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This Week's Highlights:

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WHBC is working to cure its financial woes.

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LOCAL
Nearby aerobics class at recreational center rivals large health club chains.

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HU students approve of Clinton's new plan to fund higher education.

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TEMPO
Although the Hip-Hop Conference won't be on campus, hip hop is still a part of HU culture.

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New, larger health center may make getting medical care easier.

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SPORTS
Women's basketball team newcomers are the hope for upcoming years.

B7.

Jesse Jackson, HU send Peace Corps group to South Africa

By Karen Thomas
Hilltop Staff writer

The Rev. Jesse Jackson recently joined Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert and Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan at a campus send-off ceremony for the first delegation of Peace Corps volunteers to serve in South Africa.

In his send-off address last Thursday, Jackson urged the team of 33 volunteers to connect nations in order to make the world more peaceful and secure and to break down walls of ignorance, racism and division in South Africa and at home.

More than 110 Howard University alumni have volunteered in the Peace Corps since its inception. Among the 33 volunteers going to South Africa are two Howard alumni: C.D. Glin, a 1996 political science graduate and Earl Yates, a 1967 graduate. Yates will be the Peace Corps' South African Country Director.

"Happy birthday," Jackson greeted the volunteers, emphasizing the beginning of a journey that will change their lives forever. "You will be born anew. Imagination will



The Rev. Jesse Jackson joined president H. Patrick Swygert in a send-off ceremony for the first delegation of Peace Corps volunteers to serve in South Africa.

become reality, and dreams will be built upon dreams."

Jackson encouraged the group to expand its world views and be open-minded to face the challenges in South Africa.

"Do not go there playing Tarzan to save somebody; you are going to learn and get help. You will be helped more than you will help, and you will come back bigger and better because you will have more equipment to work with."

Once in South Africa, the volunteers will spend two years working with

South African primary school teachers, local leaders and students in the country's Northern Province. The volunteers will operate as resource persons on a project called, "Developing Resources in Schools and the Community," which focuses on rural areas previously neglected by the apartheid government.

In his usual biblical tone, Jackson counseled volunteers on the divine law of reciprocity and the blessedness of giving, saying that when they help others, they help themselves at the same time.

"Your character is the only thing worthy of praise," he said. "Take that character to South Africa, be a better people and make this a better world."

Peace Corps Director Gearan praised the organization's effort to work in South Africa, calling it another powerful step in strengthening the bond between the two nations as the volunteers work with South Africans to build a better future for their children, communities and country. He also urged students to consider Peace Corps service.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore stressed the educational value of

visiting South Africa.

"Be prepared to learn as much as you teach, for South Africa is an extraordinary country full of history, culture, enterprise and hope," Gore said in a video address. "South Africans and Americans will be enriched by your work there."

The agreement to send Peace Corps volunteers to South Africa was signed December 1995 by Gore and South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in Pretoria, following earlier plans announced by President Bill Clinton and South African President Nelson Mandela during a visit to the White House in October 1994.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps today serves 90 countries through the efforts of some 6,500 volunteers.

Projects generally focus on education, environmental, health, business and agricultural programs.

"Be prepared to learn," Jackson echoed the vice president.

"South Africa is both treasure and tragedy, extremes of wealth and poverty."

Future grows dimmer for Hip-Hop Conference

Annual event has not been confirmed for this spring

By Bishop Chui
Hilltop Staff Writer

For the last six years, spring on "the Yard" has been heralded by celebrities, recording industry agents and hopeful MCs taking part in the Hip-Hop Conference.

But as students gear up for the warmer days, publicity has been scant surrounding the event sponsored by Cultural Initiative, a group of Howard alumni and former student government representatives.

At last year's conference, CI officials said that should the 1996 conference be the last one, they were confident they had represented hip hop well.

For the Howard community, the statement created a wave of uncertainty surrounding an annual event that some believed had become a large part of the Howard University experience and was properly set at the nation's largest historically Black university.

A month away from the conference's annual date, there has still been no comment about the likelihood of the event, and with no definite answer from CI officials, it's likely that there will be no Hip-Hop Conference this year.

Timothy Jones, president of CI, said the group is working with organizers for the annual Spring Black Arts Festival, but representatives of the Undergraduate Student Assembly, which runs the Spring Black Arts Festival, said they currently do not have plans to work with CI on a hip-hop conference.

Yusef Battle, coordinator for the gospel concert, said he had no knowledge of a hip-hop conference being held in conjunction with the arts festival.

Zhaundra Jones, program coordinator for UGSA, confirmed that there are no joint plans with CI. UGSA is sponsoring a spring fashion show, but it will be independent from CI's event.

"To my understanding the only thing they're doing is the [Hip Hop] fashion show," Zhaundra Jones said. "It's not going to be a conference as we have seen in years past."

Timothy Jones said the conferences in the past were well attended and provided opportunities and solutions for up-and-coming hip-hop artists with large industry participation.

"We wanted to educate individuals about the business side of the industry, but also to talk about preserving hip hop as a culture and how the industry should not be given that responsibility," he said.

But Jones also added that the group has reached a certain point of achievement, and that hip hop has changed greatly in the past few years, forcing CI and the conference to change also.

Rumors have recently surfaced that CI can no longer afford to hold the event because of it was no longer profitable.

But Jones said there are no definite plans for the conference this year other than the Fourth Annual Hip-Hop Show on April 12, which sells out annually.

"We have to take a minute to re-evaluate, to develop a conference that is on the forefront," Jones said.

"Howard is keyed into the industry more so than they realize. Students and the University don't use their marketability to their advantage."

In February of 1991, a group of Howard University seniors — in conjunction with the Howard University Student Association, campus activist group Black Nia Force and record label Transatlantic — set out to provide the Howard community with a hip-hop forum.

The group, formally known as "the Cultural Initiative," organized the first hip-hop conference, which was supposed to be a one-time event, but the effect of the conference prompted CI to make the forum an annual event.

In years past, forums and panel discussions at the conference attempted to legitimize hip-hop culture and provide resources for artists. The events were attended by rappers such as Chuck D, A+ and A Tribe Called Quest. Local concerts often followed the events.

Singin' Good Time



The Whispers crooned to lovers last weekend at the Valentine's Day concert in Cramton Auditorium.

Photo by Aida Muluneh

Poets, students gather to remember Sterling Brown



Poet Gwendolyn Brooks participated in the fundraiser last week to create an endowed chair in the English department honoring former Howard professor Sterling Brown.

Photo by Pedro de Weever

By Shanikka N. Wagner
Hilltop Staff Writer

Stephen Jenkins didn't have much interest in Sterling Brown before last Friday's conference honoring the former Howard professor.

"My job brought me here," said Stephen Jenkins, a freshman film major who was asked to work the film projector during a forum.

But after hearing notable African-American poets such as Ntozake Shange and Haki Madhubuti attest to the legacy of Brown's literary accomplishments, Jenkins said he gained much from the conference.

English and literature students and professors attended the all-day conference, held in the Armour J.

Blackburn University Center, to hear panelists commemorating Brown's life. The event was sponsored by Howard University's Department of English to spark awareness about Brown, in whose name the English department is seeking to establish an endowed chair in Humanities.

The endowed chair will invite prominent scholars to the University for research and studies.

Sterling Brown was a noted scholar, poet and literary critic who gained prominence toward the end of the Harlem Renaissance.

During the 1940s, through his courses at Howard University, Brown succeeded in establishing the study of African-American works within English literature.

Brown, a D.C. native, drew

inspiration for his writing from the struggles of African Americans during the Great Depression as an editor for the Negro Affairs Writing Project.

A confidant of noted poets Robert Burns and Paul Dunbar, Brown co-authored one of the first anthologies of African-American literature, "The Negro Caravan," in 1941.

The conference began at 10 a.m. with a welcome from Eleanor Traylor, chairwoman of the English department, and four panel discussions on the late writer: "Poetic Voice of African-America," "Theorist and Critic," "The Engaged African-American Intellectual," and "A Conversation on Continuing the Legacy of

Please see BROWN, A2.

CAMPUS

Campus Briefs

* Temporary buildings torn down after 22 years

Last Friday, as Ife Dyre walked the stretch of pavement from Douglas Hall to the chapel, she noticed that something was missing as soon as she approached the Carnegie building.

"The first thing I noticed was all the rubble," said Dyre, a sophomore accounting major. "Then I said to myself, 'What are they doing? What happened to the Center for African Studies?'"

The Temporary Building A that housed the African Studies Department was demolished this week. It was a temporary building that had been erected in 1975 and, according to Harold Berdonille, the director of physical facilities management, had served its purpose but should have been demolished years ago.

The tearing down of the building is part of the ongoing plan to beautify Howard's campus. The Temporary Building B will be demolished next week.

"The vacant space left behind by the Temporary Building A will most likely be kept as an open space where more grass will be planted," said Jania Richardson, HUSA vice president.

According to Berdonille, the African Studies Department will be moved to the site of the now defunct Howard Inn. The top two floors of the hotel

will remain guest rooms. The fourth, fifth and sixth floors will house University offices and faculty offices, and the first and second floor will remain retail space. The HU bookstore, currently located on Fourth Street will be relocated to the Howard Inn's first and second floor.

"Georgia Avenue needs to become a more vibrant part of campus," Berdonille said. "Students need to be able to feel more secure when walking that strip at night."

Berdonille plans to have more lights put in the parking lot across the street from the hotel and is going to beef up security.

Aisha Williams contributed to this report.

* HU to participate in international gene study

Administrators from the College of Medicine held a reception last Thursday with President H. Patrick Swygert, foreign dignitaries and administrators from National Institutes of Health, announcing the awarding of grants to researchers from Africa and HU to study the genetic nature of diabetes.

The event, held at the Ralph Bunche International Affairs Center, honored a panel of scientists from Nigeria and Ghana who will be participating in the international gene study known as the Human Genome Project.

Howard University has offered logistical support and research assistance for the NIH-sponsored event. Researchers will be taking samples from five West African sites in attempt to discover genetic characteristics of diabetes similar to both Africans and African Americans.

The international research project is intended to address health problems of African Americans by researching the genetic diversity of their founding populations.

This research will continue the international Human Genome Project, which is involved in the search for genes that underlie susceptibility to common, complex traits and diseases, with particular emphasis on the genetic characteristics that African Americans do not share with European Americans.

Representatives from the embassies of Nigeria and Ghana will be on hand for the meeting, along with officials from Howard; and Francis S. Collins, director of National Human Genome Research Institute.

"We have characterized relatively well that part of the genetics that African Americans share with the majority population of America," said Dr. Georgia Dunston, lead researcher for the HU program. "What we have not done is characterized the genetics, which are not shared with the majority population, and we need to analyze the genetics African Americans share with their forebearers in Africa. This project is an effort to provide that analysis."

Howard is the only HBCU to participate in the international study, Dunston said. The information yielded will help in developing treatment for particular needs of African-American diabetes patients and establish methods for similar projects.

BROWN, From A1.

Sterling A. Brown.
Chuck Beveny, a former HU student, said the conference has inspired him to do more research on Black writers.

"It feels like a new life exploring this aspect of Black experience," Beveny said.

"Brown seemed to have been a very intellectual and comical man," said Louis Sterling, a freshman finance major. "This gathering was very informative and beneficial."

Student-run radio station WHBC needs financial help

By Phillipa Philpot
Hilltop Staff Writer

Celebrated as one of the most popular Black college-based radio stations, WHBC 830 AM cannot reach its full listening potential because of a lack of funds, station employees say.

Barry Mayo, an alumnus of Howard and former WHBC employee, donated \$10,000 to the station, but the School of Communications' administration is holding the money until the station can pay its debt of \$500. School of Communications officials say the reason for the hold is to teach the station a valuable lesson in budgeting.

Programming Director Mario Clark said fund-raisers should remove the debt quickly so that the station can use the \$10,000 donation. The station is currently trying to sell donuts and is sponsoring a

celebrity basketball game and music concert to raise money.

"We also plan to have a WHBC Weekend, which will be held from April 3rd-5th," Clark said.

Without proper funding, disc jockeys cannot mix music or make tapes because of equipment problems, such as missing record needles and broken speakers. Managers also find it hard to keep an accurate inventory without the use of computers and fax machines, and the sales department cannot make calls to get endorsements because the station does not have a long-distance code.

"It's a hassle trying to get things done around here," said Franklin Rose, promotions manager at the station. "We need more support from the School of Communications."

The station officials blame most of the problems on the school's

administration, saying the station is not being taken seriously.

"Administration has to realize that the station is an asset to the university," said Jason James, a disc jockey for the station.

"There is a lot of talent here," said sophomore Tony "T-Dub" Watson, another disc jockey at the station. "We get the chance to gain a lot of experience about how to run and operate the station, but it would be better if more people could hear us, other than the people in the hallway."

