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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 5

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

## THURSDAY NOTEBOOK

### CAMPUS

#### SCIENCE LAB UNDERGOES RENOVATION

THE SCIENCE LABORATORIES IN THE BIOLOGY BUILDING WERE RENOVATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS. GET THE FULL SCOOP IN CAMPUS. **PAGE 2**



### METRO

#### BECOMING JAMES...

A LOCAL ACTOR BECOMES THE LEGENDARY JAMES BALDWIN IN A LOCAL THEATRE PRODUCTION SET IN MODERN TIMES. **PAGE 4**



### LIFE & STYLE

#### SUMMER IN REVIEW

SUMMER'S ALMOST OVER AND THE HILLTOP HAS A RECAP OF THE HIGHS AND LOWS IN THE BUSINESS WE CALL SHOW. **PAGE 8**



### HU CALENDAR

**AUG 24 - SEP 2**  
Consortium Registration  
**AUG 26 - SEP 2**  
Penalty-Free Add/Drop Period  
**SEPT. 4**  
Deadline for 100% Refund  
**SEPT. 5**  
Labor Day - No Class

### NEXT ISSUE

With gas prices soaring, The Hilltop has the scoop on which gas stations are best, in our gas special edition on Friday.

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## Summer Suicide Leaves Students Shocked, Angered

BY SHAYNA RUDD  
Hilltop Staff Writer

An alleged suicide on Howard University's campus over the summer shocked many students who witnessed the incident and angered others who say the media did not give the death enough attention.

The suicide occurred while most Howard students were on summer break. The University released few details surrounding the incident, aside from a written statement offering condolences to the young woman's family.

"We are deeply saddened to report the death of a visitor to our campus over the Memorial Day Weekend," read a statement from J.J. Pryor, a university spokesperson. "Our heartfelt condolences go to her family and friends."

According to student accounts, the young woman, who was not a student at Howard, was visiting a friend living in the West Towers at the time of her death. Before jumping from the eighth floor near the buildings front entrance, students who witnessed the accident said the young woman began shouting and drawing atten-

tion to herself. Below, witnesses said that students had gathered and watched as the young woman fell to the pavement.

"All I knew was I was very scared," said Vanessa Grant, a junior biology major who said she witnessed the incident. "The next thing I knew I heard a loud scream and she wasn't there. It was the first time I ever saw someone die, let alone take their life."

As news spread about the suicide, some Howard students said they were shocked that something like a suicide could happen on campus. Though the young woman did not attend Howard, some students feel that an adequate response to the woman's death is still warranted to prevent similar incidents in the future.

"This story has saddened me and my condolences go out to that young lady's family and friends," said Byron Stewart, senior broadcast journalism major and HUSA president. "Although she wasn't a student, she still was connected to someone in our family here at Howard. I feel that it's time for us to seriously deal with these issues as a family. We need to deal with this now, before it happens to one of



On Memorial Day weekend, a woman fell to her death from the eighth floor of the Howard Plaza Towers West, under the watchful eyes of many Howard students.

Maya Gilliam-Senior  
Photo Editor

our own."

Others said they were surprised by the lack of media coverage devoted to the young woman's death.

"When I heard what happened back at school, I was completely shocked that it wasn't heard on BET, or on the news," said Joi Love, junior psychology major. "Howard gets so much positive publicity that I feel like they were hiding the negative. I feel that all the student body should

know about this because it is happening more and more, especially to college students," Love said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), suicide claims the lives of about 30,000 Americans each year. Recent data suggests that the once-large gap between the number of whites who commit suicide in comparison to blacks is closing.

## Lady Bison Fall to Hoyas in Season Opener



Nicole Reed-Staff Photographer

BY CARYN GRANT  
Asst. Sports Editor

The Lady Bison volleyball team fell 3-0 to the Georgetown Hoyas in their season opener last night.

The Hoyas' consistent serving and powerful hitting proved to be too much for the Bison as they lost all three matches to the Hoyas in Burr Gymnasium.

"We haven't learned discipline yet," said Coach Linda Spencer following the match. "We started out

strong, but then we just fizzled."

The Bison took a 2-0 lead beginning the first game behind the serving of junior Jenica Leonard.

The Lady Bison kept the first game close, tying the game at 10. However, Georgetown middle hitter Jenny Weed's, accurate serving turned the tables and led the Hoyas to a 23-30 victory in game one.

Game two was once again dominated by Weed as she served two aces and four straight points for the Hoyas. The Bison tried to claw back from a five-point

deficit, but the excellent hustle of Leonard and sophomore Morgan Maxwell proved to be not enough, as the Bison fell 14-30.

The Bison attempted to unite during the final game of the match. They forced several hard fought rallies, but once again, fell short to the Hoya toughness, 16-30.

Outside hitters Morgan Hubbard and Kimberly Dexter had strong performances leading the team with seven and six kills, respectively.

However, Georgetown outside hitters Rachel Nelson and Jessica George dominated the net, combining for a total of 19 kills.

"We're real weak in the middle," said Spencer. "Our digs were on time, but we need to do more blocking."

Coach Spencer also contributed part of the match's outcome to the absence of sophomore middle hitter, Gabrielle Nicol and freshman hitter, Janel James who were unable to play because of problems with paperwork.

Spencer hopes that the addition of these two key players will have a positive impact on the team's performance.

Although the loss was a hard hit for the team, Spencer was pleased that junior setter Shannon Grant stayed focused for the entire match. "(She) hung in there the whole time," Spencer said. "But she has to get firm with the team."

"They got in a hole and kept digging, so the hole just got bigger and bigger," she explained.

Coach Spencer plans to make a few changes in the line-up in order to spread the hitters in the rotation.

If the entire team can get cleared to suit up, the team will attempt to make these changes before they face the Mids of the Naval Academy next Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Burr Gymnasium.

## Recovery From Katrina 'Will Take Years'

BY KEVIN HARRIS  
Senior Managing Editor

Recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina will take years to complete due to the massive devastation the storm left behind in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, President George W. Bush said yesterday in a nationwide address from the White House Rose Garden.

Bush viewed the aftermath of hurricane Katrina yesterday aboard Air Force One. The president said that though recovery will be difficult, he was confident the Gulf Coast would recover.

"We're dealing with one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history ... the folks on the Gulf Coast are going to need the help of this country for a long time," Bush said, as reported by CNN. "This is going to be a difficult road. The challenges that we face on the

ground are unprecedented, but there's no doubt in my mind that we're going to succeed."

Officials in Jackson, Miss. and parts of Louisiana reported yesterday death tolls as high as 110 in both places. That number is expected to rise, officials told various news agencies. Ray Nagin, mayor of New Orleans, told the Associated Press he expects the death toll to rise sharply in his city. "We know there is a significant number of dead bodies in the water," he said. Also in New Orleans authorities made plans to evacuate at least 25,000 homeless residents who had been stranded.

A network of up to 40 medical shelters with the capacity to collectively house 10,000 beds will be built in the Gulf region as a part of the federal government's response, Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt said



Cnn.com

yesterday at a press conference.

The federal government will also use trucks from the Department of Transportation to deliver food and water to victims. Plans are also underway to provide housing for those displaced by the hurricane, both Bush and Leavitt announced.

Leavitt also said that the Bush administration had declared a public health emergency for the Gulf Coast because of fear that un-recovered corpses may lead to the spread of disease. "We are gravely

concerned about the potential for cholera, typhoid and dehydrating diseases that could come as a result of stagnant water and the conditions," Leavitt said at the press conference.

Also, the White House announced that President Bush has asked former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush to lead an international relief effort for the hurricane victims. Last year, the president appointed both Clinton and Bush to head similar efforts in South Asia for victims of a tsunami there that killed thousands.

## Early Learning Program in New Location

BY AMANDA NEMBARD  
Contributing Writer

It is a new year and a new change for the Howard University Early Learning Program. Once located at the Human Ecology building, the program has been relocated to 531 College Street and reopened its doors for a new school year on Monday.

The program, which began in 1968 as the Howard preschool, started by providing service to Howard University faculty, staff, and students.

Today, the program's mission is "four fold" according to Tabitha Ishmael, Director of the Early Learning Programs.

"We're providing a service to Howard, a service to families, a service for Howard students, and the immediate LeDroit community," said Ishmael.

Under her directorship, Ishmael has graduated 9 classes and the program has received its first national accreditation from the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

"I think it's good that they have this [program] on campus for families so that students can have somewhere

See PRESCHOOL, Campus A6

# Mr. and Miss Howard Pageant Underway

BY SHANAE HARRIS  
Asst. Campus Editor

The interest meeting for this year's annual Mr. and Miss Howard University Pageant was held Wednesday and Thursday in the Blackburn reading lounge.

