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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 110

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

THURSDAY notebook

WEATHER

THURS, 3/30:
SUNNY
HIGH: 67, LOW: 47

FRI, 3/31:
PARTLY CLOUDY
WINDY
HIGH: 73, LOW: 62

SAT, 4/1:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 72, LOW: 51

BREAKING NEWS

ALI SENTENCED

ACCORDING TO CNN.COM, AHMED OMAR ABU ALI OF ALEXANDRIA, VA WAS SENTENCED TO THIRTY YEARS IN PRISON FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT BUSH.

CAMPUS

GOING THROUGH WITHDRAWAL?

IT'S A TOUGH DECISION STUDENTS HAVE TO MAKE EVERY SEMESTER - TO WITHDRAW OR NOT
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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN - THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL IS BACK IN TOWN.
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BONDS UNDER INVESTIGATION

FORMER SENATE MAJORITY LEADER IS SET TO INVESTIGATE STEROID CHARGES AGAINST BARRY BONDS.
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APRIL 8
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APRIL 10 - 23
GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2006

MAY 13
COMMENCEMENT

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Behind the Campaign Poster: Adrian Fenty



Howard Law grad and D.C.'s Ward 4 Councilman Adrian Fenty (center) would be the youngest African-American mayor in the U.S. if he wins his bid.

BY MESSIAH RAMKISSOON
Contributing Writer

It is a Wednesday evening on Eastern Ave within the 4th ward district, currently under the political supervision of Councilman Adrian Fenty. Fenty, a candidate for the mayor of Washington, D.C., is joined by members of his staff as they march up the avenue knocking on doors, seeking support for the upcoming election.

Unsurprisingly, the members of this community and Adrian Fenty are far from strangers; they warmly embracing his visit, beeping from their vehicles and hailing from their porches.

White, who is a long-time resident of this neighborhood, acknowledges his support and willingness to vote for the mayoral candidate. "I see him around which makes a difference, dating as far back as the community basketball games."

White then went a step further by requesting an "Adrian Fenty for Mayor" sign in his front yard.

After serving two consecutive terms as Councilman for Ward 4 in Washington, D.C., Fenty says his decision to run for mayor stems from his quest to help as many people as possible and to also be able to change policy. If elected as mayor, his top three priorities will be: renovating schools, affordable housing and neighborhood policing. When asked about the core of his determination to pursue politics, Fenty said, "To help the city, to help people."

This is unquestionably evident with a history of

service to the local community. Fenty, who has a law degree from Howard University, was the former President of the Civic organization, which is a locally based community service entity. He then became involved with the ANC (Advisory Neighborhood Commission), in an attempt to be a greater servant and address the concerns of the residents of Washington, D.C.

With steady campaign promotion, back to back meetings and public speaking, Fenty hardly has free time during the course of his day. Also a married man and the father of twin boys, Fenty strives to keep the balance between his family life and politics. "My family is very supportive of me. Aside from that, I get energy from my work because I love what I do," said Fenty.

If elected, Fenty will be the youngest African-American mayor in the United States, which is particularly monumental for Washington, D.C., the nation's capital.

Campaign manager, Sinclair Skinner, follows along, persuading residents in the District to vote for Fenty. Sinclair left his job managing a dry cleaner on Georgia Avenue to assist Fenty with his candidacy. He says that he decided to work in support of the candidate when he realized that Fenty had the level of courage and conviction to change the world.

"If he could change the world, he could definitely change Washington, D.C. A lot of people talk; he makes it happen. He's very deliberate about what he says."

"I see [Fenty] around, which makes a difference, dating as far back as the community basketball games."

White, Local Resident

Career Fair Attracts HU's Best

BY AKEYLA BROWN
Hilltop Staff Writer

Parish McKeithan flocked to the Blackburn Ballroom to see what job opportunities were available at the Career Fair held yesterday in the Blackburn Ballroom.

"I came out to get an internship," said McKeithan, a sophomore marketing major. "It's crunch time. Everyone has got something lined up for the summer and I don't."

McKeithan was very pleased to have attended the event. "It was very helpful. I came with a resume and I got a lot of good connects."

Howard University students were able to search for internship and job opportunities during the annual job fair, sponsored by Target and the Howard University Career Services Center.

McKeithan said that there were improvements made this spring by the Career Services Center.

"The one in the fall wasn't as good, or maybe I wasn't motivated," she said.

Adole Rose, a senior advertising major, said that this spring, changes were made to the Career Fair to make it more accessible for international students.

At the Career Fair, Rose, who organized the fair, said that Career Services hopes to inform the students of the opportunities that will be presented to them within the workforce.

"The purpose is to make students aware of the job opportunities out there," Rose said.

McKeithan said that unfortunately, the turnout was not as great as she had expected.

"Not really a lot of other students came," McKeithan said. "I overheard nine employers say that they wished that more



Photos by David Smith - Hilltop Photo Editor

Yesterday, students connected with many potential employers in the Blackburn Center.

people would have come out."

