statement comes after Japan's fair trade officials raised its Tokyo offices on suspicion of stifling

ing anti-monopoly laws.

Microsoft said it would now be removing the contract detail which prevents computer firms from suing it for any use of their patented technology.

Hungary Farmers Demand Help to Compete in EU

Hungarian farmers feared their roadblock prevents to the capital on Monday, as French President Jacques Chirac arrived for a two-day visit. Protesters are demanding more state subsidies, saying they cannot survive in the EU's competitive environment after Hungary joins on 1 May. The government says it would have to cut other spending to help farmers.

Israeli Helicopters Fire on Gaza Strip

Israeli helicopters have fired missiles in the Gaza Strip, killing at least three people, says a Hamas spokesman. At least seven others were injured in the attack on a car traveling from Gaza City to the Rafah refugee camp on Saturday evening. The Israeli army said the strike was carried out against mosque Islamic Jihad members planning terror attacks.

Israel has frequently used helicopter gunships to target and kill Palestinian militants.

SOURCE: BBC NEWS

Reefs Could Be Dead by 2100

Trawling and Rising Sea Temperatures Leading Cause of Ruin

By Sean Jackman
Hilary Staff Writer

Coral polyps are tiny sea creatures that live inside a hard shell. They group together by the thousands to form colonies, which we know better as coral. They are very fragile and take about five years to mature enough to reproduce. Sadly, they may be all but gone within a century.

Reefs have always been in danger from man. Civilizations near water often result in chemical run-off, mainly from horticulture, agriculture and other urban developments. Visitors to the reefs also have a habit of littering with the plastic accessories by leaving off pieces of the reef as souvenirs. Also, the only safe way to killing the very delicate organisms that make up the reef, leading to the overall decline in the growth of the reef, but the destruction caused by these methods is still nothing when compared to the two major contributors of reef death: trawling and heat.

Only recently has it been discovered that there are more species of corals in cold and deep ocean waters than in tropical shallows. Unfortunately, bottom trawling is destroying vast amounts of the reef without giving them any chance of reestablishing themselves.

By the February 16, over 1200 marine scientists had signed a statement that called on the UN and world governments to freeze the rest of the heavy trawling gear until it can be determined that trawling can be justified anew.

The trawlers - nets armed with heavy weights - are used to catch big species of fish in deep waters, but destroy everything in their path doing so. A substitute of anchored long lines has been proposed should the ban take effect. The lines would be several hundred meters in length, and would float above the reef. Researchers say they are willing to accept the risk that they might

snag on the reefs while being retrieved in preference to current methods.

The polyps, which make up the coral, are also vulnerable to the rising sea temperatures. Evidence suggests that even an increase of two degrees Celsius is too much for the coral. It is further estimated that by the end of the century, temperatures are expected to rise by up to six degrees. This rise in sea temperature is mainly an effect of global warming.

Countries such as the US, are now trying to implement plans to curb the effect of global warming. The White House has argued for years that the cause of the change in climate is yet to be determined. In 2001, President Bush pulled the US out of the Kyoto pact, a worldwide plan for slowing global warming by reducing so-called greenhouse emissions.

The US was the world's biggest polluter but thought that the agreement was worthless unless developing nations such as China, a large producer of polluting gases, were also included. Australia followed suit and also pulled out of the pact, under heavy criticism. However, both countries are now pursuing methods of dealing with, adapting to, and ultimately slowing or reversing the climate change.

The corals are an essential part of the underwater ecosystem. In many environments, they offer the shelter needed for depleted fish populations to recover. Coral reefs are also the main source of protein for around ten million people worldwide. They provide a natural barrier against ocean storms and bring in millions of dollars through tourism and fishing.

A worst case scenario set forth by Researchers from Queensland University's Centre for Marine Studies forecast the collapse of the Great Barrier Reef coral population by 2100, with reestablishment highly unlikely for another 200-500 years. Given the current trend, those marvelous, beautiful creatures are set to join the extinct list.

Building of Israel's Barrier Persists Through International Court of Justice Hearing

By Sean Jackman
Hilary Staff Writer

In 2002, Israel decided to build what is now the controversial West Bank barrier. Being erected at about \$4 billion, the barrier is part wall and part fence.

Stretching over 440 miles (700 kilometers), the majority of it is made up of a concrete base with a five meter high wire and mesh superstructure. Walls of razor wire and a four meter deep ditch run along one side while there are electric sensors and an earth-covered trace road on the other side, which happens of any one crossing can be seen.

Parts of the structure will also consist of an eight meter high solid concrete wall with massive watchtowers, which may also be used as sniper wells to prevent attacks on Israeli citizens.

Work started in June 2002 and contractors have to be

completed a quarter of the barrier, amidst heavy criticism. During the Palestinian intifada, Palestinian suicide bombers ran rampant in Israeli cities.

Despite initial skepticism, the government has decided to build the barrier in an attempt to keep the suicide bombings out. However, critics say that it is a device to grab land.

Nelimo Celestino, a freshman legal communications and sociology major, said, "Originally they probably started off to protect themselves. However, as time went on, they realized that they could use this as an excuse to claim Palestinian territory."

Israeli's Foreign Minister, Silvan Shalom has denied such claims. He told Israeli radio that because of security, the route could not be changed. "Because then it will become a political issue and not a security issue."

He also said that the barrier

was not meant to draw any type of permanent border between the two sides. "We have lots of experience with fences that we have moved in the past," he said, as Israel argued that there is nothing to prevent the fence from being moved after a negotiated settlement.

Opponents of the barrier claim that the barrier represents everything that is wrong with Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. Not only is Palestinian land confiscated to build the barrier but hundreds of their farmers and traders are cut off from their land and means of financial existence.

Take for example the town of Qalqilya, which is inhabited by 22,000. A tight loop in the wall surrounds this town in three sides, cutting it off from its farms and the second largest water source. Entry is through a single Israeli checkpoint.

Elizabeth Nemeck, fresh-

man computer science major, stated that, "The planned wall extends pretty far beyond Israeli borders to be an error. If you want to protect your property, you surround your property, not yours and the neighbor's."

Several countries have already voiced their negative opinion about the barrier. The UN condemned the barrier as illegal and tantamount to "an unlawful act of annexation". The International Court of Justice (ICJ) was then called in to determine the legality of the barrier. Israel, the UN, the EU and others think that the ICJ is the wrong forum for such a discussion. With proceedings beginning on Monday February 23, Israel started moving pieces of the controversial barrier around Baka al-Sharqiyah, building a new section on the western side of the town. Israel claims the finding was coincidental and that the wall will continue as planned.



Ins deutsche!

DIE BREITE

2. Mr. (4)
5. Half (4)
8. Mrs. (4)
9. Or (4)
11. Water Closet (2)
12. About (5)
13. Sock (5)

DER LÄNGENGRAD

1. Often (3)
2. House (4)
3. EU (2)
4. Skirt (4)
5. Here (3)
6. Der Bogen (3)
7. P.t.o. [Bitte wenden] (2)
10. The feminine (3)

ANSWERS
1. Mr. 4, Mrs. 4, Half 4, Or 4, Water Closet 2, About 5, Sock 5

ANSWERS
1. Often 3, House 4, EU 2, Skirt 4, Here 3, Der Bogen 3, P.t.o. [Bitte wenden] 2, The feminine 3

Offensive Cartoon Published

CARTOON from A7

lot of us didn't really want to print this cartoon, 'cause it's kinda offensive. But we did. Cause that's our policy."

Howard students are upset that the Columbia newspaper would run a comic strip like that in their paper.

"We need to stop letting things like this slide. That paper doesn't have to print everything they get," Ashley Shambly, a freshmen communications major, said.

Junior psychology major Brian Tinsley agrees that more should be done by Howard students to support Columbia University students.

"If we as Howard students have to go to New York to help the students change their views of blacks, we should. Columbia is only four hours away," Tinsley said.

Even though many African American Columbia students have taken offense to the comic strip, Robert Perry, a

Columbia University student, said that blacks have not been hurt.

"I don't know whether there's any true unity or justification based on race than there was before," Perry said. "I think there is widespread sentiment against student groups doing and saying offensive things for their shock value. Many student groups, and not just groups representing students of color, have stated their solidarity on this issue."

Perry added that since the release of the cartoon, silent protests, town hall meetings and forum discussions have been held at Columbia University.

McDonald said that Columbia students are not only protesting the cartoon, but also the hate talk spread by the Columbia College Conservative Club that opposed the University's pro-affirmative action admission policies. Students are also protesting the Columbia University Marching Band, who in

December greatly offended women and other minorities in their annual Ogee Night production.

Perry said that students have been dressing up in black and sitting on the stairs of Law Library, the central site on campus.

Sophomore radiation therapy major Megan Jones believes such measures should be implemented to get positive results.

Greg Carr, assistant professor of African American Studies at Howard, said that he is not surprised by the situation at Columbia University.

"It's neither surprised nor discouraged by this cartoon. It's very revealing to see the level of political satire coming from the Ivy League," he said. "The next time someone questions the level of intellect and political discourse of HBCUs, I'll direct them to The Fed."

Jordan Remembers Brown

BROWN from A7

series of segregation cases from 1938.

He reminded the large crowd of the sacrifice of ordinary people, including high school students, who put their lives on the line.

"The essence of a mass movement is the mass," Jordan said. "County after county, the working class brought down a system that oppressed them. Brown gave birth to civil rights. If segregation in education is wrong, so are buses and voting booths."

Jordan's message of united efforts was heard clearly by many of the lawyers.

John Zyl, first year Yale law student said, "It is really important to remember the history of this country and how we made it better, as we look to the future. This conference helped remind people that Brown didn't just happen in a vacuum, but through so many willing to work so hard."

"I came to show support to Howard Law and this initiative," second year law student L. Chris Stewart said. "A lot of us get so caught up in



The Howard University Gospel Choir using spirituals to begin the Brown at 50 Conference. Jordan said that the civil rights movement has to continue with the mass of people.

the now, we forget what got us here. Brown, on its 50th anniversary, is still important."

The weekend conference was a combined effort of Yale and Howard, and one of the many events of Howard to commemorate the legacy and 50th anniversary of Brown and the important role Howard School of Law played in the case.

"We want to celebrate the legacy of Brown, specifically those trained here at Howard Law, including Theophilus Marshall," said Mia Woodard, graduating third year law student and Brown Celebration assistant.

"We recognize the importance of Brown and continue to carry the torch until the promise of Brown is realized."

College Hill: Exclusive Interview

COLLEGE from A1

a chance," but I ended up being selected," he said.

Nina said that juggling school, the show, a job and cheerleading proved to be a difficult task.

"It was a very hard thing to do," Nina said. "I was captain of the cheerleading squad and I had school as well. I went from making my own car to two like a comedian to making all this."

She said that it was difficult adjusting from living in an apartment to living in a dorm with seven other people.

Jafari said that adjusting to three other guys and the camera was the most difficult part of the show.

"My friends stopped want-

ing to come over because of the camera," Jafari said. "Every time they came over there was always a camera."

