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TUESDAY notebook

WEATHER

TUES 4/11:
SUNNY
HIGH: 73, LOW: 53

WED, 4/12:
MOSTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 71, LOW: 61

THURS, 4/13:
T-STORMS
HIGH: 78, LOW: 55

BREAKING NEWS

KENYAN PLANE CRASH KILLS 14

AT LEAST FOURTEEN PEOPLE DIED IN A PLANE CRASH IN KENYA. THREE OF WHICH WERE HIGH RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH IS UNDETERMINED.

CAMPUS

WITHDRAW WITH DIFFICULTY

SEE WHAT STUDENTS PROPOSE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL PROCESS IN CAMPUS. PAGE 2

METRO

PARK RENAMED

ONE NORTHEAST DC PARK IS BEING RENAMED FOR A FAMOUS MUSICIAN. FIND OUT MORE IN METRO. PAGE 5

LIFE & STYLE

INTERNSHIP SECURITY

FIND OUT THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF SECURING THE PERFECT INTERNSHIP IN LIFE AND STYLE. PAGE 8

HU CALENDAR

APR 11-23
GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER 2006

APR 24-25
FINAL EXAMS FOR PROSPECTIVE GRADES

APR 27
FORMAL CLASSES END

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They, too, sing America

Rally Against H.R. 4437 Draws Thousands

Approximately 50,000 people gathered on the National Mall yesterday afternoon to protest the latest immigration bill. For more images from the rally, turn to page 5.

Contributed Photos: Matt Photography



BY AMBER ENGLISH
Staff Writer

We are America! was the continued chant of thousands protesting on the National Mall Monday afternoon.

Early estimates calculate nearly 50,000 people who flooded the streets from Meridian Hill Park to the downtown D.C. area to protest the controversial House legislation that would turn nearly 11 million immigrants into criminals.

The protest, organized by the National Capitol Immigration Coalition,

coincided with marches across the country in nearly 130 cities as a part of the National Day of Action for Immigrant Justice.

But for many in attendance, it was more than just a day of action; it was the beginning of a fight for justice.

"I don't want to stop here with this [protest]. I don't want to go home and forget what happened here. I don't want to stop until things change," said Antonio Ramirez, a longtime activist in his Takoma Park community.

"This is only a start," Gustavo Torres, executive director of CASA of Maryland

abandoned to the crowd. "We are just starting the movement."

Representatives from every ethnic community spoke at Monday's rally. The speakers, some who spoke in both Spanish and English, and others who simply spoke in Spanish, emphasized unity between all immigrants.

"If we can put aside our individual differences, we can start something that can't ever be stopped," said one rally attendee, who preferred to go unnamed.

Thousands of American flags, some life size, and some small enough for a toddler's hands, were waved through the air as speakers pledged their communities' support for the cause.

"We share a common bond. My people built this country, and we fought a civil war for the citizenship of African-Americans, so we stand behind you in your fight for citizenship," said Imam Johari Abdul-Malik, Director of Outreach for the Dar-Al-Hirah Islamic Center.

Though a number of African-Americans showed their support for yesterday's rally, some did not agree with the comparison of the immigration issue to slavery.

"[African-Americans] will be hard pressed to find a specific country to call home. We lost so much of our culture, so I don't think slavery and immigration compare," said Antonio R. Virgil, resident of Temple Hills, Md. "We were forced

into this country, while those who immigrated here had a choice."

Still, Virgil believes it is important to support the cause of justice in immigration policy. "I believe we should all support justice for immigrants because America is no greater than the least of its citizens," Virgil said.

Virgil frequently supports marches and rallies taking place on the Mall. He believes a cry for justice is a "beautiful creation" and should be supported in every way. Though Virgil felt a different momentum when compared to the Million Man March, he said that the same spirit of unity was present.

In addition to the NCIC, other organizations from across the region came out to support the cause. The International Socialist Organization, from the Maryland region, was just one of those organizations. The ISO is dedicated to fighting for immigrant rights. In addition, the organization is vehement in its fight against the Minutemen, a coalition of white men along the border that pledges to police the border themselves if nothing is done to protect the borders.

Shane Dillingham, a member of the ISO and student at the University of Maryland, believes that much more has to happen aside from this march.

"It'll be interesting to see where things go from here," Dillingham said. "The past two weeks have shown the power of protest, but to make a serious change,



Carver Hall Proves That Fear Is Not A Factor

BY BRITNEY DAVIS
Contributing Writer

With the many costly events taking place, many students decided to participate in one of Howard's free events. They crowded the Burr Gymnasium last night to watch residents from the different dorms compete in Resfest "Fear Factor".

Katrina Green, a sophomore Resident Assistant in the Tubman Quadrangle, single-handedly planned this new addition to the annual Resfest. A self-proclaimed "Fear Factor" fanatic, Green said she "wanted to replicate Fear Factor 'HU style' and bring something new."

The activity was a new addition to the annual Resfest activities. The Fear Factor challenge, which has been in the works since last semester, included an obstacle course, an eating contest and a pool challenge.

Many of the students seemed very eager about the event, and many were in attendance representing their respective dorms. Girls from the Quad cheered wildly as Elizabeth McDaniel competed in the obstacle course, which involved her spinning around a



This mixture of spaghetti and sardines was part of the ResFactor eating contest.

baseball bat, running around the basketball court, shooting three free throws, and finally a puzzle competition.

The spinning around the bat proved to be a challenge for the Slow representative, Gretchen Battle, who fell to the floor after becoming dizzy. With her dorm's

support and coaching, Battle was able to complete the course in under eight minutes.

"I think that the crowd's favorite was the eating contest," Green said.

The crowd jumped off the bleachers and raced to center court to gain a better glimpse of

the portion that many are used to watching on the NBC television show. The contestants had to eat a spaghetti mixture — one that included red meat sauce with sardines — in under two minutes.

