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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 88, NO. 67

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2005

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

THURSDAY NOTEBOOK

CAMPUS AKAS UNCOVER THE RISKS

AS A PART OF THEIR 2005 HEALTH WEEK, ALPHA CHAPTER, ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. HOSTED A STD AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN THE BLACKBURN DIGITAL AUDITORIUM.

PAGE 2

METRO

A NEW FORM OF TRANSPORTATION

TIRED OF TAKING THE METRO FOR A SHORT TRIP? BY SUMMER 2005, YOU WON'T HAVE TO, DUE TO THE NEW D.C. CIRCULATOR!

PAGE 4

SPORTS

BISON LACROSSE DOUBLES

ALTHOUGH HOWARD'S MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM IS MERELY OF CLUB STATUS, HU IS CURRENTLY THE ONLY HBCU THAT OFFERS LACROSSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.

PAGE 8



HU CALENDAR

April 28

FORMAL CLASSES END

MAY 14

GRADUATION

WEATHER

TODAY
MOSTLY SUNNY
High: 61
Low: 44

THURSDAY
MOSTLY SUNNY
High: 56
Low: 37

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Mr. Slowe, Ms. Annex Win Pageant

BY KAIYA KARAMOKO
Contributing Writer

Themed "The Crowning: Who Reigns Supreme?" students from on and off campus put their talent to the test to be crowned Mr. and Ms. Residence Life 2005 Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Cramton Auditorium.

Contestants, dressed in business attire, introduced themselves to the audience through creative prose. Following the introductions, the audience yelled out the names of their respectable dormitories, giving their representatives support. Up next was the talent portion.

Byron Stewart, president of the School of Communications and host for the night, graced the stage to amp up the crowd. The audience reacted accordingly, screaming with glee, having experienced Stewart's broadwayesque personality.

Stewart engaged the crowd in a stroll down memory lane, as he sang Soul For Real's 1996 classic R&B tune, "Candy Rain." The crowd joined in, in unison to sing two entire verses.

Song, dance, spoken word, piano and saxophone playing were talents showcased in Howard's Cramton Auditorium.

"As I hosted the pageant, I was just trying to entertain the crowd and keep them awake," said Stewart, a junior broadcast journalism major. "The pageant itself was kind of timely, so you have to entertain people so they'll stay. A lot of people stayed until the end, so I think it went well."

Mixed feelings were in the air as students performed.

"I don't like the talent," said junior broadcast journalism Joseph Rose. "There was [no one outstanding]."

Sophomore accounting major Will Blanden disagreed. "I

respect the people that are up there," Bladen said. "Their confidence has to be mile high, like Denver."

As coined by Kenyatta Hobson, Meridian Hill's community director, said old school always wins the crowd.

"Good, the best I've seen," Hobson said. "Howard has a lot of talented students and tonight was just another event to showcase it."

John Williams, representing Meridian Hill Hall, soulfully crooned classics songs from The Isley Brothers, Chaka Khan and John Legend. He demanded the attention of the crowd and coerced many Howard females to run towards the stage in awe.

Keeping the crowd going, Howard's own DJ Premonition kept the crowd's energy high. His knowledge of mixing and "scratching" made the crowd dance, hit after hit.

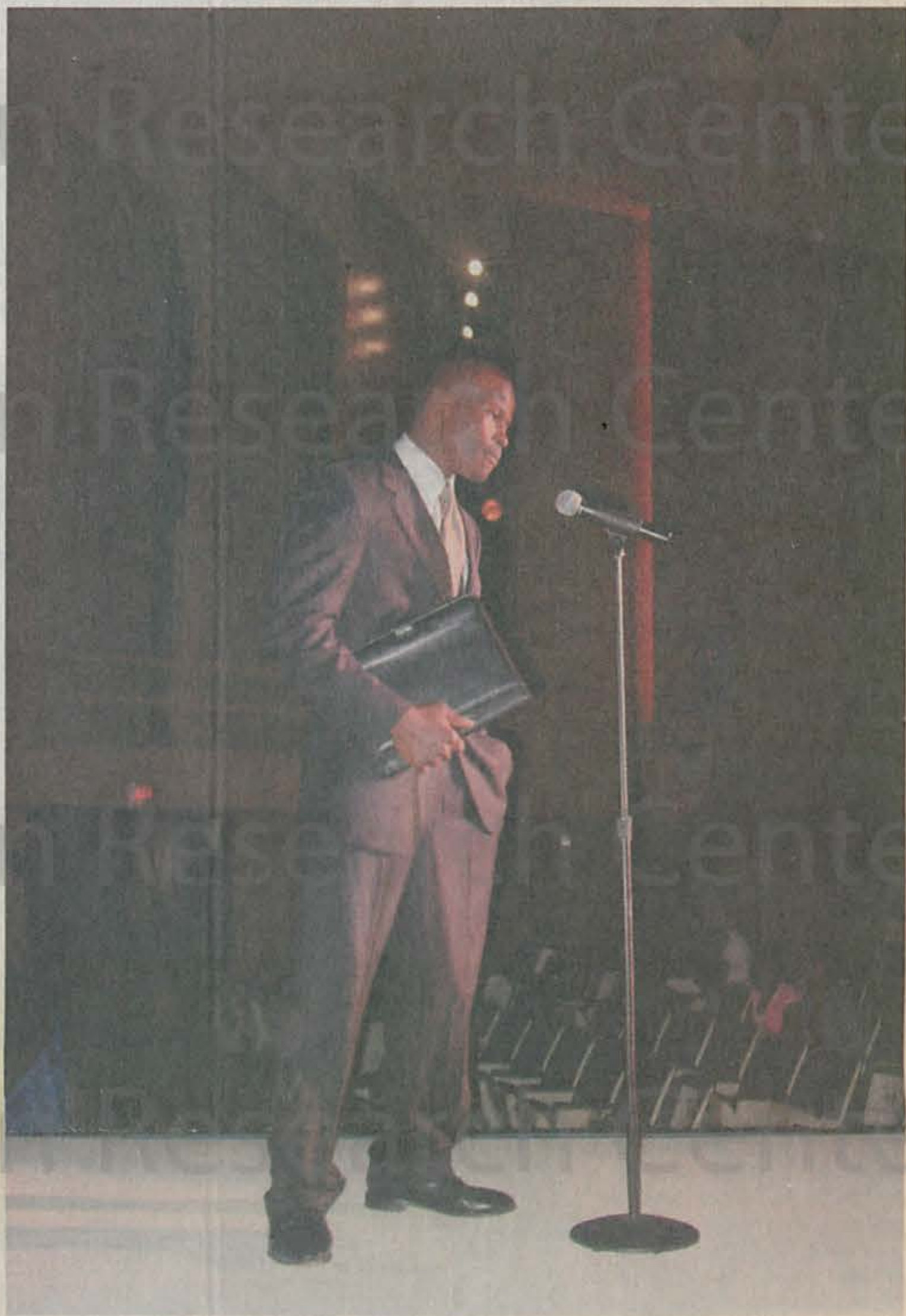
"I loved it," said Coach Fred Dean, Cook Hall's community director. "Everybody was different."

Following the talent showcase were the eveningwear, swim suit, and questionnaire segments which all had the student body on their feet.

Third runner-ups were Mr. Carver and Ms. Slowe, second runner-ups were Mr. and Ms. Meridian, and the winners of the ResFest 2005 Pageant were Mr. Slowe and Ms. Annex.

The success of the pageant can be attributed to all of the volunteers, especially pageant coordinator Christina Gordon.

"The pageant coordinator, Christina Gordon, did a great job making sure everything was in order and everything was on time," Stewart said. "Even when there was an issue, she remained calm."



Patrick Jackson-Staff Photographer

Some students thought the talent at Wednesday night's ResFest pageant in Cramton could have been better, but overall those in attendance found it enjoyable.

Protesters Fight for Cuba



Patrick Jackson-Staff Photographer

On Wednesday, protesters held signs across from Meridian Hill Hall, asking the U.S. to cease attacks on Cuba.

Track team Gets Ready to Compete in MEAC Conference

BY MIKE HOLMES
Hilltop Staff Writer

The countdown is coming to an end. Just one more stop before Coach Michael Merritt takes his men and women's track team to compete in the 2005 MEAC Conference.

The teams will be headed to Charlottesville, Va. to compete in the University of Virginia's Lou Onesty/Milton G. Abramson Invitational this weekend.

The women and men's team, who finished 7th and 6th

respectively, had qualifying performances last weekend at the Clemson Invitational. "Now we've qualified four out of our top eight for the MEAC," said Cordis Stanford a junior finance major.

The women managed to pick up two new qualifiers this past weekend at Clemson, Marisa Johnson and LaClaire Carter. Johnson qualified for both the women's shot put and discus. Carter's performance not only got her a first place win it also qualified her for the women's 200m.

"We are looking very promising for conference," said junior political science major Ashley Vann. "We have three people running the 5000 for conference," she explained. Vann qualified for the 5000m with a time of 19:07 but had already qualified for conference in a previous meet.

Ashley West-Nesbitt qualified for the woman's 200m as well but like Vann, West-Nesbitt had qualified in a previous meet as well. The women's

See TRACK, News A5

Free Health Screenings

BY KAREN BRUNDIDGE
Contributing Writer

As part of Health Week 2005, "T.R.U.T.H. Is... Unveiling a Healthier You," the ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. offered free health screenings yesterday in Blackburn Center from 12p.m. to 3p.m.

It included body mass index, cholesterol, alcohol/depression, dental screenings and more.

"It's always important for students on college campuses to get tested for various things," Amie McLain, a senior broadcast journalism major and co-chair of the Health Week 2005, said. "Today, we had students get tested for depression, body mass, dental screenings and alcoholism."

Diana Wall, a psychology intern with the University counseling center, was present at the screening and handed out health information to interested students.

