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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 88, NO. 48

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

WEDNESDAY NOTEBOOK

CAMPUS SOMETHING OLD, SOME PLACE NEW



THE HUB HAS BEEN AROUND FOR DECADES, BUT NOT ALWAYS IN ITS CURRENT LOCATION. NOW, LOCATED ON GEORGIA AVE, FIND

OUT WHAT BUILDINGS THE BOOKSTORE ONCE OCCUPIED. PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD

AMERICAN'S WAGES REMAIN THE SAME

THE SENATE HAS DECIDED NOT TO RAISE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE. SEE WHAT EMPLOYED HOWARD STUDENTS THINK. PAGE 4

LIFE & STYLE

RACE FOR THE CROWN

THE ANNUAL MISS BLACK USA PAGEANT IS AROUND THE CORNER. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE COMPETITION. PAGE 8

SPORTS

BISON LOSE AGAIN

THE BISON BASKETBALL TEAM CAPPED OFF A DIFFICULT SEASON AS THEY BOWED OUT OF THE MEAC TOURNAMENT ON MONDAY. PAGE 10



HU CALENDAR

MARCH 12
SECOND DEFERRED
TUITION PAYMENT DUE

FAFSA APPLICATION DUE

MARCH 12-20
SPRING BREAK

MARCH 24
STUDENT ELECTIONS

WEATHER

Today--Mostly Sunny
High: 38
Low: 21

Thursday--Mostly Sunny
High: 40
Low: 28

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Unknown Woman Disrupts Administration Building

BY CHRISTOPHER WALL
Copy Editor

An unidentified woman who Interim Police Chief, Lawrence Thomas, said may have been mentally unbalanced, was physically removed from the Administration building early Tuesday afternoon.

The woman refused to leave the fourth floor and began shouting, "I want to see the president."

"The woman said that she heard President Swygert was a

nice man and claimed to have traveled by bus from Queens, N.Y. to ask him for a job," Thomas said.

According to Thomas, the woman became irate and refused to leave the area when she was told she needed to make an appointment before seeing President Swygert.

"People have demanded to see President Swygert without an appointment and have demonstrated bizarre behavior," Chief Thomas said. "This is not

the first time someone has been physically removed from the Administration building."

Rashelle O'Neal, a sophomore majoring in political science and sociology, who was present during the incident, is thankful that campus police arrived before the situation worsened.

"My friend and I were in the lobby of the Administration building when campus police came down with a woman who



The unidentified woman was forced into a squad car by campus police after refusing to leave the Administration building.



Juan Barreto-AP Photo

In its 53-year history, NASCAR has only had three Black drivers- Willy T. Ribbs, Wendell Scott and Bill Lester.

NASCAR Tries to Diversify

BY KAIJA KARAMOKO
Contributing Writer

NASCAR, a sport that has painted the pages of American history books for decades has not been inclusive of all races.

"While NASCAR's logo contains a rainbow of colors, the diversity of hues doesn't translate to the track," wrote David W. Almasi, executive director of the National Center for Public Policy. "Auto racing continues to be a sport of mostly white competitors and fans."

Willy T. Ribbs, Wendell Scott, and Bill Lester are the only black drivers in the history of NASCAR. NBA legend, Ervin "Magic" Johnson, is willing to change this reality. Johnson plans to help NASCAR boost the sponsorship of minorities.

In an interview with Ramsey Poston, NASCAR's managing director of corporate communications, he said, "Our diversity efforts are across the boards, NASCAR is open to everyone." NASCAR intends to showcase its many opportunities on and

off the track to encourage new interest.

NASCAR believes that Johnson's business savvy and experience will bring a lot to the table. Johnson is not only known for his legendary basketball strides, but also as a businessman.

Johnson established and created Magic Johnson Enterprises (MJE). Under the MJE umbrella, he has bought and maintained many businesses. Johnson is the owner of the Starbuck's on Howard's campus, as well as the many Magic Johnson movie theaters.

"Magic Johnson is your guy," is what NASCAR continued to hear as they searched for the chairman for their executive diversity committee.

"Time will tell," said David Coleman, junior physical education major. Coleman is skeptical about NASCAR's business relationship with Johnson "You can't bring the urban community into something it doesn't have; there are no race tracks in the hood," Coleman said.

"Just seeing Magic won't make us do anything. Black people are trendsetters not imitators, I think they are using Magic as a scapegoat."

NASCAR has been accused of being racially biased by Jesse Jackson and Warren Brown. Jackson, a well known activist in the black community, and Brown, a columnist who has covered the automobile industry for the Washington Post since 1982, have both confronted NASCAR on its failure to include blacks.

"I'm sure NASCAR does not bluntly disregard Black drivers or crew members, but the lack of sponsorship by NASCAR and participating companies says enough," said Alyssa Johnson, sophomore advertising major. "It's not a secret that actions speak louder than word at times."

It takes more than just raw talent to be "recruited" by NASCAR and its affiliates; it costs \$6 million to maintain a

See NASCAR, News A3

Men's Conference Seeks Solutions

BY ADAM VICKS
Contributing Writer

The John H. Johnson School of Communications Men's Conference held in the Blackburn Center Tuesday, advertised as "Man Up," was open to Howard University men of all classifications and majors and touched on subjects such as business etiquette, accountability and sexual awareness.

About 100 men, mostly male students from the School of Communications, attend the event. Female students were not allowed to participate. John Davis Jr., professor of communications law and a Howard University alumnus, served as moderator of the conference.

"I have classes that are 90 percent female and have witnessed many of the challenges male students experience," Davis said.

Joe Cassidy, a junior infor-

mation systems major, said living on a campus with an overwhelming female majority leaves many male students feeling overlooked.

"This is the perfect forum to address issues affecting young Black males, particularly those on Howard's campus," Cassidy said.

Surveys were given to men enrolled in the School of Communications concerning the topics they felt should be discussed the most during the conference.

Of those topics, stability and reality after college were the top two choices.

Davis set the tone for the meeting by stating, "What we're trying to do is begin action-oriented meetings and a series of discussions." But discussion was not the only thing on the agenda for men in attendance.

See MEN, News A3



Courtesy of Derrick Brown

School of Communications held a "Man Up" Conference on Tuesday to discuss issues among Black males.

STEAM PIPE BURSTS SETS OFF ALARM IN HUMAN ECOLOGY



Marlene Hawthorne- Staff Photographer

The maintenance technicians were fixing heating systems Tuesday morning after Washington Fire Department firefighters responded to a 9:30 a.m. call concerning smoke in the Human Ecology building. According to Berlin D. Hilgh, technician for the fire department who also responded to the call, there was no fire, only reports of a broken steam pipe. Howard University maintenance officials in the building declined comment.

Iraq War Keeping Blacks Away

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

As the death toll for U.S. soldiers continue to rise in Iraq, reports this week show the Army is having trouble recruiting Blacks to fight in a war many of them don't believe in.

"More African-Americans identify having to fight for a cause they don't support as a barrier to military service," an unpublicized Army study concluded in August 2004.

"Reasons for not considering military service are increasingly based on objections to the

Iraq situation and aversion to the military."

Reports released this week show the army has made little headway in getting Blacks, or Whites for that matter, to join the army despite offering hefty bonuses.

"To me, recruiting used to be easy," Staff Sergeant Richard Guzman said in an interview with CNN. "Right now you really have to hunt for those who really want to serve." Guzman recruits for Harlem, a predominantly Black city in New York.

Data from a Defense department Website show that the dis-

interest many Blacks are now having in the military started shortly after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon four years ago.

In 2001, Blacks made up 22.7 percent of the army recruit classes. In 2002 they only represented 19.9 percent, a year later the number was 16.4 percent, and as of last year the number had dropped again to 15.4 percent.

With the war in Iraq appearing to have no immediate end in sight, the army is hard pressed

See BLACKS, News A3

Bookstore Relocates, Improves Over Time

BY LAUREN STEPHENS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Among the few commonalities at Howard through the decades has been the book buying process at the bookstore.

While students now complain about long lines and out of stock books, students from the past had to deal with small spaces and even longer lines.

In the early 1970s, the bookstore was in the bottom of the architecture building before it moved to what is currently Wachovia Bank.

"It was incredibly small they could only let a certain number of people in at a time," said Bernice Shorter-Meares, pharmacy class of 1976. "As small as it was, they did a good job of utilization of space and product control. But by the time I got there, it had definitely outgrown the facility."

The next home for the bookstore was in the bottom of the Quad, where Residence Life is currently located.

According to the current bookstore director Antwan

Clinton, that location was a nightmare for students as well as the bookstore staff.

"My first day on the job, the bookstore was closed," Clinton said.

"I arrived on campus that day...as we walked up, the doors were shut, the closed sign on the Fourth Street location. Students were lined up outside the doors and this was August, so we were trying to pass out water. The system had crashed. I literally took two machines and tore them apart and built a server out of two machines so that we could get the store opened the next morning."

Students enrolled in the university at the time remember the book-buying process being tedious and difficult to maneuver.

"The bookstore was horrible," alumna Jocelyn Fisher said, who graduated in 2003 with a degree in biology. "It was hot and small and hard to get through the lines."

In addition to the Fourth Street location, there were several other locations including

Blackburn Center for apparel and gifts, and health sciences textbooks were purchased in the College of Dentistry.

