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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 111

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

FRIDAY notebook

WEATHER
FRI, 3/31:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH 75, LOW: 61

SAT, 4/1:
AM SHOWERS
HIGH 73, LOW: 52

SUN, 4/2:
SUNNY
HIGH 88, LOW: 52

BREAKING NEWS

FERRY SINKS

ACCORDING TO CNN.COM, A PASSENGER FERRY CARRYING ABOUT 150 PEOPLE SANK OFF THE COAST OF SAHRAH ON THURSDAY. 44 BODIES HAVE BEEN RECOVERED THROUGHOUT THE RESCUE EFFORTS.

CAMPUS

STROKE OF GENIUS

READ IN CAMPUS HOW ONE ARTIST IS INSPIRED BY DIVINE FORCES. PAGE 2



LIFE & STYLE

WHAT'S BEEF: PART 2

SEE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN HIP-HOP JUMPED COASTS. PAGE 9



SPORTS

OPENING DAY

OPENING DAY DAY IS NEXT MONDAY. FIND OUT WHAT THE NATIONALS ARE DOING TO PREPARE FOR THE SEASON. PAGE 9



HU CALENDAR

MARCH 31
LAST DAY OF GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2006

APRIL 8
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE
LAST DAY TO COMPLETE A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY

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Hip-Hop in Higher Education



Panelists included singer Lil' Mo and video director Little X.

BY SHANAE HARRIS
Staff, Campus Editor

"Whoever thought that hip-hop could take it this far," asked Howard Ph.D. student Joshua Kondwani Wright, quoting acclaimed hip-hop artist the Notorious B.I.G.. As chair of Thursday's Hip-Hop and Higher Education Symposium, Wright along with various speakers came together to explore the culture of hip-hop and help to infuse it into academics.

Co-sponsored by the Howard Graduate School and the Moorland Spangarn Research Center, heads of the event said their goal was to discuss hip-hop on many levels.

"We're bringing people together to talk about hip-hop from an academic, political and sociological standpoint," Wright said. "I believe that hip-hop itself can be used as a tool to help educate students of all levels."

The all-day symposium had panels discussing such topics as views on hip-hop's role on higher education, why hip-hop matters at Howard University, the economic and political impact, and sex and gender roles

in Hip Hop and Music Videos

With a host of experts speakers on the topic of hip-hop, including Bakari Kitwana, author of *The Hip Hop Generation*, Lil' Mo, hip-hop artist, Lil' X, music video director, and Rev. Lennox Yearwood from The Hip-Hop Caucus, panels sat down to discuss with students all aspects of hip-hop and their importance.

Orlando Taylor, Dean of the Graduate School, unable to attend the symposium, sent his words of encouragement saying, "some may perceive hip-hop as a fad of young African-Americans, and as something that will soon fade away [but] it has become a worldwide phenomenon."

In discussing hip-hop history, DJ Iran, radio host of 93.9 WKYS said that he felt that this was the one thing missing from hip-hop.

"It would be great for it to tell its own history. Hip-hop has earned its right to be in the realm of great music over the years," he said.

Others agreed with the radio host, stating that black people and hip-hop deserve recognition after all

these years.

In a discussion entitled, "Hustle and Flow: The Economic and Political Impact of Hip-Hop" Rev. Lennox Yearwood said that, "it's not the hustle and flow, but the reason we have to hustle and flow in the first place. People have been pumping black people for a long time."

Being at a historically black institution did not stop panel members from talking about hip-hop's affect on other cultures as well.

"So many people are embracing hip-hop. I remember hearing a 'regular' white boy recite the entire words to Bigger one time and I was amazed," DJ Iran said.

Reactions from the audience were vivid when in an introduction to the discussion on sex and gender roles, the panel showed a video of recording artist Bubba Sparxx showing the butts of women in for his "Ma New Booty" single.

Jeanne Jones, radio host for 93.9 WKYS commented to the female members of the audience. "Women we are in front of the camera a lot. I want to see us behind the camera fulfilling some of those positions you do ordinarily see us in," Jones said.

According to Wright, the underlying purpose of the event is to develop the nation's first minor in hip-hop at Howard.

"Hip-hop can serve as a bridge to break the communication gap between professors and students as well as encouraging young black men to attend and graduate from college."

Other panelists agreed with the idea to bring hip-hop into the academic light as well.

"I'm blown away by hip-hop being a possible minor. I think it will be a brave endeavor," DJ Iran said. "If Howard has to be the catalyst for hip-hop to be documented, then it is a great facilitator for it."

Students Encourage Good Health

BY TAYLOR MASON
Contributing Writer

Howard University students and guests from the medical field gathered in the WHUT studio yesterday to discuss the disparity of health in the African American community.

This student run production, titled "Prevention is the Best Medicine," was organized with the goal to educate the Howard community about the health issues affecting African Americans particularly between the ages of 18 and 30.

The program included panelists Cecil Connolly, Washington Post staff writer, Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., M.A.C.P., and Thomas Gaither, M.D., Program Moderator, January Payne, asked questions regarding decreased levels of health care awareness, disparity of health care knowledge between men and women, Sickle Cell Anemia, kidney disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and other diseases prone to African Americans.

Many medical issues were tended to, however the main focus was set on addressing reasons why health care dis-

parity exists in the African American community and the possible resolutions.

Connolly believes that finances play a huge role in health disparity. She stated that even though African Americans may know their health status they might not have the proper finances to address their issue.

"There is not enough money going into public health at local, state and even federal levels. The distribution of contraceptives has declined significantly, reports of HIV/AIDS cases has not been recorded correctly... and diagnostic centers fail to inform their patients about the importance of tuberculosis testing," said Connolly.

Dr. Gaither stressed the importance of cultural competence. "Cultural competence is key to understanding healthcare discrepancy of your patients," he said with conviction. "A doctor must understand their patient's background and culture in order to successfully reveal disease prevention. All people are different and we need to treat them as such."

Dr. Rogers strongly advocated

the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). "The NIDDK is committed to bringing the right information to those who need it," Rogers stated.

As for prevention, Connolly believes mass communication is key. "The media has an enormous influence on young Americans. Creative programs geared toward young people and centered around proper health care have been successful in the past."

Connolly also stated that communicating disease prevention should begin at an early age.

"One starts developing their habits at ages four, five, and six. This is the time to incorporate proper health care in a child's learning regimen."

"I think student run programs like the health forum that occurred yesterday will catch the attention of Howard University students on a much larger scale. I am even more interested about what healthcare experts have to say now that my peers are involved," said sophomore biology major Traci Bessard.

