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**WEATHER**  
 Today: Partly Cloudy  
 High 62, Low 44  
 Wednesday: Few Showers  
 High 58, Low 29  
 Thursday: Partly Cloudy  
 High 41, Low 24

# The Hilltop

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

#1 The Princeton Review  
**COLLEGE**  
**NEWSPAPER**

VOLUME 88, NO. 37

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

www.thehilltoponline.com

## Cruiser Collides With Building



Maya Gilliam-Senior Photo Editor

An officer was injured when his vehicle struck a building on the 300 block of Massachusetts and H Street, according to the District of Columbia police department's spokesman. He was taken to an area hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The incident is still under investigation.

## Woman Provides Dying Child With The Gift of Life

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT  
 Asst. Campus Editor

Fear filled the heart of Alabama native Nina Johnson when she found out that the reason for her only child's continued problems with lung and other serious infections was that he had been born with Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID).

Doctors revealed that her 8-month-old son would most likely die before his first birthday unless he received a vital bone marrow transplant.

"At first, I felt like I was going to lose him. By him being my first child, I was overwhelmed and crying," Johnson said.

With all close relatives ruled out as matches, the only hope was that an unknown person from the National Marrow Donor Registry would be his lifesaver. With less than a third of eligible donors actually donating, the chances of finding a match were slim to none.

However, only four weeks into the search, a donor was found. A nurse from Temple Hills, Md., Regina Murphy, was not only a match, but ready and willing to go through the procedure that would save a stranger's life.

At two years old, Ke'tavous "Keith" Johnson, is walking,

talking and healthy. He met his special Valentine, Murphy, among cameras and press at the Blackburn Center Monday during the Saturn National Donor Day press conference.

"She's a remarkable woman, and I thank her every day, even though I don't know her yet," Johnson said before the meeting.

The two women decided they are more than acquaintances now.

"I'm his blood sister," Murphy said.

Isaac Fordjour, legislative liaison of the National Marrow Donor program explained the significance of Keith and Murphy.

"Keith's experience is especially notable because Black and African-American patients face the greatest challenge of finding a donor for a transplant," Fordjour said.

A woman of few words, Murphy reacted to the gratitude of Fordjour and to the relieved mother and son with four words.

"I'm glad he's okay," Murphy said.

Keith touched the hearts of those around him throughout his recovery.

"We love to see patients

See **DONOR**, News A5

## Artists, Students Sing Praises of Maya Angelou During Heart's Day Celebration



Nicole Reed-Staff Photographer

The English department sponsored a Heart's Day tribute to the renowned poet and author Maya Angelou.

BY LAUREN STEPHENS  
 Hilltop Staff Writer

Students and members of the Howard community paid tribute to Dr. Maya Angelou Friday evening in Cramton Auditorium and Ira Aldridge Theater.

As a culmination of the 11th annual Heart's Day, the Department of English honored various aspects of Dr. Angelou's life and career.

In Cramton Auditorium, guests dined on southern cuisine such as macaroni and cheese and black beans and rice while a trio played R and B classics, such as Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie Amour." Guests also had the opportunity to have their books autographed by Dr. Angelou.

While dinner was being served, some fans of Dr. Angelou's work took the opportunity to have their book autographed. One fan who arrived just as Dr. Angelou was going to Ira Aldridge only had the opportunity to shake the poet's hand and say, "Thank you, Ms. Angelou."

The African Heritage Dancers and Drummers led the honoree in to Ira Aldridge Theater where she was greeted by a standing ovation.

As the evening progressed, each area of African

American culture that Dr. Angelou influenced was represented, including a joint performance by students in Howard's department of dance and the Kankouran West African Dancers and Drummers, acknowledging her participation and support for dance.

In his tribute, James Davis, former president of the College Language Association, acknowledged Dr. Angelou as being "rigorously revered" by the association.

The audience was given a special treat during the tribute to Dr. Angelou's achievement in letters, when activist poets Amiri Baraka and Sonia Sanchez delivered original prose about their respect for the beloved poet and author.

In her tribute, Sanchez said "...you show us how to arrange our worldly selves... praise God, praise God, praise God for you."

For Sanchez, it was a celebration she was more than happy to take part in.

"What a wonderful celebration for Dr. Angelou. A celebration that made us truly understand, how important not only a writer she happens to be but an activist," she said. "[She is] a person,

See **MAYA**, News A5



Marlene Hawthorne-Staff Photographer

Two-year-old Ke'tavous "Keith" Johnson (right) and his mother (middle) met Keith's life-saving Valentine, Regina Murphy, a nurse from Temple Hills, Md. (left) in Blackburn on Monday.

## BLAGOSAH Protests Stance on Condom Distribution

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT  
 & AYESHA RASCOE  
 Hilltop Staff

Sexually Transmitted Disease statistics, free condoms, and a petition awaited students on the Yard on Friday's windy afternoon.

"Come out to get your condoms for Valentine's Day," Chris Bolden-Newsome, a member of the Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Organization of Students at Howard (BLAGOSAH), said into a megaphone on the Yard Friday.

Although African Americans are the third largest ethnic group

in the United States, the group carries 50 percent of the new HIV/AIDS cases. This is one of the statistics that is pushing BLAGOSAH to raise awareness and provide Howard students with free condoms.

BLAGOSAH distributed condoms to students in the Blackburn Center for a year before the program stopped in the spring of 2002 as a result of disagreements with the University administration. According to Duane Howard, BLAGOSAH President, the administration ended the regu-

See **CONDOMS**, News A5

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 Metro, A6  
 Life & Style, B1-B3  
 Sports, B4-B5  
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 Editorials & Perspectives, B8



Find out about the new couture fashion...

Campus...A4



See how gentrification is sweeping through "U" street...

Metro...A6



See who racked up grammy gold on Sunday...

Life & Style...B1





Ramps such as this one outside of the School of Communications provide physically handicapped students with easier access to Howard buildings and facilities.

Handicapped Students Face Hurdles

BY HEATHER FAISON  
Contributing Writer

Jennifer Jones has been labeled and discriminated against because of her learning disability, which she was diagnosed with at age 23. She was told that she would never go to college. Some would say "college isn't right for you," or "you're not smart enough."

She overcame those odds and fulfilled an achievement that some in her position do not.

When Jones enrolled at Howard University to obtain her Ph.D., she needed additional aids to assist her as a student. She soon found out that obtaining those accommodations would not be an easy task.

"The problem I had was I needed someone to help me edit my papers for grammatical errors, which [the university wasn't] required to provide," Jones stressed. She explained that according to American Disabilities Act (ADA) policy, the university is only required to provide the

minimal assistance asked of them, such as in her case note takers for classes, assistant listening devices and books on tape.

For students at Howard University living with handicaps ranging from learning to physical disabilities, university aids and accommodations are crucial to their academic success.

"Before I received the accommodations, I was getting Cs, Ds, and Fs. After I got [the aids and accommodations], I was a 4.0 student," Jones explained.

ADA requires universities to provide disabled students with the proper accommodations and adjustments that will give them equal footing as their non-disabled counterparts. These modifications go beyond wheelchair ramps and automatic doors. Students with a wide range of disabilities are issued reading services, in-class sign language assistance and specialized computers.

In the iLab, sophomore history major Uzoma Lane holds his face in close proximity of the monitor and strains to see the front on the screen.

Lane, who was born nearsighted, was relieved when a worker from the lab led him to a specialized computer that was designed for his visual comfort.

"The guy comes up to me and says, 'you know we have a computer in this room where we can get the whole thing printed out for you in big print.' It's a nice computer and they will let you print everything out," Lane said.

Students that have physical disabilities at times are shorted in getting adequate assistance on campus. Broken elevators and automatic doors can be a minor nuisance for some students, but for those who depend on these facilities for necessary mobility, it is a major hindrance.

"Everytime I get on the elevator, I think, 'Oh my goodness please don't break,'" said Reesy McBride-Chandler, a freshman political science major. McBride-Chandler is shocked and extremely grateful when the elevators in the Quad are working. "They just fixed it! I would have to climb up four flights of stairs...on crutches," Jones stressed, as she wobbled on her newly prescribed crutches.

Problems in numerous campus buildings have been an ongoing hazard for students like Jones.

Barbara Williams, PhD, dean of the Office of Special Student Services brings these concerns to Physical Facilities Management (PFM) who is then supposed to take care of the matter.

"Disabled students that have a problem with the elevators just call us and we immediately call PFM," Williams said.

PFM is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all campus facilities. Steve Johnson, interim executive director for PFM, responded to these concerns citing various reasons for the problematic delays.

"Some of the requests for elevator and door repairs are addressed immediately by the technicians; however, often

See HANDICAP, News A5

Program Offers Practical Experience in Business, Law

BY AMBER ENGLISH  
Contributing Writer

Until now, graduate students seeking practical experience in business and law had very few opportunities.

A recent collaboration of the law and business schools aims to broaden those opportunities and help small businesses in the process by establishing the Small Business and Entrepreneurs Clinic.

The clinic will serve as a practice ground for students pursuing both disciplines. Business and law students will be teamed together and given a small business client.

The student team will help the small business or entrepreneur in various areas such as business formation, marketing plans, and financial management.

Although the teams will have a clinic executive to serve as a mentor, the students will create and carry out the solutions for the client.

The program is spearheaded by Charles Jones, who is currently pursuing a joint JD/MBA at Howard University.

"The small business clinic will be the first chance for students to apply business law concepts to real-world experience", said Jones of the clinics' purpose. "The clinic will fill a void within both the business and law schools."

Howard University law student Dan Scott is interested in the new program.

"It will definitely add a new dimension to our already excellent education," Scott said.

Howard law school has an impressive legacy of promoting civil rights. With the clinic, Jones hopes that Howard will develop an equally impressive legacy of promoting economic rights.

In the MBA program, the clinic will provide a skill set to students that will promote small businesses and entrepreneurship.

At the present time, the MBA program is geared primarily towards big business.

"Big companies need entrepreneurial-minded people too," said Jones. "They are looking for quick-minded, creative people and the clinic will engage students to think like an entrepreneur."

Allen Robinson agrees that program will make law students more competitive in the job market.

"The entrepreneurial experience will just give [us law students] another career option," said Robinson, a law student.

The catalyst for the Small Business and Entrepreneurs Clinic is the Business Entrepreneur Leadership Association.

Started in 2003 as a student organization at the law school, the association recently became a national non-profit organization.

Jones said that that the group will use this year to reorganize to eventually start chapters at all Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Jones also said that through the association, the clinic model would expand to different HBCU's with adequate infrastructure and need for the program.

Because there is a prerequisite course associated with the clinic, the faculty of the law school must approve the course before the clinic can begin operation.

"We have support from the top," said Jones.

Tamar M. Meekins, Associate Professor of Law, currently serves as the acting director of the clinic.

Meekins also runs all of the clinical programs at the Law school.

The clinic is funded by the National Institute for Urban Entrepreneurship. Patricia Lee of the institute has also provided her expertise, to the small business clinic. Lee started a small business law clinic at the University of Chicago Law School, and Jones said that her design served as a model for the one starting at Howard.

"The National Institute for Urban Entrepreneurship commends BELA and the law and business student leaders' initiative to launch a clinical entrepreneurship program at Howard University.

We firmly believe that the time has come for us all to address economic, as well as the social issues of our communities," Lee said.

Ivey Makes Waves in Radio

BY APRIL DEBOSE  
Contributing Writer

Watch out Angie and Flex, there is a new personality coming to town. Nile Ivey, also known as "Tha Kid," is in hopes of becoming Hot 97's hottest new radio personality.

This senior radio production major from South Brunswick, N.J. has only been in radio for three years, but he has already made plenty of connects with the New York City radio station.

Even Ivey's friends feel that he is destined for stardom.

"He's got Hot 97 personality, he fits in and knows everything. It would be a good look for him," said senior radio major Niles "Rocko" Goodwin.

Ivey attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md. his first two years of college, but transferred to Howard University in the fall of 2002, because he felt that Howard had better opportunities for him in the entertainment field.

When he came to Howard, he went to the student radio station, WHBC, to volunteer, and was given a co-host position for a show called "The After Class Blaze."

As a radio personality, Ivey adopted the nickname "Tha Kid" because he is the youngest in his family of sisters. "And I act a little immature sometimes," Ivey said.

Ivey has hosted a radio show for WHBC every year since 2002, hosting "51 Hot Tracks" in 2003, and "Live and Direct" this year on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 to 10 p.m.

"He's the head on-air personality," said Scott "Knowledge" Barnes Jr., a senior computer science major and program director at WHBC. "I moved him to primetime, and he became 'Hollywood,'" Barnes adds. "As far as Hot 97, I think he is overqualified for the job. He has an uncorrupted



Howard senior Nile Ivey, nicknamed "Tha Kid," is chasing his dream of becoming a radio personality at New York's Hot 97.

mind, a clear vision of what he likes and what he wants to sound like. He knows what's hot and what's not."

Ivey says that he wants to take Howard's radio station to different level by bringing in underground music and music that people usually would not hear.

In high school, Ivey co-hosted a television show that was shown on the community channel. This show informed kids on issues such as sex, drugs and violence. They also played the newest videos and songs. This led Ivey to pursue a career in radio.

In addition to hosting radio shows, Ivey has

See IVEY, News A7

VOICES & VIEWS

"Do you think BLAGOSAH should be able to distribute condoms in Blackburn?"



Anwar Daniels  
Sophomore  
Marketing

"Yes, because we are all adults and distributing condoms is forcing us to take responsibility for our actions."



Courtney Battle  
Sophomore  
Advertising

"Yes, because we're in college and STDs are an issue on college campuses. Regardless of the organization, it is safe to promote safe sex and unsafe not to."



Kristen Myers  
Senior  
English

"Yes, because we are on a college campus in DC and the rate of STD and AIDS contraction is high. It is good that they are promoting safe sex."



Raymond A. Doyle  
Sophomore  
Political Science

"Yes, because it gives students an option other than abstinence. Given the high rates of HIV contraction, it helps out everyone."





During Dyson's sermon he spoke harshly about Bill Cosby's comments about the poor. Dyson used lyrics from modern songs to convey his message to the congregation.

## Chapel Speaker Defends Poor Black Community

BY SHANAE L. HARRIS  
Contributing Writer

Laughter filled the air in this past Sunday's chapel service held in Cramton Auditorium as Michael Eric Dyson, an Avalon Foundation professor in the Humanities and African-American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and renowned author and political commentator, used his methods of wit, comedy and in-depth knowledge to speak to the crowded audience on the Black community.

Dyson caught attention of the congregation as he stepped up to the podium reciting lyrics that reminisced back to what he called, "his generation's music."

Singing bars from popular 'old school' tunes like "Ain't to Proud to Beg" and "Have You Seen Her?" Dyson engaged the older crowd in sing-alongs and laughter as he poked fun of more recent music saying, "but now you bragging about your bling... telling your girl 'you remind me of my jeep.'"

After discussing his love for the youth of today, Dyson took the congregation from a spin of laughter to seriousness as he read a scripture from Matthew 11:2 and looked up at the audience asking, "Is Bill Cosby right about the poor?"

Dyson went on to explain

his question by reiterating words spoken by Bill Cosby on May 17, 2001 in Washington, D.C.'s Constitution Hall discussing the subject of the poor Black community and its negative attributes.

"When we talk about anti-intellectualism in America, we can't only look at the Black community. It's everywhere," Dyson said. He continued giving exact percentages showing that the accusations of the Black community behaving poorly are incorrect. "The teen pregnancy rate of Black people was at one time 72 percent out of every 1000 people, in 2002, it was lowered to 30.9 percent," he said. "Do your math, Cosby!"

Dyson continued to defend the poor Black community from assertions he said Cosby made regarding the education of young Black people.

"There was a report stating that hooked on phonics couldn't necessarily teach you to read as it is only a supplement," Dyson said.

He went on to discuss that Cosby's notion that Black parents would rather buy expensive sneakers for their children instead of hooked on phonics, was an "un-researched claim" on Cosby's part.

As many members of the audience nodded their heads in agreement, Dyson touched the

issue of ebonics and the Black community. Once again, Dyson chastised Cosby for his negative statements about the issue.

"He is the ebonicist of Black America. He's made millions on ebonics," Dyson said.

Later he quoted some lyrics from rap idol the Notorious B.I.G.

"Now that's some serious analysis," Dyson said about the lyrics. "It's just everyone doesn't analyze the same way." He added that, "Ebonics is a beautiful language, it just doesn't fit this culture in every situation."

Dyson continued to attack Cosby's views on the poor Black community. "It's easy to jump on someone that is vulnerable. Cosby you have money and power, so pick on Condoleezza or Oprah," he said. He added that "Jesus said it is in the exercise of love for the vulnerable."

In closing, Dyson spoke to the congregation saying, "We have bowed down at power, and some people won't think twice about what Cosby said until he makes a mistake. What does that say about us as a people?"

He went on to discuss the error in judging others without looking at our own faults.

"If you insist on digging a grave for someone else, the bible says that, you may fall in it yourself," Dyson said.

## Know Your Student Government: Policy Board

BY TOYNETT N. HALL  
Contributing Writer

It was a late Wednesday evening, in the middle of a crowded Power Hall, when Faith L. Walls, the current president of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council and chair of the Policy Board, began to explain one of the most influential entities of Howard University's student government.

The Policy Board is a body that consists of the presidents of each school and college student council (graduate and undergraduate) that exercises and reserves the exclusive right to interpret Howard University Student Association's constitution.

"The policy board is the highest judicial body government," Walls said. "We are basically responsible for coming up with proposed ideas for changes in the HUSA Constitution. We have the exclusive power to interpret the HUSA Constitution and the power to hear any reports that have been made to the General Assembly by members of the HUSA executive board or committees within the General Assembly," Walls said.

Many students are unaware of the policy board and the power that it possesses. But those who are affiliated with the board know just how influential it can be.

According to Byron Stewart, president of the School of Communications Student Council, the Policy Board "does play a big part in student government as well as the activities of the university."

Stewart said, "A lot of changes have been made" because of the efforts of the Policy Board.

"I do recall the Policy Board extending the hours at the Health Sciences Library during the exam period last year," Stewart said.

In addition to being a political vehicle for change, the Policy Board creates a platform for student issues.

"[The policy board], in one aspect, convenes to increase visibility of all the different schools and colleges," said Aisha Carter, president of the Graduate Business Student Council. "It also gives students a voice through their council."