Because of the camera, Nina said that it was hard for the cast to pretend.

"Some people said that we were acting or being fake, but it's hard to be fake when you've been on camera filming you every second," she said.

Despite their difficulties, Jafari and Nina said they gained something from the experience.

"We have come away from this experience with a new family," Nina said. "We make how many reunion specials or blooper reels they release, we will still have something that no one could ever join."

Jafari said that the show

opened opportunities into the entertainment industry that he did not know about.

When asked about critics who said that the show stereotyped African Americans, Jafari said that the show could not please everyone.

"Some people want us to be like the Cosby or 'A Different World,' but we have to be ourselves," he said.

Nina said that the show was more than MTV's "The Real World."

"The Real World, you have people who live in a nice house and don't pay any rent," Nina said. "On our show, we have rats in the rooms. How real can that be? We as African Americans need to support our own because if we don't then we can't expect anyone else to."

You know, Daddy was once in our shoes, now look at him. I feel very confident about our future in the music industry."

Moment in Howard History

HISTORY from A7

Throughout the evening, light was shed on several panel co-shows: *Byches with Problems* and *How with Attitudes*. These guests were absent from the regular *Blacks, Browns, and How: A Look at the Pretorial of Woman in Music* because of supposed "managerial decisions."

"The reason why this is crazy is because I can't believe that we would call our women hipsters and how. We shouldn't even have this panel," Doug E. Fresh said.

In addition to the Hip-Hop conference, there were two Hip-

Hop concerts on Friday and Saturday night.

The showcase on Friday was held at the Citadel and at the Ramada Renaissance on Saturday. The concert on Saturday, which included top star X-Clan, had five times the attendance of the concert on Friday. X-Clan rocked the show according to the 1993 article in *The Hilltop*. Howard rapper Chino Black was also a crowd pleaser that night.

The event on Saturday had two rooms at the Renaissance: one for talent shows and performances and the other for dancing to old-school and new-school hip-hop.

Like today, Howard

University students have always expressed an energetic interest in the entertainment industry, be it the love of music in particular.

Students who participated on the entertainment panel that took place on Friday feel that they have a bright future in the music industry.

Entrepreneur, radio-TV film maker Jenna Wiggins, who is now a representative for Atlantic Records, looked at past Howard student Sean Combs as proof that she could make it into the music industry.

"You know, Daddy was once in our shoes, now look at him. I feel very confident about our future in the music industry."

Jackson Talks to Students

JACKSON from A7

shock news," he explained.

Jackson believes that the most serious degradation of the development of America is through the history of Black Americans.

"Working status being admitted into the China is like watching animals [going] into Noah's Ark, two by two," he said.

Students such as Tamara Fitzgerald, a 9th grader at Owe Hill High School, understood the message that Jackson conveyed through his speech.

"John Jackson, Jr. was very inspiring, and he was setting the tone for what is coming next and what we need to know later," she

said. Megan Wheeler, an 11th grader at Edmund Burke High School, agrees with Fitzgerald.

"It is very powerful and impacted in his actions. It is inspiring others to see the point of view that something is not perfect in America," she explained. "There are things that still need to be worked out."

Twelfth grader Virginia Reed, who also attends Edmund Burke, believes that Jackson gave people the necessary information to make an informed decision about their personal stance on race.

"This was the second time listening him speak. He educates his listeners, as opposed to fill-

ing them with ideas. He gives them the history, and that is the most powerful thing," Reed said.

Jackson hopes that his words will inspire a new generation of activists among future leaders.

"There are good generations of Americans who did not live through the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement to amend the Constitution and Brown versus Board," he said.

"They know not the road to social change of which they are the beneficiaries, but they need to know it. African-American youth need to know the language of justice so we have for our future and how much further we need to go."

Employee of the Month Profile

EMPLOYEE from A7

for my father and out of the grace of God, everything worked out. I think God gave us all two kidneys just to see how much people would love each other."

Pitts resides in the District with his two daughters and his wife. A former basketball champ, Pitts loves sports, but

doesn't play often because of his kidney. The most enjoyable aspect of his life is being around his family. He says that his family is the most important part of his life.

"Everything has always been about family," Pitts said. "I didn't really have a lot of friends outside of our family, because there were always so many of us."

Working at Howard often Pitts the chance to interact

with his family often, a feature of his job he would not give up for the world.

"I've turned down many job opportunities that would have taken me away from the city," Pitts explained. "I don't care how much money it is, it's just not worth it. I can be somewhere else and have a lot of money, but mentally I wouldn't be happy. My family always comes first."

write

The Hilltop holds budget meetings every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the West Towers

Butts Stresses Education

CHAPEL from A7

dependence." Butts added that the youth must wake up because the competition out in the world is tough.

"Know other people's cultures," he said. "Only through an awareness of the value of others, this world is in a downwards spiral to hell."

The last and most important value that Butts encouraged Howard students to do

is embrace their faith.

"No matter how much secularism might call you must hold on to your faith," he said. Butts concluded by saying that institutions like Howard University and people in their personal lives would not have been able to raise their flag, had it not been for faith.

Butts also said that education and faith are like twin rivers that come together for a sole purpose. He chal-

lenged Howard students to "not become members of pop culture," but to stand up and use their education and faith as a mechanism for accomplishment.

"We are children of God, we are someone in God's sight, God loves us all...He finished by adding that, "if we can't do so just can, but we can do anything through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Candidates at Speak Out

ISSUES from A7

Some students wanted to know how the candidates plan on making events that go on in the School of Communications more visible on campus.

Candidate Atanmo said that the school not only needs to make themselves more visible on campus, but also community. "We need to hold forums to attract other students to the school of communications and have events that showcase our talents and skills," said Atanmo. "We also need to implement programs to help the children in our neighborhood because we are a part of the metropolitan area and we need to get involved."

Some students thought the candidates did a good job

"We also need to implement programs to help the children in our neighborhood because we are a part of the metropolitan area and we need to get involved."

-Onyi Atanmo

presenting their platforms and got a better understanding of what they plan to do.

"They gave us a lot of information. I'm not sure who I will vote for yet, but it was helpful to hear both sides," said sophomore print journalism major Kyree Staff. "We definitely need to see a change in the School of

Communications."

"This was my first speak out and I thought it was really well presented. All of the candidates seem like they have interesting and effective ways of improving the School of Communications," said junior speech communication major James Lynn Reeves.

Parking a Daily Challenge

PARKING from A7

parking spaces for the university, many students and faculty are hired to park in meter spaces. There are 425 meter spaces in the vicinity of the campus. However, parking on the street can become costly because of the many tickets given for expired meters.

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles of Washington, DC, the most common parking violation is \$25 for an expired meter, but the full amount of violations can range between \$20 and \$500. Three outstanding tickets, or tickets unpaid for 30 days, could result in a ban being placed on the vehicle.

"If you ignore your tickets, your car can be towed," said Alphonso Horton, the Director of Parking and Shuttle Operations. "Once towed, you have to pay all outstanding tickets and then pay for the tow. Your Howard account can also be flagged and you will not

be able to register for classes or graduate."

Many students are unaware that the District of Columbia distributes permits to full-time students to park on the street in residential areas, to ensure that they are not ticketed or booted.

The College Community Service Representative of the DMV, said students should become aware of the options available to them if they are not fortunate enough to get parking.

"I have received seven tickets parking around Hove," said Danielle Perkins, a sophomore fashion merchandising major. "Howard should develop more parking for students on the land they own that they are not using."

"We are in an urban situation and we are landlocked, which means we would have to acquire property and change the landscape," Alphonso Horton said.

The Texans, formerly on

the corner of Georgia Avenue and W Street, is one property that has been infilled to provide an additional lot. As outlined in President Swygert's Strategic Framework for Action II, Howard University would also like to build a facility for 1,000 additional parking spaces. The plan states, "This facility will enable the University to provide more access to its academic and community programs."

The Office of Parking and Shuttle Operations will employ a new plan that will give incentives to individuals who participate in the commuter choice program and include carpooling, riding the Metro system and car share programs similar to ZipCar. According to Horton, there are plans to launch a new automated parking program to facilitate registration of vehicles and acquisition of permits. This program will bring about changes to the lottery system and aid the office in achieving its goal.

Long Hours at Hair Salon

HAIR from A7

offer a discount.

Christopher McLaughlin, an assistant stylist at Yvette's Hair and Nail Salon, said that stylists schedule appointments close together because there is a 50/50 chance that the clients will show up. In cases when all scheduled

clients do come in, he feels stylists should have an available.

Alexa's Gentle Touch on Georgia Avenue receives many clients from Howard University. She said that the first person that comes in late for their appointment throws the stylist's schedule off for the remainder of the

day. Another issue that has an effect on stylists getting clients in on time is when other clients do not know what they want.

Senior psychology major Chaeel Cryer said that she has not had a problem with her stylist. "I would speak up and say something if I did," Cryer said.

School of C Meets ASSC to Bring You...

FIRE & ICE BALL

Saturday, March 6, 2004, Holiday Inn on the Hill, 9:00pm

Semi-Formal Dress,
Purchase Your
Tickets at Ticketmaster, \$15

Shuttle will depart from 6th St. and
Howard Place (in front of the School
of Architecture) at 9:30, 10:15, and
11:00pm





Get on the Pathway to Vehicle Financing

A FREE Informational Workshop
for Howard University Students,
Featuring Credit Expert Bill Cheeks

"Your Pathway to Vehicle Financing" is a FREE step-by-step workshop that will help you learn the ins and outs of purchasing a vehicle. This informative session will cover:

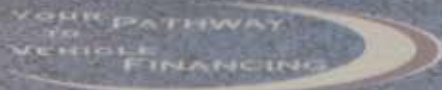
Budget: What can my monthly budget afford?

Credit: How does credit affect my purchasing decision?

Options: How will I pay for the vehicle - cash, lease or finance?

Choices: What can I get for my money?

March 4, 2004
Blackburn University Student Center
5:00—7:00 PM



Presented by the AFSA Educational Foundation,
Funded by General Motors and General Motors Acceptance Corporation

Howard University School of Law

Invites you to its *Spring 2004 Open House*
Friday, March 12, 2004, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Howard University School of Law, West Campus
2900 Van Ness Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

(The law school is not located on the main Howard University campus.)

- ◆ Learn about and experience the historic mission and purpose of the law school
- ◆ Learn from the leaders of student organizations
- ◆ Sit in on a class
- ◆ Join in a discussion group

RSVP by March 5, 2004 (With phone number and name of undergraduate institution):
admissions@law.howard.edu or call (202) 806-8008/9

Please check our website for further details www.law.howard.edu



Rapper Christopher Lieb AKA "Whyte Out" has already grabbed the attention of rappers such as Fat Joe.

D.C.'s Great White Hope: Metro Area Rapper Whyte Out

By Allison D. Christopher
Contributing Writer

The crowd emerges and screams in excitement over two rappers; it's a battle and someone's taking the crown home.

