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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 97

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

THURSDAY notebook

WEATHER

THURS 3/2:
SHOWERS/WIND
HIGH 55, LOW 32

FRI 3/3:
SUNNY/WIND
HIGH 44, LOW 27

SAT 3/4:
SUNNY
HIGH 43, LOW 30

BREAKING NEWS

WILDFIRES IN OK

MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE HAD TO EVACUATE IN OKLAHOMA DUE TO WILDFIRES AND 30 MPH WINDS. THIS IS IN THE SAME REGION THAT WAS CHARGED IN DECEMBER.

CAMPUS ELECTION COVERAGE

MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION: CHECK OUT THE HILLTOP'S ELECTION COVERAGE IN CAMPUS, PAGE 2



METRO

GOT HOUSING?

STUDENTS ARE ON THE HUNT FOR OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING. READ METRO TO SEE WHERE THEY'RE LOOKING. PAGE 4



LIFE & STYLE

SPRING COUTURE

SEE WHAT'S IN FOR SPRING IN LIFE & STYLE. PAGE 8



HU CALENDAR

MAR 3
138TH CHARTER DAY
CONVOCATION

MAR 4
CHARTER DAY DINNER

MAR 11-19
SPRING BREAK

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The Hilltop Endorses HUSA Slate 'Catalyst'

The Hilltop endorses Myla Jones (right) and Precious Kofie (left) for President and Vice-President of the Howard University Student Association. Read Editorials & Perspectives (page 7) for the details behind our endorsement.



Stephen Henderson - Staff Photographer

University in Talks of Privatizing Sixth Street

BY FARREN HINTON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University is currently in talks that could lead to the possible privatization of a major portion of the campus, Sixth St.

In recent months Sixth St. has been the scene of student robberies and a shooting involving a Howard student, which makes this a significant initiative. The shooting, held shortly after the 4:00-4:30 a.m. curfew, was attended by a small, select group of student leaders who along with members of the administration make up the Safety and Security Task Force. The student members of the task force work very closely with administration on the plan of promoting student safety and security.

"This came as a result of several incidents of crime, particularly one that took place in front of the Engineering Building last semester where a student was attacked and shot," Byron Stewart, HUSA president said.

While the logistics of the actual closing off of the street are still under development, Stewart said the closing of Sixth St. would include the following: bringing the security house at the top of Howard Street to the intersection of Howard St. and



David Gaudin - Staff Photographer

General Assembly's University and External Affairs committee offered to support the administration's plan to privatize Sixth St., under the condition that the administration adds several measures to the plan including the extension of university shuttle operations to 24 hours.

Sixth St., and the closing off of the alleys near Cook Hall, Wachovia Bank and Burr Gymnasium.

"As of right now it is kind of a stand still. I don't know what happened, but I do know that it was a big issue about a month ago," said Stewart in regards to the progression of the plan.

Following the initial meeting with students, Vice Provost of Student Affairs Franklin Chambers, then addressed the Undergraduate Student

Association and the General Assembly on Feb. 1 with a proposal asking the two organizations to lend to the administration their support of the plan. The two organizations agreed to lend student support under specific stipulations.

Stewart, who is also a member of the task force, said student support of the initiative was very important to the administration because the plan will ultimately be decided upon by the District of Columbia

government, which owns the street.

Danielle Perry, coordinator of UGSA, introduced the plan to the External Affairs Committee of the General Assembly, which then made a resolution regarding the privatization of Sixth St.

Some of the conditions laid out before the administration include the extension of University shuttle operations to 24 hours, an increase in police presence on campus, and after-hours access to University build-

ings controlled by the use of student IDs.

Though Stewart believes that privatization may eventually be necessary, he said he believes the school should first take a more proactive approach to fighting crime on campus.

"My personal opinion is that I think we should look at other ways of security on campus," he said. "I think privatizing should not be a reactionary approach. I think we are a pretty safe campus."

Still, the administration may be happy to find that students, like Javier Ramos, are supportive of their efforts to extend protection.

"Actually, I think it is a good idea because Howard does not have any privacy at all. All of the dorms are basically in other people's neighborhoods, and our campus is wide open to the public," said Ramos, a sophomore film production major who was the victim of a robbery on campus near Sixth St.

"We pay a lot of money to always and constantly be sharing our space with the public. I think that we deserve to have at least one street safe to ourselves," Ramos added.

LaCecia Reeves, sophomore biology major agrees.

"Seeing as how we do pay money to receive a safe education, I do believe that it would be in Howard's best interest to privatize [Sixth St.]. There is already enough for students to worry about," Reeves said. "We should not have to focus on not getting robbed or shot on our way to studying in the library."

At the time of publication and after numerous attempts, *The Hilltop* was unable to obtain a statement from Howard officials regarding this matter.

Session Offers Insights About Life as an RA

BY AKEYLA BROWN
Hilltop Staff Writer

Students gathered in the Crandall Hall lounge to find out whether they have what it takes to be a resident assistant.

"The most important person that you should know when you get to the resident assistant interview is yourself," said Lucia Hassell, a senior computer based information systems major. "You must ask yourself, why are you applying to be an RA?"

This premiere informational session, which took place immediately after the Resident Assistant Fashion show, gave interested students an inside look at the resident assistants' application and interview process.

