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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 63

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2006

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notebook

BREAKING NEWS

VILSACK JOINS THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

TOM VILSACK, WHO IS ENDING HIS TENURE AS GOVERNOR OF IOWA, IS THE FIRST DEMOCRAT TO OFFICIALLY JOIN THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

PAPER-WIDE COVERAGE

WORLD AIDS DAY: 25 YEARS OF HIV/AIDS

ALL OVER THE HILLTOP, WE ARE COVERING WORLD AIDS DAY, HOW THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IS AFFECTING THE BLACK COMMUNITY, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT THE ISSUE.



FRI, 12/1
T-STORMS/
WIND
HIGH: 66, LOW: 38

FRI, 12/1
MOSTLY
SUNNY
HIGH: 49, LOW: 33

Howard Hospital Continues HIV Screening Campaign

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University Hospital made history a little over a month ago when it became the first hospital to begin a routine HIV screening campaign.

Now, on World AIDS Day, the hospital reports that the campaign has been successful thus far and that the program is steadily growing.

Washington, D.C. has the highest rate of HIV infection in the nation. Dr. Celia J. Maxwell, the director of the campaign and the assistant vice president of health sciences at HUH, says the rate is "higher than some developing countries and African nations."

Adding the fact that the majority of new cases affect the African-American community, it is important that people from both demographics, Washington D.C. and minorities, have simple testing readily available.

Terassa Johnson, the program manager for the Comprehensive

AIDS Testing Initiative (CATI) and Kahina Robinson, the program coordinator of the HUH HIV/AIDS routine screen campaign, both report that both the Howard University community and the residents of the Washington, D.C. area have really taken to the campaign.

Johnson said that patients have been responding very well, and while the number of people tested varies daily, 30 people is the average.

The test is quick and completely



File Photo

On a daily basis, about 30 people are tested for HIV at Howard University Hospital since the medical facility began its routine screening campaign.

hospital and then come back for their results rather than sitting around waiting.

Robinson says that people from ages 16 to 84 have been getting tested for the virus.

Johnson said that the campaign serves the tri-state area, so people from Maryland and Virginia have been getting tested as well.

Robinson and Johnson say that both hospital personnel and Howard students have taken advantage of the quick and easy testing also.

Johnson adds that people have been enjoying the program, and some people have brought in their spouses so that they could get tested together.

The program has a bilingual counselor to cater to the Hispanic community. Johnson says that this is important. The counselor can answer questions, explain things and provide necessary support to Spanish-speaking persons.

According to Johnson, the Department of Health is doing very well with supplying the hospital with testing kits and OraSure Technologies has been assisting in training hospital personnel to administer the tests.

Robinson said that she and her colleagues are steadily expanding the program in an attempt to get more people to get tested for HIV.

Today, on World AIDS Day, HUH will continue to do what it has been doing—working to inform members of the community about the AIDS pandemic and their HIV/AIDS status and providing support.

Campus Police Fix Security Issues

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

With the semester drawing to a close, students find themselves able to reflect on their experiences around campus, including those with campus police.

Freshman broadcast journalism major Lyndon Gray was robbed near Carver Hall at the beginning of the school year and has held on to his not so sunny disposition toward campus police. He feels that they are unapproachable and sleep all the time.

Not everyone shares Gray's sentiments. Ajit Aryal, a junior biology major, has lived in the Slowe/Carver area, known for an

especially high crime rate compared to the rest of campus, since his freshman year.

"It's gotten a lot better. I've seen changes they've made since freshman year," he said. "Now campus police has more officers visible by Slowe and Carver."

He said that previously it would take a stroke of luck to see an officer posted by the elementary school at 3rd and Elm streets, but now there is one present on a regular basis.

These changes are part of a mission the campus police department embarked on as of June 25 of this year.

"We decided we wanted to

change the operational make up of the campus police department and move from what was a random reactionary method to a directed proactive response," said Campus Police Chief Lawrence Thomas.

Campus police have decided to go about this task by establishing posts in the two service areas that divide the campus to increase presence and establish familiarity with the students, faculty and staff in those areas.

Officer K. Keene said that being visible helps create a line of trust that will encourage students to come to him and share any problems they may have.

There are six posts established over the North, which includes College Street to Harvard Street and East Campus, and South, which includes West Campus and all of campus south of College Street.

The posts are at Gresham, Georgia Avenue and Girard, the 4th Street gate, the main gate, 3rd and Elm streets and the Howard University Hospital parking entrances. All posts have 24-hour patrol, except for Georgia Avenue and Girard which has an officer present from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m.

In addition to these posts there are officers on duty in the Howard University Towers area, Meridian Hall, as well as the Law and Divinity schools. Officers in

See POLICE, A3



File Photo

The Howard University basketball team will be experiencing more hype from the crowds as they play against HU's well known rival, Hampton.

The Mecca Rocks The Big Apple Classic in NYC

BY NICOLE BAILEY
Contributing Writer

Howard's men's basketball team will have the honor of playing in the inaugural Big Apple Classic being held this weekend at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Howard will be facing off against its biggest rival, Hampton University, tomorrow at 3 p.m. in Howard's first MEAC conference game of the year.

The Big Apple Classic will feature four historically black universities — Howard and Hampton from the MEAC, and Virginia Union and Bowie State of the CIAA who will tip off at 1 p.m.

This highly anticipated weekend event is the first of planned annual

events set to resemble a collegiate version of the NBA's All-Star Weekend. Events begin Nov. 30 and continue until Dec. 3, the double header will be Dec. 2.

Howard enters the first conference game with a record of 3-3, compared to Hampton who has lost five consecutive contests and are 1-6 overall. Senior forward Darryl Hudson feels that the team's confidence has continued to build with each win.

"I think we are prepared. We have a couple of wins under our belt," Hudson said.

Head coach Gil Jackson is more reserved heading into Saturday's

See BASKETBALL, A3



File Photo

Campus Police Chief Thomas said campus police are trying to counteract the negative impression some students have of the department.

Howard Gives a Hand in Fight Against HIV/AIDS Epidemic

BY EBONI FARMER
Hilltop Staff Writer

According to a White House report, there are over 877,000 people infected with AIDS in the United States and 42 million infected worldwide.

The District of Columbia Health Department has reported that there is an AIDS population of 14,950 to 27,000 in Washington, D.C.

Simone Moore, a representative from Us Helping Us, an AIDS organization dedicated to helping prevent the spreading of HIV/AIDS in the Washington, D.C. community, believes more needs to be done in order for the battle with HIV/AIDS to be won.

"Us Helping Us has seen more people coming out to get tested, but it isn't enough to get tested," Moore said. "People have to realize the risks they are taking and become more educated. Many people still think AIDS is only transmitted through sex."

Moore said that the AIDS population is concentrated in places where there is poor healthcare and education.

Andrea Young, a junior broadcast journalism major, wants to make an impact on the fight against AIDS.

"I get tested two times a year, and I also urge my friends on the importance of doing something so simple. It's important that the future leaders of the world understand that

AIDS is a pandemic, and we can't just sit and let it progress."

In honor of World AIDS Day, many students are participating in the activities that are being presented by campus organizations. The biggest events on campus are being held by the African Student Association (ASA) in conjunction with Community of AIDS Activists for Equal Justice, Phi Sigma Rho Sorority Inc., the Caribbean Student Association, the Haitian Student Association and the Howard University Student Association.

Taofeek Siyanbola, the president of ASA, is very passionate about wanting Howard University to be at the forefront of the fight against AIDS.

"We want the fight to be uni-

fied on campus, which is why all the organizations on campus have come under one umbrella," Siyanbola said.

"The importance of World AIDS Day is the same universally, to honor those who lost their lives because of it and to create global awareness."

Senior biology major Kevin Walker has attended the events held on campus throughout the week.

"I attended the AIDS fundraiser and the discussions in Blackburn. It is nice to see students seeking support for something that has infected too many people," Walker said.

Walker also said that he believes throughout the entire year, students and student organizations at Howard should be fundraising and fostering awareness about AIDS.

"It affects the black community more than any other. We have to set the standards and be at the grassroots of the fight."

Ramata Sangare, a freshman pre-med major and ASA member, hopes that all students come out to the events being held today.

"The first step in fighting AIDS is coming out to learn more about it. No one is safe against AIDS unless they know how to prevent its spreading and follow through with using abstinence or protection," Sangare said.

There will be a Tell Your Story Night at 7 p.m. in the Blackburn Digital Auditorium where people who have been battling HIV/AIDS will share their stories.

Club 9:30 Allowed to Use West Towers Parking Lot

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

Club 9:30, a nightclub and bar located near the intersection of 9th and V streets, is a venue where adults come to hear live bands, socialize and have a good time.

On most evenings and the weekends, the club has a crowd.

Since parking is limited in the parking area behind the club, many patrons park in the Howard University parking lot behind the West Towers.

Many people on Howard's campus and particularly residents of the Towers are not aware that Club 9:30's guests have been using the lot as a convenient alternative to the spaces provided by the venue.

Club 9:30's Web site says that their parking lot is monitored and run by club personnel.

The fee to park in the lot is \$10 and the site warns that on busy nights, the lot fills up quickly. Guests are given the option to purchase parking tickets in advance along with their concert tickets.

People who miss the memo to arrive early and buy parking tickets in advance often end up parking in the West Towers lot.

Clifford Smith, the director of

parking and shuttle operations at Howard University, said that on weekday evenings and the weekends, all of Howard's lots are open.

This means that with or without a permit, anyone can park on the lots.

However, on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., parking without a permit or special permission from the appropriate officials is illegal and will result in a ticket.

Smith also said that Howard University does not rent out any lot to any business in the area, but that Howard's 9th Street lot, which is closer to the entertainment venue, is shared with Club 9:30. He says that Howard has a contract with the business.

Rebecca Armendariz, a Club 9:30 employee, says that there are 70 parking spots in the 9th Street lot that the venue rents from Howard University.

She also says that the club has been renting from Howard for a few years now. Back in 2002, Club 9:30 patrons had to pay \$7 to park in the 9th Street lot.

The price is now \$10, which matches the fee of the club's own lot.

The 9th Street lot is more convenient than the lot in the West Towers since it is less than a block away from

the club.

However, patrons may be willing to walk a few extra blocks from the West Towers Lot if it means they can save \$10.

This is especially true of evenings and nights when the West Towers lot is open to everyone and there is no risk of getting a ticket or being towed.