The meeting was for all students from all schools and colleges who were interested in participating.

This year's theme is "Reminiscence: Return to Royalty," and the coordinators are really pushing the idea.

"Our big concentration this year with the pageant is really trying to bring the pageant back to what it was in the past," said Vallyn Smith, pageant coordinator.

The focus this year is also to expand on what the pageant stands for and what it is about, according to Smith.

"We really want applicants that are focused on doing something new and not having the same things that we hear every year," Smith said.

About 25 applicants showed up for the 15 minute meeting on Wednesday, this does not include attendance at Tuesday's meeting.

"We're taking applicants on a case by case basis, given that some of the smaller schools had

less people to come out," Smith said.

All applicants were given applications explaining the entrance requirements for the pageant. Participants must be unmarried, a current full-time student, with 30 credit hours, and have at least a 2.5 grade point average and a returning student for the 2006-2007 year.

"It is mandatory that all applicants meet these requirements in order to apply," Smith said.

The application is expected to be handed in by September 7, a little more than a week away, leaving some applicants worried about time problems.

"I have setbacks because it is a timing issue and it's in three weeks," said Lauren Jackson, junior applicant for the School of Arts and Sciences. "It really depends on how much crunch time I have to put into it."

The preliminary pageants will take place in the month of September; the School of Education on the 18th, the School of Business on the 19th; the School of Communications on the 20th; the College of Arts and Sciences on the 21st; the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Sciences on the 22nd; the College of Nursing,



PHOTO BY MAYA GILLIAM

Two meetings were held this week for the Mr. and Miss Howard Pageant. Students were asked to turn their applications in by September 7, although they received them this week.

Pharmacy, and Allied Health Sciences on the 23rd.

Both the preliminaries and Mr. and Miss Howard Pageants will be scored based on the contestants' introduction, talent, evening wear, question and answer portion and essay that deals with what the contestant would do if they become Mr. or Miss Howard University.

Smith says that each individual coordinator has great ideas

and surprises lined up for their competitions, and many agree that there will be great things in store for the pageants.

"I'm confident in the pageant because I know a couple of the coordinators that are running it and I can tell it's going to be off the hook," Jackson said.

Overall, the pageant coordinators are concentrating on having positive role models and people who really stand for

something to be apart of the pageant.

"We really want people dedicated to carrying out platforms that deal with what's going on in the community," Smith said. "Do this because you have a love for Howard and are a leader."

# Howard Group Sponsors Black Movie Series

BY AYESHA RASCOE  
Campus Editor

Ubiquity Inc. hosted a presentation of the movie, "The Black Panthers," Wednesday night in Locke Hall.

A small group of students gathered to view the Mario Van Peebles' directed film, which depicted the rise and fall of the revolutionary and controversial Civil Rights group, the Black Panther Party of Self Defense. The movie tells the story of Judge, portrayed by Kadeem Hardison of "A Different World" fame, a young veteran who becomes deeply involved with organization. The movie also features other well-known actors such as Courtney B. Vance, who plays Bobby Seale, and Angela Bassett, as Betty Shabazz.

"The 'Black Panthers' is actually the final movie in a two-part series that Ubiquity sponsored aptly titled as a Black Liberation Double Feature. The first movie shown on Wednesday was The Spook Who Sat by the Door, an Ivan Dixon film.

Members of Ubiquity said they planned this event as a way to introduce the campus to their organization.

"I would say we started with this movie series to kind of actualize Ubiquity and black awareness," said Ariel Thomas, a senior anthropology major and member of Ubiquity. "These movies are really thought provoking and entertaining, too."

Thomas said her group is also trying to expose students to a broader range of movies besides those offered by mainstream Hollywood. According to Thomas this gathering is just the beginning of activities Ubiquity plans to hold this year. In addition to annual programs including an Anti-Columbus Day holiday, in which speakers urge people not to celebrate Columbus Day, and a Pre-Kwanzaa celebration, Ubiquity Inc. is also sponsoring a discussion of United States public policy regarding healthcare in third world countries, particularly Africa.

The group is also planning to broaden their community service initiatives by inviting the entire Howard community to get involved with their service activities. Thomas said she believes that by allow-



Nicole Reed-Staff Photographer

Ubiquity hosted a film viewing Wednesday, the showing will follow others event introduce Ubiquity to the campus.

ing all students to contribute, everyone will benefit.

"When you include more people, you get more done," Thomas said.

Ubiquity Inc. is an African centered and community based organization that was founded

in 1973. It is co-ed and based on the pillars of improving Black male-female relationships, community service, and academic excellence.

# Biology Building Renovates Labs

BY SHANAE HARRIS  
Asst. Campus Editor

Biology students and faculty are starting the semester in the newly renovated science laboratories in the Ernest Everett Just Hall.

The laboratories were in need of renovations because there had been no improvements since the building was built in 1950.

Professor and chairman of the Biology Department, Dr. William Eckberg is very pleased with the renovations.

"The fact that some of these rooms have been here for so long had left them looking very rundown," Eckberg said, "the blackboards and countertops were very bad and the labs just did not look like those that we should be teaching our students in."

Students agreed that the change was a good decision for the building as well.

"The labs last year were serviceable at best but they were horrible overall," said Portia Adams, junior Biology major.

The newly renovated labs now have new lab tables to use for experiments and new equipment including biological safety cabinets, refrigerators, and storage cabinets.

"Everything that was in the teaching labs have been replaced with new items," Eckberg said.

With about ten renovated labs, only a small few still need improvements. Money

for the new labs came from administration after the Biology Department put in a request.

"I really don't know how much money was used to get the new labs," Eckberg commented, "all I know is that we asked and they provided."

The new labs are scheduled to officially open next week Monday, although some of the faculty has already moved their classes to the labs.

"They are not completely done with all the work with the labs, but the teachers were very excited about them and have gone ahead and started their lab classes," Eckberg said.

Students agree that while they are pleased with the new changes, the teachers are the ones most excited.

"The new equipment is highly appreciated and we look forward to it, but it seems that the teachers are the ones that really can't wait," Adams said.

"The teachers know the deal and they're happy to conduct their classes in better facilities," Agard added.

Students' concern with the labs is that the renovations would also include new equipment.

"If they concentrated on the right things with the renovations, like more materials and supplies versus just remodeling it, I think it will be much better," Adams said.



Armond Brown, Jr.-Staff Photographer

Renovations are being completed in the laboratories in the Ernest Everett Just Hall, the first since 1950.

# Employee Spotlight: Linda Cannon

BY SHAYNA RUDD  
Staff Writer

The office for scheduling at Howard University has to be a busy one. Everyday, eager student leaders enter its doors hoping to accomplish great tasks for their organizations. Fortunately for them, there is a woman who greets everyone with a warm smile and generosity. Her name is Mrs. Linda D. Cannon, a woman who has been apart of the Howard family since 1969.

Cannon came to Howard straight from high school, not intending to stay long; however, she found herself a permanent position here.

"My father always told me to learn a skill," she said. "So I decided to attend computer school."

In February of 1969, she began working at Howard in the Registers Office, and was asked to stay permanently in April of 1969. Since then, she has worked in the office for ROTC, the Department of African Studies, and has now been in the Office for Scheduling since 1989.

Cannon has seen presidents come and go, and has witness Howard evolve into the university that exists today.

"I think the greatest time here at Howard was when Dr. James Cheeks was president in 1969," she said. "Not only was the student body very family oriented, but the staff was as well. Things are very different now."

Cannon has seen an array of events on Howard's campus. She recalls "the Takeover" that happened years ago here at Howard when students protested and the campus was shut down.

"I have seen a lot of things here at Howard, some good and some bad. I just like to keep it real, because in this world we lack that so much". Cannon is known for always being peaceful, and polite to all who come into the office.

"Mrs. Cannon was always very helpful to me when I would come in to help prepare for an event," said Lauren Jackson, junior graphic design major. "She is such a different type of person. Especially among the administration here who, at times, can be rude."

Cannon has dealt with a wide range of students, and still holds a positive attitude towards them all.

"There are times when students may come in here with a chip on their shoulder. After sitting down and talking to me they leave with a better attitude. I have always been a very low key person. We are here to serve, and I treat the students here as if they are my own," Cannon.

Fellow Howard employees have recognized Cannon as a great co-worker and person.

