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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 73

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

THURSDAY notebook

WEATHER

THURS, 1/26:
SUNNY/WINDY
HIGH: 41, LOW: 27

FRI, 1/27:
SUNNY
HIGH: 48, LOW: 34

SAT, 1/28:
MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH: 56, LOW: 39

BREAKING NEWS

U.S. ARMY OVEREXTENDED?

ACCORDING TO CNN, A STUDY SHOWS THAT THE UNITED STATES TROOPS ARE REACHING THEIR BREAKING POINT AFTER FREQUENT TROOP RELOCATIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

CAMPUS

RESEARCH SUPPORT HERE

THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH HAS OPENED, WITH A MISSION TO HELP UNDERGRADS WITH THEIR RESEARCH.
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LIFE & STYLE

YA YA...YA GRILL!

TURN TO LIFE AND STYLE TO SEE THE HYPE OVER THE NEW BLING.
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SPORTS

LACROSSE LEGEND VISITS MEN'S TEAM

A LEGENDARY LACROSSE PLAYER VISITED THE MEN'S LACROSSE CLUB YESTERDAY. FIND OUT WHO IN SPORTS.
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HU CALENDAR

FEB 13
DEADLINE FOR 50 PER-
CENT REFUND OF TUITION/
FEES

FEB 15
PRIORITY FAFSA DEADLINE

FEB 20
PRESIDENTS DAY - NO CLASS

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Howard's MS² Prepares Kids for the Future

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT
Campus Editor

Repainted fresh white walls, new collapsible tables, new cushioned blue chairs by a newly-tiled fireplace and new white wood bookshelves surround what Howard students used to know as the Writing Center.

That scene is only the beginning of the changes made to the old Human Ecology building in preparations for the state-of-the-art Middle School of Mathematics and Science (MS²).

When the middle school first opened, officials were reluctant to allow press into the school because they were working on their primary goal: the children.

"We wanted to focus on the first thing, which was to get the [school] up and going," said Paul Organ, Ph.D, the head of school at MS². "Michelangelo didn't let people come into the Sistine Chapel until he finished the painting."

The renovated building, guarded by keypads that require a keycard and code, holds classrooms packed with technology not offered at many middle schools.

"This group of students, in 10 years, will be competing with people from other countries that are already equipped with all of this technology," Organ said. "If we don't bring these students up to speed, they will not be prepared for the global world."

Five-hundred pound plasma screens, which required special mounts and were specially created by putting four smaller screens together, hangs in the front of every classroom.

Teachers in each room are equipped with desktop Macintoshes, and anything they are able to pull up on those computers is displayed on the plasma screens for the entire class to see.

A camera hangs in the front and back of every classroom, allowing for teleconferences. The end goal with these cameras is that they will allow students in foreign countries to participate in class.

Every student in the school was pro-



The old Writing Center (above) now houses middle school students enrolled in Howard's Middle School of Mathematics and Science, which opened last fall.

vided with a laptop at the beginning of the school year. The devices are equipped with Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, iChat, Garageband and a search engine.

"Children should be able to learn without teachers and parents standing over them," said Marjorie Lloyd, Ph.D, chief academic advisor at MS². "The technology allows the teaching to be seamless, here and at home."

Each household at the middle school was also provided DSL by Verizon.

"Marie Johns was essential in helping facilitate hooking the families up with wireless," Organ said.

From time to time, students use the classic methods of pen and paper to make sure the technology they have to their advantage does not hinder their basic skills.

"We have to make the link so that, if they have the technology, they can use it,

but, if they don't have it, they can do without it," Organ said.

The curriculum at MS² is designed to accelerate all of the students. Among the basics such as language arts, science, mathematics and social studies, students are required to learn Spanish.

"This is a vital skill for their future," Lloyd said. "We just feel that, in modern America, you just have to be bilingual."

Typical middle schools are in session for eight hours, but MS² has an extended day in order to enrich the students. They participate in morning activities such as creative writing and mission mathematics. At 3:00 p.m., the students participate in Extended Day activities, ranging from digital chess to quilting.

Every six weeks, the series of morning and Extended Day activities are rearranged, reflective of the surveys given to students and parents. These surveys are

"We want [Howard students] to be aware that there are middle school students modeling themselves after them."

- Dr. Paul Organ, Head of the MS²

part of the co-constructive structure of the school that allows the input of teachers, parents and students.

"The students and parents have a whole lot more power here than at your typical public school," Lloyd said.

Faculty and students brainstorm ideas for the different activities. The favorites so far are quilting, dance and the numerous digital classes.

Help around the school is not absent. Parents are required to volunteer with the school for at least five hours a month, and about 20 Howard students work for the school. There are more Howard organizations offering help than there is work, according to Organ.

He said there has "been a lot of support from the Howard student body," but wanted to let the students know that the middle school students are watching them.

"We want them to be aware that there are middle school students modeling themselves after them," Organ said, making reference to the attire and conduct of students.

Brittany A. Williams, theatre arts sophomore, said students should mindful of their dress because of stereotypes given to African Americans.

"It's true for real life," she said. "College is supposed to be the link between now and the professional world. How you dress here is supposed to dictate what you would wear in the professional world."

Mock Trial Team Wins Georgia Competition



This past weekend, the Howard University Mock Trial Team beat out 19 teams to place first at the First Annual Ramblin' Wreck Invitational Mock Trial Tournament at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Ga. Some of the participating teams included Morehouse College which came in third place, Furman University, George Washington University and Georgia Institute of Technology. The Mock Trial Team is coached by Felicia Walker, Ph.D and Attorney Tiana Johnson.

Communications Faculty Addresses Students' Concerns

BY SHANAE HARRIS
Asst. Campus Editor

Dean of the School of Communications Jannette Dates, along with Associate Dean David Woods, Communication Sciences and Disorders Chair Ovetta L. Harris, Journalism Chair Phillip Dixon, and Multimedia Manager Jim Brown addressed the concerns of Communications students in a town hall meeting presented by the student council Wednesday.

"This is your opportunity to voice your opinions about any issues that you as students are dealing with," said Brandon Wallace, School of Communications student council president.

Students addressed the panel with concerns of various issues such as equip-

ment problems, curriculum, post-graduation job opportunities, class schedules, and department concerns.

Dates addressed the equipment concerns, explaining the school is striving to upgrade.

"We are always looking for an opportunity to upgrade equipment and to get more money to get new buildings that will have this new technology," Dates said. "We do not intend on putting new technology in just any building."

Dixon agreed with Dates, explaining his own efforts to improve the equipment for communications students.

"Every chance I have to put aside money for technology and equipment, I do," he said. "We have doubled broadcast equipment to

check out, and we are also trying to take advantage of where we are by taking our students to facilities like Bloomberg, News Channel 4 and The Washington Post."

Other concerns were centered around professors, and their experience and teaching methods. Dates responded again that the school is currently working on the changes.

"We are working on getting more professors," she said.

She added that professors can now teach their class the way they see fit.

"We try to have academic freedom so that professors can teach the way they want to, but we also have guidelines for a certain body of knowledge to cover," she said.

Scheduling times of

courses also seemed to be a major concern of students in the school.

"We try to spread the classes out because we don't have a lot of classrooms, and while we try to do what we can to make sure everyone gets the courses they need and when they want, we can't make everyone happy," Dates said.

"I encourage everyone to try and be the first one to register during general registration and get the schedule you want."

Students with majors in the Communication and Culture field were worried about the accreditation status of the department and whether or not it would hinder them after graduation.

"There is no communication and culture department in the country that is



Dean of the School of C, Jannette Dates, discussed student concerns in a town hall meeting Wednesday.

accredited because there is no other department like it. We are discussing using a system to accredit it, but I think it will take at least five years," Dates said.

Dean Woods and the panel participants stressed their open door policies and encouraged all students to "be in contact and put in

writing what you are thinking."

Woods added, "I think that your input is important and greatly valued because we will never see it the same way that students do."

Undergrads Begin Research

BY FARREN HINTON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Recently, the Office for Undergraduate Research was established to provide undergraduate students with the same opportunities which were previously only available to graduate students.

Dr. Kelly Mack of the Office for Undergraduate Research said the motivation for the office has developed because undergraduate research has proven to be a valuable component of an integrated academic program.

"Although there has been an increase in undergraduate research experiences within the past 20 years," she said. "There is still a need to increase the number and quality of undergraduate research experiences, particularly for unrepresented minority student populations and women."

Research is not just centered around science, engineering or history majors. Mack said it is the hope of the office to provide research opportunities to students from all majors and disciplines.

"It is envisioned that all undergraduate students at Howard University will benefit from the efforts of the Office for Undergraduate Research, regardless of his or her major," Mack said.

The office, currently run by an Advisory Council, consists of members representing all disciplines, departments and programs that involve undergraduate students.

"All departments at Howard University will potentially be involved with the Office for Undergraduate Research in enhancing the undergraduate experience at Howard," Mack said.

Students who conduct research through the office are offered a long list of research activities in which to participate, including travel and professional developmental programs.

