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THE HILLTOP

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THURSDAY NOTEBOOK

CAMPUS DEBATE TEAM CONQUERS



THE OLDEST INTERCOLLEGIATE ACTIVITY ON CAMPUS TOOK A 11-YEAR HIATUS, BUT IS BACK AND SETTING

NATIONAL RECORDS.
PAGE 2

METRO THIEVES THIRSTY FOR NORTH FACE

NORTH FACE COATS HAVE BECOME SUCH A FAD THAT MANY PEOPLE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO GET THEM, LEGALLY AND ILLEGALLY.
PAGE 4

LIFE & STYLE TWO MORE DAYS UNTIL SPRING BREAK

WITH SPRING BREAK A COUPLE DAYS AWAY, FIND OUT WHAT LOCATION WAS CHOSEN AS A HOT KICK BACK SPOT.
PAGE 8

SPORTS MORE THAN AN ATHLETE

WITH THE RELEASE OF HIS NEW BOOK, WASHINGTON WIZARDS CENTER ETAN THOMAS PROVES THAT HE IS MORE THAN JUST A NBA BIG-MAN.
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---Partly Cloudy
High:42
Low:34

Friday---PM Showers
High:52
Low:31

INDEX

CAMPUS..... 2
METRO..... 4
EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES..... 7
LIFE & STYLE.....8
SPORTS.....10



Kids2College Brings Kids to Howard

BY SHANAE L. HARRIS
Contributing Writer

Sixth grade students from Bowen Elementary School and Kelly Miller Middle School took part in a Kids2College program held in Blackburn on Wednesday by Howard students and faculty.

During the day, the group of eager kids attended a wide variety of workshops and activities to help them learn more about college life and higher education.

The Sallie Mae Foundation sponsors the Kids2College program in order to raise early awareness of college to middle school students in different parts of the United States. Howard participates

in the D.C. program each year, along with other consortium schools including Georgetown University, George Washington University and Trinity College. Senior public relations major Keila Foster and senior music business major Talitha Trout were the campus coordinators for Howard this year.

"When the opportunity was proposed to me to mentor, I had no second thoughts. I enjoy working with children because they are the future," Foster said. The sixth graders and college students interacted closely with one another during the program.

"The Kids2College Program is an excellent opportunity for me to interact with the students

who are interested in bettering their future," Foster added.

"I think [it] will be great because the kids will get to see what college is really like as well as have one-on-one sessions with college students on a personal level," Trout said.

Upon arriving to the program, the kids had an opportunity to meet and talk to Charles Gibbs, dean of Residence Life. Getting the students excited and ready for their day, Gibbs stressed to them the importance of school and the future. "You as young people have an opportunity to set the pace and the tone of the world. You have everything in front of you," Gibbs said.

See COLLEGE, Campus A3



Students from Bowen Elementary School and Kelly Miller Middle School, attended workshops on college through the Kids2College program sponsored by Sallie Mae Foundation.

Students Discuss Voting Behavior

BY ADAM VICKS
Contributing Writer

Last year's election saw a tremendous rise in the turnout of young voters. This new political movement spearheaded by the "Rock the Vote" and "Vote or Die" campaigns, served as the focal point for the political literacy forum, "To Vote or Not to Vote? That is the Question!" that was held in the Blackburn Center Wednesday.

Sponsored by the Washington Post and CapComm, the student advertising agency at Howard, the forum's main function was to address political issues affecting 18 to 25 year olds, based on the results from a survey conducted last November.

"The purpose of the survey that CapComm administered on behalf of The Washington Post was to gauge student voting behavior," said Rochelle Ford, CapComm adviser and instructor.

What they found was that while 76.5 percent of the students surveyed voted, 18.9 percent of them were not registered and 8.9 percent agreed that they did not have the time. The majority of students who didn't vote cited registration problems.

"The major application about the results of the study is that we need to do a better job at educating students about how to vote," Ford said.

In the forum, these issues were presented before a panel of politically involved individuals at Howard and throughout the District. Among the invited guests were Adrian Fenty, Ward



Nicole Reed, Staff Photographer

A survey conducted by CapComm on behalf of The Washington Post, said that 76.5 percent of Howard students voted in the 2004 presidential election.

4 councilmember for the city; Page Gardner, director of Women's Voices, Women's Vote; Adam Hunter, chair of Howard's College Republicans; and Brandon Neal, national youth and college director for the NAACP.

Students like fifth-year physician assistant major Irijah Stennett, were able to walk away with a new outlook from the issues raised and resolutions presented at the forum.

See VOTING, Campus A3

Slippery Conditions, Siena Squeezes Past



Calvin Seaton

The lacrosse team suffered a 13-9 loss against Siena College Saints yesterday afternoon.

BY LINDSEY WALTON
Contributing Writer

"How strong? Too strong!" That is the motto of this year's Howard University Lady Bison Lacrosse team. However, the Lady Bison could not overcome the offensive strength of the Siena College Saints as they fell 13-9 at Greene Stadium on Wednesday.

Siena came into the game with Michelle Eide leading the team in scoring with seven goals and coming off a win against Long Island University. Eide went to work on the Lady Bison scoring multiple times, including the final goal of the match.

The contest was a classic back and forth battle between the two sides, with the Lady Bison entering the game with anticipation.

"It was a tough loss. We had high expectations for this game and we may have been a bit overzealous. We were really eager to play and you could tell we were a little nervous," said Shatarah Ramirez, a junior goalkeeper and team captain. Tuesday's snowstorm

See BISON, Campus A3



AP

Dan Rather, of CBS Evening News will retire after working as an anchor for 24 years.

Rather Signs Off For the Last Time

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

Legendary news anchor Dan Rather, who was the public face of CBS Evening News for 24 years, concluded an illustrious career last night with his final broadcast as an anchor for the network's evening news.

"We have shared a lot in the 24 years we've been meeting here each evening," said Rather before signing off for the last time. "And before I say goodnight this night, I need to say thank you. Thank you to the thousands of wonderful professionals at CBS News, past and present, with whom it has been my honor to work over these years."

Except for Rather's closing remarks thanking viewers and his CBS colleagues, the 73-year old's last broadcast was all business. Neither he nor CBS correspondents mentioned that it was Rather's last night anchoring the news. Rather will continue to work for CBS as a fulltime reporter for "60 minutes." He will be temporarily replaced by "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer.

Rather leaves the anchor chair in the midsts of a low point for himself, as well as the CBS network. Though the network has struggled for years to compete with NBC and ABC, the September story in which CBS used forged documents to allege President Bush received special consideration to get into the Texas Air National Guard nearly toppled the network and Rather's career.

Rather finished a distant third in the ratings during his last week as anchor. A CNN/USA Today poll also shows the number of Americans who believe the news Rather reports has dropped 11 percent in the last two years.

See RATHER, Campus A3

Debate Team Returns After 11-Year Hiatus

BY LAUREN STEPHENS
Hilltop Staff Writer

When Professor John Davis was a sophomore at Howard in 1979, debate was one of his primary activities. After graduating from Howard Law in the mid 1980s, he returned to Howard in 1989 to coach the debate team until 1993. When he left to pursue a career opportunity in the Caribbean, the team became defunct.

Now, after an 11-year hiatus, the team has been reborn under Davis' supervision as he serves as head coach.

This year's team, which Davis handpicked, competed at the novice national championships held at Georgetown, where two of the members placed among the top 25 in the country including Cornell University, New York University and the Military Academy.

"We made history this weekend," Davis said. "I don't believe the team has ever made it to an elimination round. It was a wonderful feeling at the awards ceremony when our team was mentioned with respect to what we have accomplished and the ovation was three times longer than any other school."

For sophomore Dominique A. Scott, who joined the team shortly before the competition and placed 22nd in the nation, her first competitive experience was definitely positive.

"It went very well because I was competing against people who were not novices and said they were and



Coached by Professor and Attorney John Davis, the Howard University debate team competed in a national competition last weekend at Georgetown University.

I started in the middle of the season," Scott said. "Ranking 22nd in the nation was a very great accomplishment for me. It puts everything in perspective and makes me want to work

that much harder for the next season to make sure I do that much better," she said.

While this year's team had to work within a limited budget, Davis is enthu-

siastic about the future of the team.

