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# THE HILLTOP

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VOLUME 81, No. 1

THE NATION'S LARGEST BLACK COLLEGIATE NEWSPAPER.

AUGUST 29, 1997

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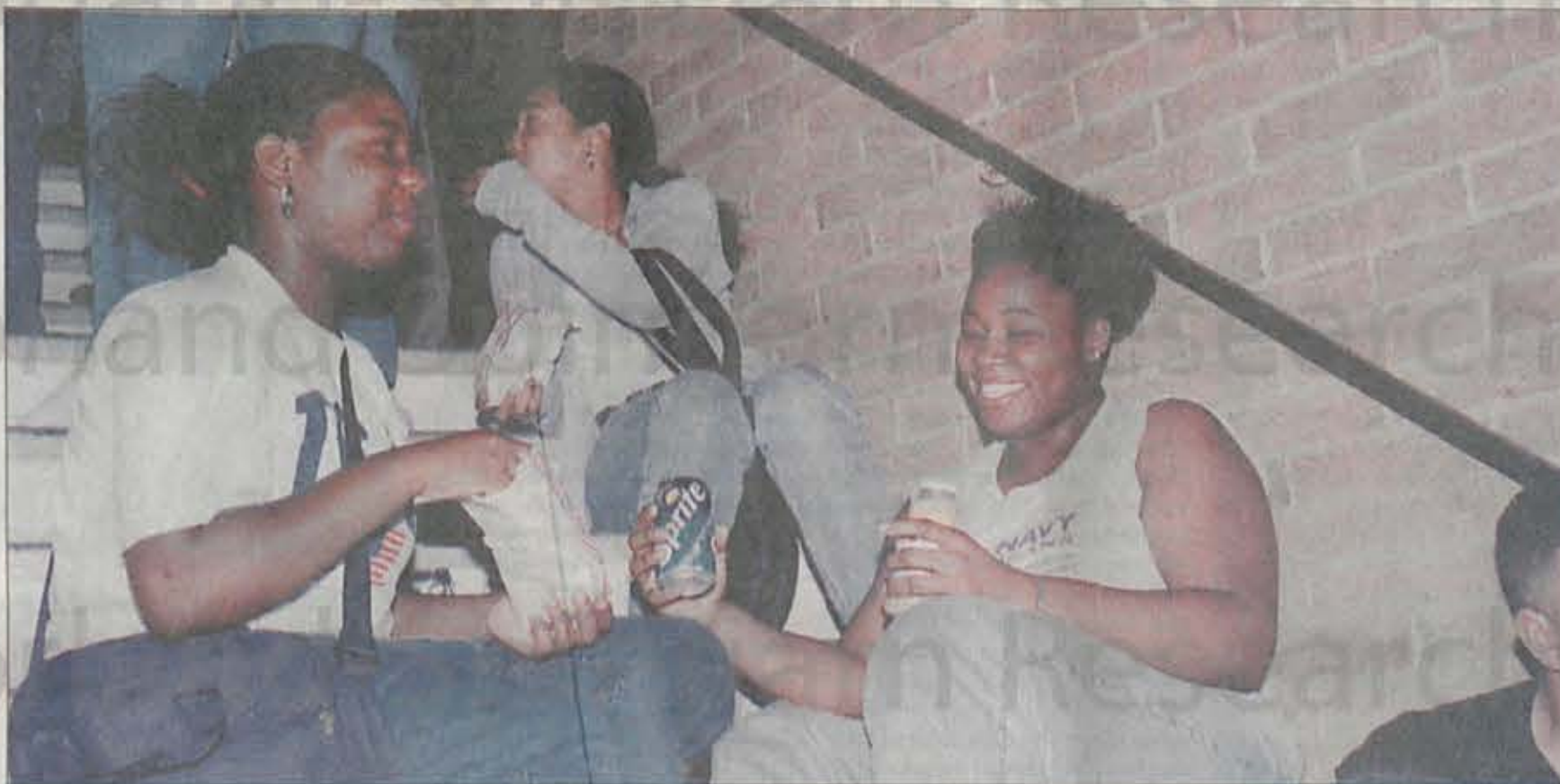


Photo by Edouard Leneus

Two students bear the long registration lines on the steps inside the Blackburn Center. Registration ends today.

## Long Lines, Merger Slow Registration For Students

By VALYNIA SAUNDERS  
Campus Editor

Problems with the current registration system has left many students back in line, rather than in the classroom.

Registration lines extended from the double doors of the Blackburn Center to the main entrance of Locke Hall as students waited to discuss financial matters and other registration concerns with student account analysts.

Despite the University's attempt to organize students alphabetically, some still encountered obstacles along the way.

"It took me a whole day," said Stephen Caesar, a junior international business major. "This year we had to wait. The alphabet thing wasn't working."

At times, Caesar said, neither was the administrative staff.

"The people who work were never on time," he said. "It opens at 9 o'clock and the people never came until 10:00 or 10:30 [a.m.]."

Patrice Saunders, a senior biology major, registered on time and had been validated, but she was disappointed when one of her classes was canceled on the first day because a large amount of students were registering.

"We were told the same day that the class was canceled," Saunders said.

As a student in the College of Arts and Sciences, which recently merged with the College of Fine Arts, Saunders found herself in Cramton Auditorium, trying to register for another class. She was immediately handed a ticket — number 800 — and was told to wait

in line. The number 400 had been the last one called.

"I think it's more crowded because of the merger," Saunders said. "It was much easier last year."

In an attempt to ease the pain of the registration process, vice president of the Howard University Student Association Shawn Harvey developed a Student Registration Assistance Program. Under her program, student assistants worked inside and outside of the Blackburn ballroom answering questions for freshman and continuing students.

"Enrollment management is understaffed," said Jonathan Hutto, HUSA president. "Student registration assistants would answer the basic questions. At least it lends a helping hand."

Although merging the College of Arts and Sciences with the College

of Fine Arts may have played a factor in registration problems, Hutto said students' financial situations may determine whether they are in class on the first day — or in line. "Students just don't have the money by August first," Hutto said. "We have to find ways to alleviate the lines."

One possible solution scheduled to get under way next year is a computer system, set-up by administrators, to consolidate computer databases on campus.

The system, HUSA officials said, is being set up to make sure student records are consistent in all administrative offices. It would also reduce the number of lines, they said.

This proposed "banner system" is one HUSA and administrators hope will put registration on the fast track — and students in the classrooms.

## Horace Dawson Named New IAC Director

By KAREN THOMAS  
World Editor

As the recently appointed director of the Howard University Bunche Center of International Affairs, Ambassador Horace G. Dawson Jr. is ready to put his visions into action.

"We would like to develop the Center in such a way that individuals can major in international affairs as a multi-disciplinary approach to world affairs," he said. Dawson said the Center is attempting to be a repository of the University's involvement in inter-



Photo courtesy of HU  
Dawson said he wants the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center to help students be abreast of global affairs.

national affairs where anyone can find out what Howard is doing internationally.

The Center, Dawson said, plans to issue a weekly bulletin of international conferences, meetings and programs both locally and nationally so that students can be abreast, participate and contribute to these events.

"We want our students to be aware and encourage them to attend," Dawson said. Adding the need to "get rid of that I-never-heard-anything syndrome."

In a press statement, President Swygert praised Dawson for "the wealth of academic and professional experience" he brings to this post.

"He has had distinguished careers in the diplomatic corps and in academia, and we expect the center to advance to many new frontiers under his leadership," Swygert said.

Named after Ralph J. Bunche, a former faculty member of the political science department, the Center was established in 1993 with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Dawson was a founding director of the Center in 1993.

The focus of the Center is on international affairs education, research and service, with particular emphasis on issues in international development. Its mission is to increase awareness of international issues with sponsors, various guest lectures, symposiums and conferences.

Dawson, who assumed the position at the Center last July, will also continue to serve as director of the University's Patricia Roberts Harris Public Affairs Program, a position he has held since 1991.

Dawson's background in international relations made him a likely pick for the post. He served on an interim basis prior to becoming special assistant and communications director for the then interim president in 1995. He joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1962. As a diplomat with the U.S. Information Agency, Dawson conducted cultural and information programs in Uganda, Nigeria, Liberia and the Philippines, where he was counselor for the Embassy for Public Affairs in the largest such opera-

PLEASE SEE DAWSON, A3

## FREE D.C.

## Washington Residents Gather In N.C. To Protest Home Rule Abolishment

By JANINE A. HARPER  
FreeStyle Editor

Fueled by a determination for democracy, close to 400 District residents boarded buses headed for North Carolina to protest the senator responsible for the abolishment of the Home Rule Act.

At the heart of the issue was legislation passed by the Appropriations Committee chaired by Sen. Lauch Faircloth (R-N.C.), which abolished the already limited home rule established in 1973.

Under the Home Rule Act, residents of the District were able to elect their own mayor and a 13 member council, but were only able to elect a non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives — a seat currently filled by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton.

The Control Board, which includes former Howard University interim president Joyce Ladner, was appointed to oversee the District's finances in 1995.

Elizabeth Jackson, 71, has been arrested eleven times for the cause of D.C.'s statehood, and she was prepared Saturday for the worst.

"I'm so sick and tired of being sick and tired," Jackson said. "The Senate can't just come into our city and tell us what to do. We pay the



Photos by Belinda Vickerson

Protesters go door to door passing out information and registering voters in North Carolina.

most taxes, but we have no representation."

**FOR MORE COVERAGE:**  
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the majority of power is in the hands of the un-elected D.C. Control Board.

"We won't stand for a plantation in D.C.," said activist Mark Thompson, an organizer for the trip.

The Aug. 23 bus trip was remi-

PLEASE SEE HOME, A3



Hundreds of protesters marched in front of Sen. Faircloth's house. He is the chair of the Committee that abolished home rule.



# CAMPUS

## Hutto, Harvey Unfold Plans For HUSA Year

By BOBBY WHITE

Campus Editor

John Hutto, Howard University Student Association president, implores students not to judge student government only on social events.

Hutto, along with HUSA Vice President Shawn Harvey, said they prefer students recognize that the majority of HUSA's work is policy making.

"Yo! HUSA threw a phat Homecoming jam," is not what we want students to judge us solely on," Harvey said.

Since the summer, Hutto and Harvey have been implementing plans for the school year and participating in community outreach events.

"HUSA is every student organization on campus, not just Shawn and John," Hutto said.

The two said that students on campus need to be more informed about

what is going on at Howard. They have implemented programs to handle the concerns of the student body. They also pledge to have weekly panel discussions, which they said will keep the campaign promise of this year being a "student-interactive" year.

"Last year, I think the students felt alienated by their president," Hutto said. "[My predecessor, Vincent Jacques] walked around campus with a suit on and was more unapproachable. I am here. I live in a dorm, Cook Hall. I walk campus looking more relaxed."

Hutto said that HUSA plans to take issues even further than panel discussions when it comes to the student body.

"If we can knock on doors trying to get students out to vote for us then we can come out to them to serve them," Harvey said.

Serving as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and HUSA president at the same time, some

critics doubt Hutto's capabilities to do both jobs effectively.

Conrad Smith, a resident in Hutto's district, complained that Hutto was doing a poor job as neighborhood commissioner and that a few residents were even considering gathering a recall petition to get Hutto ousted.

"He bit off more than he can chew," Smith said. "He is failing to carry out his responsibility as neighborhood commissioner."

Smith said that the residents of District 1BO6 were spoiled and used going to their ANC to solve local problems.

"He can't represent us if he's out of the country... He left us to stew," said Smith, referring to HUSA's sponsoring of Hutto to attend a conference in Cuba.

Hutto, accompanied by HUSA political director Nick Eames, took part in a 900-member delegation of youth leaders from America.

Harvey responded to accusations

that the trip was unnecessary by saying she felt it was imperative that "the Mecca" send somebody to the World Festival of Youth & Students in Cuba.

Hutto said the nine-day experience opened his eyes to a whole new perspective on America. He said that he was receiving a bum rap and that Howard was not the only school who sent representatives.

He said former HUSA Vice President Ras Baraka also attended the festival several years ago.

Hutto said the student body should see it as an advantage to have him as HUSA president. He responds to critics, like Smith, who say he cannot balance the two.

"Hey, I'm here," he said. "They (the constituents) know the number."

Harvey and Hutto said those who partake in student government should take it seriously and not just as something to put on a resume. They plan to handle student gov-



Photo by Aida Muluneh  
HUSA leaders say the organization is for all Howard students, not just those in office.

ernment problems such as attendance at General Assembly meetings by proposing a punishment of some sort — a change from last year's policy.

"Student government presidents represent the students in their

schools," Hutto said. "And if they don't show up to a General Assembly meeting, then the students they represent are disenfranchised. We are considering somehow with holding funds."

## New Project Attempts To 'SAVE' University

By ZERLINE A. HUGHES

Hilltop Staff Writer

A dying AIDS patient whispered into Damian Idjagboro's ear. "Had I known, had I only known sooner," he said.

In that one moment, Idjagboro, a senior physician's assistant major, found the motivation to start Project Students for AIDS Virus Education on Howard University's campus. Project SAVE is an organization responsible for implementing HIV/AIDS testing in the Student Health Center.

Project SAVE is a new campus organization with 22 members. Its primary objectives are to educate students and the surrounding community on AIDS, provide confidential HIV/AIDS support groups on campus and ensure that the disease is no longer a death sentence. The organization's biggest project by far, however, has been its recent HIV/AIDS testing on campus. Testing is free, with guaranteed confidentiality.

"After we formed Project SAVE, we went to the Student Health Center and found out that they did not provide HIV/AIDS testing," Idjagboro said. "That prompted us to schedule interviews with Student Health Center director McClain Garrett and submit a proposal."

Testing is now available to all students in a time-efficient and comfortable manner.

"Initial counseling, as well as after-counseling for those having tested

■ A 1996 Center for Disease Control and Prevention study said Blacks accounted for 41 percent of AIDS cases in the U.S. Women account for 55 percent of all AIDS-related deaths of women in 1995.