Cheryl Delisser, a representative from Document Technologies, INC., agreed that the student turnout was disappointing.

"We are always looking for as many students as possible," Delisser said. "We are expanding clientele so we are looking to hire, and we are open for training."

She advised that those students who were unable to attend but are interested in a company like Document Technologies should visit their web site.

"They [Students] are welcome to visit our website and learn more about our company so that they can apply on line," she said.

On the other hand, Candace Atkinson, a representative from Amica, a mutual insurance firm, said that she was happy with the turnout.

"We attend as many of these as possible to meet as many qualified candidates as possible. We are looking to hire entry management positions," Atkinson said.



said. "We set up several interviews today."

She added, "We are hiring all majors. We are looking for leaders that are looking for a career with a great company. I would encourage any students that are interested in working with us to look at our website, www.amica.com."

Adria Simmons, a Howard Alumna and representative from Microsoft, said that she was very pleased with the turnout.

"We are looking to

hire finance and marketing majors for internships, and engineers for permanent employment," Simmons said. "We found some excellent candidates that were really strong."

To stay on top of the internship game, Simmons advises that students should always remember to get started early on internships.

"The most important thing is to follow up by emailing people right after you get their card."

PG County Officer Killed in Iraq



Photo Courtesy of www.fox43.com

Prince George's County Police Corporal Robert Hernandez of Silver Spring was killed in Baghdad Tuesday evening. Hernandez was initially a community officer in Hyattsville, Maryland before going to Iraq. The PG County Police Department said Hernandez was killed after his convoy was struck by an explosive. Hernandez was a 24-year military veteran, though he had only been in Iraq since last

summer. Officials from the Prince George's police department told NBC 4 that Hernandez received multiple awards during his career with the force, including a good conduct award before he left for Iraq. Hernandez leaves behind his family in Silver Spring, which includes his fiancée, adult son, and two children. Hernandez's parents and other family members live in Puerto Rico.

-Amber English, Metro Editor

'To Withdraw or Not to Withdraw...' Students Take 'Ws'



BY ALESHA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

As students go to class faithfully everyday, many get well acquainted with the person sitting to their left. Then, unexpectedly, it happens: That person has withdrawn.

Withdrawals, also known as "a student's saving grace," are popular around this time in the semester. Students begin to realize that maybe the class is not what they thought it would be. Or, perhaps, they cannot get the grade they had wanted.

Some students and professors feel that having the chance to withdraw from a class can be beneficial.

"I think withdrawals are helpful," said Zaree Walker, a sophomore broadcast journalism major. "A lot of times, students are debating on the likelihood of making a good grade in a certain course."

Donald Roe, Ph.D., a history instructor, said withdrawals "are a part of any academic environment." He said that there are circumstances where this way out is needed, but said a grade should not trump what is being learned.

"If it's a good class, don't withdraw because you won't get an A or a B," he said.

Junior history major Darren Murray said he appreciates the concept of withdrawals, but that "some people abuse it."

Some students do abuse their right to withdraw from classes by not applying the time and effort needed to be successful in the course. According to Sandra Gaines, a School of Communications academic advisor, withdrawals should be kept to a minimum because of the image W's give

to transcripts, even though they do not affect the grade point average (GPA).

"If you have too many [withdrawals], it looks bad," she said.

Other down sides include the effect withdrawals have on the opinion of prospective employers, opportunities for financial aid, and that too many withdrawals may leave you with a shortage of classes.

Withdrawing from a class requires filling out a form, getting it approved by the instructor and turning it in to an academic advisor. When a student withdraws from a class, he or she is admitting having once been enrolled in a class, but decided it is their best interest to get out while possible. It is discouraged, and intended only to be used as a last resort, as an accumulation of W's can result in academic penalty.

Most colleges and universities have some type of withdrawal system. At the Georgia Institute of Technology, freshman students have the option of exercising "Freshman Forgiveness," where freshman students are allowed to retake up to two classes that they received an "F" in without penalty.

At Carleton College, in Minnesota, students can drop classes up to two weeks into it without a penalty as long as they pick up a new class. Also at Carleton, students have the opportunity to let their academic advisor know, before the class is taken, that they do not expect to do well in the class and would prefer a "pass" or "fail" marking on their transcript instead of a letter grade.

It seems that this type of a system is necessary for college students. It helps those who need it and hurts those who abuse it.

Withdrawals have to be completed by April 8. Professors, students and academic advisors say W's can save students but may hurt them if they abuse the system.

Distinguished Speakers Mark the Legacy of Rankin Chapel

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE
Hilltop Staff Writer

For over seven decades, the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel has served as a pulpit to some of the world's most renowned orators, as well as national and international dignitaries.

"I know that Dean Richardson and those before him try to choose people who have contributed to the African American community as speakers for the chapel services," said Charlotte Young, freshman broadcast news major and chapel assistant.

