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WEATHER
 Today: Partly Cloudy
 High 51, Low 35
 Wednesday: Partly Cloudy
 High 47, Low 28
 Thursday: Partly Cloudy
 High 41, Low 27

The Hilltop



#1
 The Princeton Review
COLLEGE
NEWSPAPER

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

VOLUME 88, NO. 39

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2005

www.thehilltoponline.com

Students Look For Off-Campus Housing

BY ARION JAMERSON
 Managing Editor

In the early hours of Jan. 24, the majority of Howard students were asleep in their beds while nearly 500 of their colleagues braced the cold to ensure their housing for next year. Now those students that were in bed dreaming of on-campus housing are facing the reality that off-campus housing may be their only option.

The Room Selection Verification Process (RSVP) is a first come, first serve process that allows students to sign up for housing by paying a \$200 deposit. Once the deposit is paid, students can pick a room assignment according to the number of points that have accumulated through the RSVP process. The process appears to be simple but many will not make the cut off.

"We have always had a cut off of 1,550 beds," Franklin Chambers, vice provost of Student Affairs, said in a Jan. 25 Hilltop article.

However, this number does not include the rooms that are reserved for student athletes, honor students, scholarship students, graduate students, international students and student, graduate and resident assistants.

Laureate scholarship recipient George Gray did not have to worry about paying the \$200 deposit. "My scholarship includes housing, so all I had to do was turn in my points for RSVP," said the junior sociology major. "It was easy for me, but I know for others they have had problems."

Athletes on campus have to go through a different process. Antoine Rutherford, a junior human development major said, "We tell our coaches where we want to stay, then they give us our housing assignments," the Bison tailback said. "Hopefully it's where we want to live."

Charisse Griffin, a School of Business Executive Leadership (SBEL) honor student who doesn't have housing is trying to receive housing through the program. "I was told that all I had to do was sign up for honors housing and I would receive placement in the East Towers regardless of whether I made the \$200 deposit," the junior international business major said.

Griffin later learned that only a limited number of SBEL students will receive housing and she hopes to be a part of that number.

While students like Gray and Rutherford just have to sign up to receive housing, others are not as fortunate and have to continue to search for housing.

In effort to help students find housing, residence life will host an off-campus housing fair. The residence life website posts a monthly listing of off-campus housing, along with links to housing guides. Many of these

See HOUSING, News A7

HU Battles For MEAC Championship

BY MIKE HOLMES
 Hilltop Staff Writer

One could call it the calm before the storm. A lazy Saturday afternoon vibe circulated throughout the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex. Dozens of athletes lay nestled between the bright yellow bleachers that surround the track.

Gym bags became pillows and coats became blankets. The Ray Charles soundtrack playing over the PA system added to the mood. This is the beginning of day two of the 2005 Indoor Track and Field MEAC Championships.

As runners from various schools convene to the burnt orange track to warm up, Coach Merritt and the Howard University Men's and Women's indoor track team prepare to rebound from what could only be called a rocky start.

"It's a yearly thing. We have a little bad luck on the first day," said Merritt, shrugging his shoulders. "We had a few injuries, key people," Merritt added.

Adetola Andewodu pulled a muscle during one of his events. Alicia Williams was injured after being knocked down during an event. The spike of another runner's shoe cut Edgar Sams during one of his races.

The injuries, however, did not stop the team from having eight qualifying finishes in the semi-finals, including third place finishes by both the men and women's distance medley relay teams.

Whether Friday's injuries affected Saturday's performances was hard to say. "Yeah, we had a few mishaps going in but, we were still pretty good overall," said freshmen sports medicine major, Andre Williams.

This was Williams' first MEAC Championship. As he pulled the brim of his hat down, he described his own performance as "horrible". "I had too

much nervous energy," Williams said.

On the other hand, freshman psychology major, Quintin Reid had a slightly different experience with his first MEAC Championship. "I really didn't know what to expect coming in. I wasn't nervous though. I was excited. I ended up running my best time," Reid exclaimed.

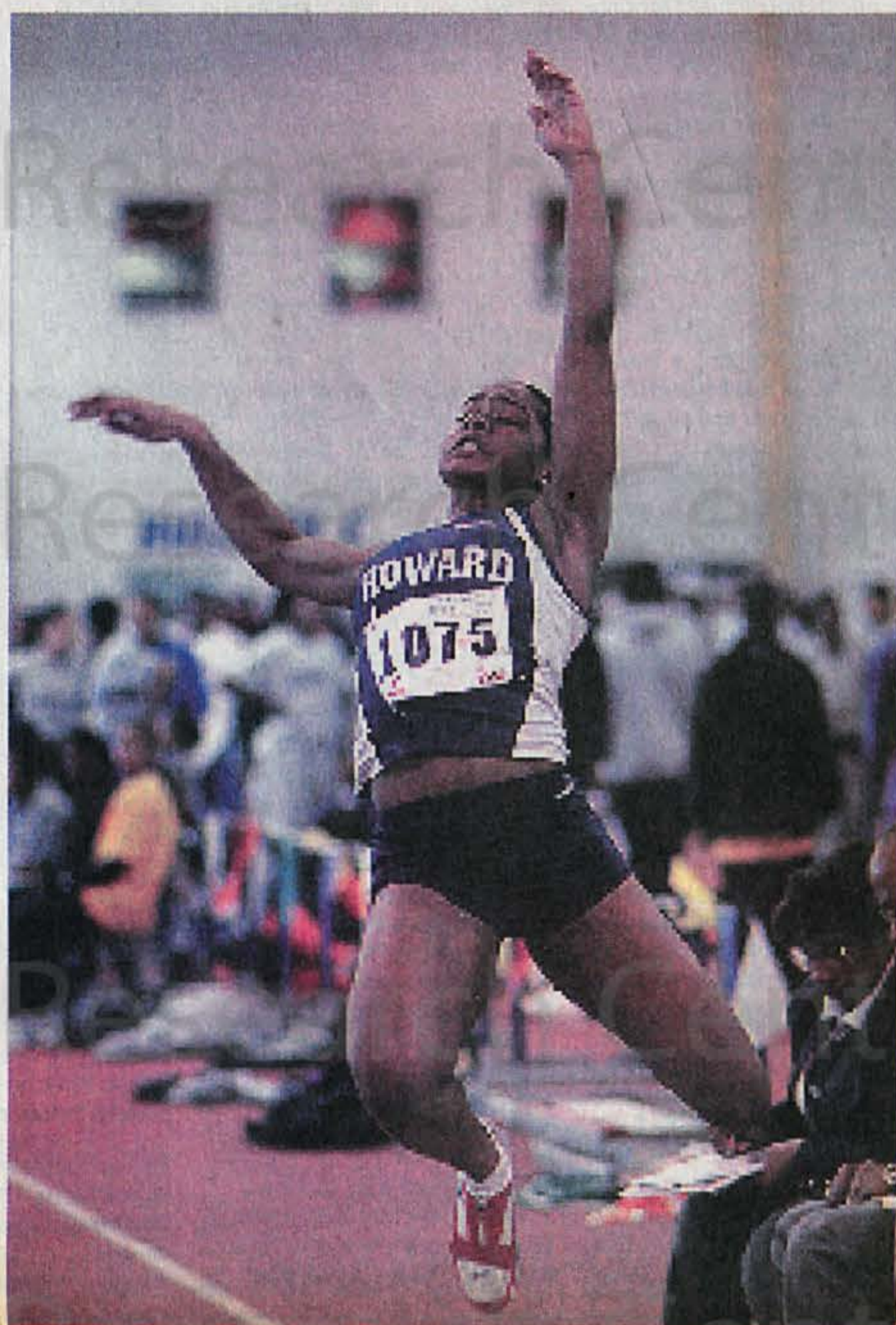
Reid also felt that any shortcomings the team may have experienced during the two-day event were the result of more than just injuries. "People have been battling injuries all year long. People not dedicating themselves and not coming to practice was more of a factor than injuries," he said.

During an interview last week the team felt their strongest competition would come from Florida A&M University. Although FAMU did put up a strong performance, it was Hampton University, particularly the women's team that dominated the championship.

Vage Beasley, a junior physical education major, feels that Hampton simply had several things working in their favor. "It's the recruitment, the togetherness as a team and talent. You need those three elements to have a championship team," she said.

The last event of the meet was the men and women's 4x400 relay. The high-energy event was the highlight of the evening. The men's team headed by junior Edric Robinson got off to a strong start. Unfortunately, Robinson experienced some difficulties coming down the second straightaway. The team was unable to catch up as a result.

The Howard University men and women's teams finished the 2005 MEAC Championship with a performance that they were genuinely pleased with. The women's team finished eighth overall and the men's team ninth.



The Howard Bison men and women participated in the MEAC championship on Saturday. They placed ninth and eighth respectively.

'Ebony Emotions' Funds 'Escape to the Capstone'

BY KAIA KARAMOKO
 Contributing Writer

Funds were raised for the Michigan Club's fifth annual "Escape to the Capstone" at the "Ebony Emotions" poetry night on Friday.

Escape to the Capstone is a four-day Howard experience for high school juniors and seniors from Michigan and surrounding areas. During the trip, students attend classes, and hang with their host students, who share the same professional goals. Students also take a tour of D.C. to get a glance of the environment.

According to Floyd J. Mitchell, president of the Michigan Club, "students get the chance to experience a balance representation of college life."

The Michigan club has also worked with other Howard state clubs, such as Chicago People's Union and the Louisiana Club in their efforts to bring their fellow hometown students to 'the Mecca'.

"The Capstone program is a direct way of truly affecting people's lives," Mitchell said. "We often talk about community service, like volunteering at a soup kitchen. This is the same thing, if not better. We help them shape their lives and make important decisions



Patrick Jackson-Staff Photographer

Students gathered in the Annex seminar room to share poems and stories influenced by Black love.

about the futures."

Mitchell estimates that at least 30 percent of the program's participants have decided they would like to attend Howard.

The "Ebony Emotions" event was the "uncensored version of Valentine's Day," said sophomore marketing major, Erin Davis.

Jamon Jackson, a sophomore, metaphorically expressed the notion of staying focused, one's destiny, and maturity by describing the atmosphere of the solar system. Background guitar riffs of Joe Rose emphasized Jackson's intensity.

The performers continued to awe the crowd and receive positive responses as they expressed themselves through rhythmic words.

"Writing is a form of therapy, even when I spit-- you gotta vent," said sophomore business management student, Elliott "Broadway Mill" Brown, as he introduced himself and began his three selections.

Brown's selections covered a range of themes: reflection on greatness, "Untitled"; ambition, "Everything & Everything"; and love, "Take

See EMOTIONS, News A5

Beyond Call-of-Duty: Teachers Rewarded

BY TAMIKA SMITH
 Contributing Writer

The faculty and staff members deemed "The Talented Tenth" by students were awarded Thursday for their hard work and dedication at the Talented Tenth's First Annual Awards Ceremony.

The seven top professors, Joseph Augustine, Greg Carr, John Davis, Debyii Thomas, Kim Bey, Rackham Goodlett, Michael Smith, and the three top staff members Lavern Freeman, Karen Hampton and Janet

Johnson were selected from the results of a survey issued and responded by nine hundred students.

"I realized the most important thing is to give back...I got a calling to come back to Howard University," said Micheal Smith, a professor of management in the School of Business. "Obviously, from my line of work at IBM, I would think the customer comes first. So of course the students come first. I was surprised and amazed to hear some faculty think that they are the custom-

See TEACHERS, Campus A2



Jordan Colbert-Ass. Photo Editor

Teachers and staff (all together) seated in first row look on as they are commemorated for their hard work.

Campus, A2-A4
 Metro, A6
 Life & Style, B1-B3
 Sports, B4-B5
 Editorials & Perspectives, B6



Find out how students are making a living in their dorms...

Campus...A2



See what the craze is behind Black and White acting duos...

Life & Style...B1



Which athlete's book is causing so much controversy...

Sports...B4

Cheap Services Offered in Meridian

BY NANCY STEWART
Contributing Writer

To remedy the problem of a somewhat isolation from campus, Meridian Hill Hall residents have taken matters into their own hands.

While some visit local malls, shops and hospitals in search of employment, other Meridian residents have gone to work for themselves.

From delicious smoothies to hair care, Meridian residents are providing an array of services geared toward the convenience of fellow residents. Not only are they providing a wide range of services, but they also are doing so at moderate prices.

"Once I get in, I stay in," said Essence Walker, a sophomore business marketing major, Meridian resident and supporter of student businesses.

Kristina Maury, sophomore broadcast journalism major, agrees that student businesses, especially at Meridian are "convenient for students."

Sophomore business major Kevin Horton took heed of the demand for handy luxuries and decided that selling smoothies was good business venture.

"I like them," Horton said.

He builds clientele by simply posting flyers and offering his product outside of Meridian events. Horton uses freshly blended fruits, daiquiri mixes and juices to provide smoothies for the Meridian community. Although smoothies are not quite in season, sales still seem to exceed expectations set by Horton.

"A lot of people come back, they keep coming back," Horton said.

Among those who provide services throughout Meridian, senior radio production major

Nile Ivey is another. His business, most commonly known as "The Lab", is another source for Meridian residents with little income.

Ivey supplies the dorm with new and old music selections for \$5 and under. He also provides ringtones for cellular phones.

Unlike other businesses in college dorms, the creation of The Lab was not intentional. Ivey learned the process of making CDs and mix tapes during his years in high school. Once entering college, his peers called on him to provide personal mixes. He decided it was necessary to provide services at a low cost.

"Most of us here don't have a lot of money," Ivey said.

In most cases students applaud the efforts of their fellow residents.

"People need things that are readily available to them," said Adia Wilson, sophomore business management major. "People need money and others need things, so it works."

Although many visit the amateur residents to buy items to fulfill their everyday needs, there are those who actually receive services provided by professional Meridian residents. "Whatever you're selling, keep it very professional," is the motto of Shari Bihms, one of the most noted hair stylists in the hall.

Unlike many residential entrepreneurs, Bihms has practiced her services for an extensive amount of time.

Bihms, whose mother is a professional hair stylist, carried her knowledge of hair and its care with her to Howard. She is known for her stylish and reasonably priced hair services.

Not only do her peers in Meridian note her, but Bihms has also been recognized by



Patrick Jackson-Staff Photographer

Senior Nile Ivey operates a cd and Nextel ringer store completely out of his Meridian Hill H

BET's Nightly News for her talent. Although her clientele has surpassed its expectations, Bihms still plans to pursue her career in criminal justice.

Hair care is for her, is like most other services offered within Meridian Hill Hall, a way to make money doing what you do best.

Talented Teachers Recognized By Tenth

TEACHERS, from Campus A1

er." During the ceremony, a video montage was shown of each honoree in action. It included a dedication from a student who voted for each recipient talking about their candidate being loving, caring, and how he or she had gone beyond their job descriptions.

Some recipients were shocked to that they were such an influence.

"I was shocked and amazed because I didn't feel like I was qualified...But I was quite honored and I had no idea that I made that kind of impact on young people's lives," said Janet Johnson, an honoree and secretary in the Theatre department. Some of the honorees were not only unaware of their impact, but also impressed that the university would allow such a recognition.

"I am so encouraged, honored and blessed to be apart of a university that doesn't hin-

der their students," said Debyii Thomas, Ph.D., a professor who works in the Department of Communication and Culture.

The university's involvement was pleasing according to some students and faculty; however, others believed the full administration support was not present.

"President Swygert should have been there to validate the Howard ceremony...it would have made it more meaningful," said Addam Perkins, president of The Talented Tenth.

The Talented Tenth organization was founded in year 2003 by Addam Perkins, Daryl Perkins, Brandon Johns, Joseph Simpson, Laurence Primus, Niles "Rockko" Goodwin and Chris Chukwueke. Through the legacy of W.E.B DeBois, the founders said they realized the gap between the university and the community and decided to do something about it.

"What we want to do is bridge the gap between the community and Howard University,"



Jordan Culbert-Asst. Photo Editor

Vice President Joseph Simpson and President Adam Perkins hand awards out to teachers and staff.

Howard Faculty] we appreciate the teachers for what they are doing for us because they make us the talented tenth."

Vice president of The Talented Tenth Joseph Simpson said he would hope that this

could be a yearly event.

If the budget can be increased for next year, the group hopes to spread these awards to each school in the university, so all deserving faculty and staff members can be recognized.