When there are concerts and other events going on at Club 9:30, there is usually a crowd.

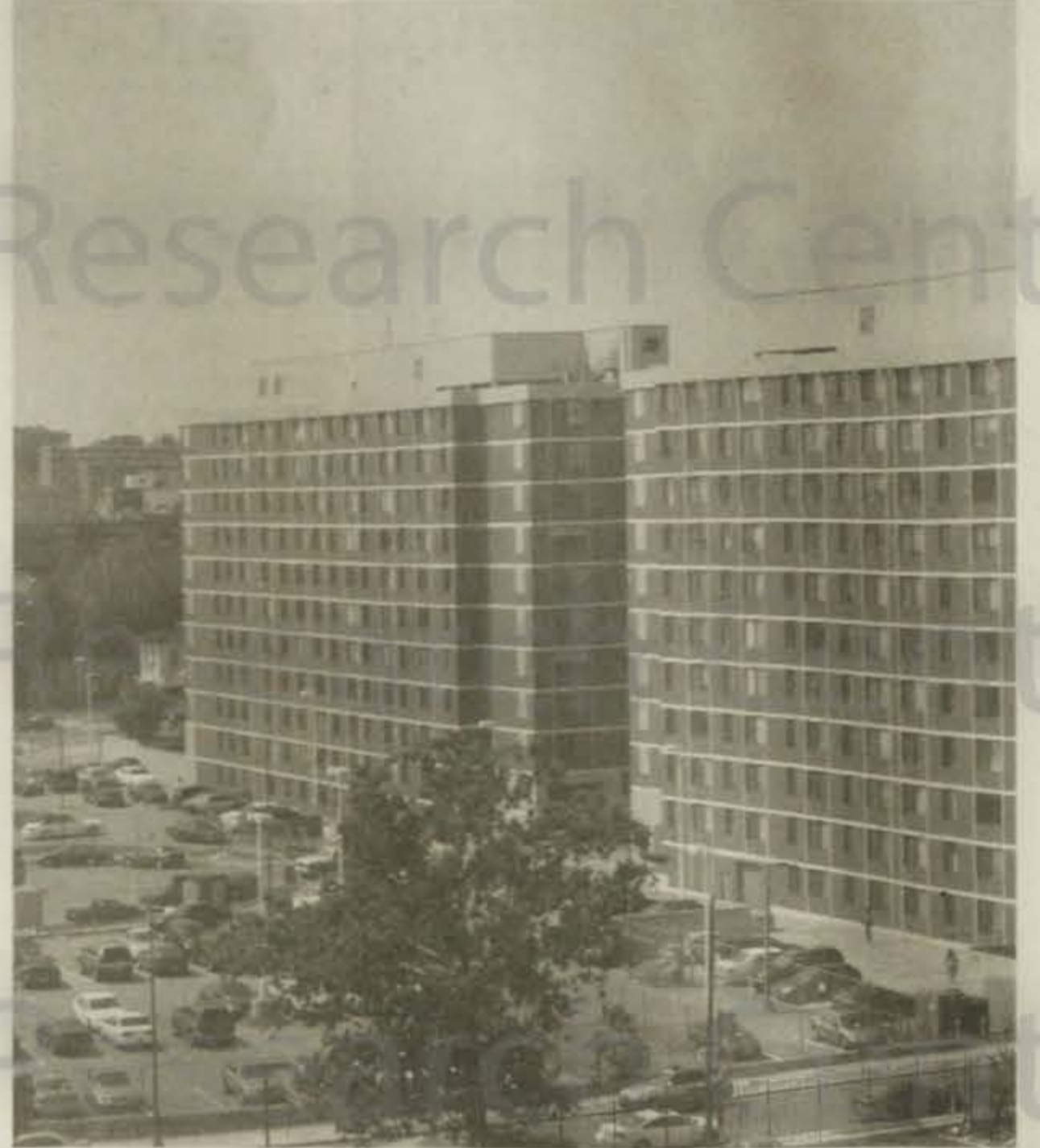
The club hosts famed musicians, such as Hoobastank, The Smashing Pumpkins, The Beastie Boys, Talib Kweli, Nas and the poet Saul Williams. Chicago-based rapper Lupe Fiasco will perform next Tuesday.

On nights when large crowds are drawn to immense talent, Armendariz says that club patrons will park almost anywhere.

"People do not care," Armendariz said.

As a Howard student, senior print journalism major Joseph Gray believes it is only fair that those who don't attend Howard pay for using the University's parking lot.

"They should pay for using the parking lot because Howard students have to pay, and I feel as if the action should be reciprocated to people from Club 9:30," Gray said.



Bryan Jones - Senior Photo Editor

Club 9:30 charges a fee to allow patrons to use Howard's 9th Street lot, but many opt to park for free in the West Plaza Towers lot.

Health Center Urges All to Take Free HIV/AIDS Test

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Efforts to raise HIV/AIDS awareness are soaring today on World AIDS Day. Education, prevention, treatment and support are all common discussion topics, but the only way to apply them to people's lives is for people to know their HIV status. That is where testing makes its entrance.

According to a confidential Hilltop survey of 108 random students, 61 percent of the student body has been tested for HIV/AIDS.

While 76 percent of those tested say they did it because they are sexually active, according to the survey, students had other motives as well.

Other reasons students reported for getting tested were to know their status, which is a requirement for entrance into the service academy and part of an annual physical.

Cornelia Harris, the associate director of support services at the Howard University Student Health Center, said that they are pushing to have tests as a part of everyone's regular check-ups.

"I want to make sure I don't have HIV and that way if I do, I could get it treated early," said Shana Green, a sophomore biology major.

Harris thinks it is good for people to know their status.

"The earlier that [a] person knows [they are infected], the better the chances are of keeping the viral load low and living [longer] with the virus," she said.

Harris suggests that students get tested at least twice a year and The Hilltop survey shows that 65 percent of students are getting tested at least once a year.

Emmitt Charles, a freshman finance major, gets tested about once every three months.

He said he knows that people can go two years without experiencing symptoms of the disease and three months without it being detectable in someone's system.

"I figure if you get tested every few months, you can catch it in its early stages," Charles said.

He said that it makes him nervous that people are participating in risky behaviors like having unprotected sex and not getting tested.

"There are too many

resources in America for people to get tested and know their status, especially if they are having unprotected sex," Charles said.

Some students sincerely do not wish to be tested. Some prefer the "ignorance is bliss" mentality, saying that they would rather not know their status than have to deal with the stress of knowing.

Freshman pre-pharmacy major James Carter has not been tested, but plans to take advantage of the free testing on campus today.

"That's a good thing to have the free testing," he said, "because people don't have the money to go pay for the tests."

Charles is one of the 55 percent of underclassmen who gets tested.

"I'm not necessarily setting an example. I'm just doing what's regular," Charles said.

Green, who is the vice president of the HIV/AIDS awareness Live NOW campaign and a member of the Young Women of Color Leadership Council through Advocates for Youth, believes that it is important for blacks to get tested to keep the disease from spreading.

Green particularly emphasizes that women should be tested. According to The Hilltop survey, 43 percent of Howard women have not been tested for HIV/AIDS.

Green said that getting tested is a way for women to reclaim control of their bodies after people take advantage of them by doing things like not using protection.

"Getting tested is taking a stance to break the cycle of abuse on their bodies," she said.

Testing at the Student Health Center is free and confidential. Since it does not inquire about a student's demographic information, the center is unable to contribute to the statistics conversation.

For students who were unable to get tested over the past week, the Student Health Center offers free tests every Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Those interested can call 806-7559 or 806-9705 to schedule an appointment.



Photo courtesy of www.4girls.gov

HIV can be contracted several different ways, including through all forms of unprotected sex, blood transfusions and the transmission of the virus from the mother to the child.

Students Tell Personal Effects of AIDS/HIV

BY EBONI FARMER
Hilltop Staff Writer

There is no way to look at a person and tell whether or not they have HIV/AIDS. Sophomore nursing major Nikki Clark can testify to this because one of her closest childhood friends was HIV-positive and she had no idea.

"She never told anyone in school that she had HIV, not even her close friends. She always seemed to be healthy and upbeat. It wasn't until tenth grade when she had gotten really sick and hadn't been to school for weeks that I found out," Clark said.

Clark wanted to know why her friend had not been in school and had not returned phone calls, so she made a visit to her friend's house.

"She lived with her aunt because her mom had died. Her aunt actually sat me down and told me my friend had HIV," Clark said.

Her friend's aunt told her that her friend had been living with HIV throughout most of her life.

At first, Clark did not understand how her friend, who she had shared many great memories with, could be infected with HIV because she seemed so healthy and was not participating in risky behavior.

"Her grandmother told me she contracted the disease through birth and that

she was afraid to tell people about having HIV because she did not want to be rejected or hurt," Clark said.

"I asked her aunt why she decided to tell me this and she said because she wasn't sure if my friend was going to make it because her body was rejecting the medication. I remember just crying when she said that."

Clark said that telling her friend's story is important as it greatly changed her life.

"I honestly would not be telling my friend's story if it did not have an impact on my life. After she died, everyone in the school found out she had HIV and I just wish I had known earlier," Clark said.

She added, "As a nurse, I will be able to help people by traveling the world and helping those suffering from AIDS who do not have many resources."

Clark hopes that people realize the risks they are taking because her friend lost her life due to another person's mistakes.

Marcus Strickland, a senior biology major, has a different story to tell.

"In the African-American community, talking about HIV/AIDS is not something that always comes easy. I think that is a major downfall that needs to be corrected," Strickland said.

Strickland, whose

brother is HIV-positive, is a member of African Student Association, as well as the Howard University Red Cross.

"My brother found out he was HIV-positive when he was 22. He's 28 now. He has his good days and bad days. He's on a lot of medication," Strickland said.

Strickland said that his brother takes nine pills a day and if he happens to miss one day, it could be detrimental to his health.

"I've seen him so weak that he couldn't walk or get out of bed to use the bathroom," Strickland said.