A male from Cook Hall finished first, followed by the Drew Hall and Belhune Annex repre-

sentatives respectively.

With the Field Day being rescheduled, this was the first time many residents could come out and show their support.

"I am excited to see the residents having a lot of fun, and I think it's the best thing going for free," said Joseph Emanuel, special assistant to the Dean in the Office of Residence Life.

The final pool event consisted of contestants swimming to an island in the middle pool and obtaining the right key to unlock a box located in a different section of the pool. Carver Hall proved to be victorious.

"I think it's a great way for the dorms to compete, it's just a very interesting and fun thing to watch," said Pashema Faber, sophomore physician assistant major.

Green, too, is excited about the success of the event. After much preparation and the help of Brittany Gail Thomas, Kia Davis, and Mrs. Porter, she believes the event was a success.

"Everyone after is telling me they loved it, with the exception of the length. I think it is something that should continue next year," Green said.

Students Debate Effectiveness of Withdrawal System

BY LINDSEY WOODS
Contributing Writer

Friday, Howard University students scrambled around campus trying to finalize withdrawal attempts. It is the mark of the semester's end when many students wait until the last minute to pull out of their courses, but some students on Howard's campus believe the system could be improved.

As the lines grew long and students waited to drop courses, people became increasingly restless.

Sophomore civil engineering major Sadari Walters, who lives off campus, was one of these students. She said she dislikes the current withdrawal system.

"I feel that I should not have to come to campus and track my professors down," Walters said. "We should be able to drop classes online, the same way we register online."

Jason Burge agreed with Walters.

"It would be much more efficient if they had an online system," said Burge, a junior physical therapy major. "I work full-time and go to school fulltime, I don't have extra time to spend on campus getting signatures to drop a class."

When the deadline approached for students to drop classes, there were mixed feelings about the timing of the closing day.

"We should be able to drop classes up until the first week of finals," said Celia Williams, a sophomore political science major. "At other schools, students are allowed this much time to decide if they want to drop a course. You don't know if you might be able to pull your grade up by then, if you are not given the chance."

Williams recounted a situation from Spring 2005, where the date of the withdrawal deadline affected her academically. "I needed to drop a class, but I did not do so because I felt that I was not given a sufficient amount of time to make a final decision. I was forced to stay in a class that I probably should have dropped," she said.

Sandra Gaines, advisor for the School of Communications, said that this semester the volume of students that dropped classes was around the same amount as previous semesters. She pointed out that more students drop classes as the deadline approaches.

"If a student is failing a class, it is wisest to drop this class instead of getting a low grade and letting it affect your GPA, financial aid or scholarships," Gaines said.

Dr. Oyemade Bailey, faculty member in School of Education,

feels as if Howard's system works well in some aspects but fails students in other ways.

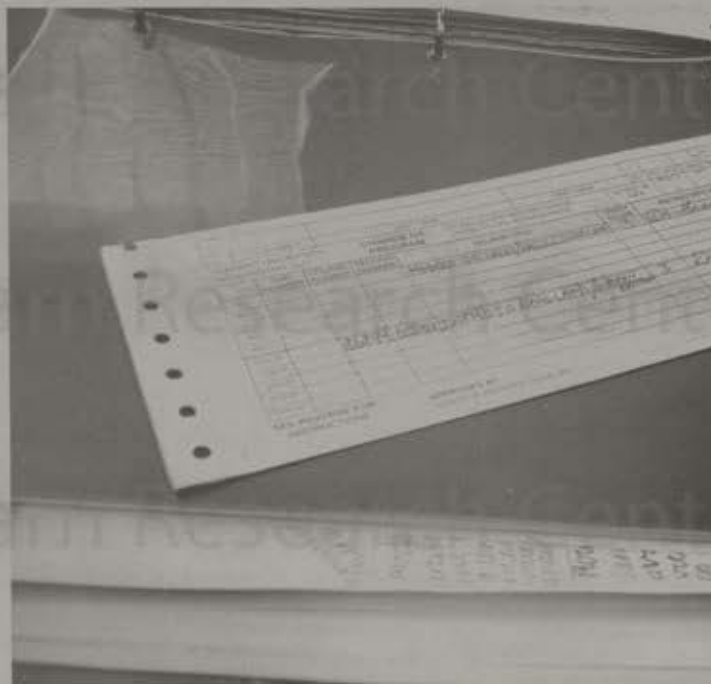
"If the time period allotted to students to withdraw from classes was extended until finals time, then less students would fail and receive incompletes in their courses," Bailey said.

Bailey also believes there would be a downside to extending the time period. "From a professor's point of view, it's frankly a waste of time to spend time with a failing student that is in your class all semester, for them to drop out at the end," Bailey said.

At other public universities, students are allowed to drop classes until their first round of testing for finals. However, this is not the case at other private universities. Harvard University's last day to drop a course is as early as March 6. Princeton University's last day is April 14 and for Yale University it is April 24.

Howard University's last day was April 8. Ultimately, students' fate ends with Howard University's Board of Trustees. The trustees are responsible for making the calendar at the beginning of the academic year.

"The timeline is fair," Burge said. "If you don't know that you need to drop a class by now, then you are just out of luck."



Some Howard students said they believe students should be able to withdraw from classes online, while others said they think the deadline should be moved to the first week of finals.

Spring Activities Affect Tardiness, Attendance



Many students say that with the warm weather and many social activities, showing up to class toward the end of the spring semester can be difficult.

BY AVIANA BROWN
Contributing Writer

With the parties going on every weekend, the weather getting nicer, Greek exhibitions every Friday, and just hanging out on the Yard, most would agree that springtime is definitely the best time of the year at Howard. With the arrival of warm weather and the occasional afternoon socials that take place on the Yard, students sometimes forget about the importance of attending classes and showing up to them on time.