Howard Elections 2005 Candidates

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Howard University Student Association
Tahman Bradley, President, Erin Ferguson, Vice-President
Byron Stewart, President, April Harley, Vice-President</p> <p>Undergraduate Trustee
Asso Aidoo
Brooke Hyman
Precious Kofie
College of Arts & Sciences
Oditi Dafe, Executive President, Jessica Chambliss, Executive Vice-President
Myla Jones, Executive President, Brittney Madison, Executive Vice-President</p> <p>Executive Secretary
Shar-Day Smith
Christetta Stone</p> <p>Executive Treasurer
Annie Bailey</p> <p>Undergraduate Student Assembly
Lisandra Green
Raven Johnson
Mark McGlone
Tristan Mitchell
Danielle Perry
William Roberts
Constance Trower
Raymond Tucker
Chad Williams-Bey</p> <p>Sophomore Class Board
Jennifer Burgess, President
Durrell Hairston, President</p> <p>School of Business
Executive President
Janeen Blige
Brandon Hines
Michael Lyles II
Floyd Mitchell</p> <p>Executive Vice-President
Alicia Jones
Kecia Patton
Lenora Robinson</p> <p>Executive Secretary
Elyse Ambrose
Sadiah Hay</p> <p>Executive Treasurer
Armond Brown, Jr
Trevor Prince, Jr.</p> | <p>Ashley Williams
Senior Class Board
Chevalier Strong, President
Sophomore Class Board
Ariel Roberts, President
Danneshia Brown, Treasurer</p> <p>Undergraduate Student Assembly
Parish Bradley
Jessica Foster
Whitney Jones
Malik Sanders
Rory Scott
Michelle Taylor
Paris Walker</p> <p>School of Communications
Brandon Wallace, President
Jennifer Owens, Vice-President
Lauren Johnson, Secretary
Jabari Smith, Secretary
Rachel Cooper, Treasurer
Shari Logan, Treasurer</p> <p>Undergraduate Student Assembly
Alison Brock
Jennifer Bryant
Jeanie Fougere
Mario Loving
Carmen Muhammad</p> <p>School of Education
Adrienne Smith, Vice President
Undergraduate Student Assembly
Lakiesha Stockton</p> <p>College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences
Oluwatosin Odufa, President
Jason Paige, President
Lisel Forbes, Vice President
Tolu Onibiyo, Secretary
Lateef Yusuf, Treasurer</p> <p>Undergraduate Student Assembly
Amita Hayden</p> <p>College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences
Megan Jones, President
Gretchen Battle, Secretary</p> <p>Undergraduate Student Assembly
Jade Beckett
Trinity LeFlore
Barbara McCray
Tiffany Reid</p> |
|--|--|

General Election Events

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Wednesday, Feb. 23
Drew Hall Debate
Drew Hall Lounge
7 p.m.
*Co-Sponsored by the Campus Pals</p> <p>Friday, Feb., 25
Meet and Greet the Candidates
Blackburn Café
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Co-Sponsored by the College Republicans</p> <p>Monday, Feb. 28
Meridian Debate
Meridian Hill Hall Lounge
7 p.m.
*Co-Sponsored by the Michigan Club</p> <p>Local Election Events</p> <p>School of Business
Thursday, Feb. 24
Candidate Debate - Executive Board Candidates
7 p.m.
School of Business, Room 218</p> <p>College of Engineering, Architecture & Computer Sciences
Thursday, Feb. 24
Candidate Meet and Greet-All Candidates</p> | <p>7 p.m.
Downing Lobby</p> <p>School of Communications
Thursday, Feb. 24
Candidate Debate-All Candidates
7 p.m.
School of Communications: Screening Room-West</p> <p>College of Arts and Sciences
Thursday, Feb. 24
Candidate Debate - Executive Board Candidates and Class Board Candidates
7 p.m.
Locke Hall: Smart Room</p> <p>College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences
Thursday, Feb. 24
Candidate Debate - All Candidates
7 p.m.
Location: TBD (CPNAHS)</p> <p>School of Education
Thursday, Feb. 24
Candidate Debate- All Candidates
7 p.m.
Location: TBD (School of Education)</p> |
|---|---|

VOICES & VIEWS

"Are you looking forward to the Howard University Student General Elections?"



Latoya Rowe
Senior
Philosophy

"I am not looking forward to the elections because it seems to be the same students running every year."



Monique Lewis
Senior
Advertising

"Not really, because I feel that it doesn't affect me since I am graduating in May."



Brandon Brice
Senior
International Business

"Yes, because I think that it is important to see new leaders emerge and take a stance on Howard issues. I think it should be based on merit and substance versus popularity."



Andrea Martin
Junior
Administrational Justice

"No, I have other things to worry about."

Towers Occupancy Agreement Sends Students Packing



BY TIFANY F. WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Students who enjoy campus housing are given occupancy agreements that they are required to read and sign before moving in; however, students and faculty are faulting on the small print.

The agreement is between residence life and the student that outlines the terms, conditions and policies that the university has implemented for the residents. Each party is expected to uphold their end of the bargain.

"Every student who lives in campus housing is notified before it is terminated. If you know your agreement is coming to an end with the Towers, it's the students' responsibility to notify the office in P-12 or myself," said Larry Frelow, property manager of the Towers.

Averlyn Cotes, a fall 2004 school of business graduate, said the university did not carry out their part in the eviction process.

"I never received a reminding letter from the Towers saying that I had to move out," Cotes said. "So, I assumed they were going to let me stay for the rest of the semester until May."

Other students who live in the Howard Plaza Towers have expressed that most of the terms and policies in their occupancy agreements are clear and understandable when it comes to eligibility, termination and payment agreements.

"I know that I would have to move out when I finished my course work . . . no matter, whether I graduated in the spring or winter," said junior broadcast journalism major Sonny Pinkiney.

Students who have been approved to graduate in the fall or the spring are usually notified by letter a couple weeks before the semester ends.



Photos by Alevdo Alexander-Staff Photographer

Students who have graduated in December are being forced to move out of the Towers due to their occupancy agreements.

It is university policy that Howard no longer grants any resident in any type of housing arrangement, whether it is in one of the dormitories or the Towers, housing when he or she graduates. According to Frelow, in order to reside in the Towers a student must be enrolled in courses as a full-time student, still be affiliated with the college through a program that supports

their major, or be employed by Howard.

"The students that have been provided with housing . . . it is meant to help promote, educate and enrich them while they work towards their degrees at Howard," he said.

Although on-campus housing is convenient because of its proximity to the university and the downtown area, some

students are looking forward to their own living arrangements absent of Howard affiliation.

"I am looking forward to the days when I have my own place and the stress of paying my own rent is upon me," said English major Justin McClendon. "That is part of the reward of getting your degree. Living here in the Towers is only temporary."

HU Gains Voices on Safe Sex

BY ROSHNI L. ROUNTREE
Contributing Writer

Adamma Anumba, a feminist and pro-choice advocate, is an officer of the new Howard Chapter of Planned Parenthood (VOX) organization, the first chapter founded on the campus of a HBCU.

A senior psychology major with a minor in biology, Anumba said the purpose of group is for Planned Parenthood to reach out and connect with college students.

Anumba said people think Planned Parenthood promotes abortion but "they aren't pro-abortion, they're pro-choice." She said she works to help people understand the difference. Some people perceive pro-choice to mean pro-abortion, but Anumba said pro-choice is the concept that it's a woman's right to make decisions concerning her own body. Some students agree.

"I believe that each woman responds to pregnancy differently as it pertains to her unique beliefs," said Melissa J. Black, a senior majoring in psychology. "It is for every woman to decide and no one else."

However, senior chemistry major Ryan Seaforth has a different take on the subject.

"I understand the concept of pro-choice, but I feel that it should be male and female choice, not just the choice of the female," Seaforth said.

Students may be aware of Planned Parenthood but not its presence on campus. Anumba said she wanted a VOX chapter on the campus because she believes there is a need for the information that Planned Parenthood has to offer.

Some students seem to agree with her.

"Anything that helps out the Black community is a good thing," said Keith Tucker, a junior graphic design major.

David Dawson, a senior biology major, also agrees with



www.juliastiles.free.fr

VOX, a planned parenthood organization, is the first of its kind on Howard University's campus.

the group's presence on campus regardless of any negative responses.

"We shouldn't reject them from being on campus just because people may disagree due to a difference in beliefs," Dawson said.

According to Anumba, her peers have mixed feelings about VOX.

"If Howard students are supposed to be leaders in the global community, then we should be knowledgeable and spread the message about protecting sexual health," Anumba said. Derrick Dennis, junior mathematics major, expressed a similar viewpoint.

"People need to know more and by Planned Parenthood having a voice on campus, they can increase awareness in our community," he said.

Anumba's goal is to educate. She said rates of HIV/AIDS are quickly spreading in the Black community. According to the Center for Disease Control, in

2003 an estimated 368,169 Black people would be diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

For Whites, 376,834 were diagnosed in 2003.

Anumba said the difference between the numbers is that Black people hold a high number of HIV/AIDS cases but "hold a small percentage of the U.S. population." According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2003, Black people made up 12.1 percent of the United States population; White people made up 76.2 percent of the population.

"If we educate people on the precautions, then they will be knowledgeable about how to protect themselves," Anumba said.

Anumba said after she obtains her Ph.D. in clinical psychology, she plans to start her own practice and work with minorities.

"My focus will be underprivileged people that could not usually afford a psychologist."



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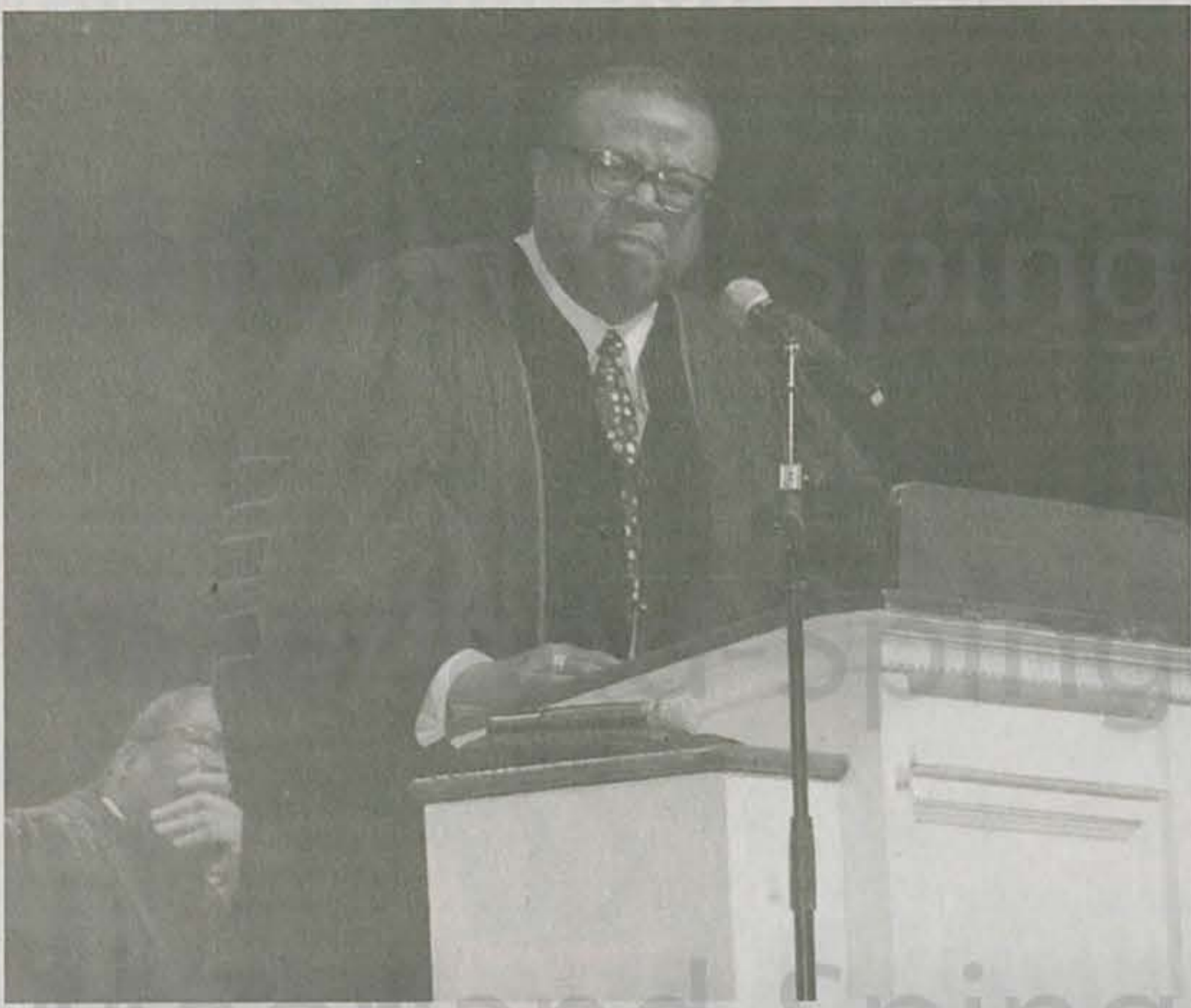
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Nicole Reed-Staff Photographer

Reverend Doctor Joe Samuel Ratliff told the Chapel audience on Sunday that seeking God would lead "servants out of despair."

Ratliff Tells Students to Use God to Reduce Problems

BY BRITTANY G. THOMAS
Contributing Writer

Before the Rev. Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff led the chapel service last Sunday in the ways to minimize their troubles through God, the gospel choir sang and swayed to the inspiring words of "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me."

Noted by Dr. Bernard Richardson, Office of the Dean of the Chapel, as "not only a great preacher but a great pastor," Rev. Dr. Ratliff enthused the congregation with his power of speech and "straight to the point" demeanor. Senior film production major, Valerie Colter, enjoyed his choice of delivery.

"He was a great preacher," she said. "He got straight to the sermon; he wasn't superfluous. He spoke of his past experiences and greatly affected my intake of the ministry."

Rev. Dr. Ratliff used Psalms chapter 107 to explain that a person's troubles can be eased when they are given to God. He said that one must cry as life brings troubles and further attests that it is in those moments that God "shows up and shows out" in delivering His children who, through worship, commend Him with praise.

Rev. Dr. Ratliff suggests

that God is not just to be commended during "final time, but everyday."

By seeking God and His will first in life, the reverend said that God will lead his servants out of despair, and suggests that genuine spiritual peace and true success can be reached when God is placed first as the leader of one's life.

While emphasizing that the Devil changes the price tags making the cheap things look most expensive and making the things of great value appear as if they can be bought with less, he asserts that grace means that the situation may have gone another way.

"The service was thought provoking, while being simple and easily understood in its application to our daily lives," said freshman accounting major Latrice Jones.

God serves as the compass and pilot of one's life and Psalm chapter 107, verse 29 says, "calms the storm, so that its waves are still" and guides us through our own "personal Tsunami," as Rev. Dr. Ratliff so effectively announced.

Breaking it down, he states that God tells us to "chill" and goes on to ask, "Why you trippin', haven't I been there before?"

Rev. Dr. Ratliff testified that "just because you're doing

the right thing, doesn't mean the storm won't come."

Yet in triumph, he submitted a phrase of hope in saying that "I rather be in the storm with Jesus than all by myself". In the midst of the storm, Rev. Dr. Ratliff said, "God will make you a wonder," neither the person in the storm nor the people around that person will understand why.

Concluding the sermon, Rev. Dr. Ratliff reflected on his youthful experiences, in which he recalled going to parties and asking a pretty girl to dance who would decline, leaving him to dance by himself. He wondered her purpose of getting dressed and going to a party if she did not want to dance.

The question was applied to the congregation, "Why get all dressed up and come to church if you won't praise God?"

The congregation roared in pronouncements of praise and many were lead to the altar, not only in search of spiritual reprieve, but also in praise.

Rev. Dr. Ratliff reminded freshman biology major Keniesha Thompson "that going to the Lord first with all endeavors is the only way one can achieve ultimate success in and areas of life."

Students 'Bridge the Gap' Between Africans, Blacks

BY CHRISTOPHER A. WALL
Hilltop Staff

Christyn Paige and Jimmy Ray Prude, Jr., Howard University School of Business students, have teamed up to present "Bridging the Gap," in response to the overwhelming amount of negative stereotypes perpetuated through the media about Africans and African-Americans.

"The media does a good job of depicting African-Americans as an ignorant culture driven by hip-hop and Africans as needy men, women and children. Everything we do to uplift our race has to be done by us," said Prude, a senior computer information systems major.

"Bridging the Gap" is a panel discussion and open forum designed to discuss the similarities and ideas concerning African and African-American cultures.

Scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Cook Hall, "Bridging the Gap" initially began as a dorm activity, but Paige and Prude decided to expand the program to the entire Howard community when

a large number of students expressed a desire to dispel the myths about both cultures.

Paige and Prude are conducting the program in conjunction with the Howard University Student Association and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in an effort to reach as many students as possible.

"The purpose of this program is to focus on the relationships and improve communications among African and African-American students on Howard's campus and maybe even throughout the United States," Prude said. "We want to dispel all the misconceptions of each culture and obtain more information on African culture and vice versa."

African-Americans are the majority on Howard's campus, but the large African student population will be beneficial in the success of the program.

"A lot of African students are going to be on the panel," Prude said. "Hopefully we will be able to learn each other's differences and accept them for who they are and become more immersed in the other's culture," he said.

Paige, a senior business

management major, agrees.

