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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 78

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

THURSDAY notebook

WEATHER

THURS, 2/2:
MOSTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 56, LOW: 46

FRI, 2/3:
AM SHOWERS
HIGH: 58, LOW: 41

SAT, 2/4:
CLOUDY/WIND
HIGH: 54, LOW: 36

BREAKING NEWS

GOVERNOR TO HALT MINING

WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR JOE MANCHIN CALLED FOR A HALT ON MINING WEDNESDAY TO ALLOW FOR SAFETY REVIEWS OF THE MINES AFTER THE DEATH OF 16 MINERS IN RECENT WEEKS.

CAMPUS

TALENTED TENTH

TURN TO CAMPUS TO SEE HOW THE TALENTED TENTH IS MAKING AN IMPACT
PAGE 2



LIFE & STYLE

... MEET 'Z'

LEARN MORE ABOUT AN ARTISTIC ENTREPRENEUR WHO'S MAKING MONEY THROUGH DESIGN
PAGE 8



SPORTS

ANOTHER BUSY WEEKEND

TURN TO SPORTS TO SEE HOW THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS AND TRACK AND FIELD TEAM PLAN TO PREPARE FOR THIS WEEK-END'S COMPETITIONS.
PAGE 10



HU CALENDAR

FEB 13
DEADLINE FOR 50% REFUND OF TUITION FEES

FEB 15
PRIORITY FAFSA DEADLINE

FEB 20
PRESIDENTS DAY - NO CLASS

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IN PICTURES	5
ED. & PERSPECTIVES	7
LIFE & STYLE	8
SPORTS	10

Ethiopians Rally At Capitol



Yesterday, D.C.'s Ethiopian community held a protest rally at the Capitol against the atrocities of the Zenawi regime.

Markene Hawthorne - Staff Photographer

Alternative Spring Break Plans

Students skip sandy beaches to help out in New Orleans

BY FARREN HINTON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Sophomore Camille Webster, like many of her peers, has searched incessantly for a reasonably priced trip to an exotic Spring Break location. What she does not know is that there is an Alternative Spring Break, sponsored by the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel that allows for fun, friends and travel.

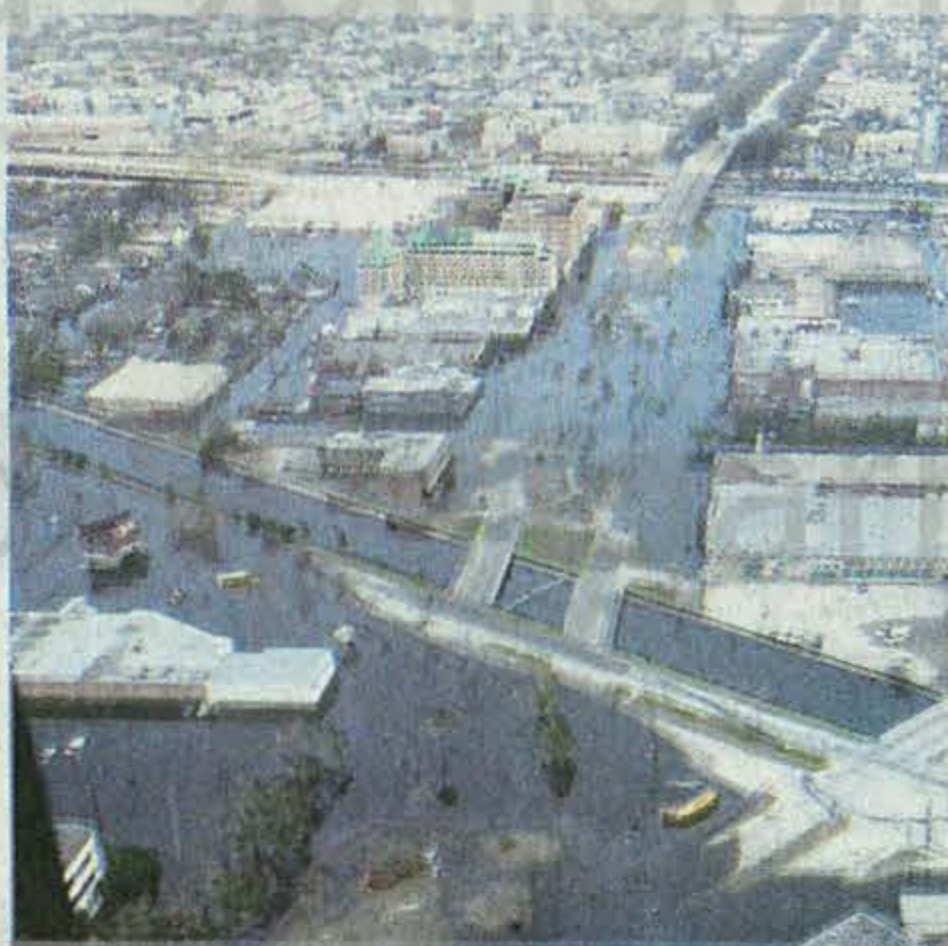
While church may be the last thing on the minds of some students during the Spring Break season, the focus of this trip is to provide aid to those directly affected by Hurricane Katrina in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana.

"This trip, we really just want to focus on making a change," said senior Alexis Logan who is the coordinator for the trip. "We feel that we could do that best in New Orleans, especially with what has happened there. We feel commissioned, like it is our mission, to go there and help out," she said.

The trip will take place from March 11-17. Students who are interested must turn in applications, which are available in the chapel office in the Carnegie Building by Sunday at 2 p.m.

"We understand the devastation there, and the need for help," Logan said. "We just want to give people the opportunity to come out and help," she said.

For those students who



File Photo

Students plan to use their spring break time to go and help rebuild New Orleans.

wanted to donate their time and efforts to the restoration of the affected area but were unable to escape the reality of their studies, the Alternative Spring Break gives them a chance to do what they had intended to do.

"When [Hurricane] Katrina happened, I really wanted to help," Webster said. "But I couldn't really just leave school. I think that this trip provides a chance for people like me who didn't get to travel to New Orleans to actually go and help their people."

The trip is paid for through the Lilly Endowment Fund. Although the chapel can afford to send 50 students to Louisiana through the fund, Logan, a Lilly Fellow, said sponsorship would help.

"The trip is cost free to the students," she said. "That's why we are looking for sponsorships, so we can reach the most students as possible. The amount of students is somewhat dependent upon the amount of sponsorship, and the amount of resources we have."

Housing will also be provided. In the past, those involved have stayed in dormitories, lodges and even cabins.

"Wherever we are, we make sure that it is safe enough under University conditions," Logan said.

While in New Orleans, the students will be working mostly with school-aged children and helping to rebuild schools. They will also be working with Habitat for Humanity.