"We are just so happy that Howard is back and that we made history on a Herculean volunteer, no budget effort," Davis said. "We are just think-

ing about what we did with no money. We are hoping to build the team to a national powerhouse. I believe that we know how to do that."

While actively seeking sponsors from sources within and outside the university community to fund next year's efforts, Davis along with the team are also inspiring the next generation of debaters through the National High School Debate Academy. The program will be honored by the Johns Hopkins University.

"Last summer I founded the academy. We had about 50 high school students from around the country, some of the top African-American high school debaters come and spend a couple of weeks here on campus," Davis said.

As a result of the program, there are approximately 10 state and nationally ranked incoming freshmen will be joining the team next year.

Students who are interested in joining the debate team, should see Davis, but should be aware of the type of commitment it takes to be a successful member of the debate team.

"It's very difficult to do much else if you are going to be competitive," he said. "The benefits are tremendous."

Students who are already on the team suggest that interested students do all they can to prepare.

"Read, discuss things, be up on current events, be up on what's going on in the country. You have to read everything from your textbooks to Toni Morrison. The more you read, the better debater you will be," he said.

Kofie Longs to Leave Legacy As Undergraduate Trustee

BY MELANIE R. HOLMES
Campus Editor

Year: sophomore
Major: pre-physical therapy
Hometowns: Chicago and Ghana, West Africa

The Hilltop: Please explain your platform.

Precious Kofie: My platform title is Legacy Movement 2005-2006. The whole goal is that we all will work together to show our appreciation to the past by making a contribution to the future. I feel that we can do this through proactive leadership. I plan to lead by example on the Board of Trustees. There are three main points for the legacy movement 2005-2006: unity, continuity and awareness.

I will partner with student leaders in UGSA, HUSA, school specifics, international students, as well as faculty to be aware of school specifics and student specific issues.

With continuity, I plan to do two main things: I plan to set up a student-trustee partnership that will allow the past, present and future undergraduate trustee the opportunity to sit down and trouble shoot issues that have occurred in past undergraduate trustee terms. Reinstate undergraduate trustee office hours and conduct major programs during the year.

With awareness, I will work with the faculty trustee to develop a quarterly newsletter. I will conduct interviews with The Hilltop to inform students of my progress as undergraduate trustee and the HU legacy tour.

TH: Why are you running and what changes will come as a result of your administration?

PK: I believe that students cannot be active if they're not aware. There's a great opportunity to be involved. I plan to lead by example for students. I just really want to make sure that the student voice is present on the Board of Trustees. I believe that there will be a new standard set. I hope to set up a continuum so students know what to expect every year from their undergraduate trustee. I want to make students more aware of the Strategic Framework for



Junior pre-physical therapy major Precious Kofie is running for undergraduate trustee under the platform of Legacy Movement 2005-2006.

Action II

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

PK: I'm a proud active member of the African Student Association, I'm a two-year student ambassador, recording secretary for UGSA, editor in chief of Omowe Journal and community service director for the Chicago People's Union, sophomore class representative for the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Science, student representative on the grievance board and a McNair Scholar.

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

PK: I know that I am an extremely passionate student and extremely dedicated to the activities that I'm involved in and will carry that same dedication to the Board of Trustees and advocate for the students. I believe that my passion for the University gives me a great understanding of the issues facing the diverse group of stu-

dents on Howard University's campus. Through my involvement with the UGSA and community service director with the CPU, I've had a lot of experience with fundraising. Fundraising is a huge portion of the Board of Trustees.

TH: How would you stay abreast of student concerns?

PK: I plan to have student-trustee meetings with students from different schools and colleges, and I also plan to work hand in hand with the ASA and CSA to represent the international students on the Board of Trustees. Distribute survey and questionnaires in conjunction with the grievance director of UGSA.

TH: Why should students vote for you?

PK: Student should vote for me because I am an open, proactive leader fully willing to rep the students on the Board of Trustees. I have exhausted every resource to let students know why I am running for undergraduate trustee and my intentions for the term if selected through my website, www.legacymovement.com.

Oklahoma Troubles Brought To Howard Through Ogletree

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT
Asst. Campus Editor

Harvard Professor Charles Ogletree used his lecture at the annual Patricia Roberts Harris Lecture in Public Affairs Wednesday to tell the story of the little known Oklahoma riot.

After delivering a brief to the Supreme Court that may bring some little known heroes justice after 84 years, Harvard Professor Charles Ogletree delivered a keynote lecture in the School of Business yesterday.

"We suspect a response will be made," Ogletree said. "We will finally see justice occur in the state of Oklahoma."

Flashback to May 31, 1921. Blacks were free from slavery, but not Jim Crow laws and segregation. Dick Rowland accidentally stepped on the foot of a White woman during his break from shoe shining in Tulsa, Okla. Rumors spread, and, by nightfall, it was said that Rowland had raped Sarah Paige. He was arrested, but the charges were dropped.

In retaliation, a mob of Whites, deputized and armed by the Sheriff, stormed Greenwood, Okla., better known as the "Black Wall Street." No house, church, school, or business was left standing.

"Some 8,000 Blacks were displaced, and another 154 have yet to be found," Ogletree said. "They may be with the bodies that were tossed into the river."

The survivors of the Oklahoma riot took their case to the state courts, but were rejected time and time again. Eighty years would pass before anyone would take the case seriously. The case was introduced to Ogletree in 2001.

"I walked into the room, and I saw African American women and men," Charles said. "Some were in wheelchairs. Some were blind. And others were handicapped. They told me their story of a night with weapons, bombs falling from the skies, and children were killed."

Six of the survivors accompanied Ogletree and some of his students to the District to deliver the first ever Supreme



Professor Ogletree spoke about the Oklahoma riot at the annual Patricia Roberts Harris lecture in Public Affairs.

Court briefing.

"We have to lift up causes like this," Ogletree said. "So any people did so much for us. All we have to do is something small to help our community."

Some students agree with Ogletree and have vowed to take part in the justice of Greenwood.

"[The speech] has motivated me to do something about it," said Rozanne Neil, a senior broadcast journalism major. "As young people we have an obligation to be involved, and this is an opportunity to further that goal."

The enthusiasm of the Howard students to get involved in the Greenwood case gave Ogletree a sense of nostalgia.

"I was so overwhelmed

by the interest of the Howard University students," Ogletree said. "It reminds me of the students during the time of Charles Hamilton Houston. It is never too early to get involved in the struggle."

The survivors of the Greenwood fiasco do not have the typical reparation in mind.

"They don't even want money for themselves," Ogletree said. "They want education and healthcare for the next generation. They see something beyond their lives."

The goals of the Annual Patricia Roberts Harris Public Affairs Program are to showcase public policy studies and to encourage students towards public service careers.

Students Competing for CPNAHS VP

Kerlon Williams: C.O.N.N.E.C.T.I.O.N.S.

BY JABARI SMITH
Contributing Writer

While rushing out of the front doors of Cook Hall at 7 a.m. to take an exam, Kerlon Williams makes a mental note of all the things that are on his agenda for the day, a task that he has mastered over the years.

First, he must ace his statistics test and then grab some lunch in the café, followed by tutoring at an elementary school in Southeast D.C., and last but certainly not least, he must attend the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health candidate speak out.

Williams, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major, is seeking election as the Executive Vice-President of the CPNAH and is running under the platform C.O.N.N.E.C.T.I.O.N.S., or Creating Opportunities, New Network Experiences, Coinciding to Individual's Overall Needs and Services.

With C.O.N.N.E.C.T.I.O.N.S., Williams has big plans for enhancing the image of student government in the CPNAH and getting the student body more involved. "I want to create monthly memos and surveys so that the student body can have an active role in implementing change within the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health," said the Queens, N.Y. native.

Williams' platform also seeks to address the issues that the majority of the student body of CPNAH has problems with, such as the lack of programs and forums providing students with information on internship and job opportunities, which he plans to rectify by teaming up with the Career Services Center.

Improving student council's outreach to the students of CPNAH by having more steady office hours so that the students can have more access to their student government leaders is another issue that Williams plans to tackle head on.

"I want student leaders to be



Courtesy of Emmanuel Larley

Executive Vice President for CPNAH candidate Kerlon Williams wants to enhance the image of student government.

held more accountable for what we say we will do and making us more accessible to the students will do just that," he said.