"Our purpose here is to expose students to what we offer at the counseling center," Wall said. "Sometimes, college students can be susceptible to mood disorders like depression and substance abuse and not know it."

There were free condoms on the tables and several brochures with useful information for students to read.

"I came to see if I was healthy in weight, so I took the body composition test," said Keisan Roberts, a sophomore finance major.

Wali Forid, a senior nutrition major, came from the Student Health Center to weigh students and let them know if

the results of their body mass index results were average according to their height and weight.

"Fifty percent of the students have been surprised at the results of their body composition test," Forid said. "But for the most part, the students seemed up-to-date."

Courtney Lewis, a representative from Planned Parenthood, explained to students that sometimes a person may look healthy, but is not and may not reveal that.

"A lot of people are uninformed and that causes them to make bad decisions," Lewis said.

She said that the purpose of Planned Parenthood is to empower people in the community to make responsible decisions and to give comprehensive reproductive health information.

While "lights on" may be a short and simple phrase, Lewis feels that it can be a simple thing that can save you a lot of headache.

"You won't always see the symptoms, but the ways that students can protect themselves are for them to use condoms, even if you're on birth control pills, and to get tested."

Many students from the College of Dentistry came out to help and support because they realize the importance of staying healthy, especially as a student. Henry Marable, a second-year College of Dentistry student, feels that health is the most important aspect of life.

"Without your health, you cannot pursue any other endeavors such as school, occupation, relationships, etc."

AKAs Emphasize STD Awareness, Prevention

BY JANEEN L. STRAUGHN
Contributing Writer

In an effort to create awareness surrounding health issues facing college students, the ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. hosted "Uncovering the Risks" STD Awareness and Prevention, with Planned Parenthood health educator Courtney Lewis as a guest speaker.

The purpose of the program was to encourage students to remain aware of health risks associated with unprotected sex.

"We felt it was important to enlighten the Howard community about safe sex and uncover the risks of STD's," said Alpha Chapter President Lisa Braz.

As a warm-up, a "Test Your Sex I.Q." quiz revealed the truth to myths regarding safe sex, STD's and contraception. Students were asked if the given statements were true or false and to give detail as to why they thought so. Accurate statistics and further detailed information was given regarding each question.

Lewis began the presentation by using visual aids to explain some of the common types of barriers used to prevent contraction of STD's such as latex condoms, the female condom and dental dam. She then went on to give information about the different methods used to prevent pregnancy, including the birth control pill, the patch, the Depo-Provera shot and abstinence, and explained the benefits,

the disadvantages and possible side effects. A slideshow presentation with graphic displays of STDs was shown in order to give information about infections including syphilis, herpes, HPV and HIV.

"The most common misconception is that a person may look healthy and the other partner won't see anything," Lewis said. "So they won't ask any questions or they'll have unprotected sex, resulting in more STDs."

She went into great detail to explain what each STD was, what the symptoms were, what they might look like in appearance, and how to prevent yourself from getting one, noting that STDs like chlamydia and HPV are "silent" illnesses because they are asymptomatic. Senior psychology

and administration of justice major Hannah Vincent, one of the attendees, said the overhead presentation was the highlight of the program.

"I felt the best part of it were the pictures in the video presentation," Vincent said. "It showed the reality of how unprotected sex can alter your life in a split second."

Time was allotted after the video presentation for questions and answers the ladies may have had regarding contraception, preventative methods and general inquiries about STD's. It was an involved discussion and a time for the ladies to interact with the speaker and get clarification on certain issues as well as an opportunity for receiving some healthy advice.

Braz was pleased that the ladies

were thoroughly involved in the discussion.

"It was impressive that the ladies who attended the program had a lot of knowledge on maintaining safe sex," she said. "A lot of them had questions that were accurately answered by the speaker, and I hope they can apply all the new information they have learned to themselves and to those in the community who may not know."

Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Health Week, themed "T.R.U.T.H. Is...Unveiling a Healthier You," will continue tonight with "Tearing Down the Walls"

and Friday night with "Hip Hopping into Fitness" in the Blackburn Ballroom at 7:08 p.m.

P.I.M.P. Scholarship Awarded to Howard Student

BY SONIA SUMMERS
Contributing Writer

On Howard's campus there is nothing wrong with getting your P.I.M.P. on. Bryan Hughes, a junior marketing major from Bowie, Md., has been getting his P.I.M.P. on and was awarded the Fillmore Street Brewery's P.I.M.P. scholarship of \$5,000 for the 2005-2006 school year.

"I pay for my own college education, so I really needed some money," Hughes said.

P.I.M.P. is an acronym for a Positive Intellectual Motivated Person. The scholarship program was set up in August of 2004 by rapper Nelly and Fillmore Street Brewery, the manufacturing company of Pimp Juice. The P.I.M.P. program looks for outstanding students in leadership roles, academics and extracurricular activities.

"Nelly and Pimp Juice are trying to show that a pimp is a positive intellectual motivated person who does not take advantage of people, but rather that takes advantage of collegiate, community, and professional opportunities to make their dreams and aspirations a reality," Hughes said.

In order to apply for the scholarship, Hughes had to write three separate essays on why he is a P.I.M.P., who he emulates and triumphs he had to overcome. With all that Hughes has on his plate, it is no shock that he was one of two people selected as a P.I.M.P. award winner.

Hughes is a member of the American Marketing Association, National Association of Black Accountants, Golden Key International Honor Society and Howard University Mock Trial Team, which is ranked second in the nation. Hughes also interns at State Farm Insurance as a marketing research analyst for eight hours a week.

Aside from being involved with several organizations, Hughes is also a five-year volunteer at The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and a two year Junior



Photo Courtesy of Bryan Hughes
Junior marketing major Bryan Hughes was awarded a \$5,000 academic scholarship for being a positive, intellectual and motivated person.

Achievement volunteer, where he mentors a young man at a local high school.

"He is a people person and social butterfly," said Nailah Pearson, a junior marketing major. "He is always trying to expand his network which has proven to be successful thus far."

When Hughes is not interning, volunteering or attending organizational meetings, he is studying to maintain his 3.8 cumulative G.P.A. Hughes said the struggles of taking 18 credits, giving back to the community and trying to find good work experience makes him want to give up sometimes.

"I just keep telling myself that graduation is almost here and that is what keeps me motivated," he said.

Saltia Protaro, a Howard University Hospital administrative assistant, said seeing such a mature African-American man succeed at such a level at his age

makes her speechless.

"When he sees an opportunity he grabs it," Protaro said. "He doesn't do it to be better than anyone, but he does it to so he can be the best he can be."

Hughes is excited about his internship at Merrill Lynch this summer and looks forward to the fast paced, competitive environment Wall Street has to offer.

"There are next to zero African-American males on the Trading Floor in any Investment Bank and the New York Stock Exchange," he said.

After graduation, Hughes hopes to secure a full time offer at Merrill Lynch.

Hughes' childhood friend of 17 years, junior accounting major Joshua Butler, said Hughes has been focused since grade school.

"He motivates me to take part in activities and get involved," Butler said.

Student Company Helps Develop Song-Writing Skills

BY JENEA ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

Senior legal communications major Malkia Thumbi always planned to be her own boss. However, it was her love of music that made her decide on a publishing company. Her company, A Pen and a Pad Publishing, allows her to use her incredible song-writing skills and help others who share her passion for music.

In 2002, Thumbi matriculated to Howard where she met former Howard student Keyjana Elcoc, a member of Key To Life Entertainment.

"I told him I wanted to start my own publishing company," Thumbi said. "He then started introducing me to artists." Thumbi had to go through all of the legal steps of getting a trademark and registering the company.

"First you have to see if anyone else has your company idea or name. That is a long and expensive process," Thumbi said, stating that it can cost between \$300 and \$400 for a nationwide search.

Thumbi decided to start her own publishing company after she was scarred by the music industry.

"I used to be a part of a group in New Jersey called De'Javu," said Thumbi. "We started to become really popular, then the deal fell through."

She stated that there were many ethical flaws with the individuals they were working with that caused the downfall of their group.

"I was young then, so a lot of things went wrong legally that could have been avoided," she said. It was that experience that made Thumbi want to start her publishing company and become a legal communications major.

"I wanted to study law so that I knew exactly what would be going on with my company and my music," she said. "Nine out of 10 times, when you start off in the music industry someone else is making money off of your talent. Looking at a lot of well-known artists today, you



Jordan Colbert-Aust, Photo Editor
Senior legal communications major Malkia Thumbi is the proud owner of A Pen and A Pad Publishing, a company dedicated to developing one's writing skills.

see they don't write their own music or a lot of times they get credit were no credit is due."

She did not want to be one of those people.

After graduation, Thumbi will begin working with her publishing company full-time along with different producers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. In 2006, Thumbi will be a featured writer on some well-known artists new projects.

"My goals for A Pen and a Pad is to work on new artists projects," Thumbi said. "My music is different because of the subject matter. I talk about issues that no one is talking about, my hooks are catchy and I arrange and write music."

Currently, A Pen and a Pad Publishing consists of Thumbi,

a law team and four writers that all want to improve their skill.

"I have four writers that work with me that just want to learn how to write songs that will make money while sharpening their writing skills," Thumbi said.

Thumbi encourages Howard students to work together.

"Find someone that does what you do or someone who can add to what you want to do," Thumbi said. "We could form the next Sony Company with all of the talent here at Howard."

Thumbi's future goal is to win Song Writer of the Year.

"Through my publishing company, I just want to help people shape their craft," Thumbi said.