Kristen Croskey-Freshwater, sophomore nursing major, said springtime does make being late or absent to class more attractive.

"When the weather is nice, I definitely find it more difficult to go to class with a smile on my face, but I still manage to go," Croskey-Freshwater said.

Michelle Phillips agrees with Croskey-Freshwater.

"It's definitely much harder to get to class on time. It's so many things happening around this time that it makes

it complicated to get to class," said Phillips, a sophomore English major. "Most of my teachers say that they have a strict tardy policy, but I sometimes wonder how true that is."

Other students said they feel much like Croskey-Freshwater and Phillips.

"In the winter time, it is easier to get to class on time because it's cold outside. In the spring, it's so nice that you want to chill and enjoy the scenery," said Arinze Emeagwali, sophomore telecommunications management.

Garon Gibbs questioned the severity of professors' tardy policies.

"Some of my teachers are very strict on tardies, but some of my teachers don't care because they want to enjoy the nice weather themselves," said Gibbs, a sophomore telecommunications management major.

A lot of teachers have multiple problems when spring rolls around as some students come to class late and other students do not come to class at all. Many teachers enforce tardy policies that are stated in their syllabi, in

which tardiness and absences will affect your grade.

"Arriving to class late is disruptive of the learning process. I think that it is disrespectful to both the instructor and the students," said Patricia McCormick, Ph.D., a mass communications professor. "I generally find a problem with students being tardy to my 9:10 a.m. class, in which students would come in thirty minutes late to this fifty minute class. I started locking my door at 9:15 second semester."

Anil Jain, Ph.D., a computers and society professor, also has issues with student attendance.

"I have problems with students coming to class on time and it seems to get worse towards the end of second semester," Jain said. "I'm not sure about what the solution to this would be because we are all adults here. I think students can help to find out the cause to the loss of interest in class and coming on time."

Campus Briefs



Hampton Students Cuts Locks for Success

Braids, dreadlocks and other "unusual" hairstyles have been deemed inappropriate according to a syllabus for a leadership program at Hampton University. Critics of the rule have called it a way of making African Americans assimilate to Caucasian standards.

The rule which applies to students enrolled in the five-year masters of business program has drawn criticism from around the country, but Dean Sid Credle of the School of Business stands by the rule saying "You can wear your hair however you want to, but be prepared to accept the outcome. I want the best for them. Our job as educators is to teach our students at the highest levels," he said.



TSU Student Dismissed from Team for Attending Journalism Conference

A Tennessee State University student lost her Tennis Scholarship last month for attending a Journalism conference instead of practice. The journalism major lost her scholarship for the 2006-2007 school year because school officials say that the journalism conference was not a requirement for any class or program at TSU.

"I informed my head tennis coach Gerald Robinson of both the importance of this conference and the need for me to attend, but he instructed me not to attend instead," said the student. TSU won a second place award for their newspaper coverage of Hurricane Katrina at the HBCU Newspaper Conference which took place in Greensboro, NC.



University of Maryland Student Drinking Below Average

More than 89 percent of the freshman at the University of Maryland have completed a program called "AlcoholEdu". The voluntary program was introduced last summer for the class of 2009. Around 400 colleges and universities around the country participate in the program.

For a school with a large student body, an overwhelming number of Maryland students who say that they abstain from alcohol is above average for what is considered to be a "party school".

Some say the success of the school's publications, and mass e-mails which stated that the program was voluntary and must be completed by a certain date.

APRIL 11, 2006

Rally 'Round

Current High School GPA 4.15
Class Rank 14 out of 285
President of the Spanish Club
Treasurer of Crime Solvers
Treasurer of Korean Student Union
National Honor Society
Latin Honor Society
AM I A CRIMINAL?



These pictures were taken at the immigration rally, and are just a few scenes from the movement which is currently sweeping the country.



THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

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1 p.m.
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Renamed Park Brings Hope to Northeast

BY JASON HUMPHRIES
Contributing Writer

The D.C. city council recently renamed Watts Branch Park after its own musical genius, Marvin Gaye. The renovated park, located in northeast D.C., is in the very neighborhood where Marvin Gaye grew up. Five years of work and \$11 million was invested in the revitalization and restoration of the lost beauty of the park.

Before the park's extreme makeover, the park was littered with trash and plagued with crime. Many neighborhood residents of Watts Branch Park knew it as "Needle Park." Eight thousand hypodermic needles were recovered during the clean up of the park. While in the process of cleaning up the 1.6-mile long park, 2.5 million pounds of trash was collected and 78 abandoned cars were recovered.

Much of the park's dramatic makeover is credited to the non-profit organization Washington Parks and People. Twenty-four thousand Washington Park volunteers gave their time and effort towards the clean up of the park. Washington Parks Director, Steve Coleman, has been the driving force behind the restoration of the park.

"A new name will create a new spirit in the community," Coleman said. "We wanted to use the park to bring the neighborhood alive by reconnecting people with the land that is so historic."

In his younger years, Marvin Gaye lived on 60th Street, NE near Watts Branch



Watts Branch Park was recently renamed Marvin Gaye Park. With \$11 million in improvements, members of the D.C. city council and others in the community hope this brings improvement to the Northeast community.

Park, where he would play his music down by the stream in the park. Marvin Gaye's first performance was in the Crystal Lounge which now serves as a community center.

Coleman described the new improvements to the park. "Washington Parks and People have been working to reduce violence and crime. The improvements to the park are new playgrounds, new pathways, installed emergency call boxes, new signs and reconstruction of the stream."

Local residents of northeast D.C. feel excited about the attention brought to their community. With the renewal of the park neighborhood, residents feel that they are receiv-

ing much needed attention

towards the northeast district.

Dennis Chestnut, a local resident who lived in the community for 57 years and also worked alongside Washington Parks said, "It's a great motivational enhancement. The park runs through the residential community. It's a great atmosphere to live in."

