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THE HILLTOP

The Voice of Howard University Since 1924



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Howard's Rhodes Scholar Basks in the Limelight

BY STEVEN M. GRAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

It's been nearly a month since Carla J. Peterman, the Howard University senior, learned she had been named a Rhodes scholar, becoming only the second student in the University's history to receive one of the world's most prestigious honors.

Usually, the 20-year-old history major receives five or six emails a week. But in the last month, she's received more than 100 email messages from people around the country—some of whom

she's never met—bidding her well wishes, and congratulations.

Instead of getting the usual round of Christmas cards, she received hundreds. One, sealed in a tiny brown envelope from the White House, was from President Clinton, a Rhodes scholar, with the simple, hand-written inscription: "Great article in the Post."

Indeed, for Peterman, life one month after the announcement that she'd been named one of 32 American students to receive the scholarship established by Cecil Rhodes, the British-born tycoon who made his fortune in Africa, is

See RHODES, A3



Carla J. Peterman, Howard University's first American-born Rhodes Scholar. File photo

Trustees Vote to Raise Tuition, Meal Plans

HUSA President Criticized for Not Attending Committee Meeting

BY NICOLE A. TONG and
IRA PORTER
Hilltop Staff Writers

Howard University's Board of Trustees voted Saturday to increase tuition in schools throughout the University by as much as 3 percent, and passed a measure to raise the cost of student meal plans by \$50 per semester. Last weekend's Board vote comes months after it voted to raise the Student Activity Fee by 80 percent, and less than one year after it passed a measure to increase University housing rates by 6 percent.

Under the tuition boost, which takes effect next fall, undergraduate students will pay an additional 2 percent, or \$175, while graduate students will be charged an additional 3 percent.

Undergraduate Trustee Jonathan Hutto joined Randy Short, the graduate Trustee, in casting votes against the measure to boost tuition.

Both supported the meal plan increase. Saying the University should identify alternative ways of grappling with escalating operation costs while maintaining affordability, Short described the tuition increase as a "sham."

"Are they giving as much as the schools and universities that charge more? They're selling day-old bread for fresh bread prices," Short said.

The Tuition Rates Review Committee—which is made up of Administration officials and two students, including Howard University Student Association President Neville Welch and Graduate Student Assembly Coordinator Brett Allen—held a series of meetings last semester to review a proposed tuition increase. The TRRC is charged with submitting a recommendation on proposals to raise tuition to the Board of Trustees.

See TUITION, A4



Scores of Howard University students stood in long lines, such as this one, during this week's registration.

Hilltop Staff/ERIC HALL

For Students, Another Round of Waiting Ends Today

BY JASON T. SMITH
Hilltop Staff Writer

Slouching comfortably in his chair in the Blackburn Center's auditorium this week, Forrest Akers bent his head and took a short nap, closing his eyes to the confusion around him.

While he slept, students in the auditorium quietly pelted three enrollment management employees with questions. In the hall, a line for

University refund checks snaked around a corner. All this, while his daughter, freshman Kiko Nzingha, sat pensive.

She, like throngs of other Howard University students, were waiting for a tiny, brightly-colored ticket granting them access to the nerve center of registration and ultimately, the validation process: Blackburn Center's ballroom.

Getting the ticket was a ray of light for Nzingha, who faced the possibility of missing a semester at the University if she couldn't muster the

funds before today, the last day of spring registration.

"I suspect I should have done this earlier. The process is very, very slow. They could have probably done this a different way," she said.

Registration for the spring semester had already begun, and Blackburn again turned into a caldron

SEE REGISTRATION, A4

After Two Years in Office, Eames to Head ANC 1B

BY RAFIAH DAVIS
Hilltop Staff Writer

After being an active member of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission for more than two years, former Howard University student Nik Eames was unanimously voted chairman of ANC1B Wednesday.

Eames did not secure his position alone. He received support from long-time community activist Lawrence Guyot.

"I'm kind of excited," said Deborah Thomas, the commissioner of 1B11, and an Eames supporter. Thomas said after getting to know Eames, she realized they both share similar views and favors his idea to start youth development programs that will keep them out of trouble.

"Sometimes, we only focus on the negative things the youth do," she said. "We need to enhance the good things."

Lola Wade, a self-described "lifer" of the 1400 block of Florida Avenue said she has seen the leadership and the agenda of the commission undergo several changes. She recalled a time when the focus of the commission's meetings was the property value of the houses in Logan Circle. Wade is optimistic about Eames' victory, however, she said she will wait to see how the switch from Guyot to Eames works for the community.

Eames emphasizes the importance of the community's support for young people. However, he said the commission is on the cutting edge for helping people both young and old.

See EAMES, A3

Latifah Speaks



Hilltop Staff/EDOUARD LENEUS

At Cramton Sunday, the actress and rapper Queen Latifah promoted her new book. See story, A2

Conduct Code in 'Limbo'

Administration Wrongfully Picked Committee, Student Trustees Say

BY APRILL O. TURNER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Student representatives to the Board of Trustees, during the Board's Academic Excellence Committee meeting last week, told that Committee that the University's Administration wrongfully hand-picked a group to draft proposed revisions to the Student Code of Conduct.

The revelation prompted the AEC's chair, retired Gen. Colin L. Powell, to call for a new committee to be drafted to adopt the existing proposed Code, or craft a new revision to the Student Code of Conduct.

The charge came from student Trustees Jonathan Hutto and Randy Short, who told the AEC that the revision of the Student Code of Conduct and Judiciaries failed to adhere to the current Board policy outlined in the H-Book. Rather, a "foreign" process was established to create the committee, the student trustees said.

Hutto and Short recommend that the Board strike the proposed Code from the record, and asked the Board to review the existing Code, which was adopted by the Board in 1993.

"First, we must realize that the University-student relationship is a contractual one. Parents and students pay tuition, and the University provides an education and services," Hutto said in an interview Wednesday.

"That relationship should not be dictatorial or patronizing, but participatory in a reasonable and meaningful way," he said.

In 1997, a FordRAPID team of

faculty, Administration officials and students—all appointed by the Office of the Dean of Special Student Services—was selected to review the judiciary portion of the student code.

A second committee of faculty, Administration officials and students was appointed by ODSSS to review the Code portion.

The current policy states that four members, each of the undergraduate and graduate Judiciary Boards will constitute the Committee on Review. At the time the FordRAPID and Code Portion committees were established, the Howard University Student Association had already appointed 12 members to the undergraduate boards, and four members to the graduate boards.

What's more, the Faculty Senate did, however, appoint representatives to serve on the University-wide Judiciary Boards in 1998.

The Administration has attempted to assemble a Committee on Review, which, according to Hutto and Short, goes against policy.

Several members were not appointed by HUSA or the Faculty Senate in accordance with the current Student Code of Conduct.

HUSA did not appoint any of the students who served on the Code portion. Instead, the ODSSS appointed them.

The current Student Code of Conduct states that the student members of the Judiciary and Appellate Boards must be appointed or elected by HUSA in accordance with procedures determining committee membership.

"The established procedures are as equally important as the end product," Welch said Wednesday.

CAMPUS

HU GETS RANKED 5TH

Black Enterprise Magazine Ranks Howard University as the 5th Best School for African-American students. See A2

THE CITY

What's Hot?

According to Princeton Review, drugs are what's hot at American University. See A6

TEMPO

IN FULL EFFECT

As the plus-sized clothing market grows, so is the demand for full-figured models. See B1

SPORTSFRIDAY

HOOP VICTORY

Guard/Forward Melvin Watson led Bison to capture its first win of the season in game against University of Md. at Eastern Shore. See B4

WeekendWeather

TODAY: Rain. 48 HIGH, 32 LOW

SATURDAY: Partly Cloudy 45 HIGH, 35 LOW

SUNDAY: Partly Cloudy 39 HIGH, 30 LOW

Voices & Views

Do you feel that the President should be removed from office?



"No, even though he committed a criminal act against the United States. He's still done a good job for the American people."

- Rasheedah Thomas, sophomore engineering major



"I don't think he should be removed for what he did. We're not all perfect and everyone has their faults."

- Nichole A. Sampson, sophomore psychology major



"Even though what he did had nothing to do with the country, he still lied. It doesn't look good."

- Carlton W. Washington, sophomore marketing major



"No, I think that they were trying to get something on him since he got in office."

- Lauren White, sophomore business major

Compiled by
Eric Hall and John-John Williams IV

Cold Snap Delays HU Students' Return

BY NATALIE REID
Hilltop Staff Writer

The cold snap which brought a devastating snowstorm to the U.S. midwest region caused difficulties for Howard University students trying to return for the 1999 spring semester. Illinois temperatures ranged from 27 degrees below zero in the western suburbs to 12 below zero on the lake front. The low temperature was caused by a combination of snow build-up and biting cold air descending from Canada. In Chicago, 18.6 inches of snow fell on Jan. 2. This is the most snow to fall in a day in the state's history. Sophomore biology major Aja McGary said, "I was snowed in for a week—the week right

before I was to return to school so I was unable to go anywhere." Sophomore mathematics major Anike Oliver could sympathize, saying, "It took me and my brothers two hours to shovel and chip three inches of ice from my driveway." But the snowstorm didn't keep Oliver inside, she said. "It took 30 minutes to go places that used to be five minutes," she said. That's because she had to drive five miles per hour instead of the normal speed limit.

The 1999 snowstorm brought a total of 21.6 inches of snow so far to the state. The weather caused roads to be closed and flights to be canceled. "I was scheduled to return on Jan. 7, but the bad weather caused back-up at the airport and I had to return on Jan. 10." The foul weather conditions caused

regional airports in Milwaukee, Ft. Wayne, Ind., Grand Rapids, Mich., Bloomington, Kankakee and Joliet, O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, the world's busiest airport, stranded thousands of travelers. United and American Airlines canceled flights in and out of Chicago.

Students who were not affected by the delay of flights had to return on Jan. 3 before the second snowfall occurred. McGary said, "I had to return early in order to be here on time for classes... if I stayed later, I would have been stranded." Howard Brown, a film major, was not as fortunate as McGary. He had to return later, he said, because of the weather. "I had to experience flight cancellation as well as delay," he said. It cost O'Hare International airport

approximately \$14.3 million to clear runways, \$12 million to lease equipment and \$4 million for snow melting machines. Chicago was the worst state to be hit by the '99 Blizzard. Thirty-four counties within Chicago, including Cook County, were placed under a snow emergency warning by President Clinton on Jan. 1. The snow emergency made the state of Chicago eligible for 75 percent of the state clean-up cost.

Students returning from the Midwest experienced a shift in weather as they entered Washington D.C., where the weather was in the 50s. Charissa Mobley, a biology major said, "In Minnesota, the temperature was 27 below zero and on my arrival to HU the temperature was 52 degrees."

School of Business Honors Students Fast Tracking to Global Business Community

BY LOUIS STERLING
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Executive Leadership Honors Program in the School of Business traveled to New York to network with corporate sponsors and to gain real life business exposure, recently. From the Classroom to the Boardroom, the theme of this first corporate retreat took forty-five students to New York to participate in a weekend of corporate events, seminars, and professional development. Carol D. Henley, the director of the Honors Program, worked in conjunction with JP Morgan, Abbott Laboratories, and Warner Lambert to coordinate the weekend. She said the students gained valuable information and are now in a priority position to receive internships and permanent employment with these companies. The retreat commenced with a visit to JP Morgan, an investment banking firm, on

Thursday afternoon. Upon arriving at JP Morgan, Patricia Jones, a managing director, and Marvin Chiddick, a vice president, welcomed the Honors Program to the firm. A brief panel discussion took place following the welcoming that focused on the international employment opportunities at JP Morgan. Ebony Evans, a junior marketing major, appreciated the perspective these employees shared about the investment banking industry. "The speakers were very informative because they kept it real as opposed to being politically correct," Evans said. A highlight of the two-day corporate site visit to JP Morgan was the presentation George Comer, a Ph.D. student at New York University, gave on Equity Products and Markets. The four-hour crash course on investment banking answered many of the questions the honors students had about the high-powered world of finance. While the business students spent a great portion of their day

tackling case studies, the group did manage to flee the corporate offices to dine at the famous Motown Cafe in midtown. Kori Young, a freshman marketing major, said, "It was a good experience, especially since it was my first time in New York." On the last day of the retreat, Abbott Laboratories and Warner Lambert, two additional corporate sponsors of the Honors Program, conducted workshops and seminars at the hotel for the students. According to Kirk Oliver, the president of the Honors Program, "these companies approached us like we were prospective employees and directed the seminars accordingly." Warner Lambert, a consumer healthcare company, concluded the corporate retreat by separating the students into teams to solve this problem: "How can Warner Lambert use the Internet to educate professionals about Quanterra, a complementary medicine product?" Although the competition will be held in April, each team was

assigned a corporate representative to assist them in their preparation. Robert Smagala, a vice president of marketing, indicated that the students' results may even be used to launch the new venture. According to Oliver, the retreat established long-standing relationships. "Although we are relatively young, we established contacts that we could nurture; therefore, given the potential for growth, our future looks bright," he said. Henley concurred, stating, "This is just a beginning, given that this is the first corporate retreat. Our current sponsoring companies were really involved with working with the students, and in future years we plan to establish relationships with other companies. Finally, this was not only a first for the School of Business, but these companies are now going to use Howard as a template for other universities."

Peterman Set for Environmental Studies at Oxford

RHODES, from A1

anything but easy. Not only is the New Jersey native, like scores of other seniors, taking a mound of courses to meet requirements for graduation. Peterman, the first American-born Howard student to receive a Rhodes scholarship, says she's had to fend-off invitations to speak at several high-profile engagements, just to keep a modicum of peace.

"I want to remember that my life is still one of a student," Peterman said in an interview Wednesday. "You won't find me in the library too often. The fact is that I'm not a typical over-achiever. I'm a regular person, and I don't want to be a figurehead. I just had a goal, reached for it, and achieved it."

With the Rhodes scholarship, Peterman will spend the next two years studying at Oxford University in England.

Peterman, whose mother, Phylis, graduated from the University in 1968, turned down offers from Yale and Rutgers in favor of Howard. She entered the College of Arts and Science's Honors Program, and spent her sophomore year studying at Duke University.

Last year, Carla Peterman was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honors fraternity, and is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honors fraternity. She was a founding member of the University's women's lacrosse team, and is now working with Jennifer Brown, another University student, to launch a Howard-based organization aimed at boosting environmental awareness in minority communities.