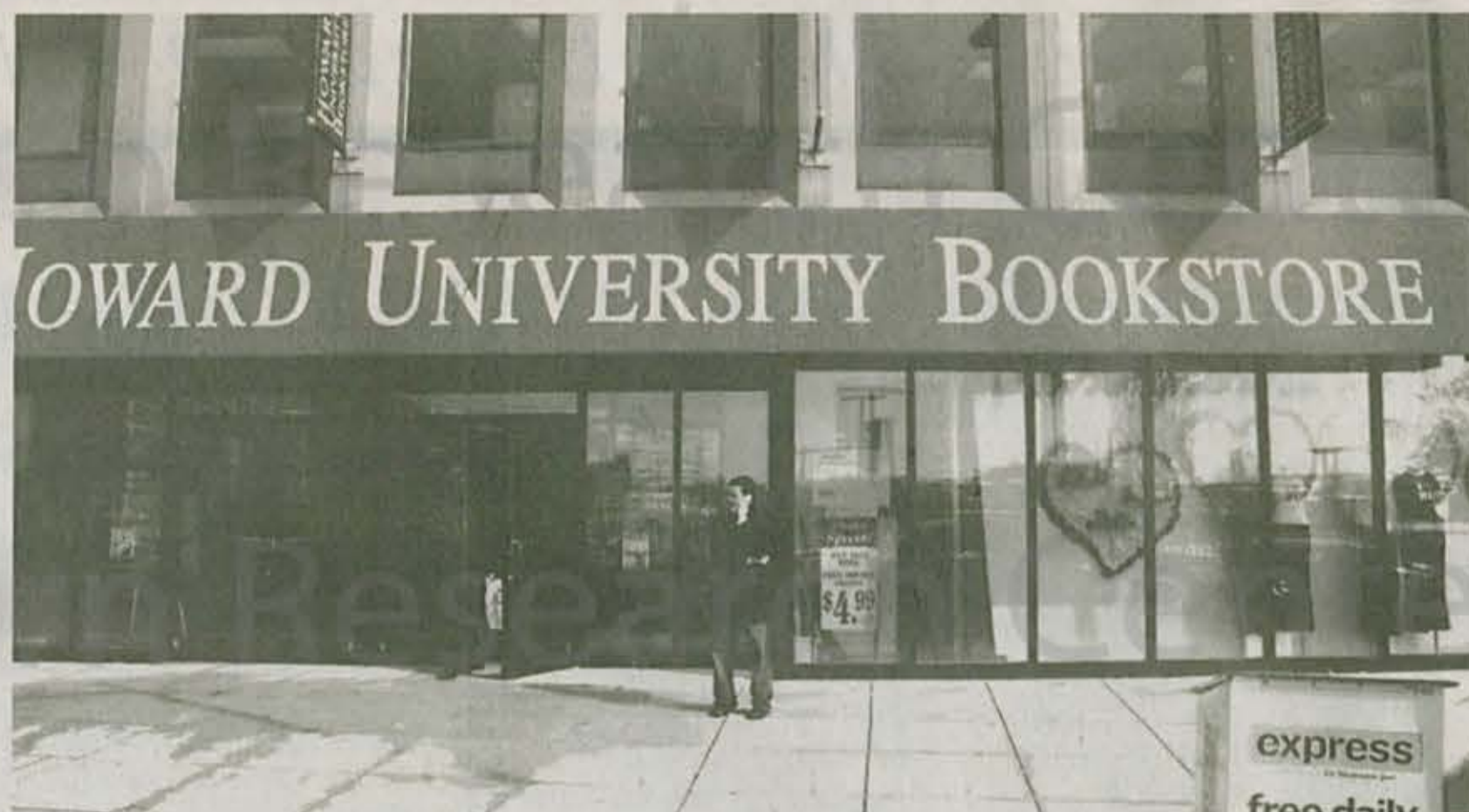
Discussion about moving the bookstore began in the late 1990s after Howard President H. Patrick Swygert realized the need for a new location.

"It was President Swygert who wanted to build a new bookstore," Clinton said. "He realized that the bookstore is one of the key places on campus that visitors come to. He knew that it was more than just textbooks and it was a focal center for the university."

The proposal for the bookstore to be built on the corner of Georgia Avenue and Bryant Street drew criticism because of the distance from main campus. However, in the end, the new location was agreed upon and opened successfully for the book rush in the spring of 2000.

"I was so excited [when it happened] because it was so big and it seemed more organized," Fisher said.

The new bookstore increased the amount of space allowed all



The Howard University Bookstore was formerly in the Wachovia Bank building on Georgia Avenue, where students stood in longer lines and a smaller space.

of the locations of the bookstore to be united under one roof.

"Students had to go to different locations to get different things," Clinton said. "Now it's a one stop location everything is here under one roof. You have convenience, more space and we

are able to offer more products."

Now, in the new millennium, the bookstore is a place where students buy their books, apparel, gifts and an assortment of other products.

Since the addition of Starbucks in 2002, the bookstore

has become a place for students to meet and spend time studying or chatting.

"I love the atmosphere," junior civil engineering major Krystal Oliver said. "I can go and have coffee with friends or use it as an alternative to the library."

Man of Music Knowledgeable About Music Industry

BY SONIA SUMMERS
Contributing Writer

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines knowledge as "acquaintance with or understanding of a science, art, or technique." This definition fits Philadelphia native Scott "Knowledge" Barnes, Jr. perfectly.

Barnes, a senior computer science major and program director of the WHBC radio station, is a combination of a computer whiz and a music head, as referred to by Faith Ohai, a freshman public relations major.

"You can ask him what is the first album someone came out with and he would know," Ohai said. "He's a student of music but not a musician. And if you have any technical problems, he is the first person to get asked to fix it."

Barnes was nicknamed Knowledge during his freshman year at Howard from an on-air personality at WHBC.

"A girl asked me what do I do and I told her everything I did," Barnes said. "She said to me, 'You seem like you know a

See BARNES, News A3



Senior computer science major Scott "Knowledge" Barnes' love for music is displayed in the work he does as the programs director of the WHBC radio station.

Communication Key for Aidoo

BY MELANIE HOLMES
Campus Editor

The Hilltop: What is your platform? Please explain.

Asso Aidoo: Open communications, open.com for short. It is realistic and relevant to building the relational gap between the undergraduate trustee, board of trustees, HUSA and our student body.

- 1: Opening communication between Undergraduate Students and Board of Trustees.
- 2: Listening to student concerns through monthly forums.
- 3: Addressing issues to the Board of Trustees that concern students.
- 4: Supporting University fundraising and philanthropic efforts.
- 5: Increasing our student body's involvement by implementing quarterly think tanks.
- 6: Enhancing student body's relationship with and knowledge of the Board of Trustees.
- 7: Strengthening Howard University's relations with the immediate Shaw Howard Community.
- 8: Collaborating with HUSA.

Through open communications we will improve the quality of life and enhance the educational experience of domestic, international, traditional and non-traditional students.

TH: Why are you run-



Asso Aidoo is one of three candidates for the undergraduate trustee position under the platform Open Communication.

ning? What changes will come with you as the 2005-2006 undergraduate trustee?

AA: I am running for many reasons including the desire to make a contribution, to open the lines of communication between the Board of Trustees and our student body and to provide our student body with an undergraduate trustee we can be proud of in the present

and future. I have studied the role, understand it and have no doubt that I will do an awesome job.

But to sum it all up I care and I want something done and I want it done right, so I'm willing to step up to the plate and do it myself. Changes will occur because I will be accountable, visible and work closely

See AIDOO, News A3

JUNIORS SPEAK:

What are you most looking forward to about senior year??

"The sense of accomplishment; the feeling that the last four years of your life have not been wasted."

Chenoa Maye, political science

"I don't know. I really don't want to leave Howard yet, so I guess being able to drink at the clubs."

Chris Bailey, history

"I'll be one step closer to getting out of this jail cell."

Shannon Wolfe, systems and computer science

"Football season and being one step closer to realizing my dream of being in the NFL. Also, putting Howard back on the map both academically and athletically."

Jamar Butler, physical therapy

"I look forward to experiencing my graduating senior year by participating in more activities that I couldn't before due to football conflicts."

Tralan Andrews, systems and computer science

"I'm looking forward to graduation day and having my whole family come here and be proud of me."

Erica Lamar, print journalism

"Graduating and looking forward to pursuing my career."

Cliffone Ault, criminal justice

"I'm apprehensive about law school so I want my senior year to last forever."

Clarence Dortch, administration of justice

Compiled by Courtney Maye

Upcoming Election Events

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Law School Forum

Location: Law School, Moot Court Room
12:00 p.m.

Carver-Slowe Debate

Location: Carver Hall, Reading Lounge
7:00 p.m.

*Co-sponsored by the African Students Association and the Caribbean Students Association.

Thursday, March 10, 2005

School of Divinity Meet & Greet

Location: School of Divinity, Student Lounge
6:00 p.m.

Cook Hall Meet & Greet

Location: Cook Hall, Reading Lounge
8:30 p.m.

* Co-sponsored by the Gentlemen of Drew Social Club

Men Make It Happen Together

MEN, from Campus A1

The men broke up into groups to devise solutions to some of the problems highlighted on a survey issued by the faculty. Some of those problems included underused campus resources, faculty-student relations and the value of a college degree.

"There was a lot of dialogue between students and faculty," said Michael B. Victorian, a senior public relations major, who attended the event. "We were able to connect on a level we had not connected on previously. The conference brought together a group of men with the goal of attacking a problem."

The problem, many attendees said, is the scarcity of Black men in higher education.

Dr. Alvin Thornton, a political science professor, shared with the students that higher education is central to the black male's matriculation and to the development of the nation.

"You are the talented tenth in the Duboisian vanguard," Thornton told the audience of predominantly undergraduate students.

Thornton also called for this generation of black males to follow in the footsteps of those who



Courtesy of Derrick Brown

"Man Up" conference did not allow any women to attend while discussing subjects of business, sexual awareness, etc.

led their people during the time of segregation and Jim Crow.

"They saw a nation, they understood what needed to be done, and they were presumptuous enough to [to do something about it]," Thornton said.

Overall, the event proved to impact many male students, whose numbers over the last two years dropped by half on cam-

pus. "I think it's informative to help refine myself as man," sophomore legal communications major Craig Williams said. He was especially inspired as a black male in college.

"For me, education is the most important issue, because it's the key to everything."

Campus Police Keep Order

WOMAN, from Campus A1

was screaming 'I want to see the president,' " O'Neal said. "They had to literally drag her out of the building."

At around 2 p.m., the woman was brought outside the Administration building and a crowd of students gathered on the sidewalk and in the street, O'Neal said.

"There were about six

officers trying to subdue the woman," said Wisambi Loundu, a sophomore visiting from Bryn Mawr College.

"They [campus police] were trying to force the woman into the police car while she continued shouting... She was kicking, screaming and yelling, and at that point, the campus police officers twisted her arms behind her back and handcuffed her."

After the woman was in the squad car, she was taken to campus police headquarters on Georgia Avenue, Thomas said.

"We immediately contacted Metropolitan Police," Thomas said. "We were told that the woman would be tested for any mental problems, and from there, it was out of our hands."

'Magic' Help to Boost Diversity

NASCAR, from Campus A1

car and a small crew of a dozen members for a season, which is from February to November.

Incentive seems to be the consensus on what NASCAR needs to gain the interest of minorities. Most drivers and crewmembers have a deep passion for the sport or personal reasoning behind their participation. Urban communities may lack such.

NASCAR hopes to showcase

incentives through different initiatives with programs such as "The Drive for Diversity," industry wide internships, and their Coca Cola College Tour that travels mainly to HBCUs.

"I used to actually watch NASCAR when I was a kid," said Tatiana King, junior marketing major. "I always thought people like Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. were nice with theirs. But truthfully, I would just watch it for the crashes."

