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THURSDAY notebook

WEATHER

THURS, 2/16:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 58, LOW: 43

FRI, 2/17:
AM SHOWERS/
WIND
HIGH: 57, LOW: 31

SAT, 2/18:
MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH: 42, LOW: 29

BREAKING NEWS

JACKSON WINS CUSTODY BATTLE

YESTERDAY, AN APPEALS COURT GRANTED MICHAEL JACKSON SOLE CUSTODY OVER HIS TWO CHILDREN WITH EX-WIFE DEBBIE ROWE WHO WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS MOLESTATION TRIAL.

METRO

DISTRICT DEATH

FIND OUT WHO FAMOUS FROM THE DISTRICT PASSED AWAY
PAGE 4



LIFE & STYLE

GETTING BACK TOGETHER

FIND OUT WHY CELEBRITY COUPLES MAKE UP TO BREAK UP
PAGE 5



SPORTS

BLACKS IN THE SPORTS

TURN TO SPORTS TO EXPLORE THE WORLD OF BLACKS IN UNIQUE SPORTS
PAGE 10



HU CALENDAR

FEB 20
PRESIDENTS DAY - NO CLASS

MAR 8

LAST DAY TO ENTER MID-TERM GRADES

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Sis2Sis Brings Sisterhood To Howard's Campus

BY AKEYLA BROWN
Hilltop Staff Writer

Sis2Sis is attempting to do something about the lack of camaraderie among female students at Howard University, by hosting "Her Story: an Evening Dialogue with Artis Hampshire-Cowan," said the senior vice president of Howard University.

"I am troubled about the state of sisterhood at Howard University," said Hampshire-Cowan.

When she came to Howard University she said she noticed "this wasn't an environment that was affirming for women to have a voice." She added, "We have made a little progress but not a lot."

Getting off to a late start due

to issues in scheduling, the forum, which focused on spirituality and sisterhood, was moved from Carnegie Hall to The Blackburn Restaurant.

Morris Brown graduate, Artis Cowan, spoke to a group of young women about finding themselves, sisterhood, and their ability to take positions as leaders, by referring to her experiences at Morris Brown College as a mother and as an assistant to the district attorney.

"The walk to spirituality is an individual walk," she said. "And the most important thing you can do is to get to know yourself."

Hampshire-Cowan also made suggestions to the women in the room about their individual paths to success.

"Spend time alone reading

biographies, spend time listening to music and take long walks alone," Hampshire-Cowan said. "If you are not clear about who you are and what you want to do you are not going to provide consistent leadership."

Hampshire-Cowan said she is hoping to return sisterhood to the woman at Howard amongst the administration and student body.

"If you want to find sisterhood you must present yourself as a sister," Hampshire-Cowan said.

April Harley, a senior English major, said she was touched by Hampshire-Cowan's words.

"Well first and foremost, I came here [because] I know Artis Hampshire works in a high position at Howard University and I

wanted to know about her experiences as a black woman and as a leader," Harley said. "The second reason I came was to show support to Carla Bradley, Andrea Hill, Alexis Logan and Nicole Goodman."

Harley, vice president of Howard University Student Association, encouraged students to participate more often on campus.

"I definitely think students should come to events like this, because it is always good to hear from a black woman, especially from our elders, so that we can examine what they have done that made them so successful," Harley said.

Shannon Miller, a freshman business marketing major, was also pleased to attend the Sis2Sis

forum as a new member of the organization.

"It was a good event. We just joined Sis2Sis," Miller said. "We heard about the organization at a Call to Chapel. We kept coming though to all of the events, because it is nice to have a place to get away from all the confusion, and hear what some really wonderful people have to say."

She concluded, "These forums are so important because they talk about so much, from relationships to spirituality, and we need that because it can get crazy at Howard as a freshman, I mean walking past the 'booty wall' alone is a lot to deal with."

Elections Re-Closed, HUSA Slate 'ON' Unopposed

BY FARREN HINTON
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Howard University General Assembly closed elections once more, after discussing the recent results of both the emergency GA meeting last week and the policy board meeting earlier this week last night.

Tensions arose as the night dragged on, with many members of General Assembly anxious to discuss the elections. Still the previous meeting's controversies remained tabled until the modifications of the constitution were completed, upon which many members of the assembly left.

Recently an emergency meeting held by the General Assembly to discuss the reopening of elections was ruled unconstitutional by HUSA's Policy Board because they failed to follow the proper procedures when amending the guidelines.

Michael Lawson, the General Elections chair, began the discussion by stating his committee's final decisions regarding elections. He stated that there was a "97 percent increase in the number of applications received" this year, which invalidates accusations that elections were not adequately publicized.