There's the "hype-man," dressed in a North Face bubble jacket, fitted hat and Timberlands. His hands gyrate in a fanatical motion, almost staccato. Aided by the smooth-to-match with lyrics spewing out like a hydraulic pressure dynamo, he stands tall, his body leaning back, eyes...

crowd grows, they anxiously await the opponent; a lanky kid with his hands in his pockets. He looks around in the crowd. He's white, so some are expecting him to fail.

Whyte Out, 21, has the persona of a shy and humble boy wrapped in Sean John clothing, yet his eyes are fiery and lit with excitement.

One can notice that his swagger is extremely confident from the time he opens his mouth to speak. His attitude works in his favor as he performs Maryland's hip-hop hospital. Whyte Out is on his way to becoming the first

rapper from D.C.'s metropolitan area to gain critical acclaim and success.

"All eyes are on me from the world 'n' it's almost like they're waiting for me to f--- up, so when I do good, everyone notices," Lieb said to Maryland resident Justin Venon.

Snatched up by record label Guerrilla Music, managers Gary Steele, Marwan Porter and Chris Styles believe that their client has what it takes for renewed success in the music industry. "The talent is there, there's no question about it," Porter says. Venon is very receptive

to him," Steele said. "He's TRU, ready to go." The Guerrilla team saw raw talent in Whyte Out's performance on BET's 106 & Park's "Freestyle Friday" competitions.

After winning seven straight weeks before being retired as a champion, Steele signed Lieb to his label, capitalizing on the mass appeal.

However, the Guerrilla team faces a challenging obstacle: metropolitan area rappers are unable to maintain a commercial recording career. And it's not like D.C. is devoid of talent; there are hip-hop record and R&B millionaires

along with an assorted mix of rap artists. But it seems more like a curse. D.C. has given birth to R&B mega moguls from America to Marvin Gaye and Duke Ellington. When will D.C. present longevity to a rapper?

Whyte Out and his camp aren't worried. Guerrilla believes Whyte Out's fame is right around the corner. Lieb says his biggest goal as a rapper is to be respected and not "get commercial." ■ *Declaration: every issue*

See **HOPE** page 88

Kenn Starr: One MC That Shines To Some

By Glory Edlin
Contributing Writer

His government name is Kenneth Brown, but you may call him Kenn Starr. Who is Kenn Starr?

He is a storyteller, whether it is about broken hearts or lost opportunities. In a world where cash, money and how reign supreme in hip-hop music, this music artist offers an insightful new look at the genre. This charismatic young man is on a mission to enlighten on the masses.

"I create the regular man's hip-hop. Music from an everyday perspective. I'm talking about the life of a 21-year-old in America... the trials and tribulations I face on a daily basis," Starr says.

The well-proclaimed MC grew up on music and penned his first rhyme at ten. Now at 21 years old, Starr has committed his life to hip-hop. He was



recently signed to Hallmark Records, a new record label founded by David Schrager and Zach Gordon in 2002.

Kenn Starr became the

second artist to be signed to the label and with good reason. The dancing MC has proven he

See **STARR** page 28

New Jazz-Infused Remix of Jay Z's 'The Black Album'

By Allison D. Christopher
Contributing Writer

The beat is constant; its melodic flow puts listeners in a trance. After a hectic week of exams, projects, and meetings, the sound of neo-soul is welcoming to the ears.

The bass line hooks the listener and their eyes close, savoring the moment. Strings and horns adorn the melody, but it accents the piece, not overdoing it. The listener kicks back and wonders whose CD is playing or whose instrumental track this could be when, all of a sudden, Brooklyn's own Jay Z exclaims "Ladies and gentlemen, you're far too kind." And it sounds good. You good, is this a remix?

The Black Album has a new facet, not to mention a new color. D.C. local producer Kevin Brown has remixed Jay Z's album with his own blend of jazz and classic soul, entitled



Brown gives his audience the best of two genres with the jazz remix of the Black Album entitled "The Brown Album."

The Brown Album.

Brown is a member and founder of The Lo-Budget Crew, a Maryland-based production team consisting of producers and emcees that take on projects surrounding some of today's leading music of hip-hop artists. When *TheFormula.com* asked what fueled Brown to start his own

production team, Brown replied: "In about 2000, is when I really decided I wanted to just make beats, around the time I hooked up with Cy Young and that's basically when I started my crew. Lo-Budget, before the crew, I was calling my production Lo-Budget because you know, my

See **BROWN** page 86

Hip-Hop in the City: "Little Brother" Drops by...

By Glory Edlin
Contributing Writer

Hip Hop music continues to grow and prosper as a unique and creative art form that has forever changed the landscape of modern music.

It transcends culture, race and economic status, and it is representative of a subculture that has its own voice, beat, rhythm and inventive expression. Washington D.C. contributes its own unique flavor to the musical genre. Often hip-hop artists come to D.C. to test their skills, and one such group is Little Brother, an incredible

"Everybody thinks that North Carolina is this country place with people bouncing everywhere, but its not."

-Phonte

background trio that is making waves in the music industry.

Little Brother, a unique and creative hip-hop crew, will be in Washington D.C. on March 2, 2004. They are a superb combination of jazz, alternative flavor and shocking chemistry.

Little Brother consists of MCs Phonte and Big Pooh, along with DJ/producer 9th Wonder. Originating from Durham, NC, the group met in the late 80's while attending North Carolina Central University. An immediate friendship occurred and the building of a hip-hop career

began. Each musical artist initially worked on solo projects, along with a number of other musical talents. But it was not until August of 2001 that the unit came together as an official team, known as Little Brother.

The group is making great

progress in their hip-hop journey. They are touring and quickly grabbing the attention of DJ's and promoters throughout the region. Their unique style is changing the face of hip-hop, especially when it comes to their home state of North Carolina. They have been influential in cultivating the Durham hip-hop scene. The trio played a major role in the creation of the Durham League, a 12-member crew of first-rate producers and MC's of which Little Brother is still involved.

"Everybody thinks that North Carolina is this country place with people bouncing



everywhere, but its not," explains Phonte. "When people hear we're from North

See **HIP-HOP** page 86

SPORTS

With Portis on Board, Redskins Look to Gain From Strong Draft Prospect As Well

By Tereza Paylor
Contributing Writer

Ask any coach, scout or player in the National Football League about Clinton Portis, and they'll likely concede that he's one of the top running backs in the NFL.

Now he's a member of the Washington Redskins.

Over the weekend, the Washington Redskins and the Denver Broncos landed out the final details of the NFL's biggest trade in recent memory.

Washington will send All-Pro cornerback Champ Bailey and a second round pick in this year's NFL Draft to the Broncos for Portis, one of the league's most explosive tailbacks.

Last year the 25-11, 205-pound Portis rushed for a career-high 1,291 yards and 14 touchdowns on 200 carries,

which was good enough to earn him an invitation to his first ever Pro Bowl.

Both players won new contracts, and it appears that each of them will receive one. Portis made the paltry sum of \$300,000 last year, which is a small fraction of what a player of his caliber normally makes in a season. He pruned about his contract all year, but Denver refused to renegotiate his current deal because Portis has two years left on it.

Bailey, on the other hand, is a free agent that simply could not agree to the terms on a new contract with Washington.

Bailey hammered out the details of a brand new contract with Denver this weekend, and Portis' new deal with Washington is imminent.

While sources confirm that this deal is set in stone, the NFL will not make it official until the NFL's free agency period begins on March 3.

This is the latest in a number of off-season moves for the Redskins. Just last week, they finalized a deal with Jacksonville to bring in quarterback Mark Brunell, a former All-Pro who is expected to bring the leadership of the quarterback position the Redskins have lacked in recent seasons.

Despite the addition of Brunell and Portis, there has also been much speculation about what the Redskins plan to do with the fifth overall draft pick in April's draft. Washington still has plenty of holes to fill, most notably at the tight end, defensive line, cornerback and safety positions.

Some athletes the Redskins have been rumored to be looking at are below.

Source: ESPN.com
NFL.com
WashingtonPost.com
FootballFuture.com



Former Denver Bronco Clinton Portis will be looking for more than an annual salary of \$300,000 in his contract with the Redskins.

This Week in MEAC



BASKETBALL:

Men's Basketball:

Delaware St. 64

B-C-C 50

SI State 68

Coppin State 60

NC A&T 91

Morgan State 80

Hampton 79

UMES 71

SCSU 72

B-C-C 62

Delaware St. 65

North Carolina 44

FAMU 81

NC A&T 70

Hampton 86

Howard 72

Coppin State 61

UMES 36

Standings (MEAC, overall):

Coppin St. (13-4, 10-13)

SCSU (12-4, 15-19)

Delaware St. (10-4, 11-13)

Hampton (10-6, 12-18)

FAMU (10-6, 11-14)

Morgan St. (9-7, 9-10)

North Carolina (8-8, 8-18)

UMES (8-9, 7-17)

B-C-C (5-11, 6-20)

Howard (4-12, 8-18)

NC A&T (3-13, 5-22)

Women's Basketball:

Delaware St. 46

B-C-C 46

Coppin St. 38

SCSU 42

Howard 84

FAMU 69

Hampton 82

UMES 42

Morgan St. 71

NC A&T 63

B-C-C 56

SCSU 49

Coppin St. 78

UMES 81

North Carolina 56

Delaware St. 43

Hampton 81

Howard 68

FAMU 86

NC A&T 53

Standings (MEAC, overall):

Delaware St. (15-2, 18-7)

Hampton (12-4, 12-12)

Coppin St. (12-5, 16-18)

FAMU (11-6, 18-20)

Howard (10-6, 14-14)

B-C-C (8-9, 11-13)

SCSU (8-10, 8-18)

UMES (8-12, 10-18)

North Carolina (8-11, 5-19)

NC A&T (7-13, 6-21)

Morgan St. (5-13, 5-22)

SOFTBALL:

FAMU 1

Yorkport 0

Delaware St. 2

Howard 6

Delaware St. 6

Howard 0

BASEBALL:

St. Barn Mary's 27

UMES 18

FAMU 6

Western Michigan 5

Redskin Draft Prospects:

KELLEN WINSLOW, II



Quick Stats:

Tight End

6-7, 251

18-year Draft: 1-22

University of Miami

Winslow is the son of former NFL great Kellen Winslow, and like his dad, he plays tight end. With his terrific speed and hands, scouts are already comparing him to Tony Gonzalez, Kansas City's Pro Bowler who is generally regarded as the best tight end in the NFL. Although he turned off some NFL scouts with his attitude over the last six months, "The Chosen One" (a nickname Winslow gave himself at the start of this season) will still be a top 10 choice in the draft.

Bottom Line:

While Winslow will eventually be an All-Pro, he doesn't quite fit as well with the Redskins as most think. Redskins coach Joe Gibbs prefers big, blocking tight ends, and while Winslow is improving as a run-blocker and has the nasty streak that Gibbs loves in a player, he doesn't quite fit the mold of a traditional Joe Gibbs tight end.