■ Washington, D.C. has the highest HIV rate in the U.S.

positive, is made available through the Health Center, University Counseling and the Howard University Hospital staff," Garrett said. "We are also trying to put in place other specially trained professionals to assist with students. However, if students aren't totally comfortable testing or receiving counseling on campus, we are more than happy to provide alternative resources for them throughout the Washington area."

The program's only barrier, said spokesman Gbomai Bestman, is that students are unaware of the organization's existence.

"The resources are there; students just don't know," Bestman said. "We really want people to take advantage of everything that we have to offer. It's too important to pass us by."

For fear of scaring away students, Project SAVE changed its name from the Howard University AIDS Awareness Club. The organization now has 15 prospective members to heighten AIDS awareness. It also distributes information on new treatments for people living with AIDS, that have been known to prolong life expectancy.

According to 1996 data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Blacks accounted for 41 percent of AIDS cases. Studies also have shown that Black women accounted for 55 percent of all AIDS-related deaths in women in 1995.

And Washington, D.C., has the highest HIV rate in the country.

"We're an organization which works toward the fight to stop the spread of this disease, to escalate education, but to also provide those infected with information on what to do and where to go if they find out they are infected," Bestman said.

Carolyn Goode, coordinator of the Health Education Department, said a partnership with Project SAVE was developed to emphasize the importance of utilizing the Student Health Center.

"The center provides a great deal of rescues for students," Goode said. "We decided that we could support one another in our efforts to increase campus awareness on STDs."

Community churches and HIV/AIDS awareness agencies are also coming together to aid Project SAVE through funding, providing spokespersons and offering a range of resources such as brochures and condoms.

"We've got a lot of important information to offer," Idjagboro said. "We are very enthusiastic about getting out there in the Howard community, and we're happy to have provided this resource to students."

## Former Lecturer Threatens To Sue Howard

Mohammed H. Bahreini, former lecturer for Intermediate Macro Economic Theory, is threatening to sue Howard University. He claims that Ransford W. Palmer, chairman of the Department of Economics, purposely denied the renewal of his contract for the 1997-98 school year. Bahreini, who has lectured at the University since 1989, said the position filled by Kathleen Dorsainvil, who came to Howard in 1995, rightfully belongs to him. According to Bahreini, in a conversation with Dorsainvil in the spring semester of 1996, he found that she is a Canadian citizen, working on a temporary permit from the Department of Labor.

Bahreini argued that he is entitled to the tenure track position because he is qualified and is an American citizen, unlike Dorsainvil. -- **ROCHELL BISHOP**

## Add, Drop Class \$20 Fee Leaves Students To Pay Toll

Beginning Sept. 2, students who wish to add or drop a class will be subject to a \$20 fee for each transaction. For example, if a student has to drop a class and then add another in its place, the fee will total \$40. Janice L. Nicholson, head of the Department of Enrollment Management, said the fee has been in effect for some time.

"It's been out there for several years," Nicholson said. "It's always in the course manual. The enforcement of the fee started consistently last Spring. Any weak points in the implication of the fee was due to techni-

cal and computing mistakes."

"Howard is full of it," said Lashon Seastrunk, a junior. "The system is too manual."

However, Nicholson said the fee compensates for the time it takes for each transaction.

Claiming to uphold a continuous commitment to improving the registration process, Nicholson said progress will take time.

"Nothing is perfect," she said. -- **JESSICA GAGE**



Photo by Angela McPherson

Students lounge on the steps of the former college of Fine Arts. A new College of Arts and Sciences sign hangs on the school that produced many talented Black performers, dancers, singers and actors. Fine Arts is now a division within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Interested in covering your campus community? Get paid, be informed. Non-journalism majors and freshmen encouraged to write. Call Valyncia Saunders or Bobby White at *The Hilltop*, 806.6866.



# CAMPUS

## GSA Promotes Legacy, Leadership For 1997

By JESSICA Y. GAGE

Hilltop Staff Writer

The summer months seemed short to Graduate Student Assembly members who worked to increase graduate student activity and spark a new wave of student interest in campus life.

According to Cylton Collymore, his position as GSA coordinator entails "finding out about the graduate student voice" and "working for the entire student body."

"We are trying to be more productive and positive," Collymore said.

To GSA, productivity at this level of student government means resources, commitment and cre-

ativity must be utilized to achieve a common goal: positive influence throughout the University, Collymore said.

Future plans for achieving this goal include working with HUSA to "pool monies and efforts" to reach a higher goal of making Howard a better institution, he said.

Over the summer, GSA was immersed in efforts to increase stipends for graduate study research. Members Jonathan Wharton and Shawn Bivins, who are also members of the National Association of Graduate Professional Students, helped promote the Bill Archer Tax bill, which would increase fellowships and stipend packages for Howard graduate students.

GSA also reinstated Graduate Student Orientation, which has not been done for two years. "All of the undergraduate programs offer an orientation program, but received much administrative support," Collymore said. "The necessity to make it university policy was easily seen."

GSA also plans to host a variety of mixers and programs. Today, GSA and HUSA are sponsoring a back to school boat ride open to all students. On Oct. 9, GSA is offering a President's Reception for graduate students.

Another large program being proposed by GSA is the President's Council on Race Relations Black Issue Symposium, featuring author John Hope Franklin. Collymore

hopes to get coverage of this event by CNN and C-SPAN. The symposium will also include members of faculty from various departments.

And Collymore encouraged all students to become more familiar with GSA.

"GSA meetings are open to everyone, any graduate student can work on any committee," Collymore said. "[Howard] has the best efforts of Black people. It's not until you leave and reflect that you see how it made you form."

Wishing to leave students with a legacy of "growth and faith in student government," Collymore said GSA will lead the way.

"We can be a model for any other organization," he said.



Photo by Angela McPherson

Zak Shaikh and Nia Rainey take a quick break between classes on the first day of instruction this week in front of the Harriett Tubman Quadrangle.

## Dawson Ready To Set Vision Of IAC

DAWSON, FROM A1

tions in the U.S. Foreign Service.

While serving in the Philippines in 1979, President Jimmy Carter named him U.S. Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana. He also served as envoy to Botswana, and was one of five resident ambassadors working with negotiators on the independence of Namibia and the breakdown of apartheid in South Africa.

Earlier in his career, from 1974 to 1976, Dawson was in charge of all U.S. information and cultural programs on the African continent as director of USIA (Africa). He was named to the prestigious Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy and won two Superior Service Honor Awards during his career in diplomacy.

Dawson retired in 1989, following high level domestic assignments in the Department of State and the USIA. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Dawson taught English literature and journalism as a member of the faculties of Southern University and North Carolina Central University.

A graduate (magna cum laude) of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, Dawson earned a master's degree in English and comparative literature at Columbia University, as well as a Ph.D. in mass communication at the University of Iowa. He is a member of Lincoln's Hall of Fame, and Lincoln awarded him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1990.

He published several articles including his latest, "First African-American Diplomat," in the *Foreign Service Journal*, January, 1993.

Referring to the Center's role in assisting students to travel to foreign countries, Dawson said that he plans to make such programs more extensive and comprehensive. Last June, the Center assisted students to go to Zimbabwe, Columbia and Japan.

He encourages all students to visit the Center.

"I see this department at the center of all international affairs at Howard University, supplementing and supporting the University's initiatives and activities in global affairs," he said. "I see more of our students being trained for careers in diplomacy, international development and international business."

## District Residents Protest Home Rule Abolishment in N.C.

HOME, FROM A1

insistent of action taken in 1972 when D.C. residents protested in front of the home of representative John McMillan (D-S.C.), who continuously voted against home rule.

Sen. Faircloth was out of town and could not be reached for comment, but he was quoted as saying, "There are many privileges to living in the nation's capital. Voting ... simply won't be one of them."

Energized by a morning rally at the First Baptist Church in Clinton, N.C., Ayanna Gregory, daughter of activist Dick Gregory, belted out the unofficial theme of the peaceful protest — a song called "The Movement Keeps Moving On." Home rule supporters were joined by about 200 residents of Clinton. Protesters canvassed the streets with information and registered voters with the intention of unseating Sen. Faircloth in the upcoming election.

"We are here in unity with the people of Clinton," Thompson said.

The protesters demonstrated under the watchful eye of Clinton police, who followed the protesters every

step.

Protesters arrived at Faircloth's home in the late afternoon, marching in an organized picket line chanting, "No Democracy. No Peace."

"I feel like they just disrespected me," said Ronald Williams, a native Washington and a Vietnam veteran.

Williams said it was strange that he fought for democracy overseas while being denied his voting rights in the District.

"I felt like my vote mattered when I went to the polls and closed the door," he said. "It is like a slap in the face."

Shadow Senator Paul Strauss also protested.

"I wasn't going to let the people of D.C. face this Senator without the support of their own," Strauss said.

One of the youngest protesters, Khalilah Karim, summed up her reasons for making the 5 1/2 hour trip. "I'm here to make sure that the future of D.C. is safe," said Karim, 14. "I'm fighting to make sure we are self-governed."

The Graduate Student Assembly and the Undergraduate Student Assembly Proudly Present

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## CITY

## Georgia Avenue Day Spreads Love, Laughter

By OLUYEMI FALADE  
and KEYA GRAVES

Hilltop Staff Writers

Terence McNeil is moving his arms to the roaring sounds of go-go group Rare Essence. He puts his arms around a girl beside him and pulls her in closer.

They dance to the thundering drum rhymes. They are not in a club, but in the McDonald's parking lot celebrating the 15th annual Georgia Avenue Day with hundreds of other people, young and old.

"It's mad love out here — black love," said 19-year-old Kevin Sowell, of New York. "It's like one big happy family partying together."

Georgia Avenue Day, sponsored by 95.5 WPGC-FM and Heaven 1580-AM took place last Saturday.

"Georgia Avenue Day is special because it gives the college students and the community a chance to merge together and realize their similarities," said Jessica Caldwell, a freshman fashion merchandising major at Howard.

The day brought residents and college students together to enjoy free entertainment from R & B groups Changing Faces and Howard University graduates Pure Soul.

However, some people in the audience frowned when rap artist Craig Mack performed.

"I don't think he should be using that language with children around," said Rita Jenkins as she

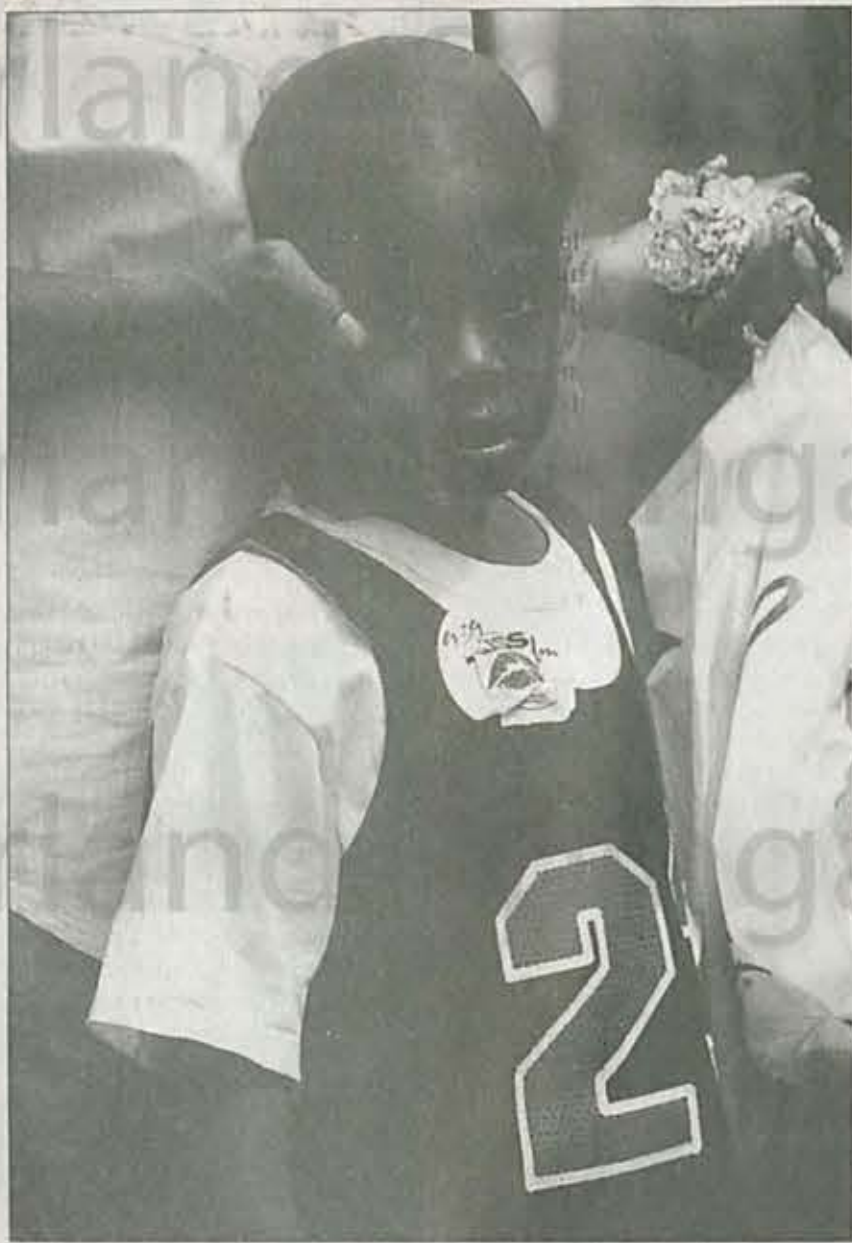


Photo by Rashida Harrington

A young boy from the District came out to Georgia Avenue Day, which was sponsored by local radio stations.

held her granddaughters. "I never did hear any of that gospel music they promised."

A stage that focused on gospel music and another for the smooth sounds of jazz were supposed to be set up. There was only one main stage set up out of the two that were promised.

WPGC engineers said they decided to combine the two, claiming the gospel was scheduled for earlier that day.