"It's reinvigorating for our community and it's bringing attention toward our community. It's wonderful," said Zandra Chestnut, wife of Dennis Chestnut.

Despite Ward 7 being the largest in public housing in the city and poor people, it

also receives the least amount of attention. It is being said that during the clean up of the stream, Native American artifacts were discovered dating back thousands of years.

Many feel that renaming the park will inspire all walks of life. The park is considered to be precious because of Marvin Gaye's music. Residents feel that the community's surroundings could have influenced Marvin Gaye's music such as "Mercy, Mercy Me," "Ecstasy" and "What's Going On."

"Music is a message and relevant today. Music is the most powerful influence in the world," said Steve Coleman.

Metro Briefs

Washington Ranks Among Best-Educated Cities in the Country



According to a recently released study by the Associated Press, D.C. attracts many of America's college graduates. The study concluded that more college graduates are heading to Washington in search of jobs and other opportuni-

ties. Experts have said that this trend can serve as a major boost to urban areas. The study found that the best-educated city in the U.S. is Seattle, with more than half of adults holding three or more bachelor's degrees.

Wolfgang Puck Brings his Signature Flavor to D.C.



Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck's restaurant is slated to be housed in the former Newsroom complex on Pennsylvania Avenue. The Frederick Forum announced the deal for the restaurant that will be named "Source by Wolfgang Puck". The

complete Newsroom complex is part of a 643,000 square foot complex opening in fall of 2007. The original Newsroom was in Arlington, Va. and it closed after officials announced plans for a larger facility near the Smithsonian.

Capital Couture With 'Lettie Gooch'

BY ASHLEY SOUTHALL
Contributing Writer

The old site of Madame C. J. Walker's Lelia College of Beauty Culture is home to another first. Lettie Gooch. The petite boutique is the first to answer the call for couture in the Capital.

The manifestation of owner Theresa Watts' teenage vision to "empower others to fully embrace their unique individuality," Lettie Gooch combines the feminine, funky, and refined styles of New York City's Soho district into a collection that stylist Monica Brooks calls "couture for everyday life."

"It's a breath of fresh air to go to it," Watts said.

The boutique gets its name from Watts' maternal grandmother, a former seamstress born in Virginia as the oldest of thirteen children.

"She was a huge influence on me," says Watts. "It was only natural that I honor her and give myself a standard to live up to by naming my boutique after her."

Lettie Gooch is the first—and currently the only—boutique in the District to retail House of Dereon, Beyoncé Knowles' sought-after line. The boutique also features more than twenty clothing collections by names such as Salvatore Ferragamo, Ranaul Denim, Hype Dresser, and Foreign Policy accompanied by an array of designer shoes and imported jewelry. Customers are especially fond



Lettie Gooch, the newest boutique to hit the Washington fashion scene, makes customers happy with designer finds at affordable prices.

of the Ecoist bags, handmade from recycled candy packaging, and the availability of Takeouts and Low Beams.

"It's a nice, hot feeling for spring and summer. You don't find items like these in other stores," says Lettie Gooch intern and aspiring designer Jessica Peaks.

Lettie Gooch's selection is limited in a way that shoppers appreciate. Each piece of jewelry is the only one of its kind. Small numbers of each design allow Lettie Gooch to showcase a diverse selection of pieces in the small space. The boutique also

offers shoppers custom orders from contributing designers, minimizing the chance for several customers to have the same item.

"Everything [in Lettie Gooch] is unique to U Street," said local resident Eileen Smith. "It's affordable, not too expensive for a boutique."

Although Lettie Gooch does not sell men's articles, men have taken notice. Brian Digby noted while accompanying his wife, "It's definitely something D.C. needs—a boutique instead of a chain."

Watts also offers Life-Style

coaching and fashion tips in-store and online at www.counimage.com. Her Traveling Boutique tours the Metro area selling exquisite items year-round.

Boutique Information

Name: Lettie Gooch
Location: 1911 9th St., NW (between U and T Streets, NW)
Phone: (202) 332-4342
On the web: www.lettiegooch.com
Hours: Tues. – Sat. Noon to 7 pm; Sun. Noon to 5 pm.

Potomac Watershed Cleaning Revealed Tons of Trash



Organizers of the 18th annual cleanup of the Potomac Watershed said nearly 131 tons of garbage were collected from nearly 300 sites in the District.

Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. Officials say that if lined up, the collected bags of trash would stretch 3.5 miles.

House Fire In Bladensburg Monday Afternoon



Prince George's County firefighters battled a blaze in Bladensburg Monday afternoon. Firefighters initially found smoke coming from the back of the house around 3:30 p.m. The fire then quickly spread

to the roof of the home. Firefighters evacuated the house and fought the fire from the outside. No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The Hilltop

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EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 117

APRIL 11, 2006

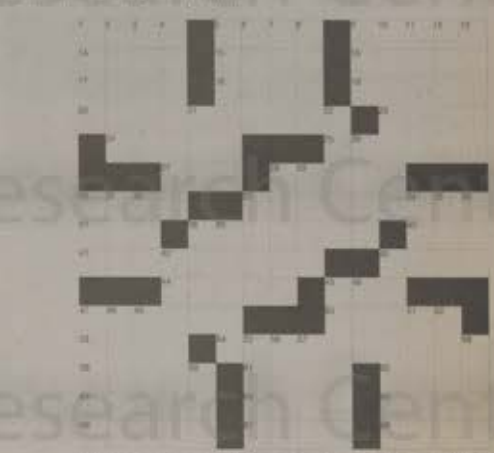
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4/10/06 SOMEWHAT BASSY by Gail Gratzkowski, edited by Shani O. Hilton