In previous years,

the program has visited Savannah Georgia to work with Habitat for Humanity. While in Georgia, the students also learned about the Gullah/Geechee people, who are known for their African cultural history.

One year, Alternative Spring Break led HU students to Cherokee, North Carolina, where they were immersed in Native American culture. They also have visited former slave plantations.

Alexis said visiting a local church is something that the spring-breakers look forward to during their excursions.

"Whatever Alternative Spring Break we go on, we always look forward to going to area churches," she said.

She believes this is a well-rounded activity.

"[Alternative Spring Break] is not only a community service project where you actually get down and dirty with the community service, but it's a historical experience, a cultural experience," she said.

Webster who has yet to purchase her tickets to the Bahamas is now considering filling out an application for the Alternative Spring Break.

Interested students are urged to apply for the trip. Those who have any questions or concerns can email Alternative Spring Break at ASBNOLA2006@yahoo.com.

Battle of the HU Alumni: Cropp Speaks

Alumnae hopes to defeat Adrian Fenty in District mayoral race

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Senior Editor

Though months remain before District residents vote to elect a new mayor, an interesting race appears to be taking shape between two members of the city council, both of whom were students at Howard University.

Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp (who has both a Bachelor's degree in sociology and a Masters degree in Guidance and Counseling from Howard University) and council member Adrian Fenty (who has a law degree from Howard University Law School) are for the most part competing against each other to replace retiring mayor Anthony Williams.

Though polls show Cropp trailing Fenty in potential votes and campaign cash, she has sought in interviews and public appearances to cast herself as the most "experienced" candidate, a word choice many pundits watching from the sidelines view as a thinly veiled attack against Fenty, who has only been in public life for six years compared to 30 years for Cropp.

Closing the Gap

Regardless of whether or not an emphasis on experience is a campaign strategy to eventually take the lead in the race, Cropp said in an *Exclusive* interview with *The Hilltop* that the odds of winning are all in her favor. "If you look at anyone who has become mayor of the District of Columbia and that was not an incumbent and was the leading person, that person has never won," Cropp said in an interview from her downtown office, just blocks away from the White House. "Marion Barry was not the leading person when the polls first started, when Sharon Pratt Kelly became mayor she was not the leading person, when Anthony Williams became mayor he was not the leading person and even when Marion Barry ran again, he was not the leading person...so quite frankly it doesn't go very well for those who are leading."

Even so, Cropp acknowledged that Fenty's campaign had momentum, though polls show him ahead of Cropp by less than 10 points and recently filed campaign finance reports show his lead in campaign cash is less than \$100,000. According to the reports, Fenty has raised a little more than \$900,000 compared to Cropp's \$821,000. Cropp said that when you consider Fenty's early entrance into the race, his advantages over her are not that large.

"The reality is that my major opponent has been out there campaigning hard for two years and we now have the momentum, they've had all of there



Cropp, an experienced politician, is currently trailing in current polls.

In Tomorrow's Issue:
The Hilltop will run an exclusive interview with Adrian Fenty in which he defends the charges made against his campaign by Cropp.

momentum, and now the gap is closing," Cropp said. "...People forget that he has been running for two years, I just got into the race. He's been actively running for two years and I'm the last person to become a candidate in the race for about five months, so the expectation is that anyone who has been running that much longer than the other candidate should have an advantage."

The New Stadium

Though Cropp and Fenty agree on a number of issues, including the need to expand access to healthcare and affordable housing, they sharply disagree on the contentious issue of whether or not the District should provide funds for a new baseball stadium for the Nationals. Fenty opposes building the stadium, arguing that it is too costly to District residents, while Cropp said having the stadium will not take "one dime" from the pockets of residents and that opponents of the stadium are intentionally misleading the public in order to score political points. "Those who have been against the stadium and have been suggesting to DC residents that the stadium is taking money from other things such as schools are totally misrepresenting and misleading the citizens of the District of Columbia," Cropp said. "The citizens really should look into it and challenge them for doing that because if we voted today not to have the stadium there would not be any additional money that could be utilized for other things for individual citizens."

Cropp said the stadium, estimated to cost more than \$500 million, would be paid for using "rent money" from the Nationals, a special tax on tickets and merchandise, as well as a special tax on only five percent of the business community. Though she

See CROPP, Page 9

Talented Tenth Still ‘Bowling for Blankets’



The Talented Tenth will be hosting “Bowling for Blankets: Part II” tonight in Blackburn in an attempt to raise more funds and blankets for the homeless after a disappointing Part I last semester. Members (above) will distribute blankets to the homeless throughout the winter.

BY MEGAN SCHLEY
Contributing Writer

The Talented Tenth will attempt to make a comeback tonight by hosting a Bowling for Blankets: Part II on the bottom floor of Blackburn, aiming to improve the results from Part I.

Last semester, the organization hosted their annual “Bowling for Blankets” event. Unfortunately, the results failed to meet expectations, raising a little over \$100 and five blankets.

“I feel that the Howard students and staff could have done much better to support the community,” said Adam Perkins, a senior marketing major and president of Talented Tenth. “I was not at all satisfied with the outcome. That is the main reason why I feel that it is imperative to try the event again, hopefully raising more money than every before.”

Members of this organization attribute the small turn-out

on the lack of publicity the event received.

“Many people did not know anything about the event until the day of, and at that point it was too late,” said Whitney Hopkins, a sophomore marketing major. “People either did not have the five dollars needed to gain entry into the event or simply did not have enough time to go pick up a blanket.”

Sharna Smith, a sophomore child development major who attended Part I, said the event was “a good way to give back to the community,” but was not publicized well.

The Talented Tenth aims to bridge the gap between the Howard University community and the surrounding D.C. area. They serve as the conduit between the communities through various public services and geared events.

Rooted in the teachings of W.E.B. Dubois, the Talented Tenth seeks to get the Howard University community to “come down from the Hilltop” and recall

the responsibilities that one has to their community, which entails helping, educating and uplifting.

In the three previous years, the Talented Tenth raised over \$400 and over 45 blankets. This time they plan to surpass that amount with flying colors.

Members decided that the idea of “Bowling for Blankets” would be a great way to give back to the community.

With the money raised from the event, members buy blankets for the less fortunate and pass them out throughout the winter season.

Members of the Howard community feel that this time the event will be a fun and exciting event as well as a great success.

“I think that the event will have a good outcome,” said Marietta Sloan, a sophomore insurance major. “I can not wait to go and bowl, chat with friends, and have a good time at the event, and it makes it better knowing that I am bowling for a good cause.”

Residence Life Student Staff Interact at Training

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT
Campus Editor

Residence Life aimed to bring the student staff of all dormitories together to share their different hall experiences and present solutions to common resident problems during this year’s refresher training.

“The biggest faster [of the training] was that we had a cross-integrative program,” said Charles Gibbs, dean of Residence Life. “Halls have their own understandings from different perspectives, and they were to bring that to the table.”