TOMMIE HARRIS



Quick Stats:

Defensive Tackle

6-7, 281

18-year Draft: 1-74

University of Oklahoma

Harris has been killing opposing college offensive lines the moment he arrived on Oklahoma's campus. He is a three-year starter who has elite ability, fantastic strength, and a great first step off the ball. He also has won every major award in college defensive lineman can win, and has been regarded as the best defensive tackle in college football for the last two years. However, his size is a concern for some, and he falls a bit on great numbers in his career. Also, some scouts are worried about his tendency to disappear in big games.

Bottom Line:

Gibbs won't be scared of Harris' deficiencies - he size won't make much difference if he uses proper technique, and his lack of college productivity can be attributed to the constant double and triple teams he's faced since his sophomore season. Look for the "Duke" to be Harris' disadvantage in big games on lesser opponents, and hope his size doesn't come around often.

SEAN TAYLOR



Quick Stats:

Free Safety

6-3, 208

18-year Draft: 1-11

University of Miami

With the trade of Clinton Portis, the Redskins have a glaring hole in the secondary. Taylor is not only the best defensive back in the draft, he is the best defensive player in the draft. His ability to step the run, deliver the big hit and line up and cover with receivers will ultimately make him the NFL's best safety in a very short period of time.

Bottom Line:

Joe Gibbs knows football, and if he's as smart as we all think he is, there's no way he will pass on the draft's best defensive player. But the Redskins do have a bigger need on the offensive line, and if Harris impresses them enough, they'll probably take a player based on need instead of overall ability.

SPORTS

Hampton Snaps Howard's Three-Game Win Streak

By Edward Hill, Jr.
Special to The Hilltop

Lenetta Sullivan scored a game-high 27 points, making all eight of her shots from the field—to lead five players in double figures as Hampton University overpowered Howard University, 81-56 in a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference women's game at the Convocation Center. It snapped a three-game win streak for Howard while Hampton extended its win streak to seven.

The Lady Pirates (12-12 overall, 12-4 in the MEAC) took control early behind Sullivan's

13 first half points as Hampton took a 32-16 lead to the locker room. The Lady Bison, who have had problems getting consistent production from the post, missed 28 of 32 shots in the first half with the majority coming on outside shots.

Hampton's defense was instrumental as it scored 21 of its points off Howard turnovers.

The Lady Bison (10-15 overall, 10-6 in the MEAC) were led by freshman Christina Aden, who tallied 15 points. No other Howard player scored in double figures.

Hampton got balanced scoring from Sharrma Dean

(17), Nicole Breathway (10), Neeka Lannister (11) and Breedy Ellis (10).

Junior center Andrea Jones is having her best season; she scored nine points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds, freshman guard Shammont Carlisle added eight points and six assists off the bench.

Lady Bison will try to get back on track when they take on the Lady Spartans of Norfolk State University on Monday at 6 p.m. at Nichols Gym while Hampton will play the Lady Hornets of Delaware State on Monday at 5:30 p.m. for a share of first place in the conference.

Howard Drops Fourth in a Row

By Edward Hill, Jr.
Special to The Hilltop

Jeff Granger poured in a game-high 31 points, including six three pointers, to lead Hampton to an 85-79 win over Howard University in a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference men's game at the Convocation Center. The loss was the fourth straight for the Bison.

Granger hit on six of nine from beyond the stripe in the first 20 minutes to stake the Pirates (12-15 overall, 10-6 in the MEAC) to a comfortable, 44-29 halftime lead.

Hampton extended the lead to 46-29 to start the half, but the Bison (6-19 overall, 4-12 in the MEAC) rallied on the

scoring of James "Mac" Wilkinson (23 points, 16 in the second half), Seyo Aluko (10 of 16 after intermission) and Will Gant (11 of his 14 in the second half), who combined to help Howard narrow the margin to 76-71 with 1:54 remaining.

But Granger, who made good on all of his 9 free throw attempts and Devin Green, who converted 8 of 9, helped stave off the Bison rally. The Pirates made 18 of 21 free throw attempts for 86 percent in the second half.

Conversely, Howard made only 60 percent (18 of 30), including several front ends of one-and ones.

The loss overshadowed another gutsy performance by

Howard sophomore point guard Louis Ford (11 points, 5 rebounds, 6 assists, 3 steals and a blocked shot).

Howard played without freshman guard Derek "833p" Mitchell and freshman forward Stanley Greene, who were held out due to medical reasons. Aluko needs 34 points to eclipse the 1,000-point mark in his career and Ford needs two steals to break the school, single-season record of 68 held by George Hamilton in 1986-87.

The Bison play the Spartans of Norfolk State on Monday at 8 p.m. in Nichols Gym while the Pirates host the Hornets of Delaware State on Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Convocation Center.

Bison Softball Starts Season 0-2 Against Hornets

By Lindsey Walton
Contributing Writer

Due to chilling temperatures and heavy amounts of snowfall in Boise Creek, North Carolina, the Campbell Stampede Softball Tournament was cancelled this past weekend. The cancellation forced the Lady Bison a face-off against the Delaware State Lady Hornets at a brighter location, and miss playing Hampton and Campbell Universities.

The Lady Bison and the Lady Hornets met in Dover on Saturday for a best of two games battle. In the opening game, three early errors of the Lady Bison were the team's downfall. Pitcher Kristy Posey tried to hold off the heavy hitting of the Lady Hornets to no avail, as the score after the first inning was set at 2-0.

The Lady Bison defense held Delaware until the fifth inning, when they scored once again. The Lady Bison did not score until their rally in the sixth.

The rally began with a single from sophomore Debbie Lee. Following her hit, Lee stole a base, putting her in scoring position. Freshman Lark Pickett came to the plate to hit a triple and bring in Lee.

Kenisha Cross, the 2003 MEAC second team pick who led the team in batting with a .333 last year, stepped up to hit a single and Pickett scored. The effort was not enough as Delaware came back at the bottom of the sixth to bring in three, making the final score 6-2, Delaware. Posey pitched the entire first game, ending with three strikeouts and two walks. Pickett led in hitting for the Lady Bison on the weekend, as she went 1-2 in the first game and 1-3 in the second game.

The second game was more of the same as Delaware earned the win against Howard 6-0. After a rough 2 1/3 starting innings from sophomore pitcher Casey Finney, Head Coach Tonja Braxton brought in the rookie Kelly Posey, younger sister of starting pitcher Kristy Posey.

"A very bright spot of the game was when Kelly Posey came in and virtually shut down Del State's offensive attack. And that's really huge coming in as a freshman, who you don't expect to play that well. She had an impressive showing," Braxton said. Kelly finished the game with one walk and one strikeout.

Finney said, "We weren't at the top of our game but it went well for it to have been our first

game of the season and to have not played in two months."

The key to the games, Braxton said, was the mental state in which the team began the games. "I think we were tense as a team and we didn't do a great job of playing loose. We're trying to become a team that operates well under pressure."

Junior first baseman Tameka Johnson felt as though the mental aspect of the game was key as well. "Considering it was the first game of the season, the nerves in the first inning were to be expected. But our hitting came along as the game progressed."

Despite the losses, the Lady Bison are not discouraged. Braxton said, "I'm not worried. The 0-2 start doesn't make me any less convinced of the quality of the team we're putting on the field. Thirty games is still the goal and it's the direction that we're going."

Next up for the Lady Bison is their first home meeting of the season with the Lady Tigers of Towson University. Towson holds a current record of 2-3 and will face the Lady Bison at 1 p.m. on Thursday. In last year's matchup, the Lady Tigers shut out the Lady Bison, 8-0.

BISON ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Name: Louis Ford

Sport: Basketball

Position: Guard

Classification: Sophomore

Hometown: Cambridge, Massachusetts

Ford had 11 points, 6 assists, 5 rebounds, 4 steals and one blocked shot in Howard's weekend loss to Hampton, and played 39 out of 40 minutes. He leads the MEAC in assists with over 5 per game and he ranks second in steals with over 3 per game.

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SHE'S ON THE MONEY



Saving Can Be Simple But We Must Educate Ourselves

By **Katherine A. Smeringa**
Business & Technology Editor

Now that you're (hopefully) saving your change, here's an additional method you can make. Whenever you have dollar bills, look for your initials in the serial number on the face of each dollar bill (\$1, \$5, \$10 and even \$20 bills) and set them aside. For example, I would look for B. A and B. This is an easy and painless way to save almost without noticing.

Next, practice paying yourself to persist whenever you receive money, whether it is a paycheck or gift. Make sure you "take" it yourself before you spend, that way you won't accidentally forget.

Another way to keep money in your pocket is to avoid credit. According to Clark Howard, an author who frequently writes about credit card habits personally, you should avoid mail shopping at all costs, especially if you're not looking for anything in particular. Plus, you should always have a strategy of what you plan to purchase, because retailers know how to target customers, and often spend more money than we should.

While it may seem trivial, watch your friends. Notice how they spend and analyze how they handle money. Are they the type to be broke constantly? Do they call home for money more than once a week? Do they flip coupons? Notice their checkbooks! While those factors may seem insignificant, studies have shown that one's spending is often based on environmental factors, such as knowledge and relationships. While you may be accused by the overly habit of your family, chances are you'll find some about making your purchase—at least around your "money show-time." Spend, Prosper and Prosperity rub off, but so does constant spending. Therefore, choose your friends carefully.

More importantly, it is up to you to educate yourself and become proactive in the pursuit of financial literacy. Begin to immerse yourself in financial news. Read the business section of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*. Watch the financial segments on CNN and BET. Not only does it affect you, but it can also be interesting.

The financial decisions we make now become a precedent that other people can financial future. Realize the importance of these decisions in the long run; it could be the difference between qualifying and being denied for a loan.

Did some need savings tips? Comments, suggestions or questions? E-mail kat_smeringa@yahoo.com

Spinners Now Worn on Shoes, Rims and Necks

By **Rivka Ruff**
Contributing Writer

Most have seen them on nice cars and heard hip-hop artists rap about them—the hot item, commonly known as "spinners" or "Spewells." The rims that spin after the car stops are popular, especially among the hip-hop generation.

First sold from his California auto shop, Minnesota Timberwolves star, Latrell Sprewell has been famous for them spinning rims for several years now.

slated to come out yesterday, March 2, Sprewell's new basketball shoe features a mini spinner on the side.

Like his famous Sprewell runs, the feature on the shoe keeps spinning when you stop walking. The shoes received recent publicity when worn on the feet of Indiana Pacers' Ron Artest during the NBA Jam session over All-Star weekend. Made by Dada footwear, the new "Spew's" are generating quite a buzz. They were also given a special feature in a recent issue of *Newsweek*.

Jewelry Howard students voiced their opinions on the new shoes.

"They look cheap," said

senior political science major Christian Dorsey. "I don't see how you can incorporate a rim on a shoe."

Others think the shoe is wearable.

"Them shoes is 'hypee,'" said Jason Rickett, a sophomore architecture major. "In other words, they're pretty tight."