For those who didn't focus all their energy to the stage, a saddle ride on horses was available. Others shopped at the vendors who sold mixed tapes, shades and African-American art.

"I'm enjoying the vendors, even though there are not as many as there were last year," said Deatrice Raynor, a D.C. resident.

The spices of curry chicken filled the air, and piles of ribs and fried fish mounted on the plates of a few people.

Those who weren't eating, shopping or catching the entertainment were talking in the streets with friends.

"It's like a homecoming for me ... I can stand on the sidewalk and see people pass that I didn't see all summer," said Alex Wharry, a sophomore marketing major at Howard. "It represents a togetherness and love."



Photo by Rashida Harrington

Georgia Avenue Day offered horse rides for the public.

Youth Group Forms  
In Support Of D.C.  
Home Rule

By KEYA GRAVES

City Editor

Taxation without representation. Those were the words that rolled off the tongues of young District of Columbia residents and local college students who gathered in the Judiciary building recently.

"Young people, you must be educated about your civic duty," said Kemry (Kwesi) Hughes, a member of Citizens for New Columbia. "Students have a role in the struggle for D.C.'s self determination and respect."

"Stand Up for Democracy" was the second meeting Hughes led.

"As our congregation grows, the power we represent will continue to grow," Hughes said. "People forget how important the young people are. They look at them as an after thought ... they are the future."

Fifteen people crammed into a small office on the 10th floor of the building — all questioning the status of D.C. government.

"How can one day you wake up to find out that your mayor no longer has any power?" asked Jason Browner, a D.C. resident.

Hughes enlightened the group by explaining that because the District of Columbia is not a state, it does not operate like a state.

"Our vote is becoming irrelevant, leaving the government and not worrying about being accountable for what they do," Hughes said.

He said that the group's primary concerns are not only getting

the right to choose their own mayor, but the right to "ultimate sovereignty," statehood.

"We went from home rule, to home fool," Hughes said.

He grabbed the group's attention when he told them they were allowing the government to take over because they didn't have the heart to complain.

"Here we are in the belly of the beast and we can't even give the beast an upset stomach," Hughes said.

The participants discussed the importance of the group and shared their thoughts on what the mission of the newly formed organization should be.

"Our role must include accountability, we must force the government officials to account for what they do," said Crystal Simmons, a junior legal communications major at Howard. "Like the Black movements did in the 1960s."

The group agreed that people must be accounted for, and that their mission would be to mobilize and push for self determination. Hughes said the organization will include individuals between the ages of 14 and 35. He said he felt those individuals were the least represented in a group.

Hughes is also hoping to gain representation from other states. "I believe that if you buy into the American dream, it doesn't matter where you are, you will fight for democracy," Hughes said.

The group meets every Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. A Stand Up for Democracy rally, the group's next upcoming event, will be held on September 3 on Capitol Hill.

Roof Repairs Delay District Public  
School Openings For 3 Weeks

By KEYA GRAVES

City Editor

Eddie Walker, 7, doesn't know what he will do for the next three weeks. The D.C. Dragon summer program he attended officially came to an end.

"I don't want to sit around the house all day, I'm ready to get back to school," said Walker, who will be entering third grade at Noyes Elementary School in Northeast Washington.

Due to unfinished roof repairs, District of Columbia Public Schools won't open until September 22.

Last year, some schools delayed opening because of fire-code violations. Schools that were having repairs done for leaky rooftops and broken boilers had to send their students to opened schools.

"When they bussed the kids [to other schools], it didn't seem like they were learning, they weren't use to the environment," said Lucile Cooke, Eddie's grandmother.

Because the District of Columbia again failed to open its school's doors on time, many parents are frustrated, while figuring out what to do with their children for the next three weeks.

"I don't think it is fair to the kids,

these programs.

Late school openings is only one problem that has parents fuming. Many parents are concerned that their children are losing good principals and teachers because of low test-score averages.

**"I don't want to sit around the house all day, I'm ready to get back to school."—Eddie Walker, third grade student at Noyes Elementary**

They are the ones who have to suffer," said Craig Thompson, a member of the Parent Teacher Association at Cardozo High School. "They knew these repairs needed to be done. Why do they continue to wait until the last minute?"

Many local recreation centers will try to extend their programs, but some parents say they do not have the money to enroll their children in

"The blame for the low test scores does not fall directly on the teachers," said Cooke, a retired teacher and volunteer at Noyes Elementary School. "I helped in the classroom during the national testing and saw many children who just would not take it, some who were afraid they didn't know the work and others who were just stubborn."

A Control Board study concluded

that the longer students stayed in the city's public school system, the greater the gap became between their test scores and the national average.

"I've seen teachers at Noyes work very hard, but many times it's the parents, or the classes are simply too large," Cooke said. "Some kids come in there and don't even know their ABCs. You can't blame that on no teacher."

Gen. Julius Becton, chief of D.C. schools, assigned new principals at 22 area schools. Changes in principals will take place at 31 of the 146 area schools. Most change will affect middle schools and high schools more than elementary schools. Gen. Becton said he judged each principal on the school's safety record, academic performance and financial health.

"D.C. officials need to wake up and start placing the blame on the right people," Cooke said. "If there is no money available in the school system how do they expect the principals to put money in the education?"



*The Undergraduate Student Assembly*

*cordially invite you to attend*

*The Student Leader Mix and Mingle  
on Wednesday evening, the third of September*

*nineteen hundred and ninety-seven*

*at five-o'clock*

*Armour J. Blackburn Center-Room 150*

## Writers Wanted

Individuals interested in writing for the City Page may contact the City Page Editor

Keya Graves  
at (202) 806-6866

or submit resumes to the Hilltop Office  
2251 Sherman Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001



# NATION

## Drug Wars: Changes In Crack, Cocaine Rulings

By LOLLY BOWEAN

Nation Editor

After months of deliberation, new standards have been set for crack and cocaine sentencing, officials say. The new standards, which were recommended by the U.S. Sentencing Commission, lessen the huge gap that existed for the distribution of crack cocaine and powder cocaine.

The previous law set a five-year minimum prison term for the distribution or possession of at least five grams of crack or five years for the distribution of 500 grams of cocaine. The commission's report to Congress stated that there was a 100 to 1 gram ratio gap in the sentencing statutes, which caused many Blacks to label the policy racist.

The new policy, which was backed by Attorney General Janet Reno and drug czar Barry McCaffrey, increases the amount of crack needed to receive the minimum five-year sentence from five grams to 25 grams. It also decreases the amount of powder cocaine needed from 500 grams to 250 grams. And while advocates and lobbyists are pleased with the new changes, they are not satisfied.

"This is a good thing," Nkechi Taifa, director of the Public Service Program at Howard Law School said. "But what we really want is equalization. They need to equalize it across the board, and not by lowering this and increasing that, but by making the law equal and fair."

The issue gained national attention when Duane Edwards, a convicted D.C. drug dealer appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court after being sentenced to 10 years in prison. The court continued to reject his argument that his sentence was unfair because of the imbalance

between the two drug sentencing statutes.

In 1995, Edwards sold 126.6 grams of crack to an undercover police officer. When his car was subsequently searched, the police

intent, it was allowed to exist for several years although it was deemed discriminatory by the sentencing commission and organizations like the NAACP and the National Bar Association. Congress

is derived from the more deadly powder cocaine was not a factor.

"The majority of people convicted for crack are non-White," Taifa said. "The reason they allowed the sentencing to be unfair was mainly political. No politician wants to go on record as being soft on drugs in America...."

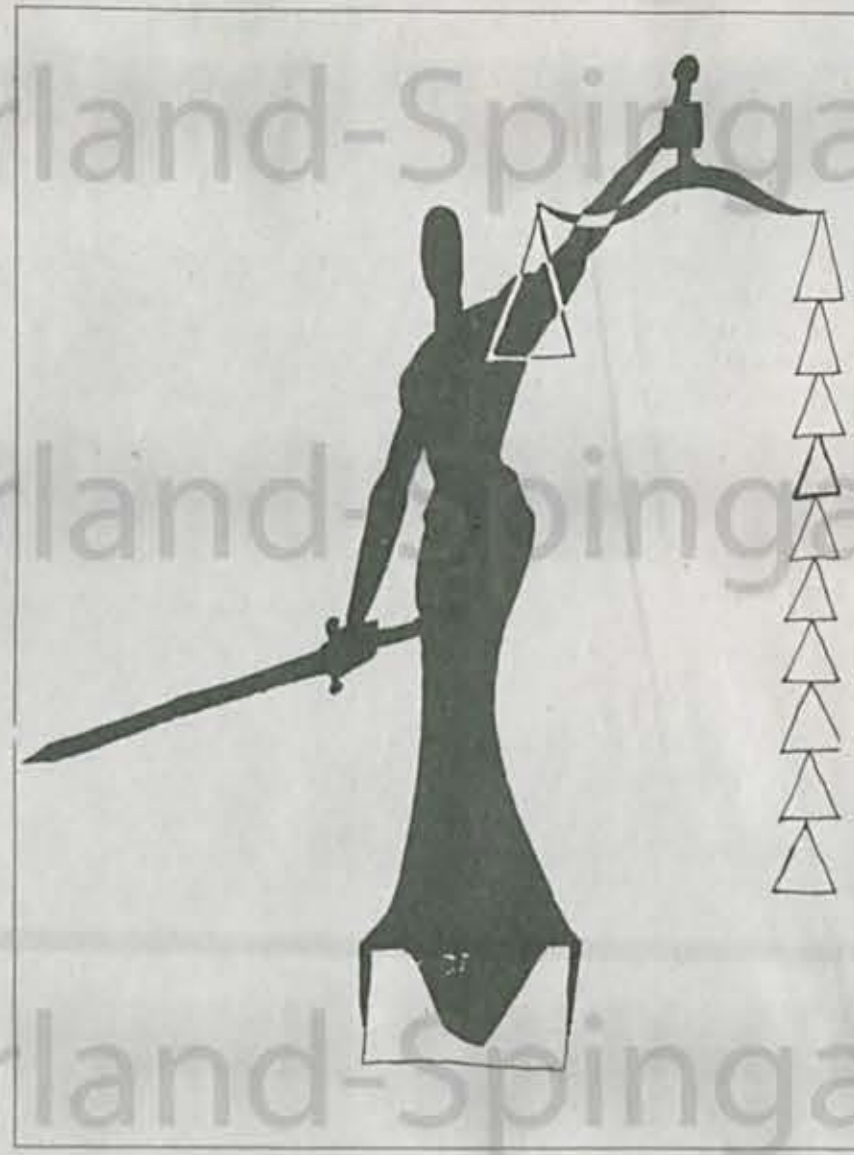
"But what is happening is that small time crack dealers are being sent to prison for 10 to 15 years while their White counterparts who are selling 10 times as much powder cocaine are walking off with a slap on the wrist."

Opposers of the new law argue that because drug abuse is a growing problem in America, stiff penalties are necessary to combat the problem. And because crack is a potentially violent drug, the harsh prison terms are acceptable.

"Prison reformers and pro-drug activists have played the race card in an effort to divide and conquer those who demand that drug traffickers be held accountable for their crimes," said Wayne J. Roques, a retired agent with the DEA. "The crack cocaine law was not racist. It was enacted to permit federal agents to lend their enforcement efforts to combating the growing crack cocaine menace."

Those lobbying for the changes say that the harsh sentences have a large impact on the Black community. Convicted felons not only lose their voting privileges, but many times spend their reproductive years in prison, which contributes to the declining Black population. In addition, Blacks account for more than half of the prison population in the United States.

"There are thousands in prison because of these unfair laws," Taifa said. "And in the future, this situation will come back to haunt us [because] one day these people will get out of prison to join us in society."



discovered another 61.6 grams of crack. Because this offense involved more than 50 grams of crack, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. If Edwards had been dealing powder cocaine, his sentence could have been less than one year in prison.

Because the policy was set by Congress without discriminatory

passed the harsh penalties for crack arguing that since it is often associated with violence, the sentencing should be stiffer than the penalties for powder cocaine. As a result, many Blacks were given long prison terms for possession of a few grams of crack—the cheaper and more popular drug among Blacks and minorities. The fact that crack

## E. Coli Outbreak Calls For Safety Health Measures

By LOLLY BOWEAN

Nation Editor

In the movie "Jurassic Park," the meat-eaters get all the attention. But in real life, it is the meat that is drawing public concern.

With the growing popularity of food contamination, such as E. coli, many carnivores have concerns about the health risks associated with meat.

"[E. Coli] is very serious," said John Larry, a freshman majoring in architecture. "I'm not that worried, but I did stop eating burgers for a while."

Last week, a recall on beef was issued because of E. coli contaminated burgers distributed by a major meat processing company. According to the U.S. Agriculture Department, more than 25 million pounds of meat distributed by Hudson Foods was contaminated by the virus. The company's meat processing and bacterial testing procedures were inadequate, causing the meat to be unsafe for consumption.

E. coli bacteria live in the intestines of humans and animals. Although most of the strains of the bacteria are harmless, several are known to produce toxins that can cause diarrhea. The strain called O157:H7, which was found in the contaminated meats processed by Hudson, can cause severe diarrhea and kidney damage.

The bacteria is acquired by eating food containing the bacteria, which live in the intestines of cattle. Contamination of meat usually occurs during the slaughtering process where bacteria spreads from the intestines. Eating meat that is inadequately cooked is the most common way of getting the infection, said food safety expert Edith Hogan of the American Dietetic Association.

"While we can't control what happens when the meat is processed and packaged, we can protect ourselves," she said. "By taking precautions, we can avoid becoming sick from this and other bacteria found in food."

Hogan suggests following specific practices to avoid contamination and bacteria, such as cooking meat at 160 degrees.

"First be sure that meat is cooked to the proper temperature," she said. "Just because it looks done, doesn't mean it got hot enough to kill the bacteria and germs in the meat."

When refrigerating leftovers, Hogan said to be sure to use airtight containers and plastic zip-lock bags to store the food in.

"Don't use the same container that you had the raw meat in to store the cooked food," she said. "This can cause cross contamination and bacteria will spread to the cooked food."