Director Chris Robinson Talks ATL

BY CHARREAH JACKSON
Managing Editor

Sitting in a packed theater in Maryland, director Chris Robinson can't enjoy the advanced screening of the movie *ATL*. The popular music video director is too busy noting the final changes of his directing debut on the big screen and wondering why the sound of the movie is off.

Many Howard students plan to hit theaters this weekend to make their own decisions on the film and Robinson hopes they walk away not having watched *Tip T.I.* Harris is in his first movie, but remembering *Kushad*, the hard working character the Atlanta rapper plays, who wants the best for his brother and himself in the coming-of-age film.

"The more you watch the movie, the more you realize it has nothing to do with skating," Robinson said on the film that's backdrop is a skating rink in Atlanta and was originally named *Jellybeans*, for a rink of the same name.

Though he attended Hartford Community College and Foothill College in California, Robinson is no stranger to the Howard University community, having grown up in Maryland. He, like the many students who traveled far to attend school, see great value in the experience of going to a new place.

"It expanded my mind to go out of state and across the country to school," he said. "Much of my education was the great education of being away from home."

Robinson's video directing start came when his friend received a record deal that took him to Sweden and let Robinson come and direct the video. Now over a decade later, Robinson laughs thinking how bad that video looks to him, having now worked with Nas, Snoop Dog, Alicia Keys and Jay-Z.

For Robinson, the transition from videos to movies was "100 percent harder" to him because it was different. Where in videos he could pan to someone singing or dancing if something went wrong, in motion picture there is no back up or safety net.

The director spent so much time seeking to learn the city of Atlanta in his six-month stay that he had the entire filming crew wear gold teeth that are renowned in the southern city and plans on moving to the southern capital.

"Here's two years of my life I'm giving to this

See *ATL*, NEWS A3



Music Video director Chris Robinson's debuts his first movie, *ATL*, which opens today.

Residents', Others' Speculation Rises Over Levees



The destruction of the levees in New Orleans remains a question.

BY SIMONE WHITE
Contributing Writer

The levee system in New Orleans was the only protection its citizens in the lower 9th Ward from flooding after Katrina and questions are now being answered as to why and how the levees gave way.

Many people from New Orleans are beginning to build speculations that the levees could have withstood the Hurricane and that the levees were in fact blown up.

The People's Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition spent countless hours after the hurricane protesting and trying to expose what they believed occurred with the New Orleans

levees.

"It is evident to most people in the city that the levees were blown," says correspondent for the Coalition. "This event was an attempt to remove blacks from New Orleans and make way for a huge land grab by rich developers."

For many who have stood and observed the area where they levees gave way, it is clear to them that there is no other excuse for the eight but a bomb.

"When you stand where the levees used to be, it doesn't seem like all of that damage could happen from a hurricane, even if it was the size of Katrina," said sophomore advertising major Whitney Hopkins. "The firemen told us that when the water finally

went down, they found body parts everywhere, not whole bodies. I don't think that could happen unless they were blown up."

Howard students and professors that visited New Orleans for the Alternative Spring Break recall hearing local residents of the Lower 9th Ward asserting that the levees were blown.

"From the first day we began clean up near the blown levees, many of the residents said that they heard the loud sound that sounded like a bomb and soon after the water came rushing into the city," said advertising major Keshin Sears. "It seems hard to believe but after speaking with the people in New Orleans, it no

See *LEVEES*, NEWS A3

The Talented Tenth Recognizes Teachers, Staffers

BY BRAD WETE
Contributing Writer

Thursday, the Talented Tenth hosted the annual Professor and Staff Appreciation Ceremony. The event, said Talented Tenth President Adrian Zene Perkins, was meant "to give back to the Howard staff and community."

The recipients of the Professor and Staff Awards were chosen by a student survey of 1,500 students, who were asked to identify their top three favorite Howard staffers or professors.

The ceremony began with testimonials of different students' experiences with the honorees. Seniors anthropology major and Talented Tenth Vice President Darryl Perkins testified his experience with admission and recruitment coordinator for School of Business Karen Nash.

As a freshman, Perkins recalled meeting Nash. "To get here at Howard, you are going to have to work hard, and once you are in, you are going to have to work even harder," Nash told Perkins.

Perkins also thanked Afro-American Studies professor Dr. Greg Carr for having "an incredible energy and passion for teaching."

Carr, who also won the award last year, was grateful for the award.

"We as teachers know that if the students feel this way about us, then all the other things others may say doesn't matter," Carr said.

Perkins also remembered being a student of mathematics professor Dr. Goodlett. Goodlett explained to Perkins that he should take small steps to figure out different equations by saying "You have to feed the babies baby food. Not steak."

Accepting his award, Goodlett joked "When you are in the Mathematics Department, it is not often that students have good things to say about you."

Describing his dedication to his work and his students, Goodlett told the story of how he had almost forgotten with his wife of more than 30 years a happy anniversary this past March 31. A student's withdrawal slip at what reminded him to call his wife.

Interim Chairman of the Psychology Department Dr. John Harrell was another professor who was selected to be honored. Harrell said that the satisfaction of being a teacher comes with seeing a young mind learn something new.

"Everything that I do and all the efforts I make are rewarded by looking at my students' faces and seeing growth," Harrell said.

Another who shared the feelings of Harrell was award recipient Dr. Deybi Thomas.

"If I can fire a mind, or open up a door for my students, then I have done my job. I'm honored to be a part of this great teaching profession," said Thomas, a speech professor.

Others who won awards include the Office of Student Activities Mrs. Laverne T. Pennant, Economics Professor Dr. Cyril K. Hunt, and the Administration Building's April Jenkins.



The Talented Tenth honored ten faculty and staff members at Howard who students recognize in a survey as being most memorable and essential to their college careers.

College Students Change Career Paths As Often As They Change...

BY KANITA MASON
Contributing Writer

Many children grow up with a career goal in mind, some follow that path through to college graduation while most do not.

The majority of college students change their major at least once during college, and many change their majors several times. Even if a student chooses one major and stays with that course of study for the duration of their college career, according to the U.S. Department of Labor the average college graduate changes jobs once every three years and changes career fields two or three times in their lifetime.

Bernadette Terry-Williams, a School of Communications advisor said the problem is that, "so many students don't do research on a career."

She explained that many students are attracted to the title but have no idea what they must do to succeed in that field. Terry-Williams suggested that students take advantage



The average college graduate changes jobs every three years and career paths two or three times in a lifetime. Bernadette Terry-Williams, Howard advisor, suggests researching different careers, participating in internships in different fields and attending career fairs, such as the Career Fair held in Blackburn on Wednesday (above).

of career fairs, because many of the students take these opportunities for granted.

