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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 121

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

MONDAY notebook

WEATHER
MON 2/6:
SHOWERS
 HIGH: 63, LOW: 49

TUES, 2/7:
SUNNY
 HIGH: 68, LOW: 53

WED, 2/8:
SUNNY
 HIGH: 76, LOW: 55

BREAKING NEWS
MURDERER
DETAILED
INTENTIONS IN
BLOG

MAN WHO KILLED A TEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL AND PLANNED TO CANNIBALIZE HER BLOGGED ABOUT HIS "DANGEROUSLY WEIRD" FANTASIES, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM

CAMPUS
RESFEST
TALENT SHOW

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NATION & WORLD
FINDING YOUR
RELIGION

STUDENTS WORK TO FIND RELIGION IN THEIR OWN WAY. PAGE 5



BIZ&TECH
BOTTLED, BUT
NOT BETTER

BOTTLED WATER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER, BUT STUDENTS CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT. READ MORE IN BIZ & TECH. PAGE 5



HU CALENDAR

APR 17-23
 GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER 2006

APR 24-25
 FINAL EXAMS FOR PROSPECTIVE GRADES

APR 27
 FORMAL CLASSES END

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HUH Receives New Prenatal Equipment

BY ANYA L. ALEXANDER
 Contributing Writer

A ribbon cutting ceremony unveiled the latest technology in prenatal care at the Howard University Hospital Perinatal Diagnostic and Ultrasound Center in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology on Friday.

"The vision of the center is to provide quality and substantial care for high-risk pregnancy patients with quality service in a quality atmosphere using quality technology," said Kerry Lewis, director of the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine. "Our goal is to make patients feel welcomed by letting them know that we take their pregnancy seriously."

The Perinatal Diagnostic and Ultrasound Center provides specialized care to women



Howard University Hospital showcased three sonogram rooms equipped with technology that will display 3-D and 4-D images on 27-inch flat screen monitors in the hospital's Perinatal Diagnostic and Ultrasound Center.

whose pregnancies are complicated by Cervical Incompetence, Diabetes, Hypertension, Infec-

tious disease, preterm labor, and Sickle Cell Disease.

features three well-equipped sonogram rooms providing 3-D and 4-D images on 27-inch flat screen monitors.

Adrienne Stone, a patient at Howard University Hospital, said that the special 3-D technology allowed her to see well-defined images of the physical features of her baby girl including the shape of her eyes, nose and lips.

"The service here is excellent," Stone said. "Dr. Lewis is my O.B. and he answers all of my questions and concerns and takes care of me as if I was his own child. I couldn't ask to go to a better place."

The staff consists of an administrative staff of five, a Board Certified Perinatologist, a Perinatal Sonographer, and a Perinatal Clinical Nurse.

"I have a high quality of staff whose focused is good customer

service," Lewis said.

The new Perinatal Diagnostic and Ultrasound Center services include the gamut of ultrasound procedures, as well as pre-conception and genetic counseling. Unique to the center's ultrasound procedures include intra-uterine fetal transfusions, percutaneous umbilical cord blood sampling (PUBS), and sonohysterography.

The center is said to be the first of its kind in the city providing special services to women with high-risk pregnancies in the District.

Ebony Simpson, senior public relations major at Howard, said she believes the center is good for medical students to broaden their training.

"Howard is a leader in training African-American physicians

Bison Ball Honors Students, Organizations

BY AMBER ENGLISH AND TOMI AKINMUSURU
 Metro Editor and Daily Editor

The 2006 Bison Ball and Excellence Awards, hosted by the Howard University Student Association, drew more than 800 students, professors, and faculty dressed in their finest and finest.

The entire committee was happy with how everything turned out, there were a few hiccups, but we were prepared to handle them," said Nadia Pitts, HUSA Event Specialist and head of Tickets and Seating for Bison Ball.

For the second year in a row, the African Student Association took home the award for Student Organization of the Year.

Floyd Mitchell, senior marketing major and president of the School of Business, won Bison of the Year. This award is given to a male student who exem-

plifies the Howard values of leadership, scholarship and service.

"It was an extreme honor to be nominated, even more of an honor to win the award," Mitchell said.

Adele Rose, a graduating senior public relations and advertising major, took home the award for Biosette of the Year.

Mitchell also shared in the award of Student Council of the Year, with School of Business Vice-President Lenora Robinson, and the School of Business Student Council.

"It's really an honor, the staff worked really hard to achieve its goals for the year, and we're very excited," Robinson said.

Alpha Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. won the Fraternity of the Year.

"We are extremely elated and overjoyed to receive such a prestigious award," Brandon Wallace, chapter president, said. "We don't do programs for the rec-



The men of Alpha Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. accepted the Fraternity of the Year award. This was the chapter's first time being honored.

ognition, but it's good to be recognized for what we do."

Wallace said that to his knowledge, this was the first time the chapter received this award.

Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

won Sorority of the Year. Dorisimo Mason, chapter president, accepted, saying "I'm proud of our chapter members. We served the community well, had high GPAs, held positions on campus, and did it all with only 16 members."

All in all, those in attendance felt that the event was a huge success.

"I think the event was really, really good. A lot of the winners I actually knew, and I knew they deserved the awards that they won," Mitchell said.

Jackson Says Rainbow/PUSH Coalition to Pay Alleged Rape Victim's NCCU Tuition

BY BRITTANY LEAPHART
 Contributing Writer

Rev. Dr. Jesse Jackson announced Saturday that his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will pay the college tuition of the African-American woman who said she was raped by three white men on the Duke University lacrosse team at a party.

Though no one has been charged since DNA tests taken from team members failed to match any of them, Jackson still vows to pay her tuition even if her story proves false.

The woman should be able to support her two children and pay her tuition without having "to sacrifice her body to make money," said Jackson who has yet to speak with the 22-year-old student, according to CNN reports.

The dancer, who is a student at the historically black North Carolina Central University, told police that on March 13 she was hired to perform at the private bachelor party of one of the lacrosse members. She told

police that she was pulled into a bathroom, beaten, choked and raped by three men who she said were all white.

According to ESPN.com, District Attorney Mike Nifong has said he would have other evidence to make his case should the DNA analysis prove inconclusive or fail to match a member of the team.

Nifong has also argued that 75 percent to 80 percent of rape prosecutions occur without DNA evidence.

The Duke athletic department boosters and former Duke lacrosse players have hired Robert S. Bennett, who represented President Bill Clinton in the Paula Jones sexual-harassment case, according to the New York Times.

"It is unfortunate that members of the Duke community, players and fans are being judged before all the facts are in," Bennett said to the Associated Press.

This latest development in the case leaves many students wondering what the next step should be for the

alleged victim.

"I feel that the DNA testing is not enough evidence to prove that the attack did not occur in the specified manner," said Al Smith, senior international business major and member of the Howard University lacrosse team.

Making it even harder for investigators, the players have banded together and refused to speak with investigators.

"It's very common for a team to unify over matters that effect one of its teammates, but in this case I find it unnecessary and a hindrance to the investigation," said Asa Joe Jean Cyrille, a Howard University law student. "Cyrille said the DNA results are not the last straw for the alleged victim. "She and her attorney can take several steps to make sure the victims are caught. She should first get her story straight and make sure that it coincides with the evidence," Cyrille said.

Pictures from a digital camera used the night of the attack were obtained by a



Recent DNA tests have come up negative, and Jackson says his coalition will pay the student's tuition, regardless of the veracity of her claim.

search warrant.