Besides, giving students another outlet to voice their concerns, the Policy Board allows

students to engage in student government functions.

According to Chad Williams-Bey, a sophomore political science and economics double major, the policy board is beneficial to students.

"It is another way for students to actively participate in making constitutional amendments other than the role of elections," Williams-Bey said.

The Policy Board has been in existence since 1977, and each year the direction of the board seems to change.

"The focal point for this school year is to build up the relationship between each council and to work with each other," Walls said. "If it was not for the policy board, the different schools and college would not be able to connect with each other."

Currently, the graduate and undergraduate councils of the policy board are raising money for the tsunami relief effort.

"[Members of the board] are going to their respective deans and asking them to match the amount of money they raise, which they plan to donate to the African countries that were hit by the tsunami."

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## 'Just Us Film Festival' Showcases Message in Films

BY JENNIFER BRYANT  
Contributing Writer

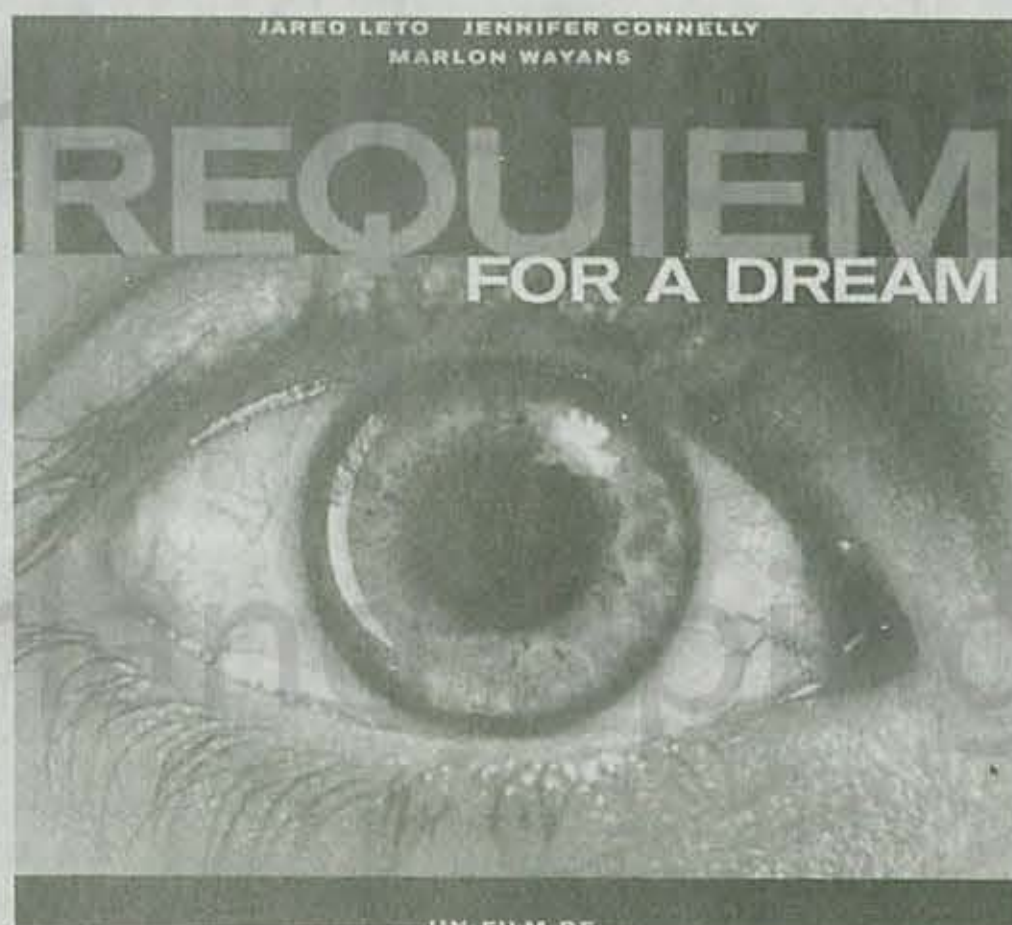
Last Wednesday evening, creative writing professor Tony Medina sat tucked away in his corner office on the first floor of Locke Hall eating tacos with one of his students.

People had just began to gather inside the auditorium to see the movie "Blind Faith," the second film in the Just Us Film Festival that he sponsors along with the English department and the Howard University Cultural Exchange Club.

For the next nine weeks the festival will feature such award-winning films as "Requiem for a Dream," "Sankofa" and "Birth of a Nation."

Three semesters ago in the spring of 2004, Medina came up with the idea of an on-campus film festival.

"I was surprised we didn't have one, and I thought it would be a good idea to engage



"Requiem for a Dream" is one of the movies being shown during the Just Us Film Festival.

the Howard community with films students often overlook for mainstream films," Medina said. "It's also a way of building community."

"Blind Faith," a film directed by Howard alumnus

Ernest R. Dickerson, captivated the audience Wednesday with its intricate plot and the issues it raised concerning race, sex and homosexuality.

See FILM, News A7



# Fashion Show Meshes the Divine With Design

BY AMBER ENGLISH  
Contributing Writer

Models graced the runway in all white dresses, suits, and jackets to begin "Epiphany: A Revelation of Love."

More than just a color scheme, the white ensembles suggested purity. These powerful messages were intertwined into each segment of Saturday evenings' fashion show presented by Agape Couture Productions in conjunction with Howard University Noonday Prayer.

"We believe in entertaining people, but entertaining people with a message," said Jodie Johnson, principal of Agape Couture Productions, LLC. During a show intermission Johnson detailed to the crowd the moral standards of every Agape production.

"You will never see anything that will make you cover your eyes, or hear anything that will make you cover your ears," Johnson said.

Students like Tamena Wilson-Williams, a sophomore international business major, were pleasantly surprised by the decency of the show.

"I thought the show was going to be just sexy," Wilson-Williams said. "It was sexy, but it was also very tasteful and not trashy."

Each scene of the fashion show represented one of four types of love: the love of God, self-love, brotherly love and romantic love.

During the romantic love scene of the show, the models wore exquisite evening gowns, tuxedos and wedding gowns.

In the first portion of the scene, the female models wore evening gowns of beautiful satins and chiffons. Then, couples came out in coordinating dress and suit combinations. The scene ended with elegant wedding dresses.

This was a representation of the stages of Christian romantic love. Johnson said that the coordinating dress and suit combinations represented a proper connection between

man and woman.

"We ended with the wedding scene because after that connection between man and woman, there is supposed to be some commitment," Johnson said.

The models in the show were excited to be a part of something so meaningful. Daniel Gilmer, a freshman biology and mathematics major, became involved because he believed the show was going to be about something meaningful.

"I have seen other fashion shows, and been very discouraged because that was an environment I didn't want to be in," Gilmer said.

Adrienne Yancy, a freshman fashion merchandising major, was also fulfilled by her experience in the show.

"My favorite scene to model was the 'J-train.' I liked what it was about," Yancy said.

The 'J-train' scene that Yancy is referring to was the urban scene in the show. The choreography featured models ending tickets to a conductor as they walked the runway. The music in the background solidified the message.

"The song was about getting on board the J-train," Johnson said. "[The scene] represented that if you want to go somewhere, if you want to have a real future, you have to get on board the J-train."

'Epiphany' was the culmination of four days of virtuous activities put on by the Howard University Noonday



Mark King-Staff Photographer

The fashion show "Epiphany: A Revelation of Love," presented by Agape Couture Productions and Howard University Noonday Prayer, sought to bring fashion that was Christian classy and not cheap or raunchy.

Prayer Society.

"We had the desire to bring a fashion show to campus that was classy but not corny Christian, but also not cheap or raunchy," said Carlos Price, assistant chaplain for Noonday Prayer.

A portion of the proceeds from the fashion show were donated to So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.). This organization helps the homeless and

other displaced people in the D.C. area with their immediate needs, but also strives to break the cycle of homelessness.

Agape Couture Productions has committed to donating a portion of the proceeds from any self-promoted event they have.

Johnson hopes to bring another Agape Couture production to Howard.

"If [Howard] has us back, we would be very honored to come," Johnson said.

Students who attended the show were pleased and are looking forward to the next production by Agape Couture.

"I will definitely go to another show by Agape," said Eric Yancy, a sophomore. "It was professional, meaningful and all-around Grade-A quality."

## From White House to Classroom, Professor Excels in Teaching

BY MIKE HOLMES  
Contributing Writer

The 2'x3' bulletin board hanging in his office tells a story by itself. Hundreds of press passes dangle from the board, covering every inch of it. Press passes as varied as the G7 conference in 2004 to the U.S. Open in 1998.

All of the passes belong to Howard University journalism professor Jonathan Decker.

Decker was born in Washington, D.C. **WHEN?** When he was three, he and his family moved to Wynnewood,

Penn., where he grew up. Decker even went to the same high school as Kobe Bryant, Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Penn.

After high school, Decker attended the University of Pennsylvania where he received degrees in political science and economics. Influenced by his friends, Decker tried working on Wall Street for a year.

"I really didn't like it," Decker said shaking his head.

His experience on Wall Street prompted him to return to the University of Pennsylvania to obtain a mas-

ter's degree in international relations.

In 1991, Decker began working for Sen. John Heinz of Pennsylvania as his press secretary.

It was while working as a press secretary that Decker realized his passion for journalism. Unfortunately, Sen. Heinz was killed in a plane crash, which left Decker suddenly without a job.

Decker soon found a position working at a public radio station in Philadelphia. He also anchored for CNN Local Headline News, doing cut-ins.

Decker moved to Miami where he worked for three different media outlets. He worked for NBC news, NBC radio and the Christian Science Monitor.

Decker later moved to the nation's capital, where he hosted PBS's "This Week in Business." He was the editorial producer for their print partner BusinessWeek magazine.

In D.C., Decker received an opportunity to add college professor to his list of credentials.

While conducting an interview with Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert,

Decker discussed his interest in teaching at the university. In the fall of 1997, Decker's interest in teaching became a reality.

Nearly eight years later, Decker is still helping to mold tomorrow's future journalist. He is the only full time White House Press Corp member that is also a tenured journalism professor.

"It's nice to know that I have had an impact. I have helped them [students] be better at what they do," Decker said.

This semester, Decker is

teaching an introduction to broadcast news course.

Junior broadcast journalism major, Adam Hicks feels that Decker's professional experience has contributed greatly to what he has learned.

"He can explain things from a certain perspective because he's been there. He's not just teaching out of a book," Hicks said.

Iran Abdullah expressed the same sentiment.

"Him having all this experience helps us relate. He knows

See **TEACHER**, News A7

## Profiles In Black History

### Donny Hathaway (1945-1979)

BY MONET KING  
Contributing Writer

With the recent influx of talented soul singers like Alicia Keys and John Legend, few know about the contributions of a young Howard University alumnus who made the genre of soul music original, political and memorable.

In the mid 1970s, Donny Hathaway's meteoric rise to fame was due in part to his strong gospel roots in the church and the skills he learned as a student at Howard University.

Hathaway honed his craft of singing when he was awarded a full scholarship to Howard in 1964. He was a jack-of-all-trades, not only as a singer, but also as an amazing songwriter and keyboardist.

After three years, Hathaway left Howard to pursue his dreams working in the production side of the music business as an in-house singer for Curtis



www.hc.ac.uk

Mayfield's Curtom Records. Soon after, Atlantic Records caught wind of Hathaway's talents, he released his first album in 1970, "Everything is Everything."

Donny Hathaway captured soul music like no other before him. With heartfelt gospel undertones and a "bluesy" delivery, his music told stories of the hard times of being Black in a post-Vietnam era.

Hathaway's hits included "A Song for You," "Love You More Than You'll Ever Know," and the holiday

favorite "This Christmas." His songwriting skills were poetic and filled with imaginative references and provide haunting insight to a personality that was also charmed and troubled.

His talents were three-dimensional, and with the foundation of live instrumentation, fiery vocal range and original songs the music was magic.

By 1973, Hathaway was battling depression, but released the powerful "Extensions of a Man," an aptly titled album that showed Hathaway expanding his range in many directions, beyond the pop/soul category that many fans of his fans expected.

It included many fine songs, none better than his strong piece, "Someday We'll All Be Free." That album also included tracks with his college friend, Roberta Flack.

Hathaway's career was cut short in 1979 when he died of suicide.

### Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)

BY RHONDA HECKSTALL  
Contributing Writer

Carter G. Woodson is known as the "Father of Black History."

He created and popularized the field of Black studies. Woodson believed that it was essential for Blacks to know their history in order to successfully participate in affairs of our country.

Woodson was born on Dec. 19, 1875 in New Canton, Va., to former slaves. His family was poor, so he supported himself by working in Kentucky coal mines. As a result of his responsibilities, he was not able to enroll in high school until he was 20 years old. Woodson attended Douglas High School in Huntington, W.Va. He earned his diploma in less than two years.

From 1897 to 1900, Woodson taught at a high school in Winona, W.Va. He wrote articles and studied at home and abroad.



www.k12.de.us

In 1900, he became the principle of Fredrick Douglas High School. He later received his bachelor's degree in literature from Berea College in Kentucky. Woodson was a school supervisor in the Philippines from 1903 to 1907. He traveled throughout Europe and Asia. Woodson also studied at Sorbonne University in Paris.

In 1908, he received his master's degree from the University of Chicago, and in 1912, he received a

doctorate degree in history from Harvard University.

He edited the first issue of The Journal of Negro History, which is the principal scholarly publication of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. Under his guidance, it remained an important historical periodical for more than 30 years.

Woodson also served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and head of the graduate faculty at Howard University and dean at West Virginia State College.

In 1926, he founded Negro History Week. Negro History Week later evolved into Black History Month. Woodson chose February as Black History Month because it was the birth month of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, two men whose life's work greatly impacted African-Americans.

Carter G. Woodson died on April 3, 1950, in Washington D.C.



# Maya Angelou Visits the Mecca

MAYA, from Campus A1

who as Brother Baraka said, has dug in to the interior of our souls...Because of her, it will get better. It's a joy to write a piece for her, to say it and sing it, and celebrate her place in this earth. It let's us know that we are because she has been."

Many students in attendance left the celebration entertained and fortunate to have spent the evening honoring Dr. Angelou.

"Tonight in a word-phenomenal. The people, the speak-

ers, Dr. Maya Angelou were just amazing. I have never seen her in public and I just feel like of all people, she deserves to be honored the most at Howard," said Jenelle Ferrell, senior political science major.

The experience was equally enchanting for those who were involved in the actual ceremony.

"I think it was something that was totally timeless. It's so important that we take time to really acknowledge and appreciate the real mentors, teachers, educators and healers of our

time; her works transcend time, said Dr. Tyrone Barksdale from the Office of the Provost. "I think its something that's truly special in the life and history of Howard that she was here and we honored in that special way."

Heart's Day is a fundraiser for the Department of English's effort to establish an endowed Chair for Sterling A. Brown, a former Howard professor, author, and Poet Laureate. This year's Heart's Day conference helped the fundraising efforts surpass the halfway mark.

# BLAGOSAH Fights for Condoms

CONDOMS, from Campus A1

lar distribution in 2003.

"We have had discussions with [the administration], and they were iffy," Howard said. "So with Valentine's Day coming up we wanted to do this to get the petition signed."

The petition was an appeal to the administration to allow the organization to begin distributing condoms in Blackburn once again.

Belinda Lightfoot-Watkins, director of Student Affairs, said that she talked with Howard in late November about reinstating the condom distribution program.

"I indicated to him that he was not prohibited [from distributing condoms]," Lightfoot-Watkins said. She said that the distribution only ended because BLAGOSAH wanted to a table in Blackburn every Friday.

"We do not give anyone space every Friday," Lightfoot-Watkins said. She did raise concerns about distributing condoms in Blackburn where many freshmen and sophomores congregate and about the per-

ception the university may be promoting fornication. Before any more protests, Lightfoot-Watkins said that BLAGOSAH members should try to work with the administration.

"They haven't put in a request for this year, they should at least do that," she said. "We are going to treat them like any other organization."

Most students willingly signed the petition in support of the steady condom distribution. Some felt BLAGOSAH's rally-style was a good way to deliver their message.

"This is good because you're getting people out here stopping," said Derrick Rumbolt, freshman computer engineering major. "This is like one of the best ways to get the message out."

Others felt the megaphone and parade of BLAGOSAH members walking up to people was not the best method.

"I think they should be allowed to distribute them, but discretely," said Kimberly McFarlane, a sophomore music major.

The organization's rep-

resentatives agree that the Howard administration should be more involved in the awareness projects.

"As an alum, I feel that our administration should take a more pro-active role in using more community resources to give out information," Scott said.

Some students would also like to see the administration at the forefront of the informative projects.

"I think it's the school's responsibility to ensure that their students are protected from AIDS and other STD's," Charlene Dayton, sophomore advertising major, said.

The Student Health Center offers students the option of picking up free condoms, however, students and Scott believe the process is intimidating.

Howard said one of the reasons the administration wanted BLAGOSAH to end their distribution efforts was because the administration felt they were encouraging pre-marital sex. Students feel the condoms are more a precaution than a cause.

# Event Attempts to Recruit Minority Organ Donors

DONOR, from Campus A1

like Keith at our clinic," said Dr. Jane Sande from the Children's Hospital of Alabama. "It makes us feel good about what we do, and we're very happy for the kids and their families."

The event also honored activist and cyclist Rodney Ford. He has been a constant participant in the Five Points of Life bicycle ride across America. The ride began in 1997 by the LifeSouth Community Blood Centers in Gainesville, FL, and promotes the five ways a person can donate to save lives: blood,

apheresis, cord blood, marrow, and organ and tissue.

"By my reckoning, Mr. Ford has ridden approximately 16,000 miles on a bike in support of donation," Jim McPherson, CEO of America's Blood Centers, said.

Ford, a bank examiner from Oklahoma City, was presented with a plaque in recognition of his commitment to the donation awareness effort. He is one of five national spokespersons for Saturn National Donor Day.

The National Minority Organ & Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) hosted the event. MOTTEP is the first orga-

nization to introduce a two-fold solution to the shortage of donors by first promoting health and then recruiting donors.

This is Howard's third year of participating in Saturn National Donor Day by setting up a recruitment drive in an effort to minimize the hole in minority donors on the Registry.

Some Howard students are happy to oblige, and become a willing donor.

"I think it is important to think that it could be you in that position," Catherine McPhaul, freshman business management major, said.