While at Oxford, Peterman will study ways to develop "eco-cities," communities in which transportation, energy and water usage is minimized to protect the environment. Peterman says that after earning a master's degree at Oxford, she will develop such communities in the Caribbean, South America or Africa—regions

"with a lot of environmental resources that are either being exploited, or are on the verge of being exploited."

Phylis Peterman, a professor of social work at Rutgers, said that since last month's announcement, total strangers have called their home, all to tell Carla how proud they are of her. The hype has become so intense, Phylis Peterman says, that Carla's middle school and high school, like Howard, have posted larger-than-life signs on their campuses congratulating her.

"She's worn this mantle of new-found celebrity well," Phylis Peterman said. "She's conscious that she doesn't want this overdone. This is an award that she's received, but she doesn't want her success to overshadow everyone around her."

Paul E. Logan, associate dean of the Division of Humanities, said he's already started building a committee of faculty members to identify and groom strong candidates to apply for the Rhodes and other fiercely competitive scholarship programs, such as the Truman, Fulbright and Marshall scholarships.

"We have a lot of qualified students at the University, but they don't always get information about these kinds of opportunities," Logan said. "If Harvard can submit 40 applications, and we can submit only 3, that tells us we aren't getting the information out to enough students."

In recent years, at least two University students have applied for a Rhodes Scholarship. Logan said he hopes to use part of a \$4 million Mellon grant to create a formal program to groom potential Rhodes scholars.

"We're not playing anymore. We squeaked through with Carla, because she's just motivated. But if we identify students early on, we can submit more strong candidates," Logan said.

"Carla is a true example of the well-rounded students we have at the University who are academically talented, socially-conscious and ready to take their

rightful place as leaders in the country," said Provost and Chief Academic Officer Antoine Garibaldi.

Carla Peterman's success has not come without added pressure or criticism. Several people, she said, have told her she's "representing the [black] race", as well as the University. In response, Peterman says she has to remind herself that while being named a Rhodes scholar is an opportunity that few people receive, she is a black American woman entering what might be the "most intellectually grueling environment" she may ever encounter, in large part because she is both black and a woman.

Others, she said, have criticized her for accepting a scholarship in honor of the late Cecil Rhodes, the former head of two diamond and gold companies with interests throughout the former colonial Africa. Rhodes was so influential, in fact, that the modern-day African nations, Zimbabwe and Zambia, were named after him.

"I say to them [the critics]: 'I've studied Cecil Rhodes. I'm aware of everything he's associated with. And I'm aware of his positive and bad traits, too,'" Peterman said. "I'm using the scholarship to fix some of the problems that Cecil Rhodes helped to create."

Former Howard Student Elected Chairman of ANC 1B

EAMES, from A1

"We all have to work together," Eames said. Although Eames did not return to the University this semester, he said he still considers himself apart of the Howard community. Guyot saw the election as a chance to tighten the connection between Howard and the community.

"I'm proud that our ANC has united with the student government at Howard University," Guyot said. He credited the student government with stopping the University's plan to close public streets within the campus.

"We depend on the student government at

Howard to make sure the community's interests are looked after, because we certainly can't depend on the Swygert administration to do it," Guyot said.

In November, Eames lost his bid for the City Council seat to democratic candidate Jim Graham, who attended the meeting at which Eames won his seat.

"I really look forward to working with [Eames]," he said. "I hope to work with him on issues that directly affect this ANC and on youth issues as well." Graham also applauded Eames' efforts to help with the issues affecting youth.

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Increase in the Cost of Tuition, Meal Plan Evokes Mixed Feelings from Students

TUITION, from A1

During the December meeting at which the TRRC voted to approve the tuition, neither Welch nor Allen were present.

Sophomore Erick D. Watson, the Undergraduate Student Assembly representative for the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences, called the absence of Welch and Allen from a meeting of such importance "unacceptable," and said that "Neville's attendance record is evidence of his blatant disregard of student body interests."

"As HUSA president, it's his responsibility to inform the students of issues and to gage the students' position on such issues before a vote is placed before the Board of Trustees. If he doesn't take his position and responsibilities seriously, he should resign."

Responding to the criticism, Welch said that even if he and Allen were present at the December meeting, their votes wouldn't have made a dent in the final outcome. "One or two students on such a large committee doesn't have great weight," Welch said. "The bottom line are votes."

Many students said they were unaware that the Board had proposed raising the cost of tuition. Several students interviewed said they were surprised that such a measure had been passed.

"They should've told us in advance," said Erica Henderson, a junior administration of justice major. "The proposal was carried through almost a week ago, and some students wonder why they weren't aware of the proposal in the first place. It just shows the lack of communication between the student government and the students."

While the meal plan rates have remained the same in the last four years, the cost of providing dining services has increased.

Notification of the increase in the cost of tuition and the meal plan evoked mixed feelings from students.

"Are they giving as much as the schools and universities that charge more? They're selling day-old bread for fresh bread prices,"

**Randy Short,
Graduate Trustee**

Sophomore history major Alexis Capili, who commutes to school, won't be affected by the meal plan increase. He'll feel, however, the increase in tuition. And he's not happy about it, either.

"It's ridiculous," Capili said, adding that he'd support the increase if he were getting something out of it. But don't see us getting anything."

Many students, like freshman film major Folade Bell, said they, too, aren't happy about the meal plan increase. "I think the meal plan is too expensive already. It's really not worth it."

Staff Writer April O. Turner contributed to this report.

PROPOSED RATE SCHEDULE ACADEMIC YEAR 1999-2000

Program	1998-1999 Rate	1999-2000 Rate	Increase	Dollar Increase	Percentage
Undergraduate	\$8,750	\$8,925	\$175	2%	
Graduate	10,200	10,500	300	3%	
Divinity	9,880	10,175	295	3%	
Medicine	16,460	16,950	490	3%	
Dentistry	13,280	13,675	395	3%	
Law	12,280	12,650	370	3%	
Doctor of Pharmacy and M.S Physical Therapy	10,840	11,165	325	3%	

The tuition rate schedule for the seven programs that Howard University offers varies from a 2 percent to a 3 percent increase. The tuition rate is as follows:

PROPOSED MEAL PLAN RATE SCHEDULE ACADEMIC YEAR 1999-2000

Plan	Current Rate per Semester	Recommended Rate per Semester	Dollar Increase	Percentage Increase
Traditional 19	\$899	\$949	\$50	6%
Opti 19	950	1,000	50	5%
Traditional 14	860	910	50	6%
Opti 14	936	986	50	5%
Traditional 10	847	897	50	6%
Opti 10	949	999	50	5%
Traditional 5	350	400	50	14%

Students Wait No More

REGISTRATION, from A1
seething frustration for many students.

"Things here are slow. It's just backwards. This is worse than last semester," said junior finance major Amber Hardy, who spent the her two hour wait in line thumbing through a course selection book.

Aiming to ease the strain of long lines that students have faced in previous years, Administration officials have this year initiated several changes to the registration and validation process.

No longer will students be forced to stand in line in front of the Blackburn Center. Instead, students have been directed to sit in the Blackburn's forum and auditorium room, and wait for tickets that would then admit them up to the ballroom in groups of 40.

"Our goal is to have no students waiting in lines, and we are working towards that. This year, students got to sit down for the wait, and we don't have people standing outside," said Dr. Janet Nicholson, vice-president of enrollment management.

But even the round of changes couldn't keep some students from complaining about what they described as "glaring" technology glitches.

On Monday, students waiting in line were turned away because of a faulty circuit that caused "a slight complication," Nicholson said. "We've made arrangements for stu-

dents who were turned away Monday could come back on Tuesday and get serviced first," she said, adding that more students registered for classes by telephone than in previous years.

Take student Andrew Jackson.

The freshman music business major spent the week in class and bypassed the long lines by using the phone system, dubbed HU-PROS.

Today will be the only day he'll wait in line—but only for a validation sticker he didn't receive in the mail, he said.

"Now I feel relieved. All I have to do is worry about the possible validation-sticker lines," he said.

Still, other students refused to directly blame the University for the lengthy process.

"It doesn't seem that efficient to me, but they are always understaffed. So it doesn't seem like there is much they can do," said senior engineering major David Gittens. He, too, was in line to see financial aid and student accounts.

"I don't find this registration process dissimilar to those at other universities," said Forrest Akers, who waited hours for his daughter to leave the Ballroom. "It's commendable to the financial aid office that they can attempt to contend with every one's problems. Any problems my daughter and I have with financial aid is not an indictment to the University, but to the Government."

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NATION & WORLD

Eye On The Diaspora

EUROPE

MOSCOW—Russia's President Boris Yeltsin tightened government controls on Russian technology that may be used to develop missiles. Yeltsin's action is a response to the U.S. concern regarding Russian missile technology being exported to other nations. The amendment outlines items that will be banned for export to prevent proliferation of missile technologies.

AFRICA

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone—Rebel forces and West African peacekeepers in the Eastend District of Freetown clash with each other. The fighting between the two groups prompted Eastend residents to flee their homes. The rebels also fled their Eastend to conquer the West African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG, which is led by Nigerians.

ROME—According to a Roman Catholic missionary news service, 500 civilians were massacred in Congo between Dec. 30 and Jan. 1 by Congolese rebels. The massacre took place in Makobola Village near Lake Tanganyika in the South Kivu region. Victims of the massacre included children, women and the elderly.

PRETORIA, South Africa—Progress was made to persuade Libya in surrendering two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. Britain Prime Minister Tony Blair and South African President Nelson Mandela are responsible for the progress. Both leaders are sending Prince Bandar bin Sultan, a South African official and Saudi Arabia Ambassador to Washington D.C., to Libya to brief Libyan leader Moammar Godhafi.

ASIA

KABUL, Afghanistan—Thousands of Afghan refugees were forced by Iran to return to their embattled homeland where food scarce and there is an outbreak of war. The Iranians expulsion is based on several Iranians diplomats and journalists who lost their lives in August when Northern Afghanistan was attacked.

AHWA, India—Majority Hindus and minority Christians have been at war for 10 days. The clash started on Dec. 25—Christmas—where 15,000 Christians in nearby villages damaged 20 churches and two temples. Four catholic nuns and 124 from either group were arrested on arson and other charges.

The war occurred in the state of Gujarat where some Christians converted to Hinduism. The attack represented an escalation in Communal Violence which took place in India last year, where Hindus clash with Muslims than Christians.

AMERICAS

A nation-wide lawsuit filed in 1997 by more than 1,000 Black farmers was approved by a federal judge who required the Department of Agriculture to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to Black farmers. The farmers were denied government loans as well as being given loans smaller than those awarded to white farmers who held similar credit histories and assets. In the United States between 1982 and 1992 Black farmers dropped by 43 percent to 18,800.

MARYLAND—President Clinton announced a Federal Drug-fighting Grant for Maryland's 2,400 House of Correction Complex inmates in Jessup. The grants include \$474, 933 for better drug-detection hardware and addiction treatment. Money for the maximum-security facility will go to obtaining night vision devices, drug-sniffing dogs—to increase overtime for narcotics investigators—and laptop computers to aid drug probes coordination.

Compiled from wire reports by staff writer Natalie Reid.

Utah Government Leaders Seek Solution for Internet Sales Tax Problem

By RYAN RAUZON
Brigham Young U.

PROVO, Utah — Utah residents and civic leaders are at the forefront of a heated debate involving the collection of sales tax for electronic commerce.

Gov. Mike Leavitt and House Majority Leader Kevin Garn (R-Layton) are putting pressure on state and congressional officials to ensure that people who make on-line business transactions pay the required sales tax to their state government.

The National Governors' Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures are both discussing possible solutions.

Garn said he favors the idea suggested by the National Governors' Association, which would require that states establish a single statewide sales tax rate on all taxable electronic commerce and mail order

purchases.

Dan R. Buck, executive director for the Multi-state Tax Commission, a 44-state organization aimed at administering interstate and international taxes, said people should already be paying sales tax on items purchased on-line.

"For all practical purposes, consumption and use taxes are best collected at the point of transaction, Buck said." "But when sellers fail to collect sales tax, they're placing the purchases in the position of either needing to file a use tax, which may not be convenient, or ignoring the law."

Buck said many Internet sellers are conducting business in such a way that they can avoid collecting the sales tax, leaving the responsibility on those who use their on-line services.

Buck says Utah leaders are pushing the problem to the front of the national agenda. "Utah is all over the place in terms of

leadership for this thing," Bucks said. "Governor Leavitt is playing a prominent leadership role in trying to protect the future of the sales tax as a viable revenue option or policy choice for state and local governments."

But Leavitt can only do so much. Rep. Garn said the problem is primarily national in scope, one that Congress must eventually solve. "We've got a lot of sales taking place over the Internet and as a result states are losing revenue," Garn said.

Amazon.com, one of the largest on-line business operations in the country, reported a 1998 fourth quarter increase 3 1/2 times larger than 1997.

Amazon's spokesman, Bill Curry, said more people buy on-line because of its convenience. "Time is the smallest commodity. Anything that saves time is valuable to people and has an extraordinary appeal," Curry said.

Garn said U.S. Internet sales skyrocket-

ed this holiday season. "This problem is getting bigger every year," Garn said. Garn said he's worried the federal government will create a solution where they end up with the added revenue, leaving states to look at other sources.

"When people buy on-line, they're essentially taking business away from local companies and short-changing the state from a major source of revenue," Garn said. If the problem persists, states will have to either raise taxes or cut services, something Garn said, he doesn't want to do.

"We run a lean mean ship here in Utah. I don't know where we'd cut. A good percentage of our revenue goes to education and I'd hate to have to take away from our schools," Garn said.

For Some HU Students, Lewinsky-Clinton Scandal Pushed too Far

By MICHELLE MULLENIX
Hilltop Staff Writer

As Howard University students return from the winter holiday, many are posing questions about the manner in which the Republican-led House impeached President Clinton.

One day after the Senate began its trial determining whether the House provided enough evidence to convict the president on charges including perjury and obstruction of justice, some students say they're closely watching the second presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history.

In 1868, President Andrew Jackson became the first president to be impeached.

While some Howard students say they've grown tired of the media's year-long wave of media coverage surrounding the Clinton-Lewinsky saga, some say

they can hardly believe the "sexual relations" between the president and Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern, could escalate into an impeachment trial.

"[The trial] shouldn't have went that far. This trial has been a waste of time and money," said Nikki Davis, a senior biology major.

