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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 87

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

WEDNESDAY notebook

WEATHER

WED, 2/15:
MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH: 56, LOW: 39

THURS, 2/16:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 58, LOW: 51

FRI, 2/17:
SHOWERS/WIND
HIGH: 55, LOW: 32

BREAKING NEWS

HUNTER SUFFERS MINOR HEART ATTACK

ACCORDING TO CNN.COM, THE HUNTER THAT WAS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT BY VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY SUFFERED A MINOR HEART ATTACK.

CAMPUS

BILL HELPS THE CONVICED

FIND OUT HOW DRUG OFFENDERS ARE BEING GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE. TURN TO CAMPUS.

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NATION & WORLD

HARLEM BOYS CHOIR UNDER SCRUTINY

THE BOYS HARLEM BOYS CHOIR HAS BEEN FACING RECENT SCANDALS. TURN TO NATION AND WORLD FOR MORE.

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BIZ & TECH

WHAT'S THE 411?

TURN TO BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY TO FIND OUT.

PAGE 5



HU CALENDAR

FEB 13
DEADLINE FOR 50 PERCENT REFUND OF TUITION FEES

FEB 15
PRIORITY FAFSA DEADLINE

FEB 20
PRESIDENTS DAY - NO CLASS

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BY SHANAE HARRIS
Asst. Campus Editor

The HUSA policy board closed an open meeting yesterday for reasons regarding whether or not the emergency general assembly meeting last week was constitutional, according to candidates and members of the board.

According to candidates Charles Taylor, running for School of Business sophomore class president and running mate Vikrant Arya prospective vice president, the board closed the meeting for what was supposed to be a five-minute recess and was extended indefinitely.

April Harley, current vice president of Howard University Student Association (HUSA) and member of the policy board, was not able to stay the entire meeting, but said, when she left, the board was planning to open the meeting back up after a short recess.

"At the time that I left, the board just needed a five minute recess to look over everything," she said. "I know that the chair added two more minutes to that."

Brandon Wallace, co-chair of the policy board, said the meeting was eventually re-opened, but perhaps there was a miscommu-

nication making non-members aware.

"There was nothing in the meeting that was secretive or not open to the public, the board had just received some information and wanted to give the presidents and officials time to read and understand it," Wallace said.

Wallace said the meeting opened back to the public at approximately 7:00 p.m., but *The Hilltop* and other candidates still had not been informed of the opening at 8:15 p.m.

Taylor, unaware that the policy board meeting was re-opened, was not mad that he was asked to leave, just that he had to wait without any notification of what was going on.

"I understand that they have important and sometimes private things to discuss, but someone could have let us know something," Taylor said.

After discussion of the General Assembly's changing of the general elections, including the adding of amendments and changing of motions, the board decided that the decisions of the General Assembly meeting were unconstitutional.

"General Assembly cannot simply move to amend guidelines after they have already accepted it," Wallace said. "The only way

Forwarded Mail Coming Up

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE
Hilltop Staff Writer

Information Systems And Services (ISAS) is currently taking steps to allow email forwarding on the client level. Students will be able to use their own commercial accounts and still receive mail from and have access to their Howard account.

"The procedure by which forwarding mail from the current version of Microsoft Exchange is excessively cumbersome and the client does not have the capability to affect the forwarding process themselves," said Dr. Charles Moore, Vice President of ISAS. "However, the ISAS is planning an upgrade of Microsoft Exchange that will dramatically improve performance and enable students to easily forward email to any other active email account."

Forwarding Howard mail, something all students and faculty alike can benefit from will soon be available.

"I think it's a good idea, this way students will be more informed because they can't use the excuse they don't check their Howard mail when something comes up," said Anthony Riley, a freshman accounting major.

When it comes to email accounts, students tend to stick with the companies they're comfortable with - companies that allow freedom and artistic reign over email setup - instead of the designated email address given to them upon entering Howard.

"Most students entering Howard University arrive with active commercial email accounts, and they tend to retain use of these particularly because AOL, YAHOO, HOTMAIL and others frequently upgrade

their email products to retain this potential pool of clients to whom they market at every opportunity," Moore said. "Additionally, many students view our email system as antiquated and less functional."

Brittney Gaughdin a sophomore RTVF major agrees with Dr. Moore.

"I came in with an AOL account that my mom pays for; it's easier for me to just keep working from that since so many people already have my email address," Gaughdin said.

However, even with the ease of having a previous account that is specifically tailored, it is still beneficial to make use of the Howard account given.

"Each validated student is assigned a Howard University email account," Moore said. "All students frequently receive official University communications via their Howard University email account. Additionally, students can keep in contact with each

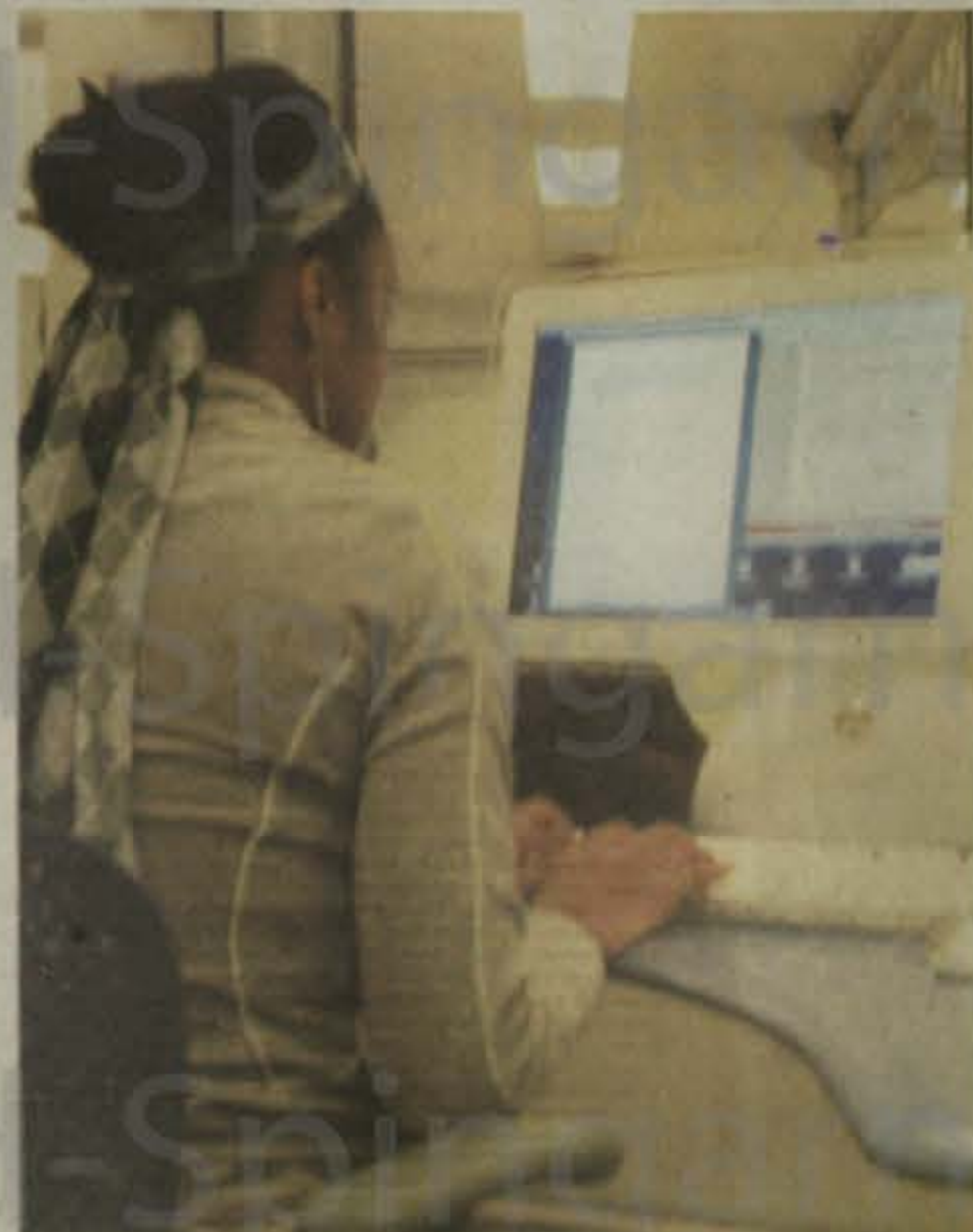
other, and with faculty and friends via their email account."

Along with the simplicity of using an individual commercial account, there is Howard's network to take into consideration. The availability of the network is not always certain, which leaves the availability of students' email access uncertain as well.

"Students also complain that the network performance and system uptime is problematic. This among other issues contribute to the fairly low use rate of the Howard email accounts by students," Moore said.

Gaughdin understands first hand that, when the network is down, all work comes to a halt for students.

"If I didn't have AOL, I would be screwed every time the system goes down," she said. "But, when it does, I just switch from my Ethernet cord to phone cord. I know a lot of professors who don't care what



ISAS is working on forwarding Howard e-mails to students' commercial accounts that are more reliable.

ing the elections. Currently elections are open until the 17th, but that also is up to [Lawson]," Wallace said.



The HUSA Policy Board met last night to vote on whether actions taken in last Friday's General Assembly meeting were constitutional. They recessed for five minutes, with the opening unannounced.

this is possible is if the person who originally moved the motion overturned their motion."