Currently, residents in Tubman Quadrangle, Drew Hall, Bethune Hall, Meridian Hill Hall and Carver Hall dormitories receive access to the station.

Nicole McManus, news director at the station, said that although there are financial problems within the station, there have been some major improvements as well.

After five years of being an adviser, Professor Otis has replaced former adviser Thorton, and McManus expects that the news department will be up to expectation this fall.

"The station will have a more professional air to it," McManus said. "The broadcasters will be coming from broadcast journalism and will be able to gain more experience."

Other highlights for the year included sponsored events such as the WHBC Kings Dominion and the Mobb Deep listening party which was held in the Plaza. WHBC has also been hosting events such as Redman, Xhibit, Heltah Skeltah, O.G.C. and Jamericans.



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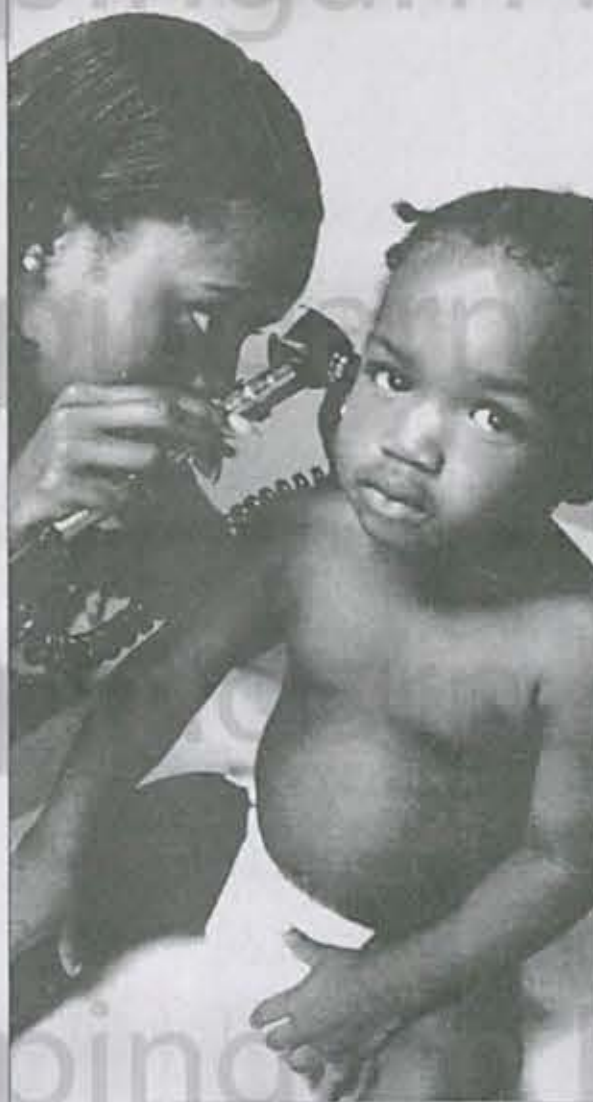
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LOCAL

ANC meeting upsets local residents

By Lolly Bowean
Hilltop Staff Writer

Residents Peter and Sheila Blake, Conrad Smith and Carol Marsh all showed up at the Advisory Neighborhood Council's first meeting last Thursday night at the Reeves Center hoping to express their concerns about crime and trash problems. But after two and a half hours of sitting and waiting, they all abandoned the meeting angry and frustrated because they did not get to voice their concerns to a bickering ANC board.

"I really came here thinking we would have some input and I thought they would address what we wanted," Blake said. "We sat through more than two hours of the meeting which was totally in disarray and completely unorganized."

The meeting continued for an additional hour after the four Fairmont Street residents left. The ANC acts as a liaison between the district government and the local residents. Because this was the first ANC meeting after the election, the commissioners were obligated to elect officers and adopt bylaws to operate under before they could address any other business.

According to DC Codes, the ANC cannot act without establishing bylaws. However, there were proposed changes to be made to the existing bylaws, so the newly elected commissioners refused to vote.

"I don't know anything about these new changes," Commissioner Alan Gray of district 1B07 said. "I don't want to vote for anything I don't know about so I'll abstain."

Gray suggested the proposed changes be tabled until she and the other commissioners were given time to review them, however Commissioner Lawrence Guyot,

refused.

"I'd hate to leave here tonight knowing that we didn't get these basic [tasks] out of the way," Guyot said.

Commissioners Nik Eames of district 1B05, and Jonathan Hutto of district 1B06 voted for the proposed changes without any deliberation.

The argument continued for the remaining three hours of the meeting until the commissioners agreed to temporarily adopt the existing bylaws until the proposed changes are reviewed and voted on in the next meeting. By this time, most of the audience had left.

"They were wasting our time and the citizens were not well served," said Smith, who has lived on Fairmont Street since 1962. "It was very frustrating to see the people who were elected to do something about the problems in the community sit there and do nothing but argue among themselves. They wasted over two hours of my time that I could have been doing something constructive."

"This is such a routine thing that happens every year," Blake added. "I expected them to get the initial stuff done right away and then get our concerns. The meetings are supposed to be under control, but this one just made me tired and mad because they didn't get anything done."

At the meeting Eames was elected to serve as Treasurer of the Board. Other officers elected at the meeting were: Chairperson, Mary Treadwell of district 1B12; Vice Chairperson, Ida Blocker of district 1B12; Secretary, Catherine Hammonds of district 1B09. Glen Melcher, was elected Parliamentarian, although he did not want the position and voted against himself.



Five days a week, dozens of Washingtonians work out at free aerobics classes at Banneker Recreation Center on Georgia Ave. photo by Chris Bell

Local recreational center offers aerobic alternative to large fitness chains

By Keya Graves
Hilltop Staff Writer

Loud house music roared through the speakers as people eagerly marched into Banneker Recreation Center to work off the rich dark chocolate that filled their stomachs on Valentine's Day.

As instructor Doris "Dee" Gibson strips down to her skin-tight black and white workout outfit, she ensures the class that she's going to take it easy on them.

A sigh of relief fills the class and warm energy heats the room, as men and women began to stomp their feet on the hardwood floor and sway their hips to the beat of the strong-pounding drums.

"Can you feel the beat of the

music running through your body?" Gibson asked as she starts the class.

Gibson, who has been a volunteer instructor at Banneker for seven years, teaches her class from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

"I love the motivation I get from doing something for the community," Gibson said. "But what I love even more is feeling the music and the spirit of the people coming together."

Gibson usually starts the class off with a step aerobics routine, which works every muscle in the body, leading to an intense floor exercise where she concentrates on sit ups. After working up a sweat the class slows it down and cools off to the

sweet lullabies of Maxwell.

"The aerobic routine is like dancing. I forget I'm working out," Alicia Rucker said. "The floor exercise is where the pain kicks in, but Dee explains to us how important it is and tells us to work at our own pace."

Trina Hailstoks, who has been training with Gibson for the last three years, travels from Landover, Md., to get what she calls a good workout from a top instructor.

"Dee is committed to what she does and the people she works with. That is what keeps me coming back for more," Hailstoks said. "Dee is an instructor that really cares."

Gibson said it is important that individuals in her class set goals to

reach and realize that exercising is not the only thing one must concentrate on when trying to lose weight and stay healthy.

She also talks with them about maintaining a healthy diet.

"Dee stresses to us how important it is to watch what we eat, because we can do all the exercise in the world, but if we aren't eating right none of that matters," Rucker said.

"My workout philosophy is to be good to your body — it deserves it, and in return it'll be good to you," Gibson said. "Everybody can improve their body, which will in turn improve their mental outlook on life."

Aerobics class are held from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, and 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

New African culture exhibit links people via Internet

By Lolly Bowean
Hilltop Staff Writer

When Eno Jackson, a graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology started feeling isolated because the university lacked programs and organizations specifically designed for African Americans, she decided to do something that would link people from all over the world to her college campus.

She created a web page that is dedicated to African art, literature and culture.

When Animal Rights Activist Carolyn Bucher of San Antonio, Texas, found out there were eight chimpanzees slated for medical testing she decided to save them. She created a web page, and within a few weeks she had raised the \$126,000 needed to purchase the chimpanzees and place them in a care facility.

And when Monica and Perry Lopez, owners of a small specialty hot sauce store in Pasadena, Calif., wanted to expand their business in an inexpensive way, they decided to create a web page to receive orders from all over the United States.

The Internet has become one of the greatest communication tools, linking more than 16 million people through computers worldwide. Students, business owners, religious leaders, soldiers, teachers, and parents use this new technology daily to reach out to people all over the world, which is the focus of a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution.

Located in the Frank A. Taylor Exhibition Gallery in the Museum of American History, the exhibit, titled "24 Hours In Cyberspace," documents the human face of cyberspace in one typical day.

The exhibit is a collection of

photographs taken Feb. 8, 1996, by 150 photojournalists dispatched to every continent to show how people all over the world used the Internet on this particular day. The date was chosen arbitrarily by project coordinator Rick Smolan. More than 200,000 photographs were taken, and of these only 60 are on display at the museum.

David Allison, chairman of the Division of Information Technology and Society for the museum, said the exhibit has attracted thousands of Internet users, including Vice President Al Gore.

"People that come and see it get a sense of the different ways the Internet is being used and they can learn the many different ways that people are using this technology," Allison said. "They learn some ways they can use the Internet themselves, plus they get to see a lot of good pictures."

The exhibit is broken into four categories: human touch, which documents people using the Internet for human support groups and encouragement; business, which displays how businesses have taken advantage of this new technology to increase salesmanship; Earth events, which shows how people are using the Internet to find out more about the earth and space; and religion, which links people of the same faith all over the world.

Allison said breaking the exhibit into these sections shows there is something for everyone on the Internet.

"Some people may be sick or may have a sick child and they want to know what other people who have been affected by the disease or illness have done. So they get on the Internet and find out more information," Allison said. "Or someone may want to reach others and tell them about

God, they can do that through the Internet too. Many people are starting to create websites that are dedicated to whatever pleases them and these websites attract other people."

In addition to the photographs in the exhibit, there are four interactive computer kiosks where you can explore an exhibit with about 30 more photos on the Internet.

"This gets people started in using the Internet," Allison said. "They come in here and can see how people are using it and learn how to use it using our interactive computers."

Northwest resident Cassandra Newell said she thinks the exhibit is interesting because the Internet has become the common link of people all over the world.

"This exhibit displays how our world has changed and the changes of people," said Newell, a George Washington University student. "Not only the changes of people in our community, but with people around the world. The Internet has become an important part of many people's lives everywhere."

Cassandra Poole, a student in the School of Communications who viewed the exhibit through Netscape, said she liked the exhibit but worries about people relying too much on the Internet.

"It was a nice exhibit, but it seems rather unnecessary," Poole said. "I realize it is very convenient, but if everything is put on the Internet what will motivate people to leave home and visit these places?"

The exhibit is slated to stay open through April.

● The exhibit can be accessed through the web at <http://www.cyber24.com>.

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NATIONAL

Students applaud Clinton's education plan

By Mark Jennings
Hilltop Staff Writer

In his State of the Union Address, President Clinton said that his "number one priority for the next four years is to ensure that Americans have the best education in the world."

To achieve this goal, Clinton has proposed a budget that will give \$51 billion to the Department of Education, which was on the verge of elimination during the Bush Administration.

Clinton plans to double the amount of federal aid allocated to college programs, expanding their budget to \$58 million by 2002 from \$24 million in 1993.

Clinton must have heard the cries of college students like Neikendra Mason for an increase in federal aid.

Mason, a Howard University broadcast journalism major, had to struggle to make ends meet during her freshman year.

"I didn't get any aid from the government because they said my parents made too much money," Mason said.

Mason's mother, who is divorced, made \$45,000 last year.

"I didn't know about loans until this year, so it was a struggle for me, but I managed," Mason said.

Every year millions of college students fill out their Free Application for Student Aid forms in hopes of receiving federal funding.

While many applicants



President Bill Clinton signed a \$51 billion education plan.

receive aid, some are turned away because they don't meet Department eligibility requirements.

Clinton proposes to increase of the maximum Pell Grant award from \$2,500 to \$3,000 by 1998. He also wants to change how the Department decides who qualifies for the grant in hopes of adding 218,000 new recipients by next year.