Her advice to students still searching for direction was to start

doing internships in different fields to determine what they are good at and what they enjoy doing. She also urged students to talk with different professors in the different depart-

ments to find out their experiences.

According to Terry-Williams, the search for a career should begin in high school. She said all to often students fail to visit the career services

department and guidance counselors in high school. As a result they try to guess what they might want to do and the behavior of not speaking with people follow them to college.

Shadeena Russell, a sophomore audio production major, said she sought out assistance from guidance counselors but did not receive the information she needed. She believes that she was not properly prepared and as a result "I changed my major four times."

She said she believes that work needs to be done in these guidance departments because it is not the norm for counselors to discuss major selection.

"Students should select a major first then determine a college because you choose a college based on what you want to do," Russell said.

Her logic was that students should go where they can best be prepared for their careers. She insisted that students should stay persistent because ultimately, it's your life.

THE SPOTLIGHT

Student: Martina Martin - The Prophetic Artist

BY SHANAE HARRIS
Art Column Editor

Many people may have never heard of a unique approach known as prophetic art, but third year Divinity student Martina Martin has defined what means to her and has structured her life around a profession in it.

Her own personal blend of art and divinity, Martin has personally developed a way to take her skill in drawing, combined with her calling in life to help others.

"For me prophetic art is a means for cathartic creative expression. It appeals to everyone, it doesn't matter where you come from. It's basically a way of helping people communicate their feelings, their thoughts, and their life experiences. Drawing all of that together you could look at it as being a visible prayer," Martin said.

Martin, who graduated from Howard in 2004, had no original plan to attend divinity school or further a career in art when she stopped back on campus.

"Initially I went to school for political

science and history so it wasn't apart of my five year plan to go to divinity school," Martin said.

Martin said that she realized her calling to divinity while in Japan taking part in the Japanese Exchange Traveling Program.

"My mission was to stay in Japan for three years, save money and buy a house and a car when I got back; but I got sick 9 months into my stay, placing me in a Japanese hospital for four months," she said. "I was culturally, linguistically and racially isolated and I didn't have much of a choice. It was just me and God. This is when I recognized my call into ministry. Once I accepted my call, my illness just went away."

Martin said that upon returning back to the country, she set out to find a school of divinity that fit what she felt her calling was.

"Looking at the black religious experience, globally Howard had the best experience that all, so I ended up going back," Martin said.

The decision to combine her artistic ability and divinity, she said, came from a passion she had for art for years.

"I've always loved art. I've always done art from as early as I can remember but I never really took it seriously. People would always ask me if I was an artist or an art major and I would say, 'No, no I'm not.' Looking back on it now, if I would have followed my heart initially I would have pursued it earlier on," she said.

Now studying divinity, Martin says that she is planning to take what she learns there and go on to pursue her perception of prophetic art.

"I'd just like to take my interest in

divinity and theology and merge that with what I hope to pursue later as a minister in art therapy. I hope to bring the two together to help members of the church in need of healing," Martin said. "Using art is a way to make therapy more powerful for Christians because a lot of Christians are uncomfortable with the traditional atmosphere and feel their faith should be enough to get them through the hurdles they may be facing."

One of Martin's collections entitled "Call and Response," which is a series of four graphic drawings responding to scripture in the Bible, is scheduled to be displayed in the upcoming Spring Arts Festival as well as the UGAA Art Auction on Sunday.

"I happened to glance at an advertisement in The Hilltop that said they were looking for artists and I said, 'wow, I wonder if my art will be good enough to make it in,'" Martin said.

Martin described her piece, "God's Love Revealed," displaying a pregnant woman with an ultrasound image of her baby, saying that she woke up one night and just started drawing.

"That was the first drawing I'd ever done without having anything to look at and for me it was divinely inspired because I just woke up in the middle of the night and just had to draw," she said.

Martin said that ultimately her goal is to develop her own business called "Prophetic Palates." For her to incorporate both the disciplines of art, therapy and personal care as I am studying in at the school of Divinity," Martin added. "I've always wanted to teach, I've always wanted to travel. All of my interests I can accomplish through prophetic art."

Levees Breaking Suspected

LEVEES, from A1

longer seems so far fetch."

The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 was one of the most catastrophic floods ever to hit the South and one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history.

The 1927 flood inundated an area about half the size of New England. It killed as many as 1,000 people and displaced about 700,000 more. At a time when the entire federal budget was barely \$3 billion, it caused an estimated \$1 billion in damage.

When the rains broke records in April 1927, it was found that the Mississippi River was full, too, pushing its own waters up tributaries, breaking levees and causing flooding as far as Ohio and Texas.

According to U.S. News and World Report, the water couldn't go to New Orleans, panicky city fathers told the Army Corps of Engineers; it would devastate the regional economy and to save New Orleans. The leaders appealed to the federal government to essentially sacrifice the southern part of the city which was mostly rural and poor by blowing up an earthen levee and

diverting the water to marshland. They promised restitution to people who would lose their homes.

On April 29, 1927, the levee at Caernarvon, succumbed to 39 tons of dynamite. New Orleans was saved, but the misery of the flooded parishes had only started. The city fathers took years to make good on their promises, and very few residents ever saw any compensation at all.

Now many wonder if Hurricane Katrina could be a repeat of the events of the Great Flood of Mississippi.

New Orleans local officials have not made comment on the speculations but do take responsibility for the lack of preparation for the storm.

"The Corps knew, everybody knew, that the levees had limited capability," said Joseph N. Suhayda, a retired director of the Louisiana State University's Water Resources and Research Institute. Because of exercises and simulations, we knew that the consequences of overtopping (water coming over the levees) would be disastrous."

Suhayda, an expert in coastal oceanography, said, "the fact the levee failed is not according to

design. If it was overtopped, it's because it was lower in that spot than other spots. The fact that it was only designed for a Category 3 meant it was going to get overtopped. I knew that. They knew that. There were limits."

The levee system in New Orleans was never properly designed to withstand a storm the size of Hurricane Katrina.

The levees were built to withstand only a Category 3 storm, which projections suggested would strike New Orleans only once every two or three centuries, the commander of the corps, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, told reporters in a new conference. But Katrina was a Category 4 storm.

Strock said that the levee system's design was put together over a quarter of a century ago, before the current numerical system of classifying storms was in widespread use. He said that studies had begun recently on strengthening the system to protect against Category 4 and 5 hurricanes, but hadn't progressed very far.

"The levee projects that failed were at full project design and were not really going to be improved," Strock said.

Robinson Talks Film Debut

ATL, from A1

project," he said. "You have to respect that."