"Bringing international and American students together in an open dialogue to discuss the differences and similarities in each culture will definitely be helpful in the advancement of our people," said Paige, who serves as vice president of the School of Business.

Paige interacts with both African and African-American students daily and feels that the debate on cultural issues is a problem that needs to be addressed.

"Each culture has preconceived notions as to how the other lives and acts," Paige said. "The media views Africans as poor, dirty and diseased, while Africans view African Americans as lazy, disrespectful, violent and overly sexual."

Paige and Prude feel that all these things paint a distorted picture of each culture and may leave many on both sides reluctant to learn more about the other.

"Everyone who attends will learn something new," Paige said. "We just ask that everyone come with an open mind and a positive attitude."

'Real Men' Forum Says True Worship Not Related to Gender

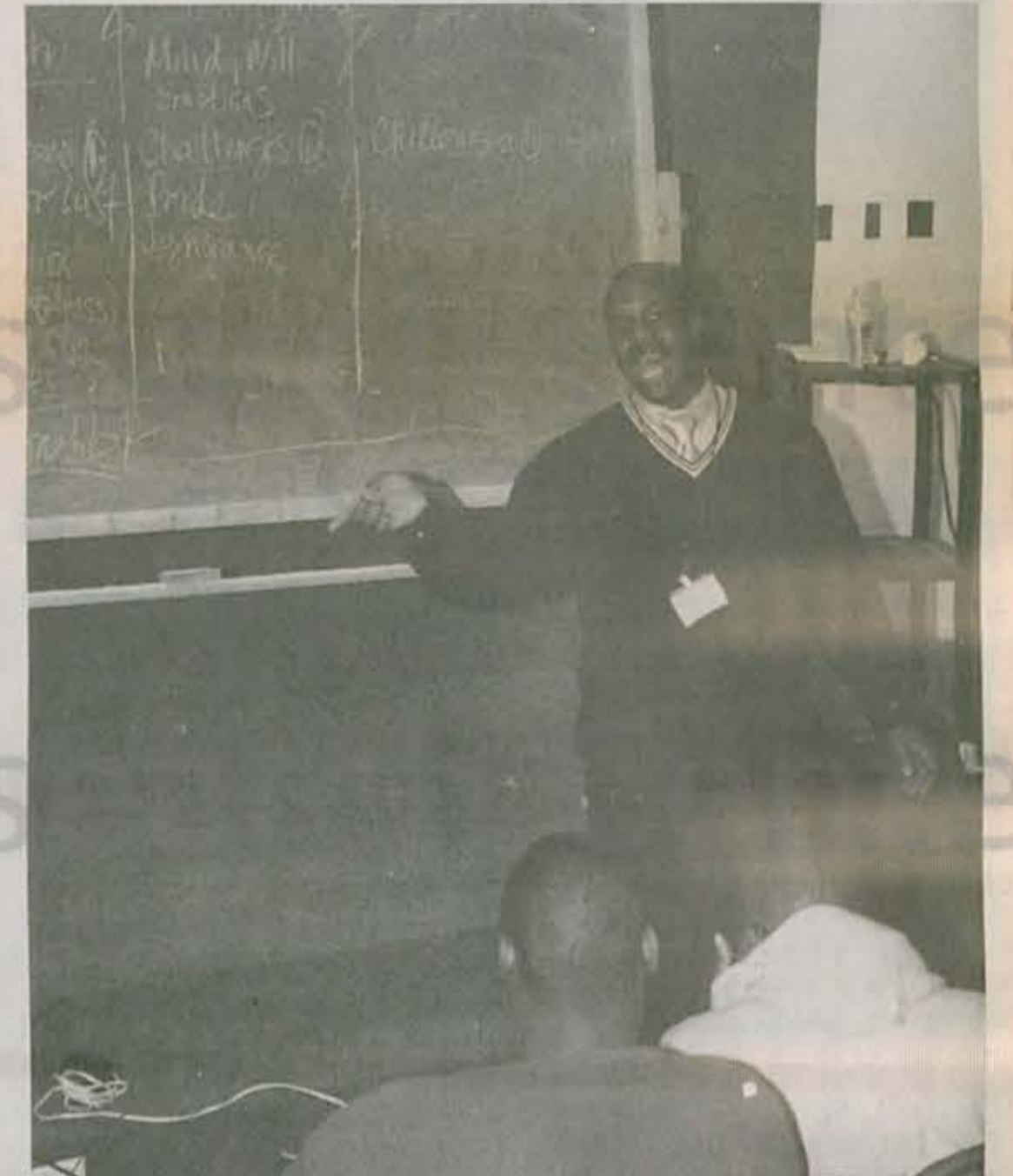
BY KRISTLE WHITE AND
CHRISTINA WRIGHT
Contributing Writer & Hilltop Staff

Young men were instructed on how to balance their manhood and their faith in God at the Real Men Worship Conference over the weekend.

"This conference is not only going to be a life changing experience for so many young men but a venue and window of opportunity for god to work in the lives of people who have yet to enter their full purpose," logistics coordinator Kevin Quail said.

The conference was a collaboration between Christian Brothers United, Noon Day and the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. Chairman Cory Scott, a sophomore political science major, headed the event and claims to have received the idea from a source beyond this world.

"The vision that God gave me in November was to get men together and discuss issues that men deal with: pride and inse-



Mark King-Staff Photographer

A collaboration of Christian organizations on campus put on a conference to show men it was okay to worship God.

See MEN, News A7

Profiles In Black History

Howard "Sandman" Sims (1917-2003)

BY KEIRSTEN ALSTON-MURRAIN
Contributing Writer

Lately it appears that dancing is but a mere supplement to a vocalist or a tight beat. The art of dancing is not as revered as it was in the time of Howard "Sandman" Sims.

Known as the Executioner, Sims was the man who tap-danced unwanted acts off the infamous Apollo Theatre stage in Harlem, N.Y. For more than 30 years he used his unique tap dancing style to entertain the rough Apollo crowd.

A native of Fort Smith, Ark., Sims grew up in an age when tap dancing was a well-respected craft. He was in a class with famed performers Fred Astaire, Sammy Davis, Jr., Buster Brown and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, who gave Sims his tap shoes in an effort



www.proctors.org

to carry on the art of tap dancing.

Combining tap moves with sprinkling sand on the surface in which he tapped is what got him his signature as "Sandman." It reminded him of his days as a boxer where he would dance in the rosin box before a fight.

As a former boxer, Sandman Sims taught footwork to acclaimed boxers Sugar Ray Robinson

and Muhammad Ali. He also helped to link the gap between vaudeville and contemporary styles of tap, which were used by the late Gregory Hines and Savion Glover.

The two had an opportunity to work directly with Sims in the 1989 movie "Tap," that showcased many great performers.

Sims appeared in other 1980s movies such as "Harlem Nights" and "The Cotton Club" and appeared as himself on the hit television show "The Cosby Show" in 1990.

Sandman received a National Heritage Fellowship in 1984, from the National Endowment for the Arts.

On May 21, 2003, Howard "Sandman" Sims died in a nursing home in Bronx, N.Y. He suffered from Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and an ulcer. He was 86.

Oliver W. Hill, Sr., Esq. (1907-present)

BY RHONDA HECKSTALL
Contributing Writer

Oliver W. Hill, Sr. is best known for his role in the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*.

He was born in Richmond, Va. on May 1, 1907. Hill devoted his life to building a more just America.

He graduated from Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C. and decided to further his education at Howard University. After earning an undergraduate degree, Hill attended Howard University School of Law.

While at Howard, he met Thurgood Marshall. Hill was second in his class to Marshall. The two remained close friends for many years after.

In 1940, Hill won his first civil rights case in Norfolk, Va., where the



www.longwood.edu

school system was ordered to pay Black and White teachers equally.

Following the case, Hill secured equal transportation for students of all races in Virginia.

The year 1948 was a milestone in Hill's life. He was the first African-American since the Reconstruction Era to be elected to the Richmond City Council. Even though a second term was not successful, this opened doors

for future African-American politicians.

Hill's accomplishments as a lawyer have not gone unnoticed. On Aug. 11, 1999, former president of the United States Bill Clinton presented Hill with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The medal is the highest honor the nation can present to any civilian.

At the age 91, he retired from practicing law in Richmond, Va. at his firm Hill, Tucker & Marsh, after practicing law for nearly 60 years.

Not only has Hill helped with equalizing the salaries of teachers and with student transportation, he has assisted in other civil rights milestones.

He earned Blacks the right to serve on grand juries, participation in primary elections and the desegregation of public places.

The Hilltop Policy Board is currently seeking applicants for the 2005-2006:

Editor-in-Chief

Business Manager

Applications are available in the Office of Student Activities, Blackburn Center Suite 117 or on our website www.howard.edu/currentstudents/studentlifeactivities/

Applications are due on February 28, 2005 by 5:00 pm.

‘Emotions’ Raises Money for Spring Michigan Club Event

EMOTIONS, from Campus A1

a Ride”. With a North Carolina accent and creative wordplay, Brown effectively absorbed the attention of the audience.

Some poems were about relations. LeBrece Black, sophomore audio major, assured the ladies at the program that he was more than qualified for their attention in “Job Inquiry and Interview.”

Others encouraged the audience to respect themselves. Freshman biology and Spanish major, Aiyi'nah Ford, told girls to rein supreme in her poem “Letter to the girl in the R. Kelly video and all other fast a-- girls in the world.”

Covering a slew of emotions – love, hate, admiration, despair, concern, ambition, struggle, etc – the program was thought positive for numerous reasons, the main one being that a stereotype was challenged.



Patrick Jackson-Staff Photographer

Emotions, which featured spoken word and poetry, was a way for the Michigan Club to raise money.

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click it to us.

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D.C. Mayor Implements Plan to Reduce Homelessness

BY SHANNON RUSSELL
Contributing Writer

Mayor Anthony Williams recently announced his plan to end homelessness by the year 2014 with the release of "Homeless No More," a program devised to take the homeless off city streets and place them in assistance shelters.

Anthony acknowledged in a press conference that homelessness will still exist but he wants to make homelessness something that is short lived.

"Our goal is to transform our housing accommodations for displaced or homeless people," Williams said. "Emergency shelters will be replaced with homeless assistance centers."

"Homeless No More" is based on three long-term policies: increasing prevention efforts with local and federal resources, actively coordinating mainstream social services for homeless individuals funded federally and locally by "con-

tinuum of care" programs and lastly, developing and/or subsidizing 6000 new units of supportive affordable housing.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is giving a \$17 million grant to support "Homeless No More."

With the money, the city plans to start building the new units and assistance shelters by the end of this month. The mayor plans to start by renovating the historic Gales School on Massachusetts Avenue and turn it into an assistance center for men.

He also wants to replace emergency shelters with homeless assistance centers, which would provide homeless families with housing where they will be supported by neighborhood-based programs.

Donald Melvin, executive director at Gospel Rescue Ministries, is happy that Mayor Williams has recognized the problem of homelessness and is promoting change.

"I do not know if the plan to end homelessness is going to be successful, but I do commend Mayor Williams in trying to help," he said.

"I will support the cause because the thing about homelessness, is that not all homeless people are drug addicts, many of them are people that have lost their jobs, and as a result have lost their homes, leaving them homeless," Melvin said.

Dwayne Chandler of the District of Columbia's Homeless Shelter has a different view than Melvin. He has heard a lot about helping homelessness over the years, but has not seen much being done about it.

"Anything that helps the homeless, you want. But I am not going to believe it until I see it; I will support it if it happens," he said.

Some are very excited about Mayor Williams plan.

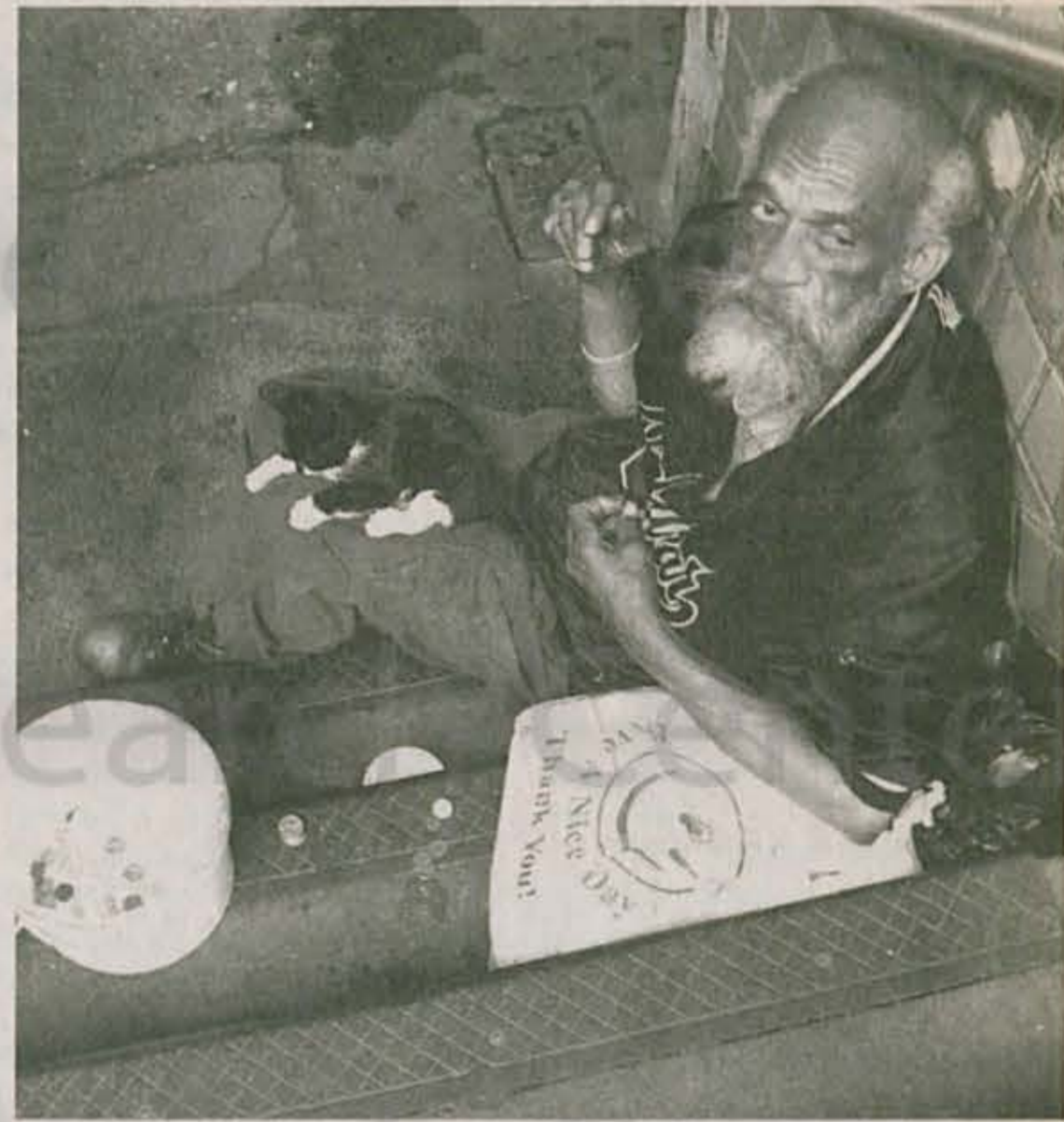
"It is encouraging that the mayor is convening so many competent people and agencies to make a strategic plan to end

homelessness in the District of Columbia," said Schroder Strubling, director of programs at the N Street Village homeless shelter. "I believe the goals in the plan are good and support the establishments that are backing the plan."

Laquita Robinson, a resident and first year graduate student at Howard University believes that the mayor has a lot to handle.

"I believe that there is a lot more to it than just helping the homeless, it is also going to be about poverty as a whole. I believe that it is an ambitious goal and if the mayor utilizes the right resources then I believe that he can be halfway there, to stopping homelessness," she said.

Alternatively, DeKita Terrell, a two-year D.C. resident believes that the plan is "stupid because D.C. is an expensive place to live and once you help the homeless there is still going to be a lot of work to do."



Homeless people like this man, might be off the streets soon due to Mayor William's new plan.

Treasures Along Metro's Blue Line

BY MIKE HOLMES
Hilltop Staff Writer

Metro opens doors and it also helps you cross state lines. Metro's blue line takes you from Maryland to D.C. to Virginia and back. The line starts at Largo Town Center in Prince George's County, Md. It stops at Franconia-Springfield in Springfield, Va.

Both Largo Town Center and Morgan Boulevard are new additions to the line; the blue line originally started at Addison Road-Seat Pleasant.

Largo Town Center takes you directly to Prince George's County's new shoppers paradise, The Boulevard at Capital Centre. The mall is the brainchild of Magic Johnson, and the Magic Johnson Movie Theatre is the centerpiece of the new development. The shopping complex was developed to capitalize on the growth of Prince George's County.

Morgan Boulevard is the stop for sports fans. Here lies FedEx Field, home of the Washington Redskins.