The trend apparently does not stop at shoes. For those who can't get enough of Sprewell-inspired accessories, spinner jewelry is also an option.

One web site, hiphopdot.com, sells a line of Sprewell-rim inspired merchandise. The site offers necklaces and bracelets with a two-inch spinning rim charm in the center, each selling for \$30.

The trend has gone too far for some.

"I think they're o-d-ing on the spinners," said sophomore chemistry major Miguel Graves, expressing that the spinner trend has gone overboard.

"I've seen spinning rims on people's necks, and now feet. What's next?" said junior psychology major Tarrá Jackson. "I think the world has gone mad."



Latrell Sprewell and Dada have teamed up to put spinning wheels on the latest sneakers. Sprewell is famous for his creation of the popular spinning rims and jewelry.

Study Shows Half of Kazaa Files Contain Viruses

By **Alison Brock**
Contributing Writer

While computer viruses can reach a person's hard drive through a number of channels, such as e-mail or instant message, the most popular sources are file-sharing programs. In fact, according to a recent study, Kazaa, the most popular file-sharing program around, contains viruses and Trojan horses in forty-five percent of its executable files.

The study, conducted by TruSecure, a security firm, found that nearly half of the 4,776 Kazaa files downloaded each month contain contaminated files.

The director of malicious code research at TruSecure, Bruce Hughes, said that viruses spread through Kazaa a number of ways. The first method of contamination involves a host intentionally sharing an infected file. In other instances, the malicious code was designed to spread throughout the network and remain in certain directories.

Once an individual downloads an infected file, he or she would unknowingly share it with others, thereby continuing an ongoing infection of executable files.

Executable files, unlike music or picture files, initiate the "exe" suffix which means a user can open the program by just double-clicking on the icon. The most popular ".exe" files are actually computer software programs such as Microsoft Office. Pirated copies of executable computer software are shared via Kazaa and other similar file-sharing programs.

According to Hughes, however, music or movie files with double-suffixes, such as ".wav.exe" or ".jpg.exe" for music and photos respectively, can contain viruses.

"Exe files tell the computer to execute certain instructions," said computer science major Edwin Andrews. "You want to avoid those because it tells the computer to execute the virus."

Viruses are relatively sim-

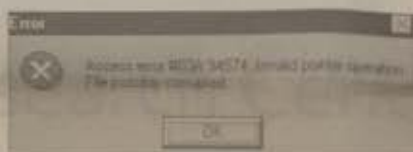
ple to create for people with an understanding of computers and the resources to do so, according to Andrews.

I-Lab, Assistant

Christopher Alan agrees. "Whoever creates [viruses] must do so with care. They only do it to start trouble," Alan said. Though I-Lab computers do not use Kazaa or other file-sharing programs, they are still susceptible to viruses. Contaminated floppy disks can transport viruses from a personal computer to an I-Lab computer, and e-mails also contain infected materials.

The question remains, however, as to why people create viruses in the first place.

Marshall Brain, an electrical engineer, theorizes that there are three main reasons people create infectious programs: Creator and contributing writer to howstuffworks.com, Brain explains that the ones that drive vendors and armors motivate people to create viruses. Additionally, computer users who are fascinated



with "explosions," such as small pipe-bombs, may find entertainment in the figurative explosion of a virus on a computer network.

Finally, bragging rights come into play, particularly when a virus spreads to a large number of PCs.

"Typically, when a person

creates a virus they want to see how far it can get. Like, if it makes the news, the person that created it knows that they really did some damage," Andrews elaborated.

Problems associated with viruses can range from minor glitches in programs to erasing the entire hard drive.

BLACKS IN BUSINESS

Howard Alum Making a Capitol Explosion on the Business Scene

By **Marcus Stanton**
Contributing Writer

Since she was 13, Maisha Walton has always wanted to become an entrepreneur and own her own business. Walton always loved computers, and Walton believes that a career should be based on doing something you love. With a knack for computers and graphic arts, it was unavoidable that she would do graphic design as a career.

Walton grew up in a small town called Richmond, CA. Walton said, "Richmond was a tough place to grow up but I wouldn't trade my experiences in Richmond for any other in the world, the lessons I learned will stay with me for

a lifetime." Richmond was a difficult place to grow up because of all the crime and the fact that many of the residents either sold drugs or were on drugs.

Despite her environ-



ment, Walton was involved in many business ventures as a teenager. Walton worked during high school to help her single mother with the bills.

See ALUM page 88

HU Student Uses Sales Skills to Decrease Debt

By **Mia R. Hampton**
Contributing Writer

Nicole Ukpat is different than many people who start jobs because money. Ukpat started as a means of survival.

As director of her team in Team Platinum Prepaid Legal Services, Ukpat is respected by her co-workers.

"You're definitely working with the right one," said Jonathan Taylor, a sophomore radio technician and film major and group chairman-member of Team Platinum.

"She is one of the best, one of our top leading ladies," said Karl Jones, a senior finance major and team manager.

Ukpat has maintained a 3.0 grade point average, received the

Howard University leadership scholarship and was a member of the award-winning Howard University Mock Trial team. By doing the spring semester, she was denied access to her grades.

The university told Ukpat that because of an outstanding debt of nearly \$3,000, she would not be allowed to view her grades for the past semester. This also meant that she would not be allowed the following semester—in which she had received another scholarship to cover all of her expenses.

After visiting the financial aid office and various banks, she was advised to take out a student loan. This was denied because the money was just due. Then

See DEBT page 88

New Software Delivers Files in a Snap

By Robin Davis
Contributing Writer

Many users say the problem with file-sharing is the wait. With companies like Napster and Kazaa, downloaders can find themselves waiting up to three hours to finish downloading a file, particularly video files. A new file-sharing system is making the wait considerably shorter for its customers.

BitTorrent was started by Bram Cohen in 2001. BitTorrent is the latest peer-to-peer file sharing system. This system is designed for minimal waiting through the use of simultaneous downloading. The files are broken up into different parts and then downloaded piece by piece. As one user downloads, the parts that they have downloaded are being uploaded by another user. This frees up time and bandwidth because the download is not as big as it would normally be.

The BitTorrent program also helps to eliminate people who refuse to share downloads. With this program, the more uploads, the faster one's downloads. This gives the "leechers" minimal success in their downloading.

BitTorrent has a different way for its users to find files to download. The users are responsible for finding torrent files for download on their own—not through an interface search engine, used by programs such as Kazaa and LimeWire. Users can use websites such as www.suprnova.org or www.tvtorrents.com.

Although BitTorrent is mostly for video files, it is gaining popularity and creating a buzz on the internet. User feedback on the website www.download.com has shown mixed results, with 68 percent approval and 32 percent disapproval.

Many of the users complained that BitTorrent is difficult to understand, and not very compatible with dial-up modems or Windows XP. Other users complain about the excessive donation requests when starting up.

Despite the many different complaints, most of the feedback comes from users who give BitTorrent a strong recommendation. One user, under the handle "yes sir," said "BitTorrent is the future of pip [peer to peer]. You need to understand it. You can't open it like would open Kazaa, but it doesn't mean that you can't use it."

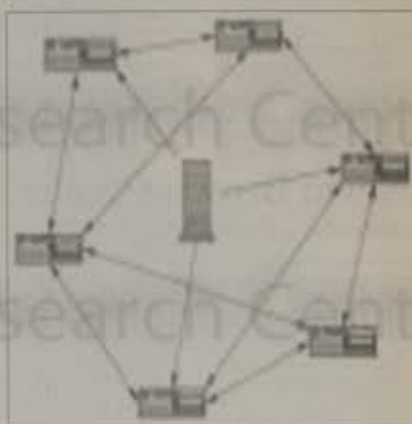
One feature that the feedback seemed to agree on was the lack of spyware involved with installing BitTorrent—a big difference compared to other peer-to-peer programs. Nonetheless, this free program is funded only through donations.

Some Howard students say they have not heard of this new program.

Sophomore broadcast journalism major Michael Lawson hasn't heard of BitTorrent, but says he would give it a chance if it's compatible with Apple computers. He likes the idea of BitTorrent, and admits that other downloading systems have problems. "Sometimes I wait because it's based on other people's computers. If that person with the song is not online, then you end up being out of luck," he said.

Others say that they don't experience long waits with their file-sharing programs.

"It depends on if the internet is working that day, but for the most part it is pretty fast," said Joi Gilliam, sophomore journalism major. Gilliam also has not heard of BitTorrent, and doesn't think she will change, because she is satisfied with her program, Ares.



BitTorrent allows users to download files piece-by-piece, directly with other users.

Some Students Must Have the Latest Gadgets

By Eronmwon Oronsaye
Contributing Writer

From camera phones to pocket PCs, many students across campus are finding it hard to resist the "techie" urge. Like the computer's overwhelming impact on societal aspects, technical gadgets are also storming their way onto the average daily itinerary.

So what exactly is propelling the new surge in technological gadgets?

Besides being in tune with what's in style, many of the latest gadgets have a lot to offer, especially to the typically disorganized student. Aside from features like digital daily planners and appointment books, the right techie can cure the inevitable boring class.

Freshman computer information systems major, Ervin Robinson, owns a model HP2215 pocket PC, retail value \$500. When asked about his latest gadget, he said, "I use my pocket PC to make all my appointments. I can go online, play games, listen to music, organize my contacts, record audio files, take notes. It also comes equipped with an address book, Microsoft Word and Excel files, and Bluetooth."

Freshman Biology major, Sable Nelson, owns a Trio 600 Palm OS Smartphone—retail value \$499. "My phone has a palm pilot, a built in camera, and two-way," she said. "It helps me get organized and has an internet connection that lets me go online when I'm in class. It also has a huge storage capacity [and] I can plan up to five years ahead," Nelson said.

Imagine watching music videos or chatting with

friends instead of falling asleep during a boring lecture. Additionally, much of the latest software comes equipped with Bluetooth, a fairly new technology that allows wireless connection between various electronic devices. With Bluetooth, users can send files to printers or fax servers and synchronize data in various formats.

The camera phone, with its ability to capture moments, has also become increasingly popular.

One recent high profile gadget is the Archos 120, a 20 GB mp3 player, with a sticker price of \$239. The player comes with an internal microphone, an AM/FM tuner, LCD display, photo viewer, and rechargeable batteries.

Another device with growing popularity is the Cyberhome portable DVD player—retail price \$366.40. The Cyberhome allows you to take your DVDs anywhere. The compact design allows for easy storage and also contains up to 2.5 hours of battery life.

The Apple iPod also has created a buzz. It is a 40GB mp3 player with a retail value of \$299. The player can store up to 10,000 songs. It's equipped with a custom voice recorder, sleep timer, alarm clock, Music Quiz, Solitaire, Brick, and Parachute. It is PC adaptable so you can transfer songs from hard drive to hard drive. Best of all, it is lightweight, easy to use, and has a very compact design. Storing songs on mp3 players are always a good way to save space on your computer.