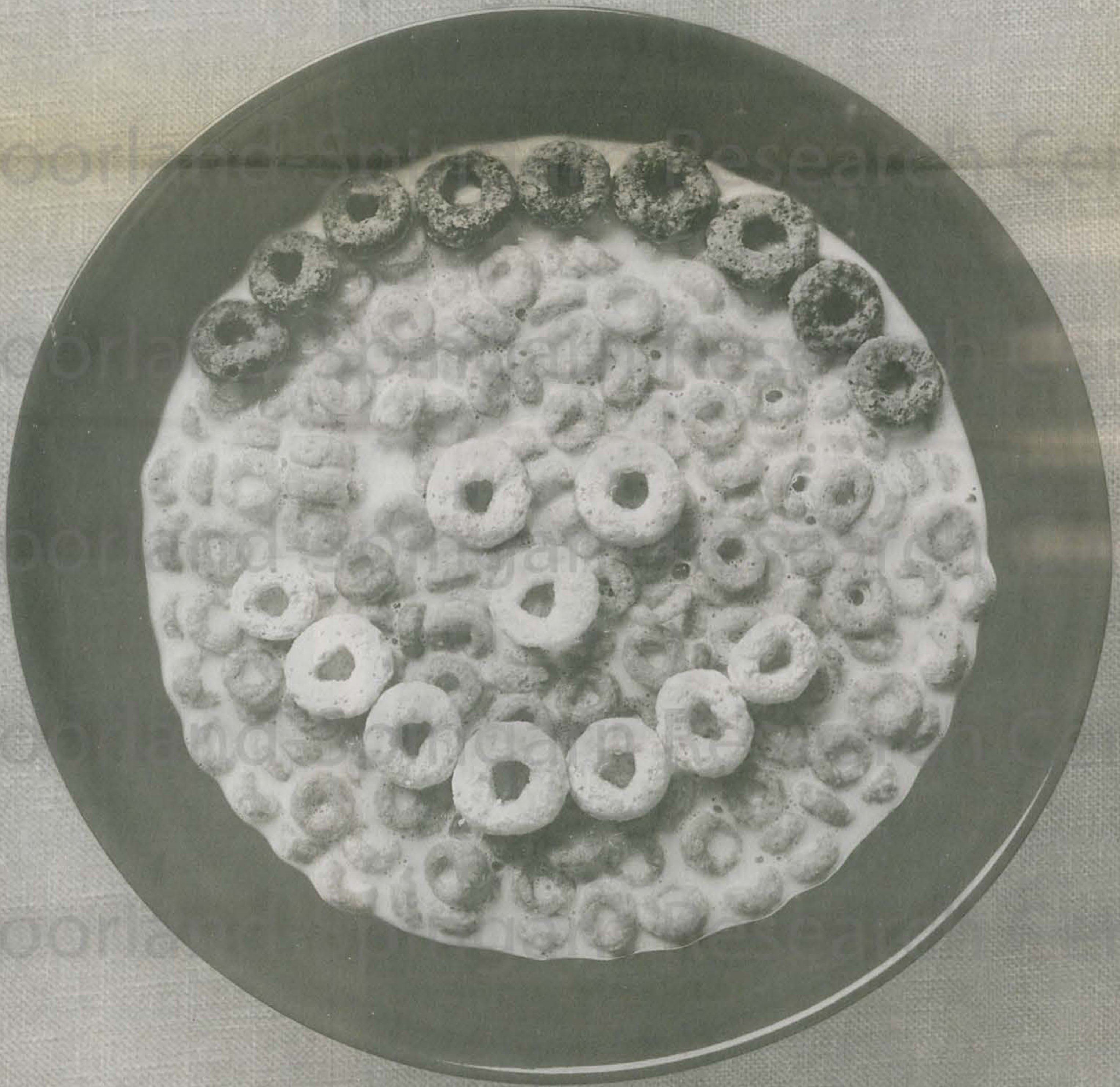
"Mrs. Cannon is a God-fearing woman and I have known her since before her first child was born," said Lavern Freeman, secretary in Student Activities. "She has a lot of insight, and her judgment is very sharp. This acknowledgement for her is long overdue."

More than anything at Howard, Cannon loves the students.

"I really enjoy meeting new and exciting people, and there are so many at Howard," she said. "It makes me feel good when a student calls me over the summer just to check on me, and see how I'm doing. I love it."

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# Becoming James...

## Baltimore Actor Becomes James Baldwin and Much More

BY AMBER ENGLISH  
Metro Editor

Actor, poet, international performance artist, businessman, photographer: All of these words could be used to describe 24-year-old Baltimore native Sir Reigns. Reigns will play the role of James Baldwin in the one-man play "James Baldwin: Striking a Match to America."

Reigns is much more than an actor. He is also an accomplished spoken-word artist, performing frequently with Howard favorite, Drew "Droopy" Anderson. Reigns has performed in Canada and may soon be performing in Europe.

"As [an actor], you take on someone else's writing, as a poet, you take on your own writing," said Reigns in comparing his writing and acting experiences. However, the topics he addresses are quite similar.

"I choose my spoken word topics to show both the inner and outer turmoil of people," said Reigns.

Playing James Baldwin in the play, Reigns will tackle specific to Black America. The three major topics in the play are the state of Black America, the Black church and the identity crisis of Black men.

The play brings Baldwin out of his grave and into the problems of modern America. Set at present-day Columbia University in New York, the play presents what Black people should do to overcome oppression.

In front of an audience of New Yorkers, Baldwin gives a piece of his mind on everything from how slaves were bred just like dogs, to how the present day Black church doesn't always deliver.

Because it is a monologue, this role presents a welcomed challenge to Reigns. This is his first experience as the sole actor

in a play.

"It has tested me as an actor," said Reigns. "In most plays, you study to create a character, where in this play, I have to study to become somebody who is well-known and respected."

Becoming a literary great such as Baldwin has been no easy task for Reigns. In addition to spending countless hours studying Baldwin's books and essays, Reigns has also spent time studying Baldwin's appearance and mannerisms. In fact, Reigns, a non-smoker and non-drinker has decided to take up both habits, for Baldwin was a smoker and a Scotch drinker.

"All of the intricate details [of Baldwin] have to come naturally," said Reigns. "I had to learn how to cry on command, the way he holds his cigarette, everything about him."

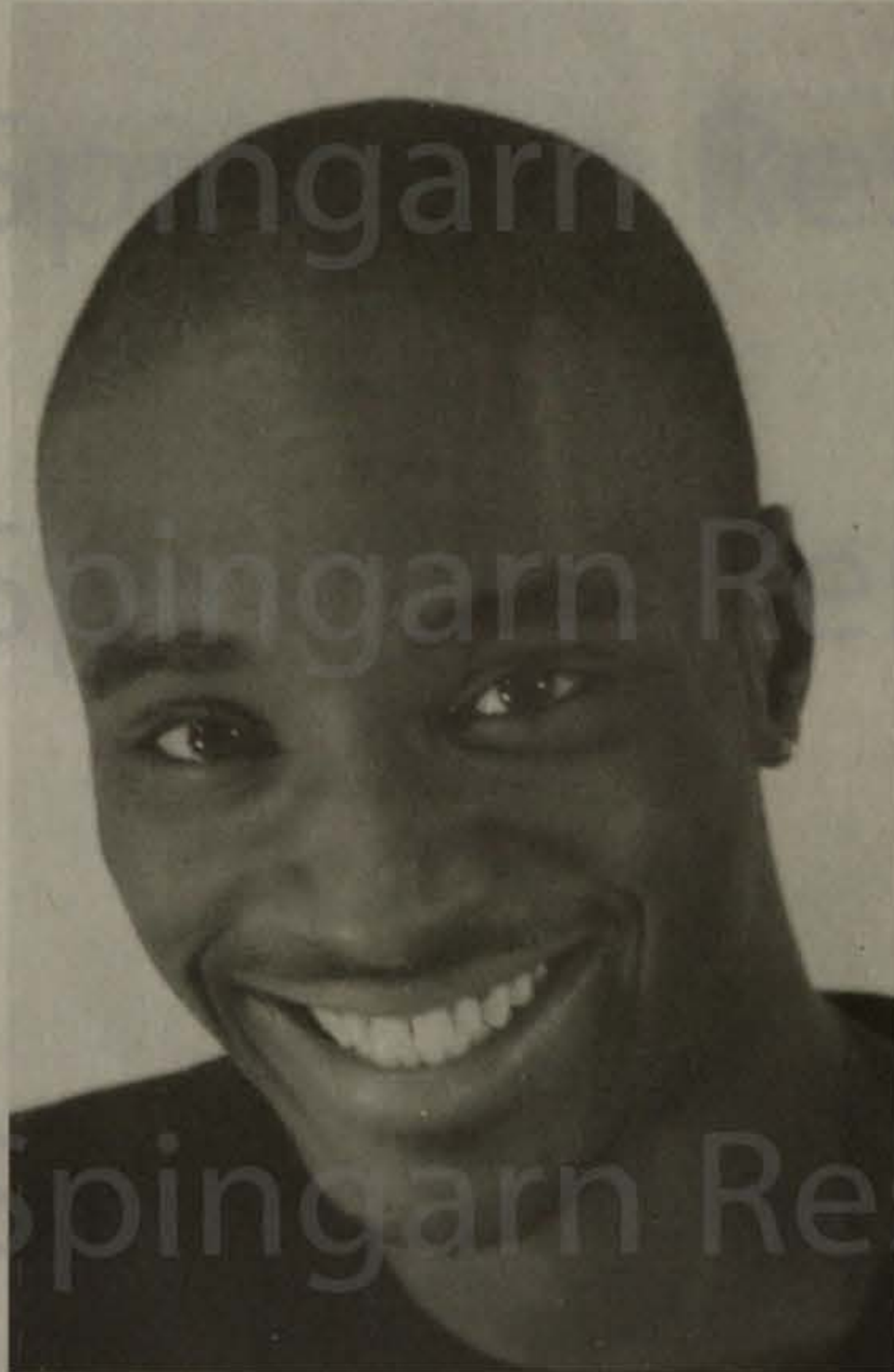
At the end of the play, there is a question and answer session where Reigns, as Baldwin, will answer questions from the audience about poignant issues facing our community today.