The list of speakers is extensive, with legendary pastors, religious scholars and authors seeking to inspire and civil leaders who have stories to tell.

According to Calvin Smith, program coordinator, the list includes Frederick Douglass, former trustee and leader of the abolitionist movement; Mary McLeod Bethune, champion for civil rights; Mortimer W. Johnson, the first black president of Howard University; W.E.B. DuBois, distinguished author and noted social historian; President John F. Kennedy; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Nobel Peace Prize winner; President Bill Clinton; Vernon Johns, prolific preacher and college president; Desmond

Tutu, Samuel Proctor, Bishop Vashli McKenzie, Howard alumna and the first female AME bishop; Maya Angelou, poet laureate; Gardner Taylor, one of the nation's greatest pastors.

The chapel stands on campus as a place where each and every student, faculty member and guest can be enlightened, inspired and comforted. Throughout time, it has become a staple, and the legacy of Howard University has shed light on Rankin Chapel, attracting the type of distinguished speakers expected of the Howard name.

"Most speakers welcome the opportunity to address students who will be leaders of the nation and global community," Smith said. "They also are cognate of the great legacy of the Chapel and the University and feel privileged to be a part of it. As Howard has assembled some of the greatest scholars, it is considered the center of Black intelligentsia. The University [has] sought to bring some of the most effective preachers in the nation to address its student body."

The chapel's history directly reflects the University's focus on meaningful and continual improvements in the life of its students and

the African-American community.

"Howard, as a whole, has maintained a legacy of leadership and service to the community with a strong commitment to religious life along with it," said Victoria Ramos, junior political science major and faithful chapel service attendee. "Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel and its many facets is the wonderful result of this."

Not only does the legacy of Howard remain strong, but the legacy of Rankin chapel endures as well.

"It is a tremendous privilege that we have. Sunday after Sunday, these great speakers, and just as they acknowledge so must we in that to whom much is given, much is required."

"Zora Neale Hurston, as she witnessed Convocation in Rankin Chapel, whispered a prayer to the spirit of Howard and said, 'I am a tiny part of you and I pray that I will never do anything to make you ashamed of me.' That is the spirit of Rankin Chapel that we are a part of something great and when we participate and when we worship, we too become a part of the legacy of Howard University," Smith said.



Andrew Rankin Chapel has been the speaking place of numerous icons.

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3.31.06

The Galleria



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HOWARD UNIVERSITY SPRING BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

APRIL 2 - APRIL 7

GIVE

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2006

SUNDAY APRIL 2ND

EXPRESSION

"SIMPLE COMPLEXITIES"
ART AUCTION
BLACKBURN GALLERY LOUNGE

4PM

THURSDAY APRIL 6TH

FLARE

"RUMORS"
FASHION SHOWCASE
CRAMTON AUDITORIUM

7PM

MONDAY APRIL 3RD

WISDOM

"THE ART OF KNOWLEDGE"
MOVIE PREMIERE OF "AKEELAH AND THE BEE"
CRAMTON AUDITORIUM

7PM

FRIDAY APRIL 7TH

PRAISE

"THE OZZIE'S"
AWARDS SHOWCASE
CRAMTON AUDITORIUM

7PM

TUESDAY APRIL 4TH

PASSION

"PASSIONATE RHYTHMS: RHYTHMIC STANZAS"
POETRY SHOWCASE
CRAMTON AUDITORIUM

7PM

94th Cherry Blossom Festival: An Event for All

BY AMBER ENGLISH
Metro Editor

The weather's getting warmer, and thousands of tourists are flocking to D.C. The 2006 National Cherry Blossom Festival began March 25 and runs through April 9. The peak blossoming has been forecasted today, and people are ready to get out and enjoy the plethora of events scheduled for the next two weeks.

This year's festival marks the 94th celebration of the original gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Tokyo to the city of Washington D.C. in 1912. Since then, the festivities have grown, and 2006 brings daily performances on the Tidal Basin, multiple demonstrations at Union Station and the annual Cherry Blossom Parade on April 8.

For the sports lover, the National Cherry Blossom Festival sponsors a Soccer Tournament. The tournament will feature competition between amateur, club and recreational teams. The tournament will be held April 1 and 2 at the JFK Hockey fields.

If soccer isn't enough, this weekend is also the 10th annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk. This non-competitive walk honors Japanese-American citizens for their sacrifices during the Second World War.



Today marks the forecasted peak for the cherry blossom trees in the Tidal Basin area.

Also this weekend is the much anticipated fireworks display along the waterfront. Saturday night, the National Cherry Blossom Festival will sponsor a fireworks show at the southwest waterfront. In addition to hosting the show, the festival will also sponsor a fireworks cruise on the new and improved Spirit of Washington. Spectators will be able to enjoy food, music, and the fireworks show.