Extremely active on campus and in the community, Williams is a time-management machine, balancing active membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars through which he mentors with the Why College? program, NAACP and CPNAH student council.

Yet, Williams does not simply limit his service to Howard's campus, he also currently serves as an Americorp tutor and mentor to sixth grade students in southeast D.C. According to Williams, his experience with student council since his freshmen year and having worked with the current executive board has given him the opportunity to learn the ins

and outs of student government within CPNAH.

"I have an extremely good work ethic and I will work diligently to voice students' concerns, while giving them the opportunity to hold me accountable for what my roles and responsibilities are as the executive vice-president," Williams said. In reference to his opponent, Brandi Veley, Williams refers to her as a worthy candidate who he believes has good leadership qualities.

As the election gets closer and more sacrifices are seemingly needed to be made for the sake of the campaign trail, Williams does not panic or get frustrated. He instead maintains the same positive, humble and friendly composure that he always graces people with.

Brandi Veley: H.O.M.E.

BY JABARI SMITH
Contributing Writer

Brandi Veley is trudging along an intense and rigorous campaign trail that could easily frustrate any formidable candidate.

Yet, instead of buckling under the pressure of running for office, she continues to exude a sincere and passionate persona. As a junior health management major from Bakersfield, Calif., Veley is a candidate for executive vice president of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health.

"My main goal is to make student council within Allied Health visible, as well as to make the students of Allied Health more visible in leadership positions on top of the hill," Veley said, who is running under the platform H.O.M.E. Improvement which stands for Honoring student/faculty relationships, Open lines of communication, Maximize programs, and Elevate visibility.

Veley is no stranger to the world of student government, having served as the residence hall director for HUSA and the administrative assistant for the National Council of Negro Women. Making sure to spread herself all around campus, but not too thin, Veley is also a White Squad Cheerleader, an active member of the California Club and a member of the Golden Key Honor Society.

Active within the community, she also serves as a community tutor at Dunbar High School and has done community service with the National Council of Negro Women. "I exude leadership in all of the organizations that I am in, specifically HUSA," said Veley, who works in the student advocacy department.

"I'm used to speaking up for students. Essentially, my job is to make sure that students' voices are heard."

Aside from her experience



Courtesy of Emmanuel Larley

Brandi Veley would like to make the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health more visible if elected.

in student government, Veley feels that students should cast their vote for her on March 24 because she is very approachable, enthusiastic and genuinely excited about being the voice of the students of CPNAH.

"Not only do I want to make the students of CPNAH's voices heard, but I also really want to put Allied Health out there so that we, as a school can become more visible on top of the hill."

As one out of two candidates for the Executive Vice-President position, Veley has gotten an up close and personal view of her opponent, sophomore Kerlon Williams.

According to Veley, Williams is a good guy who upon first meeting her was very open and genuinely kind. "He's very motivated, yet I believe

that I have more leadership experience."

As a result of her administration, Veley believes that visibility among student leaders in the CPNAH would increase as well as the visibility of the student body. She plans to implement more programs that will appeal to freshmen early on in the year to get them involved.

Veley's administration would also work to maximize programs that provide students with internship and networking opportunities in health-related fields.

Kids2College Show College Life

COLLEGE, from Campus A1

With a room of aspiring engineers and undercover cops, as some of the sixth graders mentioned that they wanted to be, Gibbs talked about his own experience with life and achieving success.

"The road to success is always under construction, but even though you may have to take some detours, if you stay on track you will reach your goal," Gibbs said.

The rest of the day consisted of various workshops including topics such as "why education is important," "the Pre-Med track," "Fashion 101," "the male role on the

college campus" and "sports influence." "The students participated in the workshops based on their taste," Trout said.

The college students offered information based on their own personal experiences, answering questions that the sixth graders had. "Playing football here takes up a lot of time and energy. It's important to know that when you play sports you've got to be a student and an athlete," Samuel Buck, a Howard football player told the kids.

"The workshops gave the students a broader perspective of what they need to be

to be a college student and allowed them to step outside their middle school box," Trout said.

Besides academics, the students also had a chance to get some of their own questions answered like, "what is your curfew?" and "do you party a lot?" as well as participate in a scavenger hunt on the Yard.

Trout said the Kids2College tour has been an awarding experience for both her and the students. "The speakers were really great at presenting the information in a positive way," Trout said, "the kids had fun and learned a lot."

CapComm Addresses Political Issues

VOTING, from Campus A1

"I was definitely enlightened walking away by all of the information given in the forum, especially the grassroots information [about] going door to door, getting our neighbors and other individuals involved as well as high school and college students," Stennett said.

Stennett's concerns as a young adult at Howard were also shared by many other students.

"I believe that some of the most significant issues students face today are jobs, housing and financial aid," Stennett said.

The Washington Post and Howard University partnership addressed these very needs by aiming to provide students with an opportunity to develop a professional work product that can be used to market their skills in the pursuit of higher education and/or employment.

Sean Parker, a senior public relations major and CapComm account executive, played a major role in the coordination of the event, considered the politi-



Nicole Reed, Staff Photographer

cal literacy forum one of importance and necessity.

"It provided students with an opportunity to interact with organizations and political figures on the issues of voter registration and voter education," Parker said.

However, he did recognize that there are still obstacles in voting for young adults to feat.

"I think we've got a long way to go," Parker said, "[but] we've

made significant progress with some of the various campaigns that were established last year."

He added, "I think there is a lot to be done in the interim, such as voter education."

"But all too often we focus those who aren't interested [in voting]," Parker said. "We should focus on those who are interested in learning more about the voting process, and getting them out to encourage others."

Lacrosse Team Suffer Tough Loss

BISON, from Campus A1

made for rather slippery conditions, making it difficult for each team to make the proper cuts on the stadium turf also.

The last 15 minutes of the game proved to be the most exciting for both sides. At the 15-minute mark, the scoreboard read 9-5, and Siena scored another goal in the ensuing minute and a half.

Dominique Browner, a sophomore, would change the numbers rather quickly. Shannon Morris, a defender, stole the ball from the Siena goalkeeper and passed it to a streaking Browner down the middle of the field. Browner made the score 10-7 and last year's second lead-

ing scorer, sophomore attacker Meagan Fitzgerald, got the assist from Browner a minute later to make it 10-8.

The Lady Bison rally was stifled by a Siena goal at the 10:33 mark and a save from the Siena keeper on a Meagan Fitzgerald penalty shot.

Sophomore defender Ife Blissett tried to re-mount the Lady Bison attack taking the ball the entire length of the left sideline past three defenders and making the score 12-8. Following a Siena goal the Lady Bison showed that they would not go down without a fight. Siena goalkeeper Bethany Zimmer was riddled with shots as the Howard Ladies fired off six shots

in a three-minute span. Attempts cam from Browner, Fitzgerald, Morris, sophomore midfielder Iram Abdallah and Junior midfielder Brittany Merritt in organized waves.

Junior midfielder Natasha Sandy believes that all the elements the team needed to win were there and they will bring them into the next game.

"The hustle, the determination, and the drive to win was there. However, next practice we'll focus more on the basics like catching, throwing and shots on goal."

The Lady Bison will test their strength March 20 against the Drexel Lady Dragons at Drexel.

Rather Retires From CBS News

RATHER, from Campus A1

Many think the erroneous story on President Bush will be an enduring part of Rather's legacy.

"Unfortunately I think people will remember the President Bush issue and the networks rush to air the Texas National Guard story," said Peggy Lewis, a journalism professor at

Howard University. Lewis, who worked as a broadcast journalist for 19 years prior to teaching at Howard, said the mark left on Rather's legacy from the Bush story is unfortunate.

"You gotta take the good with the bad," Lewis said. "He should be remembered for his great reporting. He did some amazing stuff and ... was at the front of every major news story

for the last 30 years."

Indeed, Rather was at the forefront of major news stories that will forever be engrained in the minds of thousands of Americans. They range from the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy to the 2001 terrorist attacks that toppled the World Trade Center and put a hole in the side of the Pentagon.

Three Arrests Made in Cardozo Mercury Spill

BY ROBIN DAVIS
Metro Editor

Three suspects have been arrested in the mercury spill at Cardozo High School, and according to D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey, all three have admitted their involvement.