Robinson shared how serious and sensitive he is about his craft. He admitted with a smirk that one of his first videos was Mandy Moore's "Candy." But even then, he was still just happy to be doing what he enjoys—making film and calling the shots.

In ATL, there is a scene where a character says "That's why you need a timing belt, b*tch." Seeking the perfect inflection of southern dialect, Robinson

shares the one line took 45 takes in 107 degree weather. Five crew members passed out, three vomited and Robinson finally got the scene just how he wanted it.

ATL is executive produced by Will Smith. Dallas Austin and Tionne "T-Bo" Watkins are not only the Atlanta natives the story is loosely based on, but are writers and producers of the project.

With the mainstream attention Atlanta as well as the entire South has received over the last few years, Robinson wondered if the southern buzz would still be present when the movie came

out.

"We were truly concerned whether the Atlanta craze would be over," he said. "But what I know is at the end of the day I'm proud of [this movie]."

Robinson plans to "have some fun this summer" by making a few videos and already has other scripts he is considering. Even though he was not completely happy at how his movie is depicted in the preview, he is proud of his first movie and looks forward to increased control and making quality films.

ATL is in theaters today.



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THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

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Humans Next To Be Inserted With Microchip

BY DANYELLE HADAWAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

The commercial opens with a dog thinking thoughts that might scare its owners—running away with a female dog named "Trixie." Home Again Pet Recovery Service warns that one in every three dogs gets lost, and without an id chip implanted in the pet like a routine shot, only 10 percent are recovered.

On the service's Web site, a counter reveals that nearly 3.3 million pets have been chipped paying the way for almost 300,000 to have been recovered when lost. VeriChip Corp. has developed technology that will allow this radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to be implanted in humans.

Humans will then be marked like the dogs, with a microchip and a copper antenna encased in a glass capsule the size of a grain of rice containing a unique 16 digit number used to locate patient information for hospitals and doctors offices.

However, some theologians believe that this is more than just an advancement in technology previously used in tracking animals, but rather a "mark of the beast" in reference to the book of Revelations in the Bible.

A Chevy-Chase family practitioner and geriatrician, Dr. Jonathan Musher was hired by VeriChip Corp. to help recruit hospitals and physicians in offering and scanning for the chips. He said he disputes claims that the prophecy in Revelations is being fulfilled through this product.

"It's just as crazy to say that everyone has the mark of the beast who has a pace maker," Musher said.

Unlike in the prophecy

where something is imprinted in the hand or in the scalp, the microchip is inserted under the skin on the back of a patient's arm in a relatively painless surgery, according to Musher. If wanted, the microchip can be removed.

However, some Howard University students are still skeptical. "Whether or not this is a prelude to what the Bible does call the Mark of the Beast is not as important to me as the fact that once again humans are trying to play God," said Erinna McKusick, a junior public relations major and chaplain of Howard University Community Choir. "This chip would empower all kinds of authority figures making them knowledgeable of privileged information. On paper it sounds like a decent idea, but I think I'd rather trust God."

The microchip not only worries religious people, but also those concerned with the right to privacy. Howard University political science professor, Dr. Richard Seltzer said the microchip could develop into something similar what happened in George Orwell's book, "1984," where the government could use the technology as a tracking device.

"I can clearly see this creeping into the criminal justice system at some point although it's obviously [violating] fourth amendment rights," said Seltzer. "I can see that the government eventually requiring, for example criminals and ex convicts, to have the chip so [the government] can know where they are at all times. The government would just love to have it expanded to other parts of the population."

Junior English major

Willette Eldery said, "Just like with the development of surveillance cameras and wire taps, monitoring Americans is inevitable. They will say the chip is to monitor offenders, but the information encoded in them will just be another excuse for discrimination."

With the case of 9/11 especially, Seltzer said he sees

refuted that people have long been allowing themselves to be tracked by other companies. "I tell you the government is not tracking people but the grocery stores are and the shopping malls are."

He went on to explain that the microchip does not track or store anything; it is just used to access medical information with

Alzheimer's patients, patients with heart conditions, diabetes, or previous strokes.

Each microchip is encoded with a special 16-digit number that is scanned at most three-inches away from the patient and then looked up on a Web site that is password protected in order to get the patient's information. Musher described it as just like an id bracelet only with more information and it cannot be taken off.

Musher said he was first questionable about the product because although he said he believed it would be helpful, he wondered how acceptable would his patients be to having something inserted under their skin.

Musher said after he explained the benefits of the microchip, "I have not had one patient or the family of a patient say, 'No, this is horrible. I don't want you to put it in me.'"

Washington, D.C. has been the source of vigorous marketing by the VeriChip Corp., which aims to make Washington the first metropolitan area with multiple hospitals with scanners for the microchip. Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md. is now scanning for the devices as of Wednesday, according to Musher.

Spokesman for VeriChip Corp. of Delray Beach, Fla., John Procter said the company is giving away scanners to hospitals in order to better persuade patients to get the chip if they know their local hospital will be able to scan them. About 100 chips have been sold in the United States so far, with most implanted into the company's employees, according to Procter. The patient has the ability to control the information stored in the access number like removing a pill that he or

she does not want the hospital to know he or she is taking. "That is another way of getting away from big brother, since I'm in control of my information, I update my information, I have access to my file," said Musher.

Currently, the product is being sold with the surgery for between \$200 and \$400.

VeriChip Corp. not only produces patient identification devices, but also infant production bracelets that help prevent abduction in hospitals, wander prevention for Alzheimer's patients, and access control for certain businesses concerned about people other than personnel accessing company information.

Junior political science major Robin Barnes said despite the benefits, "I would never want a chip [implanted in me]. This is indirectly an infringement on privacy rights, due to the fact that lockers and government officials can easily override into the system, no system is fool proof, I prefer to keep it natural. If you lose an old person, look for them, if you lose a baby, look for it. Though I do recognize that it is not as easy as said."

Seltzer said that although he suspects the government wanting to expand this technology to other uses, it can be a good or bad thing. "Technology is neutral, technology can be good things and bad things," said Seltzer.

"So clearly there is a good side when its used for people with medical problems and so forth. But on the other hand technology can be used for bad. That's how politics work. It's all involved with money on whether people will develop technology to be used for good or for bad," Seltzer said.



Humans can use the inserted microchip for medical purposes.

Americans losing more civil liberties. "If we have another event like 9/11 and the people start saying, 'Oh yea, I'll give my civil liberties to protect,' how the government responds to that is further erosion of civil liberties. It's a fairly clear to see where they are going to go in that direction" of implanting microchips into the population.

Musher said her grew up in the generation that read the book but said, "It's well past 1984. Its 2006, and the government is still not that involved."