Aside from pure recre-

ation, this year's festivities will also include cultural exhibitions. Through the entire duration of the festival, traditional Japanese kimono will be on display at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City.

The exhibition "From Geisha to Diva: The Kimonos of Ichimaru" is the story of an early 20th century Geisha through her personal kimonos and accessories. This exhibit, however, runs after the Cherry Blossom Festival, through April

23. Of all the Cherry Blossom Festival activities, perhaps the most popular event is the Cherry Blossom Parade. For years, the parade has been one of Washington's biggest spectator events. The parade runs down Constitution Avenue Saturday April 8, and is led by Wheel of Fortune's Pat Sajak. One of the American Idol finalists will perform during the parade, and the current Miss America, Jennifer Berry, will be on hand for parade events.

Alongside the parade, the Japan-America Society of Washington D.C. will sponsor Sakura Matsuri, a Japanese Street Festival. The free event, now in its 45th year, will feature music, food, and art displays.

The above is just a sampling of the many activities making up the 2006 National Cherry Blossom Festival. For more information, and a glance at events day by day, you can visit the official website of the National Cherry Blossom Festival at <http://www.nationalcherryblossom.com>.

Metro Briefs

District to Tackle Underage Drinking



D.C. government officials are discussing strategies to discourage underage drinking. Mayor Anthony Williams said some of his department heads joined with other community leaders in a town hall meeting to discuss the issue. The city's attorney general, Robert Spangolone, said ABC's news

that because D.C. is a college town, his office deals with many cases involving underage drinking. Williams said some D.C. Public Schools survey shows that 24 percent of surveyed teens reported riding with a driver who had been drinking.

Pit Bull Owner Sentenced to Prison Time



A Springfield judge has sentenced the woman whose three pit bulls fatally attacked an 85-year-old woman to three years in prison. Donna Large was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in December after her pit bulls attacked Dorothy Hollins last March while she was walking her

dog. The Large initially faced up to ten years in prison. After the attack, Hollins's family earned a petition that urged strict dog laws. This case was the first time in Virginia that a person has been convicted of manslaughter for an attack by their dogs.

Public Hearing Scheduled for D.C. School Closings



The D.C. Board of Education has scheduled a public hearing for Thursday on how the school system should go about closing up to 30 schools. The hearing will address the criteria that Superintendent Clifford Evans will use in decid-

ing which schools to close. The superintendent is expected to submit his plan to the school board this week. Nearly 30 schools will be closed this fall and the rest will be closed by August of next.

Baltimore Filmmaker Lands New Court TV Show



Baltimore filmmaker John Waters is currently developing a new series for Court TV. His show, "The Death Do Us Part," will dramatize the events of a married couple where one spouse eventually kills the

other. Waters will play the role of "the groom sniper," first appearing as an unexpected guest at the wedding. The series does not yet have a start date.

WHAT'S A CHERRY BLOSSOM, ANYWAY?

The Cherry Blossom tree, or Sakura in Japanese, is native to Japan, and is revered as a cultural symbol. Cherry fruit, however, come from a different species of cherry tree. The cherry trees come in different species, the most popular variety is the **Somai Yoshino**, with flowers that are nearly pure white, with pale pink near the stem. Other varieties include the **yamazakura**, **yaezakura**, and **shidarezakura**. These varieties have petals with more pink in them, and resemble the trees around the tidal basin. Cherry blossom flowers bloom annually, and within a week, the flowers fall before the leaves come out. During World War II, the cherry blossom tree served as a motivating symbol for Japanese people.



The End Of The Semester is Near...Get Those Articles Published Before it's Too Late!!
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and finish your Journalism Requirements!

A 2-day conference of dynamic scholars, artists, ministry leaders and friends of the arts. On **Friday, March 31st** and **Saturday, April 1st**, 2006, Howard University students, faculty and staff, and friends in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, will have the *awesome opportunity* to explore the sacred arts as an exciting and emerging area of ministry. Leading scholars and sacred artists in the ministries of drama, dance, music, visual arts, crafts, writing and make-up artistry will all converge on the campus of **Howard University School of Divinity** bringing with them a wealth of knowledge and experience to guide participants in tapping into their “inner wells” through the interplay of art and spirituality.

Participants should expect to walk away from this experience with fresh insight into how the arts not only inform spirituality and how spirituality informs art, but how the interplay of the two can be used for personal and community empowerment and transformation. Additionally participants will have tools to inform their discussions around calling, vocation and discernment.

This event will feature a number of workshops and general sessions as well as many opportunities to witness the awesome integration of art and spirituality through song, dance, poetry and drama. Participation in this event is **FREE!** All are welcome.