According to Wallace, the board ultimately decided to override the decision of last week's

General Assembly meeting, putting guidelines back to where they were originally.

"Michael Lawson, general elections chair, is the only one who can make decisions regard-

ing the elections. Currently elections are open until the 17th, but that also is up to [Lawson]," Wallace said.

RA Potentials Interested In Housing, Raise

BY BRANN POE
Contributing Writer

Resident Assistant application season is here, and students are anxiously applying to not only be a source of leadership in on-campus housing, but also collect the benefit of free housing.

Freshman resident Adeola Oyelabi is one of the many applicants that will be applying this semester.

"I am looking forward for the leadership and social experience, as well as the free housing," she said.

Oyelabi is not the only applicant who is interested in the free housing. Martell Covington, a freshman business hospital-ity major, is also motivated by this benefit.

"I would like to hold a position of responsibility; but the free housing is definitely a plus," he said.

Although the leadership and social experience as an RA is an excellent quality to place on future resumés, a key motivation for students is the free housing.

Dr. James Coleman, assistant dean of Residence Life, assures that the free housing for the upcoming school year will remain one of the benefits of being an R.A. There will also be free dining dollars and leadership training to sweeten the package, not to mention a raise from \$1,000 to \$1,250.

With the increasing popularity of ResFest and diverse programs that each dorm conducts, the enthusiasm of becoming an RA continues to increase.

"We expect around 300-400 applicants this year," said Dean Charles Gibbs of Residence Life.

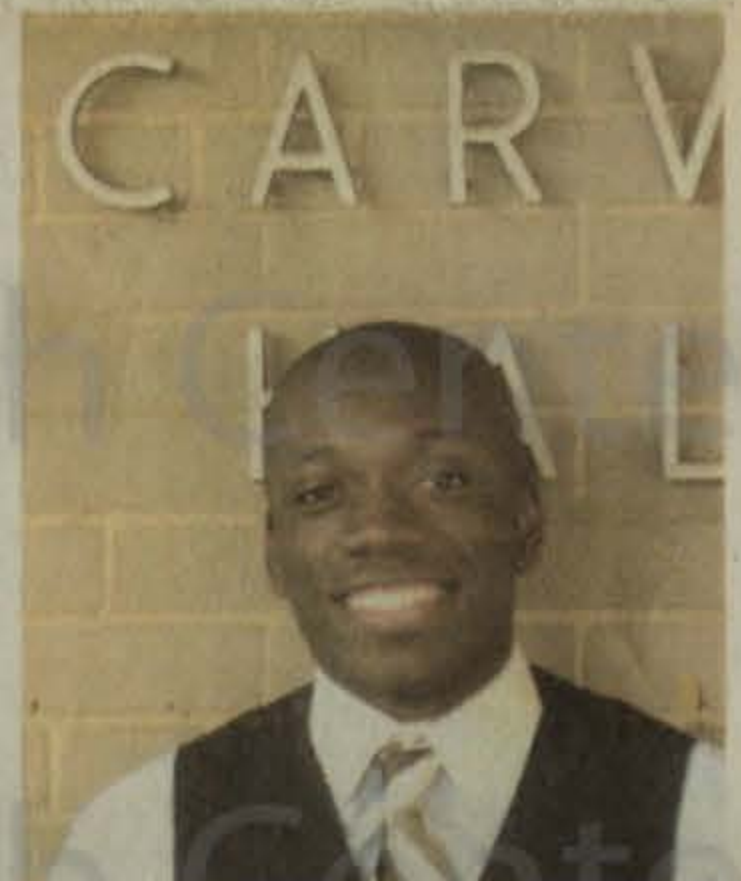
Of those applicants, only around 117 are selected to fill the various dorms.

"We are looking for individuals who are self-managers, have supervisor skills, who are organizers, will enforce university policies and missions, maintains excellence, and can work on a team," Coleman said.

Resident Assistants are responsible for planning programs for the residents on their floor, and are on-call 24 hours a day.

"Aspiring R.A.'s must be prepared for anything as well as be a good listener," said Erica Wadlington, a Tubman Quadrangle RA. "Sometimes you are the only person that residents feel comfortable coming to."

Wadlington recalls times when her residents would approach her on the Yard



Students hope to join Nicholas Gourline (above) next year in receiving free housing and a raise as an RA.

for quick advice or even knock on her door in the middle of the night.

"You have to be prepared all day at all times," Wadlington said. "Being an R.A. is a 24-hour job, but I love it."

The life of a Resident Assistant, however, is not for everyone. Some students prefer not to take on the responsibilities of a 24-hour job.

"I don't really want to be a Resident Assistant because it takes a lot of work," said a sophomore Jodi Richardson. "I'd have to create floor programs and mediate problems between the residents that I'd prefer not to deal with."

Being an R.A., in some cases, goes beyond the financial benefits. Resident Assistants have the opportunity to make a difference in their residents' lives.

"This experience has presented invaluable opportunities and experiences for me," said Sharell Ferguson, a current R.A. "It prepares you with management, future parenting, conflict resolution, and leadership skills."

Although residents tend to have their moments, there are pleasant ones.

"I feel like I have satisfied the duties of my position when I have made an impact on my residents' lives," Ferguson said. "I am proud of my residents and I see great potential in all of them."

Financial Aid Attainable for Drug Offenders

BY KITA NICOLE BRADLEY
Contributing Writer

In 2000, the government added a new question to the FAFSA. It is known as the Convicted Drug Offender question, which means if a person has been convicted of a crime involving drugs, financial assistance from the federal government is suspended indefinitely. Since the introduction of this question six years ago, convicted drug offenders are still not eligible for taxpayer dollars with regard to federal education aid.

A catch 22 cached in the king-size budget bill passed by Congress could possibly help thousands repossess eligibility for education aid. Student's incriminated while receiving aid will still lose their eligibility as follows: one year for a first possession offense, two years for a second, and indefinitely for a third, with harsher penalties for selling drugs. Under the new statutes expected to be signed by President Bush and become laws, delinquents not registered in school who received taxpayer backing when they were convicted, can now stick their hands in the cookie jar.

Drug offenses have prevented at least 175,000 students from receiving aid, according to Students for Sensible Drug Policy

(SSDP). A new study reports that more than twenty-four states are following the reformation led by the federal government.

"I think some nontraditional students will benefit from the partial reform, but unfortunately tens of thousands of students will be left behind without the ability to pay for school," campaigns director for the group Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Tom Angell, said.

The law suspending federal financial assistance to students convicted of drug crimes applies to those who are eighteen or older and younger students who were tried as adults. In addition to this restriction, convicted drug offenders who are ineligible for federal taxpayer dollars also can't receive state grants and loans in more than half the country.

It is expected that this transition to a new policy on convicted students will be more lucrative to older students who finished college before being convicted and now wish to go back. Youthful drug offenses do not hinder students from receiving federal aid. Lawbreakers can also recoup eligibility by completing drug treatment programs. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy there were a total of 1,745,712 state and local arrests for drug abuse violations in the United States during 2004.

Of the 1,745,712 drug abuse violations with race information available, 65.8% of those arrested were white, 32.9% were black, 0.7% was Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.6% was American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Mahalia Tibbs, a print journalism major, said that it is possible that new avenues discussed are being opened because of the increasing number of whites convicted of drug offenses.

"But I wouldn't rely mainly on that," Tibbs said. "To me it is a little silly because I'm more liberal. But when it was just blacks, it was not a mainstream concern because it was not affecting senators and their children."

Drew Patrick Williams, a radio, television, and film major, doesn't see a racial distinction.

"I don't think they think that far ahead."

Neither student thought that crimes involving alcohol were biased.

"I don't think the same doctrine should be implemented for people that are convicted for DWIs," Tibbs said.

Williams noted that alcohol is legal.

"Offenders have taken something legal and done something illegal with it," he said. "I don't hold that to the same accountability as illegal drugs."

Advocacy groups stated that they welcome the change, but on the same token they will want Congress to go a step further by opening aid up to any lawbreaker with no regards to when the conviction took place. Mark Souder, R-Ind., chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees drug policy, claims that the change plainly illustrates how Congress reckoned the law to be deciphered all along. With limited amounts of aid to go around, Souder defended withholding taxpayer support, at least momentarily, to students who break the law.

"... when it was just blacks, it was not a mainstream concern because it was not affecting senators and their children."

- Mahalia Tibbs, freshman

ONLY @

HOWARD

"... do students have to buy every book their professor ever wrote."
-- sophomore english major Michelle McDaniel

"...will professors get upset that a student's phone is on but will stop a lecture to answer his or her own."
-- junior accounting major Takeya Willis

"...is a miniskirt and furry boots common class attire in January."
-- sophomore broadcast major Jason Bradley

"...do you celebrate a paid housing deposit."
-- junior public relations major Carrisa Minor

"...do people physically fight over which resident hall is better."
-- freshman political science major Miela Reyes

"...can you smell weed when you walk by the library, no matter what time of day."
-- sophomore undecided Gregory Smith

"... can you see your professor in the same club as you on friday nights."
-- junior political science major Ashley Rodriguez

Compiled By Morgan Nevilles-Moore
Hilltop Staff Writer

A Day in the Life of...

a Valentine-less Student

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE
Hilltop Staff Writer

Walking through the Yard with her iPod in tow, she hopes that the shuffle feature will play a song to lift her spirits. She is greeted by so many students, both male and female, all boasting about new gifts of flowers, candy and balloons.

