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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 124

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

FRIDAY notebook

WEATHER

FRI, 4/21:
THUNDERSTORM
HIGH 58, LOW 38

SAT, 4/22:
THUNDERSTORM
HIGH 57, LOW 37

SUN, 4/23:
SUNNY
HIGH 62, LOW 38

BREAKING NEWS

EARTHQUAKE ROCKS RUSSIA

AN EARTHQUAKE WITH A 7.7 MAGNITUDE HIT RUSSIA'S KAMCHATKA PENINSULA EARLY THIS MORNING. THOUGH INJURIES WERE SUSTAINED, NO DEATHS WERE REPORTED, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM.

HILLTOP FARWELLS THE HILLTOP STAFF REFLECTS

READ WHAT SOME OF THE HILLTOPERS YOU LOVE (AND HATE) HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE. INSERT



CAMPUS FACULTY LOGS ON TO FACEBOOK

SEE WHY HOWARD STAFF MEMBERS ARE SIGNING ON TO THE COLLEGE CRAZE. FACEBOOK.COM PAGE 2



LIFE & STYLE

THE ROLE OF THE HYPE MAN

LEARN WHAT HYPE MEN HELP ACCOMPLISH IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY. PAGE 8



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APR 20-23
GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER 2006

APR 24-25
FINAL EXAMS FOR PROSPECTIVE GRADS

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FORMAL CLASSES END

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LIFE & STYLE
SPORTS

Student Allegedly Assaulted On Banneker Field

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT
Connect Editor

Two weeks after being robbed, sexually assaulted and intimidated with university response to the incident, Jessica* has managed to make sure to make sure her law experience she has had since April 6.

"If we can get the word out that rape does exist, then, in theory, things like this can be either prevented, or women who survive rape can come forth to report it," the North Carolina native said.

Jessica and her friend were talking at Banneker Field at approximately 10:30 p.m. on the night that now plays in Jessica's nightmares.

Three men approached the women, but were politely dismissed. The ladies proceeded to the bleachers, where the same three men, this time masked, approached them again and insisted the women hand over the money that college students "always have."

The students relented and released all of their valuables. After the robbery, one of the assailants assaulted Jessica, while the others forced her friend to watch. While trying to escape, the men told the women not to scream or they would be hurt. When passing streets around the gym area, the women ran to a group of nearby Outcasts, who were close by but not within eyeshot of the bleachers. The Outcasts called the authorities.

Jessica, Kathleen Gough and two other women are starting a new organization to reach out to the women of Howard and the District. Jessica said she would like to extend the RAINN or speak UpSpeak Out organization to D.C.

The goal of the organization would be to encourage women to report when they are sexually assaulted. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, there must be the amount of reported assaults go unreported.

Jessica believes this incident may be relat-

ed to the recent string of robberies surrounding Howard.

When asked if the rape and the robbery were connected, Howard officials responded that the University does not comment on "rumors."

Jessica's first problem with the handling of the case was that both the Campus Police and the Metropolitan Police Department ignored the women's insistence that they could accurately describe the assailants and neither pursued those descriptions, according to Jessica.

"We saw all three of their faces, names before," Jessica said.

At press time, MPD had not returned calls in reference to the investigation.

Banneker Field is technically not part of Howard University's campus, although it is across the street from the Howard Plaza Towers, an upperclassman and graduate student dormitory.

Therefore, Campus Police were not required to take a statement from Jessica.

Another problem Jessica and those backing her declare is that the University has not tried to inform the students of the incident, even absent of her name and other details.

"It definitely should have been put out there," Jessica said. "This is so close to home, especially for the people that live in the Towers. If they knew, they would be more cautious."

Although students were not told of the specific incident, a university statement said students are continually advised of safety awareness issues.

"[The University] offers safety tips for use both on and off campus, such as using shuttle and escort services provided by the University, traveling along well-lit routes, avoiding isolated, dark and unpopulated areas whenever possible, avoiding unsafe areas where one may be easily victimized," the statement said.

MPD collected the remaining property of the two women for fingerprints of the assailants. According to Howard officials, MPD has



After being sexually assaulted, Jessica* is seeking to spread the news of her attack, with the hopes that other women will come forward when raped.

an open ongoing investigation involving the case.

Jessica has not heard from the university in the past two weeks.

"It would have been nice to have had a contact [with the university]," she said. "Howard should take care of its own."

Jessica's mother and Gough, a Howard Law School Alumni and close friend, have attempted to contact President Snyggert, but have received no responses.

Since the incident, Jessica does not go anywhere after dark, and almost never walks anywhere. After dark, she refuses to walk past the front of the Towers. Gough said the actions are not those of the Jessica before incident.

"Last week, it started getting dark, and she started getting really anxious," Gough said.

Jessica has doubled up on counseling, seeing a Howard counselor and a therapist

provided through MPD. She has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and experiences two of the most common symptoms: nightmares that relive the event and no emotion.

"I don't feel anything right now," Jessica said through vibrant green eyes. "I'm just emotionless."

Against motherly advice, Jessica has decided to proceed with her plans to take a year off from school, and work in the District because she "would rather not run away from [her fears]."

Anyone looking for someone to reach out to or would like to join Jessica in her outreach efforts should email de_jessica22@msn.com.

*It is Hilltop policy not to disclose the real names of victims of crime. Therefore, Jessica's name has been changed.

Minorities 'Left Behind'

BY WILLIAM RIVERA
Contributing Editor

More than five years after President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act, nearly a million students' test scores aren't being counted under the law's required racial categories.

An Associated Press review found that states are exploiting a legal loophole that is giving a false picture of academic progress.

The law also is creating financial gain for some private consultants, and leaving teachers increasingly skeptical that all children will be able to read and perform math as promised.

But by President Bush four and half years ago, all public schools students must be proficient in reading and math by 2014, although students above second grade are required to be tested. Schools receiving federal aid must also demonstrate annually that students in all racial categories are progressing.

Otherwise, those schools receive penalties that include extending the school year, changing curriculum or a complete alteration of administrators and teachers.

AP found that the students whose test scores aren't being included in the required categories are Hispanics in California who's primary language is Spanish, blacks in suburban Chicago, American Indians in the Northwest and special education students in Virginia.

One consequence of this is that participating educators are creating a nation of academic progress under false pretenses.