The first mercury spill at the Northwest school was on February 23, which led to the school being closed for several days for cleanup. Two other spills were reported on March 1 and March 3, which led to the school being closed again. Students are currently attending classes at the University of District Columbia.

The first mercury spill was intentional, and the two additional spills seemed to be leftover mercury from an inadequate cleanup done by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The first arrest was made after a surveillance camera showed a student spilling the mercury that Wednesday morning. The 16-year-old student has been released to his family, and has pleaded not guilty to all five of his juvenile charges, which include conspiracy, theft, and cruelty to children.

A 15-year-old was arrested last week, and earlier this week, another 16-year-old was arrested and charged with conspiracy. The students said that they obtained the mercury from the school science lab, but the school said it has not carried mercury since 2003. The three teenagers are expected to be back in court on March 28th.

D.C. school officials are now arguing over costs with the EPA for clean up and other expenses, such as moving classes to a new building and overtime pay for security guards and custodians. These costs could be up to several \$100,000. The relocation of students was to make up for the lack of proper cleaning of the school, by the EPA.

Clifford Janey, D.C. Schools superintendent told the Washington Post, "The fact is, we have spent an exorbitant amount of money sending students to another facility," he said. "It is far from our ability to pay for someone else's mistake. Our students have been put in harm's way."

The EPA claims that they followed appropriate procedures, and that they would like reimbursement for their costs, if it is found out that the mercury was taken from Cardozo. EPA on-scene coordinator Marcus Aquino told The Washington Post, "we're being very cautious. The school doesn't want this to happen anymore."

Although classes were still being held for Cardozo students, less than 1/3 of the students actually showed up for classes at the University of the District of Columbia, despite the busing system they implemented.

"I think it's putting the students who actually want to learn at a major disadvantage," Tiffanie Moore, a junior nursing major, said. "They don't have any supplies or books, so it's really hard for them to keep up."



Maya Gilliam-Senior Photo Editor

This Northwest school has been opening and closing due to mercury spills, and now police have found the culprits.

Theives Have Their Eyes on North Face Jackets

BY SHANNON RUSSELL
Contributing Writer

It seems every couple of years a new fad comes out leaving many rustling and bustling to figure out how they are going to obtain the new trend for themselves. This time it is the North Face jacket.

They are jackets that several people want, and like previous fads, not everyone has the capability of obtaining.

According to P.G. county police, in 2004, Prince George's County, was plagued with 79 North Face Robberies, in addition to several other robberies in the District. Investigators said that suspects in the robberies used stolen cars to lure victims while they walked to and from school, stole their jackets and then drove away.

The robberies continue.

In January 2005 several suspects in connection with the thefts were arrested and 10 North Face jackets were found in their possession.

Despite the numbers, some Howard students are not alarmed.

"It doesn't really bother me," Brad Johnson, a former marketing major at Howard, said. "Someone is always trying to steal someone else's stuff so you just

have to watch your back. I am not going to stop wearing my jacket because someone wants it."

Kevin Blalock, a resident of the District, like Johnson, is not swayed by the threat of getting his jacket stolen.

"I am not worried about getting robbed because I can't do anything about it, so I may as well where it," said Blalock, who had a friend whose coat was stolen in broad daylight said. "When it's gone it's gone, and if a guy is petty enough to take it, than let him have it."

When North Face jackets came



www.aki-oride.com

Jackets like these are often stolen right off of people's backs, much like when Nike Air Jordans were in their prime.

out in 1966, the company targeted consumers that went skiing, camping and ruffed it in the great outdoors.

North Face jackets usually start at \$200 and are the latest product to be stolen off the street, but it is not the first.

In the 80s and 90s crime and outrage among many was a result of the new sneaker fad, Air Jordan's.

The sneakers were popular among youth, as well as adults; and because of its popularity, it left many going to great lengths to obtain a pair that they could call their own.

Many activists and columnists were outraged at the marketing

tools that were used to target and persuade youth to buy there product.

"Inner city youths have been shot, stabbed or beaten because of their gym shoes, all because their street-corner society does a better job of teaching our young how to be consumers than to be producers" nationally syndicated columnist Clarence Page said. Page was one of many activists who spoke out against the violence taking place during the time.

The media had a huge impact on influencing youth to go out and buy the sneakers that represented greatness because Michael Jordan was great when he wore them. Fads constantly change and grow. Fads have ranged from sneakers, to eight ball jackets, to starter jackets and now North face Jackets.

Taryn Sibilis, a senior education major, unlike Johnson and Blalock, is appalled about the robberies.

"I think that it's crazy to rob someone over a jacket," Sibilis said. "I don't have a North Face, but I believe that if a person does decide to wear their coat don't leave it lying around and always be on the lookout."

Metro Week Calendar

Thursday, March 10

12:15 p.m.- 12:45 p.m. Free Concert; National City Christian Church. 202-232-0323

Friday, March 11

6 p.m.- 10 p.m. IMAX & Jazz Cafe Free live jazz performed in Atrium Cafe each Friday night. Food, drinks and IMAX movies. National Museum of Natural History. (Nightlife - Jazz). 202-357-2700

Saturday, March 12

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Weekend Outdoor Festival. Handmade crafts, jewelry and art from all over the world on exhibit and for sale. Market 5 Gallery. (Retail- Antique/Art Appraisals). 202-543-7293

Sunday, March 13

8 p.m. WARM Bossa Nova. Enjoy an evening of Brazilian Bossa Nova and Samba with a live DJ from Thyme Out American Cafe Restaurant & Bar. (Performance - Musical). 301-529-7260

Monday, March 14

9 p.m. Brazilian Music Festival. 24-foot screen, digital projection. The State Theatre. (Sports - Pro Football). 202-237-0300 Taken from www.eventguide.com

"EVEN MY GRANDMA READS THE HILLTOP.."

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WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

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

Yearbook Editor-in-Chief

**Applications are available
immediately in the Office of
Student Activities, Blackburn
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**Applications are due by March 11,
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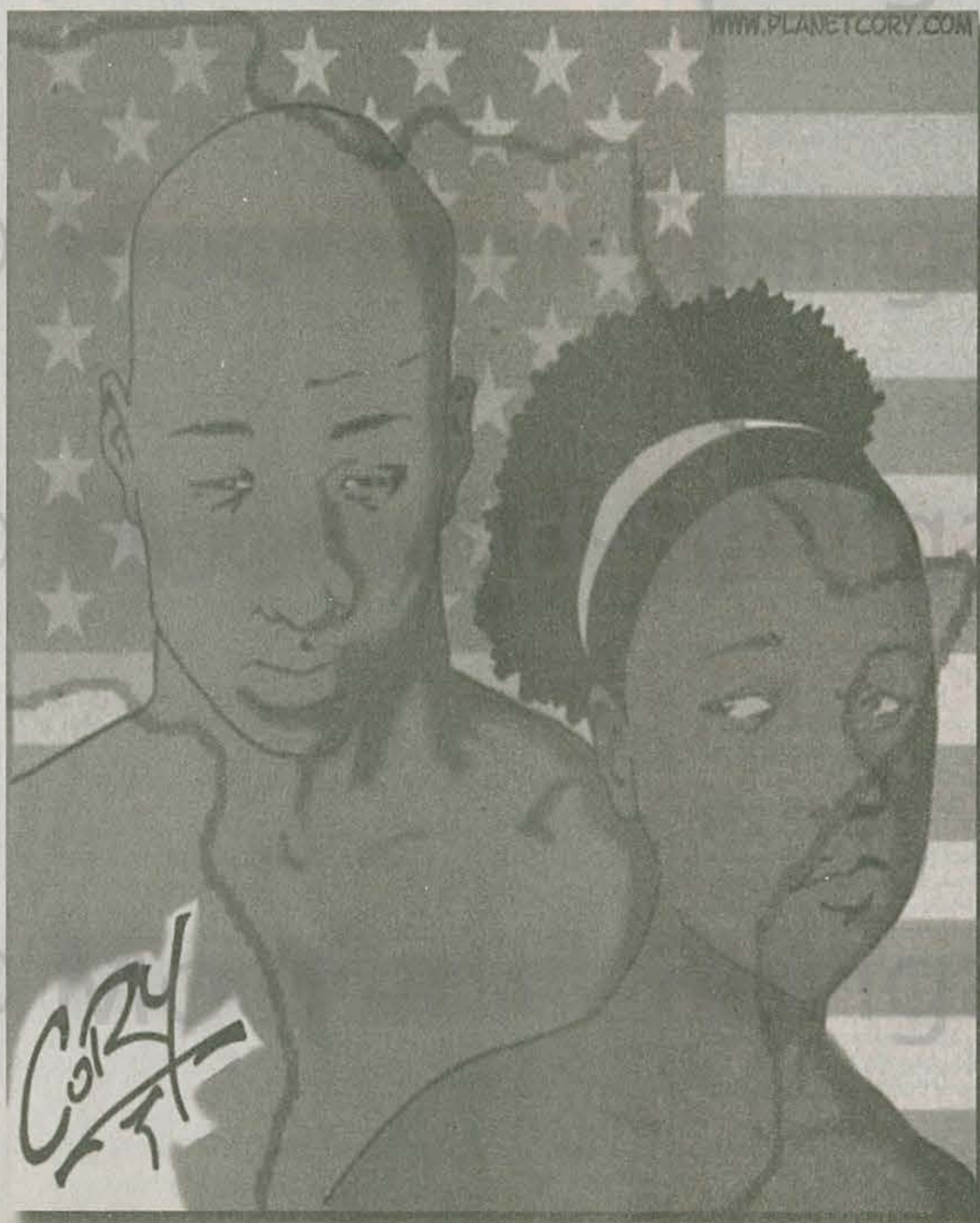
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EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