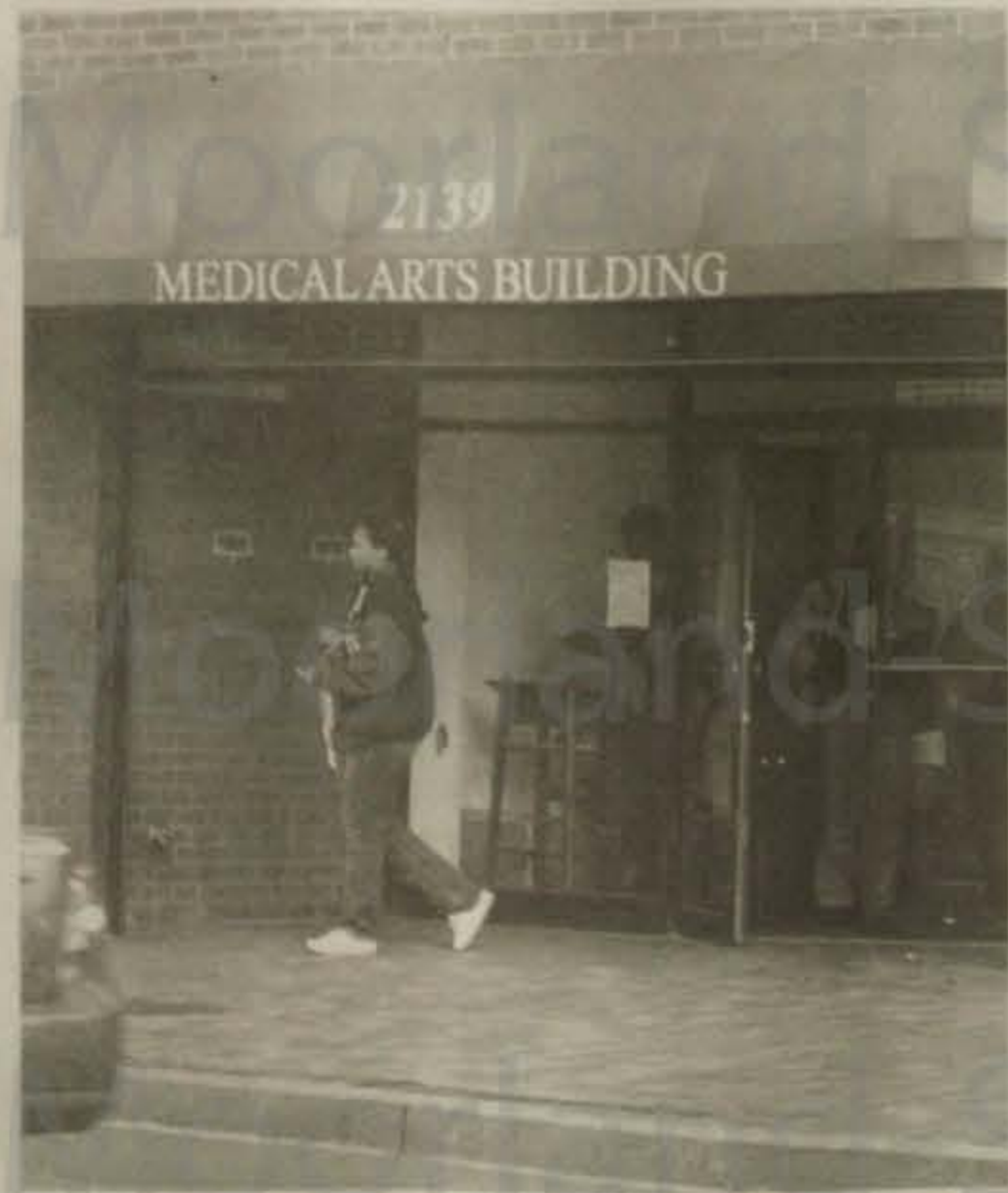
The fact that his brother has HIV was something that Strickland's parents could not grapple with and did not expect.

"My parents were embarrassed, I think because of the stigmas that come along with the disease. HIV/AIDS is not a homosexual disease -- it's a human disease."

Strickland also said that although he is not HIV-positive, it is a part of his life.

He also wishes that people would take the necessary precautions to protect themselves because anyone can be infected with the disease.

"My brother is not a horrible person. He made a mistake by having unprotected sex. I say why risk your life for a moment of pleasure, when the best pleasure comes from being healthy."



File Photo

People often make numerous excuses for not getting an HIV test, but the Health Center offers confidential tests at no cost once a week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Campus Police Continue to Improve Campus Safety

Police, from A1

vehicles, riding scooters and on foot are also on patrol at all times.

At any given time, there are usually about 24 to 28 officers on active patrol, according to Thomas. He added that there are times when officers are on leave or other circumstances that will cause absences, but for the most part a full staff can be expected.

The changes that began in June are a part of a three-phase plan to fulfill Thomas' vision for the department to establish an operation that epitomizes safety, service delivery and outstanding customer service characterized by professionalism in dress, demeanor and performance. This is in hopes of earning consideration for accreditation from nationally recognized law enforcement commissions.

Phase one of the process is to lay the foundation for change.

"We knew we would be attempting to change the culture of the department and mindset of the staff and anticipated that it would be difficult," Thomas said.

Phase two will begin in January and emphasize a directed patrol based on incident reports. Supervisors will give written instructions to officers upon which they must report on at the

end of their daily tour of duty.

The third and final phase of the change, according to Thomas, is to have "modified campus and community oriented policing." This means to work with the community and to promote the department's main goal of ensuring the general safety of the campus community.

As of now, there are two universities in the area with accredited police departments — Georgetown and George Washington Universities. Thomas feels that Howard becoming accredited would be a significant accomplishment for the university that would bring recognition, financial consideration for grants and overall self satisfaction.

"This is change and change is not automatic. If the phases take longer than anticipated, we're going to take longer to get it right. We will still be providing safety and security services," Thomas said.

Thomas encourages students who feel that they have found themselves in a situation where campus police are serving inappropriately to call the supervisor on duty at 202-439-1570.

He said that the department deals with these incidences sternly and quickly with severe consequences including removal.

Keene said he takes it personally when he hears of his slacking colleagues.

"They [students] look at me and say you caused it," he said. He encourages students to put their complaints in writing, send e-mails and talk to the *Hilltop* to make sure they are heard.

Jeffery Fleming, a sophomore finance major, said even though he does not always feel safe, he has been helped by campus police and appreciates it. They intervened when Fleming felt he was being profiled by metropolitan police.

According to Thomas, 80 percent of crimes occur with a student walking alone in the dark. He urges students to take the shuttle to avoid that situation.

Aryal, a native District of Columbia resident, thinks that students should take more responsibility for their safety.

"It's never funny when something happens to a Howard student," he said, "but at the same time most cases could be prevented if proper precautions were taken."

He added, "Living in an area like this where you have to look out for yourself is part of the Howard experience."

Howard Plays Hampton at Madison Square Garden

BASKETBALL, from A1

game. "You have to execute what you do, that [Madison Square Garden] is such a high profile stage for basketball," Jackson said.

While he believes in his team, Jackson remains cautious, adding that "there will be a certain amount of slippage because of the high profile."

Senior shooting guard Darck Mitchell shares his coach's sentiment.

"We are preparing everyday, like today was a real hard practice, mentally. Our coach is trying to get us prepared," Mitchell said. "We haven't beaten them in four years so he is trying to prepare us for that mentally."

Because of the uniqueness of the game, Jackson plans to start his five seniors. Mitchell was glad to return to the starting lineup, but said that he will not approach the game any differently.

"I feel prepared. I started last year when we played Hampton. It's really no different to me," Mitchell said.

Jackson and his team are excited about playing in Madison Square Garden, a venue that he described as the "Mecca of basketball."

Eugene Myatt, a sophomore guard/forward, said, "We're excited. We've never played in an arena like that."

Myatt, a native of Philadelphia, has some personal history with the Garden. The arena is best known as the home of one of basketball's most storied franchises, the New York Knicks. Myatt was able to see the team play there live.

Hudson has never been to the Garden or New York City, however, he is just as anxious to visit.

"I'm really looking forward to it. It's a great environment to play in, I hear," Hudson said. "New York is a great place, and the fans are really knowledgeable about the game."

Jackson has also had the opportunity to both coach and play in the Garden.

"It's one of my favorite places to play. Fortunately when I was at University of Pennsylvania, I

played about five times," Jackson said. "I like playing the Garden. It's a great place to play. It's a fun place for me, and I think it's a great college experience."

While the rivalry between Howard and Hampton during football season is widely recognized, basketball is sometimes overlooked. However, the team feels that it is just as big as football.

"It's a big rivalry. The two major sports are football and basketball, so anytime there is a Howard-Hampton game, I feel there is the same amount of hype," said Hudson.

"It's on the same level [as football]," Mitchell said. "It's about two schools, both HUs. It's always real packed in the gyms."

Jackson looks forward to the competition in the game, but continues to emphasize the importance of each individual game.

"We focus on Howard, we try to play the best we can play. That's what we came to do."

The Hilltop

Survey Says...

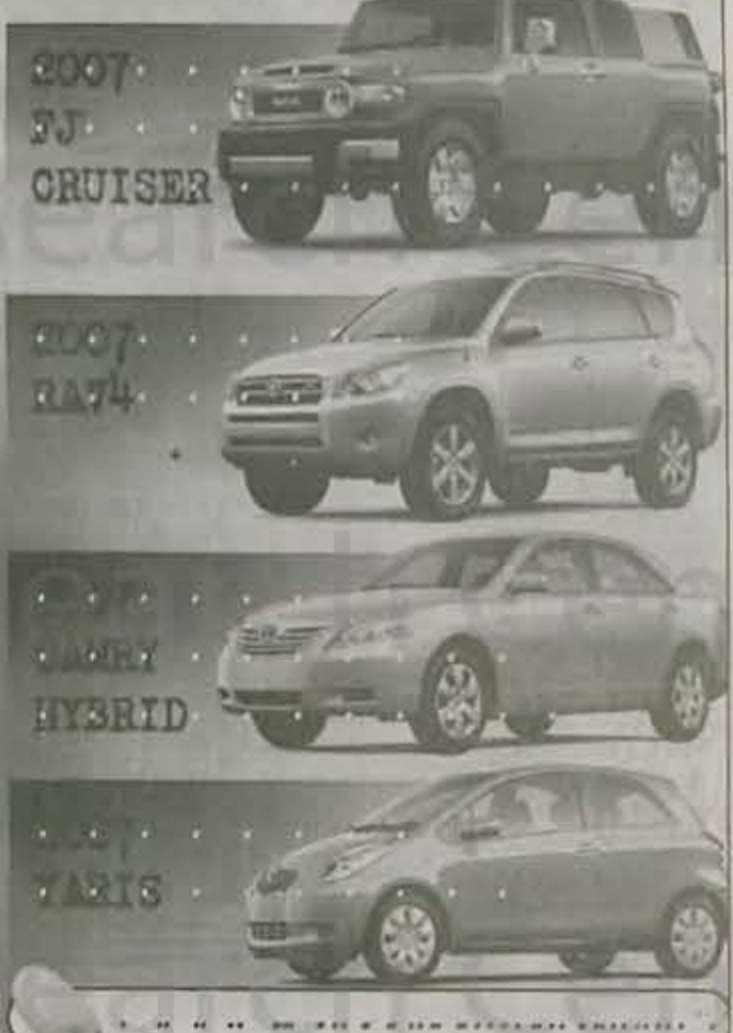
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The Hilltop

Web Site Connects People with HIV/AIDS

BY TASHIRA WALKER
Hilltop Staff Writer

"AIDS is not a death sentence. AIDS is a call to aliveness," is one of the first things a viewer will see as they access The Positive Connection, a free online dating Web site geared toward informing, educating and bringing together people with HIV/AIDS.