When interviewed by the AP, Denise Fisher, executive director of the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights, a group that supports No Child Left Behind, had this to say: "The states aren't hiding the fact that they are gaming

the system. When you do the math, you see that for from this law being too burdensome and too onerous, there are all sorts of loopholes."

The law signed by Bush in 2002 requires that public schools test students periodically in math and reading. Scores that are excluded in overall numbers are not allowed.

Schools must also report scores by categories, minority status, English proficiency, whether or not the student is on free and reduced lunch or whether or not the student is in special education.

If these scores do not meet the AYP, Annual Yearly Progress, the school is tagged with "Needs Improvement." If the school continues to retreat in scores within two consecutive years, a total "Reconstruction" is done. This reconstruction can remove the entire faculty and staff, and replacing them.

"I see no problem in not counting mentally disabled students' test scores," said

Dr. Will Johnson, professor of special education.

"It would be a waste of time to test them, because you know they are not going to produce the same scores as a student who isn't mentally disabled. But to hide test scores from a student who doesn't have ADHD, ADHD, or any other 'D' is wrong."

Professor Gary Orfield, Director of the Civil Rights Project, believes that these obvious inconsistencies produce distrust in relation to the demands of the law, and damage parts of the law that have the greatest potential for reducing educational inequalities.

"The effort to paper over the defects of the law's limited and jurisdictional accountability scheme has failed," he says, "and threatens the entire effort unless Congress and the Administration admit the problems and work together with educators to devise means that will produce serious reforms and genuine gains."



Photo Courtesy of www.pbsnewshour.org

An Associated Press study shows that schools are finding ways to legally not report the test scores of minorities.

Rascoe, Aderotoye to Lead The Hilltop



David Jones photo, News Editor

The Hilltop welcomes Ayesha Rascoe (left) and Laura Aderotoye (right) as the 2006-2007 Editor-in-Chief and Business Manager respectively.

Rascoe, a junior print journalism major from Durham, North Carolina served the paper previously as a staff writer and Campus section editor. Aderotoye, a junior from Suitland, Maryland worked as an office assistant for the 2005-2006 school year.

"I am honored to take the reigns of this illustrious publication," Rascoe said. "I know the challenges will be plenty, but I believe the rewards will be even more."

*Applications for other staff positions are due today

Facebook Improving Faculty-Student Communication

BY JOHN KENNEDY
Contributing Writer

Since its inception, Facebook has become a virtual hub for students' social interaction. But those sitting through lectures and dining in the Punch-Out are not the only ones sharing photos and browsing profiles.

Several faculty and administrative members have taken advantage of Facebook, creating profiles and interacting with other staff as well as students.

Facebook admits anyone with a valid college email account (one that ends in .edu), allowing faculty, administrators and professors to register with the site.

Joseph Emanuel, special assistant to the Dean of Residence Life, logs into his Facebook account two to three times daily. He has used Facebook to publicize Residence Life events.

"It's an excellent way to contact students and to find out student interests," Emanuel said. "If you want to really be in tune with students, you have to meet them where they are."

Belinda Watkins, director of Student Activities, also feels that Facebook is a valuable tool in relaying information to students, especially in short-notice situations.

"My daughter is a freshman here

and she has a Facebook group," she said. "If there's information that comes up like a job opportunity or an event somebody contacts me about... I'll ask her if she can circulate it on Facebook."

Watkins' daughter, Reba Watkins, is split on the idea of Howard staff being on Facebook.

"I got my first internship through Facebook," said Reba, a broadcast journalism major. "Administration put the opportunity on Facebook. That's a good thing."

She added, "But some of the things college kids do and say professors and administration don't need to know."

Still, some feel that Facebook's utility can be maximized if professors use the site to communicate with students.

"I think it's another vehicle for students to get to know their professors," said Rev. Ummia Pettus, an adjunct public relations professor who would consider registering a Facebook profile. "I think both parties should keep [their profiles] professional because it is a representation of you."

Given its efficiency in communication, Facebook may become a more widespread, alternative way for administration to contact students.

"We, as administrators, have seen time and time again that Howard email doesn't work [and] information at Banner might not be exactly accu-

rate, but Facebook is very relevant," Emanuel said.

Others stand by university-administered communication methods.

"The University has set up a system by which faculty, staff and administrators can communicate with students," Belinda said, referring to Howard's email system.

Junior public relations major Nicole Edwards feels that Blackboard is an adequate means of student communication with professors.

"With Blackboard, they can contact us without knowing all of our business," Edwards said. "I don't think they should be on Facebook at all."

For many of Howard's administrative and faculty members, Facebook use extends beyond the office. Emanuel has used the site to link up with old classmates and has even found a cousin on Facebook who he has not seen in 14 years.

Carol Shelton, executive assistant to the Vice Provost for Student Affairs, created a Facebook group called "Grown Folks at Howard with No Business on Facebook."

Director of Student Services Rashem Amadi-Rooke has posted a photo album from Howard's Charter Day dinner.

"I think Facebook is better than MySpace - it's more secure," Emanuel



Students, faculty and administrative members share mixed views concerning the use of Facebook as a means for contacting students.

said. "It's limited to people at Howard."

As the number of administration and faculty members on Facebook increase, will students begin to censor their profiles?

"I would probably change everything," Edwards said with a laugh. "I

wouldn't want my teachers knowing that much information about me."

Reba is not as inclined to edit her profile.

"It might cross my mind but I'm not really bothered," she said. "They see what they see."

Accreditation Important Component of College Education

BY ANYA ALEXANDER
Contributing Writer

Proposals to change accreditation standards and administration of federal student aid to the nation's higher institutions are currently undergoing an examination by the Bush administration's commission of higher education.

In light of Howard's accreditation problems in the College of Pharmacy, these new proposals raise some concern to administration and students about the meaning of accreditation and the effects of being without it.

"It is very important that institutions of higher learning are accredited," said David Woods, Associate Dean of the John H. Johnson School of Communications. "It means that they have met the professional standards of their fields. But sometimes accreditation can stifle creativity."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accrediting

agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether those criteria are met. Institutions and/or programs that request an agency's evaluation, and meet an agency's criteria, are then "accredited" by that agency.

Howard University is examined and receives accreditation for each specific college or school program within the university and for the overall university.

Samuel Paschall, Associate Dean of the School of Business, believes that being affiliated with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), an international recognized accreditation organization, is special



The School of Business is the first in the area to be approved by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, one of many accreditation agencies who evaluate higher education institutions based on several criteria.

because Howard University's School of Business is the first in the area to get this accreditation.