The students were led in discussions that explored conflict resolution and floor mate bonding.

"As RAs, we are mandated to build programs and it would be good for you to think about what programs you would throw," Hassell said.

This week of events, hosted by the Tubman Quadrangle resident assistants, was an interactive opportunity for students to get more than a basic understanding what it means to be a resident assistant.

"A lot of residents were expressing interest in becoming an RA and from being an RA, we noticed some common mistakes that people make," said Vanessa Grant, junior biology major and resident

assistant. "They know the basics, but they don't know about contracts and other intricacies that are privy to RAs and staff."

Happy with her time spent as an RA, Sharell Ferguson said that more students should get involved, but the students interested in participating should understand that it takes a special type of person to really succeed as an RA.

"We hope to dispel all the myths about being a Resident Assistant," said the senior public relations major. "Believe it or not, this job takes a lot of heart and time management."

She added, "I became an RA because I wanted to make an impression on the lives of the young ladies

"This job takes a lot of heart and time management."

Sharell Ferguson '06

and serve as an example for good leadership."

Joshlyn Holland, sophomore chemistry major, said she wants to learn more about being an RA.

"I really am interested in becoming an RA and [attending] the interview, the most extensive part of the entire process, so I knew I had to be present today," Holland said. "This meeting gives you insight on the interview, so that you don't just go in there

blind."

Holland said she is not interested in becoming an RA just for the perks.

"I want to help others the way that my RA helped me," she said.

Antennille Springer, junior international business major and co-creator of this week of events, said that she hopes that this will not only inspire more students to get interested in contributing to Residence Life, but will eliminate

those candidates that are just interested in free housing.

"Myself and Dominique, got this idea when we noticed an increasing need among our residents," said Springer, who is a resident assistant. "We had a lot of people applying and coming into the interviews that had no idea what it meant to be an RA."

The Saga of Election Write-In Candidates

BY MELISSA L. TYLER
Contributing Writer

Among the dates for the College of Arts & Sciences Student Council and HUSA, who introduce themselves to the student body and voice their future plans for the Howard University community, are candidates who can only be elected if voters write in their names.

The write-in candidates for HUSA President and Vice President, Myla Jones and Precious Kofie, along with members of their campaign committee, explained to students the necessary procedures to follow when voting for their CATALYST campaign on March 2.

Under the guidelines set by the General Elections Commission, write-in candidates' names must be spelled correctly on the ballot in order to receive a vote. For some students, the strict procedures are worth the extra time over clicking a slate, if a voter believes in their write-in candidate.

"It seems that the process for being a write-in candidate is complicated for the voting students, the candidates, and the people who tally the votes," said junior physical education major Charles Pione. "But if students are passionate about the student government, that extra time it takes to type someone's name on a ballot shouldn't be a big issue."

In addition to the correct spelling rule, write-in candidates for any office must submit a petition containing signatures



Students have to spell write-in candidates' names correctly on the ballot in order for the vote to count.

that amount to at least 15% as opposed to the usual 5% of the population that he/she intends to represent along with appropriate contact information as stated in the General Elections Commission guidelines.

These regulations inhibit posting or distribution of campaign materials prior to submission of signatures and contact information. Participation in speak-outs or officially coordinated campaign events is not allowed, but the write-in candidates are given permission to attend.

"A write-in candidate has never won

the election before," said Jones, who is the current executive president of the College of Arts & Sciences Student Council. "History will be made if we win."

Jones and Kofie have sought to reach out to Howard University students by placing posters, distributing tote bags, flyers, and t-shirts and also speaking with undergraduate, graduate, and international students about their issues and how their platform can make changes.

Kofie believes that being a write-in candidate enables Jones and herself to interact with students more and show their commitment to Howard University students by having a strong campaign despite circumstances that occurred and regulations they must abide by.

"Don't Just Vote... Make a Choice" is the slogan for the CATALYST campaign, challenging voters not to click the "X" slate of Jennifer Owens and Stephen Nichols, who are the only candidates that will be printed on ballots. Jones previously was elected to run with another running mate, but the two parted ways and resigned from campaigning.

The Motivation to Lead in Government

BY AMBER ENGLISH
Staff Writer

If elected, Howard University Student Association vice-presidential candidate, Stephen Nichols, said that he would probably have to give up all other extra-curricular activities. "Schoolwork would remain a priority, but any first extra-curricular activity would be HUSA."

So why give all that up? "I really enjoy serving the student body at this level," said Nichols, who currently serves as the chief of staff under Byron Stewart and April Harley. "With HUSA, you're allowed to do a lot more than with the specific schools and colleges. When anyone comes looking for assistance, they come to the HUSA office."

It takes a certain motivation and drive to pursue student leadership. Candidates spend months preparing platforms, thousands of dollars on campaign materials, and an immense amount of time securing the votes of Howard University students. For most, the underlying drive is a deep-rooted love for Howard.

"It's my passion for serving students," said Myla Jones, candidate for Howard University Student Association

President under the CATALYST slate. It's a passion that Jones shares with vice-presidential running mate Precious Kofie.

For Andrea Hill, candidate for Vice-President of the John H. Johnson School of Communications, that passion led her to seek the position.

"I've always had a passion for change, a passion for service," Hill said. Hill, like many other candidates, has been planning for March 2, 2006 since last semester, when School of Communications presidential candidate Anthony Woodburne requested her participation.