Based out of South Africa, The Positive Connection is the brainchild of Ben Sassman, who created the site in Sept. 2003.

"My wife and I both have friends who are HIV-positive and they find it hard to disclose their status to their respective dates, and in this way I felt starting an online dating service for people living with HIV/AIDS would eliminate the stress and emotional difficulty of disclosing your status to your partner," Sassman said on the Web site's About Us page.

The Web site not only caters to the romantic desires of people living with HIV/AIDS, but also serves to educate visitors about these diseases.

"I think this particular Web site is good because it not only provides a social outlet, but it is educational and informative, not just another Match.com," said Larry Bryant, the national field organizer for Housing Works, a nonprofit community-based organization that provides housing, health care and other vital services to homeless New Yorkers living with HIV and AIDS.

Bryant, 39, has been living with HIV for nearly 21 years. He has witnessed firsthand the difficulty a person with HIV has when looking for love, especially with people who are

not infected.

"Sometimes there is a psychological barrier for those that are positive because they are not comfortable exposing their status and with those who are negative, they are not willing or not ready and tend to think it is too dangerous, 'impossible and unsafe,'" Bryant said.

Web sites like The Positive Connection offer those who are HIV-positive a comfort zone in which to seek others who are just like them without the hesitancy involved with revealing their status.

However, Bryant suggests that the Web site not limit itself to only matching HIV-positive individuals with others that are also HIV-positive.

"A positive person should not feel that they have to limit themselves. You should be able to fall in love with whomever you fall in love with," says Bryant.

Howard students also welcome the idea of a Web site like The Positive Connection.

"I think it's beneficial to those living with HIV or AIDS and not only for a relationship but as a support system and [for the ability] to find others who understand what that individual is going through," said Jason Jeffrey, a senior clinical laboratory science major.

Legal communications major Diana Banks agrees with Bryant's statement that people living with HIV/AIDS should not have to limit their romantic options.

"I understand that the Web site is a good way for people to open up and find others they relate to, but love has no disease type—you fall in love with whomever. If a person is positive,



Photo Courtesy of www.firstierco.za

Like a growing number of tailored online dating sites, The Positive Connection gives people with a common plight a chance to connect.

whoever falls in love with that person should be able to deal with it and help them cope," she said.

Not only does The Positive Connection bring people together, but it also allows members to contact each other outside of the Internet for a fee. Ten percent of the proceeds go toward a different HIV/AIDS charity each month.

"I felt as a company I would be very successful and I should give back to the community who is facing the longest and hardest battle," Sassman said on the Web site.

Outside of the online dating sites, there are plenty of ways for those living with HIV/AIDS to unite with each other for love, companionship and friendship.

"People use the Internet as a barrier because it gives them the Clark Kent to Superman identity. But I say just go outside and meet people," Bryant said.

Peer and support groups are other alternatives for meeting people with the disease. The Web site, www.thepositiveconnection.co.za, can be accessed from any country, and anyone can register as a member.

The History of HIV/AIDS

BY NICOLE M. BAILEY
Contributing Writer

Today, AIDS accounts for about 2.9 million deaths annually, more than any previously reported year. An estimated 39.5 million people are living with HIV. Of that total, 4.3 million were infected this year, according to a recent World Health Organization (WHO) study.

According to CNN.com, on June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a notice on page two of its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report about a strange outbreak of killer pneumonia. From that obscure beginning, AIDS grew into the public health disaster of our time, a global phenomenon that has tested social, cultural, religious and scientific beliefs.

The first identified cases of AIDS were in homosexual men in the U.S., which caused the disease to be named Gay-Related Immune Deficiency.

However, research later proved that the disease has been in existence for many years. Further analysis of a blood sample of a Bantu man who died of an inexplicable illness in the Belgian Congo in 1959 found him to be the first confirmed case of an HIV infection, according to The History of AIDS Web site.

Over 20 years after its discovery, AIDS research has yielded expensive drug cocktail therapies, but no cure or vaccine to date.

Encarta.com states, "In the relatively short time since the disease was first recognized, new methods to treat the disease have developed rapidly.

"Health care professionals focus on three areas of therapy for people living with the HIV infection or AIDS: antiretroviral therapy using drugs that suppress HIV replication; medications and other treatments that fight the opportunistic infections and cancers that commonly accompany HIV infection; and support mechanisms that help people deal with the emotional repercussions as well as the practical considerations of living with a disabling, potentially fatal disease."

Encarta.com reports that in the U.S., about 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year. Although blacks make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population, they represent 54 percent of the new HIV infections. Hispanics, who represent approximately 12 percent of the population, account for 19 percent of the new infections.

AIDS is the number one cause of death among blacks aged 25 to 44, according to the CDC.

CNN.com reports,

"Thirty percent of gay black men in their 20's are infected with HIV, compared to 7 percent of white gay men, according to a recent CDC study of six large U.S. cities."

The study also found black women to be 20 times more susceptible to contracting the virus than white women. In 1999, black youths aged 13 to 19 years old accounted for more than 60 percent of AIDS cases reported.

Though cases of the disease have been documented in every country of the world, certain nations have been hit a lot harder than others.

Relatively poor developing countries house more than 95 percent of all HIV-infected people.

"In these areas, the disease has sapped the populations of young men and women who form the foundation of the labor force," according to Encarta.com. Killing most individuals while in the peak of their reproductive years, the disease has also drastically altered population levels.

Encarta.com also reports that "the epidemic has overwhelmed health care systems, increased the number of orphans worldwide and caused life expectancy rates to plummet."

These problems are mostly plaguing parts of the world that are "already burdened by war, political upheaval or unrelenting poverty."

Overall, researchers predict that in three decades, the causes of global mortality will be strikingly similar worldwide — apart from the prevalence of AIDS in poorer countries. Most people will live longer lives and die of noninfectious diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, stroke and cancer, according to CNN.com.

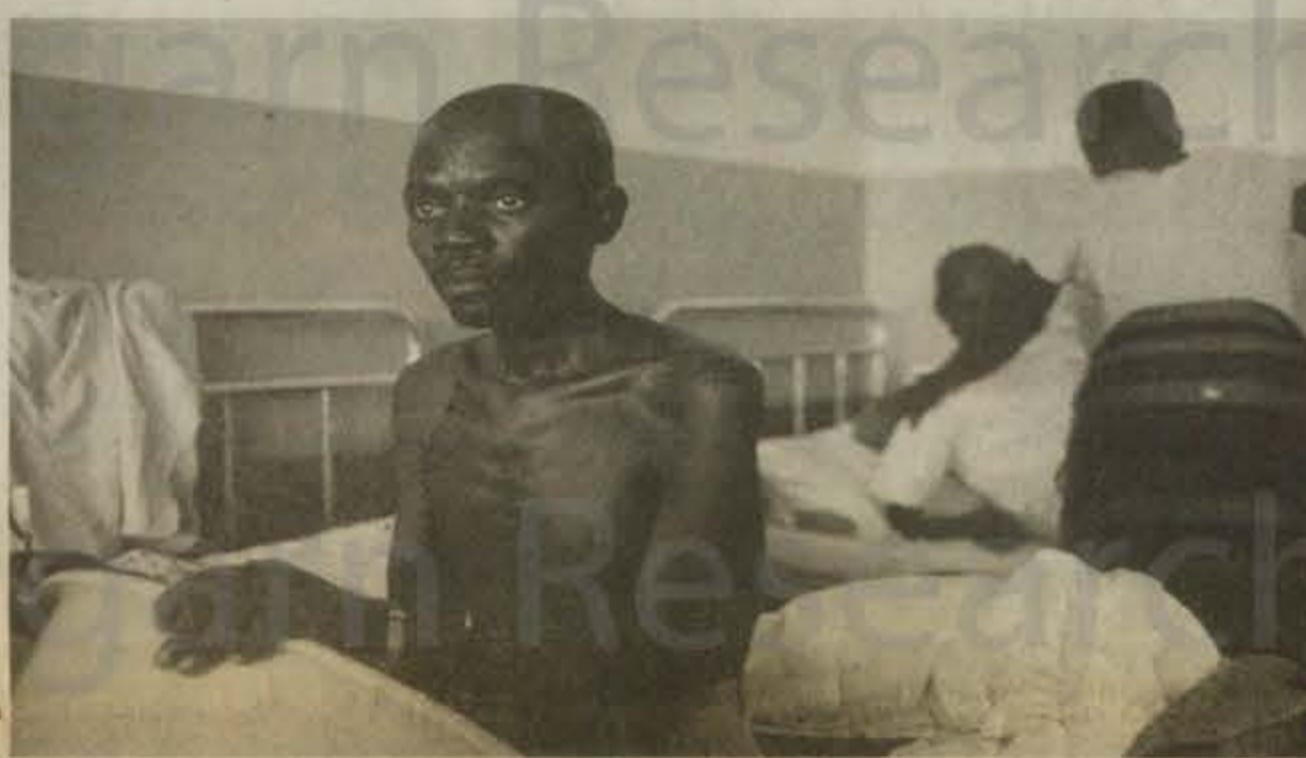


Photo Courtesy of www.doctorswithoutborders.org

AIDS patients in Africa depend on the help of American aid to survive.

Americans Urged to Aid Nations of Africa

BY TASHIRA WALKER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Genocide, AIDS, poverty, poor health care and debt are some of the problems plaguing Africa today. For those living in the U.S. and other countries around the globe, the media shapes perceptions of the turmoil that occurs on the continent.