"This means that the organization has recognized the productivity of our faculty, recognized the assessment

practice and the quality of learning," Paschall said.

Sometimes an assessment by an accreditation agency does not reflect merit. There were six different issues as to why the College of Pharmacy is

on probation. Sumit Dua, sophomore pharmacy major is frustrated about the College of Pharmacy being on accreditation probation.

"I feel that this is unnecessary stress, and that was something that should have been cleared up a long time ago. As students, we feel like we're stuck in the middle," Dua said. "I wish the administration would be more accommodating."

Charles Walker, a fourth year pharmacy student, agrees and feels that the University will take a more hands on approach because of the reflection it has had on the university. "This shows how certain people are not doing their job," Walker said. "The building conditions and the five percent cut of faculty members across the department cannot be fixed overnight."

However, Walker believes that what happens next will be left up to the provost, trustees and student representatives.

Fashion Shows Become More Frequent on Howard's Campus

BY ASHLEY WILSON
Contributing Writer

At Howard University, the biggest fashion show is during Homecoming week. Normally, students attend a model call and are judged by professional models and some students who attend Howard University.

During the show, Howard students rip the runway with the latest fashion trends of the region and nation.

However, some students have noted that there has been an inordinate volume of fashion shows during this academic school year. There have been several shows put on by the African Students Association. The advertising committee for the Cotton Club hosted a fashion show in Blackburn to show the attire during the Harlem Renaissance period. The University Fashion Council has also hosted several fashion shows this year.

"Fashion shows are real common. Everyone is trying to do their own thing and they need a venue to showcase their fashion," said Ebony Santos, sophomore biology major.

Some students speculate that fashion shows have been so frequent because of continuous fashion trends. It has become a part of culture to dress fashionably especially on Howard's campus. There are different types of fashion that the Yard embraces everyday.

"It is hard to stay on top of fashion here at Howard. Every time I walk onto the Yard thinking I am equipped with the latest gear, another trend has arose," said Erin Evans, sophomore print journalism major.

As well as the new fashion trends, Howard University has talented student designers that love to show off their work in the fashion shows. Not only do Howard students showcase their own designs, local design-

ers contribute their clothing to models in the fashion shows in an attempt to receive local business.

"I have contributed several fashion ideas and clothing to the fashion shows here on campus," said Will White, sophomore fashion merchandising major. "I designed the women's skirts, dresses, and shirts, and also created the men's blazers, jackets, sweatshirts, jeans and shirts."

Another aspect to consider when thinking about fashion shows in general is the diaspora of African-American people that are represented. This is highly prevalent in the fashion shows held on Howard's campus.

"With each fashion show, a different aspect of fashion is portrayed, whether summer or fall clothing, thick or skinny women," said Raymond Metzger, sophomore physical therapy major.

George Lander is another

key player in the success of the multiple fashion shows held on campus. Lander has been the walking coach, choreographer and stage manager for all the shows. Practices for the shows are run weekly and the models are fitted and critiqued on their walking.

"I have been in the fashion industry all my life, and I can not see myself doing anything else," said Lander, freshman broadcast journalism major.

Fashion show competitions are held at Morgan State, North Carolina A&T and other historically black colleges in the area.

"Fashion shows are meant to showcase fashion and have fun, but the models of these shows do take the shows seriously because many of them want to model for a living," said Trenece Crawford, sophomore television production major.



Fashion shows on Howard's campus not only highlight current trends, but also that of the greater African diaspora.

The Hilltop Survey Says...

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

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Who Really Controls the Hip Hop Industry?

BY ANDREA TALLEY
Contributing Writer

The most powerful art form in the past 25 years has been controlled by many hands, giving the power of expression to many different people throughout its contentious reign. Hip-hop is a communal sensation that has captured the attention of ears all over the world.

While the African-American community birthed the music, its words are now controlled by corporate America and valued most by the dollar. Hip-hop is still a form of expression in the black community, but there is an obvious division of power between who creates the music and who controls it.

"There are two different kinds of hip-hop. There's the movement which is made up of people who live, love and breathe its expression. Then there is the music that is created strictly to entertain and to sell," said Chinaria Nwadike, a sophomore film production major.

The music that now generates over \$10 billion per year, according to *Forbes* magazine, was at first ignored by corporate America. Now corporations use the phrase, the image, and the sound of hip-hop to sell everything from McDonald's dollar menu to Cadillac. However, it is not just corporate America that capitalizes on the selling potential that correlates with hip-hop.

Controlling Ownership

Students say that hip-hop

has an easily marketed image that much of the youth easily embraces.

"When [hip-hop] first came out, it was about rebellion and self-expression, then it became marketable. To be a hip-hop artist today, I have to do what the world wants to see, thebling and the half-naked girls," said Lloyd Brown, a sophomore, political science major.

Some students think that internet and the growth of technology control the pace of Hip Hop.

In 2002, Busta Rhymes had the hit "Pass the Courvoisier" featuring P.Diddy. The song was nominated at the Video Music Awards for Best Hip-Hop Video of the Year. While there is no affiliation between Busta and Allied Domecq, the liquor's representative, Courvoisier, coincidentally experienced a 20 percent increase of sales in 2002.

Any hip-hop connoisseur will tell you that when it comes to hip-hop, the artist uses it as an expression, the rappers buy it for entertainment and corporate capitalization off of the industry.

Jason Evans is a local artist, producer and a performer who has worked with MTV and MTV Jams, and is considered a hip-hop artist with 17 years of experience in the game.

"Corporate [America] has taken something very intimate and made it generic. In 1988, everyone was on independent labels, [the industry] was really controlled by the artist," he said. "Big distributing companies like Sony or BMG,

make it extremely hard for independent distributing companies to operate because they have such a strong hold in the music industry."

The entire world music industry is dominated by the "big four" record labels that control nearly 85 percent of the United States music market. The main labels

can be traced back to the ownership of either of these labels.

When Kasper 50, first entered the scene, he was signed under Aftermath Records, owned by Interscope, whose distributor is Interscope Records, owned by Caucasian man Jimmy Iovine, whose parent label is Universal Music Group, the largest record



Happer 50 (left) and G-Unit Records, is owned by the parent company Universal Music Group. The G-Unit has recently founded his own independent label, Black Wallstreet. Who is more in control of his image?

are: Universal Music Group (France/USA), Sony BMG Music Entertainment (Japan/Germany), EMI Group (UK), Warner Music Group (USA), and other independent labels. Many rap moguls today

label in the industry, Interscope alone has provided a home for about 20 well-known rap artists including: Eve, Busta Rhymes, 2Pac, Jadakiss and Mobb Deep.