As it stands now, all offices with exception of undergraduate and graduate trustee positions, as well as those offices which were applied for by the initial deadline of January 30, are closed. This includes the offices of HUSA President and Vice President, where juniors Jennifer Owens and Stephen Nichols are running unopposed respectively.

The offices open to graduate students were also re-opened because "no applications were received," according to Lawson.

Another common misconception is that because the applications



The Elections Committee has decided to close all positions that previously had at least one slate, leaving Jennifer Owens and Stephen Nichols running unopposed for HUSA once more.

for HUSA's top seats were not handed into the General Assembly, but to the Elections Committee, they are unconstitutional. But according to Lawson this is not true because the elections committee is handled through GA.

With the reopening of general elections applications to the student body, some positions that were filed for do not fall under the new stipulations decided upon by the general elections committee since the reopening. Therefore, two or three new candidates' applications

have become invalid. Those candidates will be notified personally in the coming days.

Applications are still available for those students interested in the positions that are still open. The open positions will be posted in The Hilltop. According to Lawson, write-in candidates are expected to follow certain rules and procedures, which can be obtained from the general elections committee. All applications are due February 17.

As for the controversy that has become the Howard University Student Elections of 2005, Lawson said he is relieved that things are finally working out.

"I'm just ready to move forward," he said.

One thing that has remained unchanged throughout the entire process is the date of elections, which is still March 2.

The meeting was called to order late due to a time scheduling conflict with a School of Business function that many members were in attendance. Once there was the needed number of attendees required the meeting was called to order.

After roll call and the approval of the previous meeting's minutes, the committee that make up the GA discussed the various initiatives that are in the works. One such topic was the pledge of student support by the University and External Affairs Committee to UGSA's initiative to close 6th St., and its surrounding area to the public in order to promote student safety, as well as other student safety measures.

The meeting continued with an in-depth discussion of a document entitled Proposed Amendments to the HUSA Constitution. The document highlighted the various proposed changes to the HUSA Constitution which were voted on, pass or fail, by GA members upon the conclusion of discussion. The changes were mostly made to fix grammatical and syntax inaccuracies, but some major modifications were also made.

One of the major motions passed at the assembly was the elimination of the UGSA Grievance Committee. Another proposed change to the constitution focused on the office of the reporting secretary.

Vice-President Dick Cheney Breaks His Silence



Vice President Dick Cheney expressed his regret towards the accidental shooting of fellow hunter Harry Whittington who is now in stable condition.

BY SHALEEM THOMPSON
Hilltop Staff Writer

In an emotional interview with Fox News reporter Brit Hume, Vice President Dick Cheney broke his days of silence as he candidly discussed the hunting accident in which he shot and injured his friend, 28-year-old lawyer Harry Whittington.

Recounting the shooting that took place on Saturday afternoon Cheney said during the interview, "the image of him falling is something I'll never be able to get out of my mind. I fired, and there's Harry falling. And it was, I'd have to say, one of the worst days of my life, at that moment."

Statements issued by White House press secretary Scott McClellan, blamed Whittington for the accident saying that, "he had not followed proper hunting protocol" by alerting the other hunters of his presence. Cheney accepted full responsibility for the accident. "I'm

the guy who pulled the trigger and shot my friend," Cheney said. "You can talk about all of the other conditions that exist at the time but that's the bottom line and it was not Harry's fault."

The controversy that surrounded the Vice President however was not the accident itself but the way it became known to the public.