# Disabled Students Need Further Accommodations on Campus

HANDICAP, from Campus A2

the condition of the elevators and doors require the ordering of [parts] that may take weeks or sometimes months for the parts to be fabricated and delivered," Johnson said.

Aside from the setbacks they face, Roberta McLeod claims to be one of the people who advocate fighting for handicapped students.

McLeod, director of the Blackburn Center, strives to alleviate any facility issues in the center and is working to ensure the handicap accessibility for the entire building.

Her main concern is finishing the bathroom renovations

with handicap aids and solving the ongoing problem with the automatic entrance doors.

According to McLeod, because of the constant traffic in and out of the door and its design, the door tends to burn out. This creates an inconvenience that she plans to eliminate.

"I have recommended a design which would cost \$90,000 to renovate the whole front entrance," McLeod explained with anticipation in her eyes. If implemented, the new design would have a revolving door built in the center of the entrance and automatic doors on the sides for those with disabilities.

McLeod also plans to have

Braille inscribed throughout the entire building.

According to Jones, who conducted a study that included information on the university's handicap accessibility, the school does meet all of its handicap accessibility requirements as requested by the ADA.

McLeod, however, acknowledged why there are not more additional accommodations on the campus for disabled students regardless of the handicap.

"It takes a lot of money to accommodate. Whether or not we have the money we need, I can't speak on that," McLeod said.

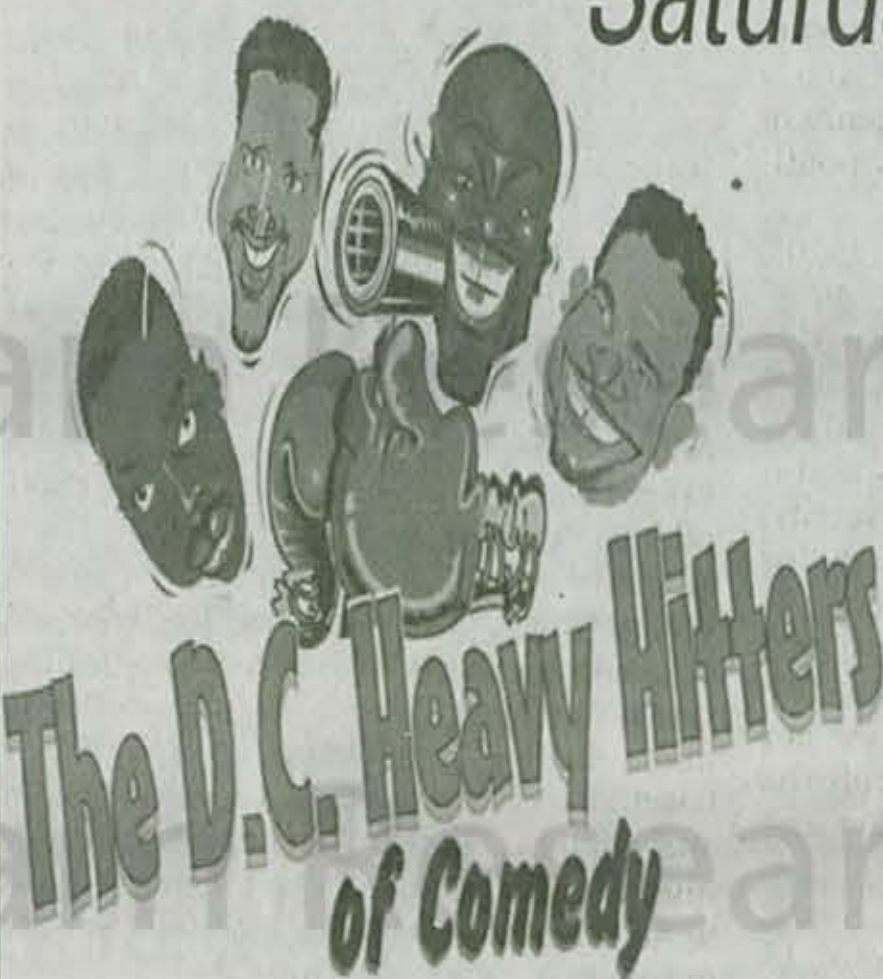
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# U Street Gentrification Brings New Businesses, Diversity

BY TIFANY FALON WILLIAMS  
Contributing Writer

Fourteen years ago, U Street wouldn't have been recognizable to the eyes and minds of most Howard students. The street was overwhelmed with vacant building plots and had an outstanding reputation for drug trafficking. But the street and the small community surrounding it also held the title of being the center of the Black community.

The street, which was covered with vacant business plots, now has high-rise apartment and condominiums on every other block. The number of ethnic restaurants, as well as trendy nighttime hot spots, has increased and the street is home to a number of different chain businesses, like Starbucks and Subway.

For HU students, this means that U Street has become a safer place to stroll down and head to for nighttime hotspots, like Republic Gardens. The street offers a wide array of restaurants like Love Café and Sala Thai. There are also a number of boutiques including Pink November and Nana Vintage Clothing store. There is also a Footlocker in the neighborhood. This new laidback and

diverse atmosphere of U Street, is a satisfying change said Ben's Chili Bowl owner Ben Ali Jr. "The residential increase of the street has brought my place a lot of new business," he said. Ben's Chili Bowl has been a part of U Street since 1958.

The rich history of U Street as a thriving Black mecca is a familiar picture in the minds of business owners and older residents who have inhabited the street in the last 14 years. Business owners of the mom and pop establishments have bared witness to the ebb and flow of old and new business and housing changes that have brought a new diverse mix of people to the street.

Richard Lee, who is the owner of Lee's Flower and Card Shop, has been a part of U Street for 60 years and feels that the initial change began with the Metrorail and the improvement of street's overall structure. "The street began to attract people when the city started to clean it up. Since then, it has become more vibrant with the increase in tourism," Lee said.

It is a positive change for U Street, but one that comes with a price, a price that has cost familiar businesses to close their doors for good. The owners

of SisterSpace bookstore were evicted back in August because they could no longer afford the cities rental fee for their plot.

The real estate price for buying or leasing a building has sky rocketed three times than what it use to be. The positive change in the street has been enjoyable, but that enjoyment has left some inhabitants with a depressing feeling that the cultural significance of the community is fading with the change.

"It is good to see the new development of the street, but I would like to see more development in small mom and pop business like my own. Their individuality has always made the street stand out. I hope that with the increase in diversity more African-American businesses also begin to pop up," Ben Ali said.

All the business owners agree that the change in U Street has been and will continue to be good for business in the long run but that people have suffered because of the new changing demographic.

"Most of the old business have benefited less than the newer places . . . and the rental land fee has went up real high," said Katorra Wright, who is a sales associate at Nana and grew



Marlene Hawthorne-Staff Photographer

U Street once hosted notable figures like Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

up near U Street.

There is not a doubt in any of the business owners' minds on U Street that it will continue

to attract more tourism. With more tourism hopefully it will bring more Washingtonians to

come visit the area and see that U Street is turning into a miniature Georgetown with an ethnic vibe.

# GW Combats High Suicide Rates Among its Students

BY CIARA FAMBLE  
Contributing Writer

Anxious phone calls from well-meaning but demanding parents, working a full or part-time job, all while trying to have a satisfying social life and struggling to maintain a competitive GPA can be extremely stressful.

Studies show that people aged 16-24 are more likely to commit suicide if they are not enrolled in a higher learning program, but those statements don't have much weight with some students at The George Washington University.

"Between the spring of my freshman year and the fall of my sophomore year, two guys killed themselves. One jumped out of the window of his dorm room, and the other shot himself in the head. It seems like there's at least one [suicide] every year," said Mackenzie Howard, a junior biology major at The George Washington University.

The university has gained a reputation for higher-than-average suicide rates among its students in the last few years, but times are changing.

After two confirmed suicides and a few deaths, whose circumstances seemed "shady," as Howard put it, The George Washington University seems to be making greater efforts to reduce the amount of student suicides that occurs on its campus every year.

The school has become proactive in its suicide prevention endeavors, which are handled through the University Counseling Center (UCC). The school's website is rife with details about how to detect depression and how to persuade a suicidal person not to commit suicide.

"We offer counseling for our students," said Norma McCain, an employee of the counseling center. "The first appointment [for psychological analysis] is free, but every other appointment scheduled after that is \$50 or less."

Though the price may seem paltry compared to what one might pay an outside professional, some would argue that the price makes the counseling service less accessible and effective for students.

Howard said, "I am definitely familiar with the signs



Maya Gilliam-Senior Photo Editor

The Howard University Counseling offices are located in the east wing of the School of Communications.

of depression, but I don't know if I'd go to the counseling center. For the prices they charge, you might as well go to a professional."

Students at Howard seem to generally agree with her. While the suicide rate at Howard is lower than that of George Washington, counseling is still available. According to the Howard University website, students are entitled to six to eight free counseling sessions if they become depressed.

This would be useful to students like freshman chemical engineering major Jason Pyke, who was personally touched by suicide, when one of his classmates killed himself, his freshman year of high school.

"Everything was com-

ing down on him, his parents and everything, and work was catching up with him. So he killed himself." When asked whether he would go to the Howard counseling center if need be, he responded, "I recognize the signs of depression, so I'd go to the center, but I have never been there before."

Still, some are not sure if they would use the counseling service if they were feeling depressed. Stephany Crum, a sophomore pre-pharmacy major, said, "I wouldn't go to [Howard's] counseling center because I don't want to share my personal business, but it's good they have it."

There's stress, peer pressure and parental pressure. You never know what someone is thinking."

# A Journey Down the Yellow Line

BY MIKE HOLMES  
Contributing Writer

The yellow line, with only 12 stops, is the shortest line on the Metro system. The other four (blue, red, orange and green) have an average of 25 stops. Although it is the shortest line in the Metro system, it is also one of the most unique.

The yellow line runs from Huntington (Alexandria, Va.) to Mt. Vernon Square (Seventh St. NW). Despite the fact that it stops just shy of the Shaw Howard Metro, Howard students do not seem to utilize this line.

"I've taken the yellow line once; I went to Pentagon City," Whitney Boggs, a sophomore broadcast journalism major, said.

Although the renown Pentagon City Mall is probably the stop that sticks out to most students, this line stops at several other points that may interest Howard students.

Coming from Huntington headed toward the District; the first stop is Eisenhower Metro. Directly across the street from this stop is the AMC Hoffman 22. The Hoffman is the largest multiplex in Northern Virginia and the second largest in the area.

Less than a mile from the Hoffman theatre is Cameron Run Great Waves Water Park.

Here you can find everything from miniature golf to a giant wave pool. Want a pet? Right next-door is the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.

Next stop, King Street Metro. History majors may find this stop of interest. The George Washington Masonic is located here. Ground breaking for the temple began in 1922 and took over 10 years to complete.

Two stops down from the King Street Metro is the stop that makes this line unique. The yellow line is one of the two Metro lines that take you directly to an airport, specifically Regan National Airport. Since the majority of Howard's students have to catch a plane to go home for break, this may be the most beneficial feature of this line.

"It's a lot cheaper. I can just take a shuttle to the Metro," said freshman journalism major Tiffany Jones.

Crystal City is the very next stop on the line. DeVry University is located just across the street from this stop as well as an array of restaurants and hotels. Just a mile away is another large multiplex. The Hoyt's 16-movie theatre, at Potomac Yard, is located just down the street from the stop.

"The last stop in the Commonwealth of Virginia," as the train operator so eloquently states, is Pentagon.

The first stop in the District of Columbia is L'Enfant Plaza. Followed by Archives Navy Memorial. Less than a block away from this stop is the D.C. Supreme Court.

The next to last stop on the yellow line is Gallery Place-China Town. Recently, this stop has become home of some of the most extensive redevelopment in D.C. There are plenty of restaurants, high-end shops and luxury condominiums. Also the MCI Center, home of the Wizards, is located here.

The final stop on the yellow line is Mt. Vernon Sq-Convention Center. As the name suggests, the massive Washington Convention Center is located at this stop. Across the street are a few entertaining places.

The WarehouseNextDoor is the place to go for D.C.'s underground rock scene. Warehouse Theatre hosts art shows and plays. Next door to the theatre is Juste Lounge. They claim to have the largest assortment of martinis in the D.C. area. Every Tuesday is Neo-Soul night where you can find various local neo-soul bands.

The yellow line encompasses more than Pentagon City and, despite being the shortest line, it has a long list of attractions.



Marlene Hawthorne-Staff Photographer

Pentagon City, located in Alexandria, Va., a short stop off the Yellow Line on the Metro, is a popular shopping mall frequented by Howard students.



Ivey To Explore World of Radio

IVEY, from Campus A2

held internship positions at two major record companies.

In the summer of 2002 he interned at Sony Music Studios, where he assisted engineers and record producers in the studio. Then in the summer of 2004, he interned at Bad Boy Records and worked directly under Sean Combs, as his executive assistant. He helped Combs and his co-workers with day-to-day tasks.

"I didn't get paid that well, but I made a lot of contacts," Ivey said. "I got the internships because I was too enthusiastic and I knew what I was talking about, basically," he later revealed.

When Ivey is not in the radio station, he makes beats for people to rap over. He has made beats for Howard students Freddie Thumps, J- Black, Micah and Blaze, to name a few.

Additionally, Ivey produc-

es and sales music CDs for five dollars.

He feels that he has made many important entertainment industry connections right here on Howard's campus and gives lots of thanks to DJ Rocko for helping him to connect with a lot of people.

In May of this year, Nile Ivey will be graduating from Howard University and moving to New York to begin his career.

Films Exposes Students to Culture

FILM, from Campus A3

"I liked the message," said Eric Eddings, a freshman marketing major. "It didn't come out how everybody wanted, but it left you with a sense of hope."

Freshman political science major Princess Williams also enjoyed the film.

"It was powerful and the acting was really strong," Williams said. "I'm surprised I haven't heard of it before."

The film festival kicked off on Feb. 2 with the critically acclaimed film "City of God." The gritty film, which exposes the extreme poverty and violence of the favelas or slums of Brazil, revealed aspects of Black life in other parts of the world that often receive little attention.

"It was actually a really big turnout, about 50 students came for 'City of God,'" said Allison Mathews, a sophomore sociology major, who is founder and president of the Howard University Cultural Exchange Club. "It seems that they really enjoyed the film. It's about poverty and real issues people can relate to."

Earlier this semester, Mathews was approached by Alveta Addison, an employee in the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and one of the film festival organizers, about hosting the event.

"They wanted us to help get the word out to students and open their minds to different ways of thinking about Black culture," Mathews said.

Last fall, Mathews founded the Howard University Cultural Exchange Club to help students "better understand and gain

Just Us Film Festival Schedule

Wednesday Nights  
Locke Hall, Room 105 at 6 p.m.

Date	Movie
February 16	The Spook Who Sat By The Door
February 23	Sankofa
March 2	Requiem for a Dream
March 9	Birth of A Nation
March 23	Black and White
March 30	Supersize Me
April 6	The Brother from Another Planet
April 13	Roger & Me

appreciation of different cultures as well as to work to eliminate ignorance, intolerance, hatred and prejudice while correcting stereotypes."

In addition to hosting the Black film festival the club has held a forum on racism and colorism in the Black community and took a trip to the American Indian Museum.

Ralph Nicholas Brown, a senior political science major and founding member of the HU Cultural Exchange Club is very enthusiastic about the film series.

"Each one of these films deals with important social and/or political issues," Brown said. "I'm really happy that this is going on."

The Just Us Film Festival will be held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Locke Hall room 105. "The Spook Who Sat By The Door" will be shown tomorrow beginning at six.

All films are shown free of charge. For more information, contact [culturalexchangehu@yahooogroups.com](mailto:culturalexchangehu@yahooogroups.com).

Journalist Makes HU Teaching Stop

TEACHER, from Campus A4

what it takes to get into the journalism world," said Abdullah, a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Students are not the only ones who appreciate Decker's approach to teaching.

"He gave a lesson on sound bites once and I really enjoyed watching him teach," said David Woods, associate dean of the School of Communications.

Professor Decker's advice to anyone thinking of developing a career in journalism is to be as aggressive as possible.

"Opportunities don't come to you. You have to create them," Decker said.

Decker has more than a decade of experience. He has interviewed a myriad of notable sources from sports stars such as Hank Aaron to former president Bill Clinton.

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or on our website [www.](http://www.howard.edu/currentstudents/studentlifeactivities/)

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## lifelines:



## Nice and Slow

BY KEITH LAING  
Life & Style Editor

A few weeks ago, loyal Lifelines readers found out that I'm a hip-hop fan. And traditionally, it's never been harder to be one of those than Grammy week.

The relationship between music's top awards and one of its highest grossing genres was once so rocky that Jay Z skipped the show for four years in protest — despite being nominated several times and once winning. I was with him. If the Grammys didn't respect hip-hop, I didn't respect the Grammys. It was just that simple.

Thankfully, it seems like things are slowly but surely changing. This year, Kanye West was nominated for the most prestigious of the prestigious awards, Album of the Year, and even though he didn't win, he had a pretty good shot at it. And the nominees for Best Hip-Hop album were top-notch as well, with only the Beastie Boys standing out as odd to this hardcore hip-hop fan.

It's not all good yet though. There were five hip-hop categories in this year's line-up, but only two of them were shown to the television audience. I don't care what anyone says, a Grammy that isn't followed by a "thank God and my mama" speech just doesn't count as much. I mean, the next day, what is everyone talking about? The outfits and performances and that's right, THE SPEECHES.

So clearly, much work remains, because that is simply not enough. With hip-hop drawing in a more diverse audience than ever, and continuing to rake in millions of dollars for record companies, the Grammys continue to move too slowly in showing its appreciation for the genre.

It's been so bad that we've created our own awards. The BET Awards may as well be the hip-hop Grammys at this point, and whenever Vibe and The Source can finish a ceremony without someone getting stabbed, they'll be taken seriously too.

Deep down though, we know that none of those awards means as much as a Grammy does. They don't have the history. They don't have the esteem. And they don't bring the instant respect and admiration. It's one of those sad but true facts of life we should all accept.

But in the aftermath of the 47th Grammy Awards, the hip-hop fan in me may be not be completely satisfied, but he's appreciative of the progress being made. He knows it's a slow process.