"The love of racing, great

action, great athletes, suspense, and the on track competition, is what makes the sport popular," Poston said. NASCAR has 75 million fans that faithfully watch and attend races. This is a fan base that is sure to increase with the exclusion of the NHL season and the re-aligning of race locations, such as the Auto Club 500 (Telcel/Motorola) that took place this past Saturday in Mexico.

Candidate Stresses Open.Com

AIDOO, from Campus A2

and leaders. I will aggressively approach all facets of the Undergraduate Trustee role and assure that our student body's voice will be heard and remain in the open.

Moreover, open dot com is unique and implementing such will offer a totally different outlook on recurring issues by providing new solutions.

TH: What campus/community leadership positions do you hold?

AA: I am a Goldman Sachs Scholarship for Excellence leader, Team Leader of the Year for the 21st Century Advantage Program, Miss School of Business 2004-2005 and Secretary of the Executive Leadership Honors Program.

I'm in the Louisiana Club, a Student Ambassador, member of the African Student Association and recipient of Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities.

TH: What qualifies you for the position and how would you advocate for students at the Board of Trustee meetings?

AA: Key functions of the Board include strategic planning, fund-raising, community service, financial investments and budgeting (all of which I have experience). On Oct. 6 the School of Business will celebrate 35 years and I will be helping to recruit capital for this effort.

My sophomore year, I helped to organize the participation of over 125 Howard students in the Washington, D.C. AIDS walk and I continue to do

other projects. Since the summer of my freshmen year, I have been blessed with the opportunity to represent the Mecca as an intern on Wall Street and on the floor of the American Stock Exchange, where less than 5 percent of senior management is both female and Black.

I have built real relationships with CFOs and presidents not only for my good, but for the good name of our school, with hopes that more Howard students (who want to) will have similar opportunities.

These experiences have taught me effective methods of communicating, networking and getting my point across in board rooms and at dinner tables where nobody looks like me or holds any obviously similar characteristics.

As Undergraduate Trustee, I will provide leadership that is experienced, in touch with student issues and willing to passionately, boldly and professionally present your concerns to the board.

TH: How would you stay abreast of student concerns?

AA: By openly communicating with our student body through quarterly think tanks, monthly forums, office hours, taking random polls and making my email address available to all.

The quarterly think tanks are designed to assure that the student body is aware of the board's Strategic Planning and able to voice concerns and offer solutions. Monthly forums, held in dormitories and other convenient locations, will serve as mini rap-sessions to brief

our student body on progress being made as trustee and also to celebrate events or discuss issues (Sept. Diversity Month, Oct. Breast Cancer Awareness, Dec. AIDS Awareness, etc.).

I think it's really important that everyone knows that I am an open, cordial and easily approachable person so that our student body will feel comfortable chatting with me at any given time.

TH: Why should students vote for you?

AA: I am genuine and hold no hidden motives. I'm aware of the responsibilities required and am willing to wholeheartedly serve our student body and the greater community with integrity and respect.

I am not running to obtain position, build my resume or apply to law school. I have achieved enough to get to accomplish my personal goals. I am here because I am qualified and want to give back. I am running because I too am a student who is adamant about promoting progress at Howard.

I have thoroughly researched the role, identified problems and now I am ready to offer solutions. Open Communications (open.com) is realistic and relevant to the real issues. As your Undergraduate trustee, I will be visible, accountable and keep the voice and concerns of our student body as my number one priority.

Our student body can trust that I will present these issues to the board with passion, boldness and professionalism.

'Knowledge' Takes Over the Mic

BARNES, from Campus A2

lot of stuff so go with Knowledge, and I have been called that ever since."

Barnes was an on-air for three years before he decided to become program director at WHBC.

"There was no one else who could do the job as well as me," he said. "I was the best candidate because I had been there for three years and I knew how the system worked."

On-air personality Jeremy "J-Remy" McFarland, a senior computer information systems major, agrees and said Barnes brings greatness to the WHBC station.

"If I ever had to have a boss, I would want a boss like Knowledge," McFarland said.

On-air personality Derik

"Blaze" Bowers agrees that Barnes is a great person to work with. "He runs things by being himself and letting others be themselves," Bowers said. "And his knowledge of music is infinite."

Aside from being program director of WHBC, Barnes has been interning for WHUR since the summer of 2004, where he works under the direction of Program Director Dave Dickinson. Barnes is also a member of Weapons of Mass Production (WMP), a music production group composed of four Howard students- McFarland, Nile "Da Kid" Ivey and Jahi "J-Montana" Chambers.

"We have been producing since freshman year and last year we came together and put a name to our group," Barnes said.

Confidently declaring that his style and talent is unique, Barnes does not compare himself to any producer in the industry.

"There is no one I want to be like, but I do have influences," Barnes said. "I like RJD2, Alchemist and I want to catch up with the other members of WMP."

Barnes will be graduating this summer and prays that he lands a job working for the National Security Agency. Even though Barnes' extra curriculum activities revolve around music, he prefers a job working with computers.

"If this production thing takes off, it takes off," he said. "But I'd rather have a stable job than working in the music industry anyway."

Recruiting Blacks Hard for Army

BLACKS, from Campus A1

to find soldiers who can replace those that have been killed or wounded. The army said this week that overall, the National Guard is 26 percent behind its recruiting goal while the reserve is 10 percent behind.

The Marine Corps, who also provide ground forces in Iraq, missed their recruiting goal this

year as well. This year's shortfall marked the first time in almost 10 years that the Marine Corps has failed to meet its recruiting objectives.

To date, more than 1,500 soldiers have died fighting a deadly insurgency throughout Iraq and another 11,200 have been wounded. The army study concluded that this may also be a factor for why blacks are staying away.

"In the past, barriers were about inconvenience or preference for another life choice," the study read. "Now they have switched to something quite different, fear of death or injury."

Results from the study show Blacks are not the only group staying away from army life. Data indicates that women are opting not to join as well. Female recruits have dropped 13 percent over the past five years.

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- Day 1) Make sure you place an order for your ad, and turn in the service request or make payment arrangements.
- 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!
- Day 7) Wait, in excitement, to view your ad tomorrow.

*If your ad is not requested to run 7 days prior, your ad WILL NOT be in the paper. We have to have your payment before the ad runs or it will not appear in the paper



Senate Denies Minimum Wage Raise

No wage increase since 1996, while Congress has increased its own salary by \$28,500

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

The senate's decision Monday not to raise the minimum wage has disappointed some Howard students working part-time jobs to support themselves.

"I think it's horrible," said Kaijah Jackson, a freshman Theatre Arts Administration major. Jackson, who has worked for Starbucks on Georgia Ave for nine months, said although she no longer makes minimum wage she can sympathize with those that do.

"I remember when I was in high school working for \$5.15 an hour and it was nothing...so I can imagine what it must be like for single mothers."

Though times are better now financially, Jackson still works two jobs to support herself.

Many on Capitol Hill were also disappointed the Senate voted against a wage increase.

"I believe that anyone who works 40 hours a week,

52 weeks a year should not live in poverty in the richest country in the world," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass) during floor debates for the Democrats proposal to raise minimum wage by \$2.10 over the next two years.

"They work as hard as any American, often even harder. But too often they are forced into bankruptcy because the minimum wage won't cover their bills and won't give their families the support they need.

"We can no longer turn our back on our fellow citizens, but that is exactly what is happening in the United States Senate," Kennedy concluded.

The Republican proposal called for a smaller increase of \$1.10 over 18 months. Republicans said their plan would help workers without overburdening businesses, which could lead to layoffs.

"When you raise the minimum wage you are pricing some workers out of the market," Sen. John Sununu, (R-N.H.) told CNN.

"It's an economic fact and the proponents of raising the

minimum wage like to dismiss this by saying we have a hard time measuring it and the economy is large."

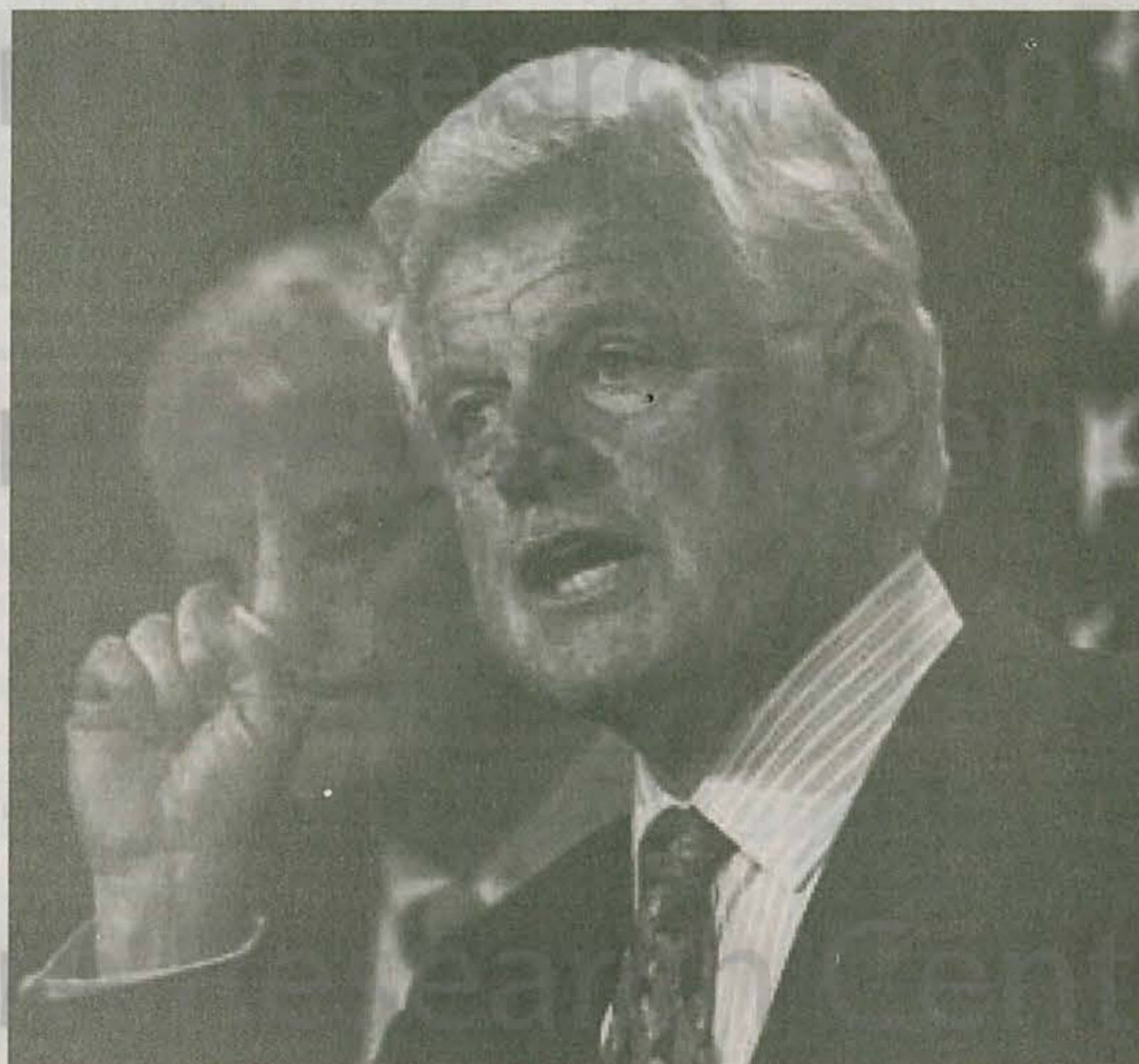
Both proposals were defeated.