"Anthony is not only committed to the student body, but he has the experience to handle the position," Hill said.

Still, others seeking positions see serving as a unique chance to continue the Howard legacy. Tiffany Newell, candidate for undergraduate trustee, said that serving as a student leader is her way of giving back all that she has been given by those that came before her.

"I want to help propel the undergraduate student body to a level of greater excellence," Newell said. "We need to follow through and continue the mission of Howard through leadership."

Though all of the can-



Though the different candidates for this year's student elections have different ideals and platforms, all agree that making an impact on the student body is their number one goal.

didates stress an immense desire to change and strengthen Howard University, many students don't exactly believe that's the sole reason one seeks a position in Power Hall.

"Anyone running for office has to have at least one selfish reason," said junior marketing major Cara Douglas. "I'm sure they've at least thought about how it will build up their networks."

Candidates, however, promise that their motivations have nothing to do with padding their resumes or net-

working. "If anything, if we had any selfish motivations we wouldn't be [running for office]," HUSA vice-presidential candidate Precious Kofie said in an interview with *The Hilltop*.

"I am completely fulfilled with everything I've done at Howard up to this point," said Jahari Smith, another candidate for undergraduate trustee. "Running will only help me make a direct impact on the student body."

Bribing for the Ballot: How Campaign Favors Affect the Student Vote



Candidates use campaign favors such as cookies and candy to garner student votes on Election Day.

BY YASMINE PARRISH
Staff Writer

Passing out candy and serving students continental breakfast outside of their dorms in the morning are just the beginning of the extravagant campaign promotions that ha-

ppen each year.

Phan Endress and t-shirts to current Howard University Student Association president Byron Stewart's mini-Biscuits are just the beginning of the extravagant campaign promotions that ha-

Many candidates realize the effect that campaign paraphernalia can have.

"Because of Howard politics, you have to be just a little 'sneaky' to get the students' attention," said Jahari Smith, candidate for Undergraduate Trustee. "Handbills and posters are a given, so it's important to do something more, especially for the younger students who might not know the candidates personally. That's why I have campaign t-shirts and drawstring bags."

While most students have ignored the perks and candy of the election season, the law can sometimes become blurry when trickery disguised as election paraphernalia is used.

Alana Caselle, candidate for the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Secretary, said, "I do use campaign favors. Only because not everyone comes out to speakouts and not everyone actually reads platforms or handbills. So sometimes, a little trickery, whether it is food or paraphernalia with your name or slogan on it, [favors] can help someone remember your

name. Handing out campaign favors isn't bribery. In my opinion, it's a way for the candidates to show students that they are 'looking out' way before Election Day."

Some students see the use in campaign gifts.

"All the candy and other stuff is [an example of] the candidates trying to introduce themselves to people and getting their shoes heard even if they have to give out candy or tea to do so," said Ashlee Hill, a sophomore physician's assistant major.

While there are different types of campaign favors, there are some that are considered to be better than others.

"I have buttons and shirts," said Tiffany Clark, College of Arts and Sciences Executive Secretary Candidate. "I choose them because when running you always want something that can catch a voter's eye, and I feel as though these were the most appealing." She also said her favorite favor was little stuffed bears that Stewart gave.

"My favors are drawstring bags and t-shirts. My drawstring backpacks

are something that no one has really done before. Students can always utilize a bag during and after election season," said Smith, who thought the beach balls given out by Talmann Bradley and Erin A. Ferguson's back to the basics campaign were his favorite.

Though candy and breakfast on the Yard quickly draw students to many campaigns, longer lasting favors are preferred by many candidates who often spend their own money on campaigning.

"Stuffed bears are ones that can last," Caselle said. "T-shirts, thermoses, buttons or anything that a student can enjoy. For instance, when I worked on Brown volunteer campaign, we all had t-shirts. I really liked my t-shirt. [I] loved his platform and how a year later, I still sleep in mine. I actually wore it to the Million More Movement because it had a positive message."

While students readily take many favors, that doesn't necessarily mean that people love the candidates or will vote for them on Election Day.

Q&A With the Election Commissioner

Michael B. Lawson, the man, the myth... the assassin? You've read countless quotes over the last few weeks from the General Elections Commission Chairman, but what do you really know about him? Between opening and closing elections, dealing with temperamental candidates, and many other forms of "dredgery," Lawson agreed to a Q&A submitted via email — and *The Hilltop* only had to call him four times to get the answers!

Hilltop: What are five words that accurately describe Michael Lawson?

Lawson: Easy-going, Serious, Inquisitive, Hardworking and Complex

HT: What are the best and worst aspects of being elections chair?

LT: Worst? Definitely having to deal with the "worst" in others and the constant, almost non-stop, overall dredgery. Best? I'll have to get back to you... But seriously, I admire the ambition and commitment of the candidates, and like having a hand in a democratic process. I also meet people and have learned a lot about how this institution works on various levels.

HT: What made you want this position in the first place?

LT: I enjoyed being on the Commission last year, despite the constant stress. I appreciate the opportunity to play a role in the future of the University as well as the general student government without being a candidate—because that is something I've never desired.

HT: How do you unwind from a long day of elections chairing?