"Her attorney should advise her to be consistent with the pictures. The DNA is only one fact of the case and it doesn't mean the story is lost. The DNA is a setback but [with the pictures being the latest evidence], the case

is not lost, Cyrille said.

If convicted of the first degree forcible rape, first degree kidnapping, first degree forcible sexual offense, common law robbery, and felonious strangulation, the players will face 16 to 20 years of jail time.

HU Opens Doors to Prospectives

BY ASHLEY WILSON
 Contributing Writer

Howard University hosts an Open House annually to welcome incoming freshmen and their parents to Howard's campus. This year, the event was held in the Blackburn Ballroom on Friday.

Students who usually come to the annual event are those that have already been accepted or are seriously considering Howard University and want to receive more information. This year's open house had a nice turn out. Parents and students filled up the entire ballroom. Families traveled from various regions to attend the open house.

Families were greeted at the doors of the Blackburn Center with bright smiles and directed up the steps toward the ballroom. Prospective students were already registered and at the doors they were handed programs, gift bags and a current student handbook and planner. Once they had gone through all the necessary steps they were escorted to their seats by the Howard student ambassadors.

"I really like the hospitality, culture and the divine respect that I am receiving from the students here at Howard University," said one prospective student's father.

The program began with several foot tapping and head nodding musical selections performed by Howard's Showtime Marching Band. Once the audience received a traditional welcome by the band, the administrators welcomed them, then immediately following were Mr. and Ms. Howard University.

Several questions were answered by the Interim Director of Admissions, Linda Sanders-Hawkins. She elaborated on the enrollment fee and how freshmen should pay their

See HOUSE, Campus p. 2

Easter Message Calls for Resurrection in Black Community



Chapel speaker Rev. Dr. Gardner Taylor has been hailed as one of the greatest preachers in American history and received a Presidential Medal of Freedom in August 2000.

BY JATASHA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Those who gathered as part of the congregation for Chapel on Easter Sunday soon found it hard to find a seat as Cramton Auditorium filled quickly in the moments before Rev. Gardner Taylor delivered a sermon about reviving the black community.

Dean of Rankin Memorial Chapel Dr. Bernard Richardson expressed his great excitement in introducing the speaker.

"The Chapel Assistants often tease me because they say I act like a little child when Gardner Taylor comes to Chapel," Richardson said. "Those of you who have had the privilege of being around Dr. Taylor can understand why I feel the way I feel."

As a native Louisianan, Taylor said he felt that he must begin

with an expression of gratitude for Dean Richardson and the approximately 200 students from Howard who went to New Orleans.

"Under Dean Richardson's leadership, this Chapel has become a standard by which such undertakings are measured throughout America," Taylor said.

Taylor opened his sermon by reading from the book of John, chapter 20, verse 11. Using examples of great empires of the past that have fallen, Taylor shared his fear that the nation's throat comes from within.

"No nation has ever come to the supremacy of power that has not had within that achievement the seed of its destruction," he said.

Taylor encouraged his audience to pray that the nation might be delivered from the fatality of power. He said believes that the

plight of the black community may be more desperate than that of any other community. He shared statistics in support of this belief. Taylor recited studies that reported high unemployment rates among black males in their 20s.

"They are not seeking work or they are incarcerated," he said. "Incarceration rates climbed in the 1990s and have reached historic proportions in the last years."

Taylor said he thinks that in light of such events, young people who feel that may be called to ministry should answer this call. He reminded women that they too are called to ministry, by using the example that the first person to go back to Jesus's grave was a woman.

"We all need to turn from despair to hope; from what cannot be to what can be," Taylor said.

Taylor added, "The nation

perhaps, would be best advised to turn from its defeatism to what can be and what under God it ought to be."

Students' reactions about the message and the service overall were mixed.

"The atmosphere in Cramton was beautiful," said Kayon Kidd, a sophomore political science major, "but I felt the message was lacking."

Byanna Santos, a sophomore, speech and audiology major, however enjoyed the service.

"Even though it wasn't long, it made me think about the status of the black community and how we need to have a resurrection," Santos said.

Taylor ended his sermon by stating "The hope that brings us together today is that Christ lives and that he shall forever reign."

Meridian Hill Hall Wins Talent Show, Quad Wins ResFest

BY AKEYLA BROWN
Staff Writer

On Friday evening, students filed in Cramton Auditorium to witness the culminating ResFest Event, the inter-dormitory Talent Show and to hear the overall winners of ResFest.

The Talent Show was hosted by David Johnson, a junior film production major, and Edward Drew, a junior theatre arts major. Dean of Residence Life Charles Gibbs said the show was a major success.

"The show, like the week, was more than wonderful. It gets bigger and better every year," Gibbs said. "We have a good product that the students seem to really appreciate, because they continue to participate in events and support them."

This year, Meridian Hill Hall finished first in the talent show.

"I was surprised overall at how well everyone did in the talent show, I wasn't really expect-

ing such a great show," said Parish Bradley, a sophomore finance marketing major. "But I was really shocked that my dorm won the whole thing, but I am proud of them they were really funny."

Taking second in the talent show, were the men of Charles Drew Hall. The young men representing Drew Hall in the competition were proud of their creative and brief exploration through the history of black music that they presented that evening.

"We got our show together, from start to finish on Wednesday," said Theo Hollingsworth, a freshman film production major, "and we did a great job, considering that we did it in such short notice."

In agreement with his dorm mate, Kandal Holloway said that he was very pleased with their performance.

"I really enjoyed myself and I am very proud of Drew, this

year we are all really representing," Holloway said. "I really think that we stepped it up to a whole other level."

Victorious for their second year in a row, the ladies of the Tubman Quadrangle were announced the first place winners of the ResFest week.

"They were out to get the Quad," said Tiffany Jenkins, a freshman administration of justice major. "But we overcame."

She added, "It was a fun experience and I am looking forward to next year."

Supporting Cook Hall for the last year, Cook Hall Resident Assistant and senior, Rachel Cooper, said that ResFest is vital part of Howard life.

"I had a really good time this year, this is my fourth year participating and my third year participating as an RA," she said. "ResFest is one of the most positive things that happens at Howard and students should take advantage and get



The Tubman Quadrangle was crowned ResFest champion for the second year in a row at Friday's ResFest Talent Show. Meridian Hill Hall won the talent show while Drew Hall came in second place.

involved." Challenging more students to participate, Gibbs said that he is looking for the next batch of leaders to plan the approaching year's ResFest.

"I am so proud of all the winners, I am really proud of Drew Hall," Gibbs said. "But most of all, I am proud of those who worked with me behind the scenes to make all of this hap-

pen and I can't wait to meet the next group of leaders. I can only imagine how great they are going to make ResFest."

Area Children Hunt for Eggs on Campus



The first Howard Kids Easter Egg Hunt was held in the Valley on Saturday. The event allowed local children to partake of the traditional holiday past time and interact with Howard students. The day's activities were sponsored by the Howard University Student Association, Groove Phi Groove and Endustry Power Players.

HU Open House

HOUSE, from Page 1

money as soon as possible. Otherwise, Sanders-Hawkins said they will be unable to register for classes and receive all the proper necessities if this fee is left unpaid. She also discussed housing and which dorms are available to freshmen, and the differences between the Tubman Quadrangle and the Bethune Annex. She ended her speech by telling the students the dates to register for classes.

"The program is very informative and impactful," said mother Debra Barrett-England.

Chelsea Moody, a prospective student who attended the Open House, said she enjoyed the event.

"So far Howard has been good. I went to Hampton; they did not have a band, here I am more pumped and I have been accepted here," Moody said.