VOLUME 88, NO. 49

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005

www.thehilltoponline.com



Blacks, the U.S. and Politics

MICHAEL B. BAKELEY

Within the boundaries of the United States, the word Democracy has many different meanings for many different people due to this country's history of mistreating those of non-European extraction legally and illegally.

As the incessant demand for full political participation and representation at the local, state and federal level has materialized incrementally over the past decades, these miniscule strides or gains only happened due to the legal system and its decisions made accordingly.

In lieu of these incremental gains, there are still many politicians, scholars and even lay-people who vaguely assume that African Americans should not just focus on whether or not if an elected official is from their respected ethnic group in order to have adequate representation.

If such is the case, then explain why the United States government's current policy toward Iraq is to ensure that the citizens of Iraq have a "representative government."

At the present time, the African-American community has 43 of its co-ethnics within the hallowed halls of the United States Congress (42 members of the House of Representatives, including the non-voting del-

egates from the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, and one senator).

In lieu of the fact, the total membership for the United States Congress is 437 members, including the non-voting Delegates.

Therefore, statistically speaking, African-Americans only consist of 9.8 percent of the entire United States Congress even though African-Americans comprise from 13.0 to 14.0 percent of the overall United States population.

Regarding the United States Senate, we have one symbolic African-American male out of 100 Senators.

Anytime an African-American politician has enormous amount of support from White Americans, this clearly indicates that this individual will not be working incessantly in the interest of African-Americans.

Case in point, look what happened politically to Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney from Atlanta when she displayed her intellectual prowess to the Bush administration after the September 11, 2001 attack.

If my memory serves me correctly, I have yet to see any of the senior members of the Congressional Black Caucus (Conyers, Clyburn, Davis, Kilpatrick, Rangel, Towns, Waters or Watt, etc) or any other

Democratic Party members (i.e., Boxer, Byrd, Rodham-Clinton, Kerry or Landrieu) making any special order speeches on behalf of Congresswoman McKinney demanding that she receive her seniority back while numerous White Congress members, regardless of their political leanings, ideology and affiliations, have left the United States Congress and returned and even retained his/her seniority status.

As long as the racial problems continue in this country, the issue of symbolic, substantive and descriptive representation will remain. This stems from the historical legacy of this country in which many "Whites" vaguely assume they know what is best for African-Americans.

Interestingly enough, the only time political representation is an issue is when African-Americans figure out the rules of the political game.

Sadly enough, there are those within the context of the American political landscape that inherently do not want those respective ethnic groups to have political representation in any capacity.

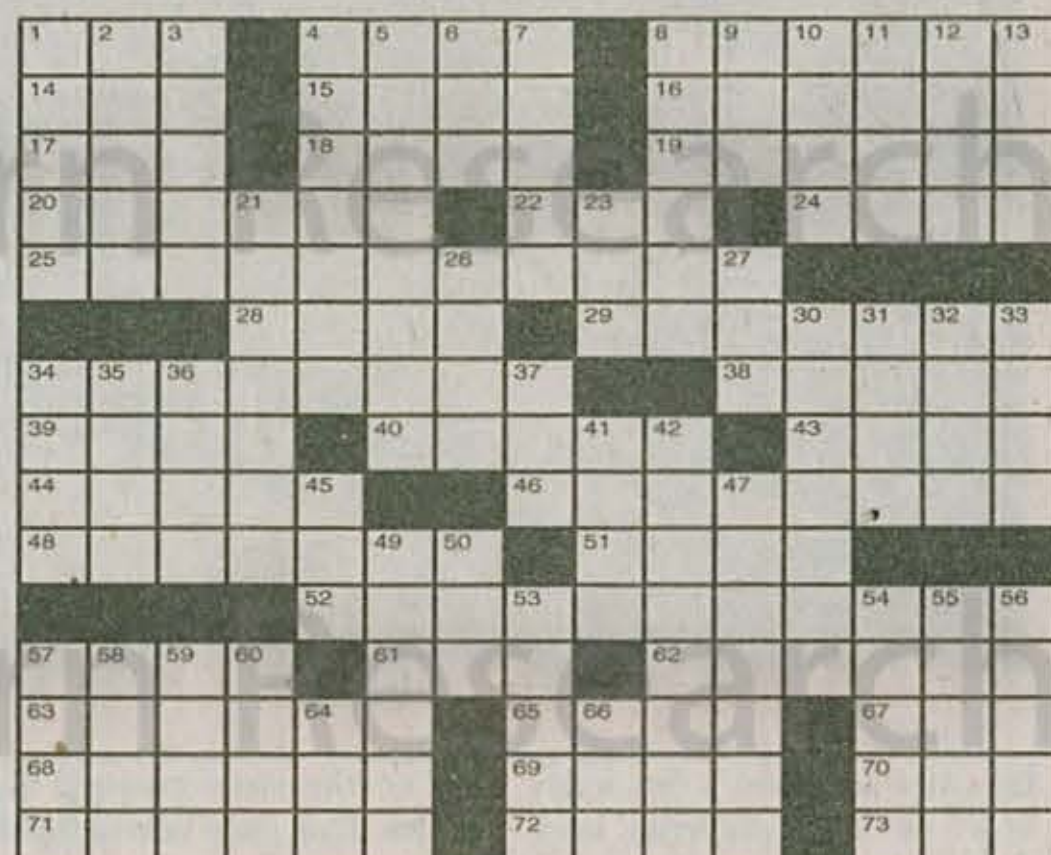
I can only imagine what the people living in Iraq are saying about how African Americans do not have a representative government in the United States.

though the club is located in a D.C. government building.

Despite my protestations, the ANC voted to revoke by a vote of 8-2. My own personal feeling is that the license should be suspended, for a 60 or 90 day period, until a security plan can be worked out by all parties. I will continue to monitor the situation, and would be happy to discuss this with any interested students.