Next, wash cutting boards, knives and other cooking utensils thoroughly before and after each use. And when shipping foods, Hogan said it is best to put perishable goods into a refrigerator as soon as possible.

"We can prevent E. coli," Hogan said. "Taking precautions is a small price to pay for safety."

### HOW TO PREVENT E. COLI:

- \* Cook Meats at least 160 degrees
- \* Refrigerate leftovers with air-tight storage
- \* Wash utensils before and after cooking

## Confusion Over The Right To Vote Leaves Many Shocked

### 1965 Voting Rights Act That Made Poll Taxes Illegal Expires In 10 Years

By DONNIECE GOODEN

HILLTOP STAFF WRITER

When sophomore Yasmin Campbell heard that Blacks may soon lose their right to vote she was shocked.

"This is ridiculous," she said. "Every American is guaranteed the right to vote here. It's sad that we even have to go through this."

The topic of voting has become an object of serious speculation and concern within the Black community and on the Internet due to the upcoming expiration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Because the Act is up for renewal in 2007, a rumor has spread on the Internet and on radio stations that Blacks will lose their right to vote in the next 10 years when the Act expires.

According to Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), the speculation is just a large misunderstanding.

"African-American voting rights were granted by the 15th Amendment," she said in a statement release. "Expiration of the Voting Rights Act will not terminate the rights granted under that amendment."

After the 15th Amendment was passed, several years after the Civil War, many southern states adopted voting requirements such as poll fees and literacy exams to stop Blacks from voting. Whites were able to do this because although the law guaranteed the right to vote, the states were left free to interpret the

amendment and decide how to enact it. The tactics and obstacles were able to keep thousands of Blacks away from the polls for decades.

During the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Voting Rights Act was passed to make those tactics illegal. After the ruling, Blacks were allowed to vote virtually trouble free. The Act requires states to receive clearance from the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department before making various methods essential.

Renewal of the Act requires a majority vote in Congress and the president's signature. Some worry that the burden of paying poll taxes and meeting requirements under the grandfather clause could return again if the Act is not renewed.

"This could also lead to attacks on the Black congressional districts and increased insensitivity toward Blacks in general," said Alvin Thornton, chairman of the Political Science department. "In essence it will almost be a return to the day of the Klansman."

To avoid this situation, Thornton suggests that Blacks begin to educate themselves and each other about the issue before Congress begins debating the Act. Waters has begun distributing a fact sheet that explains the legal issues. Currently, the sheet is only available in California, but it will soon be accessible on the Internet.



## MY DEGREE GOT ME THE INTERVIEW. ARMY ROTC GOT ME THE JOB.

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# WORLD

## Volcano Displaces Montserrat Residents Thousands Flee Caribbean Island Seeking Refuge On Nearby Islands

By KAREN THOMAS  
World Editor

Recent eruptions of the Soufriere Hills volcano killed 19 people, destroyed seven villages and displaced more than half of the residents on the small British island of Montserrat.

The eruption, which began in June, covered much of the southern part of the 32-square-mile island with ash and lava—including former capital Plymouth.

Thousands of residents were forced to move north or to neighboring islands. The north of the island, which is the safest area, has become increasingly crowded.

In a press release from its Washington embassy, Britain announced last week that it will offer financial assistance to help relocate Montserratians to other countries in the Caribbean and Britain.

Assistance will also be available to residents living on the island in July 1995, when volcanic activity first registered.

"In the past, there has been a lack of concern for the long-term interests of the people of Montserrat," said George Foulkes, Britain's junior minister for international development saying.

Adding that Britain intends to keep Montserrat a viable entity, Foulkes said: "We will give them as much assistance as possible."

Scientists say the volcano is becoming more dangerous. Evacuation, which is still voluntary, may soon become mandatory. Those hard-lined residents still toying with whether to leave might soon be forced to do so.

The British warship HMS Liver-

pool is anchored offshore from Montserrat, helping coordinate the move. The evacuation will be by sea ferries to Antigua, Guadeloupe and other islands.

According to the New York Times, Britain's recently elected Labor Government admitted mis-handling of the crisis and pledged to do better. Britain has temporarily lifted entry limitations for displaced Montserratians.

More than 3,000 people relocated since the eruptions. Other nearby countries said they will also house some Montserratians.

Eight Grenadian health providers are on the island providing assistance. Guyana has sent sugar, rice and other food staples. And the Caribbean Economic Community, the 15-member regional group of which Montserrat is the only non-independent member, promised to provide aid to its stricken neighbor.

Montserrat is a dependent territory of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, although the island has its own government that handles day-to-day activities. Britain has a governor on the island who is responsible for overseeing matters of security and international policy.

"In international terms," said David Arkley, 3rd Secretary Press and Public Affairs officer at the British Embassy, "Montserrat is a part of the United Kingdom."

Discussions are now taking place between nearby islands and Britain to determine what terms and conditions will apply.

Starret Greene, an officer in the mission at the Embassy of Antigua said that his government has provided shelter for more than 3,000 refugees.

Acknowledging that the islands cannot absorb all the refugees, he said "the government of Antigua and Barbuda will not turn away any Montserratians."

Refugees can apply for free work permits there, which comes since business are also evacuating Montserrat.

W & W Electronics, a 20-year-old family-owned company that assembles computer and electronic parts for the American and European market, will relocate to Grenada next month.

Thirty-three of its more than 150 employees will also move to the island. Recently, David Brandt, who replaced Bertrand Osbourne as chief minister of Grenada, amid criticism of his handling of the volcano crisis, said he will fight for more British money for residents wanting to leave.

With all that other countries and organizations are giving, the onus is on Britain to provide the greater part of that assistance, he said.

**MONTSERRAT**  
\*Capital: Plymouth  
\*Sq. Miles: 32  
\*3,000 have fled the  
\*Caribbean island  
since 1995  
\*Montserrat is a  
Leeward Island  
dependent on the  
United Kingdom

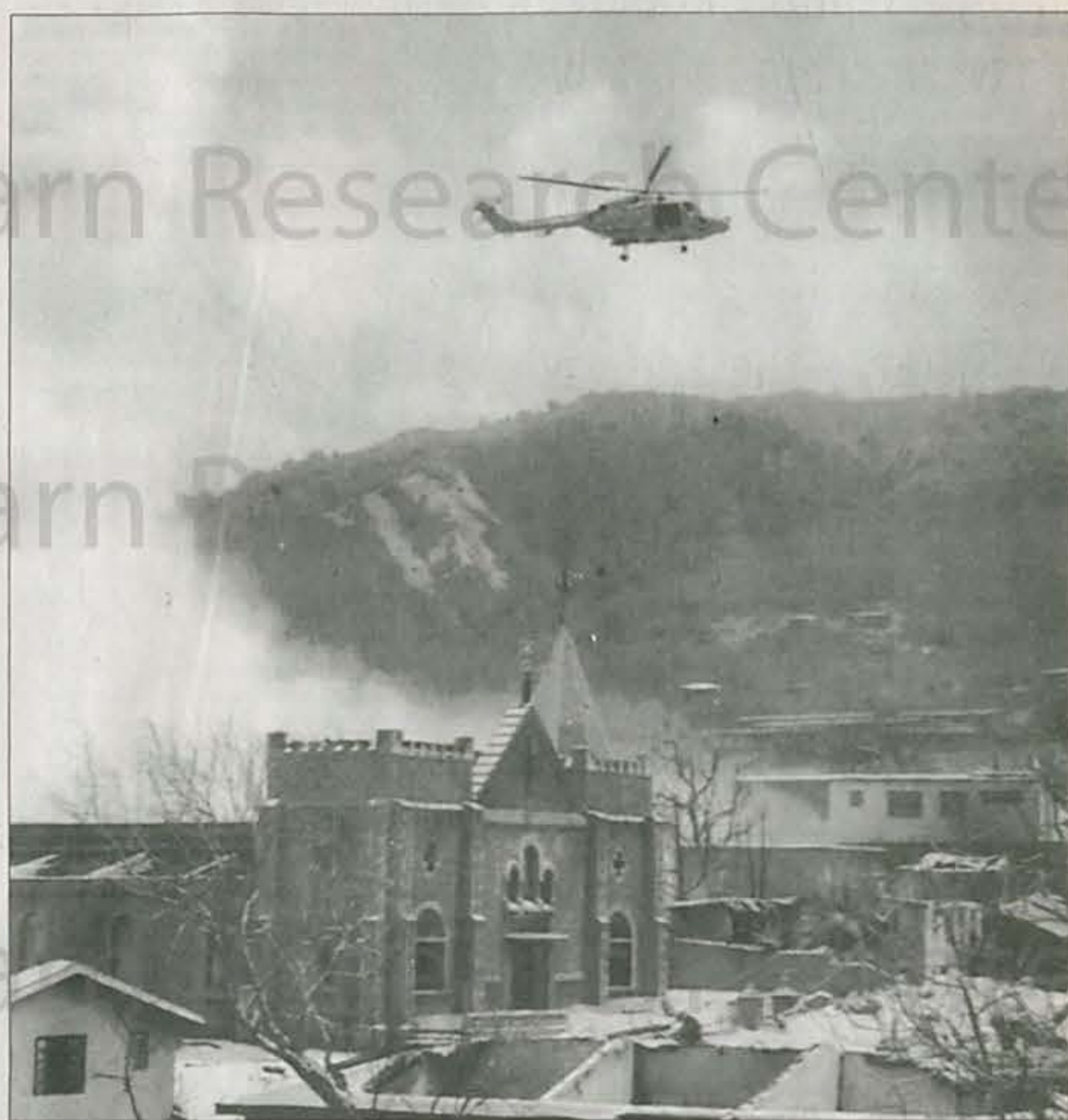


Photo by AP  
A Lynx helicopter from the British Royal Navy's HMS Liverpool surveys the volcanic damage over Plymouth, Montserrat. The town is now deserted and local inhabitants have been moved to safe areas in the north of the Caribbean island. The volcano erupted in July 1995 and has claimed roughly two-thirds of the island.

## New Administrators Ready To Serve International Students

By KAREN THOMAS  
World Editor

To ensure Howard University's compliance with changes in immigration laws, the University added two staff members to its International Student Services.

Wilma Hosten, coordinator of Visa Services, and Victor Betancourt-Santiago, international student advisor, joined the ISS team, which serves the international community on campus.

After the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Act in 1996, increased demands forced the University hire more staff to work with international students.

"The University responded speedily and appropriately," said ISS director, Grace Ansah-Birikorang. "They are indeed a refreshing addition to the office. They have excellent credentials and years of experience."

Trinidadian born Hosten, an alumna and former employee of Howard University, has more than 20 years of experience in the area of student development. She has degrees in sociology, education and organizational communication.

Betancourt-Santiago, has more than three years of work experience advising international students and working with exchange programs. Prior to this appointment, the Puerto Rico Coordinator for International Education at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas.

He said his expertise is in the areas of international program development, cross-cultural training, exchange programming, and international issues.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Russian from the University of Iowa and a Master of Business Administration in International Trade from Texas A & M Interna-



photo credit  
Alumnae Wilma Hosten is the new coordinator of Visa Services.

tional University. He also speaks Portuguese Spanish and French.

Hosten and Betancourt-Santiago will work with international organizations, assist students with U.S. immigration concerns and act as a liaison between the international community and other departments.

They will also assist in advising international students, faculty and staff about policy development; interpretation and implementation of immigration regulations and creating cross-cultural programming.

As past Associate Director of Admissions, Hosten has a wide knowledge of issues relating to international student admissions, the evaluation and interpretation of international educational credentials and immigration issues.

Hosten did her dissertation on the retention rate of H.U. students. The results were alarming and partially the reason she wanted to come to Howard.

"I want to help students stay and graduate," Hosten said, adding she was happy to be back at Howard. "Our main goal is to make sure that the students are served promptly. We do not want them to be waiting."



photo credit  
Victor Betancourt-Santiago is the international student advisor.

"I am looking forward to the experience," said Betancourt-Santiago who for the first time will be working at an Historically Black College. "I want to help international students create a balance. We [ISS] are the first place international students come for assistance," he said.

But Betancourt-Santiago said he will not replace the counseling service on campus. Based on the student's problem, however, they can refer them to academic advising or counseling as necessary.

"I am here to work closely with international students organization in developing programs and international activities on campus," he said.

Hosten and Betancourt-Santiago will also assist students making the cultural transition in the U.S. The office encourages students to visit the Office to meet these new staff members and use the ISS services.

"I want students to make this office a home away from home," Hosten said. "We want them to know that they can relate to us and that we are here to help them."

Attn: All Student Organizations

FROM: K. Lee  
Graduate Assistant  
Office of Student Activities

RE: To appear in the August 29, 1997 edition.

Census forms for all recognized student organizations are due by Friday September 19, 1997. The Student Organizations Fair will be held on Tuesday October 7, 1997. The Census form must be completed and

received by Student Activities in Rm. 117 Blackburn Center in order to participate in the Student Organizations Fair.

NOTE:

Pending Recognized Student Organizations

If you submitted a petition for recognition last school year and your contact information has changed, please contact Kecha Lee, at 806-7000 or come by Rm. 115 Blackburn to update.



August 27, 1997

## To Campus Organizations:

The Hilltop would like to welcome you back. This year advertising policies are as follows:

1. Deadlines for receiving Ads and payments are the Friday before the Friday the ad is to run in the newspaper.
2. Forms of payment are as follows:
  - a. service request
  - b. checks
  - c. cash

It is suggested that organizations form a limit sum account with the Hilltop. We look forward to a working with you this year!