"This play is so important because it gives Black America a sense of what to do, it reminds us of what is being done on a daily basis," said Reigns. "Hopefully, this can spark discussion."

"James Baldwin: Striking a Match to America" was written by novelist Vincent Tolliver. This is his first play, and to his knowledge, one of the few plays dedicated to the life of James Baldwin.

"This play differs, I believe, primarily because it more fully captures the man [James Baldwin] in his defiance, anger, and boldness," said Tolliver.

Although "Striking a Match to America" does not open here in Washington until the spring of 2006, Reigns has several other projects in the area over the next few weeks. On Sept.



Sir Reigns will be portraying literary giant James Baldwin in Atlanta this weekend, his first experience in a one-man play.

8, Reigns will be the featured spoken-word artist at the Mocha Hut located at 1301 U Street, N.W.

The premier of Reigns' only feature length film is also in the coming weeks. On Sept. 17, "The Ties that Bind" makes its world premier at the Takoma Theatre.

If all of the acting and appearances weren't enough, Reigns is working on an upcom-

ing business venture with Hot Ice Multimedia. In addition, Reigns is currently in discussion with Elon magazine on some photography projects.

## Metro Briefs

### D.C. SAT Scores Lowest in U.S.

According to The College Board, Washington D.C.'s class of 2005 had the lowest average SAT scores in the nation. With an average score of 968, the District trailed well below the national average of 1028. Neighboring Maryland and Virginia fared better as well, with state averages of 1026 and 1030 respectively. The District's average score of 968 is up from last year's average score of 965. The average math score jumped from 476 last year to 478. The average verbal score also rose from 489 to 490.

### Remnants of Katrina Batter VA

Trees were downed and power went out for many Northern Virginia residents as the remnants of Hurricane Katrina traveled up the eastern seaboard. The National Weather Service confirmed that a tornado touched down Tuesday night in Fauquier County, Virginia. Authorities in Fauquier County say that the homes damaged in Tuesday evenings' storm were uninhabitable.



File Photo

### Displaced Veterans Come to D.C.



File Photo

The Armed Forces retirement home in Northwest D.C. will be taking in approximately 416 displaced veterans sometime later today. The veterans will be coming from hurricane-ravaged Gulfport, Mississippi, where their retirement home was severely damaged. Officers in charge of the Gulfport retirement home said that 10 feet of water flooded the ground floor, destroying the long-term care facility, among other rooms, and knocking out the emergency generator. There was no running water, power and very little food when the veterans left their retirement home. Officials say that the displaced veterans could stay in D.C. for months. The Northwest D.C. retirement home is currently accepting toiletries and other donations. You can donate by calling 1-800-422-9988.

## Gas Prices Slow Traffic in the District



Maya Gilliam-Senior Photo Editor

With gas prices soaring even higher in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and traffic caused by constant construction, commuters may turn to the use of public transportation for more efficient traveling in the District.

### Metro Tests New 8-Car Train

In an effort to reduce crowds at Metro stops, Metrorail has begun testing a new 8-car train on the Red line. Testing began Monday with the longer train carrying passengers from 5 am to 9 am and running automatically without passengers until the early afternoon. The new 8-car trains are 600 feet long, the exact length of the station platform, so extensive testing must be done to ensure that the trains will stop at the correct location. The testing will continue for the next couple of weeks, and Metro officials will evaluate new software designed



File Photo

to make braking more precise for the trains. If the tests run smoothly, Metro hopes to have 8-car trains running by 2006.

### Body Found in Trunk of Car

D.C. police found a dead body in the trunk of a burning car Wednesday morning on Capitol Hill. Firefighters were initially called to a vehicle fire, but upon extinguishing the fire

they discovered the body in the trunk of the car. The body was taken to the medical examiner's office for an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

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### Early Learning Program Relocates

PRESCHOOL, from A1

for their children to learn while they're getting their own education," said Kendall Williams, a graduate math major.

Though the location is new for the program, "our goals, objectives, and mission are the same," Ishmael emphasized.

The program's goals, among which includes, maintaining a comfortable environment to motivate learning, encouraging individual creativity, and using hands-on activity to help with the child's healthy development.

The program's staff, which stayed the same as well, includes one director, an administrative assistant, three teachers, three instructional assistants, and a

cook. They are dedicated to educating all sixty students ranging from 2 years to Kindergarten age.

In addition to a regular class schedule, students have the opportunity to go on monthly field trips, learn Afrikan Martial Arts, take nature walks, and experience many other educational activities.

The program also seeks to take advantage of its location on Howard's campus. Other activities can include visits to various events being held on campus. "The campus is a major part of our learning environment," said Ishmael.

"It's good for the students to interact with the kids because they don't have to go off campus

[to daycare centers] and they can be an influence to the younger generation," said Nayrobi Nicholas, a senior criminal justice major.

"I thought it was a good idea to give us a space of our own," Ishmael said about the move. "It is more convenient. We're not inside another building so we're more visible."

Ishmael also mentioned that if any student were interested in learning more about the program, they should come inquire with a letter of introduction.

Students may be able to shadow teachers and observe classes. Ideally, it should be within your future plans to work in early childhood education.

**"EVEN MY GRANDMA  
READS THE HILLTOP..."**

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# Want to write for the HILLTOP?

Come grab a story at the budget meeting  
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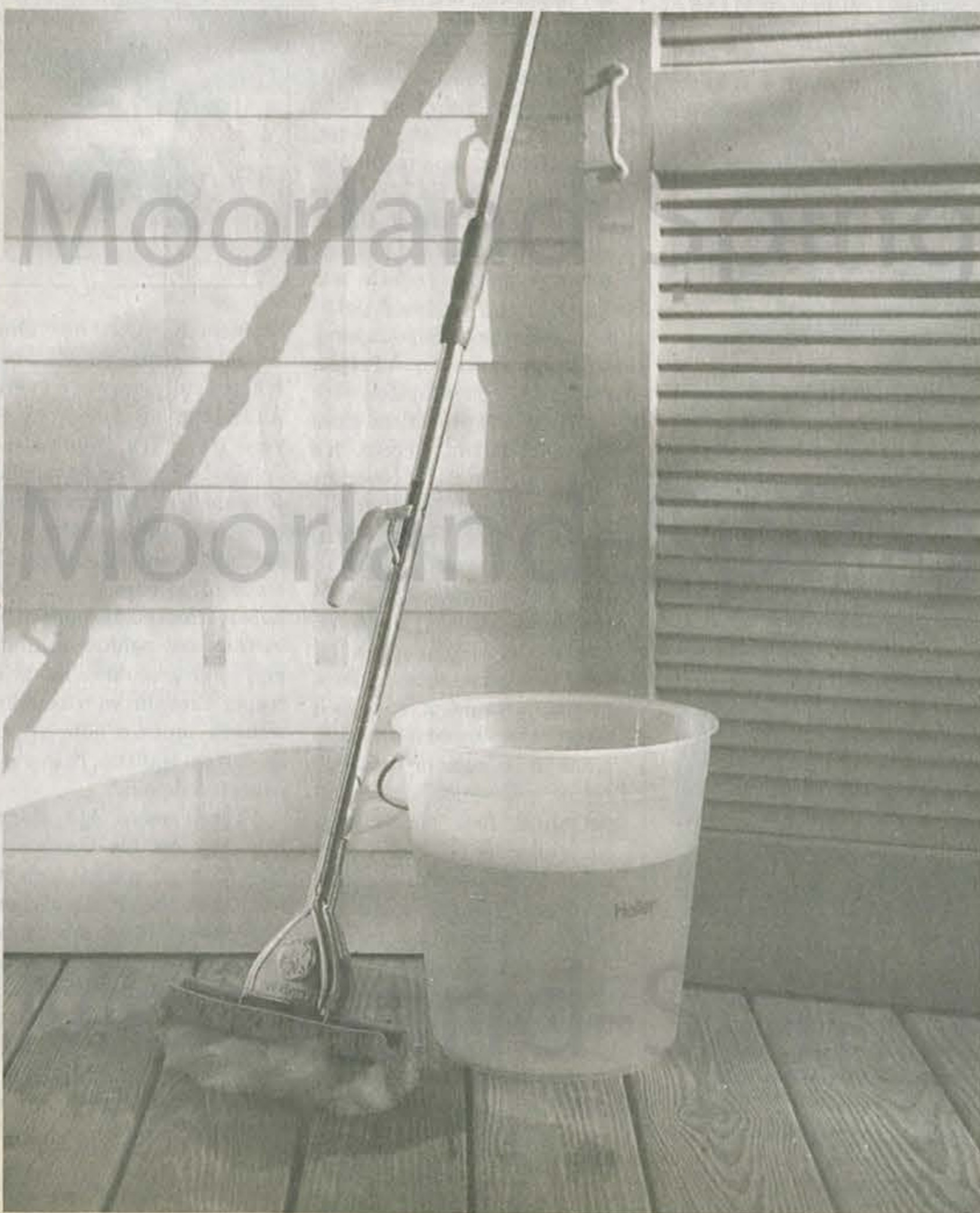