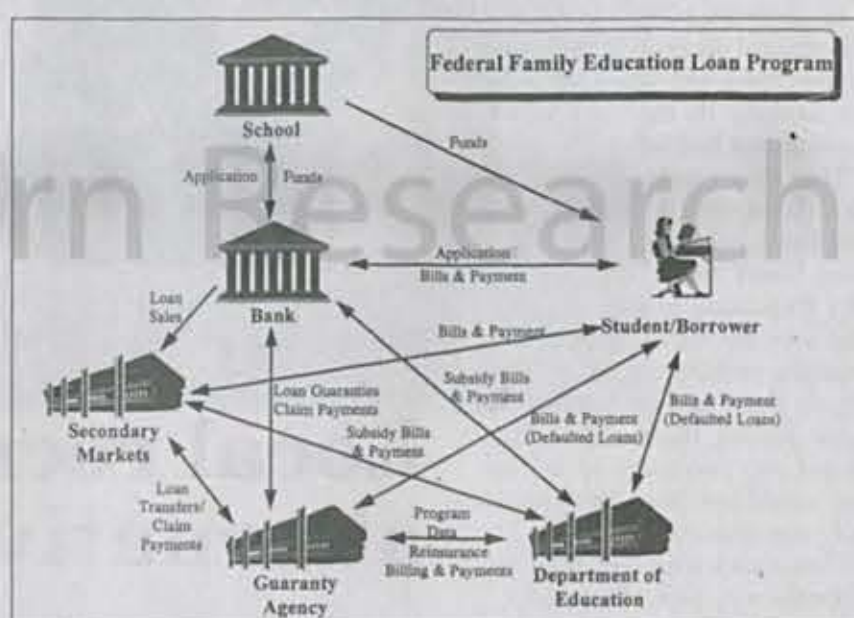
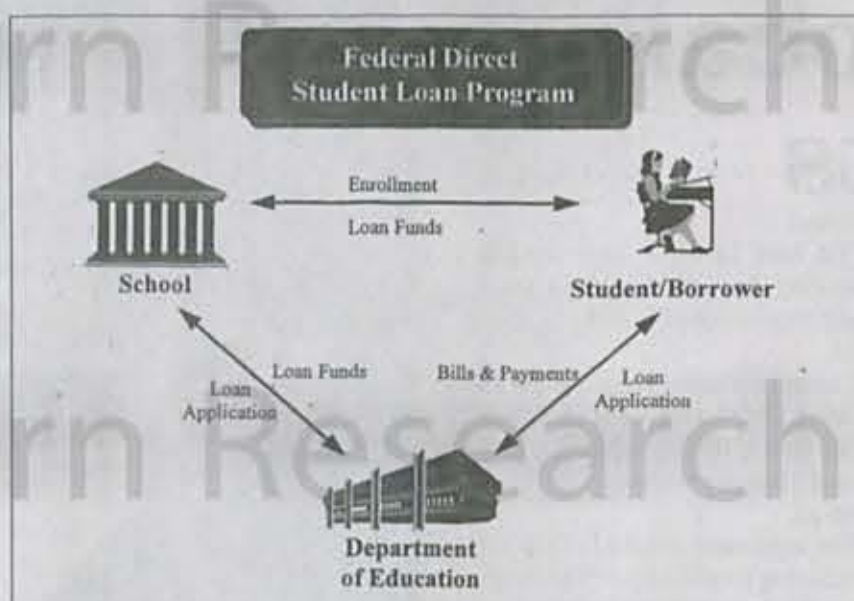
Ozi Handon, a sophomore majoring in elementary education, said he receives a Federal Pell Grant, subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford Loans, and a PLUS parent loan to pay for his college expenses. He

feels that he receives enough Federal funding, but believes the process for applying for loans is too complicated.

"When I applied for a loan I had the name of the bank and everything else, I just didn't have the lender code so they sent it back," Handon said.

Students like Handon should find it easier to apply for loans with the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program being pushed by Clinton, said Margaret E. White, deputy chair of the Direct Loan Task Force.

"The idea behind Direct Loans is that you have one lender, the Federal Government, and one form to fill out,



the FAFSA application," White said.

White said that under the current loan program, students have an average of two lenders. Since those lenders can sell the student loan to other banks, it is possible for the borrower to lose track of who they should pay and where they should send payments, causing a significant

amount of defaults, which cost the government more money.

Under the new Direct Loan process, the student's school would determine financial need from information sent to it from the federal government based on the FAFSA forms. The determined figure is then electronically credited to that student's account after signing a promissory note.

The Hope Scholarship, another of Clinton's proposals, would provide up to a \$1,500 tax credit for student's tuition and charges for the first two years of college. The amount of the credit would depend on what other federal assistance the student received, according to Education Department spokeswoman Stephanie Babyak.

Babyak said that the Hope Scholarship does not take into consideration past performance, but does stipulate that for renewal in the second year a student must maintain a 2.0 average.

Clinton also aims to increase the number of work-study jobs with an emphasis on community service, and offer Presidential Honors, a one-time \$1,000 scholarship to every incoming freshman graduating in the top 5% of the class.

Clinton also wants to create a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 starting in 1999 for post-secondary tuition fees for students who are ineligible or who choose not to take advantage of the Hope Scholarship.

The reaction on Howard campus toward Clinton's plan was overwhelmingly positive, but some people were hesitant to get overly excited about the proposed plans. The thoughts were echoed in the words of freshman Jane Phillip. "It sounds good, and you can say it," Phillip said. "But is it really going to take place?"

Senate confirms Slater as the first Black Transportation Secretary

By Cathleen Harrington
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Senate easily confirmed Rodney E. Slater as the first African-American Secretary of the Department of Transportation Feb. 6.

Before being nominated for the job, Slater was the nation's top highway official as the administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

During confirmation hearings, Slater received high praise from both Democrats and Republicans.

"I have found Rodney Slater to be a man of deep faith and a person whose character is reflected in his commitment to his family," said Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark. "He is both a speaker of words and a doer of deeds. I believe Rodney to be the right man to lead the Department of Transportation into the 21st century."

Slater was also lauded by Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., who described Slater as "a fine gentleman, smart and morally correct."

Slater and Clinton have a long-standing professional relationship that dates back to 1983 when Slater served as Clinton's executive assistant while he was the governor of Arkansas.

From 1987 to 1992, Slater was the chairman of the Arkansas state Highway Commission. He was also the assistant attorney general for



Rodney Slater

Photo Courtesy of the Department of Transportation

the state of Arkansas.

Slater said his first priority will be to make safety the number-one goal for America's highways.

"In safety with lives in balance, we must do everything we can to ensure the highest possible levels of safety," Slater said.

His second priority is to work with Congress to continue a series of investment initiatives to improve America's transportation infrastructure. While the Senate unanimously approved Slater 98-0, prospects for the only

other Black nominee for a cabinet-level position — Alexis Herman for Secretary of Labor — is in serious trouble.

Herman, who served as the director of the White House Office of Public Liaison during Clinton's first term, is being scrutinized for her private business dealings in the 1980s when she worked for the Democratic National Committee.

Critics said she used her position with the DNC to get a \$600,000 contract for a federal building on Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue.

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INTERNATIONAL

Benazir Bhutto may have lost Pakistani's national election but not her popularity

By Karen Thomas
Hilltop Staff Writer

Benazir Bhutto did not win in Pakistan's recent election but the re-emergence of past political leader Nawaz Sharif was less a political embrace of him than a rejection of her, some believe.

"Bhutto remains a very popular leader," said Rifaat Hussain, Pakistani minister of foreign information. "She won her seat."

Bhutto's failure to regain power could be a result of many things.

One of them being her dismissal by Pakistani President Farooq Leghari in November, creating the call for a "snap poll," — a call for new elections before a government ends its term.

Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party were dismissed following allegations of corruption and economic mismanagement. Many say there is widespread perception that her government was not honest.

Bhutto's government suffered the consequence of a dissolved government during its term.

The government was put on the spot to redirect its effort to campaigning instead of running the country.

During the last campaign, Bhutto continued to lose popularity, though some say her dismissal played a very small role in getting her re-elected.

"The last four governments were all dismissed through presidential action," Hussain said. "Corruption charges were cited in all cases. She

[Bhutto] did not perform as well as people expected her to and the double-digit inflation were sound economic indicators."

Even though Pakistan has parliamentary democracy, the eighth amendment passed in 1985 gives the president power to dissolve the National Assembly if it is not performing.

Another reason for Bhutto's defeat could have been low voter participation. Voter turnout dropped from 47 percent in the last election to 30 percent in this one.

"Politics is Pakistanis' passion, this low turnout shows people's disenchantment and dissatisfaction," Hussain said.

Generally, people expected Bhutto to do more, given her background of activism and commitment to democracy. Women expected her to do more.

Bhutto, 43, in whom many Pakistanis had placed great hopes in her political ability and as a crusader for and commitment to democracy, became the first woman to head the government of an Islamic state in 1988.

The two-time prime minister is the charismatic daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was executed by a military government in 1979.

She inherited her late father's populist party and after several months in prison, she was allowed to leave the country. She later returned triumphantly in 1986.

Since Pakistan began holding free elections, voting as the standard way to transfer power is a small demonstration of Pakistan's move



toward democracy. However, the real struggle for democracy, is still on.

In the preceding decade of political struggle, Bhutto was arrested on numerous occasions as the leader of the then opposition Pakistan People's Party. She spent most of the 1980s in jail or exile fighting for democracy.

During her two terms, she always emphasized the need to heal past wounds and put an end to the divi-

sion of Pakistani society, particularly reducing discrimination between men and women.

As prime minister, Bhutto launched a nationwide program of health and reform, founded the Institute of Technology, enabling Pakistan to stand among the most technologically advanced nations of the world and she established the National Science and Research fund.

In her campaign, Bhutto said the

nation's economy had improved during her years in office, even though she acquired a dying economy.

Leghari dismissed her government, accusing it of driving Pakistan toward economic ruin, stealing billions from national treasury, and sanctioning police hit squads that targeted members of the opposition's political movement.

Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, was investment minister in

her government.

According to Amnesty international's 1995 human rights report, past governments have not tried hard enough to abandon laws that discriminate against women.

The report said 15 percent of the women who brought rape cases before the court, were imprisoned under the Zina ordinance — a law that punishes extramarital sexual intercourse.

Reports say many women have been convicted on procedures that were clearly discriminatory.

For instance, in the case of rape, specific types of evidence must be produced that exclude the testimony of women.

Maximum penalties under the Zina law includes death by stoning or public flogging.

Although it has not been carried out recently, the law remains on the books and can be imposed.

Several governments have been dissolved by presidents exercising controversial powers to dissolve the National Assembly using the eighth amendment to the constitution.

In 1993, Nawaz Sharif who gained political power in 1990, was dismissed by the president, reinstated by the Supreme Court and then forced to resign two months later to avert a military takeover.

Previous governments could not change the amendment because they were coalition governments. The challenge is now up to Sharif's government to make that change.

The next elections are scheduled for 1998.

U.S. warned not to be indifferent to failure or success of Euro currency by German economist

By Karen Thomas
Hilltop Staff Writer

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, former minister of economy in Germany, recently spoke to a group of Howard University's faculty, students and business representatives on how the Euro — Europe's future currency — will effect European integration, the United States and the rest of the world.

"Free trade is no zero-sum game," Graf said at the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center. "One player's loss is not the other's gain."

At the event, co-sponsored by Howard's departments of Economics and Modern Languages and Literature, the speaker called on the United States to pay attention and talk with Europe about

the country saying it is not solely a European concern, but will have consequences for this and other countries as well.

"The Euro is going to compete with the dollar and the yen and this need not be bad for those currencies," Lambsdorff said, adding that the Japanese government recently welcomed the envisaged monetary union that would exert greater pressure on its financial markets to reform.

Lambsdorff said the Euro will not be weak as a result of combining the Deutsch-mark with weaker European currencies because of the criteria set down in the 1991 Maastricht Treaty. This treaty, he claimed, implies greater political control over fiscal policy than any other country.

Lambsdorff dismissed the U.S. apprehension that the Euro will

be weak as a result of the deliberate policy by participating countries. He also discounted the assumption that Europe will adopt a protectionist stance, which would allow the Euro to depreciate so as to gain trade advantages.

"Europe is not set up with the erection of barriers to trade. I feel that we are unlikely to see a deliberate policy devaluation," Lambsdorff said. "I am confident that Europe will make every effort to maintain balance in the parity of exchange rates between [the] Euro and [the U.S.] dollar and [the] Euro and [the] yen."

Referring to the crisis in Mexico and the potential crisis in Japan, the speaker demonstrated how rapidly the international financial markets can react, especially if confidence in key reserve

currencies is threatened, therefore warning the United States not to be indifferent to the Euro's strength.

"The Mexico crisis concerned the dollar, the Japanese problem affected the yen, and the success or failure of the Euro will not fail to affect the D-Mark, the pound, the yen and the dollar," Lambsdorff said.

Lambsdorff said, the U.S., Japan and Europe are not opposing forces in the struggle for world markets, nor are they adversaries in the international financial markets.

On the contrary, they make up a potent threefold force for economic and political stability in the world after the end of the Cold War.

The Euro could have political implications for the United

States, some believe.

"The highest stage of integration is monetary integration [and] if that happens, America will not have the kind of influence it used to on those countries," said Desmond Bartholomew, economic professor at Howard.