A junior psychology major, "Tiffany" Blake is today's unhappy Howard student.

"It's really annoying," she said. "If I look like I don't wanna talk, then usually that means I don't wanna talk, especially today - Valentines Day - is a day of sadness for those who have no one."

Trying to go about her day as usual is difficult for her. Sights of happy faces and nearly empty classrooms made her usual battle of paying attention just that much harder.

"Its crazy to me how one day has such a hold on people's lives," she lamented. "All my classes were pretty much empty, and those who were

there had their desks covered with pink and red trinkets. It was ridiculous."

After a futile attempt to accomplish her needed tasks for the day, she decides to return to her room: a place to get away and just forget about the day's happenings. Entering her building, however, only led to more heartache.

"I walked through the door and immediately all I saw were bouquets of flowers and small stuffed animals that had been delivered and were waiting to get picked up," she recalls. "Of course I just ignored this, but then I go to pick up my mail, and am boldly asked at the counter if I am expecting flowers. Come on, was that necessary?"

Blake doesn't want others to think that she is just a bitter female who hates anything and everything that has to do with love. She isn't that way at all. She is a hurting woman who has come up short in search for true love.

"I haven't always felt so much dislike about Valentines Day. It used to be a wonderful holiday

for me, but that's when I had someone to share it with.

When it's just you, the holiday becomes almost meaningless and upsetting."

After deciding to give in to the things around her, Blake sits down with the candy she received in the mail from her older brother, and proceeds to pick out a movie for the night. Before getting settled in, she



gives her final thought on the subject.

"For those people who have found that special someone, or even if you're just getting to know someone, I'm happy for you," Blake said. "But unless its V-day for you everyday, then it's just not necessary to give so much public attention to your relationship for one day out of the year."

Kappas Auction Men and Women at Fashion Show



Last night, Kappa Chi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi and Entertainment, Media, Sports, and Law Club of Howard University put on the "Krazy In Love in Cupid's Lounge," a fashion show, and male and female auction to celebrate Valentine's Day. The most expensive sale was a male for \$100.

Korey Williams - Hilltop Staff Photographer

Want to write for the

HILLTOP?

Come grab a story at the budget meeting
on Tuesday @ 7:00 PM

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Boys Choir of Harlem Evicted From Choir Academy

BY DAWSHAWN THOMAS
Contributing Writer

The Boys Choir of Harlem choir, known for the breadth of its repertoire, world-class performances and constant contributions to the community has reportedly been evicted from the Choir Academy of Harlem.

The Choir Academy of Harlem, which facilitates the Boys Choir of Harlem, has had a contractual agreement with the school through June 2006, however the agreement has since been overturned and choir officials were ordered to leave the school by earlier this month.

The Boys Choir of Harlem not only broadens minority youth's horizons but is also an outlet to hundreds of strong-minded young men. The choir has proven itself to be advantageous to inner city youth in the New York City area since 1968.

Controversy began when Walter J. Turnbull, founder and director of the choir, failed to fire an employee who sexually abused a student and did not report the abuse. This led to the IRS exposing the financial burden within the choir. In addition,



Although the Boys Choir of Harlem, pictured above, has been helped inner city youth, controversy has caused the choir's eviction.

it was revealed that the choir was \$5 million in debt. Turnbull was then demoted to Artistic Director after the accusations were confirmed.

Turnbull was turned away from the school when he tried to return on Wednesday February 8. Supporters, parents and former students that have been constant supporters throughout the scandal, accompanied Turnbull. "The choir is not disband-

ed", we will continue to rehearse and continue to honor our contractual obligations because we are paid for every performance," Turnbull said about the choir's future.

Alumni of the Boys Choir of Harlem have expressed their concern for the longevity of the choir.

"I think the community is losing a key figure and reflection of the community, we as

minority individuals should rally around Dr. Turnbull and his beneficial view," said Freddy Guerrero, a former member of The Boys Choir of Harlem.

Former members of the choir are not the only ones that are appalled at the recent course of events. "I have the utmost respect for a quality organization like the Harlem Boys Choir, and as a New Yorker I am truly disappointed in what we are losing in our city," said Pierre Roache, a Howard University student.

The Boys Choir of Harlem prepares young men for the future and the real world. While only 32 percent of males in New York graduate from high school, the choir academy has a 95 percent graduation rate.

Performing around the world, exposure to cultures and singing in several different languages are among the accomplishments of the Boys Choir of Harlem.

The choir has sang for former presidents and many dignitaries, recently, they sang on Kanye West's "Jesus Walks" soundtrack, and they has traveled internationally to Europe, Asia and Israel.

What's Going On in Our Nation and World?



Haitians Angry Over Election Take to Streets

Angry mobs in Port-au-Prince, Haiti overturned cars, lit piles of tires on fire and blocked major highways in protest against vote count delays and alleged balloting fraud from last Tuesday's presidential election, as reported by the Washington Post. One protester, so far, has been killed along with the closure of the international airport and the occupation of a luxury hotel by demonstrators. Tens of thousands of people rallied in the streets for the former president and the poor's favorite, Rene Preval, to be named president. Preval, who is far ahead in the votes, with 90 percent counted, flew to the city late Monday in a U.N. helicopter in order to provoke calm, but also further sparked emotion with chants of: "They're stealing our votes."

D.C. Finance Chief Approves Council's Stadium Spending Cap

The district's chief financial officer approved a \$611 million spending cap for the baseball stadium adopted by the city council last week in his three-paragraph letter to the mayor and D.C. Council Chairman Linda W. Cropp, in Washington Post reports. Natwar M. Gandhi said he has no objections to the spending cap as long as Mayor Anthony A. Williams approves the plan and Major League Baseball agrees to waive cost overruns for the District. According to baseball officials, the spending cap "seriously disrupted" the stadium agreement, but are willing to discuss the issues further with the CFO.



FEMA Aid Effort Fraught with Fraud

Government investigators said that tens of thousands of people profited from FEMA's \$6 billion evacuee-assistance effort by using fraudulent identities and possibly causing the effort hundreds of millions of dollars, the Washington Post reports. Because of the lack of routine checks, "the system was wide open to fraud," said Gregory D. Kutz, who led the investigation. "All you had to do was call FEMA on the telephone and lie and you could get money." Suspensions arose with reports that people were using their relief checks to fund \$438-a-night stays in New York, adult entertainment and weapons. There were even reports of emergency meals being sold on eBay.

The Washington Post



'Don't Ask' Costs More Than Expected

According to the Washington Post, the nation's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military as long as they don't exhibit their sexual preference or any homosexual behavior, is costing more than estimated for the U.S. military when having to discharge or replace service members who violate the policy. Instead of the Government Accountability Office's estimated \$190.5 million, taxpayers are paying nearly \$364 million to train new soldiers and officers to replace openly gay servicemen's jobs, according to a study conducted by the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Compiled by Danyelle Hadaway
Hilltop Staff Writer

Read The Hilltop ONLINE @ www.thehilltoponline.com

Network Provides New Free Info Service to Callers

BY JACQUELINE COOK
Contributing Writer

Students who imagine dialing 411 on their cell phone and not getting charged \$1.25 for the service don't have to wait anymore. While this scenario has been made a reality through the telephone directory assistance service 1-800-FREE-411, many continue to overlook the opportunity.

The toll-free number uses a voice recognition system to find the listings that are requested by the caller. Customers are then asked to give the city and state, the type of business they are looking for, and finally the name of the company.

The free phone service doesn't stop there either. Jingle Networks, Inc. offers an online directory as well, which can be found on their website at www.free411.com.

Jingle Networks, the operator of the number, was founded by veteran executives of the advertising and technology fields, according to their official website. They announced the venture in September of 2005, with hopes of changing the landscape of the \$8 billion per year 411 industry.

The company was able to start through the support of various investors. Such investment firms as First Round Capital and Liberty Associated Partners have provided the new business with the start-up capital necessary to institute 1-800-FREE-411.

While typical phone companies charge upwards of \$1 for this sort of service, Jingle Networks is able to provide it for free to customers through audio advertisements.

When a customer calls and requests the number of a business, they will hear an advertisement for a rival business in the area. They are then given the option to be connected to either the originally requested establishment or its competitor.

If there is no competition listed for a requested number, then the business that is being solicited will hear an ad for 1-800-FREE-411.

According to a press release issued by Jingle Networks last December, more than 6 billion directory assistance calls are placed each year. During its first three weeks of availability, 1-800-FREE-411 was able to steal some "hundreds of thousands of calls, from nearly every state in the country."

As of early December 2005, the service was able to attract about 40,000 advertisers, providing customers with plenty recordings to listen to when they call.

With many students unaware of the service and already reliant



Many cell phone users are unaware of the latest 411 phone directory that gives business listings for free. Jingle Networks has offered the service to thousands since its creation last September.

on their cell phone provider for directory assistance, 1-800-FREE-411 may find it difficult to compete with the existing systems.

"Nobody knows about it," said sophomore graphic design major Chad Balkum. "No one is going to use it because everyone has the Internet on their cell phones to look stuff up," he added.

Junior legal communications major Makaila Brooks had also never heard of the number but insisted that she "would definitely use it."

Not everyone is unaware of the free service though.