Families were able to get a visual of what Howard University has to offer. They were able to see two performances by the Pan-Hellenic Council Greek

fraternities and sororities. One performance was by the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the other from the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

"I never knew about the campus. The people are pleasant and make me feel comfortable about my decision to go here," said Julian Haynes, a prospective student.

Closing the program was a student panel composed of all the student ambassadors that contributed to the Open House. They answered several questions from housing selection to religion.

Once all questions were answered the student ambassadors gave the prospective students and their families a tour around the campus.

"The open house is a good experience," said Jordan Prasler, freshman administration of justice major. "I went to the open house my senior year and the warmth that I received from the students is what sold Howard to me."

HUH Perinatal Cntr

HUH, from Page 1

and the center is another way to expose students to new technology," Simpson said.

Simpson is a work-study intern with the Office of Public Relations and Communication who worked closely with the event planning and said she feels that the center will help

the black community through the use of the high technology in ways that pregnant women with high risk have never had access to before.

"Perinatal centers are a new phenomenon in health care," she said. "This new development will take the hospital to another level."

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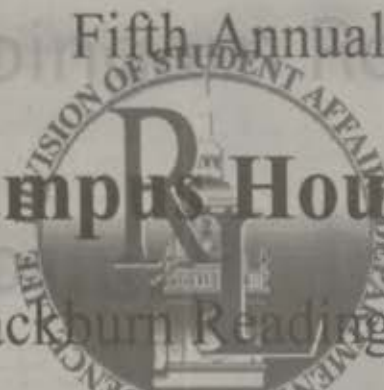
Fifth Annual

Off-Campus Housing Fair

Blackburn Reading Room

Monday, April 17, 2006

10:00am to 3:00pm



College Students Define Their Own Spirituality

With the challenge of science, entertainment, college courses and media, students are struggling to define their own sense of spirituality

BY TIANNA ALLEN
Contributing Writer

A team of oceanographers from Florida State University, Columbia University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have announced that new evidence proves Jesus might not have walked on water but rather ice formations from atmospheric conditions around the Sea of Galilee.

In a time when faith and religion is often challenged by science and entertainment, as seen in the best seller, the DaVinci Code, and even in college courses like philosophy, students are seeking to connect with a higher power, says a new study on college students' spirituality.

The Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA recently released the study of *The Spiritual Life of College Students*. Their findings show that African American students have a greater tendency to believe in God, pray and attend religious services than any other ethnic group. Additionally, one-third of African Americans surveyed said that religious practices and a sense of spirituality was essential to their everyday living.

Helen Astin, a senior scholar and researcher for the HERI study, suggests that African American students maintain their religious practices as a support system. "Feedback from African American students shows that religion and spirituality may be a source of strength and played a significant role in their youth. Church, religion and spirituality are support systems and sources of comfort in their community," Astin said. Some Howard students question that idea.

Historically, church has played a major role in black

communities. It was the place where you saw black men in suits and women smiling brightly. Church was an escape from racism, where the community could assert itself and hold positions of power. But those community centers have grown into mega churches that check W-2's to calculate member's tithes and own strip malls. The churches



A recent study by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA found that African-American students have a greater tendency to believe in God, pray and attend services.

of our parents and grandparents are not what young people are finding or turning to today....

For some students, their quest to define themselves has led them to question their beliefs or seek to better define themselves outside of church.

For senior audio major Derrick Bowers that time is now. Raised as a Baptist and well versed in those teachings, Bowers has decided to seek answers for himself and

question the validity of some thereof's intentions.

"People have made church the catchall for their problems and have curved things to what they think to make it convenient. The fakiness is in church, everything on the outside is in front," said Bowers.

Sophomore film major

"I have to be real. For a singer and I need a singer. People are not perfect and churches that appear to be holier than thou aren't recognizing that they are a spiritual hospital," Vidale said.

The issue of "fakiness" or lack of authenticity in church is one that students express great passion about. From the preachers with million dollar salaries to the parishioners not being real, it is all taking a toll on students' interest in church.

"Preachers have the best job security. No matter how bad the economy is, Creflo Dollar is not going to be touched, he's going to collect those tithes," said Jordan Costen, a junior TV production major.

Costen has deep concerns about the lectures many preachers display each Sunday morning. "Something is not right about a preacher rolling up to church in a Mercedes Benz. These preachers are buying into their own hype and genuinely believe what they are saying. I can't get with that," Costen said.

His thoughts are representative of reasons why students tend to stray from organized religion in later college years.

The HERI report documented the sentiment of Bowers, Vidale and Costen's concerns about their church experiences. While interest in spirituality remains, researchers found that college students' attendance in religious services tend to fall as they matriculate.

"Students are less likely to attend religious services and the concept is not the same as when they were freshmen, but they do continue on a spiritual quest," Astin said. "In some ways the college experience has helped them reveal what values they treasure."

For Vidale, church is where feeling takes place and honesty is required for feeling to occur.

DeAndre Vidale agrees with Bowers on the lack of authenticity in some religious experiences.

"I grew up Catholic and people come mourning and groaning each week. People are looking for realness and authenticity and are looking for themselves and not finding it in some churches," said Vidale.

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Outside of skepticism for religious leaders, students' search for spiritual fulfillment is sometimes bumped as their beliefs are questioned by science when it negates their faith.

A recent report by Dr. Doran Nof, an oceanographer at Florida State University proposes that Jesus did not walk on water. In a shock to the religious world, Dr. Nof suggests that the Sea of Galilee had frozen and Jesus walked on ice. For a student on a spiritual quest, such information may or may not be detrimental.

The HERI report found that students were using science to confirm their religious beliefs.

"We find students don't see that science and religion are in conflict with each other. One-third of participants see that science and religion work in collaboration," Astin said.

Concluding religious studies major, Josh Fields, agrees with the HERI study.

"I believe science is finding whatever God created. Some things we take literally whether it can be proven or not," Fields said.



Some students are seeking to find their spirituality outside of church. Studies show that attendance in religious services went down as they matriculated.

Eyes On The Oval Office

The Buzz on Who May Be Running in 2008

BY KENTRY KNARD
Contributing Writer

The race for the Oval Office in 2008 is heating up, and the prospective candidates are preparing for what is to be a competitive run at the White House.

An array of names are floating in and out of the picture and with so much in doubt, the field is wide open.

In the blue corner hoping to represent the Democratic National Committee, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY), Evan Bayh (IN) (former governor), John Kerry (MA), John Edwards (NC), Sen. Eliot Abarak Obama (IL), Governor Rod Blagojevich (IL) (a former Congressman), Tim Wilsack (IA), and Mark Warner (VA) all vying for position in the presidential race.

And in the red corner hoping to represent the Republican National Committee, Senators Bill Frist (TN), John McCain (AZ), George Allen (VA), Rick Santorum (PA), Chuck Hagel (NE), Governor Mitt Romney (MA), George Pataki (NY), and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani (NYC).

Speculation is circulating as to the inclusion of other high profile politicians such as Arnold Schwarzenegger (CA), Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Newt Gingrich, Jeb Bush (FL), though he has ruled it out, and a former DNC select Senator Al Gore.

Among those mentioned above, there seems to be a considerable buzz surrounding Senators John McCain and Hillary Clinton. Though no presidential prospect is any closer to the executive branch than they were during President Bush's inauguration in 2004, the camps of these two seem

to remain at the center of each party's bid for 2008.