Some users believe the latest gadgets are a must-have although many are a bit pricey. Gadgets can be found at stores like Radio Shack, Circuit City, Best Buy and Staples. Other options are internet sites like pricegrabber.com, BizKate.com, and Buy.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCHOS.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF BESTBUY.COM

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Program is Helping Howard Graduates Purchase New Homes

By Brian Kasoro
Contributing Writer

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) may be responsible for creating the spark that has started a wildfire of student economic activity.

At Howard University, students are taking advantage of opportunities to put themselves in homes, and professors are helping them.

Doosovan Anderson, a senior history and classics double major, recently completed an informal workshop after seeking mentorship a year earlier from Charles Glass, a professor in the department of civil engineering.

"Professor Glass is not limited to one aspect of wealth building," Anderson said.

According to Anderson, Glass' course has been a complement to the CBCF's program. Those who are serious have been taking advantage of the information and money that the CBCF is giving away while personalizing their experiences by working with "well-versed" professors.

ASON EBONG, also a senior history major, agrees. "He's more help, but only because the CBCF is not directly teaching students."

Both Anderson and Ebong plan to own homes by next year.

"Anyone that knows anything about wealth can tell you of the importance of wealth accumulation over generations," Ebong said. "It's about controlling one's own destiny."

While relishing in the excitement, both realize it's an uphill battle.

"African Americans don't come from wealth," said Simone Griffin, the spokeswoman

and pioneer spearheading the initiative. Griffin, 26, explains that this is the perfect time for such a program. "What better time, what better place to start building wealth than through the colleges?"

Nearly a month ago, the CBCF brought their new initiative to Howard. The CBCF continues its tour around the country spreading the economic gospel with its workshops on student home buying.

According to Griffin, the main reason is wealth. She claims a big issue within the African American community is lack of money. Partnering with BankOne, the CBCF is giving seniors who participate in the program \$1,000 which can be used to cover closing costs on a home. The money has no cap, meaning there is no "first come first serve."

Bank One gives vouchers to every student who completes the program. If high numbers of students continue to turn out, BankOne's contribution to African American home buying will reach the \$1,000,000 range, Griffin said.

By attracting big businesses, CBCF President Walden Roussignas is pushing African American homeownership onto the national agenda. "They have all placed [their] dollars and faith behind this program and its mission. We are fully committed to its success."

However, in order to receive the money from BankOne, the loan must also come from BankOne.

"That's their incentive," Griffin said. "I got a program for zero down that covered all closing costs. I may have had to pay more in interest but if that's what I had to do, that's what I had to do."



Jason Thomas, a senior political science major, stands outside of a D.C. home.

Christopher Lieb, "Mr. Hype Man"

HOPE from B1
 clean make but few back up.
 Lieb recently declined an offer from Showtime to star in a documentary about emcees because he would lose the rights to his demo tape.

Instead, he diligently works on his music in the studio, and makes guest appear-

ances on various rap stars tracks. Currently, he is featured on Bone Crusher's single on the radio, "Bodda Not Say Nuthin'."

Commenting on the new single, Whyte Out said, "Bodda Not Say Nuthin' is still the current champ and if it wins on radio, the song will get retired

from 'Battle of the Beats' and added its regular rotation." Whyte added, "I can't tell you how great it feels getting all this love in my hometown. Maryland finally has its anthem. You think the song is crazy? Wait 'til the video comes out."

Kevin Brown Creates New Twist

BROWN from B1
 pockets was huttin'".
 Brown reluctantly pursued the opportunity to remix Jay Z's album. "I wasn't gonna do it straight up. First of all, I knew cats were gonna be like, 'It was the thing to do because it wasn't on some exclusive stuff,'" said Brown.

But after encouragement from his production crew, he went to work on the remix album, adding his own flavor to the mix. He also wanted the opportunity to get his name put onto the music scene.

Brown was able to remix the album because Roc-A-Fella Records put out a cappella records that producers could mix to. The 11 cappella artists' lyrics without instruments allow for mixing and alteration of a track.

The trend of making a remix album off of an cappel-

is actually stemmed from producer 9th Wonder when he successfully remixed Nas' God's Son CD entitled a.s.l.m. After critical acclaim, 9th Wonder won a spot on Jay Z's Black Album. (He produced the track "Threat"). And as a result, many producers are now remixing artists' albums in hopes to be heard. In the recent "remix buzz," Brown is one of five producers to remix Jay Z's Black Album.

Brown produced a more jazz-infused and up-tempo album, using all but two tracks ("Change Clothes" and "Justly My Thing"). "It's much more cohesive—he (Brown) took his own feel to it beat-wise and added some soul," says Patrick Johnson, a Howard alum that showcases the local DC music scene. Johnson also adds: "It's Talkin' Kweili's beats on Jay Z's voice, it's well done."

AllHipHop.com deems

The Brown Album a well-done piece too. "Kev's mostly live, solidified instrumentation is an ideal backdrop for Jay's lyrics. On "Threats," he chops Al Green's "Still in Love With You" and things it like hot girls serve a brooding haze line."

The internet site dedicated to hip-hop awareness also adds: "Jay Z's 'Moment of Clarity' weaves a saxophone jacked from Soul N' Wesen's 'Blacktown,' with sparse guitar that gives the song an anglic resonance. Brown's jazzy version of 'Easier' reminds you why Jay and The Roots band is such a good match."

Kevin Brown is a key player in the underground music scene and with such a smooth flow in The Brown Album provides, it's a shame non-local infused with rap isn't as popular as it should be.

Kenn Starr Offers a New Look

STARR from B1

can work with some of the best in the industry. Starr has collaborated with the likes of Talkin' Kweil, J-Live, members of the Justice League and Ayleen of Unspoken Heard. His first commercial release is entitled "It" and is available on vinyl. The song is one of his greatest accomplishments and the foundation of his pioneering career. In a dusty, crowded club in Adam's Morgan, people gather for the "You Don't Know the Half" album release party. An eclectic group of people sip drinks as DJ Mowgli spins a variety of records.

After a little mixing and mingling with the underground hip-hop community, Kenn Starr and Oddisee hit the stage. Together their energy is explosive and gets the crowd moving. Dressed in a long white tee, Starr has the microphone in hand and retires the crowd.

He raps slowly with a slight grin on his face, an expression that says he thoroughly enjoys what he is doing.

From the crowd, members of the Halfbush Records family, also known as "Low Budget Crew," support their friends on stage.

The Low Budget Crew is a collective body of producers and artists breaking ground in the hip-hop movement. The crew consists of Kenn Starr, Oddisee, Kevin Brown, Critically Acclaimed, Slaxton Horn, Greg Loria, Kenneth, Kamali and many others. Starr recognizes and appreciates the friendly and common bond they share, a love of hip-hop and the dream of lasting fame.

Starr has made the artistry of hip-hop his passion. Musical artist like Ken Def and Talkin' Kweil inspired his work. "They have gained great success while bridging the gap between underground and mainstream

hip-hop music, while maintaining a level of respect and credibility. I want to earn that respect and maintain that tradition," Starr says. The song "It" (produced by Oddisee) on the "You Don't Know the Half" album, featured Starr, Adams and Talkin' Kweil.

Working with Kweil was a significant triumph in the MC's career. When asked about his experience with the pioneering artist, Starr replied, "I enjoy and respect his work. It was a privilege to work with such a talented cat." To work alongside people he's been a fan of for years is a major achievement for Starr.

In Starr's "Countdown," the chorus sings, "It's only a matter of time before I shine." The MC continues to rhyme, improve his craft and wait. It is only a matter of time before many audiences see the light.

Hip Hop in the City

HIP-HOP from B1

Carolina, they're surprised because to them we're not what Southern rappers are supposed to sound like. We could be from Brooklyn, Kansas or anywhere."

Little Brother is heavily influenced by Tribe Called Quest and De La Soul but don't be mistaken. Their sound is fresh and original. Check out their album, entitled "The Listening." To listen to these engaging lyrics firsthand go to the Black Cat.

For additional info about Little Brother, check out their official website: blackcatmusic.com.

LISTING

Aroma Club
 3417 Connecticut Ave. NW (Cleveland Park)
 Old School Fridays featuring DJ Dredd 10 p.m. - 3 a.m.

Modern
 3267 M St. NW (Georgetown)
 Throwback Thursdays - spinning classics from the 80s, 90s present. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Cafe Saint Ex
 1847 14th St. NW
 Breakfast/Lounge - Saturday nights feature a rare groove collection, allowing you either to relax or move on the dance floor.

No Longer at Verizon

ALUM from B4

She was high school class president and treasurer; she worked up to three jobs at one time to help support herself and her family.

"My mother has truly taught me how to be independent and that to achieve anything you must work hard," said Walton. "Witnessing all the stress that my mother had to go through because she didn't have enough money has made me work hard so that I don't have to go through those same burdens."

Walton began Capital Explosion Graphic Design, LLC during her junior year at Howard University. She began designing flyers and brochures for HUSA, schools of business and communications student council, UGAs and Greek letter organizations. She also created marketing material for students running for student government.

"I was just starting out and I was extremely excited about doing work for my fellow student body," said Walton. "My dream was starting to become a reality."

She graduated from the school of business with a degree in Computer Information Systems in the spring of 1998. The school of Business helped prepare Walton to start a business of her own, she said.

Walton went on to work

for Verizon Communications as a software engineer. While at Verizon, Capital Explosion was just getting off the ground. "With the increase in business over time Walton was able to quit her job at Verizon and in 2000, she received her graphic design certification from George Washington University.

Walton began creating custom favors, invitations and programs for weddings later that year. Since the inception of the wedding collection, Capital Explosion has designed personalized favors such as bookmarks, candy bars, t-shirts, tote bags, t-shirts, wine bottles and water bottles for hundreds of weddings in the Washington D.C. area. The business services a broad spectrum of clientele, including distinguished Howard Alumni, politicians and rap stars including the hip-hop couple Ginowine and Sole.

Capital Explosion has also designed the CD layouts for gospel, rap, R&B and jazz recording artists, including Elisha McKinny's "Same Man, Different Name."

Capital Explosion's clients range from individuals to major corporations, including the Howard University Bookstore, MCE Corporation, The College Tour Company, T.D. James Ministries and the Department of Justice.

This year, Capital Explosion recently acquired a

contract with Harjo Studios gift shop—the home of The Oprah Winfrey Show. Walton plans to sell bookmarks, wedding favors and mouse pads in the gift shop. Currently, Capital Explosion has Greek letter organization products in the Howard University bookstore such as computer accessories, candy and water bottles.

Walton said she used the tools she learned at Howard to become an entrepreneur—a dream she has held since the age of 13. Howard taught Walton how to work hard and to stay disciplined. "Howard University's business program prepared me for the business world and it taught me that being black is not a handicap, but an advantage."

Walton is a strong believer in following your dreams. "It is extremely important to work hard and remain focused on your dreams so that one day that same dream can become a reality."

