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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 26

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

TUESDAY
notebook

BREAKING NEWS

TRUCK DRIVER KILLS 3 AMISH GIRLS

DRIVER ENTERED AN AMISH SCHOOL, BOUND AND EXECUTED 3 GIRLS AND THEN KILLED HIMSELF. THE GUNMEN CLAIMED IT WAS REVENGE FROM 20 YEARS AGO, ACCORDING TO CNN.

LIFE & STYLE

FIT OR FLY

SEE HOW STUDENTS HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BEING HEALTHY OR APPEARANCE UPKEEP IN LIFE & STYLE.
PG 10



TUES, 10/3:
MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH: 83, LOW: 60

FRI, 10/4:
SUNNY
HIGH: 85, LOW: 61

Homecoming Ticket Lines Draw Legions of Students

BY JANAE WILSON
Contributing Writer

The line to buy homecoming tickets formed at 6:45 a.m. on Monday morning, and continued to get longer at a rapid rate as the hours passed. By 10 a.m., when Cramton Auditorium opened, the line stretched past Cook Hall to the fence surrounding the football field. Many students were complaining about other people trying to cut them in line.

"I have been waiting here since 7 o'clock this morning, and you think you can come here at 10 o'clock and I'm going to let you in front of me? You've lost your mind," said freshman criminal justice major Kenese Clay.

Students who tried to cut were often snatched on by their fellow classmates in line resulting in Campus Police escorting them out of line.

A fight allegedly occurred when several students getting off the shuttles tried to get in the front of the line. Students

began pushing, shoving and yelling. Some students fell to the ground and were trampled in the uproar. Campus Police calmed the situation and finally put up the barricades to separate the lines, which kept passing students who were not in line away from the students in line.

"I don't understand why campus police are here. They are not doing anything to stop the fights," said Robyn Nelson, a sophomore undecided major.

On the contrary, one Campus Police officer said that they had to put a stop to students giving their friends in line their debit cards to buy their tickets for them. Students eventually learned that the box office was not accepting any credit or debit cards without the ID of the person to whom the card belonged.

The long line deterred many students from waiting to get their tickets, so they opted to buy their tickets online at www.ticketmaster.com.

"I can't be doing that this

year. Waiting in line. Missing class. I'm just going to pay the extra money online," said senior advertising major Nellisha Gregory.

One of the reasons people were waiting in line for such a long time was because there were hundreds of students trying to get tickets with only two people at the ticket window to distribute them.

Many students were very frustrated at the amount of time they had to wait in line and how many classes they were missing because of it.

Rayna Atkins, a sophomore political science major said, "I have been standing in this line since 9 a.m., so [for] about two and a half hours now. I have already missed one of my classes."

Some students decided to take the loss and faced the fact that they were probably not going to be able to get their tickets, like junior print journalism major Pharroh Martin.

"The line to get the tickets is very inefficient and I'm



Tyrone Clemens - Staff Photographer

Although some students decided not to brave the homecoming ticket lines yesterday, there were still hundreds of others who spent hours waiting in the queue pictured above.

really mad that I probably won't be able to get my tickets now," Martin said.

Campus Police were upset

at how unorganized the line was to get into Cramton. One campus police officer suggested that the homecoming com-

mittee make the line set up to be more accommodating to students in the future.

Miss Howard Reflects

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Contributing Writer

Miss Howard, Shayna Rudd, a senior print journalism major, has specific words to describe her reign since Homecoming 2005.

"God has been so awesome," she said.

Over the past year, Rudd has worked to represent Howard and to act on her platform, 'Project T.E.S.T.I.M.O.N.Y.'

The project is an acronym for 'Telling Each Story To Inspire More of Our Nation's Youth' to succeed. The project is geared toward youth who come from backgrounds and circumstances that cause many to assume they will not succeed.

"The goal is to renew our youth through our stories," said Rudd, who has personal experience with bleak forecasts.

"I came from a background that said 'Shayna should not be at Howard.' Let alone to be Miss Howard," Rudd said.

Her commitment was apparent to others. "Her platform was her passion and that made it much easier for her to follow it," said Phillip Murray, a good friend of Rudd and a Howard Alum.

Throughout her reign, she has worked at a local youth advocacy center providing youngsters with life skills, journalism tips and self-esteem talks.

Rudd has used her position as Miss Howard to involve herself in numerous projects all around the country. Over the summer, she worked in her hometown of Philadelphia at the Methodist Services for Children and Families Center.

She also was the keynote speaker at the "We Rise" conference for high school girls where she spoke about rising above one's circumstances.

Recently, she spoke at the Youth Empowerment



File Photo

Reigning Miss Howard, Shayna Rudd, thanks those who have helped her carry out her T.E.S.T.I.M.O.N.Y. platform.

Weekend in Philadelphia on how to escape the corruption of the world.

With the 2006 pageant this Friday, Shayna is ready to relinquish her crown but not her duties.

"I'm not done," Rudd said. In January, she will host a T.E.S.T.I.M.O.N.Y. youth conference. "There is always more you can do," she said.

Alicia Criner, a junior marketing major, had good words to say about Rudd.

"Shayna was Miss Howard long before she got the title and she will continue to be," she said.

Rudd is optimistic about the future lady's sense of responsibility. "Each year this thing needs to be taken up a notch because I worked hard to pave the way for the next Miss Howard," Rudd said.