“Synthesis: The Integration of Training and Experience” was held Sunday in Blackburn. Vallyn Smith, Community Director of the Tubman Quadrangle, was elected to organize the annual mid-year training by Gibbs and the other Community Directors.

In previous years, the training was more of an information session, where professionals gave presentations. This year, Smith wanted to make the sessions more interactive, allowing the students to share their experiences.

DeAndre Judge, a Resident Assistant (R.A.) in Baldwin Hall, said the different staffs of the dorms work with different problems, and the interaction helped

the staffs to realize the work of their fellow student staff members.

“I recognized that the dorms are similar and different in so many ways,” she said. “I developed a whole other respect for my counterparts, and what other dorms do.”

The R.A.s, Student Assistants (S.A.) and Graduate Assistants (G.A.) were split into five individual groups and assigned different common problems among residents: nicotine abuse, depression, suicide, HIV/AIDs, and Student Rights.

The groups attended a workshop that addressed their respective problems, and then were given a scenario to put their heads together to create a solution and program.

Judge was part of the nicotine abuse group, and was given the scenario that there were two roommates; one a smoker and the other not. The non-smoker is bothered by the smell of the smoke and the worried for smoker’s health.

She said because the staff was from different dorms and they dealt with students ranging from freshmen to graduate students, they did not come to one solution. Instead, they developed steps to be followed.

“In the end we wanted the

students to learn to respect the differences others on their floor have,” she said. “In the real world, you may not be placed with people that you necessarily get along with, but you do have to deal with them.”

All G.A.s participated in the student rights workshop which discussed the student conduct handbook. The workshop was led by Rasheem Rooke, the director of student services at Howard. He aimed to identify the rights of the students and the consequences of some of their actions.

“We want the students to understand that, with every right, you have a responsibility,” he said.

All of the programs developed by the groups will be put into a newsletter and distributed to the student staff in case they wish to use the ideas in their halls.

Gibbs said he was appreciative of the student staff for waking early on a Sunday morning to participate in the all-day training.

“I commend our students for getting out of their beds so early on a Sunday morning,” Gibb said. “They are doing an outstanding job and I want them to know that, anything that we can do to make their job easier, we’re here.”



Dormitory staff members attended their annual mid-year refresher course. This year, the course was newly formatted with more interaction in which staff members shared their experiences.

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Throwing an event?

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Or come by and ask for Ayesha or Christina.

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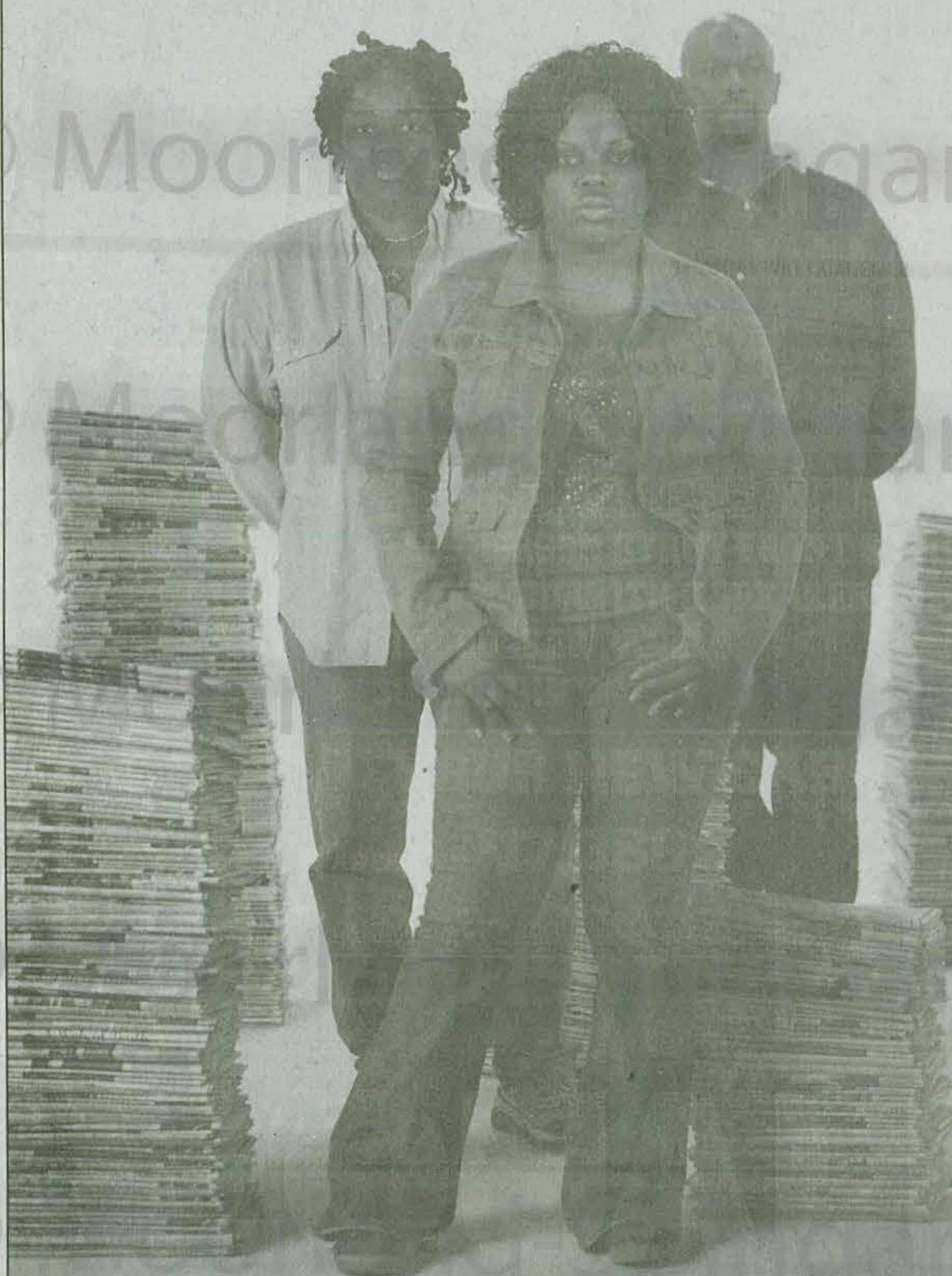
EQUALITY

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It's the story the Washington Post doesn't want you to know. Their treatment of the Utility Mailers, the people that package the paper for delivery, has been appalling. The Post pays them less than half as much as co-workers that do the same job. And there's no way for them to move up to better pay. Now in contract talks, the Post wants to take away their union pension.