# EDITORIALS & Perspectives

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## Former 'Mr. Howard' Victim Of Police Brutality

BY NWAJI JIBUNOH

In the month of July, Human Rights Watch released an article related to police brutality in Nigeria.

This article was very specific because it delved into the psyche of the individuals that propagate such terrorist acts, in an attempt to bring awareness to the international community.

What I intend to do through this letter is shed some light on this issue and bring it very close to home.

It was an April night, and I had just returned home from work. I was exhausted as usual.

I picked up dinner and was heading home. Upon returning, the security guards informed me that there was a dispute between one of the tenants (an Italian) and the property management company that maintains the building.

Basically, the tenant had not paid rent and was in the process of being evicted. The company policy is to disconnect the power supply before eviction takes place.

The tenant felt that the action was unjust and involved the police, whom he bribed and had reconnect his power supply. The tenant was embarrassed from the eviction and felt that justice was still required.

To resurrect his pride, he called the police back and informed them that I, "the landlord's son," was back and starting trouble.

The way things work in Nigeria with police is that if money is involved, there is no limit to what they can do to you.

Within minutes of his call, five fully-grown members of the anti-robbery squad from the Apapa Police Division showed up with AK 47's at my house.

Before I was given a chance to explain anything, I was punched several times and hacked to the ground with the butt of the their guns. I was now dragged to the police station on bare concrete while enduring further kicks and punches along the way.

Once I was thrown into one of the cells, my clothes were ripped off (a practice done when trying to degrade human beings) and I was forced to lie on the ground in nothing but my underwear. The police began their interrogation, telling me that I endangered the "white man" and I was going to suffer for that.

The true beatings now commenced. Luckily for me, one of the workers on my father's property, who just happened to be taken to the station as well to ensure that nobody notifies anyone, was inconspicuously able to send a text message to my father by concealing his phone in his pocket informing him of what was happening.

Ten minutes after my father received that text, Army officials showed up, arrested every police officer on duty, and immediately released me. I came out of the police station with a ruptured

ear drum, a broken jaw, and a broken forearm.

The only reason why I came out of that station alive was because I come from the family that I come from, which was the mistake the police made in underestimating who they were dealing with.

These men were possessed and intoxicated by something that I can never comprehend. My situation is minimal in comparison to what usually happens.

Young men in Nigeria are subjected everyday to thralls of these pigs, as between 75-80 percent of the time they are summarily executed with nothing being done on a state or federal level.

What Human Rights Watch did with their article was bring international attention to this issue, but still, nothing is being done. My fellow Bison, I crave your indulgence and support on this matter because it happened to one of your very own. I am a 2001 graduate of HU.

I lived in Drew Hall and the Towers I was Mr. Howard University in 1998. I can continue, but the point I am trying to make is that police brutality in 2005 is still real y'all, so please appreciate the privilege of never experiencing the most degrading thing that any human being can go through.

And remember, these are black people doing this to black people. As always, remain true and Bison blue.

## Blacks Passing Over Immigrant-Sought Jobs

When we heard that Louis Farrakhan agreed with Mexican president Vicente Fox that Mexican immigrants take jobs "not even blacks want," we had to pause for a moment and think.

Eye brows raised, both in offense and agreement to the assertions both Fox and Farrakhan made so poignantly.

The truth is, many of us African-Americans do feel that we are too good to be doing low-paying service-oriented jobs or anything that will get our hands dirty.

Many of us agree that Mexican immigrants are more accepting of certain jobs that we don't think we need to do anymore.

As Hispanics are taking the minority lead, they become more visible in certain employment areas. Are Blacks being picky or are we justified?

At *The Hilltop*, we can truly understand the essence of our selectivity. We came to this country by force, and

we were required as slaves to "serve" our "masters" and work in harsh conditions.

The thought of working in a field or picking anything from a plant is enough to make us cringe. As Americans, we want to feel a part of the dream

**Our View:**  
*We should aim high at employment but we shouldn't frown upon any honest living.*

of attaining an education and moving up to an employment level where we feel accomplished and proud.

So we often shrug off the thought of certain jobs because of the historical reminders of our hard working history in a country we built.

We have fixed, built, cleaned and picked cotton for centuries, so is it time to "pass the baton" so to speak?

At *The Hilltop*, we think black people should aim as high as we possibly can and find a career path that best

suits us all. However, we are a culture that glorifies spending and having cars, watches and extravagant privileges.

Money doesn't grow on trees and chilling won't pay the bills, so what should we do? The percentage of us getting money through selling drugs and other risky means is no secret with the amount of brothers and sisters behind bars.

We agree that we are very capable, but we shouldn't frown upon ourselves or any other minority group for earning an honest living and putting food on the table.

We used to be slaves in chains, but now we are often selling drugs to our own people to go buy chains.

Is that any better? The moral of the story is that we should all do the best we can and try to avoid unemployment or making money in a way that will be a detriment.

If that means vacuuming a hotel room, so be it.

## THE HILLTOP

*The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper*

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click it to us.

The Hilltop wants to read what you have to say. Submit a 500 word perspective to [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com).

Now in its 82nd year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed on the Editorial and Perspectives Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body. The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com). The Hilltop editorial office is located at, 2251 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at [www.thehilltoponline.com](mailto:www.thehilltoponline.com) and by phone at (202)806-4724. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at [hilltopbusiness@yahoo.com](mailto: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.





Marques Houston appeared at the Mad T Music Box, located on 14th & U St. for a fan meet-and-greet, organized by Tim Glover, a rep for the D.C. region of several record labels, including Universal and Interscope.

Photo by Maya Gilliam, Senior Photo Editor

## Howard's Own: A. Pinks Releases New Mixtape

BY MICHAEL IVEY, JR.  
Contributing Writer



Since 2002, when A. Pinks, also known as "Dead Arm," came to Howard, he has used the mix tape method to proclaim "I Got Us," "You Are Not Me," and "Get it, Got it, Good." A. Pinks built a strong musical resume which was the only way he could possibly make the audacious jump from his Ravenswood Project residence mouthpiece, to bearer of the proverbial cross for independent emcees. It's indeed a mouthful if cover art ever said anything, but the audio on Pinks' latest effort, "P-Cutta Presents A. Pinks: 10 Rap Commandments," does the bold visual substantial justice.

The choice of beats for a project promising so much with name and face has to make a statement as well. Again, promotion and product must fuse successfully. A. Pinks does not disappoint. From open to close, he maneuvers like a lyrical Savion Glover over classic Notorious B.I.G. cuts. Track one sets the stage as Pinks runs down the 10 qualities rappers must develop if they want respect, platinum plaques, and hefty bank accounts. Number one is originality. According to him, "being a gansta's only a technicality, if that ain't you it really don't matter/ long as you speak from the heart and the streets know you're talented." Throughout the 50-minute affair, A. Pinks generally sticks to the scripts B.I.G. laid out, but adapts his own story quite skillfully. Over the mellifluous "I Got a Story to Tell," he shows awesome timing. His is the tale of a young man gripped by lust from pre-puberty to promiscuous college days, ending with an "indeed I love you" for the anonymous down-chick he has finally found.