The Hilltop

*The Graduate Student Assembly and the Undergraduate Student Assembly Proudly Present*

### *The Back-To-School Midnight Cruise on The Potomac Spirit Today, August 29, 1997*

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## African-American Women LEADERSHIP In The 21ST CENTURY All Future Leaders Should Attend This Symposium

Today's African-American women leaders in business, politics, education and technology will share their experiences and discuss how African-American women will influence leadership in the 21st century

**Thursday,  
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1997**

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we can make in ourselves  
repays us in confidence in the  
future."*  
Alice Walker

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School of Business  
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# EDITORIAL

## THE HILLTOP

**"Make of me always a man [woman]  
who questions."  
--Frantz Fanon**

## Challenge For Bison

Upon being born Black into this world, there is no obligation to attend Howard University. Save the children of enthusiastic alumni, many Howardites have discovered the Mecca on their own without being hounded by pamphlets and flyers for H.U. at the their commencement ceremonies from junior and senior high school or undergraduate colleges.

But for those of us who filled out the bland-looking application, being at H.U. forever commits ourselves to the motto of the University: Truth and Service.

It is a commitment that must not only govern classrooms and halls of debate, but the dormitories, cafeteria and interaction with people on Georgia Avenue.

We would be weak or lazy to think of teacher-student interaction and graduation from Howard simply as service for payment rendered.

There is no room for fiscal incompetence for such a large institution. But we cannot be incompetent in fulfilling the purpose of education and the ideals great people at this University have sought to make pervasive worldwide.

We must advance historical truths, for were they have been hidden from and by us. We must raise the quality of intelligent debate and conduct. We must correct

each other and strive to the standard of leadership and excellence with righteousness as servants. Truth and Service for Howard students must not simply span our interest as scholars and professionals, but further these, as President Swygert says, "Leaders for America and the Global Community."

Like returning student David Gaither Muhammad, who was barred from campus last year for speaking his mind, we must be unafraid to challenge the known, ourselves and resolve to make things better.

This is an individual struggle, which your coming years at Howard will initiate. We cannot progress as individuals within a collective, unless we are clear on the thoughts and words we must put into action.

For future alumni, in whom this dilemma has been resolved, we now expect you to go confidently into the "real world."

We encourage the students to take to their studies and positions of leadership with a zealous commitment to justice this year.

Just as Frantz Fanon, we must everyday question the accepted norm, either further it or transform it, incorporating our knowledge and compassion for our people.

### Our View:

**Howardites have a moral obligation, as binding as religion, to the notion of Truth and Service.**

## HU Students Have Lost Democracy Along With District

The removal of the ability of residents of Washington, D.C. to exercise self-government is an aberration of democracy.

For District residents who pay taxes, yet lack state recognition and a seat of power in the United States legislature, the 220-year-old maxim rings again: "No taxation without representation."

A nation built upon freedom has revoked the so-called rights of its crowning city by stripping elected officials of their powers and vesting them to political appointees.

The chairman of the congressional committee that authored this legislation was quoted as saying that Washington D.C. does not belong to its residents, but to the nation. Do we question this stance? How can a city not belong to its inhabitants who provide funds for the city's upkeep?

Home rule was enacted in this city in 1973 (this too a slight in our nation's supposed notion of democracy), but no more than 25 years later it has all but been revoked.

The District Financial Control Board was put in place by Congress in 1995 to correct budget problems

and management inefficiencies.

Some conclude from this mission that those who ran the city since 1973 were incompetent. This city being two-thirds black and its government being majority Black, make racial implications of this act all the more glaring.

Many point to mayor Marion Barry for this hiccup of justice. But while many criticize Barry as an inefficient leader, his role as mayor is a testament to this city's notion of a leader. A leader that the people for better or worse had the

right to elect. The people have played America's game of democracy, but now the game has played them. District citizens are now caught between those who pimp popular support, using race and those who would like to see their business interests advanced at the cost of democracy for the "nation's" interest.

We expect our school leaders and local representatives such as Advisory Neighborhood Council members Jonathan Hutto and Nik Eames to organize and rally for D.C. suffrage.

They must not be allowed to sell their voters out, like other so-called "people's candidates" have been doing in the District for the last 20 years.

### Our View:

**Hutto, Eames and student voters must not stand by the rape of democracy in Washington, D.C.**

## We Are Not Immune To Police Brutality

With the anniversary of Amnesty International's worldwide condemnation of the New York City Police Department as especially oppressive against minorities, we are again reminded of what can happen when people with a gun and badge go above the law.

The alleged beating and sodomy of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima at the hands of as many as nine police officers is truly heinous, not because the perpetrators were lawmen, but because in 1997, this remains far from an isolated incident.

Within the past month, a Black man in Nashville, Tenn. was allegedly shot in the back and head after being handcuffed by two officers who detained him. A riot ensued later.

In Newark, N.J., a pregnant Black woman was allegedly killed by a Black officer who fired two rounds into her head during a chase. A case of mistaken identity.

In Baltimore three weeks ago, in full view of a crowd of 20 and video camera, a police officer allegedly shot and left for dead a Black man in Lexington Park after he dropped a knife as the officer ordered.

Last week it was reported that three plainclothes vice-squad officers wrestled a man to the ground on 4th Street NE whom they mistakenly thought had bought drugs. He was allegedly beaten after handcuffed.

Sheltered within the confines of a fenced-in University, some Howardites may mistakenly think their reality is far removed from this brand of terrorism.

But events at a local, student-patronized cafe last May point to the contrary.

After a disagreement about a coffee table on a sidewalk between Metro Police officers and the owner of the now-defunct E-Funk cafe turned violent, Howard

undergraduates were caught in the midst of a full-fledged melee with at least 35 District cops.

Officers were reportedly over-excessive in their use of force, striking female students without reason and selectively arresting witnesses on the scene.

In a city where crack runs rampant, the streets are patrolled by at least 24 law enforcement agencies (including the tank divisions of the National Guard), the Howard student must remain wary.

We cannot make the hasty generalization that the actions of several groups of police officers nationwide, point to an inherent belligerence in law enforcement personnel as a whole. (A fellow officer reported the incident on 4th Street last week.)

But as events this year necessitated a Second National Conference of Police Accountability, we must question our bureaucratic resolve that increased security equates to the imposition of a "zero tolerance," "proactive" police state.

To say this is an issue of skin color, only scratches the surface of a disturbing reality.

The officers in New York demanded that Louima "respect" them and call them "sir," and threatened to murder his entire family if he spoke. The trademarks of a Colombian death-squad interrogation, or the insanity rife with caffeine-driven egotists drunk with power?

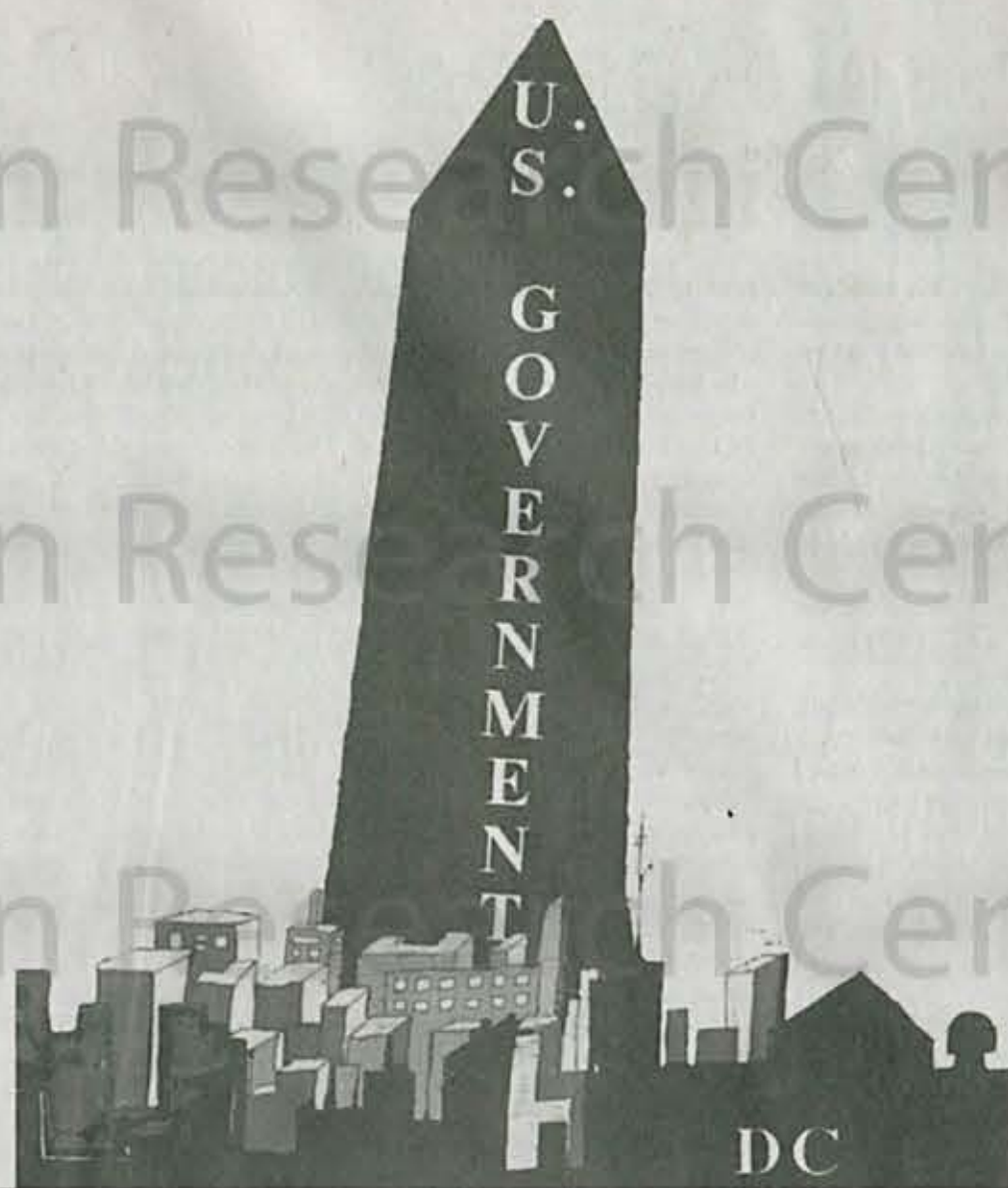
While a moral solution in an increasingly fascist-like justice system may seem far off, we must arm ourselves with knowledge and exercise our right to defend ourselves.

We must embrace community policing and demand that police officers live in the communities they serve.

But if we are to stop this cycle of violence, we must strive to make all crime unacceptable in our communities.

### Our View:

**Zero tolerance for fascists with badges.**



Dear Howard University Community:

Welcome to another exciting year at the Mecca, a year and University that would not be the same without a fresh copy of *The Hilltop* every week. During this year, we will continue to dig deep for controversial and important issues that students should be informed about and can act on.

The student newspaper is an extension of the student voice. As editorial page editor, I invite all of you to voice your views on the issues and topics we address. Write to the editor or take a stand on the *Slant* page. Your writings are not censored or screened.

We are managed by Howard students and operate with money from the Office of Student Activities and advertisements. The *Hilltop* Policy Board advises the production of the newspaper, but has no editorial role. Retaliation from fellow students, faculty or the administration always makes for a good follow-up article.

Ideas not worth defending are not worthy ideas. Drop us a line.

hilltop@cdc.howard.edu

reg@cdc.howard.edu

Reginald Royston

1997-98 Editorial and Slant Page Editor

### OUR MISSION

As one of the oldest student institutions at Howard University, *The Hilltop* seeks to embody the University's motto of Truth and Service.

Since 1924, *The Hilltop* has served as the watchdog of the University, facilitating free access to information and stimulating critical thought and intellectual debate.

Through our news coverage and lead opinion-making, we hope to set a standard in collegiate newspapers and journalism. We champion the student voice within Universities across this nation and around the world.

As a member of the Black press, it is our duty to seek out news that affects the daily lives and political being of African Americans so that we may determine our course.

Without knowledge of ourselves, we are like a tree without roots.

### 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.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are solely the views of the Editorial Board, and do not reflect the opinions of Howard University, its administration, *THE HILLTOP* Board or the students.

Please address letters and comments to:

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The Hilltop

2251 Sherman Ave. NW

Washington, D.C. 20001

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The *Hilltop* deadline for advertisements is the

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# SLANT

RANDY SHORT

## Sani Abacha: The Rapist of Nigerian Democracy

While the nations of this world are racing to democratize, Nigeria suffers under Sani Abacha's dope-dealing junta.

Nigeria represented a Pan-African dream of a first-rate world power ruled for and by Black people, due to its enviable mineral wealth, arable land, and highly educated people. However, gun-toting fascists have managed to misrule the nation for 27 of its 37 years as an independent country.

Abacha's grafting and killing machine continues another cycle of police-state corruption, abetted by foreign powers and parasitic multi-national corporations.

Abacha tragically jailed Moshood Abiola, Nigeria's popularly elected president, which retards the progress of a nation, continent and race.

Abacha should be indicted for narcotics trafficking, and if possible, extradited to the United States. Nigeria's only escape from national implosion and degradation is the instatement of Abiola in his rightful office.

In 1988, the people of Nigeria

rose up against the ruling junta after five years of brutal repression and national elections were held.

In June 1993, more than 17 million voters selected Abiola to be their president by a landslide. An international panel of electoral observers declared the elections as fair.

Voting in Nigeria often reflected ethnic, religious or regional affiliations. But Abiola's election was a clear sign of unity. Key to this unity was Moshood's wife, Kudirat Abiola.

However, General Ibrahim Babangida in the Nigerian military annulled the 1993 election and later hand-picked Abacha to misrule the country.

Public outrage and protests followed the annulment. In true brute form, the military turned its guns and clubs on the people (this same army can't beat poorly-armed teenagers in Sierra Leone today).

Fighting for his rightful office, Abiola demanded to be instated. In June 1994, Abiola was arrested by the orders of Sani Abacha, now dictator of Nigeria.

After her husband's arrest, Kudirat Abiola began leading demonstrations to win her husband's freedom. Thousands of Nigerian oil workers and other intellectuals joined her movement. Predictably, Abacha retaliated by killing and arresting dissenters. All fundamental freedoms were revoked.

In 1996, Abacha ordered Kudirat Abiola's murder. Kudirat died from five shots to her face at point-blank range.