With national headlines publicizing adoptions of African children and the AIDS epidemic in Africa, the world is seeing efforts to save the continent from poverty, disease and war.

While no concrete solution for all the issues facing Africa exists, some believe there are still ways to lend a helping hand.

"If people have the means to help those in Africa, they really should. It's not a scam what is shown on TV, it's reality and should be taken seriously," said junior international business major Michelle Adabla.

Adabla is from Ghana, where the condition of the people, the economy and the land is dire.

"In Ghana, we have a lot of poverty. You are either really rich or really poor, and we do not have a tax system to help others, so the rich get richer and the poor get poorer," Adabla said.

There are many organizations devoted to the development of Africa. Africa Action is the oldest African activism organization in the U.S. Its involvement includes three campaigns concerned with stopping genocide, AIDS and canceling Africa's debt.

"Our mission is to end global apartheid in general," said Diana Duarte, a program associate for Africa Action.

Dr. Wilfred L. David, an African studies professor, said that although the general view of Africa often reflects its weaknesses, there are many positive aspects of the continent that go unnoticed.

"The perception is that Africa is a lost continent and does not make much progress, but in fact, the people there

are very optimistic about the future," David said.

David, who has visited Africa on many occasions, believes that because of the resources the U.S. has, there should be a direct link between the black community and the people of Africa to provide them with aid.

"There should be a HBCU program equivalent to that of the Peace Corps that would have students go to Africa and spend a year there giving service," David said. "Also, Americans spend all of their money on consumer goods, but rarely spend that money on African-made goods that are available. The black consuming power should be channeled into Africa."

With the problems in Africa seemingly increasing, the question remains as to why Africa suffers so greatly in comparison to other areas. Experts say it is hard to pinpoint the exact reason because there are so many factors contributing to Africa's troubles.

"Africa was once very successful, but it is in modern history we see the large poverty problem, the lack of food security, health care issues, gender inequality and conflict," said Michaela Newham, a communications and marketing specialist at the African Development Foundation.

The Foundation works on behalf of the American people to deliver direct financial support to African enterprises and community-based organizations. According to its Web site, the Foundation has spent more than 20 years providing grassroots groups and individuals in Africa with the resources they need to advance their own efforts to promote economic and social development.

"The African Development Foundation is helping to make a difference," Newham said. "We believe in empowering the people of Africa, promoting entrepreneurship and giving the assistance they need to be nurtured."

HIV/AIDS THROUGH HISTORY

1959

A man dies in the Congo from an unidentified illness. Years later, analysis of a blood sample from the man will make him the first confirmed case of an HIV infection.

1981

Outbreaks of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) and a rare cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, are reported by doctors in Los Angeles and New York among gay males. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S. publish news of the outbreaks. The syndrome is referred to as Gay-Related Immune Deficiency (GRID).

1982

The syndrome is linked to blood and is identified not just in gay men but in women, male heterosexual drug users, hemophiliacs, blood transfusion recipients and babies. It is renamed Acquired ImmunoDeficiency Syndrome or AIDS. The CDC calls it an epidemic. Fourteen nations report AIDS cases.

1983

Researchers under Dr. Luc Montagnier at the Pasteur Institute in France isolate a retrovirus they call lymphadenopathy-associated virus (LAV), which will be identified as the cause of AIDS. AIDS is reported in 33 countries.

1984

The U.S. government announces that Dr. Robert Gallo at the federal National Cancer Institute has isolated a virus called HTLV-III that causes AIDS. Later, it is determined that LAV and HTLV-III are the same virus; an international committee gives it a name -- Human Immunodeficiency Virus, HIV.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services predicts that an AIDS vaccine will be ready for human testing within two years.

Gaetan Dugas, known by AIDS researchers as "patient zero," dies. The Canadian flight attendant was linked sexually to dozens of the first AIDS cases identified among gay men in the United States.

1986

The World Health Organization (WHO) launches its global AIDS strategy.

1987

The FDA approves AZT as the first anti-HIV drug.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan, after six years in office, mentions the word AIDS in public for the first time.

By November, 62,811 cases of AIDS are officially reported to WHO from 127 countries. WHO estimates that the actual number of cases worldwide for the year is much higher, between 100,000 and 150,000.

1991

Basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson announces that he is infected with HIV and retires to promote AIDS awareness.

1994

Actor Tom Hanks wins a best actor Oscar for portraying a gay man with AIDS in the film, "Philadelphia."

1997

Researchers discover that HIV invades memory cells of the immune system, creating hidden reservoirs of the virus.

UNAIDS reports that the HIV epidemic is worse than previously thought, with an estimated 30 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS and 16,000 new infections occurring daily.

2000

During the 13th international AIDS conference in Durban, South Africa, South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki questions the safety of anti-AIDS drugs and whether HIV actually causes AIDS, setting off a firestorm of criticism.

2001

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan calls for the creation of a "war chest" of at least \$7 billion a year to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS in the developing world.

South Africa's annual AIDS report shows the virus infects 4.7 million people, more than any other country, and is still spreading. One-fourth of South African adults are believed to be living with HIV.

About 25 million people worldwide have died of AIDS, including 17 million in sub-Saharan Africa, according to UNAIDS. About 36 million more are infected with HIV, and roughly 26 million of them live in Africa.



Photo Courtesy of www.firstierco.za

The red ribbon is worn to foster awareness about the killer of 25 million people.

DECEMBER 1, 2006

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December 18 - 20,	Mon. - Wed.,	9:30 - 5:00
December 21,	Thurs.,	9:30 - NOON

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DECEMBER 1, 2006

NBA Players Frustrated by Rule Changes

BY RODNEY D. YOUNG
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 17, 2005, the National Basketball Association (NBA) became the first professional sport league in history to employ a dress code for all players. Now, the NBA has switched to a new ball despite complaints from many of the league's top players such

as Shaquille O'Neal, LeBron James and Steve Nash, among others.

The players have complained that the ball is too sticky when it is dry and handles differently when dribbling on the court. Despite their complaints, Commissioner David Stern has stated that the ball will continue to be used.

Since the Detroit Pistons-Indiana

Pacers brawl on Nov. 19, 2004 at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich., the NBA and Stern have quickly tried to improve the image of the league. Prior to the brawl, many fans and media personnel have been critical of the professionalism that basketball players have displayed on and off the court.

"The NBA is handling the actions of the players too lightly instead of making an example out of them when they are out of line," said sophomore finance major Rohan Burgher.

In response to the brawl, the league suspended then-Pacers forward Ron Artest for the rest of the 2004-2005 season, totaling 73 games. Eight other players were suspended for more than a total of 70 games for their involvement in the incident.

Though NBA-related incidents have been less prevalent since the brawl, some fans have complained that the games have become boring.

"The NBA has become too lackadaisical now with all of the new rules and strict referees who aren't allowing the players to play. The crowds at the games now are not as large as they were about a decade ago," said Christina Burton, a sophomore print journalism major.

With the NBA trying to improve its image as of late, players have been forced to adhere to new measures from the league's offices more so than any of the other major professional sports leagues.

"I think the NBA has taken

things to extreme measures, especially with the dress code being enforced so strictly," said sophomore computer engineering major Isaac Collins.

According to www.nba.com, all players must be dressed in business attire before and after scheduled games. Players must also be in business attire in the event that they are conducting any business associated with the NBA, such as press conferences and charity events.

By implementing the dress code, the NBA believes that more revenue will be acquired because players will be viewed by fans as more business-like.

Many of the league's superstars, such as Allen Iverson and Paul Pierce have voiced their concerns about the dress code.

"In a way, I think [the code], kind of is [racist]," Pierce said last year. "When I saw the rule that you can't wear chains [I thought it was]. That's just part of our culture when we wear the chains and the hip-hop gear and the throwback jerseys."

As for the purpose of the new basketball, which is manufactured by Spalding, the league has claimed that the new design and material is intended to give players a better grip and feel for the ball.

"If the purpose of the NBA ball is to help enhance the game then I believe it is a good idea. However, NBA players are already uncomfortable with the new rules and restrictions that are put on them and many don't like the new ball," said sophomore architect major Alan

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

None

WEEKEND GAMES

Saturday

Women's Basketball @
University of Maryland-
Eastern Shore
2 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs.
Hampton
@ Madison Square Garden
(NY)
3 p.m.
*Big Apple Classic

Track & Field @
Christopher Newport
(Newport News, Va.)

Henderson.

Despite the unwanted changes made by league officials and criticism from players, the NBA has moved forward. With the 2006-2007 season just getting underway, only time will tell how things will shake up this year.

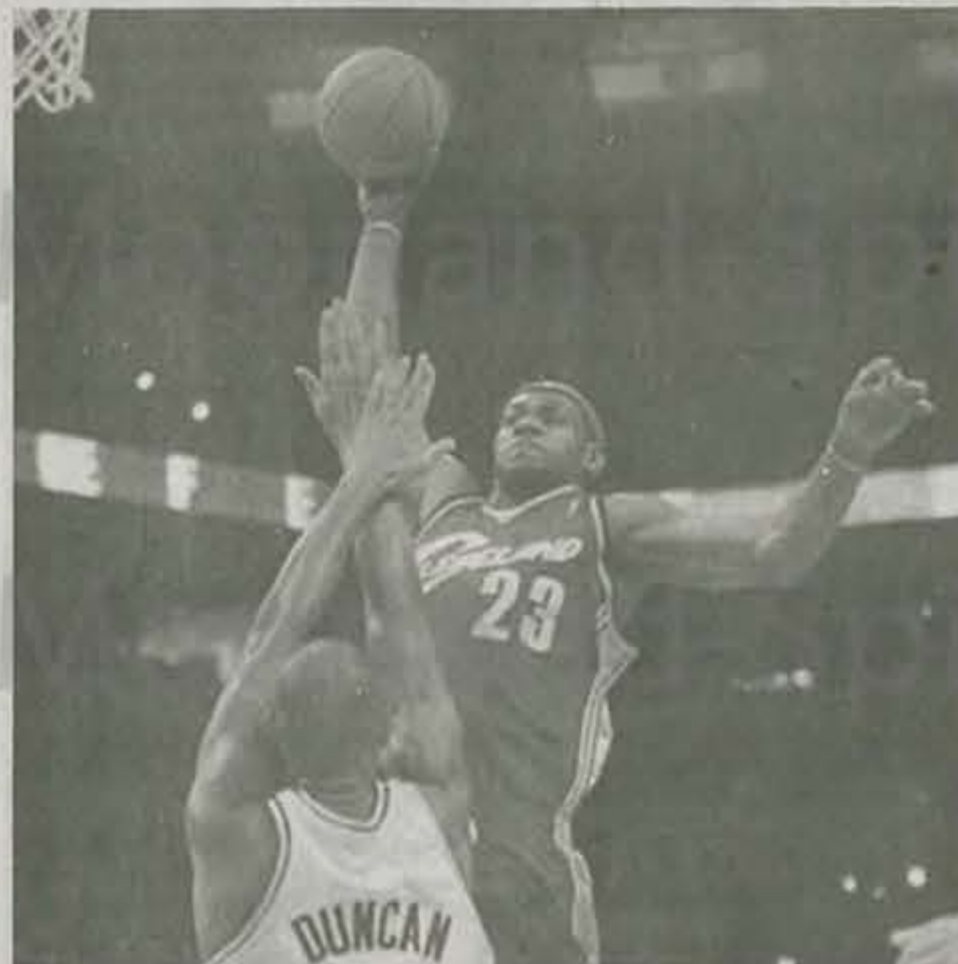


Photo Courtesy of www.nba.com

LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers has been one of many high-profile NBA players complaining about the new ball this year.