The Democrats bill failed with 46 votes for and 49 against, while the Republican measure was defeated 61 to 38. Members of both parties agreed to withdraw both proposals if neither received the 60 votes needed to fight off a filibuster.

On average, a person earning minimum wage working a 40-hour week makes about \$206 a week, which is a little more than \$10,000 a year.

The last raise in the minimum wage was nine years ago. However, during those same nine years, Congress has voted to give themselves a raise of \$28,500, bringing the yearly income for both House and Senate members to \$162,000.

Democrats said they will try again to get a bill passed raising the minimum wage, but Republicans in the House of Representatives have said they will not consider a minimum wage bill this year.



Senator Edward M. Kennedy, a proponent of the minimum wage increase, insisted people who work full-time should not be threatened with bankruptcy.

Students Skeptical of African-American Presidency

BY DANIELLE DAWKINS
Contributing Writer

Mays Gilliam, the first African-American president of the United States, was just a funny character in the 2003 Chris Rock movie "Head of State."

Though only a movie, the idea of America having its first Black president has resonated with many African-Americans over the years, especially with the emergence of Illinois Sen. Barack Obama (D).

Obama is the third African American since the Reconstruction Era to serve in the United States Senate. He is also the only African American currently serving in the Senate.

Obama showed he had national appeal last year, when he delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention. Though he was not even elected into office yet, dreams of a possible "Obama for President" campaign popped into the heads of many African Americans who watched as Obama electrified an audience of all races.

Given that many talented Blacks have tried and failed for the presidency, the most recent being the Rev. Al Sharpton in 2004, many wonder if there is an African-American politician today who can weather the storms that other Black leaders could not.

Byron Jackson, a senior political science major, said he could envision Obama as a legitimate candidate for president. "He is the only person I see in the near future to have a chance," Jackson said. "A person like Colin Powell doesn't have a chance anymore or Jesse Jackson or Al Sharpton. The only person who has a legitimate shot is Barack Obama." Jackson admits an Obama presidency is not likely anytime soon.

"Not in the near future," Jackson said. "Maybe by the time I have kids."

Obama is not the first African American to show national appeal as a potential presidential candidate. The Rev. Jesse Jackson ran twice in the 1980s, and though he did not win the White House Jackson showed that he had enormous appeal outside of the African-American community. Jackson managed to attract 6.9 million votes from Urban Blacks, Hispanics, poor rural whites, farmers, factory workers, feminists, homosexuals and white progressives.

Despite some national appeal Jackson was unsuccessful, leading many on Howard University's campus to conclude that Whites must change their views before an African American can become commander-in-chief. "It is not an obstacle that African Americans have to overcome, but there are obstacles for Whites," said Dr. Darryl Harris, a politics professor at Howard University. "I think the question should be phrased differently, what

is it for whites to overcome for this to happen...the primary reason why it has not happen is because Whites find it very difficult to cast ballots for Blacks running for public office, especially at that level, at a national level."

Harris said this was a problem for Jackson in both of his bids for the White House. "The overwhelming majority of Whites could not conceive of electing Jesse Jackson president... White people were fearful of Jackson."

Others on campus agree the prospects for America electing its first Black president in the near future are slim and said color is not a major issue for them when they cast their ballots.

"To me it really doesn't matter if we have a Black president, as long as the person gets the job done. I don't see any reasons why color should come as a factor," said Timothy Fields, a sophomore political science major.

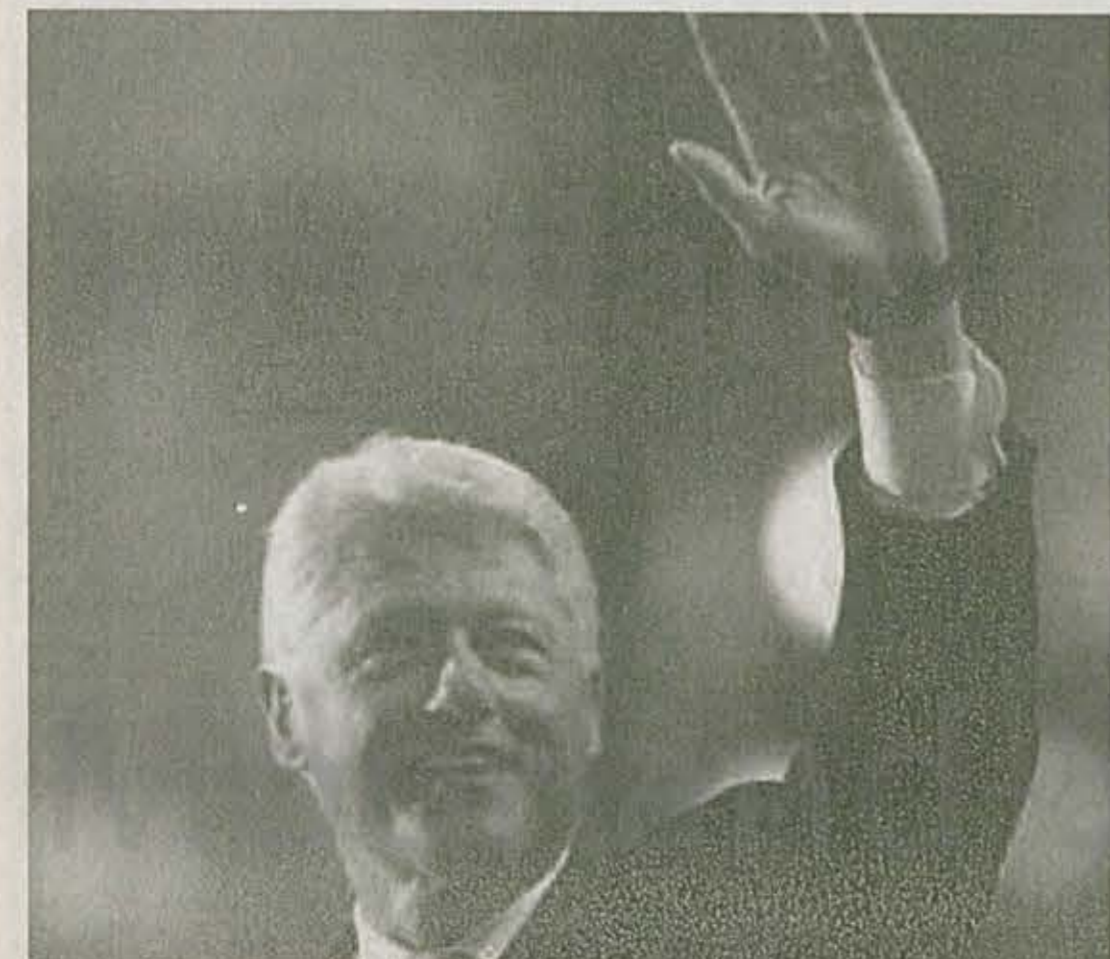
Though color isn't an issue, Fields admits he does not believe America is ready to elect an African-American to its highest office. "I don't think the United States is ready for a Black President, there's too much controversy."

Nneka Okorie, a sophomore, advertising and psychology major agreed with Fields and said she is also indifferent to a person's race when deciding who she will vote for. "I am indifferent about the race of the president as long as he is hard working and he is what the country needs."



Jesse Jackson ran twice unsuccessfully for the Presidency during the 1980's.

Former President Clinton to Undergo Follow-Up Surgery



Former president Bill Clinton is undergoing a second surgery to remove fluid and scar tissue from his chest.

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

Former President Bill Clinton, who underwent quadruple heart bypass surgery in September, will have another surgery Thursday to remove fluid and scar tissue from his chest.

"What has happened here is an extremely unusual result of a common process," said Dr. Craig Smith to CNN.

Smith performed Clinton's bypass operation and said of the more than 6,000 bypass surgeries he has performed, "less than 10" patients have developed what Clinton has.

The surgery will require Clinton to remain in the hospital three to 10 days.

"This is a relatively low-

risk procedure and we expect full functional recovery in a limited amount of time," said Dr. Joshua Sonnet to CNN. Sonnet will perform Thursday's surgery. The surgery will take place at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.

A statement from the former president's office said, "the scar tissue developed as a result of fluid and inflammation causing compression and collapse of the lower lobe of the left lung."

The statement said the surgery will be performed in one of two ways.

"The surgery will be done either through a small incision or with a video-assisted thoracoscope inserted between the ribs," the statement read.

Clinton, who was in Washington Tuesday brief-

ing President Bush on tsunami reconstruction efforts, brushed off news of the surgery and said it was "no big deal."

"I'm doing great...I felt well enough to go to Asia and compete with president Bush and we're going to play golf tomorrow," Clinton said to reporters after meeting with President Bush and his father, former president George H.W. Bush at the White House. "As soon as I get it done, I'm going back to work."

Wednesday's golf game will include professional golfer Greg Norman and will raise money for tsunami relief efforts.

Dr. Alan Schwartz, the cardiologist who treated Clinton last year, said the president recently passed a stress test and has been walking four miles a day when he is at his home in Chappaqua,

New York.

Schwartz said Clinton noticed some discomfort over the past weeks.

"He had noticed over the past month or so that on steep hills he was getting winded a bit more easily," Schwartz told CNN. "At the same time he was beginning to feel a bit of discomfort."

Schwartz also tried to downplay Thursday's surgery.

"This is an elective procedure," the doctor said. "This is not an emergency."

Howard Dean, the new chair of the Democratic National Committee and a former doctor, wished Clinton a speedy recovery. "We certainly wish him well," Dean told Fox news. "It's disappointing but I know the president is a very fit man so I am sure he will do well."