LT: I never have time to unwind because, in addition to this madness, I'm still a student, which people fail to remember. However, in the small precious moments I do have, I like to spend time with those I love and like and to prayer because it helps.

HT: Exactly how many organizations are you a member of?

LT: How many can I seriously be a part of and participate in on a regular basis? Two. I believe in quality over quantity.

HT: Someone on *The Hilltop* staff likened you to the Wizard of Oz — an all-powerful being that is quoted in every elections story, but few people outside of Power Hall even know what you look like. Now that Toto has pulled back the curtain, is there anything else you'd like the public to know about the Great Elections Chair?

LT: That sounds like a really funny, ironically, however I don't particularly feel quite so powerful. I like to look at it as being of service, like all leaders should. I don't really care if people just "know who I am" because it's not that deep. I ultimately have a job to do and that's the most important thing.

HUSA PRESIDENT/VICE-PRESIDENT BRANDY CRAWFORD AND STEPHEN HICKS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT TAMARA BROWN AND JENNIFER CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL AND JESSICA CRAWFORD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TAMARA CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL EXECUTIVE TREASURER TAMARA CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL SOPHOMORE CLASS BOARD TAMARA CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL JUNIOR CLASS BOARD TAMARA CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL SENIOR CLASS BOARD TAMARA CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT TAMARA CRAWFORD EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT TAMARA CRAWFORD	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TAMARA CRAWFORD SOPHOMORE CLASS BOARD TAMARA CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL JUNIOR CLASS BOARD TAMARA CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL SENIOR CLASS BOARD TAMARA CRAWFORD BRIANNA HALL SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT TAMARA CRAWFORD VICE-PRESIDENT TAMARA CRAWFORD TREASURER TAMARA CRAWFORD SECRETARY TAMARA CRAWFORD USIA REPRESENTATIVE TAMARA CRAWFORD SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT TAMARA 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TOYOTA moving forward.

Housing Selection Takes Some Off-Campus

BY ROBIN BELLAMY
Contributing Writer

Many students woke up bright and early Monday morning to have the prime pick of their housing assignments for 2006-2007. Others were forced to wait a bit longer to make their choice. Some chose to live in Cook Hall, the East or West Towers and the remainder of Howard University's dormitories.

For others, either by choice or the simple fact that nothing was left, the search for a place to live will mean hunting for apartments or houses off campus.

Howard's ten dorms, two of which are for freshman, don't accommodate the more than 7,000 students that attend the University. Because of this, many students are now forced to look for housing beyond campus.

Sophomore English major Craig Allen said that he's looking forward to moving off-campus.

Allen says that having more freedom is his reason for choosing to move off campus. "I shouldn't be restricted as much as I am for paying as much as I do," Allen said.

In November 2005, the 12th Annual Morgan Quitno Awards released information on the safest and most dangerous cities in America. Ranked at 13, Washington, D.C. was in the top



For many, the hunt for an apartment will begin with Spring Break, as Howard students without campus housing search.

when deciding where to live.

Catholic University provides its students with crime reports for the various areas of D.C. This helps their students to choose housing in safer parts of the city.

Along with crime reports, Catholic University works with landlords to ensure that their students are placed somewhere. Also, on their site is a university-maintained list of apartments and houses in the area, the rent

their students to find off-campus housing.

Park Bethesda is America's own apartment building off campus where many students choose to live. Park Bethesda, which has 258 apartments, does not include electricity. However, it does include all other utilities like cable television as well as phone and cable internet services.

On Howard's Residence Life website, there is a listing

of apartments and houses located off campus. This list only includes the location of the housing and the contact information.

Allen thinks that Howard did be more involved in helping students look for off-campus living.

"I feel that since there isn't any dormitory housing, they did compensate somehow for a who end up on the waiting Allen said.

Renee Poole, junior accounting major, said that she thinks that Howard should be more helpful in the student's search for off-campus housing.

"Besides posting up a few places to live on their website, Howard doesn't seem too concerned with where we choose to live," Poole said.

Poole, who doesn't have enough ESNVP points to ensure her housing on campus, is upset by the lack of housing available for the number of students who attend Howard.

As long as there are only ten dorms on Howard's campus, housing will always be an issue for continuing students.

Students will continue to have to search for affordable and safe off-campus housing in their temporary metropolitan neighborhood. Because of this, many students feel they will have to forego their safety in search for some place affordable to live for the upcoming year.

Metro Briefs

Montgomery Co. Closes Portable Classrooms



Montgomery County School officials closed two portable classrooms at an elementary school in Potomac after parents complained that mold was making their children sick. According to NBC 4, nearly 70 students were removed from the New Mill elementary classrooms, and a

third portable classroom was temporarily closed for repairs. Parents complained that the mold was not only affecting their children, but the teachers as well. School spokesman Brian Edwards told NBC 4 that repairs to the classrooms should be made by this summer.

Dates For Cherry Blossom Festival Finalized



The date for spring's biggest festival in D.C. has been set. From March 23 to April 9, the annual Cherry Blossom Festival will be held. The Cherry Blossom Festival is believed to be the official kick-off to the tourism season here in the District. The D.C. Convention and

Tourism Corporation predicts that nearly 1 million people will flock to the city for the two-week event. The National Park Service is expected to give it's predictions for the peak blooming period sometime next week.

