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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

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TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005

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TUESDAY NOTEBOOK

CAMPUS

PAST PRESIDENT'S SPEAK



STUDENT GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES MUST LEARN TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOSE WHO CAME

BEFORE THEM. CAN THEY REALLY LEARN FROM THE PAST? TWO PAST HUSA PRESIDENTS LEND A HELPING HAND. **PAGE 2**

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THINGS ARE CHANGING IN HOWARD'S SURROUNDING AREAS. FIND OUT ABOUT HOW THE SHAW/LEWIS PARK AREA PROPERTY PRICES STEADILY RISING. **PAGE 4**

SPORTS

FUTURE CHANGES FOR THE NBA

WITH THE SECOND HALF OF THE NBA SEASON ALREADY UNDERWAY, SEVERAL TEAMS HAVE RECENT TRADE ACQUISITIONS. FIND OUT WHICH TRADE ALTERED THE COMPOSITION OF BOTH THE EAST AND THE WEST. **PAGE 8**



LIFE & STYLE

SIGHT FOR SORE EYES



TIRED OF SQUINTING, LOOKING FOR YOUR GLASSES OR FIDDLING WITH THOSE

CONTACTS? WELL, RISING CORRECTIVE EYE CARE SOLUTION MAY BE JUST WHAT THE OPTOMETRIST ORDERED. **PAGE 9**

HU CALENDAR

MARCH 2
Midterm Grades Submitted
MARCH 4
Charter Day Convocation
MARCH 12
Second Deferred Tuition Payment Due
MARCH 12
FAFSA Application Due

WEATHER

TODAY
AM SNOW SHOWERS/WIND
Low-31 High-40
WEDNESDAY
FLURRIES/WIND
Low-25 High-41

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Club U Fights to Keep its Doors Open

BY LARISSA ETWAROO
Contributing Writer

The District's Club U is facing an uphill battle as city officials and citizens clamor not only to revoke the nightclub's liquor license, but to close it in hearing that will conclude tomorrow.

Terrence Brown, 31, was stabbed to death Feb. 13, at 3 a.m. in the lobby of Club U after parting with relatives. Police believe the incident followed an altercation after the club let out.

In addition to the stabbing, a woman was assaulted, an oncoming vehicle hit a pedestrian and police are now looking into reports of gunfire. Authorities suspect that the stabbing of Brown and the assault of the young woman may possibly be connected.

Located at 2000 14th and U Streets, NW in the Reeves Center, a District municipal building, Club U has long been plagued with a history of violence.

The Washington Post recently reported that in November 2004, Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey filed a requisition for the revocation of Club U's liquor license with the D.C. attorney general, and recently, with the Alcohol Beverage Control Board.

Chief Ramsey cited that at least 12 serious crimes occurred since early 2003 within a block of the nightclub. The attorney for Club U, David Wilmot, noted that the violence is consistent with

the drug market in the area and attributes much of the crime to the spillover of drug activity.

In 1993, owners Warren C. Williams, Warren C. Williams, Jr., and their business partner, Paul Gwynn, signed a 10-year lease with the city to occupy the space in the Reeves Center, then known as Ed Murphy's Supper Club.

By day, the club functions as a cafeteria to the hundreds of government workers inside the building and by night, the club operates as a go-go music hot spot on Thursday's and Saturday's. With rising pressure from the city and the tension within the community, the Williams' have recently agreed to shut down Club U in early 2007.

Advertising major Ligia Lopez has never been to Club U, but said how people are raised may have played a role in their actions.

"Some people just don't know how to carry themselves," Lopez said, "Maybe it's the way they were brought up."

Lopez can definitely sympathize with the Brown family. Her boyfriend and his friend were both stabbed several times each at Dream nightclub and Lopez says she is angry about the lack of security measures by the club.

She said that even though the club claims to have top-notch security, she wonders where security was when the stabbing occurred and why metal detectors failed to identify the object used in

the crime. Both men have recovered and are doing well.

Metropolitan police Commander Larry D. McCoy cited go-go music as the reason for the club and community troubles.

Lopez agreed.

"Music contributes to the situation because it has influence over how people feel and act, and alcohol can play a role in that too," Lopez said.

District Council member Jim Graham of Ward 1, appeared with several city officials to recommend Club U's liquor license be permanently revoked.

"As far as deterring violence, I don't think revoking a club's liquor license is the way to go," said advertising major, Tara Keller.

Graham plans on working to make it easier to suspend liquor licenses to clubs where alcohol is seen as a detriment to the community or to club owners who are not in compliance with regulations.

Junior business management major, Donald Wood, said that violent activity should not solely be attributed to alcohol.

"If that's the case, then they should shut down all nightclubs. I've been to various clubs in D.C. where fights have materialized, some serious, some not so serious," Wood said.

Junior advertising major Bode Akingbohunge said that it wasn't right for the club to be penalized unless they



Marlene Hawthorne- Staff Photographer

Club U may lose their liquor license due to stabbing on Feb. 13.

were negligent and laws were broken. "I don't feel it's the owner's fault," Akingbohunge said. "The owners aren't the ones firing the guns or pulling out the knives."

ClubU owners and management were unavailable for comment by press time.

SCHOOL CLOSED



Maya Gilliam- Senior Photo Editor

For the second time in three class days school was canceled due to inclement weather.

Program Makes Transitioning Into Teaching Easier

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT
Asst. Campus Editor

With teacher shortages plaguing the United States public school system, the Howard University School of Education Transition to Teaching program is attempting to minimize the problem by shooting for 60 entrants in their third year running.

"Sixty is our goal this year," said Gladys Morgan, Transition to Teaching program assistant. "There is just such a great need for good teachers."

Transition to Teaching program (T2T) is an alternative certification program that trains recent college graduates and mid-career individuals to become teachers.

The Department of Education funds the program, which provides the participants with summer training, paid tuition for 18 hours of graduate credits towards certification or a master's degree in the School of Education, and a three-year teaching contract with a partnering school district.

Participants begin in an intensive summer program that teaches "theoretical knowledge" of the classroom and hands-on experience with summer school students. They are then hired at a partnering school, receiving full benefits and salary.

"[The participants] would benefit from a little more time to practice," Morgan said. "Adjustment is for some a little more difficult than it is for others."

Charles White, a peace officer for U.S. Customs before entering the program, said the transition was not as hard as some may think.

"We had teachers who were PG County employees," said White, a 5th grade teacher in Prince George's County Public Schools. "It's

great to have teachers who have already taught in the field. They taught us things out of the book and things they know from experience, from how to teach lessons to how to deal with behavior."

Applicants are required to have passed the required Praxis exams before acceptance into the teaching program. The Praxis exam is an assessment test used by state education agencies in making licensing decisions.

"Essentially, the higher the student scores on the Praxis, the more of a salary they will earn," Morgan said.

To balance the minimal practice, the program provides participants with assistance at the start of their newfound careers.

"They work with classmates to resolve any issues they have," Morgan said. "And they also have supporting mentors who have teaching experience."

During the first year, the Transition to Teaching student is also required to pass two additional graduate courses per semester in the School of Education, which contributes to the certification requirements.

The program is eager to find qualified mathematics, science and foreign language teachers, preferably in the secondary school system.

Rodney Carter, a third grade teacher in Prince George's County Public Schools and student in the program, said the help is needed because he has seen the results of the teacher shortage.

"A lot of the kids just are not on grade level," Carter said.

White said the work and transition is all worth it in the end.

"Seeing the kids transition from the first day is great," he said. "It's nice when I see a student struggling and then they have that 'aha' moment."

Hundreds Die in Insurgent Attack Of Iraq War

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

A suicide car bombing killed at least 115 people and wounded about 130 others in Iraq yesterday, according to news reports.

Iraqi officials said the attack occurred when a car bomb exploded outside of a government building where police recruits were waiting to take physicals.

"I was lined up near the medical center, waiting for my turn for the medical exam in order to apply for work in the police...suddenly I heard a very big explosion," 22-year old Abdullah Salih told the Associated Press. "I was thrown several meters away and I had burns in my legs and hands, then I was taken to the hospital."

Police recruits are often the targets of attacks by insurgents. A similar attack last September killed 47 recruits.

Health officials on the scene rushed to save as many lives as possible, and urged Iraqis

from neighboring cities to send blood.

"We've called on people to donate blood and have opened a center for that," Dr. Mahmoud Abdul Ridah told Reuters. "We've called on doctors from Karbala, Diwaniyah and Najaf to come and help and they have started to arrive."

Video footage of wreckage left from the bomb showed bloody piles of bodies and mangled corpses. Some of the bodies were being loaded onto trucks and fruit carts by health officials.

"We finished now transporting the bodies from the site," Ridah told Reuters. Torn limbs, including arms, fingers and feet also covered the street near the attack.

The bombing marked the deadliest single attack by insurgents since the Iraq war began. Before Monday's bombing, the deadliest attack killed 85 people outside a Karbala mosque in March of 2004.



Khampha Bouaphanh- Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Yesterday's suicide car bombing topped the former deadliest attack, in March of 2004 that killed 85 people.

A Conversation with the Candidates: HUSA

BY AYESHA RASCOE
Campus Editor

What are your reasons for running?

Tahmon Bradley: I want to effect a change on campus. I realize student government is not only way to effect change, but I believe HUSA with all its resources can be a great mechanism to champion student concerns and I want to be that champion.

Erin Ferguson: One of the most convincing things is I'm a RA in Drew Hall. I live with freshmen who are oblivious to how Howard works. It made me want to take part in changing student government back to what it's supposed to be, which is to be a student association for students.

What are your other campus involvements/leadership roles?

TB: I won a fellowship for the People for the American Way. I am working to unite progressive Howard organizations to other progressive DC campus organizations.

I am executive secretary of the Gentlemen of Drew Social Club, a chapel usher, a contributing writer for The Hilltop, and host of a sports talk radio show for Glasshouse Radio.

EF: I'm a student ambassador. I work with Christian Brothers United. I did Res-Fest [last year]. I was a participant in Drew Hall academic debate team. [Now] I work on other side of Res-Fest with the academic debate. Also, I usher in Chapel most Sundays.

What changes would come under your HUSA administration?

TB: [Students can expect to see] a complete restructuring of the way HUSA executives



Tahmon Bradley (left), and Erin Ferguson (right), are running for HUSA president and vice president respectively.

operating. We are not going to have a grievance coordinator per se, but the entire staff will address grievances, so students can know they can bring their concerns to student government, and students will use its resources to solve their problems.

EF: Students can expect to see a HUSA that is not only to be seen. Tahmon and I plan to restructure student government so that it works as a mechanism to solve student problems. That simply entails making sure the staff knows we're not there for any other purpose than solving students' problems.