Regarding Rudd, Criner added, "To Shayna, being Miss Howard means more of a leadership opportunity than one of glory. She has represented Howard to the best

of her ability and has been a model Howard woman."

Rudd described being Miss Howard as a humbling experience. She said the future Miss Howard should not let the crown get to her.

"It's a hard lesson to learn because you think everything comes easy, but it takes a lot of energy," she said.

Rudd thanks the people who helped her through her reign. "I really identify with the scripture in Ezekiel that talks about being tried through the fire and coming out pure gold," Rudd said.

The role of Miss Howard takes more than good looks and talent. While 40 percent of the event is the contestant's essay, another 30 percent is the question and answer portion.

Murray offered that the new Miss Howard should definitely talk to Rudd.

"There are things that no one understands about the position except those who have held it before you."

Facebook May be Worth \$1 Billion

BY CORTNEY CLEVELAND
Contributing Writer

Students often intend to visit Facebook briefly, only going to check their messages. But two hours later, they finally click "log out" and wonder where a days time went. This series of actions has become a daily routine for college students across the country. The obsession so many students have with Facebook has some companies seeing dollar signs. Since the publication of an article in the Wall Street Journal, reports have been swirling around the business world as Facebook and Yahoo negotiate selling the website for a startling \$1 billion.

The consensus among Howard students is that Facebook shouldn't go through with the buyout, regardless of the price offered.

Nursing major, Martina Witcher, fears that customer service will become lax. "It will be better if they didn't. [Currently,] when people have a problem, they just e-mail the people [in charge of the site] and they try to have it fixed," she said. "Larger corporations won't pay attention to the users."

Sophomore Joshua Mitchell agrees. "A merger will compromise what Facebook is. Soon it will just be Myspace."

Public relations major Soledad Richards does not think Facebook is worth the billion dollar price tag.

"I definitely do not think its worth \$1 billion. If anything, Myspace is worth more than Facebook because it appeals to more people."

Apparently, the business world disagrees. Myspace was recently purchased by News Corporation for a mere \$580 million.

Sophomore Stephanie Kennard also disagrees with the proposed value of Facebook. She cites Facebook's recent expansion as a reason for its dwindling value.

"It would've been worth more if they had left it the way it was... if it was more exclusive like it [used to be]," she said.

Users may not have to worry about the buyout. Spokespersons from both Facebook and Yahoo refuse to comment about the rumors. Chris Hughes, a spokesman and co-founder of Facebook said in a recent interview with NPR, "The story is based on nothing but speculation, and we [Facebook] do not comment on rumors."

Analysts agree that if the reports are true, Facebook represents a great opportunity for Yahoo to eclipse its competitors such as Google and Viacom in its battle for dominance over the web. The previously mentioned social-networking sites are attracting talks of buyouts and partnerships because of great profitability through website advertisements. According to CBS News, two of every three people in the United States visit a social-networking site. In addition to the traffic volume, advertisers are drawn to the amount of time users spend online. While users are browsing their friends' sites, they are exposed to a plethora of ads. These ads have the potential to generate millions of dollars a year for the owner of a website.

The most alluring quality Facebook possesses for potential buyers is its audience. Market researcher comScore Media Metrix ranks the site as the seventh most frequented site on the world wide web. In addition, the site boasts 14.8 million unique visitors this past August. More than 85 percent of students participate on Facebook, if their campus has a network on the site. Companies are eager to capitalize on the young audience that serves as Facebook's foundation. For corporate America, holding the attention of students is worth \$1 billion.



Photo courtesy of paccr.atm.edu

Some question whether Facebook can maintain its customer service integrity if bought out by a larger company.

What's In A Name?
A Look at the Namesakes of Howard University

LULU VERE
CHILDERS HALL



Formally known as the College of Fine Arts Building, Lulu Vere Childers Hall is located adjacent to the Blackburn Center. In April of 1961, Howard University opened the Fine Arts Complex, which includes Lulu Childers Hall, Cramton Auditorium and The Ira Aldridge Theatre.

The Fine Arts building is named after Lulu Vere Childers, one of the many influential women that paved the way for Howard students today. Childers, who was born in 1870 in the small Kentucky town of Dryridge, graduated from the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio.

Upon completing her formal education in 1896, Childers took the positions as head of Howard University's choir and vocal instructor. At this time, there were not

many women instructors at the University. Therefore, Childers was able to gain the admiration of her students and faculty. Childers came to Howard to educate, but she also founded the University's School of Music, which today is known as the Department of Music.

In 1905, Childers was named the Director of the School of Music and served in that capacity for 37 years. Childers was a passionate vocalist, and her passion fueled her desire to pave the way for future students. It is because of her hard work and dedication that in 1914, the University established its Conservatory of Music. Childers did not want students under her instruction to settle for less. She challenged students by introducing them to difficult pieces of music to study.

The department began to gain national recognition and many talented African Americans enrolled. One of those students, Lillian Evanti, became the first African American to perform with a troupe in Europe.

Childers not only put on acclaimed recitals annually, but she also helped break racial barriers in the Washington, D.C. area. Both whites and blacks enjoyed the recitals together.

The many contributions Childers made during her years at Howard did not go without recognition. In 1942, the University honored her with an honorary doctorate from the School of Music. A section of the Fine Arts Building was named after this astonishing woman in 1956.

Lulu Vere Childers Hall currently houses Howard's departments of Art, Theatre

Arts and Music. There is also a recital hall, music practice studios, art studios and dressing rooms.

