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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 100

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

TUESDAY notebook

WEATHER

TUES, 3/7:
SUNNY
HIGH: 48, LOW: 30

WED, 3/8:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 52, LOW: 42

THURS, 3/9:
CLOUDY
HIGH: 60, LOW: 52

BREAKING NEWS

BANNED ABORTIONS

ACCORDING TO CNN.COM, SOUTH DAKOTA GOV. MIKE ROUNDS SIGNED A BILL THAT BANS NEARLY ALL ABORTIONS IN THE STATE WHICH CONFLICTS WITH THE ROE V. WADE DECISION THAT LEGALIZED ABORTION.

CAMPUS

STDS ON CAMPUS

FIND OUT INSIDE WHAT STUDENTS ARE (OR ARE NOT) DOING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.
PAGE 2



METRO

ELEVATORS LACK LICENSES

THIS ELEVATOR IS BROKEN BUT PROPERLY LICENSED. HOWEVER MANY OTHERS ACROSS THE CITY ARE NOT. FIND OUT MORE IN METRO.
PAGE 4



SPORTS

BASEBALL'S KIRBY PUCKETT DIES

FORMER HALL OF FAMER DIES POST SURGERY. PUCKETT SUFFERED A STROKE IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ. ON SUNDAY.
PAGE 9



HU CALENDAR

MARCH 11-19
SPRING RECESS

MARCH 15
PRIORITY FAFSA DEADLINE FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS

MARCH 20-31
GENERAL REGISTRATION

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Undergrad Trustee Candidates Face Students

BY SHANAE HARRIS
Asst. Campus Editor

Allen Haynes, Tiffany Newell, and Jabari Smith faced off in their last *Speak Out* last night in a final effort to be speak to the student body before elections scheduled to take place on Wednesday.

Presenting his platform, called "Beyond the Boardroom," undergraduate trustee candidate Haynes opened by telling students exactly what he planned to do if elected.

"I will work with HUSA and the president to assemble a budget. My goal is to raise \$5,000 and whatever I do not raise I will pay out of my own pocket," Haynes said.

Newell opened by presenting a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and stating her platform, "VOICE."

Smith, however, chose not to run under a titled platform.

"Unlike many candidates I feel that a one-word platform would be marginalizing what I can do through my position. Therefore, I stand on three tiers of legitimacy, heart and inclusion," Smith said.

When asked about the allocation of funds for the Campaign for Howard, candidates showed concern for ways in obtaining the funds.

"We need to be concerned about the allocation of resources such as the medical school and the National Capital Medical Center. These could have been things taken care later while we focused on facilities for our students first," Haynes said.

The issue of tuition increase showed diverse opinions amongst the candi-



Undergraduate Trustee Candidates Tiffany Newell, Jabari Smith and Allen Haynes answered questions posed by students in last night's *Speak Out*. The three faced off on issues like tuition increases and program funding.

dates, however.

"One pro for a raise in tuition would be for the advancement of certain aspects of the university like the John H. Johnson School of Communications," Newell said, "the con, however, is that this money is coming directly out of students' pockets."

Smith agreed with both candidates on the issue, stating his understanding of a tuition raise to help advancement, but that as Haynes said, students needed to see where their money is going.

"If tuition is going to increase 50 percent, then students need to see a 60 percent increase in advancement," Smith said.

Candidates also voiced their opinions on the purpose of the undergradu-

ate trustee position and what they would do if elected.

"My job would be to serve as the bridge between leadership and the student body, to effectively close the gap, and to serve as a repository of students' interests," Haynes said.

The discussion heated up as the questioned was raised concerning electing trustees based on popularity rather than merit.

Smith voiced his belief that students care about the school enough to vote based on more than popularity.

He said in students' defense, "I don't think this is a popularity contest because students are electing someone based on their dedication and overall welfare of the student body."

Candidates got a chance to ask their opponents questions about their platforms as well.

Newell questioned how Haynes plans to execute his \$5,000 fundraising initiative.

"I plan to work to get the job done by contacting various organizations and companies that would help," Haynes said.

Reflecting Smith's opening statement regarding one-word platforms "marginalizing his position," Haynes disagreed, stating that a platform lets students know what a candidate's purpose is.

"I do have a platform," Jabari

See *SPEAK OUT*, Page 3

School of B Restricts Computer Lab Usage

Lab use limited to majors and minors enrolled in classes requiring access to business software

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE
Staff Writer

Use of the School of Business computer lab is strictly for business students, and this has become an issue for some students.

"It's not so much a big problem more than a small inconvenience. There are times when I need to use a computer right before my class and it would be more convenient to use one in the business lab since that's where I am going," said Justin Drew, a junior political science major and minor in the School of Business.

The reasoning and the procedure is in place to secure the availability and proper use of the equipment for those it was intended to help directly.

"For about the last five years, the School of Business students are required to have an account to access the School's server and network. Students must provide proof of enrollment in the school and validated registration before an account is established. We further allocate a limited number of pages to students for printing purposes. Students are unable to print when they have exceeded their limit," said Assistant Dean of the School of Business Dean Sirjoe.

The School of Business lab is designed for the purposes of assisting business majors with their assigned class work, it enables features and programs that other campus labs do not.

"The lab was established to provide access to School of Business students, who were enrolled in classes requiring unique business software not included in the University I-Lab. Because of its limited size, it is difficult and prob-



File Photo

lematic to have the School of Business Lab available to all Howard students. Business minors are allowed to use the computer lab if they are enrolled in School of Business classes requiring access to business software for assignments," Sirjoe said.

There are a number of computer labs located across Howard's campus Sirjoe said students can use outside of the School of Business.

"The School of Business has one general lab for its students. This lab has only 40 terminals for its 1400 students. The school depends heavily on corporate partners for replacement and maintenance of equipment," Sirjoe said.

Students such as Jessica Monroe don't believe that it's wrong for the School of Business to only allow those who are enrolled in the college to use its lab.