What are your thoughts on the opposing slate?

TB: I think our opponents are qualified for the job and want to see improvements like we want to. I think our ways to get to those improvements are very different.

EF: Innovation says new things out of the box, but a lot of the things [on their platform] are continuations of old things, because they feel it works. The Universal Calendar:

HUSA tried that; they called it United Council of Student Organizations. Certain information they are talking about is already available. Safety pamphlets: I don't quite grasp what message they're trying to drive home, when we have them all ready and do briefings along with them.

Why should students vote for you?

TB: Because I am going to make student government simple and effective. I'm going to make student government work for students. I'm going to use my position and its resources to address issues and concerns of students.

EF: Students should vote for Tahmon and I because we have students as no. 1 issue on our platform. We believe students are to be on the budget and everything as no. 1. We believe firmly in being servants, and that when students have concerns or problems, we want to make sure HUSA is set up to meet those needs. We have a comprehensive plan in which to do so.

BY MELANIE R. HOLMES
Campus Editor

What are your reasons for running?

Byron Stewart: The role of the Howard University Student Association is to represent the student body as a whole, undergraduate and graduate. My reason for running is that I can best represent the students, not only through a student government perspective, but also on a student level.

April Harley: I love Howard University and I see that being here, being with the people, the professors...I've grown so much since I've been here. I just wanted to find any way to give back to Howard University.

What other campus involvement/leadership roles?

AH: I've been a student ambassador since my freshman year. I've served on the executive board. I've served as a resident assistant in the Quad. I've also served on the sophomore class board for Arts and Sciences as the vice president. I'm the student organizations coordinator for HUSA and I'm a proud member of the North Carolina Club. I'm also Who's Who, National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Golden Key International.

BS: It all started on a warm, sunny day when I joined the Howard University Showtime Marching Band. I was a chaplain two years in a row during my freshman and sophomore years. Then I was programs director for the School of Communications student council, a contributing writing for *The Hilltop*, member of Golden Key International



April Harley (left), and Byron Stewart (right), are running for HUSA vice president and president respectively.

Honor Society and Who's Who. I'm also the president of the School of Communications and program director of special events for the DMV Club.

What changes would come under your HUSA administration?

AH: I think that we will start to see a more united student body under the innovation platform, student to student, organization to organization, even student to administration.

BS: Better communication on a student perspective, administrative perspective, and community perspective.

What are your thoughts on the opposing slate?

BS: I was a supporter of the movement last year with Tahmon Bradley, so I know he's a hard worker. He also has a love for Howard and wants to see change. It's just that we have different ways of going about this change.

AH: I think they have some really good ideas. I think that they would work very hard for students. I think through

their platform, they're also trying to work for the advancement of Howard students and the improvement of Howard University.

Why should students vote for you?

BS: We think that students should vote for us because of our love for Howard University as well as our experience. The Bible says "let our work speak for us." If you look at what we've already done for Howard University as students and also as recognized organizational leaders, I think that you can truly say we've done a lot to benefit Howard University.

AH: I believe that students should vote for us. I really feel like we have the best interest of the students at heart. I just really feel like we will get in there and work for the students as much as possible. We'll do whatever it takes to improve Howard University as a whole. I just really feel like we have the passion and desire to make a change, and that's why I think we're the best candidates.

Past HUSA Presidents Offer Advice to Be Heard, Not Just Seen

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT
Asst. Campus Editor

One of the biggest school-wide events on Howard's campus is the General Elections, specifically the elections of HUSA President and Vice President.

The candidates spend a little over a month selling themselves to the student body. These people walk in the shoes of their predecessors from the moment they file for office.

Stephanie Brown, 2001-2002 HUSA president and Daniel Blakemore, last year's HUSA president, advise that the candidates be heard, not just seen.

"Don't be afraid to take your message to the students," he said. "Don't just rely on posters."

All areas of campus, except for the Armour J. Blackburn University Center, Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Administration building and the Rankin Memorial Chapel, are available for campaigning during the campaigning period.

Brown and Blakemore were allowed to introduce themselves to students by doing "dorm sweeps" at anytime.

"The dorms are the best way to get your message to the students," Blakemore said. "You can interact with the students, and discuss your platform and the reason you want to be president."

Dorm sweeps are now limited to a time set by Residence Life. Even with that option amended, Brown said the candidates should be original with their campaign strategies.

"We caught the students where they were," she said. "Wherever they were."

Blakemore and his running mate, Faith Walls, set a table up on the Yard everyday.

"As long as the weather permitted, we were out there," he said.

According to the 2005 elections guidelines, candidates are not allowed to hold any rallies on the Yard that would interrupt



Daniel Blakemore, HUSA President for 2003-2004, suggests that candidates need to make themselves visible and available to students, and to be original.

the flow of pedestrians. However, Brown and her running mate, Alex Dixon, "took over the middle of the Yard on Election Day," and decorated it elaborately with their colors.

"It gives the students something to remember you by," she said. "And we used bright colors that no one else would have used."

Trips to the different graduate campuses were another way that Brown and her campaign sought to be remembered. She said the current candidates have not addressed the graduate students.

"That's a problem," she said. "Do you know how many issues grad students have? And, HUSA doesn't touch on that? But they want to represent them."

Brown said she thinks the current and past candidates have refurbished old platforms, and that the originality they lack is unfortunate.

"There are 20 solutions to every problem," she said. "The issues are pretty much the same, but [the candidates] could come

up with different ways to solve them."

Once elected, both Blakemore and Brown agree that the best goal would be to build on the success of the previous administration. HUSA President Conrad Woody and Vice President Freda Henry ran on the platform "Redefinition" with the promise to restructure and define the Howard University Student Association.

"Conrad and Freda have built on what my administration did, and I hope the next administration will continue," Blakemore said.

Both past HUSA presidents said the most important running strategy is to get out to the students and that HUSA is the students' defense to solve any problems.

"One of the reasons students don't vote is because students don't know the impact the student government has on them," Blakemore said. "I learned that a [HUSA president] can affect a great deal with what students come into contact with."



Prominent authors such as Cornel West, E. Lynn Harris and Tavis Smiley have all visited the Howard University Bookstore in the past.

HUB Offers More Than Books

BY LAUREN STEPHENS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Shelves and shelves of books decorate its interior. But it is more than a bookstore.

On any given day, hundreds of students and members of the community come through the doors of the Howard bookstore for any number of reasons other than purchasing textbooks.

As one of the largest retailers in the Wonder Plaza, the Howard University Bookstore offers everything from magazines to stethoscopes.

"We have a vision to be more than just textbooks. We want to be seen as more than just books. This facility is for the students and it's something for them to be proud of," said Antwan Clinton, director of the bookstore.

In addition to required course readings, customers can find an array of literature by prominent African-American authors ranging from Asha Bandle to Zane and a variety of topics from self-help to autobiographies.

The Howard community is also given the opportunity to meet renowned authors during monthly book signings planned by the administration of the bookstore.

"People don't feel honored until they come to Howard. We have a huge number of celebrity authors like Cornel West and Martin Luther King, III," said Monique Mozee, marketing manager for the bookstore. "We have a reputation in the D.C. Metro area for hosting big author events which promote a positive image for the university."

While some students do not always take advantage of the book signings, many keep up with the schedule and have had the opportunity to meet some of their favorite authors.

"I went to see Afeni Shakur last semester and Maya Angelou earlier this month. [Shakur]

took time out to talk to everybody individually even though it was packed," said junior pre-med major Maritza Negron.

One of the largest departments in the bookstore is the selection of Howard and Greek paraphernalia that many students purchase for themselves and as gifts.

There are a variety of sweatshirts, t-shirts, jewelry, mugs and other items for men, women and children.

"I buy apparel for family members [from the bookstore] because you can't buy the real thing at street vendors," said Nicole Ingram, a senior pre-pharmacy major.

While students do frequent the bookstore for the apparel, some feel the merchandise is overpriced based on its quality, despite the 10 percent discount given to students with a valid ID.

"Some of the clothes are expensive...the clothes aren't designer. It's a college store so it should be more college budget friendly. I have been to a lot of college campuses and the stuff is more moderately priced," said Jason Hodges, a senior radio, television and film major.

Despite complaints about pricing, the apparel is one of the most lucrative departments in the bookstore according to director of the bookstore, Antwan Clinton.

Other options for gifts available at the bookstore include African-American art and figurines by leading designers like Annie Lee and Della Reese.

The bookstore is also a place where students can run in to get a quick snack, money from the ATM, or have their pictures developed.

"The bookstore sells pretty much everything except cell phones and I wouldn't be surprised if they started soon," said Riyadh Joiner, a senior business management major.

SOPHOMORE SPEAK:

How do you feel about being almost halfway through your undergraduate career?

"I feel relieved that I made it this far. It's a wake up call that the real world is this close, but the real world is waiting for us."

Jordan Cuby, psychology major

"First of all, I feel it went by real fast. I feel good. I don't regret anything. Everything that has happened to me was for the best. I'm looking forward to being commissioned as an officer in the Air Force."

Jamon Jefferson, political science major

"I'm happy but now I just want to graduate. I just want to pass my classes with honors and graduate. Next, its off to graduate school, to become a nurse practitioner and start any life processes."

Jasmen Blackledge, nursing major

"I feel relieved that I made it this far. It's a wake up call that the real world is this close, but the real world is waiting for us."

Jordan Cuby, psychology major

"I enjoy the fact that I am a sophomore. When I look at my last two years I get sad, because I've enjoyed the experiences I've had with people."

Chayne Coston, miology major

"I feel happy, yet sad because I know after this is over I will have to enter the workforce. Though I have responsibilities now, they won't be as intense as the responsibilities I will have."

Tamika Smith, broadcast journalism major

"I'm happy! I've noticed that a lot of the classes that I am taking now pertain to my major now that I am done with my general education courses. It's making college a little more fun and less like high school."

Tyrae Bell, public relations major

"I feel like I can't get pass the half point because I still have to take some summer school courses to meet the requirements of my lower division program."

Keisha Jordan, radiation therapy major

"Being a second-semester sophomore is half good and half bad; it's bitter-sweet. On the one hand I'm halfway through this college thing, but on the other, I've got an entire two more years to go."

Zenobia Y. Charles, political science and history major

"I feel good. Howard is the proverbial rabbit hole. I wouldn't trade my Howard University experience for anything."

Lenzy Betters, public relations major

"I feel overwhelmed, but at the same time excited for new experiences to come in the next two years."

Musfa Dixon, art major

"Very excited, but not too excited. I'm actually getting into major courses: the things that I'm interested in, instead of prerequisites."