Keith Laing is trying to convince us that Usher will go away now that the Grammys are over. He said that he likes Usher as much as the next guy, but if he hears "Confessions" one more time, he'd go crazy. So of course, we put it on repeat. After he finished ranting, he started trying to scratch it off our CDs, which could take a minute, so he probably won't respond to anything sent to life\_n\_style0405@yahoo.com for a while. But if you enjoy messing with him as much as we do, send your Usher pictures and mp3s anyway.

## GRAMMY GOLD

Big Winners: Ray Charles' Genius Loves Company, Kanye West, Alicia Keys, Maroon5

BY KEITH LAING  
Life & Style Editor

At Sunday's Grammy Awards, it was clear that Ray Charles is still on the mind of the music industry.

In a night many believed would belong to the likes of Usher and Kanye West, the venerable Charles stole the show from beyond the grave.

As the biggest names in music converged on the Staples Center in Los Angeles for the 47th annual Grammy's, the late music legend cleaned up. Charles won eight of music's most prestigious awards, including Album of the Year for his posthumous release "Genius Loves Company."

"I am glad that Ray won album of the year, but I thought Usher was going to win, because last year was his year," said Tosha Holmes, a senior international business major. "I guess a lot of people went out and bought the album after they saw how powerful the movie was."

Some students who watched the ceremony expressed concern that the recognition may have had more to do with Charles' death than the music.

"I thought that it was a great CD, but I'm not sure that some of that wasn't because of his popularity because of the movie and his death," said sophomore marketing major Ashley Hagans.

"They showed a slide show of all those musicians that had passed away this year, but Ray Charles was the only one that got a musical tribute."

That notwithstanding, "Genius Loves Company" overcame competition from Usher,



The 47th annual Grammy awards emulated from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Sunday. Among the big winners was Ray Charles, who posthumously collected eight awards.

Alicia Keys and Kanye West. West was also expected to make noise in the best new artist category, but the award ended up going to Maroon 5, leaving some viewers, like freshman broadcast journalism major Brittani Riddle, unhappy.

"Kanye West deserved that award more than Maroon5,"

she said. "He's really a different type of rapper. He's trying to talk about something different. He's very original and has worked hard to get where he is today."

Fans who share Riddle's sentiments can take solace in the fact that though West, who was up for a total of 10

awards, did not take home the big prizes, he won two awards, including Best Rap Song for his hit "Jesus Walks" and Best Rap Album and delivered a stirring performance of his hit "Jesus Walks."

Other performers including Usher and James Brown, Keys and Jamie Foxx covering

Charles' "Georgia on my Mind," Tim McGraw, a Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony duet in Spanish and the Black Eyed Peas, who opening the show with their ubiquitous hit "Let's Get It Started."

Several viewers said that save a few standouts, the performances as a whole left much to be desired.

"Most of the performances weren't good," Hagans said. "The song that they performed as a tsunami tribute sounded horrible. Overall the show was a lot more tame, [and] a lot more white."

Others tied the conservativeness of the performances into the network's desire to shy away from controversy in the aftermath of last year's Super Bowl.

"I guess with last year's incident, stations are afraid to say and do stuff because people will either complain or a huge fine will be placed over their heads," Holmes said.

Some viewers also complained about the tone of the show.

"It felt like the [Video Music Awards] rather than a showcase of the industry's best and brightest," said junior international business major Lauren Chisholm. "It was entirely too much for the average music lover to digest."

Holmes said that she agreed. She said that she was disappointed at the conclusion of this year's telecast.

"To be honest, for the time I was putting into watching the Grammy's, I wish it was better."

## Nearly Straight-to-Video: the Film to Disc Rush

BY BRITTNEY JOHNSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Oscars are right around the corner, and unfortunately for some procrastinators, most of the movies nominated are no longer available at the box office. But lucky for them, many of these movies, like the biopic "Ray," are already being offered on DVD.

Gone are the days when movie watchers waited for what seemed an eternity to add their favorite blockbuster hits to their home video collections. Now, in the blink of an eye, movies seemingly sprint from the movie screen to

the video store, but not without evoking contrasting opinions from some happy and some dissatisfied students.

Kinsey Harvey, a sophomore radio-television-film major, said she couldn't decide whether to be sad or glad about the change.

"I am torn between being excited and apprehensive about movies leaving the box office quickly and then being distributed commercially," Harvey said. "On one hand, I like the fact that if I don't get to see the movie within the first few weeks of its release, I know that I will be able to rent it before I lose my enthusiasm about it. On the other hand, there are films that lose their zest outside of the theater, like action films. In these cases, I would prefer to see these films remain in the theatres longer to give me a greater opportunity to see them."

Although many are undecided or indifferent to the trend, some students have noticed, and are questioning the motives of the companies.

Joshua Morgan, a junior public relations major, recently had a conversation on the topic with friends.

"I don't think it's such a good idea," Morgan said. "Some people just like the movie experience, [but] me personally, I like to be at home alone, or with someone watching a movie."

Morgan said that he believed that the driving force behind the switch is purely financial. "I think they make a lot more money from DVDs," he said. "They're businesspeople and they're clearly doing it for a reason. They're multimillion dollar companies!"

Graduate Student Vincent S. Williams agrees with Morgan. "If they want to maximize profits by driving the momentum of the popularity of the film, then it would behoove them to come out with the home video version of the film sooner than in previous times," Williams said. "That way people interested in seeing the film may buy, instead of going to see it, which may mean more money for



Alejo Alexander-Staff Photographer

It seems that new releases are spending less time in the movie theater and are being sent to video store shelves at a faster rate.

the studio that is distributing it."

That sort of success was evident with the DVD release of "Ray." Based upon its high demand, the DVD reached \$44 million in sales on the first day of its release, according to Billboard.com. On that day alone, two million customers took "Ray" home with them.

"Theater to DVD is such a big business, DVD is a huge business, and it's taken over VHS," James Hill, movie specialist at BET Interactive, said. "Now that Netflix and Blockbuster have both done away with late fees, it's about money. They're seeing the dollar signs.

It's obviously about money."

Money seems to be the motivation behind many of the media's latest moves, but is it worth it? Not to everyone.

"The anticipation would be so much higher," Morgan said. "There's nothing to wait for anymore. Before, if you missed it, you probably wouldn't see it for a while. Now, if you missed it, it's ok; here it is on DVD."

Despite Morgan's lament, it seems that some people really enjoy this convenience and are just as happy to not put their Blockbuster nights on hold.



Films like "Ray" are transitioning to video more quickly than ever.



# ‘Cribs’ Collection Makes Overnight Celebrities

BY ROBIN DAVIS  
Metro Editor

Sparkling chandeliers, hand beaded pillows and gold toilets are a few of the things you might see when you tune into any given episode of MTV’s “Cribs.” Now, thanks to a new line of home décor inspired by the series, you too can live “like a star.”

The new MTV Cribs Home Furnishing Collection, sold exclusively at JC Penny, is split into three sections, the bedding, the necessities and the spice. The bedding collection has four different themes, two for men and two for women. Amber and Gold are the feminine themes and Titanium and Platinum are the masculine themes.

Each of the themes brings their own special flavor to the collection. Amber is the exotic theme, with animal prints and an East Indian undertone. The Gold theme is more of the traditional female pink, with a splash of gold. Platinum goes for a more business like and sophisticated look, evidenced by the assortment of black, gray and white. Titanium is a simplistic design of green, white and black stripes.

The rest of the collection consists of accessories that match each of the themes, including zebra print rugs, table chandelier lamps, window treatments and silk accent pillows. Although the collection goes for a unique look, not everyone is impressed.

“It looks typical,” junior interior design major Nicole Massop said. “If it’s going to be MTV-inspired, it should be. It’s things I’ve seen already; nothing too out of the ordinary.”

Massop went on to say that she wouldn’t buy from the collection.

“You could easily go to the 99 cent store, if they sold comforters, and you could jazz it up, make it your own style,” she said. “This is trying to replicate someone else’s style.”

Even though the collection distinctly copies the styles of celebrities that are seen on MTV Cribs such as Missy Elliot, Beyonce and Shaquille O’Neal, it boasts “create your own lifestyle.”

Massop is not the only one that thinks buying the collection is just playing copycat. Allison McDaniel, a sophomore psychology major shared that sentiment.

“I wouldn’t exactly want anyone else with my same room design and stuff,” she said. “Some people look up to celebrities. Maybe this is their way of bringing a little of the celebrity life into their own daily existence. I still think it’s corny.”

The prices in the collection range from \$29.99 to \$189.99 — another reason why



JCPenney’s recently began stocking a furniture line based on the hit MTV show “Cribs.” The prices of the MTV “Cribs” collection range from \$29.99 to \$189.99.

some choose to pass on it.

“I think they are nice colors, but too expensive for my pockets,” said freshman hospitality management major Christina Bute. “I think it’s a waste of money, because the sheets that MTV [makes] are way too overpriced.”

Fatima Caldwell, sophomore biology major, admits that she thinks the collection is nice, but would not purchase unless her parents decided to foot the bill.

“A lot of the things I see are similar to things I have purchased for my room or seen at Target, which look just as nice for a fraction of the price,” she said. “I think that their

target audience and the price ranges don’t quite even out.”

Although this collection is geared towards “Cribs” watchers of all ages, Fallon Loving, a sophomore interior design major, said she believes it’s more for a younger set.

“It seemed like it was more geared towards a high school age group,” Loving said. “I think it’s fine if you’re around that age group and you see MTV “Cribs” and you like it. I think it’s a fad.”

The MTV label will probably help this fad do well. The home furnishing collection is now in JC Penny’s stores for purchase, as well as on their website.

# Diverse Student Body Lacks Diverse Entertainment

BY COURTNEY MAYE  
Contributing Writer

A typical weekend for most students involves going out to a house party or just chilling at somebody’s house.

For instance, junior political science major, Ronald Dowdy said activities such as these are usually the highlight of his Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

“D.C. is so different from home that people just kind of stick to what they know, and Howard is what we know,” Dowdy said.

Sticking to a comfort zone here at Howard is what many students do best. Unfortunately, many students fail to realize that Washington, D.C. offers an extensive history lesson and cultural experience that is priceless. This information can be used to supplement the Howard experience.

“I’ve been to most of the Smithsonian museums but I guess I’ve done that because it’s a part of my major,” Oshun Layne, a sophomore anthropology major, said.

While Layne has experienced what the District has to offer, in terms of history, by taking the initiative to do so, she said that some people are waiting for the city to come to them.

Indeed, it seems that many students attending Howard University have not broadened their horizons, in the historical context, beyond textbooks. Many have not yet experienced one of the more famous historic sites in the nation’s capital.

One of those historic sites, and one of Washington, D.C.’s most treasured tourist spots, is the National Mall. According to the National Park Services and the U.S. Department of the Interior, the open space and parklands envisioned by Pierre L’Enfant’s plan. The National Mall encompasses the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Smithsonian Institute, National Air and Space Museum and U.S. Holocaust

Museum.

Whether one’s preference is paintings, politics or stage performances, D.C. offers places such as the National Gallery of Art, White House tours, and the Shakespeare Theatre to appease one’s taste.

For instance, Nosa Ogbebor, a junior biology and chemistry major said that he enjoys classical and jazz music, and finds that the John F. Kennedy Center fits his interest.

Among the many reasons that students gave for not venturing out beyond Georgia Ave., Chinatown or their dormitories is limited means of transportation.

However, some students, like Stephanie Lewis, a senior communication sciences and disorders major, said that is no excuse.

“Metro is an excellent means of transportation,” Lewis said.

Others attributed their hectic college schedule as a factor in students not exploring the city.

“Sometimes as Howard students, our lives totally encompass the university in that we do not have time to go out and experience the city as a whole,” Ogbebor said.

Yet another reason why students said they settle for a party is that they have no knowledge of what cultural events are going on. But while students enjoy their ordinary weekends, consisting of movies, dinners and the club, there are a variety of fast and simple ways to find out where the historic and cultural happenings are.

1. The Washington City Paper offers the City List that offers a comprehensive guide to arts and entertainment.
2. The Metro System Map dedicates a side of its pamphlet to places to visit.
3. Cultural Tourism DC ([www.culturaltourismdc.org](http://www.culturaltourismdc.org)) allows you to search events that fit your taste, your schedule and even your pocket.

# Black History/Entertainment Review

## Cosby and Poitier Go ‘Uptown’

BY TIFANY WILLIAMS  
Contributing Writer

In the era of “blaxploitation,” when movies were about pimpin’, hustlin’ and prostitution, Sidney Poitier directed and starred in a movie that broke the mold.

“Uptown Saturday Night” (1974) featured Poitier, Bill Cosby and showcased their dynamite chemistry. It was the first of three buddy movies, with “Let’s Do it Again” and “A Piece of the Action” following the first.

This movie is right up the alley for any Howard University students who are looking for a new Black cinema oldie to watch. “Uptown Saturday Night” is a fresh and original, down to earth comedy that shows two of Hollywood’s prominent Black actors in a different light, a light that some Howard students may not have seen them in before.

“Uptown Saturday Night” emerged onto the screen at the end of the hype of the aforementioned “blaxploitation” movies of the 1970s, that were mainly set in the underworld, like “Super Fly” and “The Mac,” or intense crime dramas, like “Shaft.”

This movie, and the other two movies that followed, stood out because they were sophisticated comedies that showcased all the actors involved in the project. They also have a more professional feel, but still manage to reflect the realness of the urban community and everyday people.

The film brings together a cast of fabulous comedies like Richard Pryor and Flip Wilson, in addition to Cosby, and then follows that up with film legends like Harry Belafonte and Poitier.

Cosby plays Wardell Franklin, a fly, afro-sporting brother of coolness and retro style, who has the ability to fit in wherever his two feet can carry him. Poitier plays Steve Jackson, who is a nice contrast to Cosby, because he is laidback and bashful. However, he can also be an impulsive character. Their combined characteristics keep



the film hot and funny, which explains why, as the plot unfolds, viewers grow to love and root for them.

Both Franklin and Jackson are married and beginning their vacations, when the movie starts off. The two sneak out of their houses, after dark, to enjoy a night of upscale style at the hottest speak-easy in the city, Madam Zenobia’s. While there, the place gets robbed and Jackson’s golden lottery ticket worth \$50,000 is taken.

Jackson and Franklin become even funnier when their money is tampered with. The movie takes off on an unexpected, but colorful ride, putting them in the middle of uneasy situations. The duo becomes involved with standout characters, like Richard Pryor’s “Sharp Eye Washington,” a private detective, and Belafonte’s pimp-like Godfather representation.

Poitier and Cosby have played upon the identical superhero and super dad characters. Cosby’s performance in this project is nothing like Heathcliff Huxtable of “The Cosby Show” in the 1980s. For Poitier, his character does not resemble his heroic political characters of the mid 1960s. Both men in the movie are two hard working everyday men who look like ordinary people you see strutting down the street. **Grade: A**

## Dance Company Reflects Justice

BY JANA HOMES  
Asst. Life & Style Editor

Brilliant swirls of color set to a backdrop of diverse sounds is what may stand out most about Washington Reflections Dance Company’s Saturday, Feb. 12 performance at Dance Place.

But there was more to the story than the sights and sounds of the evening.

The show, entitled “Reflections of Justice” was done to highlight, through dance, portions of the Civil Rights Movement, which is a rather appropriate theme for a performance during Black History Month.

There were pieces that had clear and strong connections to the events of the movement and were able to depict them in a visually as well as emotionally stirring fashion.

Among them was “Rosa,” choreographed by Billy Wilson, which gave the most poignant reflection of the Civil Rights movement and was comprised of only two dancers.

Kathleen Weitz took the role of a seated White woman, in plain clothes, more concerned with her newspaper than the occurrences around her.

In direct contrast to this, Pascha Barnwell took on the role that seemed to represent esteemed Civil Rights symbol, Rosa Parks.

As the Parks figure makes her entrance clad in a flowing red costume, and takes the seat next to her White counterpart, Roberta Flack’s “I Told Jesus,” flares up in the background.

She rises from her seat, and proceeds to deliver a beautiful solo performance full of passion and vigor.

At the conclusion of her outburst, she returns to her chair, flamboyantly and unapologetically swinging her flared skirt, which brushes her companion in a move that seems to symbolize confidence and defiance.

Another dance that represented a vivid yet tragic portion of the Civil Rights movement

was “Spoken Word,” by Derrick Spear, which dealt with the protests and marches and the violence that occurred as a result.

The entire 10-member company, garbed in 1950s style dresses for women and simple shirts and slacks for the men, delivered the number with enthusiasm.

The performance kept pace with both the quick tempo of Avro Part’s classical work and Kelis’ slower song as well as kept in theme with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech.

Also performed was a dance done to and called “Beyond Two” by Thaddeus Davis, and delivered by Kutia Jawara and Julian Lloyd, who swung, flipped, drug and lifted each other in an impressive showing.

The music of Kirk Franklin, Melba Moore and Michelle Williams was featured in a section called “Brilliant, Oh Mercy,” which blended the such dance styles as ballet, praise dancing and salsa and was done by Romnee Hayes, Jawara, Rommie Leigh and Spear.

Other dances included one named after and performed to Jimmie Hendrix’s “Purple Haze,” performed by Hayes and Spear, and “A Moment of Reality,” featuring the entire company, both choreographed by Davis.

The final members of the company are Salvador Alyubo, Rashan Jackson, Kimberly Johnson and Antonio Hudnell.

The company was founded in 2003 and is directed by Fabian Barnes of the Dance Institute of Washington, which he founded in 1987.

Dean Anderson, associate artistic director, and Miriana Lausic, school director, also work with Reflections. **Grade: A**



# Alzheimer's Disease Strikes Slowly

BY BIANCA ROBERSON  
Contributing Writer

An iron in the oven. A wristwatch in the freezer. These misplaced items may seem uncommon to some. However, this uncommon fit is may be a symptom of Alzheimer's, the disease silently plaguing African-Americans.

According to the Alzheimer's Association (AA), this brain-diminishing disease is striking more African-Americans over the age of 50, leaving them and their families defenseless. This disease, which strikes unexpectedly, corrupts the brain and robs victims of one of the most precious items in life — memory, the time capsule that captures and retains some of the most cherished items in a way that photographs and videos cannot.

A new study conducted by the AA reveals that Alzheimer's is quickly becoming a familiar fate for more and more African-Americans. Research concludes that Alzheimer's is 14 to 100 percent more prevalent in African-Americans than in their non-Latino Caucasian counterparts. Although there are no specific

symptoms or cures, according to the AA, the problem can be linked to type 2 diabetes and hypertension, which are common vascular diseases found in African-Americans.