Graduate School Events

Ph.D. Oral Defenses for the Week:
April 11, 2005- April 15, 2005

Monday, April 11, 2005

10 a.m.
Graduate School, Room 205
4th & College Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059
Candidate: Ms. Brenda Allard Christie
Department of Nutritional Sciences
College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences

Dissertation Title: "Selected Factors Contributing to Disparities in Overweight Among White, Black, and Mexican-American Female Adolescents"
Committee Chairperson: Dr. Barbara Harland
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Alland Johnson

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

10 a.m.
Graduate School, Room 205
4th & College Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059
Candidate: Ms. Lisa Marie Goodson
Department of Nutritional Sciences
College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences
Dissertation Title: "Interrelationships of Coronary Heart Disease Risk, Dietary and Serum Levels of Antioxidant Vitamins, Folate and Fat in African American and White Adults"
Committee Chairperson: Dr. Barbara

Harland
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Alland Johnson

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

10 a.m.
Graduate School, Room 205
4th & College Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059
Candidate: Ms. La Tanya Lynn Reese
Department of English
College of Arts and Sciences
Dissertation Title: "Black Surrogacy: Refiguring Myth, Memory, and Motherhood in Suzan-Lori Parks Topdog/Underdog, The America Play, and In the Blood"
Committee Chairperson: Dr. Barbara L. Griffin
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Sandra G. Shannon

11 a.m.
Graduate School, Room 101
4th & College Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059

Candidate: Mr. Quito Swan
Department of History
College of Arts and Sciences
Dissertation Title: "The Truth is an Offense: The Struggle for Decolonization and the Rise of Black Power in Bermuda, 1967-77"
Committee Chairperson: Dr. Emory Tolbert
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Selwyn H. H. Carrington

Thursday, April 14, 2005

1 p.m.
Graduate School, Room 101
4th & College Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059
Candidate: Ms. Maria L. Bejarmar-Didier
School of Social Work
Dissertation Title: "The Impact of Social Support Structures and Economic Supports on the Economic Well-Being of Low-Income African American Adult Mothers Who Began Child-Bearing and Adolescents"

Committee Chairperson: Dr. Jacqueline Smith
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Ruby Gourdine

2 p.m.
Graduate School, Room 205
4th & College Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059
Candidate: Mr. Aubrey A. Smith
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
College of Medicine
Dissertation Title: "Isolation and Sequence Analysis of the Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxylase Gene from the Marine Cyanobacterium Synechococcus"
Committee Chairperson: Dr. W. Malcolm Byrnes
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Thomas E. Smith

IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES

Friday, April 8

Ph.D. CANDIDATES - Last date on which defense examinations will be scheduled.

Friday, April 22
Theses, Dissertations and Certification Forms are due.

Friday, May 6
Degree candidates must obtain financial clearance by this date

Tuesday, April 12
The Graduate Research Symposium
Blackburn Center
Call 806-7636/6800 for more information.

Thursday, May 12
Master's and Ph.D. Graduation Celebration
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Cramton Auditorium
President's Reception Immediately Following, Blackburn Center

Things You Should Know For...

Glamour & Glam

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April 23, 2005

JW Marriott Hotel - Capitol Ballroom
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue

Doors will open at 6:00 PM

Doors will close promptly at 7:00 PM

(If you are late you will miss dinner)

Shuttle leaves from Cramton starting at 6:00 PM

Shuttle leaves every half hour until 7:30 PM

(The last shuttle will miss dinner)

Valet parking
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area garages also available

MEMORIES will be taking
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20% DISCOUNT on all photos taken
before dinner

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New Bus System Comes to the District in the Summer

BY JOI GILLIAM
Editorials & Perspectives Editor

Beginning this summer, residents and visitors of the District may begin using the D.C. Circulator, a new bus service in D.C. that will service only the downtown area and other popular tourists attractions such as the Capitol and the National mall.

Bus routes for the new system will run north and south on 9th and 7th streets as well as a cross-town loop going to the Capitol, the National Mall, the White House and Union Station. City officials hope the new bus line will reduce demand for parking and tour bus congestion that causes Metro bus routes running downtown to run slower or off schedule during peak hours.

Heavy traffic in the District has always been a problem that city officials have tried to address in the past. Traffic downtown is especially congested due to workers and tourists. During rush hours, some students say they have waited close to an hour to catch downtown bus routes such as the 70, which runs north and south through

7th street downtown and north on Georgia Avenue into Silver Spring, Md.

"Usually during rush hours there are two or three buses running right after each other, but if I miss the bus I will walk because I would have to wait about 45 minutes for another one," said Kelly Watson, a junior mathematics major.

In 1997, the D.C. Six-Year Strategic Investment Plan recommended a shuttle service for downtown that would alleviate some of the heavy traffic issues downtown. Then in 2000, the D.C. Circulator was included as a priority item on the Mayor's Action Agenda for a new Millennium.

The service was expected to begin in 2003 when the new Convention Center was completed, but the service will not start until July 2005.

According to downtowndc.org, the service which costs \$1 per trip, is expected to bring revenue of \$11.9 million per year and will cost about \$6 million to operate. Furthermore, city officials hope that it will bring an extra \$42 million in sales to merchants who lose business because of congestion downtown.

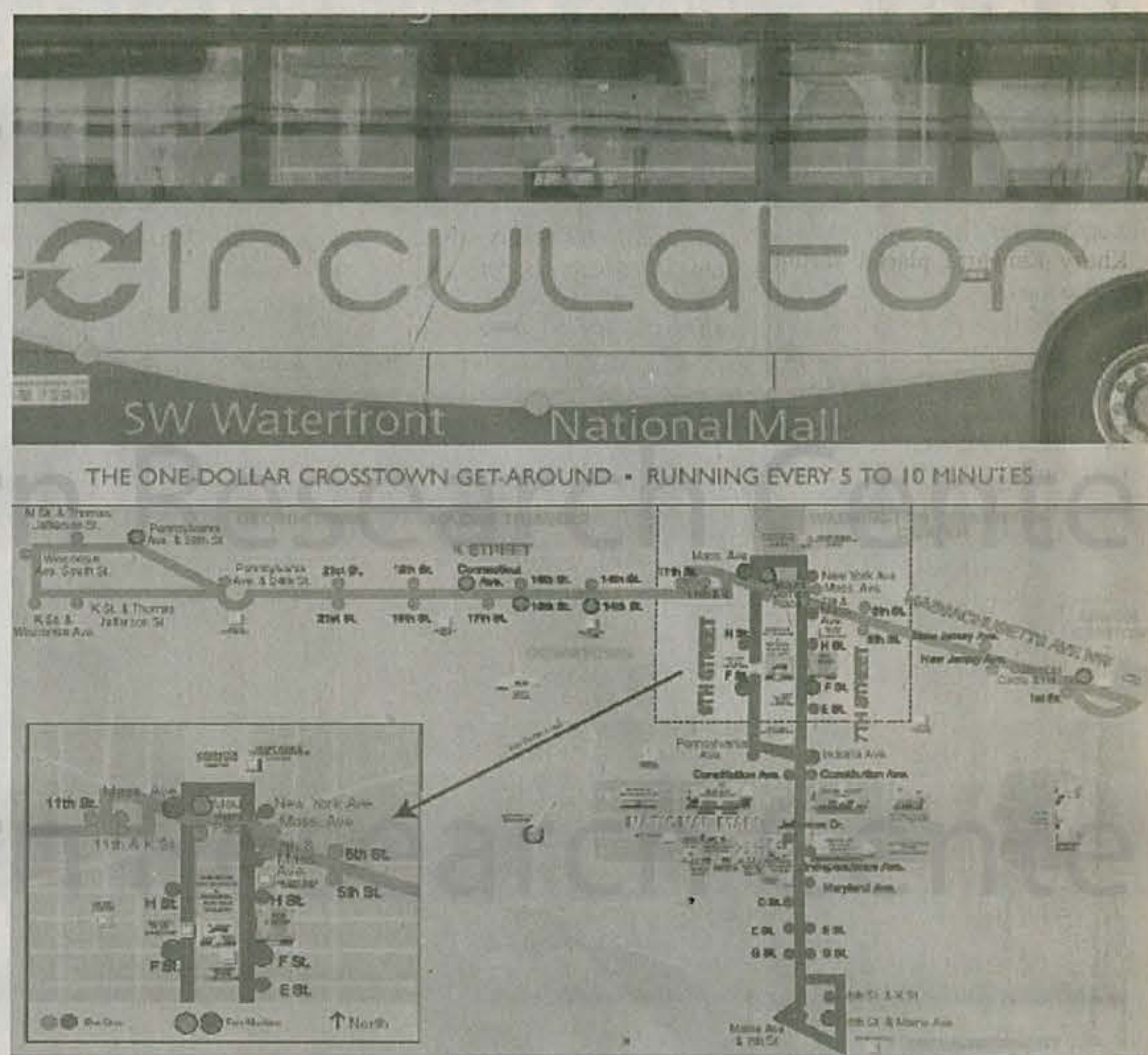
Students in the District say they may or may not use the service depending on their needs.

"I think I might use it for convenience if I am downtown, but not regularly because I don't go downtown very often," said LeVon Harris, a sophomore film major.

A number of students agree that the service would probably only be useful to tourists or people who work downtown.

"I think I will just keep using the Metro," Alexis DeBerry, a junior musical theatre major, said. DeBerry, like a lot of other students, said she only goes downtown for entertainment purposes. Furthermore, many students say that they do not go to the National Mall or the Capitol and so, the service is virtually useless to them.

Students agree that the service is meant for tourists who are interested in traveling downtown and to other tourist destinations. Some say its only advantage is its schedule and price, it will run from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day with buses running every five to 10 minutes with a cost of \$1. Metro transfers, passes and Smart Trip cards may also be used as payment.



The D.C. Circulator, a transit system designed for downtown D.C., will start in July 2005.

"EVEN MY GRANDMA READS THE HILLTOP..."