Controlling Content

The Federal Communications Commission puts boundaries on what the music can say in order to be broadcasted. The FCC regulates which songs are decent enough to be listened to by the masses.

In 2001, a station in Colorado was fined \$7000 for playing Eminem's "The Real Slim Shady," because it makes sexual references in correlation with sexually explicit images. The former chairman of the FCC is Michael Powell, the son of Colin Powell, who was appointed by former President Clinton and promoted to chairman of the Commission by President Bush early in 2001. Powell, who is an advocate for the first amendment, has brought forth many lawsuits against radio stations and media companies like Viacom for Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction at the Super Bowl in 2004, for other sexually explicit lyrics or incidents that are accessible to children.

The new chairman of the FCC, Kevin Martin, was appointed by Bush after Powell's decision to explore other career options. While Martin is more conservative than Powell, the President appointed him chairman of the FCC, and the commission's close relationship with the government exemplifies government executive control of what hip-hop, or any music, can say in order to be heard by the masses.

Despite the contention between hip-hopsters and government regulations on expression, "The internet made [the industry]

so fast that artists don't have a chance to grow. The substance is at its worst but [Hip Hop] is the biggest it's ever been," said rapper/producer senior radio major DK.

"The Big Four" Record Labels and the Hip Hop They Own

- Universal Music Group
- *Interscope Records
- *Aftermath Entertainment
- G-Unit Records
- Shady Records
- *Island Def Jam Music Group
- Dainor Dash Music Group
- Def Jam Records
- Disturbing the Peace Records
- Island Records
- Roc-A-Fella Records
- Russell Simmons Music Group
- Cash Money Records
- Sony BMG Music Entertainment
- *Columbia Records
- *Tombia Music Group
- So So Def Records
- LaFace Records
- EMI Group
- *Virgin
- Warner Music Group
- *Atlantic Records Group
- Atlantic Records
- Bad Boy

Black Men Get the Hype

BY WILLIAM RIVERA
Contributing Writer

On March 20, 2006, the New York Times printed a story on the "Plight of the Black Man." Since then, there has been an outbreak of news coverage on the state of black men. Media such as The New York Times, National Public Radio, The Washington Times and The Chicago Sun Times all have covered stories based on the troubling fact that black men are stuck in the pits of hopelessness and despair. The question remains then, with all this popular coverage, is there help on the way for the "dis-conditioned" black man?

New scholarly research has been conducted by experts at Princeton, Harvard, and Columbia Universities. Although the problem affecting poor black men have been known for decades, the studies reveal data that seems to validate what black men have been facing for years. These studies show more than just the average approach to looking at the plight of black men. For example, official unemployment rates may be misleading, for they do not include those not seeking work, or those incarcerated.

Some of the recent findings from these studies have shown that in inner cities, more than half of all black men did not finish high school.

Incarceration rates climbed in the 90s and reached historic heights in the past few years. In 1995, 16 percent of all black men in their 20s who did not attend college were in jail or prison; by 2004, 21 percent were incarcerated. By their mid-30s, 6 in 10 black men who had dropped out of school had spent time in prison.

The share of young black men without jobs has climbed persistently, with only a slight pause during the economic peak of the late 90s. In 2000, 65 percent of black male high school dropouts in their 20s were jobless, unable to find work, but seeking it; incarcerated, by 2004, the crop had grown to 72 percent, compared to 34 percent white and 19 percent Hispanics dropouts. Even with high school graduates included, half of black men in their 20s were jobless in 2004, up from 46 percent in 2000.

However, none of these recent findings are news to the majority of the black community. "This may be news to a 30-year-old white man, who fears black progression and solidarity, but I've known all this since I was young," said Matthew Manning, a sophomore political science major. "As far as I'm concerned, nothing is going to change. I know if our men gain enough determination and will power, we will definitely progress. But I don't think any help is coming. As I said, the average 20-year-old white man is just only afraid of black solidarity, but black economic solidarity poses an even larger threat. Why would they help?"

It can be difficult to find a cause for this decline in "good black men"; however, one can assume from several factors what causes this turmoil in the black community: Terrible schools, the lack of solid parenting, racism, the decline of blue collar jobs, and the idea that "swagger" defeats hard work all can contribute to the ruin of black youth.

The studies have shown that all the negative trends are associated with poor schooling, and any signs of progress have been slight. Federal studies often underestimate dropout rates among the poor, partly because imprisoned youths are not counted in data.

According to AmericanProgress.org, in the 1990s, America had its largest economic boom in decades. However, despite this labor surge, the employment rate of black men consistently declined while incarceration rates increased. In response to this worsening situation, a growing number of programs emerged to teach life skills like parenting, character building, conflict resolution and job training.

But these two remaining programs seem to be insufficient. "America spent \$30 billion in efforts to produce a turnaround for poor black youths," mentioned Mr. Manning. "I doubt America has even begun to think about the men's problem on a similar magnitude." "We have the power to heal ourselves in our own community, if we put

further the effort to prioritize ourselves," Manning said.

It would seem that these studies conducted by such prestigious universities would produce more awareness and care by America, and that the many journalists reporting on the circumstances of black males have intentions to revolutionize America. "Usually," affirms Lawrence Kagawa, Ph.D., professor of journalism, "when a journalist reports on a problem, they have the intention to enforce some sort of change. However, they also write articles for rewards and recognition. And it seems that many of the writers speaking about this plight are doing just that."

Among all the publications and articles contributed to America's established newspapers, not one mentioned a solution to the overwhelming facts.

"These reporters may also be contributing to racism by stating only negative facts about black men. No matter the writer's intention, advised Dr. Kagawa, "we need to proceed to prove those disheartening facts wrong. Accept racism as a given, and move on."

What's the Hype and What Happens Next?

"No, I don't see any help coming from the government for black men. If mainstream America doesn't think help is necessary now, I doubt future help is approaching," said Matt Manning, sophomore, political science major.

The only reason black men are in the news is because our [African-American] culture is redefining itself in America's unstable and consumer based society. America responds to the largest trends going on, and right now, our self-designation into this culture is the 'in' movement right now. So no, I don't see any help coming our way. We've got to get it ourselves," said Greg Carr, Ph.D., African-American Studies professor.