"Students will be able to take advantage of hands-on research training by Howard University faculty and other qualified mentors off campus, travel to discipline-specific national and regional conferences, and gain access to seminars and events aimed at enhancing the professional literacy of HU students," Mack said.

In the near future, funds will be available as support for students actively involved in research. The funds will be dispersed to aid students in the procurement of supplies and equipment, as well as travel and stipends. Applications for this funding will be available this semester for research conducted during the coming summer and fall semesters. Support is now available for those students interested in doing research this semester.

The office is currently dispersing funds for those undergraduate students interested in traveling to Baltimore, Md. February 9-12 to attend the National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program Conference. Students should contact either Mrs. Katherine McGraw in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, or e-mail Mack.

The news of the new program does not mean that some Howard undergraduates have not already been taking part in research projects. Currently, there are several independent programs that exist on campus which support undergraduate research. But the new office serves as an "umbrella for undergraduate research efforts across the campus," Mack said.

For undergraduates who are interested in the office, the 1st Annual Posters on the Hill-Undergraduate Research Day will be held March 28 in the Blackburn Center, and will host representatives and directors from graduate and undergraduate research programs who will be recruiting qualified and interested students into their programs. Registration for the event is free and can be obtained at the Office of the Vice Provost for Research until the deadline March 14.

Dr. Mack has a message for all undergraduate students. "We would like for students to know that whether or not they are currently involved in research, have been contemplating getting involved in research, or aren't sure whether or not they want to be involved in research, we feel that the Office has something to offer them, which will not only enhance their experiences as undergraduates, but also make them more marketable as graduates of the University," she said.

Wednesday Night Live Hosts Apollo Night



Derrell Smith - Asst. Photo Editor

The theme of the first Wednesday Night Live of the semester was 'A Night at the Apollo.' Instead of the famous log on the popular show, contestants rubbed on a twig. And, instead of Kiki Shepard presenting the contestants for judging by the crowd, Kay-Kay helped with the presentation. In the end, the crowd decided Leela Allen (above) and Kiyaana S. Cox were the best participants of the night.

The Hilltop Survey Says...

A copy of The Hilltop and \$1.35 will get you on the Metro.*

THE SPOTLIGHT

Student: Anicia Morris

BY ERINNA MCKISSICK
Contributing Writer

A native of Miramar, Fla., Anicia Morris joined the Howard family the fall of her sophomore year after spending one semester at Morris Brown College and one semester at Bethune-Cookman College. It was while attending Morris Brown College that she first encountered Chinese language and culture in her freshman foreign language class.

Recently, she was able to test her comprehension of the knowledge she obtained in her Chinese class while studying abroad in China. With the aid of scholarships and helpful faculty, Morris was able to spend the spring semester of 2005 in Beijing, China with a "home-stay family" composed of her Chinese mom, grandmother, uncle and 15-year-old sister. Morris, who only has a biological brother, said that she enjoyed the new experience of having a younger sister. "We did girl things. We did a lot of shopping. We talked about guys she liked in school and famous guys who she had a crush on," she said.

Morris said that her weeks spent abroad were compiled of Chinese classes during the week, tutoring sessions Monday through Thursday for one hour, and an internship as an on-line editor at China Radio

International two days a week for four hours. She also said that she had the opportunity to travel to other Chinese cities like Kunming, Xian, Shanghai and Yunnan.

Overall, Morris said that she was not ready for the challenges that she encountered upon her arrival in China. "I was not prepared. My Chinese [language] level wasn't very good. The language was very intimidating and challenging," she said. Despite her struggle with breaking through the language barrier, Morris said that eventually her Chinese classes picked up and thus, she was able to apply the knowledge that she had obtained appropriately and communicate more effectively.

Among the expected challenges Morris faced by being bombarded with a foreign language and culture, she also said that she had a few bouts with homesickness while away because of the substantial time difference. She said that it was hard to stay in touch with her family and that out of the 61 students in the study abroad program, she was the only African-American participant.

Morris, who describes herself as "dark-skinned", said that she was repeatedly mistaken for an African. "In China, I was constantly being stopped. People would touch my skin, look at me, and say "wow." She admits that upon returning to

Howard this semester, it was "nice to be around black people again."

Morris said that her semester in China was a wonderful and unforgettable experience that has forever changed her life. She encourages other students to study abroad and she highly recommends going to China as an option for African and African-American students. "There's so much curiosity in terms of black people over there," she said.

She further stated that what she loves most about Howard is its opportunities. "Whatever you want to do... Howard is a very good place to help you get there. Everybody comes to Howard when they're looking for talent," she said.

In her spare time, Morris enjoys watching a lot of television, studies films, and reads a lot of book on the intricacies of editing. Her favorite movie is Love and Basketball, her favorite color is orange, and her ultimate pet peeve is bad breath.

Assistant Dean Woods from the School of Communication, said that Morris, who has a 3.79 G.P.A., is a strong student. "She was very enthusiastic about going to China. I strongly support that kind of thing... her reports from China were fabulous," Woods said. "I think she got along well with the people over there."

Student: Heather Faison

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE
Hilltop Staff Writer

Whether an artistic twist on a business card or an eye opening flyer, junior print journalism major Heather Faison is doing the one thing students and professionals look for to set themselves apart: originality.

"I create custom designs for individuals who want to take it a few steps further than Vista Print," Faison said.

Faison works under the name Consuming Fire Designs, creating business cards, logos, flyers, stationary, web designs and all other promotional items.

"A business card is more important than people think; it's what [best] represents you to an employer," junior accounting major Revai Rofot said.

"Consuming Fire Designs wasn't the original name for my company; part of the name that I had chosen was already in use. Consuming Fire kept coming into mind and the passage Deuteronomy 4:24 confirmed it," Faison said.

As a child, Faison enjoyed magazine ads, paying close attention to detail.

"I had a keen eye for pictures and color and I have always been around and used computers so I would say I was interested in graphic design before I even knew what it was," she said.

In high school, Faison was

the art director over her school yearbook.

"I designed and laid out the pictures and graphics for the book using Adobe Photoshop among other graphic programs under the guidance of my mentor Edward Morrison of Raleigh North Carolina," Faison said.

Her yearbook went on to win second place in design, in a contest of various high schools hosted by a well-known year book publisher.

"We didn't enter the book in the contest, our publisher did so it was more of a surprise when we received an award," Faison said.

In her senior year she started an internship as a graphic design artist for her mentor Edward Morrison.

"He taught me the programs. Working with him and being involved in his company (Visionary Graphics) I learned the business side of design and how lucrative of a career it could be," she said.

Faison then continued to do freelance graphics after graduating.

"I plan to get incorporated within the year, it will be so much more beneficial to be incorporated than to just work freelance," she said.

After achieving her degree in journalism, Faison plans to go to Georgia and obtain her master's in graphic design.

"To be in this business, you

need a foundation in art, the knowledge and eyes for color and shape. Being able to illustrate what your client is thinking is key," Faison said.

Working at a Marketing and Design firm as an intern sharpened her craft and provided her with another mentor who happens to be a self-employed Howard alum.

"It was good to see someone that I could relate to in the position that I wanted to be in; owning my own business and doing what I love," she said.

Her work is flourishing by word of mouth. "I did a few business cards for a friend of the family and from there I gained more clientele, mostly entrepreneurs needing start up kits; logos and business cards. My work speaks for itself," Faison said.

DeAndre Vidale, founder of Vidatrin Studios believes that it's a gift that Faison has been given to be able to create unbelievable items with ease.

"She designed the logo for a Christian night club called The Detour which will open next year. Her logo was so much more than I expected and became the key piece in the entire vision of what the club will entail," Vidale said.

Faison's work can be seen in and around campus; she has designed promotional items for students and for campus parties hosted by Impact Movement and Noonday.



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What's Good in the District

Randy Weston's African Rhythm's Quintet

Who: Senegalese kora player Abdou Mboup will join jazz pianist Randy Weston for this performance.

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28
Where: The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
2700 F St. NW
Washington, DC
Price: \$30
For More Info: 202-467-4600

Slum Village

What/Who: Recording artists' Slum Village will perform live at the Urban Restylin' Salon, on Saturday, January 28 from 2-4 p.m. Adults: \$10
Washington Convention Center
801 Mount Vernon Place NW
Washington, DC

Dedication of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson House

Who: The formal acquisition ceremony of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson House to the National Park Service. Presented in part by the Howard University Capstone Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

When: Saturday, January 28, 2006
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Where: Henry C. Gregory Family Life Center of the Shiloh Baptist Church 1510 9th Street, NW

Country Blues, Gospel, and Old-Time Bluegrass

When: 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28
Where: Millennium Stage - The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
2700 F St. NW
Washington, DC
For More Info: 202-467-4600
Price: Free



Detroit's Slum Village will be performing at the Urban Restylin' Salon on January 28 from 2-4 p.m. Tickets are only \$10.

Metro Briefs

Metro Unveils Hybrid Buses



File Photo

Metro is releasing a new line of fuel-efficient, hybrid buses. Fifty electric buses have been ordered. Six of them have been delivered and will be operating beginning Thursday. The rest

of the buses will be delivered in February or March. Officials said the buses are more environment-friendly. The hybrids reduce gas emissions by 60 percent over diesel engines.