"I probably would drive to a game but it's nice to know I can take the train there," said junior broadcast journalism major Adam Vicks. Just to the left of FedEx Field is the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex. The complex contains one of the largest gymnastic complexes in the area, regulation size indoor and outdoor tracks, two indoor pools, (one competition size, the other part of a children's water park) and a fully equipped fitness center.

Capital Heights is the last stop before entering the District. This entire area is currently going through redevelopment as there are many sites for new town homes and condos.

One of the next stops, Stadium-Armory, is exactly that. RFK Stadium and the D.C. Armory are both located here. RFK is the current home



Shoppers can stop at the Blue Line's Eastern Market station to enjoy some outdoor and indoor produce and craft shopping.

of the D.C. United. In April, it will become the temporary home of D.C.'s baseball team, the Washington Nationals.

The Armory has been the home of the Ringling Bros. Circus but is primarily used for expos, car shows and job fairs.

Eastern Market is the home of the last 19th century market still in operation in D.C. You can do everything from buy handmade pasta and fresh cut flowers to exhibit and sell artwork.

Location, location, location; it can make or break a business. In this case it's what makes Federal Triangle very special. Traveling no more than three blocks in any direction you can run into some of D.C.'s most popular attractions.

Across the street, The Old Post Office Pavilion features

See METRO, News A7



People can go exercise and get fit at Landover's Sports and Learning Complex.

River Relief to Clean Potomac, Anacostia

BY JEFFREY CARTER
Contributing Writer

The Capital River Relief project, which, in 2004, removed more than 40 tons of garbage from the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, will return to the District's waterfronts for another sponsored 11-day cleanup.

Capital River Relief's "Team Up to Clean Up" is a privately funded, all-volunteer coalition pairing the large boat-based capabilities of Living Lands and Waters, a Midwest-based river clean-up group, and many dedicated local organizations, led by the Alice Ferguson Foundation and the Anacostia Watershed Society.

Capital River Relief is an extension and expansion of local conservation efforts. It illustrates the commitment of coalition members to environmental management, particularly in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Potomac and Anacostia Rivers are highly visible elements of the historic and scenic surroundings in the D.C. area and are well recognized as needing continued attention and restoration. These organizations understand the roles humans play in conserving and protecting the environment.

"I am thrilled to again be working with these great local groups. They've worked for years to care for these rivers and help people understand we all play a role in preserving our environment," Chad Pregracke, former commercial fisherman and founder of Lands & Waters, said. Pregracke works full time cleaning rivers, including the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers, in addition to the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. He has been honored by First Lady Laura Bush and profiled in publications including Time, People, Reader's Digest and the Smithsonian Magazine.

In the past eight years, Living Lands & Waters has collected over 900 tons of trash from the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, Potomac and Anacostia rivers. After the garbage is collected, it is sorted on a barge, a huge boat Living Lands & Waters supplies. Most of the items are recycled but the items that can't be recycled are taken to a dumpsite.

Those assisting in the clean-up include coalition members from Living Lands & Waters, the Alice Ferguson Foundation, the Anacostia Watershed Society, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Potomac Conservancy, numerous volunteer groups comprised of local business employees, government organizations, university students and alumni and local and national celebrities.

Last year the project had Mayor Anthony A. Williams, "Survivor" winners Ethan Zohn and Jenna Morasca and D.C. United players Josh Gros and Bryan Namoff participating in the cleanup.

Volunteers shouldn't be too shocked to find questionable objects during cleanups. Some of the most outrageous items Living Lands & Waters and volunteers have found in the past include automatic teller machines, safes, a human skull, prosthetic legs and numerous messages in bottles.

Capital River Relief teams will have river access from Living Lands & Waters boats and a 140-foot trash barge, in order to reach areas not typically accessed by land-based cleanups. The boats will dock near the Belle Haven Marina, along the Alexandria, Va., waterfront. Cleanup sites for Capital River Relief 2005 will include sites on the Potomac River near the Georgetown waterfront, shorelines at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia and the banks of the

See RIVER, News A7

News From Around the Metro Area

Phony Physician on Loose

Nearly 30 women have developed lesions across their lower bodies after being injected with an unknown substance. The women received the injections from an unlicensed Colombian man posing as a doctor. The injections were supposed to rid the women of cellulite and wrinkles. The unlicensed man has not been charged.

New Hospital May Be In Works

Mayor Williams and Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert are currently working on a potential deal to construct the new National Capital Medical Center. The center is to be built on the former site of D.C. General Hospital in Southeast. D.C. Council members have expressed concerns about costs.



The now-closed D.C. General Hospital.

Officer Acquitted Despite Tape

Cpt. Brian Addis, a P.G. County Police Officer was acquitted of second-degree assault and making a false entry on a public record. Video was shown of Addis kicking and then beating a handcuffed suspect with his nightstick back in October 2003. Addis claimed he believed the man was armed.

- Compiled by Mike Holmes
Hilltop Staff Writer



The Anacostia River will get an improved appearance in the next few weeks, due to the Capital River Relief.

Blue Line Offers Options

METRO, from Metro A6

shopping, shows, and international cuisine. The National Aquarium is two blocks behind the stop. The Warner Theatre, which held performances of *The Nutcracker* this past December, is less than a block away.

The National Theatre, which will be holding performances of *Mama Mia!* starting in May, is across the street from the Warner Theatre. The

Ronald Regan Building, which last summer turned into the outdoor nightclub Air is less than two blocks away. Not to mention the White House, which is only three blocks away.

Some students feel that many students aren't taking advantage of everything the District has to offer. Larissa Etwaroo, a senior advertising major, feels students just aren't getting all they can from

the city. "We don't take things like the arts as seriously as we should. We take opportunities like that for granted," she said.

The blue line is home to a plethora of attractions and gives everyone the opportunity to experience the Metropolitan area. And as Etwaroo said, "The line goes a lot farther than you may think."

Potomac, Anacostia Rivers Scheduled for Face-Lift

RIVER, from Metro A6

Anacostia near the Washington Navy Yard.

Capital River Relief 2005 will coincide with the arrival of Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals and be a key component of beautifying areas surrounding the current home of the Nationals, RFK Stadium and the site of the Nationals' future home.

The sponsored cleanups for the Capital River Relief project will run from March 31 to April 2 with the Alice Ferguson Foundation, and on various dates throughout April with the Anacostia Watershed Society.

Cleanups will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Individuals and groups



Many are used to seeing the beautiful sights around the Potomac River, but tons and tons of trash lie below the water's surface.

can volunteer by contacting 0792 or at jenica@capitalriverriver.org. Jenica McMaster at (202) 414-4141.

Christian Groups Encourage Worship Among Men, Women

MEN, from Campus A4

curity about our relationship with God and moving past what we think about what other people might think about us and worship God just for who God is," he said.

The first annual Real Men Worship conference began at nine on Saturday morning in the School of Business, where men attended five sessions that were led by Dr. Lewis M. Anthony, senior pastor at Metropolitan Wesley AME Zion Church; Dr. Cain Hope Felder, professor at the School of Divinity; Minister Carlous Price, assistant chaplain of Tom Skinner Campus Ministries; and Pastor Samuel Alan Burroughs, senior pastor at Outpouring Ministries.

"We learned how to be effective in worship," said Jaymond Speller, a freshman print journalism major. "There was a lot of teaching in the importance of worship and also what you have

to do to be put in a position of worship, because you can't worship in the flesh. You have to allow the spirit to lead you."

The conference also taught the men to ignore an imbedded stereotype.

"We learned to get rid of the misconceptions that only women worship because God has called me to worship also," Speller said.

Although the conference focused on teaching men that it is okay to worship, the conference did not leave women out of the equation. There were two special sessions throughout the day that were directed toward the issues women experience through their worshipping process: identity of a worshipping woman and building sisterly bonds.

"It was nice that they did not just leave the women out," freshman psychology major Lynn Speed said. "I learned a lot about myself in the minis-

try." The conference participants were gathered into the Rankin Chapel to attend the final session. The Worship Service was two hours long and encouraged the men and women to worship God.

"You owe him worship not because of what He's done for you, but because He's God," said Timothy Lewis, RMW! treasurer.

The RMW! Praise and Worship Team sang three hymns - "Beauty Of Your Holiness," "There Is None Like You" and "You Are Awesome In This Place" - each bringing praises from the congregation.

The conference served its purpose for some men who attended it.

"I now have less limitations and inhibitions about who He is," Demetrius Green, a sophomore history major, said. "A real man can worship God and still be a 'man'."

Housing Hunt Continues

HOUSING, from Campus A1

links are to companies that were at last year's housing fair including Aimco, Kay Apartment Communities and Southern Housing Management.

To apply for apartments at Kay Gardens in Mount Rainer, Md. applicants must fill out an application, provide proof of income and pay a \$25 fee per person. If the qualifications are met then a \$200 deposit is needed to reserve the room.

"We rent to anybody that meets the qualifications," said Suzette Smith a representative at Kay Gardens. "Once the application is processed, we give you a call back and you can move in."

Gateway Gardens, in

Bladensburg, Md., offers two bedroom apartments starting at \$905 a month for hardwood floors and \$955 for carpeted rooms, which includes utilities.

Gateway Gardens representative Cindy Rojas said, "Students can receive a student discount of \$30 a month by providing their schedule and student identification number."

Some students are hoping that they will find a way to stay on campus even if they have to stay in dorms far from main campus. Other students are beginning to search for off-campus housing by picking up newspapers and looking for rental signs across the area.

Junior political science major Divai Brown and a group of her friends have teamed up to

find off-campus housing. Brown said when they all realized they decided to try to find a house so that they can share rent and live together.

"It's ridiculous that Howard is ill-equipped to deal with the many situations that arise, especially with housing," Brown said. "I am now house hunting; the City Paper has lots of listings and ads. I want to stay close to campus because I don't want to travel that far to school without a car."

Students like Brown and her friends are continuing to search for housing in hopes of finding somewhere to live before it's too late.

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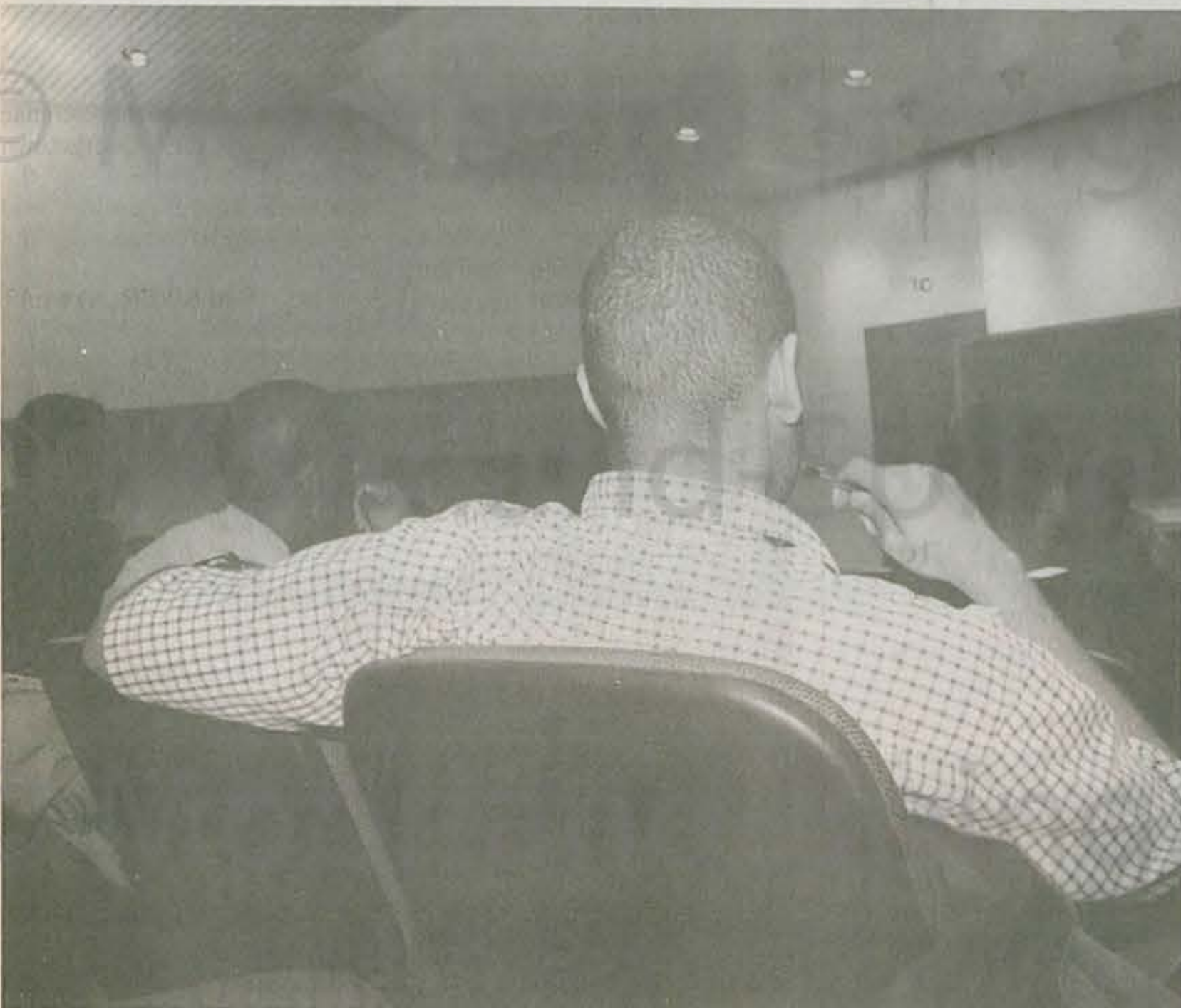
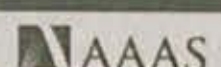


Isaac Newton 1642-1727

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Mark King, Staff Photographer

Men learned how to worship and still be a man during the Real Men Worship conference.



How

Do

You

Read It?

**monday.
tuesday.
wednesday.
thursday.
friday.**

February 28, 2005

Lifelines:



Salt 'N Pepper's Here (Again)

BY KEITH LAING
Life & Style Editor

Last weekend, I added my nine dollars to the other \$39,999,991 that Will Smith and Kevin James drew for their buddy flick "Hitch." Then, I popped in my DVD of Jamie Foxx and Tom Cruise's "Collateral." I enjoyed them both.

What I liked most about them — besides the great acting — is that despite featuring Black and White co-stars, they aren't Black and White movies. In fact, save a few "rhythm-less white guy" moments in "Hitch," you wouldn't even be able to tell the actors' race if you closed your eyes long enough. That's a testament to the writer's crafting stories that aren't specific to any particular group, and the biggest reason these movies, once dubbed "salt and pepper films," have recently enjoyed tremendous box office success.

And I don't mind at all. It's like my theory about music. A few weeks ago, loyal *Lifelines* readers learned that regardless of a song's origin, if it moves me, I move to it. Similarly, the moviegoer in me is not really hard to please. If a movie is good, I don't care if the actors are purple. I just want to be drawn into the story and care what happens at the end. Do that and I'll feel like I've gotten my money's worth — at least before the price of a movie began rivaling tickets to a Broadway play, but that's a discussion for another *Lifelines*.

Anyway, sometimes it's good to see our actors in different lights. Would Jamie Foxx be up for Oscars if he only did "Boozy Calls" and "The Players Clubs?" I can think of a few Black actors who could greatly benefit from a step outside of the box. I don't know about anyone else, but I don't think I can stand to watch Omar Epps and Sanaa Lathan or Morris Chestnut and Gabrielle Union fall in love again.

It seems like a lot of Black actors, save a Denzel Washington or a Don Cheadle here and there, are content to exist in a neat little box of Black love. Think about it. If you change the backdrop of "Love and Basketball" to hip-hop, you've got "Brown Sugar." It's almost as if the studios decided to remake the movie and didn't think we were smart enough to notice.

Well I noticed and I didn't like it one bit. So I'm glad for a little diversity in my movie going. I guess it's like Michael Jackson said: It doesn't matter if it's Black and White.

Keith Laing went to GW to find a buddy. He said that if the 'Fresh Prince' can make \$40 million dollars teaching the 'King of Queens' to get a girl, he's in the wrong business. He'll probably take awhile to get back to you because he said he's not coming back until he finds a tag-along with drawing power. We don't really believe this person exists, so we're taking applications to replace him at life_n_style0405@yahoo.com. Hurry up though. If we don't fill the position before he comes back, we'll never get rid of him.



Deja Vu at a Movie Theater Near You

Black & White Films Make A Comeback

BY WHITNEY NEAL
Contributing Writer

Once upon a time, black and white film was the standard for the film industry before color was invented to dazzle viewer's eyes. Now, black and white filmmaking has come back, but this time, it's in front of the camera and not inside of it.

That's because Hollywood's latest formula for success is the resurrection of Black and White acting duos. Whether it's tried-and-true slapstick comedy in films like "Hitch" and "Taxi" or dark, moody thrills via Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx in "Collateral," American moviegoers can't get enough of the cookies and crème co-starring teams.