A. Pinks raps about the gritty side of life throughout, but really goes in over

"Somebody Got to Die." Rhymes become vivid scenes in the deadly story of a Puerto Rican king pin done in by his very own. It's impressively detailed with periodic touches of Spanish rap to lend authenticity. A. Pinks rapidly spits "Rico da smoothest crook, made to be observant, somehow overlooked da shoes stickin' from out behind da drape/ and gracefully da grim reaper creepin who couldn't wait to squeeze hopped out da curtain squirtin, livin out a gangstas' dream."

The Queens kid shines brightest on his version of "Get Money," a witty, insightful take on the pitfalls of chasing money. Here, we cruise into his hypothetical future, the ghetto American dream gone haywire. In this version, a wealthy A. Pinks wouldn't even use the "N" word, but would "show empathy to the black man/ as if I was excluded."

Who knows if "10 Rap Commandments" will be A. Pinks' springboard into mainstream visibility? Despite your favorite rappers rising closer to gatekeeper status, gimmick-oriented music is still the order of the day. A. Pinks could remain under the radar indefinitely, or just as easily run ads for his old mix tapes on sites like AllHipHop.com again years down the line so new fans can listen to his music. One thing we can conclude is that he has the financial backing and more than enough talent to become a hip hop mainstay. There's only one way to find out how this story unfolds: keep listening!

## How To: Eat Good in the D.C. Neighborhood

BY CHARLAE WASHINGTON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Adjusting to college life means getting used to a variety of new things—the people, the dorms, the classes, and of course, the food.

Howard University houses two cafeterias, a restaurant, several mini marts and a smoothie bar. However, since freshmen are required to have meal plans, their primary food staples have to come from the cafeterias in Blackburn or the Annex. As many upperclassmen often agree, the food in the cafeteria is less than desirable.

"The Sodexo meals were disgusting," said sophomore print journalism major Ashley Southall.

For some students, eating in the cafeteria doesn't fit into their schedules.

"By the time I want to go to the cafeteria, it's closed because I'm in the School of Business and we have lots of meetings and my schedule is really hectic," said freshman management major Ashley Washington.

Fortunately, there are other options to obtain tasty quality food in D.C. For students who have microwaves, refrigerators, or kitchens in their dorms, there is the option of doing your own cooking. There are several local markets off the public metro, such as Giant and Safeway, where students can buy groceries.

"Shoppers [West Hyattsville metro] has great everyday prices," Southall said. "Target has great sales [Prince George's Plaza metro, Rhode Island Avenue metro, and Greenbelt metro]. Buy simple prep dishes like Zataran's and Hamburger or Chicken Helper. Stay away from pricey cereals. Wheat (anything) is cheaper and healthier than white."

For students who don't own cooking equipment, eating out occasionally is ideal.

"Being college students, we have to think about budget and price," Washington said. "But every once in a while it's nice to go out and splurge."

Southall also enjoys dining out and says that it is possible to do so without spending too much money.



Photo by Marlene Hawthorne - Staff Photographer

Despite appreciating the welcoming demeanor of the Cafe's employees, many students find the food leaves something to be desired, forcing them to find alternative eatery options.

"I love Fuddrucker's and Chipotle," she said. "Chipotle's overstuffed burritos last two meals and cost about \$6. Fuddrucker's has huge burgers which, in a meal, round off to less than \$10. Everything is fresh and healthy. Ruby Tuesday's also has a stellar to-go list. What's best is that they are all in Chinatown."

Chinatown, U Street, Union Station, Georgia Ave., and Georgetown all feature a variety of restaurants that are metro accessible. Some of the popular eateries that Howard students frequent are Chipotle in Chinatown, which features fresh Mexican fare, Ben's Chili Bowl on U Street, and Howard China and Soul Vegetarian Cafe on Georgia Ave., which feature Chinese and vegan and vegetarian cuisine, respectively. Entrees at these places

range from five to \$10.

Eating on a college budget can be a challenge while trying to remain healthy. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has instituted a new, flexible, individually personalized food pyramid that you can calculate at [mypyramid.gov](http://mypyramid.gov). The pyramid shows the suggested daily servings of grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy, meat, and beans. Students can follow their pyramids to get the recommended servings even in the cafeteria.

"Eating healthy is important to me, so if I'm going to eat fast food I try to eat at Subway," Washington said.

Eating well outside of the cafeteria may not be easy, but it isn't impossible. The key is finding a balance between health/diet, taste, and budget.

"Chipotle's overstuffed burritos last two meals and cost about \$6."

- Ashley Southall, '08

## Summer's Hits, Misses, Comebacks and Crossovers

BY MICHAEL ARCENEUX  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Triumphant comebacks, unexpected crossover successes, and spirited revelations about the hardships of pimping all mark the summer of 2005.

Ten years ago, a Mariah Carey single ascending to the top of the music charts would not have surprised anyone. However, after being ripped by critics for the box office blunder known as "Glitter" and releasing two disappointing albums, many did not know what to expect from the Grammy award-winning diva. However, the R&B songstress scored with her second single "We Belong Together." Produced by Jermaine Dupri, the song spent an impressive 13 weeks at number one, making this one of the biggest hits of Carey's career.

Her album, "The Emancipation Of Mimi," has gone on to sell three million copies since its release in April, cementing her status as the comeback kid.

Where Carey breathed fresh air into a stale career, Gwen Stefani birthed a new one as a solo star, thanks in part to the Neptunes-produced single "Hollaback Girl."

Easily besting the pop charts for months, the song eventually made its way over to urban stations across the country, expanding Stefani's audience in the process. Gwen did reach urban radio once before with her collaboration with Eve on the 2001's track "Let Me Blow Your Mind," though this is

the first urban hit she's achieved on her own accord.

Not surprising this summer was the continuing dominance of southern rappers. Young Jeezy's first major-label debut, "Let's Get It: Thug Motivation 101," sold 171,000 its first week, and has maintained high chart positions six weeks after its release. Fellow Atlanta-based rappers, the Ying Yang Twins, who have achieved monumental success with their summer scorcher of a single "Wait (The Whisper Song)," and album, "U.S.A.: United State Of Atlanta." Also, Mike Jones achieved platinum success with his major-label debut "Who Is Mike Jones?"

Southerners also made headway at the box office this summer. The John Singleton-produced film, "Hustle and Flow," built a huge buzz before its July 22<sup>nd</sup> release thanks to winning the audience and cinematography awards at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. The film then went on receive rave reviews from critics. Despite appearing in only a little over a 1,000 theaters, the film has since grossed over 21 million.

The box office hits have been far and between, however. Films such as "Stars Wars: Revenge of the Sith," "Wedding Crashers" and "Batman Begins" have been largely successful. But, with the summer movie season concluding Labor Day weekend, movie executives must come to grips that this year's movie season will not outperform its predecessors. At \$3.3 billion in ticket sales, this is the worst-performing movie season since



Photo courtesy [www.MariahCarey.com](http://www.MariahCarey.com) and [www.GwenStefani.com](http://www.GwenStefani.com)  
Mariah Carey (left) made a comeback with her single "We Belong Together," the longest-running #1 single of 2005 thus far. Gwen Stefani had a crossover hit with "Hollaback Girl," the Neptunes-produced cut from her solo debut "Love.Angel.Music.Baby."



2001.

Television audience during the summer was expected to dip but one unexpected reality show gave a fledgling network its first real taste of success. Despite encountering a slew of bad reviews, "Being Bobby Brown," starring infamous R&B bad boy Bobby Brown and his wife, pop sensation Whitney Houston, debuted with 1.1 million viewers, the highest

figure ever for the Bravo network.

The reality show documented the lives and antics of one of music's most infamous couples, drawing attention similar to that of "The Osbournes," one of the first reality shows to shake pop culture.

Summer 2005: Easy on pop divas, hard on pimps and the movie industry, and surprisingly welcoming to eccentric couples.

COURTSIDE



BY COURTNEY EILAND  
Sports Editor

Give Me Some Mo'

Greetings HU, allow me to introduce myself as this year's sports editor. After a solemn farewell to Zachary Kenworthy's *Buzzworthy*, and Bernard "Poet" Murray's 4<sup>th</sup> & *Inches*, it is up to Courtside to follow in the footsteps of its predecessors.