Elliott Brown, business management major

Compiled by Keisha Robinson & Dallas Banner

Campus Briefs

Southern University Fraternity Suspended

The Beta Sigma chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. was suspended by Southern University for three years as a result of a person charging Baton Rouge Omegas of hazing.

The chapter is upset because, although the university's Pan-Hellenic Judiciary Committee found in their favor because the alleged victim dropped the charges, Dean of Student Life Robert Bennett overruled the decision.

The accuser claimed that five men assaulted him on two occasions, but was unable to positively identify them; therefore, the 12 members feel they should be suspended. There are two undergraduate and three graduate Omega chapters throughout Baton Rouge.

Spokesperson Deion Dorsett said that fact gives reason to believe the attackers could have been among a number of "Ques" throughout the city. He said individuals should be punished, not the entire SU chapter.

Bennett said, before the suspension, the situation would be handled on an individual basis if the attackers came forward. If not, the entire fraternity would suffer, as they now have.

MIT Students Honor African-American Artistic Expression

On Feb. 19, students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) celebrated Black History Month with a cultural show called "Pulse: One Beat. One World." in Kresge Auditorium.

Different African-American leadership organizations on campus such as MIT's African Students' Association, the MIT Black Students' Union, the MIT Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and Harvard University's Black Student Association collaborated to produce the event.

The event's purpose was to celebrate Black History Month through song, dance and other aspects of African-American culture. The cultural show featured several acts that encompassed various aspects of African and African-American culture such as hip-hop, jazz, gospel music and African drumming.

Students at MIT decided to expose the greater community to different facets of Black culture through the event.

Georgetown University Offers New Curriculum to Mediate World Conflicts

Georgetown University has started a new program in its Department of Government that offers a Master of Arts degree in conflict resolution.

The new program focuses on three basic stages of conflict, as well as origins of disputes, mediation, negotiation, post-conflict and peace building.

Students will also study the role of relationships in conflict, alternate dispute resolution, third party intervention in civil conflicts and courses where mediation can be applied to domestic, international and social conflicts.

Since the program will cover interdisciplinary aspects, professors in the fields of psychology, sociology and theology will contribute to the program.


Classes for the new program will begin this fall and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through May 31. Class sizes will be small, holding a maximum of 15 people.

Sources: georgetown.edu, web.mit.edu and blackcollegewire.org

Compiled by Rachel Huggins
Contributing Writer

Looking for a career that radiates success?

Then talk to someone who knows science.




Marie Curie
1867-1934

If you want to shine in the world of science, it's essential you don't leave your career to chance. At ScienceCareers.org we know science. We are committed to helping you find the right job, and to delivering the advice you need. Our knowledge is firmly founded on the expertise of *Science*, the premier scientific journal, and the long experience of AAAS in advancing science around the world. So if you want a glowing career, trust the specialist in science. Visit ScienceCareers.org

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Longtime Residents See Property Values Skyrocket

BY MATHEW COOPER
Contributing Writer

The community of LeDroit Park has undergone a significant change, from a crime-ridden area to a now restored neighborhood where pride and glamour abound.

LeDroit Park borders Howard University to the southeast. It is a neighborhood rich with history, and has been declared a historic neighborhood. It was home to many well-known African Americans at one time. However, the area hit hard times in the 1960's as it fell victim to crime, drugs, and gangs.

Over the past couple of years, the area has seen a dramatic change. Housing prices have shot sky high, homes have been rebuilt and remodeled, The crime rate has declined, and many low-income residents have moved out because of their inability to afford the rising rent costs.

This change has brought dramatic changes and differences to the neighborhood.

"It is a greater influx of Caucasians, also upper-income Blacks," said Barry Tillman, a resident of LeDroit Park for 14 years.

More Whites and professionals are moving into the community at a rapid rate. Chris Edwards, a White resident who moved into the area three months ago said he moved here because, "It's a fine area and it's cheaper than Georgetown." The community has become a product of gentrification.

LeDroit Park was built as a gated community in the 1870's, and was designed by architect Charles McGill. "The houses have grandeur, and is an architectural gem," said David Corry, a 30-year resident of the community.

The community was home to many of the elite Blacks in the early 1900's. Some of the notables included Duke Ellington, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Anna J. Cooper, Mary Church Terrell, former Mayor Walter Washington and former senator Ed Brooke. Jesse

Jackson currently owns a home in the area.

According to David Corry, the neighborhood started deteriorating after the riots of 1968. "When I moved here it was on the decline," Corry said. "It had socio-economic problems such as drugs and crime."

Barry Tillman also remembers how bad the crime situation had been. "The T street gang was real active, and the building across the street from my home was a dilapidated drug house."

He also noted how the community pushed to improve the situation.

"The neighborhood was proactive, we complained to the city council," Tillman said. "The city didn't act, but the federal government shut the building down, and that moved a lot of the unsavory characters away."

Howard University has played a key role itself in the gentrification of LeDroit Park. The university had bought several properties in the area that were severely were run-down. However, nothing was done about the homes until President Patrick Swygert came along in 1995.

Howard then, with a partnership with Fannie-Mae put the homes back on the market, and renovated and remodeled the properties.

The average home in the area now is selling for a half of a million dollars. The housing prices have a significant effect on many in the community, as well as people who would want to move in.

The prices make the neighborhood mostly unaffordable to Howard students. One student was lucky enough to get an apartment in the area for a low price, and likes the neighborhood. "It's very convenient to campus," said Aquil Meeks, a junior biological science major. "I still feel apart of the Howard community. It's a very neutral area."

The neighborhood now also has a coffee shop called the windows café on First Street and Rhode Island Avenue.



Buildings such as Wonder Bread Factory (Above) have gone through many changes as the Shaw/LeDroit area continues to grow. Some houses (Below) continue to stay the same while the surrounding area gets a facelift.

Hunegnaw Abbeje, the storeowner, believes it is a great addition to the area.

"Everybody appreciates the coffee shop. It was a rough area just four years ago, but now it's more professional people in the area, and everybody is cooperating."

Residents now have mixed feelings of the new look of LeDroit Park---Tillman's concern is safety.

"My concern has been that the community is safe, and my visitors are safe," Tillman said. "Now it is."



Howard and the District have reached a deal to build a 230-bed hospital replacing the old D.C. General Hospital in Southeast. Currently, most SE residents travel to Howard Hospital.

Howard University, District To Build New SE Hospital

BY DIONDRA HUMPHRIES
Contributing Writer

Plans for Howard University and the District to build a new hospital are raising concerns throughout the community.

"I don't want to build a poor-quality hospital," said District Council member, David A. Catania. "I'd like to see a hospital that serves poor people, smaller and directed at the uninsured."

Catania expressed his uncertainty of the issue and disagreed with the proposed size of the hospital.

The 230-bed hospital proposal announced two weeks ago, will replace the old D.C. General Hospital in Southeast Washington.

The hospital is proposed to cost \$400 million, which will be split in between Howard University and the city.

The hospital is set to serve all District residents---not just the low-income neighborhoods that will surround it. The new hospital will provide first-class

trauma care and special services to all patients regardless of income level.

"This is not a poor man's hospital. This will be a hospital of national prestige that happens to be on this site," said Mayor Williams in the news conference.

Some said the new hospital would be great especially after the opposition of Mayor Williams' decision to close D.C. General. Others are uncertain if Howard can operate the new hospital and the current Howard University Hospital without additional public funds.

Despite the opposition, President Swygert believes the plans for the new hospital are feasible.

"Many challenges lie before us. But no study has indicated that this project is infeasible," President Swygert said.

He added that the hospital would incorporate the most important and advanced technology and it would not interfere with any of the operations of the current medical center.

Both facilities would be used as a teaching hospital for Howard University students.

Sophomore nursing major Regina Carpenter believes the new hospital will be great for both the community and Howard students.

"The new hospital being used as a teaching facility is wonderful because it gives students another place to go to gain hands-on experience."

Senior public relations major and District resident, David Edmonds also agrees with the plans for the new hospital, but is uncertain about who will actually benefit from it.

"I agree that a new hospital is needed, I just hope the people who live in that area are still there to be able to use it," Edmonds said. "Because of the amount of gentrification that is going on in D.C., the people in that area may not even be around to benefit from it...whoever needs the hospital in that area will use it if they can afford to."

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Day 2) Send your ad via email in PDF or jpeg format (Send to hilltopbusiness@yahoo.com)

Day 3) If there are problems sending the ad via email, bring a copy to the Hilltop Business office. (We are located in the West Towers on the Plaza level across from the mailroom.)

Day 4) Call or email to insure and verify insertion of your ad. (Hilltop Business: 202.806.4749)

Day 5) Remain stress free.....

Day 6) Be confident that your ad is ready to run!

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Enrollment Management

General Registration

Fall 2005

Monday, March 21 – Friday, April 1

SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	CLASSIFICATION*
Monday	March 21	Senior
Tuesday	March 22	Junior
Wednesday	March 23	Sophomore/ Unclassified
Thursday	March 24	Freshman/ Unclassified
Friday	March 25	2nd Year Law/3rd Year Law Graduate/1st Year Law
Saturday	March 26	All Students
Sunday	March 27	All Students
Monday	March 28	All Students
Tuesday	March 29	All Students
Wednesday	March 30	All Students
Thursday	March 31	All Students
Friday	April 1	All Students

*If you are not sure of your official classification, please refer to HU BISON Web.

◆ Students are required to meet with their academic advisors for discussion and approval of proposed course selections before using BISON Web.