"I have to pay for 411 on my phone so I think it's a great idea," said sophomore finance major Amanda Johnson.

So is there a future for 1-800-FREE-411 or will they lose out to more established phone directories in the industry?

Junior psychology major Simone Glenn seemed to think they would eventually prosper.

"After it catches on, nobody will pay for something that they can get for free," Glenn said

AMC and Loews Merge

BY KENDRA TURNER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Talk of a merge between two big name movie theater began last summer and was confirmed earlier this year when AMC Entertainment Incorporated officially announced it would join with Loews Cineplex Entertainment Corporation.

Both companies are leaders in the realm of cinema theaters, since Loews currently has more than 2,000 screens operating in the United States, Mexico, South Korea and Spain. AMC has more than 3,500 screens in the United States, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

According to the Kansas City Star, the newly merged AMC now has 5,672 screens and 415 theatres in 29 states, the District of Columbia and 11 other countries. It also has annual revenues of \$2.4 billion, solidifying its place as the second largest theatre company, just under Regal Entertainment Group, which has comparable revenues and more screens.

In order to satisfy state and federal antitrust laws, AMC agreed to sell ten of its theatres.

The terms of the merger

stated Loews would dissolve into AMC and AMC Entertainment Incorporated, but maintain its headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, according to an AMC theatres press release.

A representative for AMC communications department said both companies were privately owned, which means they were not traded on the stock market and each had their own holdings company, which have also merged. The representative defined a holdings company as "a group of investors that own the company."

"The merger leaves shareholders of AMC's parent company, Marquee Holdings Inc., with 60 percent of the merged company's stock, and shareholders of Loews' parent company, LCE Holdings Inc., with 40 percent, said The Kansas City Star.

Loews's former president and chief executive officer, Travis Reid, will become a board member of Marquee Holdings, Inc., which is the parent company of AMC. He will be available to consult and assist with the transition and integration process.

Meanwhile, AMC chairman and chief executive officer, Peter C. Brown will maintain his same titles.

"This merger creates one of the biggest and best movie theatre companies in the world," said Reid, in the AMC press release. "The Loews team has been working alongside AMC for the past several months to help position the new company for a seamless integration, and I applaud Peter and his leadership team for their dedication to the successful completion of the merger."

The new AMC will honor all gift cards, gift certificates and group tickets distributed or purchased from AMC of Loews. Patrons will be able to look forward to new features from the alliance such as a refill policy, according to a manager at the AMC theatre located at Union Station who declined to give his name.

Some students, like senior psychology major Michele Watkins, find these new features appealing.

"I preferred Loews because I'm used to it [from home], but when I came here, I liked Regal better because it's cleaner," Watkins said. "There are no interruptions in the films, the service is better and the popcorn is fresher," she added. "With free refills, I would definitely check it out."

Cyber Pages: HBCUconnect.com



Derrell Smith - Asst. Photo Editor

BY BRITTANY HUTSON
Contributing Writer

HBCUconnect.com is dedicated to uniting historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) worldwide by offering information catered to aspiring or current students, parents, faculty, and alumni.

The website was established in 2000 by a team of HBCU alumni, including president/CEO William R. Moss III and Vice President Daniel C. Moss. HBCUconnect.com strives to be the main catalyst for greater HBCU awareness, enrollment, alumni communication, community leadership development and efficient networking, according to their website.

A primary mission of HBCUconnect is to be an information oasis for high school students interested in attending an HBCU. HBCUconnect.com offers free membership profiles to current college students and alumni who can share their perspective on college life, while high school students address any future concerns. Students can also virtually meet and interact with other student members through posting messages.

This main feature attracted freshman Alyssa Armstead to the website.

"I wanted to meet new people who were going to Howard, which was before Facebook was available to us," said the freshman psychology major.

HBCUconnect has a special recruiting section where colleges are able to learn more about prospective students and get in contact with them.

Students have the ability search for scholarships and internships, post resumes, and write

blogs.

Another section of the website called career search lets employment agencies advertise open positions and members to view listings.

Parents are able to read up on financial aid tips, view university descriptions and sign-up for campus tours. For alumni, the website offers their annual HBCU Cruise Event for alumni during the fall.

Freshman theatre arts major Sharell Jarus prefers HBCUconnect to other online communities.

"I am able to meet people with the same interests, learn more about other HBCUs, and keep in touch with friends who are not on Facebook or yet in college," she said. "It's better than Facebook because you can make blogs, look up scholarships, and Facebook is an inconvenience because it only allows college students to register. With HBCUconnect, you have high school, parents, and alumni."

Fast Facts

WEBSITE:
WWW.HBCUCONNECT.COM

ESTABLISHED:
FALL 2000

FOUNDERS:
ALUMNI OF HBCUS

MISSIONS:
NETWORKING,
HBCU AWARENESS,
ALUMNI COMMUNICATION,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WEBSITE FEATURES:
PROFILES, SCHOLARSHIP
LISTINGS, SOCIAL
HAPPENINGS, CHATS, AND
LINKS.



Although AMC and Loews movie theater companies have merged, AMC Union Station 9 and Loews Georgetown 14, both located in Washington, D.C., will both remain in operation.

**"EVEN MY GRANDMA
READS THE HILLTOP.."**

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Our people have backgrounds and interests as varied as the products we sell. Conversations around here vary in topic from jib crane construction, warehouse layout, and developments in the nanotech sector to post-modern aesthetics, the latest opera, and baseball playoffs. This variety of people, ideas, and passions enriches our workplace and enlivens our thinking.

We don't have reserved parking spaces. We have very few private offices, and everyone is on a first-name basis. We have an open, collegial environment where ideas are evaluated on their merit, not the title or tenure of the person who suggested them. Here, your good ideas will thrive, even from day one.

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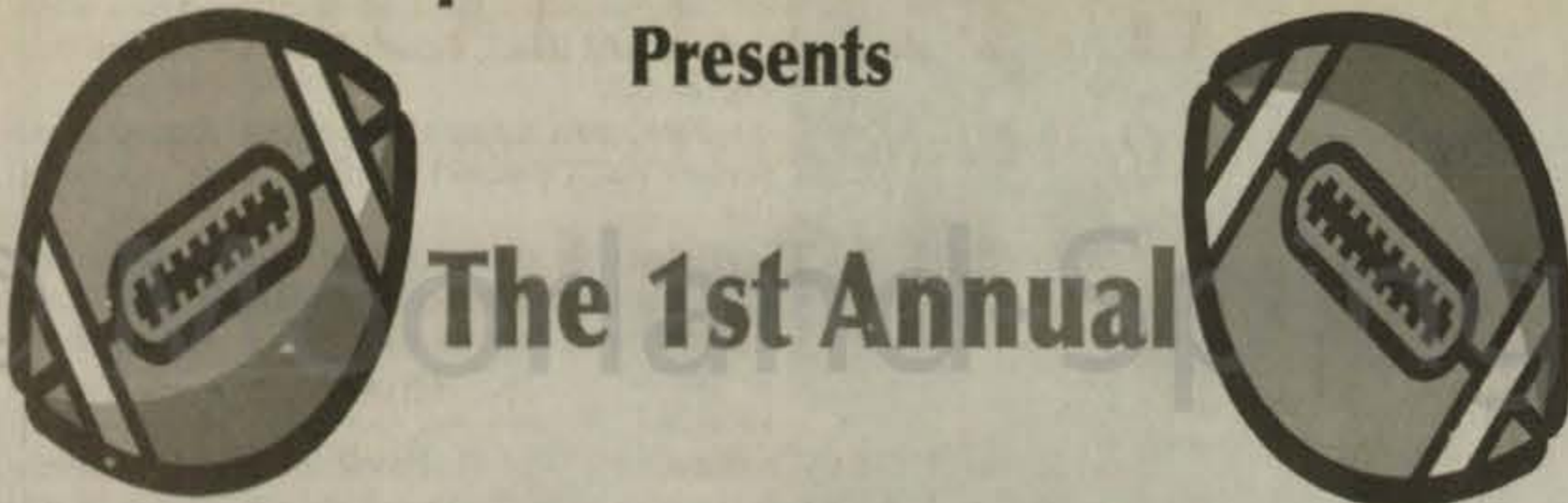
Information Session: Thursday, February 16th

6:00-7:00 Located in the Student Lounge

Campus Interviews: Friday, February 17th

Submit Resumes to: nadia.johnson@mcmaster.com

Department of Residence Life
Presents



The 1st Annual

**CLASH OF THE
BISON!**

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Where: Greene Stadium

Time: 11 am - 3 pm

Sign up at the Front Desk of your Residence Hall

So Annex, Carver, Cook, Drew, Mays,
Merdian, Quad, Slowe, and the Towers;
Grab a pigskin and your 'A' game,
anything less is a waste of time....

In honor of Black History Month and in recognition of all graduate and professional scholars at Howard University, the Graduate Student Council sponsors:

GRADUATE STUDENT WEEK:

VICTORY in UNITY, LEADERSHIP, LOVE and SERVICE

All events are open to the entire Howard University community.

Sunday, February 12, 2006

Call to Chapel

11:00 a.m., Rankin Memorial Chapel held in Crampton Auditorium
(Graduate students please sit near the front of the room for recognition.)

Monday, February 13, 2006

The Black Love Revolution: Promoting Secure, Healthy Relationships at Howard Univ.

LOVE the one you are with on this day one day before Valentines Day.