On the other hand, Musher

a password. Shopping malls on the other hand, he said, "know your habits when you use the charge card, when you go to the ATM, they know all about you. Who ever your insurer is for health care, they know all about you because they see every drug you take and how often you take it."

Although FDA approved for anyone 12 and older, the technology is marketed to patients that would frequent emergency rooms and would have a tendency to be discriminated and not able to give information such as

Photo Courtesy of www.verichip.com

Top Sexiest Women List Questioned

BY TAYLOR MASON
Contributing Writer

Day after day, avid readers turn the pages of their favorite magazine to self awareness surveys, how-to tips, and relationship advice columns. This kind of information can be helpful to some, but what about those enduring beauty polls? Can we fairly call them accurate knowing that beauty is in the eye of the beholder?

Popular women's magazines like Elle, Cosmopolitan, Glamour and In Style, to name a few, have different editorial philosophies that are generally surrounded by the same idea: providing useful and valuable beauty information that their readers can incorporate into their daily lives to feel better about themselves.

Entertainment stands alongside helpful beauty tips and in doing so, these magazines include beauty polls that encompass big screen actresses, pop stars, and other celebrities. However, when it comes to the "top 20 beauties of the year," inquiring minds find themselves questioning its candor.

"It seems like all the magazines I read contain the same women in their beauty polls. I constantly see Britney Spears, Angelina Jolie, Carmen Electra, Nicole Kidman and Natalie Portman on every list. Halle Berry is usually listed somewhere in the middle," said Sarah White, a junior fine arts major.

Sophomore psychology major Morgan Maxwell thinks the consistency of beauty polls has much to do with America's standard of beauty. "These familiar faces are featured because they have what magazine editors consider to be the beauty prototype, which is skinny, fair-skinned with European features."

When asked about the representation of women of color in magazines, sophomore color-

etry major Brittany Slaughter believes color makes no difference. "I usually see Halle Berry, Beyonce, or Tyra Banks in Beauty polls but that doesn't mean that the standard of beauty is compromised. None-a-days most black women who are considered beautiful all have European features and dye their hair platinum blonde to the point where one could easily mistake a beyonce for Britney Spears."

fair to say that young impressionable African American women will flip the pages of magazines and see it void of women who look like them. Consequently young African American women will think they are less than the standard of beauty," said social studies expert Alphonso Howard.

In Power of Black and White, author Gillian Rhodes states that if women's energies are direct-

representation of black women in the media can be detrimental for the growth and self-esteem of young black women.

Some Howard University students seem optimistic about black women in the media. Sean Woodford, freshman print journalism major said, "I think image of black women in magazines is progressing but it's still not where it needs to be."

Randy Hampton, a sophomore business administration major agrees. "The women of color represented throughout different venues of media is increasing especially in the field of journalism. I am more likely to pick up a magazine that features an African American female as opposed to a Britney Spears and Angelina Jolie which of whom you see on the magazine covers daily."

As one of the one of the oldest African American magazines and most successful, Ebony Magazine, provides business, health, fashion, sports, entertainment that generally surrounds the African American community. Publications like Jet, Essence and the above mentioned Ebony could possibly catalyze the process of seeing the faces of black women on your coffee table.

It is the Number one African American magazine in the world and has more features on Black women, than any other magazine.

TOP TEN SEXIEST WOMEN

1. Scarlett Johansson
2. Angelina Jolie
3. Jessica Alba
4. Jessica Simpson
5. Keira Knightley
6. Halle Berry
7. Jenny McCarthy
8. Maria Sharapova
9. Carmen Electra
10. Teri Hatcher



Photo Courtesy of www.fox.com

Halle Berry was voted the sixth sexiest woman alive, according to FHM magazine. She is the only woman on the list that is African-American.

According to Elle Magazine Essentials, averageness, symmetry, and sexual dimorphism are good candidates for biologically based standards of beauty. If that's the case why aren't there more African American women or minorities in general represented in the pages of major fashion magazines?

A health and Beauty study found that two-thirds of women believe that media and advertising set a standard of beauty unattainable by most women. "Knowing this information it is

ed toward obtaining unrealistic beauty ideals, they have less individual and collective energy and power to devote to educational and career agendas.

Since the standard of beauty is seen as unrealistic maybe it's better to concentrate on more meaningful facets of life such as health and a better standard of living.

Howard stated that, "women's power continues to be challenged through the emphasis placed on physical appearance. Since that is the case a under

Immigration Laws: Where Do You Stand?

The fate of 11 million illegal immigrants remain up in the air as the Senate continues to debate immigration and the nation's border security. On Wednesday the Senate debated on legislation sponsored by Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona and Kennedy of Massachusetts that would allow illegal immigrants currently in the country to legalize themselves by paying a fine, submit to background checks, learn English, study American civics and remain employed. The legislation states that 11 years later they could gain permanent residence and then eventually citizenship. While the House remains divided on the issue and debates continue many students at Howard University remain torn about the issue as well.

Labeling these immigrants as felons and having them deported is not a solution. These immigrants are seeking refuge in the U.S. as a result of political uprising or unsatisfactory living conditions. Introducing visas or work permits may be a solution so that they can earn money to put themselves in a better position financially if they decide to return home.

Safiya Yearwood, Biology, Freshman

I don't see a problem with them coming over here since they work hard and live good lives so they should be allowed to legally do it. I think that they should let them work legally because it is not like these people are coming in our country to sell drugs a lot of them are honest and hard working people.

Kaiflat Odu, Broadcast Journalism, Junior

I think the government should have better border control and patrolling. They can even have undercover police to capture people that are illegally transporting people into the country. I believe that everyone that is here already should be allowed to stay and people should remember that the history of America and it's legacy evolves around immigration and acceptance of people around the world.

Rita Clark, Political Science, Junior

Although many people tend to sympathize with the struggle of the illegal immigrants, specifically from Mexico, I think that it is wrong for them to immigrate to the United States illegally. Ultimately I think that they should be charged and deported like many of their darker counterparts. It is wrong for our government to show bias towards those illegal immigrants from Mexico because if they were from another place like for instance Haiti this decision would not even be a question.

Coretta Lyn Tillery, Chemistry, Junior

My heart goes out to the illegal immigrants because in some of the places are hell and this is the only chance for a better life. They are committing a crime however because they are illegally staying in the U.S. and they should face the consequences. With any law provisions should be made because circumstances vary. For instance if they were brought here when they were younger it was not their by or option and they should not be punished for it.