But are these films a part of a new movement in Hollywood, or just a passing trend?

Howard University film professor S. Torriano Berry said that he believes that it is just common sense. Senior public relations major Victor T. Johnson agreed.

"In order to reach a crossover audience, a winning audience, you have to have something for everybody,"

Johnson agreed. "The only way to have a successful, movie starring Black actor is to have White co-stars. Other movies with an all-Black cast don't do as well with sales."

And successes these films have been. According to www.boxofficemojo.com, "Hitch," starring Will Smith and Kevin James grossed over \$40 million in box office sales in its debut weekend, while Queen Latifah and Jimmy Fallon's "Taxi" raked in over \$36 million total, the second highest grossing film of Latifah's career. Only "Bringing Down the House," another interracial comedy, grossed more. Sinister thriller "Collateral" brought in over \$100 million in box office sales as well as being nominated for two Academy Awards.

Senior film student Opiyo Okeyo said that he believes that the success of these films signals a change in the way that movie-viewing audiences respond to Black performers. "It's just a time for change," Okeyo said. "People want to see something different, something other than that what's been put into their heads."

Ameerah Harris, a freshman international business major, also sees



With a multi-racial cast, including Will Smith, Kevin James (pictured) and Eva Mendez, films like "Hitch" are appealing to diverse audiences and proving to be big box office winners.

these films as the mark of advancement.

"These movies prove mainstream audiences accept Black actors as actors, not just people that can only star in Black movies," Harris said.

But while some feel that adding black costars to predominantly white films is a symbol of African-American progress in film, others view it as just another cycle the movie industry is creating.

"I don't see it so much as a trend, but something that's coming back again," said Susan Simmons, a sophomore public relations major.

"It could be a retro effect, but it's nothing new," Berry said. "Salt and pepper teams have been around before."

Berry cited films such as "The Defiant Ones," the "Lethal Weapon" series and "Stir Crazy" (Sidney Poitier's directorial opus), as earlier examples of Black actors teaming up with their White counterparts on film. As a result of these earlier partnerships, new interracial films are granted a certain degree of anonymity from being labeled "salt and pepper teams" or being perceived as ordinary. In fact, many Howard students said that they did not consider the racial make-up of these films

before or during viewing them.

"It [the pairing of Black and White actors] was almost expected with a movie like 'Hitch,' so I didn't really think about it before I saw it," Brandi Flonnory, a sophomore pharmacy major, said.

"I just thought that it ['Hitch'] would be a good movie. I didn't think about it being interracial or weird or anything," Johnson agreed.

For moviegoers, race seemed to take a backseat to the reputations of the actors themselves.

"I was really familiar with Will Smith as an actor and comedian ... I really didn't think about Kevin James, or that they were a Black/White team," Flonnory said.

Harris agreed. "I saw 'Collateral' because I love Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx," she said. "The fact that one was Black and one was White didn't occur to me."

Whether Black and White co-starring teams become the next big thing in Hollywood or step aside for the next trend remains to be seen. But regardless of their future, these films have made a lasting impression on America, helping to prove the versatility and box-office potential of Black actors and actresses.



Black History/Entertainment Review

Classic Spike Lee Flick Takes Viewers to School

BY JABARI SMITH
Contributing Writer

In an era when films depicting college life, such as John Belushi's "Animal House" ruled the box office and video rental market, director Spike Lee saw that it was time to enlighten America concerning the Black collegiate experience.

In 1988, Lee brought life at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) to the mainstream with the release of one his most popular and praised films, "School Daze." Filmed on the campuses of Morehouse College, Spelman College and Clark Atlanta University, "School Daze" chronicles the experiences of college students at the fictitious Mission College during its homecoming weekend.

"School Daze" is far from being a simple college comedy. Instead, Lee uses the film to illustrate the social divisions within all Black colleges: the socializers and the socially conscious and the dark and light-skinned Blacks.

"School Daze" focuses on three groups attending Mission College.

There are "Da Fellas" and their women, known as the Jigaboos because they refuse to relax their hair. Then there are the students who would rather urge Mission College to divest from South Africa because of discrimination at that time. Rounding out the group is Gamma Phi Gamma and the Gammities, a fictitious fraternity and its pledges and the Gamma Rays, known as the wannabes because most of them are light-skinned, relax their hair, and are apparently rich, women that are just mere sex objects and trophies to the Gammies.

Ironically, every Black actor who was, seemingly, popular in the late 80s or early 90s has some sort of role in "School Daze." Lawrence Fishburn gives an excellent performance as a politically conscious student, who tries to change a system that cannot be changed, and personally changes because of it. Lee, as usual, manages to put himself in his movies, this time as a pitiful and immature pledge that is enduring "Hell Week." Giancarlo Esposito, whose character is Gamma Phi Gamma's leader, serves as the movie's antagonist because

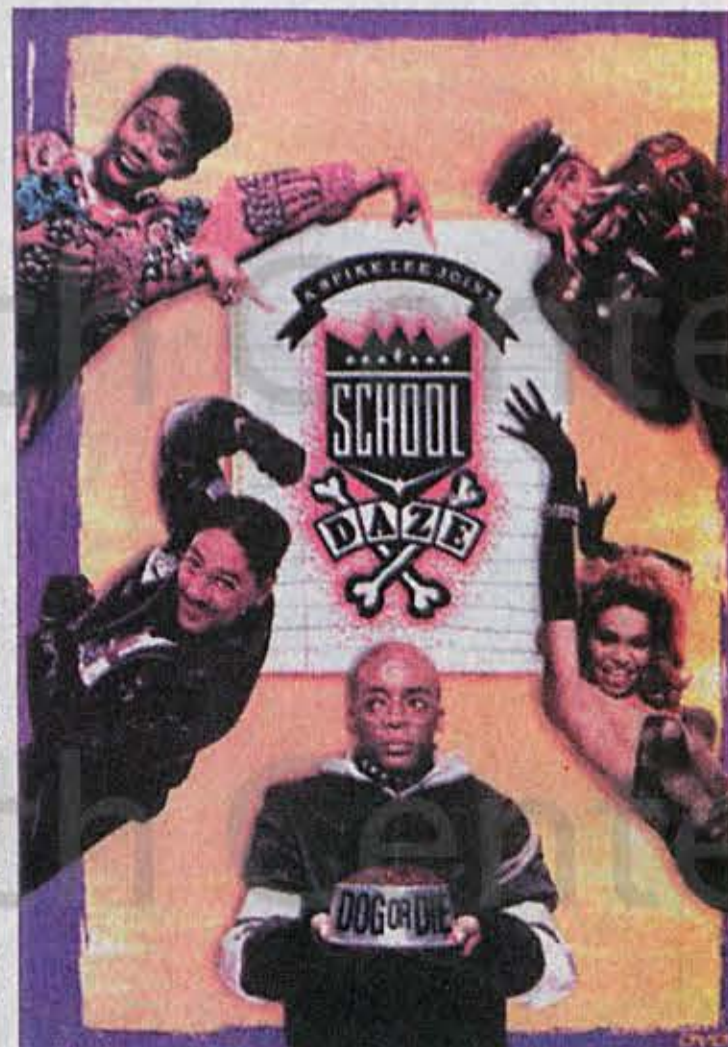
he promotes the colorist and elitist segregation on Mission's campus. Tisha Campbell, who later went on to fame with roles in "Martin" and "My Wife and Kids," gives a stirring performance as the fraternity leader's girlfriend and head Gamma Ray, who is victimized by her wannabe image.

Aside from the cast's excellent performances, "School Daze" also features a few amazing song and dance numbers, which showcase the cast's diverse talents, especially Campbell's.

"School Daze" should strike a chord with not only Howard students, but also anyone who has ever experienced Black college life. This movie demonstrates our society's nature for congregation by segregation as we matriculate through a Black college and the surrounding urban community.

View it with an open and inquisitive mind and it will be thoroughly enjoyable. It is definitely a must-see for anyone who has ever experienced or is looking forward to experiencing life at an HBCU.

GRADE: A



Spike Lee (bottom center) directed 1988's 'School Daze.' The film is centered on a fictional HBCU.

Lent Inspires Sacrifice, Reflection Among Students

BY AMY WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Many students sacrifice sleep for study. Others sacrifice carbs for the benefits of weight loss. During the 40 days before Easter, some students give up something meaningful for the reverence of religion.

Lent is a religious time of reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Fasting, sacrifice, frequent worship and acts of charity are observed during a 40-day period of devotion. The season begins on Ash Wednesday.

Rodney Griffin, a senior finance major, said that he grew up in the Catholic Church where Lent was very important to him and his family.

"My family has used the 40 days before Jesus died to reflect on the sacrifices He made and make sacrifices as well," he said.

Griffin said that he uses Lent to give up things that are important to him and things that will help him in his overall well-being.

"In the past, I have given up candy, fried food and soda," he said. "I do not find the sacrificing the hard part, but often remembering can be difficult."

Griffin said that it could be chal-

lenging to find substitutes for things he is giving up, especially during the college years.

"If I chose to give up soda and that is all I have to drink it is difficult to remind myself not to drink it," he said.

Lent began as a Catholic practice, but has been adopted by other denominations. Many Christian followers participate also in this religious ritual. For instance,

Adrienne Dukes, a junior marketing major, said she is a practicing Christian who has participated in the practice of Lent for several years.

"I was introduced to Lent when I attended Catholic school at the age of seven, and have been practicing the ritual since," she explained.

She said that every year she gives up things that are important to her to see how



Many Howard students are participating in Lent, a religious time of reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

strong she can be mentally and spiritually.

"In the past I have given up sweets which include candy, cakes, chocolate, soda and other sugary eatables," she said. "I hope to rid my self of some bad habits during this time. Although I know giving up things I like can be hard, I also understand it is important."

Director of Academic Services in the School of Business Jacqueline Deckard said that she believes that religion can be important in the lives of students.

"Religion can assist many students in the stress of everyday life," she said. "A belief in a higher being can often bring peace, help with organization and assistance in total responsibilities management."

Deckard, a member of St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church and the Black Women Catholics chapter of Washington, D.C., believes that it is important to nurture your spiritual side and finds Lent an important time of reflection. She said that she felt that giving up things is not what should be the

major focus.

"People should do more for the community and surrounding areas," she said.

Realizing people often make commitments they cannot keep, some believe it is better to make realistic goals and follow through.

"Although many religious followers have good intentions it is often difficult to maintain challenging sacrifices, so as opposed to going on a diet or exercising one should focus on religious studies or community service," Deckard said.

What Students Sacrifice for Lent

- Smoking
- Junk Food
- Partying
- Cursing
- Drinking

Compiled by Jana Homes

Junk Food Tries to Clean Up Its Act

BY CHARLAE WASHINGTON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Junk food is a customary part of American culture. According to the Snack Food Association, from McDonald's to Doritos to doughnuts, about 89 percent of Americans indulge in fattening foods daily. What is not so conventional is healthy junk food. It almost seems oxymoronic, yet more and more food companies are embracing the concept.

Food items such as potato chips, sugary cereals, microwave popcorn and even candy have been displaying bright labels boasting a "healthier" or "fortified" product. Manufacturers have been lowering the amount of calories and trans fat, adding vitamins and nutrients such as potassium,

calcium, iron or fiber.

This new health frenzy may have been caused, in part, by the increasing amount of obese Americans. As the cause of at least 300,000 deaths each year, obesity has been cited by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as the second leading cause of unnecessary deaths in the United States. Experts have hypothesized that obesity may surpass smoking as the country's number one killer this year. Fast food corporations have also been feeling the heat from a slew of recent lawsuits from patrons claiming that the restaurants were to blame for their obesity.

"Supersize Me," an investigative documentary by Morgan Spurlock, explored the health effects and exposed the det-

riments of frequent fast food consumption. Spurlock consumed only fast food for a month and became deathly ill. In the aftermath of the movie, McDonalds got rid of its "super size" option and added a line of salads.

The new trend of "healthy" junk food may be spreading quickly, but some students, like sophomore broadcast journalism major Amber English, are not convinced.

"A lot of that stuff I don't trust," she said. "Particularly a salad from a restaurant that sells 'questionable' chicken nuggets."

Other students expressed similar concerns about the move toward healthier fast foods.

"I would consider trying them [healthy junk foods], but only if they do not contain things like Olestra and other low fat substitutes that are more harmful than helpful," said freshman biology major Jodi Richardson.

Some felt that while healthier junk foods may be better than traditional junk food, they might not be an effective solution to America's health and weight problems.

"I think that fast food has its place," English said. "It's supposed to taste good. I don't think fast food going healthy is an entirely good thing because this means that as Americans, we're not taking charge of our own health, we're making it the fast food industry's job to take care of us. I just think that we, especially as African-Americans, need to be more responsible too."

Richardson agreed with English. "There needs to be a happy medium," she said. "If Americans do not start eat-

See FOOD, News B3



Alveto Alexander- Staff Photographer

According to the Snack Food Association, from McDonald's to Doritos to doughnuts, about 89 percent of Americans indulge in fattening foods daily.



Marlene Hawthorne- Staff Photographer

The pending merger of cell phone providers Sprint and Nextel has left customers of both companies uncertain about how their service will change in the coming months.

Cell Phone Mergers Change Customers' Service

BY BIANCA HOLMAN
Contributing Writer

Students with AT&T or Cingular wireless service may have noticed a change, and those with Sprint and Nextel may soon notice a change due to mergers between four of the nation's largest service providers.

Cingular bought wireless giant AT&T in Feb. 2004 for \$41 billion. The resulting company bears the name Cingular. Following suit, Sprint and Nextel have merged their companies. Sprint acquired Nextel in December 2004 and according to Standard & Poor's Equity Research, the "buy" price declined from \$35 to \$34 million.

Sprint and Nextel's new name will combine the two, making the name Sprint Nextel. According to a Sprint Nextel press release, the merger of these major wireless providers will bring better coverage, reliability and better service.

Sprint and Nextel combined would have a total of 35.4 million customers, becoming the third largest cellular provider following Cingular and Verizon.

Some students think these mergers will benefit them as customers.

"I think Sprint's service will definitely improve with the merging of Nextel," said senior finance major Darryl Lockett.

Sprint Nextel's press release announced that customers will experience fewer dropped calls, new products and faster web browsing. Special features have also crossed over such the "push-to-talk" ability, which was formerly exclusive to Nextel and allows for a walkie-talkie like conversation.

"I'm truly excited about Sprint and Nextel merging

because it's the best of both worlds. Nextel has the direct connect and Sprint has great service," freshman music education major Todd Price said.

The new larger companies are projected to have an affect on competition such as Verizon and T-Mobile. With the industry ventures, both mega-companies have downsized due to the redundancy of positions.

Sprint Nextel will save over \$12 billion with the projected changes, which were stated in the company's press release. Gary Forsee, chairman of Sprint, spoke favorably of the joining of the companies in a press release.

"This merger positions Sprint Nextel for greater success than either company could have achieved alone," Forsee said. "The combination of Sprint and Nextel builds strength on strength."

However, the corporations originally stated that the proposed merger would yield more jobs, but now, according to the Forsee, there will be "sizable" cuts.

But Cingular and Sprint seem to be content with the changes resulting from their merger. Their representatives are satisfied with the strategic business move.

"This combination is expected to create customer benefits and growth prospects neither company could have achieved on its own and will mean better coverage, improved reliability, enhanced call quality and a wide array of new and innovative services," Stan Sigman, president of Cingular, said in a 2004 press release.

According to the release, the company is due to save \$2

See MERGERS, News B3

Review: D.C. Comics Project a Disappointment

BY RAYNA LUCIER
Contributing Writer

DC Comics, known more for their wholesome animated sagas of humans or humanoids endowed with supernatural powers, such as the unforgettable classic Superman, have now introduced a new definition of hero into their collection.

Parting from the norm of DC super heroes, veteran comic book writer Alexandro Jodorowsky and famed artist Mobius unit-

ed to create the sci-fi saga "The Incal: The Epic Conspiracy."

A much darker story than fans of DC comics are used to, "The Incal" seems to be very similar to the style of classic novels such as Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," centered in a world corrupt with a major class dictated system, extreme cloning and violence.

The story takes place in a futuristic earth containing acidic rivers and robotic police squads.

The setting of the series is unlike many of the other worlds that DC has explored. It's a world wrought with sexuality, crime, and danger around every corner.

In this world, mutated beings, aliens and humans are searching for an ancient artifact that has the power to destroy the universe. The Incal, a small ancient glowing pyramid, is reserved for use at a designated time in the future. This object is endowed with prophetic and healing powers, and serves the divine purpose of saving the world from an untimely end.

Of course, if the Incal fell in the hands of someone who was truly worthy, this would not be an interesting story. The Incal is given to the unlikely hero John Difool, a detective who spends most of his days smoking and purchasing cloned prostitutes.