"I don't see where the problem is at all. There are so many places for students to go and use a computer on campus, there's no reason to even need to use the School of Business equipment unless you're a business major and that's where you spend your time," said Jessica Monroe, a sophomore interior design major.

Agreeing with Monroe, Daniella Minter, a junior public relations major and minor in the School of Business, said that she also sees no issue with the School of Business keeping the use of the lab separate from the campus labs.

"They only have 40 computers, if it were open to everyone on campus, there is a chance that what little they do have may not even be available to their own students at times," she said.

Reverend Encourages Purpose, Passion and Calling

BY FARREN HINTON
Hilltop Staff Writer

World-renowned theologian Reverend Dr. Renita J. Weems stuck around Howard University an extra day following her Sunday chapel service to deliver a mix between a sermon and a lecture on calling, passion, and purpose.

A mixed audience of Howard and Michigan State students, faculty, staff and guests attended the presentation, which took place in Blackburn Monday night and was sponsored by the Spiritual and Ethical Dimensions of Leadership Initiative.

Under the title "Faith in the Workplace Forum, Issues of Calling, Purpose and Passion," Weems spoke of various topics relating to her life experiences, past work experiences, and philosophy as it relates to God and the Bible. As the first Black woman to receive a Ph.D. in the Old Testament, the current Spelman College professor was cited by Reverend Kanika Magee as someone who makes the Bible accessible to the common person.

"She makes things make sense and shows us how they apply to our lives," Magee said.

Weems who is also a writer of various works, and a published journalist studied economics at Wellesley College with an intention of being a power stockbroker.

"I, like so many people you meet, ended up doing things I never imagined," she said.



File Photo

Dr. Renita Weems, who preaches annually at Chapel, told students to remember that all things can work together for their good.

Weems vividly revisited a time in her youth when she was employed at Dairy Queen, and forced into the freezer while the restaurant was being robbed. She used this anecdote and others like it to convey to the audience her overall message of "all things work together for good."

She said because of the incident at Dairy Queen she was able to gain a sense of perception and danger.

"That experience taught me how to study people," she said.

In one major connection between faith in the workplace, Weems described her accidental discovery of her passion for writing. It was three weeks into what she thought would be her dream job at Merrill Lynch and she unfortunately hated it.

One day, she escaped into

the women's bathroom with a piece of paper and proceeded to write on it "I hate this job."

"That was the beginning of my writing career," she said.

Though she continued to work at Merrill Lynch, she would steal time away everyday to journal.

"As you keep moving down through life, you will discover with even the jobs you hated, the Bible says all things work together," Weems said.

Weems then went on to discuss with the audience about discovering their purposes and callings. She said that young people often ask her how they will know when they are being summoned by God to complete a task.

"Sometimes you only know when looking back

See *CHAPEL*, Page 3

Howard Students Discuss STD Awareness, Prevention

BY MEGAN SCHLEY
Contributing Writer

With the Center for Disease Control estimating that 19 million new infections occur each year, almost half of them among people ages 15 to 24, the question arises whether Howard University students are doing enough to protect themselves.

In a recent group interview done with five males and five females, ranging from freshman to graduate students at Howard University (two students from each classification) it was determined that six out of ten of these students have had an STD before. Out of those six, one of the students lives with one of the non-curable diseases, herpes.

This student, whose name has been withheld, has been living with this disease since the age of 16. He contracted it from one of his female "friends" who performed oral sex on him while having a cold sore.

"I noticed that she had a cold sore but I never knew that was a form of herpes, because it is so common for people to have them. And I never thought it could spread like it did," he said.

After his encounter, he said he immediately began to experience unpleasant symptoms. He then contacted his doctor, and was diagnosed with herpes.

"I did not know what to do at first, I was so mad! I felt like my life was over. Then I realized... I can get through this. Now



While Lynette E. Munday, associate director of medical services at the health center, said abstinence is the best way to prevent STDs, she recommends condom use and limiting one's partners if students are sexually active.

I am working on educating others about STDs, and hopefully they will not have to learn the lesson that I now have to live with for the rest of my life," he said.

According to Lynette E. Munday, M.D., associate director of medical services at Howard's Student Health Center, prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases/infections are top priorities in any college health environment. All students should be aware of their status, and should get tested at least once a year.

"All STDs are major threats

to our community and their even more a threat if left untreated," Munday said.

Munday encourages all students to remember that abstinence from sexual intercourse, including oral sex, is always the first and most efficient option. However, if students decide to engage in sexual intercourse, use a barrier such as a latex condom, which can dramatically reduce your risk of contracting STDs when used consistently and correctly, but they do not provide 100 percent protection. Therefore, if students are going

"Sexually transmitted diseases on Howard's campus are a silent but very real epidemic."

Selani Befeckadu, '07

to have sex, Munday recommends they make sure they protect themselves and their partners.

Munday also encourages young adults to limit the number of sexual partners they have in one period of time.

"The more sexual partners one has, the more risk they have contracting a STD," Munday said.

Howard's Student Health Center offers many educational and counseling programs through their office of health education and their medical staff. Condoms are also available free of charge at the health center. In addition, they offer screenings for STDs (gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV), which are free of charge to all Howard students. They are currently able to provide HIV testing with test results available 20-40 minutes after testing, a service provided through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). For more information: (202) 806-6927.

Although the health center offers information and services concerning the prevention and

treatment of STDs, Devin Clarke said he believes many people are uninformed about STDs.

"I feel that STDs are a major problem in the African-American community. A lot of people feel that all STDs are curable and that is a major myth. However, I feel that this problem can be significantly tackled through teen and peer to peer awareness programs," said Clarke, a junior audio major.

There are actually two categories of STDs: bacterial STDs, which cause gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia that are curable with antibiotics. Viral STDs, include HIV, Herpes, and Hepatitis B. These diseases have no cure, but their symptoms can be reduced with treatment.

According to Berman H. Weinstock, author of "Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among American Youth", the main reason why teens are contracting vast amounts of STDs is ignorance.

"Teens just don't know enough about these diseases. Young adults are aware of the names of the common STDs but not ways of prevention or all of

the possible ways that one catches these diseases," Weinstock said.