In the last few years, the U.S. Government has spent millions of dollars to support the investigation of Kenneth W. Starr, the Independent Counsel appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno. While Starr was originally hired to principally investigate a real estate scandal that appeared to have implicated President Clinton, the investigation ended with allegations that the president urged a former White House aide to lie about an alleged sexual relationship.

Last month the House, after receiving Starr's report, impeached Clinton on

charges of perjury before a federal grand jury, as well as obstruction of justice.

"He lied to the grand jury but it still really is petty. What he lied about is not that important," Ahmad Elliott, a freshman computer science major said.

Many students said the Senate trial should be televised in its entirety.

Dexter O'Neil, a senior engineering major, said the entire trial should be televised "because we should know what they're doing while wasting our time and money."

The scandal has prompted such notables as publisher Larry Flynt to attempt to identify other Washington politicians who may have had extra-marital affairs. Flynt, the editor and publisher of *Hustler*, a pornographic magazine, offered \$1 million for information about "dirty" politicians.

His offer aided the downfall of at least

one senior Republican House official.

Edward Johnson, a junior psychology major said he believes the "money [Flynt] is spending could be used for colleges, welfare programs or cleaning up the city. Besides, who doesn't lie?"

Nora Edwards, a social work graduate student, said, "If [the politicians] come clean, they don't have to worry about a scandal." Myiesha Sharper, a sophomore psychology student said, "[The media] just needs to leave him and everyone else alone."

If a politician could lie to a grand jury under oath about a personal affair, does he lie to the American people? Darrell Chase, a junior physical therapy major said, "Clinton's personal matter doesn't need to concern his performance in office."

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THE CITY

Marijuana Use: Popular at American University

By SARAH SCHUMACHER
American University

According to the 1999 on-line edition of the Princeton Review's Best 311 Colleges, drugs are 'what's hot' at American University.

Troy Dayton, president of the AU chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said marijuana use is higher now than it has ever been among college students.

"Attitudes are changing as people use marijuana and know people who use marijuana," Dayton said. "There is no evidence in history that the free availability of drugs leads to wide-use consumption."

University officials acknowledge that marijuana is used frequently on campus, but stress that AU drug policy is not lenient.

"We do deal with violations of the drug policy in a very serious way,"

said Dean of Students Faith Leonard. "We don't do mandatory sentencing." She added that each individual case is viewed separately.

The AU drug policy does not keep some students from smoking marijuana on campus, though.

"The fact that marijuana is illegal is an unjust law in the first place," said sophomore Dave Nath. "I see myself as a patriot for breaking it

on campus."

"We certainly get enough information of drug use, usually through residence life staff," Director of Public Safety Colleen Carson said.

"We take it seriously; it's a crime."

Carson said that drug offenders are sometimes turned into the Residence Hall Association staff by their roommates.

In the process of uncovering drug users, usually either a residence assistant or a resident director will notify Public Safety, which then apprehends any evidence. The case is then referred to the Metropolitan Police Department, which confers with Public Safety.

The Student Advocacy Center often ends up aiding students facing drug charges. Freshman Tara Geiger, an advocate for the Student Advocacy Center, said that she has "seen a lot of drugs on campus."

She said that in comparing penalties for drug use with those for alcohol, alcohol violations mean classes and probation, while drug offenders can get kicked off campus, even for first-time offenses.

"I think actually it's kind of easy to get away with using drugs on campus undetected," Geiger said.

Arguments that students often use in their defense include an inductive campus environ-

ment to drug use, referring to peer pressure. Students also have claimed that Public Safety officers cited the incident incorrectly in their reports, and that typographic errors can sometimes invalidate a report.

Andrew Major, president of the Student Confederation and a junior, said that marijuana is prevalent on AU's campus as well as on many other college campuses.

Junior Matt Bennett disagreed about the prevalence of marijuana use. "It is an element, but not prevalent," Bennett said. "People feel strikingly different about it."

The AU chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union held a forum to discuss issues concerning the legalization of marijuana.

Jarrett Perlow, a junior and the president of the AU ACLU, said that there was a low turnout, but that the discussion went well.

"My understanding on the ACLU's policy is that the ACLU believes in complete [marijuana] legislation," Perlow said. He added that he was not sure what their policies were on the regulation of marijuana, though.

Dayton said that marijuana use is either an equal or lesser danger than other problems facing society. Dayton called for educated use rather than the violence seen in gang warfare over drugs and the prevalence of youth distributing drugs.

Local Consumers Debate Clinton's Impeachment Trial

By LOUIS THOMAS
Staff Writer

Seven men gathered around a checkerboard at the front tables where they are easily ignored by the regular customers at the McDonald's on Barry and Georgia Avenue. Night after night the men play competitive games and talk loud amongst customers. Over the checkerboard they discuss different topics including the impeachment trial of President Clinton.

"I don't think they should have the trial," said Tom; the 62-year-old veteran chose to only use his first name. While waiting for his opponent to make a move, Tom added that Clinton's false denial of a sexual relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky was normal. "The average man in the same position would have lied to protect his family."

Fellow veteran James Reece, interrupted by calling politics a dirty business. "The average politician lies to get where he is," he said. "The whole impeachment process has been motivated by anti-American groups fueled by racial attitudes."

Like many African-American supporters of Clinton, the veterans felt that Clinton's political problems stem from his wide acceptance by African Americans.

"Clinton has the ability to see what Blacks and other minority groups go through, and can express the feeling for the people," said Northeast resident and the only woman at the checkers game, Louise Smith. "The Republicans try to [get him out] because he helps a lot of Blacks get jobs in the White House, but that won't come up during the trial."

She said the president has done a fine job, and would like to see him remain in office. "I even keep the President in my prayers so that he has a chance to remain in office."

"Clinton did more for Blacks than any other president and that's why they want him out," said another veteran who goes by the name of Chico. He applauded Clinton for lowering the crime rate and helping find jobs while not letting the impeachment issues get in the way. "The president is taking it well, he hasn't let the trial stop him from doing his job, and he's humble because he knows that the Republicans want him out," Chico said.

Chico said the Republicans were trying to get rid of Clinton before he was even in office. He said that Clinton should just be left alone.

"People have done worst while in the White House, so he doesn't deserve to be impeached."

A House Welcomes Homeless for Holidays

By RASHEMA COLLINS and ALON WASHINGTON
Hilltop Staff Writers

As the biting cold winter winds hit the face of 31-year-old John Watson, he dreamed of where he would spend the holidays this year. For the past two years, Thanksgiving and Christmas have been times of destitution and loneliness for Watson and other homeless people in the District.

"Spending the holidays with good people and eating a full course meal are my only two wishes," Watson said.

Two days before Thanksgiving, Watson's wishes were granted.

Reverend Warren Johnson found Watson and his wife sleeping on the streets of Northwest D.C. on a chilly day.

"I was on my annual mission to invite as many homeless people as I could find to the House of Imogene for the holidays," Rev. Johnson said. "I encountered John, and he touched my heart."

This past holiday season Rev. Johnson spent his days preparing meals for the homeless population of Washington, D.C.

In addition to working for the Department of Treasury, Rev. Johnson's life centers around helping others.

"I feel that it is my responsibility to make sure that as many homeless people as possible are fed during Thanksgiving and Christmas," he said.

The ordained Baptist minister has served his community for 11 years and said he plans to continue serving for as long as he possibly can.

"In the bible, the Lord said that whatsoever you did to the least of my brothers, you did it to me. This is what inspires me to do great things for others," he said.

Rev. Johnson, a native of New Jersey, was first inspired 11 years ago when he met Bishop Imogene Stewart. She is the founder and owner of the House of Imogene, an emergency shelter on the 200 block of P Street, NW.

"Bishop Stewart motivated me to help those who can't help themselves," he said. He also added that her down-to-earth personality and unselfishness toward others propelled him to begin volunteering in the community.

Johnson and other volunteers serve 300 to 400 unfortunate people annually during the holidays. In addition to a full course dinner, the needy are supplied with clothing and unperishable food items to aid their hunger after the holidays.

"I think that it's very important for our volunteers to realize that they are truly blessed, because they could someday be in the place of the unfortunate ones," Rev. Johnson said.

He strongly feels that his kindness toward the people that he serves is what brings them back year after year.

"My family and I really appreciate what Rev. Johnson and the House of Imogene do for us," Watson said. "We are fed good meals every year and everyone here makes us feel like family."

"Rev. Johnson is like an angel on my shoulder. He keeps me on my feet, especially during the holidays," said Judith Williams, who has been homeless for four years. Williams has become a personal friend of the Reverend. "He is the only family that I still have."

Rev. Johnson said he believed every one is put on the earth for one main purpose: to help other people. "Nothing can and will stop me from helping other people, I'll continue to do it for rest of my life," he said.

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Female Metro Riders Feel No Fear

By RAFIAH DAVIS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Despite the District's reputation of being one of the top crime capitals of the country, some female metro riders feel no fear. Every evening women board Metropolitan trains and buses alone.

"I ride it all the time [alone]," said Tyeisa Pulliam, an 18-year-old northwest resident while waiting at night for the No. 70 bus on Georgia Avenue. "I'm used to it."

Another female passenger, Thema Monroe, said she also feels safe riding the Metro trains at night. "I'm familiar with the area and nothing has happened to me yet," said the Howard University sophomore. Monroe said her mother was concerned about her safety, but she does not share that concern. "I'm aware that there are dangers, but I don't let it stop from doing what I have to do."

On the Metro rail, emergency call boxes in the stations can be used to contact station managers in case of an emergency. Stations also have pamphlets that inform riders what to do in emergency situations.

Howard University sophomore Kanika Harris said that the lit Metro rail stations and the emergency call boxes help to bring her comfort. "I feel safe taking the subway at night, but it's the walk to my dorm that scares me," Harris said.

Pulliam said she does not feel confident about the performance of the station managers. She said she did not think that they would do much to help a person in need.

Another northwest resident, Andrew Lemons, 21, talked about an incident he witnessed. "I saw someone [get assaulted] at the Anacostia station," he said. Lemons demonstrated how a man was brutally kicked by several other men. He said that people at Barry Farms, a nearby apartment complex, watch people that get off the train alone. Other Metro riders watched as the man was attacked and transit police were no where to be found, according to Lemons. He said women should carry protective products such as pepper spray.

Harris recalled a similar story of boys fighting in an empty Metro station without the intervention of transit police.

Monroe admitted that her fearlessness could stem from never having witnessed a crime or being victimized while riding either public transportation.

"Keep your eyes open at all times," said Felicia McCants, a security guard at Howard University Plaza Towers. "There are people who are looking for people who are afraid."

McCants used to ride the Metro late every night. Her survival tactic was to stay around other people, she said.

REMEMBER READING THAT
CHAPTER ON MONEY MANAGEMENT?
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1999 Elections

**ALL Schools and Colleges
are requested to submit the
names of their respective
Local Elections Chairperson
to HUSA no later than
TODAY.**

This information was requested in the
Fall and should have been submitted
previously, however if it was not please
do so.

EDITORIALS

THE HILLTOP

Founded in 1924



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BRIAN J. COX, Senior Editorial Editor

ROCHELL A. BISHOP, Managing Editor

KEENAN SUARES, Managing Editor

A Failure of Leadership (Part II)

Where have all the student committee members gone? At the most recent "town meeting" concerning the proposed student code of conduct on Dec. 4, nearly half the students comprising the review committee simply weren't there. But that's not to say that it wasn't probably intended to end up that way. Scheduling a town meeting at 4 p.m. on a Friday, prime-time for students seeking a respite from gearing up for the rigor of finals week, is a particularly byzantine method to ensure a weak turnout. Advertisements for the event only went up two days before the town meeting, and then in such a limited quantity that none but the most eagle-eyed student could spot them on the bulletin boards. The university administration needs to show its responsibility to inform the student body about upcoming events much more seriously if they wish to harbor any hope of us returning the favor. But the duplicity of the administration aside, that fact alone doesn't absolve student committee members from shirking their responsibility to attend meetings of such importance.

We last wagged our editorial fingers at Howard's General Assembly for much the same offense—abysmal attendance—which resulted in its receiving the dubious distinction of never reaching a quorum

once (not once!) for the first half of the year.

And now comes news that the Board of Trustees has quietly voted into existence a 2 percent increase in tuition for the 1999-2000 school year for undergraduates (3 percent for all other programs).

For students who know all too well the struggle of paying for school, another dime on top of the \$8,750 currently demanded of them could be the straw that broke the camel's back. Who is their advocate?

Certainly not absent student leaders. When both Brett Allen, the Law School's representative to the tuition review committee, and HUSA President Neville Welch, failed to attend the December 1998 meeting of the board of trustees, that body passed the tuition increases in question.

Only when Howard delivers on its promises of university staples like data connections in every student room, cable television and enhanced telephone services will we support any increases. And only when our student leaders unhesitatingly confront the administration will we sing their praises.

We need strong voices in student government, now. Middling efforts at leadership will not convince an apparently indifferent administration that we, the students, actually mean business.

What's Really Important

Nearly one year after Monica S. Lewinsky's face hit the front-pages of newspapers and magazines around the globe, the leaders of our nation have plunged themselves into an unfortunately historic debate over sexual morality and presidential behavior, all while forgetting about the issues that matter most to most Americans: Health care, education, and furthering the decrease in nationwide crime rates. Last month, in a self-destructive battle of partisan politics, the Republican-led House of Representatives voted to adopt four articles of impeachment against President Clinton, marking the first time in 132 years that a president had been impeached.

This week, the Senate publicly displayed some sign of bipartisan cooperation, and yesterday began the trial that will decide whether William Jefferson Clinton will be ousted from office.

Amid all the public rancor seething from Washington these days, the tangible issues of saving the nation's crumbling public school systems; curbing escalating rates of HIV infection, particularly among people of color; and enhancing programs aimed at protecting the environment have virtually fallen off the table of importance. Little attention was given to the president's

approval last week of an initiative urging local leaders to work harder to preserve urban green space. Besides the recent coverage of the National Basketball Association's negotiations, and this week's announcement from Michael Jordan that he'll leave the sport that he so helped shape, we've been overwhelmed by the Washington nonsense.

Earlier this week, President Clinton, in his first statements about the impeachment and then-pending trial since impeachment day, said that he's ignoring all the controversy, and is ready to get back to the business that the people elected him to do.

We think he's right.