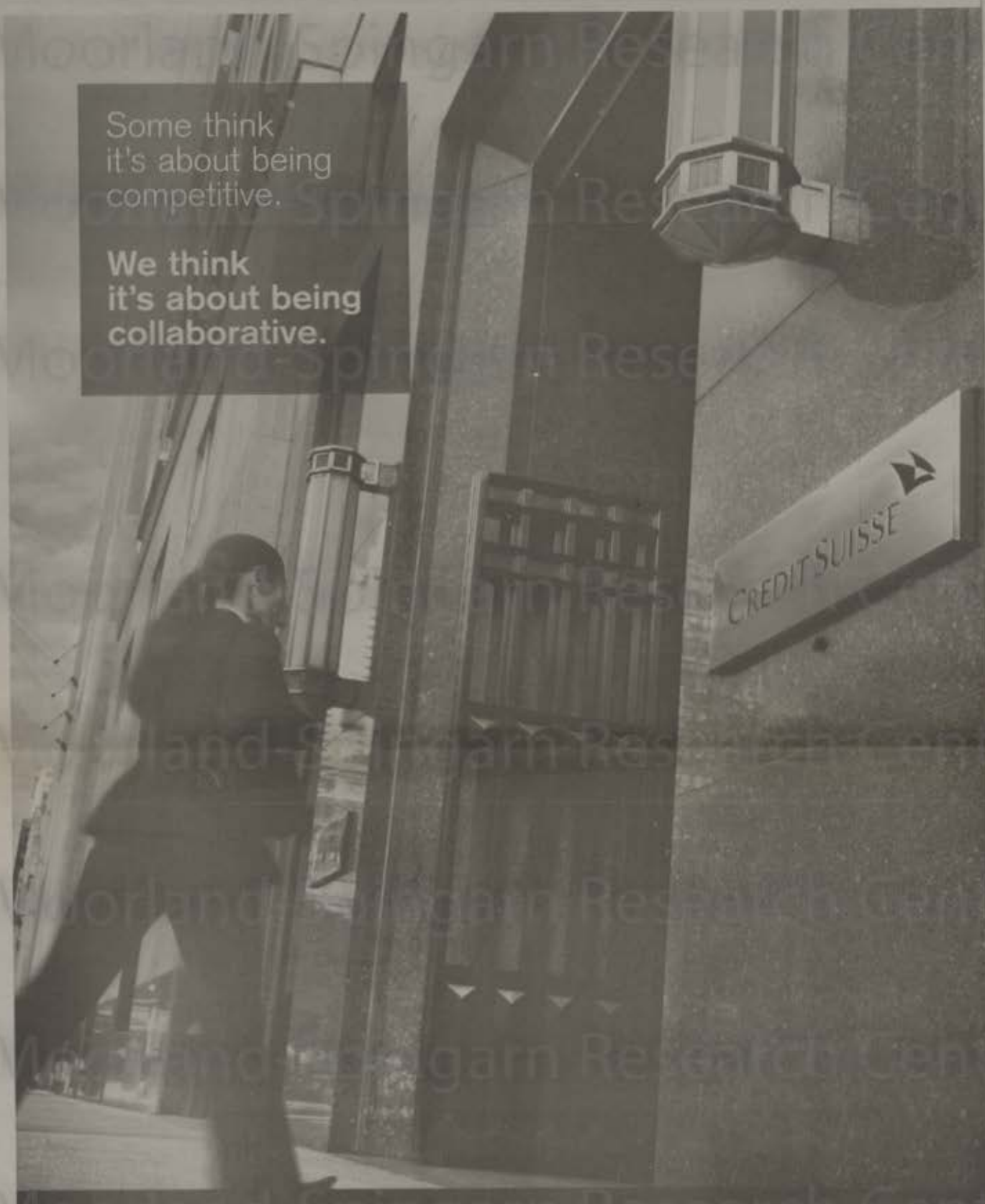
A day after the incident took place, the owner of the ranch Katharine Armstrong reported it to her local newspaper the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. In the interview Cheney defended his actions saying, "accuracy was enormously important. I had no press person with me."

"Katharine suggested, and I agreed, that she would go make the announcement, that is that she'd put the story out," Cheney said. "And I thought that made good sense for several reasons. First of all, she was an eyewitness. She'd seen the whole thing. Secondly, she'd grown up on the ranch, she'd hunted there all of her life. Third, she was

the immediate past head of the Texas Wildlife and Parks Department, the game control commission in the state of Texas, an acknowledged expert in all of this," Cheney said.

Assistant political science professor John Davis thought the situation was not handled well at all. "It was handled poorly and this is the reason that the media and everyone is so furious," Davis said. "I think that the Vice President and the White House should have come out with a statement and should not have left it up to the owner."

Whittington suffered a mild heart attack on Tuesday after one of the pellets from Cheney's shotgun traveled to his heart. *Men.com* reports showed that he is now resting comfortably according to Peter Banko, administrator of Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Memorial. Whittington who is still in intensive care is doing well.



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General Elections Information

Open positions are
available for applicants!
A list of available positions and applications
will be posted in the General Elections
Commission office in Blackburn Center,
Room 116.

EVENTS

Thursday, February
16th:

Candidate Meet & Greet!

Come out to hear from your
candidates in the
Blackburn Game Room
at 7:00pm

Friday, February
17th:

Campaign in Blackburn Day!

Come learn what your candidates
are all about in the lower level of
Blackburn Center from 10 a.m. - 5



Your Vote Will Decide . . . Vote With Pride!!!