Beyond evident medical risks, researchers believe there are other social and economic reasons Blacks may be more prone to this disease. With limited access to health care, Blacks of a lower socio-economic status are unable to receive care that could detect the disease in its earlier stages, rather than once it has severely progressed. This same lack of adequate health-care also prevents African-Americans from receiving the best treatment once a diagnosis is made.

"There should be more programs and health centers geared toward educating low-income families and resources should be allocated specifically to provide them with health care," said Jaizelle Rome, a junior chemical engineer and biology major.

While there are many who go uninformed, there are some students who, unfortunately, know all too well about the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

"Because my great-grandmother and grandmother suffered from Alzheimer's and other family members have hypertension, I think that it is important that I maintain a healthy lifestyle and that I receive yearly check-ups," Adrienne Dukes, a junior marketing major, said. Dukes is correct in this belief, as research also concludes that 44 percent of first-degree relatives of African-American patients are at risk for the disease.

Having had a grandmother suffer from this disease as well, Shannon Ford, a junior marketing major, said she knows first hand of the effects of Alzheimer's.

"My grandmother was a lively individual with a lot of personality," she said. "And having to watch her become bedridden and delusional was such a hard process for both my family and I. She was such a different person."

Ford is not the only student to be affected by the disease's impact on a family member.

"My grandfather suffered from the disease and the disease left us all feeling helpless," said senior finance major Amber

Williams.

Many families experience this because there is little that can be done for patients. However, treatment for the disease begins with support groups and preparation.

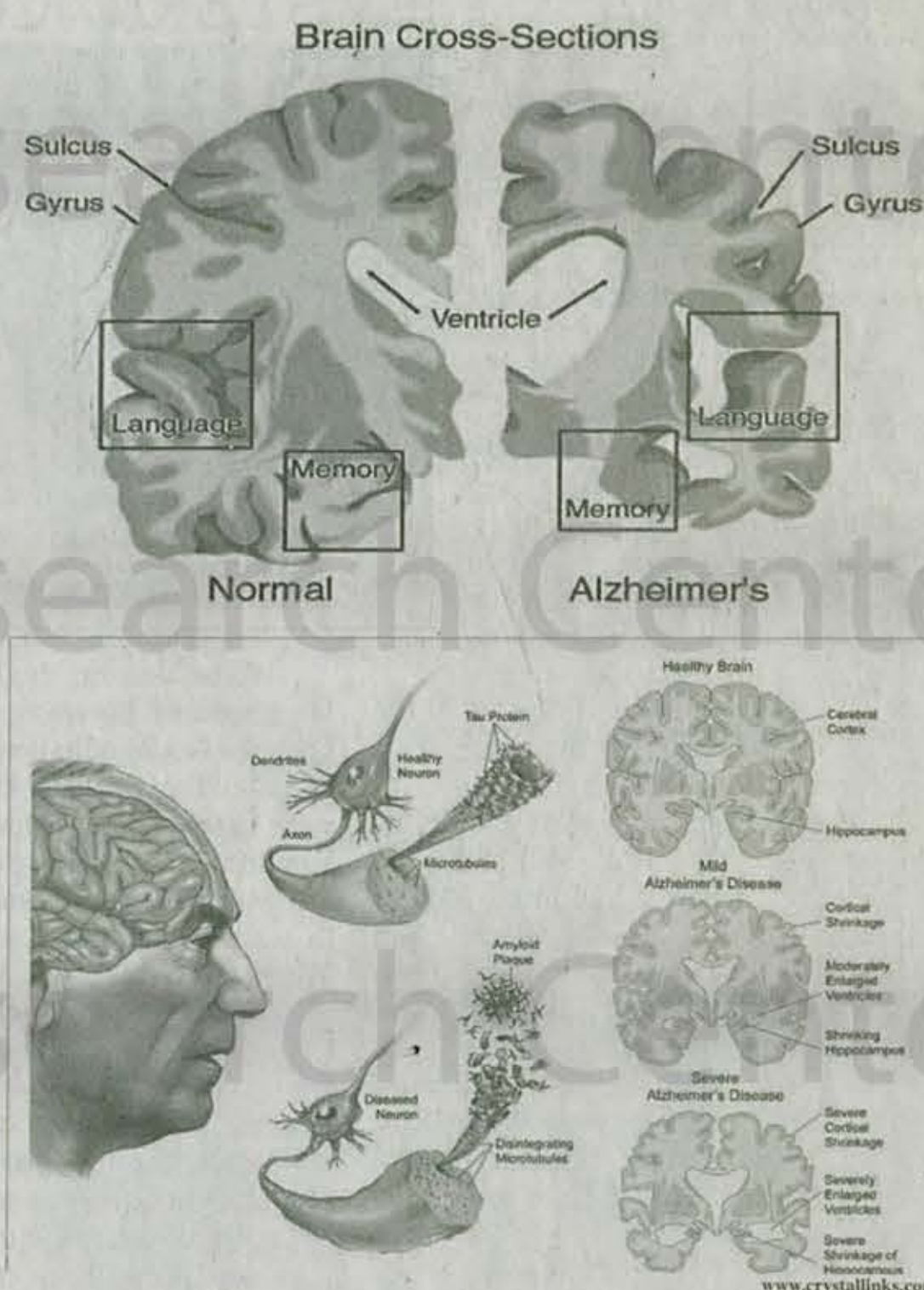
"It's a scary prospect, but it's inevitable," said Ford on being a member of the "at-risk" group for the medical issue. "There is not much to be done except to be prepared."

Miriam Brewer, an associate director of diversity and inclusion at Washington, D.C.'s Alzheimer's Association agreed.

"Early detection is the key to dealing with this disease," she said.

Brewer also suggests that more and more African-Americans should become more aware of the signs of Alzheimer's so things, such as forgetfulness of common knowledge, won't be simply attributed to old age as they often are and a diagnoses will not be prolonged.

To find out more information about Alzheimer's disease, contact the local Alzheimer's Association at 202-393-7737 or visit [www.alz-nca.org](http://www.alz-nca.org).



## And the winner is...

Between the telecast and the pre-show, 107 awards were given out during the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Grammy Awards. The following were some of the big winners:

### Record Of The Year

"Here We Go Again" by Ray Charles & Norah Jones

### Album Of The Year

"Genius Loves Company" by Ray Charles & Various Artists

### Best New Artist

Maroon5

### Best Female R&B Vocal Performance

"If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys

### Best Male R&B Vocal Performance

"Call My Name" by Prince

### Best R&B Song

"You Don't Know My Name" by songwriters Alicia Keys, Harold Lilly & Kanye West (Alicia Keys)

### Best R&B Album

"The Diary Of Alicia Keys" by Alicia Keys

### Best Contemporary R&B Album

"Confessions" by Usher

### Best Rap/Sung Collaboration

"Yeah!" by Usher Featuring Lil Jon & Ludacris

### Best Rap Song

"Jesus Walks" by songwriters Miri Ben Ari, C. Smith & Kanye West, songwriters (Kanye West)

### Best Rap Album

The College Dropout by Kanye West

### Best Gospel Performance

"Heaven Help Us All" by Ray Charles & Gladys Knight

### Best Country Album

"Van Lear Rose" by Loretta Lynn

### Best Rock Album

"American Idiot" by Green Day

### Best Alternative Music Album

"A Ghost Is Born" by Wilco

Source: [www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com)

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# NBA All-Star Weekend in Denver Exciting for Students

BY COURTNEY EILAND &  
BRADLEY WETE

Asst. Sports Editor & Contributing Writer

Now that the Super Bowl hype has died down, the spotlight is on the NBA's All-Star Weekend. The main objective of the NBA All-Star Weekend is to showcase an athlete's talents ranging from three-point shooting, exhilarating slam-dunks and overall fundamental skills.

It resembles a talent show of sorts, with the NBA's best athletes at every position entertaining the audience with their individual flair. However, it has also been considered an exhibition game for members selected as All-Stars and for participants in the Rookie Challenge to showcase their phenomenal talents as a team.

The weekend will start on Friday night with the Got Milk? Rookie Challenge where budding rookies Dwight Howard, Emeka Okafor, Ben Gordon, Luol Deng, Tony Allen, Devin Harris, Andre Iguodala, Josh Smith and Beno Udrih will face the surging sophomores consisting of LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Dwyane Wade, Kirk Hinrich, Chris Bosh, Udonis Haslem, Josh Howard, Kyle Korver and Luke Ridnour.

"In the Rookie Challenge, I see LeBron and Carmelo doing their thing and crushing the rookies," said sophomore marketing major Brandon Daniels.

"With the Rookie Challenge, I feel that LeBron should be more focused on the actual All-Star game," said sophomore acting major Edward Drew. "He needs to stay competitive. I think with the rookie game it's like 'Let's see who can throw the most alley-oops.' But overall, I'm just looking forward to the actual All-Star Game."

## EASTERN CONFERENCE ALL STARS



Wade was in high spirits after learning that he was going to play in both the Rookie Challenge and All-Star game. "I'm thrilled, I'm excited, I'm very happy," said Wade to the Miami Herald. "Thanks, big fella (Shaq). I love you. This is just one step hopefully in what we're trying to build here in Miami."

NBA All-Star Weekend will continue Saturday night in the slam dunk contest will take place.

"My favorite part of the whole weekend is the dunk contest, but they need to go back to the good dunkers like Vince Carter and Jason Richardson," said sophomore physical therapy major Kristin Kimble.

Daniels agreed saying, "The dunk contest is the best event. They need the real dunkers like Vince, J-Rich (Jason Richardson), Kobe, and T-Mac (Tracy McGrady). If they had those four,

the dunk contest would be crazy."

Also on Saturday night, the three-point challenge will take place, which includes some of the greatest three-point shooters in the league. Denver Nuggets' Voshon Lenard will be looking to defend his title against Joe Johnson, Kyle Korver, Vladimir Radmanovic, Quentin Richardson and his toughest competitor, Ray Allen.

up with the 54th NBA All-Star game, which will be played on Sunday night at 8 p.m.

Many sports fanatics believe this year's All-Star Game will be a lot more balanced than in years past. Usually the West has more skilled big men, but with the emergence of Jermaine O'Neal and new east coast big man Shaquille

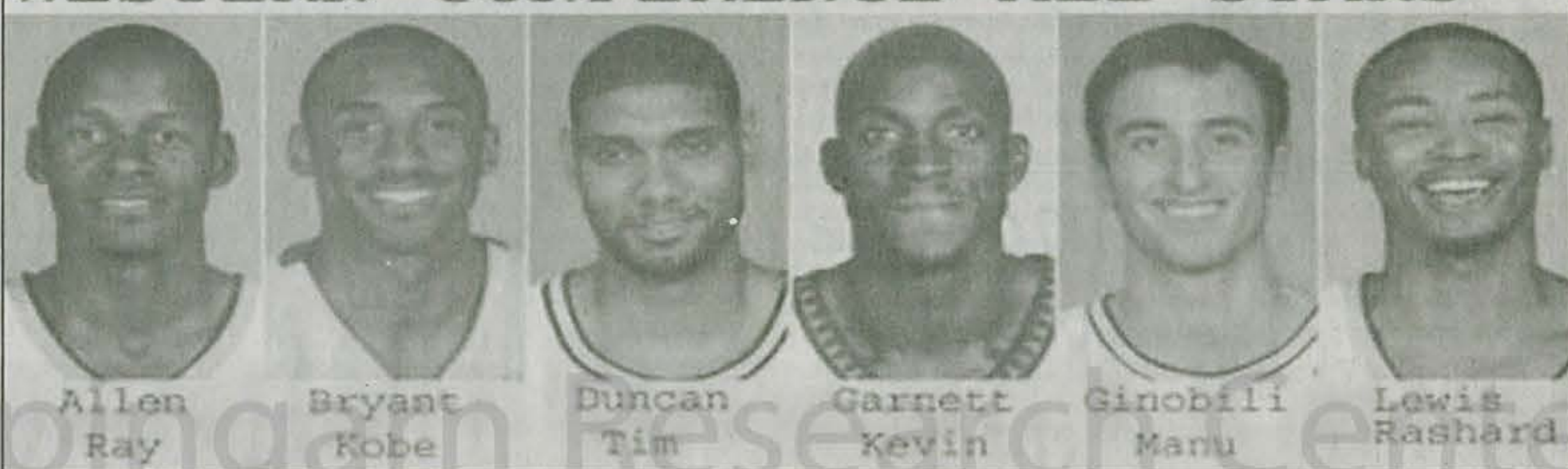
O'Neal on the team, they will prove to be competition for the West's seven foot front line of Kevin Garnett, Tim Duncan, and the seven foot five inch Yao Ming.

"The All-Star teams are really good this year," said sophomore international business major James Carpenter. "With Shaq in the East this year and Wade playing in the All-Star game, it's gonna be something to look forward to."

As there are people that are content with the selected All-Star teams, there are also those that feel that some players should and should not have been selected. Sophomore mechanical engineering major Steve A. Mason is among them, "Orlando Magic guard Steve Francis should have made the East team," said Mason. "I would have picked him over Boston Celtics guard Paul Pierce. The Magic are having a much better season than the Celtics."

All events in the NBA All-Star Weekend will be broadcast live exclusively on TNT beginning Friday night.

## WESTERN CONFERENCE ALL STARS



All photos courtesy of AP

## Marino Honored in 2005 NFL Hall of Fame

BY ELLIOTT JONES

Contributing Writer

The NFL announced its Hall of Fame class of 2005 last Saturday just prior to the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla.

Dan Marino was inducted in his first year of eligibility, with fellow quarterbacks Steve Young and Benny Friedman and running back Fritz Pollard.

It came as little surprise that the man with the most passing yards, touchdowns and completions in NFL history would enter the Hall of Fame on his first try. NFL rules require players and coaches to wait a minimum of five years before they are considered eligible to be inducted into the Hall.

Shortly after the announcement, a humble Marino gave thanks to all who helped him throughout his career.

"What we all play for is the feeling that fans love you," Marino said, according to The Miami Herald. "To Dolphins fans, thank you so much for supporting me for 17 years."

Marino gave his fans plenty of reasons to support him over the years, spending his entire career with the Miami Dolphins.

During that time, Marino passed for 361 yards, 420 touchdowns and completed 4,967 passes on 8,358 attempts, all NFL records.

He retired with 21 league records in all, most notably the most seasons with at least 3,000 passing yards, most games with 300 passing yards or more, and most passing yards in a single season with 5,084 in 1984.

He previously held the single-season mark for touchdown passes with 48 until Colts quarterback Peyton Manning surpassed it this season.

Marino also thanked his first NFL head coach, the legendary Don Shula for teaching him the game and giving him a chance to succeed.

"My rookie year, he had me call all the plays in practice and during exhibition games," Marino told The Miami Herald. "That forced me to study the playbook and know the plays and the defenses. It prepared me to get into games, which I did the fifth game of my rookie season. He's the greatest



AP Photo: Amy Saneetta

Dan Marino will be inducted into the 2005 NFL Hall of Fame along with Steve Young, Benny Friedman and Fritz Pollard.

coach in football history and he taught me as a young man."

University of Pittsburgh before being chosen 27th overall by the Dolphins in

the 1983 NFL Draft. Marino's statistics cement his place among the greatest the NFL has ever seen. However, Marino's greatness will always be questioned due to the fact that he never won a Super Bowl. Under his leadership, the Dolphins reached the Super Bowl only once, his second pro season, losing to the San Francisco 49ers 38-16.

"I would rank Dan Marino at number five," said Tokunbo Obi, a senior legal communications major, when asked where he placed Marino among the all-time greatest quarterbacks. "If he had won a Super Bowl it would have raised him up a couple of notches," Obi added.

Marino was born and raised in Pittsburgh. According to miamidolphins.com, he attended Central Catholic HS where he lettered in football and baseball.

He went on to star at the University of Pittsburgh before being chosen 27th overall by the Dolphins in

the 1983 NFL Draft.

Steve Young joined Marino as a first-ballot Hall of Famer in the class of 2005. Young was a two-time NFL MVP and four-time All-Pro selection.

His claim to fame was in Super Bowl XXIX in which he turned in a signature performance, throwing for a Super Bowl record six touchdowns and earning MVP honors en route to his 49ers, defeating the San Diego Chargers 49-26.

Young's career seems more remarkable considering it was his job to replace Joe Montana in San Francisco.

Friedman and Pollard were two selections from the early era of the NFL, playing from the league's inception in 1920 into the 1930s. Friedman was one of the first great passers to play the quarterback position, according to profootballhof.com.

Pollard was one of two Black players in the newly created American Professional Football Association, which later became the NFL.

He was a member of the first-ever NFL champions, the Akron Pros, and also became the first Black coach in NFL history in 1921 when he served as player-coach for the Pros.

## North Carolina Struggles for a Return to Glory

BY ALFONS PRINCE

Contributing Writer

North Carolina has produced great pros such as Michael Jordan, Sam Perkins, Jerry Stackhouse, Vince Carter and many more.

North Carolina was also home to arguably college basketball's greatest coach, Dean Smith. Coach Smith has the most wins of any college coach with 879 wins. However, the last couple of seasons have not been a storybook for the Tar Heels.

Last year's team gave up the second-highest field goal percentage (.444) in the conference. Their second year under Roy Williams was supposed to change all that.

Coming into this season, the University of North Carolina had lots of expectations. Being ranked number one in the Sports Illustrated Preseason Poll and number four in the ESPN poll will do that to a team.

With four returning starters, led by Rashad McCants, who averages 20.0

points per game, and a highly touted freshman, Marvin Williams, the Tar Heels looked ready for a run at being undefeated. Their schedule would say otherwise being that they play in the ACC, the toughest conference in the nation.

On Nov. 19, the Tar Heels' dreams of an undefeated season went by the wayside as they suffered a loss during their first game. Without their starting point guard, Raymond Felton, who was suspended for playing in a non-sanctioned summer league game, the Tar Heels lost to Santa Clara.

After this game, the Tar Heels reeled off 14 straight wins, beating such teams in the process like number five ranked Kentucky, number 21 ranked Maryland and number eight ranked Georgia Tech.

However, North Carolina ran into a buzz saw on Jan. 15. This buzz saw was Wake Forest, who defeated the Tar Heels, 95-82.

After the Wake Forest game, the next big test for North Carolina was their most hated rival, Duke.