While we cannot cast a blind eye and completely ignore the trial now raging in the Senate, we cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that there are real issues that deserve the swift attention of our leaders. The so-called leaders who waged a war based on partisan politics, all while abandoning the issues that matter to the people who put them in office should beware. For many House members, election time is right around the corner.

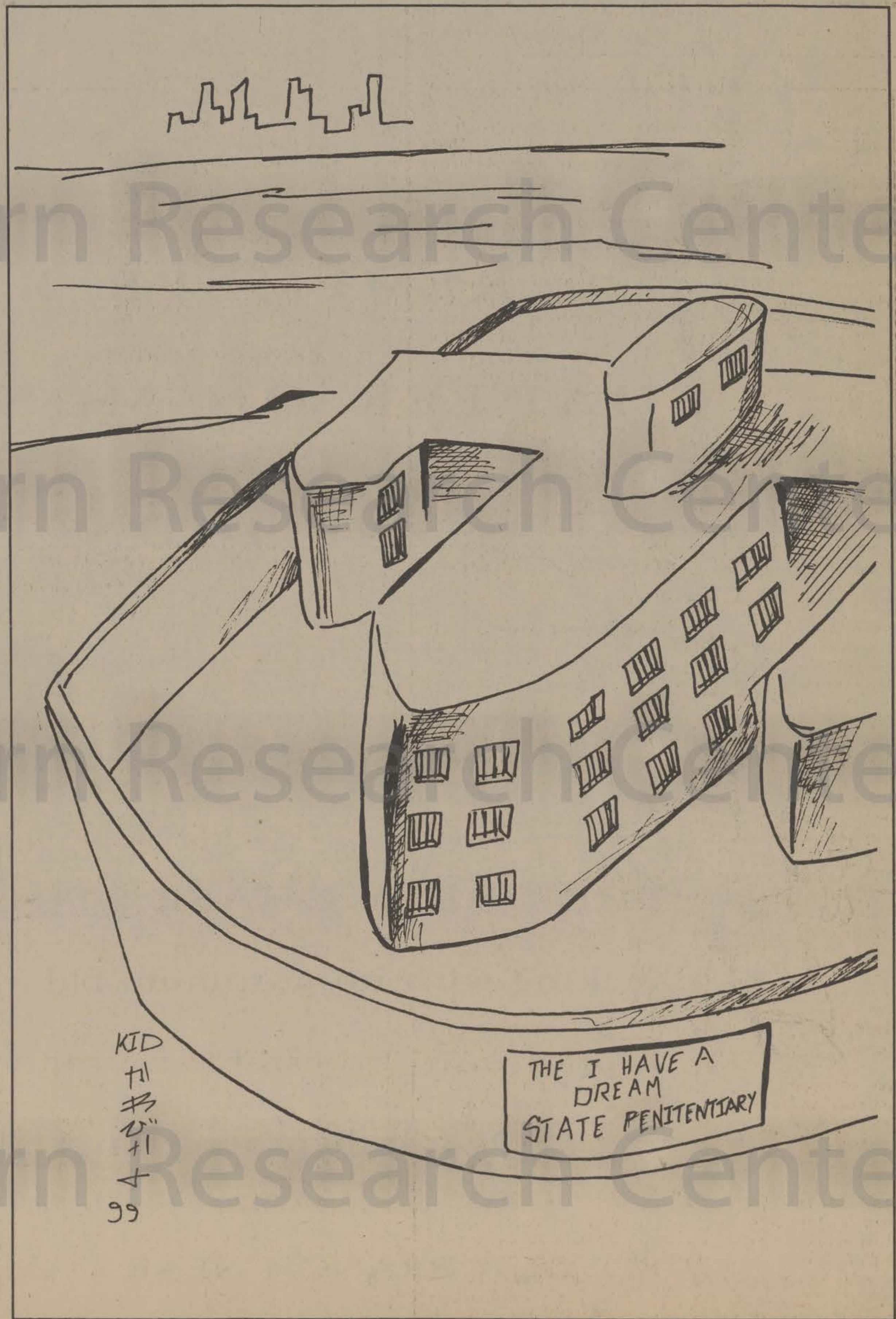
On HBCU's, No Conclusion

When *Black Enterprise* Magazine tried to imitate magazines like *US News and World Report* by putting out a list of schools that they claim are the best colleges and universities for black students to attend, they failed miserably to echo the professionalism and accuracy exhibited by these other magazines.

The "contest" was based on surveys sent to institutions' leaders (president, vice presidents, etc.) with the instructions that they fill them out and rank the institutions on criteria like education, social life, etc. as far as what a black student would like and return it to the magazine (see story in Campus section for more details). The problem inherent in such a process is that the leaders of the schools are, quite probably, biased on behalf of the school for which they work. Added to which, only 46.9 percent of the people the magazine asked to respond actually did. Which makes the survey just that much more inaccurate.

But even given these glaring holes in the way the "study" was conducted, there is an even more annoying aspect to the situation: How does one determine what school is best for African Americans as a whole? This implies, rather strongly, that we are a monolithic race, that what is good for one of us is good for the rest. But obviously, that is not the case. We are a diverse and varied group with myriad interests, talents and backgrounds. While some of us are suited for one environment (be it a same-sex institution or one located in a city as opposed to suburbia) others are suited for one completely different.

But still, with all our differences in background, interest and talent, Howard University would be—is—No. 1 for black students. No other HBCU offers as much variety—in education, social life and people—as HU. And this non-scientific, non-professional "study" doesn't prove a darn thing.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Although in the copy of the article Howard's Gospel Choir is correctly named - in the photo caption you list choir as the Howard University Community Choir - which is a different choir. I understand that Howard University has three choirs: The Concert Choir, Gospel Choir and Community Choir. Does the Hilltop know that?

While no one is perfect, and even though major newspapers make some errors sometime, this level of poor editing is embarrassing for Howard

University students. Perhaps you need better spell checking software. Regardless, please improve in this regard.

As current students, you still have a mission to uphold the image and quality that Howard University stands for - and each issue of the

Hilltop is a part of Howard's permanent record.

Please strive for perfection.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Jones

HOW TO WRITE US

THE HILLTOP, the nation's largest Black collegiate newspaper, encourages you to share your opinions on articles published in the newspaper. THE HILLTOP will only publish letters addressed directly to the Senior Editorial Editor in response to published articles. The HILLTOP Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for space and literary style. All letters must be typed, signed, and include a complete address and telephone number.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of the THE HILLTOP Editorial Board and do not directly reflect the opinion of Howard University, its Administration, individual Hilltop Policy Board members, or the student body.

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THE MISSION STATEMENT

Produced entirely by the students it serves, THE HILLTOP is the newspaper of record for the Howard University community. Within its pages, our readers will witness objective reporting and stories written from a uniquely African-American perspective at the premiere historically Black university in the world. We proudly continue a tradition of excellence, for our readers and our distinguished legacy deserve nothing less.

THE HILLTOP

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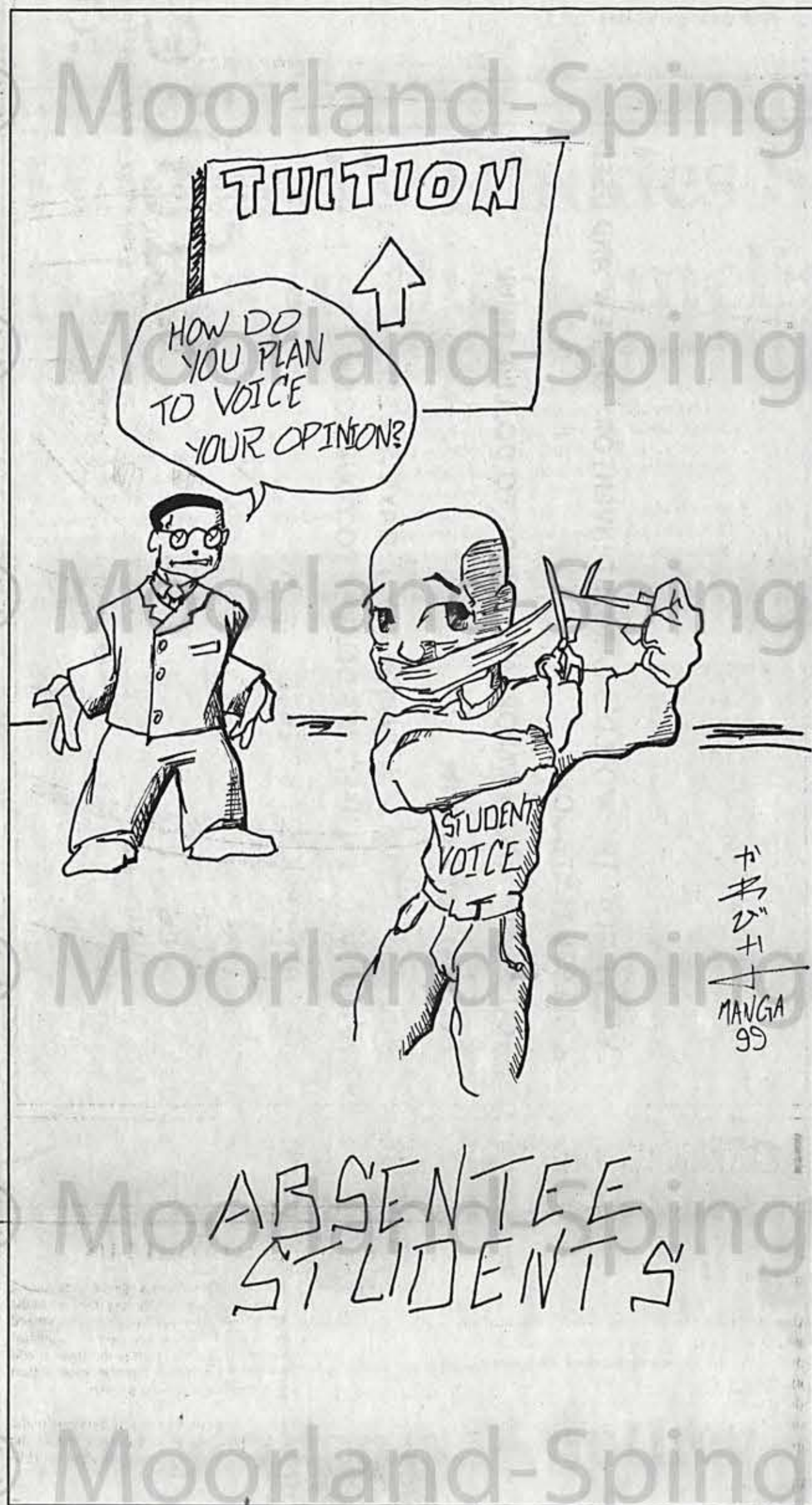
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"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed."

--Steve Biko

PERSPECTIVES



JOE LOYA

Looking at The New Year Through The Pain Of Loss

This is my third holiday season out of prison. Trash cans are overflowing with Christmas wrappings, the children's new game sets are bleeping, and there is too much leftover eggnog again. I wish my friends in prison could be free like me. Four of them sent me cards for the holidays. I don't know what to write in the cards I sent to them. How could I scribble "Merry Christmas" or "Happy New Year," but that's what they wrote to me and I don't want to throw their cards away. I don't want to forget the people who sent the cards.

In prison, the holidays have all the stress usual to this time of the year, but almost none of the accompanying joy. St. Thomas Aquinas said that the greatest punishment in hell would be the pain of loss. It's that sense of unchangeable loss that prisoners feel at the end of the year. I used to go to sleep at 10 p.m. on New Year's Eve. No ceremony for me. I couldn't stand the feeling of being left out.

Tensions are high during the holidays in prison. The long hot days of midsummer can contribute more to the alchemy of violence. At year's end more prisoners use the phones. Some to share season's cheer with their children, others to check up on their women to make sure they aren't partying too hard. Whatever the reason, more prisoners on the phones means more men learning that family and friends are having fun in their absence. So the telephone creates brooding men.

There are some highlights at holiday time. The chaplain generally distributes two free greeting cards, for Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Years, to anyone willing to go to the chapel and pick them up. And dinner always added a touch of the season's spirit: two green and red mints or a little plastic cup of salted peanuts on the side. I never heard of one prisoner donating money to the favorite charity of another

prisoner, but I've known prisoners to donate \$1 to \$20 to a fund for a poor child who needs expensive surgery. In prison, the best gifts I ever received from prisoners were things like bars of soap, a brand new pair of socks or a Snickers bar with a bag of coffee.

Although my habits now conform quite nicely with the free world, I still wake up at 5 a.m. sometimes and remember one birthday in prison when I found a bag of Tang underneath my pillow while I was preparing my bunk for sleep. Or the time when I gave a money-less friend a \$6 carton of generic cigarettes for Christmas and he acted like I'd given him a year's supply of clean underwear.

The irony of Christmas goodwill in prison is that, to limit extortion, inmates are not allowed to exchange property, so giving something of value to another inmate—like a pair of socks or bag of coffee—is a violation that can be punished with the taking away of good time credits. And while it is hard for me to wish my friends in prison a happy this or merry that, at holiday time, friends greet each other with the appropriate salutation.

I laughed the first time a friend wished me Happy New Year. I still had five years to serve. My friend Jimmy was imprisoned more than 20 years when I met him, but that never diminished his sense of humor. In the morning he'd wake up, look in the mirror and proclaim out loud, "I can't wait for tomorrow because I get better looking everyday." I feel the pain of loss for not being with my imprisoned friends. I hold in my hands their words of cheer and I realize that I can't find the words to match theirs.

Joe Loya, an associate editor at Pacific News Service, spent seven years in federal prison on bank robbery charges and is writing an autobiography.

KAMAL SHAW

Count Your Blessings

Very recently, I was taught a valuable object lesson: I do not and probably never will have it as bad as some will.

In my continuing adventures as a college student, I have tackled soporific classes, a lingering state of destitution, and frequent unemployment. One day, some weeks ago, I felt a spark somewhere and decided to hunt for a job—again. Before we begin, I won't mention the name of the place or anything else about it except that I didn't get the job. Maybe it was naïve and presumptuous of me to expect this establishment to want me to work for them. Maybe it was my own arrogance. Maybe it was *kismet* and it was never meant to be, but I went into the place looking for an opening thinking that I could probably walk in and get a gig.

I knew better to always ask the management. "Excuse me, may I see a manager?"

This boy, who was scruffy, slight and white, gave a quizzical look. "You want to see a manager?"

"Yes, please."

"I can't see him, do you want an application?"

So you could "shelve" it in your wastebasket? No. "I'll wait to see the manager."