ONLINE

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Metro Week Calendar

April 14th

9 p.m.-1 a.m. **Banda Travessia.**
Classical and contemporary Brazilian jazz and popular music performed live at the Columbia Station.
202-543-0945

April 15th

8 p.m.
Mendelssohn Piano Trio.
Spend an evening with the resident trio, The Mendelssohnians, as they perform works by Tchaikovsky and Ravel at the La Maison Francaise Embassy of France.
202-944-6000

April 16th

10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Weekend Outdoor Festival.
Handmade crafts, jewelry and art from all over the world on exhibit and for sale, at the Market 5 Gallery. 202-543-7293

April 17th

11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Birthdays at Veramar Vineyard.
Celebrate your birthday with a complimentary glass of wine on the second Sunday of each month, at the Veramar Vineyard.
540-955-5510

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Track Team to Compete in Last Meet Before MEAC Finals

TRACK, from Campus A1

4x100m relay qualified also. On the men's side Nicholas Wright qualified for the NCA Regional for the 400m hurdles. Khary Kenyatta placed second in the men's 800m.

For the majority of the outdoor season, the team has remained relatively injury free. Last weekend however there were a few members of the team that sustained injuries, including junior Bianca Roberts who strained her groin.

Freshman psychology major Quinton Reid hurt his leg during one of his races but it didn't negatively affect him. "Actually I

ran faster," he said while watching a videotape of the race in which you can actually see the point in which he hurt his leg.

The meet at the University of Virginia this weekend represents the last opportunity for members of the team who have not yet qualified to qualify for conference.

Not only will this meet be the last chance for some of the team to qualify it will also be the last meet for several of the teams members. The men's team will be losing quite a few runners including David Wynn, Raymond Gayle and Adetola Adewoda. The women's team however is almost the exact

opposite. "I will basically have my whole group back," Merritt said.

It will not just be familiar faces the women's team can expect to see next season. Merritt, who said he recruits year round, has plans to add more women to the team. "We're going to sign a few," said Merritt. "We have two women who have already committed and we are hoping to sign a third," he added.

After this weekend, both teams will get a brief break. They will have a weekend off from competing before they head to the MEAC Conference on April 28th.

click it to us.

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

The Hilltop: Join the History

We made history as the first HBCU Daily

Become part of that history and join the Nation's Number One Collegiate newspaper!

Applications are available to pick up at The Hilltop Office located on the P-level of the Howard Plaza West Towers

Applications are due tomorrow April 15th to The Hilltop Office.

Positions Available:

Section Editors

Asst. Section Editors

Deputy Section Editors

Photographers

Staff Writers

Online Editor

Copy Editors

Copy Chief

Paginatons

Cartoonist

**The Last Issue of the
2004-2005 The Hilltop
will be
Friday, April 15th.
Thank you readers for
making us the #1
Collegiate Newspaper in
the Nation and
supporting us in going
daily. Without you
none of this would
be possible.**

**Sincerely,
The Hilltop Staff**

EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

VOLUME 88, NO. 67

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2005

www.thehilltoponline.com



First Black Catholic Pope?

On April 18, the conclave of 117 Catholic cardinals will meet to decide who will be the next pope. Speculation on who will receive the honor has been rampant ever since Pope John Paul II died on April 2.

Nigeria's Francis Arinze is one of the cardinals gaining a lot of attention and it is possible that he may be the first Black pope.

Cardinal Arinze is well respected amongst his peers in the Catholic Church; he is ranked as the No. 4 official in the Vatican and is only one of 12 African Cardinals.

Naturally, we were very accepting to the idea of having a Black pope. Although at Howard University a good portion of students are Baptist, there are a number of students who follow the Catholic faith.

We can't help but wonder how those students feel about

being Catholic when the U.S. cardinal is white and all previous cardinals have been European.

We are hoping that a Black pope might make Black followers feel more connected to the church and possibly attract more Black followers.

Furthermore, the church

Our View:

A Black pope would be refreshing, but we hope the next leader of the Catholic Church, is as great, humble and loving as the last.

has considered a pope from a developing country in its efforts to reach out to the more than 100 million Catholics who live in Sub-Saharan Africa since the number of African Catholics has nearly doubled in the last 20 years.

Understandably, White Europeans make up the major-

ity of the people who follow the faith and so, the Catholic Church might feel as though they want a pope who represents the majority of its followers.

However, a pope is supposedly given the position by God's will so the race of the next pope should not be a question of race but more a question of the individual's ability to serve the people.

Pope John Paul II was European yet, his service to the people and humanity even amongst those who do not believe in him the faith has earned him the title of Pope John Paul the Great in many circles.

Although a Black pope would help Black Catholics identify with the religion better, we just hope the next pope will be as much of a loving individual and humanitarian as Pope John Paul II.

Making Homeownership A Reality

CANDICE REYNOLDS

Becoming a homeowner is a task that leaves many people scratching their heads and wondering where they should begin. Many college students and recent college graduates are tackling this huge feat to reap the benefits of living the American dream.

For those who have been contemplating, open your eyes and read well so that your dream will not be deferred.

For those who are living the dream, continue to read to learn more about building wealth and making sure your dream does not become a nightmare.

Learning about the home buying process, working to improve your credit and saving money are the tools that make the home buying and refinancing processes easier and allow your dreams to become and stay a reality.

The first key to home ownership is understanding and knowing your credit score.

Your credit score is your personal financial resume and the determining factor in what you qualify for and how much you pay for private student loans, cars, homes, insurance

rates and the limit you can spend on your credit cards. This score varies from 375 - 900 and to own a home with most companies, your credit score must be over 580 and to refinance your credit score must be over 500.

The magic number for most companies in always hearing the word yes and qualifying for the best programs begins with a score of 680.

To reach this number, pay your debts on time, do not max out your credit card limits and establish a strong credit history over time. Another key in qualifying for great programs and interest rates is having money saved. Saving money shows that you are responsible because you are planning for your future.

Having a minimum of two months worth of mortgage payments helps you qualify for better interest rates.

Once you become a homeowner great things continue to happen. Paying your mortgage on time every month for 12 months helps your credit score rise dramatically.

So along with being a homeowner, your credit improves and you begin to build equity in your home.

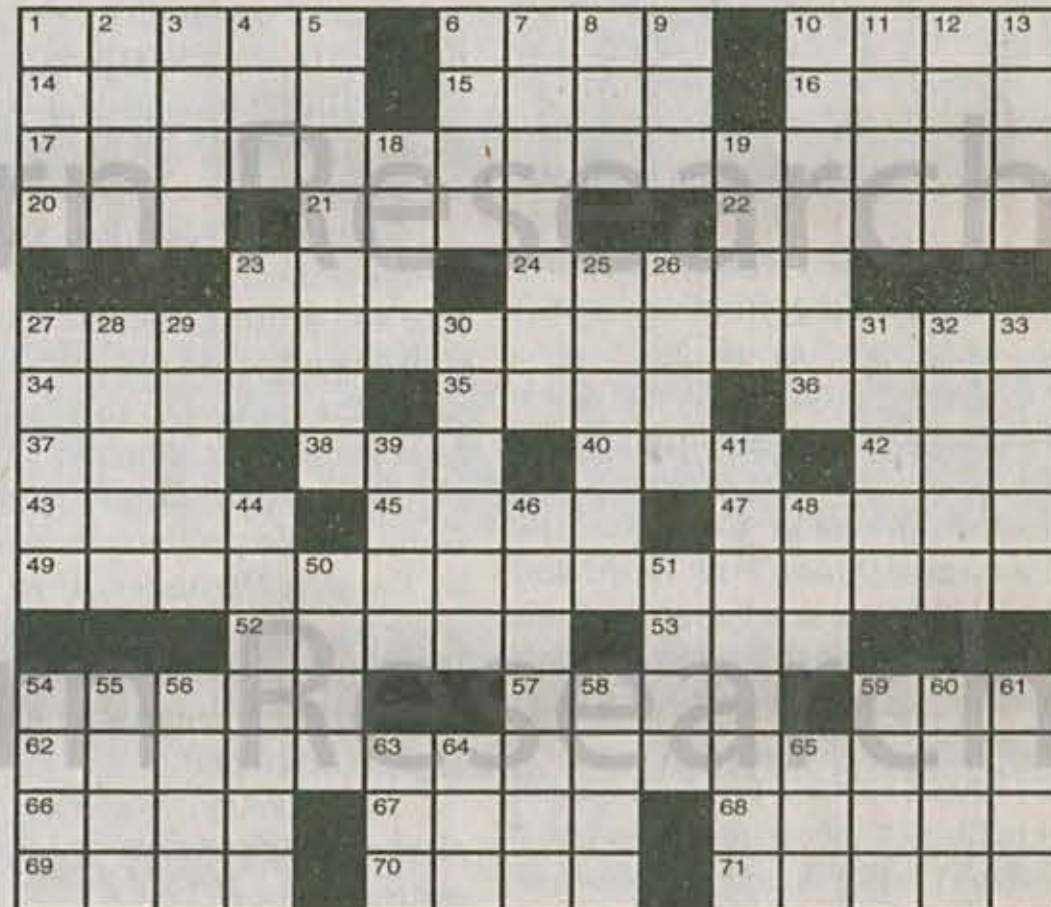
The equity in your home is cash that can help you build more wealth to purchase more homes, pay off debt, further your education and invest because it is never too early to plan for retirement.

To own a home or refinance your current home, these are the steps I suggest: review your credit by ordering a free copy of your credit report and dispute any inaccuracies, find a realtor who is willing to work with you to find the perfect home, secure a lender who can offer you an array of programs and work with people who are interested in helping you with your immediate and long term financial goals and select the best program.

Whether purchasing or refinancing, do your research and don't be afraid to shop lenders. Having a moderate amount of inquiries will not impact your credit score. Happy home buying and wealth building!