Across

- 1 Baking utensils
- 2 Ocean vessel
- 3 Wellhead
- 14 On the peak of
- 15 "Time With the Wind"
- 16 Die down
- 17 Living room furniture
- 18 Actor Aldo
- 19 Game with straight and flushes
- 20 Knowledgeable instructors, to speak
- 21 Late-night TV host
- 24 Knapsack part
- 25 Light-bulb inventor
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- 30 Eject, as lava
- 33 Presentation prep
- 37 Iron source
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- 40 Lamb's cry
- 41 Attention-getting lettering
- 43 Give temporarily
- 44 At an angle
- 45 Get a look at
- 47 Complimentary comment
- 50 Necklace fastener
- 53 High-heel shoes
- 54 Produce-section display
- 59 Keep clear of
- 61 Just sitting around
- 62 California wine valley
- 63 "When pigs fly"
- 64 Football coach's responsibility
- 65 Tied, as a score
- 66 Lack of hair
- 67 Pay to play 19 Across
- 68 Classroom furniture



Puzzle by Shani O. Hilton, designed by Gail Gratzkowski, Ed. Hilltop & Software (C) 2006, Hilltop

Down

- 1 Four ticks
- 2 Molecular part
- 3 Like Mr. Spock's diet
- 4 Small bird
- 5 Post-office purchases
- 6 Anglic symbol
- 7 Iraq neighbor
- 8 Window section
- 9 Traveler's guide
- 10 Make illegal
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- 28 Actor Eastwood
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- 31 Tennis instructor
- 32 Smoking fish
- 33 Come up short
- 34 Lincoln nickname
- 35 Competed in a marathon
- 36 Little bit
- 38 Rental unit: Abbe
- 39 Handle, clumsily
- 42 "She loves me not"
- 43 Found out
- 45 Plan
- 46 Santa Claus aide
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- 48 Normal
- 49 Higher than
- 51 Debonair
- 52 Pinhead's concern
- 55 Hayworth of Moore
- 56 Biblical paradise
- 57 Blind unit
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- 60 AMA numbers

It's Bigger than Mo'Nique

Those that have followed Mo'Nique's career know that she tends to play on her plus size when entertaining. In her stand up acts on BET's Comic View or the movie The Queens of Comedy, she has been notorious for making fun of herself, her love for food and teasing, skinny women who she often labels "devils."

She is telling jokes, and everyone knows she is joking. However there is something to be said for making a career from poking at weight issues. She is a beautiful woman and she has every right to be proud of all of her curves but she is quietly sending a mixed message to other women.

Being self-confident is great, but for women of color, there are many health risks involved with being obese. They affect African

Americans disproportionately.

No one is discrediting her talent here at *The Hilltop*, but we are wondering why she doesn't stretch out onto other topics or try and challenge herself by doing some different roles. Even her reality show "Fat Chance" was

ous and can be detrimental to one's health down the line.

Mo'Nique's latest film, *has* a good angle because she plays the object of a man's affection which sends a good message that women do not all have to be rail thin to be attractive. However,

if that's the theme behind the plot, why is the main man physically fit? What does that say to overweight men? They are often neglected when it comes to polishing their self-images as well. We are not beating up on Mo'Nique; we just find it bizarre that everything she does seems to deal with weight or chasing after a man.

There are so many stereotypical images of overweight black women in the media. We want her roles to help, not a hinder, the health of black women.

Our View:

It's good that Mo'Nique inspires plus-sized women in films like 'Fat Girls' but she needs to be mindful of the message.

inspiring to aspiring models, but once again, weight was the central topic.

Queen Latifah is a beautiful woman that also happens to be plus sized, but she has not made a career out of her weight. We admire Mo'Nique if her mission is facilitating self-esteem for women of all shapes and sizes, but being overweight is danger-

ing their self-images as well. We are not beating up on Mo'Nique; we just find it bizarre that everything she does seems to deal with weight or chasing after a man.

There are so many stereotypical images of overweight black women in the media. We want her roles to help, not a hinder, the health of black women.

It Sucks to be a Senior, Pt. 1

Maya Norton
Editorials and Perspectives Editor

If one more relative asks me my post graduation plans I think my head is going to do an Emily Rose and spin in a full circle—"Exorcist" style. Everyone knows that when they ask me how I'm doing, my first response will be "tired." The pressure for seniors is really getting hectic now. These next two weeks make or break the term "prospective graduate." Though we've cheered in our cap and gown pictures, told grandma and 'denn about hotel accommodations and visited the counselor for clearance, flakes do happen here at Howard, and sometimes graduation fumbles at the last minute. Anything can happen though we keep fingers crossed and pray for the best.

Teachers don't understand the mind state of a senior. We are weary. It's like the last leg of a race where your lungs burn and you start to get delirious. All of your professors seem to be speaking Japanese and it goes in and out of your selective hearing as you juggle paying rent, graduating, the goodbyes you'll soon have to say and every other thought in your mind. To read

is almost impossible. Busy work is mind-boggling. Rather than attack that project you've needed to do, you take a long nap and enjoy it. I'm supposed to be eating healthy yet my frazzled mind has had me in the McDonalds drive-thru a little too regularly. Seniors are scattered.

The thought of graduation is bittersweet. Campus tours pass by and we're brought back to the crunkness of first becoming a Bison. Ravaging Bed Bath and Beyond, IKEA and Target to get all of the fun things for the room. The pinning ceremony and Ice Cream Social. First Homecomings. First (and last) college boss. Best friends. Learning and growing as an individual and expanding our horizons. Sobbing to your best friend, being confused about life, laughing, being embarrassed: they are all things to miss about college.

There are people we will never see again in life. People we never told the truth of what we thought about them (good or bad). Teachers and people here have made such an impact on us, and unfortunately we probably won't realize how until we're long gone.

As I stroll through my class-

es, all I can think about is getting the books, finals and stress behind me, but simultaneously I am already mourning college. All my old buds remind me to enjoy the moments because the real world sucks. Dining dollars will be replaced by tight entry-level salaries. Long hours spent on the yard and being random will be replaced by long hours in the office. The melting pot we call the Moxa will definitely be missed. I always said I'd be the alumni that was too cool to come back on campus. I'm starting to take that back; maybe I will be lingering outside the classroom like Ghost Dad. Just kidding.