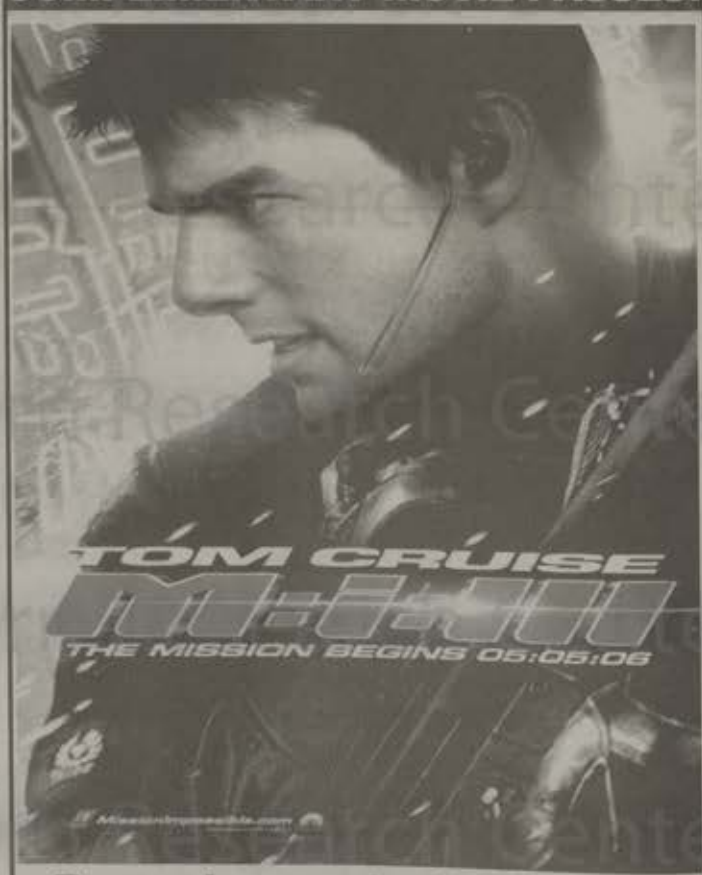
The condition of the black man won't be a platform debate for Presidential candidates. However, it definitely has the potential to be," said Lawrence Kagawa, Ph.D., journalism professor.

The increasing number of articles about black men has nothing to do with us. More so, it involves the pressing fact that white people—especially—are becoming the minority in this country. Black solidarity has always been a fear. Not just black solidarity, but minorities, in general, coming together is one of white America's largest fears. Our society values higher education and success. So the only way to get help, is to help ourselves via a plain fall of education," said Maurice Chevalier, junior engineering major.



The state of the black man has been written about frequently after the New York Times article.

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Donor Scholarship Applications for the 2006-2007 award year will be available from

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ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!!

The 2006
BISON Yearbook will
be distributed on
Friday
May 5th, 2006

in the
BLACKBURN STUDENT CENTER

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please contact the Bison Yearbook Office
at 202.865.0036 for more information



EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 124

APRIL 21, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



Bidding Howard U Adieu

This year has been an interesting one. We witnessed a devastating hurricane season, a slew of political scandals and a pretty exciting campus life. There have been ups, downs and growing pains for everyone, and now it is time to say farewell.

For some, this is the last year of undergraduate school and the closing of another chapter of life. For others, there are more good times to be had at Howard University. The Hilltop would like to thank you for your continuous support and readership.

Last school year we decided to take a chance and the last months of the spring semester were a part of our daily status trial. This is the first full year that The Hilltop has been a daily

paper and it has definitely been challenging.

There have been some typos in the stories, structural errors and lack of coverage on certain issues, but please remember:

Our View:

We would like to thank our readers and wish everyone a safe and prosperous summer!

we are students first and we are learning and growing.

All of the feedback, both positive and negative, has been helpful and taken into consideration. We want to extend our thanks to everyone that has read the paper this year.

We also want to wish every-

one a safe and productive summer. Party, hang out and enjoy yourself to the fullest, but come back in one piece. Learn from the mistakes you made in the previous year and return to the

Micca, focused. One thing that has gotten The Hilltop by is the use of deadlines.

Though you don't have to publish a paper, set deadlines for yourself and prioritize your goals, nothing is more helpful than having visible reminders and planners to help you keep your eyes on the prize.

Howard is an important time in our lives and as a Bison, you don't want to leave with regrets. Make it happen. They say you should never wish someone luck, so we wish you great success.

The Movement Has Begun

Courtney Phelps

It has been almost a month since frustrated Howard University Students took to the Yard for the formal presentation of the "Declaration of Student Frustration."

To date, there has been no official response by the administration regarding either the Declaration or the movement. Nonetheless, we move forward with our agenda as dedicated students ready to proactively create change on the campus of Howard University.

Since the formal presentation of the Declaration, the encouragement and support of hundreds of students, faculty and staff members, and even a select number of administrators who have offered unlimited advice, have been a constant driving force for us to press on.

For quite sometime now, students at Howard have been called lazy, complacent and inactive. To prove them wrong, let us again declare, "The Movement Has Begun!"

The goals of the movement are clear. We want to see Howard University at its very best. It is as simple as that. Some have questioned our motives and our fidelity to this university, and even why we took the course of action that we did, and we have responded.

We would answer those questions by simply quoting the Declaration: "We have met with [the Administration] from time to time of attempts by Students to seek resolution of such problems. We have reminded them of the circumstances that we face as Students, of our standing as responsible adults, and essentially customers of the University, to no avail, which

after constant attempts, would inevitably dispose of the willingness by students to continue such communications in the same manner."

Anyone who has questions about our movement, our purpose or our motives is free to review them stated plainly on our website.

The Movement will continue to meet and plan throughout the summer and into the fall because we understand that this is only the beginning. For that reason, "The Movement Continues!"

It won't take long for members of the entering class of 2010 to stand ready to declare their frustrations with Howard University either.

The Movement's official website is www.shutdownthebuilding.com.

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THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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click it to us.

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

Now in its third year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,500, 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.

The Hilltop editorial office is located at 2001 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007 and can also be reached via email at editor@thehilltoponline.com and by phone at (202) 368-4254. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at business@thehilltoponline.com and by phone at (202) 368-4240.