Childers Hall is rich in history and houses the finest art the University has to offer. The Gallery of Art, which was founded in 1928 by Professor James V. Herring, was moved from Rankin Chapel to Lulu Vere Childers Hall in 1961. The gallery is nationally acclaimed, and holds a collection of African artifacts donated to the University by Alain Locke, an honorable former Howard professor. It also displays paintings from the Renaissance and European prints from 16th-19th century.

Childers died on March 6, 1946, but the students at Howard University will continue to carry on the legacy that she has left behind.

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Payment Due Date: 10/10/06
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Total Credit Line	\$15,000.00
Available Credit	\$12,177.96
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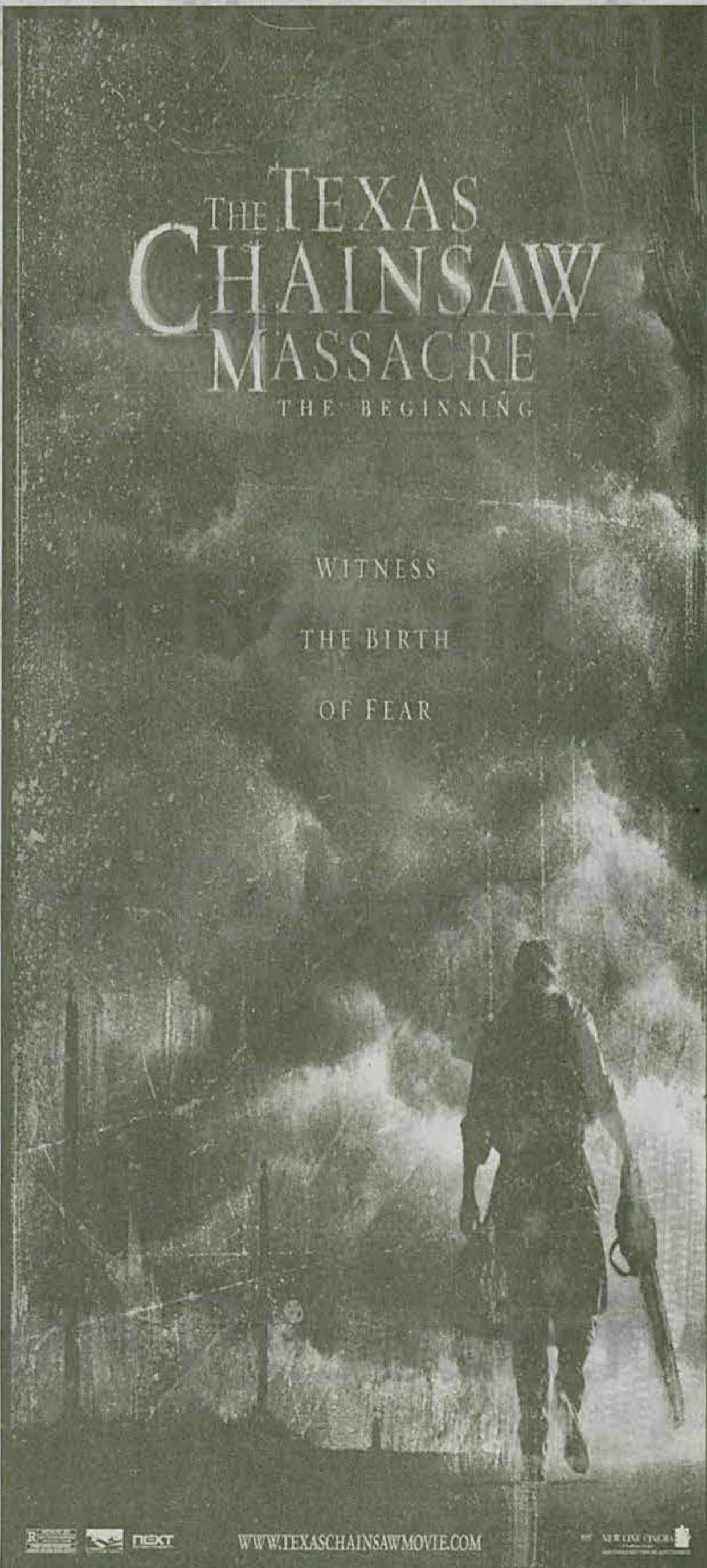
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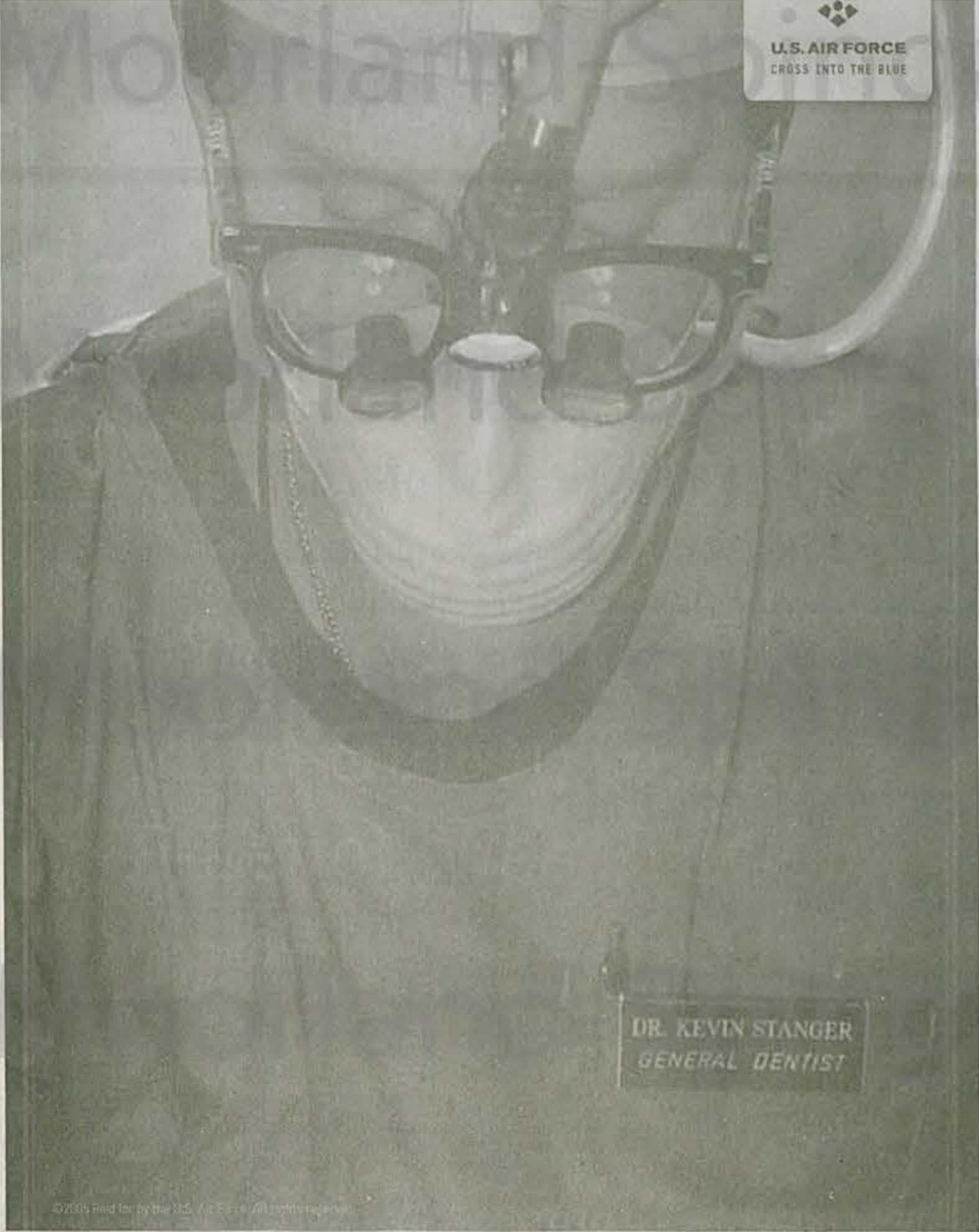
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER, 13TH
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Injuries Create Bison Quarterback Carousel