For some students, while it may be mandatory for them to take some type of health course before graduating high school, Charde Miles said these classes are simply not sufficient.

"My high school health class briefly told us what STDs were, and the different types, but never talked about the symptoms nor any ways of prevention," said Miles, a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Not all students, however, believe lack of education about STDs is a problem on Howard's campus.

"I think that STDs do exist around campus, but not really on campus because we are aware of what is out there," said Quentin Reid, a sophomore film production major.

Selani Befeckadu, a junior public relations major, disagrees.

"Sexually transmitted diseases on Howard's campus are a silent but very real epidemic," Befeckadu said. "Since so many of us trust our peers, we don't expect that they may have an infectious disease, but the reality is that no one talks about it because it's a very taboo topic in our community. It is dangerous to be too trusting with someone sexually on this campus or in the real world. Therefore, it is imperative to get to know your partner and ask questions."

Campus Briefs



Thirteen Winston-Salem State Students Lose Titles

Thirteen Winston-Salem State students, who held key positions on campus, including Miss Winston-Salem State, were forced to vacate their posts because of low grade-point averages.

"After the official posting of semester grades, the Office of Student Activities verified all the grade-point averages of the Student Government Association (SGA) and the organization presidents," said Melody Pierce, vice chancellor of Student Affairs.

According to the university's student government constitution, all students must maintain a 2.5 grade-point average. All students who did not meet this qualification were asked to step down and replacements were chosen.

Stephanie Robinson, a 21-year-old psychology major, replaced Tiffany Richmond, a 22-year-old mass communications major, as Miss Winston-Salem State.



Students Protest N.C. Central Cafeteria Conditions

Approximately 100 students at North Carolina Central University staged a sit-in protest in their cafeteria on Feb. 15, calling for improvements in the W.G. Pearson Cafeteria.

The students complained about poor quality food, inadequate customer service, and unsanitary conditions. The protest was organized by Agos Ozuna, vice president of the Student Government Association, and other members of the SGA senate.

"The quality of food and efficiency of staff has been an injustice to students," Ozuna said. "Service should be better."

The students were able to meet with the cafeteria general manager, Lawrence Liborg.

Although the students complained about unsanitary conditions, Durham Health Department inspectors gave the cafeteria a score of 90 percent, an A minus. Liborg attributed the less than perfect score to the building, not the quality of food or sanitation.



George Washington Coach Defends Player's Grades

The head coach of George Washington University's men's basketball team defended his recruiting practices in light of a Sunday front page article in the Washington Post that questioned the academic credentials of men's basketball senior Omar Williams.

"We recruit and do things the right way," Hobbs told The GW Hatchet.

The Post reported that Williams did not graduate high school.

Hobbs said he believed there were hidden motives behind the Post story.

"I'm not so naive as to think that this didn't happen because we are number six in the country," Hobbs said. "To think that it wasn't calculated to draw more attention to the issue is naive."

Sources:
www.blackcollegeivory.org
www.gwhatchet.com

The Hilltop Survey Says...

Reading The Hilltop in class is not a good thing.*

*Unless, of course, you're in Advanced Reporting & Writing, and you totally agree to pick up a Washington Post from Starbucks because you woke up for your \$100 class at 8:00, and you didn't know it was your last class.

AND you were looking seven kinds of crazy.

Undergrad Trustee Speak Out

SPEAK OUT, from Page 1

responded, "But it's not one word. I have a plan, I just choose to keep it open because I don't know exactly what I will have to work with next year."

Asso Aidon, current undergraduate trustee, told candidates that putting on three programs this year cost nearly \$3,000 each, and asked them how they

planned to fund their planned programs.

"I would tap into the Independence Fund for this," said Newell. Smith told students, however, that the fund was off limits for students' programs.

Audience members seemed to back Haynes plan.

"I would ask other organizations to co-sponsor the pro-

grams," he said.

Many students believed that the candidates showed great passion for the positions and candidates said they would still contribute to the Howard University student body even if not elected.

"My fire will not be extinguished if not elected. In fact, it may even burn brighter because I'll see that I have another calling," Smith said.

Reverend Speaks to Students

CHAPEL, from Page A1

at it," she said. Weems recalled a lesson from her mother who always told her, "If you want to be successful, find a need, and fill it."

"What you enjoy doing, you enjoy doing it, and what you like about it is what someone else doesn't like about it," said Weems about finding a purpose in life to be passionate about.

She also cautioned the audience from wanting all their passion on sex.

"Do not live your life in such a way where you say I give all my passion away to people who were not worthy of it," she said.

Many Howardites who were in attendance said they believe that Weems did an excellent job.

"She is a phenomenal speaker," said sophomore Karen Lawrence. "I heard her in Chapel yesterday, and I think what she said was very good, especially since I am searching for my purpose."

Amber Moody, a sophomore English major, agreed.

"I thought it was great," she said. "The speech was not only appropriate for the audience, but helpful as well."

Weems ended the lecture by stressing the importance of "being yourself." She said when you meet God, the only thing he is going to ask you is "Why didn't you become you?"

"There will never be another you who can do what you can do the way you can do it," she said.

The Hilltop

Survey Says...

Reading
The Hilltop
for only 20 minutes a day,
three days a week,
will help you lose 12-18 lbs!*

*And if you believe that, we'll give a \$100 bill to the first person who...

VOTE TOMORROW!

Undergraduate Trustee, Graduate Trustee, and Run-off elections take place Wednesday, March 8th

GO ONLINE TO:

**HTTP://WWW.HOWARD.EDU/
AND LOGIN ON BISONWEB
FROM 9:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.
TO VOTE!!**

**"YOUR VOTE WILL DECIDE
... VOTE WITH PRIDE!!"**

Excellence Awards

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 24TH, 2006

Submit no later than 5pm

Late applications will not be accepted



Twist and Turn into Fitness, Try Salsa

BY ROBIN BELLAMY
Contributing Writer

Chauhan Grill, Brava Brasserie and Mediterra all have more in common than just being nightclubs. They all have salsa and Latin nights offered a few times a week and are among the many clubs and restaurants opening their doors for people seeking salsa lessons. Some people are there to socialize, while others are there to implement exercise into their lives. Recently, salsa dancing has become a very popular method of getting in shape.