Kanita Mason, Broadcast Journalism, Sophomore

Compiled by Shaleem Thompson

JHJ SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS Student Council

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ART AUCTION

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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

EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 111

MARCH 31, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



Black Star Power

When there is a film by a given black director, we can pretty much put a stamp on the person behind it. Films and plays by Tyler Perry tend to focus on an angry black female character. Hype Williams' movies have his signature bold colors and unique lighting that mirror his music videos. Spike Lee joints cover a range of touchy topics and he often adds a quick cameo to his productions.

Directors of color have certain elements that make their work recognizable. All in all, many black movies tend to repeat some of the same themes about love, violence, drugs and comedy. Many Hilltoppers thought "Hustle and Flow" was a good movie but we were astonished at the recognition the pimp-inspired plot received. Directors that step outside of the box don't get the same recognition as those that perpetuate images mainstream America is comfortable with.

We are some of the most cre-

ative people on the planet! If we haven't noticed our culture has become the most exploited and profitable lifestyle for corporate America. Every black director doesn't have to make films that cater to black audiences.

Black directors' talent transcends stereotypes. Every idea, concept and theme that hasn't been explored shouldn't be considered foreign terrain to us. We can think outside the box too!

Washington and Lee. We are proud of them both. Lee made no appearance in this film for a change.

Another Hilltopper previewed music video director Chris Robinson's "ATL" and found it surprisingly well done. She thought the direction and acting from Big Boi and T.I. was impressive. This brings us to another point that music video directors don't have to stop there.

Though it can be profitable and fun, they should flex their creative muscles in more challenging and lengthier projects.

We encourage all directors of color to dare to be different. Stop

being safe, branch out and get comfortable with being uncomfortable. The winning formula and the predictable plots bring down the quality of cinema entertainment. We want our black directors to get recognition for their best work.

Our View:

It's good to see Spike Lee, Chris Robinson and other directors of color taking a new stance on their film identities.

One Hilltopper saw Spike Lee's latest movie "Inside Man" featuring Denzel Washington and raved about the film.

The movie did \$29 million in its opening week and debuted as the #1 weekend film. This is the best opening ever for

Tit for Tat Isn't My Thing

Brian Kasoro

I'm disappointed when I read such things as the March 30 editorial by Charles White on immigration. The editors at Blackcommentator.com responded to similar letters from African-American readers asking why they should care about immigration rights. I would like to revisit an excerpt of their response with the hope of enlightening you.

"All the measures to strip foreigners of civil and human rights, to marginalize them and make them fear jail or deportation at a moment's notice only makes them more desirable employees. Just having them around, even if an employer chooses not to hire them, effectively lowers everyone's wages...As African Americans, we ought to understand better than anybody how white supremacy works and how language, which frames the way we all think, is a potent tool of oppression, or of liberation.

To start with, we need to purge the phrase 'illegal aliens' from our vocabulary. Aliens are from Jupiter. White America defines people as 'aliens' in order

to justify treatment unfit for a member of the human family, just as our ancestors were once labeled 'property' allowing 'owners' to buy and sell us like cattle."

The idea that black unemployment in the U.S. is historically unequal and the notion that immigrants choose to come here and cause labor market problems for African Americans betray a breathtaking ignorance of human motivation and of the way the global economy works. Unemployment rates in Kingston, Jamaica or Dakar, Senegal are much higher than any experienced in black America...Tens of thousands walk half the length of Africa every month trying to get to Europe. Can you imagine crossing the Sahara on foot?

We have been on the bottom as long as there's been an America. Now the globalized labor market is forcing us to share that bottom with other unfortunate folks. Should we rail against the Mexicans? Should we gripe about the Jamaicans, organize against the Filipinos and Arabs?

But we cannot escape the bottom by making common cause with the folks who put us down

here. Even our so-called "internal problems" are not ours alone, nor are their solutions...The issues on the table now are all on the table now and none of them will wait.

So I ask, if you say supporting the causes of our fellow oppressed peoples is a waste of time, what exactly does coming out against Latinos and immigrants do for black people, Charles? The informed response is, "nothing." If such is the case, then I believe you have wasted a precious half-hour in drafting your letter to The Hilltop that could have been spent more pro-actively drafting blueprints for a new house or grabbing a bucket of water and doing your duty as a "first responder" by saving some babies from the fire...Tit for tat don't really do it for me, Chuck.

By helping ourselves throw off our shackles we help the world, indeed. So even if we perceive others as not seeing the connections in our struggles, to say that we should spend energy on complaining about how they "use" us is a waste of your good energy. Get the branch out your own eye and stop worrying about the speck of dust in your neighbor's.

CORRECTION

In the Wednesday, March 29, 2006 issue of the Hilltop a front page story inaccurately stated that Marc Barnes, owner of Love Night Club, employed only two black people.

In an email Barnes said, "the 'busboy' staff is primarily hispanic (salvadorian and mexican) which comprises about 9% of my total staff. There are only 2 black

'busboys' not a on my entire staff. I further stated that the jobs that the blacks take are not necessarily as labor intensive as the requirements in the busboy category."

The Hilltop takes great pride in being the student voice of Howard University and strives to remain balanced and factual.

92066 FANCY FOOTWORK by Shirley Sukoway, edited by Shirley Tennison

Across

- 1 Outfit
- 4 Upper only
- 9 Mile-bites
- 14 Spool
- 15 Uncommon
- 16 National Longitudinal
- 17 Morning right
- 18 Airport courtesy zone
- 19 Right away
- 20 Don't deal with
- 23 Looka good (word)
- 24 Attached in a way
- 25 Potent relations
- 29 Pinescent
- 31 Ocular holding means
- 32 Chinese eating
- 33 Flowers to
- 36 "We saw only we saw"
- 41 Compact pl
- 42 Like a D.C. office
- 43 Connect a hockey infraction
- 44 "The Loudest Day" writer
- 45 Without a goal
- 46 "Fairwell, Prosop"
- 51 Boudier
- 52 Making short work of
- 59 Officers' Lie
- 60 First the change
- 61 The fruit
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- 63 All finished
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- 65 Steveson chapters
- 66 Dancer classes
- 67 Lift the brakes

Down

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- 4 "On Golden..."
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- 11 Battering cry
- 12 Unfilled labours
- 13 Anne's dog
- 21 Statement reviewer
- 22 Blues singer Boonie
- 23 Fancy path
- 26 Impish diplomat
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- 30 Miao cinema
- 32 Cross del
- 33 Fairy tale statue
- 34 Just not flow
- 35 Pagan's the value
- 37 Soviet spacecraft
- 38 New Deal power pgn
- 39 Ashes



*Across: Shirley Sukoway was Edited by Shirley Tennison. **Down: Shirley Sukoway was Edited by Shirley Tennison.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 89th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a membership of more than 5,000, 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.