Hip Hop & Higher Education Symposium

March 30th 2006

Bakari Kitwana, Author: *The Hip Hop Generation*

Malaysia Ford, BET VJ, BET Style

Li Ma, Hip Hop Artist

Li X, Music Video Director

Cy Young, Hip Hop Artist

Rev. Lemmy Yarwood, *The Hip Hop Census*

April Silver, Akita Workings

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and Moorland-Spingarn

Research Center

Registration is free and open to all
Blackboard Campus Services

For more information, contact

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EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 110

MARCH 30, 2006

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Keeping Black Businesses on Board

The Philadelphia Tribune, one of the oldest African-American newspapers, is now losing employees due to a low wage strike. "For far too long, union employees at the Tribune have suffered under plantation-like conditions, with sharecroppers' wages, astronomical health-insurance premiums and a lack of overtime compensation," the union statement said in a Philly.com article.

A headline comparing the conditions to slave wages struck one Hilltopper because one wouldn't normally associate a black-owned business with slavery. In terms of employment, this scenario applies to all Howard students, not just journalism majors. Once we graduate, we will have the critical decision of working at a black or mainstream business.

There is probably a little part

of all of us that might feel more comfortable working around black people. The assumed pressures of racism, discrimination and unfair treatment seem to diminish when we think about working around other people of color versus in an all-white boardroom. Many Howard students understand the mission of

being in working there and stay in business?

One problem black businesses tend to face is the availability of money. This applies to HBCUs as well when we look at schools losing accreditation and closing down. We pass 'mom and pop shops' on Georgia Avenue

to go to Chipotle. We pick up the Washington Post instead of The Afro. Black companies and businesses will have trouble staying open and making money if we don't support them... so we should start there. The more we support our businesses the better they

will do. The better they do... the more attractive they become to potential employees. As budding entrepreneurs and money-minded students, if we start a company, we will need the support from the black community. It is an input/output cycle that we must invest in.

Our View:

We must utilize resources and support our own businesses or else they won't survive.

supporting our own businesses and the amount of responsibility and upward mobility we might have working within a black business.

On the flip side, we could be a key addition to businesses that lack diversity. What can black businesses do to keep us inter-

African Americans, Latinos

Charles White

As is usual, I notice that some of us are jumping on the immigration bandwagon to assist the Latinos with their immigration problem. Some of us are so quick to help others, but those that we often choose to help only use our backs for their own causes, and never help us with our own.

Not too long ago, the president of Mexico made a racist remark about African Americans' work ethics, and not one Latino spoke up in our defense. Shortly after that incident, some racist postage stamps were criticized and Fox was asked to take steps to withdraw them by President Bush II, and Fox refused. As I expected, no Latino spoke up and they could have been useful.

Since they live in this country, I'm sure they fully understood the racist symbolism of those stamps, but our Latino "friends" were silent, as usual.

Some of us believe that, because many Latinos live in our neighborhoods, that they're one of us. However, I believe they only live with us because they're unable to live with whites.

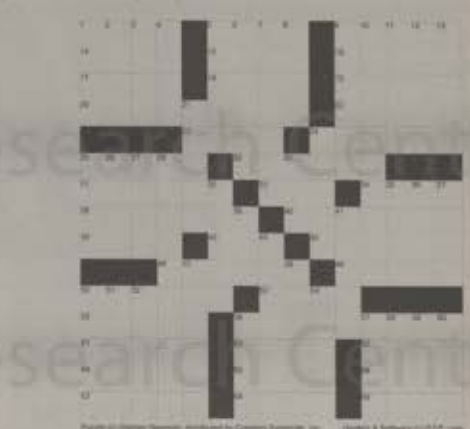
1/25/06 FREQUENT FLYERS by Daniel H. Clark, edited by Stacey Newman

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- 1 "Get real!"
- 5 Mountain passes
- 9 "I'm cool"
- 14 Plunkie fruit
- 15 Roaring chamber
- 16 Die
- 17 Capshorn in Moss
- 18 Knock ___ loop
- 19 Fourth driver option
- 20 Eggroll
- 22 Gold truck
- 23 Mineral deposits
- 24 Birch-tree solvers
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- 31 Young cow
- 33 ___ Pado, Brazil
- 34 "Garfield" dog
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- 45 Takes the wheel
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- 49 "What's it ___?" (Jodie's query)
- 50 Harem kin
- 53 Lab weight
- 55 Designer blingon
- 56 Reckless pedestrian
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- 63 "___ alone Nachtrunk"
- 64 Movie critic Roger
- 65 Pato cousin
- 66 Smooth-talking
- 67 Given off James
- 68 "Thum..."
- 69 Fizzy drink

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- 1 Sets at a price
- 2 Cabbage concoction
- 3 Minute amount
- 4 Know-something



Picture by Gregory Heisler, distributed by Creative Commons, Inc.