Nate Mathews
ANC 1B10

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

3/10/05

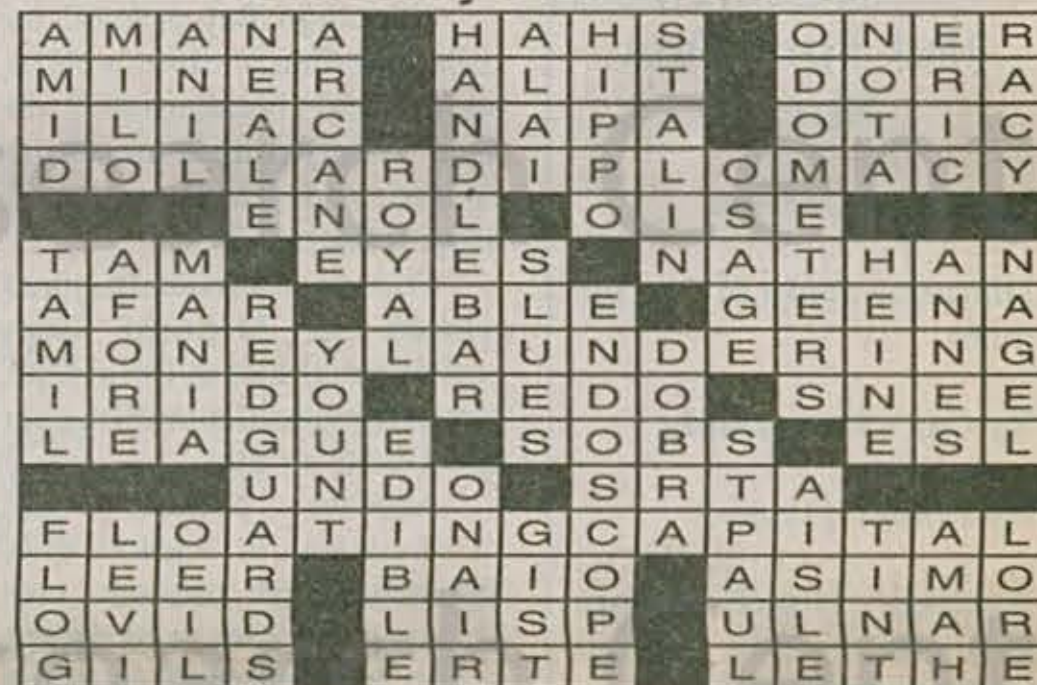
ACROSS
1 Current unit, for short
4 Beach toy
8 Shaken instrument
14 Buddy
15 Part of A.M.
16 Beneficial
17 Cool down
18 Astronauts' grp.
19 Start of Jerry Seinfeld

DOWN
3 Guilty and not guilty
4 Cure-all
5 Vehement denunciat-
6 Part of TGIF
7 Canine tether
8 Teenage ___ Ninja
9 Hardwood tree
10 Marsh grass
11 60s hairdo
12 Signaled
13 Too
21 More fluid
23 Pizza order
26 Vichy very
27 Xenon or neon
30 Italian dumplings
31 Architect Saarinen
32 Harvest
33 Perry's creator
34 Strikes
35 Israeli port
36 Observe
37 West Coast airport

quote
20 Biblical mount
22 Whirlpool tub
24 Extinct bird
25 Part 2 of quote
28 ___ the twain shall
meet
29 Tiered bric-a-brac
shelves
34 Mark Twain and Saki,
e.g.
38 Villain's look
39 "The Time Machine"
people
40 Part 3 of quote
43 Dental exam
44 Spud
46 Ear doctor's instru-
ment
48 Audio equipment
51 With, in Arles
52 Part 4 of quote
57 Stench
61 Natl. interest watch-
dog
62 Frankie and Cleo
63 End of quote
65 Discomfort
67 Make face

68 Picture holders
69 Otherwise
70 Mich. in Chicago, e.g.
71 Thoroughfare
72 Ceremony
73 Miles/hour connector

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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3/10/05

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 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.

Dear Editor,

I read the article about Club U by Larissa Etwaroo with great interest. The controversy generated by the murder of Terrence Brown, the ABRA revocation hearings, and the surrounding incidents were the subject of discussion and debate at the last meeting of ANC 1B on March 3rd. At issue was the revocation of Club U's liquor license. I voted against the measure to revoke for the following reasons:

- 1) There is not clear evidence that the murder happened inside the club, despite allegations to the contrary.
- 2) Club U has broken no laws, nor has it violated the regulations of its license.
- 3) Metropolitan Police Commander Larry McCoy ignorantly characterized go-go music as the cause of the violence, demonstrating a lack of understanding of the true issue of lack of security.
- 4) There was no coordinated security plan between city government and the club, even

Spring Break Countdown: 2 Days

Warm Thoughts: Jamaica

BY STACY ANDERSON
Contributing Writer

Pleasantly warm tropical weather, beaches aligned with swaying palm trees, and festive music tinged with drums and guitars playing in the background.

Many students spend spring break in Miami or Cancun in search of such luxuries, but they could experience these same pleasures in Jamaica.

Jamaica receives over a million tourists a year and its no surprise that many Howard students are finding this sweet escape as a spring break alternative.

"We wanted the sand and sun, and not too many Howard people," said senior television production major Cora Atkinson, who is visiting the island with four other Howard students. "We love them, but we wanted a good experience and Jamaica was the place. We wanted to do something different and have a trip to remember."

Jamaica has several popular



www.jamaica-cruises.com

lar cities scattered a few miles apart to keep students busy during the short break.

"Negril is romantic," said Travel Agent Rebecca Swoboda of Travel Express, in Southeast. "It has more remote resorts and many beaches."

Swoboda suggested Montego Bay as the best location for young travelers.

"Montego Bay is good for college students...there's clubs, shops, and restaurants," she said. "Everything is more condensed and [they] can walk around the city."

College students frequent partake in Montego Bay's growing nightlife at Coral Cliff, Margaritaville, Groovy Grouper and Doctor's Cave.

Another popular spot in Jamaica is Ocho Rios. Thousands of tourists visit Dunn's River Falls, a park with a 600 foot waterfall to climb and keep cool under. Local vendors bearing homemade art, jewelry, woven goods, and other delicacies are found daily along Main Street in Ocho Rios.

For a more laid back setting, students may enjoy Port Antonio, which is located on

the northeastern coast of the island. This once bustling port city is now known for its beautiful scenery and peaceful villas located along lush landscapes.

Another popular tourist destination in Port Antonio is the Blue Lagoon. This body of water "changes colors with the movement of the sun," said Flo Coleman, a travel agent at New Horizons Travel in Northwest (DC?).

For those that can't stay away from the concrete jungle and city life, Jamaica's capital is a crucial visit.

"Kingston is very commercialized," said junior telecommunication management major Dereka Chung, who is also a native of St. Thomas, Jamaica.

Many come to Kingston solely to honor the legendary hero of the area at the Bob Marley Museum, located off Hope Road.

For great eats in Kingston, Chung suggests the newly opened T.G.I. Friday's for familiar foods or Cuddy's, which is similar to ESPN Zone.

"Their baby back ribs are crazy," Chung said. "I was very impressed."

While most conclude traveling farther is more expensive, students are still finding great deals.

"Not that much planning went into it," Atkinson said. "I started online searching at the end of January."

Her package of seven days and seven nights with airfare included totaled a little over \$650. Plus another \$59 provides two meals a day for the entire week. She encourages procrastinators to start web searching to find deals geared toward college students.

While others have already made plans for the break, the idea of Jamaica lingers in their minds.

"My grandpa just bought a times share in Jamaica," said junior Brandi Velez, a health management and pre-pharmacy major.

Velez is heading home to California for spring break, but hopes to visit Jamaica soon. "He always talks about the clear water and beautiful people." She will eventually discover that the quaint island offers so much more.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Chicken Pita Pockets

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (9 ounce) package Tyson® Frozen, Fully Cooked Chicken Breast Strips
- 3/4 cup ranch-style salad dressing
- 1 teaspoon dried dill weed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced, separated into rings
- 1 cup shredded lettuce
- 4 large pita bread loaves, halved

DIRECTIONS

1. Wash hands. Blend salad dressing and dill in a small bowl. Set aside.
2. Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium. Add mushrooms and onion; cook 3 to 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add chicken; cook and stir 3 to 5 minutes or until chicken is hot.

SERVING SUGGESTION: Stuff pita bread halves evenly with chicken mixture. Top with lettuce and dressing. Serve with carrot sticks. Refrigerate leftovers.

www.allrecipes.com

Hot Spot Fact Sheet

Location: Jamaica

Distance from HU: 1,437 miles

By Car : Impossible

By Plane: 4 hours.

Average March Temp: Mid 80s, medium precipitation (weather.com)

Places to Visit: Negril, Dunn's River Falls, Montego Bay, Mandeville, Line Key



ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS

Life is what happens while you are making other plans.

A person of words and not deeds is like a garden full of weeds.

It's better to be trusted than liked, Underpromise - Overperform.

The key to happiness and success is to have a dream.

All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.

You always pass failure on the way to success.

You have to wake up in order for your dreams to come true.

Don't let lack of praise nip you in the bud.

The surest way to go broke is to sit around and wait for a break.

The only thing worse than an alarm going off is the one that doesn't.

An ego trip won't get you anywhere.

The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is just that little extra.