For more information contact Ronald A. Allen @ hugsc2002@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

At the Feet of the Elders

Time 5:00pm-7:00pm, Location Carnegie Building

(As a tribute to the intellectual prowess of our long-time professors, we sit at their feet of wisdom as we join them in conversation about HU's glory.)

President: Dennis B. Rogers

Vice President: Gregory Bosworth

Financial Coordinator: Marcell Niles

Communications Coordinator: Lakeshia Legette

Judicial Coordinator: Ronald A. Allen

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Selecting, Applying, and Paying for Graduate School: A Mentoring Workshop on Success

Time 4:00pm-6:00pm, Location Blackburn Student Center

(Undergraduate students are encouraged to attend this workshop to seek answers from a panel of graduate-student experts and professionals on how to gain funding and successful admittance to graduate school.)

Thursday, February 16, 2006

State of the Graduate School Address

Time 12:00pm-1:30pm, Location Blackburn Gallery Lounge

(GSC President Dennis B. Rogers will provide a presidential address on the state and condition of the graduate school and graduate education at HU from the perspective of the students. This event is open to all students, administrators, graduate faculty members, and graduate student leaders) - Please RSVP

For more information contact Dennis Rogers at 202-498-9800

International Cultural Appreciation Day

Time 4:00pm-6:00pm, Location Blackburn Student Center Gallery Lounge

(Join us and our international students for a movie (10am-11:30am room 1486/152 Blackburn) and international dress show.)

For more information contact Sechiba Khopis at skhopis@hotmail.com or Dr. Nahal at nahal@howard.edu 202-806-7887

Friday, February 17, 2006

A Gala Dinner: Saluting Uplift, Progress, and Achievement

Time 5:00pm-8:00pm Location: Cada Vez, 1438 U Street

For more information contact Lakeshia Legette at hugsc2002@yahoo.com or legette2523@yahoo.com

Saturday, February 18, 2006

Community Service: For the Benefit of Katrina Survivors

Blackburn 12:00 - 3:00 contact Gregory Bosworth, 240.455.8137

For more information, contact the Graduate Student Council: hugsc2002@yahoo.com or 202-806-5540.

EDITORIALS & Perspectives



Is Dick Off the 'Cheney' ?

It seems that the members of the Bush administration have been in the line of fire for a long period of time. Government officials have been under all kinds of investigations, exposés and controversy ever since we can remember.

On Valentine's Day most people think of hearts in a positive way, not heart attacks like the one Harry Whittington recently suffered as a result of bullet wounds, courtesy of Vice President Dick Cheney. On Cupid's day most of the public was made aware that over the weekend Cheney accidentally shot Whittington in the chest.

As scrutiny persisted about the delay in relaying the information to the public, a testy Scott McClellan retorted, "If you want to continue to spend time on that, that's fine," according to the Washington

Post. "We're moving on to the priorities of the American people. That's where our focus is."

We were highly offended by the statement because it seems that they are trying to sweep this one under the rug. No one is saying that Cheney purposely shot the 78-year old

The comment above may as well be replaced with "moving along" or "get over it."

Cheney's approval rating was a meager 24 percent in a recent CBS-New York Times poll. He's been in the hot seat over a myriad of issues including the weapons of mass destruction, and his suspected involvement in the CIA leak case.

Rather than trying to keep everything a secret, high government officials should strive to maintain a degree of credibility with Americans. We are growing frustrated of being lied to only to later find out our suspicions were right. Public figures should not get special treatment when they make mistakes; they should be exposed!

We have Whittington in our prayers and hope he has a smooth recovery.

Our View:

Government figures' mistakes shouldn't protect or exempt them for fear of bad PR; all news should be timely and honest.

man. People are responding to the apparent insensitivity about an accident victim with the potential of losing his life.

Food For Thought: Questioning Hip Hop Honeys

Sha Johnson

"Tip drills," "gold diggers" and "hoes" are the phrases most commonly used in today's hip hop music. Whether you are listening to Kanye West, Jay Z or Nelly it is inevitable that there will be some negative reference made to black women.

But who is to blame? With the recent release of books like "Confessions of a Video Vixen" and the success of video models like Buffy The Body, Esther Baxter, and Melissa Ford, how do you pin point the source of the degradation of women? In all of the aforementioned cases these women have used sex in hip hop to establish lucrative careers. So, are they wrong for helping to perpetuate the stereotypes that women are just sex objects and good for shaking "what they momma gave them" or should they be commended for taking their looks to "pimp" the industry out of money and fame?

Feminist groups everywhere have shaken their heads in disgust at the images portrayed of black women in rap videos. One of the leading women's magazines, Essence, has created a "Take Back the Music Campaign" out of disgust

for the treatment of women in music videos.

My question is, who do you blame? The women for doing it, the men for allowing it or the industry for promoting it? On one hand, if the women didn't insist on dropping it like it's hot, then there would be no cause for concern. However, if the men took a stand against portraying women in such a disrespectful manner, and the industry decided to hold itself to higher standards and not sell out to the highest bidder then maybe the misogyny wouldn't continue.

Hip Hop has always been a showcase for bragging rights about the biggest chains, cars, and now the sexiest women. Society has proven time and time again that sex is what sells. Therefore, it is no surprise that the industry has cashed in.

From Snoop Dog and his porn to BET's "Uncut," sex has become more of a facet in the entertainment industry than quality music. Is there a line when it comes to too much sex in videos? Is it okay to be the main video chick and wear tight clothes? What about swiping a credit card down a girls butt? How about when female rappers parade around naked and

grab themselves?

What is the difference between scantily clad women in videos versus movies and TV? How do you criticize the artist when society watches the videos and buy the albums? Is it harmless fun, or is it silently destroying the youth of America?

It is easy to say that the images of black women in Hip Hop are disrespectful and derogatory. It's a lot harder to address the fact that society obviously wants to see these images. Hip Hop is multi-billion dollar industry that reaches across gender, age, and race. To simply say that rappers are wrong for objectifying women in videos is inaccurate and egregious without taking an in-depth look into larger issues.

One must look at the willingness of women to participate and the industry that makes it mandatory to sell records. If society was truly appalled by the demeaning, and immoral treatment of black women in hip hop they would take a stand, boycott, write a letter or turn off the TV. Not to justify the booty shaking, but it is necessary to look at the bigger picture rather than penalize certain individuals for falling prey to the new standard of hip hop.

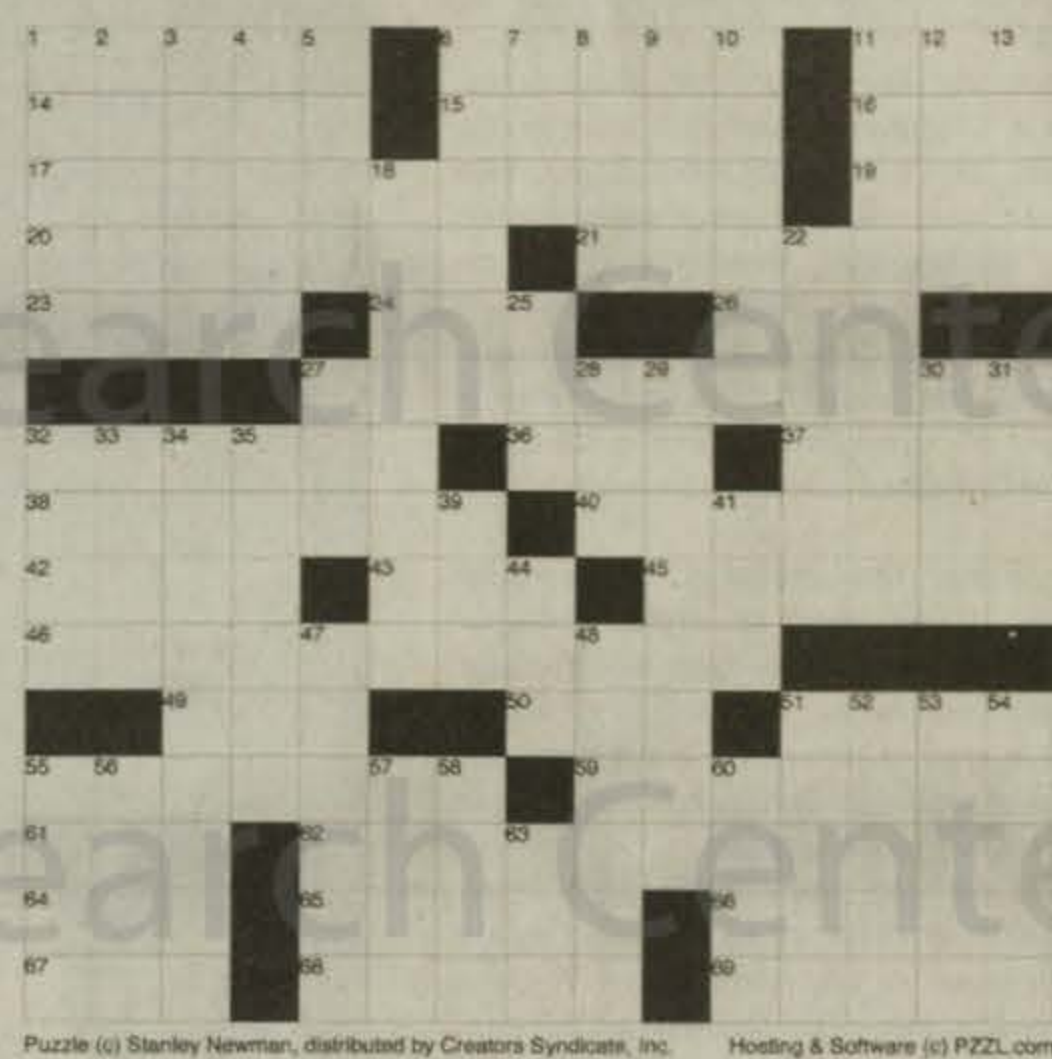
9/01/05 DECENTRALIZED by Doug Peterson, edited by Stanley Newman