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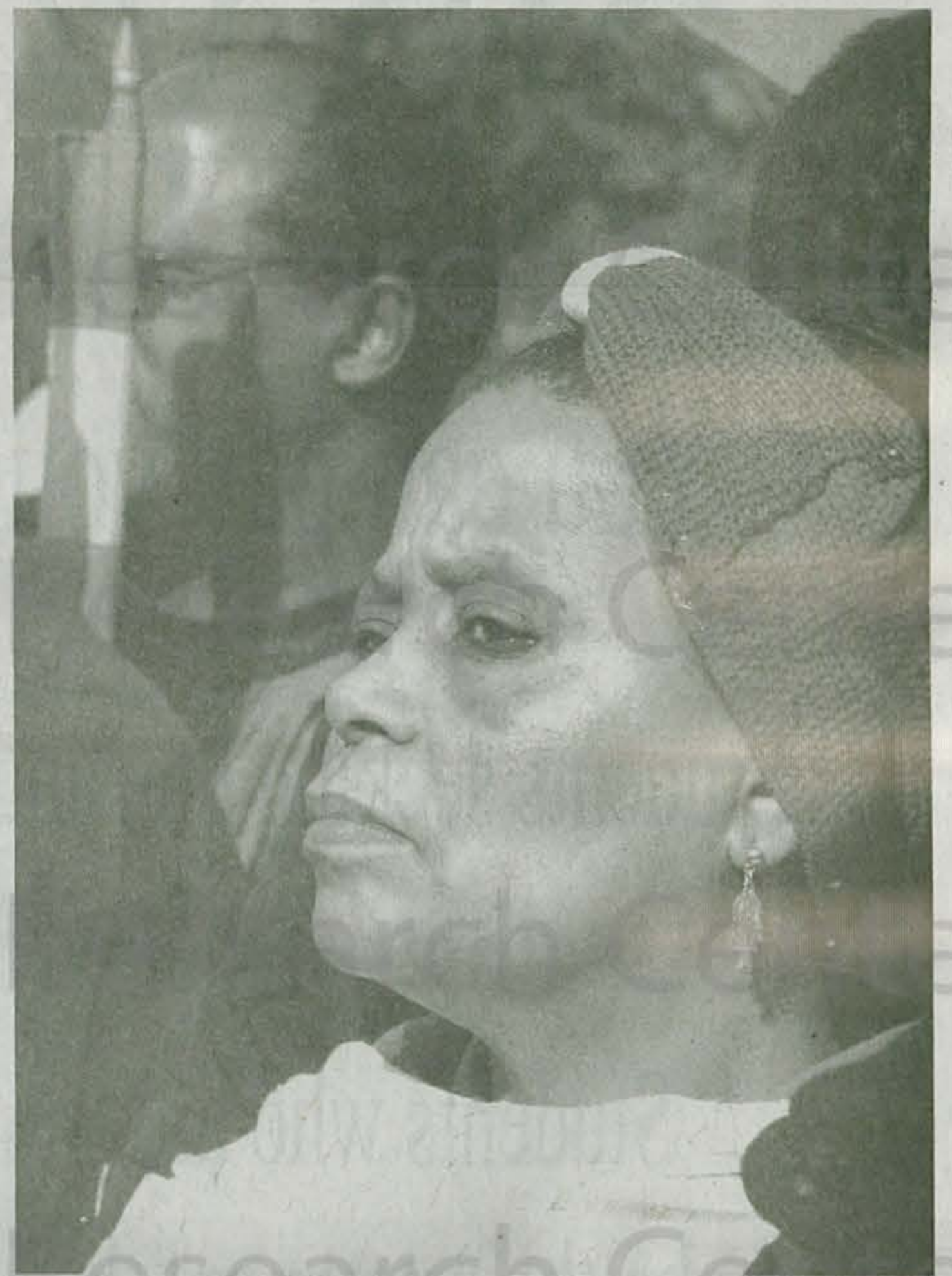
Go Red For Women on National Wear Red Day
February 3, 2006

Sponsored by National Council of Negro Women & UGSA

a freedom rally



Marlene Hawthorne-Staff Photographer
A rally held on Wednesday protested the Zenawi regime in Ethiopia. Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) spoke at the rally, saying that he hoped democracy would be the new ideal for Ethiopia. A supporter of the rally holds a sign that reads 'Freedom for Ethiopia' at the US Capitol Wednesday. Protest rally participants shout in support to cheers for democracy in Ethiopia.



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Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association's national campaign to raise awareness about women's No. 1 killer, heart disease. Go Red in your own fashion to show your support for women and the fight against heart disease.

Stop by Blackburn, Ground Floor and make a donation through the National Council of Negro Women and UGA...FRIDAY!

Department of Residence Life**IMPORTANT RSVP ANNOUNCEMENT****Housing Information for 2006-2007****DID YOU KNOW?****You can pay your RSVP Deposit ONLINE!**

Students seeking housing for the 2006-2007 academic year are required to participate in RSVP.

Students who are validated for Spring 2006 will be able to make their payment through BISONWEB until February 3, 2006.

Visit www.howard.edu/residencelife to download the RSVP Informational Packet.

NOTE: Your \$200 deposit does not guarantee you housing.

Students who are currently receiving the Presidential, Laureate, Capstone, Founders, Upward Bound and Hartford Scholarships do not have to submit a RSVP deposit.

EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 78

FEBRUARY 2, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



Samuel Alito Joins the High Court

Lately there has been a lot of discussion about President Bush and his State of the Union address. Citizens have become frustrated with our international dealings and the problems plaguing us at home. It seems we are searching for a direction, a leader or a movement to arise to convince the American people that it is time for a change.

However, there are other people we should take a look at and question. After the recent confirmation of Samuel Alito as the nation's 110th Supreme Court justice, shouldn't we question his capabilities in the court?

At *The Hilltop* we are not particularly happy about Alito's confirmation. Most of us feel that he will not vote favorably

to us on issues that directly pertain to minorities. We see him as an extension of Bush and know we can't really count on his vote counting for us. Alito has garnered a good amount of Democratic and minority support, but we are still a bit leery. The NAACP and the

dislike without doing something about it. We don't mean getting them directly out of office because that is quite unrealistic in the context of the American political system. What we mean is working with organizations that fight for things of importance to us or staying involved politically.

It is vital that American voters do not disregard state and local elections and the power of holding elected officials accountable.

You may have trouble reaching

Bush, but if you tried contacting the mayor you might have some success. Let's flex our political muscles and do something with the avenues we have.

Our View:

Rather than simply Bush-bashing, we need to stay abreast politically and be cautious of other power players.

Congressional Black Caucus have expressed their discontent with Alito and we share their concerns.