Lambsdorff agreed.

"The new Germany is too large to assume no role at all in the play of forces, but it is too small to play a decisive part," Lambsdorff said.

Ransford Palmer, of the Department of Economics, expressed some concerns about the Euro.

With the powerful Deutsch-mark and the German Central Bank, he perceives a European common monetary policy being disproportionately influenced by German monetary policy — a policy that prefers low rates of inflation

at the expense of higher unemployment rates.

"I see German monetary policy dominating," Palmer said.

Some expressed regret that Lambsdorff did not discuss the Euro's implications for African countries including Togo, Mali and Senegal in the West — former French colonies whose currency is linked to the franc.

"I needed him to tell me what is done in those countries to prepare them for the struggle they are going to face," said Adama Coulibaly, a doctoral student in Department of Economics.

As early as Jan. 1, 1999, the Euro will replace national currencies.

Bob Marley birthday bash brings together all cultures

By Alexandra Phanor
Hilltop Staff Writer

From his lips came words that were timeless and universal. From his heart came the creation of beautiful music. He set out on a mission to educate the world about spiritual living.

If there was ever an artist who with each song could make your soul feel whole, then it would have to be this one.

Robert Nesta Marley. With lyrics beyond those of the physical state, he filled minds with positive vibrations.

A revolutionary artist, a Rasta prophet, this could only be the one known to most of us as Bob Marley. His presence was visible, not literally but spiritually at the "Iron Lion Zion Bob Marley Birthday Tribute" last Saturday at the Capital Ballroom in Southeast Washington.

Over the last 15 years, tributes and shows on the legendary Marley have been coordinated and produced by Deidre Thompkins of I&I Productions.

However this year, the tribute was held in association with the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum and Center for African American

History and Culture who took part in honoring Marley.

"Steven Newsome, director of the Anacostia Museum and Center for African Americans History joined ventures with Deidre Thompkins to continue the work that the museum has started on engaging Diaspora communities," said Louis Hicks, the public programs coordinator for the museum.

"Bob is a great example to our people and all people about what we should be doing in terms of raising the consciousness," said Thompkins, who has also done radio shows on Marley.

The spirit of this year's event was as great as that of years past. The Capitol Ballroom provided two stages for the "edutainment" of the day — a main stage for adults and a youth stage for children.

To kick off the festivities on the Kingston 12 stage, a spiritual prayer by Ale Albert Hewett, a musician who once played with Marley, focused on peace, love and the strong power Rastafarianism had on the event.

Soon after came the Ethiopian group, The Nile Ethiopian Ensemble, which mesmerized the crowd with its dance routine. The Nyabingi Drummers also thrilled

the audience with their pulsating tribal beats.

Between performances the audience was able to watch Bob Marley videos on large screens.

On the youth stage, Matilda's Corner, youngsters also enjoyed the enlightening show.

The Uprising Dance Company performed a dance ritual called Teritubu. Teritubu is a combination of South African dance and contemporary military movements.

"The calls are done in Swahili to give the children an exposure to their African culture and heritage," said Arlese Scott, who coached the young boys and girls. "What we try to do is teach them discipline and focus. We get them to work as a spiritual unit."

Jeanelle Edgelay, one of the dancers, felt she learned a great deal working with Scott.

"It's fun but it is also a lot of work," Edgelay said. "I learn about where I come from."

Also performing at Matilda's Corner was KanKouran West African Dancers Junior Company.

Modern-day Caribbean storytellers like Alex Pascall and Thomas Osha Pinnock, also participated in the tribute.

On hand were vendors selling everything from African jewelry to

art.

Amin Sekoura was selling his hand-made jewelry.

"All cultural events represent economics for cultural folks," Sekoura said. "We don't have many outlets so we have to take advantage of all these events."

"This event is not only about celebrating Bob," said Nyuma Harrison, Howard University nursing student. "Just like his music, there is a deeper meaning behind it like love for all people. It's not Bob as an individual but the things he represented in his life."

For most who attended the tribute, there was nothing more uplifting than seeing a sea of people of all colors come together to celebrate a Black hero.

In the words of Keith Murray in his single "The Rhyme," "I'm alive forever like Bob Marley."

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EDITORIAL

THE HILLTOP
Since 1924

Absence of hip-hop conference hurts HU

There will be no Cultural Initiative Hip-hop conference at Howard this year. In fact, there won't be a Cultural Initiative Hip-hop conference anywhere this year, and there are many who would probably be happy to see it go. The fact is that hip-hop is not the most popular thing for people 40-years-old and up. What most of our elders know of hip-hop is negative coverage from newspaper clips about C. Delores Tucker, Snoop Doggy Dogg and Tupac.

Yet, the young people who are actively involved in the culture know that it constitutes much more than that. For the past few years the hip-hop conference helped give legitimacy to an art that is too often ignored or attacked. The conference invited rappers, DJs, break-dancers, and graffiti artists to discuss the nature of the hip-hop culture.

The importance of this cannot be overstated. Black culture as a whole is frequently degraded. The idea that is forwarded by the media and other outlets is that Black people don't have a culture. Hip-hop fares much

Our View:

We must not forget the importance of representing hip-hop culture.

worse because not only is it Black culture, but because it is youth culture. Consequently, it comes under attack from the larger culture, and also from Black people who fail to understand its significance.

It is illogical to believe that culture as a whole would give legitimacy to hip-hop. Thus, it

is left up to the people who come under the umbrella of hip-hop culture to establish the legitimacy of the art form themselves. This was the importance of the hip-hop conference. It was a spirit of self-determination that guided its organizers in putting it together. The conference sent the message that we would not allow CNN, NBC, CBS, or even MTV or BET to define our culture for us. We are capable of doing that ourselves.

It is a tragedy that Cultural Initiative will not be able to hold the conference this year. The campus must understand the importance of such events. If we do not define our culture and our music for the world, then somebody most certainly will, and we may not like it when they do.



Protesting decisions of Justice Thomas waste of time

Clarence Thomas' ascendance to the Supreme Court may indeed be one of the great tragedies to befall African Americans. He is worse than any White conservative on the bench because he makes the choices of a White conservative, but he has a Black face. He has repeatedly sided with far right-wing Justice Antonin Scalia, and he has often cast deciding votes against the interest of African Americans. The long and short of it is that Clarence Thomas is trouble for the Black community.

Since his placement on the bench he has been the subject of protest and picketing from the NAACP. Everywhere he appears he is confronted by protesters and pickets who are angry and dismayed with Thomas' decisions as a Supreme Court Justice. Last week NAACP chairman Kwesi Mfume called for an end to the protesting. Mfume decided that to continue protesting against

Thomas is fruitless and a waste of time. He also argued that the NAACP's energies could be better spent elsewhere.

Mfume was dogged for his position, but we believe that he has a valid point. Thomas is clearly not listening to any

Our View:

The energy put into protesting Clarence Thomas should be exerted on other problems.

protesters; he has stood fast in his convictions and has not changed since he was put on the bench. Thomas is a conservative and he'll probably be one until the day he dies. He'll probably be on the bench for that same period of time — justices are not elected, they are appointed for life.

The real question is: Where were all the protesters when the confirmation hearings were going on? Many of them were backing Thomas. Polls during the hearings showed that a majority of Black people backed Thomas. The reason was simple — Thomas was Black, and despite his horrendous record up until that point, his supporters felt he would be sympathetic to the Black people.

To this day, we are still paying for such fallacious reasoning. The fact is that Thomas isn't changing, he doesn't care. The Black community and its leadership needs to get over it. The Black community is beset with problems right now. Clarence Thomas is one of our smaller ones, and one that we can not change. Crack addiction, rampant poverty, and the AIDS crisis are issues that are dying for attention in the Black community. Let's not waste our time with people who don't care about us.

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS AND COMMENTS

THE HILLTOP encourages you to share your views, opinions and ideas. We publish only material addressed to us, and routinely edit letters for space and style. Letters as well as commentaries must be typed signed with full addresses and telephone numbers.

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Please address letters and comments to:

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2251 Sherman Ave. NW.
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to make a correction to the excellent article, "Commuting to Campus" (February 7, 1997).

In describing the University's commitment to enhance the quality of student life in University housing, I indicated that \$100 million (not \$100,000) had been expended on new and renovated student housing since 1989. This dollar amount includes the construction of the Howard Plaza Towers and the Bethune Annex, the total renovation of Cook Hall and many improvements in the other residence halls.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer commuting students the opportunity to reside in University housing now or in the future. Interested students may come to the Office of Residence Life in Tubman Quadrangle to see what is available. We believe, as expressed by several students in the article, that the college residential experience can be a powerful aspect of one's education. This is especially true at Howard because of the high quality of the student body and the efforts of staff in the halls to maintain a conducive atmosphere for study and personal development.

The Room Selection and Reservation Plan (RSVP) information will be distributed in a few weeks and tentative assignments for Fall 1997 will be made just before Spring Break.

Best wishes,

William V. Keene
Dean of Residence Life



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HISTORY OF HIP HOP AT THE MECCA'

By Bobby White
Hilltop Staff Writer

About 15 years ago Joseph Sadler and five other New Yorkers helped give an art that captured its era and alienated its elders. Sadler and his crew, also known as the Furious Angels, can be credited with laying the beginning of what is known as hip hop. "Earth, Wind, and Fire" generation? Under-stand how their music could be such a vul-nerable, to see skin-tight pants gyrating hips. (Boys with Timbalands and are at a loss for words. Is this the music of the youth where one of the stars lay dead and it erupts from geography? Silver-haired grandfather from a Ghost Face Killer tape teaches his wayward grandson, "all young folks don't have no music. Y'all got that mess you call hip hop or whatever that mess I'll listen to." We really understand our own music. Do we understand the music that makes our music? Are we and rhymes we love, live, sometimes die for "mess," or is it a clear definition to the term? Howard University is the Mecca for Black intellectuals. This is where scholars walk with congress-ional leaders with directors, edu-cators and engineers.

This is the holy ground for Black America's future and the hymnals we listen to are "No Time," "What-everman" and "Snoops Upside Ya Head."

The hip-hop community here is vast and diverse. Every mic rocker's compact disc can be found on this

around and if your tape is dope people will notice you and give love." Sally has been rhyming since he was 7 years old. He picked it up lis-tening to old heads like Kurtis Blow and Frik and Frak flowing on vinyl.

"It was like when I was a kid my uncles would play stuff like the Force MDs and back then I was just into G.I. Joes so I paid it no atten-tion," Sally said. "But eventually it grew on me and became a part of my life."

During his freshman year when he arrived at Howard from Connecti-cut, he hooked up with some other kids in Drew Hall and formed a rhyme camp called FNC.

"It stands for a whole bunch of stuff. Back then it was just three MCs rhyming, one DJ and two kids that was just down," Sally said. "Now its 22 peo-ple deep with dudes han-dling

Whether your message is positive or negative is irrelevant. If your music is the bomb a lot of people will want to hear it.

"I'm not with that Coast thing, I'm with the talent thing. What-ever sounds good I'm with," said Al Barber, one of the people chiefly responsible for putting on the Yard Fest during Homecoming.

The California native enlisted the services of some of hip hop's most prominent names: Das Effects, PMD, Helter Skelter, OGC, Poor Righteous Teachers to make Yard Fest the true hip-hop event.

"We are the target market," Barber said, referring to college cam-puses as an important place for record executives. "We are the influential body. We are the people who buy the music. We are the people who buy the tickets for the con-certs."

Howard alumnus Timothy Jones, president of Cultural Initiative, the official sponsor of the Hip-Hop Conference, agrees.

"The college arena has become the life line of the record industry. It has become a very strategic marketing tool," he said. "A record company repre-sentative can come to one location and affect individuals from all across the coun-try."

Col-lege cam-puses have such diversity that an artist can go to maybe two of them and become an overnight success."

Jones' Hip Hop Conference is a place where artists as well as the average concert goer can discuss political and cultural aspects of hip hop.

The conference started in 1991 when people like Chuck D, Russell Simmons, Kool Moe Dee and Chubb Rock converged to air their opinions about the industry.

Barber said when it comes to talent and who gets to where at Howard it is political. He said he felt the school is very image con-scious and prefers certain MCs not be at HU.

"We had some big-time names who wanted to perform here, but were not allowed because Howard said no," Barber said.



Photos by Hassan Kinley

Benjamin Johnson (right) deejays for rhymers Jamal Sally and Kariem Jones. They say Howard is also 'the Mecca' for hip hop.

Barber said Howard's hip-hop scene is large but it could be even larger.

"The people are here, the events are here, but the planning — that's where we lack. To remedy the cam-pus input, go outside of the school and put together your own show and not end up with mainstream stuff, like I plan to do."

Some say mainstream is the enemy of hip hop. Recently it seems to be one sided — rings of many carats and guns of many mil-limeters.