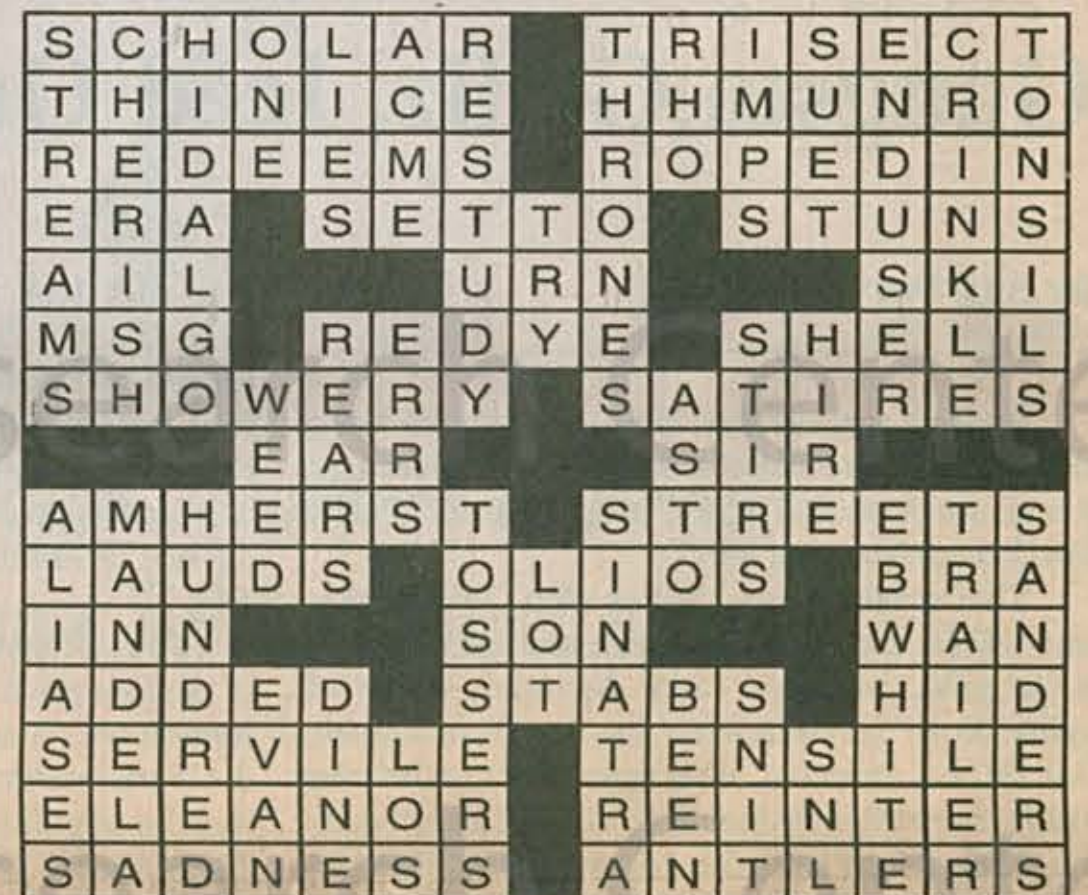
Candice Reynolds is a 2004 graduate of Howard University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. She is a mortgage loan officer with Town and Country Credit Corporation. She can be reached at candice.reynolds@gmail.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Impish rogue
6 McGregor of
10 Trainspotting
14 Present packaging
15 Heavy work
16 Print measure
17 Aperture
18 Just a minute!
20 Drench
21 All even
22 Deep passion
23 Actor Kingsley
24 Former mayor of NYC
27 Breakfast order
34 Postman's course
35 Cable channel's letters
36 Bargain-hunter's
37 Comic Carney
38 Reggae relative
40 AOL, for example
42 Terrier foot
43 Way of old Rome
45 Part of USA
47 Merits
49 Hit by the Commodores
52 Hamlet
53 Spherical body
54 Type of pear
57 Bridge seat
59 I figured it out!
62 Convertible wannabe
66 Tenant's payment
67 Sufficient elbow space
68 "Guitar Town" singer
69 Bullring shouts
70 Made great haste
71 Holy smokes!

DOWN
1 Leisurely
2 Walking stick
3 Shelter a fugitive
U.N.



4 Pop's partner
5 Apprentices
6 Fencing foil
7 Blouhard
8 Disenfranchise
9 Snooze
10 While on the other
11 Highway
12 As well
13 Stare intently
14 Merciless villain
15 Young sheep
16 Wager
17 All in one piece
18 Adj. modifiers
19 Attribute
20 Value
21 External
22 Former Israeli P.M.
23 "It's a Wonderful Life"
24 Baltic island
25 Full of recent info
26 Green Hornet's valet
27 Partridge perch
28 Snappy comebacks
29 Major ruler
30 Priestly vestment
31 Barak of Israel
32 Sammy of baseball
33 Frizzy hairdo
34 Yuletide carol
35 Actress Allison
36 Lamentor's words
37 Gillette razor
38 Cargo space
39 Simians
40 Table scrap
41 Tie-tac-toe win
42 Hammarskjöld of the

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 81st year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial and Perspectives Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

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

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

Creations at Erthwermzindert

BY JENNIFER L. WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Music, irrespective of genre, has long been dominated by much of the same. However, two Howard graduates, alongside another individual who was born and raised in D.C., have merged and created an astounding and boundlessly imaginative sound.

Gary Gunn, a School of Business graduate, Jeff Justice Williams, a School of Communications graduate, and Reeko Graves, a close friend of the two, are Erthwermzindert (EWiD), a vehicle that is part production company, part revolution.

Their studio, located in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a breeding ground for the group's inventive, ingenious sound. Tricky, Frou Frou, Joi, Radiohead, Devin the Dude, The Mars Volta... the ease in which a CD changer switches from artist to artist and genre to genre at the EWiD studio helps to further explain the sprawling musical masterworks that the production company prides itself on creating.

"Artists are creative beings who make their entire existence about their art, and pure artistry is what drives me; what drives us," Gunn said.

As all three men are products of Washington, D.C., each one's musical influences range from the seemingly obvious, to the totally unexpected.

The undeniably infectious instrumentations of go-go, and the gritty rap of the early '90s, as well as classic Doors, Pink Floyd and Funkadelic were all significant musical factors integral in their development. Their embrace of everything musical is a direct result of growing up listening to influential artists, many of whom were introduced to them during their respective childhoods.

"My father is responsible for it," Gunn said. "I grew up on old '70s soul, but I also remember hearing Black Sabbath and Mandrill." He added, "What I was exposed to when I was young, helps give me the confidence to do what I do now." Gunn, who in high school was entrenched in D.C.'s popular go-go scene, was the main percussion-

ist for the Sudden Death band, but in late 1999, Williams' arranged meeting between Gunn and Graves, who were both recognized for their popularity with Go-Go bands, proved integral.

Gunn's mastery of virtually every musical instrument, along with Graves' endless creativity and surreal lyricism, created the springboard for what was to come.

Each gentleman plays a specific role in keeping Erthwermzindert afloat. Williams, who was the program director for WHBC, as well as a primetime host on WPGC 95.5, serves as a manager of sorts, securing coverage in various media outlets, as well as tending to the widespread attention and robust fan base that has latched onto the group.

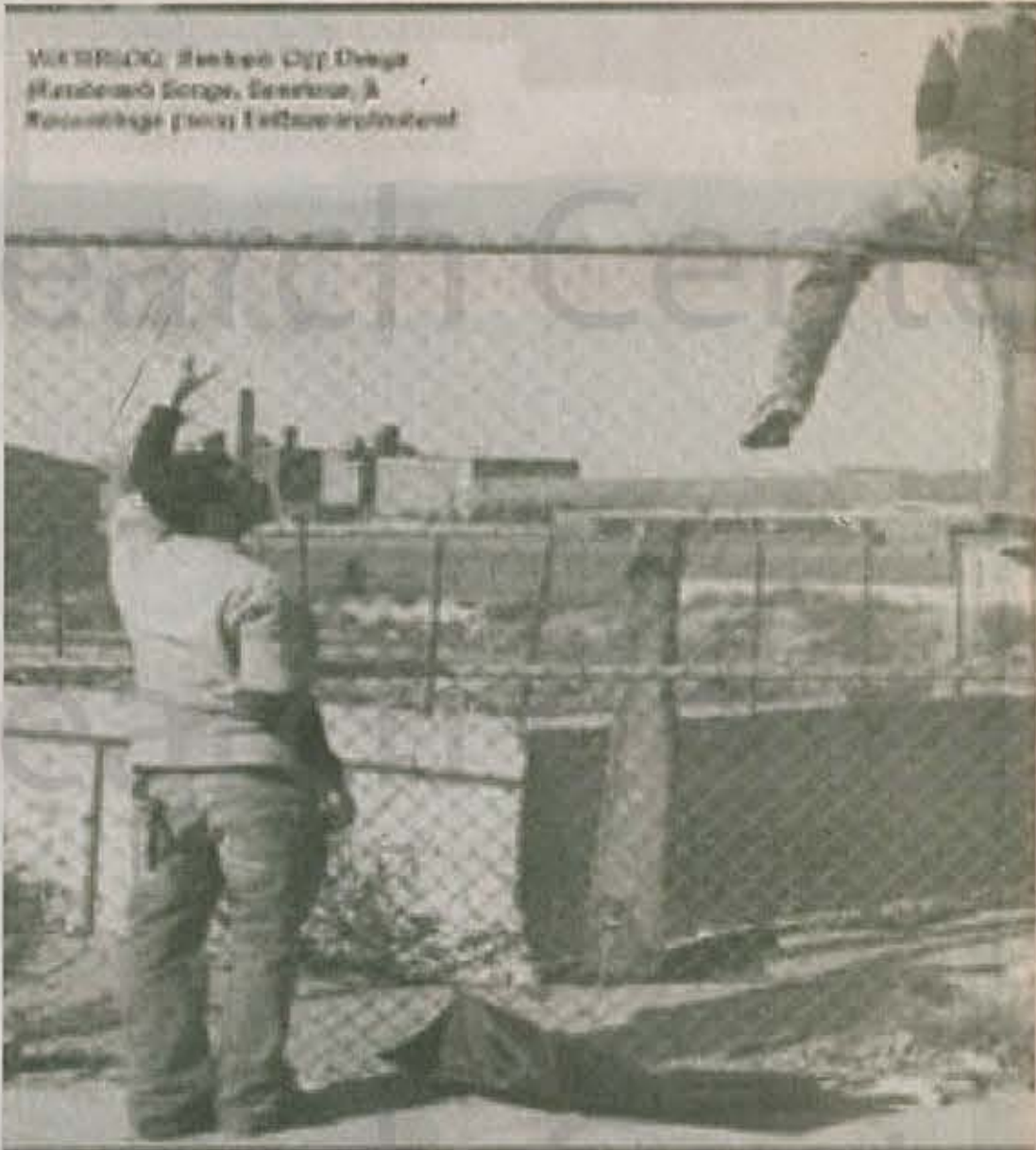
Gunn's outlandish, over the top compositions are what makes the EWiD sound so unique. Graves, meanwhile, is accountable for creating the haunting lyrics and vocal imagery that round out Waterlog, Gunn and Graves collaboration along a genre-less musical odyssey.