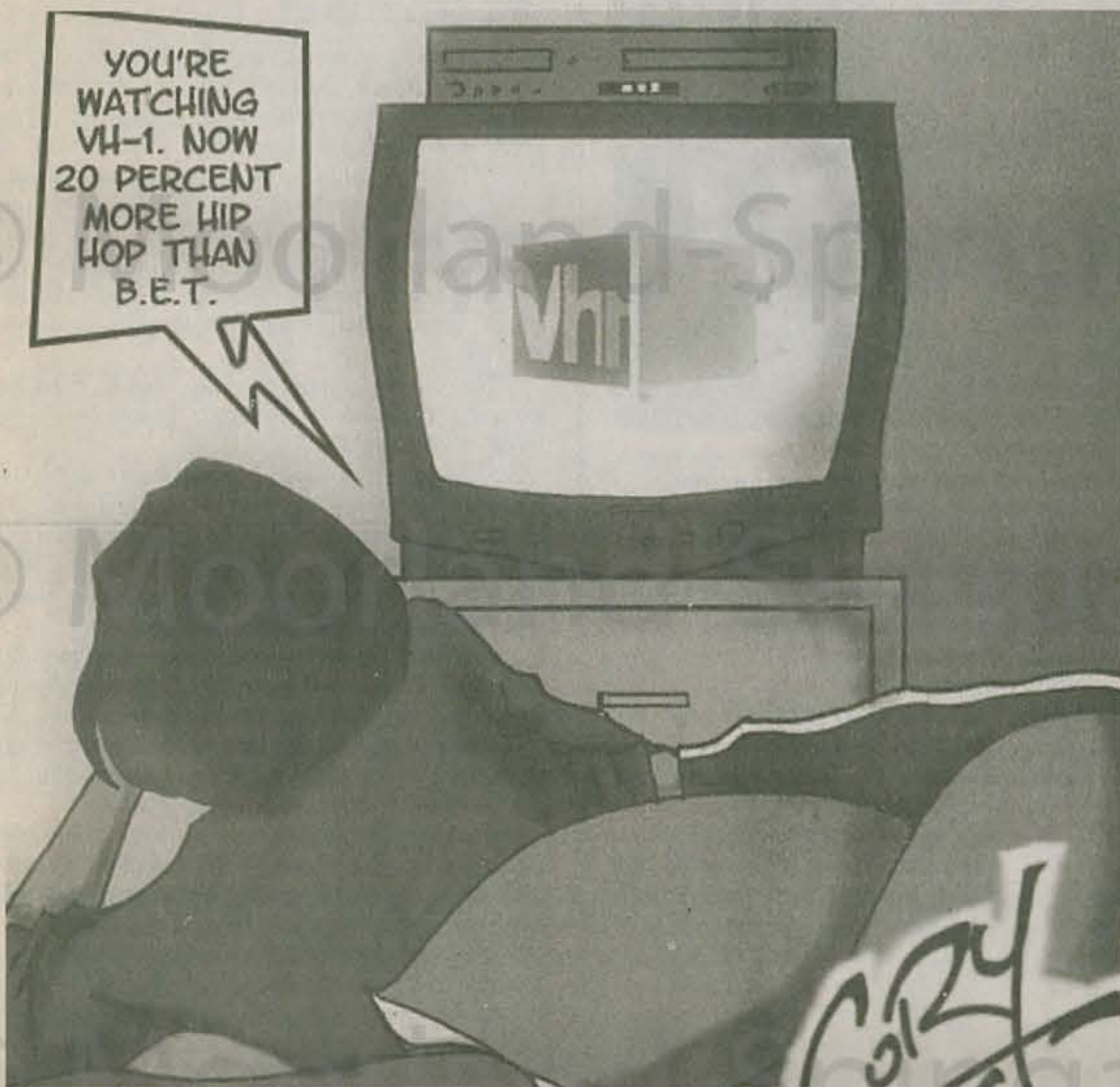
◆ Alternate PINs are required for most students. Please check BISON Web.

EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

A7

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005

www.thehilltoponline.com



VH1 Appreciates the Impact

Before VH1 Soul, the channel didn't really target African-American viewers.

Back in the day, VH1 seemed like the MTV for older, Caucasian audiences and we would skip right through it. As time has progressed, we have been glued to shows like "I Love the 80s," and "The Best Week Ever."

They always have a nice variety of minority appearances, from Talib Kweli to Usher, giving humorous commentary on real-life situations. The shows do an excellent job of covering what's going on in the media and popular culture.

We enjoy their spin and angle on things that cross the racial boundaries. Just when we thought we'd had our fill of appreciating VH1, they brought us Black History Month programming.

Not more than five minutes can pass without the Black History Month commercials flashing across the screen. "Black History Month: Appreciate the

Impact" is accompanied by a brief highlight of someone notable to our community.

Many of the people mentioned during such commercials are entertainers, but we would expect this from an entertainment channel.

We can't be too demanding and any form of acknowl-

The "Blackaphobia" special did a good job of highlighting the many reasons that White people are intimidated by Blacks and some aspects of our culture.

Some may argue that the shows were ignorant, but we enjoyed the light-hearted approach. It gave us a chance to explain ourselves as a people in a fun way.

As the month of February officially closed yesterday, we can fairly assess who has done what to honor the month. BET is a station specifically targeting African-Americans, but we didn't see anything outstanding or new to honor the achievements of our people.

However, we did see the Gospel celebration run several times.

We want to tip our hats to VH1 for taking an interesting approach to Black History Month and allowing us to be the narrators, taking the unfamiliar through the journey of who we are and aren't.

Hilltop Heralds Hope

BY KERRY-ANN HAMILTON

This week The Hilltop re-etched its name in the history books accompanying the host of previous accolades and 'firsts.' Zora Neale Hurston, founder of our press institution, would be pleased.

Her dream of a voice for students of Howard University has become five times what she conceived.

The Hilltop, for years, has been a force to be reckoned with among its peers and, in the last academic year, has left its colleagues in the dust, with the 2004 number one ranking in the Princeton Review.

What does going daily mean? Beyond the headline "HU, First HBCU to go Daily," there are larger implications.

Howard University from time immemorial has been a premier institution for preparing the best doctors, lawyers, performers, professors and ministers to name a few.

The Hilltop, in conjunction with the John H. Johnson

School of Communications continues to serve as the training ground and producer of the best and brightest journalists and communication specialists at home and internationally.

By extension, students will be afforded the opportunity to hone and develop new skills gained by marrying theoretical skills gained the classroom with practical experience.

I urge students who have a passion for writing, editing, photography or possess any skill that would aid in the production of the paper to become involved.

It is not enough to critique from the outside. Become a part of the change you would like to see. The Hilltop is as good as we collectively make it as students, staff, faculty and alumni. Support is imperative to its success.

In the last few months I have had the unique privilege of working closely with The Hilltop's chief and staff through informal consultation and workshops respectively; I

am confident they are ready to take on this mantle. I commend this effort.

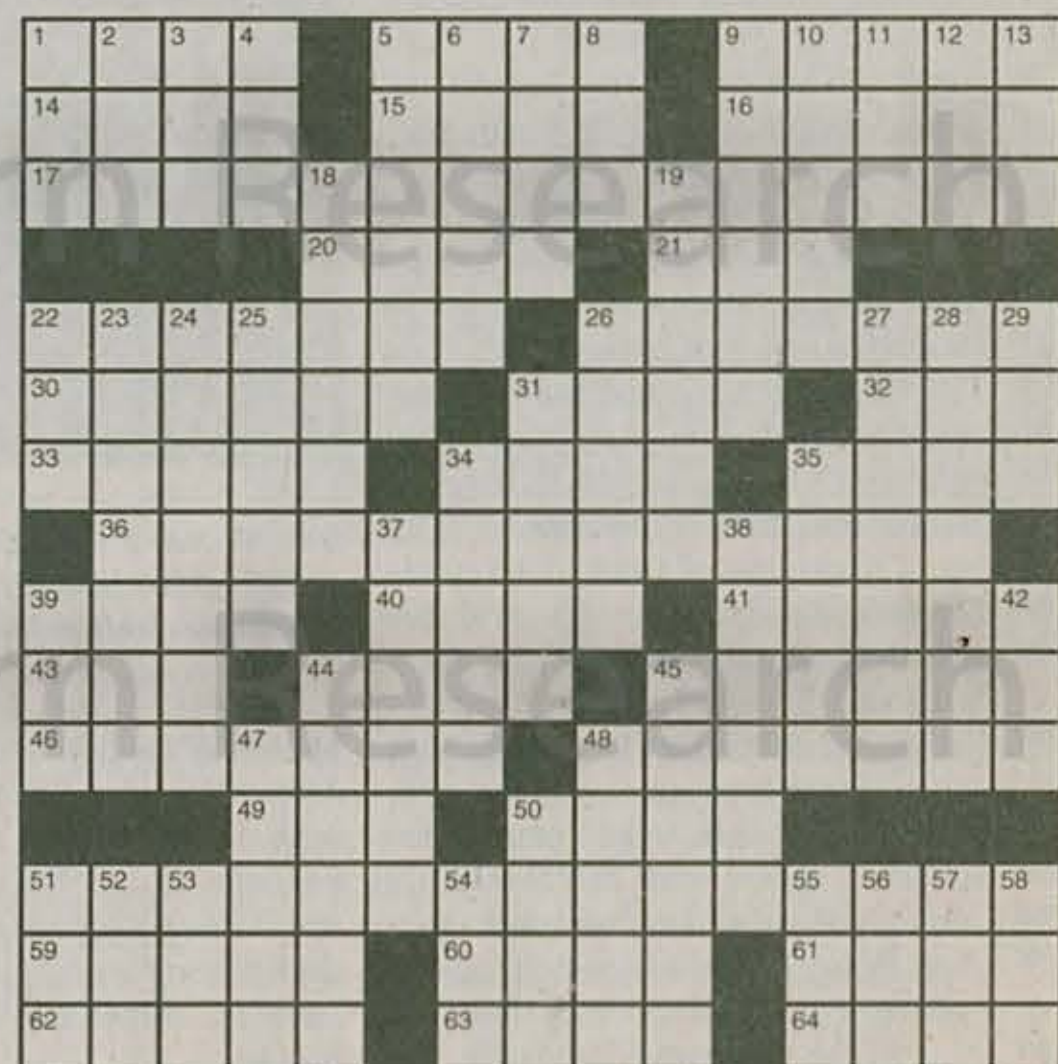
It goes to show that The Hilltop staff was not satisfied with 15 pieces of flare, but have aimed for 37 (inspired by film "Office Space" in 1999).

I challenge my successors to approach this new challenge with a renewed sense of commitment. A daily publication requires increased efficiency and adherence to deadlines, but most importantly to accuracy.

This is a proud and defining moment in the history of the publication, the institution and our community. Remain steadfast and diligent; keep The Hilltop flag flying high.

Kerry-Ann Hamilton is a 2003 Howard graduate with a BA in Journalism. She completes her Masters in International Relations in May 2005. Currently, she interns as a writer/researcher for United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

3/1/05

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- 13 That girl
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- 19 Lined up
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- 24 Deputize
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- 55 Crew member
- 56 Wear and tear
- 57 Zero
- 58 Singer Doris

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 81st year, The Hilltop is published Monday through 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 and Perspectives Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at www.thehilltoponline.com.

The Hilltop editorial office is located at 2231 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at www.thehilltoponline.com and by phone at (202)806-4724. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at hilltopbusiness@yahoo.com and by phone at (202)806-4749.

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.

Stern Seeks Permanent NBA Entry Age

BY COURTNEY EILAND
Asst. Sports Editor

The "oohs and aahs" over the flashy dunks, the behind the back passes and the alley-hoops at the All-Star Weekend quickly died down after the issue of the number of NBA players drafted into the league without college experience was raised.