Not to mention all the Cristal rap-pers are drinking; and with so many remixes and rappers standing for so much glitter, the guts of the genre is being lost.

Others say mainstream rappers are safe and don't rattle the table. But real hip hop is about the raw-ness of its message.

"You can't go to Georgetown and hear on one of their college stations 'Originoos Gun Clappas.' Just like you'd be hard pressed to hear Eric

Clapton or Metallica at HU," said Scott Whitney or as he is better known in the music world — D.J. Swamey. Whitney is a deejay at WHBC 830, Howard's student-run radio station.

The program director, Billie Dyson says the station caters to the student.

"We want our station to reflect what's hot on campus," Dyson said. "We work off what students want to hear and that's Hip Hop."

However, Jones said the state of hip hop is looking shaky.

He said the consumer no longer controls and dictates what hip hop is.

"We are allowing the industry to define our culture," Jones said. "We are being influenced by the mes-sage being put out by the recording executives. The listener is escaping from reality when watching that music video or listening to that CD. The culprit I blame for changing the definition of hip hop is capitalism."

Sankofa director expands conscious-raising effort with new bookstore

Howard professor gains independence through distributing his films.

By Zerline A. Hughes
Hilltop Staff Writer

Working intense yet relaxed, Haile Gerima sits diligently in a barely-lit editing room, carefully examining his soon-to-be released documentary. "This shot is what's worrying me," Gerima said to one of his film interns. Years removed from the conscious-raising, critically acclaimed film Sankofa, the Howard University professor, writer, producer, and director has finally gained his inde-pendence.

It was made possible by Gerima's latest pro-ject, Mypheduh Films Inc. The company has given Gerima the power to do something that Black filmmakers lack — the power to dis-tribute his own films.

"We've worked for over 20 years to circumvent the establishment. This is what we've worked for. This is our liberated zone," Gerima says in his native Ethiopian accent. "We've

developed independence, just as any African country."

Mypheduh Films Inc. is just one of a few things for which Gerima has worked hard. Sankofa Videos and Books is one of the others. It is a book store with a split personality, a library of African and African-American films, an untraditional video rental store, and a digital editing ground and it houses Mypheduh Films. All this is in a three-story building at 2714 Georgia Ave., directly across from Howard.

"We want to provide the HU community with what is not traditionally offered in other stores," Gerima said. "We're going to have guest speak-ers, movie screenings open to the public, weekly workshops. It's also going to be a commu-nity stopping place for any Black artist to interact with the community. We want a cultural renew-ing center that helps nourish inspiration."

Gerima and his Sankofa staff want young peo-ple to understand laboring independently in obscurity can be more productive than being in the limelight yet having no control over the stage.

"We are the cultural sharecropper," Gerima said. "We don't own our image — we focus on the entertainment of dance music and movies, yet don't own these establishments."

Gerima and his staff have earned their lumps and consequently their lessons from years in independent film.

"During the production and efforts to distrib-

ute Sankofa, we realized how exclusionary soci-ety is," said Shirikiana Aina, Sankofa co-pro-ducer and partner of Gerima. "Since 1993, Sankofa was distributed over a span of two years unlike the average movie which tends to come and go. It [Sankofa] was so popular in the few areas that distributed the film that openings were demanded across the nation."

Nevertheless, problems did arise. While it took only seven weeks to shoot Sankofa, it took nine years to raise the money to distribute it.

Even after the film's release, despite the large turnout for the film, video rental chains refuse to rent-out Sankofa, Aina said.

"Their excuses ... we don't have the clientele. This has to be hidden racism," Aina said. "They are basically telling us that they don't have an intelligent Black audience. It's more than a slap in the face."

Senior film major Danielle Lott is one of the Sankofa interns who is positively influenced by Gerima's philosophical views.

"He stresses independence every time he can and I agree that it is important to be able to dis-tribute yourself," Lott said.

Another intern film major, Jason Yorrick agrees with Gerima.

"If you're in the position that he's in now, pro-ducing and distributing his own movies, you don't have to worry about censoring," Yorrick said. "And if you have a vision, you're able to keep that vision and be successful in portraying

it."

Gerima allows his interns to assist in editing, splicing and logging film, and participate in viewing and critiquing films before completion.

"We are getting a lot of experience. He makes us physically work with film, but we had to gain his trust," Lott said.

Yorrick said he has gained a new prospective since his internship began a short two-weeks ago.

"It's a great opportunity being here. I always edited on video, not film. I've always heard that working with film you're able to actually feel what you're working on," Yorrick said. "Here, I'm able to work with film, it's really a differ-ent feeling. I just keep learning as I go by. But he [Gerima] is very open about sharing with us what he knows. He wants us to learn — he makes us learn."

Working in his cap, brown-rimmed glasses and suede vest layered over a denim shirt and jeans, Gerima is busy fixing up Sankofa's new head-quarters.

"I don't want to mortgage my culture. I want to advance through film the human aspect of African people — not just for entertainment," he said. "Through my works, I try to carve out a space in resources in order to advance the cul-ture of African people."

PULSE!

Legendary music groups perform at Cramton's Valentine's Day concert

By Alona Ballard
Hilltop Staff Writer

Romance was in the air Valentine's Day as couples filled Cramton Auditorium holding hands and embracing. With the help of Magic 102.3 and Dimensions Entertainment, Cramton played host to two sold-out performances of Solar Record's recording artists The Whispers and Rhino/Collectibles' Blue Magic.

The house was filled to capacity with a middle-age audience — many decked out in fur coats and red suits — all ready to see the two legendary groups perform. "It's nice to see music from my era — the 70's," said one female in attendance.

The concert started on time and most concert-goers filed into the auditorium early enough to see the entire show. With an impeccable



Photo by Aida Muluneh

The Whispers spread their magic to a Valentine's audience.

sound system, every note was loud and clear.

Blue Magic, wearing white outfits with blue sequins, opened the show shortly after 8 p.m. Although The Whispers were the headlining performers, Blue Magic clearly stole the show. They got the crowd excited, chanting "the roof, the roof, the roof is on fire."

"Is anyone alone tonight?" Blue Magic's lead singer, Vernon Sawyer, asked the audience. As a few hands were raised, the group opened with "I Don't Wanna Be Lonely."

With coordinated dance moves and falsetto voices, Blue Magic sang their first recording, "Spellbound." The words to this hit were familiar to the crowd. "I just can't get myself..." sang the group, then they turned the microphone on the audience who sang in unison, "...together."

Holding back fake tears, Sawyer

acted like a middle-age R. Kelly. "Oh this feels so good, I wanna go on all night tonight, at least four times," he said, sweating and gyrating behind the microphone stand.

The group also sang their hit song, "Sideshow."

Blue Magic finished with "I Don't Wanna Stop So We Can Start All Over Again." They left the stage receiving thunderous applause.

Wearing all black, The Whispers, who still have not abandoned their "box" haircuts, put on their show for the audience.

The popular Whispers tune, "And The Beat Goes On," caused one woman to take off her jacket and turn the aisle into a dance floor.

Another song, "If you'll just say yes," made some ladies hysterical. The infamous line, "have you ever been kissed from head to toe," reduced some women to squealing, enraptured groupies.

This song was written ago-by group member Caldwell, who came to the stage and acknowledged the applause.

Couples snuggled up. The Whispers sang, "Make It Good To You," and rose to their feet as the crowd closed with The Whispers' hit, "Rock Steady."

Several women ran to receive the roses the group out as they ended the show. Blue Magic and The Whispers continued to retain their loyal fans through the years.

Blue Magic will return to the auditorium when they perform at "Lanny's Cafe." Named after non Sawyer's late mother, they performed at the Lincoln

Philadelphia hip-hop artist gives history dance lesson

By Melody Allen
Hilltop Staff Writer

Last week, Dance Place hosted a hip-hop Dance Festival whose main attraction was Rennie Harris and his troupe, "Pure Movement."

The program showcased dancers from the Philadelphia and D.C. areas. Among those performing were the Howard Dance Program dancers Princess Mhoon, Whitney V. Hunter and Bethany "Peanut" Strong.

As you walked into the performance theater, you felt as if you were walking into a party. Harris' group turned the Dance Place into "Club Dance Place," while Harris stood on a podium explaining the concepts behind hip-hop dancing. The atmosphere made the audience feel as if they were observers of a club scene. The lights were bright, incorporating dark blues and psychedelic pinks and a white screen in the upstage right corner that displayed abstract art. All of the dancers displayed a variety of hip-hop movement vocabulary, which is a combination of expressive arts

like rap, graffiti art and dance.

The dancers performed in a semi-circle as soloists and groups moved into the center to "show off" their talent.

The movement vocabulary included locking, popping, and stepping. Harris also examined other dance forms, such as house, go-go, and break dancing.

Locking is a series of movements that focus on the rotation and isolated movements of the joints coordinated with hand slaps.

Popping is the art of creating illusions with the body, in many cases popping and locking are combined to produce "Poplock." In this style of moving, the arm moves robotically.

Another featured dance style was House. House movements are a fusion of ballet, jazz, tap and salsa. Break dancing is a highly acrobatic style of movement, including feats such as falling down into a split and then rebounding into a backbend. The technique also includes head spins, back spins and flips.

Harris explained that hip-hop dance reaches various geographical



Photo courtesy of Dance Place

Choreographer Rennie Harris (left) and Pure Movement member Clyde Thomas give the history of hip-hop culture.

regions.

In this month's issue of *Magazine*, Harris said, "Hip-hop is all about who you are socially in this country."

Harris' stepping routine came from his hometown of Philadelphia. His form of stepping, developed from fraternity and some pinning. Harris' stepping was developed from the dance.

The self-taught dancer said that hip-hop can be traced to African culture. He and his troupe recently visited Africa to research the parallel.

All of these dance forms are improvisational in a social text, but have a baseline vocabulary that transcends into a technical series of steps.

Kettering Middle School Model Secondary School Deaf performed during the event.

The hearing-impaired learned the moves by feeling vibrations of the music through their bare feet. Both groups did the go-go style of movement.

Despite lack of lyrical technique, DJ Kool wants to 'clear his throat'

By Derridk Kenny
Hilltop Staff Writer

DJ Kool moves the crowd in this new CD featuring the popular title song "Let me Clear my Throat." Coming through with a solid CD that will keep many a party person putting a "hump in their backs," Kool proves that he can hype any crowd or at least any crowd in Washington, Baltimore and Philly.

This high energy recording is a thumping testament to Kool's party prowess. He did more than just boast about rocking a crowd in a studio; DJ Kool does it live on CD, which puts him in a class of great old school crowd pleasers.

Along with rap legends Doug E. Fresh and Biz Markie, Kool gives his audience a treat with an old school re-mix to "Let me Clear my Throat." On the track each rapper showcases his ability to hype dur-

ing a live performance at Club Gotham in Philadelphia. Listening to these three makes you wonder how much of their appeal comes from their lyrical finesse.

When listening to DJ Kool, you never nod your head to what he says or how he says it. It is evident that he raps no better than the lowly [MC] Hammer. His lyrics are so simple that they make nursery rhymes seem complicated.

Yet, none of that matters. Kool's mixing and producing skills and his ability to help people have a good time nullifies his inability to rap. He lets his listeners know in the first track that this is a "call and response" recording, implying that you'll be too busy responding to him and his music to notice the simplicity of the lyrics.

To get a response from the crowd, Kool goes beyond the overused hype phrases "make money money," or "if you are ugly be

quiet." Rather than use those old standbys, Kool brings his upbeat mix of old school, yet simple party stylings to warm up the crowd and guide them to a good time.

He asks the ladies, "If you got real hair, real fingernails, if you got a job make some noise..." Who's not going to respond?

Kool more or less invites you along on his musical quest to make as many butts shake as possible. No thinking required, just ride. When he says put that hump in your back, do it. When he says everybody freeze, you freeze.

This is not the CD to buy if you want to nod your head or if you want more than six tracks. However, if you want "that feeling" putting a "hump in your back" dancing to the "twenty minute workout" while a hype DJ "clears his throat," buy this CD.

Noted filmmaker re-enacts 1923 Florida tragedy in 'Rosewood'

By Jeffrey Lyles
Hilltop Staff Writer

Try as he might, the 29-year-old man could not hold in a sigh after realizing his day, long as it was, still had a few more surprises. In this case, another interview.

John Singleton, director of such films as "Boyz n the Hood," "Poetic Justice," and "Higher Learning," peered over his half-rimmed glasses, eyes showing the toll from a drawn out day of interviews. All traces of this long day and hectic traveling nightmare vanished at the mention of Rosewood, Singleton's latest film preparing for its Feb. 21 nationwide opening.

Rosewood was a promising Black town in central Florida. In January 1923, the town was burned to the ground and the people were terrorized by Whites from a neighboring town after a White woman falsely accused a Black man of beating her.