BY SETH MCGEE
Contributing Writer

With injuries plaguing his roster during the preseason, Lynwood Ferguson, Bison offensive coordinator, could foresee this problem affecting the team's offense into the season. From his quarterbacks to running backs, injuries have been the story of the season for the Bison.

"All but two of my quarterbacks were hurt during the preseason," Ferguson said. "I'm just thankful to have a deep roster."

These injured quarterbacks include sophomore Martin Decembert, who was recovering from surgery. Decembert leads the team this season in passing yards per game (148) and touchdowns (2).

Considering his players' ailments, Ferguson has chosen an unorthodox approach and has begun rotating multiple quarterbacks to ensure that a healthy passer is always on the field.

Two weeks ago in a game against Rutgers, Ferguson was forced to play five of the six quarterbacks on the Bison roster.



Bryan Jones - Senior Photo Editor

Sophomore Martin Decembert has been sharing quarterback duties with seniors Will Blanden and Darrell Turner, and freshman Foyd Haigler in the first games of the season.

The first three games of the season were no cakewalk for the Bison. They faced hard-hitting Florida A&M (2-2), big names such as Rutgers (4-0) and defending MEAC champion Hampton (4-0), who Coach Ferguson believes may have their best team in years.

The main concern with subbing quarterbacks so often is that it disables them from

getting into a comfortable rhythm in the game. Chemistry between passers and receivers is crucial, and is not possible when a different quarterback is passing the ball all the time.

Another possible conflict could arise within the group of quarterbacks regarding who the leader is and who gets the most playing time.

Freshman quarterback

Floyd Haigler assures that this is not the case amongst the group.

"The chemistry between all of us is great. We don't hate on each other," Haigler said. "Sure it may be hard to find a rhythm, but we keep in mind that we are helping the team. That is our main focus. We want the best for each other."

Although opening the

season with three losses may suggest that rotating multiple quarterbacks is not the solution to Howard's offensive problems, Ferguson views the situation as a learning experience that will bring success in the future.

"We're definitely a work in progress. This is a young group of quarterbacks, most of which have never played in a college game or been a starter," Ferguson said.

Subbing the quarterbacks gives each player more experience, which will help them in the future.

Furthermore, Ferguson continues to look to his upperclassmen, such as junior Darrell Turner and senior Will Blanden, for leadership.

"Will is here to get the job done, if he can stay healthy. Behind Blanden, Turner is our next 'go-to-guy'."

Coach Ferguson has much faith in Blanden upon his return, referring to him as a "complete quarterback." Blanden is second in passing yards (114) and leads the team in rushing yards (193) averaging 9.4 yards per carry. He has

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

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TODAY'S GAMES

Men's Soccer @
Georgetown
3 p.m.

also scored one of the teams two rushing touchdowns.