Both camps, however, are reeling from blaring accusations coming from each's own base. Sen. McCain has been seen on numerous occasions backing President Bush, who derailed McCain's bid for the Republican Party in 2004, with the help of Karl Rove, pointing



There's presidential buzz surrounding (clockwise) Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bill Frist, Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama

to the former POW and Vietnam vet as "unstable," while courting the right-wing conservatives of his party that he previously avoided.

In his 2004 bid, McCain referred to Falsell as an "agent of intolerance" and said, "whether party should be defined by pondering to the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance, whether they be Louis Farrakhan or Al Sharpton or Jerry Falwell on the right."

Sen. McCain may have another problem on his hands as Gov. Mitt Romney, another Republican candidate, has attempted to raise money in the Senator's own state of Arizona.

Associate Professor Marilyn Lashley agrees.

"Senator McCain has lost all credibility," Lashley said.

On the other hand, Senator



Clinton faces many of the same challenges.

Despite her undeniable popularity in the Democratic Party, she still must face a base stirred by her attempt to move to a "restrict" platform.

"Hillary is not the answer [for the Democrats]. The Democrats need to come out of their comfort zone and take a stand on their issues," Lashley said.

Many on the liberal wing of the Democratic Party are upset with her waffling on the Iraq

war. The Daily Kos, a political web site widely read by the party's base, compares Hillary, unfavorably to President Bush, saying she's an unprincipled opportunist when it comes to key issues while Bush shows leadership in the face of adversity.

"When faced with low poll numbers on his crappy ideas, Bush picks on," the Kos pundit said.

"And [he] still gets them passed, pushing his agenda forward," she added that she is nothing more than a political second-tier.

This may not sound like a good start for either of these front runners for their party's candidacy bid, but there's still a lot of time, money, people and polls.

When asked who they'd like to see win their party's candidacy, the Howard populous seems to be diverse in its opinions.

Political science professor Samuel Moki believes Hillary and McCain are still the odds on favorites for their party, but would love to see a Colin Powell make a political comeback as presidential candidate for 2008.

Senior political science major Keith Layton picks two dark horses to win the respective DNC and RNC bids. He likes popular former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani for the RNC because of his no-nonsense politics and hard line stance on crime. He likes former Gov. Mark Warner (VA) for the DNC for his centrist views and background.

However, the frontrunners may not last too long with their attempts to crossover.

"You can't play on both sides," Lashley said.

Man Kills, Confesses

BY ROBYN FRANKS
Contributing Writer

Pennsylvania citizens said six relatives were beaten and killed before they were hidden in the basement of their home.

Jose Dee Wise, the grandson of the oldest victim, has admitted to killing his relatives and dumping their bodies in the basement of the family home, police said, according to ABC news reports. They all died of multiple traumatic injuries.

He was charged Thursday with six counts of criminal homicide. Wise confessed to strangling three of the victims and beating three others, according to court documents. The suspect continued to live in the house after murdering the victims, went out to eat and visited friends before he was arrested by police last Thursday.

The husband of family J. Wise was out of town, and became worried when he had not heard from his wife and asked a relative, John Sean Adams to check on the home.

"They're all dead. All six of them are dead," said Adams, the first to find the bodies.

The victims' ages ranged from age 5 to 64.

Jose Dee Wise, 21 admitted to Trooper Gerard Steers that he killed his family sometime between 2 am Saturday and 2 am Sunday.

Wise was arraigned on six counts of criminal homicide. Wise, an orphan lived with grandparents and gave no comments on a motive for slaughtering his family members. When all of the victims were named in court he remained silent, but asked, "When will I get a lawyer?"

Prior to Wise being arrested he was on bail and was expected to plead guilty to 21 criminal charges. Those charges included robbery, recklessly endangering another person and possession of a deadly weapon.

L. Carter, cell block tech-

nician at the District 5 Police Department, commented on the procedures for criminals receiving bail.

"The criminal charges might have been done as a juvenile and with a misdemeanor the police department has to let the person go," Carter said. "Lawmakers make the standard and it's up to the judge as to how things ultimately are handled. Personally I wouldn't have let Wise go."

Authorities said they found bone fragments, hair and blood on the walls and ceiling, while they were searching the house. There were several bloody, homemade weapons, stashed away in a guitar case. According to investigators, Emily Wise, Jesse James Wise and Chance Wise were strangled and the others were beaten to death.

During the search the police found several of the bodies wrapped in sheets and blankets and piled on the basement floor, one of them with obvious head wounds, according to CNN.

When they entered the basement one of the bodies was at the bottom of the steps wrapped in a container secured with a phone cord. Authorities sought "personal effects and financial information" related to the victim.

Neighbors commented that the family had only been living in the community for about 6 months. "If he killed his little 5-year-old cousin, he has no heart," Adams told The Associated Press.

Investigators identified the victims as: Emily J. Wise, 64, the suspect's grandmother; Wanda E. Wise, 45, the suspect's aunt; Agnes Arlene Wise, 43, the suspect's aunt; Skyler K. Wise, 19, the suspect's cousin Jesse James Wise, 17, the suspect's cousin; Chance Wise, 5, the suspect's cousin.

Wise has been ordered to be held without bail. The judge has set a preliminary hearing for April 20.

Is Bottled Better?



Students prefer bottled water as a safety precaution, as well as the convenience while on the go.

BY NICOLE L. PHILLIPS
Contributing Writer

Growing globally into a \$9.8 billion dollar industry, bottled water is increasingly becoming more of an accessory than a necessity.

From star athletes to young Hollywood starlets, everyone seems to prefer the convenience and safety of bottled water. But, is the bottle really better?

A four-year review conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council found bottled water to be no safer than tap water. In fact, the NRDC found that 25% of bottled water is just simply tap water placed into a bottle.

Ironically, tap water may even be safer than bottled water. This is due in large part to tap water being so heavily tested and regulated, while the original source of most bottled water remains a mystery.

Yet consumers choose bottled water for one simple reason: convenience. With bottles ranging in size from a small pint to a few liters, the "get up and go" appeal of bottled water has hypnotized consumers.

"It's likely that when people buy bottled water, they are purchasing the convenience rather than attempting to avert unsafe tap water," said Palma Venkatchalam, an economics professor.

While this is true for the average consumer, D.C. residents have good reason to choose bottled water over tap. According to a January 2004 article in the Washington Post, unhealthy amounts of lead can be found in one out of three District homes. Lead can affect the entire body, especially the central nervous system.

It can also be especially harmful to young children and pregnant women. The Water and Sewer Authority has advised these two demographics to avoid tap water altogether. Howard students have paid special attention to these developments.

Most Popular Bottled Water Among HU Students

1. Deer Park
2. Dasani
3. Aquafina
4. Generic (Safeway, Giant, etc.)
5. Evian

"It's likely that when people buy bottled water, they are purchasing the convenience."

Palma Venkatchalam,
Economics professor

"It is disappointing to know that our nation's capital has such unhealthy water, so in a way it forces you to drink bottled water," said Armond Brown Jr., a senior marketing major. Brown, who also plays soccer for Howard, cites health as one of the main reasons he prefers bottled water.

"[Water] is very important. It serves as a means of hydration to keep you going during the workout," he said. However, Brown admitted he prefers Gatorade during a workout because it contains electrolytes not found in water. Sophomore business major Kerly Gantt agreed with Brown about the essential need for water during physical activity.

"If you are a healthy athlete, it is imperative that you drink water to replace everything you have lost from sweating," Gantt said.

Bottled water is also preferred among non-athletes. Courtney Parker, a sophomore public relations major said,

"Bottled water just tastes better and I'm afraid to drink D.C. water because of some of the things I heard my freshman year."