One-third of the participants in this year's All-Star game entered the league as teenagers.

It is an issue that NBA Commissioner David Stern has been determined to take action on in recent years and he now believes he has the solution: implementing a 20-year-old age limit for prospective NBA players.

Stern has been trying to implement this rule as early as 1999 when he stated in an interview, "A rule that relates to the entry level status of a player, if fairly done, might encourage certain kids, whose lives are literally ruined because they get [in] and follow bad advice, from making bad decisions."

Stern added, "We understand what the lure of dollars are to talented people who can earn a lot of money, but we don't want our system to be viewed as providing an incentive for players to leave school early."

If the NBA were to apply an age limit to its draft, it would take on the same criteria that potential draft picks in the NFL undergo. The NFL currently prohibits anyone from entering its draft unless they have been out of high school for three years.

Many NBA players do not agree with Stern's plan to add an age requirement to the NBA draft,

because it would be unfair to potential draft prospects that contain tremendous talent.

Players such as Kobe Bryant, Jermaine O'Neal, Tracy McGrady and last year's MVP, Kevin Garnett, have been considered examples of players who entered the league straight out of high school but have been successful in that daring leap.

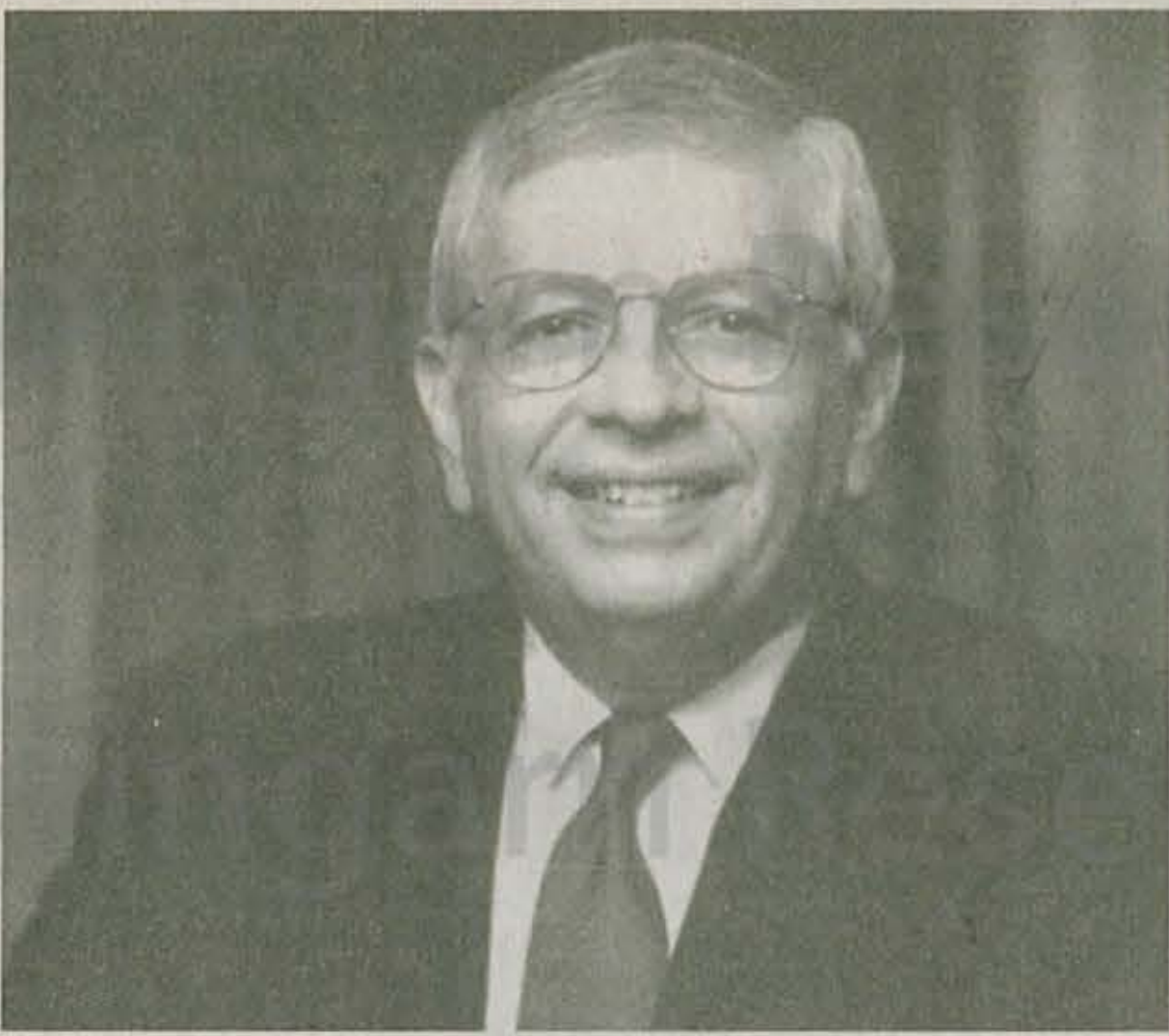
"There are so many guys coming in under 20 who have done so well out of high school. If that's making the NBA better, why would you cut them off because of their age?" Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire told ESPN.com, who was drafted at 19. "For guys who come in under 20 or straight out of high school, I think it's cool, as long as they come in mature and eager to learn the game of basketball."

On the other hand, players such as Seattle Supersonics guard Ray Allen and Orlando Magic forward Grant Hill, think otherwise.

"A lot of people look at it as punishment for younger players, but you have to think about the players who fall through cracks, who aren't as successful and end up not getting a college education or being able to see what that whole experience is like," Allen told ESPN.com. "I don't look at an age minimum as a bad thing. I think we're helping out younger guys, not hurting them."

In the past two NBA drafts, the number one pick has been a player fresh out of high school.

Just last year Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy graduate Dwight Howard, who now plays for the Orlando Magic, was selected as a number one draft pick. In this draft alone, a record number of eight high school players were selected in the first round.



Despit one-third of the participants in this year's All-Star game entering the league as teenagers, NBA Commissioner David Stern hopes to change this pattern.

A year prior, St. Vincent/St. Mary High School graduate LeBron James, became the first ever high school player to be selected number one in an NBA draft. Many use James' success as an example that players out of high school can have an immediate impact on the league.

"Who knows if there's another LeBron James out there?" Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady, who was also drafted straight out of high school, told ESPN.com. "I would be against the age limit. I think what would be a great idea is the way they do baseball players. If the guy is not ready, the teams ought to be able to sign them, have the

rights to them but let them play in a minor league. Send that guy down a level until he's ready to play at this level."

The NBA currently has six National Basketball Developmental League (NBDL) teams in various locations. Stern has also mentioned his desire to expand the NBDL to offer other options to potential NBA players when college is not always a first choice.

In regards to the age limit, Stern is hoping to reach a deal on a new NBA collective-bargaining agreement with the union before their current one expires on June 30 of this year. "I'm really optimistic that we'll be able to do it," Stern said.

Josh Gibson: 'Babe Ruth of the Negro League'

BY ASHLEY ROSS
Sports Editor

According to an urban legend printed on the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh website, "One day the Pittsburgh Crawfords were playing at Forbes Field when their young catcher, Josh Gibson, hit the ball so high and far no one saw it come down.

After scanning the sky carefully for a few minutes, the umpire ruled it a home run. The next day, the Crawfords were playing in Philadelphia when suddenly a ball dropped out of the heavens and was caught by the startled center fielder on the opposing club.

The umpire made the only possible ruling. Pointing to Gibson he shouted, 'You're out - yesterday in Pittsburgh.'"

Although Gibson was born in Buena Vista, Ga., he and his family later moved to Pittsburgh, Pa. during the pinnacle of the industrial revolution.

During that time period thousands of Blacks migrated from the South to Pittsburgh to obtain jobs in the prosperous steel industry.

Baseball was one of the more popular pastimes then and Gibson at an early age made a name for himself as a power hitter in sandlot games. He was soon picked up by the semi-pro Pittsburgh Crawfords under racketeer Gus Greenlee, who for years refused to join the Negro League.

But in 1928, at the persuasion of Homestead Grays owner Cum Posey, Gibson switched teams and began a phenomenal career in the Negro League full of uncanny talent.

Accurate statistics are hard to come by but baseballLibrary.com stated, "Gibson batted for a phenomenal .461 average in his rookie year and was a key factor in the Grays' win over New York's Lincoln Giants in the playoffs for the Eastern Division."

Gibson's batting feats were mythical and, to this day, there are countless stories that embellish his accomplishments. In one game that took place at Yankee Stadium, Gibson was said to have hit a home run into the left field bullpen more than 500 feet in distance.

Many still argue that home run was the longest drive ever hit in a baseball stadium.

In 1932, however, Greenlee lured Gibson back to the Crawfords, which, at the time, was home to baseball legends Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell and Judy Johnson.

"In 137 games with the Crawfords in 1933, he batted .467 with 55 home runs," according to baseballLibrary.com.

The Crawfords could not hold on to Gibson for very long because in 1936 Gibson rejoined the Grays and between 1938 and 1948 the Grays won an unprecedented nine league championships.

In an era before performance enhancers and before Sammy Sosa and Mark McGuire were household names, Josh Gibson transformed the game of baseball. On his plaque in the Baseball Hall of Fame it states he hit "almost 800" homeruns in his phenomenal career under two teams that spanned over 17 years.

Often affectionately referred to by some as the "Babe Ruth of the Negro League," urban legends still honor Gibson today. Sadly, throughout his thirties, Gibson was said to have had severe alcohol and substance abuse issues and became very depressed and emaciated.

In 1943, he was committed to a mental hospital after suffering a nervous break down and died on Jan. 20, 1947.

Hip-Hop's New Relationship With the NBA

BY JENEA ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

Usher Raymond won five Grammy Awards for his most recent album "Confessions."

According to Rolling Stone magazine he earned \$25.8 million last year from concert and record sales.

However, instead of purchasing a new sports car or taking a lavish vacation, the 26-year old R&B singer currently has his sights set on investing a significant amount of money into the Cleveland Cavaliers franchise.

Business.com reported that Usher plans to become a part of the group that owns the Cavaliers. Led by Dan Gilbert, this ownership group recently agreed to buy the Cavaliers for \$375 million. Exactly how much money Usher invested into the franchise is unknown.

Usher is not the first music artist to invest in a professional sports team.

In 2004 rapper Nelly became

minority owner of the Charlotte Bobcats and Jay-Z is now an investor in the New Jersey Nets. Hip-hop's influence on the National Basketball Association (NBA) is more prevalent now than ever before.