He gave me another moment. "You want an application?"

Really, it was only part of what I wanted, but I wanted no business with the underling at the counter. So I carefully stressed my words so that he clearly got the point. "I want to see a manager, thank you."

Either this man was lead-dense or he really meant to deter me from employment. "He's not here, but we're not hiring right now. If you come back in a couple months we can review your application."

You're actually stopping from me from my money, I thought in disbelief.

It was at this point in time that I barely caught my fury in time as planned to lunge over the counter to throttle this little defenseless man. What didn't help this man was the fact that he was white and I suspected that he was defending his interests. I brushed him off and spoke to a darker-skinned employee. She was more compliant, suggesting to me that I come the next day at noon to speak to someone who would aid me better. I promptly left and never came back.

Outside, I was blazing with anger. The cruelty, I felt, inflicted on me was that I was vastly over-qualified for such a job, and still I was officiously deterred from even being in consideration for the interview. It was a direct hit to my pride. I walked down the street intimating to myself on how could I have almost lost my poise to nearly void this man on account of something as superficial as money. My mind fleeting in anger, I thought about how many other black people have gone through the same rejection and what they did. Whatever they did, as desperate as it could have been, they did it because they felt they had no alternative.

The major truth is, I had alternatives; the average black does not. For a large part, blacks have to overcome gargantuan odds in society just to make par. I remarked to a friend that incidents like these create sufficient frustration to land us in places even more familiar and real than colleges—prisons. Be it family breakdown, drugs, and other powerful psychosocial stressors, the fact remains that we college students should take advantage of what is given here at school, both materially and mentally.

The whole exercise of college is to *subvert* crime and poverty in the future.

Kamal Shaw is a freshman print journalism major

ASHA MOSES

Death and Indifference

In the year past, partisanship has become a growing part of our vocabulary. Most Americans are as quick to distinguish themselves as a Democrat or as a Republican as they are wont to breathe. While most politicians proclaim that the two major parties are at two opposite ends of the political spectrum, I have noticed some startling similarities between the two.

Let's start with the liberal side: Democrats. They proclaim to be in pursuit of liberty and justice for all. One of the major Democratic issues is women's rights, the reason why the party carries the banner for a woman's right to choose an abortion. Behind the idea: besides *Roe v. Wade*, because the woman has to carry the child, she's also the one who holds the right to terminate the pregnancy.

On the other end of the spectrum, we have the Republican party, which has chosen to support another issue of life and death—capital punishment. The conservative argument on this issue is that capital punishment serves as a deterrent against violent crimes. But however the party emphatically opposed abortion, saying that it is sinful, murderous, and a waste of human life and potential human resources, how can people that harbor these beliefs support capital punishment?

Their belief system has proven itself self-contradictory.

The way I see it, both parties are choosing to allow the law to dictate whether innocent people should be allowed to live or die. In addition to that, each party's attitude on both abortion and capital punishment are contrary to the other. For Democrats, by giving a woman "the right to choose," they are taking away the right of the baby to live. While liberals proclaim liberty for all people, is it to be assumed that an unborn child is not a person? And Republicans, who believe that abortion is wrong, are no better than the Democrats who choose to place the fate of the people in their own hands. While conservatives believe that the child should have a right to life, they are quick to support capital punishment, which in essence does the same thing as abortion—takes a human life. The views on capital punishment and abortion by both parties are indeed a paradox.

While these parties claim to be extreme in their ideologies, they are very similar in the way that they view life, death, and the innocents in the fray. Why is it that in this day and age, the two parties claim to be more unlike each other than they have ever been in the past, while some of the most important issues harmonize. I guess that neither party is completely right in what they do, but after all, isn't that politics?

Asha Moses is a junior political science major. She can be reached at amoses@hotmail.com.

BRIAN J. COX

Dishonoring King's Legacy

James Earl Ray, reputed assassin of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., died last April 23d, and the secrets he harbored—tales of a conspiracy to murder the civil rights leader—probably died with him. Neither the King family, nor 90 percent of the American public, according to a 1997 CBS poll, believe the government's account of King's assassination. I don't believe the government either, but I'll spare you the gritty details of ballistics tests, time windows and yet-to-be-opened FBI files. This is King's time, and I persist in the possibly naïve belief that justice will be done. We shall overcome someday, right-o? In the interim, we cast our eyes to King's legacy, whose greatness remains impervious to any depth of conspiracy or shotgun blast. No one could besmirch Dr. King's image, could they? Depends on who you ask, but efforts continue from the left and right to use Dr. King as a political football.

It is a rare person who achieves greatness in their own lifetime. They instead meet their end with a mixture of equal parts admiration and abhorrence, with some ambivalence thrown in for good measure. When the subject is Dr. King, who today would have celebrated his seventieth birthday, well, it would surprise some that history has conferred upon his legacy a still-uneven gloss. Let us remember that many Americans celebrated and popped the bubbly on the fateful eve of his April 4, 1968 assassination. Others took to the streets in fiery riots that choked the skies of our cities. Still others simply wept, and, when they looked for their voice, it was nowhere to be found.

In an effort to lay palms at his legacy, on the same day Dr. King was laid into the earth, the New York State legislature created the Urban Development Corporation. Initially, its purpose was building low-income housing. But in 1981, then-New York governor Mario Cuomo (the supposedly great articulator of liberal causes) changed the mission of the corporation entirely, using its bond sales to fund a \$7 billion-dollar prison build-

ing spree.

The irony of a public corporation, formed to honor Dr. King, as the great financier of New York's prison system isn't lost on me. But the travesties don't end there.

Look beyond the endless replay of the "I Have a Dream" speech on the evening news, and the mock-conciliation, the forced smiles and the roseate forecasts for happy, happy, joy, joy race relations, and I see a longer string of ironies. Foremost among them: Conservatives who, when they decided that affirmative action had lived out its day, disingenuously quoted from King's speeches. Patrick Buchanan, et al friends of Dr. King? Hmm.

The content of conservatives like Ward Connerly's character is made plain to see, as black and Latino enrollment in the University of California system continues its dramatic plummet. It's cowardice to put words in the mouth of someone yet alive, how much lower ranks such a practice for the dead?

Circle your wagons people, we must fight to preserve Dr. King's ideals and not let his name be taken in vain. For his end in living was to see justice done—economically as well as socially. A week before he passed, King led 6,000 protesters on a march through downtown Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. Organizing a "poor people's march" headed up his agenda as he saw President Johnson's promises of a Great Society evaporate on the blood-reddened rice patties of Vietnam. Stay home from work on Monday, but not from the real work—organizing, mentoring, coalition-building for change—that cries out for personhood. Doing that remains the best way to remember Dr. King, not just dropping our heads and pausing for a moment of silence.

Brian J. Cox is a sophomore political science major and the editorial page editor.

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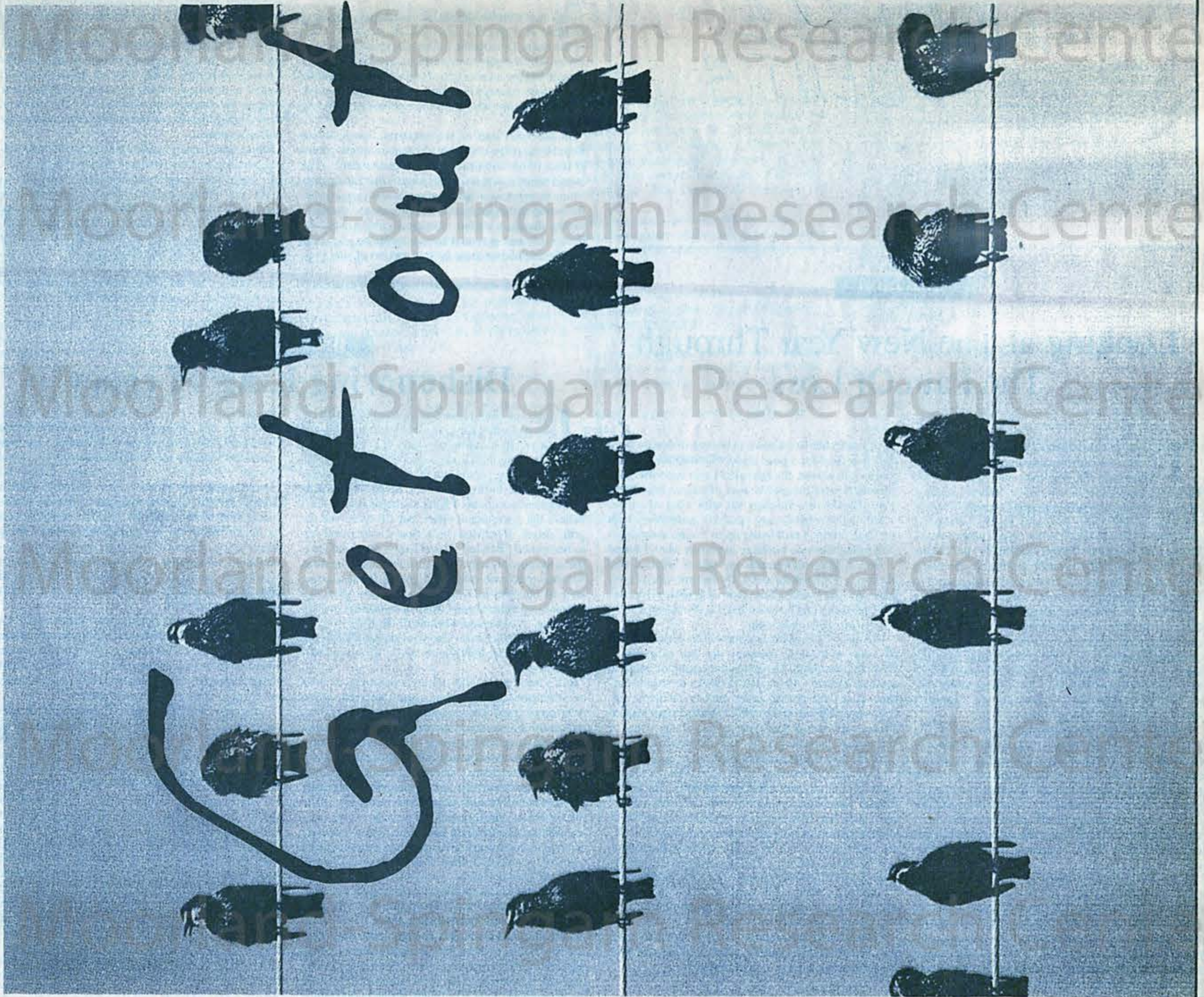
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1999
<http://hilltop.howard.edu>

FIRST PERSON

The Meantime Experience

By BRANDI FORTE

Living in an apocalyptic world that has no soul, sisters dress their pain with abusive men, drugs, food, materialism and depression. Continuing to carry the weight of the world on our backs, I realize that many young black women suffer from what author Iyanla Vanzant calls a "meantime" experience—an experience where the sun comes out on occasions, and we as people allow life's anxiety to get the best of us.

At one time in my life I suffered from the "meantime" experience. As a child I never dealt with adversity, I just cloaked it in materialism. I was the one in my family who had no choice but to succeed; in the eyes of others I didn't have the time to make mistakes. What bothered me the most about my childhood was my father, who never looked beyond the petty flaws of his daughter, but only saw that I was 15 pounds overweight throughout high school, and that my breast size would never be a 'C' cup.

The irony was that I excelled academically, and won numerous awards for my acting and my poetry. I guess it never mattered to him that I was a jewel to my community, and that never once did I get pregnant. Even when I got accepted to Howard, he recommended that I should go to the neighborhood junior college. His priority was to buy a Mercedes and a house overlooking Los Angeles.

I figured if I kept the figure my father wanted me to have, I could hold onto his love. Hell, I lost 15 pounds and I still wasn't Daddy's little girl, he still didn't care about who took my virginity, or what made me laugh, but I'm sure he knew what made me cry: His ego-tripping ways.

Now, 20 years later, I can honestly say that my father's opinion means nothing to me. As a matter of fact, I've learned to live and let go of my past. I've learned that acknowledging my pain is therapeutic, and going on with my life in the midst of forgiveness is what I needed to kill 10 years of depression.

Now when I look into the mirror I see a strong sister who doesn't need to be validated by anyone but herself. Thus my life goes on, and I must say that adversity makes one stronger. Though I remain in the meantime era in my life, a time when I'm growing as a young woman, what is most important to me is that I embrace life, the truth, and endure the race, even until the very end.

Brandi Forte is a junior broadcast journalism major from Los Angeles. First Person is a weekly column about issues affecting the lives of young people. The Hilltop welcomes pieces from freelance writers. To submit, email a piece to thehilltop@hotmail.com

style



In Full Effect

Howard Students Meet Demand for Plus-Size Models

By YEMI FALADE and LAURA FERNADES
 Hilltop Staff Writers

A few years ago, plus size models were few and far between. Today, the fashion industry has finally come to realize that the ideal size 8 is a falsehood for mainstream America.

There are now better representations of larger size runway and print models. Take for example the success of Ford super model Emme. This 5 foot 11 inch nearly 200 pounds model has graced the cover of numerous publications, along with being interviewed on Oprah and 20/20. People magazine recently named her one of the "50 Most Beautiful People."

Soleil, this year's Homecoming fashion show, was an excellent showcase of voluptuous models. The integrated sizes, colors and shapes of the models added depth and variety to the runway show.

"The body sizes of people here at Howard vary so much that it wouldn't be fair if there was just skinny models," said Sabrina Coleman, who made her modeling debut

at this year's show. Standing at about 5 feet 9 inches, her exotic look coupled with her thick hips and thighs brought a sense of realism to show, according to fashion show coordinator Aaron Paiste.

"I wanted to give representation of all the different looks on Howard's campus," said Paiste. In support of the plus-size models, he added, "regardless of their size, stage presence mattered most."

Another plus-size Homecoming model, Maria Monterio, exhibited all the poise of any top super model. Adorned in everything from urban wear to lingerie, she strutted down the runway with cool confidence. Void of insecurities about her round physique, she stated, "I knew I was chosen for my size and I auditioned just like everyone else."

As America continues to gain weight, some fashion publications have helped to transform our whole outlook of what fashion is. *Mode* magazine is one of the strongest publications and has established a name for itself by addressing the needs of the full figured woman. In presenting attractive silhouettes on larger body frames, magazines such as *Mode* have helped plus size women realize their natural beauty.

music

Hill Captures 10 Grammy Nominations

By JASON T. SMITH
 Hilltop Staff Writer

It seems that Rhythm and Blues diva-in-the-making Lauryn Hill has a lot to sing about. Hill recently captured 10 Grammy award nominations for her first solo attempt "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill."