- 5 Like very much
- 6 Declared lunkies
- 7 Roads
- 8 Cold spell
- 9 Clean one's desk
- 10 Tournament format
- 11 Spruce
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- 26 Low in fat
- 27 Lurchin director
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- 36 Bit of gossip
- 37 Latin 101 verb
- 39 Not even one
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- 57 Relay-race parts
- 58 2x pounds
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Come grab a story at the budget meeting
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T.I.'s Latest Album Almost Fit for a 'King'

BY STEPHEN REDHEAD
Contributing Writer

The phrase has been speared from hip-hop artists' mouths for years. It's been said in competition with other artists to find out who has the longevity, dexterity, and respect to truly carry the title as king. A king should be able to hold his own in any environment and excel in all areas of his craft.

Rapper T.I., the ambassador of Atlanta-based Grand Hustle clique, is willing to take that title. He certainly has the respect and street credibility, including the connections and big names to vouch for him.

This is evident in his new album, "King," which includes appearances by U.G.K., Jamie Foxx, actor/comedian Mike Papp, B.G., and street favorite, Young Jeezy, just to name a few. The tracks that stand out the most are produced by New York's own Just Blaze, proving that he is one of the most versatile beatmakers in hip-hop music today.

Tracks such as "King Back" showcase T.I.'s southern drawl and laid-back delivery over hype production. It's also clear that the southern artist also has an interest in east coast music as well, particularly the track "Why You Wanna." This is his testament to a woman with ill feelings toward him, with brilliant production that samples "Gypsy Woman" by Crystal Waters and



a chorus borrowed from A Tribe Called Quest.

T.I. also represents the South heavily with bass-booming tracks like "Front Back" with U.G.K. and "I'm Straight" with B.G. and Young Jeezy.

Although he has help from a number of artists on this project, there are some flaws. Some of the heavier production doesn't fit T.I.'s flow, making him sound uncomfortable with his words jumbled by his ad-libs and voice overs. An example of this is "I'm Talkin'

To You," where Just Blaze's horns and drums drown out T.I.'s vocals, especially in the third verse as he attempts to rap in a fast-paced delivery. Despite this, one would find that he's throwing darts at a certain prominent southern artist in this verse, and also in the third verse of the lead single "What You Know." Those who have followed T.I.'s history of rap beefs could generate an idea of who this person is.

However, the lively production works in his favor in "Get It." This

Swizz Beats track, as well as "Stand Up Guy," are sure to keep the clubs jumping as the infectious chorus and smooth transitions blast through the speakers.

T.I. also shows his introspective side in "Live In The Sky," with lyrics expressing that when he dies, he hopes to lead to heaven.

One of the most interesting collaborations of this album is "Goodlife" with Pharrell Williams and Chicago's own Common. In between Pharrell's melodic chorus, T.I. shares lyrics such as "Fear ain't in the heart of me, I learned 'just do it' you get courage from your fears right after you go through it/ now I come through on the coupe on 28/ that ain't bad for a [brother] who ain't even finished school." Meanwhile, Common drops his always potent lyricism with "Sales projected ain't show how effective lessons learned, sessions turned to life reflected/ and everything I found real in life, I kept it/ they say life's a teacher, you're going to get tested."

"King" shows growth in T.I.'s artistry and is definitely an entertaining CD to ride around playing. He may not be ready to be crowned king just yet, but he's getting closer to the throne.



Virtual Reality Games May Help Correct 'Lazy Eye'

People with lazy eye (amblyopia) may benefit from playing virtual reality (VR) computer games, say researchers at Nottingham University in the U.K.

They found that it's possible to use this approach in order to encourage the lazy eye to be more active and to get both eyes working together. As a patient plays a game, the computer sends different images to each eye. The eyes have to then up in order for the patient to be successful at the game, BBC News reported.

Traditionally, VR has been used to present realistic environments in 3D so you imagine you're there because of the depth of the world around you," said researcher Richard Eastgate. "But we're using VR to make something unrealistic. You could call it virtual unreality."

In one experiment, one hour of a virtual reality racing game achieved the same results as 400 hours of the traditional approach that forces the lazy eye to work harder by wearing a patch over the good eye, BBC News reported.

WHO: HIV Treatment Program Misses Goal

Each day, about 18,000 babies worldwide are born with HIV because their mothers don't get the antiretroviral drugs they need, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) report that said a program to expand access in the drugs had failed to achieve its target.

The report said fewer than 10 percent of pregnant women with HIV in developing countries received antiretroviral drugs between 2003 and 2005.

Currently, about 4.3 million people get the drugs, which is well short of the goal of three million by 2005 set by the WHO and UNAIDS in 2003, BBC News reported.

Marijuana Tar Levels Seven Times Higher Than Cigarettes

Marijuana smoke has seven times more tar and carbon monoxide than cigarette smoke and the health risks of smoking three joints are about equal to the risks from a whole pack of cigarettes, according to a French National Consumers' Institute study.

The study also found that marijuana smoke contains more toxic chemicals than cigarette smoke.

Researchers used an artificial smoking machine to compare 280 specially-rolled joints of marijuana leaves and resin to regular Marlboro cigarettes. The machine measured the smoke's content for tar and carbon monoxide, and for the toxic chemicals benzene, nicotine and toluene, Agence France Presse reported.