Door Prizes - Internship Opportunities - Job Opportunities - Volunteer Opportunities

Door Prizes - Internship Opportunities - Job Opportunities - Volunteer Opportunities

The Washington Post and Howard University
 Present
To Vote or Not to Vote, That is the Question
A Political Literacy Forum and Expo

Wednesday, March 9
 Armour J. Blackburn Center

5-6:30p.m. Forum (Digital Auditorium)
 6:30-8p.m. Organizational Expo (Reading Lounge)

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

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Moderators



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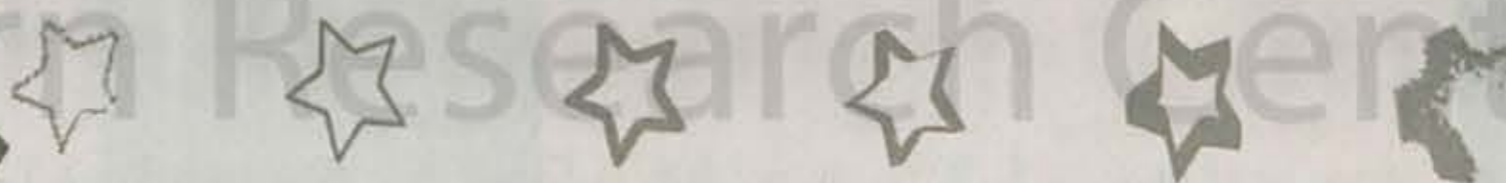
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EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES



'College Hill' Isn't That Ill

KRISTIN KIMBLE

So I went to the Mr. and Miss Meridian Hill Hall pageant to support my fellow M. Dot residents.

During the question and answer period I became very agitated. One of the contestants received a question about "College Hill" and how they felt it represented Black people. And of course the contestant answered just like every other Black person: it misrepresented Blacks and we shouldn't watch it.

I then came to the realization that I had to be the only person on Howard's campus who believed "College Hill" is an exact depiction of how Black college students act and represents only the truth.

No "College Hill" is not an "A Different World" and should not be compared to it in any way. "A Different World" was a sitcom, a great sitcom, with paid actors. "College Hill" is a real-

ity show with real students who go to a real college and pay real tuition.

As I watch "College Hill" (and yes I do watch it, I mean I watch "Real World," so why not?) every person on the show reminds me of someone at Howard University and probably at other colleges too.

For each one of the personalities on the show, Howard has a hundred who act the SAME way! It bothers me to see people on campus bad mouth the show and the people when they know they know people who act the same way and they are probably best friends.

From the fatal attraction girl who dogs her ex-boyfriend out, but knows she wants him back, the fine basketball player who loves women and they love him back, the boy cheerleader who swears he is hood, the baby momma who has the big bad football player boyfriend, the wholesome Christian who is just trying to fight temptation, the

freshman girl who parties like P. Diddy is coming to put her in a video, and last but not least the trifling, obnoxious know-it-all, who is actually educated, but acts a fool just because it's Monday.

Now, can't you see your friends in at least one of these grand personalities? I can pick out a couple. I just want Black people to realize and accept how Black people act. Just because BET decided to put it on TV, people get upset.

What about music videos and how rappers discuss Black women and how Black women portray themselves. It may not be right at all times, but it's real.

We can only change it if we change ourselves. Just like wearing blazers has become a trend, so can Black people acting like they have sense and are proud of whom they are. It may not be "The Real World," but it's our real world.

California Schools Counting Carbs

Arnold Schwarzenegger has been actively speaking out against selling junk food in school cafeterias in the state of California, according to Fox News.

He has been pushing healthy eating options and reforms since many young children are increasingly becoming obese.

When he was the chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, he traveled to different schools promoting exercise and good eating habits. He was appalled by some of the options on the menu, so he is urging reforms.

"The key thing is that we want to make our children perform better, not only in education but also physically," Schwarzenegger said. We agree with him and second his motion to eliminate some of the junk.

We were one of the little kids running around schools trying to find enough change for the

candy bar or the greasy bag of chips.

Many of us would easily take the slice of pizza over the salad or the home-style cooking options. Most people can agree that cafeteria food is nasty. Even now, we would rather get Chik-Fil-A from the Punch-Out than prepare a healthy salad or eat din-

ner in the Café. We can see how our eating habits in our childhood have shaped our appetites. Some schools have been weighing kids and restricting what they can eat. We think even the extreme measures are necessary because health should come first.

For many kids, the meal at school might be their only meal of the day. If their free lunch is something unhealthy, it will take its toll on the child eventually.

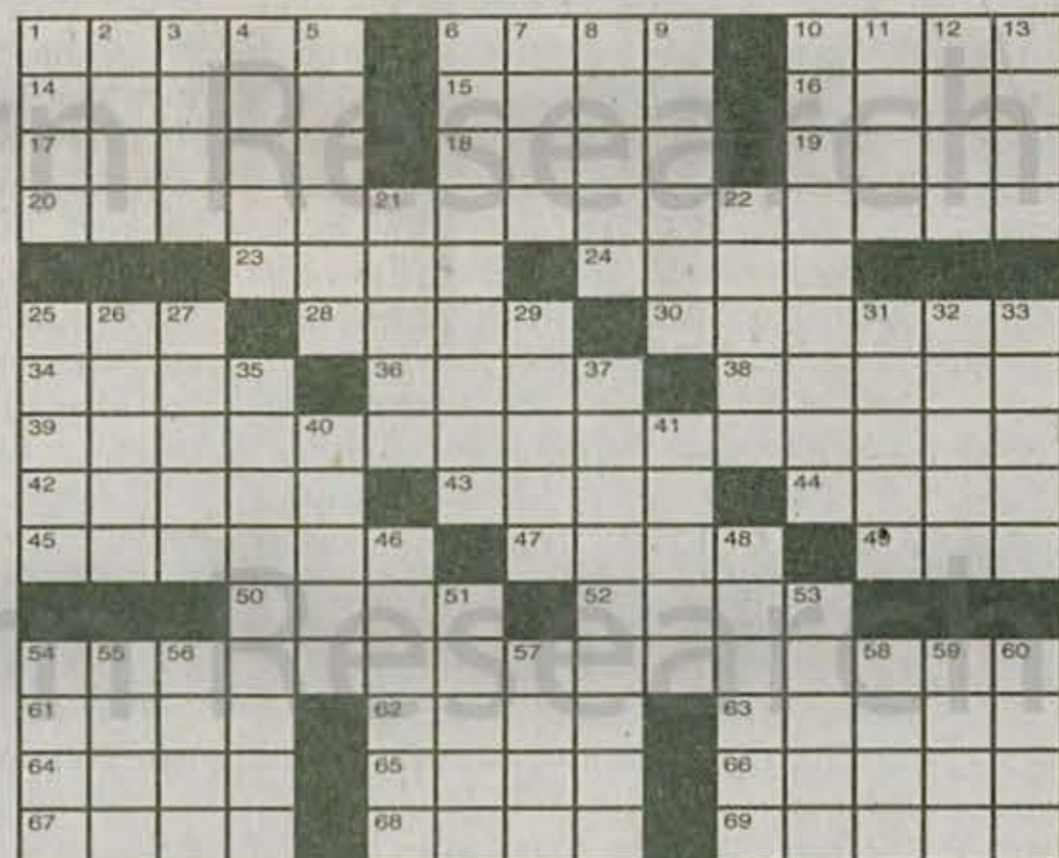
Healthy food can be more expensive than a Happy-meal so we want to make sure everyone has a fair chance to eat right. We want to start the young ones out on the right foot.

Minorities in particular are prone to diabetes, high blood pressure and other conditions, so eating healthy is more important to kids than they realize.

Everyone has made jokes about Schwarzenegger being in office and many have struggled to take him seriously.

His position on healthy eating has been impressive and we hope he is effective in his reforms.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

3/9/05

- ACROSS**
- 1 Iowa commune
 - 6 Scoffing laughs
 - 10 Humdinger
 - 14 Prospector
 - 15 Touched down
 - 16 "the Explorer"
 - 17 Relating to a pelvis
 - 18 California wine valley
 - 19 Psych final?
 - 20 Financial talks?
 - 23 Organic compound
 - 24 Seine tributary
 - 25 Highland hat
 - 28 Looks over
 - 30 Patriot Hale
 - 34 Some distance
 - 36 skilled
 - 38 Actress Davis
 - 39 Financial cleanup?
 - 42 Rainbow: prof.
 - 43 Make over
 - 44 Dundee dagger
 - 45 Baseball grouping
 - 47 Audible weeping
 - 49 Foreign student's subj.
 - 50 Dismantle
 - 52 Sp. miss
 - 54 Financial buoyancy?
 - 61 Lounge lizard's look
 - 62 "Joanie Loves Chachi"
 - 63 Honda's robot
 - 64 Exiled Roman poet
 - 65 Speak like Sylvester
 - 66 Of an urn bone
 - 67 Hodges and Gerard
 - 68 Art Deco designer
- DOWN**
- 1 In the thick of
 - 2 "Venus de _"
 - 3 Indigo plant
 - 69 Hades' river of forget-

- 4 Fraser of tennis
- 5 Esoteric
- 6 Kind of mustache
- 7 Lenin Peak's range
- 8 River horse
- 9 Soviet dictator
- 10 Dashboard gauges
- 11 bene
- 12 Idle or Clapton
- 13 Slightly blue
- 21 Princely
- 22 Type of orange
- 25 Sri Lankan people
- 26 Ere
- 27 Extreme enthusiasm
- 29 Swings around
- 31 Poet Heinrich
- 32 Bancroft and Meara
- 33 Actor Conrad
- 35 Communist groups
- 37 Intrusive instrument
- 40 Robin of baseball
- 41 Portuguese currency
- 46 Suitable as food
- 48 Minneapolis neighbor
- 51 Broadcasting
- 53 Supermarket passage
- 54 Apply the whip
- 55 Strauss of jeans fame
- 56 Trompe l' _
- 57 Essence
- 58 Color shade
- 59 Asian nursemaid
- 60 Folk stories