If you have any questions email:
huelections@gmail.com

*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., *Ramsey Memorial Chapel* held in *Crompton Auditorium*
(Graduate students please sit near the front of the pews for recognition)

Monday, February 13, 2006

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

LOVE is the one you are with on this day one day before Valentine's Day.

For more information contact Ronald A. Allen @ hugs2002@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.)

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 P. 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 (10pm-11:30pm rooms 146b, 152 Blackburn) and international dress show.)

For more information contact Nicholas Khoups at nkhoulou@hotmail.com or Dr. Nabal at nabal@hawaii.edu 202-806-7987

Friday, February 17, 2006

A Gala Dinner: Saluting Uplift, Progress, and Achievements

Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm, *Location: Gadsden 1-418 U Street*

For more information contact Lakisha Leggett at hugs2002@yahoo.com or leggett2323@yahoo.com

Saturday, February 18, 2006

Community Service: For the Benefit of Katrina Survivors

Blackburn 12:00 - 3:00 contact Gregory Bowman, 240-455-8137

For more information, contact the Graduate Student Council, hugs2002@yahoo.com or 202-806-5540.

Former District Council Member Dies

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE
Hilltop Staff Writer

The D.C. community and African Americans everywhere are mourning the loss of civil rights activist and former District of Columbia Council member, Wilhelmina Rolark. Rolark, 89, and a Howard University alumnus died at Greater Southeast Community Hospital after enduring a long fight with colon cancer.

"I have lost a true friend, a long time friend," Wilhelmina was not only a leader and activist for Ward 8, but for African Americans all over the city," said former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry as told to ABC 7 News.

Rolark was elected to represent the residents of Ward 8 of the Washington, D.C. council in 1978. During her time served, she chaired numerous committees including the committee Public Service, Consumer Affairs, and Judiciary. She was responsible for laws creating the D.C. Energy Office, tripling the penalties for PCP distribution and bringing cable television to the district. Rolark held office for four consecutive terms until 1990 when she lost to Marion Barry during his first political comeback.

"Wilhelmina was a true champion for the district, and her passing is a tremendous loss for our city," said Mayor Anthony A. Williams as told to ABC 7 News.

Among her many accomplishments Rolark also strived



Wilhelmina Rolark, is pictured here at a Pentagon Ceremony several months after September 11. Rolark spoke along with Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz and Anthony J. Principi. Rolark also served as the vice president of the United Way campaign. During the September 11 aftermath, Rolark firmly supported help for the victims and families.

to have two intersecting roads in Southeast D.C. named after Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. She and her husband, the late Dr. Calvin Rolark founded the United Black Fund, a non-profit organization that provides funding to community-based organizations. Together they also assisted in the creation of the annual Martin Luther King Day parade in Ward 8.

Rolark also worked tirelessly with former congressional delegate Walter E. Fauntroy in

a national effort to increase the number of registered African American voters. She was successful in raising the percentage of black voters from three percent to twenty-nine percent in a South Carolina district that refused to allow the issue to come up for vote at all.

"She now joins a pantheon of three other heroines of our epic struggle for justice and human dignity who have left us in the past few months. Her passing deepens my longing for a new

generation of African American women who will catch the torches that in recent months have fallen from the hands of Mrs. Rolark, Dr. C. Delores Tucker, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King," Fauntroy said, as told to the Washington Post.

Outside of the political arena Rolark's legacy will live on through her many efforts and hard work in the African American press, as co-founder of the Washington Informer newspaper.

Metro Briefs

Increase In MetroRail Crime



Metro Transit Police reported an increase in robberies on the main MetroRail system in 2005, but a decrease in other crimes. Officials said that robberies rose 10 percent last year, however, 200 robberies were reported but none were as serious as last year's.

Most robberies were on the main line, which they believe were criminals. Metro officials said there was a 14 percent drop in minor offenses such as eating and drinking.

Mayor Williams Calls for More Affordable Housing



Mayor Anthony Williams is working to ensure that the city's rent-controlled apartments go to those with the greatest need for affordable housing. Mayor Williams is pushing for a new rent control law.

and tells that would get a new rent law passed and would change the way prices are set for rent-controlled apartments. The current regulation in place has been at the hands of the city.

Area Gridlock Growing Worse

Traffic Conditions have deteriorated since 2002

A report released Wednesday found that traffic in the region has worsened since 2002. The report was based on 80,000 aerial photographs taken over four morning and evening rush hours. The study also found that congestion has increased greatly between 4:30 and 5:30 in the evening. Ron Kirby, director of the Transportation Board, told ABC 7 News that the increase was dramatic, and that the traffic changes should be handled with transit and road improvements. Some of the particular areas mentioned in the report include the Anacostia bridge, the Wilson Bridge, and the entrance onto the 14th Street Bridge.