It is pointless to complain about certain people being elected or government officials we

Howard Must Demand that Bush Step Down

Allen Lang

On the eve of President Bush's State of the Union address, the nation plunged into a State of Emergency, with an administration taking unprecedented measures in a grab for permanent "unitary executive power" and an enraged populous fed up with Bush's. The Bush Regime's drive to radically remake society has placed controversial words like *fascism* and *impeachment* within major editorials, blogs and at the center of raging debates in cafeterias, break rooms and dinner tables across the country. At this crucial juncture, the "World Can't Wait - Drive Out the Bush Regime" call for nationwide protests the night of the State of the Union address will be followed by mobilization in the nation's capitol on February 4. These events need to be at the center of the controversy and the demand for Bush to step down from office will become a real-

ity. Howard University is joining the national day of protests with a gathering at the flagpole in the Yard and traveling to the West Side of the Capitol on the National Mall to join with speakers like Cindy Sheehan and Rev. Lennox Yearwood of the Hip-Hop Caucus. From "rendering" tortured prisoners around the globe to openly lying about weapons of mass destruction to illegal spying, Bush is criminally indictable. For us to remain silent in the face of these atrocities is to accept them. When there are millions of people outraged by the nightly news and unable to fathom the idea of remaining complicit with the very crimes that shock their conscience, there is only one answer: turn off the television and pour into the streets to demand Bush Step Down and take his program with him!

What would it have meant if Martin Luther King, Jr. never led the March on Washington?

or no march in Birmingham? What would our classrooms look like? What would the world look like? Today, with what is represented in the confirmation of Alito to the Supreme Court, the stakes are even higher. Will science be "science" in the future? Will law and public education be determined by the Bible? Are you ready to fight in Iran? Will you have a choice? This is real. Checks and balances have not and will not stop it. Think of how much it will mean for the victims of Katrina, for the people of Iraq and soldiers in the VA hospitals to see campuses around the country erupt in protest and repudiate Bush's program. On February 4, people from around the country will be gathering at the White House to deliver an indictment of the Bush Regime and demand he step down from office. Be there!

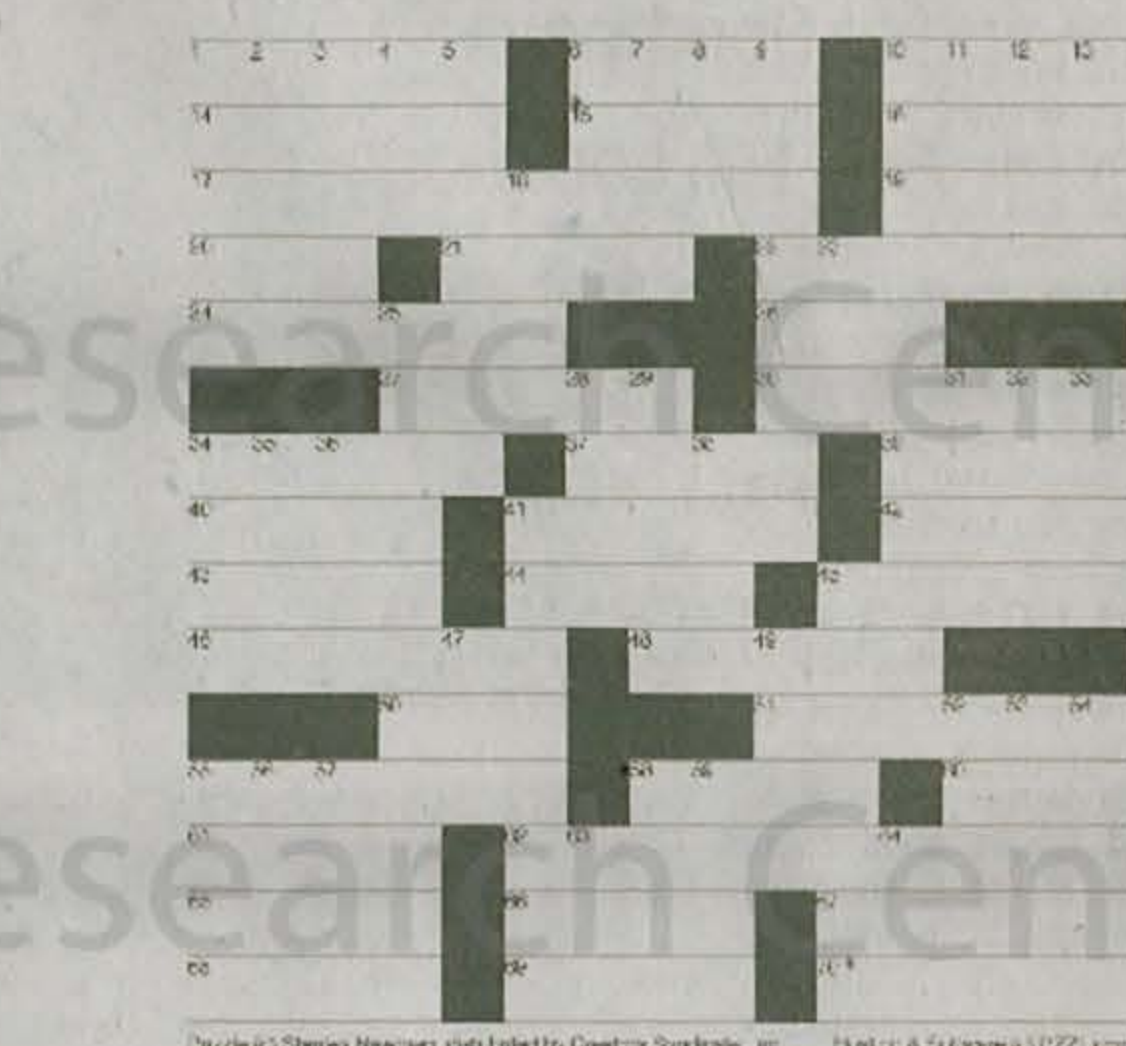
2/01/06 DOMAIN NAMES by Fred Piscop, edited by Stanley Newman

Across

- 1 Biting remarks
- 6 Actor Epps
- 10 Have on
- 14 Run _ of the law
- 15 Telegram
- 16 Not doing anything
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- 30 Hang out
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- 67 Spine tingling
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Down

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- 3 Coxswain's charge



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- 58 In the thick of
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Come grab a story at the budget meeting
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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.

Zenobia Morrow: An Artistic Entrepreneur

BY YASMINE PARRISH
Hilltop Staff Writer

There are two sides to every gemini and Zenobia Morrow, a junior art major from Atlanta, Georgia is no different, having a passion for everything artistic and profitable. While Morrow has graced the runway of about every major Howard fashion show since her arrival and is best known for her discreet nature yet commanding presence, Zenobia Morrow is no mere Howard enigma.

The entrepreneurial attempts on Howard's campus are countless. However, Morrow has found her niche in turning her art into money with her own graphic design firm, The Ambrosia Creative, and selling her collection of The LaBelle Noir Series at www.artbyzenobia.com.