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

The Final Word

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
Asst. Life & Style Editor

I've been pretty quiet all year for the most part. Keeping you all safe from my biases and ideas but I've got to say something to the people before I leave the Life & Style section for management.

Lately, I have been hearing a lot of talk about the current state of hip-hop, including the question of: Who's on top? I think the answer to that was best put in an email I recently received that read "Who won the East Coast vs. West Coast battle? ... The South!"

Yet, with the hip-hop dominance lying below the Mason-Dixon line, where is the genre heading next?

I've heard all kinds of responses to this inquiry. Some contend that hip-hop is heading back to its roots in the five boroughs of New York.

An issue of *The Hilltop* published this week contained interviews with supporters of this idea, using the summer releases of Busta Rhymes, Mobb Deep, Cam'ron, and DMX as proof.

But let's be serious for a minute. Busta is the only one who's really going to make an album worth buying. Honestly, Mobb Deep and DMX fell off a while ago and Cam... I can go on forever about the lack of talent in the entire DigSet (except for Juelz, prior to Darn).

Then there's the position that hip-hop is heading West. This is not a hard pick considering that this would place The City of Angels on the backs of a veteran and pioneer MC in Ice Cube and future hall-of-famer The Game, not to mention the emergence of Hyphy from the Bay Area.

I would have been willing to subscribe to this belief back when we were all anticipating the release of Dre's much-anticipated "Detox," but without it, the West just doesn't have enough gas to get going.

At this point, you must be wondering if it can't remain in the South, nothing is bringing it to the East Coast, and Cali can't sustain hip-hop, then where else is there?

I guess ya'll forgot about the middle.

Yes, the Midwest is next up to claim hip-hop's home. So many factors point to America's heartland for hip-hop supremacy.

First, there's the impending return of Cleveland, Ohio's own Bone Thugs-N-Harmony. Bone is back in the studio targeting a summer release. There is also the growing popularity of "Swag" music also out of Cleveland.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. The real drive of the Midwest takeover comes out of The Windy City. One of Chi-Town's finest, Common, said it himself, "They ask me where hip-hop is going, it's Chicagoan."

How can you beat the Chi? Hate him or love him, Kanye is on top of his game, winning Grammys, selling millions, and selling out tours. And you can't count out Common who consistently comes with real hip-hop, real emceeing, and is now getting the mainstream recognition to match the critical acclaim that he's had for years. Throw Twista's mile-a-minute raps in the mix and that's the crown.

But there's more, the new breed rappers, and more importantly true lyricists, Rhymefest and Bump J, are set to drop soon to give support to Chicago's front-runners.

Then there's the clincher... the return of real emcees, the messiah of lyricism (or, better yet, the prophet), Lupe Fiasco. From his talent for storytelling to his propensity for complexities Lupe definitely solidifies Chicago as heir, and in doing so, placing the Midwest atop the hip-hop throne.

The Role of The 'Hype Man' In Hip-Hop

BY JACQUELINE COOK
Contributing Writer

"Throw your hands in the air!" "Now wave them from side to side!" "Now scream!"

Although these cliché chants may sound familiar, more often than not, the individual shouting them might as well be unknown. He can usually be found onstage at concerts, alongside a rapper who is often more recognizable and receives a larger check.

Don't discount this person, though. While they may be running, jumping and shouting over someone else's track, their contribution to live hip-hop performances is often vital.

Simply defined, the "hype man" is a sort of backup rapper/singer who is also responsible for increasing an audience's excitement with call-and-response chants.

Freshman public relations major Lindsay Caldwell believes the hype man's job is "to pump up the audience before the rapper or even singer came out on stage, also to keep the fans hype during the show and any wardrobe changes."

Others agree, saying "The hype man is basically the clean up man. He picks up and does everything on stage that the rapper can't. He gets that side of the crowd that the rapper is not on, pumped," said freshman advertising major Jahari Johnson.

The roots of the hype man can be traced all the way back to the early days of hip-hop and its pioneers.

MC Cowboy, a member of Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, was the first to coin phrases like "Throw your hands in the air" and



Flavor Flav of Public Enemy has been called the first true hype man, the one that defined the role. Flav has taken that success and rolled it over into a resurgence in reality tv.

"Everybody say ho!" According to some, this was the start of the hype man getting the crowds going, and the MC hyping his DJ's skills.

Others argue that it was someone else in the Furious Five camp that was the prototype for the hype man.

"Creole starts this long intro over this echo chamber... it was the first time I'd ever

heard that. I call Creole the original hype man," said old school rapper Kool Moe Dee in an interview with hip-hop website JayQuam.com.

Several prominent hype men have used the position to catapult them to fame and fortune.

Flavor Flav, a member of the legendary group Public Enemy, is credited with devel-

oping the humorous aspect of the hype man character. Flav approached his status as hype man as an avenue to other opportunities including "Flavor of Love," his latest project with VH1.

"The most notorious hype man is Flavor Flav because he made a living off of it," said sophomore management major Richard Palmer.

While Flav may have made the "hype man" famous, many believe that Flipmode Squad member Spliff Star is the only true hype man in the industry.

"The best hype man is Spliff Star. Busta Rhymes' hype man," said Johnson.

Palmer agreed and added that "Spliff Star is the only hype man that is really out there."

While the hype man is certainly an intriguing character, is there really a need for him?

According to Rachelle Teart, sophomore finance major at Michigan State University, there isn't.

"They don't have any significance; half the time I don't even know who the hype men are. They say every other word that the artist does and that's annoying," Teart said.

Others believe that, while limited, there is a need for the hype man.

Palmer doesn't see the need for hype men in videos or any other medium but, according to him, "they are significant to the artist because they run out of breath all the time, but the audience could care less."

Another debate regarding the hype man role is that it has changed over the years.

"I think the hype man has definitely changed because now instead of hype men sometimes you have opening acts or special activities before the main act goes on and now the hype man's role is no longer that important," Caldwell said.

Johnson does not believe this to be true. In his opinion, "The hype man has not changed, he still is doing the same thing as he has always done."

Diddy Does It In The Kitchen With New Show

BY MONICA HARRIS
Contributing Writer

Sean "Diddy" Combs is set to produce a new reality show on NBC entitled "Celebrity Cooking Showdown."

The premiere episode will air this month. The show will consist of professional chefs who will train celebrities to cook for a competition against each other.