As for the rest of the season, injuries will be the deciding factor as to who will play.

This upcoming week, sophomore Floyd Haigler is expected to return after sustaining a shoulder injury last week at Rutgers.

From the outside looking in, it may seem as though this "quarterback carousel" is not helping the Bison win, but Ferguson guarantees that it is best for the well-being of his players, as well as the team.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On October 3, 1974, Frank Robinson became Major League Baseball's first black manager when he was hired by the Cleveland Indians.

Around the

MID-EASTERN



Hampton Holds off Hornets, Remains No. 1

The Pirates managed to remain undefeated, as they held off Delaware State, despite being down, 14-9, at the half.

The No. 1 ranked Pirates scored 20 unanswered points and held the Hornets to just 23 yards of total offense in the second half, bringing their record to 5-0 (4-0, MEAC).

Blanden Receives MEAC Weekly Honorable Mention

Bison quarterback William Blanden rushed for a career-high 107 yards and threw for three touchdowns, also a career-high, against Ft. Valley State, as he earned MEAC weekly football honors.

His performance helped lead the Bison to their first win of the season.



Former Hampton Pirate Signs as Free Agent with LA Lakers

Devin Green, a former Pirate, has signed a free agent contract with the Los Angeles Lakers.

He played limited minutes as a rookie last year with the team, after finishing his career at Hampton fourth in all-time scoring (1,757), second in steals (168), and fifth in made three-pointers (148) and free throws (385).



Photo courtesy of clipphoto.com

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He Said

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She Said



The Ratio

All over campus, from the classroom to the Yard and even when it comes to housing, guys are outnumbered. Girls always complain about the ratio but let's examine the disparity in numbers more closely.

As a freshman male, one is told all kinds of different variations of the female to male ratio. I remember being told figures like seven to one or nine to one and I even heard someone assert, with confidence, that there were 13 girls to every guy here at Howard.

This presents the first problem. Without actual statistics, students are apt to believe what they hear, especially when the misinformation is coming courtesy of upperclassmen that they respect and look up to.

The actual ratio is three to two. This includes undergrad as well as all the graduate population.

The ratio for the grad schools is nearly even, which skews the actual ratio from

the perspective of an undergraduate student. According to enrollment, the undergraduate is ratio is about eight to one. Regardless of the actual proportion, it doesn't really breakdown like the numbers would have one think.

For starters, there are the girls who come to school with a boo still at home. They're off the market so you can count them out of the ratio.

Then there are those who broke up with their man before leaving for school, but still carry around a lot of that emotional baggage. Those can be counted out as well.

The biggest equalizers are the Annex Hermits. Upperclassmen should all know what this term refers to. These are the girls who are housed in the Annex freshman year and almost literally don't leave. They eat in the Annex café, escape briefly for class and go right back to their solitude. I don't mean every girl that stays or stayed in the Annex, but there are quite a few who fit the description.



File Photo

When it comes down to it, the ratio really isn't a help for whack guys who couldn't get girls before and really isn't that bad for girls. At least here, there is a pool of goal-oriented, intelligent black men who have managed to keep themselves out the trap.

Ah, the good ol' ratio. The subject of many a heated conversations. The justification of many a willing "other woman." The excuse of many a falandering fellow.

Frankly, I think a lot of what people try to blame on the ratio is just pure 'stank.'

Madam, we are all aware that there are more women than men on campus, but just because you perceive a higher level of competition for these limited "resources," does not mean that you should resort to underhanded or extra behaviors to snag one.

Sir, we understand that you may be viewed by some as a type of commodity, but just because the ratio is a billion to one does not mean that you must take up with all of the billion allotted to you.

This economical thinking about the gender situation on campus has a tendency to get ridiculous. Since freshman year, I've been hearing people use the ratio to rationalize everything.

"Yeah, he had a girl, but what about the ratio?"

"I mean, sure, she thinks I'm her man, but think about the ratio."

We shouldn't be using the unfortunate fact that fewer black males go to college than females as an excuse to wrong others. We should engage in

or perhaps create a few initiatives to make sure that more brothers go to college and fewer go to prison.

But if nothing else, at least use the golden rule. And by that I mean "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and not that rule that some people seem to be living by of "All's fair in love and the ratio."

And really, the ratio is not that bad. According to my colleague, the ratio currently sits at a moderate three to two. Now, I know in some classes, it may feel worse, but take heart. They are out there.

Now, whether or not you want them should be based upon various factors, but there's no need to act like this guy may be the last guy. And gentlemen (and I use the term in an attempt to speak it into being), please do not let the overblown, made up statistics be your reason for hurting others.

People... calm down. Please.

From the Minds of Joshua Thomas & Jana Homes

HOUSEBROKEN



Howardite Horoscopes

Aries: It's time for you to step out on your own and put your unique ideas into action. Pull it all together, detail by detail, before unleashing it onto the world. So don't hesitate to throw that program or start that petition, just make sure it's solid first.

Taurus: Old ways are hard to shake, especially when it refers to how you think. However, times change and so must you. Don't be afraid of something new.

Gemini: Most of us don't know what we really want, so when something else comes, embrace it. It may be better than what your imagination could conceive. Don't write off that admirer too quick, you never know what might come of it.

Cancer: Things are rarely what they seem. Take a deeper look at your friends who seem the strongest. They may really need your aid now. Everyone needs support.