If you want the rainbow you gotta put up with the rain.

Count your age by friends, Count your life by smiles.

A natural tendency is to want to be understood rather than understand.

Don't prepare for rainy days without enjoying today's sunshine.

Keep your heart a little softer than your head.

Don't think there are no crocodiles just because the water is calm.

Stand for something or you'll fall for anything.

Growing old is when fun is a lot more work.

Never insult a crocodile until you've crossed the river.

If you don't lie down no one can walk on you.

If you think things improve with age attend a class reunion.

A good scare is sometimes worth more to a man than good advice.

Motivation is when your dreams put on work clothes.

We have two ears and one mouth, Think twice, speak once!

Experience is the best teacher because it's always on the job.

You're never fully dressed until you wear a smile.

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.

The greatest mistake you can make is to be afraid of making one.

Happiness is the journey not the destination.

People with goals succeed because they know where they are going.

Does your employer consider you profit or overhead?

Look at life through the windshield not the rear view mirror.

To succeed do the best you can, where you are, with what you have.

Don't let your voice mail be "voice jail" to your callers.

A man without humor is like a car without shock absorbers.

Wisdom is what's left over after we smarten up.

Many people quit looking for work when they finally get a job.

About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age.

Don't wait for your ship to come in swim out to it.

Every job is a self portrait of those who did it.

Talk less - Say more.

Love at first sight saves a lot of time.

Autograph your work with quality.

You can only control two things your attitude and your activity.

Remember, there's nothing more constant than change.

If you tell the truth sooner or later somebody's going to find out.

Experience is the one thing you can't get on easy payments.

Remember change and change for the better are two different things.

Be on the level and you won't go downhill.

All play and no work, does not work.

A goal is a dream with a deadline.

A liar needs a good memory.

Dream of worthy accomplishments and stay awake to achieve them.

The only place success comes before work is the dictionary.

You can be happy without needing others to agree with you.

You are not late until you get there.

Glory comes from daring to begin.

Have a back bone not a wish bone.

Give your troubles to God, He will be up all night anyway.

The greater part of progress is the desire to progress.

Happiness is the place between too little and too much.

Remember no one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

Destiny is not a matter of chance it's a matter of choice.

Your children need your presence more than your presents.

Each of us has two ends a sitting end and a thinking end, Success depends on which we use.

Many spend half the time wishing for things they could have if they didn't spend half the time wishing.

For every person who climbs the ladder of success there are a dozen waiting for the elevator.

Happiness is a choice not a response. God works with you, not for you.

If your dreams turn to dust vacuum.

Do it now, you become successful the very moment you start.

People may doubt what you say but they will believe what you do.

Success -Don't do what you like, Like what you do.

by Author Unknown

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 2nd Year Law/3rd Year Law
Friday	March 25	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.
 - ◆ Students should print their schedules from the Web in a campus computer center.
 - ◆ First deferred payment for Fall 2005 is due August 1st.

Coach Parson's First Recruiting Class Look to Leave with MEAC Title

BY HEATHER FAISON
Contributing Writer

In the chill of the unexpected winter blast, the Lady Bison were bundled up and loading the bus that took them to the MEAC tournament in Richmond, Virginia on Tuesday. Today the Lady Bison will compete in their first game of the highly anticipated tournament against University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Lady Hawks.



All Pro Photo

Brittany James is the Lady Bison's biggest three-point threat going into the MEAC Tournament. She is also second in scoring with over 12 points per game.

In both previous contests, the Lady Bison defeated the fifth-ranked Tigers by more than 11 points. Even with those victories under their belts, the team understands that in the tournament all teams must prove themselves all over again and that past records are irrelevant.

"It's anybody's season right now and everybody's [record is] 0-0. We're not going in thinking because we beat them twice it's going to be an easy test," Assistant Coach Andre Bolton said.

Some of the players feel that the team's performance will override any doubts and odds that they can not win three straight victories against the Hawks in one season. Junior guard Ebony Lacey confidently said that it would be an easy game, but she is not leaving anything to chance. "We have to stay focused, and we can't take them for granted, but we are the better team," Lacey assured.

The team was given a boost to lead them into the tournament after defeating co-defending champions Delaware State 54-32 this past Saturday in the final regular-season game at Burr Gymnasium. Delaware State is ranked above the Bison, proving that the championship can be anybody's.

A possible tournament victory will mean more than a ring and a piece of the net to Head Coach Cathy Parson and Bolton because it will be the first time they will have won with players that they have recruited.

Thursday's Quarterfinal Match-ups

12:00 p.m.	Women	#4 Howard vs. #5 Md-Eastern Shore
2:00 p.m.	Women	#3 Delaware State vs. #6 Florida A&M
6:00 p.m.	Men	#4 S.C. State vs. #5 Norfolk State
8:00 p.m.	Men	#3 Coppin State vs. #6 Morgan State

When the Lady Bison won the MEAC championship in 2001, it was the coaches' first season at Howard.

"Coming in, [the 2001 team] were already here, so we just took what they already had and helped develop it. But this year will be special," said Bolton. "We went out and we recruited these kids to win the championship with."

Senior guard Daisha Hicks was one of the players from the coaches' first recruiting roster, and for her this victory would be a personal symbol of her appreciation to Parson.

"Being that I am just so fond of Coach Parson, it would mean a lot to me on a sentimental level. Being in her first recruiting class I was able to start what I'm hoping will be a legacy of her having successful runs at the MEAC championships," said Hicks.

The Lady Bison enter the tournament ranked fourth overall, and the team sincerely feels that they will be bringing home the MEAC gold.

Senior guard Simone Age was a freshman when the

Bison won the MEAC tournament in 2001, and she has the same sense of confidence in her team as she did that season.

"I think our chances are great because I think that we have gelled together and we are unified," Agee said.

For Agee, a championship will be the perfect conclusion of her stellar tenure as a Lady Bison.

"I came in with a bang, and I'm going out with a bang. It would be a great end to my career."

The championship game will be aired live on ESPN 2 at 12:00pm on Saturday, March 12, and hopefully, Howard fans will see the Lady Bison fight for the title on their home screens.



Leveling the Playing Field in the Front Office



Jim Mone - AP Photo

Feeling the heat: Reggie Fowler has been under intense scrutiny since his bid to own the Vikings.

BY ELLIOTT JONES
Contributing Writer

The announcement by Minnesota Vikings owner Red McCombs that he is selling the NFL franchise to African American businessman Reggie Fowler signaled the beginning of a new era in pro football. NFL owners are scheduled to vote on the sale during the March 20-23 meetings in Hawaii, with 24 of the league's 32 owners required to approve it in order for the sale to be made official. If approved, Fowler would become the NFL's first black owner.

According to the Minnesota Vikings website, Fowler was a former football player at the University of Wyoming. He currently resides in Arizona and is the owner of Spiral Inc., a company that provides grocery stores with various types of supplies.

Ownership in major professional sports has seemingly served as the final barrier facing African Americans in the world of athletics. Bob Johnson became the first black owner in a major sport when he was awarded the NBA expansion Charlotte Bobcats franchise in 2003. Now, with the NFL on the verge of introducing its first black owner, racial equality on all levels of professional sports could be closer to being reached now than ever before.

The league has made attempts at increasing diversity among front offices, starting with the head coaching ranks. According to the Washington Post, the NFL set up a workplace diversity committee in September 2002 following criticism on its hiring policy for black coaches. By December 2002, NFL teams became required to interview at least one minority for any head coaching vacancy before hiring a candidate. After the installation of this policy, there are currently six black head coaches in the NFL, the most ever in league history. In addition to head coaching positions, there are 14 minority offensive or defensive coordinators and three minority general managers.

In addition to strengthening diversity and equality, the increase in black ownership in professional sports has implications on black economic power nationwide.

"People say the new civil rights struggle is in home and business ownership, I would say that owning sports franchises is similar to that," said Ernestine Smith, a junior business finance major. From a business standpoint, the benefits of owning a company or a team as opposed to only being part of the team are simple. "If you own it, you basically have more control over it," said Smith.

Members of Howard's local football community were pleased to hear the news of Fowler's intention to become the NFL's first black owner. "It's been a long time coming," said Howard head coach Ray Petty. "There has been a number of us with the funds and the ability to manage a team, but the NFL owners have been a predominantly white fraternity," said Petty.