Hill won nominations for the Album of the Year, New Artist of the Year, Best Female Vocal and Rap Solo performance, to name just a few.

Madonna, Shania Twain, Sheryl Crow and the group Garbage, whose lead singer is Shirley Manson, share nominations in the Album of the Year category with Hill.

If Hill wins on Feb. 24, it won't be her first time walking to the stage to receive the coveted miniature golden victrola. While she was with the Fugees, Hill shared 3 Grammys.

Although the actual Grammy Awards show will be held in Los Angeles Shrine auditorium, the news of Hill's nominations has drawn acclaim from die-hard fans in the District.

"I think she's worthy of all those nominations," said freshman DeKerry Davis. "There are so many different kinds of real life issues on her CD. It comes with the thunder," he said, adding that Hill's CD is in his walkman.

Local music stores are not expecting their hip-hop or R&B sales to jump to all time highs because of the recent release of the nomination list, but store owners are optimistic.

"By her being nominated for 10 Grammys, it will probably start pushing her sales back up again," said Kathy Mitchell, a manager at Willie's music store on Georgia Ave.

Still others see the myriad nominations as a validation of the Rhythm and Blues category.

Sophomore Tashara Taylor said, "the fact that the Academy recognized Hill and her talent even though she was in the R&B category says to me that R&B is finally having its day."

The 41st annual three hour show will air on CBS on Feb. 24.

The eclectic mix of nominees includes former President Jimmy Carter, Howard University graduate Toni Morrison, rapper Jay-Z, Aretha Franklin and Kirk Franklin.



Lauryn Hill, the R&B diva, received 10 Grammy nominations.

Photo Courtesy of The Source Magazine

TEMPO

music

New Jewel Quite A Find

By JASON T. SMITH
Hilltop Staff Writer

Artist: Jewel
Album: *Spirit*
Hilltop View: Validated

A true treasure is awaiting you on your next venture to the music store. *Spirit*, the much anticipated album by Jewel, is a true semi-precious musical morsel that anyone could enjoy.

The album is truly a testament to the good-natured love that is present in all of us—oh yeah, did I mention that it sounds good too? Well, it does. Unlike other female songbirds, this 19-year-old Alaskan does not come off as an abrasive army-boot-wearing, pride-flag toting radical feminist. Instead, she allows the power of her words to blow your mind while mellow-rhythmic ballads lull your soul into deep thought.

"Hands," arguably the best song on the album, is already being touted as the mantra for grassroots social activism because it eerily testifies to the desire to carry on despite a seemingly small position in the world or temporary state of poverty. "Cause where there's a man who has no voice/There ours shall go singing/My hands are small I know/But they're not yours, they are my own," she sings.

Jewel's is an album that would easily fit in with the likes of the '60s flower power movement. "Life Uncommon" is a virtual blast from the past as she beckons people to "lend your voices only to sounds of freedom/No longer lend your strength to that which you wish to be free from/Fill your lives with love and bravery/And you shall lead a life uncommon." Her mom, who doubles as Jewel's manager, probably takes most of the credit for Jewel's quasi-folk music tone. The two share a soulful folklorish duet in the hidden track "This Little Bird."

But keep that box guitar under lock and key and don't start those bonfires and sit-ins just yet—this is also music that's just plain cool to listen to while penning that love letter or writing that "what I did for winter vacation" essay. The music is smooth, palatable.

With powerful and inspiring tracks like "Kiss The Flame," "Down So Long," and "Innocence Maintained," it's a sure-fire bet that we will be hearing the voice of Jewel on the radios of America well into the summer.



Jewel's album is a true semi-precious musical morsel that anyone could enjoy.

Photo Courtesy of Atlantic Records

Random Thoughts

Rap's Reigning King: Jay-Z

By DEBBIE DES'REE GUIRAND
Hilltop Staff Writer

Who's the best MC? Ask anyone and the most popular response will be Jay-Z. Rap reigns supreme with Jay-Z at its helm as the illest rhymer to date. One of Brooklyn's finest, Shawn Carter, also known as Jay-Z, is already a veteran in the rap game with just three LP releases.

Dominating '98 with the successful video movie release "Streets Is Watching" followed by the film's soundtrack with the same name, nobody thought Jigga's skills could be better defined. However, Rockefeller Records' creator silenced all critics with the poly-platinum "Volume II...Hard Knock Life."

This time around, Jay-Z showed more confidence, yet his optimism fell short of his debut "In My Lifetime...Volume I."

Along with the re-release of 1996's critically acclaimed collectable "Reasonable Doubt," Jigga kept busy producing and writing for fellow labelmates. Having a well-deserved and viable seat as the best MC, this ghost writer extraordinaire has certainly "led a life you can write a book on."

Mr. Jay-Z is what hip-hop legends are made of. You heard me!



Jay-Z, a k a Shawn Carter, is the new king of hip-hop.
Photo Courtesy of Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam

Upcoming Album Releases

January 19

Sugar Ray
14:59 (A take on Warhol's 15 minutes of fame)

Ani DiFranco
Up Up Up Up Up Up

Lady Saw
99 Ways

Silk The Shocker
Made Man

January 26

Fun Lovin Criminals
100% Colombian

A+
Hempstead High

DJ S&S
Harlem World Order

music

Human Being Seals its Place in the Winner's Circle

By MIA SOMERSALL
Hilltop Staff Writer

Artist: Seal
Album: *Human Being*
Hilltop View: Validated

Well, it looks like Seal has done it again! Four years after the British singer made a hit off the single, "Kiss From a Rose," comes a new album that is quickly captivating fans of all musical genres.

Whether the listeners are pop and mellow music fans or those who simply yearn for a different taste of music, the powerful, and thought-provoking, "Human Being" is for them.

And yes, Seal's beautifully sculpted body is on the album cover once again in a provocative work of art. Although not as powerful as the famous 1994 picture of his muscular arms stretched and bald head bowed, it will surely leave an impression on the viewer.

The majority of the songs on the album are about love, but Seal performs them in a way that is intrinsically different from anything done before. In the song, "Latest Craze," Seal subtly steps on the toes of those who are secular and superficial. Seal's music, on

the other hand, has proven to be anything but shallow. During a promotional video for his new album, Seal said that there is a four-year gap between his albums because he pushes himself to perfect his works before releasing them. After listening to the amazing album, one would not argue about the effects of that strategy.

In the mellow song "Color," Seal's deep, engaging voice will have you entranced in the word and the emotion. He expresses his personal feelings about the evils of prejudice through the song. Seal sings, delicately and with melancholy, "Color fades to gray/ I dream so excited/ but I feel so blue."

Every song on the album is a winner, aside from the finale, "Human Beings Reprise." The upbeat tune, which would make a better intro than outro, takes away from the dramatic and lingering good-bye at the end of the preceding song, "No Easy Way." The misplacement of the reprise throws off the cohesiveness of the songs on the album.

In the captivating song, "When a Man is Wrong," Seal sings powerfully, "oh my friend/ sometimes you get things wrong to get things right." Overlooking "Human Beings Reprise," Seal's new album is definitely in the right stage of the equation. The biggest mistake in this album is that it leaves the listener wanting more.

KID MANGA RULES THE WORLD

P. Kobina Yankah



TEMPO

movies

What Santa Forgot to Put Under the Tree

How the Holiday Movies Were Rated

By JOHN-JOHN WILLIAMS IV
Hilltop Staff Writer

While you were away, the movies did play.
Check out if these movies made the grade.

The Faculty

Rated: R
It was a match made in heaven. Director Robert Rodriguez (*Desperado*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*) and writer Kevin Williamson (*Scream*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, and *Dawson's Creek*) teamed up to create a trend-setting concept. They mixed science fiction, horror, comedy, high school, and a little sex appeal. Voila! You have "The Faculty."

"The Faculty" will have generation Xer's across the country begging for more. With a brand new crop of teeny bopper thespians including a bit role from R&B singing sensation Usher Raymond.

"The Faculty" is about a high school whose teachers are truly from another planet. It's up to a group of students including Elijah Woods (*The Good Son*, *Flipper*), Jordana Brewster (*As The World Turns*), and Josh Hartnett (*Halloween: H20*), just to name a few, to try to stop the alien-infested faculty from spreading and achieving world domination.

The Lowdown: The Invasion of the Body Snatchers/Aliens theme is old, but mixing it with freshw faces equals a unique and successful product.

Stepmom

Rated: R
Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon team up for a cinematic masterpiece. Besides co-starring in the movie, the two produced the movie as well.
The chemistry between the two is unparalleled. It's hard to imagine that Roberts and Sarandon are actually

off-screen friends. In some scenes you really begin to believe that they are actually at each others' throats. "Stepmom" is right out of everyday life. Jackie (Sarandon) is a recently divorced mother who absolutely hates her husband Luke's (Ed Harris) new and younger replacement Isabel (Roberts). Not only is Isabel lacking in regards to her parenting skills, but she is a bit of a scatterbrain. What naturally follows is a series of conflicts and spats.

After the tragedy of Jackie finding out she has cancer, all parties in this non-traditional family come together. (Don't worry, I haven't ruined the movie for you.)

Lowdown: The movie is a little sappy at times, but it is still a fine movie effort. Sarandon and Roberts shine. A definite must see.

Varsity Blues

Rated: R
You've seen the trailers on MTV. You know the one where the boy is talking to himself while doing pushups in the locker room after football practice? No. Then you probably know the main character in the movie. You probably know him as Dawson Leary, the Spielberg wanna-be dreamer who is torn between two lovers in the hit WB show "Dawson's Creek," but James Van Der Beek proves that he can be convincing as a high school back-up quarterback.

"Varsity Blues" takes place in a small town in Texas. It offers little for teenagers in the form of entertainment. Football, sex, parties, and mischief are the main pastimes. What follows is a series of scenes that are both dramatic, humorous and real.

It is reported that the actors actually went through intensive football training to prepare for their roles. The training paid off—they are convincing in their portrayal of high school football athletes.

I won't reveal too much of the plot, but I will tell you that the climax of the movie comes down to the all-important football game. (Very revealing.) Basically, the movie is about a team that has a complete jerk for a coach. They must band together to fully appreciate the true value of teamwork.

"Varsity Blues" is great, it has a kick-ass sound track (hint: MTV Productions), and some really good acting. A definite must see.

The Lowdown: The movie is basically "Threackfast Club" meets *The Program*. Played-out themes are blended together for a surprisingly successful product.

The 411: The Hilltop's Weekly Calendar

Exhibitions

(listings now showing unless otherwise noted)

Figuratively speaking: A group show of paintings, woodcuts and photography at Gallery 505. Call (202) 785-3151.

New Acquisitions: Gifts from the Lawrence Gussman Collection at the National Museum of African Art.

Behind the Himalayas: Paintings of Mustang will be featured in the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, 1050 Independence Ave., SW.

An American Century of Photography: From Dry-Plate to Digital, selections from the Hallmark Photographic Collection will be featured in The Phillips Collection of Washington, D.C. beginning on Jan. 23. Call (202) 387-2151.

Concerts

Jan. 14-16: Violinist Victoria Mullova with the National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leonard Slatkin at the Kennedy Center. Call (202) 833-9800.

Jan. 16: Jason Hwang and the Far East Side Band will perform their form

of new Asian sound at 730 p.m. in the Freer Gallery of Art, Jefferson Drive and 12th St., SW. Free.

Jan. 17: Washington Performing Arts Society Men and Women of the Gospel Mass Choir with LShun Pace, The Ministers of Music and Singing Ministers at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Tickets range from \$15-40. Call (202) 833-9800.

Jan. 23: Cellist Yo-Yo Ma, composer Bright Sheng and pipa player Wu Man demonstrate and discuss the incorporation of folk and traditional music into contemporary works at 1 p.m. in the Freer Gallery of Art, Jefferson Dr. and 12th St., SW. Free.

On Stage

Now through Jan. 30: Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* at the Kennedy Center.

Tonight through Feb. 21: Jare Boothe Ruce's *The Women* at Arena Stage on the Fichandler Stage, 101 6th St., NW. Tickets range from \$24 to 45 with discounts available for students, groups, persons with disabilities and senior citizens. Call (202) 488-3300.

Oct. 10 through Feb. 14: Musical classic *Show Boat* at the Mechanic Theater in Baltimore.

Festivals

The Fifth Annual Tap Dance Festival begins today and lasts through Sunday at Dance Place, 3225 8th St., NE. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$12 for students, seniors and artists, \$5 for children. The festival will feature Step Aside, Tapestry, Tappers with Attitude and Taps & Company. For more information call (202) 269-1600.

Dance

Moiseyev Dance Company will be at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$55. Call (202) 833-9800.

Lectures

William Kloss, an independent scholar of contemporary art, addresses "Roy Lichtenstein: Image Duplicator" on Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m. in the Freer Gallery of Art. Free. For more information call (202) 357-2700.

The 411 is a standing column in the TEMPO section. It is compiled by Hilltop Staff Writers. To include your listing please send information well in advance to The Hilltop, Attn.: Calendar Listings, 2251 Sherman Ave., N.W., West Towers, DC 20001.

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SPORTS Friday

B4

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1999

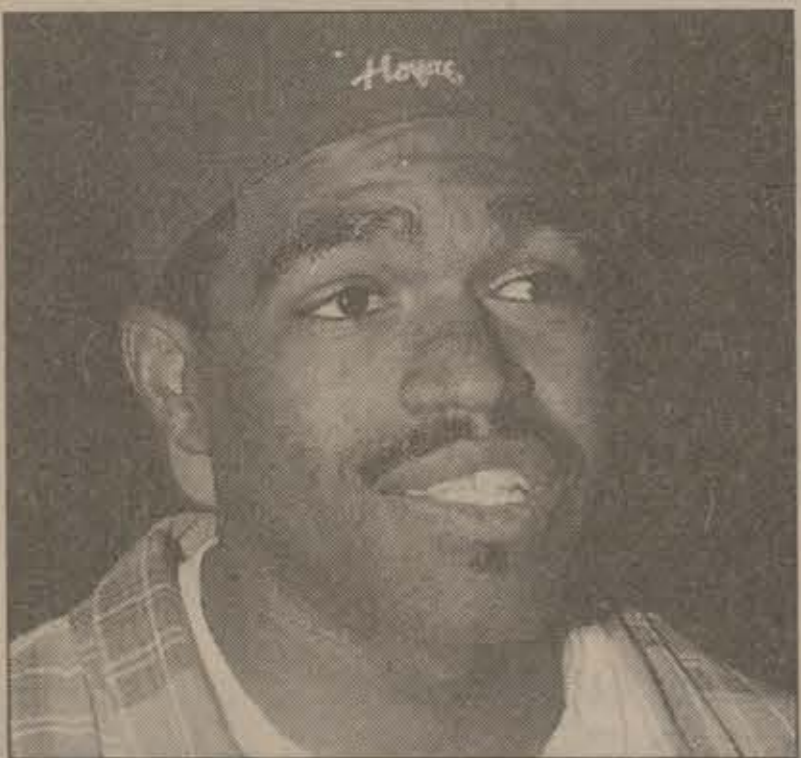
THE HILLTOP

Voices & Views

Compiled by John John Williams

Question

What were your views on the NBA lockout?