After a small catastrophe, he is given a small box and told that the fate of the universe rests in his hands. Difool is joined by a crew of heroes who are as unlikely as he is. Together, they band together to protect the Incal and the universe from destruction.

Little does Difool know that the contents of this box will change his life forever.

Immediately after touching the Incal, Difool is enhanced by some of its power and the mystical item is left slightly weaker from the drain.

The imagery in the story is excellent. The colors give it a very realistic feel and operate well in conveying the story visually. The storyline is strong and contains a lot of back-story. The ending is slightly over-dramatic but, because there are so many antagonists in the story, a legion of others are left with the potential to bring about Difool's demise even after one foe has been defeated.

The weaker aspect of this comic is its seeming desire to capitalize on the shock value of some of the imagery. "The Incal" is filled with unnecessary nudity and sexual scenes, most likely to attract the younger male audience, but in the end takes away from the value of the overall story.

Though the storyline was well thought out, there was too much information thrown at the reader randomly. This contributed to the feeling of disappointment, which resulted from the reading of this comic.

Grade: C



www.humanoids-publishing.com

Comic book king DC Comics new release features a compelling story and well drawn characters - sometimes too well.

Cell Phone Mergers Leave Many Searching for Answers

MERGERS, from L&S B2
 billion, which will allow the company to concentrate on improving distribution, devices, network supports and marketing strategies.
 "The new company will have a strong foundation to begin rolling out new services and data applications that enrich the end-user experience," Sigman continued.
 Still some student consumers of Cingular, like freshman nursing major Priscille Thebaud, have mixed reviews about the union.
 "Customer service has been poor since the merger because the companies are

not in full conjunction with each other," said Thebaud, a devoted customer of Cingular. "It is kind of a hassle when I call with questions and have to be transformed to different departments."
 Despite these problems, some students are happy with the change.
 "My service has been cheaper, I get to talk to more people which is something that I love," Thebaud said.
 Customers will now benefit from the use of mobile-to-mobile minutes on calls with customers on the newly merged servers. But some students may be more concerned with the quality, rather than

the cost, of their service.
 "Since the merger, Cingular and AT&T are still updating their technologies and support systems, so my service is still not perfect in some areas," said Raasikh Muhammad, a freshman management major.
 The companies involved firmly believe that the unions were made not only to benefit the companies involved but also, to yield positive results for the vast amount of loyal customers. As time goes on and technology advances, consumers can't help but wonder who will merge next?

New Forms of Snack Foods Boast Health Benefits

FOOD, from L&S B2
 ing healthier, heart disease and obesity will only continue to rise."
 Like most fads, healthy junk food may not be here to stay.
 "I'd give the healthier foods a try, but eventually I'll probably slip back into what I know," said English.
 It remains to be seen just how healthy this food will be.
 "I think they will be a little bit healthier, but the healthiness will be exaggerated in the media," said Richardson. "It is mostly a marketing ploy because companies know people will jump at the chance to have their favorite foods, only healthier."
 "Fortified junk food is still junk food," said Bonnie Liebman, director of nutrition for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, in an Atlanta Journal-Constitution interview. "People are still much better off eating healthy foods that supply the nutrients they need."



Jordan Colbert - Asst. Photo Editor
Several snack manufacturers are boasting of having "healthier" or "fortified" products, featuring lower amounts of calories and trans fat and adding vitamins and nutrients such as potassium, calcium, iron or fiber.
 Perhaps this new breed of junk food will be the Trojan horse of snackers everywhere.

*The School of Communications Student Council
 in association with The Talented Tenth presents...*

THE COTTON CLUB

A Night on the Red Carpet

APRIL 1ST 2005

Let's take it back.

Lady Bison Crush S.C. State

BY HEATHER FAISON
Contributing Writer

The Lady Bison (8-6 MEAC, 13-10 overall) bounced back from a 65-74 loss against Coppin State and showed no mercy against the ninth ranked South Carolina State Lady Bulldogs (4-10 MEAC, 9-14 overall) this past Saturday at Burr Gymnasium.

The Bison maintained the lead throughout the entire game and easily defeated their opponent 69-40.

Starting senior guard Simone Agee led the Bison with 15 points as they minimized the Lady Bulldogs' chances of a competi-



Carroll Smith-All Pro Photography

Junior guard Brittany James tallied 14 points in Howard's win over South Carolina State this past Saturday.

tive finish as three games remain before the MEAC tournament.

Record breaking sophomore guard Brittany James went scoreless in the first half and did not come out of her shooting coma until the second half, finishing with 14 points and three steals. In the team's first match-up James had a stellar career high 33-point performance, a presence that was missing in round two.

"I've been struggling a little bit with my shot; I'm just trying to get it right. The first half it wasn't there, but the second half it kind of did [show up]," James expressed.

As the Bison closed the half at 31-21, the Lady Bulldogs suffered a devastating loss when starting point guard Monica Adams hit the floor in agony after spraining her already delicate right ankle. According to first-year Head Coach Tonya Mackey, Adams' injury adds to the long list of setbacks that have plagued the Bulldog's lineup.

"We've gone through a couple injuries this year. It's been ongoing from the beginning," she said. "We had our leading scorer go down with an ACL tear, our starting point guard can't even play today [due to injuries], now we're down to our third string point guard." After a deep breath the dismayed coach said, "It's tough."

At the start of the second half, the Lady Bison stepped on the floor with one thing in mind: Execute. The ladies had a string of runs including a 12-0 shooting spree in the opening minutes that put the lead at 42-24.

The Lady Bison's second line-up was given a chance to shine in the lopsided victory. With rookie guard, junior Ebony Lacey at the helm the bench added an impressive 29 points.

"I feel like it's been really, really, impor-



Carroll Smith-All Pro Photography

Senior guard Simone Agee led the Lady Bison win 15 points in Saturday's win over South Carolina State.

tant to have that second string because it gives us that next level of intensity we need to sustain us," Head Coach Cathy Parson said.

Lady Bulldog's senior forward Evena Morency lead the team with a double-double, 21 points and 13 rebounds, many which were seen in the turbulent half. Guard Latoya Dent followed with eight points and three steals but the team never seemed to fully recover after the loss of Adams.

After the Bison's final 18-0 run with under ten minutes to play, a technical foul by Bulldog senior forward Diana Morency sealed the Bison victory.

Bison Lose 12th Game in a Row

BY JONATHAN DAVIS
Contributing Writer

The Bison felt that their game versus South Carolina State on Saturday was one in which they could end their 11 game losing streak. For most of the game they competed, but when it came down to it, the Bison simply suffered from the free throw line.

In their 56-46 loss to the Bulldogs, the Bison went 12-23 from the foul line including going 7-12 in the first-half. In the second half, the Bison went 5-11 from the stripe and missed some crucial ones down the stretch.

"We had our chances at the free throw line and free throws is just a matter of concentration and being able to make them," said Bison head coach Frankie Allen, whose team has now lost 12 consecutive games. "I had complained about us not getting to the free throw line, but we got their. Darryl (Hudson) played really hard, he played an inspired game, but he was 7-13 from the free throw line and I think that really hurt."

The Bulldogs themselves shot only 60 percent at the free throw line, going 15 for 25, and 10 of 14 from the stripe in the second half.

Senior forward Thurmann Zimmerman, who scored 15 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, made some huge free-throws in the second half, after struggling in the first half.

"My free throws during the game were a little short, I did not have my legs" said Zimmerman. "I was looking forward to getting back on the free-throw line and putting my team back up on the line."

What hurt the Bison even more was their inability to get balanced scoring from the starters as well as the bench. Sophomore guards Darryl Hudson and Will Gant, who scored 19 and 17 points respectively on 12 for 26 shooting, were the only Bison players in double figures.

Hudson, despite a great first half of 13 points on 4-5 from the floor and 5-7 from



Carroll Smith-All Pro Photography

Sophomore guard Will Gant led Howard with 19 points in a loss to South Carolina State this past Saturday.

the foul line, scored only six points in the second half on 1-5 from the field and 2-6 from the stripe.

"It was certainly an emphasis after the first half that we had to certainly do a better job on him" said Bulldogs head coach Ben Betts, whose team has now won six of their last seven outings.

Sophomore guards Darek "Skip" Mitchell and Reggie Bates, who have stepped up their scoring in the last two games in the absence of leading scorer Cliffone Ault, managed only two points combined off the bench on 1-12 from the floor and 0-6 from three-point

range.

"I think I settled for the three too much," said Mitchell. "I think I should have come in a little bit and step in and took a little mid-range shot or went to the basket to get myself straight."

The Bison also could not get out of the gates in the second half after using an 8-0 run to go from a five-point deficit to a 25-22 lead at intermission.

The Bulldogs used a 21-8 run opening up the second half, which gave them a 43-33 lead with seven minutes remaining.

A huge part of the Bulldogs second half push was the inside play of sophomore forward Chris Lee, who scored 16 of his career-high 22 points in the second half. Lee also pulled down 13 rebounds.

"We came out in the second half. We was down, everybody knew we had to step it up," said the Washington D.C. native, who along with Zimmerman out-rebounded the Bison team on the offensive glass 12-11. "The ball was just coming my way and I was able to finish."

The Bison used a Gant lay up that ignited an 11-0 run. Gant then hit a three-pointer that gave Howard a 44-43 advantage; their first lead since 28-26 early in the second half.

Two jumpers by Lee and a lay up by sophomore forward/guard Brian Mason fueled and crucial free-throw makes by Zimmerman and Lee finished the Bison, sending them to their 12th straight loss.

Looking for desperately needed win, the team now sets its sites on its next home game versus North Carolina A&T. The team feels that they have to put 40 strong minutes of consistent basketball together on both sides of the ball.

"We're clearly the best team in the MEAC. We just got to get everything together," said Gant. "Through all the adversity, we still the best team in the MEAC. That's how I feel."

Jose Canseco Reveals 'Juiced' Accusations

BY JEFFREY CARTER
Contributing Writer

Jose Canseco's controversial autobiography entitled "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big" was a smash hit on the day of its release last Monday becoming an instant bestseller across the nation.

In the book, Canseco not only discusses facts of his own steroid use, but accuses several Major League Baseball (MLB) players, such as Mark McGwire, of steroid use. He also claims that baseball has long ignored the use of performance enhancing drugs in the league.

McGwire, who has repeatedly denied steroid use, said in a statement to "60 Minutes," "Once and for all I did not use steroids nor any illegal substance. The relationship that these allegations portray couldn't be further from the truth."

Tony La Russa, who managed Oakland when McGwire and Canseco helped the Athletics win a World Series in 1989, has stood behind McGwire's denial, telling "60 Minutes" that the first baseman got his strength and size from weightlifting and a careful diet.

La Russa was skeptical of Canseco's version. "First of all, I think he's in dire straits and needs money," La Russa said. "I think secondly ... I think there's a healthy case of envy and jealousy."

Tom Grieve, general manager for the Rangers when Canseco played in Texas in the early 1990s, said he did not suspect steroid use was going on. He told USA Today that teams at the time were more worried about players using cocaine than steroids.

"I am not going to say that Jose Canseco is a liar, but I don't know if he's telling the truth," said Grieve, a Rangers broadcaster. "Who knows? We know that steroids use is widespread and has to stop."

Most of the MLB players mentioned in Canseco's book are playing the silent card.

In the book, he claimed that he, Mark McGwire and Jason Giambi gave each other injections when they were sluggers with the Oakland Athletics. He even went as far as saying that President Bush was aware of steroid use among the Texas Rangers -- including Juan Gonzalez, Rafael Palmeiro and Ivan Rodriguez -- when he owned the ball club in the early 1990s.

Many critics believe that Canseco is doing this for the money and publicity of his book. Phil Taylor, sports columnist and analyst for Sports Illustrated said, "Canseco has no such reason to name names.



Jose Canseco's autobiography titled, "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big" appeared to be a hit on its first day in bookstores last Monday.

He's either doing it for giggles, an easy payday or, more likely, because the public and media have pretty much forgotten his name now that he doesn't turn fastballs into lunar landing missiles anymore."

Some Howard University students seem to agree with Taylor's comments. "I'm not sure if I believe all of the accusations, but because Canseco is a former pro player, he is a more credible source than a random person pointing fingers," said R'Kheim Young a freshman speech communication major. "He would most likely know. But if he's doing it to make a bestseller's list, I don't agree with his actions."

Monica Williams a sophomore English major said, "His motivation is money. There isn't much of a positive light being shed on baseball with all of these steroid accusations as it is, therefore he didn't do it for the greater good or integrity of the sport or sports in general."

In 1988 Canseco won the American League MVP in which Mike Greenwell was runner-up. Greenwell claims that Canseco won the award by cheating. "His tainted success," Mike Greenwell said on Thursday, "deprived other players of recognition and honors."

"I would have never said a word, but now that Jose's admitted he was using steroids during the time he beat me (for) the MVP, then I have a problem with that because, obviously, I wasn't playing on an even playing field," Greenwell said.

Baseball recently adopted a tougher steroid-testing program after the sport came under increased scrutiny about the drugs. In January 2005, MLB and the players union began a tougher steroid program where athletes are randomly tested in the off-season and 10-day suspensions are given to first time offenders.

The Beat Goes on as Illinois Remains Undefeated

BY ALFONS PRINCE
Contributing Writer

With the regular season coming to an end, the Illinois Fighting Illini is continuing its run towards an undefeated regular season.

Last week, Illinois won key road games against Penn State and Iowa to run their record to 27-0, extending their best start ever. Illinois also continued their streaks of 23 straight conference games, and 14 consecutive road victories.

With only three games remaining in the regular season, Illinois is growing closer to an undefeated season, another Big Ten Championship and a possible No.1 seed in the NCAA Tournament. With their last three opponents having a combined record of 38-36, their chances look pretty promising.

Last Wednesday, Illinois defeated Penn State by 20 on the road. Illinois was led by a 21-point performance from senior forward Roger Powell Jr., while junior guard Dee Brown contributed with 19 points.

This game was over as quickly as it began as Illinois scored the first seven points of the game.

Brown added two steals to make the run 11-0 and from then, the rout had begun. Illinois led 38-19 at halftime and cruised the rest of the way to their 26th straight victory.

About a month ago, after their battle in Illinois, the rematch against Iowa this past Saturday looked like the best bet, after a close game versus Wisconsin, for Illinois to suffer their first loss. However, since the suspension of junior guard Pierre Pierce, Iowa is 1-4 and sliding out of the NCAA Tournament.

However, that did not stop Iowa from coming with a spirited effort. After trailing since the 6:51 mark left in the first half, the Iowa Hawkeyes never gave up. They pulled to within three following a 10-1 run to make the score 41-38 with 15:38 left in the second half.

Iowa came within two on several occasions, the first being 53-51 with 5:31 left and the last being 60-58 with 4:34 left in the game. After this, Illinois went on a 15-7 run to end the game 75-65 extending their record to an impressive 27-0.

Illinois was led by both junior guard Deron Williams and Brown who each contributed 18

points. With this help, Illinois overcame the sub par game offered by their leading scorer senior guard Luther Head, who had just seven points on 1-7 field goal attempts.

Also contributing was junior forward James Augustine with 13 points, and seven points from senior center Nick Smith coming off the bench, including a deep corner that sealed the game with 51 seconds to play.

Although Illinois has not suffered any losses in the regular season, not losing in the NCAA Tournament is the bigger goal. Winning the NCAA title is major goal of the Illinois team. However even with all their wins, Illinois has created an atmosphere where losing has not become an option.

"The Illini shouldn't lose another game," said senior legal communications major and Chicago resident Jon Hall-Bryant. "Any loss for the Illini will severely hurt their chances to win the title."

However Illinois does not seem to be fazed by any pressure that comes their way. They just continue to march their beat towards an undefeated season.



Charlie Neibergal-AP Photo

Junior guard Dee Brown scored 19 and 18 points respectively in key wins over Penn State and Iowa last week.



Locked Out

NHL Season Officially Cancelled

BY JEFFREY CARTER
Contributing Writer

A hockey season on the brink is now a season gone bust. The NHL canceled what was left of its decimated schedule last Wednesday after a round of last-gasp negotiations failed to resolve differences over a salary cap, the flash-point issue that led to a lockout.

With the NHL cancelled, this is the first time a major pro sports league in North America lost an entire season to a labor dispute. The resulting damage could be immeasurable to hockey, which already has limited appeal in the United States.

"This is a sad, regrettable day that all of us wish could have been avoided," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said to ESPN.