Though he was glad to hear the Vikings' historic announcement, Petty doubted that it would have a major impact on the status of black coaches in Division 1-A football. "That responsibility falls solely upon the presidents and selection committees of those schools," said Petty. Out of 117 schools in NCAA Division 1-A football, only three have black head coaches.

While the NFL's progress has developed faster than that of NCAA football, Reggie Fowler's bid to own the Vikings is the first step towards racial equality on the highest level the sport has to offer. At first, the battle for equality in sports was fought primarily on the playing fields. Now, the struggle has extended into positions of decision-making and control on the sidelines, in the front office and in the owner's box.

Etan Thomas: More Than an Athlete with Book Release

BY ALAN KING
Contributing Writer

Harlem-born, Oklahoma-raised, Etan Thomas was "More Than an Athlete" as he read selections from his book at a release party last Thursday night. The event was sponsored by Moore Black Press, which was founded and directed by activist, playwright and award-winning poet Jessica Care Moore.

Thomas's book, "More Than an Athlete (Moore Black Press, 2005)" is the fifth publication from Moore's press. Other poets on the roster are Moore herself, Saul Williams, with new additions from Asha Bandle and Ras Baraka, son of activist and poet Amiri Baraka.

Tyris, the house band, opened up the night with a jam session that had people dancing from the doorway to their seats.

Cameramen and photographers positioned themselves near the stage when Tyris wrapped up their set and the poetry began.

Moore started the set with her poem, "Princess", about a mother who jumped off her apartment building with her three children. Other guest poets were Olu "Butterfly" Woods and Howard University's Dr. Tony Medina.

Woods read from her collection, "The Revenge of Dandelion (Blackout Studios, 2002)." Her first poem, "On Dome Swelling", was dedicated to artists who are stuck on themselves. Her second piece, "What Was You Born For", was a piece she dedicated to teachers who she felt were under-appreciated and under-paid. Her last poem was about the drama she goes through looking for Mr. Right.

Assistant professor of Creative Writing and Nuyorican poet, Medina, took a shot at the spoken word artists when he said, "I was asked to read poetry tonight, that doesn't mean I'm a spook-en word artist." Medina started with a war tank.

A tanka, according to dictionary.com, is a Japanese verse



Photo by Marlene Hawthorne - Staff Photographer

Washington Wizards' center and poet, Etan Thomas, cites Saul Williams and Jessica Care Moore as two major inspirations. Although Thomas is averaging just 5.2 points per game, he is a very big part of the Wizards team, and an even bigger part of the Washington community.

form in five lines. The first and third composed of five syllables and the rest of seven.

He read from his collections: "Follow Up Letters to Santa (Just Us Books, 2003)" and "Committed to Breathing (Third World Press, 2003). Medina also read from his new manuscript, "MBali," Zulu for "flower." This collection of poems

about African children orphaned by HIV. Then Moore introduced the man-of-the-hour.

Thomas only read five selections from "More Than an Athlete." The poems ranged from slice-of-life to political. He had a poem where he attacked the Republican Party's lack of educational values, the unbalanced distribution of America's

wealth,

Bush's No Child Left Behind, and called the party "Masters of Criminology."

"My political poems come from watching the news, watching things that are going on," Thomas said afterwards.

Overall, the event got good reviews from those in attendance.

"I think that it was awesome," Howard Alumnus Melanie Henderson said. "I think because his words were more than relevant, very necessary."

Junior Music major Jennifer Steele thought the event was great and admired how Thomas being a celebrity was so down to earth.

"I think that it was just great to have someone who's a celebrity and not selling out; trying to give back through the beauty of his words," Steele said.

Ashley Mack, junior English major said: "The music was good, the poetry was live. There should be more events like this in the area."

In an interview following the reading, Thomas mentioned other ways he was inspired to write.

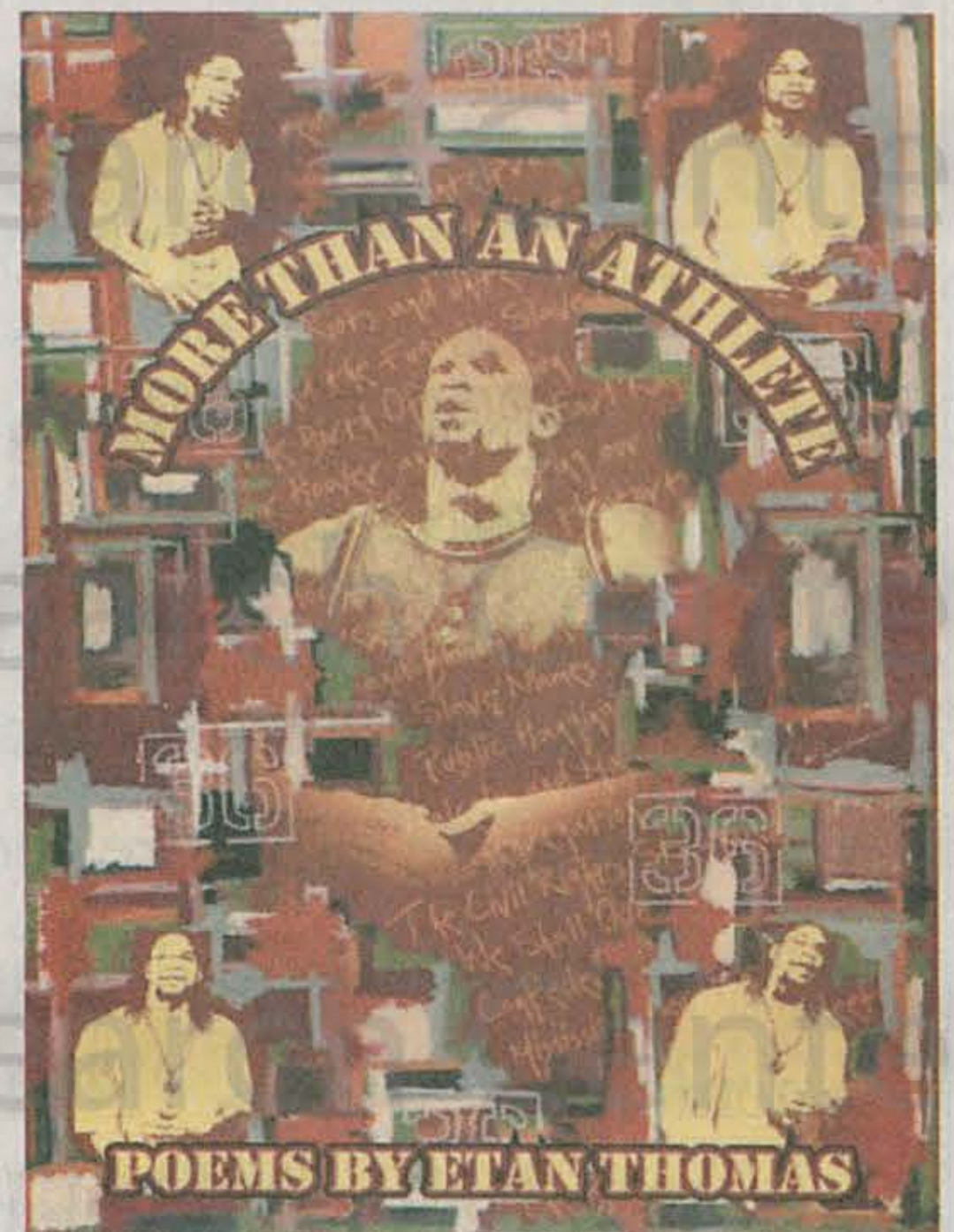
"I talk to kids a lot," he said. "Things that they talk to me about, they touch me in different ways and I'll write a poem about it."

Thomas added that he is mostly inspired by experiences.

"I have a lot of poems about different guys that I grew up with," he said. "Different things that happened to me. Sometimes, something hits me and I just write."

When asked what led him to Moore Black Press, he mentioned being a fan of the poets who publish with that press.

"I saw Jessica on the Apollo. And Saul Williams, who is also with them, is one of my favorite poets," Thomas said. He found out about Moore Black Press when a friend of his let him borrow Williams' "Seventh Octave (Moore Black Press, 1998)."



www.amazon.com

Thomas' first book features a mosaic-like cover of various photos that was first silk-screened and then repainted.