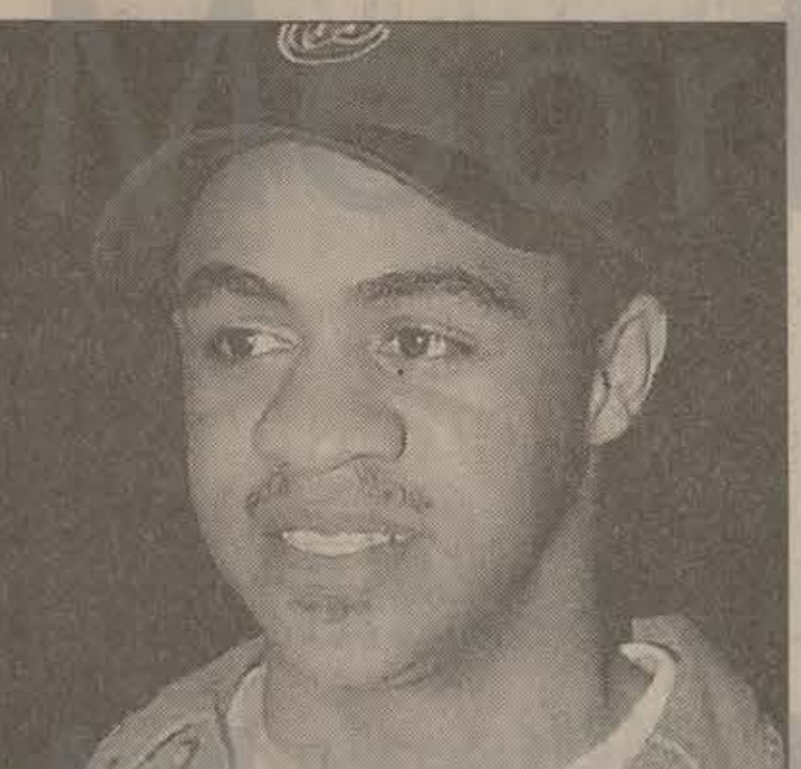
"It pissed me off. No one wants to here about how much money they get. No one cares anymore. It's pushing people to other sports."

—Jarvis George, senior public relations major.



"It taught a lesson. When the players weren't able to play and get paid, kids saw that they needed an education to fall back on."

—Roshadna Heath, sophomore political science major



"The season dosen't get good until the end anyway. There are going to be sloppy players."

—Aaron W. Thompson, sophomore electrical engineering major.



"I'm glad. I'm estatic. I wish they would have handled it earlier. The solution seemed easy for all that drama."

—Renee' Huggins, sophomore sociology major.

Men's Basketball Team Wins Semester's First Over Maryland-Eastern Shore

BY KIMOTHY K. BROWN
Hilltop Staff Writer

Behind the stellar play of senior guard/forward Melvin Watson, Howard University Bison captured its first win of the season when they defeated the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore Hawks 63-60 on Saturday in Burr Gymnasium.

The Bison entered the MEAC (Mid Eastern Athletic Conference) match-up winless at 0-12, dropping an 86-69 decision to Hampton the previous home game. The Hawks also suffered a close defeat at the hands of Bethune-Cookman in overtime, 57-53. The two teams split last year's meeting with Howard winning 77-68 at home and UMES 79-77 in overtime away. The Bison lead the overall series 43-31.

The first half got off to a shaky start for Howard. The Bison's inability to make shots allowed the Hawks to take an early 5-0 lead. However, junior forward Jermaine "Big Dog" Holliday and Watson made key jumpers to tie the game at five. Sophomore point guard Ali Abdullah also contributed by creating great plays and making spectacular moves, aiding in the scoring surge. Watson was also a factor, scoring on numerous crucial jumpers. The Bison were able to control the pace by trading baskets with the Hawks for a while. However, Maryland-Eastern Shore was able to connect on several key baskets of their own towards the end of the half, resulting in a 35-31 lead at halftime. The fireworks in the first half, (back-and-forth scoring, along with a near fist fight), was a sign of things to come in the second half.

The half was late getting started due to a power outage in Burr, but that did not mean the two teams were out of energy. Maryland-Eastern Shore outscored Howard 8-4 to take a 43-35 lead. However, the Bison came back again and eventually tied the contest when junior guard Bakari Adams hit a three-point shot to tie the game at 43 with 13:13 remaining. The game continued on as a see-saw battle until the Bison began to pull away just a little. After Howard took a 52-50 lead, reserve junior guard Antonio Michell connected on a three to supply the Bison with a 55-50 lead late in the game. The Hawks answered by pulling within three points with less than a minute left. At this point, the game was up in the air with the Bison leading 61-60. Abdullah was on the receiving end of a critical 5 second call with 29 seconds remaining, turning the ball over to the visiting Hawks. Nevertheless, the Hawks failed to capitalize, giving the ball back to the Bison and later fouling Watson. Watson hit both of his free throws to extend Howard's lead to 63-60 with 17 seconds left. Maryland-Eastern Shore had one last shot to tie the game and send it into overtime, but they did not succeed as the buzzer sounded, giving the men their first victory of the season. Now, with its first victory, the team has a little momentum for the rest of the season.

Head coach Kirk Saulny was understandably pleased with his team's winning effort.

"I couldn't be happier for the players, who worked hard and stuck together," said Saulny. "They're mentally tough and smart. They're what HU is all about."

Saulny also cited the team's ability to maintain its composure under very difficult circumstances.

"We were down in numbers tonight due to a few of our players being absent due to family emergencies, but we were able to control the tempo throughout," added Saulny. Watson was the leading scorer on the team with a total of

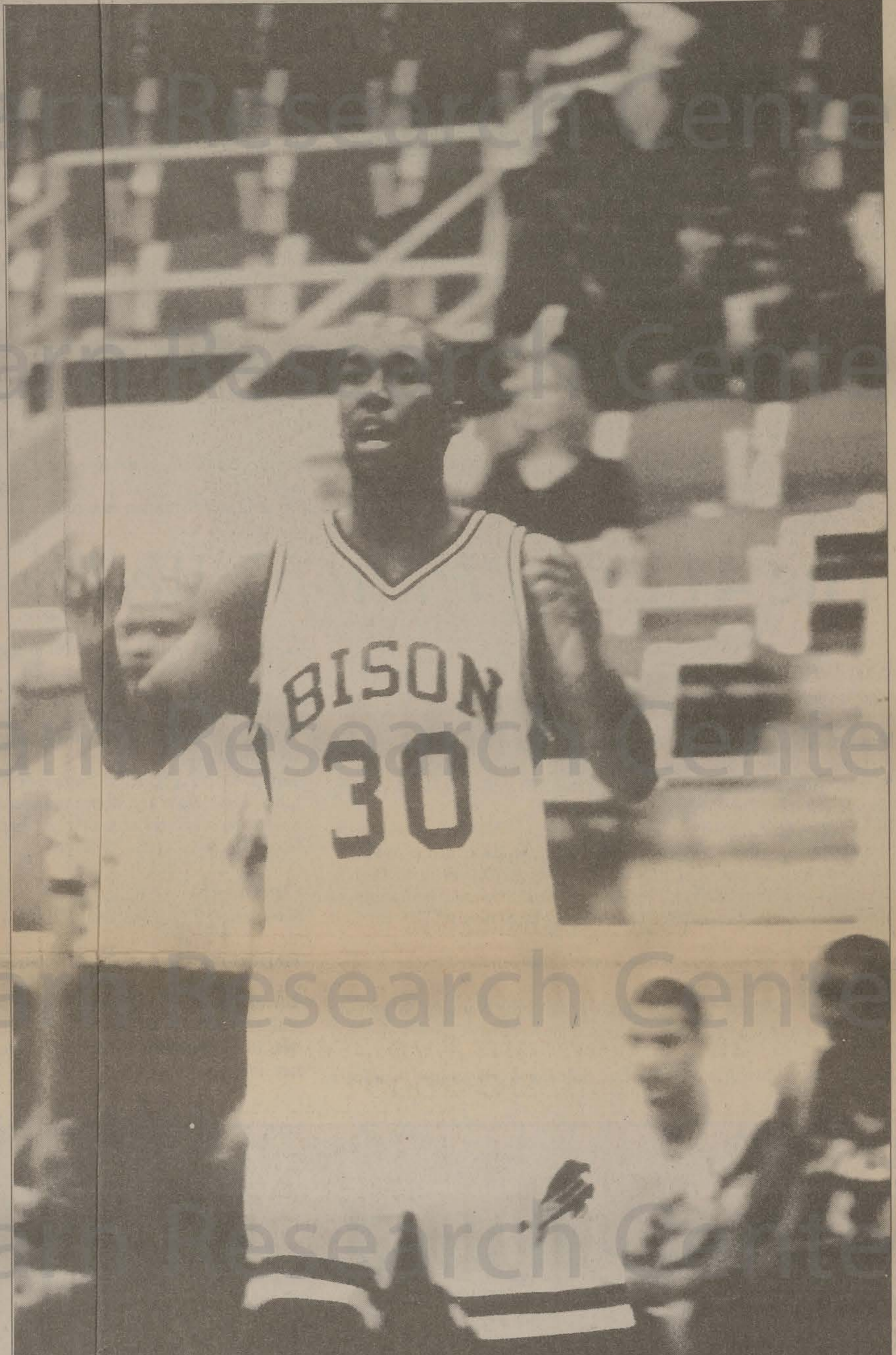


Photo by Mark Coleman

Melvin Watson, a Bison guard, was the leading scorer vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore Saturday with 20 points.

20 points, which aided tremendously in Howard's first win.

"The mokey is now off our [coaches and players'] backs, we put together a complete game," said Watson.

Other key players were Abdullah, who added 9 points

along with 10 assists, Holliday with 16 points, and Michell with 9 points.

Next up, the Bison will play at North Carolina A&T tomorrow.

Lady Bison Clip Eastern-Shore's Wings 63-53

BY JOHN JOHN WILLIAMS IV
Hilltop Staff Writer

It wasn't pretty, but the Howard University women's basketball team was able to defeat the current MEAC division leaders, the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, 63-53 in front of a sparse crowd of 526.

The Lady Bison (6-7, 3-2) were able to win despite committing 32 turnovers and shooting 34.9 percent from the field. The good news for the Lady Bison was that the Lady Hawks shot only 30 percent from the field and gave up the same number of turnovers.

There were several bright spots for the Lady Bison. Freshmen Yetta Enobakhare and Courtney Kirk boasted a combined 25 points and 16 rebounds.

Enobakhare, who finished the night with 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, felt that the key to the victory was composure.

"We stayed focused," Enobakhare said after the game. "We played composed."

Sophomore point guard Chanel Washington agreed. "Down the stretch we didn't crumble."

Maryland-Eastern Shore kept the first half close thanks to guard Nicole Council. Council navigated her way through the Lady Bison's defense and was able to make Jordanesque shots, including a floating finger roll lay-up at the 12:30 mark.

"They were bringing it to us,"



Photo by Mark Coleman

Regan Carter, a Bison guard, vs a spark to the team in one of her first games back after an injury.

Enobakhare said. "We had to take it to them."

The last 10 minutes of the first half was dominated by the Lady Bison.

At the 2:10 mark, Howard guard Kimberly Ford stole the ball from a Lady Hawk and started a fast break that resulted in an over the shoulder no-look assist to a trailing Carter. Someone in the crowd shouted "That's a Dawn Staley [WNBA player] pass!" as the crowd cheered.

Mona-Gail Baker, a Bison forward, was fouled as she made a tough shot from underneath the basket at the 1 minute mark.

A few seconds later, Eastern Shore reserve Dana Spriggs matched Baker's accomplishment to cut the Howard lead to 33-25 at the half.

Once again, the Lady Bison played some of their best basketball in the last 10 minutes of the second half.

At the 5:00 and 5:30 marks, Ford had her own mini-run and scored two consecutive tough shots.

A few seconds later, Washington scored 2 of her 11 total points off a line drive jumper to extend Howard's lead to 56-46.

Enobakhare sealed the win with a turn-around jump shot at the 2:13 mark. The lady Hawks were unable to recover.