Don't Blink, Or You Might Miss...

BY ELLIOTT JONES
Sports Editor

SEC Title Game: No. 4 Florida vs. No. 8 Arkansas, Sat. @ 6 p.m. — CBS

Year after year, the Southeastern Conference is arguably the best division in college football, and the 2006 season was no exception.

The Conference currently has five teams in the AP's top 20, more than any of the other major conferences. Additionally, Florida has a slight chance to earn a bid into the Bowl Championship Series Title Game with a win, though it will need a lot of help from other teams for that scenario to play out.

Both teams enter the contest with conference records of 7-1, but Florida holds a slim advantage with an 11-1 overall record, while the Razorbacks are 10-2.

The difference between the teams is that while the Gators have only one slip-up this year, at No. 11 Auburn, they haven't really picked up a signature win this season.

Arkansas can make that claim, however, defeating the same Auburn team when they ranked second in the nation.

The winner of this game will have a legitimate claim for a title game bid, but the outcome remains to be seen.

My pick: Anyone who hasn't seen Arkansas' unorthodox offense this year will be in for a surprise: watching a running back take direct snaps, option plays that go in two directions and not one huddle all game, trust me.

But Florida, led by senior quarterback Chris Leak, have been to the championship before, and that experience will carry them to victory.

Gators by seven.



Photo Courtesy of www.athlonsports.com

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

No. 4 Tennessee vs. No. 2 North Carolina, Sun. @ 8 p.m. — ESPN

In last year's NCAA Tournament, Ivory Latta and the Lady Tar Heels knocked Coach Pat Summitt's Lady Vols out of the regional finals with a 75-63 win. After leading North Carolina to a national title in 2004-05, and being selected as National Player of the Year last season, Latta is back for her senior season. Sophomore stand-out Candace Parker, however, has also led her team to an undefeated record so far this year.

UNC is coming off of a 103-48, thrashing of cross-town UNC Greensboro. The win was the sixth time the Heels have defeated an opponent by 50 or more points. Tennessee, on the other hand, has had a few closer decisions, their last being a 71-50 win over Louisiana Tech.

In last year's contest, the Lady Vols fell behind early and struggled to catch up before they simply ran out of gas. The Tar Heels came close to repeating a national title, but fell to Maryland in the title game.

Four of Tennessee's starters are returning from last season with freshman Cait McMahan rounding out the bunch. North

Carolina returns four starters that were on that championship team two years ago.

My Pick: Neither team has faced a strong opponent this year, which will be the case for much of the season. The heart, determination and experience of Latta and the Lady Tar Heels, however, will push North Carolina over Tennessee in what promises to be an exciting game.

Tar Heels by nine.



Photo Courtesy of www.espn.com

Student Opinions Vary on Student Athletes' "Benefits"

BY JANAY WILSON
Contributing Writer

The life of an athlete is appealing to most students. Student athletes are fabled to receive more benefits than the average student, like getting to pick their classes and housing first and winning prestigious athletic scholarships. Some athletes get to pick their roommates, as well as get their off-campus housing paid for.

Also, the Howard University Bookstore allows athletes to purchase their books for a period of three days before anyone else. Athletes have special advisors and access to free tutors to ensure that they graduate on time.

Some students, like sophomore psychology major Edson Breedy, believe these benefits may be a bit much.

"I don't think they deserve all these benefits because they don't achieve enough athletically," Breedy says. "If they won more, then maybe they should receive those benefits."

Freshman legal communications major and football player Maurice Cheeks does not think that athletes get anything significantly different from average students.

"I think the best [benefit] is

the free tutoring," Cheeks says. "Sometimes it's easy to fall behind on our academics because when other students have time after class to study and do homework, we have practice and games."

Athletic Director Dwight Datcher does not think athletes get preferential treatment. "Everything athletes do, they earn. Athletes have to make sacrifices that non-student athletes do not have to do such as stay on campus during winter and summer breaks for games and practices," Datcher said. "Athletes may seem like they have certain quirks, but those things they get (are) just part of helping them do their jobs."

Many of the athletes have expressed their frustration about Howard's athletic department, saying that the facilities are inadequate and do not meet NCAA regulations. The softball and track teams are not able to have home games on Howard's campus because there is no space to have a softball field and the track cannot be used to host any meets because the it does not meet NCAA regulations.

Junior film major and track runner Chris George expressed his frustration.

"I feel embarrassed that our track does not meet regulations,"

George said.

Sophomore psychology major and basketball player Tamaya Daniels is also dissatisfied with Howard's athletic facilities, saying that the locker rooms need a lot of renovation and that Howard is not where a regular Division One school should be in terms of its facilities.

"I'm glad that at least we got a new gym floor and the seats were re-done. It looks a lot better in the gym," Daniels added, "Although we get a lot of benefits, we do not get an exceeding amount more benefits than other students, otherwise that would violate NCAA rules."

Although Howard's athletic facilities need a lot of renovation, the athletic department is planning to do all it can to get them up to par with more of the NCAA

stipulations. One problem facing the department is the amount of space needed to build new facilities. Another issue is the amount of money that is allotted to refurbish existing facilities. Datcher said that although students may be disappointed with some of the athletic facilities, they have to realize that everything the athletic department is doing is a process and will get done in due time. "We are still in our planning stages for a lot of the refurbishing that needs to be done," Datcher said. "Burr Gymnasium is one project we just finished. It will take a couple years before we get the money needed to work on other areas in the department."

Overall, student athletes believe that they need the benefits they receive to help them accommodate their full schedules. They get to

select housing first because many athletes have to be on campus over the summer for games and practices. Athletes get to choose their courses first because they must have classes that do not conflict with their practices and games during the day.

Not all students believe that athletes get preferential treatment. Jessica Adams, a sophomore physical therapy major, believes that athletes deserve to receive some benefits.

"Athletes typically have to do more things than the average student like come to school earlier, and many of them get shorter breaks, so they should be able to get more," Adams said. "I don't have a problem with them getting those benefits over me."

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On Dec. 1, 1891, Canadian-born Dr. James Naismith is credited with creating the game of basketball in Springfield, Mass.

Howard Students to Participate in National Rally and March Before the Supreme Court:

On Monday, December 4, 2006, under the leadership of the Howard University Student Government Association, the Undergraduate Student Association and the Graduate Student Association, Howard University students will march to the United States Supreme Court to join the NAACP and others from across the nation to demonstrate their strong support for the continuation of the nation's commitment to affirmative action and equal rights for all Americans. This term, the High Court will decide two major cases (Meredith vs. Jefferson County Public Schools and Parents Involved in Community Schools vs. Seattle School District) with major civil rights implications. Howard University has a long tradition of supporting its students as they express the diversity of their opinions about the great issues of their time. As our students participate in this national event, we encourage our faculty members with students enrolled in their courses to give every consideration to their decision to participate in the march, and our staff to contribute to the safety and security of their involvement.

Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Howard Students,

The kickoff rally to OVERCOME will be at 9:00PM Sunday evening in Burr Gym. We then will be gathering on the yard around the flagpole at 4:30AM Monday morning for the march. Dress warm in all Black. See you all at both events!!!

Peace,

The Howard University Student Association

Many Recognize World AIDS Day through Knowledge

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Hilltop Staff Writer

Most students know about the AIDS crisis and what's going on in the black community, but studies ask if they know enough. *The Hilltop* went out and did a survey of 100 Howard students to see how much they really know about the virus and its effect on African-Americans.

The truth is that this virus affects people of African descent more than any other racial or ethnic group on the planet.

Howard students need to be well informed and conscious. A lot of times the ignorance falls on that fact that people don't think it will affect them or they feel sure of their safety, but the reality is no one with AIDS expected to get the disease, not to mention losing their lives from complications of it. This need for concern becomes even greater when you consider that the majority of victims are heterosexual African-American women, of which 68 percent have accounted for new cases between 2001 and 2006.

"I think on Howard's campus, it's like the big elephant in the room," said junior English major Bridgette Robinson. "We know it's there but act like it isn't. Often times we fall victim to the 'not me' syndrome, but in reality it can happen to anyone."

Kia Jefferson, the media relations specialist for Howard University Hospital wants students to know that AIDS is real and prevalent on campus and in the District.

"Recent data shows that the HIV prevalence rate in the District of Columbia is more than twice the national average. And according to the Center for Disease Control

(CDC), more than 250,000 HIV-positive Americans are unaware of their infection status," Jefferson said.

She also referenced a quote AIDS advocate and actress Sheryl Lee Ralph said, "The numbers and rate of infection in this city are worse than in developing nations in Africa...that is right here in America and [people] refuse to believe it."

With today being World AIDS Day, one should reflect upon how the world has changed since it was first detected in the U.S. Many people think the first cases were in the 1980's, but according to the Department of Health and Senior Services, the first African-American affected by AIDS was in 1969.

A man in St. Louis was reported of dying from "AIDS-like" symptoms, but it was not given a name. When his tissue was examined, HIV or a closely related virus was found, dispelling the belief that HIV wasn't present before the 1980's.

The first official documented case of AIDS was in 1981, which is why the disease is said to be 25 years old. Now, claiming 25 million lives, AIDS is being called the most destructive and devastating disease in the world's existence.