This game was not only important for the rivalry but also for the run for the ACC title. North Carolina reeled off five straight blowout wins after that loss to Wake Forest. Duke was one game behind North Carolina coming into the game with a couple more tough games ahead. Duke needed to win on their home court while North Carolina needed a big statement game to say that they are ready for the big stage.

The game started off slowly as the score was only 8-2 Duke with 15:36 left in the first half. This was a combination of both sloppy offense and good defense by both teams. North Carolina then woke up and responded with a 13-2 run that put them in the lead 15-12 with 11:56 left in the first half.

The game went back and forth until Duke went on an 8-0 run to give them their largest lead of 33-22 with 1:36 left in the first half. North Carolina came right through with their own 7-3 run to leave the score 36-29 at halftime.

The first half showed the tenacity of Duke's defense, as North Carolina did

not score any fast break points in the first half. This helped offset Duke's turnovers in the first half. The second half started better for North Carolina as they went on a 6-2 run to close the score to 38-35 with 15:34 left in the game.

DeMarcus Nelson, a freshman for Duke, then started to make his presence known as he scored two three-pointers to push the lead back to five.

Duke then continued to keep North Carolina at bay when J.J. Reddick hit a step back three to push the lead to 67-58 with 4:46 left in the game. North Carolina then showed the heart of a number two team. They fought back with a 12-4 run that left them down by one, 71-70 with 18.2 seconds left in the game, with the ball.

North Carolina then tried to run a play for Rashad McCants, however J.J. Reddick played exceptional defense on McCants, which caused Felton to look for other options. Felton chose to give the ball to David Noel, who then promptly dribbled the ball off his foot.

See CAROLINA, Sports B5



Even though the TarHeels are struggling, they are ranked No. 2 in the nation.



# Karl Malone Ends His Delivery Route to NBA

BY COURTNEY EILAND  
Asst. Sports Editor

After a career spanning 19 years in the NBA, Karl Malone, known to many as the "Mailman," announced his retirement on Sunday in the Delta Center in Salt Lake City, Utah where he spent most of his illustrious career.

"The reason we're here is for me to announce my retirement and make it official. I don't know but one way to do it and when I said that I retired from basketball playing; I have retired. You will not see me playing again and that is a promise. Seen that, didn't like that, won't do that," stated 41-year-old Malone at his press conference.

Malone was drafted 13th overall in the 1985 NBA Draft by the Utah Jazz. Malone spent 18 seasons teamed up alongside former teammate John Stockton forming one of the greatest duos in NBA history.

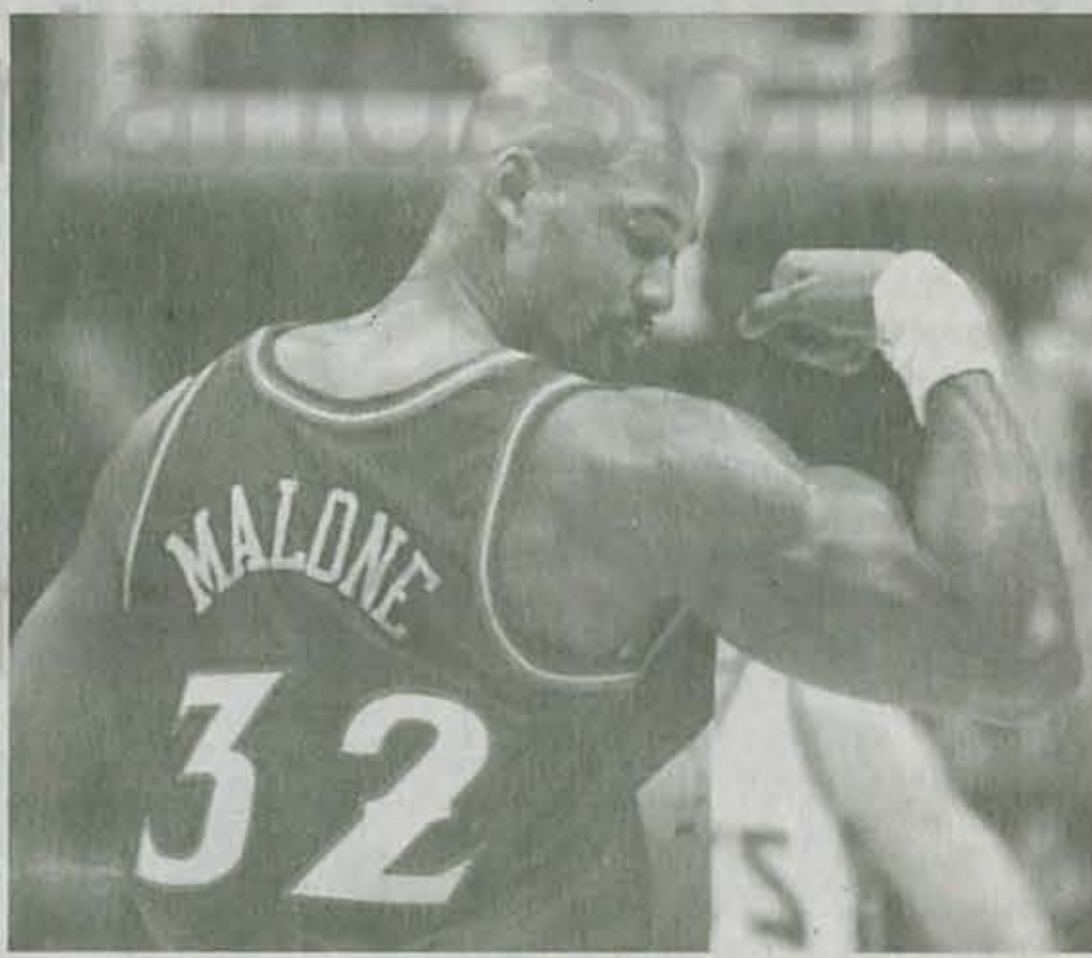
Malone made it to the NBA Finals three times, twice with the Jazz in 1997 and 1998, but was ousted both times by Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls.

"Even though he never won a championship, he had an outstanding career," Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan told ESPN.com. "He played a lot of times when he shouldn't have. He did whatever he could to try to win, and I think that kind of thing is overlooked a lot these days in the game of basketball."

In search of a NBA Championship ring, Malone signed with the Los Angeles Lakers in the summer of 2003 in order to pursue that goal.

Although Malone missed 39 games of the regular season due to a right knee injury, the Lakers had enough gas to get them to the NBA Finals where they lost to the Detroit Pistons in five games.

"We've had one year with him and everyone in the organization, from the front office staff, fellow players, coaches, everyone really enjoyed having Karl around for that year," Lakers spokesman



AP Photo-Tom Strattman

Malone ranks second in the league in scoring with 36,928 points just 1,459 points behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

John Black told ESPN.com. "He was a real addition to our team last year in helping us get to the NBA playoffs."

Entering the 2004 season, Malone became a free agent but stated that if he was to return to playing basketball, he would only return as a Laker. However, after losing key components to the team such as former coach Phil Jackson and former Laker center Shaquille O'Neal, Malone decided to rethink his decision.

"When I went to L.A., I was planning on playing there for two years with the team we had intact. When things went their ways that they went, I needed to make a decision myself personally. I went there with the intention that Shaq was going to be there for a couple years and he wasn't," Malone told ABC Sports.

Malone even flirted with the idea of joining the San Antonio Spurs where he admitted that playing alongside forward Tim Duncan would have been a perfect fit for him.

"I could see me fitting in there and playing alongside Tim (Duncan). When I flew there (to San Antonio), I flew there with really an open mind to say,

I needed a spark, I needed a desire to play," Malone told ABC Sports. "When I lost my mom (last year), I lost about 50 to 60 percent of my mental capacity to play the game basketball. I just didn't want to lead anybody on. Today is my mom's birthday, so I just thought it was a great opportunity to do it."

Malone will end his career as an eleven-time All-NBA First Team selection, a fourteen-time NBA All-Star, a two-time League MVP in 1997 and 1999, and a member of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History.

Malone was also among one of the NBA greats who made up the 1992 Dream Team at the Barcelona Olympics winning an Olympic Gold Medal.

Malone ranks second in the league in scoring with 36,928 points just 1,459 points behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. He also ranks second in the league in minutes played with 54,852 and sixth in rebounding with 14,968.

At the conclusion of his 19-year career, Malone has played in 1,476 games while averaging 25 points per game, 10.1 rebounds per game and 3.3 assists per game.

# WNBA Adds Its 14th Expansion Team to League

BY COURTNEY EILAND & TIFFANY KNIGHT  
Asst. Sports Editor & Contributing Writer

Last Tuesday, NBA Commissioner David Stern announced that the city of Chicago had been awarded a WNBA team that will be ready for action in the 2006 season.

The new team in Chicago will be the first franchise to join the WNBA since Nov. 13, 2002. This birth of a new WNBA team in Chicago has brought a lot of excitement to a city that is rich in athletic tradition and talent.

"We are pleased to bring the WNBA to the city of Chicago, home of some of the most passionate basketball fans in the world," Commissioner Stern told WNBA.com. "As the WNBA enters its ninth year, the prospects for its future have never been brighter which is why it is attracting independent entrepreneurs like Michael Alter to invest in the league's expansion."

The new team, which will be named at a later date, will be primarily owned by Chicago businessman Michael Alter.

Alter established himself in Chicago as one of the top 10 commercial real estate developers in the nation, and is president of The Alter Group.

Fifteen to 20 outside leading investors in Chicago are planning to assist Alter with his new endeavor. This will be the second WNBA team after the Connecticut Sun to be independently owned and operated.

"It's been incredibly exciting for me to invest my time and resources into the launch of Chicago's WNBA team because I



Getty Images-Ramly Belice (NBAE)

The 14th WNBA team to be named at a later date, will tip off their first game at the University Illinois-Chicago Pavilion.

am strongly committed to bringing to Chicago what I believe will be far more than just a great sports franchise," Alter told WNBA.com.

Women's professional basketball has not been a stranger to Chicago. The Chicago Hustle was one of the original teams in the Women's Professional Basketball League, which played their games on the DePaul campus; however, the WBL ended in 1981.

The Chicago Condors only played for half a season before the ABL ended seven years later in 1988.

"We're going to benefit from all the efforts they put in in the past," Alter told ESPN.com. "And having the NBA behind this league makes it so different than the previous teams."

Although this new team has not yet selected their players, there are already plans to expand the draft in November or December, and there will be a

salary cap to sign free agents.

Many WNBA players have expressed their excitement in adding a new franchise in the city of Chicago.

"This is an amazing time," said Indiana Fever forward and Chicago native Tamika Catchings.

"I remember back when I was going to school here, I would have never have thought I'd have the opportunity to come here and play in Chicago in front of my family and my friends."

The new team is scheduled to tip off their first game in 2006 at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion. The UIC-Chicago Pavilion, home of the UIC Flames, can seat 7,500 basketball fans.

The WNBA has scheduled to broadcast their first game of the season on May 21, 2005 on ABC.

# Miller Announces Retirement from NBA

BY JONATHAN DAVIS  
Contributing Writer

After days of speculation, Indiana Pacers guard Reggie Miller made a clear-cut decision about his future with the Indiana Pacers.

The 18-year veteran out of UCLA said on Friday after the Pacers suffered a 91-83 loss to the Houston Rockets at Conoco Fieldhouse he will retire at the end of the season.

As he said to reporters after the game, "I just believe it's time. I've always said to you that when I felt this organization, this franchise, the players were able to take the next step, I think it would be time for me to move on. I really think the younger players Fred (Jones), Stephen (Jackson), I think these are able, willing bodies to carry this franchise on."

Miller who is averaging 11.8 ppg this season, the second lowest point total since his rookie year in 1987, originally announced his decision to retire on Thursday to his older sister, Cheryl Miller an NBA sideline reporter and analyst.

He also spoke to Pacers President and CEO Donnie Walsh and Head Coach Rick Carlisle on Thursday to inform them about his decision before it went public.

Miller did not want to make his announcement until the end of the season, but a TNT report from the prior week prompted the media in Indianapolis to ask questions about Miller's future with the Pacers.

Carlisle mentioned Miller's decision to the team just before their morning shootaround.

"This is a decision that puts us 30- some games until (the end) of one of the great careers that we've ever seen in this league, not to mention this franchise," he said, according to the Pacers' website, www.pacers.com.

When the Pacers drafted him with the No. 11 pick in the 1987 NBA Draft, a lot of fans objected to the decision because they had wanted the Pacers to take Indiana University star Steve Alford.

Eighteen years later, the Indianapolis fans are grateful of the decision that Walsh made in drafting the UCLA shooting guard.

When Miller joined the Pacers in 1987 according to nba.com, they had only two play-off appearances to their credit in 11 years in the NBA.

When he retires at the end of this season, he will leave a team that has helped lead to the postseason 14 times in the last 15 years, which includes five Eastern Conference Finals appearances and an appearance in the NBA Finals (2000).

In his lone appearance in the NBA Finals against the eventual NBA Champions, the Los Angeles Lakers, Miller averaged 24.3 points per game in six games. Indiana lost the series 4-2.

In his 18 years with the Pacers, Miller has had a number of individual accomplishments. He ranks as the No. 1 all-time leader in three-pointers made, currently at 2,506 and attempted at 6,321.

Within the Pacers franchise, Miller is also the all-time leader in scoring and assists and last year he surpassed current TNT NBA Analyst Charles Barkley for 14th place on the NBA's all-time scoring list with 24,305 points.

He also made over 100 three-point field goals in a season last year, which was an NBA record.

He was a five time all-star (1990, 1995, 1996, 1998 and 2000) and became the first Pacer in 1995 to start in an NBA All-Star Game.

Miller made the All-NBA Third Team three times (1994-95, 1995-96 and 1997-98),

was the leading scorer (17.1 ppg) and was a tri-captain on the gold medal-winning U.S. Basketball Team at the 1994 World Basketball Championship in Toronto.

Miller was also a member of the gold-medal winning U.S. Olympic Basketball "Dream Team II" at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Miller was also a part of the U.S. Basketball Team that played in the 2002 World Basketball Championships in Indianapolis.

Miller's rise as one of the best two guards in the league really started in the 1994 Eastern Conference Finals against the New York Knicks in Madison Square Garden, when he, according to his biography on nba.com, scored 25 points in the fourth quarter, while exchanging words with movie director Spike Lee, who sat courtside.

Former Knicks center Patrick Ewing recalls that moment vividly, but said on Friday that that moment does not compare to the one that



AP Photo/Jeff Chu

happened a year later.

The current Rockets assistant coach, according to an article from foxsports.com, remembers when Miller scored eight points in 8.9 seconds, hitting two three-pointers and, in the process, turning a six-point deficit into a 107-105 Pacers victory over the Knicks in Game One of the Eastern Conference Semifinals.

"He's a guy that when I played against him I wanted to smack him," Ewing said, according to the Foxsports.com article. "But, all I can do is take my hat off to him."

His work ethic and greatness in big moments have earned praise from not just the members of the front office, coaches and opponents, but from his teammates as well.

"He's had an amazing career," Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal said, according to nba.com. O'Neal, Miller's teammate since 2001, also said, "If he does retire, we're going to lose a great leader. I've got to pick it up and try to walk in his footsteps."

With the Pacers, whom many considered a championship contender, coming into the season, having suffered several injuries, which includes the broken hand that Miller suffered forcing him to miss the first 16 games of this year and the long suspension of three key starters, O'Neal, Jackson and forward Ron Artest as a result of an altercation with the Pistons fans on Nov. 19, the team is now two games under .500 (23-25), fighting to make the playoffs.

"Now that we know exactly what's going on, hopefully all of us will pour our hearts out for him and leave it all out on the floor for him," Pacers guard Fred Jones told nba.com.

# NC Powerhouse Undergoes Changes

CAROLINA, from Sports B4

allowing Duke to win the thriller at home.

Duke forced the Tar Heels to play their way, which was a half-court game. North Carolina had only one transition basket the entire game. This was because Duke forced North Carolina into 23 turnovers and made 21 of 22 free throws. This helped Duke offset the great performance of Tar Heels center Sean May.

May had single-handily kept the Tar Heels in the game with 23 points and 18 rebounds. The Tar Heels' other leading scorer Jawad Williams was held to two points on 1-6 shooting, while McCants only had 11 points on

3-13 shooting.

For the Blue Devils, their usual three of Reddick, Daniel Ewing, and Shelden Williams combined for 44 of Duke's 71 points. However it was the added bonus of reserve DeMarcus Nelson's 16 points that helped push Duke over North Carolina and keep them there.

Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski said, "It was obvious that DeMarcus just played at a level, or even a couple of levels, higher than he's played. We really needed that. To win a game like this, at times you need something that's different from what you normally do. DeMarcus did that."

Not everyone shared Coach

Krzyzewski's enthusiasm. Jasmine Thompson, a senior health management major from Durham, N.C. said, "Being from Durham, North Carolina, the rivalry has always been huge. I was excited to watch the game on TV but I was disappointed that North Carolina lost."

These two teams are scheduled to play one more time on March 6 at North Carolina with a number one seed in the NCAA Tournament on the line. There is no doubt that the Tar Heels will fight tooth and nail to avenge the loss they suffered at the hands of Duke. The rivalry will no doubt begin to gain more steam as North Carolina hopes to return to glory.



# Perceptions...

## Black Actors Make History, Kill Negative Stereotypes



Denzel Washington won an Oscar for his role in *Training Day*.



Halle Berry was the first African American woman to win an Oscar for her role in *Monsters Ball*.



Don Cheadle received an Oscar nomination for his performance in *Hotel Rwanda*.

BY CARYN J. GRANT  
Contributing Writer

In the past, solid, racist barriers permitted Blacks from receiving Oscars, or even being screened for roles other than maids, drivers or any other form of servitude. Time, a blessed treasure, has changed this fact. In 2005, history was made with this year's Oscars Awards having the most African-Americans ever nominated for five awards in one year.

Jamie Foxx made history alone with two nominations for his roles in "Ray" (Best Lead Actor) and "Collateral" (Best Supporting Actor). This accomplishment makes him the first Black performer to join the exclusive list of actors that have received two Academy Award nominations in the same year.

Morgan Freeman also received a Best Supporting Actor nomination for "Million Dollar Baby," and Don Cheadle and Sophie Okonedo each were recognized for their roles in "Hotel Rwanda" with Best Lead Actor and Best Supporting Actress nominations.