So, prepare yourselves for week after week of endless talks about *The Ohio State Buckeyes*, my infatuation with Shaquille O'Neal, and the new age limit in the NBA.

One thing that catches my eye as of now is the treatment that my fellow Ohioan, Maurice Clarett, has undergone.

I must admit, I was initially surprised to see that Clarett was even chosen in the third round of this year's NFL Draft when he was selected by the Denver Broncos.

You would think he would be happy to be drafted into the league after a two-year, overly-dramatic battle against the NFL Draft procedures, but no, Clarett had the nerve to think he was actually first round material and therefore, wanted a contract that would be similar to that of a first round pick.

But then the news that ran across SportsCenter on Tuesday had me taken aback. Were my eyes deceiving me, or was it true that Clarett was being released from the Broncos before the regular season even began?

I understand that as of Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., NFL teams were due to cut their roster down to the mandatory 65 players. But why Clarett?

I knew that Clarett hadn't played in a preseason game due to an injury. But even so, the fact that he was sidelined wasn't surprising since his last days of somewhat "professional" football were with the Ohio State Buckeyes where Clarett helped bring home a national championship title during the 2002 season. Couldn't he have been given a chance to shine in the regular season?

The Broncos must have seen something in him since they took the risk of drafting him in such an early round. So why put his hopes up if you knew you made a mistake Coach Shanahan?

The recent news might be humorous to some Buckeye fans who accuse Clarett of only being concerned with himself, hurting the Ohio State athletic program which grew to new heights after he led them to a perfect 13-0 season.

After making a few phone calls to my hometown, the general consensus is, "that's what he gets!"

Okay, so I admit I was (and may still be) a little bitter towards Clarett for leaving the Buckeyes after only one season. It also rubbed me the wrong way when he made his accusations against the Ohio State athletic program after being suspended for the 2003 season.

But now, all he wants to do is play professional football. So what is left for the young running back to do?

Well, he can wait until Monday when there is a 24-hour waiver claim period. If he's cleared by next Tuesday at 4:00p.m., Clarett will be eligible to sign with any team in the league.

How ironic would it be if Clarett signed with the Cleveland Browns or the Cincinnati Bengals? I'm sure Ohio would love to have their favorite superstar back.

# NFL Fantasy Football Opens Season for Students with Interest

BY DREW COSTLEY  
Deputy Sports Editor

Even before Facebook.com was thought of, there was another online activity wreaking havoc on some college students' grade point averages: NFL Fantasy Football.

Although in the end it did not ruin sophomore biology major, Michael Yansen's GPA, it was very close.

"I had a paper that was due the next day that I had more or less finished up and I figured I would stop and take a break," said Yansen. "I saw some fantasy football information and liked it so I copy and pasted it."

What Yansen, however, did not know was that he was copying the information over part of the paper he had just finished. It was not until his high school English teacher handed his paper back with a slash inked in red pen through the first page that Yansen realized his mistake.

Yansen considers it a blessing that his teacher let him hand the paper back with the problem corrected.

"I ended up getting a B on the paper," he said, "I was really lucky."

And cases like this are not few and far between. Fantasy football has been known to cause fights in marriages and relationships, hurt people's careers, and cause a number of other problems in peoples lives.

But if you think you can handle the pressure of playing a role as a manager of a fantasy football team on top of the rest of your priorities, it is very easy to sign up.

A factor that scares many first timers from ever joining a league, though, is that most people do not know how to play. This was the problem for sophomore architecture major, Michael Coyle.

"I never knew how the whole fantasy football thing worked, so I was always too intimidated to sign up without some type of instruction," he said.

Most fantasy football websites offer two types of leagues that only differ in scoring. The first type of scoring which was used before fantasy football ever hit the net was *roisserie* scoring.

scores are then tallied and teams are ranked based on the total score of the team.

The second and more popular type of leagues offer head to head scoring. In these leagues, scoring is still based on the stats that players amass during the week's game. The difference

here is that the teams are ranked based on wins and losses and a teams total score is only used in the case of tie-breakers.

Free fantasy football leagues

Yahoo also offers a league for \$24.95. Other pay-to-play websites include Fanball, Sporting News, and SI.com (Sports Illustrated).

The usual perks that come with these leagues are advice columns, analysis of stats, and "can't cut" list, which lists players that should be spared from being placed on waivers at all costs.

Even if one can not afford the leagues that offer perks, team managers can tune into a number of football television shows to get their fill of fantasy football analysis.

Shows such as ESPN's NFL Live and Comcast Sportnet's Pro Football Live offer ample advice on fantasy decisions.

Devon Miller, a sophomore public relations major, prefers using ESPN.com to fulfill his football fantasies. "I just like using ESPN.com because they are the leading sports broadcasting network and have the best information on fantasy players," he said.

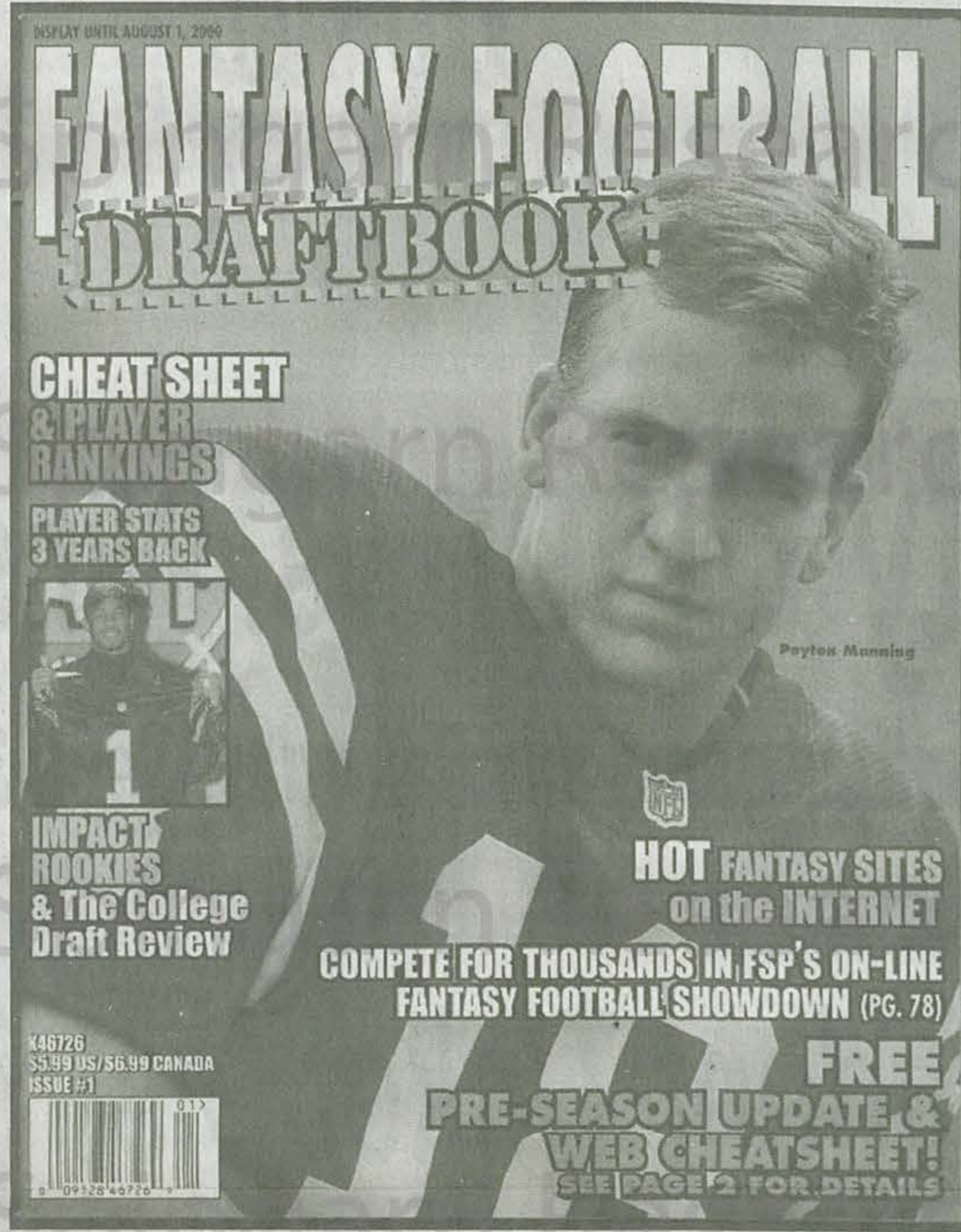
But fantasy football has been around for almost ten years now and has just started to gain attention from people other than sports fans.

Yansen believes that its recent growth in popularity stems from its exposure to the mainstream. "I think people just looked at it as a nerdy type of thing before," he explained.