Students wonder what can be done in the community or on campus to get involved. First, medical experts and AIDS foundations will all tell students that getting tested often and early is one of the best ways to help. A person's AIDS status is never certain until the test is taken.

Some students think it's hard to get tested at the sites on campus, but it's worth it.

"I think the programs are a good idea, but it still has some glitches,"



HIV/AIDS Awareness and Advocacy week gives students a chance to gain knowledge at various events focusing on the disease, which is commonly spread by sexual contact and the sharing of drug needles.

said Aderinsola Kehinde, a sophomore finance major. "I spent about a week looking for where I could take a test on campus. Even after arriving there on time, I still had to wait an hour for the testing site to open. They need to work on operations and publicity," Kehinde said.

The Howard Student Health Center, with a grant from the CDC, offers a free, confidential and rapid testing method that gives results within 20 minutes.

Another word of advice doctors will give is using protection once becoming sexually active.

All this week has been HIV/AIDS Awareness and Advocacy week, presented by ASA, HUSA and Phi Sigma Rho Sorority Inc.

Tolu Akinyosoye, a sophomore electronic engineering major and newsletter editor of ASA, spoke about the activities of the week.

"The World AIDS day activities are ASA's contributions as cultur-

ally responsible students. Being of African decent, we work towards relieving the HIV/AIDS pandemic plaguing our continent," Akinyosoye said.

For students who have missed the week's events there are still several occurring today. All involved organizations are asking students to come out and be informed.

Read The Hilltop ONLINE @ WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Silver Screening Politics

BY MELANIE CHAMBLISS
Contributing Writer

Since D.W. Griffith's iconic film "Birth of a Nation," emerged on the silver screen in 1915, films have become the fodder for political controversy and discussion. Movies possess the power to captivate audiences, and today it seems that filmmakers are capitalizing on that power for political agendas.

Within the last year, films such as "Catch a Fire," and "Man of the Year" have all been heavily promoted movies with notable star studded casts. It is not the existence of political films that is peculiar. Aside from Griffith's work, other movies with an underlying political meaning include "All the President's Men," "The Manchurian Candidate" and "Rosewood." However, the trend of controversial blockbusters has increased within the film industry during the last few years.

Since controversy is not a new concept to Hollywood, there are many theories answering why these films are being produced in such mass numbers now.

"Hollywood is well known for following trends and hot topics. With elections as controversial as [in] past years, Hollywood would certainly jump on the bandwagon," said Steven Berry, a professor in the radio, television and film department.

Berry cites Robin Williams' "Man of the Year" as an example of a satirical film that makes a very specific statement about the campaign aspects of politics as well as other current issues such as the flaws within electronic voting.

However, this movie represents only one of the recent political films. Documentaries and independent films are typically considered a separate category from average Hollywood movies.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" broke records as the largest grossing documentary of all time. Prior to this landmark work,

"Winged Migration," a documentary about the flight patterns of birds, was in the lead for box office sales. After "Fahrenheit 9/11," independent movie theaters have shown popular films such as "Thank You for Smoking," and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth."

However, every political film released is not simply a ploy to make big bucks at the box office.

Junior radio, television and film major Vince Hunter believes that the creative and open-ended nature of films is a driving force behind the use of this medium for political messages.

"The creative control, especially with the editing process, allows a certain message to shine through the finished product," Hunter said.

Berry said that if a famous movie director were to release a film to sway the voting public, that filmmaker could not be blatant in his attempt.

"Filmmakers would not want the scrutiny of having an agenda, although the con-

trovery would have an effect in the box office," Berry said.

Many politically charged films have created a balance between making money and spreading a message.

Berry quoted Thomas Edison, who is credited with inventing the light bulb, as having an important role in the creation of film. "He who controls the film industry controls the medium of influence over the people."

Edison, as well as the filmmakers of today, realized the potential that lies within the silver screen. While responding to this current focus on politics, filmmakers also appear to be including subversive liberal messages between the lines in their films. Hunter summarizes this delicate balance best.

He said, "I wouldn't say that films should be a means for sending important political messages, but it seems like it would be a waste of such a powerful medium if it didn't."



"Fahrenheit 9/11," the highest grossing documentary of all time, is just one of many films that discuss controversial issues and serve as a medium for political messages.



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Congratulations to the following Howard University students who have received an offer from Huron Consulting Group.

Ketura Brizan
 Evan Brunson
 Wesley Bullock

Corinne Collette
 Janelle Jones

Feraz Pereira
 Lauren Tillman

A special thank you to all of our Howard University Alumni who have participated in the campus recruiting season.

Michael Akinyele
 Clayton Benn

Juliet Caven

Shari Harrington

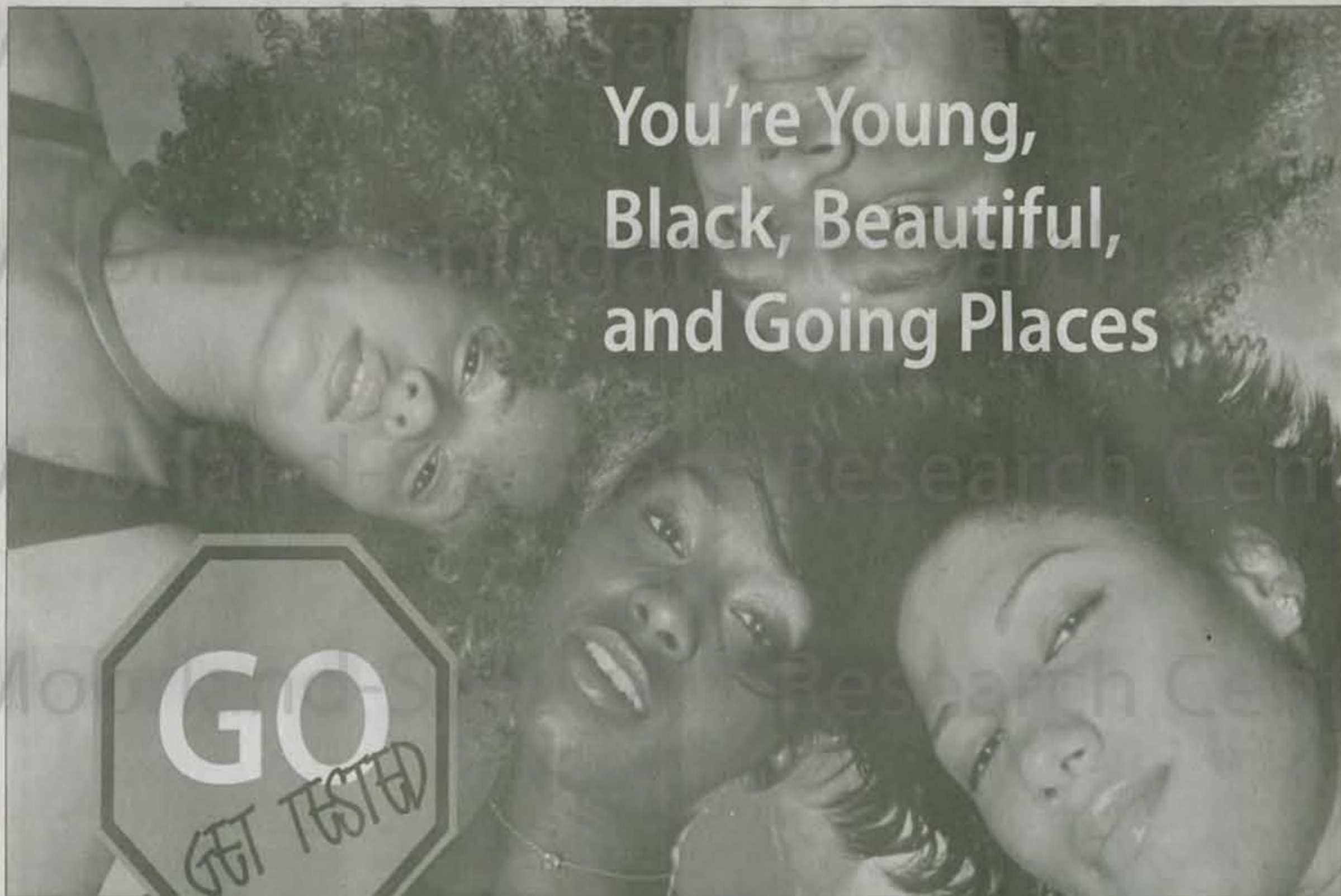
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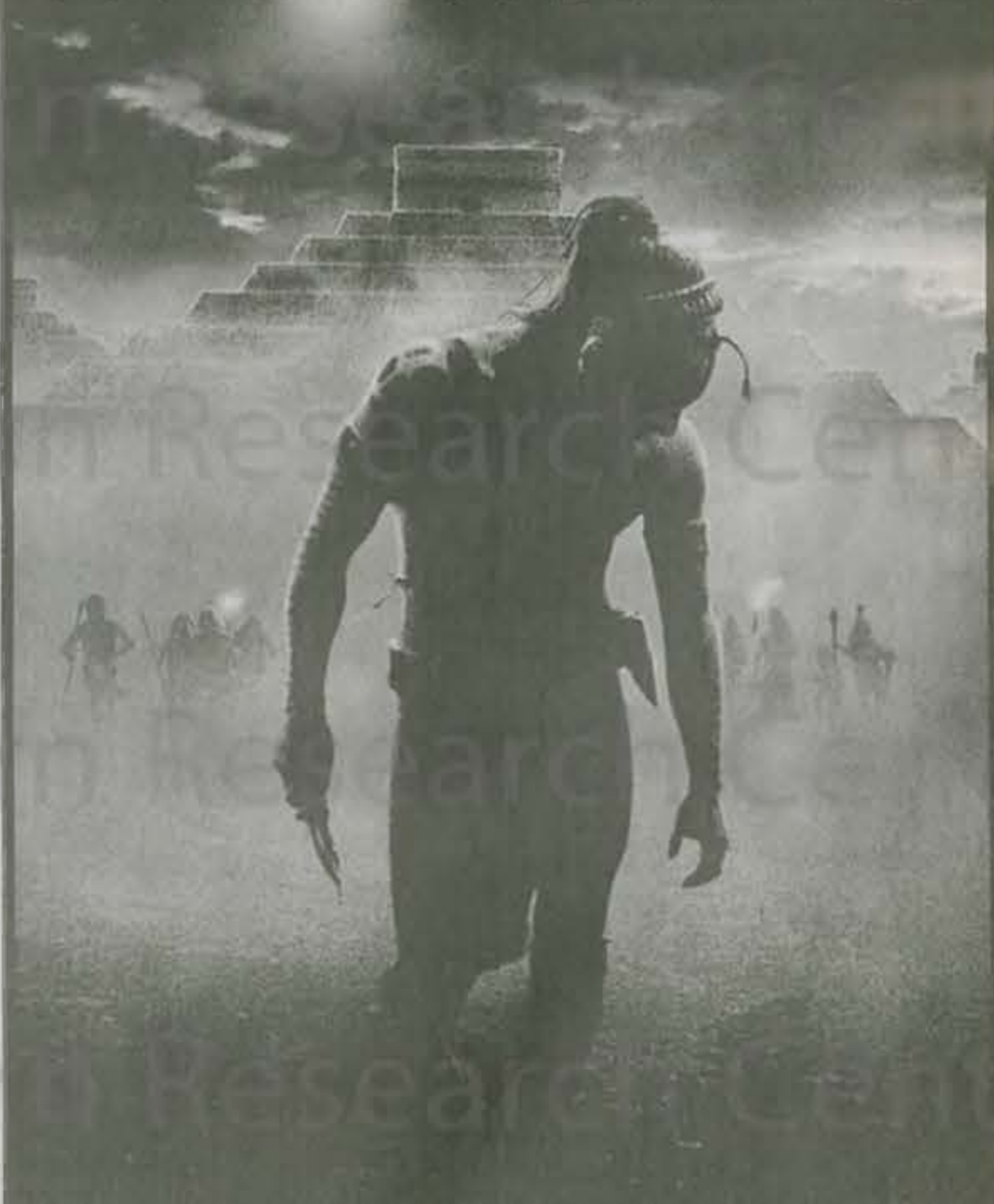
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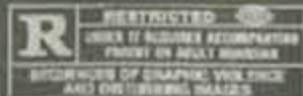