National Zoo Euthanizes Elephant

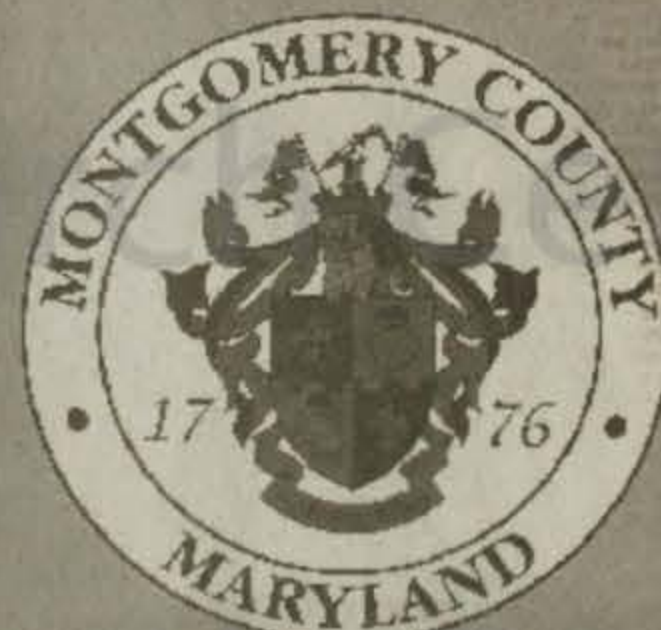


File Photo

The National Zoo made the decision Wednesday to euthanize Toni, an ailing female elephant. Zoo director John Berry said the decision was difficult but Toni's discomfort was obvious. The elephant had a long history of arthritis, and staff said that recently she began leaning on her trunk

and rocking back and forth to try and take weight off her legs. Zoo staff are currently looking into why her condition declined so rapidly. The Elephant House of the National Zoo will be closed to the public through January 29. Visitors can still see the three remaining elephants in the outdoor yard.

More Charges Filed Against Father in Day Care Shooting



File Photo

Two more gun-related charges have been filed against the father of an 8-year-old boy who accidentally shot a 7-year-old girl at a day care center Tuesday. The Montgomery County judge has also reduced the bail for John Hall from \$750,000 to \$75,000. Prosecutors say that Hall showed the boy how to use the gun the night

before, even cocking the gun for him. Hall's sister said the boy's stepfather checked the backpack before he left for school and didn't find a gun in the backpack. The boy was handling the gun inside the backpack when it went off, firing a bullet that struck a little girl in the arm.

MoCo Groups Organize Against Widening Beltway



File Photo

Montgomery County community groups are organizing against the potential addition of toll lanes on the beltway. Organizers said the widening of the beltway would be too costly and would not solve the traffic problem. Montgomery County Council President

George Leventhal said a better answer to congestion is public transportation, like the Purple Line for Metro. Supporters of the project say express lanes would ease congestion. They say the extra lanes will be subsidized by taxpayers, but most can't afford to use them.

The Hilltop

Does your organization have an event coming up?

Do you think it's newsworthy?

Would you like it covered in The Hilltop?

Send your press release to us today!

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The Hilltop

Survey Says...

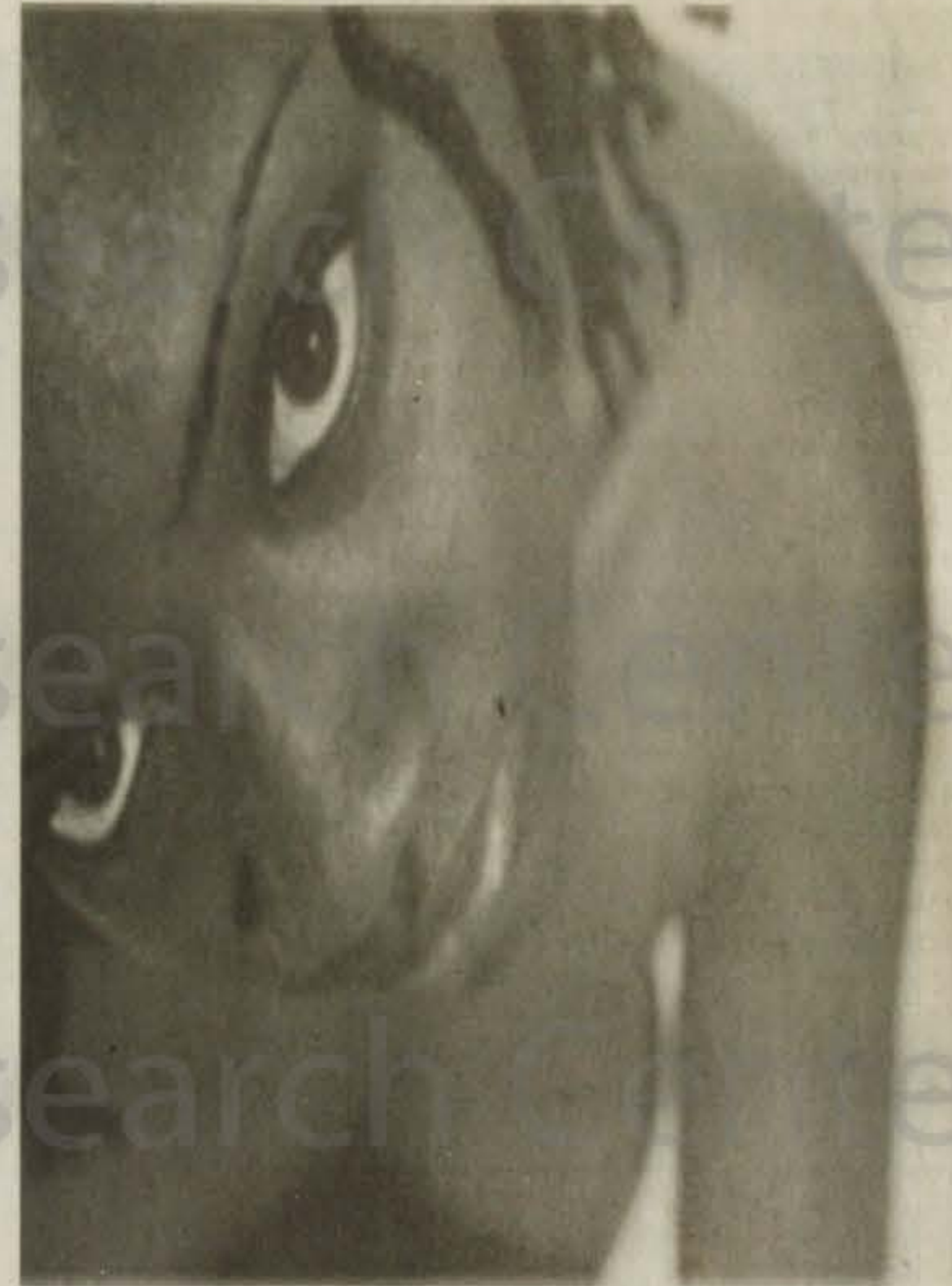
Reading The Hilltop while sitting on the Yard will increase your sex appeal by 43.76 percent.*

*Your results may vary, depending on attractiveness, attire, and whether you're actually reading.

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Presentation:**
February 2
6:00–7:30pm
Faculty Lounge