Leo: It feels you're an attention magnet, but now might not be a good time to be in the spotlight. Sometimes solitude isn't so bad, so opt for some "me" time.

Virgo: New things can be great, so don't be afraid to try something new. It can just be temporary but at least give it a shot. There are millions of clubs and activities. Your niche could be in any one them if you only try them out.

Libra: Take the time out to brighten someone's day. Taking that spontaneous extra step could also bring some light to your life as well.

Scorpio: The wildest ideas sometimes work. Don't be so quick to write them off. I'm pretty sure Mark Zuckerberg's friends thought Facebook was dumb at first.

Sagittarius: Stand up for what you believe in. Trust your instincts now and act upon your feelings.

Capricorn: There's no substitute for a good idea and some elbow grease. You've been blessed with endurance so use it. The Mecca is full of bright ideas but hard work can set you apart from the masses.

Aquarius: When it comes to being extra and random, you are royalty. You alone knows that you're not as odd as "they" think you are; they're just lames. The world needs those who westside walk to the beat of a different drum.

Pisces: The world is in danger and you recognize the growing problem. There is just so much to do that it can be too much to take on at once. The longest journey starts with just one step, so start small. Donate your change to Africare or start a petition. Set an example for others to follow and make a change.

Adapted from horoscopes courtesy of yahoo.com

Overheard @ The Mecca

"Slavery 101: How to Say 'Yes, Massa,' And Mean It"
Overheard at The Restaurant

Girl 1: What are you studying for? Your slavery class?

Girl 2: Um, what?

Girl 1: Don't you have a slavery class?

Girl 2: This book is for social psychology.

"Man, Mr. Gaines threw down on that meat loaf!"
Overheard on the West Coast

White female: You go to Howard?! Oh, I've heard of that. So.... Is it really like "a Different World?"

Howard student: (sighs deeply and saunters away)

"Eve's Confessions"
Overheard in the West Towers

Distressed Girl: Man this is the worst cramps I've ever had. And the worst thing is... I have like 30 more years of this mess.

Friend: That's if Jesus doesn't come before that, and He probably will.

Distressed Girl: And if He does, I have just one request; I need to ask Eve something. Because alls I know is that damned apple/pomegranate better had been good!

Check out more at Overheardatthemecca.blogspot.com and submit to Overhearatthemecca@gmail.com

Please send any responses to Meccanisms; 'He Said . . . She Said' topics, Howardite Horoscopes or any other contributions to meccanisms@gmail.com

EDITORIALS & Perspectives

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School Shootings All Tragic

Just yesterday three people were shot to death at a one room Amish school in Pennsylvania, and three girls ages six to twelve were hospitalized.

The school-house massacre was the third deadly school shooting in less than a week.

Before the gun smoke had settled in each of these cases, the media descended with school shootings as the top story of news programs around the country.

However, just two weeks ago right up to the street from us at Cardozo High School, a teen was shot. This incident received marginal local media attention, at best. There were also two or three other shootings involving teens locally with no national mention.

It is a tragedy when young people kill each other regardless of race. The shootings of black students at inner-city schools in, low-income areas around the country are often given little media coverage and often even considered business as usual.

With school shootings occurring more often at predominantly-black schools, that

is even more reason for news organizations to focus on this issue and alert the public to ongoing problems.

Another reality of the latest outbreak of school shoot-

school shootings reveals the disparities between black and white victims in the media.

From kidnapped children to women attacked by their husbands, black victims are seen as second-class citizens too often.

Another huge issue in media coverage and society's awareness of our tragedies is economics. Whereas neighborhoods with higher income levels have mothers that can afford to miss work (if they work)

and dedicate themselves to their children's safety, our neighborhoods don't always allocate the money and time to make sure that our voices are heard.

The black community must be champions of our own safety and that of our children. Our communities must spread the attitude that shootings at "inner city" (read: Black) schools are not to be accepted as the status quo. A life is a life.

'If it Bleeds it Leads' is the mantra for many news organizations on what stories will be featured; the blood of all should be valued regardless of race.

The recent occurrence of

ings is the heinousness of the crimes.

As many Hilltop staff members stated, shooting schoolmates with no direct motive and shooting whom-ever is in the vicinity is not as common in the black community.

The overwhelming tragedy of the man walking into a Colorado school and killing a 16-year-old girl and himself, and a 15-year-old boy in Wisconsin killing his principal for being punished is definitely newsworthy nationally. But just as appropriate to put on the 6 o'clock news is the story of shootings right here in the city.

The recent occurrence of

Our View:

The current outbreak of school shootings is sad and disturbing.

The loss of inner city black students is just as heart-breaking and should be a concern to both the black community and the media.

Daily SuDoku

Directions: Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

			5	1				3
		3	2			7		4
							2	8
6				5		3		
1								2
		5		7				9
4	1							
5		7			3	8		
3				9	4			

Do you want to write for THE HILLTOP?

Come to our budget meeting
Monday @ 7 p.m.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 83rd year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

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.

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The Way I See It ...

The Little Things Count...



BY CIARA FAMBLE
Life & Style Editor

And another thing about senior year...you realize it's all about the little things. The little things make you or break you.

A small detail like forgetting to do a homework assignment, falling asleep, or working out can leave you with the same result—flailing around like a fish out of water, trying to play catch-up and make up for all your mistakes at the end.