Across

- 1 Rascal
- 6 Gelatin shapers
- 11 Service seat
- 14 Nostalgic tune
- 15 Open, as laces
- 16 New Haven student
- 17 Alias
- 19 NFL great Marino
- 20 Bengali, to Belgian
- 21 Loading on board
- 23 Surrealist Magritte
- 24 Tote
- 26 Driving hazard
- 27 Brilliant achievement
- 32 Minute Maid Park team
- 36 "Splash" director Howard
- 37 King of tragedy
- 38 High-ranking angels
- 40 Most wicked
- 42 Arabian Peninsula land
- 43 Heart-test letters
- 45 Parisian palace
- 46 Of the late 19th century
- 49 Chicago White
- 50 Guadalajara gold
- 51 Couch potato's place
- 55 Election before a convention
- 59 Earth-shattering
- 61 Wish undone
- 62 Decisive stroke
- 64 Roadside retreat
- 65 "My Cousin Vinny" Oscar winner
- 66 More atypical
- 67 Catch on to
- 68 Roll with the punches
- 69 Cast out

Down

- 1 Sub detector
- 2 Exact duplicate
- 3 Slogan creator
- 4 Small fly
- 5 Source of pressure,



Puzzle (c) Stanley Newman, distributed by Creators Syndicate, Inc. Hosting & Software (c) PZZL.com

- perhaps
- 6 Oahu attire
- 7 Ace value, at times
- 8 Monogram pts.
- 9 Grime
- 10 Bid bon voyage to
- 11 AKC concerns
- 12 Oomph
- 13 Building add-on
- 18 Shoes protectors
- 22 Wild partner
- 25 Canine sound
- 27 Outdo
- 28 Anonymous John
- 29 Mail holder
- 30 Job for a DA
- 31 Art Deco illustrator
- 32 Since
- 33 Freight hauler
- 34 Short-lived
- 35 Haphazard
- 39 Hit the slopes
- 41 Seine sight
- 44 Thermal prefix
- 47 Pimlico play
- 48 Recognition
- 51 Gaunt one
- 52 Prairie State hub
- 53 Doesn't dodge
- 54 Put on notice
- 55 Stuffed shirt
- 56 Ancient symbol
- 57 Crucifix
- 58 Arizona city
- 60 Fairy-tale baddie
- 63 Cheerleader's asset

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 82nd year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,500, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed on the Editorial and Perspectives Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body. The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at www.thehilltoponline.com. The Hilltop editorial office is located at 2255 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at hilltopbusiness@yu500.com and by phone at (202)806-4724. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at hilltopbusiness@yu500.com and by phone at (202)806-4749. 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.

Homophobia: A Major Issue In Hip Hop

BY JAMILA WATTS
Contributing Writer

"Gay is the exact opposite of the word of hip-hop," Kanye West said during an interview on "All Eyes on Kanye West," which aired on MTV in 2005.

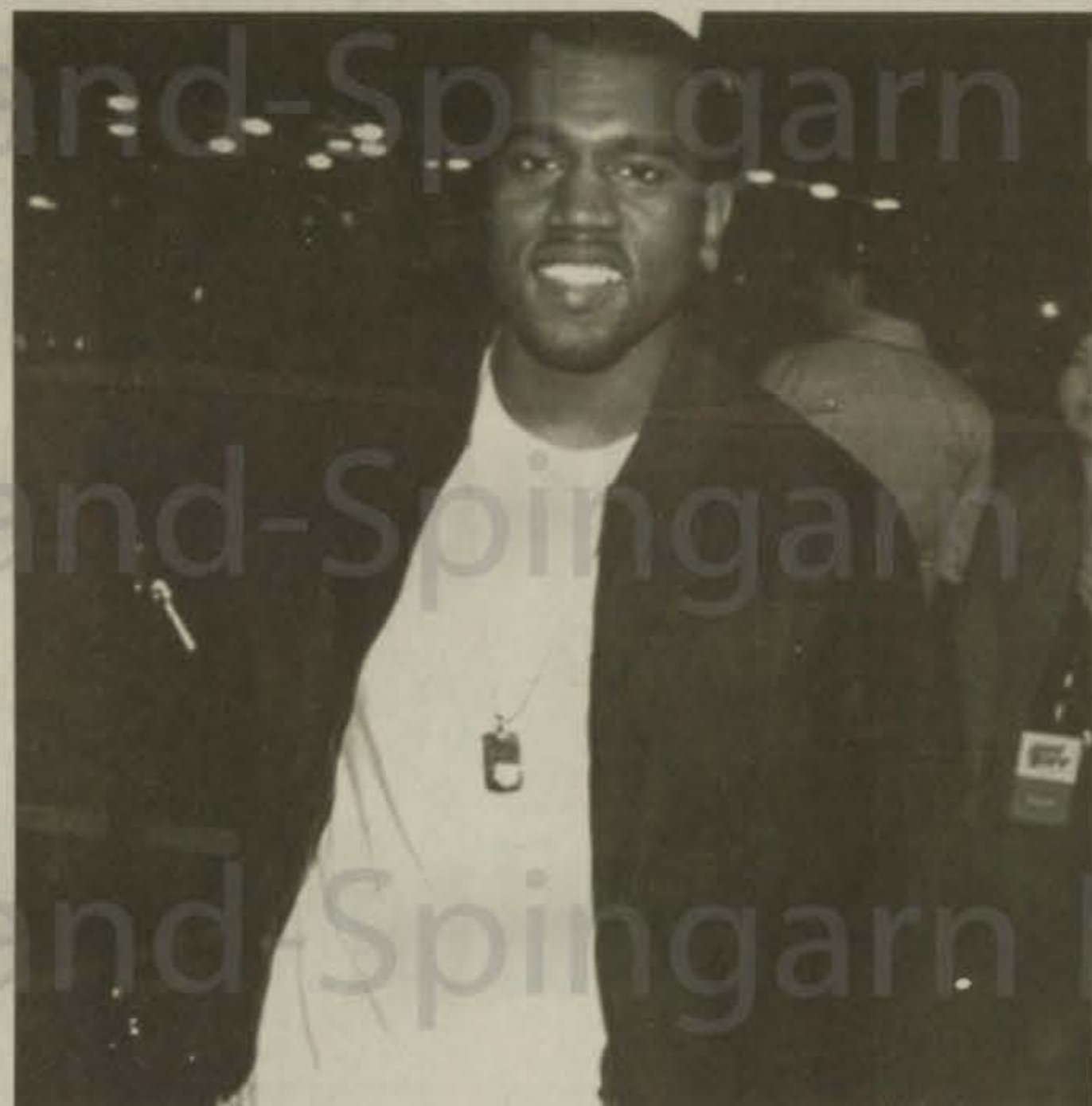
During the interview, West initiated a discussion about homophobia in hip-hop and homosexuality. The socially conscious rapper went on to say, "in hip-hop, everyone discriminates against gay people!"

For many fans this is true, yet others feel that homophobia in hip-hop is a state of mind that is firmly instilled in the minds of artists and fans of hip-hop.

Since the creation of hip-hop music, it has been an artform dominated by males who brag about their sexual conquests, masculinity, materialism and violence. Throughout the years of anti-gay lyrics, a homophobic generation has emerged.

In an interview with MTV.com, Byron Hurt director of "Beyond Beats & Rhymes: A Hip-Hop Head Weighs in on Manhood in Hip-Hop Culture" commented on the state of hip-hop, "I hear the hyper-masculinity, the sexism, the violence, the homophobia and the materialism and I say, man, this ain't cool. We gotta demand a lot more from hip-hop."

Some people demand for an end to the discrimination, while others are caught in the middle, undecided about the issue while others choose to turn the other cheek on the issue, because



In a MTV interview, Grammy award winning rapper/producer, Kanye West admitted to once having anti-gay views that made him question himself.

of their own issues with the subject. Hip-hop is one of the only mainstream genres of music that blatantly discriminates and criticizes people's lifestyles and sexual orientation.

Professor Michael Eric Dyson, head of African-American Studies at Columbia University, is one of America's leading commentators on contemporary black culture. "The real

"Hip-Hop's one of the most homophobic of all musical genres."

- Michael Eric Dyson, Author

taboo in hip-hop is male sexuality." He said in a recent interview. "Hip-Hop's one of the most homophobic of all musical genres," he said. "There's excitability in our culture around issues like homosexuality, transvestites and so on. And as wonderful and outrageous as rap is, it's never meaningfully challenged any of these boundaries," he said.

Campus opinions differ, Maya Russell, a senior broadcast journalism major and avid hip-hop fan explained, "I don't think rappers intentionally want to personify themselves as homophobic, but with all of the rumors on men on the down-low, they don't want to be implicated in any homosexual activity."