Lisa McKennedy, senior marketing manager, takes salsa classes on Wednesday nights at Habana Village, a Cuban restaurant and dance club in Adams Morgan. "It's a fun place to go, especially in the middle of the week when people tend to just lay around and be inactive," McKennedy said.

McKennedy is just one of the many people who are taking salsa lessons in order to shed some extra pounds and to get a good aerobic workout.

The continuous movement from the dancing builds up aerobic stamina while simultaneously burning calories. Salsa dancing can burn up to ten calories per minute without as much strain on the joints as other activities, such as jogging.

Salsa also involves moving the hips from side to side, which helps to work the muscles that rotate our spine. Many people tend to neglect rotating their torsos in their workouts. Dr. Joan Welsh, a physical therapist, notices that a lot of her patients who are otherwise in shape often have back



Salsa dancing demonstrations, like the one above, are becoming more and more popular around the District. These lessons are also starting to appeal to a broader age range, with the relatively inexpensive cost of lessons and sales nights.

problems. "When people exercise, they are very limber," Welsh said. "Dancing is helping a lot of people to move their spines and reduce back problems that can occur."

While dancing salsa improves a person's health, it also has social benefits. Dancing can work up a sweat, but not so much that it will distract them from engaging in conversation.

Salsa can also improve a person's anaerobic fitness, which helps when participating in other sports like swimming and basketball.

Many salsa lessons are free or have a small fee from \$3.00 to \$15.00. Habana Village offers salsa lessons Wednesday through Saturday for \$20.00 per session.

Zanzibar on the Waterfront, a nightclub in Southwest, D.C., also offers lessons on Wednesday nights with a \$10.00 admission fee.

Ricardo Lozano, a dance instructor, gives free lessons at Lulu's Club Mardi Gras on Tuesday nights and at the Lucky U Bar on Monday nights. "I find that a lot of people come out to have a good time and socialize," Lozano said. "And on top of that, they're having fun while exercising."

Lozano has seen a change in the people that participate in the salsa lessons. "When I first started giving salsa lessons, the ages ranged from late 20s to late 30s," Lozano said. "But now the

age range has gotten younger and older. I've seen people as young as 16 and people well into their 30s."

Roberto Medrano, junior political science major, is one of the younger people that dances salsa. "It's a part of my culture, so I've always done it," Medrano said. "But it's a great workout with the swinging of the arms and moving the hips."

Medrano usually goes to local night spots such as Love, the Club, or HaO when they have Latin nights and recommends the form of dance for people that want to get into shape and enjoy dancing. "You definitely break a sweat, and if you can enjoy exercising at the same time, why not do it?"

Metro Briefs

ANC Commissioner Recovers From Beating



D.C. Advisory Neighborhood Commission

David Sobush, 47, is out of the hospital after being robbed and beaten Thursday night. Sobush told ANC 4 news that he (how) remember the attack, but that police told him to undergo a lumbar check home.

Among other things, when Sobush was found, he was unconscious and missing his money. Sobush had just gotten off the metro at the Navy Yard station and was headed to a meeting concerning the positive impact development was having in the area.

Prince George's County To Receive Grant To Curb Gang Violence



Prince George's County will receive over \$250,000 dollars from the federal government to help in fighting illegal guns and gangs. The money will help strengthen the violent crime unit in Prince George's, by allowing the addition of a full-

time investigator to focus attention on Latino gangs. News of the grant was announced Monday afternoon in Laurel. In addition, educational programs will be set up across the county to train officers

Goodbye, MCI: Verizon Center Debuts

BY AMBER ENGLISH
Metro Editor

If you're looking for tickets to the upcoming Champions on Ice tour, be sure you're searching under the correct venue. As of Sunday, the MCI Center was no more. The name of the arena home to the Washington Wizards and Washington Capitals is now the Verizon Center. The name change came after Verizon Communications purchased MCI in late December.

A ceremony at the arena Sunday afternoon made the switch official. New signage and logos were in place in time for yesterday's Wizards game. 10,000 rally towels with the new logo were given out to fans in celebration of the name change. At Monday

night's Washington Capitals game, 10,000 more towels were distributed with the new name on them.

"We welcome Verizon as our new corporate partner and namesake as we continue to provide premier sports and entertainment events for our nation's capital," said Washington Sports and Entertainment chairman Abe Pollin in a press release.

Verizon Communications paid nearly \$8.5 billion dollars to purchase MCI. In addition to the naming of the arena, Verizon Communications became Verizon Business as a result of the acquisition.

"Great moments in sports and entertainment have taken place in the arena that will now be known as the

Verizon center," said president of newly formed Verizon Business John Killian in a press release. "Verizon looks forward, with the people of the D.C. metropolitan area, to a future packed with more thrills bursting from this great venue."

For most, the change has caused little confusion. Washington Capitals fan Jim Rainer is not bothered at all by the switch.

"It doesn't change anything for me, as long as I can still see the same great sports for the same price," Rainer said.

Verizon Business is scheduled to release a video detailing all of the changes surrounding the new Verizon Center. The video will be released to local media out-

lets, and will also be available on the new Verizon Center web site.

Although Verizon Business now retains the naming rights to the arena, ownership of the 20,000 seat sports and entertainment facility remains the same. The facilities are owned and operated by Washington Sports and Entertainment LP. In addition to owning the arena facility, Washington Sports and Entertainment also owns the Washington-Baltimore ticketing service and management of George Mason University's Patriot Center in Fairfax, Va.

Oldest Gallery of Art in D.C. to Make Cutbacks



One of the oldest art galleries in D.C. is making deep cuts to its staff. The Corcoran Gallery of Art has let go of half of its curators and two department heads. The cuts are a part of a restructuring in preparation for the new direc-

tor, British scholar Paul Gorman, who announced the cuts at a meeting this week for staff and faculty of the gallery and its College of Art and Design. The gallery now only has three curators.