Resume Drop Ends:
February 4

Information Session:
February 16
5:00–6:30pm
Faculty Lounge

On-Campus Interviews:
February 17
8:30am–5:00pm
Business Career Center

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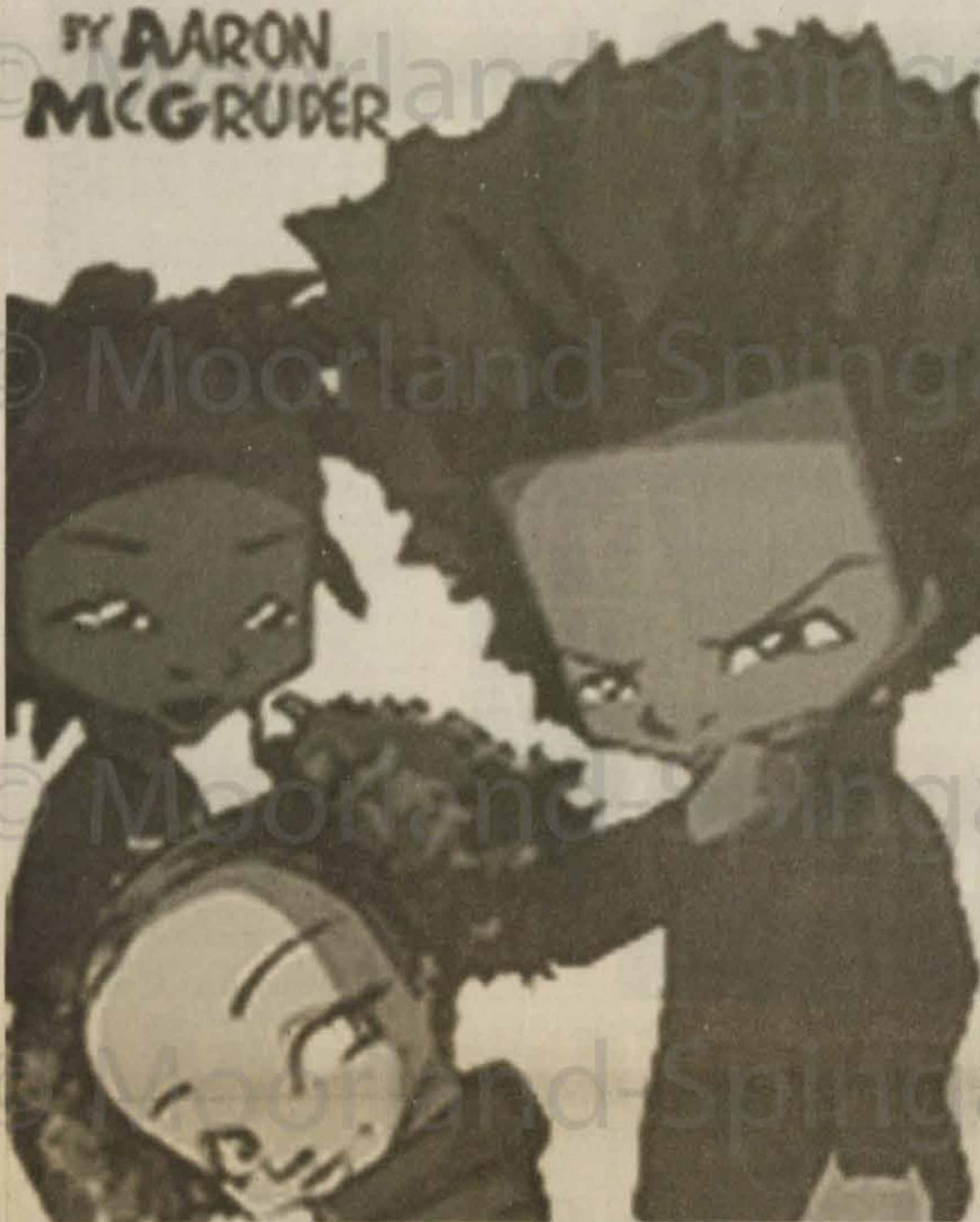
VOLUME 89, NO. 73

JANUARY 26, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

THE BOONDOCKS

BY AARON
MCGRUDER



NAACP Honors The Boondocks' Aaron McGruder

Anyone who has read a hip-hop magazine has been familiar with the comic strip "The Boondocks" for some time. As soon as the Cartoon Network announced the cartoon series would be airing on Adult Swim, existing fans were elated. The show, which is relatively new, has gotten a wide range of reviews and criticisms. Some feel the frequent use of certain profane language is offensive while other see it as a satirical; poking fun and exposing stereotypes. We were somewhat surprised when the NAACP announced "The Boondocks" nomination for the 37th Image Awards that will air in March.

We see the NAACP trying to connect to younger African-Americans and align with the mainstream topics, which we all

have split views on. Previously R. Kelly and "The Parkers" garnered Image Award nods, so sometimes we disagree with the NAACP. Sometimes it seems that the NAACP has lost its course and place in modern times, but hopefully the organization will hang on. However, the main purpose of the Image Award

Our View:

Though the cartoon seemed like an odd pair with the NAACP, we can understand why they'd highlight McGruder's work.

is to celebrate outstanding achievements and performances of people of color in literature, television, motion pictures and recording arts.

Shows such as "The Bernie Mac Show" "Everybody Hates

Chris" "Girlfriends" join "The Boondocks" as nominees for the Outstanding Comedy Series category.

At the Hilltop, we think Aaron McGruder has taken a racial, political and entertaining stand on a lot of hot topics. We do not see malice in his portrayals of stereotypes or seemingly offensive language.

Instead, we view him as trying to make a point -- to make people think and to raise discussion and debate whether quietly in your head or with a group of colleagues about the images presented of African-Americans.

Not only is his work thought provoking, but the man can draw! Congratulations to "The Boondocks" for stirring some healthy controversy and for the nomination.

Gonna Be A Brighter Day...

Edward Amad

I think the bigger issue about the college-spending crisis is that we at Howard, as black people, and as young Americans, are not adequately financially aware. Many of us haven't made much money yet, but there's so much information that to know ahead of the paychecks. When the time comes people need to be ready and prepared so people won't get weaseled out of their precious cheese. There is more to the equation than sim-

ply avoiding debt or having a budget. We have in our minds places we want to go, things we want to do but we have no idea how to really get the money to make it happen. Poor people on the street and millions of other people have those dreams just like us, yet only a few realize them. If we can grasp important financial concepts, we can not only be wealthy and have all the things we want, but we can help bring black people up as a whole. If we do it the right way we can even leave a little some-

thing for our kids. Quite frankly, that's how financially prudent white people stay rich. Our materialism combined with our lack of financial wisdom is one of our greatest enemies. If those in the position helped educate Howard's campus (not just business majors) in terms of asset building, investment, and financial management, the future for the black community and our own futures would certainly be brighter. Much brighter.

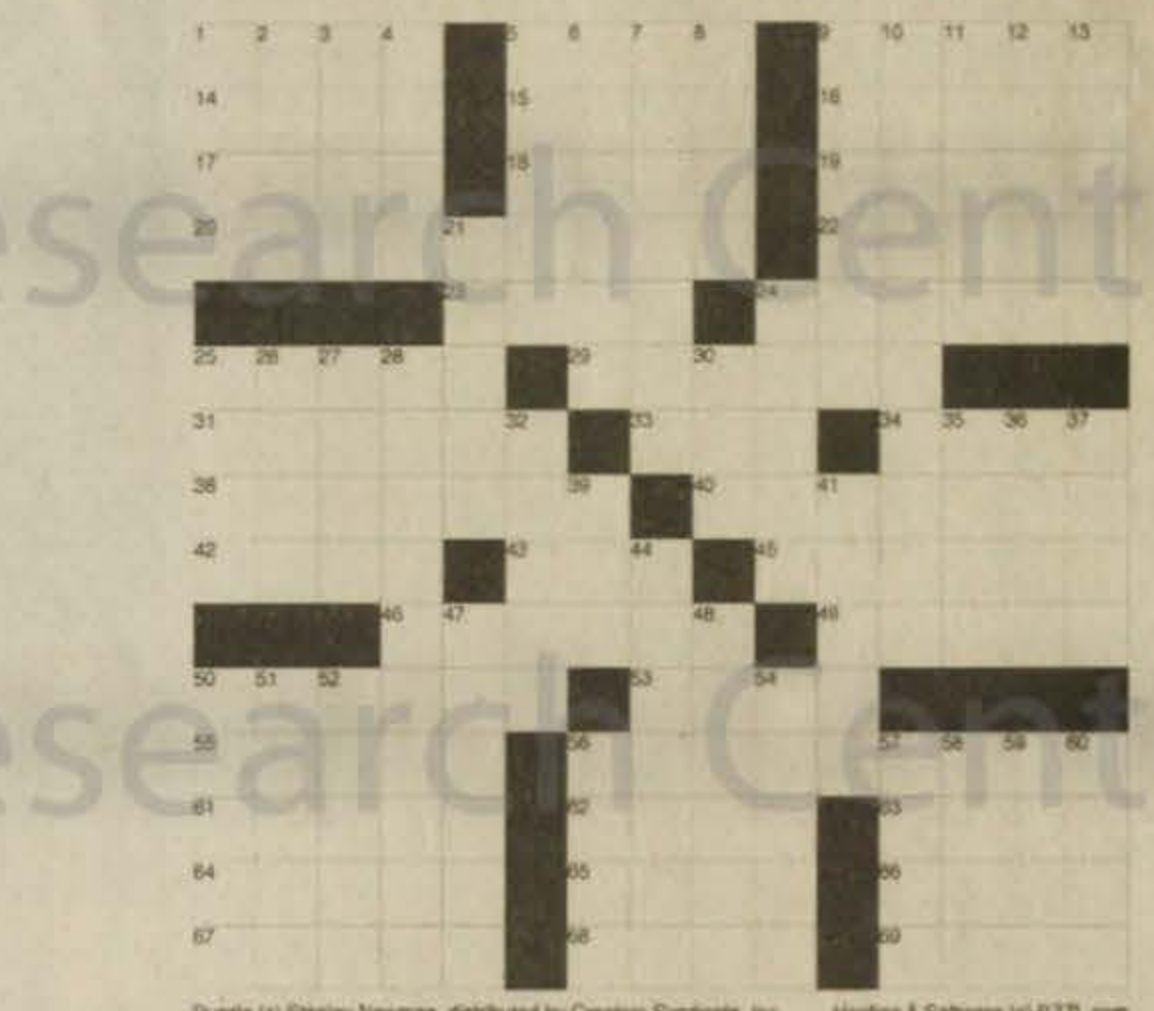
1/25/06 FREQUENT FLYERS by Daniel R. Stark, edited by Stanley Newman

Across

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- 5 Mountain passes
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- 14 Plumlike fruit
- 15 Roasting chamber
- 16 Din
- 17 Capshaw or Moss
- 18 Knock ___ loop
- 19 Fourth-down options
- 20 Engulf
- 22 Gold brick
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- 24 Birch-tree relatives
- 25 Let happen
- 29 Mile-high city
- 31 Young cow
- 33 ___ Paulo, Brazil
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- 40 Juicy morsels
- 42 Well aware of
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- 45 Takes the wheel
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- 63 "___ kleine Nachtmusik"
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- 68 "Hmm..."
- 69 Fizzy drink

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- 2 Cabbage concoction
- 3 Minute amount
- 4 Know somehow



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THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 82nd year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,500, 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.