Disease Affecting D.C. Dogs



The Washington Humane Society is telling dog owners to protect their dogs because of an outbreak of parvovirus in the area. Parvovirus is a highly contagious, and often fatal disease that cannot be transmitted

to humans. Pet owners are being warned to make sure their dog's vaccinations are up to date and to keep them away from other dog's droppings.

Mayor Hosts Black History Month Poetry Celebration



Mayor Williams and the First Lady of D.C. gathered Wednesday to celebrate Black History Month this Wednesday by recognizing the influence of the arts in Washington. The event, held in the Mayor's office, featured E. Ethelbert Miller and Grace Cavallari Spoken

word artists performed works of Langston Hughes. The event was free and open to the public. Thus far, while Mayor Williams has been in office he has hosted quarterly poetry readings and music events in various arts in D.C.

The Hilltop

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February 21st

Information Session

February 21st
5:00-6:00pm
Faculty Lounge

On-Campus Interviews

February 21st
8:30am-4:00pm
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EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 88

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

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Spring Break Strategizing

When you're all cooped up in almost a foot of snow and you're trudging down the freezing cold D.C. streets, the mind can begin to wander. It wanders to St. Tropez, St. Bart's, Fiji, Japan, Brazil or anywhere requiring a passport and sunscreen. Then you surf the internet sites like Luxury Link and start to imagine yourself nestled in the sand with your significant other or exploring the city with some of your best friends. Coconuts, palm trees, tropical drinks and bright blue waters encompass your mind as you click on the price. Whoa! You gulp and frown at the massive costs of your dream trip. Suddenly it becomes unrealistic and you get down in the dumps.

Some students are fortunate enough to disregard budgeting for spring break, but even if you have the money, it is very crucial that you do your homework and find something suitable. Many travel agencies, like STA, will

Our View:
Rather than attempting to emulate VH's "Fabulous Life," shop smart for your exotic getaways.

on their assistance. One little tip students should look into is finding their ideal location and talking to someone at either an agency or MTV and other student websites to find the hot-spots. Then you can go through Orbitz or somewhere to book it yourself rather than going with an agency.

The Internet can also get

tricky because some of the deals turn out to be disastrous if you do not do enough research. Pictures can be extremely misleading and you don't wait to wait until you are down there to discover the service was bad or the hotel is roach-infested. If something is advertised for a week in South Africa, all inclusive, hotel and flight for \$500, then you need to run screaming in the other direction. Talk to people you know and hear their experiences if they've visited. Lastly, read sites that specialize in reviews like Trip

Advisor for some insight. Make sure you really maximize and plan your getaway so you're not ready to literally get away once you arrive.

A situation comes up with us. We sometimes don't stop to acknowledge the challenges of the ones we run to. Is time the matter that keeps us from giving more of us to them and less of us to us? Whenever an unforgettable weekend permits, or even a day of the week, try to make it your goal to see about someone else when they're confronted with a challenge.

3/15/06 GO THE DISTANCE by Fred Phelan, edited by Charles Reseman

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THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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An Unforgettable Weekend

Kiern Jones

Many times we as individuals from all walks of life find ourselves confronted with our greatest challenges. Very often we tend to seek guidance from those we love and trust the most. Whether or not they give us that sense of peace or comfort, it always seems temporary. Sometimes, the phone never gets picked up or the door never gets answered when we need it to the most. Then, that's when reality hits and time begins to pass as quickly as a weekend. I am referring to a weekend retreat with a newly rising ministry on campus known as "Doughnuts and Devotions." This past weekend could have

gone on forever because time wasn't an issue. The issues that were personal weren't issues either. What mattered was the love, faith, compassion and joy that was spent in worship, praise and prayer with Christ Jesus. Many individuals from all walks of life came together as a mighty storm cloud. In union we glorified the "One" that instilled grace and mercy in us all. On one accord, our lives were being changed before our very eyes. It was awesome. Nothing with school interrupted the flow of the Lord's anointing over His vessels. Peace, contentment, assurance, deliverance, integrity, humility, obedience, patience, image, likeness and understanding are all words

that were experienced and consumed this weekend. A life-long lesson was received after all that went on this weekend. Thought processes were restructured and unnecessary things did not matter anymore. Enough about me and more about you. Those we run to for guidance and help mean so much to us only when a situation comes up with us. We sometimes don't stop to acknowledge the challenges of the ones we run to. Is time the matter that keeps us from giving more of us to them and less of us to us? Whenever an unforgettable weekend permits, or even a day of the week, try to make it your goal to see about someone else when they're confronted with a challenge.