Hood College Picks Controversial Female Homecoming King



Jennifer Jones, a senior at Hood College in Frederick, Md., lost out this year for title of Homecoming King. According to WUSA 9 news, college officials said that the college is currently reviewing homecoming rules to see if the decision can stand. Jones is an open homosexual, and was nominated by the student body to be homecoming king. Last year, Jones tried

to run for Homecoming queen, but the student government would not allow her to be on the ballot. Jones said that she was not aware of her nomination for Homecoming King until she saw her name on the ballot February 12. This is only the second annual homecoming at Hood College, that didn't even allow male students to live on campus until 2003.



Almost three months after Verizon Communications bought MCI, the MCI Center on 7th street officially became the Verizon Center. The signs were all changed and logos in the sports arena were ready for a basketball game on Sunday and a hockey game Monday night.

John H. Johnson School of Communications Student Council

In Association with The Talented Tenth

COTTON CLUB

MOVIE



NIGHT

HARLEM NIGHTS

**Wed.
March 8th**

Cooke Hall

8:00 p.m.

*** Refreshments
will be served ***

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OFFICE OF CENTRAL SCHEDULING
AND INFORMATION
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The BISON Policy Board is
currently seeking applicants for the
2006-2007:

Yearbook Editor-in-Chief

Applications are available
immediately in the Office of
Student Activities, Blackburn
Center Suite 117.

Applications are due by March 24,
2006 by 5:00 pm.

If you have any question please
contact the Office of Student
Activities at (202) 806-7000.

EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 100

MARCH 7, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



Students Suspended for MySpace Affiliation

A California middle school student faces expulsion for allegedly posting threats against a classmate on MySpace.com, and 20 of his classmates were suspended for viewing the posting, according to the Associated Press.

Officials are investigating the threat to see if there is any link to a potential hate crime. The name of the MySpace group was titled "I Hate (girl's name)" and it included explosive and anti-Semitic comments, according to the Associated Press. The poster can change the comments in the group at any time, so it is difficult to determine how much of the posted information students saw. Either way, simply being a member of an online group shouldn't result in the suspension and expulsion students that did not directly post the comments.

This kind of situation could easily apply to Howard students as well. Many of us join groups through online interactive sites like Facebook and MySpace. What if a group we were in suddenly fell under investigation for

this situation.

In a previous editorial, we explained the importance of being mindful of online affiliations, comments and pictures. The internet is accessible to everyone and, as we can see with the TeWinkle Middle School situation, people can really get into trouble. We don't want to present ourselves in any way that can make us look bad or really do some damage to our reputation, so we need to be careful. "With what the students can get into using technology, we are all concerned about it," Bob Metcalf, the district assistant superintendent of secondary education said in the Associated Press. Though we should be able to do what we please and express ourselves, unfortunately we still live within a system that puts limits on our freedoms.

Our View:

This incident is a recent example of how our freedom of speech is still compromised!

something the creator posted and we were all facing trouble? We can understand the student being offended by the comments or feeling threatened by a complete group that allegedly hates her. However, the girl has not reported any specific crime, girl to date; she simply feels threatened and understandably so. However, freedom of speech and the ability to express ourselves is the important aspect of

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SPACE MARCHING ALONG by Sally R. Stein, edited by Stanley Heston

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Source: The Hilltop crossword puzzle is based on the crossword puzzle by Stanley Heston.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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A Former Rebel With A Cause

Linwood R. Stapton, '69

I just read the section on Black History Month appearing in the Feb. 28, 2006 issue. I was particularly impressed with the "Rebels Searching For A Cause" article, penned by Whitney R. Teal.

I am a Howard alumni (B.A. 1969; M.A. 1971) and an Attorney living in Atlanta today. I would be remiss, however, if I did not point out one error in Ms. Teal's piece. Howard students took over the administra-

tion building in February 1968 not 1969 as the article states. I know this because I was President of the Lampados club at the time and we were pledging Omega Psi Phi; we were the Afrobliss 22. We decided to drop line so that we could freely participate in the student takeover of the "A" building.

While our big brothers were misled, we knew that we had done the right thing, as the cause was a just one. The HUSA President at that time was none other than The

Hon. Ewart Brown who is now the Deputy Prime Minister of Bermuda. One final point of information: Howard was the very first school to have the Administration building taken over by students. Kent State in Ohio and Berkeley followed our efforts.

Thank you for an excellent series of articles and permitting me this walk down memory lane. I have every confidence that student activism will continue to be a motivating force at Howard.

click it to us.

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

Now in its third year, The Hilltop is published biweekly through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 12,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed on the Editorial and Perspectives Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body. The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically to our website at www.thehilltoponline.com. The Hilltop editorial office is located at 1001 Sherman Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20059 and can also be reached via email at thehilltoponline@hilltoponline.com and by phone at (202) 691-4700. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at thehilltopbusiness@hilltoponline.com and by phone at (202) 691-4700. 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.