This year's outcome could possibly outshine the 2002 ceremony's awarding of both top acting awards to Halle Berry, the first African-American woman to win in the category of Best Lead Actress, and Denzel Washington.

"I am ecstatic that [Black actors] are finally being recognized," said freshman acting major Cinnamon Tyler. "But I'm disappointed that it took so long for this to happen."

"It's a beautiful thing, because we've ridden on the back for such a long time," senior theater arts/acting major Kofi Owusu said. "It's great that some [Black actors] are starting to get recognized. I just hope it's not a fad."

"Some hailed the Washington-Berry victories as the beginning of a new era, but it was more clearly the end of an old one: Hollywood's long history of indifference to Black talent is clearly over," said critic Robert Ebert following 2002's ceremony. "But it is important to acknowledge that Washington and Berry won their Oscars because they deserved them, not because of symbolism or scorekeeping. And that

for most Black actors, the struggle for good roles continues relentlessly."

America Online's BlackVoices film critic Armond White points to the characters that this year's nominees are recognized for portraying as a breath of fresh air. "Instead of dubious taboo-busting, Foxx, Freeman, Cheadle and Okonedo created characterizations that go a long way toward securing the normalcy and integrity of Black screen portraiture," White said. "[In their respective films], Foxx, Cheadle and British-born Okonedo embody actual historical figures maneuvering through contemporary social complexities."

However, Tyler is disappointed that Black actors are only being recognized for playing Black roles. "In 'Training Day,' Denzel played a crooked cop, which is a stereotypical Black role. Jamie Foxx and Don Cheadle (who has deserved recognition in past years) are nominated when they portray African-American figures, instead of when playing soldiers like Tom Hanks."

Over 60 years ago, Hattie McDaniel became the first African-American to be nominated for an Oscar and won under the category of Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Gone With the Wind" in 1939. In the next 20 years, only four African-American actors and actresses were nominated for the prized award. In 1961, Rita Moreno won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for "West Side Story." However, it was not until two years after Moreno's victory, that Sidney Poitier made history by becoming the first African-American male to win an Oscar and the first African-American to win an award for a lead role, as he took home the Best Lead Actor statuette for "Lilies in the Field."

In the Academy Awards' 78 years of existence, only nine African-American actors and actresses have won awards for lead or supporting roles. This year's nominations show that the Academy and possibly the American public are becoming more open to African-Americans on the big screen. White said, "Their prominence in the media will afford more people the capacity to perceive Black life on the screen -- which is more important than any mere statuette."



Morgan Freeman received an Oscar nomination for his role in *Million Dollar Baby*.



Sophie Okonedo received an Oscar nomination for her role in *Hotel Rwanda*.

## Europe Warmly Receives Rice

BY CIARA FAMBLE  
Contributing Writer

Condoleezza Rice was received with welcoming arms during her first international tour as U.S. Secretary of State last week.

Over the course of the 10 day tour, Rice visited many allies including Israel, Turkey and six European capitals. Rice made speeches, held news conferences, and met with various heads of state to discuss diplomatic relations, which were at times strained during President Bush's first term.

The tour served to clear the path for President Bush, who plans to visit Europe this month. Bush's focus will be to rebuild broken alliances with allies and other international governing bodies such as the United Nations and NATO.

These international entities are viewed as vital, in the United States' efforts to rebuild Iraq and broker a peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Since the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, the Bush administration has promised to become more engaged in the Middle East, believing the lack of freedom in the region has led to the rise of Islamic radicalism.

"The President has spoken of 60 years of trying to buy stability at the expense of freedom and getting neither, and what we have gotten instead is a level of hopelessness that has produced an ideology of hatred so virulent, so thorough, that people flew airplanes into American buildings and blew up a train station in Madrid... this can't be the future of the Middle East," Rice said to reporters during her trip.

While Rice was touring Europe and the Middle East, she was forced to address an emerging crisis, when the North Korea government announced that it had nuclear weapons and was withdrawing from six nation talks to dismantle its weapons program.

"This is an unfortunate move, most especially for the people of North



During her first official trip as Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice spoke of trying to build stability in the Middle East and the North Korean crisis.

Korea," Rice said after a meeting with European Union officials.

"It is very clear that all responsible members of the international community and especially North Korea's neighbors support the international framework as a way to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue."

North Korea says a weapons program is necessary to deter an attack from the United States.

The Bush administration says it has no immediate plans to attack the Koreans, but have refused to take the threat of force off the table. The administration is still confident diplomacy can resolve the North Korean crisis.

"We are confident that the United States, with our alliance with the Republic of Korea, with our deterrent capability on the Korean Peninsula, that of course the United States and its allies can deal with any potential threat from North Korea," Rice told reporters. "But we are trying to give the North Koreans a different path."

Though Rice received good reviews for her first trip abroad, many Howard students did not follow the trip.

Junior legal communications

major Thai Barker is not keeping up with her tour because she feels Rice is not using her position to benefit the African-American community at large.

"She doesn't represent the Black perspective and she doesn't speak for or to the Black community. Colin Powell did a lot for Blacks in Africa," Barker said.

"[Rice] is playing both cards in that she's an African-American and a woman and has double marginalization, but she's not using those aspects to speak out... as a Black female, I'm not impressed because she holds the highest position, because she isn't using it, so I'm not paying much attention."

Second-year divinity student Martina Martin is also not following Rice's tour because of differing political ideologies. "It's important to follow world events because as a divinity student, I need to know what to pray for."

But I disagree with her stance on most matters and her affiliation with Bush and how it has tainted what she could do for African-Americans and Americans, period. So I'm not following her tour."

## Pope May Step Down

BY SAMARA ATKINS  
Contributing Writer

With the Pope constantly battling his health, there is talk about the beloved man stepping down from the Vatican.

On the morning of Feb. 1, Pope John Paul II was rushed to a Rome hospital after suffering from the flu and breathing difficulties, which alarmed those who surrounded him.

The news was verified by the official website of the Vatican on Feb. 2, and the Pope has been in the hospital's care since then.

As one may expect, the 84-year-old Pope has been hospitalized before. In 1981, he was treated for a gunshot wound to the abdomen, and had an operation to remove a benign tumor on his colon in 1992. As of now, Pope John Paul is living with Parkinson's disease, a crippling knee and hip ailments.

The official site of the Vatican said, "There were early signs of respiratory spasms back in Aug. 2004, where he was witnessed breathing heavily and gasping during an open-air mass in Lourdes, France."

With his health in mind, the pope is considering stepping down, if he feels he can no longer carry out his duties.

David Spicer, a reporter from radio show AM Archive interviewed Sister Roberta Hackendorf, a Loretto nun from Adelaide, who said she understands why the pope would consider stepping down.

"I would say that apart from what must be excruciating and physically demanding for himself, having Parkinson's must be a lot to handle. But I would see no sign that he is mentally unable to do his job."

Amir Stewart, a junior psychology major, said, "Throughout the regular updates on the pope, I did not appreciate the fact that his people were trying to keep the public optimistic under false pretenses. I want them to be realistic with the public because they are not necessarily sure that his health will



The Vatican has been troubled with the pope's many health ailments.

improve."

Though the tradition has been for the pope to maintain his duties until he dies, Pope John Paul thinks that being able to perform his duties is important but what good is it to be in a position and not be able to do anything.

Sister Hackendorf also thinks that the tradition does not necessarily need to be followed. In fact, she believes that the church should look very carefully at its future governing techniques.

"That would start a very sensible idea and I think it would stop the sort of agonizing due to an aging man attempting to continue a job that must be physically demanding for him."

Carrie Jones, a sophomore psychology major, said, "At this current hour, it is time for us to transition out of tradition and into revelation. Therefore, if the pope feels his illness poses a threat to his responsibility as the pope, then it is necessary for him to take a permanent sabbatical."

Many people do not feel that the pope's ill health should lead to calls for him to step down, although it is causing them to look at the situation.

Baynard believes that Pope John Paul should set a healthy example. "Part of his duty is to be an inspiration, and a leader to his followers, and no one wants to see the pope ill."



# Insisting on Change...

## Students Table for National Black Awareness Day

BY MAXINE MOFFETT  
Nation & World Editor

On February 7, 2005 students came into Blackburn in their usual droves in search of Chick-fil-A, pizza and salads.

But on this day Ledge magazine and The African Council on World Affairs, greeted them with warm smiles, hundreds of informational pamphlets and over a hundred bold t-shirts stating "Got AIDS?" the shirts boldly read from the front.

Searching for an answer, the shirts read, "Have you been tested?"

Last Monday was the official Black AIDS Day. The two organizations gave out over 100 shirts, and hundreds of informational pamphlets about AIDS and women, recent AIDS/HIV trends in the Black community and BET's education campaign Rap It Up.

National Black AIDS/HIV Awareness Day (NBHAAD) was an idea in 1999. This day was birthed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP).

The CDC then funded five national non-profit organizations- the Community Capacity Building Coalition (CCBC); the Concerned Black Men, Inc. of Philadelphia; Health Watch Information and Promotion Services;

Jackson State University - Mississippi Urban Research Center; National Black Alcoholism & Addictions Council; and National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS.

The first NBHAAD was held Feb. 23, 2001, but it is now officially celebrated on Feb. 7 of each year.

NBHAAD's main objective is to get individuals tested, educated and involved in HIV prevention activities. With help from the CCBC, grass roots tactics are used on Feb. 7, to alarm the African-American community about the devastation of AIDS/HIV in their community.

Iro Osaigbovo, a senior clinical laboratory science major is a member of The World Council on African Affairs (WCOAA), and was one of the tabling facilitators.

WCOAA is a new Howard University student organization, whose motive is to inform students about pertinent issues that affect the African diaspora.

"I am tired of the apathy about AIDS. Being a health major, I know that AIDS/HIV is one of the most heinous diseases known to mankind. It is also one of the most preventable diseases. It could stop in our generation. The problem is not out of reach."

Freddie Allen, the editor-in-chief of

Ledge was one of the facilitators of the tabling. Ledge is a student-run magazine with a specific focus of bringing AIDS and HIV awareness to African Americans.

"Our community needs to be aware of the horrible statistics that we are facing. We can no longer afford to ignore AIDS/HIV, and act like it is someone else's problem. It's our problem," Allen said. "I am very appreciative of Kaiser for providing us, with the t-shirts we gave out. The Got AIDS shirts sealed the purpose of this day."

"I think the shirts are eye opening, I will definitely wear it. It helps to make a bold, and open statement about an issue that has been closed," said Richard Grant, a sophomore music education major.

After going to the tabling, Grant says that he feels an increased sense of urgency about AIDS than he previously had.

"I liked the fact that this tabling brought awareness. Too many people are afraid of AIDS. I even saw people who wouldn't take shirts because they read, ;Got AIDS? " said Michelle Breeland, a junior broadcast journalism major. "National Black AIDS/HIV awareness day is positive, but it should be more than just one day."



Howard students take pictures in their "Got AIDS" shirts for National Black AIDS/HIV Awareness Day.

## Togo's President Dies, Son Receives Absolute Power

BY BRITTANY G. THOMAS  
Contributing Writer

After 38 years of leadership, Africa's longest-ruling leader, President Gnassingbe Eyadema, died suddenly on Saturday, Feb. 5 keeping the eyes of the world focused on Togo due to the country's lack of allegiance to its constitution. After his untimely death, the Togo military placed Eyadema's son, Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe into power.

In explaining the circumstances at hand, African Studies Professor Luis Serapiao clarified the Togo controversy to inquisitive students, "The Organization of African Unity felt it was some type of a coup because there was no election. [The Togo military] have changed the constitution to suit his son to come and take power," Serapiao said, "It is a bad thing."

Togo's constitution, as noted by Voanews.com, calls for elections within 60 days due to circumstances in which the president would be incapable of governing. According to Afrol News, the Togolese military suspended the constitution and swore loyalty to the deceased president's son, leaving the anticipated suc-

cessor, Parliamentary Speaker Natchaba Outtaba, without the appropriate title.

Along with the military, the Togolese People's Rally (RPT), a party heavily dominated by Eyadema, also ran at the chance to revise the Togolese constitution in support of Gnassingbe and the constitutional amendment now states that Gnassingbe will complete his father's term, which ends in 2008.

The current refutation suggests that the shift in leadership is constitutional, yet world onlookers who anticipate Togo's next move have taken the proviso with a grain of salt.

Among the many onlookers who condemn Togo's military takeover, are organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Afrol News makes a note of the statement given by the African Union's chairman Alpha Oumar Konare who affirmed that Togo's constitutional organization "must be re-established so that power can be held by the president of the national assembly." Konare further emphasized that Gnassingbe's administration "will not be recognized because it comes from

a coup d'etat."

According to Afrol News, the U.S. State Department has urged "all Togolese to respect strictly the constitutional process of Togo, which will lead to elections for a new president" and incessantly advocated peace. But such a task is easier said than done.

Howard students have also found fault in the transition of power in Togo. Senior print journalism major Jesyca Westbrook said, "I don't think that's right. There's always conflict when military gets involved in politics."

Togo is not taking the right steps to achieving democracy. It would be more appropriate if someone else was chosen as the leader who is more qualified and has more experience."

Many are on the fence in regard to the Togo controversy. Alicia Hope, a junior international business major whose concentration is informational systems and analysis, has two views about the matter.

"Well, I think two things. It is, in a sense, fair because Faure Gnassingbe is following in his father's footsteps, which may help with the development of the country. But on the other hand, it is unfair because the



President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo died on Feb. 5 and, in an unconstitutional move, his son Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe was given power by the military.

person who was supposed to take over Eyadema's position is unable to implement policies that he, in his experience, thought would be beneficial for Togo."

In response to the onset controversy, The Washington Post observed Gnassingbe's statement to parliament, in which he proclaimed that Togo

was "unreservedly committed to a democratization process and openness which I intend to pursue to the end with your invaluable help...There is a lot of difficult work to do, but I open my arms to all who will like to join me to do it."

Calling for help and making a decree headed for democracy, Gnassingbe seems to open-

heartedly accept the criticism that draws closer due to the controversy on hand. He further promotes a democratic outlook in his 15-minute inauguration, as cited in the Chicago Tribune, in which he pledges to "devote all my force to the development of the well-being of all Togolese and respect for human liberties in the national interest."

## Madame C. J. Walker... An American Icon to Many Eyes

BY CHANEL M. MCCAIN  
Contributing Writer

Some Howard University females can recount the many times they used to sit beside the stove as their mothers or grandmothers took a hot comb through their hair. During their accounts, several described feeling petrified of being burned by the sizzling comb. Junior communication and culture major Courtney Williams sighed as she told friends in a circle how her mother burned her ear while pressing her hair.

However, many females still get their hair pressed and curled to maintain a natural yet straight look.

To whom do women owe their gratitude for creating an alternative way for wearing their hair to allow greater versatility? Sarah Breedlove, who later became known as Madame C.J. Walker. Walker was born to slave parents Owen and Minerva Breedlove who died of yellow fever when she was seven years old. She then went to work in a cotton field to survive. After her third marriage ended, Breedlove went to live with her brothers in St. Louis. During her transition from Indianapolis to St. Louis she began to loose her hair. Trying to make her hair grow, she concocted homemade remedies and used them on herself to see if they were effective. It was then that Walker went door-to-door selling her products and instructing women on hair care. Some of her products included, "Wonderful Hair Grower," "Glossine" pressing oil and "Vegetable Shampoo."

Due to the lack of demand for hair care products in St. Louis she moved to Denver to see if she would have better luck. It was there that she met her fourth husband, Charles Joseph Walker and

became known as Madame C.J. Walker.

Her marriage only lasted for six months and afterward she moved to Indianapolis to sell her products. In 1910, Indianapolis was the crossroads for eight railway systems, which helped Walker greatly in the distribution of her products. She moved her headquarters, factory and training facility to Indianapolis and called the company The Walker College of Hair Culture and Walker Manufacturing Co. It was during this time that Walker expanded her company internationally to Jamaica, Cuba, Costa Rica, Panama and Haiti. By 1919, Walker employed 3,000 people at the factory and had more than 20,000 agents.

When confronted with the idea that she was trying to conform Black women's hair to that of Whites, she stressed that her products were simply an attempt to help Black women take proper care of their hair and promote its growth.

Many females on Howard's campus feel that Madame C.J. Walker has made a lasting contribution to the world of hair. Junior, biology major Darah S. Crutcher said, "For years, I had to wear a press. I wasn't allowed to get a perm until I was a sophomore in high school. The condition of my hair was far more healthier before I permed my hair." Junior political science major Amber Elliot said, "I get my hair pressed rather than permed because perms prevented my hair from growing to its maximum length."

Not only crediting Madame C.J. Walker for being an entrepreneur in hair care, Laura Brown, a junior speech communication major, said, "Madame Walker [was] a pioneer just for being able to overcome the institution of slavery and become the first woman millionaire."



Madame C.J. Walker was the first woman millionaire. One of Walker's many contributions was the perm, a product many African American women use today.





## Author, Poet Maya Angelou Warms Howard Hearts

The esteemed poet and author graced the Department of English's 11th Annual Heart's Day Tribute as the special honoree as if this was her home.

She resembled a mother, with a nurturing and genuine vibe, taking the opportunity as a chance to touch students. The list of books and honors for Ms. Angelou is lengthy but she didn't want that to be the focus of the conference, "Maya Angelou and Life Writing."

Instead she took the time to connect with each individual and sign as many books as possible. The conference is held to celebrate the department's intellectual traditions and we think Angelou was the perfect selection.

It would be unlikely to find a Howard student that is unfamiliar with "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" or hasn't read the empowering words of "Phenomenal Woman." The combination of her mind, voice and words have

resulted in several masterpieces and we are truly proud of her.

The Howard audience was moved and inspired watching this poised and accomplished lady and following her literary journey. Some students in the audience cried and others were simply basking in her presence.

Many honorary guests and celebrities squeeze such events into their schedules and treat the people and the event like an obligation. They feel so self-

It's hard to find someone who is famous, but still finds it important to stay humble.

The coordinators were trying to get Angelou to take a break backstage and wanted the students to refrain from comments during the intermission.

Angelou immediately asked why the students shouldn't have the chance to come talk to her. "Let the children come," she said in her soft voice.

We were pleased to know that Maya Angelou appreciated being at Howard as much as we appreciated having her.

She personally apologized to the crowd and explained why she would be unable to autograph every book.

The dedication she showed to us made us proud.

Angelou exemplifies a phenomenal woman and we know she will continue to do great things.

important that they hurriedly do the bare minimum, leaving the audience disappointed and let down.