"I can do this, I have done this, and I have been doing this," said Morrow, who realized she could literally live off of her art. After taking the course, "Entrepreneurship for Creatives" by Tony McEachern, Morrow felt compelled to launch her business. Though she always created business cards and logos for friends, she realized that she "could get paid for this" after



Photo Courtesy of Zenobia Morrow

Zenobia "Z" Morrow recently launched her website, artbyzenobia.com.

McEachern's course.

Finding inspiration from every aspect of life, Morrow's graphics, illustrations and paintings have a distinct style. "Everything has artistic elements, elements of design," Morrow said. "1000 Record Covers" by Michael Ochs is a book that Morrow attributes to her inspiration along with the

works of other graphic designers. The LaBelle Noir Series, which she affectionately calls, "my girls," are inspired by pin-up art.

Artists Lisa Frank and Fafi are Morrow's artistic muses. "She's my ultimate inspiration," said the creator about graffiti artist turned renowned artistic powerhouse, Fafi.

Though highly talented and goal-oriented, Morrow's journey to where she is now has been no easy feat. "With paintings, how do you price your works?" Morrow said. "For a long time I just kept them but you have to let go and find them a good home." In taking on special projects, this up-and-coming business

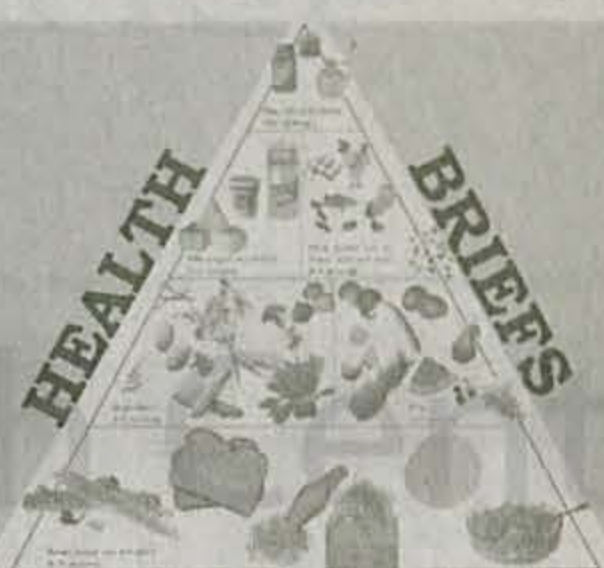
woman has had to master the art of saying "no." "It's easy to commit yourself to more than you can actually do," she said.

Currently "Z," as many of her friends call her, is building up her clientele for The Ambrosia Creative and setting up the website. With her "girls," The LaBelle Noir Series, Morrow would like to get more canvas and more commission. "Eventually I would like to move into product development like Lisa Frank and Fafi," Morrow said. Though still blooming into the artist/business woman she would like to become, Morrow still has some advice for would be graphic designers and artists.

"Not that I'm any authority on how to do this but..." Morrow modestly began before exploding a wealth of knowledge, "when it comes to graphic design you need to know your market, be able to function within any genre..."

When it's all said and done, what does Zenobia Morrow want most out of her business venture?

"I want a style that people can recognize."



Analytical Couples May Be More Likely to Have Autistic Children

According to healthday.com, highly analytical couples such as engineers, scientists, and mathematicians may be more likely than other couples to have autistic children.

The study, which was conducted by a University of Cambridge researcher, says the gene that makes some people analytical may in fact, impair their communication skills.

While research has been conducted, the study is not yet confirmed.

Exercise Said to Relieve Depression

According to healthday.com, a single session of moderate exercise can help improve the severity of depression.

According to a volunteer study, participants ranging from 18 to 55, exercising boosted their vigor and improved overall well-being.

These exercises consisted of 30-minute walks on the treadmill.

Heart Disease Goes Undetected in Women

Some women may be at risk of heart disease and not know it. According to msnhealth.com, conventional tests will not uncover heart disease in as many as 3 million U.S. women. The reason for this lack of detection is due to the fact that women have smaller blood vessels that are harder to spot than men. This research was announced on Tuesday of this week.

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

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Black History in Arts and Entertainment Hattie McDaniel

BY ERICA WILLIAMS
Life & Style Editor



Photo Courtesy of www.members.aol.com/tel-ac/hattie.htm

McDaniel rose to fame as one of the first African-American actresses in Hollywood.

The first African American to win an Academy award, Hattie McDaniel, won best supporting actress for her role as Mammy in "Gone With the Wind." Born in 1895 in Wichita, Kan. to a Baptist minister and a religious singer, McDaniel made her first appearance in motion pictures in 1932.

While she played a maid during most of her 20-year career, she was one of the most highly paid actresses of her time. She has even been quoted saying, "why should I complain about making \$7,000 a week?"

McDaniel also became the first African-American radio star with her comedy series "Beulah."

A great television and radio star, McDaniel has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, one for her radio contributions and one for her motion picture success.

The Hilltop

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D.C. Mayoral Candidate Cropp Speaks

CROPP, from Page 1

supports building the stadium, Cropp said she wants to keep the price low so that businesses will not be overtaxed.

Cropp said opposition to the stadium is rooted in the fact that most residents have not thoroughly looked into how the ballpark will be paid for. "Unfortunately, many folks have not looked at how the stadium is being financed or how the deal is structured because if they did they would clearly see that none of their taxes are going toward paying for the stadium," she said.

Cropp added that having a stadium in the District will bring in additional revenue that could be used for schools and other social services. "Right now, when we have a baseball game being played at RFK stadium, we see an increase in revenue from the people who eat in the restaurants and drink at the bars," Cropp said, adding that "we get money from the stadium; we don't lose money from the stadium."

However, published reports saying that Cropp has received thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from businessmen with a financial interest in the building of a new stadium may cause some residents to question her assertions that having a stadium will help the District.

New Hospital with HU

Cropp said she also supports the District doling out more cash



Gabriel Vernon - Staff Photographer

to pay for a new hospital that will be jointly built with Howard University. The city and Howard will split the cost of construction. University President H. Patrick Swygert and Williams signed the deal last month. Cropp said although she supports the building of the new hospital, there are issues that most be worked out between the city and university. "I am not sure that the costs have been adequately explained.

The average cost of hospital beds to build is about one million dollars per bed," Cropp said. "The cost with the agreement with Howard is higher than that in part because Howard is a teaching hospital but I still need to see more justification for why the cost is higher." Despite the concerns, Cropp said the hospital is needed because residents on the eastern side of the city must travel too far to get treatment for

trauma wounds. She also said the deal is needed to guarantee treatment for residents who do not have insurance. "We need to have an agreement with Howard University saying that they will take a larger number of our uninsured patients than many other hospitals would take," Cropp said.