Because of her hard work and determination, Walton believes that Capital Explosion is, on its way to becoming one of the top Graphic Design corporations in the world. At 24-years-old, Walton owns her own home and business and is happily married with plans to have kids. Check out the Maryland-based company at www.capitalexpl.com.

Ukpai's Non-Traditional Job Keeps Money in Her Pocket

DEBT from B4

she tried a private loan and was denied because she needed credit. "Surprisingly every place she tried turned her down. Meanwhile, she had to make such rent."

"I thought my GPA was strong enough. I didn't think it would be a problem to enter law the next semester," said Ukpai, a second year legal communications major.

However, Ukpai was forced to move back to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., her hometown for many years. While focusing on her goal to make enough income to come back to Howard and live some more spending money for herself, she was hired at Wal-Mart.

"I was tired to work a slow time of things that people have complaints about, but don't do anything about it." She quit after three days.

Not knowing how she was going to earn \$3,000 in less than

three months she called Kwaku Gyabshah, the senior partner for Team Platinum for Prepaid Legal Services. Quickly assessing her determination, Gyabshah was able to get Ukpai on the guest list for the next pre-paid showcase.

After marketing for Pre-Paid Legal Service, Ukpai was able to write a check in October of 2001 to Howard University for approximately \$3,000, which included her first and tuition.

She quotes, Mr. Zig Zigler, mentor and role model for many Prepaid Legal colleagues, "Money isn't everything but its right up there next to oxygen."

In short, the service provides 24 hour legal services, including phone consultation, with your very own lawyer, a court representative for legal trials, among many other benefits provided.

Ukpai has worked as a sales representative for many network management companies including Cal-on, Exact, Quik, Star and Medidex. But, she said that none of the companies compare to the Pre-Paid Legal Services.

Ukpai attributes much of her success to the right leadership.

Leaders such as Kwaku Gyabshah, one of the top executives on Team Platinum and also on the board of directors for the team, Jonathan Taylor and Lauren Stroud, the only female executive on Team Platinum, have paved the way for successful leaders like Ukpai. Since December of 1999, Team Platinum has grown from four dedicated individuals to nearly 1,000 individuals nationwide.

It is evident that entrepreneurship was a mindset that members of Prepaid Legal Services demanded. Team platinum has record-breaking individuals who were trying to make a difference in lives. Simply attending the education administration's strong, positive, committed and persistent faculty that strongly believes in personal development.

Ukpai now teaches that although her parents were not financial able to support her education, they are now becoming her fan.

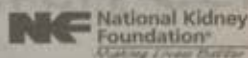
She said, "I look forward to future success because I know the best is yet to come."

Site

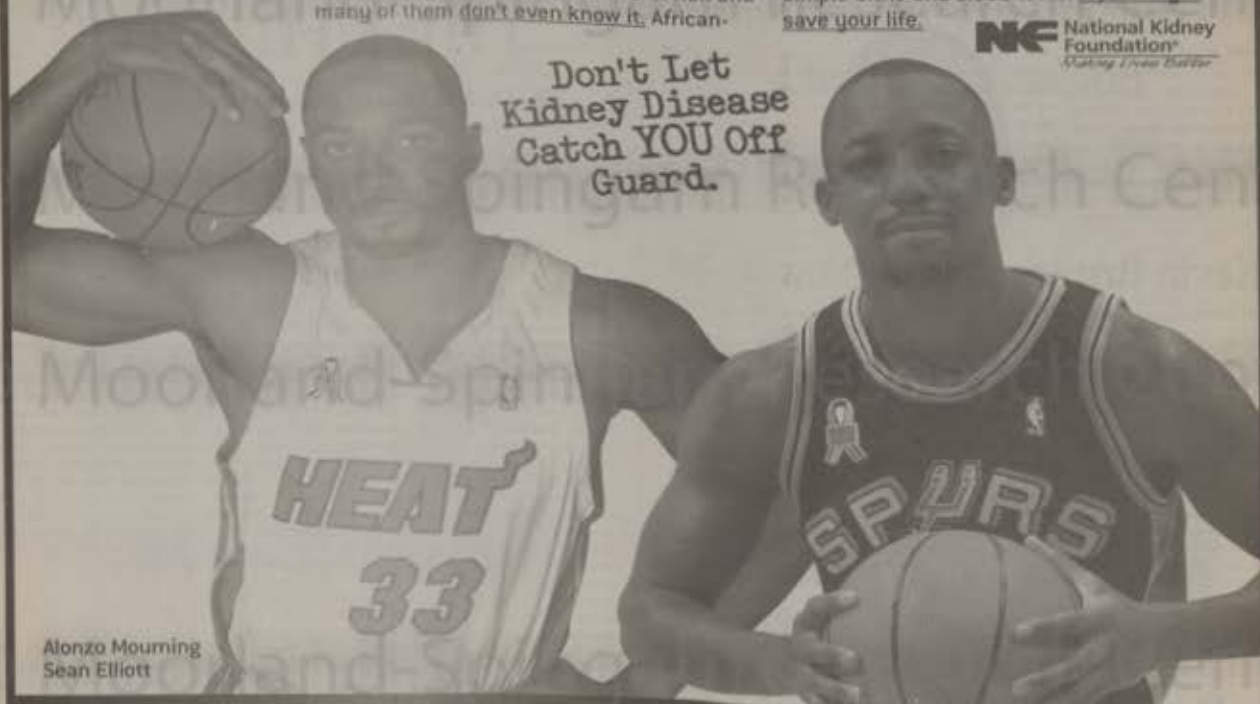
The Hilltop holds budget meetings every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the West Towers

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

Americans are especially at risk. Find out if your kidneys are working properly. Get a blood pressure check and simple urine and blood tests. It just might save your life.



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To receive a complimentary movie pass to an advance screening on Tuesday, March 2nd

STARSKY & HUTCH

Stop by The Hilltop's Office at 2251 Sherman Ave., NW during business hours.

No purchase necessary. Supplies limited. First come, first served. No phone calls. Employees of The Hilltop are not eligible.

OPENS IN THEATRES MARCH 5TH

Want to Run the Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Paper?

The Hilltop is seeking applicants for the following positions:

Editor-in-Chief and Business Manager for 2004-2005

You may pick up applications from the Office of Student Activities 9am-5pm Monday-Friday, Blackburn Center Suite 117.

Applications accepted for both positions through 5pm on Monday, March 8th, 2004.

Mandatory:

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

All candidates must be present for interviews on Wednesday, March 10th beginning at 5pm.

EDITORIALS

THE HILLTOP

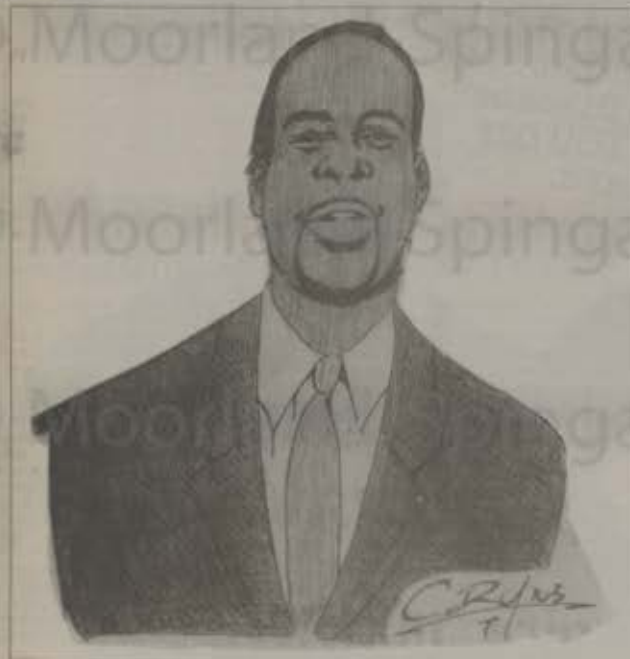
The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

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Managing Editor

ASHLEY ROSS, Editorials & Perspectives Editor



Being the Trustee: What It is and What it Isn't

A Voter's Guide to Making the Best Choice for Student Trustee and Helpful Hints to the Candidates for the Position

By Charles F. Coleman, Jr.

Each year during election season, the vote for the student trustee position represents a unique quandary for most. This difficulty of choice is often accentuated by a general lack of understanding of the trustee position and its limitations. Many times, students are unsure whether the platforms presented by trustee candidates are feasible or appropriate absent attractive to the desires of disgruntled student populations. Even more frequently, the trustee candidates themselves seem uninformed regarding the position and only serve to confuse voters through their disillusions. Understanding the nature of the student trustee position has a two-fold importance. It will help voters to identify whose plan for action fits most in line with the position while also aiding the candidates themselves. It will also help the eventual trustee to tailor his or her approach to be better fitted for the job and ultimately to be a more effective trustee.

Understanding the Position

The student trustee position is a difficult one to understand when framed solely within the context of student government and student leadership. The job of the trustee is plain; it is to assist in the planning of the University and to oversee its management. This includes aiding in the development of strategies, tweaking approaches, and deciding which adjustments are best made—and at what point—along the way. The quasi-unique part of the student trustee position is that you

represent a specific constituency of the Howard University community and are expected to consider the effects the decisions made by the board will have on those constituents. To truly grasp the scope of the position requires a very broad lens, which views Howard University as an entity including those parts that students often feel disconnected from on a daily basis. While the student trustee does vote on tuition increases, and speak up for necessary advances in academic programs, he also assesses the fiscal stability of the bookstore, and makes certain that the hospital's employee retirement plans remain generous and comply with the law. Long-term vision is important for the trustee position because the boardroom is often a slow rutsweeper in contrast to other student leadership venues, which can be likened to a quick-fix microwave. Though a typical student trustee may host programs, join with HUSA for cafeteria improvements, or push for more campus-wide amenities to be available to students, the issues at the core of the position are much more complex and tend to involve many stakeholders other than students.

How the Board Works

In an attempt to illustrate how the board works, even from the perspective of a student concern, consider the need for a new athletic facility. It may begin by our student athletes desiring better training accommodations to compete on a NCAA Division I level. That concern may spill over to a broader student sentiment, desiring a state of

the art athletic center and bigger arena for our games. From there, HUSA may decide it is an issue great enough to form on, and begin to lobby via petition, protest and other means; the athletic director and other administrators. After this, the steps which bring the issue from its inception become increasingly complicated and involve a myriad of additional considerations which few students or student leaders are usually concerned with. In addition to the obvious questions like where the money will come from and finding a location, the board must oversee proposals for its construction and consider the economic impact that it will have—negative and positive—on other, seemingly unrelated but nevertheless connected, projects throughout the University. Further, because Howard does not exist on an island, we must then develop strategies to address the concerns of the surrounding community, secure the approval of the city council for zoning and building permits, etc. All of this not only takes time, but actually making it happen is usually not as simple as it was to conjure it up as something that students want. In that way, the student trustee's ambitions for time (more in office) must be tempered with reasonableness and patience.