Singleton believes that this film is unlike anything he has ever done.

"Rosewood" is my most powerful movie. I met one of the survivors of Rosewood and I felt an obligation to tell their story," Singleton said as he leaned back in his chair skimming through a magazine. "Incidents like these are still happening today

with the Susan Smith incident, Black church burnings, lynching incidents in Boston and Virginia, and reaction after the O.J. Simpson verdict."

In a written press statement, Singleton said, "Rosewood seemed like a ripe subject to paint a very provocative portrait that the American people rarely want to talk about. Black people don't want to remember being the victims of lynchings, rapes, the separation of families, and all

this picture because of subject matter. It automatically weeded meek from being involved. All the actors who did take ended up being the strong ones we could ever have for," Singleton said.

Viewers be warned — the events in the movie are not factual and were created by Singleton. The character, Theo Mann, created to serve as a narrator for the audience. As Singleton explained, "I'm not trying to tell a documentary, I want to feature film." The story, however, according to Singleton, is an accurate replica of the Florida town.

Singleton is happy the film will be released this month. "For one thing, it's Black History Month and Hollywood makes movies that Americans want to see, and racism is a big issue in America," Singleton said. "We need to create a dialogue so maybe we can get somewhere."

While the movie contains some fictional elements, many people believe the survivors were aided by both races. The film is a powerful story of doing so. Singleton said the most important aspect of the film is family values can endure all kinds of hardships.

Rosewood premiered at Cramton Auditorium Wednesday, and Pulse will have the review next week.

"I'm not trying to tell a documentary, I wanted a feature film."
—John Singleton, Filmmaker

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WEEKENDER

WEEKENDER Spotlight: Party promoter — SELMO

By Alona Ballard
Hilltop Staff Writer

ve been to his concerts, jammed at his parties, but know the man behind the It's super-promoter and entrepreneur, Anselmo Gordon, most people know him as credits himself for setting the step shows at the D.C. and for bringing Miami to the D.C. area. Gordon's story begins in 1989. He was selling T-shirts and worked at a Ritz nightclub as a bouncer for tuition after his parents could not afford to pay for his second semester at Howard. "I was a student, and I couldn't get any financial aid, and I had to pay for my own room," Gordon said. Between work, Gordon never had a chance to go to clubs. "I had a lot of my first year at Howard," he said. "I partied a lot with a lot of people." While at Howard, Gordon networked with people who encouraged him to promote his own parties. One of those people was Maynard, the Howard law student who died in a boat crash last year. Maynard showed Gordon the "ins and outs" of promoting. "He taught me how to do things — do your own thing and things will turn out for you," he said. "I often think of him when I'm promoting." After his first year at Howard, Gordon worked clerical jobs in New York and enough money to throw his party when he returned to Howard for his sophomore year. It was the first party of the school year and it was held at the Wust, now the 9:30 Club.

Gordon admits that his first efforts were not successful. "It was poor planning on my part," he said. He had hoped to attract a large crowd of freshmen to the club, but a free party given by the Campus Pals attracted more students.

Gordon is currently in trouble with the university for posting an unauthorized flier advertising a football game after party last season.

Nobody knows who found the unauthorized advertisement in a portable toilet outside of Greene Stadium during the game. But, the flier had not received approval from university administration. At that time, the administration was not approving any fliers because they were changing the guidelines for posting advertisements.

Gordon maintains that he is not the one who posted the flier in the portable toilet. He said that a number of people like to hand out fliers for him. "Do you know how many people ask me for fliers to get their mack on?" he said.

In November, Gordon was sent a letter from Howard University's director of Campus Police, Lawrence Dawson. The letter said that he was barred from the Howard University campus for posting unauthorized fliers around campus.

Gordon, who believes that he is a "scapegoat," said that the university singled him out as an example to others posting unauthorized advertisements.

"Anything from VCR repair to someone selling their books should be barred," Gordon said.

Dawson said that certain procedures have to be adhered to in order to promote social events on campus grounds.

"We ask all promoters and ven-

dors to get their publicity items cleared before they post them," Dawson said. "Mr. Gordon has consistently not complied with our request. He sticks them on every tree, every lamppost, every garbage can."

Dawson, who feels that promotional fliers make our campus look like a gypsy camp, said that Gordon has been approached on two separate occasions by himself and Vice President of Student Affairs, Steve Favors.

"Several local promoters have trashed the University with their fliers," Favors said. "And they've caused significant damage to the university buildings."

The administration also disapproves of promoters advertising the school's name without approval.

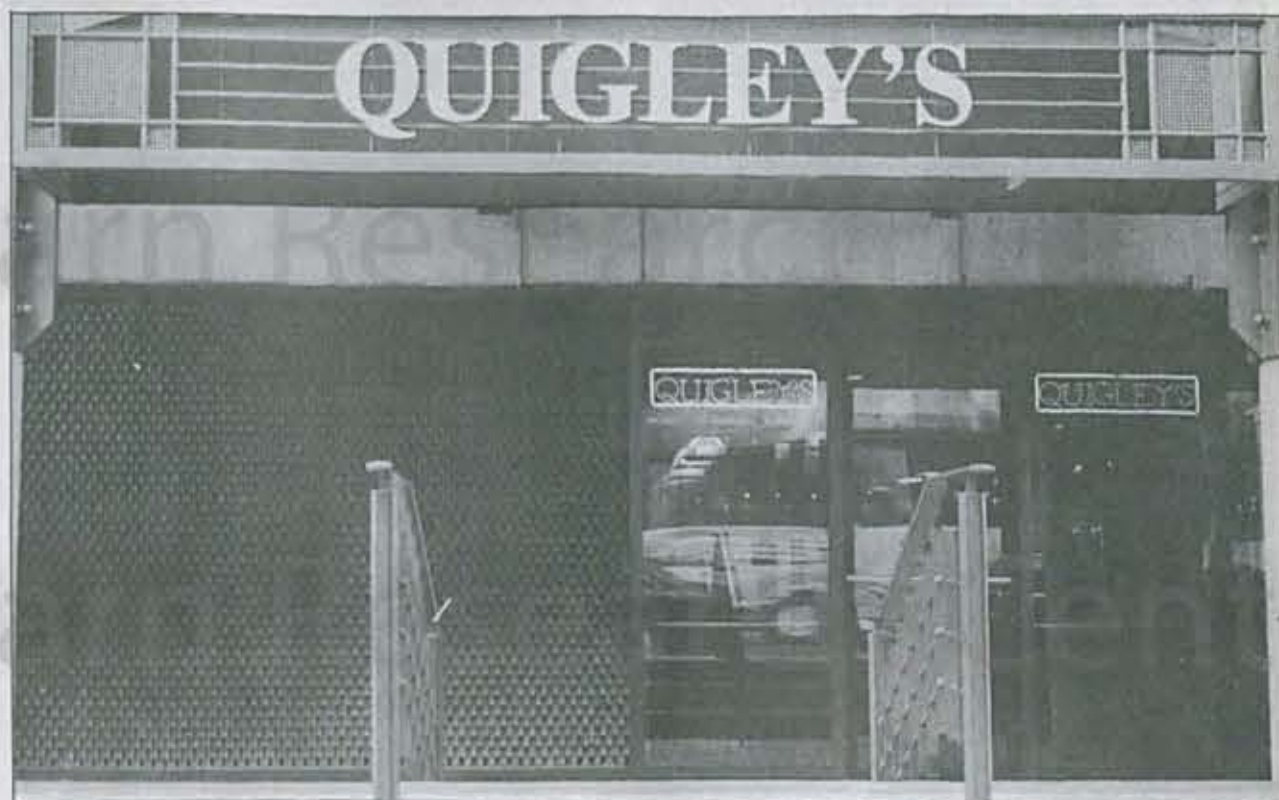
"Some of the promoters were using the words, 'Official Howard University Event' without permission from the University — they were told to stop," Favors said. "We could press charges for using Howard University's name but we're not at that point yet."

Favors said that promoters have no regard for the campus, they have taped fliers to the walls, on university artwork and nailed them to trees. "It is ridiculous what some of those promoters have done to that campus," Favors said. "We had to remove one tree from the yard because of nails."

However, Gordon's expulsion from Howard University's campus is not indefinite. "When he agrees to comply to university regulations we'll consider lifting the barring notice," Dawson said.

Gordon is still taking care of business as usual.

He throws parties every Saturday at Quigley's nightclub, where he has been hosting parties since



Quigleys Night Club

Photo By Hassan Kinley

1993.

Gordon believes that his parties are part of the reason why Quigley's now caters to a Black audience. "They trust me because I make money for them," he said. "Quigley's was catering to a White audience. It's by GW (George Washington University). They used to give Black people one or two parties a month."

Quigley's is a restaurant by day and at night attracts a hip-hop crowd. Gordon, who assists Howard students in getting to Quigley's by having a shuttle bus service, considers Quigley's a safe place to party. "I like to host parties anywhere that's beneficial to students and financially beneficial [for me]," he said.

Gordon often works with local

DJs Trini and Spoon, but said that it is Kid Capri who draws the largest crowds. "Kid Capri is nice to work with, he's been on Def Comedy Jam, he has a recognizable name," Gordon said.

Although Gordon has built up a reputation for having quality parties, he still faces rejection from many clubs. "Ninety-nine percent of clubs will not rent to a young, Black audience," he said. "I've approached every club and I'm rejected because they expect a fight or shooting."

The one time that Gordon had trouble with violence was during Howard's 1995 Homecoming when he brought in Bad Boy Entertainment artist The Notorious B.I.G. and producer Sean "Puffy" Combs.

Gordon said Metropolitan Police

were supposed to arrive at the Reeves Center, where the party was held, at 9 p.m. They arrived at 10 p.m., and by then people were rushing the door. Violence erupted inside the party before the performance when a man hit another man in the head with a wine bottle. Gordon said this party did not affect his reputation for conducting nonviolent parties. "Ignorance is out of my control," he said.

The former public relations major at Howard is now doing research into opening his own club. He plans to open his first in either Atlanta, Charlotte, N.C., or Va.

Gordon has only one piece of advice for people interested in promoting. "Be honest in the industry — there's a lot of crooked people," he said.

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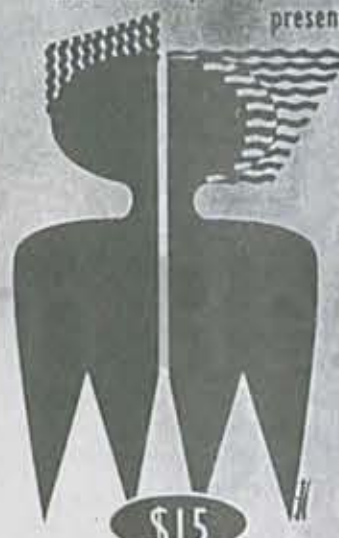
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HEALTH & FITNESS

New health center may reduce waiting time

By Natasha Lindsey
Health & Fitness Editor

Students' constant gripes of having to spend all day in the health center may end with a new plan to improve the University Health Center. Additional staff, a better appointment system and more examination rooms are some changes that are in store for the center. If it's hard to believe — it's not, the plans for a newly designed health center are hanging in the air right now.

Long waits and a small staff have frustrated many students from even getting a foot in the center, but the proposed health center, which will reside on Fourth Street where the bookstore is located, will possibly resolve many of the difficulties students face at the health center site.

"You came to Howard University to go to school — not to hang out

in the health center," said Col. McClaine Garrett, director of the Howard University Student Health Center. "By putting everything in one place, students walk in and walk out — instead of walking in and out, and across the street. With the new plan everyone wins."

If everyone is considered a winner, the group that will benefit most from the new health center will be the students. With an improved appointment system and computerized link ups, the main goal of the new health center is to decrease students' waiting time and to increase productivity.

Upon entering the center, students will be met by clerks who will escort them to small rooms where they can discuss their problems without the listening ears and wandering eyes of fellow students in the background.

Once students have discussed their reason for visiting the health

center, they will be brought to one of two triage areas where a staff member will measure the students' height, weight and take their blood pressure. Students will then be escorted to an exam room to wait for a physician.

Each physician will have two exam rooms with an office between the rooms, which will allow the physician to see more students and reduce waiting time.

"Currently, the exam room and office are all in one and we tie up the rooms for nonprofessional reasons," Garrett said.

Along with more examination rooms, there will also be a dental suite that will allow students to meet with a dentist about a problem tooth, mysterious pain, or to receive a regular check-up. However, the dental suite will not do any extensive surgery in the health center like pulling wisdom teeth; they will send students to the dental

school for surgery.

"When we talk about health care you think about everything but dentistry," Garrett said. "Dental problems can sometimes cause many health problems."

The pharmacy will also be located in the new center, and with a computerized link up, once students leave the exam room and head to the pharmacy, the doctor will have already sent the prescription to the pharmacy, which again cuts down on time.