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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.

Let Me See Your Grill: An Exploration of Dental Bling

BY JOI GILLIAM
Copy Chief

Senior marketing major Ryen Wilson bought himself a grill for Christmas, but he had to travel all the way to Houston, Tex. to get it. He says he paid \$140 for a 14 karat gold grill that only took six or seven hours to create after getting a mold done of his front top teeth.

"I had been wanting one for a long time but the only places that do it around here are in Baltimore and I don't really mess with Baltimore," he said.

Gold front teeth, or "grills," have been popular in the South since the 90s when artists like Master P., Juvenile and Baby smiled from ear to ear in their videos just to show off their diamond and platinum million-dollar grills. Now the popular fashion statement from the South has spread and people like Wilson, a Maryland native, are looking to get cheaper versions.

Making the accessory even more popular among Howard students is Nelly's most recent release, "Grillz," a collaboration with Big Gipp and Paul Wall in which each artist rhymes about their favorite grill and shows off their blinged-out teeth in the video.

"I was in McDonald's the other day and some kids started singing the song when they saw me," said Wilson.

Despite the growing popularity, some students think the trend may be a little excessive and inappropriate.

"Grilling out your mouth has been part of Southern culture for a long time. But there is a time and place for everything. And personally, I think they're just unattractive," said Angela Bacon, a junior English major.

Sophomore Theatre Arts Administration major, Alorie Clark, agrees. "I just don't like the way they look. Like when

a boy smiles, there's all this metal stuff. It's all shiny. I can stand it if someone has two but don't have the whole top, bottom or both," she said.

However, Wilson says he has received no negative comments since getting his.

"People usually get excited and go crazy when they see me with it," he said.

Others like junior audio production major, Rudy Hardie, think it is simply an accessory.

"Dudes pay like \$600 for a bracelet or chain and to have a grill is just the same," he said.

Although the more popular styles are the removable fronts, some opt for permanent teeth replacements.

With permanents, according to Starlight Manufacturing Inc.'s website, the tooth is shaved down significantly in order to place the crown properly and if it is removed, causes trauma to the tooth and area.

Dr. Dondre Simpson, a general dentist and a member of the National Dental Association, said, "they rot your teeth. Licensed dentists create a crown or bridge made a certain way by a dental lab and it is followed by specific instructions. [Grills] are not done professionally by dentists and it's crap what I see."

Dr. Hazel Harper, a past president of the National Dental Association, warns that, "there has to be a vital consideration of how the replacement is fitted so there is no room for decay or bacteria."

Although removable fronts do not pose a health risk, some students are more concerned with the appropriateness of wearing a grill.

"I believe there's definitely a right time and place for them, like not in the workplace or an interview," said Danaul Pearce, a sophomore management major.

Wilson, who is in the



Photo Courtesy of www.doctorsteeth.com and www.musicmedia.com

Wilson, above, shows off his grill that he bought in Houston. The dental jewelry now has a hit by Nelly and Paul Wall.

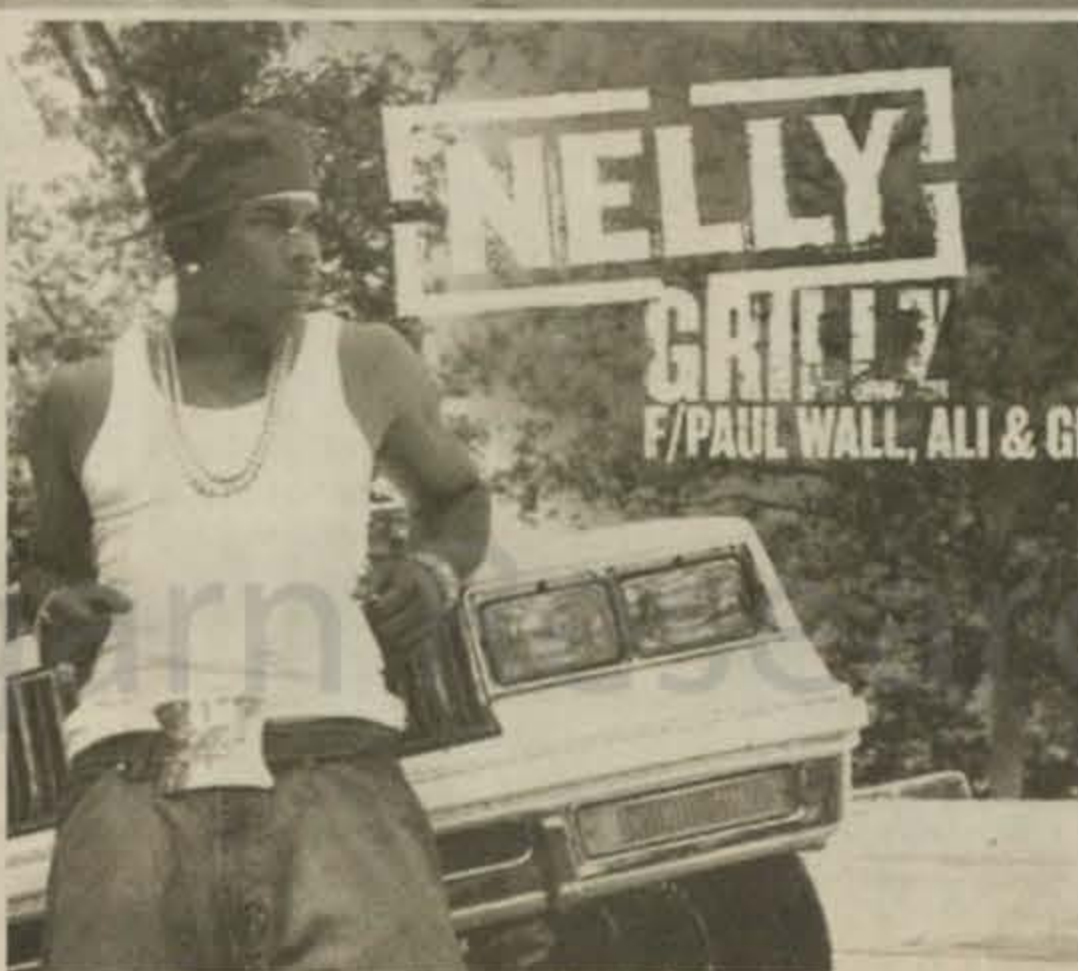
School of Business, simply sees his grill as an accessory and insists he would never wear it to an important event.

"It's like a pair of shoes, you can just throw it on or take it off," he said.

Who knows whether this is only a short-lived trend or if grills have moved from being a familiar southern style to mainstream fashion. It is all about personal preference and taste.

Howard students have always found new and creative ways to enhance their style and appearance so it was only a matter of time until they took notice of their smile. They have recently shown interest in dressing it up like they are prone to doing with the rest of their bodies.

Yes, we have all seen



Nelly's video "Grillz" when they dance around flashing their million dollar smiles and who can forget Baby's, from Cash Money, platinum grill. But now the popularity has grown beyond the South.

Danaul Pearce, a sophomore Management major,

says, "Grills started in the South and it's starting to move North. You can see dudes that you know aren't from the South wearing them now."



Childhood Heart Repairs May Begin to Fail in Adulthood

Many adults who had childhood surgery to repair lethal heart defects are unaware that those repairs may start to fail as they approach middle age, experts warn.

These patients believe they were cured and don't bother to get cardiac checkups. In addition, few cardiologists outside of children's hospitals know how to monitor these kinds of heart conditions, the Associated Press reported.

Open-heart surgery to repair heart defects in babies and young children only became common in the 1970s. Doctors have started to notice a disturbing trend among survivors of those surgeries as they reach adulthood.

Evidence suggests that about 20 years after childhood heart surgery, there's increasing risk for serious problems among people who had repairs to complex heart defects. These problems include enlarged hearts, irregular heartbeats, heart failure, and even sudden death, the AP reported.

Researchers Spot Key to Aggressive Breast Cancer

The overproduction of a protein responsible for cell growth may be crucial to the origin and rapid spread of the most aggressive breast cancers, according to a team of scientists at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston.

Increased levels of the protein, called cyclin D, overstimulate a molecular switch known as CDK4 kinase, which in turn triggers the uncontrolled proliferation of malignant cells, the scientists report in the current Cancer Cell. If those cancer cells also contain an oncogenic form of the HER2 gene, they can be especially virulent.