Gas Line Rupture Closes 14th Street



During the Wednesday morning rush, a gas line rupture closed part of 14th Street NW. The D.C. Transportation Department reported that between Thomas Circle and N Street, 14th Street was shut down while crews from Washington Gas repaired

the rupture. A construction crew around the rupture, for buildings had to be evacuated, but the fire department stayed on the scene as a precaution. Nobody was injured in the accident.

Woman Breaches Security at Dulles



After detouring her own private restricted road, police questioned a woman for her security breach at Dulles International airport. Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority officials said that the woman

drove onto airport property around 3:40 pm and drove through two manned checkpoints before being stopped by airport police. Airport operations were not affected by the incident.

Service Upgrades Planned for Metro

Green, Yellow Line Improvements Mentioned



Metro is considering changes that will improve service on the Green and Yellow Lines. Proposed changes include adding more trains to the Green and Yellow lines during off-peak and weekend hours, or the possibility of extending the Yellow line through Greenbelt. Members of Metro's Planning and Development committee will present these options today at a board meeting. Metro also begins testing of new trains that will roll through stations during off-peak hours. Metrolink hopes to run these trains on a test track, and will begin looking at the possibility of building a temporary test track. A cost estimate study of the possible test track should be ready by early May.

click it to us.

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*King of the Ivy Pageant:
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Thursday, March 2, 2006

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The  Hilltop

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VOLUME 89, NO. 97

MARCH 2, 2006

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The 'Catalyst' for Howard: Myla Jones and Precious Kofie

Before we delve into the specifics of our Hilltop endorsements, we want a few things to be understood. We have based our decisions on three distinct criteria: the candidate's platform and plans, the Hilltop Speak-Out we conducted and the personal interviews we had with the candidates in the Hilltop office. We had additional information, responses and comments to base our judgments that the student body did not. Before criticizing or questioning our judgment, allow us to provide some insight into the endorsements.

The HUSA president and vice president were the most difficult endorsements by far. Honestly, we were not particularly thrilled about either platform. We went back and forth weighing the pros and cons of each, causing many students to believe we probably took an alternate endorsement route especially since they were write-in candidates.

The word catalyst is defined as an agent that stimulates change and Precious Kofie and Myla Jones emphasized proactive change. Howard University students are always complaining about the reform needed on campus yet year after year we seem to get similar results from elected officials. Over inflated proposals, extravagant promises and bureaucratic dealings with students seem to be the formula that isn't working. We need student leaders that are accessible, reliable and approachable for students.

We weeded through Jennifer Owens and Stephen Nichols' extremely detailed ON platform and thought most of the ideas sounded great. They had a lot of proposals that would really benefit Howard students, but seemed a bit overreaching and idealistic. The creation of the student account, the electronic marquee on the yard, access to Howard's Independence Fund and emphasis on facility improvement are all great ideas. However, once we tallied the budget and the likelihood of getting access to the money most of those ideas would fumble in reality. They also discussed the need to have universal dining dollar acceptance and I-lab improvements. Many of these issues have been beaten up every year without results. We did appreciate the fact that they were thinking outside the box a bit, coming up with new concepts for Howard's campus. However, transitioning from a school with aging facilities and access issues to a renovated and improved campus takes some time! They can start some things but the baton will definitely need to be passed on to future HUSA staffs for such an undertaking. Aiming high and getting students excited is vital, but when certain promises can't be kept, students will be disappointed and complaining next year.

The Catalyst platform was much smaller but it's aspects were more appealing to us, promoting pro-activity and awareness, instituting outreach and involvement programming and

restructuring leadership were the three prongs of the Catalyst platform. The community and outreach really struck us because Howard can do so much more in the community and amongst its students. "As the Mecca, where were we when the Millions More Movement came?" Precious Kofie asked us in the interview. The Catalyst passion for bringing Howard back to its political and humanitarian roots really impressed us. Sure there are things to take care of at home, but we cannot be so consumed in ourselves that we stop making an impact on the black community. As far as Howard was concerned, the platform emphasized visibility, accountability and networking with other schools through leadership summits to exchange ideas and resources. Rather than trying to think of ways to change Howard on our own, we look to other functioning campuses to see what we can exchange. We don't doubt that the initiatives on the Catalyst platform can be carried out next year.

During the interviews, both running parties were very professional, enthusiastic and prepared. We could see that Jennifer Owens and Stephen Nichols seemed in synch with their ideas, making a great team. They could almost finish each other's sentences and it was apparent that they'd had extensive dialogue on the change they could make. They spent a lot of time talking about making Howard leaders accountable by having a constitutional workshop. Myla Jones and Precious Kofie decided to run together a bit later and admitted that many people had suggested they run together. They seemed to be different in their expressions but their thoughts complemented each other in a way that would make them a good team. Despite the odds against them as write-in candidates, having less time to campaign and Kofie's previous loss, they were adamant and excited about seizing this opportunity. We could imagine them being good leaders of whom students can relate.

We asked all candidates to disclose their personal reasons for running. Kofie and Jones admitted that they dug deeper into their wallets to campaign this time. "It would be more selfish to not run," Kofie said reflecting on the hard work and effort putting their campaign on the line. They expressed that their integrity went deeper than running for the status. Owens and Nichols also impressed us by clearing out their busy schedules. If elected, they could dedicate their full efforts to being excellent HUSA leaders.