Aside from being a necessity, bottled water, much like a healthy lifestyle, has simply become trendy. With obesity and weight-related issues becoming more prevalent, advertisers are

now welcoming the opportunity to help market this growing trend.

"There is a strong movement against children and adults drinking sodas as they contain enormous amounts of sugar and are one of the main culprits in increasing rates of obesity in our country," Venkatchalam said.

Whatever the reason may be, it's clear that this is no passing fad. With Americans consuming over 154 billion liters every year, bottled water is projected to surpass all other carbonated beverages in the near future, according to the New York Times.

Google To Store User Data

BY COURTNEY EDWARDS
Contributing Writer

Accessing information from your personal computer at any location without lugging a PC around is no longer an idea of the past. Google, one of the most popular and well-established search engine firms may have the solution to information access.

Google is working on a plan to "store 100 percent of user data," according to a slide show presentation inadvertently posted on its web site.

"With infinite storage, we can house all user files, including: emails, web history, pictures, bookmarks, etc. and make it accessible from anywhere. We already have efforts in this direction in terms of GDrive," according to the web site.

GDrive will be a service providing any Gmail subscribers a customized space to store files that could be accessed from anywhere using any computer, according to ZDNet.com.

Google's web site also mentions two other projects: GDS and LightHouse, which are both geared towards providing infinite storage and universal access to user data.

According to ZDNet.com, GDS is probably the Google Desktop Search, a program that allows users to search their documents and view pages across all of their computers.

Together, these projects could have the potential for creating a very powerful file storage and retrieval tool that could be accessed anywhere via the Internet.

This new service could ultimately replace the traditional Windows desktop most people use, said sophomore psychology major Antonio Moore.

"It's a program that will be much similar to Windows," he said. "So instead of buying



Google is in the works of creating online storage, making personal files more easily accessible than data saved on personal computers or laptops.

Microsoft Windows XP, you'll be buying Google."

In light of Google's recent partnership with Dell to install its software on as many as 100 million new Dell computers, Google could revolutionize the way computer users save information.

A future service could have the potential of saving users from computer crashes and data loss by keeping an online copy of user data.

This "golden copy," as Google calls it, would serve as the user's main copy, while the data saved on the user's hard drive would act as a cache.

In a cache, the most recently accessed data from the hard drive is stored so when it is reopened at a later date, the computer can load it much more quickly from the cache rather than the hard drive, according to Webopedia.com.

Chloe Evans, a sophomore political science major and an

avid Google user, is against the idea of having a person's information stored online.

"No way can it be really secure, having all my information on a computer somewhere," she said.

Caleb Boise, a sophomore film major agreed with Evans. "I wouldn't trust my hard copy somewhere else," he said. "That's the thing about a PC: it's in your home."

Steven Withers, a freshman electronic studio art major, considered the good and bad.

"I think there's a pro and con to the situation. It could work in your benefit. You could get to certain information without making it into a hassle," he said. "On the flip side, you have the threat of identity theft. With every technological advance, you have a con."

In any case, Google's plans would have the potential to significantly change the way people compute forever.

VR Games Can Help 'Lazy Eye'

BY LINDIWE WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

The term 'virtual reality' is always associated with high-tech video games, but due to advanced technology and scientific study, it has been proven to be more than just a source of entertainment.

Amblyopic, also known as 'lazy eye,' is a condition where one eye works better than the other. Researchers at Nottingham University have found that virtual reality games not only forces the lazy eye to be more active, but it also encourages both eyes to work together.

The team of researchers used a virtual reality car racing game where the computer sends the images of the player's car to the amblyopic eye and the images of the other cars go to the player's good eye.

The researchers found that the progress made in only one hour of treatment was equivalent to that of 400 hours when using the traditional treatment method of placing a patch over the good eye in order to strengthen the weaker one.

In the past, researchers have tried to accomplish such success by using static images, but it is their belief that modern day virtual reality allows information to be sent to each eye for the first time.

Virtual reality therapy has also shown promise in helping patients who have lost their range of motion, balance and mobility or walking ability due to strokes. The patients played virtual reality games without intervention, for one hour per day, five days a week, for a little over a month. These patients showed improvements in walking, standing and climbing steps. Brain imaging was conducted before and after the virtual reality therapy, and it indicated a reorganization of brain function after the therapy.

Virtual reality games have



Researchers have discovered that playing virtual reality games can help correct 'lazy eye' and improve mobility after strokes.

been effective in other areas of medicine as well. A study conducted by Yoram Baram, Ph.D, of the department of computer science and Ariel Miller, MD, Ph.D of the Multiple Sclerosis Center, Carle Medical Center and Kappaport Faculty of Medicine & Research Institute, used 26 randomly selected patients with multiple sclerosis.

The results proved patients whose baseline walking speed (BWS) was below the median showed an average improvement in walking speed of 24.49 percent, while those above the median had an improvement of 9.09 percent. The results in the improvement of the walking strides of the patients were similar.

Freshman engineering major Brent Fingal has played a few virtual reality games and said, "Everything you do in the games seems so real, more real than if you were actually doing it. Your actions sometimes end up being over-exaggerated."

Virtual reality has also been used to prepare soldiers for war. Virtual simulations of weapons used in war help prepare the

solidier for the reality of warfare. This technology has reinvented the training and preparation for soldiers as they are immersed in the virtual environment, which bares a striking resemblance to that of a battlefield. Thus, soldiers are far more knowledgeable about weaponry than those of previous times because of this advanced technology.

Sacha Sanchez, a freshman information systems analysis major, said virtual reality games have downsides and benefits.

"I think that with all the new technology, virtual reality games can be positive as they may be a more economical way to train soldiers for war and even pilots for flight," Sanchez said. "But I think it can have a negative impact on individuals, as our generation already seems to have lost touch with reality as a whole. Playing these games seems so real that one might come to enjoy the feel of a weapon or even feel as though they are able to operate one because they have played these games."

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- To support HU custodial staff
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Light Tasks – Sweeping, Cleaning, Chalk Boards, Bulletin Boards
 Painting

Simple Mechanical/Electrical tasks

Clutter Removal (of equipment & trash), Recycle, Storage

If you would like to volunteer, e-mail at

Dr. Aprille Ericsson – trustee.ericsson@msrce.howard.edu

Kiana Moore - husa_directorofprograms@yahoo.com

and/or

Sign-ups: Blackburn/HUSA, Engineering, Architecture

and/or

Show up: School of Architecture

EDITORIALS & Perspectives

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1/2206 FASTENATION: Various ways to keep things together by Mark Baker, edited by Stanley Newman

Across

1. Thrusts Milton back
4. Diego knows rock
- 8.1. which nobody can
14. Fervent knight
15. Exotic magazine
21. Pledge for a job
21. "You're... what, really?"
22. Clapper
23. Bumped in with
25. Peckham's location in the problem
27. With a 4-letter
28. Variable measure
30. Help-wanted title
31. "The..."
32. Glittery redolence
34. "I wish, right?"
35. Demerol use
37. Customary willpower
41. Indiana university
45. Singing soloist
46. Arm-in-breaking swapper
47. Habbington
48. I. Amos' country: Africa
49. After just
50. "Looking for the... Gardner" Dale
54. Full ahead of
56. Author Auster
58. Put away
59. "... showed traces
68. Seven best reads
69. Mimes teaching
84. Florida road
85. Was industry right
93. Most inimitable
97. Last of us
98. Capital of Ohio
99. Shores of ocean
99. Cuba film (kissed)
99. start of a Latin title
99. Actress Glynn
99. Tris' neighbor
99. Because distinct with
99. Pro golfer Cabell
99. Phased outfit
99. Improves the line
99. Nebraska address
99. Produce purchase
99. Publishing
99. Reported relating, word
99. "I, ..."
99. New Age stage
99. Discharge in
99. Camp F...
99. Midday
99. "Q&A..." before
99. Pre-read prior
99. Confused a Chick-22
99. Pleading gear
99. Fairy tale being
99. Actress Mabley
99. The Jester's dog
99. March in a museum
99. (Labeled street)
99. Indiana letter
99. Was missed
99. Art Deco artist