Sani is an effete epigone of Idi Amin. His contempt for the ecology of the nation allows him to look askance at regular Valdez-size petroleum spills while mankind and nature face a clear and present extinction.

Morning in Nigeria has meant that the capita earning of Nigerians have declined since 1983 from more \$2,400 a year to just less than \$240.

Today, Nigeria is among the 14 poorest nations in the world. Abacha has gutted higher education and instigated religious and ethnic programs against Christians and

the Ogoni people, and slavery has reappeared into the society. Famine and high rates of infant mortality rankle a nation that can feed the whole of Africa.

Abiola's release is critical to Nigeria and Africa. As African Americans, we have a role to play. Abacha is facilitating the import of nearly 50 percent of the heroin that enslaves and despoils our kith and kin. His ill-gotten money has bought him a lot of friends in the Congressional Black Caucus, National Newspaper Publishers Association and the National Baptist Convention's scandal poster-boy, Rev. Henry J. Lyons. His influence threatens our few freedoms and taints our already weak leadership. We must act to help our people in Nigeria.

Those interested in knowing more about Nigeria should contact the Kudirat Institute for Nigerian Democracy at [www.igc.org/kind/](http://www.igc.org/kind/).

*The writer is a doctoral student in the College of Arts and Sciences.*



TA-NEHISI COATES

## Black Leaders Have Yet To Confront The Contradiction Of Class

In the 1960s, the Black community waged a long bitter war. The Civil Rights Movement was the culmination of the integrationist assault on White America's attempt to keep them out of society.

That victory has produced a booming middle class and unprecedented economic opportunities for Black America's privileged. But it has also created a dilemma Black America has yet to face—the splintering of the Black community along class lines.

Before the Civil Rights Movement, class was race for Black Americans. The vast majority of us were still members of the working and under class. The thinking was that if we can integrate society, then everything will be OK. But there was no critique of the society that Black people were seeking to integrate.

Capitalism, America's working philosophy, accepts that a minority of people will always control a majority of the wealth. By arguing for integration into this structure, Black leadership essentially ignored and accepted this injustice.

Furthermore, they ignored that racism guarantees that an even smaller minority of Black people will be able to share in the wealth of this country. This has been a crucial error in the calculations of America's leadership.

Now that the "For Colored" signs no longer hang over water fountains, Black leadership has become almost totally irrelevant.

The fact is that direct racism is no longer the major concern of most Black people.

The unique mix of capitalism and racism are now of the greatest concerns to most Black people.

Yet the majority of Black leadership continues to tout race-based solutions that simply have no economic analysis. Mainstream leadership instead spent exorbitant amounts of energy fighting for affirmative action programs.

But affirmative action is most relevant to middle- and upper-middle class Black people.

What does the kid from Southeast care that the University of Califor-

nia-Berkeley law school no longer has slots reserved for Black people? His concern is with a dilapidated school system, and furthermore with an American educational system that discriminates economically.

Most of Black leadership comes from the Black upper-middle class whose children go to private schools or the best public schools in the nation.

They are scared to deal with the structural inequities that America presents (such as its economically essential under class) because they would expose themselves as willing participants in a system that victimizes the very Black people that they purport to represent.

Any structural critique of America is by definition revolutionary. If Black leadership admitted that capitalism oppressed a majority of Black people, then its only recourse would be to try to destroy capitalism. They don't have the guts to do that.

Instead the NAACP busies itself giving out Image Awards to the Black bourgeois. They honor people like Don King (who has made a career out of ripping off Black boxers who predominantly come from poor backgrounds), and fighting for the continuation of school busing in the name of integration.

All the while, Black babies die from inadequate health care. Black men get murdered on the streets of Southeast DC and teen pregnancy continues to cripple the Black community.

The NAACP and its cronies brandish outdated solutions that may allow to them to solicit money from White capitalists, but do nothing to address the problems of the masses.

Consequently, groups such as the NAACP and the Urban League, which were once dynamic, now are filled with lethargic old-school leaders who shrug their shoulders when confronted with the growing mass of Black poor. Indeed never before has Black leadership been so irrelevant to so many people. The average Black person on the street probably couldn't point you out a picture of Myrlie Evers.

Then again why should he or she be able to.

*The writer is a history major.*

JANINE A. HARPER

## The Quiet Fire Of A 'Sister Hero'

Fire.

The initial news reports said that more than 80 percent of Betty Shabazz's body was covered with third-degree burns. I watched in disbelief from my living room as the steady stream of well-wishers such as Maya Angelou and Coretta Scott King left from your hospital room. They said your grandson was responsible.

Of all elements—fire.

The next morning, alone, I walked the 10 blocks in between my house and the Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. It was June 3, and unusually cold and gloomy for summer. It seemed that even nature was not at ease with your extremely critical condition status.

I was going there to pray for her recovery, not to report on the latest skin-graft surgery.

Sister Betty Shabazz was, as former Black Panther Elaine Brown would term, a "sister hero" of mine.

Dr. Shabazz shone for next to Malcolm X as his wife and for continuing to stand after his 1965 assassination. Sixteen bullets rang out that day in the Audubon Ballroom. Shabazz witnessed the murder of her husband while she jumped to shield the couple's four girls with her own belly full of twins.

All of this went through my head as I gassed an orderly into revealing what floor Dr. Shabazz was staying. He whispered to me and walked down the hall. I took the elevator up to the floor.

I stopped in front of the room she was in. Two police officers were standing conspicuously out front.

"How did you get up here?" the police officer demanded. "Are you a member of the family?" I wanted to scream Yes, because I'm a member of the Black family, but something moved me to state simply: "No, I am just an admirer."

"You must go back downstairs," the police officer instructed.

I didn't protest because I felt that there would be more time. I joined the members of the press

outside assembled behind a police barricade.

I wasn't able to stay and listen to them waver "When?" on Dr. Shabazz's life.

I struck a conversation with a Brazilian immigrant who traveled from mid-town Manhattan to deliver a get-well card because he considered you to be a hero to his people, Betty Shabazz.

I left New York that day to begin my summer internship. A month later news of your death came across the wire.

Rev. Jesse Jackson was quoted speaking of your "silent strength."

I was originally introduced to you through a beat-up copy of the *Autobiography of Malcolm X*. I would later learn that you had warranted recognition in your own right because sometimes the battle is fought hardest by the survivors. If El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz, as he became known, was the sun, Sister Betty was, too, a radiant star. As a single mother, Shabazz continued her education and received her doctorate.

Shabazz is honored as an educator and a champion of civil rights. I had taken the subway to Brooklyn to see her speak at Medgar Evers College where she had been an administrator for the past 20 years.

The quiet strength she embodied is the silent intensity of fire.

Life put her through the fire time and time again, and yet she continued to ascend.

How hard was it to soothe your babies' cries through bombings, to publicly forgive Min. Louis Farrakhan and to love a Black man against your parent's wishes who was too strong for America.

The Native Americans have a saying that you only die when you are forgotten.

So there is still more time because you are not forgotten. May you continue to ascend.

Rest in Peace, Sister Betty Shabazz, 1936-1997.

*The writer is the FreeStyle Editor.*

ROXANNE LAWSON

## Howard 2000? Where Will We Be?

When I came to Howard University three years ago, I was a freshman, admittedly pretty ignorant to the politics surrounding this University. I entered Howard during a transition period of growth. One month into my life at Howard, a prominent Washington paper ran a story with the title "Howard Retrenches." A story that talked of this University struggling to meet the demands of the 21st century.

This year's freshman class is welcomed into a different Howard University. Finished with baby steps and ready to re-take its place as the Capstone, Howard enters into a new era. It is not alone. The world around Howard is also changing.

Within the next 10 years, the world's rapidly expanding work force will require up to 1 billion new jobs. This unprecedented demand for employment will put pressure on this country and this University as we struggle to meet the needs of a growing world and the next generation of Black people.

Howard is in many ways a different world than the one I entered. Now as I reflect on my years here, just a few short months away from the other real world after graduation, I have words of welcome and caution for the class of 2001.

You, my fellow Bison, are part of a wonder-

ful and continuing legacy. In the past weeks, as I've walked across the campus, I've studied the new faces, trying to decipher from them their past and their potential — potential that Howard will harness and refine.

In my walks, I've seen lots of new faces; lots of new kinds of faces. The class of 2001 is more ethnically diverse than any Howard class in my time here.

As University of California-Berkeley and other institutions around the US grapple with life without affirmative action, we at Howard are getting our first opportunity to experience a life with it... for what feels like the first time. I wonder how this will affect this University.

This summer I read the papers and watched news reports of police brutality (despite highly publicized conferences and workshops to diminish and eliminate police brutality) and wondered how this changing America will affect us all — especially in our nation's capital.

I hope Howard will be able to meet the demands of our changing times. That this institution will be able to resist the temptation and pressure to redefine itself along what some will call more racially inclusive lines. As the Virginia Military Institution welcomes its first class of women students, of whom only

one is an African American, I wonder if Howard University's fate is somehow linked to its. Will we too, in a few short years welcome a class of students more Caucasian than African American, African and West Indian? As we struggle and are cajoled to become a "better and more diverse" microcosm of the world, will we lose that special identity we have as one of the few remaining truly Black Universities in America? Will we go the route of other HBCUs with their 40/60 policies, or will we make another way for ourselves?

I am as sure of Howard University's future as I am of my own. I do have a plan. I hope that throughout this year and for many years to come, I will be able to make my plans a reality. I hope that Howard will allow us all to have a say in her future, as we all already have a stake in it. That her leaders will not relegate her students to mere observers of her growth and change, and that we as students will not repeat our history as ineffective bystanders and ignored protesters. I have a plan for my future that includes all of my fellow Bison past, present and future. Does Howard?

*The writer, a senior anthropology and history major, is one of four Hilltop columnists this school year.*



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## Section

## B

## FREESTYLE

From The Runways  
To The YardBy AISHA WILLIAMS  
and JANINE HARPERHilltop Staff Writer  
and FreeStyle Editor

Back to school often means back to the malls and the shops. According to Jerome Mongo, vice president of Maurice Mallone's Hip-Hop Shop in Detroit, fall shopping can turn a college student's pants pockets inside out.

"Everything is more expensive in the fall and winter," Mongo said. "The fashion industry counts on the fall season for the majority of its revenues."

With that in mind, several major players in the fashion industry have come out with new styles and designs that may entice Howard students to revamp their wardrobes.

Kerri McKay, a fashion assistant at *Cosmopolitan* magazine in New York, said that this fall's fashions for women will have a "less-is-best" theme.

"Hemlines will definitely be getting shorter this year," McKay said. "Floor length A-lines are definitely out."

McKay also said bright colored leather and metallics will be hot this fall.

Some designers said the flashy look is dead and that a more casual, conservative look will be in this season. Mongo said that this year's fashions are geared towards college students. He said that the preppy look is definitely in.

"Russell Simmons' line this fall has a Boyz II Men look complete with V-neck sweaters and cardigans," he said.

Will baggy jeans, Timberlands oversized sweatshirts,

polo's and rugby's have to be discarded for a more reserved look? Most designers haven't said so, and increasing popularity of major lines like Shabazz Brothers, Maurice Mallone and Mecca USA are continuing to produce hip-hop influenced clothing.

"The hip-hop industry is definitely growing up," said Sandra Martin, acting fashion director of *Essence* magazine. "A

Fall Fashion  
ForecastPhotos by  
Angela Phersonlot  
of

designers, like Maurice Mallone, have presented their signature look as well as a more tailored look for men."

Martin predicts pinstripes will reappear, but without a "stuffy" look.

"Pinstripes won't just be charcoal and white, or black

and white," said Martin. "They will be brown and blue and rust and brown, and they will use them on suits and even purses."

Velvet for day and evening wear will be a strong fabric this season, Martin said.

As for the local scene,

super-tight stretch jeans paired with named-brand shirts and a pair of New Balance sneakers will still be the outfit of choice for many D.C. women.

"Locally, stretch jeans like Parasuco and Bongo are big sellers," said Al Nice, the

manager of Up Against the Wall in Wonder Plaza. "Women have also been purchasing a lot of Donna Karan. The color for the

volume of stretch jeans.

"To men, we have been selling a lot of long sleeved t-shirts," Bennett said.

According to representatives of T.J. Maxx, the fall's campus fashions seem to resemble those of last fall, with the only major style change being the toning down of bell bottoms. This fall, people will be wearing more boot-cut and slightly-flared jeans.

"The 70's look has moved to the 80's," said Martin, suggesting that large, flare-cut jeans be left in the closet.

"Denim is always in style," said Shabazz Fuller of Shabazz Brothers' clothing line.

"We're also doing a lot of work with

primary colors as far as our lines of rugby shirts."

While being stylish is a concern of many, some students worry about the over emphasis on exteriors.

"I also think that it's kind of dangerous for people to concentrate so much on what they wear as opposed to who they are," said Benjamin Johnson, a film major. "True shining doesn't come from rings and jewelry, but more from your own individuality."

Graduating senior Tijan Watt agrees. "Style shouldn't really be an issue," Watt said. "People should wear whatever looks good to them and whatever they feel comfortable wearing."

Website  
Of The Week

## Office Of Career Planning, Placement Helps Students Locate Jobs

By JANINE A. HARPER

FreeStyle Editor

Away from home and in some cases cut off from allowances, many students find it necessary to seek other sources of income. For those students who do not qualify for the federal work-study program, the hunt is on. "I have been looking for a job for the past week," said Douglass Morency, a first-year student in the graduate School of Social Work.

"I have a job now, but I'm interested in getting better hours," said Morency, who works as a doorman at one of the area's most popular adult nightclubs. Following the suggestion of a friend, Morency plans to visit the Office of Career Planning and Placement housed in the Student Services wing of the C.B. Powell

summer," said Samuel M. Hall, director of the Office of Career Planning and Placement.

There are a lot of jobs available now because the economy has been doing real well." The hallway on the second floor, which connects the School of Communications to the Student Services wing, has postings of various opportunities. The notices include such jobs as wait staff at a Bethesda brewery or a position as a translator.