The computer link up is a main part of the new health center. All Howard students' medical records will be in the computer, allowing physicians to access to medical records as well as the pharmacy's records and the Howard University Hospital lab, from their office.

More examination rooms, computer link ups, a dental suite and a pharmacy under one roof is not all that will reside in the health center. The women's clinic will be

located there as well. Women who have always been leery of the women's clinic will also see a major improvement.

The women's center wing will have its own reception desk that allows women to discuss reasons for their visit in private. Plans call for seven examination rooms in the women's wing — the present clinic only has three.

The Health Education Center will also be located in this wing of the center. There will be two rooms for various classes on nutrition and other health education needs. Garrett says that the Health Education Center is crucial to the health center's quest towards preventative medicine.

The most important part of the health center to Garrett is the Student Health Advisory Council. This advisory council will give the center feedback about what the students like and dislike about it. If

students have a problem, Garrett wants to make sure it is fixed. The advisory council will also give condoms, health packs and literature to students.

"We want students to come to the health center, we don't want them to stay away," Garrett said. "With the increasing capabilities I want to see students when they are healthy. I don't want them to come to the center half dead."

The proposed health center is in its first phase and there are no set dates for initial moves or construction, but the health center is waiting for an answer to come soon from President Swygert, the Board of Trustees and the building grounds committee.

"We affect how you do in everything else," Garrett said. "If you have a headache in class, you will not be able to concentrate. With this set up we can get you in and out."

HEALTH FACTS

Eating just less than two ounces of popped popcorn, or one low-calorie cookie stimulates the release of the brain chemical serotonin, which helps calm the body and mind according to a book titled 63 Ways to Relieve Tension and Stay Healthy.

Source: Self Magazine.

Twenty-six percent of all salmonella food poisonings in 1994 were linked to the consumption of raw eggs. This is up from five percent in 1976, said a report for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source: Self Magazine.

The Food and Drug Administration recently approved the first HIV test that detects anti-HIV-1 antibodies in urine specimens.

Source: Self Magazine

Asthma attacks fluctuate with a woman's menstrual cycle. A four-fold increase in asthma attacks occur among women during the five days preceding, and the first four days of their periods when estrogen levels drop sharply.

Source: Self Magazine

Drinking some drugs with grapefruit juice can significantly increase or decrease the amount of drug that's absorbed by the body, resulting in an excessive or diminished drug effect.

Source: Self Magazine.

Skipping one workout makes it less likely you will get your act together to attend the next one.

Source: Self Magazine.

To prevent thousands of diet-related deaths each year, it's recommended that people use meat as a side dish, not a main course; be moderately active for at least 30 minutes a day; and limit alcohol consumption to no more than one drink per day, if you are female.

Source: Self Magazine.

If you are buying water-packed tuna, the fat grams, the water may not make the difference. The fat content in two identical looking cans of tuna can range from one to five grams per serving, so check the label first.

Source: Self Magazine.

Using hydrogen peroxide on cuts or burns because it inhibits healing because and actually destroys the surrounding skin tissues. Instead wash with plain old soap and water. Keep the cut moist by applying petroleum jelly or an antibacterial ointment that will lock the body's natural moisture and lets the healing process occur. Finally cover the wound with a sterile bandage to prevent exposure to the air.

Source: Glamour Magazine.

The best time to work on your abdominals is at the end of weight training when the muscles are warm, according to the book Crunch: A Complete Guide to Health and Fitness.

Source: Self Magazine.

Recipe of The Week Honey-Orange Pancakes

1 1/4 cup all purpose flour
1 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 cup plain nonfat yogurt
1 1/2 cup fresh orange juice
1 large egg
1/3 cup honey
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
1/8 teaspoon pure lemon extract
Grated zest of 1 orange
Maple syrup, honey or fresh fruit for topping

In a medium bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In another bowl, whisk together the yogurt, orange juice, egg, honey, melted butter and lemon extract, blending thoroughly. Pour the liquid ingredients over the dry ones, and whisk until mixture is just combined. (Don't fret about little lumps.) With a rubber spatula, gently fold in the orange zest.

Lightly butter, oil or spray your griddle or skillet, if it's

not already seasoned. Preheat over medium heat or if using an electric griddle, set at 350 degrees. To keep pancakes warm until serving time, preheat oven to 200 degrees.

For each pancake spoon 1/4 cup batter onto the griddle, allowing space for spreading. When the undersides of the pancakes are golden and the tops are speckled with bubbles that pop and stay open, flip the pancakes over with a wide spatula and cook until the other sides are light brown. (These are soft, so you've got to get your spatula under them and flip with conviction or they may fold over on themselves.)

Another tip: Use a spatula with a blade that is angled lower than the handle to give you added maneuverability.

Serve immediately with topping or keep the finished pancakes in the oven while you make the rest of the batch.

Makes about 14 3 1/2 inch pancakes.

Source: Self Magazine.



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SPORTS

Freshman newcomers add depth, versatility to Lady Bison team

By Marcus Matthews
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University's women's basketball team, the winner of 17 straight games, doesn't have to worry about filling the void when it tries to replace two of its top three players next season. Coach Sanya Tyler has two outstanding players in freshmen Regan Carter and Darria Boyd, who can't wait until it's their time to run the show.

Tyler didn't have to travel far to recruit Boyd and Carter. Tyler found Boyd in Laurel High School in Laurel, Md., and Carter in Potomac High School in Potomac, Md.

Coming out of high school, Boyd averaged 16.2 points and 4.3 assists per contest. Carter averaged a double-double in points and rebounds, hitting for 25.6 points per game and averaging 12.3 rebounds.

"They're both very outstanding athletes," Tyler said. "We were looking for some athletes with some character and some demeanor and some presence, and both have that."

The winning tradition of the Lady Bison was one of the key components that attracted Carter to Howard. After carrying her team on her back during her four years at Potomac, Carter said there was a feeling of emptiness with not achieving a championship experience. Coming to Howard,



Photo courtesy of Sports Information

Regan Carter plays like a veteran instead of a newcomer.

Carter thought, might just fulfill that void.

"The winning season attracted me to the program," Carter said. "I wanted to go to a team where I didn't have to carry the team by myself. I just want to do a specific job on the team and win."

Boyd, on the other hand, knows what it feels like to win that big game. After a successful high school career, Boyd was ready for the next level.

"I knew that Howard was a winning team," Boyd said. "I just wanted to come to a winning program."

Just like any other freshman adapting to college life, the two basketball upstarts had to learn how to adapt to their new surroundings, especially on the court.

"It's new," Boyd said. "It's a transition for me. It's like a different system, but I'm adjusting. I'm a freshman, and I have to pay my dues. I understand that. I'm still learning the system, the people and the plays. I think I will be more comfortable next year."

"I think my whole freshman year will be a transition," Carter said. "By next year I think I will be more in tune with my players and

contribute more next year than I have this year."

This year, Carter is averaging 6.9 points per game and 3.5 rebounds per game, and is making a serious bid for MEAC Rookie of the Year despite suffering a knee injury early in the season that sidelined her for a few games. In an upset victory over Rutgers University early in the season, Carter came up with her best game of her rookie season, scoring 12 points, three rebounds and three assists and had a career-high eight rebounds against South Carolina State.

Boyd, like Carter, is producing a solid freshman campaign, averaging 6.6 points and 3.2 rebounds while ranking third in the team in assists. In her best game at Howard, Boyd scored 14 points with 4 assists. Both women are competing for MEAC Rookie of the Year, and both are expected to be shoo-ins for the MEAC Rookie First Team.

"I'm still learning, for being a freshman I think I have contributed a lot offensively and defensively," Boyd said. "Evidently the coaches must believe in both me and Regan because they have us out there."

"When we are finished getting adjusted to the system, we are going to be a force to be reckoned with," Carter added.

"I expect all-rookie team for both of them," Tyler said. "My expectations are very high for them."

They're going to be all-conference players at some point of their career here."

With Carter and Boyd added to mix, the defending MEAC champions have become team deep in talent. Opponents not only have to worry about Amanda Hayes, Denique Graves and Alisha Hill hurting them, but now Carter and Boyd pose a threat, making the team even tougher to dethrone.

"I add versatility," Carter said. "I can shoot, I can drive, I can add a little bit of everything. The coaches are molding us to where they want us to be."

"Clearly they're part of the difference that we're playing as well as we're playing," Tyler said. "We can go very deep and they're the reason. They are a very significant part to what's going on in our program."

Even though she is having a great time this year, Carter says she sees bigger and better things in the future.

"The future is bright," Carter said. "I think we as a team can do the same that we are doing this year for three more years. I'm trying to get a ring every year. That's my goal."



Photo courtesy of Sports Information

Freshman point guard Darria Boyd is a new force to be reckoned with.

Tennis star brings global view to Howard

By Pedro de Weever
Hilltop Staff Writer

In an age where the athlete has the image of devoting too much time on practicing and socializing, but not on studying, Katya Okpala is the antithesis. She has been able to do both. Since arriving from Nigeria in the spring of 1996 to play on Howard's tennis team, Okpala has had an impeccable season, losing only one game. She has also been able to garner what even those with much more free time on their hands have not been able to achieve: a 3.9 grade point average.

Born in Minsk, Russia, Okpala came to Howard because the school was the first to accept her and because of its rave reviews from a family friend.

It was in Russia where Joel Okpala, her father and an architecture student, met and married Larissa Okpala, a structural engineering student.

When Okpala was two years old, the family moved to Nigeria. There, Okpala began playing tennis when she was 10 years old, but it wasn't until she was 12 that she fell in love with the game.

Okpala says that was the values instilled in her by her parents that helped her achieve many honors, including being selected for the National Junior Tennis Team and being ranked in one of the top three

matches, and her confidence dropped. It was only through practicing long hours that Okpala grew accustomed to her new playing style and was able to travel with the National team to Ghana,



Photo courtesy of Sports Information

Katya Okpala is the number one player on the women's tennis team.

spots during those junior years.

Before she became successful, however, Okpala had to alter her playing style. Her coach, Rotimi Akinloye, changed her extreme western grip into a more eastern grip, and strengthened her weak one-handed backhand to a two-handed backhand.

Having to start from scratch forced Okpala to lose many

Togo, South Africa, and other African countries.

Now at Howard, Okpala is the No. 1 female tennis player on the team. Although Howard tennis Coach Larry Strickland heard about Okpala from a former player of his, he did very little to recruit her, but later worked hard to get Okpala to Howard.

"She wanted to come here, and

she was an excellent student," Strickland said.

When Okpala got to Howard, however, she was a bit dismayed.

"It was different. I didn't like it too much," she said. "There was a lack of moral respect. ... I was taught to respect people."

Now, Okpala said she has grown to like Howard. "I have a lot of friends on and off the team," she said. "I feel like I belong."

Okpala said that her strongest asset is at times her weakest: her mentality. "If I am really determined, I will win, and if I get scared, I'll lose."

After college, Okpala said she does not intend to turn professional because she has no money to go on tour. Turning professional is full of irony for Okpala.

"You need money to go on tour, and you can't go on tour without a sponsor and without training full time," Okpala said.

But she says she still believes in this important advice: "Once you set your mind on something ... to do something, always believe you can do it and be prepared to face the challenges to be successful in life."

Former HU wrestling star succumbs to stroke

By Dennis Freeman
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University lost one of its athletes last week when Ronald Washington, a former star on the Bison wrestling team, died of a massive stroke Feb. 11. He was 35.

Washington, a two-time MEAC Champion at 190 pounds in 1982 and 1983, is survived by his two children, Tyler and Kalen, and a host of friends.

Paul Cotton, head coach of the wrestling team, says that the death of a former teammate at such a young age is a humbling experience.

"It's a very grounding situation," Cotton said.

"It makes you evaluate what you're doing and/or not doing and keep things in proper perspective. I'm not supposed to be burying my teammate at this point. I have a family like Ron did."

Cotton spoke in glowing terms of Washington, who majored in therapeutic recreation while at Howard.

"Ron was one of the biggest financial supporters of the program," Cotton said. "We had a very interesting relationship. I really respected his talents as a wrestler."

Harold Spann, a former teammate, worked with

Washington as a business partner at Tyler Enterprises, a nonprofit organization that works at providing services for inner-city youth.

Spann says that Washington always kept his teammates upbeat and brought a positive attitude with him everywhere he went.

"He had a great impact on a number of his teammates," Spann said.

"He never had anything negative to say. He was always positive and kept a jovial mood. He was a great wrestler and did whatever was needed to be that."

Howard Rittenhouse, a manager of a finance company in Atlanta, echoed Spann's comments.

"The guy was full of life," Rittenhouse said. "He was full of expectations. I've never seen him uptight. He was always relaxed. He was a great athlete. He helped turn the program around."