Down

1. Sample
2. Jazz singer... James
3. Link, performance
4. The same with
5. UK leader
6. "Cops" artist
7. Willemink
8. Not agreeable
9. Tibetan religion
10. Staff member
11. Outfit line
12. ... Crest with century monument of Italy
13. Comedian (sawed)
14. South... Maine
15. Olympic bond
16. Susan's greeting
17. Roughly stayed
18. Unintentional
20. Jungle game
21. Eagerly accepts
22. K&N brand
23. Not quite fresh, in water
25. Shyly evasive
26. Assignment
27. Cotton flower
28. Rise up there
29. North's expression
40. Prefix for junction
41. Spanish expression
42. Out of it
44. Inhabited village
47. Recipe phrase
60. Meteorological unit
61. Some individuals
63. Divided, astronomically
65. Location
67. Denote...
68. 15 min. of heated
69. "Magician" magician
69. Square
69. "Circle"
69. Substantive of fiction
69. Small insect
69. For elderly aide
69. St... for
70. Pub provider
71. Newspaper in Venezuela, Alaska
72. Dark tones
73. Replenishes
79. (In of India)
81. Influential politician
82. South's first title
81. Lacrosse: title
82. Inevitable
86. Mexican words
87. Lyricist Cheevers
88. "99 Cents Store"
89. Prodigal prize
91. Case to use and
95. Musical punner
97. Open to coast
99. Impulsive
99. Carriage
100. Olympic, stability
101. Skin to skin
103. Chamber's suite
106. Krieger's brand
107. "... which vehicle"
108. The game
110. B trace
111. River of Spain
112. Devine leopards
114. Terry's cousin
116. Henry Dore's boyfriend
117. Celine Dion
119. Certain holds

Black Gender Dynamics

Tricia Douglas

I must say that I especially agree with the theory focusing on the black community's social dynamics that contribute to the failure or lack of marriages among African Americans.

The women are becoming more and more independent and successful. However, let's not introduce this as such a new phenomenon.

Let's not forget, during slavery, the woman was expected to carry a tremendous workload equal to that of her male counterpart. Prior to this, it was unheard of in European customs for a woman to work in the fields. Whatever tasks a male slave was given, the female would be given the same task and expected to complete it just as well, in addition to her

"womanly" duties.

This created an even greater problem once slavery was outlawed, since black women maintained their jobs as washerwomen, cooks and nannies for the white women.

No one, however, would hire a black man to do the work that a white man could. We were never denied the opportunity to work (as black men were), simply to attain leadership roles.

The ability to not work was a luxury that the black woman never had, so we figured if we have to have jobs, we might as well put in the education to get the better jobs.

By far, the most asinine comments I have ever come across are those that depict the black woman as being power-hungry and greedy and shame her suc-

cess. Blaming her achievements on the destruction of the black family, rather than a system that has always forced this role as the provider, solely upon her. And yet, it was never a problem until she has found a way to slowly rise to the top.

For those who claim that the black family is in a state of disarray, it is important to ask a question. When has the black family ever not been in a state of disarray? Since we landed on American soil, stability became a thing of the past. Those who attribute this crisis to the black woman only reveal their own insecurities.

How can the family's problems possibly be solved by your woman making less?

Black-On-Black White Collar Crime

Dear Hilltop,

I was having lunch with the parent of one of your students yesterday. The chicken was a little salty, but the conversation more than made up for it. She showed me some of her daughter's articles and it was the first time I had the opportunity to read your paper. It is a fine class publication. However, when she told me that her daughter had been working on the paper all year, not semester, but year and that she was promised a stipend but had received nothing, I was appalled!

Black on Black crime doesn't only happen in the

ghetto between gang members and innocent children in playgrounds. Evidently, it's happening right here at the "Mecca."

What is the problem? Really? Are they teaching you how to lie, cheat, steal and use your peers? Is that a course? What's the course number? Who is the professor? I was ashamed.

As a graduate of a Historically Black University, I encouraged my friend to send her daughter to Howard. Now, I wonder if I made the right decision.

In closing, may I encourage you to pay the young lady and offer her your apologies. I don't want her mother and many others to spread the word that when

you attend the Mecca you better watch your back." It's not any more different than the Craps or the Bloods.

Sincerely,
Antoine Gold-Santana

Editor's Note: Getting paperwork done and forms filled out in a timely manner is the key to getting paid at Howard. The Hilltop has no intentions to use staffers without pay (we all know what it means to be on a college budget). Any discrepancies should be handled with the business office.

THE HILLTOP

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Int'l Hip-Hop Spreading

BY NICHOLE ALABI
Contributing Writer

International hip-hop is taking the world by storm as artists gain stardom in their respective countries and beyond.

An art form born in the United States in the late 1970s and early 1980s as an avenue for young people in the inner city to express their angst and celebrate their lifestyles, hip-hop is taking a foothold in countries all over the globe. International artists have taken motivation from the music and morphed it into their own styles rooted in the tenor of their distinct nations.

The version that has become the most similar to its American counterpart is the United Kingdom's "grime." Grime is unique to the area and was born out of the U.K.'s preceding genres: drum and bass garage. Fused with the British rave scene of the eighties and nineties along with electronic sounds and the patois of Britain's West Indian immigrants, grime was born.

So far, British grime has been the first genre to crossover to the U.S. Recently British grime stars, Rob Dee, have been touring small club venues with American hip-hop group the Diplomats. Joeli Santana, one of the Diplomats' front men, likes the style of grime artists. "I like their independence... no one tells them what to do," Santana said.

While grime has not yet become the billion-dollar industry of American hip-hop, many Americans are taking notice. Sophomore sports medicine major Emmanuel Onyewerim has recently been exposed to grime. "I like the sound of grime; you can bump it in the club. I don't know if I feel it as much as our hip-hop but it's cool... it's different."

Also taking over the United Kingdom's hip-hop scene is Sri Lanka's native country of Sri Lanka, where her father joined a group of revolutionaries who fought for independence from the ruling population. As the war worsened, it was no longer safe for M.L.A. and her family and they returned to the U.K. where she became hooked on hip-hop. M.L.A. says, "Hearing Public Enemy gave me a sense of self... listening to other people's oppression stopped me from thinking about what I had been through."

M.L.A.'s debut album "Arular" named after her father's revolutionary alias, is taking the world by storm and has even caught the attention of American hip-hop icon Nas, who called her "the future."



Artists like M.L.A. from Britain and the rappers Fonky Family (above) are using hip-hop to tell stories of difficult childhoods and life struggles.

hall rhythms, British grime and American hip-hop to form her own sound. Like her inspirations, hip-hop artists from the U.S., M.L.A. understands struggle, and her music is socially charged and deeply rooted in her not-so-pretty upbringing.

In an interview with VIBE magazine, M.L.A. said, "I'm as much about survival as any rapper... but my thing isn't the street. It goes beyond that to the jungle and a mad lust. Having bullets fly past my head was no big deal. By the time I was 10, I had seen people get killed and my school had been burned down."