The latest Waterlog collaboration has yielded the *Brained off Drugs* project, a perfect marriage of thought-provoking lyrical content and pulsing melodic soundscapes. Comprised of new works, as well as rendered sessions and recordings, *Brained off Drugs* introduces the listener to the melodic world that the duo inhabits, and is full of vibrant originality.

Much guaranteed success lies ahead for Erthwermzindert. Gunn, whose production resume includes esteemed producers such as Damien Desandes, Doc, Geology and Mahogany, is currently working with Nona Hendryx (formerly of the powerhouse group Labelle) and Bobby Banks in the creation of the newly formed Rhythm Bank Entertainment, as well as producing the phenomenal Malene Younglao.

Additionally, Waterlog is zealously working on their debut album, which is sure to create a warranted buzz amongst music coinsurers of all types.

Erthwermzindert's appeal lies in their refreshing approach. Shunning the constraints of idolatry and hero-worship, rampant in



this day and age of popular music, is what sets this group apart. They opt for an end product that is more fulfilling, free of ego and much more aurally stimulating. The beauty of EWiD is their embrace of the extraordinarily complex, instead of dabbling with the established and familiar. True artistry and stimulating, provocative content are the mainstays of this trio's dedication and passion, and the possibilities are, indeed, endless.

Gangsta Grillz, Iced Out Mouths

BY BRITTANY JOHNSON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Anyone can see that Howard students bring their talents and fashion sense to the Mecca, so it's no surprise that an HU student could start a hustle accessorizing teeth.

That's right, everyone has seen Cash Money, and other rappers who wear and write about their gold, platinum and diamond incrustated grills. Now, the Mecca has its own front master, Johnathon Johnson, who specializes in helping students get the perfect fit for their custom grill.

"The South is underrepresented at Howard, and because gold teeth are apart of southern culture, people see your fronts and want to know where you got them so they can represent too," he said.

Although fronts come in all shapes, sizes and colors, they are still not for everyone. "It's just gaudy jewelry, and I don't like gaudy jewelry," Jahi Chambers, a sophomore audio production major, said.

Johnson, a junior undecided major from Texas, knows that many people don't understand because it's not apart of their culture like it is for many southern Blacks.

"I just think that they haven't been exposed, it's not comfortable for them, just like screwed music or rims on cars. It's a part of the culture that they're not used to," Johnson said.

A huge problem that many students refuse to avoid is their inability to fit into the professional world that many students aspire to become a part of. "When will there ever be an appropriate time, as a businessman, to wear them?" Chambers asked.

Johnson believes that they may not be as suitable for business, as they are for more casual moments. "I keep my teeth white, until its time to have fun and that's when I put my grill in," he said.

Some students don't believe that they are ever appropriate. "Personally, I don't like the

way they look and they carry a bad connotation. It's sad that it does and that people are judged by the way they look, but that is reality," said Anthony Hendricks, a speech communication major. Johnson however, disagrees, "Your outward appearance does not reflect your intelligence or ability to perform in a classroom setting."

The difference in opinion over the popularity of custom grills can be relative to an individual's hometown. "I actually know a lot of people that do. I understand that where they're from, they may be popular, but I'm from Cali, and we don't where those," Chambers said.

Junior marketing major Randall Taylor says agrees with Johnson, and thinks that grills are more acceptable in the South.

"Where I went to school down south, at Morehouse, they were very well received. People were always looking in your mouth. Up here, it's not so well received. People just look at you, so I don't where mine during the day. I only wear them at night," he said.

Brittany Hall, a freshman nursing major agrees with the importance of location. "I'm from Baltimore, and that's the thing. Downtown, on every corner, there is a goldsmith that does them," she said.

According to Johnson, outside of them being important to southern culture, they are becoming a huge fad. "Nas and Kelis got grills when they got married, Usher got a grill, Pharrell got one in Snoops new video. It's becoming a trend, its gaining popularity, people from all places have grills now," he said.

As many fads come and go, Johnson who doesn't see himself letting go of his grills anytime soon, believing that people will always show their allegiance to southern culture through their grills. He said, "For those who base their existence on hip-hop, they might stop wearing them when the south is no longer the hottest in music. Then, it will fall back to those who are a part of the culture."

The Hunt Is On: Graduating Seniors Race to Find Jobs

BY EDITH SODOLO
Contributing Writer

With graduation just around the corner, graduating seniors are searching for an occupation to settle into by fall.

Some seniors are struggling in their search for their first professional job while others have more than one job offer to choose from.

Then there are those who are skipping the competitive job hunt altogether and attending graduate school to further their education.

Senior psychology major Starsha Valentine considers her current job hunt quite difficult. She feels that graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree is a disadvantage in the job market.

"If you graduate with a degree from the School of Business for instance, you're more likely to get a job versus someone like me who majored in psychology. I have to continue to go to school."

According to a survey done by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) the top five majors that recruiters are looking for are business administration and management, accounting, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, economics and

finance.

Senior physical therapy major Ashley Sinclair agrees with Valentine. "With my major, I'm going to grad school to complete my doctorate in just three years. Meanwhile I'll have to do an internship," she said.

According to Lea Luchetti, director of the Career Center at Washington University in St. Louis, post-graduation internships offer great opportunities to finding permanent jobs.

The advantage for the student is that when job opportunities become available, employers prefer to hire their own interns for full-time positions.

Senior fashion merchandising major Joanne Doward is also dealing with the pressures of finding a job. "I know the job hunt is crazy. I plan on going back to school for interior design so, luckily, I don't have to look just yet."

Doward also admits that she's hoping to find a job thereafter that will pay for at least half of her schooling. And she may be in luck.

Many employers now assist with tuition for graduate school. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute around 80 percent of the 945 companies surveyed offered some type of tuition-assistance plan in 2001 with percentages

increasing each year.

While many seniors are finding the job hunt to be difficult, some are finding the job hunt to not be as hectic. T.V. production major Rachel Hale says she has three job opportunities lined up, one in New York, one in L.A. and one in Europe.

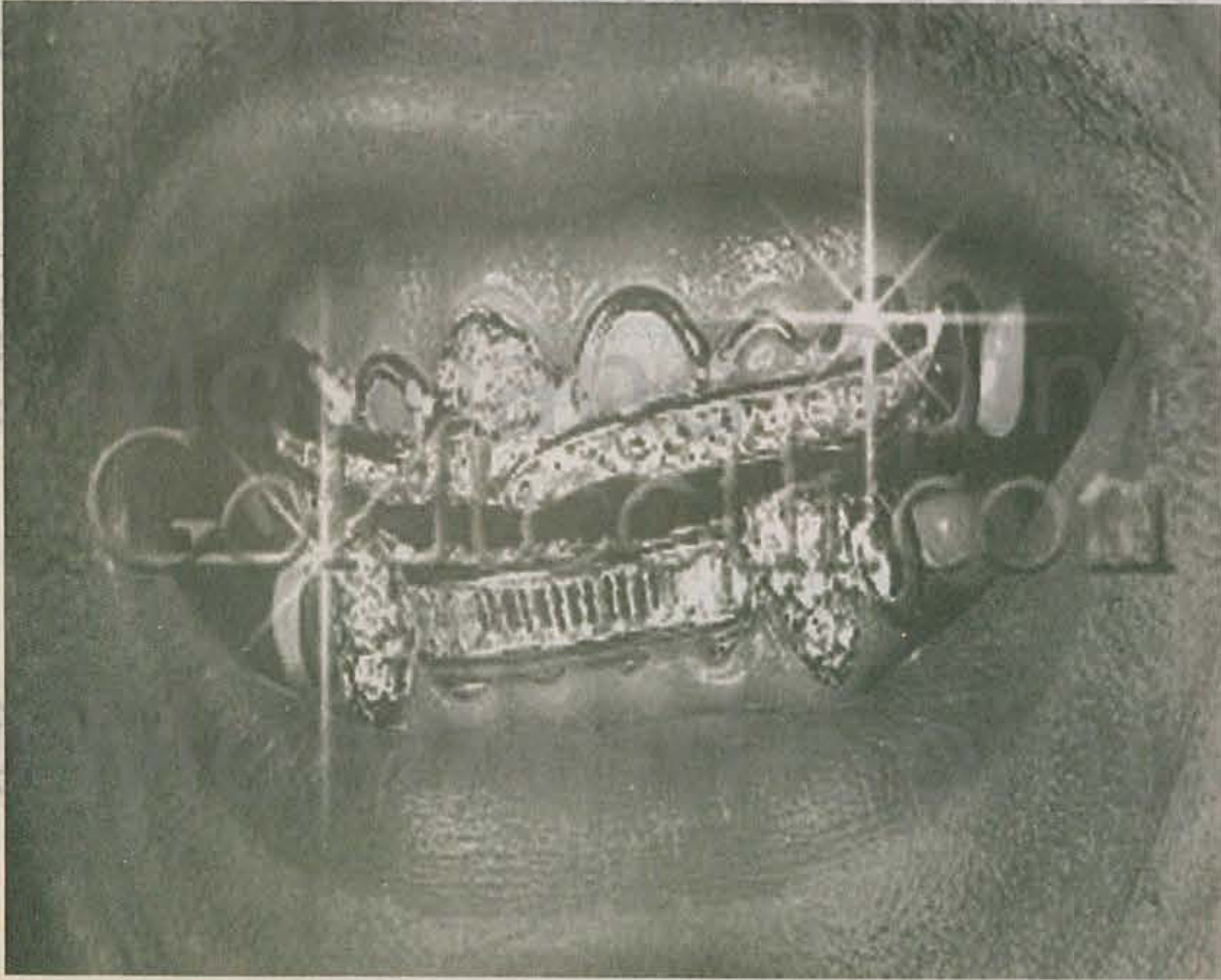
"I heard about them through people I know, people I've interned for and people I've just kept in contact with. All of the networking I've done during my four years has really paid off."