Combs has teamed up with Ben Silverman, who has produced a long list of reality shows, including Bravo's "Blow Out" and NBC's "The Biggest Loser."

Combs has also been making a name for himself as a television show producer over the past few years.

This will be the fourth series under his belt as he has already produced "Making the Band" and "Run's House" of MTV as well as HBO's "Bad Boys of Comedy."

The master chefs who are lined up to participate in the competition read as a "who's who" among the cooking world, including the likes of Wolfgang Puck, Iron Chef America's Cat Cora, and Govind Armstrong, who is the executive chef at Los Angeles restaurant Table 6.

According to allhiphop.com, the celebrity contenders are rumored to be rapper Ja Rule and actor/comedian Tom Arnold to name a couple. Supermodel Naomi Campbell, who was originally scheduled to compete on the show, has recently backed out of the deal.

According to Daily Variety at variety.com, "Celebrity Cooking Showdown" will be a five part mini-series with the first three episodes featuring the professional chefs attempting to teach the stars how to prepare a three course meal. The last two will consist of a face-off between

the celebrities and then the final judgment of which team produces the tastiest meal.

Television audiences across the globe have embraced and obsessed over reality TV shows over the past few years.

Many find them entertaining and gripping because they spotlight admired celebrities and show what happens in their lives.

"I am partial to shows like Lil' Kim's 'Countdown to Lockdown' because they actually have some reality to them. I do not like shows that are contrived as a vehicle for celebrities to promote themselves and simply make money," said Jahari Smith, junior broadcast journalism major.

Reality television shows have proven to be a recipe for success across the board. It all started with MTV's "The Real World" which began in 1992 and, now years later, there is everything from those on the lighter side such as "Dancing with the Stars" to hard hitting, introspective programs like FX's "Black White."

However it appears that reality shows that feature celebrities have a huge following.

When asked why this was, advertising professor Sloane Signal said, "The world is now obsessed with celebrities. We care about what they wear, what they eat, and where they go. Anything that helps bring us closer to celebrities in some way is appealing."

Signal also said, "The way that MTV 'Cribs' brought us into the homes of celebrities sparked this trend. If Beyoncé has Heinz ketchup in her refrigerator and the viewer does too, then that is a plus for them."

Signal also spoke to the shift in the perceived relationship

between celebrities and their fans.

"There aren't so many degrees of separation between the consumer and the celebrity when you see them at home or in 'real life' scenarios" that the viewer may find themselves in at times. It may not be logical but when you're dealing with consumers it never is," Signal said.

Many students at Howard feel that today's reality shows

are getting out of hand in terms of material and credibility.

"I feel like the new wave of reality shows is getting ridiculous. It's getting to the point where I don't even want to watch Real World anymore because all the shows are redundant and the ones that are different are just stupid," said Nia Harge sophomore legal communications major. "I think people like them so much because of the drama

factor."

Reality shows are thought to be one of the biggest trends on television and until audiences across the world decide not to watch, television networks will probably continue to produce them. "Celebrity Cooking Showdown" is set to premier on NBC on April 17 at 9 p.m., eastern standard time.



Sean "Diddy" Combs hopes to continue his string of successful productions with "Celebrity Cooking Showdown." Diddy has already produced a number of seasons of "Making the Band" and has had recent success with the debut of "Run's House," both seen on MTV.

Bison Softball Ready for A Triple Play in the District

BY JULIANNE HANCKEL
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, April 22, the Lady Bison (23-21) will take on Georgetown University's Lady Hoyas (1-19) in their first doubleheader match up. The last time Howard University played Georgetown was in the 2006 Highlander Softball Classic in Radford, VA, this past March. Howard won the game 11-3. In total, the Lady Bison have seen the Hoyas four times this year, and have beaten them every time.

Coach Tonja Braxton says that the Hoyas, despite their beginning softball program, get better every year.

"They are a young program, and when you have that the players tend to be more hungry," Braxton said.

She also said that she believes that the players have to go above and beyond to earn a permanent spot in the Hoyas lineup. Even though the Lady Hoyas have one win under their

belts from an early March game against Coppin State, their last game vs. Mount St. Mary's on April 5 did not end well.

Despite the efforts of Hoyas' freshman pitcher Courtney Clark, who kept eight runs off 11 hits, Georgetown lost both games of the double header, 8-0 and 10-4. There is one player who has the best numbers on the team: leading categories in batting average, slugging percentage, RBI's and triples. Junior catcher Cathy Richter leads 9 out of 10 main playing categories for the Hoyas and seems to have quite a bat in her hand. Even though the Hoyas have yet to hit a home-run this season, Richter leads the team in triples with three of them on the season so far.

On Sunday, the Delaware State University Hornets are slated to play against the Bison for a hitting match at 2 p.m. at Banneker field. This past Monday, the Hornets swept Morgan State University in a doubleheader at Delaware State. They did not allow one run dur-

ing the first game and clobbered Morgan with scores of 13-0 and 8-0. Both of the games ended in the fifth inning due to the mercy rule.

Del State Hornet Candace Shockley, hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the first to start racking up the runs for Delaware. Sam Snow and Ashley Gray both hit triples during the doubleheader, and Megan Lambert, Cat Anabach and Shockley contributed to the Hornet cause by hitting run scoring singles.

The Hornets then went on to score nine runs in the third inning, ending the game two innings later when Ashley Schaff hit a two run single in the beginning of the fifth inning. After beating Morgan State by three runs the first game and by four runs the second, Delaware (21-18) can possibly pose a threat when facing the Bison this weekend.

Coach Braxton added that the Lady Bison, "take themselves out of the game early, or we end up beating them."

This is the first time that the



The Bison will travel down Rhode Island Avenue to face off against Georgetown and then come back to Banneker Field to play a doubleheader against MEAC foe Delaware State.

Bison are playing the Hornets this year and Braxton is not worried about the possibility of a routing.

But she did say that, "[The team does] little things to take

ourselves out of the game."

The most important element of this weekend's games are that if the Bison win the doubleheader against Delaware State this weekend, they have

a strong chance of coming out with the number 4 seed in the MEAC conference. Let's hope the Bison raise the stakes and bring themselves to number 4 this weekend.

Bison Split Games With Pirates

BY DOMINIQUE BROWNER
Contributing Writer

The sun was shining and the fans were cheering as the Howard University Softball team took the field. The Lady Bison contested against the Lady Pirates of Hampton University yesterday at Banneker Field.