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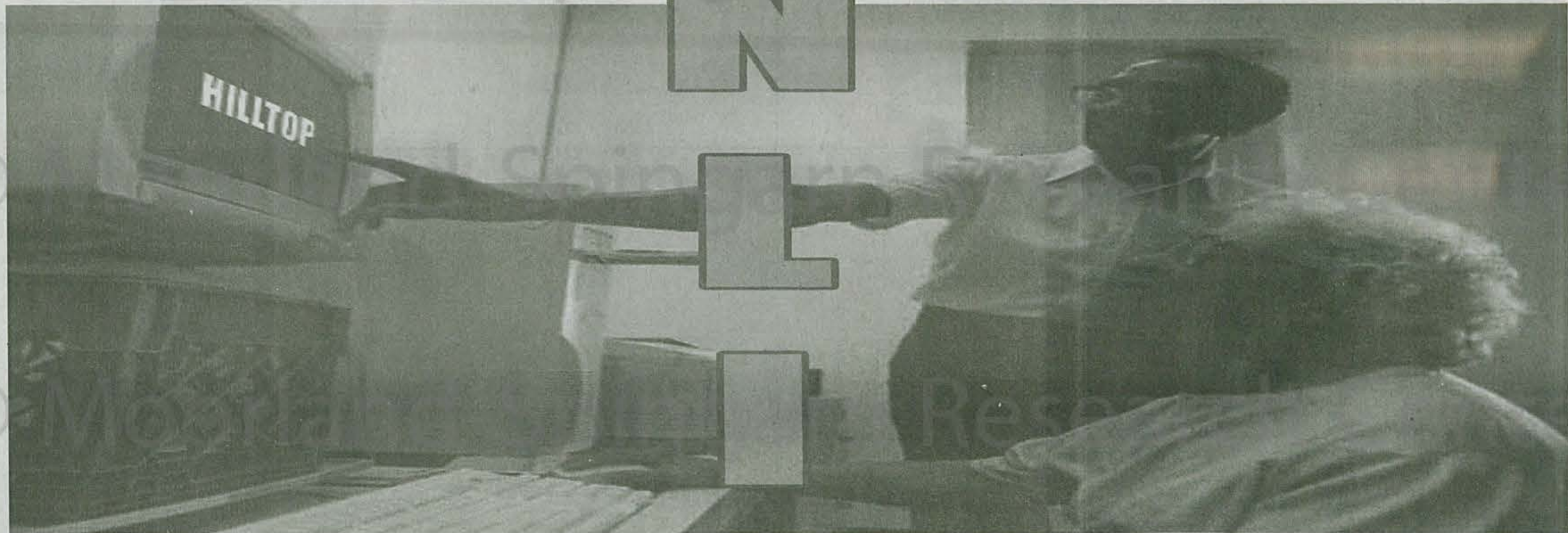
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Bison Men Come Home to Resilient Attitude, Mecca Mob

BY DESIREE SMITH
Hilltop Staff Writer

After playing four games on the road, the Howard men's basketball team regains their home court advantage this weekend against Norfolk State University.

The Bison (2-16) hope to end their ten-game losing streak on Saturday, following a 79-75 loss to the Morgan State Bears this past Monday. Leading 54-41 at the 13:32 mark of the second half, the Bison have struggled with sustaining leads to win the game.

"Our biggest struggle is trying to close out games," said junior Guard/Forward Darryl Hudson. "It's frustrating losing games by only



Despite losing all four road games, the Bison basketball team is coming home with a resilient attitude and a hope to change their record.

File Photo

[a few] points."

Junior forward Jason Trotter, who put up 17 points and seven rebounds against the Bears, doesn't believe in dwelling on the negative. "You get frustrated, but you have stay positive and focus on the next game," Trotter said.

The NSU Spartans (6-13) are also coming off of a tough loss against South Carolina State, who held them to their lowest scoring output of the season (56-44) this past Monday night. SCSU out rebounded NSU 40-36, becoming the first MEAC team to top the Spartans on the boards this season.

The Bison have a chance to redeem themselves against the Spartans, after losing to them 82-79 earlier this month. Stopping Tony Murphy's consistency, who has averaged 15.4 points a game for NSU, will be a challenge for Howard.

The Spartans are the first of two consecutive home games for the Bison. On Monday, the Bison will play rival, Hampton University, one of the most anticipated games of the season.

"It feels good because we [will] be back at the Burr, and back with our fans," Trotter said. "When you feel the energy from the crowd you get more pumped up, and it's an advantage for us."

The Hampton Pirates (8-9) are coming off their third straight win, subsequently winning 77-65 against North Carolina A&T. With the likes of Jaz Cowan, who recorded his third double-double of the season with 14 points and 13 rebounds against the Aggies, the match proves to be no easy task for the Bison.

Also, Pirate guard Jeff Granger, who averages 18 points per game, was named this week's MEAC Player of the Week. Granger posted 21 points against the Aggies, and helped lead Hampton to a win.

The Bison suffered a 65-48 loss against the Pirates earlier this month, with Cowan ending the game with 25 points. Howard looks to their next meeting with Hampton in hopes of a different outcome.

"They're sticking together," said head coach Gil Jackson. "We just want them to play well, but they want to win."

With these two upcoming home games, there is a question of how much of an advantage home court will be to the team as far as fan participation.

For Virginia Hansom, who has been a men's basketball manager for over three years now, home court is very important and so is fan involvement. Hansom and Nuru West, another men's basketball manager, have come together



Photo Courtesy of Carol Smith

Forward Darryl Hudson, above, carrying the ball against Navy earlier in the season, has been helping the Bison fight through their ten-game losing streak.

to form the Mecca Mob, whose sole purpose is to lead the HU student body in fan participation.

They want to include fans in the whole basketball experience, and also uplift the team so they feel that someone is behind them.

"We are trying to reestablish our home court advantage," said Hansom. "As a team, if we had more support at home, we would play better."

The Mecca Mob has the opportunity to show its influence this Saturday at 4 p.m., and this Monday at 8 p.m., at Burr Gymnasium as Howard takes on the NSU Spartans and the Hampton Pirates.

Track & Field to Compete in Landover

BY MATTHEW COOPER
Contributing Writer

The Bison track squad will be taking a comfortable short drive this weekend for their meet at the Black College Track Classic at the Prince George's sports complex in Landover, Md.

The Bison are coming off a tough meet at the highly competitive Penn State open, where the women's side suffered an array of injuries. The Bison, however, are confident that they will be at an even higher level this week.

"Every meet is a step, a step of the MEAC championship, and the MEAC championship is a step toward the MEAC outdoor season," said senior sprinter Dennis Washington.

The Black College Track Classic is a yearly event that brings the best of the HBCU's to Landover, Md. to compete against each other. "The Black college classic is always a competitive meet," said senior sprinter Edric Robinson. "We want to see who is faster at the Black colleges."