Another valid point to homophobia in hip-hop is the influence of jail culture on the genre. The corrections system plays an important role in hip-hop's take on homophobia.

Biff Warren, an original member of the Def Jam team who helped break legendary acts like Public Enemy and LL Cool J openly commented on the controversial topic, "America's

jails have a role to play in hip hop's homophobia: "A lot of rappers, and people who run with the rappers, have been in jail. If they ain't tough enough to make it behind those walls - and most brothers ain't tough enough - they're [doing what they have to do]."

Many artists do not desire to be implicated in homosexual activity or association. Because of the nature of hip-hop, many artists feel the relationship between homosexuality and hip-hop invalidate the artist's credibility.

"I could really never see a day where male homosexuality will be embraced, and even if it did I doubt that particular rapper would be taken seriously," said Alnise "Niecy" Overton, senior public relations major.

Like a person evolves and matures with time so does hip-hop, as it has since its creation in the 1970's, yet homophobic lyrics have remained strong in hip-hop culture. Many warrant the rejection of homophobia ideologies that are expressed in today's culture and embrace alternatives lifestyles.

Resort Wear: Fall and Spring Fashion's Hip Replacement

BY YASMINE PARRISH
Hilltop Staff Writer

While most students are barely surviving the financial hassles of college life, there are a select few who scan the runway for their next apparel purchase. Shopping resort collections is how to get the most bang out of a designer buck.

What started as a sub-market in the 1970's for women who needed swim-wear and other warm weather friendly garments for their winter get-aways is now a fully bloomed flower of fashion.

Just like 'fall' and 'spring,' resort lines are complete collections filled with separates, gowns, a whole new set of handbags and shoes. Unlike fall and spring lines, the resort collections span across

the seasons; some designers have their resort collections on the racks as early as November (just as the fashion-forward shopper tires of the current fall merchandise) and as late as May.

Pieces from resort collections are better buys because they get less press which makes it is less easy to pinpoint when the garment was released, therefore giving the piece lasting wearability and shelf life before it's spewn to the back of the closet along with rest of the clothes that are marked as 'played'. For any college student who is shelling out cash or credit for designer threads, shopping within resort collections is one smart move. Resort collections also have a mixture of pieces that can be worn in the warmth or the cold, making it easy to wear year round.

Designer Oscar de la Renta told W Magazine's Marc Karimzadeh, "years back, we thought of caftans because women would go South, but we don't think in those terms today" de la Renta said. "Today, women buy clothes when they need them. Lifestyles have changed tremendously."

Everyone knows about fall and spring collections, but very little know about the mid season and designers' resort collection because of the lack of advertising that normally surrounds collections.

"Unlike spring, resort is typically presented with little to no fanfare" Karimzadeh said. "Most designers don't stage big runway shows, instead presenting to retailers and the press in the calm of their showrooms."

Easier on designers and better buys for consumers, resort wear is fashion's hottest season these days. "[Resort] is a relief to do, because you don't have those others pressures" began designer, Anna Sui, to Karimzadeh. "You just do what you love, and it comes through."

Marc Jacobs agreed with Sui's sentiments. "There [is] no pressure of a fashion show," he told Karimzadeh. "You could just sit down and design...We just make clothes we like without trying to think of how we are going to make a statement."

Though the word: "resort" tends to lend toward thoughts toward bright colors and floral prints that would be worn on a cruise ship, the name could not be farther from its purpose.

Popular designer, Karl Lagerfeld, told Karimzadeh, "that resort now serves exactly the same larger purpose as spring and fall. It's the wish to have new clothes all the time," Lagerfeld said. "That's why [resort] is still so important, even if the name is something from another time."

"I love designing resort," said trendy designer, Zac Posen, to Karimzadeh, "it's really about the customer and her own desires and needs...It's real clothing and real fashion."



www.ing.tars.com

More fashion consumers are now leaning towards resort collections, allowing them to have "new clothes all the time".



Funeral Services for Producer J-Dilla

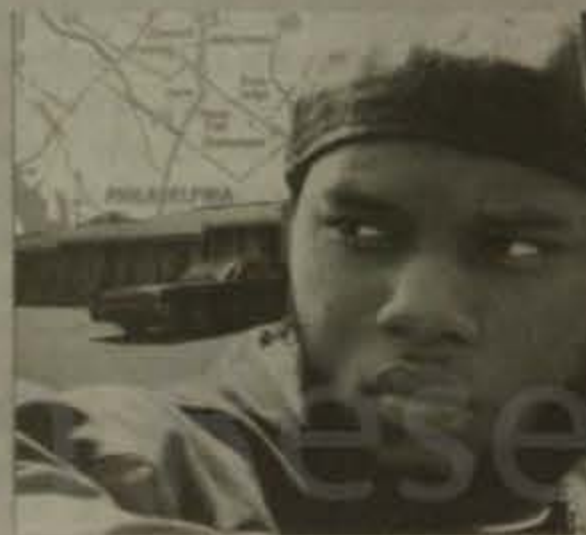
Funeral services for J-Dilla a.k.a Jay-Dee, rap producer and former member of rap group Slum Village, took place yesterday in Los Angeles. The Detroit rapper, who died on February 10 from complications with lupus, has worked with many artists including Kanye West and Common. According to allhiphop.com, Dilla revealed that he had kidney problems in 2004 and spent a large amount of time in hospitals fighting the disease that affects over 1.5 million Americans each year. In remembrance of Dilla, a memorial concert is being planned by many well-known rappers and entertainers. J-Dilla was 32 years old.



Ying Yang and John Legend Participate In Copyright Awareness Week

Sir-Mix-A-Lot and the Ying Yang Twins are some of the many entertainers who will be taking part in the new Copyright Awareness Week, a new nationwide initiative that aims to educate young people about the importance of copyright laws. Public service announcements will also be created by artists including John Legend and rock group 3 Doors Down. According to allhiphop.com, the public service announcements will be broadcast on some 2,000 stations.

Rapper Freeway Set to Collaborate With 50 Cent



Being absent from the rap scene for quite some time now, Roc-A-Fella recording artist Freeway will collaborate with 50 Cent as well as other members of G-Unit on his new album entitled "Free at Last." According to allhiphop.com, the album is co-executive produced by 50 Cent and Def Jam president Jay-Z. It will be released on Jay-Z's Roc-A-Fella imprint via Def Jam, said Freeway's manager Ryan Press of Press Conference Management.

Entertainment News courtesy of www.allhiphop.com
Compiled by Erica Williams, Life & Style Editor

Students Torn on Torino Olympics

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

The Opening Ceremony is over, and 66 medals have been awarded. The 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, are in full swing, but Howard students are torn on the relevance of this tournament to themselves and the black community.

"The Winter Olympics aren't as interesting as the Summer Olympics," said sophomore international business major Kristin Mencer. "I don't even know half of the sports [in the Olympics]."

The 2006 Winter Olympics is a competition between 80 countries in fifteen events.

Some Howard students are uninterested in the events.

"We hear about ice skating all year round," said Mencer who says she doesn't watch the events covered by NBC, but catches the reviews on the Today Show.

"When it comes time for the Olympics, there's not much excitement," Mencer said.

NBC and the International Olympics Committee hope otherwise as they have prepared for 3.2 billion people to be able to watch the games this year.

NBC executives hope that

a strong United States Olympic team will generate a larger TV viewership.

"The thing that our viewers will immediately notice each day is the strength of the U.S. Olympics team," David Neal, the executive producer for NBC Sports said to the Associated Press.

"It's the most accomplished Winter

torino 2006



Olympics team that the U.S. has ever fielded," he said.

The U.S. Olympic team lost a big name star with the withdrawal of Michelle Kwan from Olympic

competition.

Some Howard students have been watching the Winter Olympics since childhood.

"My sister and I grew up watching figure skating," said junior classics major Brent Robinson.

"We used to dance, and it was like dancing on ice to us."

Robinson is unable to watch the games on television, but he reads the newspaper to stay up to date with the tournament happenings.

"I usually like to watch skiing," said sophomore international business major Averi Thomas-Moore.

"But I have no sound on NBC in my dorm, so I don't bother," said the Slowe Hall resident.

Both Thomas-Moore and Mencer said that if there were more black athletes competing in the

Winter Olympics, black students would be more compelled to watch.

"There aren't any black people in the Winter Olympics," Mencer said. "I'm not really interested in watching something that doesn't affect me."

"There aren't many advertisements promoting the Winter Sports to black people," said Thomas-Moore.

"And you don't see many win-

TOP 5 MEDAL WINNERS

(as of Feb. 14, 2006)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Norway	1	5	5	11
Russian Fed.	4	3	2	9
U.S.A.	5	2	0	7
Germany	4	1	2	7
China	0	2	3	5

ter sports opportunities in predominantly black neighborhoods," she said.

Robinson agreed that interest in the Winter Olympics and winter sports in general is largely based on location.

"A Howard student from Canada would probably be more

interested than a student from California," he said.

However, he believes that the Olympics are more diverse than black and white.

"What I enjoy most about the Olympics is the diversification," Robinson said.

"It's about seeing all of the

other countries compete. When I'm watching, I'm not watching for color."

"This is the highest level competition between the countries of the world," Robinson said.