Same goes for things that you have had a high tolerance for in the past. I'll be the first to admit that I've been enthralled with some of the little things that make Howard, Howard. I love the Fridays on the Yard, the professors who really care, and I even secretly enjoy waiting in line for large events.

We all know that Howard has a lot of lines, of many different sizes and levels of seriousness. The most serious line of all, in my eyes, is the line to buy Homecoming tickets, with the step show line coming in at a close second. Never do you see so many young black people working together and so trusting of one another.

Yes, it's a really tight squeeze, but alliances and friendships are cultivated in that bunched line. And even though you may get mad at the people who get there 15 minutes after the tickets go on sale, if you yell loud enough, they move to the back.

People always complained, but to me it was always one of the little things. That is, until yesterday. Cramped in the Homecoming ticket line for over five hours, I was exhausted from heat, hunger and lack of personal space. I made it all the way up to the side of Cramton Auditorium before I decided that I had it up to here.

For the first time ever, I left. I just walked out. I couldn't take one more minute of the incompetence. I thought to myself, 'Why is this going on? There is no semblance of order here. Why are the campus police here if they aren't doing anything?'

I wondered why the process had changed so much since freshman year, when on one random day, I just walked into Cramton and bought all my Homecoming tickets. How did it evolve in three short years to an angry, hot mob crowding, cursing and pushing each other?

Just when I couldn't take it anymore, an unexpected event saved the day. Just when I couldn't take it anymore, the girl in line next to me offered to stay in line and buy my tickets for me while I went about my way. I was so grateful that someone was willing to stand in my place. This girl didn't know me well. We've seen each other several times over the years but have never become close. Yet she was still willing to do a kind act for me, a virtual stranger. Even as I was walking away to recover from that line, I remembered why I always had a secret love for that line. Like I said, it's about the little things.

Ciara can be reached at lifeandstyle2006@yahoo.com.

Fit or Fly?

Students Choose Not to Choose Either One

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Hilltop Staff Writer

It is often hard to maintain a workout regimen while focusing on schoolwork and jobs, but what about staying fit to look fly?

Many students on Howard's campus dress well. Having many stores easily accessible from the campus makes shopping an everyday activity for some. Admittedly, it is important to look fly because you never know who may be watching you or whom you may meet.

Howard is the cultural Mecca and many people want to be sure that they are representing themselves appropriately, as anyone could be walking around campus. On the other hand, you don't want to have to struggle while walking up the hills.

Student opinions varied when deciding the importance of fitness over fashion.

Tijeerah Washington, a senior nursing major, admits that she is not as motivated as she should be, but would rather be fit.

"I don't actually take time to work out, but I do a lot of walking and take advantage of the chances I do get to be active," Washington said. "My



Many Howard students struggle with trying to stay fit and fly in attempts to resemble their favorite celebrities such as Tyra Banks (left), and pop icon Janet Jackson (right).



Photo courtesy of www.beebe.biz and www.sahlee.org

problem is just motivating myself to do it and finding the time in my busy day." When faced with a choice between being fit or flashy Washington said, "I value my life enough to sacrifice being fly to be fit. I think we focus too much on our appearance than what really matters."

Freshman biology major Aarin Ables has similar sentiments and also has issues with motivation.

"I would definitely rather be fit and look rough than fly

and unhealthy. Fly will only take you so far. When your fitness habits are bad, you won't stay cute for long. I work out sometimes. I used to work out regularly, but since I've been at Howard, I haven't taken the initiative in making it part of my schedule."

It is possible to maintain both your health and looks, but it takes a lot of work. Another technique is walking to your dorm instead of using the shuttles. It sounds like a big sacrifice for many,

but when walking and talking with friends, it becomes a lot easier.

Bryan Franklin, the general manager of Washington Sports Club on Connecticut Avenue, thinks there are lots of ways students can work out in their dorm rooms and on campus.

"A lot of students don't come to our gym because they can't afford it," Franklin said. "It's not that it's expensive but, compared to the free gym on campus, it seems way more

expensive than it is.

Franklin said going to the gym is not necessary to stay fit. "Honestly, to sustain a good fitness level you don't need a gym, you can do push-ups and crunches anywhere," Franklin said. The bottom line is, anyone can exercise anywhere."

Each dorm has Fit Tv, which has programs dedicated to working out from the comfort of a bedroom. Pilates, aerobics and yoga are instructed during programs on the fitness channel. Burr Gymnasium, located on campus, is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and has a swimming pool, basketball courts and weight room and a cardio area called "The Pulse."

Kavell Ferguson, a freshman sports medicine major, works out and maintains his flyness with simple techniques.

"I work out. I go running and I do sit ups and push-ups. That's usually my workout. I would rather be fit, but I don't want to be rough. I would rather just look okay," Ferguson said. "If you are trying to look fit and stay fly then I advise that you work out daily, and also keep your shoe game and jean game up and just make sure your shirts are not ridiculous."

Blogs Changing the Way Students Express Views

BY ERIN EVANS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Blogger. Xanga. Live Journal. Notes. To some people, these words are meaningless. However, for people who are knowledgeable about the blogging world, these words are more than just funny names.

Weblogs, commonly known as blogs, are Internet journals composed of commentary about any topic that the author or 'blogger' desires.

These words are the realm of expressing opinions, thoughts and daily activities.

Several people use them to rant about society, politics, lack of love life and manifested hatred for one's careers. Others use them to rave about celebrity happenings, film reviews and recent successes in life.