This year's Black College Track Classic will lack a lot of star power from the better HBCU's in track and field. Schools such as Hampton University, Florida A&M University, Morgan State University and North Carolina A&T have chosen to compete in other meets rather than this one. Coach Michael Merritt does not believe that this is a real HBCU championship. "They should not do team scoring because all the black colleges will not be here," he said.

Howard still plans to bring their "A" game to the meet because there will be several tough teams at the meet. Some of these schools include Jackson State, South Carolina

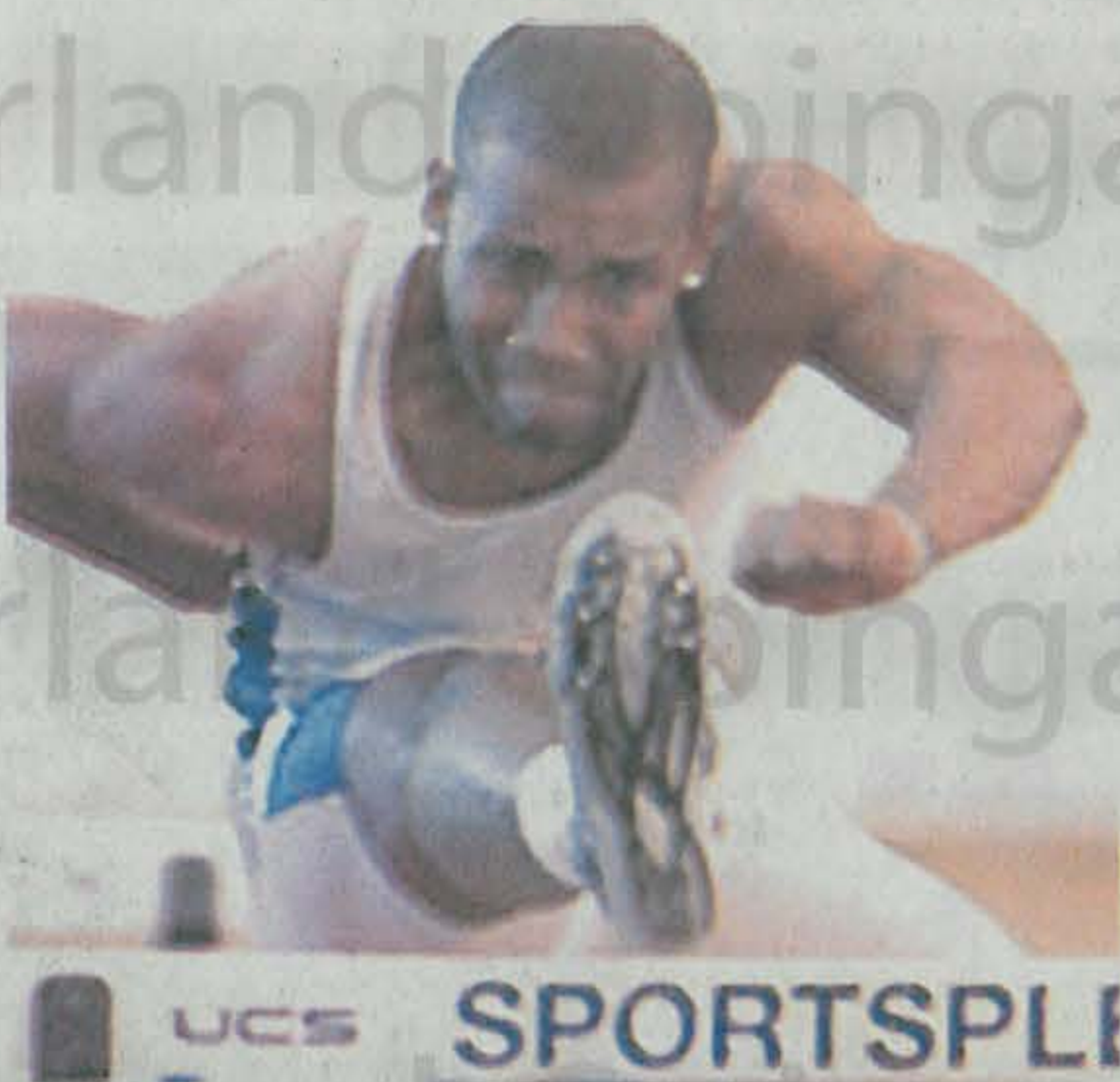


Photo Courtesy of www.tracktalk.com

The Bison track team look to take a wave of success into this weekend's Black College Classic.

State, Norfolk State and Lincoln University. However, Merritt does not want the team to worry about the competition. "I focus on what we have. I tell the kid's do not worry about the who's who. Our thing is crush and destroy," said the coach.

Last weekend at the Penn State open, most of the team posted season-best marks, despite not having the best placing. On the men's side, Nicholas Wright posted a 6th place finish in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.19 seconds.

Freshman hurdler Daniel Kinney posted a qualifying time of 8.16 seconds. The distance medley and 4x400 relay teams both came in 9th place, with times of 10:09:60 and 3:18:44 respectively.

The women's team was

plagued with injuries last week as sprinters LaClaire Carter and Erica Day and hurdler Ashley West-Nesbitt all got hurt at the meet. The 4x400 relay team was unable to run last week because of those injuries. Senior hurdler Alyssa Johnson did well, finishing 6th in the 60 meters hurdles with a time of 8.71 seconds. Sophomore sprinter Lauren McNary finished 7th in the 400 meter dash, even though she was placed in the incorrect heat according to Coach Merritt.

This meet is another stepping stone to the Bison's goals of being MEAC indoor and outdoor champions. "The spirit of the team is up," Robinson said. "There isn't division in the team; more team unity this year."

Lady Bison Look to Continue Momentum Built in Baltimore



Photo Courtesy of Carol Smith

The Lady Bison will face Norfolk State this Saturday. The team finished 1-3 last week with a win against Morgan State.

This weekend a battle-tested Lady Bison basketball team will happily return home after a rough four game road trip in which the Bison finished 1-3.

The Lady Bison will be hosting conference opponent Norfolk State on Saturday. They hope to continue the momentum gained from the team's Monday night 87-76 win against the Morgan State Bears. Junior forward Melloni Benson is looking to improve on a leading effort in the Bison's win. Benson dropped 19 points and seven of the team's last 11 points in the win. She also scored 12 points and grabbed seven

rebounds in the team's loss to Coppin State on Saturday.

Leading the Spartan's defensive front court is senior guard Toia Johnson, who is averaging 2.6 steals and senior forward Jasmine Wilson, who has deflected 17 shots in 16 games this season.

Leading the Spartan's offensive attack are guards Johnson and sophomore guard Ashley Green. The pair scored 21 points each in the Spartan's victory against the Lady Bulldogs. Johnson is averaging 12.1 points per game and has 39 assists on the season.