One-on-One with... head basketball coach Gil Jackson

BY DESIREE SMITH
Hilltop Staff Writer

Not older than seven years old, participating in a basketball game in the "Itty Bitty" basketball league, a small Gil Jackson dribbled the ball with one hand, and held his shorts up with the other. At this moment, Jackson's love for the game had been planted in his heart, and was beginning to grow.

Growing up in Delaware, Jackson excelled in a number of different sports. From football, to baseball, to basketball, he played them all, but enjoyed basketball the most. Ironically, when it came time to choose a college, Jackson found himself bombarded with more football opportunities than basketball ones.

"I had more football scholarships than anything," Jackson said. "Howard offered me a scholarship for football, one of the first athletic scholarships they ever offered."

With a number of football scholarships at his disposal, and even being drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies for baseball, Jackson could not let go of the game of basketball. He ultimately chose to go to Elizabethtown College on a basketball scholarship.

While at Elizabethtown, Jackson was a two-time All-Middle Atlantic Conference selection, team captain, and 1,000 point scorer. He was also inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame.

"I just liked it [basketball]," Jackson said. "I thought it was a great sport."

After having a successful college career, Jackson later settled into an assistant coach position at the University of Pennsylvania, where he dedicated his services for sixteen years. While at U. Penn., Jackson took home nine Ivy League championships, and traveled to the NCAA tournament nine times.

On June 6, 2005, President H. Patrick Swygert announced the hiring of Jackson as

Howard's new head men's basketball coach. He knew that Swygert brought him to Howard to do a good job, and felt an immediate commitment to doing that.

"I always like Howard," Jackson said. "I just thought Howard was a great opportunity, with its academic reputation, and I just think it's a good situation to coach basketball."

So far, being a part of the Bison community has been all that Jackson has expected. Still, he admits that the atmosphere of Howard has proven to be more difficult to deal with when it comes to his players.

"The culture [out here] is a little tougher to negotiate," Jackson said.

"With Howard being 65-70 percent female, the distractions are there, and are tougher [to deal with]."

For Junior Guard Will Gant, working under Jackson for the first time has been a great opportunity. He credits Jackson with bringing an immense amount of experience, and a new attitude to the team.

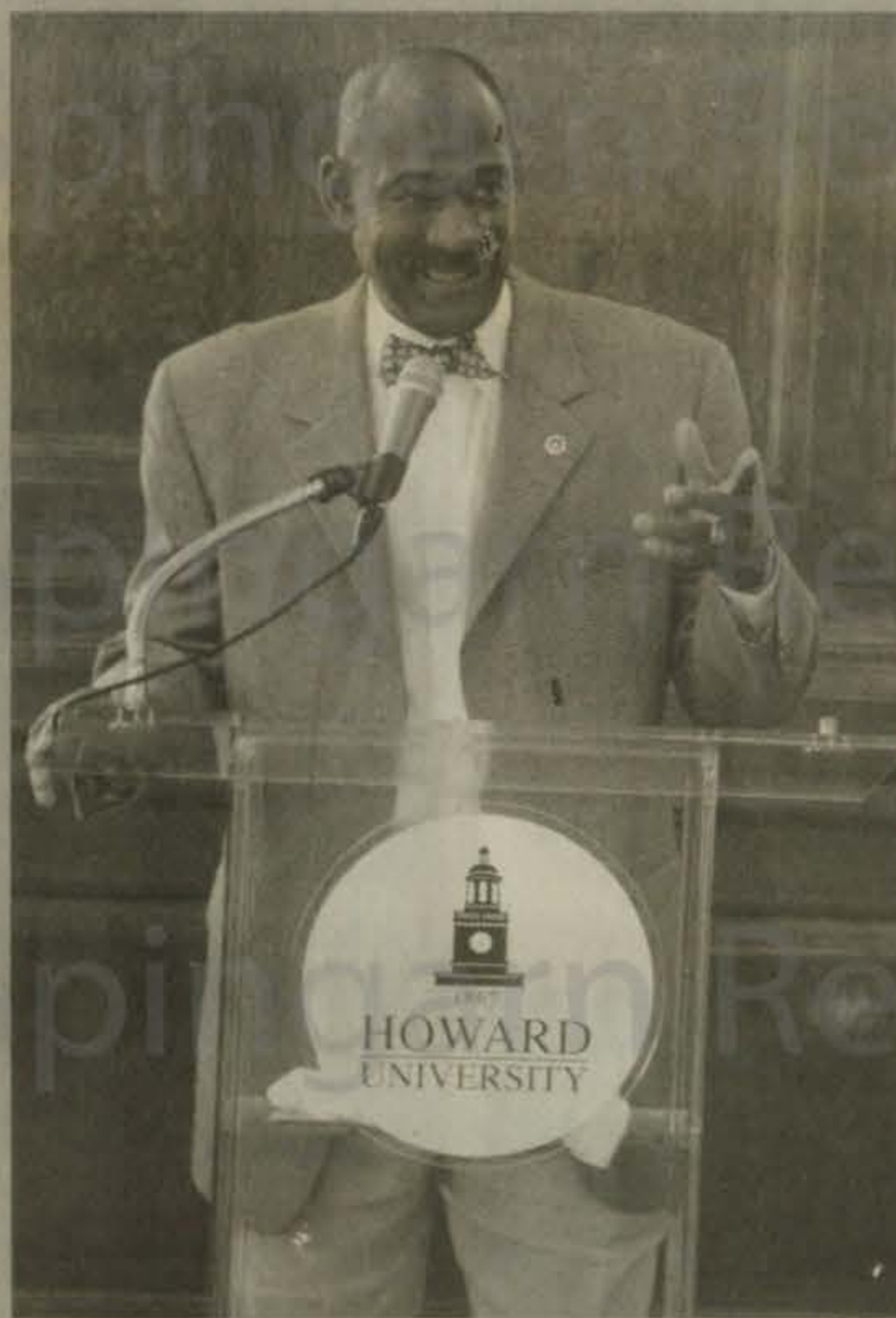
"He has contributed his wisdom and knowledge of the game [to the team]," Gant said. "He teaches us to be students of the game."

When Jackson isn't preoccupied with the team, which isn't often, he finds relaxation in being with his wife. They enjoy playing tennis, golf, and getting lost in Washington DC's night life; going to different jazz clubs.

Nevertheless, it is hard for Jackson to find time to unwind, especially during the season.

"Right now, those things I like to do to relax are on the back burner," Jackson said. "I have so much of my attention focused on the basketball team, player development, and recruiting."

As a coach, Jackson respects and understands the significance of academics, and sees how important it is amongst the Howard community. On the wall in his office, it is almost impossible to ignore



Gil Jackson took on the role as head coach of the Howard Bison men's basketball coach on June 6, 2005

two certain pictures. One exhibits a graduate, and the other shows an athlete.

It isn't the exact pictures that hold the most impact, but their particular placement on his wall. The graduate is strategically placed above the athlete, and for Jackson making sure that his athletes graduate is a main goal.

However, he would like to have more than mediocrity demanded in athletics since so much more is asked for in academics.

"They [students and professors] look for excellence in academics, and right now the students haven't demanded that same excellence in athletics," Jackson said. "I hope that changes."

There is no doubt that Jackson's first season with the Bison has been a turbulent

one. With loss after loss, it has been difficult for the team to be victorious. It is clear that a program that has struggled for many years isn't going to be able to change overnight.

Jackson wants nothing more but to groom his squad into being strongly competitive. He wants to be able to compete in regular season championships, and tournament championships, as a tough team that instills a sense of trepidation into other teams.

In his first year, Jackson has already gained respect from his team, and also has had a tremendous impact on his players.

"I've learned a lot of things this year about the game and about life," Gant said. "[Jackson] has helped me mature into a man."



NCAANews

Reddick Captures Three-Point Title



Photo courtesy of www.dukeuniversity.edu

Duke senior guard, J.J. Reddick, broke the NCAA career three-point field goals record Tuesday night against the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest.

Reddick needed two three-point baskets to capture the record. He made those two shots in the first 12 1/2 minutes to total 414 in his career.

The record of 413 was previously held by University of Virginia's Curtis Staples from 1994-98.

Reddick added two more three's in the game as he led the Blue Devils with 33 points over Wake 93-70 to stay undefeated in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Reddick, the senior captain for the No. 2 Blue Devils, has been touted as the best player in college basketball, and one of the purest shooters to ever play the game.

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Balckburn Rm. 148-150
Februay 15 & 16
6:45pm Nightly

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Sis2Sis invites you to:
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sis2sis2005@yahoo.com

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WWW.TEACHFORAMERICA.ORG

ATTENTION!!!
Applications for Student Award Nominations are Now Available in the Office of Student Activities. Due: Feb. 20, 2006 @ 5pm in the Office of Student Activities.
Auditions: Feb. 24, 25 and 26
Available Awards
Best Student: Actor, Singer, Dancer, Musician, Film Maker, Photographer, Spoken Word Artist, Orator; Journalist of the Year and Photo of the Year; and Redefining the Student Experience
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The ASB Steering Committee would like to thank you for application submission. Due to overwhelming response, the committee is determined to find resources and sponsorships to accommodate all applicants. The current status of all applications is pending, until further notice. All applicants are asked to attend the first of a series of orientations, next Sunday, February 19 at 4 PM in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. Thank you for your understanding.
Please direct all questions and concerns to Alexis C. Logan, Lilly Fellow via asbnola2001@yahoo.com Or 202-806-7280.