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READS THE HILLTOP..."**

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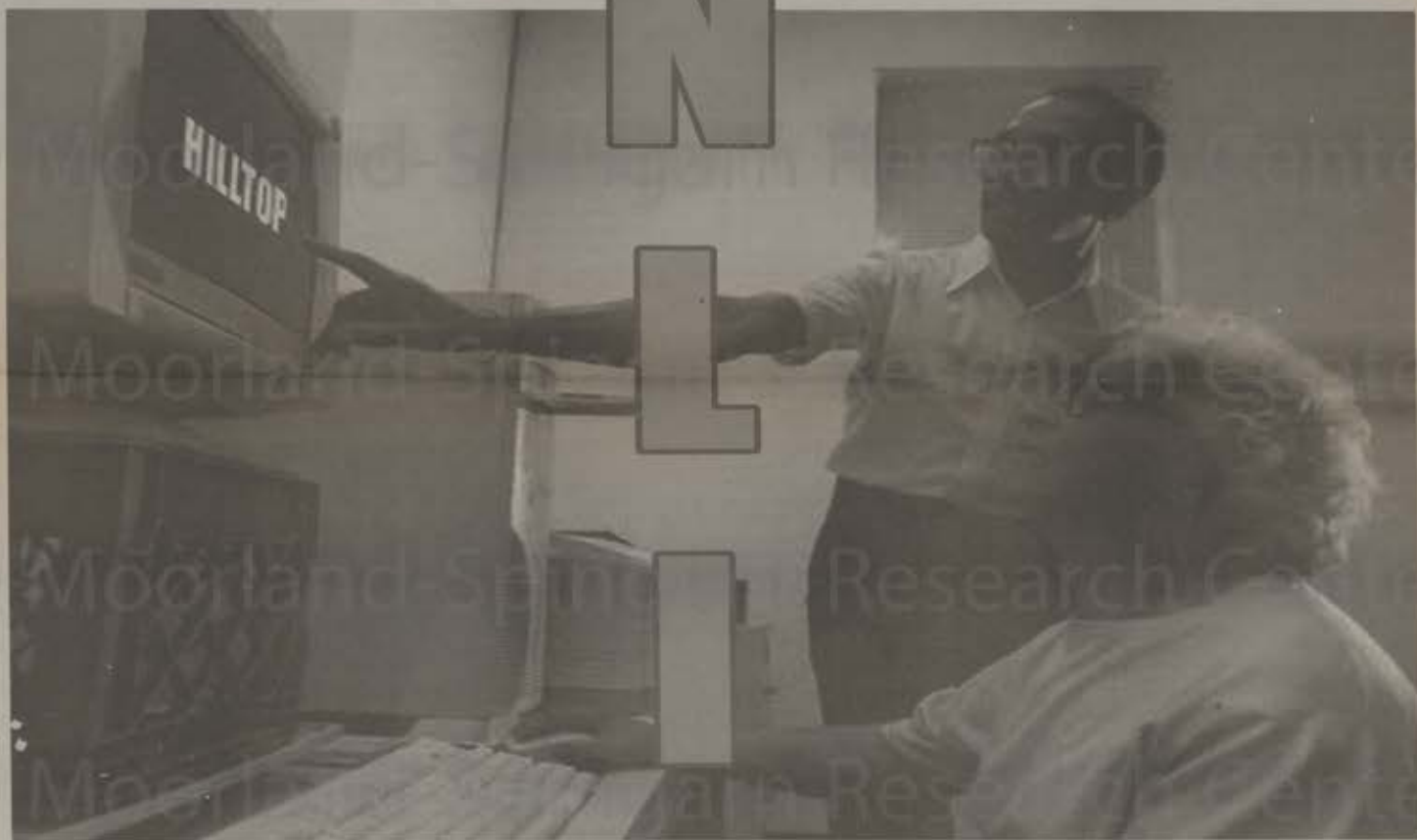
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Those are Spirit Fingers

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

As an athlete (or former athlete), it has always been hard for me to consider cheerleading as a sport.

I mean, on disreputable to the lovely Howard cheerleaders that tell opposing teams to "shake these nuts" or do obnoxious things after games, but these girls jump around in tight skirts waving pom-poms all game long. Just what I consider strenuous activity.

However, it wasn't until my sophomore year in high school that my opinion was slightly altered.

Three of my close friends, one who had played basketball and volleyball with me in middle school, decided to try out for our high school cheerleading squad.

I was appalled, shocked, disgusted (you get the point) at the thought of them becoming "one of them." I even went as far as buying a t-shirt with the phrase "Friends don't let friends cheerlead" (a play on the popular "Friends don't let friends do drugs" ad).

However, I quickly learned the cheerleading and training that cheerleaders face.

They have gymnastics and weight lifting and must maintain numerous steps and chants. And there is no way I could ever trust anyone enough to throw me into the air the way they do.

Cheerleading is still not the most difficult activity in the world, but I suppose that maybe, possibly, it can be considered a sport.

This weekend, I saw one of the biggest displays of dedication and perseverance that I have ever seen in sports, and it came from a girl I can't believe I'm saying this... a CHEERLEADER.

Southern Illinois cheerleader Kaiti Yamashita lost her balance and fell about 15 feet to hit her head on a basketball court during the Missouri Valley Conference tournament championship game Sunday.

The diagnosis: a broken neck and concussion. (Presumably I wouldn't let someone throw a girl 15 feet into the air.)

However, despite her injuries, two paramedics strapped her into a back and neck brace. Yamashita began to clap and wave her arms in the heat of SIU's fight song, leading the cheer as she was carried off of the court on a gurney.

I was amazed as she continued to cheer after a fall that could have very easily ended her life. I had never seen anything like it. It was darn near inspirational.

While still in the hospital, Yamashita asked if anyone had taped the game. Her coach assured that she wanted to see the full. Contrarily, all Yamashita wanted to know was if the Salukis had won the game.

Now, there are spirit fingers.

OK, so cheerleaders have spirit (yes they do). I've never doubted that.

However, that doesn't exactly make them athletes, does it? I guess athletics is in the eye of the beholder.

But sometimes it's about more than just a simple rule. And Kaiti Yamashita has more heart than a lot of players (professional, college, and amateur) athletes out there.

Bison Prepare for MEAC Tournament with High Hopes

BY ED HILL
Special to The Hilltop

Less than two weeks ago, the Howard University men's basketball team was in the throes of a 14-game losing streak and appeared headed for the bottom of the MEAC as the 11th or 12th seed.

It was especially frustrating because 10 of the 14 losses were by six points or less. The problems were compounded by the lingering thought of last season's 17-game skid at the end of the season and quick exit from the tourney in the play-in round.

But that all changed in February 20 when the Bison faced off against Florida A&M University at home. Much to everyone's surprise, Howard jumped out to big first half lead and never looked back in posting an 80-71 win over the Rattlers.

Inspired by the victory, the Bison went on to win their next three before dropping a hard-fought, 73-72 decision to Maryland Eastern Shore in the regular season finale on the road.