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

'Iron Man' Preserves Wu Legacy With New LP

BY STEPHEN REDHEAD
Contributing Writer

In the year 1992, a group of rappers emerged into the mainstream hip-hop scene at a time where party records were prominent, and most people were cracking jokes as they left the local cinemas which showcased a "House Party" movie.

The nine-member ensemble from self-proclaimed "street reporters" from Staten Island, N.Y., each had a distinctive style and their own personal slang, accompanied by some of the rawest lyricism ever put on wax. Over the years, we have seen this group put out album after album, including solo projects. Now it's the year 2006, and the New York-based rap music is less heard, and the South has dominated the charts. The game, however, is far from lost.

Ghostface Killah, member of the Wu-Tang Clan, returns with his fifth album "Fishscale." This album further proves that the Wu-Tang legacy still lives on. To many, this is his best release since "Supreme Clientele." Ghostface decides to incorporate all of his attempts from his previous albums into this 24-track project to create an impressive display of talent, soul and dedication.

"Pretty Toney," as he likes to call himself, may come off as unorthodox to younger listeners (he doesn't use a lot of choruses in his tracks), but it is his cohesive imagery, commanding, mic presence, and unconventional flow that keeps the listener's attention at its



highest peak. Ghostface also decides to take some old and new friends along for the ride, such as his Theodore Unit, R&B sensation Ne-Yo, newcomer Def Jam-signed Megan Rochell, and The Notorious B.I.G. on a bonus track.

Ghostface continues to bring the flare that he's known for as he attacks the Just Blaze-produced track "Trailblazer." Stay ballin' with ven-

geance/ My art is crafty darts while you stuck on Laffy Taffy/ wondering how did ya'll [suckers] get past me/ I've been doing this before Nas dropped the "nasty." The album features an array of grimy instrumentals and off-the-wall skits and interludes, particularly "Heart Street Directions."

The album also features a Wu-Tang Clan reunion on "9 Milli Bros."

each spitting verses with the precision of a loaded gun pistol. Some of the members seemed out of shape in this track, but other highlights include Masta Killa, Ol' D.B., and Method Man. The music continues as it flows into "Beauty Jackson," a track produced by the late, great, yet under-appreciated Jay Dilla. Ghost's amazing imagery shines on this track as he describes everything he sees from approaching a woman at a bus stop, the clothes she's wearing, the weather and the type of make-up, only to finish with a twist ending.

Nearly every track is a standout, including the hilarious "Whip You With A Strap" in which Ghost describes how his alcoholic mother used to punish him for misbehaving as a child. An even more eccentric track is "Underwater," produced by MF Doom, where he literally raps about being underwater with lyrics such as seeing "SpongeBob in a Bentley coupe, bangin' the lemons." However, the most powerful song on the album has to be "Mocuna," with Megan Rochell's soul-stirring performance and Ghost's verses.

This album is indeed a masterpiece and deserves as close as a 4.5 out of 5 rating, but simply because no one is perfect. It is evident now, more than ever, that New York hip-hop is back in its purest form.

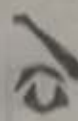
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Talk is Costley



Reaping What Administrators Have Sown

BY DREW COSTLEY
Sports Editor

It was my wall of fame.

Well, it was more a product of a boring Saturday afternoon in which I came upon a large wooden plank and a few cans of spray paint. The multi-colored board housed the names of all of the people, places and trends that twirled around roost in the world wind that was my eleven year-old mind. The omnipresent two names that represented a prevailing problem in all of competitive sports: Sammy Sosa and Allen Iverson.

My sports socialization occurred during an era in which athletes young and old showcased some of the most amazing feats in all of history. I sat and anxiously watched stories such as the Sosa-McGuire home run race (I was a fan of Sosa) and the "all for not" playoff scoring-bouts of Iverson, Vince Carter and Kobe Bryant (who are all still without their OWN championships).

The confinal issue, though, was that there was less of an emphasis placed on the fundamentals and strategy of sports like baseball and basketball. Teams, owners and fans alike were generally all about the big dunk or the long ball. Issues such as steroid use and low graduation rates were given the cold shoulder and the majority of sports fans carried on as surburbs, continuing to ignore the fact that while Carter may have put it through his legs and in one side and out the other, he still has no rings.

The epidemic was reflected throughout all of our sporting lives. Kids went to the playground to practice Rafer Alston and Starbury's concrete-sufficient dimes and ignored passing lanes, squaring to the basket and making use of the charity stripe.

For the first time in history OMC became the first three letters of a potential professional high-school athlete's vocabulary.

But, fortunately for our generation of sports fans, Paul Tagliabue and David Stern were warlords in the fight to bring sports back to the basics.

And what has become the result of all of this legislation is that we are getting better quality sports on both the professional and collegiate level.