With apparent strengths and weaknesses with both platforms, student officials can only do so much within the existing structure. Getting things done takes cooperation on many levels, so we can't predict who will be able to accomplish what. However, on the basis of what we have seen, the Hilltop stands proudly behind Myla Jones and Precious Kofie for the upcoming school year.

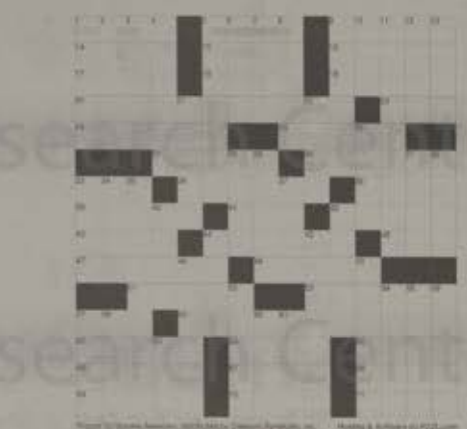
30106 AT THE SALON by Darrel R. Steh, edited by Shirley Newman

Across

- 1 Iliad
- 3 Coffee holder
- 9 Catwoman's cat
- 14 Gnomes (their possession)
- 15 Politics usually
- 16 TV host Winfrey
- 17 Winter precipitation
- 18 Sealing active volcano
- 19 007 actor Connery
- 20 Show double
- 23 Fitness center
- 24 Ivy designers
- 25 Not straddling
- 27 German river
- 30 Metal bricks
- 33 K independent
- 36 Dice throw
- 38 South American capital
- 39 Mass glorify
- 41 Publicize
- 42 Speech fabric
- 43 Refreshments
- 44 First aid device
- 46 Bird's "belly"
- 47 California peak
- 49 Open contempt
- 51 Sevens of India
- 53 Meditative exercise
- 57 Seashell
- 59 Winter function
- 62 Perf for physical
- 64 Her's blackjack
- 65 Anita's subjects
- 66 Madonna solo
- 67 Stranded instrument
- 68 Heavy shade
- 69 Chuck ride-over
- 70 Scatlike tones
- 71 Type of nerve

Down

- 1 Post varieties
- 2 Canal
- 3 Mail man



- 4 Funny mistake
- 5 Fork or spoon
- 6 By (from money)
- 7 Habit wears
- 8 Not fresh
- 9 Had a good time
- 10 Seifer's add.
- 11 Winter hazard
- 12 Furrow cover
- 13 Mar's home
- 21 Addendum
- 22 Ring support
- 26 Dip with a beaver
- 28 Talk type
- 29 Notation device
- 31 Eaters posture
- 32 Well-shrugged-out
- 33 Foster and Burrows
- 34 Ho-hum
- 35 Carpenter's technique
- 37 Goliath's Champion
- 40 To be, to become
- 42 Wander off
- 43 Madras garment
- 45 Arrow part
- 48 King's place
- 50 Spots for stains
- 52 Dad's brother
- 54 Heinous animal
- 55 Actor Foré
- 56 Campaign topic
- 57 Diane Mac master
- 58 Away from shore
- 60 Laundry
- 61 "Oh, no, no, no!"
- 63 Canned topper

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 89th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed on the Editorial and Perspectives Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

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Ladies Get Some Spring in Their Step: Fashion Preview

BY TYRAE BELL
Contributing Writer

As winter begins to give way to spring, Howard women are starting to consider replacing their bulky North Face jackets with warm weather fashions. We here at The Hilltop are providing the condensed guide to spring wear.

According to Vogue, Spring 2006 will emphasize the waist, colors and clean innocent looks. Stilettos and gaudy metallic accessories are gone. In with the clunky heel, thick belts, and oversized bags; this season designers are doing it BIG and small!

The season may seem ambiguous at first glance; though waist lines are cinching and pant legs are tapering, there is still room for flowing baby doll dresses (with an empire waist of course) and kimono sleeves.

Here is a guide of what to expect and begin purchasing for this season. First and foremost, the shades this season are a crayon box of colors (orange, green, yellow, etc.), navy blue, crisp whites and bold designs are all a sure sign of great fun in the sun. According to Vogue, designers going for these looks include: Alexander McQueen, Stella McCartney, Phi, and Donna Karan.

The trends for spring 2006 include: shirtdresses, kimonos, empire waists, high-waist pants, short shorts, and sailor pants



Photo Courtesy of spokeswoman
This look from Zac Posen incorporates a high waist, bold design, and a crisp neutral color all in a ladylike dress.

and many Quant's miniskirt. Vogue says designers going for these looks include Zac Posen, Yeohlee, Bottega Veneta, and Caroline Herrera.

And last, but most certainly

not least, are accessories. Many Howard women have penchant stiletto heels — but it is time for change! The platform shoe is returning this spring in the form of espadrilles and wedges.