NACE states that 75 percent of jobs are found through networking. Luchetti said that networking could be fun and informal while proving to be beneficial in the long run.

"You can network at a baseball game or even an ice cream stand. It is simply a matter of sharing your interests and goals with others," she said.

This year, according to NACE, employers plan on hiring 13 percent more graduating seniors than last year.

Still, to be better prepared for the job hunt, a combination of networking, interning and possibly continuing an education will be instrumental. The key is to have alternative methods on how to get in the door.



Buster Bar Ice Cream Desert

INGREDIENTS:
1 pound chocolate sandwich cookies, crushed
1/2 cup margarine, melted
1 3/4 cups confectioners' sugar
1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup margarine
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream
1 1/2 cups dry-roasted peanuts

DIRECTIONS:
Combine crushed cookies and melted margarine and press into a 9x13 inch dish. Chill 1 hour in refrigerator. In a saucepan over medium heat, combine confectioners' sugar, evaporated milk, chocolate chips and 1/2 cup margarine. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly and boil 8 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Set aside to cool.
Slice vanilla ice cream into 3/4 inch slices, and place them in a single layer over the chilled crust. Smooth the seams. Sprinkle the peanuts over the ice cream. Top with the cooled chocolate sauce. Cover and freeze 8 hours or overnight.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Howard University School of Education Presents

FOURTH ANNUAL CULTURALLY

APPROPRIATE TEACHING CONFERENCE:

THE BRILLIANCE FACTOR IN BLACK HISTORY

The brilliance of the culture is seen in the high achievement levels of Black preschoolers and African/African American contributions to literacy, math, science, language, philosophy, and the history of struggle. The Conference on Culturally Appropriate Teaching (C.A.T.) will stress those methodologies, ideologies, philosophies, techniques, and themes that lead to C.A.T.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Irving McPhail co-editor of *Teaching African American Learners to Read*, speaking on "The History of Teaching Any African American Child to Read At and Above Grade Level"

Mr. Bob Brown, Co-director of Pan African Roots, author of *Slavery and the Slave Trade...Crimes Against Humanity* speaking on "Reparations for Education"

Dr. James Garrett, Dean of Vista College, co-founder of Black Studies, speaking on "The History of the Founding of Black Studies"

Schedule

Monday, April 18th, 2005

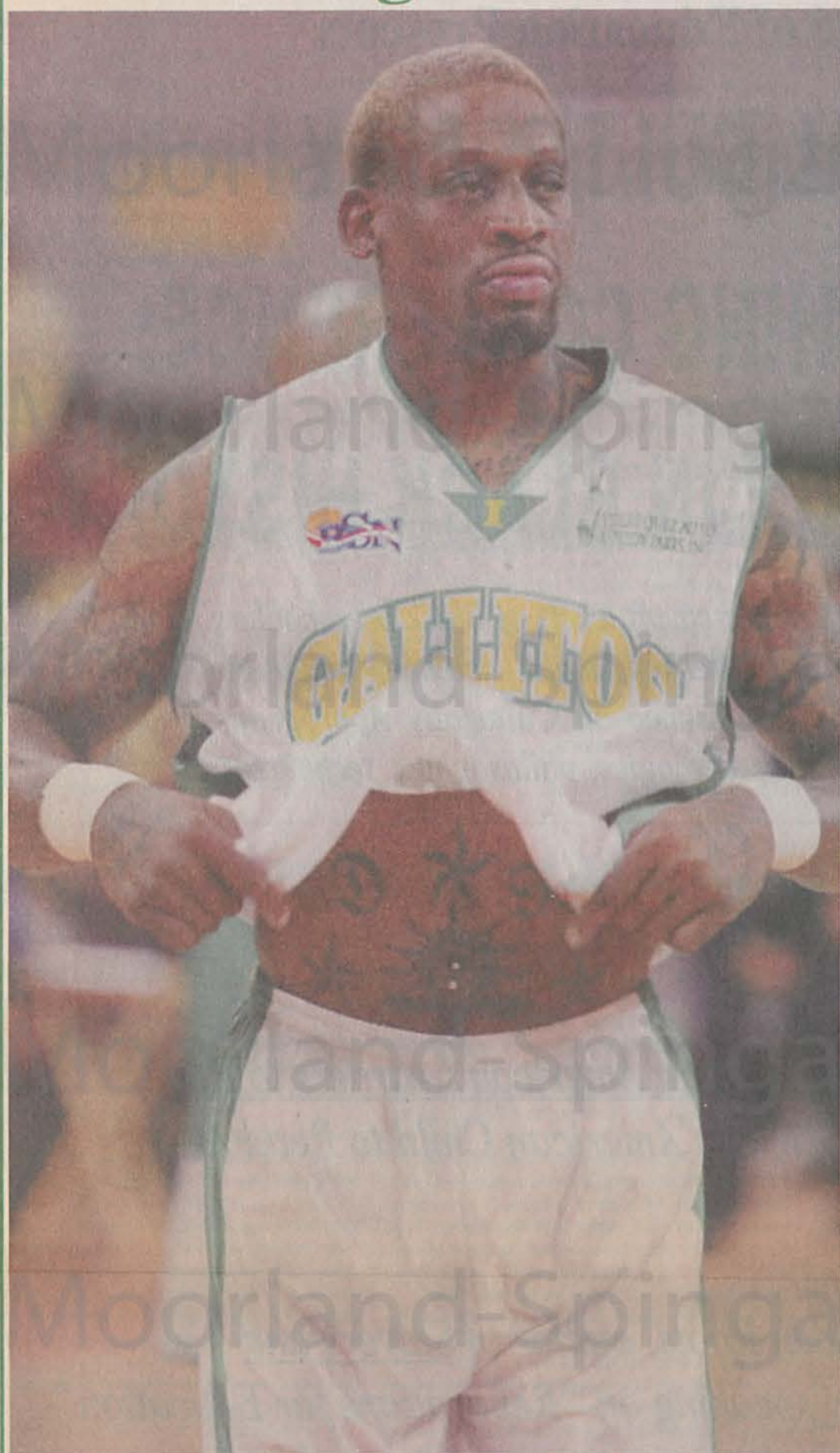
Plenary Session I	9:00	Blackburn West Ballroom
Break	10:45	Blackburn West Ballroom
Plenary Session II	11:00	Blackburn West Ballroom
Break	11:50	Blackburn West Ballroom
Plenary Session III	1:00	Blackburn West Ballroom
Break	1:25	Blackburn West Ballroom
Plenary Session IV	1:40	Blackburn West Ballroom
Speaker: Dr. Browder	1:55	Blackburn West Ballroom
Speaker: Dr. McPhail	2:30	Blackburn West Ballroom
Speaker: Bob Brown	3:45	Blackburn West Ballroom
Speaker: Dr. James Garrett – Q & A	5:00	Blackburn West Ballroom
OPEN HOUSE & Reception	6:30	Blackburn West Ballroom

Excellence of achievement is a critical part of culturally appropriate teaching.

For further information contact Dr. Mary Hoover, mryhoover@starpower.net, or

Gerunda Hughes, ghughes@howard.edu, Coordinators, 806-7343.

Roosting Rodman



Former NBA star Dennis Rodman plays an exhibition game with the Isabela Roosters of the Puerto Rican basketball league in Arecibo, Puerto Rico on Saturday. League president Henry Neumann said Rodman will make \$50,000 for his appearance.

By Ricky Arduengo - The Associated Press

Lacrosse in Abundance

BY ELLIOT JONES
Contributing Writer

By many accounts, the greatest lacrosse player of all-time was a two-time All-American midfielder who led Syracuse University to a perfect 10-0 record in 1957. This player was so good, it was rumored that the rule requiring players to cradle the ball was put in place to slow him down. As it turns out, this same man would go on to become the NFL's all time leading rusher. The man was Jim Brown, an African-American, and member of the NFL, college football and U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Just as at the time of Brown's domination, lacrosse remains a predominantly White sport. Lacrosse is a regional sport, immensely popular in upstate New York, New England, Pennsylvania, New Jersey Baltimore. But as the sport continues to grow among the college ranks and the youth sports level, it is failing to attract large numbers of African-American athletes.