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The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

What's Beef? Part 2: Coast to Coast



Photo Courtesy of www.icecube.com

2Pac and Notorious B.I.G. were seen as the leaders in the East Coast/ West Coast rivalry. The beef, which may be the most famous in hip-hop history, ended in the deaths of both of these rap legends. Controversy surrounds both murders to this day.

BY JOSUHA THOMAS
Assistant Life & Style Editor

"No Vaseline."

To those outside of "the know" this, one of Ice Cube's classics, is one of the most definitive disc records of the 90s, if not all time. As NWA made their way to the forefront of rap music, it was only predictable that feuds would follow them out to the West Coast as well.

After the tremendous success and impact of NWA, Ice Cube decided to leave the group over a monetary dispute with Easy-E and NWA's manager, Jerry Heller. NWA took out their frustrations on "100 Miles and Runnin'" with several shots aimed at their former member, according to NWAWorld.com.

Ice Cube's response, "No Vaseline," solidified the feud. Dr. Dre later switched sides and started his own beef with Easy-E. In similar fashion, the two jabs back and forth for the next few years in a very public battle that stretched from songs to music videos.

These disc records can be seen for the positive aspects that were a result. "There was a clash of styles [in NWA] so when they separated, they did better on their own," said freshman chemistry major James Robinson.

This series of grudges sparked the solo careers of all three artists, and served as a catalyst to bring these projects

to the top of the charts. They also introduced the sub-genre known as "gangsta rap" and fostered its takeover of the music business. Dr. Dre also went on to establish Death

Row Records with the infamous Marion "Suge" Knight. Death Row Records produced one of the most controversial, influential and dramatic artists in hip-hop history. That artist, Tupac Shakur, played a role in perhaps the most well-known rap beef ever.

"... we lost two of the greatest lyricists in hip-hop ever."

—James Robinson, '09

Row Records with the infamous Marion "Suge" Knight.

Death Row Records produced one of the most controversial, influential and dramatic artists in hip-hop history. That artist, Tupac Shakur, played a role in perhaps the most well-known rap beef ever.

This feud would become known to the world as the East Coast vs. West Coast War.

Although a few insults and word exchanges, the real start of the rivalry was ignited on November 30, 1994.

2Pac was scheduled to record in Quad Studios in Times Square when Christopher Wallace a.k.a. Notorious B.I.G. and Sean "Puffy" Combs were shooting a video in another area of the building, according to rthaweb.com.

That night, Shakur was robbed and shot five times when he attempted to fight back. Whether it was a coincidence or not that the Bad Boy artists were in the building is to be debated, but clearly

on the shoulders of Bad Boy Records.

The two enemies then



Photo Courtesy of www.tupac.com

Easy-E was one of the pioneers behind the groundbreaking gangsta rap group NWA. He was also the one behind a lot of the disputes that eventually tore the group apart, such as his beefs with members Ice Cube and later Dr. Dre.

traded lyrical blows and went 2Pac struck first by means of "Hit 'Em Up," to which Notorious B.I.G. retaliated on Jay-Z's "Brooklyn's Finest."

Things came to a climax on September 7, 1996 as Pac and Suge were departing a Tyson fight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Shakur, who was riding in the passenger seat, was shot four times by unknown assailants in a white Cadillac. Shakur passed away six days later in the University Medical Center, according to crimelibrary.com.

Less than a year later Bigger would suffer a similar fate while leaving a party in Los Angeles. The unidentified driver of a Chevrolet Impala gunned down Wallace, who died instantly.

Students like sophomore theatre arts major Brittany A. Williams said that artists of today have learned from the tragedy. "[Now] they keep it on wax instead of bringing it out into the streets."

Robinson agrees. "It prevented later incidents of violence in hip-hop. It served its purpose even though we lost two of the greatest lyricists in hip-hop ever."



What The ... ?!



Photo Courtesy of www.parishilton.com

Paris Hilton, aspiring singer, has agreed to hook up with the Oscar-winning rap trio, Three 6 Mafia. The Memphis group will produce and record new tracks for Hilton's upcoming debut album. The group is eager to work with Hilton on the project. "... it will be a blast working with Paris Hilton. I mean she is Paris Hilton."



Photo Courtesy of www.seancombs.com

Ju Rule and Naomi Campbell have recently contracted to star in Sean "Diddy" Combs' "Cooking Showdown." The show will team stars with chefs in a week-long competition. You can expect famous chefs such as Wolfgang Puck and Govind Armstrong as well as their celebrity partners which include Ashley Parker Angel and Tony Gonzales.

Photo Courtesy of www.illhiphop.com

Compiled by Josuha Thomas, Asst. Life & Style Editor



8 MILE



Photo Courtesy of www.fox.com

This movie is loosely based on the real life of rapper Eminem.

Head 2 Head

Which was an all-around better movie?

"...8 Mile because it was the first to really do that. Everyone else looked like they were copying Eminem."

—Brittany A. Williams, theatre arts '08

"... 8 Mile because it was more critically acclaimed."

—Mariah Covington, sociology '08

"50's movie because the acting was better than [8 Mile.]"

—Roselyn Baker, print journalism '08

"We need to focus more on good movies instead of these coon flicks ... it's so trivial and doesn't affect our plight."

—William Brown, finance '09

The Winner is... "8 Mile"

Compiled by Josuha Thomas, Asst. Life & Style Editor



GET RICH OR DIE ...



Photo Courtesy of www.getrichordie.com

"Get Rich or Die Tryin'" was just released on DVD March 28.

Nationals Gear Up for Opening Day Game Against Mets

BY DEVON MILLER
Contributing Writer

While many people often associate the spring with blooming flowers, allergies and the smell of fresh cut grass, others associate spring with the start of yet another season of America's past time.

That's right, April not only marks the beginning of yet another spring, but also it wel-

comes in the second season of Washington Nationals baseball. With Spring Training coming to an end, the Washington Nationals are looking to build from the momentum they finished with last season. After coming off their first season in Washington and after having been moved from Montreal, the Washington Nationals look to improve from last year's .500

finish. With their first game on Monday against the New York Mets, many are anxious to see how well this young team will fair in a very competitive National League East.

"They had a great first half last year, but we didn't have a great second half, had we had a great second half we'd be in the playoffs," Coach Frank Robinson said on the Nationals website.