Thus, Howard enters the MEAC tournament as the ninth seed and will face off against North Carolina A&T, a team it defeated, 58-50 in Greensboro, less than a week ago.

The turnaround has been spearheaded by a combination of good clock management, some outstanding shooting and fine team defense.

Senior point guard Louis Ford has settled into Coach Gil Jackson's philosophy of efficiently running the team and it has paid dividends. Ford ranks second in the MEAC in both assists and assists/turnover ratio. He has also contributed on the scoring end, averaging almost 20 points per game during the past five games.



Louis Ford will try to lead the Bison as they head into MEAC tournament play tonight.

Equally important has been the play of freshman forward Eugene Myatt, who poured in a career-best 22 points in the FAMU win and is averaging over 15 points during this stretch. After reaching double figures only twice in the first 17 games, he has reached that mark in four of the five games.

Another key factor has been the improved play of junior guard Will Gant, who has connected on 55 percent (16 of 30) of his shots from three-point range during this period. He ranks among the conference leaders in that category.

Derek "Skip" Mitchell, a junior reserve guard has also made some key contributions as he is averaging almost 9 points off the bench during this period. He is a deadly outside shooter.

Darryl Hudson has been Howard's most consistent performer this season. The 6-4 junior forward, though undersized in the post, gets the most

out of his abilities. He leads the team in scoring with almost 25 per game and has reached double figures a team-high 18 times. He has gone in the first three line ups times and ranks among the conference leaders in free throw shooting.

Jackson Trotter is the team's unassuming hero. He averages almost eight points and over five rebounds per contest as a reserve, but it is blue-collar style of play on both defense and offense that has proven to be very valuable for the Bison. He leads the team in blocked shots with 21.

James McBryde, a 6-7 senior forward has made some solid contributions as has junior forward Stanley Greene and sophomore guards Jason Smith and Christian Murphy. McBryde and Greene have made their presence felt on defense with 23 blocked shots between them while Smith is a fine transition player and Murphy a handy point guard.

Gil Jackson, in his first year as head coach, attributes the late season turnaround to a couple of factors.

"We are just now beginning to understand what it takes to win at this level," explained Jackson, who served as an assistant at Penn for 16 years. "We have to work hard for 40 minutes and play disciplined basketball in order for us to have a chance to be successful."

He continued, "And then, we are about the half way. Our shot selection has improved and we are being more patient, resulting in better looks at the basket."

The eighth-seeded Aggies (6-22 overall, 6-12 in the MEAC) dropped their last two games of the season, including a season-ending 51-44 setback to SC State on the road in which they shot 25 percent.



Men's Basketball Regular Season Final Standings

1. Delaware State (11-7)
2. Coppin State (12-6)
3. Bethune-Cookman (11-7)
4. South Carolina St. (11-7)
5. Florida A&M (10-8)
6. Hampton (10-8)
7. Norfolk St. (10-8)
8. N.C. A&T (6-12)
9. Howard (5-13)
10. UMES (4-14)
11. Morgan State (4-14)

Hall of Famer Puckett Loses Battle after Surgery



Kirby Puckett, 1961-2006

Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett, the former Minnesota Twins six-time Golden Glove center fielder known for his ever-present smile, died Monday at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

Puckett, whose recent weight gain was visible to fans around the world, underwent surgery after suffering a stroke in his Scottsdale home Sunday.

He died after being placed in intensive care following the surgery yesterday. He was 44.

Puckett was drafted by the Twins in 1982 and went on to lead them to two World Series titles in 1989 and 1991.

He finished his career with a 3,904 career home run in only 12 seasons, before a bout with leukemia cut his career short in 1995.

"On behalf of Major League Baseball, I am terribly saddened by the sudden passing of Kirby Puckett," commissioner Bud Selig said in a press statement. "He was a Hall of Famer in every sense of the term."

"He played his entire career with the Twins and was an icon in Minnesota. But he was revered throughout the country and will be remembered wherever the game is played. Kirby was taken from us much too soon, and too quickly," he said.

Puckett was a 10-time All-Star and was inducted into the Cooperstown Hall of Fame in 2001.

During his acceptance speech, Puckett told the crowd, "I'm telling you, anything is possible."

Perhaps his most memorable performance came during Game 6 of the 1991 World Series when he secured everyone that he would lead the Twins to a victory.

Puckett made a leaping catch against the fence before hitting a home run in the sixth inning to force Game 7, and eventually

leading the Twins to their second championship in five years.

"It's a tough thing to see a guy go through something like that and come to this extent," former teammate Kent Hrbek told AP Monday night.

"That's what really hurt him bad, when he was forced out of the game," he said. "I don't know if he ever recovered from it."

Recently, Puckett had worked as a guest coach at the Twins spring training camp in 1996, but hadn't worked with the team since 2003.

He tried to keep a low profile after being charged of sexual charges in 2003.

Puckett is survived by his children, Catherine and Kirby, Jr., and his ex-wife, Tanya. He was scheduled to be married this weekend.

—Caryn Grant, Sports Editor

Text of Puckett's Hall of Fame Plaque:

KIRBY PUCKETT
MINNESOTA A.L., 1984-1995

A proven team leader with an ever-present smile and infectious exuberance who led the Twins to World Series titles in 1989 and 1991. Over 12 seasons hit for power and average, hitting .318 with 434 doubles, 307 home runs. Also a prolific run producer, scored 1,071 runs and drove in 1,084 in 1,783 games. A six-time Gold Glove winner who patrolled center field with elegance and style, routinely sailing outfield walls to take away home runs. The 10-time All-Star's career ended abruptly due to irreversible retina damage in his right eye.

Wanna write for the Hilltop Sports Section?
Come grab a story at the budget meeting tonight at 7 pm.

The Way I See It



International Relations

BY CIARA FAMBLE
Life & Style Writer

There has been a lot of noise on campus lately about the differences that arise when you have two groups of people with the same skin color, but a completely different outlook on life. I may be going out on a limb by saying this, but I think there is a big clash of cultures on Howard University's campus. It may not seem like it because there are no School Days-like musical numbers that break out at random moments, but you might find that the tension is more noticeable than you thought.