Many Howard students feel that the new relationship between the NBA and hip-hop is creating a positive image for the hip-hop community. "It's great to see people in hip-hop investing. Hip-hop has a huge influence on African-Americans and the NBA," said sophomore accounting major Brian Wilson.

The NBA has expanded its appeal to include the hip-hop generation more so than any other professional league. "This shows the expansion of hip-hop. It's a positive depiction of how Blacks can use what they have earned to branch out into different sectors of society," said Ralph Kindred, a sophomore public relations major.

Students are not the only ones who feel that investments made by

the hip-hop community can better African-American society. Rapper Jay-Z plans to bring change to the New Jersey Nets.

One of his plans is to move the Nets franchise from the swamps of New Jersey and relocate it to Downtown Brooklyn.

"I'm a Brooklyn kid who's in love with Brooklyn," Jay-Z told MTV News. "I'm just happy to bring something back, that's my love."

There are some students, however, that feel the hip-hop artists who are investing in these sports teams lack sincerity. Rayna Lucier, a sophomore advertising major said, "I don't feel that these rap stars have an actual interest in the teams they invest in. I think they do it because they can financially."

Junior biology major Jessica Blakely has similar feelings towards the new NBA and hip-hop relationship.

"I not only feel they don't care about the teams they invest in, but I think the same goes for some of



R&B sensation Usher has reportedly invested a substantial amount of money into the Cleveland Cavaliers franchise.

their other investments as well. I don't think P. Diddy really cares about clothes, Sean Jean is [just] a lucrative business for him."

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Fana Gibson, SGA/Group Leader
Sally-Jean Astwood
Brandon Smith
Lyndsey Smith
Robert Wadlington
Masake Kane
Jordan Smith
Marietta Swan
David Williams

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School of Business
School of Business
School of Business
School of Communications
College of Arts & Sciences
School of Business
School of Business
School of Business
School of Communications

3RD PLACE TEAM AWARD - \$3,300.00

Erin Kendrick, SGA/Group Leader
Kristin Baker
Tiffany Jones
Dara Jordan
Aquila Morris-Alleyne
Raasikh Muhammad
Amanda Murray
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EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

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www.thehilltoponline.com



VH1 Appreciates the Impact

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edgement makes us happy. Approaching racial stereotypes and taboos is an awkward thing to do for people of all races, especially when it's in a serious manner.

The "Race-O-Rama Dude Where's My Ghetto Pass" and "In Race We Lust" specials were a hilarious, real and effective way of explaining things many non-Blacks seek to understand.

Our View:

We have thoroughly enjoyed the station's Black History Month programming.

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BY KERRY-ANN HAMILTON

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School of Communications continues to serve as the training ground and producer of the best and brightest journalists and communication specialists at home and internationally.

By extension, students will be afforded the opportunity to hone and develop new skills gained by marrying theoretical skills gained the classroom with practical experience.

I urge students who have a passion for writing, editing, photography or possess any skill that would aid in the production of the paper to become involved.

It is not enough to critique from the outside. Become a part of the change you would like to see. The Hilltop is as good as we collectively make it as students, staff, faculty and alumni. Support is imperative to its success.

In the last few months I have had the unique privilege of working closely with The Hilltop's chief and staff through informal consultation and workshops respectively; I

am confident they are ready to take on this mantle. I commend this effort.

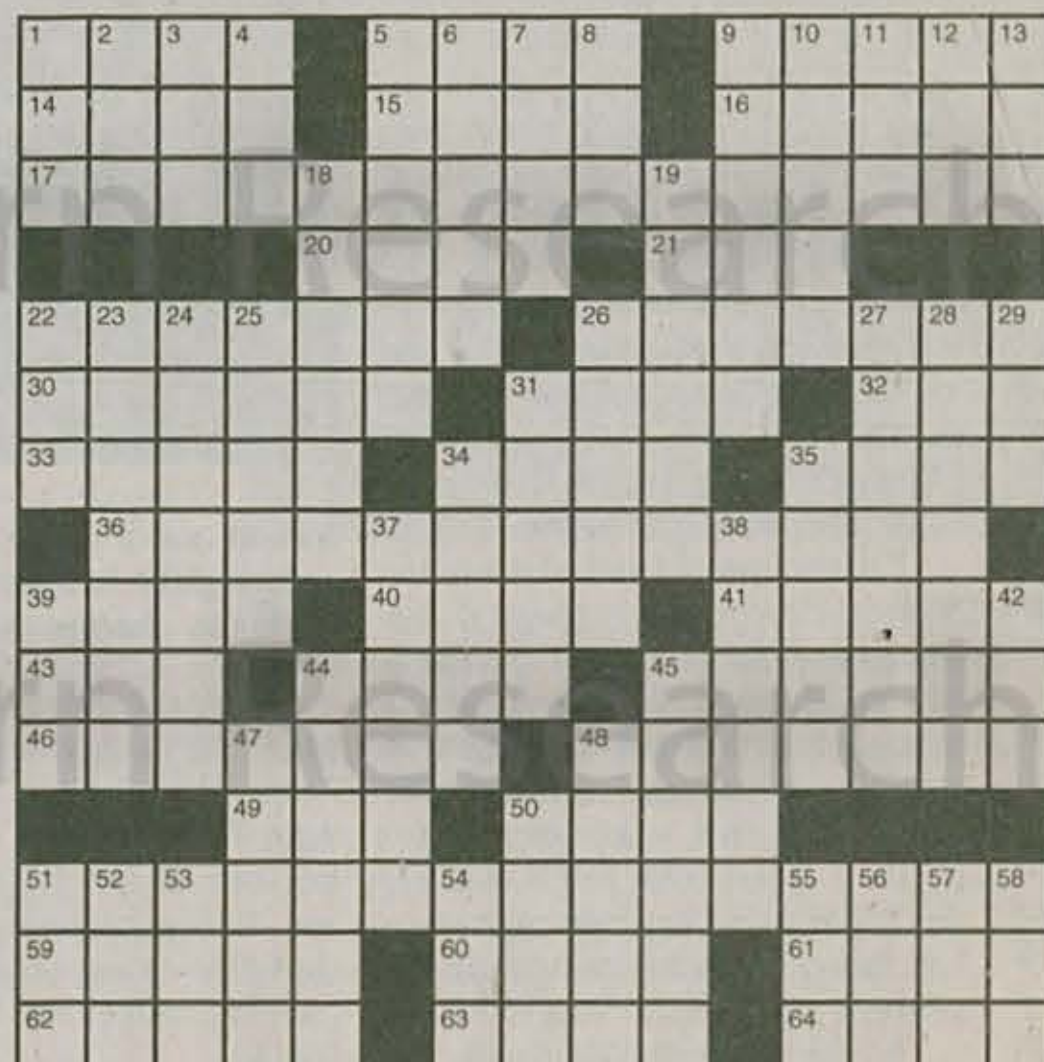
It goes to show that The Hilltop staff was not satisfied with 15 pieces of flare, but have aimed for 37 (inspired by film "Office Space" in 1999).

I challenge my successors to approach this new challenge with a renewed sense of commitment. A daily publication requires increased efficiency and adherence to deadlines, but most importantly to accuracy.

This is a proud and defining moment in the history of the publication, the institution and our community. Remain steadfast and diligent; keep The Hilltop flag flying high.

Kerry-Ann Hamilton is a 2003 Howard graduate with a BA in Journalism. She completes her Masters in International Relations in May 2005. Currently, she interns as a writer/researcher for United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

3/1/05

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THE HILLTOP

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Now in its 81st year, The Hilltop is published Monday through 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 and Perspectives Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at www.thehilltoponline.com.

The Hilltop editorial office is located at, 2251 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at www.thehilltoponline.com and by phone at (202)806-4724. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at hilltopbusiness@yahoo.com and by phone at (202)806-4749.

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.

Stern Seeks Permanent NBA Entry Age

BY COURTNEY EILAND
Asst. Sports Editor

The "oohs and aahs" over the flashy dunks, the behind the back passes and the alley-hoops at the All-Star Weekend quickly died down after the issue of the number of NBA players drafted into the league without college experience was raised.

One-third of the participants in this year's All-Star game entered the league as teenagers.

It is an issue that NBA Commissioner David Stern has been determined to take action on in recent years and he now believes he has the solution: implementing a 20-year-old age limit for prospective NBA players.

Stern has been trying to implement this rule as early as 1999 when he stated in an interview, "A rule that relates to the entry level status of a player, if fairly done, might encourage certain kids, whose lives are literally ruined because they get [in] and follow bad advice, from making bad decisions."

Stern added, "We understand what the lure of dollars are to talented people who can earn a lot of money, but we don't want our system to be viewed as providing an incentive for players to leave school early."

If the NBA were to apply an age limit to its draft, it would take on the same criteria that potential draft picks in the NFL undergo. The NFL currently prohibits anyone from entering its draft unless they have been out of high school for three years.

Many NBA players do not agree with Stern's plan to add an age requirement to the NBA draft,

because it would be unfair to potential draft prospects that contain tremendous talent.

Players such as Kobe Bryant, Jermaine O'Neal, Tracy McGrady and last year's MVP, Kevin Garnett, have been considered examples of players who entered the league straight out of high school but have been successful in that daring leap.

"There are so many guys coming in under 20 who have done so well out of high school. If that's making the NBA better, why would you cut them off because of their age?" Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire told ESPN.com, who was drafted at 19. "For guys who come in under 20 or straight out of high school, I think it's cool, as long as they come in mature and eager to learn the game of basketball."

On the other hand, players such as Seattle Supersonics guard Ray Allen and Orlando Magic forward Grant Hill, think otherwise.

"A lot of people look at it as punishment for younger players, but you have to think about the players who fall through cracks, who aren't as successful and end up not getting a college education or being able to see what that whole experience is like," Allen told ESPN.com. "I don't look at an age minimum as a bad thing. I think we're helping out younger guys, not hurting them."

In the past two NBA drafts, the number one pick has been a player fresh out of high school.

Just last year Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy graduate Dwight Howard, who now plays for the Orlando Magic, was selected as a number one draft pick. In this draft alone, a record number of eight high school players were selected in the first round.



www.columbia.edu

Despite one-third of the participants in this year's All-Star game entering the league as teenagers, NBA Commissioner David Stern hopes to change this pattern.

A year prior, St. Vincent/St. Mary High School graduate LeBron James, became the first ever high school player to be selected number one in an NBA draft. Many use James' success as an example that players out of high school can have an immediate impact on the league.