Many fans are looking forward to this particular season after the acquisition of short stop turned left fielder, Alfonso Soriano. After bringing Soriano into the organization, the Nationals felt that Soriano would best fit as a left fielder rather than in his natural position as short stop. With the Nationals already having short stop Cristian Guzman, the organization felt that Soriano would bring added speed to the position of left field, solidifying a very formidable outfield. After first refusing to play the position, Soriano is progressing by each game and is becoming more and more comfortable with the position. Although the Nationals are 9-20 this Spring Training, many of their key players will be back off the disabled list and are expected to perform as good as, if not better than, their inaugural season in which they came out the gates in first place. The Nats are looking forward to having World

Series winner Livan Hernandez for their opening day game versus the Mets. Hernandez, after coming off knee surgery, is close to 100% and is excited for the season to get underway.

With April 3 creeping up quickly, the Nationals are looking forward to starting the season with young talent mixed in with seasoned veterans. This team has a bright future ahead of them with the new talent they have, and based on the promising season they had last year, this year's expectation is to reach the playoffs. The Nats finished the season with an 81-81 record after starting the season in first place. The first half of the season saw them atop the National League East going into the All-Star weekend but unfortunately for the Nationals, their luck was turned into hitter defeat finishing up the regular season. The National's record before the break was 47 wins and 21 losses, which pitted them on top of the National league. This was brought on by the tremendous first half that Livan Hernandez had winning his first twelve games of the season. They became known throughout the baseball world as the one-run wonders, winning 13 games all by one run. But as July came, they saw their pitching ace Hernandez win only one game in the month of July. The bad luck for the Nationals just kept on coming with close



After refusing to play in the outfield earlier in Spring Training, Soriano has agreed to leave second base and is ready to take on the Mets Monday.



The Nationals are looking to improve upon their almost-500 finish last season and have a strong second half of the season.

defeat after close defeat. Even after their miserable start to the second half of the season, they were still in playoff contention after only winning nine games in July and 13 games in August. The slide continued in September when the Nationals won 12 games and lost 17. They were in playoff contention until game 156 of 162.

This season is filled with high expectation due to the tremendous inaugural season that

the Nationals had. It's very hard for teams to relocate as they did and even contend in their first year at a new place. Only time will tell if this year's Nationals will be able to resolve the issues it had with last season and once again be able to be in contention for the playoffs. While the optimism is high for this young team, they also understand that with hard work comes good results.

Bison Softball Ready for Home Game Against Coppin St.

BY JULIANNE HANCKEL
Contributing Writer

On Friday, April 1, at 1 p.m., the Lady Bison softball team takes on Coppin State's Eagles at Banneker Field for the first time this season.

While Howard's game record continues to improve, so has the bat of Michelle Charles, a senior right fielder from Annapolis, Md. Charles was named the MEAC Player of the Week after her outstanding performances this past weekend at the North Carolina Central and the Maryland Eastern Shore games.

This past week she averaged .700 with 10 RBIs, and hit her first three home runs of the year. When asked about her recent success, Charles states, "I am really excited and just trying to stay focused and continue to work hard. I want our season to be what it should be, and it should be a winning season." Charles also leads the MEAC in RBIs per game with 1.13, and leads the Lady Bison in hits (20), RBIs (17) and home runs (3).

As far as their game against Coppin, Charles believes it should be a good game. "We beat them last year and some of our main players were out with injuries. This year (those players) are all back, so by having our main players in the lineup we should come out with a win again," Charles said.

As for Coppin's last game, they barely escaped with a one run win against Colgate on March 25. Eagles catcher and dominating force, Christen Glascoe, is the team's top leader with a batting average of .339, a slugging percentage of .508 and a leading total of 20 hits for the season. During Coppin's game against Colgate, Glascoe homered and drove in three runs, snapping the Eagles' eight-game losing streak. Trailing 4-1 at the top of the sixth inning, Glascoe hit a three-

run homer giving the Eagles a 5-4 lead. Then, with teammates adding two more runs at the top of the seventh inning, Coppin had taken over the remaining inning of the game, improving their record to 4-14. Starting as the leadoff hitter, Glascoe is a concern for the Lady Bison because she has a very strong bat and can take control of important game situations and strategies.

Head Coach Tonja Braxton is planning to have sophomore ace pitcher, Dale McNeal, start the double header. Braxton also said that Glascoe is a, "good hitter," and that, "all good hitters can find a way to get it done. Our job as coaches and Dale's job as a pitcher is to just try and upset her timing."

She also said that the Bison must keep damage control to a minimum by trying to contain the hitter's bat to the inside of the park. Other than Glascoe, Coach Braxton is also aware of Keshia Robinson, a freshman from Manassas, Va. previously recruited by Howard, to be a strong force for Coppin's Eagles. Robinson plays first base and has a lot of hitting power and speed. In regards to Robinson, Coach Braxton believes that as long as the Lady Bison can keep Coppin's main hitters off balance, and keep damage control to a minimum, good defensive plays will follow.

"This is the most balanced team we have had in my four years of coaching at Howard. We have speed where we need to have it, we have power where we need to have it and we have contact hitters where we need contact hitters. We also have sticks and legs on the bench and that is something that works to our advantage when we need a secret weapon," Coach Braxton said.

Secondary pitching has been a consistent problem for the Bison because they have not been able to completely close anyone out. They have won their past 12 games by one, two or three runs.



Michelle Charles and Tracy Javier are two of the key players for the Bison softball team. Charles won MEAC Player of the Week for her performance in last weekend's games.

Coach Braxton thinks that this is not good enough, "We run into playing well for six innings and then the other team brings in another weapon. You have to have weapons. You have to have people that you can bring off the bench to do various things: pitching, hitting and running."

Charles, Tracy Javier, Nayrobi Nicholas, Debbie Lee and Jennifer Buen-Amie are all seeing the ball very well. Kristina Cordova is also coming around. "Our freshmen are going to be interesting to see how they adjust once we get into our conference games," Braxton said.

"Buen-Amie and Cordova are starting to settle in and get a feel for why they are on the team. Being relaxed at the plate has an enormous amount of being productive at the plate. I am looking for them to drive in runs, and I am start-

ing to see them move in that direction."

With the season well under way, the Lady Bison have started off strong and are continuing to be very competitive in the MEAC conference.

"We don't have a break. It's hard because its relentless; the pressure is every day. We try as best we can to incorporate a lot of the pressure situations in our every day practices," Braxton said.

The softball team puts in long hours, has grueling practices and balances schoolwork at the same time. Let's go out and support the Bison on Friday at their double-header against Coppin State at 1 p.m. at Banneker Field. In case you cannot make it to Friday's game, the Lady Bison have another game this Sunday, April 2, at 1 p.m., against Morgan State.

Coming Soon...

Look out for Saving for Par:
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Langston Golf Course
has stood out and
affected an impover-
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