There were lots of twists and turns in the first game. Senior Captain Nairobi Williams put the Pirates on their toes when she hit a home run to give the Lady Bison the lead.

The hurings after the home-run didn't go in the team's favor. The little mistakes added up, which cost the team the first win in the doubleheader (3-2).

After the surprising loss in the top of the seventh inning, Junior Tracey Javier commented, saying "there was a lack of focus." Javier continued, "We have some great hitters and we didn't produce enough at the plate." However, there was everything but a lack of focus in the second game.

The fan base grew as the Lady Bison took the field for the second game. "Losses have to hurt," Coach Braxton said. After a pep talk from the coaches, the team took the field. This time they were equipped with all the necessary ingredients to win.

"Nobody beats us in our home," Coach Braxton said to the team, and the ladies took that to heart as they came out with a vengeance in the final game.

Throughout the game, pitcher Dale McNeal had a consistent performance at the mound, and in the bottom of the last inning, senior Richelle Charles' home-run hit brought in the two last runs to win the game. Williams



The Bison softball team split a doubleheader against the Hampton Pirates yesterday at Banneker Field.

was named MEAC player of the week earlier in the season and is known for her strength at the plate.

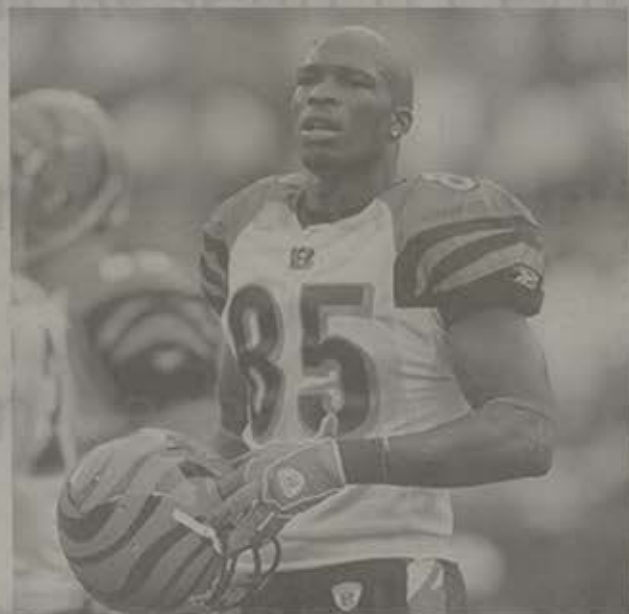
"We picked each other up and got some hits," Williams said after the win over Hampton. The Lady Bison's win added to their impressive record with competi-

tive scheduling.

"I have designed a team of speed, and with that you can do a lot of things," Braxton said after the game.

The Lady Bison will compete on Saturday at Banneker Stadium against the Georgetown Hoyas.

Johnson Catches a Contract Extension from the Bengals



The Cincinnati Bengals gave Chad Johnson enough money to put on a series of touch-down celebration clinics next season as they awarded him a monster contract extension. The three-time Pro-Bowl receiver signed on to play in Cincinnati through at least 2010, with an optional year through 2011. The six year deal, which added two years onto his present deal, was worth a total of \$3.5 million dollars.

Composed by Drew Chatley - Sports Editor

Bison, Seniors Determined to Win Final Home Game of the Season

BY JANELLE EDMONDS
Contributing Writer

The Howard University women's lacrosse team is gearing up for their final home game of the season.

On April 23, Howard's women's lacrosse team will play Drexel University's women's Lacrosse Team at Greene Stadium. On March 13th, the team prevailed over Kenne State University with a score of 17-7.

Then, on March 22nd, St. Francis University (PA) felt the heat as the Lady Bison succeeded with a sweet 17-9 win. Having only won 2 out of 12 games since the season commenced on February 18th, the women's lacrosse team continues to press on.

Coach Marguerite Lanaux,

the head coach of the team, believes that her team can succeed.

"It takes team work, smart clean lacrosse and the belief and faith that a win is only 60 minutes away."

In 2005, Howard fell to Drexel, with a score of 7-19. "Drexel is a good team," said Bianca Lamar, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major and goalie. "We lost to them last year, but if defense stays strong, their energy will transfer to offense. If we can stop them from scoring early in the game, we'll do fine."

Out of 15 games this season, the Drexel Dragons have already captured 11 victories.

Sakita Holley, a freshman public relations major, is far from intimidated.

"I play third home, an attack

position. To win, it will take positive mental attitudes and a nothing-to-lose mindset. It's all about who wants it more, who's more aggressive. We have to play smart," said Holley.

Brittany Merritt, a senior legal and communications major, looks forward to the re-match.

"I think I can help my team to score getting maintaining session of the ball. This means we need draws controls so we can be in control of the game and put the ball in the net," Merritt said.

Key players from the opposing team include Kerry Kelly,

Emily Hoescht, Katie Bradley and Lauren LaBella.

But the Lady Bison don't see them as threats.

They believe they can overcome the obstacles.

"Being a goal keeper, it's my job to alert defenders of immediate threats. If I communicate with them and keep them on their toes, we will minimize Drexel's goals and hopefully win," Lamar said.

In addition to being the last match of the year, Sunday's game marks "Family, Friends Day" and "Senior Day."

"For the graduating seniors, this will be the last game of

our collegiate careers," said Merritt.

Chandra Harris, Shatarah Ramirez, Natasha Sandy and Merritt are the team's four graduating seniors.

"I wish their time could have been extended because with injuries, we haven't been able to capitalize off of their skills and ability," Holley said.

Lamar has built unique relationships with each of the seniors.

"I'll miss all of them. It's good that a lot of our family members and friends will be there to watch. My mom, my dad and a few cousins will be there," she said.

The Lady Bison Lacrosse Team plans to end this season on a high note.

"During this season we have been a second half team, which

has not been effective. To win this game, we need to play the first half as well as we play the second halves. Everyone needs to give 110 percent," Merritt said.

Holley simply requests that each member of the team recognizes their strengths and brings them to the table. Coach Lanaux would like to congratulate her seniors and thank her team for making her first season as a coach a great experience.

"Remember, you have to first overcome great adversity to achieve great success. Go hard or go home," Lanaux said.

Watch this Sunday at 1 p.m. as Lady Bison lacrosse bids farewell to its seniors, takes on Drexel's women's Lacrosse and looks toward the victory that they feel they can achieve and deserve.

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