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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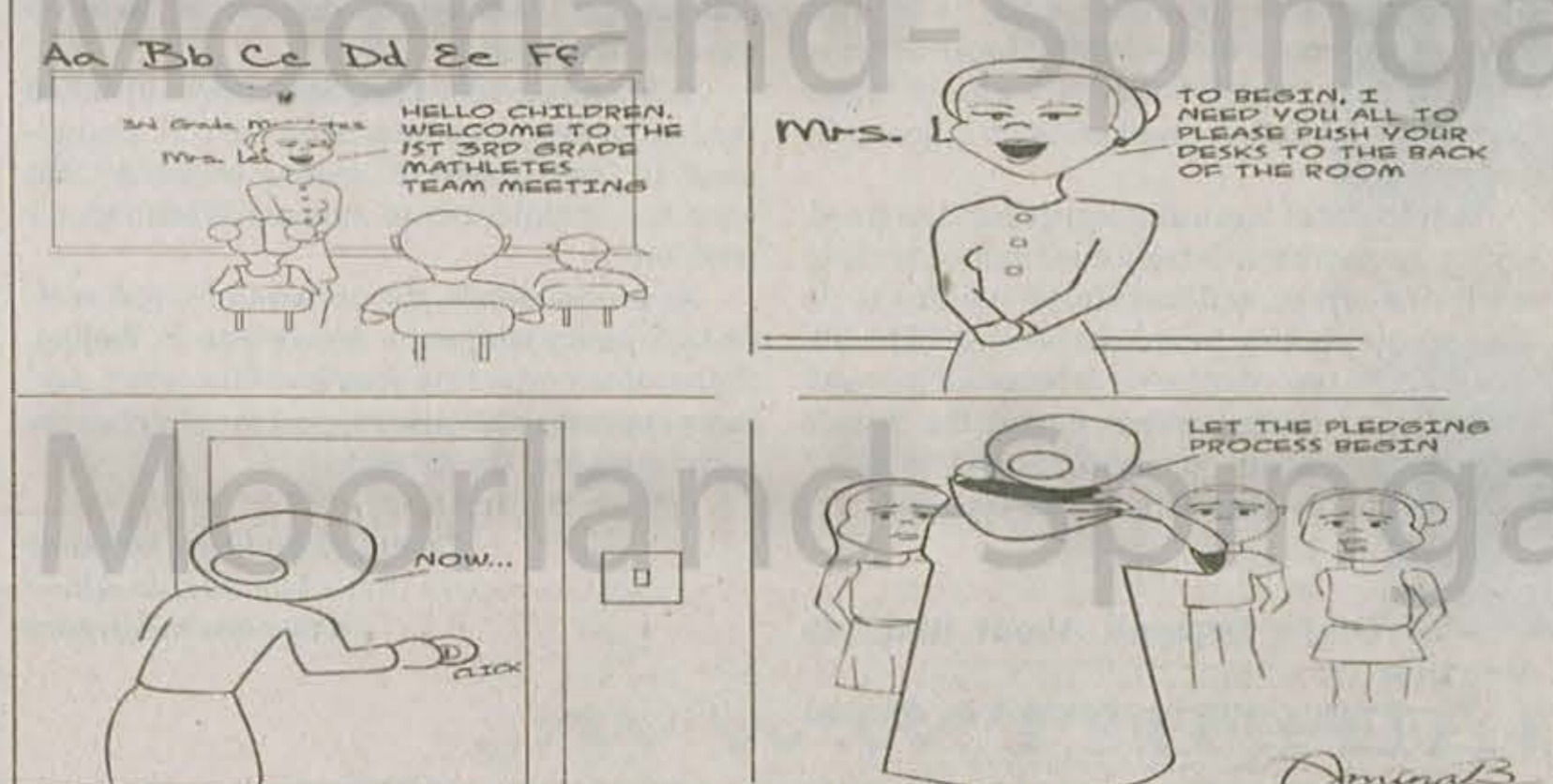
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IF HOWARD WAS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...



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.

Miss Black USA Pageant Searches for a 2005 Queen

BY CANDICE JONES
Contributing Writer

For almost 20 years now, the Miss Black USA Pageant and Scholarship Foundation Inc. has celebrated the essence of black women with its annual Miss Black USA Pageant.

A national "at-large" audition for state delegates for the Miss Black USA Pageant will take place on Saturday, Mar. 19, from 4-8p.m. at Zanzibar on the Waterfront located at 700 Water Street, SW in Washington. State delegates will be chosen by way of an interview and audition process, contrary to traditional state pageants that prepare for a national pageant.

The national competition will be held from Aug. 2-7 in Washington, D.C. This week will be centered on the 51 state delegates who will engage in a series of promotional activities including fitness, talent, evening gown, and a question and answer session that will take place during the finals.

Nicola Black, the organization's president, is featured on the website, saying, she respects the pageant and cherishes the whole foundation from what it has done for her.

The former 1993 Miss Black District of Columbia USA and Howard University alumna described the whole event as "a celebration of the complete woman."

In the mission of this organization, one of the main purposes is to encourage leadership among African-American

women and to promote excellence through education and community service. Winners and contestants of this pageant must demonstrate they embody those elements when presenting themselves to the audience and judges.

Howard University alumna and former Miss Black USA Rev. Yolanda Sampson, currently serves as the chair of the board and public relations director.

"The pageant celebrates the scholastic achievements, talents, and beauty of African-American women," said Sampson about spearheading the event.

Sampson also discussed the negative portrayals of African Americans in the media by saying, "Many times the media focuses on the escalating problems in our community to the point that the accomplishments of African Americans are drowned in the sea of forgetfulness."

The Miss Black USA Scholarship and Pageant Foundation Inc. was founded in 1986 by Karen Arrington as a non-profit corporation in Maryland. June 6, 1987 marked the date of the history-making first pageant held by the organization, which at that time only had 21 delegates.

The standing-room-only pageant was complete with an eager audience and even a celebrity panel of judges from various entertainment outlets in the sports, music, and fashion industries.

At 21 years old, University of Maryland broadcast journalism major and professional model Tamiko Gibson, "Miss Black Maryland," was crowned the

organization's very first Miss Black USA in 1987.

According to a press release for the pageant, Miss Black USA 2005 will receive scholarship money, prizes, and media exposure, with ample opportunities to speak in the United States and abroad.

Austin Walton, a senior public relations major is interning with the Miss Black USA Scholarship and Pageant Foundation and said he is grateful for such an experience.

"Being a man, I think this is a great organization that promotes leadership amongst the women in the African-American community," Walton said.

Former Miss Black USA contestants and winners featured on the organization's website are all making tremendous strides in their careers with prestigious positions in some of the country's largest entertainment outlets, such as Deya Smith's, Miss Black USA 1995, show on XM Satellite Radio and Valorie Burton, former Miss Black Texas, being co-host and producer for shows like T.D. Jakes' "The Potter's Touch."

Qualifications include being a single, not married, African-American female between the ages 17-27, a resident of college student in the state of interest, and a talent. The application deadline is Monday, March 14, 2005. For more information, please visit www.miss-blackusa.org.



www.missblackusa.org

Spring Break Countdown: 3 Days

Warm Thoughts: Las Vegas, Nevada

BY TASHIRA WALKER
Contributing Writer

With Spring Break right around the corner, many students have spent considerable time weighing the various destinations they could go. And as usually, among the most popu-

Hot Spot Fact Sheet

Location: Las Vegas

Distance from HU: 2,422 miles

By Car : 37 hours 17 mins. (mapquest.com)

By Plane: 4.5 hours.

Average March Temp: Low 70s, minimum levels of precipitation (weather.com)

Places to Visit: The Strip, The Palms Hotel/Casino, MGM Grand, Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, Concerts & Shows

lar locations will be Las Vegas, Nev.

According to hotel bookings on travelweb.com the top three Spring Break locations for 2004 were Miami Beach, Orlando, and Las Vegas, respectively. Las Vegas, known to most as "Sin City," or the entertainment capital of the world, is where senior public relations major Ravi Windom said she will be spending her Spring Break this year.

"I'm twenty-two years old, and I've never been, yet I've always wanted to go," she said. "Last Spring Break, I went to California and I've been to Detroit, so this year I'm going to Vegas."

As for plans, Windom is unsure of what she will actually do, but she said that she definitely wants to see a few shows and go to the casinos.

"I expect Las Vegas to be a very live city, especially at night," she said. "I know it will be full of entertainment and people having fun."

Another student who frequently travels to Las Vegas gave the city much love and admiration.

"I have been to Vegas more than once and it is definitely a fun place to be," said freshman business marketing major Alicia Rodrigo. "There are tons of shows to see, there is great shopping, and fabulous restaurants. The excitement of Vegas just lets you know something fun or crazy is bound to happen."

Rodrigo also added that students going for Spring Break should plan to spend a good amount of money between shopping, eating, and shows. However, she said that if you really don't plan on spending, \$200 should be enough to get by.

Maritza NeGron, a junior biology major, said that she knows firsthand the joys of being in a place like Las Vegas, being a two year resident of the city.

"I would say that Vegas is a hot spot for Spring Break," she said. "There is a lot to do, although if you aren't twenty-one its not a place to go because they are big on age and IDs."

Several people said that travelers should expect to have a good time when travel-



www.travelresorts.com

ing to the entertainment capital of the world. The clubs are always packed, and the city is always bustling with people. The Vegas shows are also very popular. The Blue Man Group and Chippendale's are among the shows that draw in attention. Even the hotels are fun-filled. "MGM has a lion exhibit inside, the New York, New York

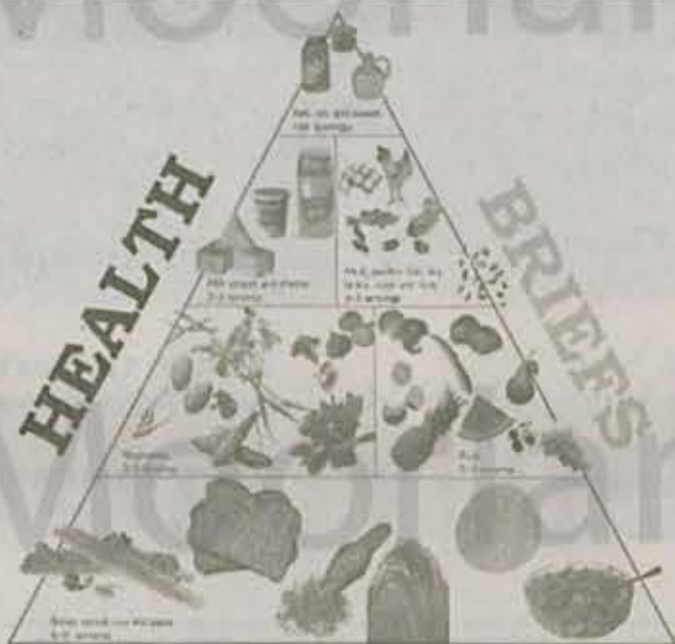
has outside roller-coasters, and even the Stratosphere has rides," said NeGron.