To all my seniors, we're in the home stretch. The countdown begins to popping bottles and celebrating a new phase of life. Being a senior is a proud moment because we've made it. But now it's over, so what do we make of that?

Oh yeah, thanks to everyone that came up to me and cared about my carjacking incident. Guess what? Someone accidentally backed into my hood and now it's all smashed up. When you see me at the grad parties I will be in a car I now officially label a hoopty. At least my air

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its third year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 2,200, *The Hilltop* is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed on the Editorial and Perspectives Page are the views of *The Hilltop* Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the *Hilltop* Editorial Board, Howard University. Its administration or the student body.

The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at www.thehilltoponline.com.

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READS THE HILLTOP..."**

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Dilemma in Durham

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

An editorial titled, "Duke University's Dilemma" ran in yesterday's *Hilltop*. In that editorial, it was stated that "...the athletes need to be disciplined and face consequences for their actions."

However, less than 24 hours after that statement was written and printed, administrators for some of the accused Blue Devils lacrosse players said that DNA test results did not connect any of the members of the team to the tape of a strip-tease.

For nearly a month I have tried to avoid writing about this topic. I avoided it mainly because there was not much concrete information with which I could form a solid opinion.

The story went somewhat along these lines:

Players from Duke's men's lacrosse team rented a house and held a party on March 25. Two female strippers were hired, one of which was a black single-mother student at North Carolina Central University.

Apparently she returned to the house because she had forgotten a pair of shoes. At this time, she was dragged into a bathroom, choked, beaten and raped.

Reports also say that the woman claimed that the team showed racial slurs at her.

Last week, after nearly three weeks of investigation with no one being charged, the team's coach announced his resignation and the remainder of the school's lacrosse season was cancelled.

Forty-six men from the 47 player roster were tested. The only black player on the team was not tested because the accuser told investigators that her attackers were white.

Referring to a listserve called YoungBlackJournalist@Yahoo.com, the members of this group are students, such as myself, and professionals that seek an open board to voice their opinions and concerns about the day's events, among other things.

The members descended upon the news of Duke's players allegedly raping a black woman like she was a piece of meat.

Many members slammed Duke's administration for not taking rapid serious action while others made claims that if it were a majority black team, the penalties would have been much harsher.

I try not to play the race card very often. I know that there are many racially based acts today in this country, but throughout my 16 years of life and the beginning of my career as a journalist, I have found that everything is not always as it first seems.

A lawyer for one of the players says that photo timestamps will show that the woman was already stripped and in poor condition before she arrived to the party.

You still not sure what happened that night in Durham, N.C. as I will reserve my judgment on the woman and the men involved.

It seems like there was some foul play on the part of the lacrosse players, but rape is a very serious accusation (and it looks like it is nothing more than an accusation), that has traumatized a team and a divided a community.

Athletes, Students Favor Nike for Style and Performance

BY COURTNEY JACKSON
Contributing Writer

When walking into a Footlocker, Champs or Shoe City, hundreds of different athletic shoes can be seen displayed on the walls.

To the untrained eye, a person can be overwhelmed with the many different brands and styles of athletic shoes to choose from.

Despite the numerous choices of shoes, the majority of HU athletes have a preference, and that preference is Nike.

"Nike shoes are the most popular brand in our store," said sophomore psychology major and Footlocker employee Krystle Joyner. "Whether it is for casual wear or for sport, our customers stick to Nike."

Joyner, a Footlocker employee of two years, says that athletes choose Nike products because of their sufficient advertising techniques. It is hard to watch a sports program without seeing a few different Nike commercials.

Nike commercials always have the most popular athletes in every sport for their products. These commercials range from the inspirational clips of Michael

Jordan highlights, to the comedic Spike Lee commercials saying, "It's gotta be the shoes."

Is it the shoes, or is it the backing of athletic elite that makes Nike shoes so popular with Howard athletes?

According to freshman basketball player Dominique Davis, it is both the shoe and the advertising.

"It's all in reputation," Davis said.

"Nike shoes are the most lightweight and comfortable, but at one point we [consumers] wouldn't know that if the athletes we look up to didn't swear by them."

"They [professional athletes] attract us to the shoe, but the quality makes us keep buying them," he said.

Lady Bison basketball team manager, Jessica Teachey says that Nike stays popular because they stay consistent.

"My teammates and I prefer Nike shoes when we play because the majority of them give great ankle support and grip on the soles," Teachey said.

Not only does Nike make the most popular athletic shoes, but their Air Force One casual shoe is one of the most popular shoes off the field/court.



Nike has been noted for its commercials such as this one featuring Michael Jordan and movie director Spike Lee which help promote Nike products like the Jordan line.

With hundreds of different styles of Air Force Ones, some HU athletes say that they have a pair for almost every outfit.

"[Air] Forces are the most comfortable casual shoes I own," said junior Edward Drew, a former soccer player.

"I see them all over the yard. It's not just a song anymore, it's a lifestyle," Drew said. "I also know that any Nike running shoe is popular because they're built for comfort and they feel good around the whole foot."

Although Nike is the most popular brand with Bison athletes, it is not the only brand on

campus.

Lady Bison softball pitcher Dale McNeal says that Nike's shoes may be stylish and worn by the majority of her teammates, but they just aren't for her.

"I rely on Ringer cleats as Adidas running shoes while I play, and plain white shelltop Adidas when I'm just relaxing around campus," McNeal said.

Many HU athletes acknowledge other brands and say that many brands that were on top years ago are making a come back.

In recent years, Reebok

regained popularity by adding the S. Carter collection and the G-Unit collection to their brand.