Choosing Wisely

As a voter considering which trustee candidate is most desirable, the first inquiry should be to such of the candidate's knowledge of the position. Assessing how well an individual understands the position will go a long way in determining how effective a trustee he would

work be laid in one year, there is no guarantee that one's successor may see the merit in continuing to bring their predecessor's initiatives into fruition. If not fully established upon the conclusion of a given trustee's term, it could very well die. Finally, voters must consider how comfortable they are, not only with this person's plan for action, but also their ability to execute in a diplomatic and political environment. The personalities within the boardroom can be intimidating, and a successful advocate must be persuasive, genuine, professional and diplomatic. A judgment of a candidate's people skills along with their experience in leadership and diplomacy are essential pieces of making that decision as a voter.

that our voices are heard by the most important and powerful vars in the land. It is important that you choose wisely, and that the person you choose is equipped to do honor to the trust you have empowered them with through your vote. More important than any of this, however, is that you care enough about your stake in Howard University to take the time and make the choice yourself. VOTE!

Charles F. Coleman, Jr. is the current graduate student trustee and served as the undergraduate trustee in 2000-2001. He is a third year law school student from Queens, New York, and can be emailed at: trusteecoleman@hotmail.com.

The two seats on the board which we will cast our votes for are ones created by the students and for the students. These seats ensure

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Newspaper

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The opinions expressed on the Hilltop Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not necessarily reflect the opinion 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 to the editor or Perspectives, c/o The Hilltop, Box 1000, Washington, DC 20057 and can also be reached via email at editor@hilltop.com.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and misrepresentation. Editors do not assume any liability for return of unsolicited material. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

PERSPECTIVES

An African American Jew On "The Passion"

Michael Twitty

After reading "Religious Groups Over-Passionate," it seemed pretty clear to me what religious groups the author defined as being over-passionate over Mel Gibson's new film, "The Passion of the Christ." Although Catholics are enjoying a renaissance by viciously living through Mel Gibson's faith and Evangelical Protestants are filling seats in movie theaters to see the movie as a witnessing tool, the article defined the over-passionate as "Jewish protesters."

No, I am not accusing the author or the Hilltop of being anti-Jewish or as some would have it, anti-Semitic. I would like for the readers to look at the world through my lens for a moment—that of an African American who is an Orthodox Jew. Jews are not a race; that is an ancient notion of being Jewish that hopefully died in the ashes of World War II. We are first and foremost a people, represented by many phenotypes across the spectrum of the human race.

What concerns me about that specific diction and the tone of the article in general is that Jews seem to be "out there" rather than "in here." When pundits like Bill O'Reilly bring up the anti-Jewish rumormongering that Jews "control" the media, it affects me and 100,000 other Jews who define themselves as Black or African American.

"The Passion" is not a rootless artistic creation. It falls in a tradition rooted in the violent

past of medieval Europe where Passion plays were used to stir up violence against Jewish communities. Some communities were locked up on Good Friday through Easter Sunday for fear of reprisal due to the stirred up in Passion plays. Young African American leaders of today should be able to make the analogy to similar "rites of blood," in our country, that conjure memories of accusations, canards, lynchings, torture, stereotyping and the like. Anyone who has known prejudice understands that history is not destiny but it does set precedent.

The movie was also condemned by over-passionate protesters—namely the NAACP. It was a movie deemed "historically accurate" by the leading scholars of the day. I agree with the author of the piece. People's common sense and ability to make up their own minds of any public matter is sacrosanct and should be left alone.

I also recognize that our African American community is largely free of blind incidents of anti-Jewish violence. For the simple fact there are 40,000 Ethiopian Jewish walking targets for homicide bombers in Israel who lose and emulate our struggle for equality; for the simple fact that there are thousands of African American Jews, some that go to Howard, who are just as susceptible, if not more to "backlash" prejudice, this is an African American issue. This is a Howard issue; that Howard men and women will have to contend with and make moral decisions about.

The Role of a Journalist

Ashley Kelly

There are many reasons why people embrace the world of journalism. Some favor the spotlight of broadcast journalism, while others love to see their names in print.

Many aspiring journalists simply love the aspect of networking, but this is not what journalism is truly about. In many of my peers' plight to reach the top, they have forgotten the basics. In my eyes the roles of a journalist are simple. They are to help others through accurate information and to expose hidden truths.

It seems at times the trust that the media once had has declined with the help of poor journalists such as Jayson Blair and Janet Cooke. I

believe to a certain level that these two journalists have let down the upcoming generations of black journalists by filling the most important part of journalism: accuracy.

The moment one lacks accuracy is the moment he or she has betrayed the reader. A journalist's job is to inform people of the issues in order to help them make the best decisions. A misinformed journalist is like a loaded gun placed into the hands of a curious child. No good can ever come of this.

Many undercover things occur throughout the world, such as hidden government agendas that attempt to place the veil over the public's eyes. It is the role of the journalist to expose these secrets to the

reader.

I believe the job of a good journalist is not to wait for news to happen, but to find it. Journalists must be watchdogs for the world. It is the responsibility of the journalist to not believe everything he or she is told.

No, you must read between the lines and find the true meaning behind the fancy words that people in high places often use to hide the truth.

Journalism is also far more than loving to write. It is far more than seeing your name in print. Journalism is about accuracy. Journalism is about searching for the small things, the details.

It's about giving a voice to the voiceless.



Chivalry Isn't For Everybody

Khako Shaw

Recently, there has been a lot of talk on the Perspectives page about who needs to respect who on this campus in terms of gender. Bryan White's article entitled "Ladies, Respect Yourself" was a rather self-emancipating, misogynistic (did he really say "how my soul grieves") ode to Black females at Howard, encouraging them to avoid promiscuity. Subsequently, Heather Cox wrote an article in response to White's, putting the onus on the men to "control themselves" and their sexual proclivities. To me, it seems like both articles were title and mystic, pointing fingers but never really getting to the root of the problem.

Howard females are quick to point the finger at males at Howard for not showing deference to them. They say that chivalry is dead, but whatever happened to the basic guidelines of etiquette that are required for one to be considered a lady?

People throw the words "lady" and "gentleman" around rather flippantly, but I think that our generation is becoming less conscious of basic rules of etiquette, which has a lot to do with why men and women on this campus bump heads so much on the issue of chivalry.

Dictionary.com defines a lady as "a well-mannered and considerate woman with high standards of proper behavior" and "a woman regarded as proper and virtuous." How many women at Howard does this describe? Unfortunately for me, there aren't many women of class here who can pick out a decent wine or can distinguish a red-tail fork from a formal place setting. Every day, I am subjected to women who insist on being loud and vulgar, yet still assume that they should receive the same treatment as a lady, as defined above. Just because someone has a menstrual cycle does not mean that they are automatically due the respect of a lady.

I am aware that most of my fellow males at Howard do not exhibit the highest levels of class and tact, yet they are not asking for preferential treatment from women. Though I hate to sound like an elitist (just kidding, I love it), as a man of culture, I don't feel inclined to give preferential treatment to women of low class. If women want to be treated with respect, then they need to conduct themselves accordingly. As quoted Julia Aris: "When you talk to her, talk like you want something to talk to your mamma." This is a good ideal, yet every woman does not command the respect from those around her as my mother does of everyone from family to friends to colleagues. It's not something she has to ask for; it is part of who she is. Every woman isn't worthy of that reverence and men are not to blame.

Post-feminist thinking has a lot to do with the decline of ladylike behavior in society. Some women feel that the only way to be respected in social and professional settings is to behave like a man, using the same crass language and improper etiquette that are associated with men of low class. Feminine etiquette has a very real role in today's society in corporate and social settings. A real woman knows how to be professionally efficient and conduct herself as a lady simultaneously. For tips on etiquette for both men and women, I recommend the work of Emily Post, available at www.emilypost.com.

Please address questions or comments to the author at mshaw21@jshoo.com.

click it to us.

The Hilltop wants to read what you have to say. Submit a 500 word perspective to www.thehilltoponline.com.

HILLTOPICS

ADVERTISING

are due, paid in full, the Tuesday and Friday before publication date.

Announcements by campus organizations for meetings, seminars or workshops 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 7 words thereafter.

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Today is your last day to see Jamilah Laminix's The Love Movement. Come to the Gallery Lounge at 8 p.m. Admission is free. Don't miss the Movement.

Announcements

EGSA Presents...

SPADES TOURNAMENT Tuesday March 2nd at 7:00pm Blackburn Ballroom

Tickets sold in Blackburn Ballroom Feb. 17th - March 3rd

Winners receive FREE tickets to all Spring Black Arts Festival events!!!

HU He Wants His QT

GOD wants his quality time with you.

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Spring Black Arts Festival

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"Fame... HU Style" Dance Ensemble April 1, 2004

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Monday, February 29th

Tuesday, March 2nd

Wednesday, March 3rd

Thursday, March 4th

Friday, March 5th

Saturday, March 6th

Sunday, March 7th

Monday, March 8th

Tuesday, March 9th

Wednesday, March 10th

Thursday, March 11th

Friday, March 12th

Saturday, March 13th

Sunday, March 14th

Monday, March 15th

Tuesday, March 16th

Wednesday, March 17th

Thursday, March 18th

Friday, March 19th

Saturday, March 20th

Sunday, March 21st

Monday, March 22nd

Tuesday, March 23rd

Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church 1518 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 202 331 3425 www.metropolitansame.org

WOMEN'S SEASON REVIVAL

March 3, 4, 5, 2004 7:45 p.m.

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie

Presiding Prelate, 13th Episcopal District



Bible Study 6:45 p.m. each evening Rev. Dr. Debyi S. Thomas Pope Memorial A.M.E. Church Baltimore, MD

WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 14th, 2004

7:30 a.m. Service

Evangelist Shirley Reed

Campbell A.M.E. Church

11:00 a.m. Service

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Chair and President Emerita

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must order no later than wednesday

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INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HUSA
Create a United Council of Student Organizations consisting of all campus clubs and organizations
Organize HUSA as a problem-solving mechanism, so that any student concern becomes a HUSA concern
Provide students with a weekly HUSA Progress Report in response to grievance meetings published in the Hilltop
Cultivate a more social atmosphere through mass yard events and on-line nights
Work to establish a university-wide zero tolerance policy against all forms of discrimination

ENCOURAGE AND ORGANIZE STUDENT ADVOCACY
Establish a Student Advocacy Agenda of issues such as campus security, Residence Life policies and Financial Aid services
Utilize all student organizations to create a full university community outreach program for the DC metropolitan area
Link student government and religious organizations by providing a HUSA liaison to the Religious Fellowship Council to develop joint programming
Partner with political movements and organizations such as the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, African Action and National Coalition on Black Civic Participation in order to increase political activism

PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
Implement HUSA Book Exchange Program
Link scholarly information, tutoring information and career services to a HUSA website to enhance awareness of educational programs and publish a Scholarship/Internship Magazine for students
Implement a merit incentive/reward system in order to provide students with accurate information about programs and services
Create a Honoring Program for undergraduate students led by faculty and professional staff
Launch an investigation to discover factors that contribute to Howard's 52% retention rate