Nowadays, fantasy football is played by anyone from middle school aged kids to middle-aged soccer moms.

So what are you waiting for? For those that might drag their feet, Yahoo offers late registration throughout midway through the season. But get to your nearest computer and sign up before the football season kicks into full gear.

In no time you can assemble an all-star team with Peyton Manning as your quarterback and Ladanian Tomlinson as your running back. Just do not let the fantasy ruin your life.



Fantasy football has gained so much popularity over recent years, magazines have released special editions for fantasy football. Peyton Manning, who can be seen on the cover of this magazine, has been a top fantasy prospect for many years.

# Men's Soccer Team Mimic Late Night Owls

BY MIKE HOLMES  
Hilltop Staff Writer

There is no "I" in team. There are, however, a couple of "I's" in university. Despite

this fact, the Howard University men's soccer team tends to stick with the team approach.

The men's soccer team developed sort of an stigma about them last year due, solely

to their unusually late practices.

On any given evening, one could find the team out as late as 10:30 p.m. practicing under the stadium lights. It was rumored that the practices were voluntary, an affirmation of the teams dedication.

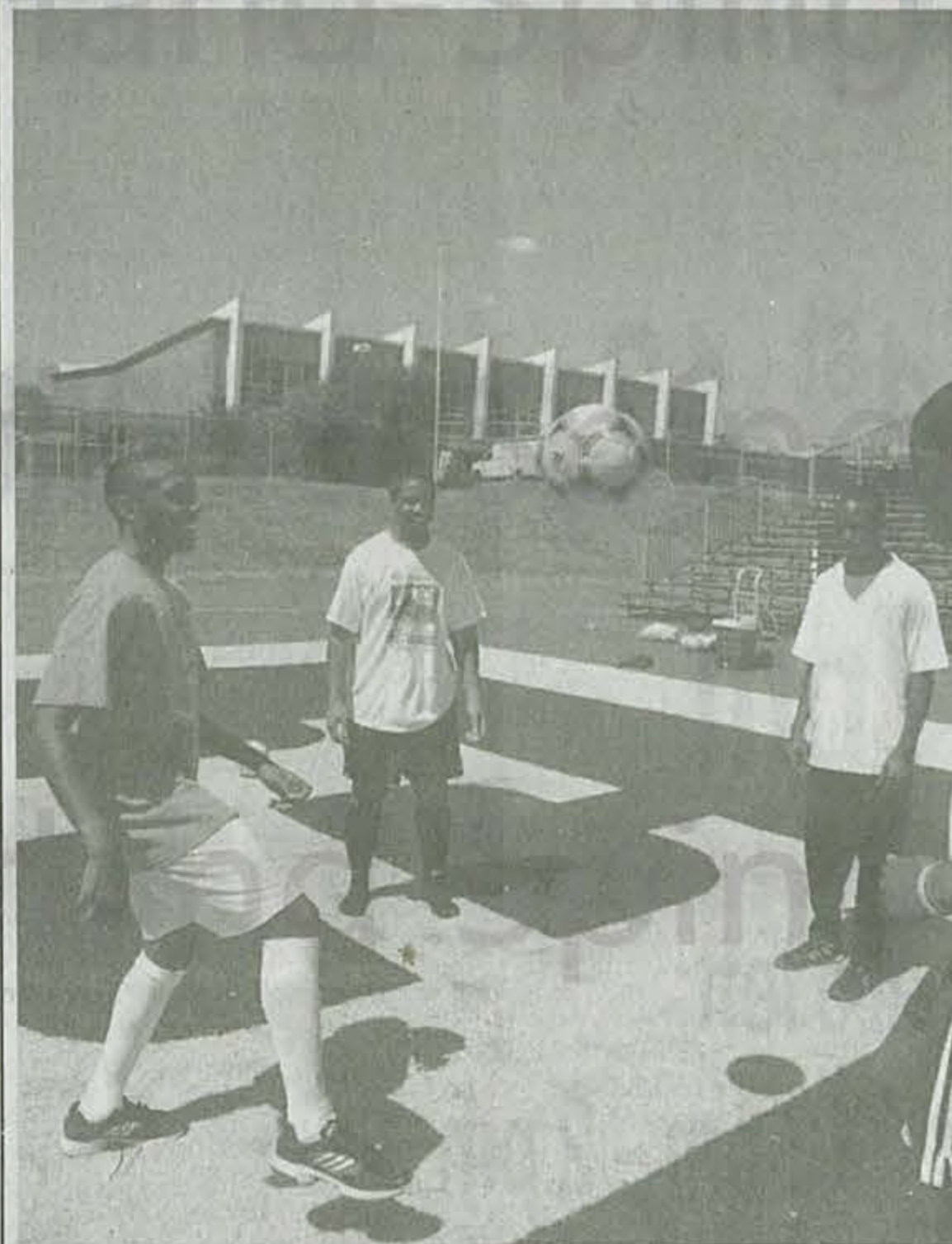
It turns out the rumor was just that, a rumor. The practices were and are, in fact, not voluntary. Taking nothing away from the team's level of dedication, the practices also turn out to be more of a statement of the team's gracious spirit.

"I volunteered to move the practices back," said Coach Keith Tucker. "We didn't want the ladies [soccer] team walking back in the dark so we let them practice before us," Tucker also pointed out that with so many other teams, the football and track teams for example, in need of the field, there is no way they can all occupy it at the same time. "It's hard to put all that into an afternoon," explained Tucker. "We only have one field." Tucker also feels that there are some benefits to having later practices. The most important of which, he believes, is academic. Tucker believes that holding the practices later allows his players to take care of all their class work before coming to practice.

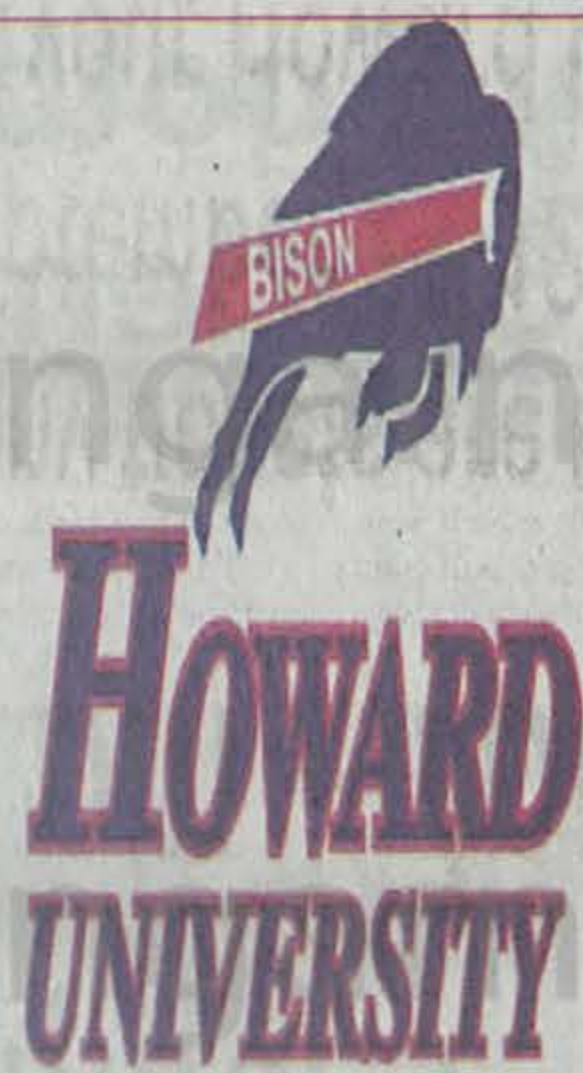
Lemuel Lyons, forward and freshmen undecided major, agrees with Tucker's idea and appreciates the late practices. "I think its fine," said Lyons. "You get in a good practice at the same time focus on your academics."



Freshman Robert Wesley shows off his soccer acrobatic skills during some down time after practice.



Freshman mechanical engineering major, Robert Wesley, freshman Biology/Pre-Med major, Chris Taylor, freshman Business/Information Systems major, and Sophomore architecture major, Ian Newborn, are ready to begin a new season.



# Mighty Bison vs. Winston-Salem

*football game this Saturday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1pm*

## *Student Ticket Distribution*

Lower Level of Blackburn University Center

**Wed., August 31<sup>st</sup> 12 pm – 2 pm**

**5 pm – 7 pm**

**Thurs., September 1<sup>st</sup> 12 pm – 2 pm**

**5 pm – 7pm**

If any tickets are left:

**Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 12 pm – 2 pm**

**Must present your Howard University I.D.**