However, the drug Herceptin has shown potent activity in blocking HER2 cells, and other anti-cancer agents such as Gleevec work by blocking kinases.

Medicare Drug Benefit Mix-Ups Harming Mentally Ill

The error-prone roll-out of Medicare's Part D drug benefit is keeping many mentally ill patients across the U.S. from getting the drugs they need, mental health workers say. In many cases, patients are ending up hospitalized because they are either not covered by the new plan, or are forced to contribute drug co-pays that many cannot afford.

In an interview with the New York Times, Birmingham, Ala., psychiatrist Dr. Jacqueline M. Feldman said "relapse is becoming more frequent" among her low-income Medicare patients since the Jan. 1 launch of the new program, which is aimed at getting prescription drugs to patients at lower cost through link ups with private insurers.

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

The 'N Word'... Is It Okay?

BY MONQUE LISTON
Contributing Writer

Quite possibly the most provocative, scandalous, and notorious word in the history of the English language, the 'N word' has left piercing scars on the consciousness of Americans for over a hundred years.

It began as a word symbolizing hatred, humiliation, and shame then became a taboo symbol of American history and has been converted to a term of endearment used

among different races of young people across the country.

The 'N word,' once unmentionable, has become a widely-accepted epithet of some members of the African Diaspora. But, is that okay?

"The N Word - Divided We Stand," a documentary about this precise topic is released on DVD, this week, January 24.

Director Todd Williams is quoted in an article in the St. Petersburg Times as saying, "I thought we're at a point where we've lost complete control of

the word."

The documentary takes an up close and personal look at the use of the 'N word' in today's American culture. The documentary in and of itself does not give a precise answer as whether or not the word should continue to be used.

Each of the influential people presented in the documentary, black and white, give excellent rebuttals for using and not using the word.

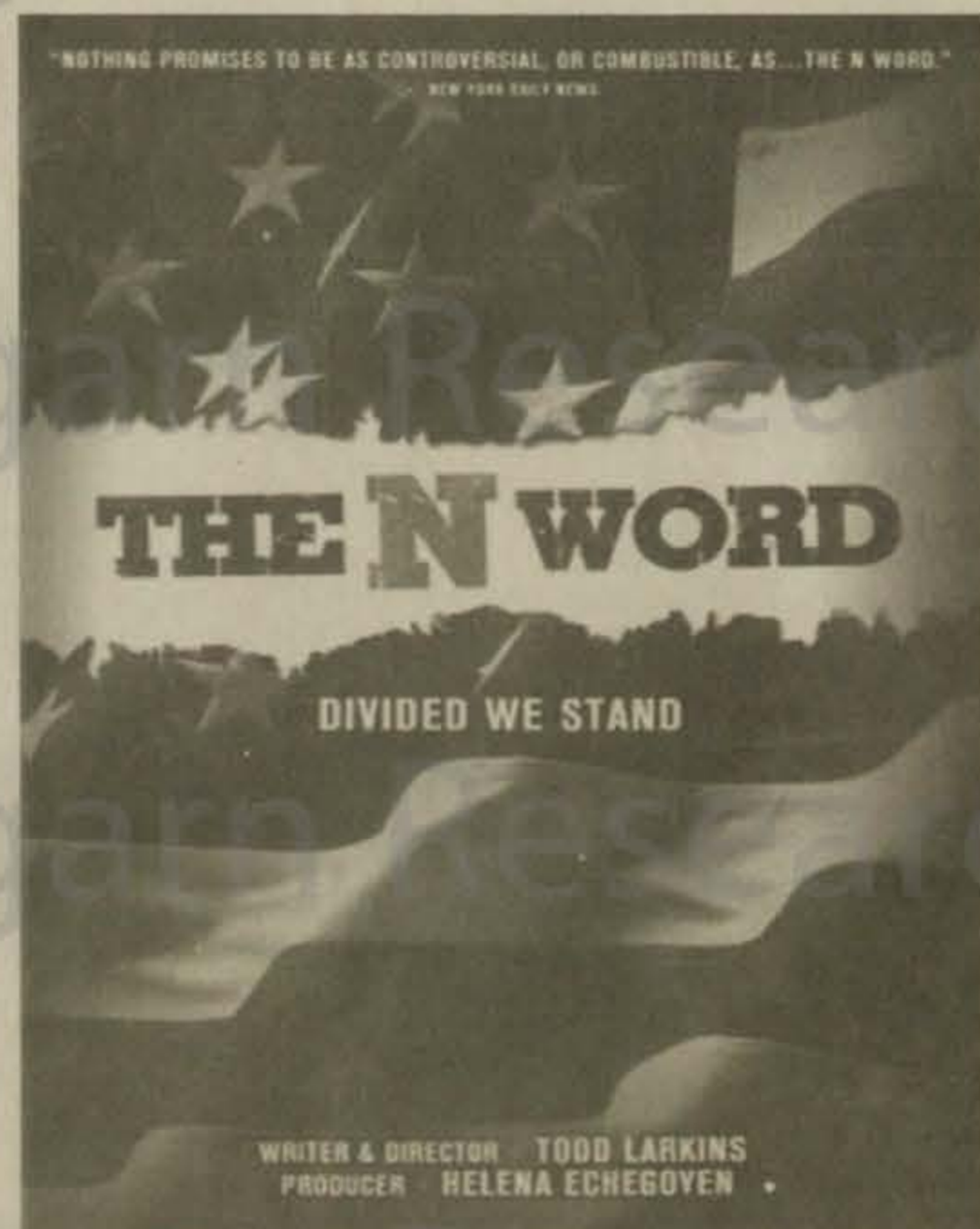
Rapper turned actor, Ice Cube, says in the film, "Black people have done this with a lot of things, we take this word that has been a burden to us, digest it, and spit it back out as ... a badge of honor."

However, admired music producer Quincy Jones had this to say, "A lot of people have tried to flatten it ... so it wouldn't be that [hurtful]. But it is designed to be derogatory. ... It's an expression of hate. It has the ability inside the family to be either the most affectionate, or the most hurtful [word]."

Howard University students seem to be just as torn upon the usage of the word. When asked, many students say they do not care for the word; however, you hear it used regularly all around campus from The Punch-Out to The Yard.

Ericka Verela, junior international business major had this to say, "Most people are hypocrites because despite the fact that they don't like the word, they use it in everyday conversation."

Yet, some students are quite frank about their personal usage of the word.



The documentary, 'The N-Word, Divided We Stand,' attempts to shed light on the inflammatory word's use.

"Yeah, I use it," said sophomore psychology major, Aaron Parker, "I really don't have a problem with it and its use today."

A key point in debate of this issue could be the fact that despite this continuing discussion, Merriam-Webster has yet to alter the definition of nigger to "term of endearment, shared among people of the same social group."

This argument may continue on for decades, but it is doubtful that the word will

be removed from the slang of young people anytime soon.

Even music mogul Damon Dash expresses his ambivalence concerning the word by saying in the documentary, "I'm personally conflicted. There is no proper use for the word."

The N word, disgracefully negative in history, remarkably positive in modern day, but... is that okay?