Now in its final 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 in 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 2225 Sherman Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009 and can also be reached via email at thehilltoponline@comcast.net and by phone at (202) 906-4744. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at thehilltopbusiness@comcast.net and by phone at (202) 906-4744.

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Break-up to Make-up: The Fascination with Celebrities' On-and-Off-Again Relationships

BY YASMINE PARRISH

Hilltop Staff Writer

Everyone has witnessed it, if not participated in it, at sometime in their life. Celebrities are no different. The "on and off" nature of celebrity couples is often times as amusing as the works they produce. Celebrity "break-up to make-up relationships" are as old as time and have amused, and perhaps annoyed, the masses for ages.

Eninem and the mother of his child, Kim Mathers, have recently tied the knot for the second time around. While Slim Shady and Kim rekindle their fire, there are other couples in the spotlight that have faded out of the category of "Hollywood's Perfect Couple." When Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston hit splitsville, fans were devastated. However, this devastation turned to shock when romantic reports of Brad Pitt and actress Angelina Jolie surfaced in every celebrity gossip magazine.

Even more recent, the most disturbingly loving couple featured on the Bravo hit show, *Being Bobby Brown*, Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown, are discussing divorce.

While relationships can often become complicated, what drives people to leave it, come back to it, only to leave again feeling even more confused than before?

"I have been in an on and off again relationship" said sophomore biology, Tevin Gordon. "It was because of stupid things like arguments and cheating. You keep thinking things will be different the next go round."

Junior fashion merchandising major, Akeisha Jones thought a bit differently. "People stay together or get back together because of convenience and comfort. When you've been with someone for so long, you'd rather be with them even if



Hollywood couples are notoriously known for short-lived, drama-filled relationships. Celebrities like Bobby and Whitney, Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt, and Marshall and Kim Mathers are among a very large majority of those involved in popular celebrity break-ups.

you aren't happy just to avoid the awkwardness of being with someone else."

Sophomore finance major, Paris Fontanelle believed she knew the reason for so many on and off again relationships. "People in general have a fear of commitment or loss of freedom and then realize that they miss what they had later," she said.

While Gordon believes that on and off again relationships can happen to anyone, he says celebrity relationships are different.

"With stars it's different; sometimes it's just for publicity" said Gordon, who admits that he is

immensely annoyed with the new star phenomenon, "Brahelina," Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

Although annoyed, the masses still can't get enough of celebrity relationship drama. Maybe it's because some feel they can relate while others simply find it entertaining. Whatever the case, many students have hand-picked their favorite celebrity couples.

"Whitney and Bobby should stay together," said sophomore radio television film major, Aaron Parker. "They seem to always provide comedy to this world!"

There are some who would beg to differ.

"Bobby and Whitney need to stay far away from each other," said Jones, "that's a prime example of how love can cloud your judgment. Before Whitney was with Bobby she was a lot better off."

The topic of celebrity relationships is so popular that TV stations like VH1 have complete time slots dedicated to document each major celebrity hook-up and dismantle. While everyone may not agree on their favorite or worst celebrity couple, many wouldn't argue that it sure is entertaining.

Fashion Idol of the Week

Kimyana "Born to be a Stylist" Fields

"When it comes to dressing, I do whatever. Whatever I like, I get it and put it together."

Classification: Senior
Hometown: Yonkers, NY
Major: Fashion Merchandising



Favorite Places to Shop:
Boutiques, Vintage Stores, H&M, Nordstroms, Soho Lab, just to name a few!

Favorite Brands/Designers:
"I don't really have one in particular. If I like it, I buy it"

Fashion Must-Haves:
The Right Shoes: "You've got to have a bad shoe! Whether it's a pump or a boot. If you don't have a fly shoe, you have nothing."
Ties: "I like to tie them around my neck or around my waist"
Other Accessories: "Handbags and earrings are very important to what you're wearing"

Aspirations in Fashion:
"I want to be a stylist and because of this I sell myself with my style and the way I dress. I would also love to do fashion show productions because I am really creative and love to express myself in this way. Eventually I want to be a designer so I am in the process of learning how to sew."

Black History in Arts and Entertainment

Marian Anderson



Born in Philadelphia in 1897, Marian Anderson was a well-known African American opera singer who performed opera and spirituals.

She began her concert career in Europe in 1924. Though she was considered one of the greatest opera singers of her time, Anderson was denied a wider audience due to racism and segregation in her era.