What to Buy, What to Trash

Buy: Opened-toe Pumps and Wedges

Trash: Stilettos

Buy: Hot Pants and Mini Skirts

Trash: Dirndl Skirts

Buy: Long Tapered Slacks and Sailor Pants

Trash: Capri Pants

Buy: Jackie-O Glasses

Trash: Aviator Shades

Buy: Bulky Totes

Trash: Metallic Messenger Bags

Buy: Bright Lipstick Colors:

Orange, Green, Fuchsia, Pink, Yellow, Red

Trash: Metallic

Buy: Fun Prints

Trash: Polka Dots

Buy: Complexion Fitting Red-Lipstick

Trash: Neutral Lipsticks

Buy: Big Thick Leather Belts (used for high-waist cinching)

Trash: Metallic Belts and Chain Belts (that rest on the hip)



Getting the Look for Less

You don't have to spend money like the stars to look like one. Here are a list of stores that provide a chic for a lower price.

Bebe
BCBG
Nine West
Steve Madden
Zara
Express
The Limited
Mexx
Club Monaco

and Gabana, Celine, Gucci, and Mia Miu for these styles.

We hope this brief rundown of spring fashion will serve you well as the Yard heats up and clothes slim down.

Movie Review: "16 Blocks" A Vehicle for Mumbling

BY STEPHEN REDHEAD
Contributing Writer

What happens when a detective and a criminal become part of a game of cat & mouse on the streets of New York? One can find out in the new Warner Bros. film "16 Blocks," starring Bruce Willis and Dante "Mos Def" Smith.

This thriller tells the tale of NYPD detective Jack Mosley (Willis) escorting an eccentric criminal named Eddie Bunker (Smith) to the courthouse for trial. Along the way, Detective Mosley decides to make a pit stop to a local liquor store, and Eddie witnesses the suspicious activity of another detective.

Mosley saves Eddie from impending doom, and the story continues as they travel the 16 blocks to the trial before being captured by crooked police who

will stop at nothing to silence Eddie before he testifies about what he has seen.

The film, which is set in Brooklyn and other parts of New York City, is an action-filled adventure that requires the viewer to pay close attention to each detail in the film.

Willis' character seems to be a superhero-based renegade policeman. This performance is not too far from Willis' performance in last summer's hit "Sin City."

Detective Mosley is always on his guard, suspicious of every corner and turn. However, despite the tough exterior of this protagonist, there is also a softer side shown through the passing of his father and the moral justification of the character's actions.

Eddie Bunker is the bumbling, confused, sidekick who

provides comic relief and rambles habitually in an indecipherable accent. Though entertaining for the first few moments of the film, it later becomes a chore to understand what he is saying.

As an accomplished hip-hop artist, he should have learned that vocal delivery is very important. The chemistry of the two actors sometimes leaves more to be desired, but their completely different personalities keep the audience attentive.

Despite the exceptional performances of both Willis and Smith, some of the most interesting scenes of the film feature the antagonist, Frank Nugent, who is played by David Morse. Morse's electrifying rants and speeches give the story more edge and vitality. This is evident particularly in a scene where Nugent attempts to persuade Mosley to let him silence Eddie's

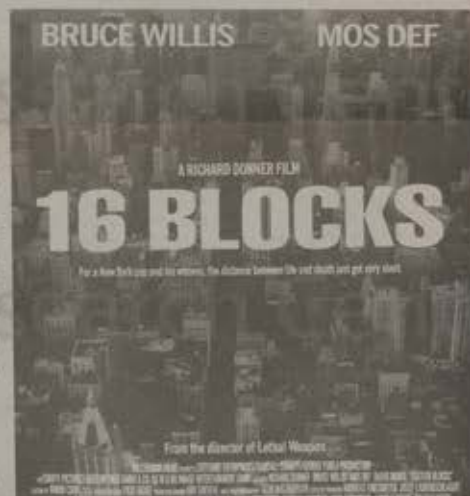
excessive rambling.

The underlying intensity of Nugent's proposition is intimidating, leaving the audience in suspense and wondering what will happen next. The intensity is later shown in an exchange between Nugent and Mosley. This scene includes a thrilling climax featuring a wrecked city bus full of pedestrians.

This film is an enjoyable piece of work that an action-ready crowd can appreciate. It is also a positive to see that an actor like Mos, can continue to broaden his horizons and work in various genres of film.

The film is rated PG-13 and runs for roughly 1 hour and 20

"16 Blocks" is an intense hour-and-a-half film set in Brooklyn, N.Y. The police drama follows a cop and his witness for the titular sixteen blocks on the way to a courthouse.



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Talk is Costley



Myatt's the Limit

BY DREW COSTLEY
Sports Editor

Sitting behind the clever yet crass Mecca Mob during the Bison's last home game on Monday, myself and my fellow Sports Editor, Caryn Grant, took delight in their witty barbs which kicked the Morgan State Bears when they were down.

But they, with the assistance of a group of fans around, Caryn and I started a chant that may have very well rang true in the ears of head coach Gil Jackson.

"Sky-att! My-att," exclaimed fans with growing support from surrounding fans and the Mob.

The hype crowd was referring to the previous Bison drive down the court when freshman guard Eugene Myatt dodged two Morgan State defenders and tattooed the ball on the forehead of another.

Myatt is the future of the Howard Bison basketball.

So, for first year coach, Gil Jackson and a lot of Bison basketball faithfuls, the success of Myatt will influence the success of Bison Basketball for years to come.

He is Bison basketball's glass ceiling, at least for now. Not too discredit the success that junior guard/forward Darryl Hudson has had in the Bison's current three-game win streak. Hudson has been the catalyst for the every-early lead that the Bison have taken in their wins.