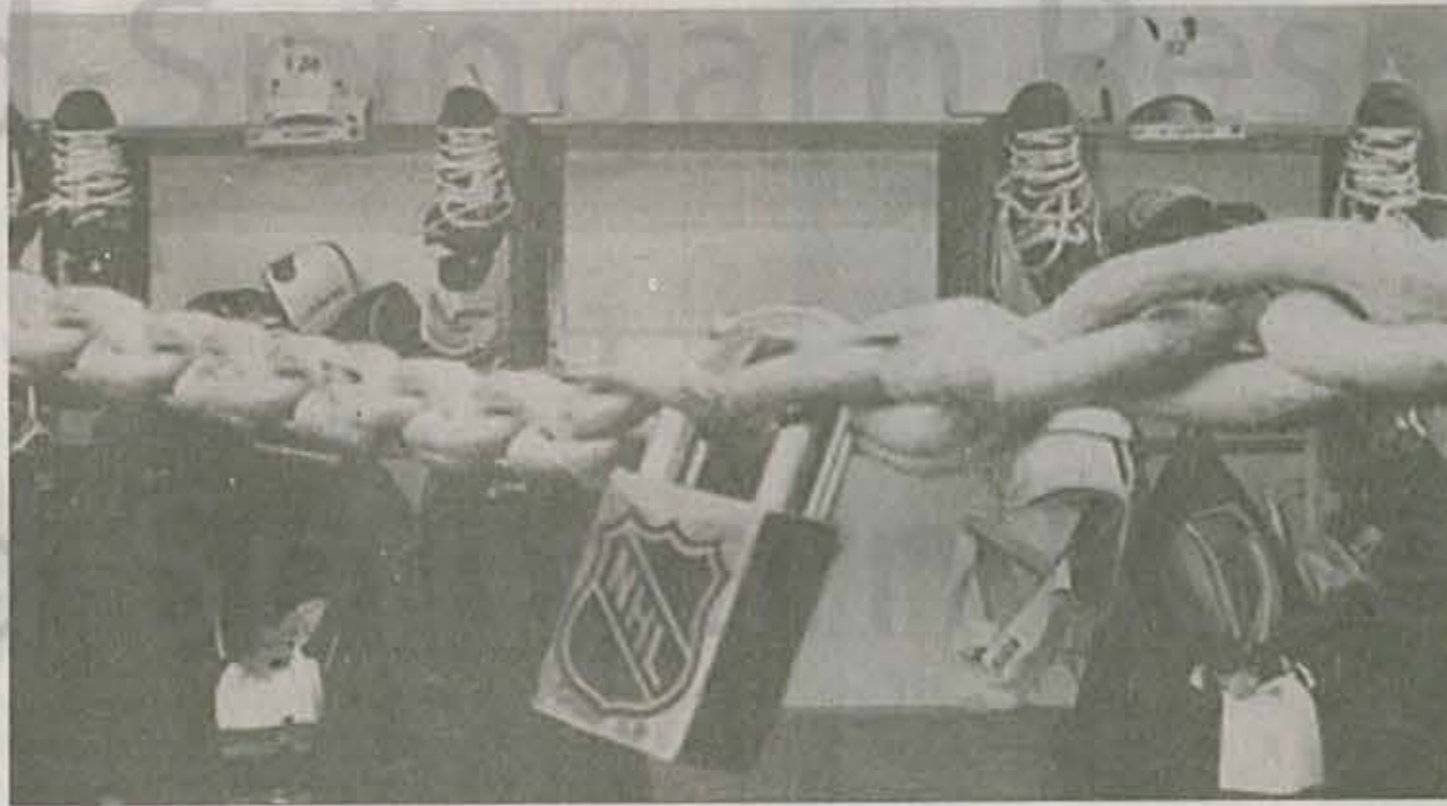
The flurry of meetings and phone calls over the last few weeks between the union and NHL owners failed to stop the downward spiral that began with the owners' lockout of players five months ago, which had wiped out 830 of the 1,230 regular season games.

Now the game heads into uncharted territory, "Every day that this thing continues we don't think it's good for the game," NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow said to ESPN.

To begin with, all momentum gained in the final days of negotiations has been lost. Late offers that appeared to bring the sides close to a deal are now off the table and there is no telling when the NHL will get back on the ice.

No Stanley Cup champion will be crowned this season; however, this is not the first time that has happened. In 1919, the two-year-old league called off the Finals because of a flu epidemic.

"I know of nothing analogous to this . . . one of the big, professional major sports losing an entire season," said Stan Kasten, former president



Last Wednesday, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman regrettably announced that the NHL season would be cancelled due to labor disputes. Both sides tried to renegotiate talks on Saturday morning, but even in the presence of hockey great, Wayne Gretzky, no further progress was made in the final decision.

of the Atlanta Thrashers to the Washington Post. "One thing I know is that there will be grave consequences that are long lasting. It's inevitable."

The league shut down Sept. 15, when the NHL's 30 owners, tired of what they said were intolerable financial losses, locked the doors to arenas and

practice facilities until the players agreed to a cost structure that would reign in salaries. Now that it appears those doors will not reopen any sooner than the fall, the question becomes, "What's next?"

Many Howard students have mixed views on how the cancellation of the NHL will affect the

sports industry. "The NHL market is not as large as the NBA, NFL, MLB etc.," said sophomore biology major Rawn Bosley. "Most of the sports worlds outside of hockey fans are not concerned with the cancellation as long as NBA and baseball continues. The NHL is already losing popularity."

However, sophomore mechanical engineering major Justin Knight thinks differently. "Revenue wise the sports industry might lose money because hockey is a major league sport. Vendors will lose out

and jobs will be lost. But I do think there will be a rise in basketball viewers as they will make a detour from hockey."

One thing is for sure. Hockey was already a distant fourth on the popularity scale among the nation's major league sports. The NHL lost the first season of

its two-year broadcasting agreement with NBC that was supposed to begin this season; a revenue-sharing deal in which the network is not even paying rights fees.

Taking a year off or more will only push the league further off the radar screen. "The scary part now for hockey is do the fans come back? We're not baseball, we're not the national pastime," Nashville Predators forward Jim McKenzie said to ESPN. "When they come back, it's not going to be as easy to pay for a \$90 season ticket," he added.

"When emotions are high, things are said, things are done," Wayne Gretzky, perhaps the most celebrated hockey player, now a managing partner with the Phoenix Coyotes, said to ESPN.

"Ultimately, these players want to play. I know too many of them love the game too much, and I just can't imagine these players not playing in the National Hockey League for two years. To me, I hope that doesn't happen because I don't know how we would recover."

Possible Trade Could Be Timberwolves Missing Piece

BY MONIQUE WOODS
Contributing Writer

With the NBA trade deadline swiftly approaching, rumors have been circulating throughout the league about which players will be traded entering the season's midpoint. However, this year few big-named players seem to be appearing in most trade talks.

One of the most talked-about trade rumors involves Minnesota Timberwolves guard Latrell Sprewell. He could possibly be shipped to the Portland Trailblazers as a part of a package deal that would include forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim and center Joel Przybilla in exchange.

Freshman English major Jason Victor feels the trade would be a good move. "Trading Sprewell would benefit both teams so the Trailblazers and the Timberwolves should try to make a deal before the NBA trade deadline ends."

Salaries of both Abdur-Rahim and Sprewell currently stand at \$14.6 million.

After coming off of a knee alignment, Przybilla has become a standout player taking the starting position. The young center, ranked sixth in the NBA in rebounds per 48 minutes, is becoming a pivotal player who makes an attractive trade option for the Trailblazers.

If the trade between Sprewell and Abdur-Rahim goes through, the Timberwolves would be less likely to include Przybilla in the deal.

At the beginning of the season, Sprewell expressed his unhappiness with the Timberwolves when he was not offered a contract extension. He

lashed out at the organization, "I've got a family to feed."

The Timberwolves never extended his contract, which will expire at the end of this season making Sprewell a free agent.

"Latrell Sprewell should be traded to another team if he is

unhappy with Minnesota because his contract is going to expire and he will leave the team eventually so why not gain a solid player in Shareef Abdur-Rahim while the offer is on the table," sophomore broadcast journalism major Roberta Jones said.

Sprewell is not the only player dissatisfied with the Timberwolves. Forward Kevin Garnett is shocked by the team's complete turn around this season after making their first Western Conference Finals appearance last season. The first half of this season has been filled with many losses causing the termination of head coach Flip Saunders.

Garnett has expressed that he is unhappy being a part of a team that is losing consecutive games.

Sophomore radio, T.V. and film major Collins Boateng said, "Garnett should not leave the team just because they are losing. He is a good leader and eventually the Timberwolves will get better players that will assist him in taking the team to



Minnesota Timberwolves forward Latrell Sprewell is on the verge of being traded with the deadline only days away.

the NBA Finals."

The off-season will be a crucial rebuilding period for the Timberwolves. Only seven players have contracts through the 2005-2006 season while the rest of the team is under free agency.

Wizards Take Hold Of Winning Magical Season

BY BRADLEY WETE
Contributing Writer

The Washington Wizards may be the NBA's biggest surprise of the season. Notorious for residing at the bottom of the leagues standings, the Wizards are bringing a winning attitude back to the Nation's capital.

The Wizards, who are currently fifth in the Eastern Conference with a 30-22 record, have already won more games than they did last season after finishing with a 25-57 record.

Their success is the result of off-season signings and the growth of other players. After trading key players Jerry Stackhouse and Christian Laettner in the off-season to the Dallas Mavericks, the

Wizards were able to acquire an even greater talent in exchange for forward Antawn Jamison.

Dallas' loss is D.C.'s gain. Jamison is averaging 20.8 points and 8.1 rebounds per game in his first season with the Wizards. The NBA has rewarded Jamison's contributions to the team. Last weekend Jamison participated in his first ever All-Star game as a reserve. However, he understands that as his team is beginning to earn respect in this league, they also must to continue to improve.

"As a team, we have to understand that and take our game to a greater level also," Jamison stated to the Washington Post. "It's fun. It's like playoff atmosphere basketball, from the tipped ball to the final second."

With the Wizards being so successful half way through the season, students from the local area have expressed their excitement.

Senior computer science major Frederick Jenkins, feels good to have his hometown team putting up more wins this season. The native Washingtonian has been watching his team lose for years.

"I'm happy to see the home team winning," said Jenkins. "It

seems like they are putting forth the effort and it's making a difference. I hope they make it to the playoffs and have a good showing."

Sophomore mechanical engineering major Maurice Chevalier attended and had fun watching the Wizards play the Orlando Magic at the MCI Center earlier this season. "It was an enjoyable experience," Chevalier said. "The Wizards success is legitimate."

Point guard Gilbert Arenas is another reason the Wizards are performing so well this season. Arenas is averaging 24.8 points, 5.3 assists, and 4.2 rebounds per game this season. He completed the Wizards duo that appeared in the All-Star game on Sunday.

Arenas was happy to be a part of the Eastern Conference All-Star team. "It means a lot. Every player wants to make the All-Star team," Arenas said to the Washington Post.

The rest of the league is also aware of how good of a player Arenas is. Head coach of the Indiana Pacers Rick Carlisle witnessed Arenas score a career high 43 points on his team earlier this February. In a Pacers 108-104 loss to the Wizards two weeks ago, Carlisle noticed how much of a talented player Arenas is.

"He is a great player and has been lighting everybody up the first half of the year," Carlisle said to the Washington Post. "He is one of those guys that can just make plays."

The Wizards will be looking for another win to add to their prosperous season tomorrow night against the Memphis Grizzlies at the MCI Center.



Wizards Guard Gilbert Arenas averages 24.8 points, 5.3 assists, and 4.2 rebounds per game that helped him earn his first ever All-Star appearance.

Fowler Set to Become First African-American NFL Owner

BY MATTHEW COOPER
Contributing Writer

The color barrier has been broken once again. The NFL has made strides by having Black players, Black quarterbacks, Black coaches, Black general managers and now a new phenomenon.

Reggie Fowler, a Black businessman from Arizona, purchased the Minnesota Vikings last week, making him the first African-American owner in NFL history.

Fowler, who owns the company Spiral Inc., bought the franchise for \$625 million from former owner Red McCombs.

However, he will need to get approval from 24 of the other 31 owners in order for the deal to be finalized.

Fowler, former University of Wyoming linebacker, will become the second African-American owner in a major professional sport. Robert "Bob" Johnson, founder of the Black Entertainment Television (BET), bought the National Basketball Association expansion team Charlotte Bobcats in 2003, making him the first majority Black owner in professional sports.

Fowler, 46, will relocate from Arizona to the Minneapolis area. His top priorities are to field a Super Bowl caliber team

and to finance and build a new stadium.

The Vikings have had trouble competing with other teams' stadium revenue because they play in the outdated Metrodome. The Metrodome lacks luxury boxes and other amenities that teams with newer stadiums have.

Fowler is unfazed by the attention he will garner by becoming the first Black owner. "As James Brown said, say it loud, I'm Black and I'm proud," said Fowler to the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. "That doesn't play a big part to me. I just happen to be Black. He didn't discount the price because of that."

Students at Howard

University are rather excited about a Black man in an ownership position of a major professional team. "It's another step," said freshman biology and mathematics major Daniel Gilmer. "It's the final step needed in order to integrate the sport."

"This is a big step for the Black community," said freshman economics major Gary McIntyre. "Black players can now work for a Black man."

However, Fowler will face high expectations, especially with the pressure of him being the NFL's first Black owner. "He'll take a lot of the criticism if the Vikings do bad," said Segun Awokoya, a freshman computer

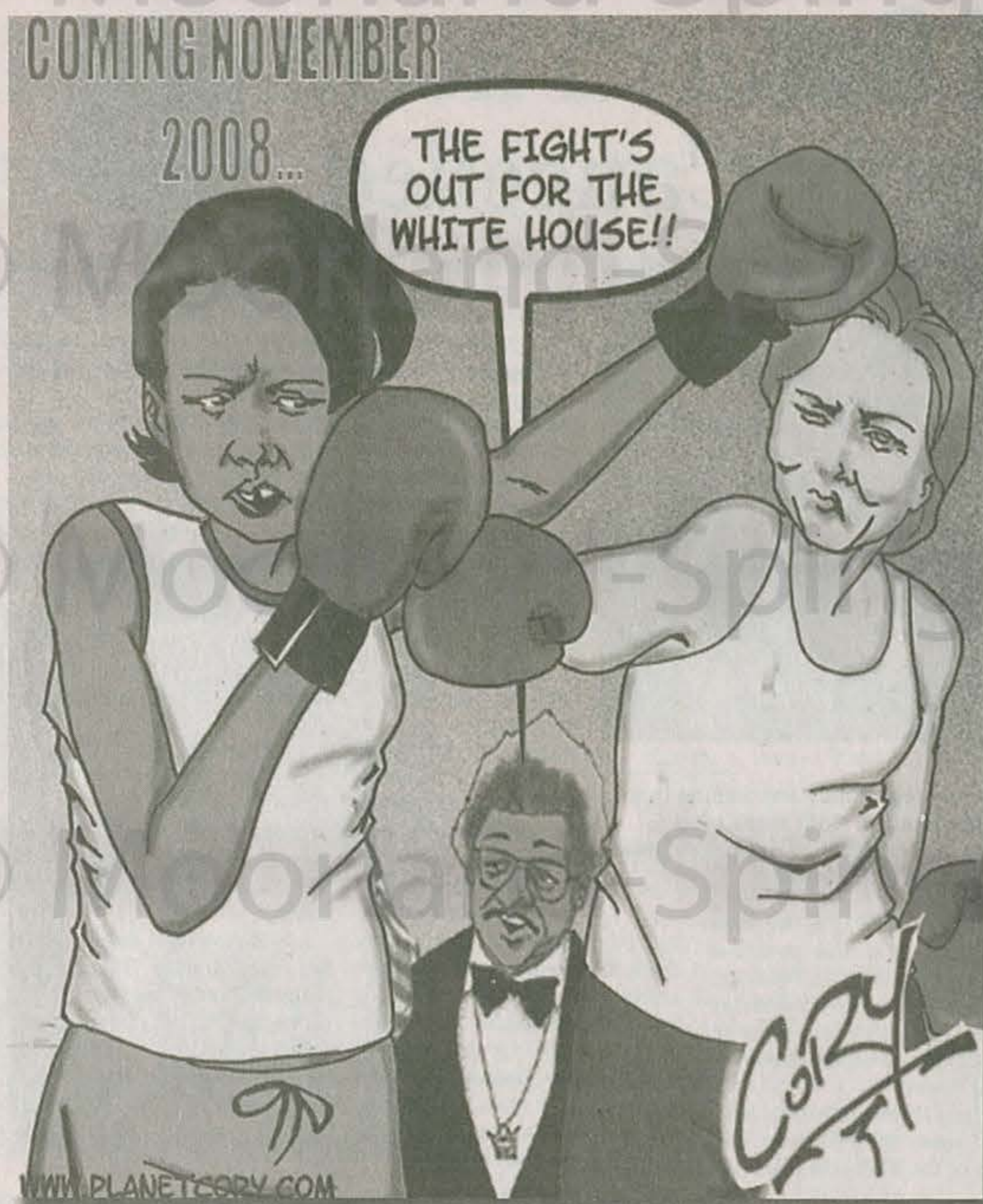
science major.

McIntyre agrees saying, "He needs to be two times as successful as the White owner. If the team has a winning season he won't get recognition, if the team has a bad season he will get blame."