Anderson had many memorable performances, but she is remembered most for her performance on Easter Sunday 1939, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On January 7, 1955, Anderson became the first African American to perform in the New York Metropolitan Opera; she was 58 at the time.

Anderson died in 1993 at the age of 96 of natural causes. In 2005, a commemorative U.S. postage stamp was created in her honor.

-Erica Williams, Life and Style Editor

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Talk is Costley



Frozen Out

BY DREW COSTLEY
Sports Editor

Every four years, many athletes become celebrities and many celebrities are seen watching athletes at the Summer Olympics. Black history has been made during these events as Jesse Owens, Wilma Rudolph, and more currently Michael Johnson and Marion Jones, have claimed glory during these two weeks in August.

But in between these great congregations of the world's best athletes, the Winter Olympics comes into our television sets, and matter much less to people. Despite the fact that Olympic figure skating is one of the most watched sporting events when it comes around, it is the only event that the Winter Olympics has to offer an American audience that craves hard-hitting to graceful vivacity.

You know it is bad when it is called a bad news week when the Olympics saw Michelle Kwan, a figure skating great, effectively end her career—again right before the "big game." And how could this week be slow when skater Ilse Miller actually did make world history—she eclipsed T.O. to for the fastest career self destruction in all of sports. I mean he hyped himself all that he did and ran out of gas in his first two days of competition; at least it took T.O. months to end his career. Maybe Mr. Owens can teach Miller how to say "no comment" and Owens agent, Drew Rosenhaus, can teach him to say "next question."

And I wonder what foreign television broadcasters of this event said when Miller failed to show signs of existence in his first two days of competition. Whereas continents like Europe have an actual appreciation for sports in which their athletes can thrive in a natural environment, they might have some real comments for Miller. While we as Americans sit back and watch to see if he becomes our Olympic superstar, they are probably happy that such a potentially great athlete has become such a dud.

The worst part about it is that not only does America not care about the Winter Olympics, black America really doesn't care about the sporting event— which under represents all nations with heat and, coincidentally, color.

Not that it is the IOC's fault for the absence of pigment in Torino. Even affluent blacks in America do not take part in sports such as skiing, ice skating and snowboarding. And even fewer blacks participate in sports such as hockey and speed skating. It seems as if the cost of these sports combined with the social stigma that comes along with participating in them is what deters us.

Grailed, Cool Runnings is based on a true story about a Jamaican bobsled team. But that is one situation out of many. And after watching that movie again, I have realized how much I should have just left it in the past.

Either way, the Winter Olympics only matter to a select few Americans and even less African-Americans. Even I, a professed lover of all sports, can't "Feel the Rhythm" or the "Rhythm."

Blacks Drown More than Whites, According to NCIPC

BY MATTHEW COOPER
Contributing Writer

Cheree Michelle Sims, a sophomore psychology major, had a major fear of water. So her beginning swimming class, taught by swimming Head Coach Robert Patterson, would be a challenge.

"I thought I might fail swimming, but I didn't want to fail a 1-credit course," Sims said. "Mr. Patterson helped me to go at my own pace, and told me not to rush it."

Despite her initial fears, she passed the course, and can swim on her own just fine now.

"I'm still not a fan of the deep end," Patterson said. "But I know what to do."

According to a report released by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, many African Americans don't know how to swim.

According to the report released in January, African Americans are drowning at a rate 1.4 times higher than white Americans, and African American children are drowning at a rate 2.7 times higher than whites in that age group. These death rate statistics have been the cause of concern for many.

"They are drowning in situations where swimming is necessary," said Dagny Putman, a health communication specialist at the NCIPC. She also cited access to swimming pools and swimming programs as reasons why African-Americans drown at a higher rate.

The department of Health, Human Performance and Leisure Studies at Howard



Howard students practice different swimming techniques above. Despite a report from the NCIPC that blacks drown 1.4 times more than whites, many efforts are being made by USA Swimming to close the gap by diversifying locations of community pools along with other things.

offers a beginning swimming course.

Instructor Professor Lance Maxey used a variety of different techniques to encourage the students, such as videos, using a pole to acclimate the non-swimmers to the deep end and jumping in the water and helping the students swim.

And the age old stigma that black people and water don't mix does not matter when it comes to teaching swimming at Howard.

"Howard students will graduate and be very successful, and successful people are always around water," said

Robert Patterson, the swimming pool operator and manager of the aquatics program at Howard. "You will be on a boat, on an island, and will need to know how to swim. Swimming opens up recreational, commercial and academic avenues."