Departing from the traditional circling of classified ads and walking the streets, today's job search has gone high tech. A website, [www.jobtrack.com](http://www.jobtrack.com), provides jobs from all over the country. One advantage of the site is that it is updated each week. In order to access the database on the website, students must use the password "HUTRAK."

Another related site is [www.job-direct.com](http://www.job-direct.com).

The office provides the listings

from the website in the form of a bulletin board called Jobtraker. In Room 221 of the Student Services wing, job vacancy binders list part time jobs and paid internships.

Another university service, provided by the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment (Room 205 of the administration building), is called the Stay in School program. Placement through the program in government agencies is available to all validated students that meet the program's criteria of need. "Students have to find the jobs themselves," said Constance Franklin, a Student Services representative. "What is good about this program is that many students have found positions that have led to real jobs."

The situation is serious for students like Sheena Birgans who have been searching for employment for the last couple weeks.

"I have expenses," said Birgans,

a senior biology.

Birgans lists credit card bills, rent and what her friends term "a very expensive" shopping habit. "I know I got to keep looking," Birgans said. "A job just isn't going to come to you."

Working in the mall has always been an option for young people.

For a quarter, the Pentagon City's customer service desk furnishes a listing of openings in the mall's 167 retail stores. The service desk is located on the food court level, across from the Ruby Tuesday's restaurant.

Despite the amount of preparation or technology used in a job search, most students agree that success will be based on someone's personal connections.

"Like they say, 'It's not what you know, it all boils down to who you know,'" Morency said.

D.C. based clothing store The Madness, agrees with Nice about selling an equally high

Back to school expenses putting a hurting on your finances? Keep some loot in your pocket and save time standing in long lines by downloading books from the web. Four thousand books can be accessed free from [www.cs.cmu.edu/book.html](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/book.html). The website began making selections available in 1993, with pieces ranging from the complete works of William Shakespeare to a Charles Elliot book, "The Sinfulness of American Slavery," published in 1850.

Another site that boasts 2.5 million titles is [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Books can be downloaded at a discount of 20-40 percent off of list prices.

[www.cs.cmu.edu/book.html](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/book.html).

"We've been getting jobs all



# PULSE!

## Male Music Artists Top The Charts

By WILLIAM OWENS

Hilltop Staff Writer

Offering smooth sounds, tight beats and jams, many musical favorites and newcomers have catered to the likes of R&B, hip hop, rap and even gospel fans this summer.

The effort to bring back life to summer pool parties, picnics and dull moments included the return of many popular female recording artists. Singing groups Brownstone and En Vogue returned with new albums — "Still Climbing" and "EV3," respectively. The acclaimed queen of hip-hop soul Mary J. Blige returned to the music charts with "Share My World," a head-raising album full of promising hits.

But the females shared the music limelight. The music stores featured new R&B tracks from former Jodeci members JoJo and K-Ci, such as "Love Always," and the self-titled album from newcomer Rome. Rap lyrics from Suga Free could be heard on his album "Street Gospel," while releases from other veterans are still climbing the charts at a fast pace.

### Wu-Tang Clan:

It seems the recent trend of double-CD releases started with the late Tupac Shakur with "All Eyes On Me" followed by The Notorious B.I.G. with "Life After Death." Another double-CD comes from the rap heavyweights Wu-Tang Clan with "Wu-Tang Forever."

In this release, they have silenced any possible rumors of friction between group members. With the



single "Triumph," the Wu shows that even with the solo hits from five of the Wu-members, they are still able to come together with some new original lyrics and music that is sure to catch the attention of the listener.

No matter which member steps to the spotlight, such as Method Man or Ghostface Killah, the rhymes on the double-CD are a culmination of nine different men all representing

their "Shaolin technique."

### Kirk Franklin and God's Property:

A welcomed surprise to the entire music industry was Kirk Franklin's God's Property album, "God's Property."

Reinventing gospel music and making it irresistible for a younger generation, this recent release is generating much commercial and consumer attention.

### Puff Daddy and the Family:

Sean Puffy Combs, also known as Puff Daddy, makes his debut with the release of "No Way Out" under the shared-title Puff Daddy and the Family. If Puffy had any doubt that he couldn't do it alone, then he made the right decision by enlisting the services of Jay Z, Foxy Brown, Lil' Kim and Busta Rhymes. He also uses music samplings from the past three decades. Combs shows his listeners that he can not only produce an album, but flow on it despite what some may truly think about his small voice.

Of course, this album would not be complete without the voice of the late Christopher "The Notori-



ous B.I.G." Wallace. This may be Biggie fans' last chance to hear him flow as only he can on such cuts as "Victory" and "It's All About the Benjamins" unless there is another posthumous album in the making.

Defining moments are on the album in both song and interlude form including "Pain," a recounting on Combs' past experiences. Combs has made an impressive venture into the career of rapper/producer and has further contributed to the Bad Boy label with his 17-track release.

### Wyclef Jean:

Wyclef Jean makes his solo debut with the release of "The Carnival." Although most fans would have expected the Fugees' Lauren Hill to step up first considering her success

on the "Love Jones" soundtrack, Jean has shown that he has the skills on the microphone, guitar and keyboard as seen in his singles "Anything Could Happen" and "Guantanamo."

Jean's efforts are combined with that of the Refugee All-Stars to create an album filled with new school music and old school rhymes such as "We Trying to Stay Alive."

### The O'Jays:

Needing no introduction, the O'Jays' latest release entitled "Love You to Tears" is another expected hit in the long line of accomplishments of the group's career.

In this endeavor, the O'Jays have joined the forces of Gerald Levert and Keith Sweat. This album proves that this trio has not lost a step and can still teach some things to the up and coming R&B groups of today.

### Bone Thugz-N-Harmony:

Probably the pick of the summer, maybe even the year, graces the group titled Bone Thugz-N-Harmony. Since their debut album, "Creepin on the Come Up," the Cleveland-based group has grown from thuggish-ruggish brothers to thugs at "Tha Crossroads" upon

the death of fellow rap mogul Eazy-E.

This year, the group has further improved their skills on the microphone. They have joined the likes of Wu-Tang and Notorious B.I.G. in the release of a double-CD filled with 28 tracks. Like one song with different chapters, the group's singles "Look into My Eyes" (also on the "Batman and Robin" sound-



track) and "Thug Luv" featuring the late Tupac Shakur, have been the most well-received.

Until now, there was doubt that a double-CD, hip-hop release could hold up its continuity. But with such tracks as "Handle the Vibe," "If I could Teach the World" and "Mo' Thug Family Tree," Bone has proven that their release, "The Art of War" can stand the test of critics and competitors.

## SUMMER MOVIE BLOWOUT...

### Black Actors Grace The Silver Screen



Will Smith stars as J, a government agent protecting the Earth from aliens, in "Men in Black."

Photo Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

By ERIKA WORTHAM

Hilltop Staff Writer

The summer of '97 proved to be an exciting year at the box office. With hilarious comedies, edge-of-your-seat thrillers and even action-packed comic book adaptations, the movie industry virtually offered something for everyone. Reigning in the theaters was the presence of African-American actors.

### Nothing To Lose:

"Nothing to Lose," an entertaining adventure of non-stop action stars Tim Robbins and Martin Lawrence. Robbins is a sharp, advertising executive who found out his wife is sleeping with his boss. Lawrence is T. Paul, a charismatic and educated, unemployed man who turns to crime as a means to support his family. The totally opposite twosome team up against their will to become best buds. This offbeat comedy goes the distance in showing how opposite forces find similarities to share and how one moment can change your life forever.

### Def Jam's How To Be A Player:

This summer's all-Black cast film, "Def Jam's How to be a Player," is surprisingly entertaining and a must-see. Starring MTV video jockey and comedian Bill Bellamy, the film takes its audience through a day in the life of Drayton Jackson, a man who knows the ins and outs of sweet-talking, romancing and playing numerous women without them ever knowing about each other. The film's plus is an all-star soundtrack, though you can't help but give Bellamy's charming character his props.

### Air Force One:

The non-stop action adventure "Air Force One," starring Harrison Ford as President James Marshall,

creates thrills by playing with destiny. In this film, the president's plane Air Force One is taken hostage by a terrorist group demanding the release of a vicious tyrant. The president has to make the decision to either save Air Force One or to give in to the demands of the terrorists and risk the lives of thousands in the long run.

### Men In Black:

Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones, as J and K respectively, team up to protect the Earth from the scum of the universe in "Men in Black."

Working for a highly funded yet unofficial government agency, J and K are providers of immigration services and regulators of all things alien on earth. They are the best, last and only line of defense when close encounters get ugly. This science fiction adventure-comedy is based on the Lowell Cunningham comic book series. "Men In Black" is directed by Barry Sonnenfeld with Steven Spielberg serving as executive producer.

### Spawn:

Also adapted from a comic book, "Spawn" hit the motion picture screen this summer starring Michael Jae White, Martin Sheen and John Leguizamo. Labeled the "cloaked enemy of society," government-trained assassin Al Simmons (White) has a chance to get even with foes as he wrestles within himself the difference between good and evil.

### 187:

Besides starring one of Hollywood's best actors, Samuel L. Jackson, "187" has a plot that will keep you on the edge of your seats. Jackson stars as Trevor Garfield, a Los Angeles high school teacher who rebels against the ineffective education system. Highlighting issues surrounding American

schools, Jackson again executes a performance well worth seeing.

### Good Burger:

"Good Burger," is a film of laughs starring teen comedians Kel Mitchell and Kenan Thompson from Nickelodeon's teen shows, "All That" and "Kenan and Kel." This comedy tells the story of two off-beat high school teens, Ed and Dexter, who help a failing burger joint become one of the hottest fast food spots in town. In the process, they end up with the conniving manager of their competitor, Mondo Burger, on their backs, and he will stop at nothing to get the recipe for their secret sauce! This comedy is definitely one for the family.

### Money Talks:

Summer is not officially over according to the movie industry as new blockbusters continue to test the waters. Released just last week was "Money Talks" starring Chris Tucker and Charlie Sheen in an action-comedy. Tucker stars as Franklin Hatchett, a con-artist turned celebrity after having been accused of planning a deadly prison break. Wanted dead or alive, he turns to news broadcaster James Russell, played by Sheen, who is willing to do anything for notoriety and ratings, for help.

### Hoodlum:

Possibly this summer's box office finale is gangster movie "Hoodlum," released this week. Directed by Bill Duke, this movie is action packed. It stars Laurence Fishburne as Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson, Cicely Tyson as Queen, Vanessa Williams as Francine and Andy Garcia as Lucky Luciano. The film reinvents the hard times of the Depression. With no choice but to make a living running numbers, the cast gives a riveting performance based on a true story film.

## Written By Man, Made For Woman

By ZERLINE A. HUGHES

Pulse Editor

Since Terry McMillan's release of "Waiting to Exhale" in the early '90s, a myriad of Black female writers have attempted to follow in the successful writer's footsteps. With Black consumers, men and women, rushing to bookstores to buy some spiritual, down-home books about relationships, there is a large market for such authors.

But one novel about women stands out — "Sister, Sister."

"Sister, Sister," is a hip, sexy, wisecracking tale that successfully follows the lives of three women in Southern California. One interesting fact about the book is its author, Memphis-born Eric Dickey — a man.

Dickey's first novel has received rave reviews due to the author's ability to convey true emotion, circumstance and knowledge of women's ways.

Dickey, who now lives in Los Angeles, said that female friends have cornered him and asked, "Tell me the truth. Did a woman help you write this book?"

Able to capture the essence and verity of real-life predicaments through fiction, the new author's secret to success is venturing out in the city with a video camera. By doing this, he said he was able to extract minuscule details from

everyday situations and incorporate the material into his writings.

"Videoing helps me to hear those background noises, music, mannerisms that you may not pay attention to when they're actually going on," Dickey said.

"With this, I can

maybe



in."

With the popularity of his first book, Dickey is awaiting publication of his second novel "Friends and Lovers," due out this October.

"I write about simple issues," he said. "Relationships, connections, relaxing and I dramatize it by adding a touch of mystery. What relationship doesn't have mystery?"

A former stand-up comedian,

school teacher and engineer, Dickey jokes about his past careers.

"I was laid off from my engineering job. It wasn't a good relationship. It broke up with me," he said.

Fortunately for Dickey, his career in writing seems to be a very healthy relationship. Dickey first began by writing short stories and novellas for a class. Eventually, three of his novellas focusing on three different women, Inda, Valerie and Chiquita, turned into one complete novel after discussions with publisher Dutton Books.

The idea behind "Sister, Sister," Dickey said is "about friendship, coming of age and awakenings. It evaluates the way things are done, through the three sisters."

"Friends and Lovers" is similar to Dickey's first novel. The novel focuses on the changes of friendship with the course of time, maturation and life's uncertainties — something many can relate to.

As for Dickey's next project, something different is planned.

"I'm working on a new novel that's the exact opposite from 'Sister, Sister,'" he said. "It's about three men."

"I've been surprised to find that writing about men is harder! Men express their emotion by the things they do, not necessarily what they say. It's a challenge, but I'm having fun with it."



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# SPORTS

## Football Season, HU Spirit Kicks Off

By Karintha Wheaton

Sports Editor

They're back ... and this year they could be better than ever. The 1997 Black National Football Champions return to the gridiron with sixteen starters from last year's championship team. This can only spell trouble for the Bison's 11 opponents.

Ted White is again set firmly in the quarterback position and looking to break even more records this year than he did last year. White is also the first player from a historically Black college and university to be groomed for the highly touted Heisman Trophy in his junior year.

The defensive unit should bring a strong presence to the field. The front seven will return with a dom-

inating 31 sacks between them.

Special teams are about the only hole in the Bison's game plan. Stefan Cameron hopes to step up to the challenge on special teams taking over where All MEAC Selection Rueban Ruiz left off.

Howard is expected to win the MEAC this year as well as finish high in the Division IAA rankings. However, the road back to the championship runs through Jackson State University, Florida A&M University and a televised stint at North Carolina A&T State University. These college teams look to be the Bison's hardest fights.