U.K. born M.L.A. moved to her family's native country of Sri Lanka, where her father joined a group of revolutionaries who fought for independence from the ruling population. As the war worsened, it was no longer safe for M.L.A. and her family and they returned to the U.K. where she became hooked on hip-hop. M.L.A. says, "Hearing Public Enemy gave me a sense of self... listening to other people's oppression stopped me from thinking about what I had been through."

M.L.A.'s debut album "Arular" named after her father's revolutionary alias, is taking the world by storm and has even caught the attention of American hip-hop icon Nas, who called her "the future."

Across the English Channel, French rappers are also using their music as a way to express their anguish. The lyrics of French "rappers" are often flanked with tales of high crime, unemployment and police brutality in the country's inner cities. These areas of French cities like Paris and Marseille are similar to those in the U.S. as they are minority populated. As a result, the French rap genre was born as an answer to the outcry of France's alienated North African and Arab youths.

In 1994 the French government passed legislation forcing radio stations to play at least 40 percent Francophone music. As a result, French hip-hop artists have the ability to produce numbers rivaling their American counterparts. Now, French hip-hop artists are using the music to channel support for their plight. Beginning last October, riots broke in France's streets. References to "a day of reckoning" for the injustices of life saturates songs by popular artists like NTM, DJ, MC Solaar, IAM and Fonky Family, who are blamed for the siege of violence that paralyzed the country this past fall.

Like their American counterparts, international hip-hop artists are causing a stir; they are moving units and using their lyrics as a means for social protest.

Sex Sells: Celebrity Scandal Generates Huge Profit

BY SHA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

And dudes quick to take these quipies to bed better watch it 'fore they write a book about it like Superhead," rhymed LL' Kim on her last album "Naked Truth." Recently, there has been a new controversy to shock the world of entertainment specifically the hip-hop community.

The starting point of this new drama can be traced back to a book titled "Confessions of a Video Vixen" written by Karrine "Superhead" Steffans. In the book Steffans discloses the intimate details of her sexual relationships with countless celebrities including but not limited to P. Diddy, Bobby Brown, Ja Rule, Tru Gotti, Shaquille O'Neal, Dr. Dre, Ray J and Usher. This tell-all book has sparked criticism from Tyra Banks, Melyssa Ford and Ma Barker [Kool G Rap's Wife]. Yet, the Superhead drama doesn't end there. Recently allhiphop.com reported that a movie based on the book will be coming to theatres soon. It is rumored that the lead character of Karrine Steffans will be played by Elise Neal (Hustle and Flow).

While Steffans has paved the way of hip-hop sexual exploitation, her legacy has definitely been passed on. A new book entitled Sex, Drugs, and Hip Hop—Oh and Did I Mention Love by Carmen Bryan (mother of Nas' 10-year old daughter Destiny) is also scheduled to be released soon. Bryan's book supposedly highlights relationships with Nas, Jay Z and Allen Iverson. "I'm not writing this book to slam anyone, get even or because I have something to prove," Bryan stated on her website.

Also, jumping on the celebrity sex band wagon is Nicole Norain a model for Playboy magazine, who fought in court to have a tape released of her



Recent reports suggest Elise Neal (right), former star of UPN Networks sitcom "All of Us" and the movie "Hustle and Flow" has been tapped to play the role of Karrine Steffans in the movie based on the book "Confessions of a Video Vixen."



engaging in sexual acts with actor Colin Farrell.

So, the only question left to be answered is promiscuity profitable? And are these women justified for making money off sex, in the same way male rappers/artist sell sex? According to Essence Magazine "We do not believe in censorship, what we're asking for is different images, balance. There are black women in different lights." Essence began by starting a campaign called "Take Back the Music." The goal is to have women in the media portrayed in a more positive light.

So how does this all tie in to women capitalizing off sex? Basically, there [Essence] argument is that when these women in the videos like Steffans or others in the media portray themselves as being nothing but objects of sexual objectification it stereotypes all women.

While some feel as though Steffans, Bryan and Norain are wrong in their pursuit for material wealth, others like freshmen Ashley Johnson argue that they are just doing the same

things men have been doing for years. "I don't see why it's a big deal that they are making money off these men. Why is it okay for the men to use them for sex and make money using them in rap videos? But when they [women] make money off the same thing everybody has something negative to say."

Steffans' book was on the New York Best Seller's list and she has reportedly made an excess of \$7.3 million dollars for the rights to the movie. While \$7.3 million is a lot of money, it pales in comparison to the billions of dollars generated by the music industry for selling sex in videos, lyrics, and advertisements.

Views on whether or not these women are justified vary greatly depending on who you speak to. One fact however is undeniable: sex sells. These women and many like them have increased their income, notoriety, and status off selling sex to the masses. Hate them or love them they are making millions off society's infatuation with celebrity sex scandals.

MySpace or Yours? Students Find Love on the Web

BY COURTNEY JACKSON
Contributing Writer

Internet social clubs are recently becoming largely popular with users across the web. Many students are familiar with the ever so popular Facebook, which is sweeping college campuses across the country, but some students are unaware of the emergence of Myspace. Myspace, like Facebook, is a social networking site that allows members to interact socially. According to Rob Stafford, Correspondent for MSNBC.com, Myspace is "a cyber combination of a yearbook, personal diary and social networking."

Myspace has over 50 million members and unlike Facebook, Myspace is not exclusive to college students, but open to anyone with access to the Internet. "I Love Myspace. It's not like Blackplanet or the other sites where you can only meet a certain kind of person. Everyone is on Myspace," said sophomore audio production major Brittany Proctor. Other students share Brittany's view of Myspace and are turning to Myspace to network with different types of people.

Since more and more people are joining Myspace, it is becoming a main source of Internet dating. Members say that their inboxes are full of messages from others looking for a mate. Members throw Myspace parties to meet singles and make romantic relationships. "I know a lot of people who try and find love on Myspace. I think it's cool, it's a new age and we spend more time on the computer than we do going out. So this is an easier way to meet interesting people," says



Myspace, the popular website which has recently been under the scrutiny of the media, is a place that some students use to find love.

senior marketing major Brandon Miller.

Myspace profiles make it easy for singles to get to know each other. Members are asked to list their interests, details, the kind of people they would like to meet and of course an array of photos as possible. This is an open invitation for singles to contact each other and form relationships.

Here on HU's campus, students are not only using Myspace to "hook up" with a romantic interest. Myspace is growing in popularity because of its differences with Facebook. Unlike Facebook, Myspace allows members to decorate their profile page. Members are allowed to add music, photos, links, blogs and much more to individualize their page. Members are even allowed to use their pages to advertise their business endeavors especially people trying to gain musical exposure.

A lot of students prefer Myspace to Facebook. "Ever since Facebook changed the way you search, Myspace has become an easier way to find people, plus I like the bulletin that people post, most of time they are funny," says Miller. Other students have also admitted that it is easier to find people they

met over spring break or friends they have lost once they left home.

According to Myspace.com, Myspace can be used for "friends who want to talk online, single people who want to meet other singles, matchmakers who want to connect their friends with other friends, families who want to keep in touch, business people and co-workers interested in networking, classmates and study partners, and anyone looking for long lost friends." It is this motto that has made Myspace one of the fastest growing website in the country but also one of the most scrutinized. Myspace has been gaining negative media attention because of the dangerous relationships being formed on Myspace. Recently many assault charges have been brought to the nation's attention because predators are using Myspace to lure young members. "Members make it easy for pedophiles and others to access them. People put all their information on Myspace, making them easy targets," said Myspace user and sophomore finance major Amber Sherman. "Looking at someone's Myspace page is like looking into a piece of a person's personality and many members use this to form new romantic relationships."