Before coming to Howard, Washington was the 1980-1981 Florida State Champion in freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling.

Washington finished his career at Howard as the MEAC Outstanding Wrestler of the Year and Howard University's Outstanding Wrestler for 1983.

Track team prepares for indoor MEAC's

By William Bryant
Hilltop Staff Writer

The men's and women's track and field teams are preparing to improve individual and team performances in time for the 1997 MEAC Indoor Championships this weekend in Greensboro, N.C.

The men's team placed fifth and the women finished second at last year's championship.

This year, under the leadership of track Coach William P. Moultrie, the men's and women's teams have several athletes who are expected to boost their teams' standings.

In the sprints, Janell Martin leads the way in the 55- and 200-meter dashes. The mercurial sprinter from Ohio placed third in both events last year.

"My goal is to always win the MEACs," Martin said. "All my biggest competitors return this year."

Dion Walker, who placed fourth in the George Mason Invitational on

Sunday, will add fuel to the fire in the women's 400 meters. She placed third in the MEAC's 400 meters last year.

Martin and Walker will join either Stacy Stewart, Nicole Pryor or Shena Ferguson on the women's 4X400-meter relay team.

In the jumping events, Ferguson, Abby Harry, Vinnetta Gordon and Nakea Adams have caused major problems for opponents. Ferguson began the season by winning two long-jumping events in the first two meets, while Harry has been victorious in the long jump event.

Ferguson, Harry and Gordon also have swept the top three places in the long and the triple jump events at four different meets this year. Gordon is also the reigning 55-meter hurdle champion in the MEACs.

After placing third in the 800, Stewart returns to improve from last year's performance. Tammy Edwards will be a double threat in the 1500- and 3000-meters, and

Pryor and Kenya Palmer give quality depth in that event.

On the men's side, Damion Rowe returns to defend his 800-meter crown. After winning two 500-meter events during indoor competition, Rowe is eager to show the competition his dominance on the track.

Kiley Maynard, who placed sixth in the 800 last year, has knocked off 10 seconds from his sophomore times, and Curtis Jones showed his hurdle skills by placing fifth at the George Mason Invitational.

Although new to the men's track team, Larry Blackenship has been performing like a seasoned veteran. "My teammates have told me that I can score at the MEACs," Blackenship said, but added, "I did not think that my jumping techniques would improve until my sophomore season."

The foursome of Rowe, Adrian Clarke, Yameen Chestnut and Erik Austin are also looking to improve from last year's third place ranking

in the 4X400 meter relay. The team's fastest time thus far — 3:19.74 — is already three seconds faster than its time from last year.

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HILLTOPICS

All HILLTOPICS are due, paid in full, the Monday before publication. Announcements by campus organizations for meetings, seminars or non-profit events are free for 10 words or less and \$1 for every additional five words. Campus announcements for profit are charged as individuals. Individuals advertising for the purpose of announcing a service, buying or selling are charged \$5 for the first 20 words and \$1 for every additional five words. Local companies are charged \$10 for the first 20 words and \$2 for every five words thereafter. Personal ads are \$2 for the first 10 words and \$1 for every additional five words. **Color Hilltopics are an additional \$2**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HU's GAY, LESBIAN, BI, TRANS GROUP
Offers Community Support Meetings & Confidentiality. "OXALA" (202)882-6096
Come & end Black History Month & start Black History Year the right way... @ the Langston Hughes Poetry Cipher. Thurs. Feb 27th 1997 @ 7:30pm in rm 148-150 Blackburn. Sponsored by the Bro.'s of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Chapter

The Bro.'s of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Alpha Chapter are having our annual Blood Drive. Feb. 24th 1997 from 12-6pm rm 148-150 Blackburn.

ASA PARTY @ Kaffa House Friday, Feb. 21 (Doors Open 10pm)

Graduate Student Assembly Week is March 9th to March 14th. March 9th Call-to-Chapel. March 10th Community Outreach. March 11th GSA General Body Meeting & President's Reception. March 12th Tax Paying Preparation Seminar. March 13th Food Drive. March 14th GSA Mixer at Georgia Ave. Cafe.

The Graduate Student Assembly is Sponsoring A POSITIVE SPIRITUAL SELF: Thoughts and Discussion. Friday, February 28th. Blackburn Gallery Lounge 7:30-9pm. Speaker: Adisa Ajamu

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS in the College of Arts and Sciences, there will be a mandatory meeting Feb. 26 at 7pm in room 105 of Locke Hall.

ATTN: FUTURE SCIENTISTS If you have interests in applying your expertise within the atmospheric or earth-related sciences and have the determination to pursue graduate studies, please make contact at the following: heard@thunder.ofps.ucar.edu (202) 232-3147

Majors: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics

The Virtue Campaign February 27, 7pm Rankin Chapel
Experience "Naked & Not Ashamed" The Virtue Campaign
All Are Welcome To The Umoja Ujima Ujamaa Society Meeting Wednesday, February 26th @ 7pm in the Undergraduate Library Room L-41. Speaker's Topic: Introduction to Investments. Refreshments will be served!

Don't miss out on your last chance to hit the ski slopes this winter. Join the Arts and Sciences Senior Class Board and "Ski After Dark", March 1, 1997. Cost is \$55. Transportation, ski rentals, ski lift and lessons included. Hurry! Tickets are going fast! Tickets can be purchased at the Crampton Box office.

Experience "Naked & Not Ashamed" The Virtue Campaign
The Virtue Campaign February 27, 7pm Rankin Chapel
The Hilltop needs copy editors!!! All those interested please submit a resume and samples of your work to the Hilltop office. Call 806-6866 for more information.

There will be a campus car wash this Saturday in the School of Architecture parking lot between 11 and 5 p.m. The cost is \$5 per car.

The Virtue Campaign February 27, 7pm Rankin Chapel
Experience "Naked & Not Ashamed" The Virtue Campaign
Grief Counseling Group will be held weekly, starting 2/27, 5:15-6:30pm at University Counseling Services. Call Clare Mundell or Susan Montello at 806-6870.

As-salaamu Alaikum!! Muslim prayer & sermon every Friday @ 1PM. Islamic studies class Sundays @ 2PM. All are invited! Carnegie Building (near Douglass) For more information: (202) 291-3790

Experience "Naked & Not Ashamed" The Virtue Campaign
The Virtue Campaign February 27, 7pm Rankin Chapel
The leaders of the next century are having a very important meeting on February 26, 1997. All

men in graduate or professional school who believe they have what it takes, are invited to come to the Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc., Theta Tau Chapter's informational meeting at 7p.m. Be on the look out around campus on Monday February 24, for flyers with the 411.

It's Coming: The Virtue Campaign Theme: "Naked & Not Ashamed" (Learning to Wait for Love)
Come enjoy an uplifting evening of celebration, inspiration and positive insights on male female relationships from a biblical perspective.

Featuring:
Music, Messages & Dialogue
Guest Speakers: Pastor Donald Wright and Mrs. Miriam Wright
Kingdom Life Christian Center, Washington, DC

Date: Thursday, February 27, 1997
Time: 7:00pm

Location: Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel
Sponsored by Tom Skinner Associates/Noonday Prayer
More Info: (202) 865-8482

The Virtue Campaign February 27, 7pm Rankin Chapel

Experience "Naked & Not Ashamed" The Virtue Campaign
Haitian Student Association General Body Meeting today 6:30pm in Cook Hall Seminar room. All interested parties are invited.

National College Funding Services: Program held by Aubrey Flynt on February 27th @ 8:00pm in Tubman Quadrangle

Experience "Naked & Not Ashamed" The Virtue Campaign
The Virtue Campaign February 27, 7pm Rankin Chapel

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Ishiba 11960C1 Lap top computer if interested please call 202-232-1237.

In depth listing of all auctions in the US & Puerto Rico Cars, boats, houses, furs, PC's and more. To order please call 232-1237.

HELP WANTED
Volunteer In Africa or Mexico. One year posts: health, human rights, business, journalism, youth, environment, and more. Visions in Action 202-625-7403.

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Evenings & Weekends. Apply Mangos 2017 14th St. (U Street Corridor)

Help Wanted
Graduate student is needed to help with small business operation.

Part-time. Good pay. Call 202-246-6650 and leave a message
Male Models wanted for Natural Hair Showcase. All hair types needed-afros, fades, bald heads, dreadlocks, etc. Come to Blackburn Ctr. Reading Room, Sat. Feb 22nd from Noon to 3pm. Or Call (202) 667-1133

Photographers, Set Designers
Volunteers needed for Natural Hair Showcase. Come to Blackburn Ctr. Reading Room, Sat. Feb 22nd from Noon to 3pm. Or Call (202) 667-1133

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\$2500-\$4000 Summer Campaign for clean air and water
Protect endangered species
Make a Difference
Offices in 33 states
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DC-area public relations firm looking for responsible, enthusiastic and energetic student to run errands and assist with miscellaneous office duties for company president. 10-20 hours/week. Metro accessible. Send letter to: Human Resources, PO BOX 747, Arlington, VA 22216
ACTIVIST

Great Part-time jobs! Make some money while making a difference! Join the fight to improve our community and our country. Be a voice in the campaign to protect education, the environment, civil rights and a woman's right to choose! If you care about people and about issues of public policy this is the job for you. Good pay, fun, diverse work environ., great experience. 2blks from Farragut Metros. Positions available through end of the semester and beyond. Eve & Sat hrs. Call today and start work immediately! (202) 828-0905

PERSONALS

J - Boogy,
This Weekend Remember-
We Been Running since we got here so this sh- ain't new. We have nuthin to PROVE!
For those who don't agree check the Times! K.P.
To the Brothers and Sisters of

Q&A: We have celebrated 81 years of Excellence in Brotherhood. May the legacy continue.
Happy Founder's Day!

Philias,
Auntie Em and Mighty Mouse
The T.O.C. proudly welcome The Doomsday Kid, Slice, Motor City Bad Boy, O-Smooth, Bloody Mary, Smooth Daddy Cool Breeze and new members Hardcore pretty boy and Curly Cheesehead. P.S. Sorry to hear about that disease Kapri. Mystery Man I met on the shuttle- haven't seen you studying in Founders, still on the lookout for you.
- Anita From Alabama

Hoeshas,
Hoeshas #3, The one without the L's. Didn't mean to leave you out last week. Hope you get the one you want soon enough & he starts actin' right. Hoeshas #2, Now you know Big J. is your man, so don't even trip! Hoeshas #1, The one that started it all, I'm sorry that your

day wasn't what you wanted. Makaveli can't always see for me, something always. Peace from Hoeshas #1 - The Hoeshas Club
To the most Gracious Alpha Chapter, Alpha Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Continue to uphold the you go forth in your name love all of you
"from the roots to the Incognitos"

The Frederick Douglass Society will sponsor Douglass Day at 7:30 p.m. 25 in the Bethune Annex Room.

Happy Birthdays
Nikki "Mariah" Thomas
Kamilah "Duce-Duce" and Sundai Neshia
May God Truly Bless you with many more

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GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT

Guidelines for All Funding from the Graduate Student Assembly(GSA) for 1996-97

- I. Organizational Funding
- II. Individual Conference Support
- III. 1995-96 Reparational Funding

In order to receive any type of monies from GSA, the following criteria must be met:

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE GSA MEETING AND ONE GSA (CO)-SPONSORED EVENT PRIOR TO YOUR PLANNED ORGANIZATIONAL EVENT OR CONFERENCE. GSA WILL KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS OF ATTENDANCE. ALL GSA MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH(TIME AND LOCATION TBA).

- An organization must be recognized by Howard University.
- The graduate/professional student must be validated for the semester in which she/he is requesting funds.
- The school or college of which the organization or individual is associated must be fully active in GSA.
- GSA sponsorship should be acknowledged on all publications which advertise the event.
- Conferences must be related to the graduate/professional student's area of study or to the mission of the GSA. Beyond the completed application, a copy of the conference announcement or brochure should be provided. In the case of limited funds, priority will be given to conference participants who are presenters/authors. Only accommodations, registration and travel expenses will be considered for reimbursements.
- Only one conference will be supported for a maximum reimbursement of \$100.00. Upon approval from GSA, a check will be issued after submission of receipts obtained during the conference. There will be no advance disbursements.
- For reparations, student or organization must be recognized on the minutes of last year's GSA, concerning funding. The amount of reparation will depend upon the total sum of funds requested by you and funds available from GSA.
- Maximum funding will be based upon a case by case basis as deemed by the voting GSA members.
- Requests are voted upon by GSA general body. Therefore, funds may be granted based upon modifications of the request which are recommended by GSA.
- Denials may be channeled to the Grievance Committee.
- **The deadline for all funding requests is February 24th, 1997 at 7p.m. Funding may be reopened if monies are still available, after the above deadline.**

******APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR OF THE GSA OFFICE(BLACKBURN RM 111).**