The season opener against Jackson State pairs the best of the MEAC against the best of the SWAC in an all-out cat fight on the Tiger's home field. Some last minute thrills may appear on the Delta in this one.



The Bison open the season against Jackson State University this month. The defensive unit should have a strong presence. Photo courtesy of SID

As long as the Bison stay focused, the next two weeks should be easy going for the team. Hampton University and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff are usually more show than tell. However, both teams have the potential to sneak in and steal a victory from a team of Bison that are looking ahead at the game against FAMU.

FAMU meets the Bison at Greene Stadium on September 27, and the Bison are determined to avenge the last second, 1 point loss to the Rattlers.

The team will have a chance to rest up the week of October 5, before heading back out to play Bethune-Cookman College on October 11th.

Homecoming is back on campus this year, and it falls a week early. The Morehouse Tigers will be in the den of Greene Stadium looking

to steal our "stealo."

The boys in blue are off to Ag territory on Oct. 25. If the Bison win their home game against FAMU, they have a strong chance to go to the MEAC Championships. As always, Howard will be looking to ruin homecoming for all the Aggie fans.

Norfolk State University plays host to Howard on November 7. The following week the Bison will host South Carolina State College in their last home game of the season. Morgan State University and Howard converge on San Diego, November 15 for the first Go Coast Classic. The last game before pre-season play is against Delaware State College on November 22.

## Injured Player Overcomes Obstacles Of Recovery

By Derrick S. Edwards

Hilltop Staff Writer

There is a saying that "a man's character is not judged by the way he celebrates in victory, but how he handles losses and set backs." In that aspect, Larry Connors may be winning his biggest victory outside of the gridiron he so adores.

Connors, a starting cornerback and former quarterback for the Howard University football team since his freshman year in 1994, was nearly paralyzed last spring after colliding with the quarterback during practice. He is steadily continuing on his path to recovery.

Connors was moved out of Howard University Hospital and is

now in the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

Connors decided to take this semester off and go home to his family in Richmond, Va. He has not specified what his future plans at Howard will be or when he will return. He said he is doing very well academically, and as far as athletically, he will see about that upon returning to school.

According to Con-



Larry Connors, a senior, was almost paralyzed last year. Nurses say he has a positive attitude. Photo courtesy of SID

ners' nurses, he has shown awe-inspiring valor and emotional fortitude in dealing with the experience that severely injured him on the football field. He is consistently praised by the nursing staff for his high spirits and energy.

"As a young man, he seems to be taking his injury very well," said medical secretary Wanda Braswell. "He's very upbeat, very positive."

Nurse Cynthia Robinson also noticed Connors' positive attitude about his condition. The mere mention of Connors causes Robinson to flash an earnest smile.

"He's a good kid. Nice, respectable ... I'm his favorite nurse," she said with a wink of an eye and a giggle.

Although Connors is not at Howard University this semester, he is still very much remembered. Displayed prominently in his hospital room is a plaque decorated with a collage of pictures of him during his time on the field. It was sent and signed by The Howard University Sports Information Department.

Former Redskin icon Charles Mann also paid a lengthy visit one day to Connors. With a room full of flowers, postcards and letters, it is clear that Connors' teammates and family constantly keep up with his well-being and progress.

Connors has provided a source of inspiration to many who know him.

"He's inspirational," said Braswell. "I would bring my 7-year-old son in here to talk with him."

Connors has to retain a rigorous daily regimen to fully insure his road back to a healthy recovery. He is working to retain feeling and movement from his neck down. Thus far, he has regained only the slightest of movements. The information on his present condition was not disclosed by his attending physicians.

Connors' trademark is sheer determination and tough will. These traits have made a possible tale of ill fated tragedy turn into a story of human triumph and admiration.

"He's very motivated," Braswell said. "Whatever his goal is, he's working hard to make it."

### Bison Roundup

Welcome back Bison fans. It's time to get hype about the blue and white!

#### Volleyball

August 29 - 30: East Carolina Classic — **AWAY**  
September 2: Howard vs. Virginia Commonwealth — **HOME**

6:00 p.m.  
September 5 - 6: James Madison Invitational — **AWAY**

#### Women's Soccer

August 29: Howard vs. Loyola — **AWAY**, 1 p.m.  
August 31: Howard vs. Mt. St. Mary's — **AWAY**, 2:30 p.m.

#### Men's Soccer

August 30: Howard vs. Rider College — **AWAY**, 1 p.m.  
August 31: Howard vs. Mt. St. Mary's College — **AWAY**, 2:30 p.m.  
September 5: Howard vs. George Mason — **AWAY**, 4:30 p.m.

#### Game Of The Week

**Howard vs. Virginia Commonwealth**  
**Tuesday September 2,**  
**6 p.m.**

Free Admission.

The volleyball team returns with championship hopes, a lot of experience and a defensive unit that could make the Bison Football team sit up and take notice. Add to that the excitement of the first official home game of the season, is it any wonder this is THE GAME OF THE WEEK!

All the Bison athletes need your support, so get out there and become part of the action.

## Mike Tyson Causes Fanfare With Surprise Campus Visit

By Derrick S. Edwards

Staff Writer

World-renowned former heavyweight champion "Iron" Mike Tyson made a surprise visit to Howard's campus last Thursday.

"I was just in the area and I saw a whole lot of people and decided to see what was up," Tyson said.

Tyson, who owns a multi-million dollar estate in suburban Maryland was seen riding around campus on his three-wheel gold and white Honda Gold-wing motorcycle. Tyson was first spotted on Georgia Avenue, then on Bryant Street just in front of the School of Commu-

nications. He then headed to the School of Business and Blackburn Center to sign autographs and talk to fans. He was flanked by at least four members of his entourage.

Students and faculty flocked to see the famous and controversial boxer make one of his few appearances in public since his third round disqualification for biting reigning heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield on the ear.

Reactions to Tyson's visit to campus varied. Some students thought he was out to enjoy himself.

"It just makes HU seem that much more the bomb," said Kianna Simms, a freshman majoring in political science. "I had no idea that real celebrities came to Howard

just to hang out."

Tyson has not spoken publicly or given any interviews since his last title bout in late June.

Vendor Cornelius Mays had a different view on Tyson's visit to the campus.

"Howard students set a good example for him (Tyson) as far as being part of the Black college experience," Mays said. "[Tyson] had mentioned he would like to attend a Black school."

Some students took notice of Tyson's personality.

"I thought he was very nice," said Yalonda Cooke, a sophomore majoring in political science. "He was especially nice, unlike people think he is because he is a boxer."

"He's very unassuming and humble," said student Thoreau McMillan. "He was very gracious with his fans and amicable."

Karima Ameen, a senior business major, said she was a bit timid about meeting Mike Tyson for the first time.

"When I first saw him, honestly, felt intimidated," Ameen said.

"But then I decided I would just give him a Muslim greeting."

After talking with Tyson for a while, Ameen came away with a very different impression.

"I felt I was intimidated by the media portrayal of him," she said. "But I saw that he was kind and gentle."

### Writers Wanted

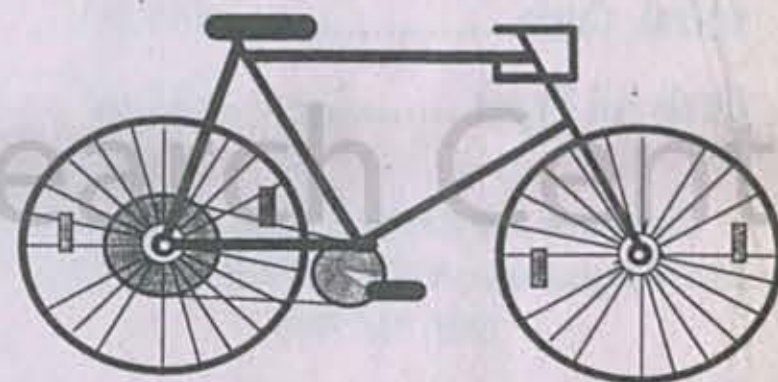
Individuals interested in writing for the Sports Page may contact the Sports Page Editor Karintha Wheaton at (202) 806-6866 or submit resumes to the Hilltop Office located at 2251 Sherman Ave. NW Washington D.C., 20001

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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.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Thank God It's Friday**  
Friday prayer and sermon will be conducted every week @ 1p.m.- 1st floor of the Carnegie Building. (near Douglass Hall). Public classes held Sundays @ 2pm. As-salaamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah  
The 1997 Bison Yearbook will be distributed beginning Sept. 2, 1997 in room G-06, Blackburn Center. You must have a Howard U. ID with either a Fall 1996 sticker or Spring 1997 validation sticker in order to receive a yearbook.

Att: Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors: Photos for the 1998 Bison Yearbook will be taken in the Music Listening Room, on the basement level of the Blackburn Center.

Att: Seniors: Photos for the 1998 Bison Yearbook will be taken beginning Sept. 15, 1997. you will receive an appointment card in the mail with a time to take your photo. If you do not receive your appointment card by Sept. 15, please contact the Bison yearbook Office: 806.7870. Please not that there will be a \$10 sitting fee, and that the senior photos will be in COLOR!

Attn: Writers and Photographers: If you are interested in being a part of the 1998 Bison Yearbook Staff, please contact Reginald Simmons (Copy Editor), Belinda Vickerson (Photo Editor) or Tykeisha Rice (Managing editor) at 806-7870/1

The Political Science Society is sponsoring a bus trip to the New York Law School Forum Sat. Sept. 20, 1997, at the New York Marriot World Trade Center. Cost \$30. For information, call (202) 583-4421

Are you interested in community service? Join the National Council of Negro Women Sun. Sept. 21 for the 11th Annual AID-WALK. Call 865-0042

Leadership, Shared visions, teamwork. National Council of Negro Women, Inc. General Body meeting Tuesday Sept. 9, 1997. 7 p.m. Blackburn Forum. Call 865-0042

Are you ready for the National Council of Negro Women's Black Family Reunion Sept. 5-7 on the Mall? 865-0042 for volunteer information.

Welcome back social reception for all Golden Key National Honors Society members Bethune Annex Sem. Rom. Mo. Sept. 8, 6pm. Award Door prizes and food. Also elections will be held at the Social Positions open for Comm. Service Director, Publicity Director, Program Director, Social Activities Director and Historian. 584-2561 for details

The Hilltop is looking for a female and male columnist. Call Natalie Moore at 806-6866 if interested. Deadline 9/5. You don't have to be a journalism major to apply. **FOR RENT.**

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**PERSONALS**  
To My beloved sorors of ZqB and Brothers of qEB Welcome Back to the Mecca Please & Blue Love

One down, 3 more to go. Good luck Doctors of 2000 Best Wishes, Karintha Welcome Bakc Brothers of the Gentlement of Drew

Social Club. It's going to be a landmark year. 13E-01 To all my new entrants, welcome home to Howard Kobina-CP

Arts and Sciences Soph. and Fr. there are openings the class board. Deadline Sept. 5. Pick up deadline from Blackburn Rm 106

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Entry Level	Multimedia	Laptop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P166+ Processor</li> <li>• 512K L2 Cache - Pipeline Burst</li> <li>• 16 Mb EDO Memory</li> <li>• 2.1 GB Fast ATA 3 Hard Disk</li> <li>• 16X CD-ROM</li> <li>• 1.44 Mb 3.5" Floppy Drive</li> <li>• Mini Tower Case</li> <li>• PS/2 Win 95 Keyboard</li> <li>• 2 Button PS/2 Mouse</li> <li>• 4 PCI, 3 ISA, 1 shared PCI/ISA</li> <li>• Plug &amp; Play, DMI, Green Energy</li> <li>• Video, 2 Mb, Full Screen MPEG</li> <li>• 14" Monitor</li> <li>• Windows 95 installed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 MHz Processor with MMX</li> <li>• 512K L2 Cache - Pipeline Burst</li> <li>• 32 Mb EDO Memory</li> <li>• 2.1 GB Fast ATA 3 Hard Disk</li> <li>• 24X CD-ROM</li> <li>• 1.44 Mb 3.5" Floppy Drive</li> <li>• Mini Tower Case</li> <li>• PS/2 Win 95 Keyboard</li> <li>• 2 Button PS/2 Mouse</li> <li>• 4 PCI, 3 ISA, 1 shared PCI/ISA</li> <li>• 16Bit Sound with Wavetable</li> <li>• Labtec Hi Fi Speakers</li> <li>• Video 2 Mb, Full Screen MPEG</li> <li>• 3Com 10/100 Base T Network Card</li> <li>• 15" Monitor, Energy, Plug &amp; Play</li> <li>• Windows 95 installed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pentium 166MMX MHz Processor</li> <li>• 256K L2 Cache</li> <li>• 48MB DRAM (80 Mb Max)</li> <li>• 2.1 Gig Fast ATA Hard Disk</li> <li>• 12.1" Color Active Matrix Screen</li> <li>• 128Bit Video Card, SVGA</li> <li>• 12X CD-ROM + 1.44Mb Floppy Combo (Use both at the same time)</li> <li>• TouchPad, 2 Btn Pointing System</li> <li>• 16Bit Stereo with Built in Speaker and Microphone</li> <li>• Built in infrared Port</li> <li>• 4.5 Hour Lithium Ion Battery with Power Management</li> <li>• 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA</li> <li>• 33.6 Fax Modem built in</li> <li>• Carrying Case</li> <li>• Windows 95 installed</li> </ul>
<b>Options</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVD Drive</li> <li>• 17" Sony Monitor</li> <li>• 4 GB, 5.1 GB Hard Disk</li> <li>• Iomega Zip or Jazz Drive</li> <li>• 120 MB Floppy Drive</li> <li>• Microsoft Office 97</li> <li>• Corel WordPerfect Suite 8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laser Printers</li> <li>• Epson Color Printers</li> <li>• Microsoft Natural Keyboard</li> <li>• Microsoft Intellimouse</li> <li>• Tape Backup System</li> </ul>	
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