MEL GIBSON'S APOCALYPTO

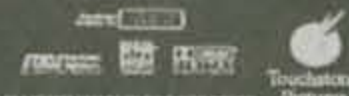


NO ONE CAN OUTFRAN THEIR DESTINY.

TOUCHSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICOM PRODUCTIONS AN ICOM PRODUCTION A MEL GIBSON FILM "APOCALYPTO" CASTING BY CARLA HODOL
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EDITORIALS

& Perspectives

VOLUME 90, NO. 63

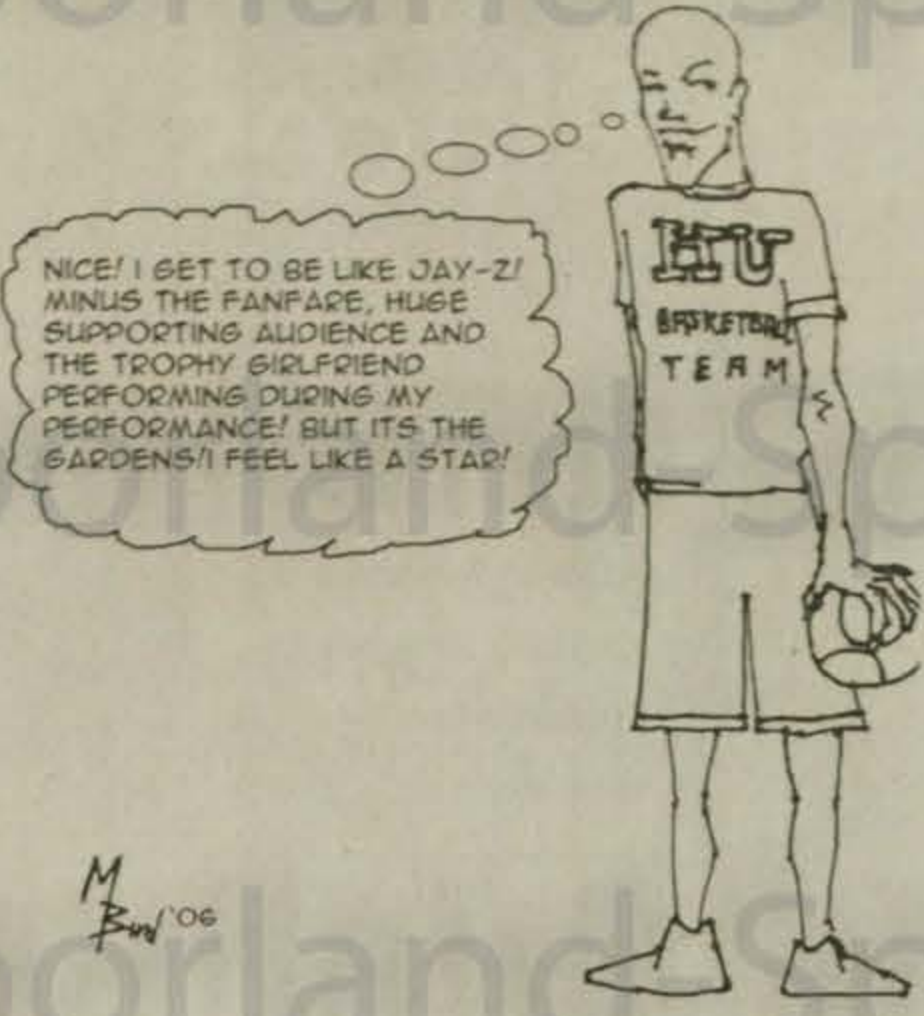
DECEMBER 1, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Daily Sudoku

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

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



HU Biting the Big Apple

As students at The Mecca, we have all had to defend one of our sports teams at one time or another by saying we are about academics – not athleticism. That's why the fact that our basketball team is playing in Madison Square Garden tomorrow is such a big deal.

The Big Apple Classic has paired us against our all-time rival that Hampton Institute. The game begins at 3 p.m. following the first game of Virginia Union University against Bowie State University at 1 p.m.

It's kind of a big deal for our team and others to be invited to play in New York City and where the beloved Knicks play. We are glad to see our HBCUs get such great exposure. We won't play devil's advocate and question why Howard made the cut with a basketball record that left much to be desired last season. We are just happy to be in that number.

Having Howard's name in the big lights in New York City is definitely great PR for the

University. We just wish a little bit more publicity was done around campus to get students involved. Though we know the classic is geared more to alumni, if we can take buses down to Hampton, NYC and Madison

Our View:
We are excited to see Howard go to play in Madison Square Garden, no matter what our record is. Go Bison.

Square Garden are definitely worthy of a Residence Life bus trip.

We know our team, the cheerleaders and The Mecca Mob will do their best to represent this University tomorrow. It's not about winning, though we would REALLY like to win, but the festivities and the fun. If we do end up behind, for every point we are down the crowd better be that much more hyped and the cheerleaders or a trumpet player should be challenging somebody.

Our sports editor brought up the fact that whenever we play Hampton technically it's

not a 'Battle of the Real HU' if we always lose. However, we used to win in football and basketball so there is no reason we can't return to those former days of glory. It's also not a 'Battle of the Real HU'

if one of the school's initials are "HI," then later on adds the "U."

The reality is almost none of our HBCUs are able to recruit and retain the best players like they used to. Our sports programs aren't as attractive as more

established college sports teams. One of the trade-offs of integration was that we lost our best athletes to big schools with big money.

Tomorrow is a big day for our University and its sports program. Though we wish it wasn't right in the middle of crunch time and when funds are slim to none so more students could go, we know our alumni in the city will represent. To our team, we wish you the best of luck. Let some of that NBA soak in and bring it back to Burr.

Win or lose, we are always the REAL HU!

The Hilltop is Hiring!

We are currently looking for staff writers, section editors and layout designers.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Managing Editor
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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. Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to The Hilltop Business office.

The Hilltop:
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Editorial Office:
(202) 806-4724
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Business Office:
(202) 806-4749
hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

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 Hilltop prints Hilltopics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for each additional word.

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THE 15TH ANNUAL WOMAN TO WOMAN CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR TALENTED VISUAL ARTISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL PROGRAM BOOKLET COVER CONTEST. A MONETARY PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED TO THE CONTEST WINNER. SUBMISSIONS SHOULD REFLECT YOUR INTERPRETATION OF THE CONFERENCE THEME: "SISTERS LET'S TALK... RADIATING DIGNITY AND DISTINCTION, UPHOLDING UNEQUIVOCAL SPLENDORRE." FOR MORE INFORMATION ATTEND THE INFORMATION SESSION ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 @ 6PM IN LOCKE HALL ROOM 304.

LOOKING FOR PEACE THIS SEMESTER. CONTACT FOWLER'S OFF CAMPUS HOUSING; MR. FOWLER HAS ROOMS FOR RENT THAT ARE CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING. (202) 607-3232

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 30-A-06 We Love You!!! ~RESURGENT 41~

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CHI ETA PHI SORORITY, INC., ALPHA DELTA BETA CHAPTER PRESENTS TOYS AND TOILETRIES "YOU BRING THE GIFTS, WE BRING THE WRAPPING PAPER" DECEMBER 8TH ANNEX 1, RM 124 1:00PM - 3:00PM REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

THE HILLTOP WISHES EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS! PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR OUR SPECIAL EDITION OF THE HILLTOP ON DEC. 5. GOOD LUCK WITH FINALS! SEE YOU NEXT SEMESTER!

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JOIN THE HOWARD FAMILY IN DONATING CLOTHES/ FOOD FOR MLK HOLIDAY OF SERVICE! QUAD/ANNEX/ EAST & WEST TOWERS 11/27 - 12/15

MISS HOWARD UNIVERSITY & THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK PRESENT... THE ABC DOCUMENTARY "OUT OF CONTROL: HIV / AIDS IN BLACK AMERICA" FRIDAY DECEMBER 1ST 1:30PM SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AUDITORIUM

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-back-
P.A. couldn't BREAK you... CONGRATS!!!
-your front-

THE LADIES OF ALPHA CHAPTER, DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY INC. PRESENT "MIDNIGHT ICE" AT HERBERT WELLS ICE RINK DEC. 2ND, 10 P.M. UNTIL 12 A.M. TICKETS: \$10.00 (PURCHASE FROM CHAPTER MEMBER)

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CONGRATS 1-A-06, 8-A-06, 9-A-06, 12-A-06, 15-A-06, 19-A-06, 21-A-06

Who's Who RECOGNIZED WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW... YOU'RE GREAT! ~RESURGENT 41~

ONE MO

MARC & TAZ

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-100 years-
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