In NCAA football, we have seen teams with senior and upperclassmen leadership win the national championship the past few years. Matt Leinart won when he was a junior, stayed and took his team back to the "Ship" the next year for the third consecutive year.

In the NBA we are getting more seasoned players coming out of the NCAA with players like Emeke Okafor and Ben Gordon making an immediate impact on their pro teams.

And not to mention how NCAA basketball has been affected by this trend. Besides this year's NCAA tourney, which has been unpredictable to say the least, most other Final Four teams this past few years have been led by upperclassmen. The past few seasons, Duke, with Shelden Williams, J.J. Redick, Daniel Ewing and Chris Doherty, UNC with Rashad McCants and Raymond Felton and Maryland when they won the championship in 2002 with Juan Dixon, Lenny Baxter, Steve Blake and Chris Wilton.

And finally in the MLB, the past two World Champions, Chicago and Boston were fundamentally sound with veteran players getting the job done.

This list goes on. And hopefully, with the continued brilliance of the three big sport commissioners that are making decisions to shape the future of their leagues, the continued back to basics movement in sports will go on.

Duke Lacrosse Players Under Investigation for Alleged Rape

Multiple Players on Team Previously Charged with Various Offenses

BY DREW COSTLEY
Sports Editor

Court documents showed that fifteen players of the 47 man Duke roster that were alleged participants in the rape of an exotic dancer were charged with various other charges. The offenses range from underage alcohol possession to loud noise and public urination.

The team is in the middle of an investigation stemming from allegations that they raped an exotic dancer at an off-campus party on March 13.

Duke University president, Richard Brodhead, suspended the team, which is ranked number three in the nation, until further information is discovered regarding the allegations brought against the players.

"In this painful period of uncertainty, it is clear to me, as it was to the players, that it would be inappropriate to resume the normal schedule of play," President Richard Brodhead told ESPN news services Tuesday.

The president led a forum to discuss the issue with Duke's student body. The forum was closed to the press, Duke spokesman Geoffrey Mock said.

"It was a meeting at which the students could share their thoughts about the topic," Mock said. Although the number of students in attendance to the forum was undetermined, the meeting was opened to all students.

The woman told Durham police that she and another woman were hired to perform at an off-campus, private party on March 13. The woman, who is a student at North Carolina Central University, told police that she was pulled into a bath-



Before allegations that members of the Duke lacrosse team raped a North Carolina Central University student, who was performing at a private party, the team was ranked third in the nation.

room and raped by three men.

Forty-six members of the 47 man roster were required to give cotton swab DNA samples. The only player who wasn't tested is black, because the woman said that the alleged attackers were white. The woman is black.

"I needed to have the information about who will be charged," District Attorney Mike Nifong said. "I feel pretty confident that a rape occurred."

Team captains of the Blue Devils issued a statement to President Brodhead in which they stated that it is in the best interest of the university that the team be disqualified from play.

"Because of the intense emotions surrounding these allegations, we feel it is in the best interest of the University, the community and our families

that the team should not play competitively until the DNA results verify our unequivocal denial of these allegations," the statement said.

The statement also predicted that the allegations were false.

Duke's campus and the town of Durham, which has a history of racial tensions among lower class black and white people, have been tense as a result of the allegations.

"The circumstances of the rape indicated a deep racial motivation for some of the things that were done," Nifong said. "It makes a crime that is by its nature one of the most offensive and invasive even more so."

Nifong said that all of the team members are sticking together and not talking to investigators. He also warned

that he may bring aiding and abetting charges against several of the players.

Several citizens of Durham have demonstrated in response to the silence of the lacrosse team and the way the university has handled the situation.

Groups have demonstrated outside of the house in which the alleged attack occurred and gathered outside of the house of Duke Provost, Peter Lange, where they knocked together pots and pans until Lange came out to answer various questions.

Lange said on Monday that it would be in the students' best interest to come forward and cooperate with authorities.

"The students would be well-advised to come forward. They have chosen not to," Lange said.

Lax.com's Top 20 Lacrosse Teams

1. Virginia
2. Maryland
3. Duke
4. Cornell
5. Georgetown
6. Hofstra
7. Princeton
8. John Hopkins
9. UMass
10. Syracuse
11. Notre Dame
12. Navy
13. Denver
14. Delaware
15. Pennsylvania
16. Binghamton
17. Albany
18. Hobart
19. Towson
20. Loyola

Former Senate Majority Leader to Investigate Bonds



Photo Courtesy of www.espn.com

Major League Baseball has plans of hiring former Senate Majority Leader, George Mitchell, to investigate allegations that San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds used steroids for five years of his professional baseball career.

The investigation will also include several other major-league players, Bonds being the most notable of them all.

Coming soon...
Look out for Saving for Par, a three-part series look at how the historic Langston Golf Course has stood out and affected an impoverished community

The Hilltop

Survey Says...

Reading The Hilltop Sports section will impress your friends and vanquish your enemies.*