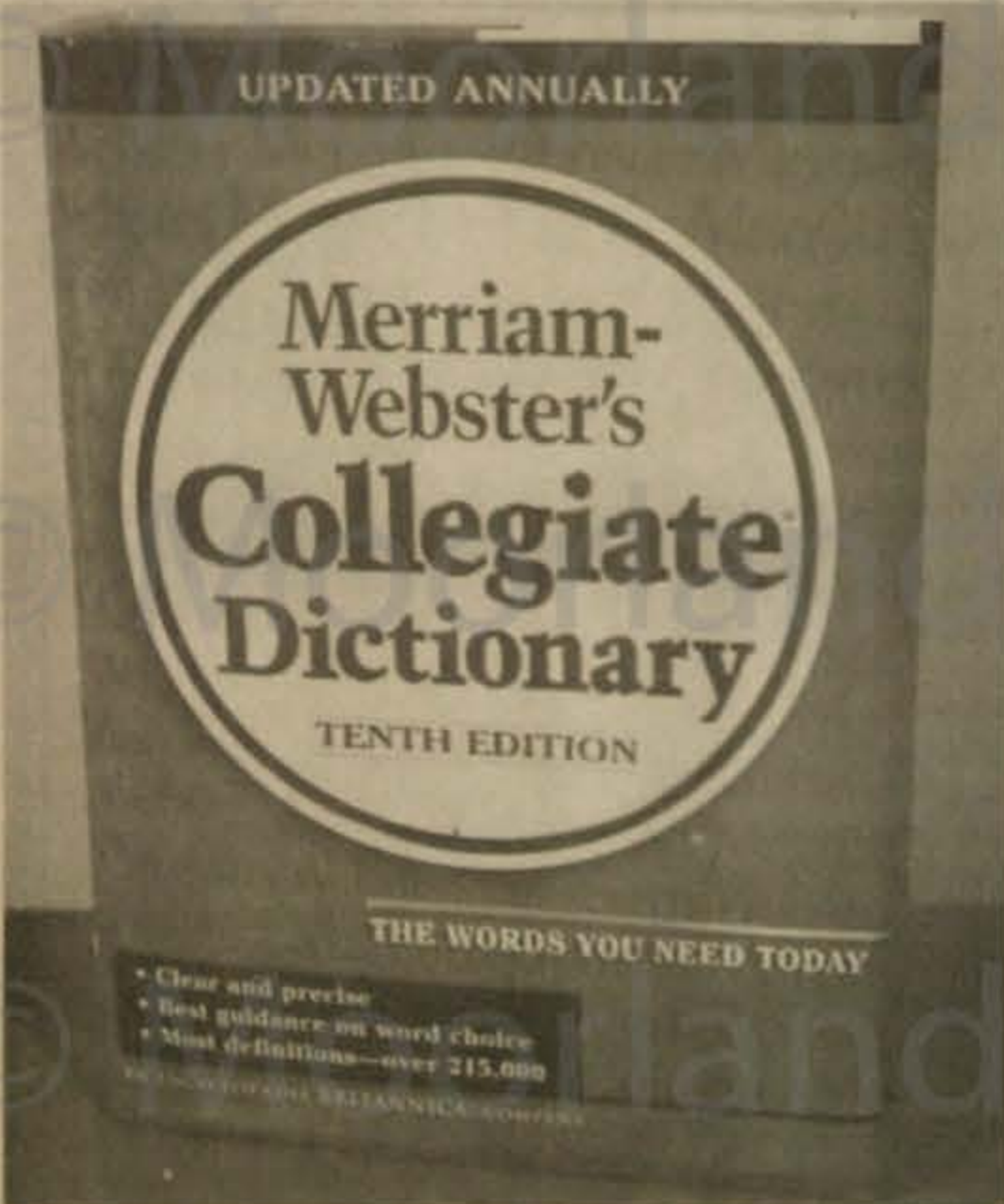


Photo Courtesy of www.big-ware.com

The connotative meaning of the 'N Word' has changed, according to some, but its denotations remain the same.

Talk is Costley



Rot N' Wrestling

BY DREW COSTLEY
Sports Editor

I was sitting at the Mac computer in the corner of the Hilltop Office last Thursday night laying out the Sports section for Friday's paper. Everything was going fine with the page, as all of the writers of my stories turned their stories in on time.

In fact, overall it had been a good day. I found out that I received an A on my first Reporting & Writing assignment. But the best news of the day was that the Washington Redskins hired Al Saunders, a move that will make my Skins a lock as the best team in the NFC East. So here I am in all of my glory when I overhear a conversation between Josh Thomas, our new Assistant Life and Style Editor, and Sean Mosley, our Assistant Copy Chief.

"John Cena's World Championship belt has a spinning emblem (yes, like the rims)," Sean said.

My world completely froze. How could Vince McMahon and whoever else runs the former World Wrestling Federation, now called WWE: World Wrestling Entertainment, let someone disgrace the title belt like that?

(In fact, the reference above is the only time I will call the former World Wrestling Federation by its current name)

What had become of the former World Wrestling Federation? I felt like the last tidbit of innocence left over from my childhood was slipping through my fingers faster than 1-2-3 Kid was in the "squared circle".

Probably the only thing to come out of the news that the former WWF was interested in targeting the "I sit in my room on IM and listen to Eminem, so now I am a rider" demographic, was that it made me take a trip down memory lane.

I pulled up the wrestling federation's website and checked their list of current superstars. At least they managed, and I don't know how, to keep Ric Flair and Sting and brought back Shawn Michaels and Hulk Hogan. My computer was slowed down to a crawl as I downloaded ten different vintage former WWF matches. My favorite of the group: when the Ultimate Warrior defeated Hulk Hogan at Wrestlemania VI.

My childhood was filled, like many other men of my generation, with memories of watching my heroes like Hulk Hogan, The Ultimate Warrior and Bret Hart take on their heel counterparts like Iron Sheik, Ravishing Rick Rude and Lex Luger.

I remember when there was such a thing as technical wrestling and characters like The Honky Tonk Man and Jimmy Hart. There were no gimmick characters like Cena and retread ideas like Kid Kash, the original name of the 1-2-3 Kid.

I knew the federation was going down hill when they hosted shows showing how wrestling is phony. When I was younger, it was a near sin to tell any kid under 10 and most kids 11-18 (and some grown men) that wrestling is fake. Wrestling used to be a lifestyle and a way of thought. Now, it's only what it is called - entertainment.

Drew spent the remainder of the evening wallowing in self-regret as he realized he was no longer a child and spinning rims are no longer for cars. He would like to take you comments but right now he is on Ebay looking for a 'Hulkamania' shirt to rip up.

Kyle Harrison Visits Men's Lacrosse Club

BY ANDREW MOTEN
Contributing Writer

To say that lacrosse is not yet the most popular sport here on Howard University's campus is more than fair.

However, anyone who is familiar with the game has heard of a man named Kyle Harrison. Harrison, a Johns-Hopkins University alumnus and winner of the 2005 McLaughlin award as the nation's top mid-fielder, is one of the most renowned names in collegiate lacrosse, and also happens to be black.

This season, Harrison is partnering with Howard University's men's lacrosse team. Players and coaching staff alike welcome the advice and company of such an outstanding lacrosse player. Not only are they expecting it to help improve the team in terms of wins, but they also could use the publicity.

"He's a great player so he has a lot of great tips for us...also with recognition, Kyle working with Howard University will be a good tool for recruiting. Hopefully other black students who play lacrosse will want to come and play it here" says Ed Carter, a junior who's entering his second season on the team.

Though the team and the coaching staff have high aspirations for the future, they also appreciate the legacy of past generations. Harrison's father, Miles Harrison, was the first black man to start at an HBCU lacrosse team at Morgan State University. Howard's men's lacrosse team is following in those footsteps as they are only the second HBCU to have a men's lacrosse team.

During his visit, Harrison showed the team some well-executed movements and shots as they looked on with mutual awe



Dereck Smith-Ass. Photo Editor

Kyle Harrison, right, shared pointers with the Men's Lacrosse Club Wednesday. Harrison was the nation's best collegiate lacrosse player in 2004.

and amazement. They seemed fairly simple to the untrained eye, and it was only when I saw some members of Howard's team attempt the same shots and movements that I appreciated Harrison's talent.

When asked what he expected to gain from the whole experience, Harrison remarked "I'm satisfied with just teaching this guys a little of what I know about the game and making a few friends along the way".

The coaching staff couldn't

be happier about Harrison spending time with the team. "I think the men's team is out to get some legitimacy and credit for changing the lacrosse world, and a partnership with the best player in the game is the beginning of changing that world"

NBA Players Refuse to Compete Internationally

BY DREW COSTLEY
Sports Editor

In 2004, multiple NBA players refused to go overseas to play in the Summer Olympics, sighting numerous reasons for their announced absence. The most notable of reasons, though, were voiced by Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady and several other NBA players, who had concerns over the level of security in Athens, Greece. The U.S. team won a bronze medal in the competition.

Also numerous all-star NBA players sat out of the (year) World Championships, hosted in Indianapolis, Ind.

And just weeks ago the 2005 Finals MVP, Tim Duncan, along with the 2004 league MVP, Kevin Garnett, have exempted themselves from play, leaving many to wonder where the frontcourt talent is going to come from for the USA team.

"I have no interest in that," Duncan told MSNBC.com on Jan. 7, following a 91-86 Spurs loss to the Suns.

So far, the team has only gotten a commitment from Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal, who sat out the first two weeks of the season with an ankle injury.

"Their only big man is Shaq and he is injured," said George Gee, a sophomore actuarial science major. "And there aren't really that many scoring big men in the league like Duncan and Garnett, so it will be interesting to see what they do to cover for [Duncan and Garnett's] absence."

Gee, an avid basketball fan, believes that it is the duty for some of these players to go overseas to represent the NBA and the sport of basketball.

"A lot of these players would not have had much if it weren't for basketball," Gee said. "So it is almost like they owe the sport of basketball their presence and talent level for competitions like the Olympics."

After many professional players refused to compete in the 2004 Olympics, USA Basketball, basketball's governing body, made drastic changes to the way they select players for the national team.

USA Basketball selected Phoenix Suns owner Jerry Colangelo to manage the team. Colangelo is requiring players that commit to playing to play for team for three years.

According to USA Basketball Colangelo will talk to up to 35 players and select 20 players to attend a training camp in July

to be held in Las Vegas.

Then Colangelo and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who was selected as coach for the USA team for the 2008 Olympics, will choose 12 players to play for the U.S. team through the 2008 Olympics.

The absence of many players in international competition in the past years has garnered a substantial amount of backlash from the media and fans of the NBA. But according to USA Basketball, the players have paid their dues.

"Players like Duncan and Garnett have already committed time to the team," said Craig Miller, a spokesman for USA Basketball. "We trust that they have worthwhile reasons for not going overseas."

And some Howard students agree with Miller. Deanelle Jones, a sophomore architecture major, believes that the veterans should allow younger players to bask in the spotlight of an international competition.