According to senior business management major Brandon Miller, much like Reebok, Puma and Adidas are gaining status with the recent "old school" trend.

"Now that the 1980's hip hop attire is fashionable again, Puma and Adidas are reestablishing their reputation," Miller said. "But when it comes to a shoe for every sport or look, Nike will always be on top."

"...when it comes to a shoe for every sport or look, Nike will always be on top."

(Brandon Miller, '06)

Predictions Fly as MLB Season Opens

BY COURTNEY JACKSON
Contributing Writer

April is here, the sun is shining, the grass is greener and the Major League Baseball season has begun.

Last week, baseball fans tuned in to watch teams from the American League (AL) and the National League (NL) play their opening games.

By Friday, both fans and critics were making their championship predictions.

Although we do not have a baseball team here at Howard, there are still a substantial amount of baseball fans.

This became evident earlier this school year when the Chicago White Sox won the World Series. The campus erupted with joy and White Sox paraphernalia was hanging in dorm rooms across campus.

With the start of a new season, HU students have made their predictions for what team will win the 2007 World Series. The top three teams that HU students forecast to win it all are the St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago White Sox and New York Yankees.

St. Louis Cardinals

"St. Louis opens the season with the best rotation in the league," said Eapen.com writer Phil Rogers.

Mark Mulder, Sidney Ponson, Jason Marquis and Jeff Suppan are four of the few stars on that rotation. It also includes the best hitter and pitcher in the NL, Albert Pujols and Chris Carpenter.

Sophomore engineering major Derrick Rumbolt believes

that the Cardinals will be the team to watch this season.

"The St. Louis Cardinals are probably the best candidates because they have the best all around team in the NL, and [Albert] Pujols can carry almost any team."

Although the Cardinals are the season favorite, there are always conditions that can skew results. The Cardinals major weakness this season will, more than likely be the absence of Reggie Sanders and Larry Walker, and the shoulder injuries weakening Scott Rolen. This may force the team to fewer home runs than previous seasons.

By signing twelve major free agents, including Alex Rodriguez, the Yankees have run up a combined payroll of approximately \$978.5 million.

A top reason why the Yankees could win the World Series is because there is less distraction in the ball club; this season should be "drama" free.

Another reason the Yankees should win the title is because they recently acquired Johnny Damon, with his skills the Yankees may be unbeatable.

"The Yankees always play great because they always have great players," said senior marketing major Brian Douglas. "They have Johnny Damon now so nothing can stop them."

"There is no doubt the Yankees are going to win—I mean, they are the Yankees," he said.

Since we [White Sox] traded Luis Vazquez and Darnest Marte, our bullpen is weak-

er," said Dustin Hermann's back problems aren't going to help either.

much. Dustin Hermann's back problems aren't going to help either.

New York Yankees

The Yankees are by far the most watched team every season, and every season they are predicted to win the World Series.

However, for the last 5 1/2 years the Yankees have not won the title and have done everything they could to win.

Critics say that other teams dream about winning the World Series, while the Yankees are supposed to win.

This attitude is shared among HU students because the Yankees have had the most championships in the history of sports, and they have spent the most money on buying talent.

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Nationals' Rodriguez, Robinson Suspended



Washington Nationals reliever Felix Rodriguez was suspended for three games and Nats' manager Frank Robinson for one following last week's game against the New York Mets in which five batters were hit by pitches.

The two were suspended in the eighth inning after Rodriguez hit Mets catcher Paul Lo Duca with a pitch. They would later be fined.

Nats' outfielder Jose Guillen (shown above) was also fined for charging the mound after he was hit for the second time in one game and the third in the series.

A total of seven players were hit during the series.

Compiled by Caryn Grant, Sports Editor

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

The Way I See It...

The End of the Year



BY CIARA FABLE
Life & Style Editor

It's that time of year again... the end of school. Every year since I was a freshman, I have witnessed otherwise rational human beings turn into nervous, sobbing wrecks because they think that securing a magical internship with ABC/The New York Times/a certain Senator's office will inevitably propel them to superstardom...no matter how many coffees they have to go out for or copies they have to make. Meanwhile, while that girl that sits next to you in Spanish is crying because she has to drop, and your professors, many of whom have made no assignments for most of the semester, suddenly feel the need to throw in two projects, three papers and a test before May 12.

I know how that feels to be completely stressed out, because I am right now. Yes, with only two official weeks left in school I am still waiting for the call that will cement my summer plans in stone. I have a group project due before the end of the week and Bison Ball...forget it. Although a party sounds fine right now, the annual 'last hurrah' of the year is but a distant mirage—a goal I can't even begin to think about before Thursday. But I know I'm not alone, so I'm trying not to sweat it anymore. Oh, sure, I still want to find the job that will be the launching pad for my future stardom, but I've decided to stop stressing about it.

After all, with projects and finals closing in on me and my practice of procrastination given, I feel like I have some other things to do besides worry all the time. That can only cause more problems. Because when it comes down to it, all a person can do is apply him or herself. I'm making a pledge to apply myself for these last two weeks of school. I know it sounds silly to say that I'll work hard for just two weeks, but when you think about it, two weeks makes all the difference. Can you imagine what would happen if everyone decided to do nothing for the next two weeks? There'd be absolutely no reason for a graduation ceremony.

A part of me wonders if it can be done. As I move into my senior year, I am faced with the mini-burdles of tests and projects. Since a lot of my friends are seniors, all I've heard recently is "I just need a 'D' to get out of here" and "Doesn't he know? I'm just trying to graduate!" The woes of my senior friends remind me that I don't have it so bad. I mean, what I do right now doesn't have much effect on whether I move from 'prospective' to actual graduate, and unfortunately, I know there will be some left behind. So juniors, sophomores and freshmen, stay with me: all we have to do is buckle down and bite the bullet, because in the end, it's what we do in the end that matters most. If we made it this far, how much more difficult can it get? Right?