Listen closely and, just as you might hear someone talking about their latest iPod accessory or what they are doing for spring break, you might also hear the sound of a cultural rift.

"Girl, I will never date an African man. They are too controlling and they just want you to cook for them all the time."

"African Americans are lazy and they want everything handed to them."

"Africans are really smart, almost too smart. They think they're better than us because of their education system."

"African Americans are very ignorant in terms of African culture and world events. They don't even want to know what's going on."

Sound familiar? You might have said or thought some of these things yourself or heard them in passing. I know I have. Like everyone, I have my biases and prejudices. Some things were based on personal experience, but some were things I just made up in my head. When I first became the editor of this section, I was surprised to find out how honest people are about what they think you should be doing.

One of the first comments I heard was, "The Hilltop ignores Africans." At first I didn't believe it, but then I thought about it. We're not exactly on it with covering every aspect of African life on campus.

But, being the kind of person I am, when I am faced with a truth about myself that I don't like, I take the necessary steps to change those things, so I decided to learn some things about the people around me.

I started with one of my top interests, fashion. With all the hoopla surrounding Howard being one of the most fashionable schools in the country, we tend to forget that African students are some of the finest people on campus.

Long before Usher and Kanye convinced African-American males that sweater vests were cool, African students were walking across the Yard in their ties, blazers, and fitted jeans, and even before that Africans were a major influence in fashion.

Take, for instance, the striking beauty Iman. She was one of the top models of her day and an innovator in the world of fashion and beauty. If it wasn't for her creating her I-Man makeup line, many of us African-American makeup devotees wouldn't have foundation to match the various hues of our skin because manufacturers would have continued to ignore us. And today, models like Ebony Hath have influenced the looks we wear.

While I'm not saying that just because I notice the influence that Africans have had on fashion around campus and worldwide that it will eradicate all sources of prejudice. Honestly, it just runs too deep in some people. Still, why not use common ground to understand one another just a little bit better. It might not solve all the problems, but it's a start.

STAYING FLY: AFRICAN STUDENTS SET TRENDS

BY NICHOLE ALABI
Contributing Writer

Loafers, blazers, slacks and ties—all dress indicative of belonging in a Wall Street boardroom can be seen on the Yard in some of Howard's most fashionable imports.

African students have been attending Howard University and other American institutions from as early as the 1950s. The ideal has often been attending these vessels of learning to attain the world class education only to return home upon graduation. Since then, African students have increased in numbers, have stayed longer, and have left lasting impact.

For decades, Howard has been a hotbed of fashion, and with the continuing presence of African scholars at the Mecca we now have one of the most stylish groups within our midst.

By many, the style of African students on campus has been described as European influenced and very professional. Baggy jeans have been opted out for thinner, more high-end denim if not totally phased out by slacks, chinos and corduroys. Ties have become an everyday accessory for class as well as trench coats, and its shorter cousin—the car coat and blazer.

While students from Africa have looked to Europe for inspiration, students of African parentage who have been born and or raised in the West have also looked to their native culture as a brainwave for their style. Students like senior chemistry major Aghoghio Sowho are inspired by the mixing of traditional African pieces with modern western wear. "For Africans born here like myself, I am able to mix classic pieces, with vintage, eclectic, modern, trendy and African pieces to create my own style."

Sophomore biology major Norman Gyamfi also notices the difference between African and American dress and uses them to create his own style.



The Knights, a newly-formed African fraternity are known for their high academics and high style.

"Every summer, I stay with my dad [in Ghana]. The look there is more tailored, here it is more off the rack. I use both."

In the center of the African style revolution on campus are the Knights, a newly formed African fraternity founded on the campus. They are known not only for their high academic honors but their classic style. The gentlemen of the Knights can be seen rocking their signature black blazers along with other style staples. According to Delapo Olu-Ayemi and Suntu-el Mumba, members of the Knights, their closets are incomplete without a pair of Ferragamo driving shoes, good quality belts and cuff links, Bruno Magli shoes, and the essentials like Prada, Fendi and Gucci.

Other students on campus have also noticed the panache of the Knights and other Africans on campus. Senior communications management major Kadi Kadi remarked "they are a little sharper due to the fact that they are a little more international than we are."

Designers all over the world of couture have also taken

notice of the distinct style of Africans and have decided to incorporate the looks into their women's lines. This is what the fashion experts are calling "tribal chic."

Belgian designer Diane Von Furstenberg's new spring line is flanked with African inspiration. Her jersey dresses and tunics have bold geometric prints. These pieces are accompanied by safari jackets and khaki shorts. Designers like Cole Huan are using wood and turquoise adornments in their bags, throwbacks to the traditional elements and minerals found in Africa that have been used as embellishment for centuries. Even traditional classic American designers are jumping on the trend. Ralph Lauren's new jewelry line that can be found in department stores is capped off by pieces

"They are a little sharper due to the fact that they are a little more international than we are."

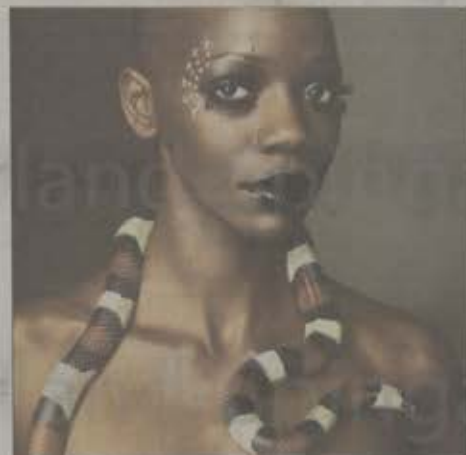
like his wooden door knockers, earrings and ivory pendants.

Whether we are looking to our African counterparts for

style ideas, or the fashion world is looking to our African ancestors to create new and innovative trends, Africa is truly in



From models Iman and Ebony Hath on the runway to Diane von Furstenberg's "tribal chic" collection Africa's take on style is gaining more influence than ever.



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