Daniel Shannon, a sophomore economics major from Minneapolis, sees plenty of hope. "The experience will be positive. They're going to love it," said the Vikings fan. "The Black community is developing in the Twin Cities and Black businesses hopefully will support him by buying more season tickets. Hopefully he'll develop some things in the community."



Fowler faced credibility issues last week after statements in his biography were found to be untrue.



Hillary Clinton vs. Condoleezza Rice for President?

The political mind frame of Americans is slowly changing as we move into more open discussions about the characteristics of a president.

After two consecutive confusing elections and the loss of faith in the system, many people are thinking less narrowly and trying to figure out who can lead this country the best, and how.

The African-American community embraced the Clinton family, similar to the older generation's love for the Kennedy's because of the values they represented and issues they pushed for. Black people cheered for the "first Black president," as he hummed on his saxophone and made frequent visits to our communities.

Senator Hillary Clinton has made her political mark alongside Bill, and gained a special place in many of our hearts. If she became the first female president, she would break the gender barrier.

Though it is only 2005 and the people behind Rice2008.com are pumping out bumper stickers and selling Rice bobble head dolls. Republicans and African-Americans alike have a vested interest in the new Secretary of State.

As we mentioned in an earlier editorial, we think Rice is an intelligent woman and we

and respect. If both Clinton and Rice were on the ballots, who would you choose?

A majority of African-Americans tend to vote Democrat and have historically given full support to the party. If Clinton were on the ballot, as a White woman, she would still be representing many issues of importance to the Black community.

However, if Rice was on the ticket she would be the first brown face to stand behind the presidential podium. Which side would voters take? When Barack Obama and Alan

are proud of the strides she has made as a woman of color. It is rumored that Dick Cheney will not be running for president and people such as Giuliani, Santorum and McCain might be jockeying themselves into the position too.

Since Rice holds such a prestigious and important position now, very close to Bush, she has gained a lot of attention

Keyes both ran for senator of Illinois, we thought it might have been a ploy on the Republican side to split the Black vote.

We wonder if this could be a brewing motive for the Republicans as we speak. Either way, it would be wonderful to see a woman as president. We are counting down the days until we can celebrate that moment.

Our View:

If they both become viable candidates, this could really split the Black vote.

Black History Month Should Build Leaders for Us to Follow

The beauty of Howard University and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities is the constant exposure to people of color that have made their marks on the world.

Most of us went through high school learning about the traditional founding of America, Christopher Columbus and European explorations. The few times we got a chance to learn about our history, we were revisiting the slave trade and other depressing aspects of our existence.

The same African-Americans were revisited each February, consisting of Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman and Malcolm X if we were lucky. Every day on this campus is a lesson in Black history.

Every building we walk into is a reminder of someone great and every class applies our history in a helpful way. Even though it is Black History Month, the celebrations seem pretty slim on campus.

As we went around the table discussing what we had seen and the programs that have been dedicated to this special month we realized how little has been going on. Maybe some organizations have sponsored events, but they didn't get a lot

of publicity or a big turnout.

Besides the few notable Alpha posters on the walls of the Towers or a few pictures here and there, we shrugged shoulders at the activities for the month. Why aren't we all doing more?

At the Hilltop, we can't point too many fingers because we could have also done more stories on notable heroes. Thankfully, we regularly pay attention to our history on this

campus, so maybe we are all spoiled with our history. Either way, we want the last few days of this month to be a constant celebration and reflection of our greatness.

Another frustrating aspect of Black History Month is the emphasis on the past. Many programs and events highlight the leaders of the past and their legacies.

Many people in the older generations wonder where our leaders are and the direction in which our community is heading.

We highlight the accomplishments of those that have passed, as though we all cannot do the same thing. Our history, as a people, needs to repeat itself. We should be inspired by our predecessors and run with their ideas.

Living in a society with increasing opportunity, there is no excuse for all of us to not cherish the stepping-stones they have laid and seize the day.

THE HILLTOP

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No More Empty Education

When we are on the way to class, grabbing a bite to eat or strolling in the mall we see kids. When we take the Metro or ride in our cars, we pass kids again. They are in large numbers laughing and running around in the middle of the day.

Every day is not a holiday in the District, so we know many teenagers and young children are skipping school. They seem to be lost, misguided and neglected, hanging out during all times of the day. Sometimes, we want to grab them by the elbow like someone's mama and ask them why they aren't in school?

It isn't just our jobs. Whose job is it? We don't think it is okay for youngsters to be hanging out every day all day. According to the Washington Times, the District's truancy rate last year was 23.46 percent, with secondary schools posting the highest numbers.

Some schools had rates in the high 60s and 70s. Those

numbers were startling to us.

What is it about D.C. schools that are turning the kids away? One Hilltopper compared the idea of schools to prisons. They pat the kids

involved in enforcing going to school. We worry that the kids will get lured into trouble if they aren't growing and learning in a fruitful environment. We think it is everyone's responsibility.

Many of us were fortunate to remember good times in elementary, middle and high school. Our experiences set a foundation that made us appreciate school and end up here in college.

After school activities, sports, band programs and incentives need to be in place to make sure kids want to be in school instead of the mall during the day. Most of us have played hooky in our day, but we got in trouble if we were caught.

Principals and teachers need to develop close relationships with parents and keep them abreast of their child's activities. Everyone should join in and work collectively to make sure we keep our future leaders in the classroom.

Our View:

The high truancy rates reflect the need for collective efforts to make education appealing.

down for guns and use enforcement to avoid crime and violence.

After the Ballou High School shooting, no one could really contest the safety precautions. But when a prisoner feels trapped in a jail or un-rewarded and unhappy in their environment, they try to escape the cell. Of course our parallel is rather dramatic, but it is obvious that something isn't going right.

D.C. is up there with the ratings. Many efforts are underway to encourage education and make sure the parents are

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.

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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.

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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:

**THE REVOLUTION
WILL NOT BE TELEVISED**

By Erica L. McDowell

People, get off the couch and in the streets, For the revolution will not be televised. If it was, it would not be a revolution, But an evolution of illusions, That we have etched in our minds.

Get a gun and shoot it now, Because you are not missing a thing. For it will not, Cannot, And won't be there. In that box that you have made a God.

Looking into its four corners won't change Bush, Or make your pockets fatter, But it will be the opposite of the latter, That will inevitably be the

demise of you and I, And that is only one reason why, The Revolution cannot be televised.

You need bigger push? Some more explanation you need Ok, I see, But all I can say is Read my Brother, Read

It's in the writings of Malcolm, And clear in Martin's dream, Or maybe in the paper, Where Iraq is everything under crazy, That the Revolution will not be televised.

The revolution will take place where the pain started, Where addicts dwell, Gossipers thrive, And where some preachers

make hell. Let it be clear, The crystal kind, That You and I will never see better years, We will keep shedding tears, Inwardly we will fear, And our children will too, I know this will continue, If we, human kind, will not realize That the Revolution, Of Life, Love and Liberty, And whatever else you need to be revolutionized, Will not be televised.

WANT TO SUBMIT
A POEM? DON'T BE
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COM



Is Hip-Hop Taking Over?

JONATHAN PETERSON,
R.A.W. MAGAZINE

If you ate pizza everyday for a month for breakfast, lunch and dinner, would you be sick of eating it or would the pizza make you sick?

The redundancy of articles, internet forums and talk show debates over the issue of hip-hop's potential corrosive effect on African-American culture, degradation of women, or its taking over as the dominant cultural perception of African-Americans makes me think of eating pizza everyday for a month. Sick!

That's right, I am sick of debating hip-hop! When does hip-hop stop being the focal point of Black "intellectual" conversation, better yet Black conversational period?

The mainstream media conglomerates sure are clever in painting the picture that "hip-hop culture" is synonymous with the actions of all African Americans. Prime example: the Ron Artest and the Pacers versus the Pistons NBA melee was accredited to "hip-hop culture".

Players fight in the NHL regularly, but I never heard the media blame those incidents on "rock or alternative culture". Perhaps that is not a fair comparison since an NHL player never rushed a fan, but then again Plexiglas separates the players and fans at an NHL game.

In my opinion, it was just another media jab at African-Americans in general and a subtle disdain for African-American dominance in the NBA. Just wait

until an African-American wins MVP in the NHL. Punishment for fighting will be more than just sitting in the penalty box.

Seriously though, as African-Americans, we spend more time discussing the derogatory lyrics of hip-hop, as opposed to the degrading state of our communities and schools. Which is more important, the misogynistic content of music or the fact that our children's literacy rate is low so all they can do is repeat the content in question?

Maybe the conglomerates need to raise the price of cable or put stiffer penalties on bootlegging cable; it is disheartening to hear kids sing the top 10 video countdown, yet unable to read their own name. We must not allow others or allow ourselves to view our culture one-dimensionally.

There are so many other worthy and critical issues relevant to African-Americans. After music idolization comes sports figure worship. Will the other role models please stand up?

Our widespread preoccupation with debating hip-hop has become our opium for escaping into the world of booty shaking, meaningless materialistic items and false bravado.

As the socioeconomic gap widens between the haves and have-nots, African-American males seem to be becoming more obsolete and the quality of life depreciates in African-American communities, it is no wonder our youth cling to it so firmly. We give it all the attention, and the majority of the time that is all a child wants.

I am not blaming the "hip-

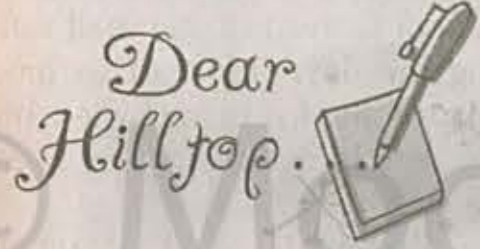
hop culture" for the state of the African-American community. On the contrary, I am blaming the African-American community for the state of hip-hop. Hip-hop is merely an imitation of life reflecting a particular social and psychological state of a portion of the African-American community.

If you listen to Hip Hop and pattern your life after a rap video, you have issues. Hip-hop is a form of entertainment and should be treated as such. I would like to make this very clear. There are many hip-hop artists I enjoy. As a matter of fact, I wrote this article while listening to one of my favorite artists, TI. TI often makes blatant statements about not being afraid to go to jail, etc.

That may very well be true, but whether he is scared to go to jail or not is irrelevant, because I am sure that he would much rather be doing a million other things than sharing a cell with another man for a couple of years. All that is to say that when you listen to hip-hop, do not take it so literally.

That way we can avoid debating the painfully obvious, which is that most recent hip-hop artists have not been rapping for social awareness programs — so get over it. So, if someone asks me if hip-hop taking over, then my reply is yes.

Yes, because it seems to consume most of our media outlets, and too much of anything can be bad for you. If you do not believe me, then eat pizza for every meal for one month and tell me how you feel.



Thank you for the article on BET's Rap-It-Up campaign. I thought that you might be interested to know that the campaign was conceived and is managed by three Howard University graduates. Rap-It-Up was the brainchild of Kelli Richardson Lawson (HU '89), executive vice president of Marketing and Communications for BET. The campaign is managed by Sonya Lockett (HU '86), director, Public Affairs and Vikki Kennedy Johnson, (HU '88) manager, Public Affairs.

Sonya Lockett

Dear Fellow Arts and Sciences Students,

As I walked into Locke Hall a couple of weeks ago I became extremely upset with the condition of the building. From then on, everything my professor said went in one ear and out the other. I guess before that point I didn't realize how the physical condition of a building is inextricably tied to the educational experience of the students.

Furthermore, just as I had been irritated by the peeling walls, broken chairs, no chalk and missing SMART room equipment, many of my peers may have been disgusted to a similar point of distraction.

The Hilltop's article three weeks ago about the physical conditions of Childers Hall must serve as a clarion call to the administration not only of the College of Arts & Sciences, but the deans of the other schools and colleges whose facilities also require the financial investment to continue to provide the exemplary education that Howard University has been and currently is known for.

As president of the Arts and Sciences Student Council, I am the primary representative of the approximately 3,500 students in the College of Arts and Sciences and share in this responsibility for representing these students.

I also provide programming that will stimulate the students of the college, along with the rest of the executive board: Executive Vice President Danielle K. Perry, Executive Treasurer Myla C. Jones and Executive Secretary Brittney Madison.

Although I am upset with the condition of the buildings, I am more concerned about the amount of disregard we have for our own buildings. We

must make sure that we do not use the current state of our buildings as an excuse to treat our facilities horribly. The council is currently working with college administration and staff to work on this issue.

Our platform, "Tap Into the Source," focuses on promoting our illustrious college through the utilization of our university resources to enhance academics, student life and student government.

We have been conducting walkthroughs of each Arts and Sciences building, talking to students and faculty alike, taking note of what changes should be made and we are going to be making suggestions to Dean Donaldson and other members of administration about what changes should be made.

Furthermore, we will be using our own finances to make changes and investments that can help our college for years to come. It would be unfair of me to tell you that what we are working on will help to change the college immediately, but we do plan to work diligently in order to ensure that as the University progresses our very important College, the first founded at this great institution, is not forgotten.

If you would like to help or if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 202-806-7009 or at thissource04@yahoo.com I hope to hear from you in the very near future.

Faith L. Walls, graduating senior psychology major from Chicago, Ill.

click it to us.

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

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 Graduate Student Mix & Mingle
 Tuesday 2.22.05
 @
 HUSA Lounge 8pm-12am

Bridging The Gap
 Thursday 2.24.05
 in Cook Hall
 @
 7:30pm

Got Cavities?
 College of Dentistry is conducting their 3rd Saturday of FREE SCREENINGS.
 February 26th, 2005
 Between 10:00am-1:00pm on the second floor.
 X-Rays Included

Happy Birthday Tamarra

Its' been another year girl!!! Don't worry you still look fabulous!!!

Enjoy it and live it. We love ya!!! Sharelyn and Toya

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 WHERE: SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AUDITORIUM
 TIME: 6:30PM

Black Monologues

School of Communication
 Open Mic Night
 Come and join us for an evening of spoken word and enlightenment.

In memory of Ossie Davis

Where: Blackburn Forum

When: Friday, February 25, 2005

Time: 7-10 p.m.

The Howard University Georgia Club proudly presents...

GEORGIA WEEK 2005
 Furthering the Legacy of Remarkable Georgia Bison
 Feb. 27-March 5, 2005

Sunday, February 27
 A Call to Chapel
 Cramton Auditorium
 11 am

Monday, February 28
 "Oasis of Opportunity: Making the Most of Your Capstone Experience"
 An Educational Forum
 Blackburn Hilltop Lounge
 7 pm

Tuesday, March 1
 "Does Chivalry Exist Beyond the Mason-Dixon Line?"
 A Panel Discussion
 Blackburn Forum
 7 pm

Wednesday, March 2
 "2005 Put Yo' Hood Up!!! State Club Talent Show"
 FREE ADMISSION
 Blackburn East Ballroom
 7 pm

Thursday, March 3
 "Confessions Part III Open Mic Night"
 Blackburn Digital Auditorium
 7 pm

Friday, March 4
 Georgia Spirit Day Party TBA

Saturday, March 5
 DC Beautification Project

www.hugeorgclub.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO

THE "A" TEAM
 HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING STEP SHOW \$2000
 HAMPTON UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING STEP SHOW \$1000
 NASSAU BAHAMAS STEP SHOW \$1000
 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA STEP SHOW \$3000
 BEING UNDEFEATED PRICELESS
 WHO'S NEXT????????????????
 CUT THE CHECK INC...

I LOVE Y'ALL
 MELISSA
 DKA
 STEP SOUL

"Choosing to Live a Healthy Lifestyle"

Wednesday, February 23, 2005
 College of Medicine, Room #1008
 Sponsored by NCNW & Women in Medicine

ShowTime in Blackburn
 Talent Show Auditions
 Wednesday
 7:00-8:30 Feb 23rd
 Human Ecology Bld/
 Aud proceeds to African Tsunami Relief more info
 hucommunityoutreach@yahoo.com

Tuition Scholarship!
 If you will be a junior or senior during the school year 2005-2006, have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and have demonstrated community involvement, then you are eligible for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Nellie M. Quander Memorial Scholarship. 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.

The Quintessential Ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Alpha Chapter Presents:

Finer Womanhood Week 2005

"Dining Etiquette: What Do I Do?"
 With the Young Ladies of Tomorrow
 Tuesday, February 22, 2005, 4:00pm
 Sherwood Recreation Center
 440 10th Street NE Washington, DC

"Is It Just Pain or Fibromyalgia"
 Wednesday, February 23, 2005, 7:20pm
 Bethune Annex Seminar Room

"Black Starz Film Series: School Daze"
 Thursday, February 24, 2005, 7:20pm
 Blackburn Center Room 148/150

"Work Out Plan: The Importance of Exercise"
 Friday, February 25, 2005, 7:20pm
 Blackburn Center Reading Lounge

Community Service
 Saturday, February 26, 2005, 10:30am
 1525 Newton Street NW, Washington, DC 20010