### Our View:

*Her presence and kindness to students was refreshing and rare.*

## Radio Host Jones of Hot97 Catches Heat for Tsunami Song

After the tsunami devastation, the last thing on most people's minds was making a mockery and racial slurs. People were grieving and saddened though they had no ties or personal experience in the tragedy, as money and donations poured in. Somewhere thereafter, someone decided to write a racist and horrible song about it. "So now you're screwed, it's the tsunami. You better run and kiss your \*\*\* awake; go find your mommy I just saw her float by, a tree right through her head. And now your children will be sold in child slavery," blared on the airwaves of Hot97 radio station in New York City right after the tsunami. Listeners from all walks of life were equally appalled and offended, calling in and complaining. The song got the attention of nonprofit organizations, corporations and the Asian community and many sponsors pulled their ads from the station.

Radio personality Miss Jones, whose real name is

Tarsha Jones was only suspended for two weeks after broadcasting the song, whereas former morning show host Todd Lynn and the producer Rick Delgado were fired, according to Newsday.com. Another host, DJ Envy was also suspended for two weeks. Miss

if someone made an offensive song about the 9-11 attacks or the AIDS epidemic in Africa. We are not so far removed from worldly tragedy that we can forget our responsibilities as human beings.

The lyrics were absolutely horrible. To make matters worse, Miss Info, Hot97 co-host is an Asian-American woman who objected to the song being aired. Its shocking that having an Asian co-worker in the office wouldn't signal them to stop. The outraged organizations sug-

gested that those involved with the "Tsunami song" take a trip to see the devastation firsthand and get a better appreciation for the suffering. In the moment it might have seemed like something funny to them. Then reality set in as people were getting fired and companies were cutting ties with the station. We think Jones should have gotten a more serious punishment for her insensitive judgment call.

Jones returned to the air and apologized for broadcasting the song, though she didn't sing or write the song. We think her punishment was really light and she should have been held more accountable. Other people at the station got fired and rightfully so. What kind of message does that send to Asian listeners? Having radio personalities that air a song with racial slurs sends a hateful and insensitive message to every listener. We know we would all be fired up

### Our View:

*Radio Host Miss Jones should have been held more accountable for her involvement.*

## THE HILLTOP

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Managing Editor

BERNARD "POET" MURRAY  
Managing Editor

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Deputy Managing Editor

MAIYA NORTON, Editorials & Perspectives Editor

## Motherhood Disguised in Lie

Patricia Pokriots frantically told Florida police that she had seen a baby thrown out of the window of a car, according to Reuters.

She took the newborn baby, nicknamed Johnny to the police station with the umbilical cord still attached. Thankfully, Johnny was never thrown out of a moving car and is in stable condition.

Unfortunately, this bizarre story just revealed that Pokriots gave birth to a child she did not want to keep.

Under a Florida statute, the Safe Haven Law, parents give up newborns up to three days old to the staff of a hospital, firehouse or ambulance station without being prosecuted, according to Reuters.

On the way to drop her baby off under this statute, she saw a couple arguing in a white car and came up with the vision for her elaborate lie.

We're surprised that a 38-year-old woman would make up this story and get so many people involved only to later admit she was the mother.

If this was a teenage girl or a rape victim it would make a little more sense to us.

However, Pokriots is almost 40 and she already has a 10-year-old child, who is now in state custody. It's unfortunate that her need to hide her preg-

nancy went as far as it did.

Something must have made her feel guilty enough to confess, though she still doesn't want the baby, according to Reuters.

Maybe she acted like she found the baby to cover up her own shame for wanting to hand it off.

The Safe Haven Law legalizes abandonment and we think this is sad but provides an alternative for women considering

dumping a baby in a trash can. Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne said "As horrific and wrong as (her) story is, if she had just taken baby Johnny to the fire station (and) left him there, we couldn't have asked any questions."

The story in itself is sad because this poor baby is without a family, but thankfully the police station has received numerous calls from people interested in adoption, according to Reuters.

Patricia Pokriots has been committed for psychiatric evaluation, which she clearly needs, and she has yet to be charged of any crime.

Obviously something deep was going on with Pokriots to make her deny her own child in such a manner. We are relieved that she didn't physically hurt the baby and that her maternal instincts kicked in enough to get the baby into safe arms. Now we can only hope that she gets the help she needs and the newborn gets placed in a loving environment.

### Our View:

*It's a shame this woman felt the need to make up an elaborate story to deny her baby.*

## THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 81st year, The Hilltop is published every Tuesday and Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Howard University, its administration, individual Board members or the student body. The opinions expressed on the Perspectives Page are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body. The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com). The Hilltop is located at, 2251 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at [www.thehilltoponline.com](mailto:www.thehilltoponline.com), by phone at (202)806-4724 and by fax at (202)806-4758. The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.



**'PIECES OF YOU'**  
Words of the week:

**LOVE**

By Sharise Crumley

It is YOU I tell my secrets to	It is YOU I tell my secrets to	dedication that only ONE can give and when I say ONE only ONE, the true one, It is YOU who is the one It is YOU It is YOU Love
It is YOU I bare my soul to	It is YOU I bare my soul to	
It is YOU who unleashes the writer within me	It is YOU who treats me like a Queen	
It is YOU who gives me the power to live breathe walk talk	I don't mean by buyin me diamond rings and shinin things cause all that glitters is not gold	
It is YOU who encourages me to be me regardless of the situations circumstances confrontations that may	and all that is gold is not good YOU treat me like a Queen by encouraging me giving me that inspiration motivation	

dedication that only ONE can give and when I say ONE only ONE, the true one, It is YOU who is the one It is YOU It is YOU Love

WANT TO SUBMIT A POEM? DON'T BE SHY! SEND ORIGINAL PIECES TO MAIYANORTON@YAHOO.COM



There is a fascinating fact that many people are not aware of. If you look on the back of a \$2 bill, in the middle you'll see a face that looks different than all of the other faces. It looks different because it's a Black face! Yes, before Colin Powell and C. Rice and even the Civil War, Blacks held positions at the highest echelon of American government. I ask that you please run an article on this man during the Black History Month. His name is John Hanson. To find more information on who this man was and the very important position he held you should check out this link. [http://www.dickgregory.com/index\\_hanson.html](http://www.dickgregory.com/index_hanson.html)

# Black History: Return on Faith Investment

ELYSE AMBROSE

I am writing in response to "Black History Month Reality" by Sean Garrison in last Tuesday's Hilltop. I am utterly appalled by your view of your own people.

On behalf of every hater/discourager of the Black race, I thank you for being the king crab and dragging positive Blacks down to the bottom of the barrel. It is clear that Michael Jordan, Jesse Jackson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X have done great things, but why is it that their integrity is negated?

I think it is safe to say it is because of people like you, who do not seem to realize that the previously mentioned people are only human... they make mistakes and it is never my

place, your place or anyone's place to judge them.

In the words of the only person who is called perfect, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone," I doubt any of us can even think about picking up a stone.

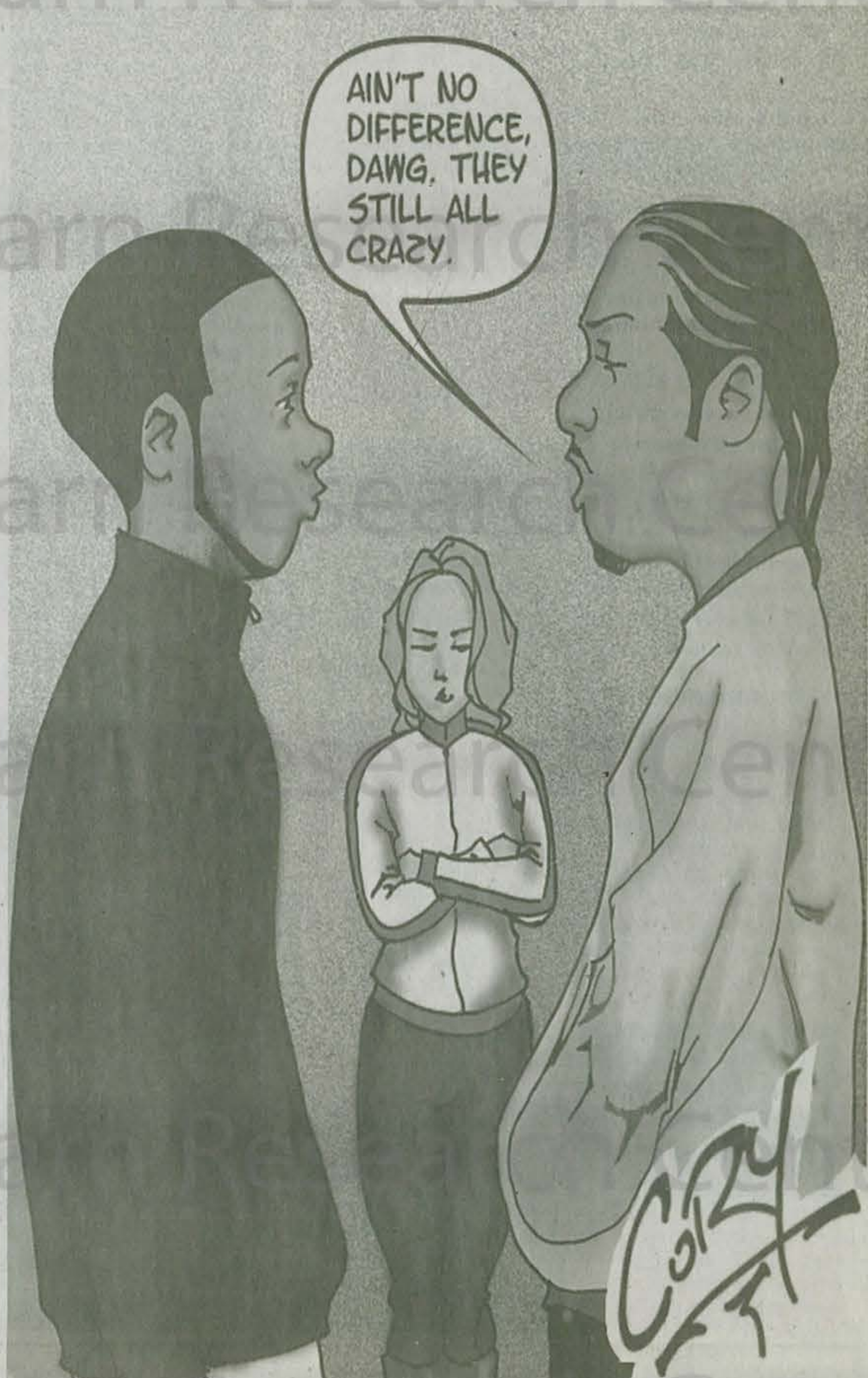
Black History was founded so that we could celebrate the many milestones of our people and improve upon them while, hopefully, building each other up in the process. If we as Black people continue to bring each other down with negativity, we will never improve anything.

Having faith in one another and one's goodness will breed an environment for Black people, or any people, to do more good things. Please take the time to think about those who create foundations for HIV research and prevention, not

those who spread the disease. Think of the Black people that fight/fought against violence (i.e. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jesse Jackson), not those who commit the crimes.

If you think we are all HIV carriers, murderers or poverty-stricken heathens, maybe watching those Black History Month commercials instead of changing the channel will help you to see your people for their goodness' sake.

Your Bill Cosby-esque comments may have been "tough love" to you, but I call it self-degradation. Pending you still feel the same about your comments after reading this, I hope that your perfection can "save" your race because clearly we mere imperfect mortals cannot.



## My Experience with White Women

WILLIAM HOLMES

In response to "A Disgusted White Girl", I believe the author allowed her personal emotions to interfere with her better logic. Speaking as a Black American male with experience of interracial dating, I do not justify my actions on the premise that "the pickings amongst Black women were slim to none!"

Neither do I support disenfranchising frizzy hair, brown skin, curved hips, thick lips or any other attributes of my better half. We need to engage this issue of interracial relationship on two fronts, both environment and experience.

My justification for choosing to date outside of my race, at that time, (although I am single now) was due to my environment.

When I was between 13

and 14 years of age, my mother enrolled me in a private, all male military school, where the population was about 75 percent White. So the 25 of us Black guys would hang out with the majority White crowd and when they threw their off-the-chain parties, what color do you think most of the room was? White!

So when I opened my mouth and got a conversation going, one thing would usually lead to another, and kazam I am now a White woman's boyfriend. It had absolutely nothing to do with self-hatred or disdain for Black women.

Trust when I say, I had problems with White women as well, hence my being single now. When Daquan or Shawntee goes pro and moves to Chicago to play for the Bulls, they are not going to the Southside!

Most celebrity parties are usually on an invitational sys-

tem, often acting as a filtration technique, implemented by... you guess who? Also if someone else within the family is in an interracial relationship then the odds of a repeat is very possible.

As for the disgusted White girl, I believe her man is struggling with his own "experiences" with Black women; very unfortunate experiences, which have him ultimately dragging around personal baggage from prior relationships, unfairly targeted toward all Black women.

It is when someone decides to approach someone of an opposite race or possibly the same sex, where they approach that person without excess baggage, with a clean slate one could say, simply because they do not have any knowledge, reference or experience with that particular race or sex!



I need help getting my academic transcript released from Howard University so that I can finally graduate from college and receive my Bachelor's Degree. Here is a letter I recently sent to Howard university:

My name is Tamara Allen (formally Tamara Bythewood). I attended Howard University during the years 1992-1994 (ID 091990). Due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to finish my study at Howard University. Since my days at Howard University, I have made great strides in my personal life and have maintained my educational goals.

Ten years later I am enrolled at Wilberforce University and am a candidate for a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in May 2005.

I am a mother of four children (14, 9, 3, and 10 mo.) and the wife of a preacher. I am also the Executive Assistant to Dr. Charles E. Booth, Pastor of the Mt.

Olivet Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Booth is a preacher extraordinaire and a Howard University Alum.

My husband, a Princeton graduate, is the Pastoral Assistant at Mt. Olivet.

I am writing this letter in hopes of getting my official transcript released from Howard University and mailed to the Office of the Registrar at Wilberforce University (PO Box 1001, Wilberforce, Ohio 45384). I recently contact Howard University regarding this request and was told that I had an outstanding balance from the Howard Plaza Towers (\$6900) and an outstanding emergency loan (\$700).

I have been in contact with the Howard Plaza Towers several times in an effort to clear this matter up. At the time I was in the Towers, I was a single mother of a three-year old and was told that I could not live in a dorm with a child. Being from Ohio, I had no family in Washington, D.C. and felt unsafe moving so far from school.

I moved into the Towers with the hope that what monies I had through scholarship and loans that covered room and board would pay for the monthly rent.

I was a responsible student at Howard. I had a

Stay-In-School Position at the Department of Veterans Affairs OSDDBU office and did design/layout for The Hilltop newspaper. My daughter attended the Howard University Preschool. The responsibility of putting myself through college and raising a child became overwhelming and I eventually had to withdraw from college due to the growing balance at the Howard Plaza Towers.

Although I am unable to pay the entire amount at this time, my husband and I would like to make arrangements to make a "good faith" down payment to release my academic transcript in time for graduation and set up payment arrangements for the remainder balance.

I understand the policies surrounding good academic and financial standing, but I am praying that Howard University will agree to release my transcript and allow my family and I to make payments on the outstanding debt.

I am so close to finally obtaining my academic goals and want more than anything to receive my Bachelor's Degree so that I may close the book on this chapter of my life and look forward to working on a Master's Degree.

click it to us.

The Hilltop wants to read what you have to say. Submit a 500 word perspective to [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com).



**All HILLTOPICS**

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

Announcements by campus organizations for meetings, seminars or nonprofit are charged \$5 for the first 20 words and \$1 for every additional five words.

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keep up?

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Feb. 16, 2005

*Meet the Government*  
*Hilltop Lounge*  
Feb. 17, 2005  
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*Sega*  
continues

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**PICTURE OF GILBERT**  
**ARENAS. YOU KNOW**  
**HILLTOP BE HOLDING IT**  
**DOWN IN DENVER**

**Tau Beta Sigma  
National Honorary Band  
Sorority, Inc.**

*Founders Week 2005*  
*Strength of Women:*  
*Heart, Soul, & Music*

Sun 2/13  
Call to Chapel 10:30 am

Mon 2/14  
*A White and Blue Night of*  
*Love 7:00 p.m.*  
\$7/person and \$10/couple  
Semi-Formal

Tues 2/15  
*Jeopardy: Women in Music*  
Douglas Rm 116  
8:46 p.m.

Wed 2/16  
*Sisters in Service*

Thurs 2/17  
*Shades of Beauty*  
Hilltop Lounge  
8:46 p.m.

Fri 2/18  
*Glo Poetry Cipher:*  
*Soul Serenade*  
Fine Arts Basement  
7:46 p.m.

Sat 2/19  
*Sister's Day at Game*

Sun 2/20  
*"Evolution of a Woman"*  
Chapter Recital  
Fine Arts Rm. 3001  
7:46 p.m.

**JORDAN...**  
**WE BE GIVIN' IT UP**  
**TO THE ASST. PHOTO**  
**EDITOR.**  
**HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY**  
**FROM THE HILLTOP**  
**STAFF.**

**NCNW**

**General Body**  
**Meeting**  
**Wednesday**  
**Feb. 16**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Blackburn**  
**Center Forum**

**@ FUR**  
**Thursday, February 17th**  
**MUST BRING FLYER!!!**

**ASHLEY,**  
**WELCOME**  
**BACK WE**  
**MISSED**  
**YOU. YOU**  
**ARE STILL A**  
**ROOKIE.**

**13th Annual Woman to**  
**Woman Conference**

**Mandatory Conference Day**  
**Volunteer Meeting**

**Tues. February 15, 2005**

**6:00 p.m.**  
**Douglass Hall**

**Tuition Scholarship!**

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**community involvement,**  
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**Alpha Kappa Alpha Nellie M.**  
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**Applications are available**  
**at the Founders Library,**  
**Office of Financial Aid, and**  
**the information desk in the**  
**Blackburn Center.**

**The application deadline is**  
**February 25, 2005.**

**Attention All State Clubs**

**It's not too late to sign**  
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**"Put Yo' Hood Up!!!"**  
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**Buck" Don't hate if you**  
**lose to us by at least +0**  
**points.**  
**and last but not least...**  
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**at the All-Star game in**  
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