But Myatt has come into his game at just the right time in the Bison's last three games.

In his first explosion of the year, which lead the Bison to snap their 14-game losing streak, Myatt drained 11 of 18 field goals for 22 points.

Against Coppin State, he frequented the lane and went 4 of 5 at both the charity stripe and in the field for 18 points, to tie for third in scoring in a game in which five Bison were in double digits.

And finally, Myatt, despite his rookie experience, led the herd with 19 points in the 72-59 embarrassment of Morgan State on senior night.

But it isn't only offense with Myatt, something he told Bison Express he had to grow out of.

"When I first got here, all I wanted to do was score. But they have worked with me on other facets of my game. The difference now is confidence."

And he showed confidence on Monday, shutting down a Morgan State attempt that would have put the team within three and then taking it down to the other end of the court for his emphatic dunk.

On Monday he had a momentum-stifling block, two steals and another block and four steals last Monday against FAMU.

Now don't get me wrong, Myatt still has some growing to do. This is only his first year playing basketball as the corny announcer says it "at The Burr". But Myatt has and will continue to have the fortune of playing under Darryl Hudson, one of the most underrated forwards in the MEAC.

If he can learn some sort of consistency from Hudson, who has led the Bison in scoring in nearly every game this season, he will be a force to be more than reckoned with in the MEAC.

99 Division I Sports Teams, 65 Colleges Lose Scholarships Because of Athletes' Poor Academic Standing

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

Athletic director Dwight Datcher stressed the importance of academics to Howard student-athletes at last week's Meet the Director of Athletics Forum.

Yesterday, the NCAA made clear that they have similar views on the academic standing of collegiate athletes when they announced that 99

Division I sports teams from 65 colleges will lose scholarships after the release of the Academic Progress Report.

At the forum, Datcher asked the auditorium of athletes how many of them thought that they would go on to play professional sports. A mere six raised their hands.

"Academics are why we're here," Datcher said. "If we're not here to graduate, what are we doing?"

Howard led the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference on the Commissioner's All-Academic Team, which honors student-athletes with a 3.0 or higher GPA, this year and was not penalized after the release.

However, other MEAC

schools, such as University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Hampton, and South Carolina State, are among the schools penalized.

Another MEAC team, Florida A&M University, was one of the hardest hit programs. The Rattlers will lose scholarships in baseball, football, men's basketball, men's swimming and women's swimming.

"I applied the fact that the male athletes equal the female athletes [of the Commissioner's All-Academic Team honorees from Howard]," said Datcher at the Forum.

"Unfortunately that is usually not the case."

90 of the penalized sports teams were men's teams and only nine were women's. The majority stemmed from football (23), baseball (21) and men's basketball (19).

A year ago, 330 Division I teams were at risk of penalties, but many were able to make the necessary adjustments to avoid them.

"We are encouraged by the response on many campuses to academic reform," NCAA president Myles Brand said in a press release. "The goal of academic reform is to improve academic behaviors

and increase graduation, not unnecessarily penalize teams."

Teams that continue to perform poorly academically could face more severe consequences down the line.

According to the NCAA, "the APR is calculated by measuring the academic eligibility and retention of the student-athletes by team each term."

"The APR has become part of the athletics language—schools are incorporating the APR into their strategic plans and programming, and they are using it to hold coaches and other personnel accountable for student-athlete academic achievement," Brand said. "Significant attention is being paid to meeting the new standards, and I expect the next few years of APR data to reflect that focus."

Walter Harrison, president of the University of Hartford and chair of the NCAA's Committee on Academic Performance, thinks that schools and athletic departments should use the APR to guide future academic reform efforts.

In a release from the NCAA, he said, "The messages of academic reform are clear: recruit student-athletes who are capable of doing college-level work; help them meet the standards for progress toward a degree; and keep them enrolled so the opportunity for a quality education becomes a reality."



Academic standing has been a major issue in collegiate athletics. University of Maryland's Chris McCray, shown above against UTEP, was ruled academically ineligible in the middle of this season.

Eight is Enough:

The Highest the Bison Men Can Reach is the Eighth Seed in the MEAC Basketball Championship Tournament; Here's How

HOWARD- Conference Record 4-12

Remaining Games

March 1: at North Carolina A&T

March 4: at UMES



Can claim the 8th seed

- Tied with North Carolina A&T (6-12), or
- In a three-way tie with North Carolina A&T and Morgan State (6-12)

Can clinch the 9th seed

- Tied with Morgan State (6-12), or
- Tied with Morgan State (5-13)

Will drop the 10th seed

- In a three-way tie with UMES and Morgan State (4-14), or
- Tied with UMES, and earned the tiebreaker (4-14)

Will drop to the 11th seed

- With a loss to UMES by more than nine points

GW Won't Have Their 'Pops' for A-10 Tourney



Senior George Washington center Nana "Pops" Mensah-Bonsu will not be available to play in the Atlantic-10 Conference tournament. A small piece of cartilage was removed from the right knee of Mensah-Bonsu on Tuesday.

The Colonials, who are ranked seventh in the nation, were hoping that the center would not have to have the operation performed after the injury occurred during their win last week against La Salle.

Dr. James Andrew, who performed the surgery on Mensah-Bonsu's left knee, said that he believes that the center will be able to return to action in time for the start of the NCAA Tournament.