"Who knows if there's another LeBron James out there?" Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady, who was also drafted straight out of high school, told ESPN.com. "I would be against the age limit. I think what would be a great idea is the way they do baseball players. If the guy is not ready, the teams ought to be able to sign them, have the

rights to them but let them play in a minor league. Send that guy down a level until he's ready to play at this level."

The NBA currently has six National Basketball Developmental League (NBDL) teams in various locations. Stern has also mentioned his desire to expand the NBDL to offer other options to potential NBA players when college is not always a first choice.

In regards to the age limit, Stern is hoping to reach a deal on a new NBA collective-bargaining agreement with the union before their current one expires on June 30 of this year. "I'm really optimistic that we'll be able to do it," Stern said.

Josh Gibson: 'Babe Ruth of the Negro League'

BY ASHLEY ROSS
Sports Editor

According to an urban legend printed on the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh website, "One day the Pittsburgh Crawfords were playing at Forbes Field when their young catcher, Josh Gibson, hit the ball so high and far no one saw it come down.

After scanning the sky carefully for a few minutes, the umpire ruled it a home run. The next day, the Crawfords were playing in Philadelphia when suddenly a ball dropped out of the heavens and was caught by the startled center fielder on the opposing club.

The umpire made the only possible ruling. Pointing to Gibson he shouted, 'You're out - yesterday in Pittsburgh.'

Although Gibson was born in Buena Vista, Ga., he and his family later moved to Pittsburgh, Pa. during the pinnacle of the industrial revolution.

During that time period thousands of Blacks migrated from the South to Pittsburgh to obtain jobs in the prosperous steel industry.

Baseball was one of the more popular pastimes then and Gibson at an early age made a name for himself as a power hitter in sandlot games. He was soon picked up by the semi-pro Pittsburgh Crawfords under racketeer Gus Greenlee, who for years refused to join the Negro League.

But in 1928, at the persuasion of Homestead Grays owner Cum Posey, Gibson switched teams and began a phenomenal career in the Negro League full of uncanny talent.

Accurate statistics are hard to come by but baseballLibrary.com stated, "Gibson batted for a phenomenal .461 average in his rookie year and was a key factor in the Grays' win over New York's Lincoln Giants in the playoffs for the Eastern Division."

Gibson's batting feats were mythical and, to this day, there are countless stories that embellish his accomplishments. In one game that took place at Yankee Stadium, Gibson was said to have hit a home run into the left field bullpen more than 500 feet in distance.

Many still argue that home run was the longest drive ever hit in a baseball stadium.

In 1932, however, Greenlee lured Gibson back to the Crawfords, which, at the time, was home to baseball legends Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell and Judy Johnson.

"In 137 games with the Crawfords in 1933, he batted .467 with 55 home runs," according to baseballLibrary.com.

The Crawfords could not hold on to Gibson for very long because in 1936 Gibson rejoined the Grays and between 1938 and 1948 the Grays won an unprecedented nine league championships.

In an era before performance enhancers and before Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire were household names, Josh Gibson transformed the game of baseball. On his plaque in the Baseball Hall of Fame it states he hit "almost 800" homeruns in his phenomenal career under two teams that spanned over 17 years.

Often affectionately referred to by some as the "Babe Ruth of the Negro League," urban legends still honor Gibson today. Sadly, throughout his thirties, Gibson was said to have had severe alcohol and substance abuse issues and became very depressed and emaciated.

In 1943, he was committed to a mental hospital after suffering a nervous break down and died on Jan. 20, 1947.

Hip-Hop's New Relationship With the NBA

BY JENEA ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

Usher Raymond won five Grammy Awards for his most recent album "Confessions."

According to Rolling Stone magazine he earned \$25.8 million last year from concert and record sales.

However, instead of purchasing a new sports car or taking a lavish vacation, the 26-year old R&B singer currently has his sights set on investing a significant amount of money into the Cleveland Cavaliers franchise.

Business.com reported that Usher plans to become a part of the group that owns the Cavaliers. Led by Dan Gilbert, this ownership group recently agreed to buy the Cavaliers for \$375 million. Exactly how much money Usher invested into the franchise is unknown.

Usher is not the first music artist to invest in a professional sports team.

In 2004 rapper Nelly became

minority owner of the Charlotte Bobcats and Jay-Z is now an investor in the New Jersey Nets. Hip-hop's influence on the National Basketball Association (NBA) is more prevalent now than ever before.

Many Howard students feel that the new relationship between the NBA and hip-hop is creating a positive image for the hip-hop community. "It's great to see people in hip-hop investing. Hip-hop has a huge influence on African-Americans and the NBA," said sophomore accounting major Brian Wilson.

The NBA has expanded its appeal to include the hip-hop generation more so than any other professional league. "This shows the expansion of hip-hop. It's a positive depiction of how Blacks can use what they have earned to branch out into different sectors of society," said Ralph Kindred, a sophomore public relations major.

Students are not the only ones who feel that investments made by

the hip-hop community can better African-American society. Rapper Jay-Z plans to bring change to the New Jersey Nets.

One of his plans is to move the Nets franchise from the swamps of New Jersey and relocate it to Downtown Brooklyn.

"I'm a Brooklyn kid who's in love with Brooklyn," Jay-Z told MTV News. "I'm just happy to bring something back, that's my love."

There are some students, however, that feel the hip-hop artists who are investing in these sports teams lack sincerity. Rayna Lucier, a sophomore advertising major said, "I don't feel that these rap stars have an actual interest in the teams they invest in. I think they do it because they can financially."

Junior biology major Jessica Blakely has similar feelings towards the new NBA and hip-hop relationship.

"I not only feel they don't care about the teams they invest in, but I think the same goes for some of



www.celebrity-exchange.com

R&B sensation Usher has reportedly invested a substantial amount of money into the Cleveland Cavaliers franchise.

their other investments as well. I don't think P. Diddy really cares about clothes, Sean Jean is [just] a lucrative business for him."

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Laser Surgery a Sight for Sore Eyes

BY BRITTNEY JOHNSON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Everyone knows someone who needs corrective eyewear. From glasses to contacts, several groups of friends at Howard resemble the blind leading the blind.

But help may be on the way for those tired of squinting, looking for glasses or fiddling with contacts.

That's because laser eye surgery is quickly becoming one of the most popular methods of correcting eye disorders.

Neijma Celestine, a sophomore legal communications major, who has already researched the procedure, said that she presently cannot afford it.

"My glasses are thick," she said. "That's why I want laser surgery."

Before anyone decides they're sick of their bifocals, they should understand what laser surgery is.

Mike Houston, an administrator at Kremer Laser Eye Centers, handles consultations for patients considering surgery. Houston described what happens during the two major types of corrective laser eye surgery.

The first is laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK), which treats nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. The surgeon cuts a flap in the stroma, and then uses an excimer laser to remove material under the flap.

Second, photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) is a laser eye surgery that treats nearsightedness, mild to moderate farsightedness and astigmatism.

The surgeon uses an excimer laser to remove tissue from the surface of the cornea which results in a new shape, and reduces the vision problem. LASIK and PRK both usually take less than one minute per eye.

"The two most popular, LASIK and PRK, can cost anywhere from 1800 to 3600 an eye," Houston said. "That cost includes the initial evaluation visit, post-operative visits, and any re-dos."

According to Houston, every patient is not a candidate for corrective laser surgery. Problems with the cornea can prevent the doctor from performing the procedure.

"Most providers do not provide if there is not enough cornea, if it's too big or irregularly shaped, it can't be done," Houston said.

After being cleared for the surgery, Houston said that the probability of having successful surgery is quite high, regardless of the risks.

"Ninety percent of patients are going to get 20/40 vision or better," he said. "However, some have lost lines, and have lost vision as a result. There is the possibility of epithelial growth, where skin starts to grow beneath the flap that was altered during surgery. Some patients also report something

called night vision, which is excessive glaring at night after procedure. And actually, some have actually gone blind."

Regardless of those risks, there are still many who would jump at the opportunity to see clearly, naturally.

Basketball player Stanley Green, a sophomore business management major who remembers feeling like a geek in his sports goggles when he was younger, said he does not mind the possible risks.

"Yes, I would if I had the chance," Green said. "You have to wait until your eyes are fully developed. So as soon as I am the right age, I'm getting it."

Not everyone is irritated by their glasses or contacts. When asked if he would consider corrective laser surgery, Julius Jenkins, a sophomore psychology and Spanish major, said he liked his glasses.

Obviously taking such a risky step is not as easy for all of the visually impaired. Jenkins said he has been nearsighted since the fourth grade and didn't think it's worth the risk.

"If they screw up on your eyes, there is no turning back," Jenkins said.

In fact, when a mistake occurs during laser surgery, there is a great chance that some of the mistakes can be fixed.

"All, except permanent blindness can be prevented, or corrected," Houston said. "That is why there are



Tia Gordon - Staff Photographer

People who wear glasses like Adeyemi Stovall may be in search of other eyecare options, but laser surgery remains out of reach of many budgets.

five post operative visits, so that we can monitor the progress of the patient. All corrective procedures are apart of the overall cost."

What would seem like a nightmare to some who hope to undergo surgery

in the next few years is a safe and practical approach for Jenkins.

"I will probably have bifocals in the next seven years, and my grandfather wears trifocals."



http://as.wn.com

The bird flu, labeled as an "imminent threat" by the World Health Organization, has devastated Asia's poultry industry by causing the slaughter of millions of birds in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

Recent Asian Bird Flu Flies Under Most Students' Health Radars

BY VERONICA MILLER
Contributing Writer

It's the subject of every major network news program.

CNN has had nightly updates on the threat. The headlines of many major news websites mention it but quite a few students at Howard still don't know what it is. It is the Asian bird flu, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has labeled it as an "imminent threat."

The illness has claimed 45 lives in Asia in the past year, mostly as a result of human contact with sick birds and ducks.

It devastated the continent's poultry industry in 2004 and led to the slaughter of millions of birds in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

Though there are about 15 different forms of the avian flu, this particular strain is highly contagious and rapidly deadly among birds. According to Associated Press reports, experts at a bird flu conference in Vietnam said the virus could become even more deadly if it mutates into a strain that easily transmits between humans.

WHO officials said the world is in the "gravest possible danger of a pandemic," fearing that an outbreak could kill millions of people. In 1918, a similar virus claimed between 20 and 40 million lives.

But on campus, knowledge of the bird flu is sparse at best.

"I don't know much about a bird flu," admitted freshman radio, television and film major

Derek Rogers.

"I haven't heard of a bird flu threat," said senior psychology/pre-med major Danielle Palmer.

"There's a bird flu?" asked fresh-

man fashion merchandising major William White.