NeGron said that as a resident, Las Vegas can be overrated, but for visitors it is a good place.

Many people, while in Las Vegas, take time to visit the Hoover Dam, which is 20 - 30 minutes away. The special part

of this trip is that the Hoover Dam is right in the middle of two time zones, so people can say that they stood in two time zones at the same time.

What else does this fabulous city have to offer? The answer: skydiving, water parks, and if you are downtown make sure to check out the Fredmont Street light show.



Schwarzenegger Wants Junk Food Banned at Schools

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to bid "asta la vista" to junk food at any of the state's schools.

The bodybuilder-turned-actor-turned-governor, quizzed over the weekend about plans to fight childhood obesity, told reporters that banning junk food in school vending machines is a logical first step, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Monday.

The governor's aides acknowledge that enacting a ban won't be easy, since many schools use the vending machines as a way to raise much-needed funds. And the aides concede the difficulty of enticing kids to buy fresh fruit instead of cookies and sugar-laden sodas.

"You've got to make an effort," the governor insisted. "What you give a child or what you put in their body is exactly what we become. So the more garbage you put in there, the more you're going to look like a garbage disposal," he told the *Times*.

Marijuana Treatment Rate Triples, U.S. Study Says

Marijuana treatments almost tripled between 1992 and 2002 because of greater use and potency, a new government report contends.

The study, conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, estimated that 41 states had an increase in the number of people who sought treatment during the decade studied. The estimates reflect the number of people who get help at a drug or alcohol treatment center, which can include clinics,

hospitals or private doctor's offices, administration officials told the *Associated Press*.

Overall, the admission rates for marijuana treatment rose from 45 per 100,000 people in 1992 to 118 per 100,000 people in 2002, the latest year such numbers are available.

"This report is a wake-up call for parents that marijuana is not a soft drug," said Tom Riley, a spokesman for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. "It's a much bigger part of the addiction problem than is generally understood."

Advocates of legalizing marijuana disagreed, saying the trend was largely due to an increase in marijuana arrests and had almost nothing to do with people seeking treatment because of health reasons. FBI records show a substantial increase in marijuana-related arrests during the decade studied, from about 340,000 in 1992 to about 700,000 in 2002, the wire service reported.

U.S. Drops Demand About Right to Abortion

The United States has dropped its demand

that a new United Nations declaration on women's rights include a proviso that there is no international right to abortion, the *Associated Press* reported Friday.

Abortion policy should be determined at the national, not global level, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations told the wire service in announcing Washington's decision to yield on the abortion issue.

U.S. Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey attributed the lack of expressed interest in the U.S. amendment to "peer pressure" among countries that were too intimidated to support Washington's position.

As it now stands, the declaration's text reaffirms a policy adopted a decade ago in Beijing, China, about achieving equality of the sexes. And there appears to be little support for any changes in the measure, the AP said.

Compiled by Erica Williams
Life & Style Editor
www.healthday.com

Locked, Twisted, 'Froed: Natural Styles are the Style

BY CHARLAE WASHINGTON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Locks and 'fros are nothing new in the Black community. For centuries, African Americans have worn their hair "natural" styles, including dreadlocks, afros, and braids. As time progressed, however, more and more African Americans began straightening their hair, chemically or otherwise, and natural styles came to be seen as unique, or as a political statement. In an era where straight hair is ruling supreme, some students still feel that going natural is the best course.

Alexandra Moffett, a sophomore double political science and African-American studies major at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, has been wearing her hair in locks for about a year, after having chemically relaxed hair for seven years.

"I hated perms—spending hours in the salon, always getting burned, and those chemicals are not healthy," said Moffett. "Some studies show that many black women have fibroids because of perms. My mother's friend does autopsies, and she said that old black women that have been doing perms for years have a grey-green film on the top of their brains."

Besides being healthier, natural styles require less maintenance than chemically relaxed styles.

"I still have to regularly wash, condition, and oil my scalp, and some styles are complicated, but I basically get up and go," said Alexis Taylor, a freshman television production major. "I just go get them tightened once a month for and it only takes about an hour and a half," said Moffett. "It's a lot less expensive too."

Though natural styles have been associated with black pride in the past, most students who rock these styles nowadays have other motivations.

"In high school, where it was mostly non-white, I felt like people maybe thought it was a political statement, but I just feel like my hair can look nice without being straight," said Taylor.

"I'm really against any type of hairstyle, clothing, way of speaking/acting, etc being defined as the 'black' thing to do," said Moffett. "However,

I do feel that by wearing my hair natural, I am expressing the fact that I am comfortable with my natural black self as God made me, and not buying into white standards of beauty. Regardless of whether or not people are aware of it or want to admit it, our definitions of 'good' and 'bad' hair are completely based on how close the texture is to that of a white person's."

It's true that society has been so conditioned to view more Europeanized hairstyles as beautiful, but there are many who see the beauty in natural styles.

"My personal experience has been that guys who are confident in themselves and who don't need reinforcement from the 'status quo' to feel good about themselves respond to me in really positive ways," said Moffett.

Junior biology major Alan Evans thinks natural hair is beautiful.

"I don't have a problem with any hairstyle a woman chooses for herself that she thinks suits her," said Alan Evans, junior biology major. "I prefer natural hair, but do not judge those who seek artificial means of styling."

Even some men like to wear their hair naturally.

"I've always wanted locks since I was a youth, said junior architecture major Derrek Lucien, who is growing his hair out for dreadlocks. "If you leave natural black hair to grow it will automatically form into locks," said Lucien. "It sort of subtly suggests that that's the way it should be."

"I wanted to grow locks because I thought they were original," said Matthew Manning, a freshman political science major. "But I think I look better with short hair."

Some think wearing African-American hair naturally may send political or cultural messages; but it's simply a style some prefer to wear.

"I guess it could be considered unique, not conforming to white America's vision of femininity," said Taylor. "But to me, it's just hair."

RIGHT: Maya Gilliam - Senior Photo Editor
BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT: Jordan Colbert - Asst. Photo Editor

(RIGHT) Locks are a distinctive style which has Biblical origins with Samson in the Old Testament. It has spread throughout the world from Caribbean to South America and even Japan. (BOTTOM) Afros can be picked out or pulled back. It represents the revolution for some and just a style for others.



"EVEN MY GRANDMA READS THE HILLTOP..."

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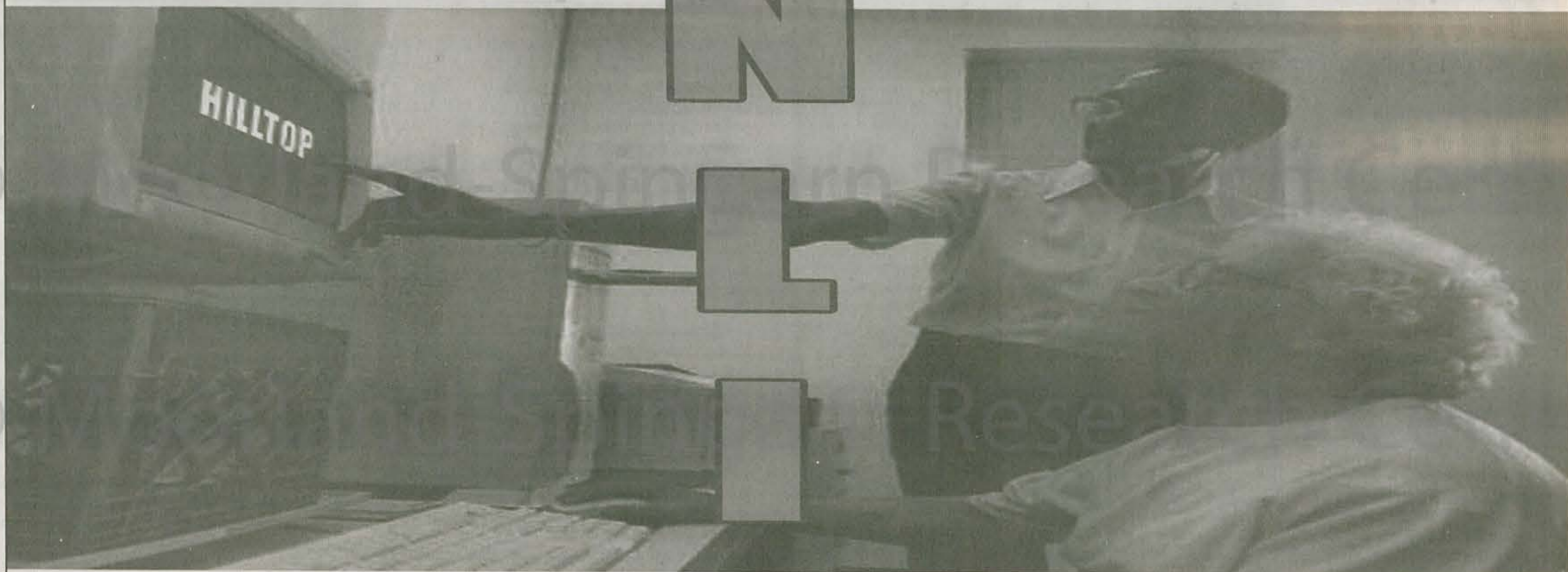
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RFK Ready With Renovations

BY ELLIOTT JONES
Contributing Writer

RFK Stadium is undergoing a major facelift in an attempt to prepare for the return of Major League Baseball to the District this spring.

The stadium has not been the permanent host to a baseball team since the Washington Senators left for Texas in 1971. However, with the first home match set for April 3, the 44-year-old venue must go through a series of changes before it is ready for baseball again.

The playing field, seating, press box and locker areas must be overhauled in preparation for the Nationals. The stadium has been used over the years by other professional sports teams, such as the Washington Redskins and Major League Soccer's D.C. United. But now, a number of baseball-related renovations are needed for the first time in 34 years.

The dimensions of the baseball field required the removal of most of the seats in the lower deck behind what is now the outfield, reducing the stadium's capacity from roughly 55,000 to about 42,000. The decrease in capacity also allowed RFK Stadium to meet ADA regulations for persons with disabilities, highlighted by a section of front-row seating that is wheelchair accessible.

The stadium also has to fit with new clubhouses, dugouts and bullpens, none of which have been needed for football or soccer. Additionally, the press box is being expanded to deal with the increased media coverage. The press box is expected to hold more than 60 journalists, space for four television cameras and six broadcast booths for both TV and radio.

An area of major concern was the ability for the Nationals to share the space with D.C. United, who have called RFK their home since the team's inaugural season in 1996. To accommodate both teams, RFK will feature some revolutionary technology when it comes time to transfer the field back and forth between the two different sports.