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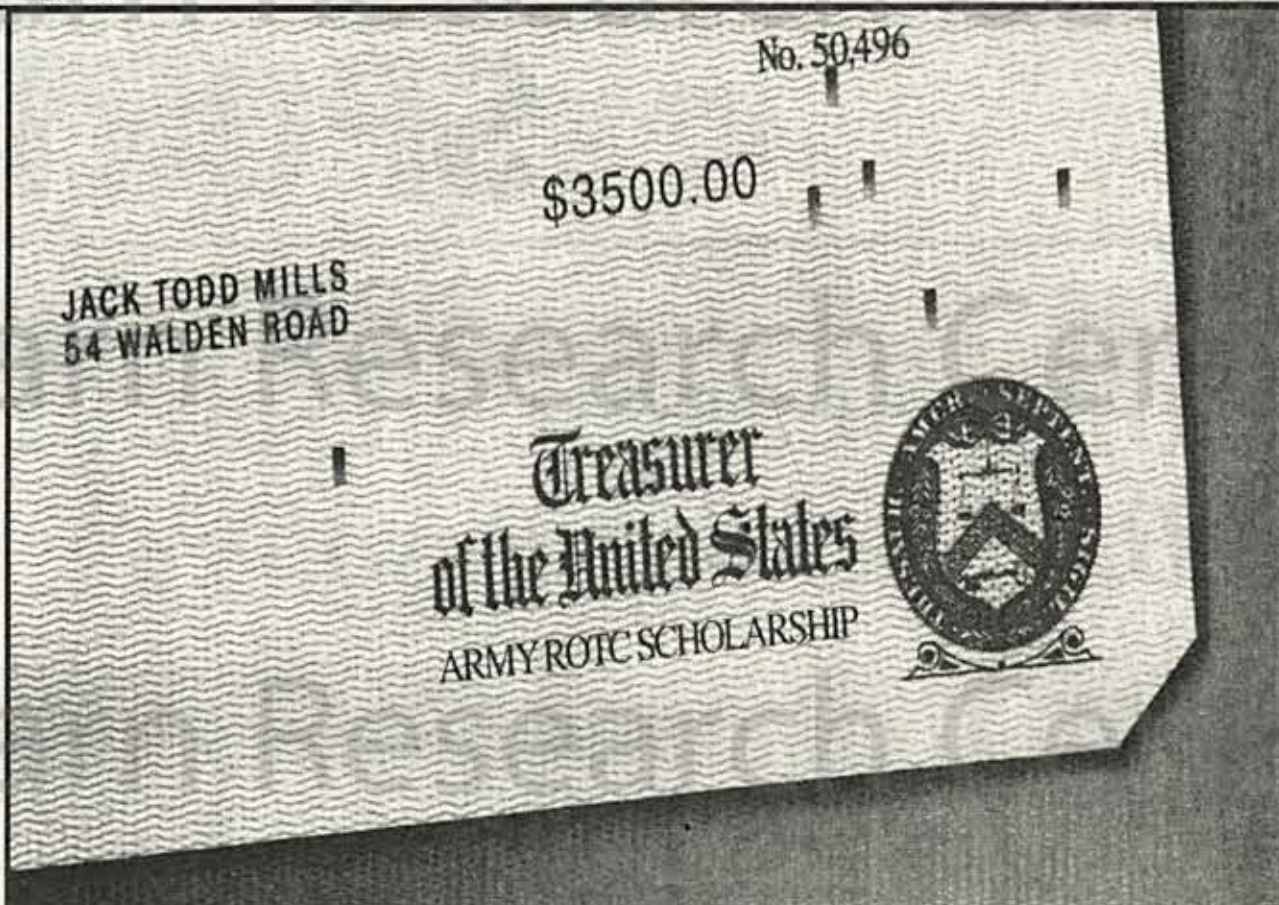
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Attention ALL Students:

Howard University General Assembly Elections petitions and campaigning packets available in the HUSA office starting Friday, January 15, 1999.

Any validated student in good academic standing (2.0 GPA for HUSA candidates and 2.5 GPA US citizens only for Trustee candidates), who wishes to run for either HUSA President and Vice President or either Undergraduate or Graduate Trustee, please obtain the petitions from the HUSA Office, Blackburn Rm. 102.

The full packet is due back to the GAEC no later than **February 1, 1999** with no exceptions.

Each HUSA Slate is required to obtain the signatures of at least **600 validated** Howard students.

Trustee candidates are required to receive for:

Undergraduate Trustee 200 signatures
Graduate Trustee 100 signatures

Any questions, please forward them to HUSA at 806-7007.

SPORTS Friday

Sports Commentary

Long Season's Delay Has Many Effects NBA Lockout Resolved

BY KAMAL SHAW
Hilltop Staff Writer

The NBA Players Association voted last week, 179-5, in favor of salvaging the remainder of the 1998-99 season. Subsequently, there are plans in the works for an altered playoff schedule. Now, the American public (and I) can collectively exhale. Our winter pastime has been spared the silver bullet created by David Stern's ultimatum. We can all look forward to sitting for hours at a stretch to watch young millionaires play a children's game. We can all look forward to more teenage athletes failing to dislodge themselves from the bench, even during "garbage time." We can all look forward to scores of basketball commercials advertising shoes manufactured by people making a literal fraction of our minimum wage. Yes, I cannot wait. I can feel my bowels loosening in raw excitement.

If you're some kind of basketball player, don't take that personally. Please forgive my attempt at being sardonic, funny, and ultimately right. At present, I am not optimistic about this season. For nearly all intents and purposes, this season has been effectively ruined for the fans, the players, and finally for the deep purses of the team owners. The remaining season is basically a last-ditch attempt to recoup colossal losses in revenue and to pay off creditors like Nike, NBC, and the numerous endorsees of many NBA players.

I'm one to believe that now the overall play of the typical NBA game will be rendered subpar for a few reasons. One is the sloppiness and unfinessed play fostered by a condensed, more urgent season. The other is the lack of off-season conditioning.

Normally in a longer season, there are noticeable momentum shifts in winning percentage. A team can either reverse or increase forwardly to conceivably make the playoffs. Now, that has been totally eliminated from the equation. In this quasi-season, whichever teams have the fastest starts also have the best finishes. It is almost common knowledge that some flash-in-the-pan team every year starts off with something ludicrous like a 16-0 win-loss record and finish the season having earned high draft picks or least a win percentage hovering around .500. We can

interpolate the situation with the L.A. Clippers. Given, they're all excellent athletes, able to jump over six-foot-me, drill the pill from downtown, J whoever at will, and embarrass most playground legends on sheer technique. But do we take them seriously? Can we name all five of their starters? Is the last time they were on national television playing competitively a trivia question? No, no, and yes. Every year, I would have signed the death certificate for their season before half-time of their first game. Nonetheless, they actually stand a snowball's chance in hell and some of the best teams may not.

I wonder how conscientious and faithful were these athletes in their forcibly-extended off-season? Did they perform their "suicides" and their shooting drills in the solace of their personal gyms? For the most part, I think they tried. Without the benefits of a controlled exercise regimen, without the disciplining necessary for endurance, strength, quickness, and trimness, we should see some very disturbing trends. Perennially, there are scattered stories of star players arriving to training camps out of shape, especially those small and power forwards. So I would expect Charles Barkley to be gasping for oxygen in the middle of the first quarter. In addition, there will be a rash of injuries to players acclimating to playing every game at playoff intensity or better.

Teams would have to draw upon the resources of inexperienced, untested players like Korleone Young, men whose lives depended on the draft. Young had to do a "rags-to-rags" story on 20/20 of how he was going broke trying to be a superstar.

So, we return to the abstract. An unforeseen effect of the delay in play is the intangible of a team's *esprit de corps*. Teams that are successful tend to gel at given times in the season. That gelling dynamic will be obliterated by the pressures of making the playoffs, so arrhythmic play is to be expected, and will drive coaches to seizures.

That's all good though. In a few weeks, I will watch God Shammgod of the Washington Wizards, a mere mortal who earns the league's minimum wage; nonetheless, a god coming off the bench for an ungodly team who by the grace of God could ever advance past the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. God willing.

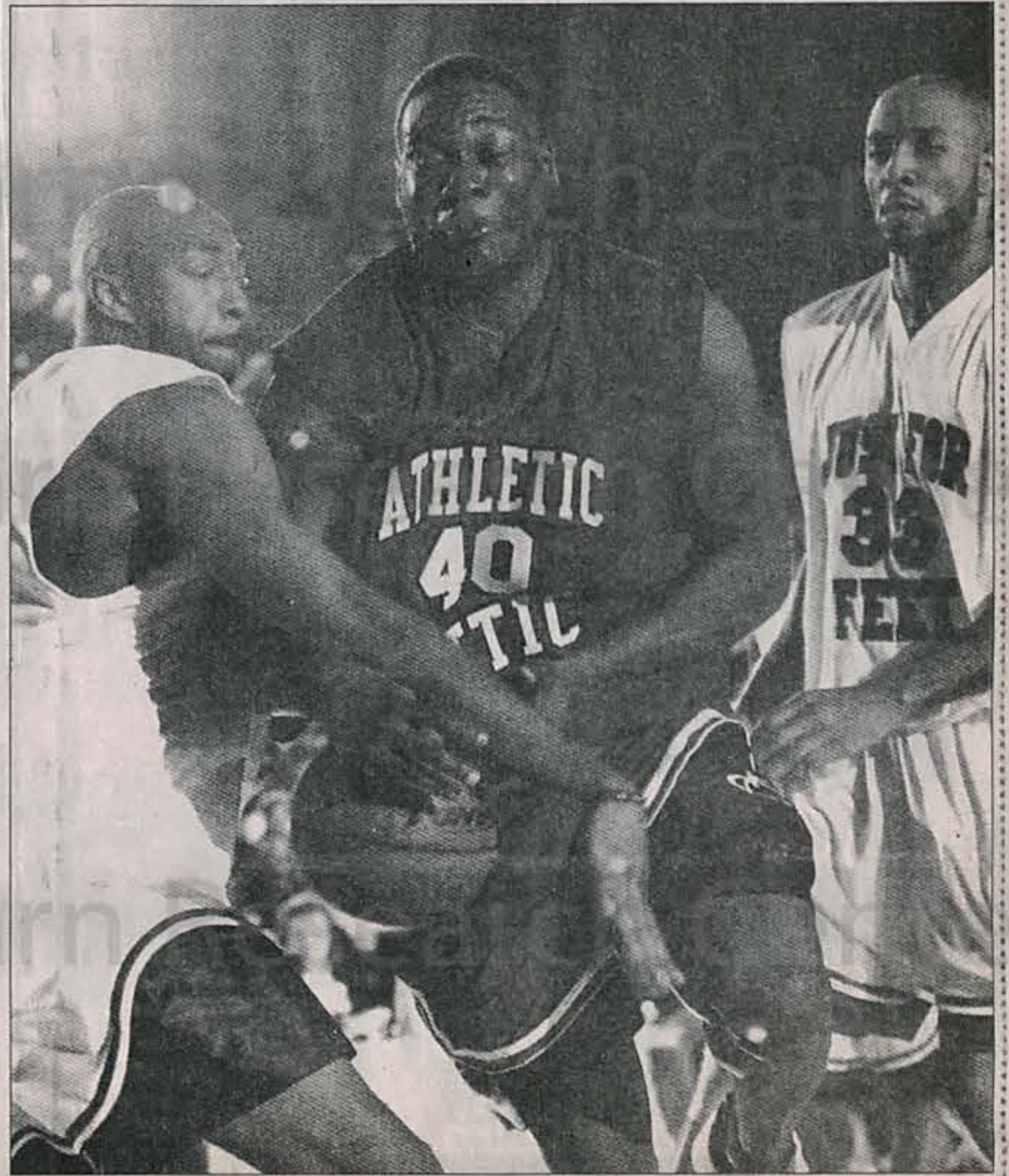


Photo: Courtesy of ESPN Magazine

At a recent benefit of lacked-out NBA stars, a much heavier Shawn Kemp challenges Vin Baker. See what a long layoff can do?

The Year in Review in Sports

BY JOHN JOHN WILLIAMS
Hilltop Staffwriter

1998 was a historic year in sports. We witnessed the death of a track diva along with the retirement and the resignation of two basketball stars. One did his work on the floor. One did his from the bench. 1998 also saw the reinstatement of a boxer with quite a "hunger" to fight.

There was lots of controversy involving basketball leagues. In the battle of the two women's leagues we saw that money beat out talent. And in the men's league, we saw that greed beat out greed. From Sammy Sosa versus Mark McGwire to Superbowl XXXII, here are my favorite sports moments and views of the year.

1. **Florence Griffith Joyner Dies**- She was so young, so beautiful. She had style, grace, and speed. "Flo Jo", as she was affectionately called by her fans around the world, revolutionized the track and field world. Her world records have been untouched for ten years. The world will miss her.



Photo Courtesy of Rap Pages

Florence Griffith Joyner, a track star diva, will be greatly missed.

2. **Michael Jordan Retires**- It was the sixth game of the 1998 NBA World Championship and he had the ball in his hands in the final seconds of the game. He executed a killer crossover and shot the jump shot. It went in. The Bulls won. His Airness had done it again. Jordan, arguably the best player to ever play the game, did more for the game of basketball than I have room for. Basketball will never be the same.

3. **John Thompson Resigns**- For years he was the marquee name when mentioning Black coaches. He made Georgetown the "Pearl of the East." He recruited boys and graduated men. Ewing, Mourning, Mutumbo, Iverson. He coached them all to glory and prosperity. I can't wait to see where he coaches when he returns.

4. **NBA Lockout**- Rich White men said jump. Rich Black Men said how high. Any questions?

5. **Mike Tyson Reinstated**- Say what you want. The ear biter is bound to make a fleeting sport great again.

6. **Tennessee Lady Vols Win Third Consecutive National Championship**- Coached by arguably the greatest women's basketball coach (Pat Summit), and in my opinion the greatest collegiate player to ever pick up the rock (Chamique Holdclaw). The Lady Vols did something that no other team has done. They went 39-0.

7. **Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and the race for 62**- It brought the whole nation together. (Get real!) How could a white man hitting 70 homeruns make

white America like Black America? If the civil rights movement or the countless people who died in the struggle couldn't achieve this, than how could a man who took a steroid that is banned in most professional sports do it?

8. **The Tale of Two Leagues**- The American Basketball League (ABL) had the players. The WNBA had the money. Money won, but the players lost. It will be enjoyable to see all the women get a chance to play together. Watch out players of the WNBA! Your positions are in jeopardy. The women of the ABL can play!

9. **Denver wins Super Bowl XXXII**- This was big news, but when the Broncos win this year's Super Bowl again, it will be even bigger.

10. **Redskins Sold For Record \$800 million**- Is a team with its record, its coach, and its name worth that much?

ATTENTION! HOWARD UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Please Attend

SELF-STUDY TOWN MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, January 20, 1999

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: School of Business Auditorium

PURPOSE: To provide comments and reactions to the draft Self-Study Report Prepared for Middle States Accreditation Visit, March 14-17, 1999

Copies of the draft Self-Study Report are available for review in:

- All Branches of the Howard University Library
- Offices of the Deans of all schools and colleges
- Office of the Dean of Student Life and Activities



**President H. Patrick Swygert
and the entire Howard University Community**

**Congratulate the
Howard University Men's Soccer Team
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Mid-Continent Conference Championship
November 14, 1998, at Valparaiso, Indiana**

**Congratulations are extended to
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Howard vs. Morgan St.

At Burr Gymnasium Saturday, Jan. 30, 1999

2:00 PM (Lady Bison)

4:00 PM (Men)

**STUDENT TICKETS WITH CAPSTONE ID:
FROM NOON TO 5PM GAME DAY**

BISON BASKETBALL