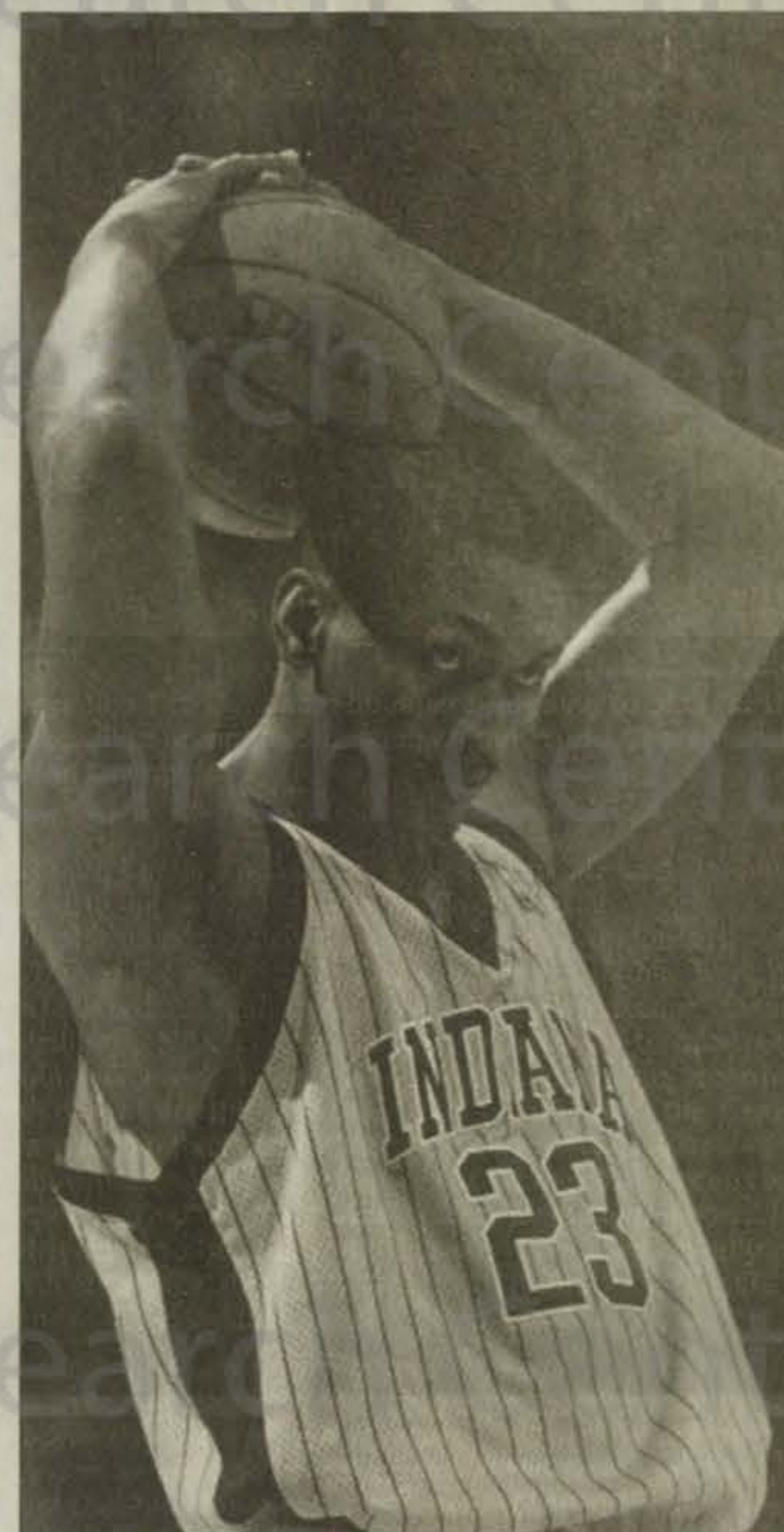
"If you have experience in the championship setting for a long time you should leave space for upcoming players to gain international attention," he said.

Also according to Miller, who travels with the U.S. basketball team during all World Championships and the Olympics, the traveling and time away from home can be strenuous on players.

"We are away for close to 40 games, so it's not just 4 or 5 days they are gone at a time," Miller said. "Many of these players have families and other business to attend to during the time we are away. It's not an easy situation for these players."

The team is scheduled to play exhibition games in China

Artest Traded to Kings for Stojakovic



File Photo

The Indiana Pacers traded forward Ron Artest to the Sacramento Kings for guard Peja Stojakovic on Wednesday. The trade was completed only a day after the deal seemed to fall apart. Artest requested a trade from the Pacers early in the season after being suspended for much of last season.

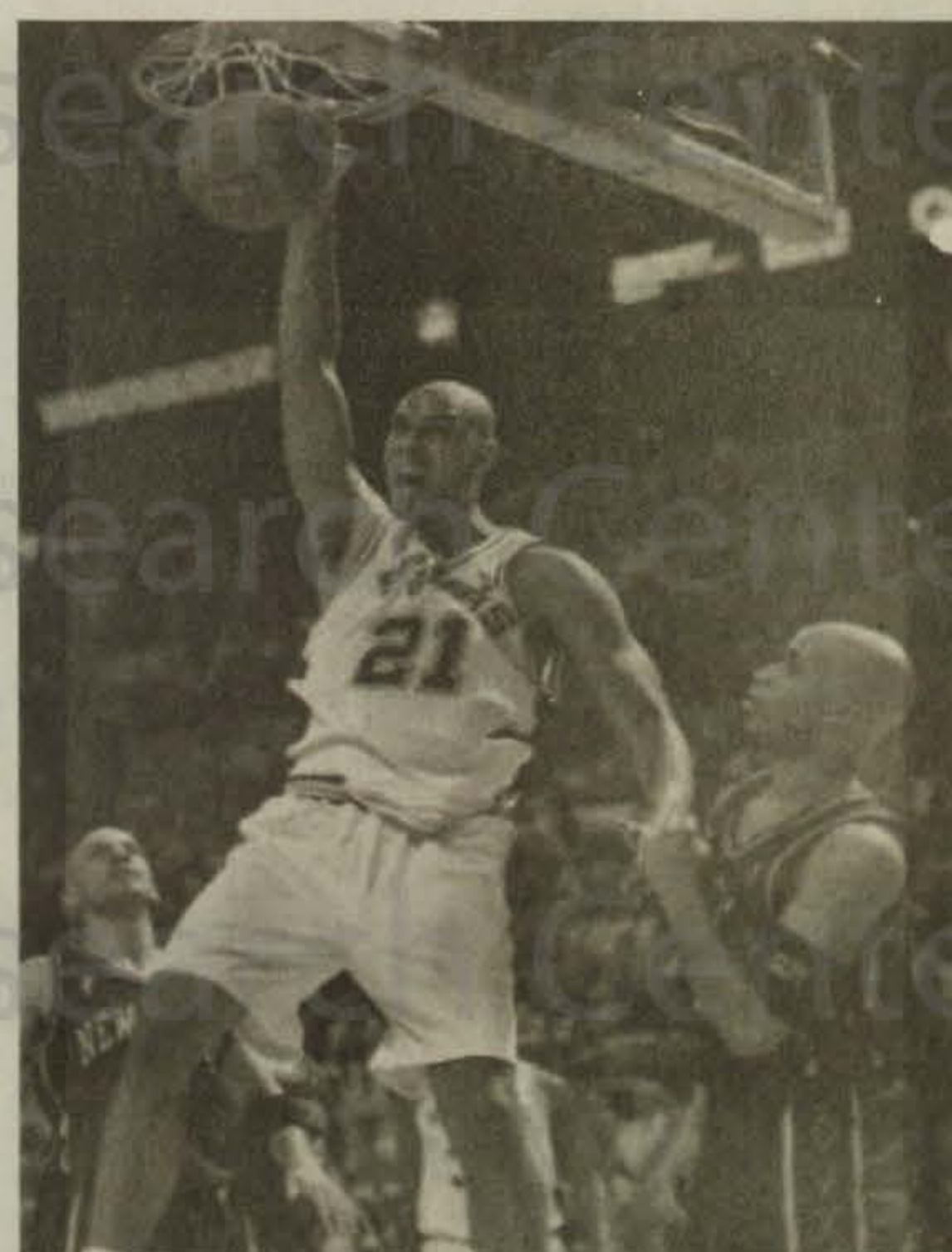


Photo Courtesy of www.espn.com

Players like Tim Duncan, above, are refusing to play for USA Basketball in competitions such as the World Championships and the Olympics.

and South Korea. Then they are headed to Japan for the World Championships in August.

During the summer of 1992 USA Basketball sent over an assembly of NBA players that dominated every international opponent in the first ever Olympic basketball competition to allow professional players to compete. The "Dream Team" as they came to be known consisted of players such as NBA legends Larry Bird, Magic

Johnson, Michael Jordan and Clyde Drexler.

Many opponents looked at them as if they were celebrities, often asking them for autographs or to take pictures after games. But according to USA Basketball, the game has changed.

"These players aren't asking for autographs anymore," Miller said. "They are actually trying to beat the U.S. because they can."

"Many of these players have families...It's not an easy situation for the players."

- Miller.

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