The field will introduce one of the first retractable pitcher's mounds of any MLB stadium, said Tony Robinson, director of public affairs, for the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission.



Evan Yucel-AP Photographer

RFK Stadium will feature one of the first retractable mounds in Major League Baseball when the season opens in April. The stadium will also accommodate Major League Soccer's D.C. United. There will be 20 instances during the season when the stadium will have to convert from one sport to another.

According to Robinson, the mound will be able to be lowered into a compartment just below the surface of the field.

The stadium will feature a mechanized moveable seating system, transporting 4,000 to 5,000 seats in the lower bowl to alternate between a baseball and soccer field configuration. Robinson said the entire conversion process is estimated to take 48 to 72 hours.

"There are roughly 20 instances this season in which we will have to convert the field and only one time where we will only have two days to do it," Robinson said.

Questions also arose about the field quality D.C. United would have to endure with a baseball diamond on their home field. Robinson assured sports fans that there is no need to worry.

"I feel it is a much better scenario for both baseball and soccer," Robinson said about the playing surface. The recent renovations have given groundskeepers the chance to re-plant the entire field, and the grounds manager from the Chicago White Sox was brought in to assist with the process. When the baseball season opens in April, the field will consist of a Bermuda grass blend, as well as a new drainage and irriga-

tion system. During every conversion, the infield will be covered with natural grass.

Aside from these changes, the stadium is upgrading its electrical wiring and general maintenance in anticipation for the expected larger crowds in the future. The Nationals will have 81 home games this season, almost four times the number of games D.C. United plays at home in any given season. As a result, the plumbing fixtures, toilet facilities, and the stadium concourse are all under repair.

The renovations, which will cost about \$18 million, have had to cover a lot of territory to prepare RFK Stadium

for baseball. However, Robinson said the race against the clock has been the hardest thing to deal with. "The most difficult part of the process was the start time, because the D.C. Council debates compressed our schedule," Robinson said.

Nevertheless, he expects RFK Stadium to be ready for the Nationals April 3 exhibition match against the New York Mets. "One thing RFK has never been known for is its artistic or aesthetic beauty," Robinson said. "But these renovations will bring it on par with most of the fields in MLB. And it offers an ideal view for baseball. There isn't a bad seat in the house."

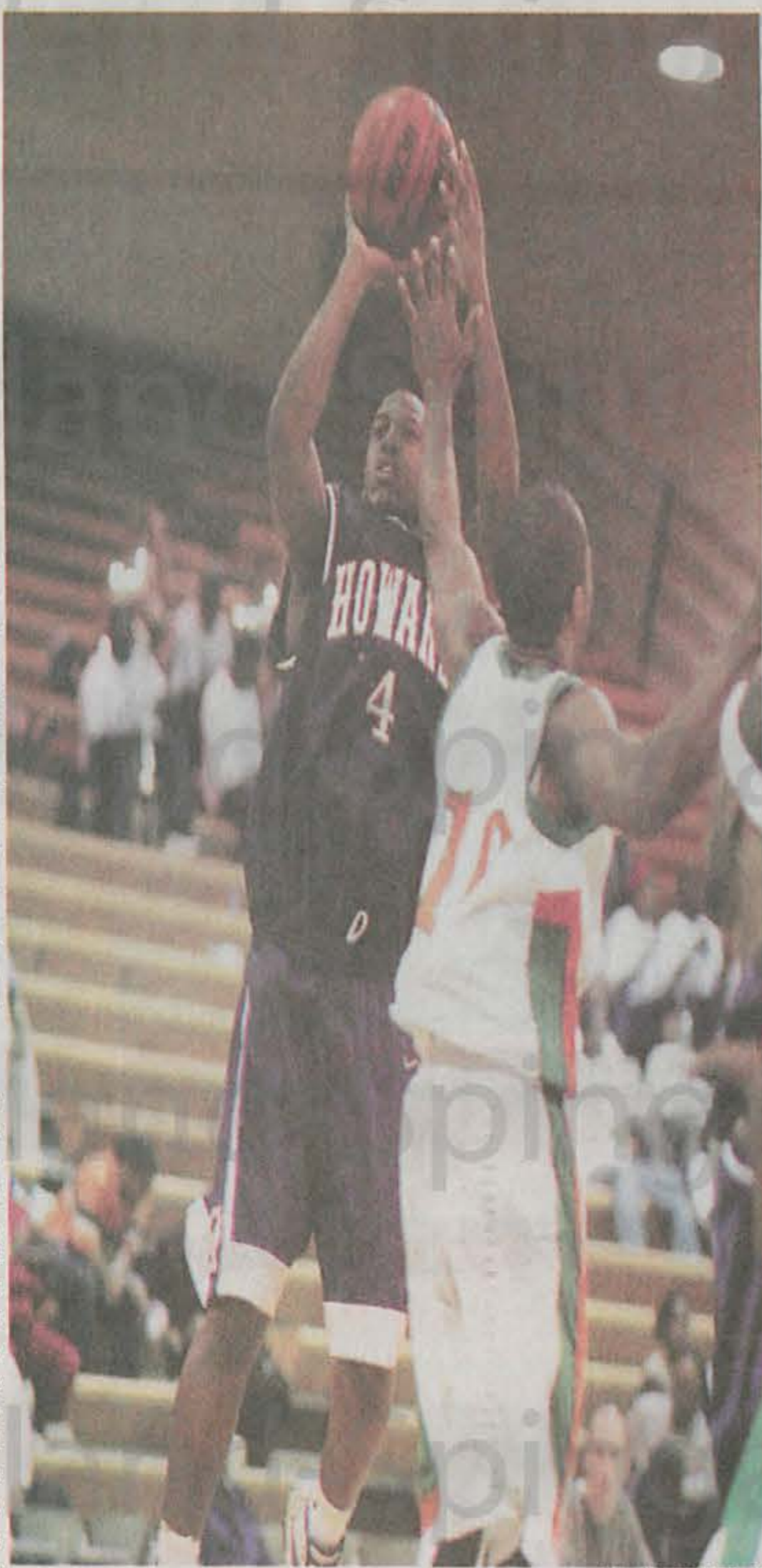
Bison Sport Shorts



Bison basketball - The Howard University men's basketball team were knocked out of the 2005 MEAC Basketball Tournament on Monday when they suffered a crushing 80-56 defeat at the hands of Florida A&M University on Monday. Will Gant led all scorers for the Bison with 16 points and Sydney Nicholson contributed 12 in the losing effort.

The Bison, who were the 10th seed going into the tournament, were matched against the seventh-seeded Rattlers. The Bison were down 36-19 at the half and made a valiant effort at a comeback with 37 points in the second half. The Bison lost the last 17 games of the season. Darius Glover led the Rattlers with 13 points as FAMU will now meet number one seeded Delaware State later this afternoon. The Lady Bison take on the University of Maryland Eastern Shore on Thursday.

Lady Bison tennis - The Lady Bison defeated the George Mason Lady Patriots 4-2 yesterday at the Bancker tennis courts. Lady Bison Aja Wright, Nicole Henderson, Cecilia Towns and Marian Blancada all won their respective single matches. However, Towns won by default as her match-up was called due to poor light. In the doubles competition, Howard won 2-1 as duo Kristen Harris and Nicole Henderson won their match 8-6 and Cecilia Towns and Marian Blancada also won 8-6. The Bison play the University of Maryland Baltimore County today at the Bancker at 2p.m.



Carroll Smith/All Pro Photo

Will Gant led all scorers on Monday with 16 points in a losing effort to FAMU. The Bison capped off a difficult season with a 80-56 loss. The fourth-seeded Lady Bison will play their first match on Thursday when they take on the fifth-seeded University of Maryland Eastern Shore at noon.

Bison Cheerleaders Bow Out of MEAC Tournament

BY RAVINE STROMAN
Contributing Writer

While most of Howard University students were sleeping, the HU cheerleaders were up at 6 a.m. practicing for a cheerleading competition. In the lower level of Burr Gymnasium, there were 16 girls stretching and practicing for the MEAC Tournament, which is held in Richmond, Va. on March 12.

The last time the cheerleaders were headed for a competition was in spring of 2001 and they didn't make it to competition because their coaches didn't supply the team with mats to tumble on. This year, the cheerleaders have been preparing for the competition for the past two months every day. However, that just wasn't enough for them to make it to competition again this year.

During the middle of practice, the Assistant Coach Nicole Francis, called a meeting to discuss if the girls really wanted to go to competition. Francis told the group that six cheerleaders had approached her saying that they didn't think the team was prepared enough for the competition.

Francis believed that there was a time constraint on the girls. "Most people who know that they're going to competition are practicing during football season," Francis said. Francis also said that the cheerleaders only had two months to prepare for the competition, which hadn't been enough time to perfect a solid routine.

Another difficulty was that some cheerleaders were not showing up for practice. She went on to say, "In order for the routine to be able to run through smoothly at this point everyone needs to be here. If one person doesn't show up then it affects a squad as a whole, a stunt can't go up, that's one of their problems."

"I would have liked to go to competition but I feel that us not going is the right thing to do in a sense. This experience will prepare the girls for next year," said Ashley Tanks, a junior international business major. "The problem is that we started entirely too late. But we are extremely dedicated to come in at six o'clock in the morning all day long and throw up stunts when you're tired, sick and hurt."

The co-captain Felicia Crabtree, a junior broadcast journalism major said, "I'm surprised we stuck it out this long. I'm very proud of how we have improved and stepped it up." Crabtree believes that the team wasn't prepared and in some areas the team lacked experience when it came to competition.

Senior radio television film major Crystal Belcher



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The Howard University cheerleading squad will attend the MEAC Tournament this Thursday in Virginia, but they will not participate in the competition.

and the captain of the blue squad is very disappointed that they will not be going to competition. "I commend my team for getting this far; it was a great progression, but I felt the same way as the team did. The routine was not clean enough to represent HU, but we made a good effort," Belcher said.

Belcher added that the cheerleaders are like a family and they have their ups and downs but everyone has a common goal to entertain and bring more light to the cheerleaders. Belcher, who has been on the blue squad for the past three years said, "I'm a cheerleader and I do it because I love the sport."

The future of the cheerleading program is an ever changing one and it's continuing to progress. "We want the squad to be competitive and clearly love the sport," Belcher said. "That's the goal we're going for; for the next year, we want a program that will get the cheerleaders recognized and keep the legacy going."

The cheerleaders are still going to attend the competition, but only as spectators.

"We are going to watch and see where we need to be for the next year," Belcher said.