Up To The Minute Nautical Chic



Photo Courtesy of www.thesite.com



Photo Courtesy of www.thesite.com

Once only the domain of those who sail the deep blue sea, nautical styles are on the rise in fashion once again. But now the look is streamlined and modern, using silk and satin where linen and cotton were once the norm. To interpret the look without looking like you're wearing a children's sailor suit, take this trend on in doses. Try to incorporate navy blue and white-striped nautical details like hats and handbags with silky skirts and platform for a look that is nostalgic but thoroughly modern.

US Team's Preparation for World Cup Shaky

BY AMINA COOPER
Contributing Writer

Next month, the world will have its eyes on Germany as 32 nations compete in the 2006 World Cup, a grand celebration of the most popular sport on the planet.

The United States, who surprised the world by reaching the quarterfinals in 2002, has the odds stacked against them. The United States Men's national team, dubbed "Sam's Army," have qualified as the best in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) only to land in the near group of death, Group E, which includes the Czech Republic, Ghana and Italy.

It seems as if the world is watching the United States with increased skepticism this year.

The U.S. bested Mexico during qualifiers to earn CONCACAF's top spot but the rest of the world scoffed saying CONCACAF is an easy region.

The item on the cake was the FIFA ranking the United States National Team fifth in the world.

This sent the rest of the world in a frenzy, questioning whether the U.S. has earned such a high placing.

From watching the United States recent performances in the international friendlies since qualification it appears that the players may have a leg to stand on.

If the U.S. fields the same team that was recently pounded by Germany and drew against Jamaica, it will be tough for the United States to make it past the first round of world cup competition.

Initially, the Americans looked to be in good form. They made up for a nil draw with Canada with a five nil win over Norway. Great performances and wins over Japan, Guatemala and Poland were wiped out of the minds of U.S. supporters when Germany thrashed the Americans in a March 22 four-to-one defeat in Germany.

The latest friendly, played April 11 against Jamaica, resulted in a nil draw and again, which called into question the preparedness of national coach Bruce Arena's team.

The young Jamaican team quickly recovered from early blunders and quickly stunned the U.S. with a brilliant goal in the fourth minute.

U.S. defender Frankie Hopkin was no match for the pace of Teaford Bennett who received a long pass from Jermaine Blue near the penalty box and tapped the ball just beyond the reach of keeper Tony Meola.

During the first half, the United States players, many vying for a position on Arena's world cup team, struggled to find their rhythm against Jamaica's very aggressive defensive tactics. The equalizer came in the 85th minute after U.S. player Noonan was fouled. Landon Donovan took the quick free kick and caught the Reggie Boyd misawards. Ben Olsen scored on Donovan's career and record high of 23

goals. Despite several "free" kick opportunities and a flurry of shots on goal during the closing minutes, the game ended at a draw.

"Well, I don't think they showed a positive image of the U.S. going into the World Cup, especially the group of death," said Kevin Bembrie, a graduate student from Kingston, Jamaica.

"I think USA should keep the same speed they qualified for the World Cup with and have the young ones to prepare for the future World Cup," Bembrie said.

Head coach Bruce Arena's issue for these last friendlies has been young MLS players battling injuries. Veteran players like DaMarcus Beasley, Brian McBride, Oguchi Onyewu, Eddie Pope and Claudio Reyna have missed games due both to injuries and club commitments.

The absence of these key players is not to be an excuse for the results, as Jamaica fielded an equally young team.

"They [Jamaica] played one of their



James McBride and the U.S. Men's soccer team will compete at the World Cup in Germany in June.

better games," junior business major Brian Gillison said.

The Jamaican friendly was the final exhibition match before Arena chooses his 23 man side that will compete in June.

The U.S. will play Morocco, Venezuela and Latvia before heading to Germany for the World Cup.

Remaining Games Before World Cup



May 23, 2006 @ 7 p.m.
U.S. Men vs. Morocco
The Coliseum (Nashville, Tenn.)
ESPN2

May 26, 2006 @ 7 p.m.
U.S. Men vs. Venezuela
Cleveland Browns Stadium (Cleveland, Ohio)
ESPN2

May 28, 2006 @ 7 p.m.
U.S. Men vs. Latvia
Rentschler Field (East Hartford, Conn.)
ESPN2

Questions Raised About HU Athletic Facilities

BY AMINA COOPER
Contributing Writer

The safety of Howard University athletic facilities has come into question after the injury of a male student that occurred during a recent intramural basketball game.

Reggie Bates, a junior finance major from Chicago, received a mild concussion in an attempt to block a dunk, jumping up and cutting his head on a pole that extends from the goal and subsequently passing out in a pool of his own blood.

When he came to, he was taken to the Howard University Hospital where he received medical care. His head injuries had to be treated with several stitches.

Bates, a 6'4" basketball fan, places little blame on the University, maintaining that the incident was a "freak accident."

"Honestly I feel it's nothing that's going to happen every day," Bates said.

Recently appointed Athletic Director Dwight Datcher shares Bates' sentiments regarding the rarity of such accidents.

"Let's put it this way: Nobody ever [wants] an accident to happen. In the seven or eight years that pole has been that way, nobody has gotten injured," Datcher said.

He insists that the safety of the goals and the poles that jut from beneath them is something that the University will look into further.

Bates believes that the facilities at Howard are relatively safe, but need to be regularly checked and updated.

"I do feel like, as a safety precaution, that the poles need to be covered," he said.

He feels that the injury has affected his game by causing him to be more tentative fearing a similar accident may occur.

It has been long-argued that many of the athletic facilities at Howard are overdue for renovation.

In a 2004 Hilltop article, former Director of Athletics Sondra Norrell-Thomas said the renovations to Greene Stadium, in particular, are needed and that it was a fact the administration was well aware of. The track hasn't been renovated since 1986.

In that same article, head track and field coach Michael Merritt said, "The track has been a thorn in my side for a long time. The administration knows about its condition and we've been discussing matters. The only problem is where the funding will come from."

Larry Strickland, head coach of the tennis team, said that renovations to the tennis courts located behind Banneker Recreation Center are scheduled to take place.

"I am happy. As far as Howard facilities on campus, I have no comment. I am not an employee of Howard University," Strickland said.



The track at Greene Stadium is one of Howard University's athletic facilities in need of repair and has not been renovated since 1986.

Around the Sports World

Bryant Surpasses Baylor

Lakers guard Kobe Bryant broke the single season scoring record for the L.A. Lakers franchise in Friday's win over Portland. His current total of 2,754 points this season surpassed Elgin Baylor's long standing record of 2,719 from the 1962-63 season.



Cheerleaders to Cover-up

Australian cheerleaders have been banned from wearing midriff-baring uniforms by Gymnastics Australia. The organization fears that such uniforms cause teens to worry about their weight and feels that the change will help prevent eating disorders.

Brown Hospitalized

New York Knicks coach Larry Brown was taken to the hospital with a stomach ailment after he became ill during Thursday night's game against Cleveland. He returned home Friday, but did not coach when the Knicks visited Detroit yesterday.



Compiled by Ceryn Gore, Sports Editor

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The Hilltop prints Hilltopics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The first 20 words are \$6 and .25 for each additional word.

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Dispelling Stereotypes Discussion
between African, African-American & Caribbean students at Howard University
Tuesday, April 18
Smart Room
Locke Hall
7:30-9:30pm

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