Whatever bloggers decide to write about, blogs are everywhere and available to anyone with Internet access and an original thought.

Of the many recent changes to Facebook, students can now share thoughts, poems, and common issues everyone is talking about.

"I'm not really feeling [Facebook notes]," said Vince Hunter, junior television production major. "It seems like a blog substitute."

Hunter, who frequents Xanga daily, caught onto the blog bandwagon in high school when all of his friends began talking about their daily drama.

He is also a part of the Howard University group on the website.

"Once I started, it really grew on me, [I] just reading about friends' lives," Hunter said. "I eventually started meeting people online with whom I shared interests."

There are several sub-categories of weblogs including photoblogs like "Pink is the New Blog," audio blogs like podcasts on iTunes and video logs or 'vlogs.'

The black blog community is made up of several black writers who talk about an array of topics, ranging from black conservatism with LaShawn Barber's "Corner" to pop culture with Jason Toney's "Negro Please." Richard Prince writes "Journal-isms," an online column for the Robert C. Maynard Institute of Journalism Education. Prince does not consider himself a blogger. His column focuses on diversity in the news media and receives about 2,400 hits per day.

"Blogs are unregulated and unedited," Prince said. "A lot of bloggers create rumors without verifying, [but] a lot of bloggers do raise important issues and it forces the mainstream media to report these things."

Jennifer Ocean, junior broadcast journalism major, feels that blogging and real news are two different things. "There's a definite difference between a blog and a hard news story," she said. "Anyone can read and write a blog and say what they want."

Professional writers have recently also become contributors to the blogosphere. In January, the Chicago Tribune began

"The Swamp." This blog is dedicated to covering news in Washington, D.C. The nation's capital was founded partly on a swamp, so this blog concentrates on "...cutting a path through it" and shedding light on news from the capital, according to the Chicago Tribune's website.

"We are a creature of the Washington bureau, so what we do is cover politics and policy, the things we think would be of interest to readers and national audience," said Frank James, staff writer and blogger from the Washington Bureau of the Chicago Tribune.

James finds that "The Swamp" reaches out to citizens interested in public affairs by covering topics that may not make the newspaper.

"There was a feeling that there were a lot of things that we see and observe and think about that we couldn't always get into the paper," James said.

Courtney Payne of Fort Washington, MD, founded www.Six24.com in January to unite black bloggers into a black blogosphere.

"I wanted to make it easier for people looking for black blogs by making them available on one site," Payne said.

Payne says he's a "lurker" of blogs. He reads blogs daily, but doesn't have one of his own due to lack of time.

"I would love to start a blog," he said. "It takes time and dedication to keep blogs interesting. You often need to contribute a few times a day to keep people interested."

Album Review

CHINGY: HOODSTAR

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Hilltop Staff Writer

The self-proclaimed "Hoodstar", also known as Chingy, recently released his third album. Following much criticism and bashing after his last album, this St. Louis native is trying to reclaim his spot in the hip-hop arena. For the last week it's ranked #2 on Billboard's top rap albums.

"Hoodstar" portrays the rapper in a more adult image, rather than the young and wild persona seen in his earlier work. But don't let his first single 'Pullin' Me Back' (featuring singer Tyrese) fool you; Chingy is still rapping about partying and promiscuity. He just shows a little more discretion than in the past.

The whole album gives the listener a glimpse into Chingy's everyday lifestyle. The stereotypical club-hopping, random women, and drug/alcohol use associated with rappers is shown as his normal style of life, to which most of the album is club hits in which the rapper uses blatant profanity in many of his songs. Chingy, who was born and raised in Walnut Park in North Side St. Louis, credits the inspiration for this album to his upbringing and rise to stardom. On his official website Chingy says, "I'm from the ghetto and I wanted to show my appreciation for where I come from. Even if you've had success, you don't ever forget where you come from."

The rapper seems determined to let his listeners in on all aspects of that lifestyle, both personal and public. When he isn't talking about his partying lifestyle, he's a bit of a romantic. Chingy lets his listeners know he has found (or thinks he has found) that one "special woman" while rising to his success. Like many others before, Chingy claims to have difficulty in sustaining

a relationship with longevity, because of his career.

He said, "If you've got a woman in this business, you are not going to be able to give her that quality time. You're going to try, but you're also on the road, and it's hard to keep the relationship going."

The first single released, "Pulling Me Back," is the only sentimental song on the album. It is inspired by a real-life turbulent relationship he had with a woman that he didn't want to leave.

The lyrics read: "Good times led to bad times and you ain't see it coming/Try the best to make her happy/But it wasn't enough/Cuz mamma told me in relationship the road gets rough."

Although it may seem that Chingy may be ready to settle down, track number three gives you insight into what he prefers now. Called "Club Getting Crowded" this song is a perfect example of his lifestyle and rapport with women.

For Janet Jackson fans, there is the track "U a Freak", which was inspired by her "Nasty" single, inspired by her boyfriend Jermaine Dupri. Once again, Chingy has collaborated with his producer, Jermaine Dupri. The duo collaborated for a couple of the songs on the album and are both rapping on the track "Dem Jeans."

The album also features popular hip-hop artists like Three 6 Mafia, Fatman Scoop and Mannie Fresh. Chingy also made the album a family affair by having his cousin, rapper Young Spiffy featured on one of the tracks. The album is really catered to Chingy fans and people from his hometown that can identify with the lifestyle.

Grade: C-