When told of the virus and the concern surrounding it, White responded, "Well, I hope that it won't be nearly as bad as people expect it to be."

"I do think that it's a serious problem that this flu is starting to spread over in Asia," said senior business management major Brandon Miller when told of the illness. "I'm concerned not only because it could potentially come here, but because the Asia has been devastated recently with the Tsunami and floods. The last thing they need is more people dying."

At the Vietnam conference, which concluded last Friday, the WHO called for governments around the globe to act quickly to prevent outbreaks. But according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the U.S. is not likely to be at great risk for an outbreak. CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding downplayed a report of possible bird flu pandemic in the States.

"We are... not on the brink of an avian flu epidemic," she said at a press conference last week, according to the Associated Press.

The most severe cases of the illness occur after human contact with infected birds and their droppings. Human-to-human transmission is possible but milder. Still, the U.S. government is preparing to test an experimental vaccine, and antiviral treatments have been stockpiled in case of an outbreak, according to the



www.bbc.com

Associated Press.

Vaccines are also in development internationally but according to a Reuters report, WHO Vietnam representative Hans Troedsson reminded health officials that the bird flu virus could still mutate, changing the effectiveness of a vaccine.

"Remember that, of course if the strain changed, the vaccine developed now is the vaccine against the current strain so it might be less protective," he said yesterday at the bird-flu conference.

Several students also said that they believed the vaccine was important.

"I do hope they find a vaccine soon," said junior mathematics major Derrick Dennis when told of the federal government's efforts. "That would be just more drama that is going on in the world."

Shavon Adams, a senior advertising major, also said she hopes an effective vaccine will be developed.

"There's got to be a way to protect people against it," Adams said. "It's scary to think that you could easily be infected by something like that."

Doctors Say Diabetes Maybe Preventable

BY LAUREN SMITH
Contributing Writer

When her older sister, now 21 years old, was diagnosed with type two diabetes 10 years ago, sophomore radio, television and film major Cortne' Pope knew she was at risk for the disease, which can cause blindness, amputation and kidney failure.

"Ever since then, I have been more conscious of my health and my mom makes me get tested very often," Pope said.

However, what she didn't know was that she was at even more risk for a condition most recently termed "pre-diabetes," which is a partially elevated blood sugar level that will likely develop into diabetes within 10 years.

According to WebMD.com, doctors are now saying that a healthy diet, regular exercise and certain medications can prevent the development of the disease.

Despite the precautions that can be taken, those related to someone with diabetes may still have a higher likelihood of also having a problem with it.

So what have those students done to prevent themselves from getting the disease?

Print journalism major Erica Nzei, whose mother has the disease said, "Our family doesn't really concentrate on it because we aren't reminded everyday."

"Even though it's a serious disease, I'm not really concerned about it at this age, I mostly exercise to get fit and stay healthy."

Some students get tested regularly, like sophomore legal communications major Diana Banks, who does so because her aunts and grandparents all have the disease.

"I get tested a lot because I know I'm at risk and, thus far, my doctors say that I am doing fine," Banks said. "Although, admittedly, I don't really watch what I eat, I do try to exercise."

Pope, who says she has been athletic most of her life and in shape, said, "Since I ran track and played in the marching band, my doctor said that it prevented

most of the symptoms."

In the article, "Self-care Among Black Diabetics" written by Yesenia Reyes and Mamie C. Montague in the Division of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences here at Howard University, physical health is given as a preventative measure, along with other practices. "Self-care in diabetes is critical for maintaining physical and mental health."

It is requisite for establishing optimal glycemic control. Without good glycemic control, Black diabetics are at risk for developing multiple complications and dying, which can attest to these findings," the article said.

In a lecture given by Dr. Cynthia Abrams, associate professor of biochemistry, in October of 1999, he describes type 2 diabetes as "insulin resistant" and said that it can be "controlled with diet and decreased meal sizes to decrease serum glucose levels in the body." Multiple studies support these statements.

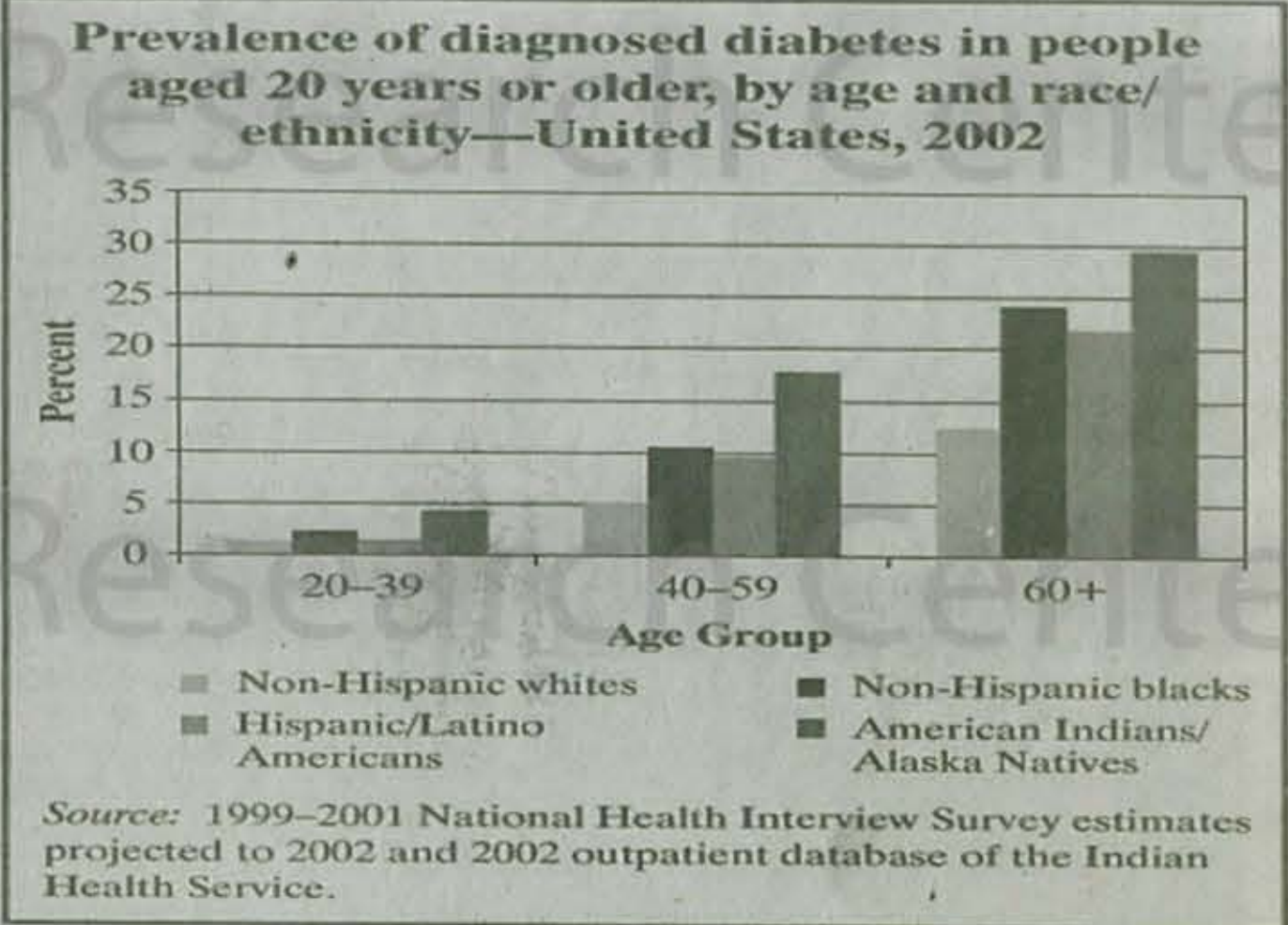
Thirty-two hundred people with pre-diabetes were tracked in "The Diabetes Prevention Program" study, which is funded by the federal government and published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2002.

Those who exercised half an hour, five days a week, and lost seven percent of their weight through a low-fat diet were 58 percent less likely to progress to diabetes after three years.

And while these are two of the best methods, there is also drug help that can be taken advantage of by those who suffer from diabetes and its related conditions.

Other people who took the blood glucose regulator Metformin were 31 percent less likely to get diabetes. Another trial found that another drug, Acarbose, which delays the digestion of carbohydrates in the blood, reduced the risk of diabetes by 25 percent.

Though students, like Pope and Banks, are at elevated risk, there are still measures that can be taken in order to prevent serious illness or health problems such as or related to diabetes.



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DC Beautification Project
9 am
www.hugeorgiadclub.org

**HUSA Proudly
Presents...**
**2004-2005 Excellence
Awards**
Application and
nomination Forms are
now available online
www.husaonline.com/
excellence
All applications are
due by 5 pm
March 21, 2005

Got Cavities?
College of Dentistry is
conducting their 4th
Saturday of FREE
SCREENINGS.
March 5th, 2005
Between 10:00am-
1:00pm on the second
floor.
X-Rays Included

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
"A" TEAM
ON ANOTHER WIN
AT COPPIN STATE!!!
WHO'S NEXT??**

LATEX is HERE!
February 27th, 2005-
March 4th, 2005
"A Week of Sexual
Awareness"
Sponsored by:
HU Texas & Louisiana
Club

Sunday:
February 27th 2005
Call to Chapel 11:00am

Monday
February 28th, 2005
Planned Parenthood
"Mistakes Happen:
Choices, Chances, and
Consequences"
7:00pm DGB 116

Tuesday:
March 1st, 2005:
"HU Peers: Safe Sex
Program" 6:30pm
Blackburn Center

Thursday:
March 3rd, 2005
"The X-Factor: The mis-
education of Lates"
LKH Smart Room 7:00pm

Friday: March 4th, 2005
LATEN Party @
Kil's Kafe and Lounge
10:00 pm

**Happy Belated
Birthday
Stacy, Morgan,
Zakiya, Tawene,
Tosha and any
other February
friends I forgot!
- Keith**



#1 Beauty Supply
5928 Georgia Ave NW
(202) 291-4980
As seen on BET and MTV

Located on GA Ave, just North of Missouri Ave, NW
Next to McDonald's, Across the Street from Curtis
Chevrolet
Going North on Georgia Ave, towards Maryland

- Over 3,000 selection of wigs starting at \$9.99
- Full line of human hair
- Skin care
- Perfume
- Hair products
- Great prices

Human hair basic color (1-1B-2-4)

Yaki wave: 10"-\$7.99 12"-\$10.99
Deep wave: 10"-\$7.99 12"-\$10.99
Super bulk: 14"-\$9.99 16"-\$11.99

*Students get a 10% discount with student id card
(only on regular price items)