Ciara's gone off to do all that work she has been putting off for semester. She's got a lot of work to do, so email her at lifeandstyle06@yahoo.com, and maybe she can get back to you in a few weeks.

AJ Calloway Says He Was 'Hurting Us' at BET

BY JENNIFER MATTHEWS
Contributing Writer

AJ Calloway, the former VJ from 106th and Park and Howard University graduate is catching ears from all sides of the spectrum from recent BET bashing comments. AJ worked for the number one hit show 106th and Park for five years. Moreover, there has been much controversy surrounding AJ and Free, former co-host, and their reasons for leaving the show. Rumor has it that AJ left because he was only offered a brief extension of his contract. However, it has also been said that Stephen Hill, a BET executive said that he was shocked that Calloway left. To many, AJ was thought to be the spokesman for BET, but the world was unaware of his true feelings.

On Monday, April 3, the hip-hop website and many others posted AJ's alleged comments which were made at South Carolina State University. According to www.hiphopdx.com Calloway said,

"Pick your five favorite songs. Write down every word that's in your favorite songs. Read it back to yourself and think about what that has put into your head. Understand internally what you're taking into your soul and into your system. Really look at it. You might say it doesn't do anything, but I'm telling you it does."

Calloway said that he was always against the morals of the



Photo Courtesy: www.hiphopdx.com

Former 106th and Park host AJ Calloway (far left) has recently come under fire for the comments he made about the integrity of BET's programming. In recent speeches, Calloway has explained how much the show deviates from the teachings of his upbringing.

show and network, but some disagree, stating that Calloway is just bitter because of his recent job loss.

At South Carolina University, Calloway spoke about how racism affected him when he was growing up and how the show was completely against what he believes.

Later in his talk with the university, he admitted that he made a vow to himself to never disrespect his own race. He also went on to say that he was wrong to even take the job knowing how he truly felt about

the network. He felt as if he were doing an injustice to the black race. AJ then closed his speech out by saying "I felt like I was hurting us by doing what I was doing." He also felt that hip-hop is a distraction to the challenges that we as black people face today.

So, from the comments that AJ has made, does that mean that he is trying to give the hip-hop generation a wake up call, and telling us to not watch and support BET? Or does that mean that it was ok to watch BET when he was the co-host of

106th and Park? Was Calloway's speech really that innocent and selfless?

"I think it is crazy that AJ feels like BET [is] against blacks because he certainly didn't act like it when he was on the show," said biology major sophomore Rashada Thompson.

Sophomore legal communications major Mia Maxey had a different perspective on his comments. "I am not at all shocked that AJ feels the way that he does, because you could kind of tell that he didn't fit in with the atmosphere when he

"Understand internally what you're taking into our soul and into your system [from hip-hop music]. Really look at it."

Calloway, at South Carolina State University

was on the show."

"I think AJ has a point to a certain extent however, it is like now he is almost saying that we (the younger generation) should discontinue listening to hip-hop because of the alleged ideas that it puts in our heads," said sophomore journalism major Japonica Gilbert.

Former BET intern Chanel Cooper said "I think that it's not just BET who is corrupting the minds of our youth, it is the media in general who contributes to the thoughts given to us from hip-hop music."

Interview Dos and Don'ts: Putting Your Best Foot Forward

BY BRITTANY ELLIS
Contributing Writer

It's the end of the year and students are setting up possible internships for the summer. Internships are important; they give students opportunities to decide if they really want to make a future out of their major. Employers look for applicants who have experience in their field of work. When going on an interview, it is important to make your first impression a lasting one with the right things to say, do and wear.

Before going for the interview, you want to prepare yourself by doing your homework on the company that you are applying for. Researching the company will help decide if you make a good candidate for the company. By researching the company first you are "matching your skills and passion to the company's requirements," said Harold L. Gray, the director of Professional Development and Center for Insurance Education.

Interview day is important because it is the one chance to prove to employers that you are the person capable of fulfilling the job duties.

When getting dressed for an interview both ladies and gentlemen should go for the conservative look. Wear dark

colors such as greys, dark blues, and blacks.

"Dress conservatively; not too many colors, as it is distracting to the mind's eye," Laurence Primus, junior business administration minor, said.

For gentlemen, keeping facial hair trimmed and clean cut is imperative. Ladies should style hair in a neat fashion. Excessive jewelry will also distract the employer and may lessen your chances of getting that job.

Giving off the right attitude is another important trait to remember for intern applicants. Give the employer a firm handshake. It is important to be assertive and not aggressive. Smiling and sitting up straight shows confidence and eagerness.

"Make eye contact that will show the employer that you know what you are talking about," said Malcolm Scott, freshman electrical engineer major.

Always remember to be polite and most importantly, turn off the cell phone. "There is nothing worse than your cell phone ringing during an interview," said Jassie Harris. "It's rude and rude applicants get turned down." While interviewing at a job, there might be simple tasks that you may be asked to perform such as mak-



Photo: Photo

When in doubt about what to wear to an interview, lean on the conservative side. It's better to be too conscious than to ignore convention completely.

ing copies, or getting coffee.

As Suzanne de Passe once said, "It's the person that gets the coffee that goes the furthest. Do more than what's required of you."

Talk to people outside of the internship because you might find something that you are more interested in," said Lindsey Walton, a senior

broadcast journalism major.

Interns give you the opportunity to meet other people in the field of work. It is imperative to get to know as many people as you can while you are interning. Take the opportunity to network with some people and make connections. Internships also give you the chance to build

your resume and most importantly experience first hand what the working life is like.

Internships are just the first step toward future goals as well as success. With the proper clothing, vernacular and attitude, you will make the perfect applicant.

[Your Story Here]

Wanna Write for Life & Style??

Come grab a story at tonight's Budget meeting.
7 p.m., P-Level Plaza Towers West