Howard University is attempting to reverse this trend. With the addition of the men's club lacrosse team this year, Howard became the only HBCU to have both men's and women's lacrosse teams. The women's lacrosse team has been in existence at Howard for eight years, and has competed in the NCAA's Division I since 1998. According to men's coach and UNC graduate Duane Milton, it makes sense that Howard is leading the way in changing the face of the sport.

"HU is the global leader of change in all aspects, it's fitting that we are at the forefront of changing lacrosse on a national scale," said Milton.

Milton became interested in the sport after experiencing racism as a baseball player in his youth. A friend introduced him to lacrosse and after learning about its Native American origins and the intensity of the sport, he came to embrace it.

He is now in the process of building an all-Black lacrosse team at Howard, a task that him and his players feel is very significant.

"Playing for Howard is a unique opportunity because we're trying to make history," Drew Costley, a member of the men's team, said. "It's great playing with 20 other African-Americans in a predominantly White sport rather than being the only Black guy on the team," he added.

One of things Milton enjoyed most about his playing experience was not only participating in a majority White sport with a group of young black colleagues, but being a dominant force. Now, he is trying to impart the same sentiment to members of Howard's program.

"I would hope that men's lacrosse be leaders from a social, diverse and competitive standpoint," Milton said. "...And that at any level, we could be just as effective and competitive as any varsity Division I program in the country."

The team is already taking strides towards achieving greatness, scheduling games against the junior varsity clubs of local lacrosse giants such as Maryland and Georgetown, as well as the varsity squads of schools like Ithaca College and Hobart University. Setting the bar against the lofty heights of such well-established sides, the men's lacrosse team will experience first-hand the level of play required in order to become a great team.

Howard's women's lacrosse team is currently the only one in the NCAA's Division I to come from an HBCU. For the women, much of the same adversity is present as the adversity the men face as an all-Black team in the largely white sport. However, many of the benefits are the same as well.

"I picked up lacrosse in seventh grade to try something new and because all of my friends were playing it, and I've played it ever since," Meagan Fitzgerald, a second-year attackman for the Lady Bison lacrosse team, said.

"It's a great experience playing with all Black girls instead of an all White team. It's a different type of bond, we all face the same struggle, we are all working towards the same goal."



Members of the Howard University men's club team are modern day trailblazers.

By Mark King - Staff Photographer

Lady Bison Aftermath and Life Without Daisha

BY HEATHER FAISON
Contributing Writer

In the aftermath of a roller coaster season filled with amazing record breakers and nail biting finishes, the Lady Bison (11-7 MEAC 17-12 overall) basketball team must now regroup and plan next season with the absence of three starters, including their leader at the helm, Daisha Hicks.

As the team mends the fresh wounds of the semi-final loss in the competitive MEAC tournament, they are forced to examine their abilities as leaders after their floor leaders pass the torch, leaving a crucial void behind. Rest assured that this team is ready and willing to answer the call.

With the return of standout guards Shannon Carlisle and Christina Aden to the line-up for next year, the team expects an exciting rebound that will provide a much-needed boost for the front line. Carlisle and Aden spent this season on the sideline rehabilitating injuries but are expected to make healthy returns and display their leadership abilities.

"Chris [Christina] is a big leader. Even though she didn't participate this year she was right there by our side and helping the ladies out this year. We look forward to all of our point guards coming in and leading," Assistant Coach Andre Bolton said.

Starting shooting guard Brittany James sees the player's reunion as a threat to the opposition that the team will face next season.

"Them coming back will definitely boost our performance. Christina will bring back her three pointers, and Shannon's speed will be hard to beat," James said.

As the other half of the dynamic guard duo, James has had a stellar performance this season averaging 12 points and breaking the school record for the most three pointers in a single game. James was often times the go-to player when the team needed last minute shots, and during her tenure playing alongside Hicks, the junior learned first hand what it takes to be a leader.

"Daisha showed me how to be a leader on the floor through her emotion. If you're real passionate on the court, everyone should react and show up," James said.

Junior guard Ebony Lacey, the point guard for the pressing

team and rotating guard for the starters, plans to further develop her skills during the off season so that she will be able to step up when the opportunity comes.

"I need to work on my jump shot, work on creating more opportunities for my teammates," Lacey said.

Sophomore Melloni Benson has helped Senior Andrea Jones create a threatening post presence for the Bison, averaging 8.7 points and 4.7 rebounds, and Coach Bolton is anticipating her promotion to more leadership roles for next season.

"I think, hopefully, Mel will have the best season she has played since she's been here. Hopefully, we can have her the whole year without any injuries,"

Head Coach Cathy Parson and Assistant Coach Andre Bolton realized early the magnitude of losing their star point guards and dominant post player, Jones, and they carried out their recruitment process with the need to fill those positions in the forefront of their minds.

"We've done a great job in trying to replace what we're losing. When you're losing a point guard, a three player and a center, we definitely went out to replace those positions," Bolton said.

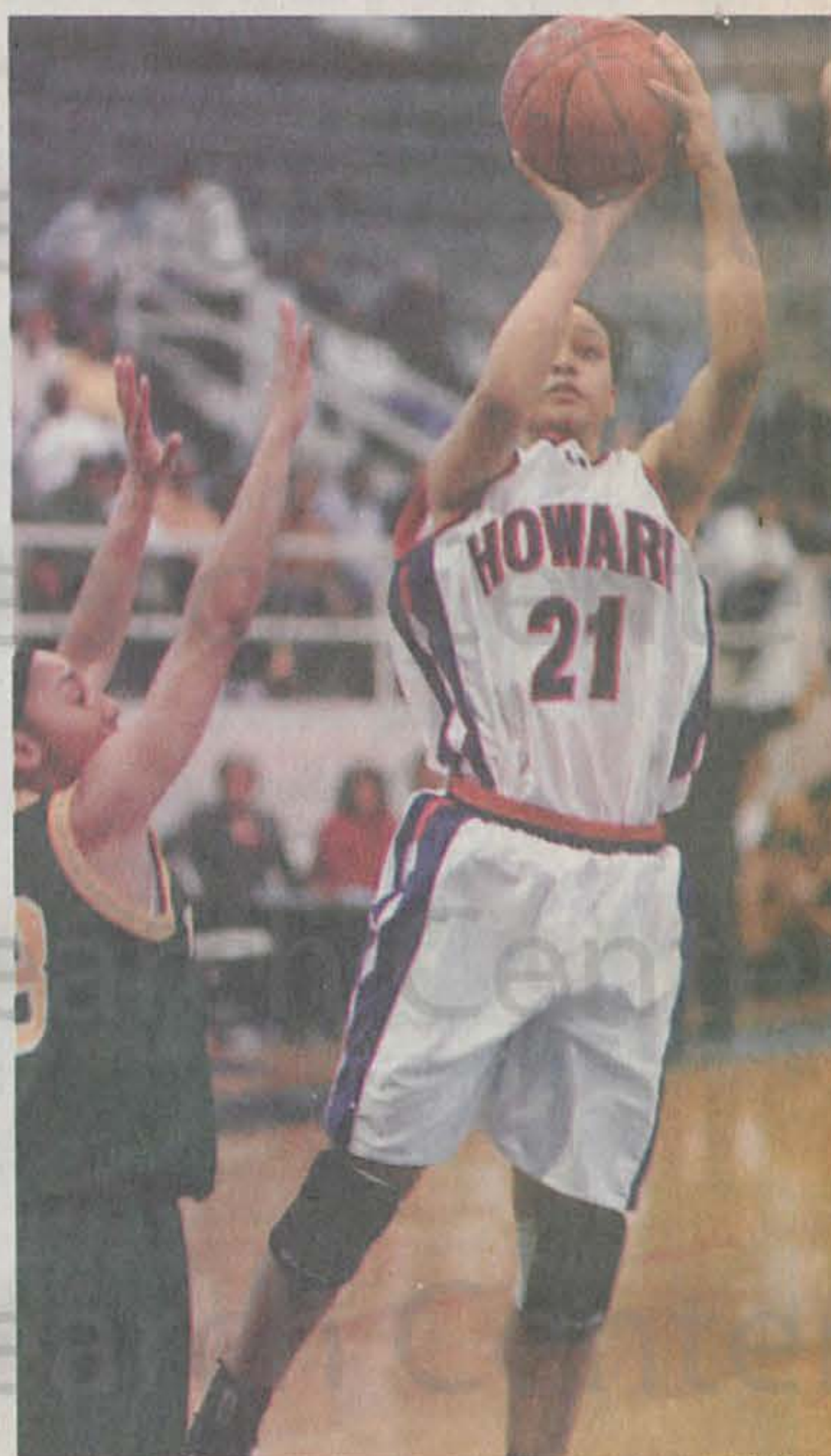
The team is keeping a tight lip when it comes to revealing these recruits, but the buzz around the team at the mention of the new girls proved that the new additions bring a new energy to this team.

James recalled the first practice the recruits saw early in the season and was surprised when the initially shy girls showed their competitive side to the veteran players.

"While they were on the side watching us play, they were talking mess," James said. "I was like 'Are you serious? These recruits are talking junk' I've never seen that from a recruit."

The goal for next year is for the girls to form chemistry with one another as they tackle the challenge of starting with a fresh roster. Understanding that a coach could never replace the same player that was lost, Bolton feels that this fresh start is just what the team needs to keep the stands filled and fans excited next season.

"This season is going to be different but exciting and it's definitely going to be worth coming out to watch," Bolton said.



All Pro Photo

Daisha Hicks has been the mainstay for the Lady Bison since her freshman year. Her leadership and perimeter game will be missed in the upcoming year.

To all staff and contributing writers who dilligently supported and wrote for the The Hilltop's sports section: Thank you for your time, perseverance and hard work.
- Zac Kenworthy, Ashley Ross and Courtney Eiland