Patterson pointed to past discrimination and segregation of swimming facilities as the reason why many black people will not go near a pool today.

"There was a lack of exposure in the past, and not enough places for black people to swim," Patterson said. "Now we use the excuse of not getting our hair wet as to why we don't

swim, and we see our fine sisters turn to fat and flub because they don't [want to] get their hair wet."

The beginning swimming class is designed to teach the basic swimming skills to the non-swimmer, including the front crawl, elementary backstroke, and treading water.

Maxey believes the statistics concerning drowning deaths among African Americans as opposed to whites doesn't mean much. "It is not necessarily a race thing; external factors such as drugs, alcohol, and negligence are often the reasons for drowning, especially in pub-

lic pools with no lifeguard on duty."

USA Swimming, the national governing body of swimming, has recognized that more must be done to get African Americans and minorities to swim.

"Most of our swim club partnerships are in suburban, Caucasian areas," said Tom Avichous, the Program and Service Director for USA Swimming. "We need to partner with boys and girls clubs and parks and recreation departments in urban areas."

USA Swimming has created programs to help minorities get more involved in water activities.

"We offer reduced membership fees for kids and families with financial hardships, and we offer a camp for underrepresented youth at our home in Colorado Springs," Avichous said.

USA Swimming is now in the process of hiring a director of diversity, who will oversee all diversity programs.

Maxey said that African Americans would succeed in swimming as long as they received proper instruction.

"Give us a chance to learn the skills and we succeed in everything, just like Tiger Woods in golf," Maxey said.

Patterson believes blacks should remember the sacrifices of elders in terms of swimming. "We must keep a balance between the future, the past and present," Patterson said. "If we don't find ourselves learning to swim, we will miss the boat and pass it on to our children."

Howard Skateboarders Encounter Interested Students, Little Trouble from Campus Police

BY ANDREW MOTEN
Contributing Writer

Ian Newborn's skateboard has been part of his daily life since he started skating two years ago. But, when he transferred to Howard in the fall of 2005, he had an initial fear of bringing his old hobby to a new place.

"I was kind of skeptical at first," said Newborn, a sophomore architecture major. "Because in my past experience the first thing that most people thought when they saw a skateboard is 'crazy white boy.'"

But Newborn's skepticism did not hold him back from skating down Georgia Avenue or Sixth Street to get to the architecture building. In fact, he couldn't wait to get onto this board after getting a new deck for Christmas of 2005.

"I had already been skateboarding for two years before I got here," Newborn said. "So I had gone through the stereotypes and all of that stuff."

And when Newborn, who primarily uses his skateboard to commute from Meridian Hill Hall to campus, began to use his skateboard around Howard's campus, his unique hobby sparked the interest of many and even garnered support from fellow Howard skateboarders.

"People looked at me funny and things like that but it wasn't because of what I thought," Newborn said. "I was sort of

surprised at first actually. People would ask me about my deck and whether or not I could do any tricks."

To say that most students do not associate Howard University with skateboarders would be more than fair. In fact it is widely known that black colleges and universities in general are not exactly synonymous with the sport.

However, recently there seems to be an increase of Howard University students seen skating on campus. Though the number of boarders is far from vast in amount, it is becoming more of a common occurrence for one to see a peer skate past them on the way to class.

This leads to the question of the cause of this trend. Is it just a passing fad? Or are they a few diehards trying something new until they tire of it?

One thing that goes without saying is that seeing skateboarding on campus attracts attention from Howard students.

"I get a lot of looks. Not necessarily negative or positive [looks]. Looks that more or less reflect an attitude of indifference," said Ian Newborn, a sophomore architecture major. "But skateboarding is just something that I always felt was fun. Just being able to control a board like that; it's just fun."

Other black skaters share Ian's sentiment and have encountered an amalgamation of people through the pursuit of their interest.

"I've met a lot of other peo-

ple here through skateboarding," said sophomore history major, Justin Dunnivant. "And there is nothing like landing a trick that you've been working on for a long time" he continues.

One of the things that deters many previous skaters from continuing their hobby at Howard is the risk level involved in the sport.

"You have to be really talented to do that," said Rodney Curt, a freshman political science major. "A lot of people think about the chance of being seriously hurt when they think about skateboarding."

But despite the potential risks involved in kick flipping and rolling around campus, Howard skaters don't shy away from the activity.

"There is definitely a really big risk involved not only skating on campus, but skating in general," Newborn said. "You have no idea what can happen. That's why it's best to always be careful when you're skating. You also have to know your physical and mental limitations."

Another hazard that is of little consequence for Howard's skaters are getting chased away by campus security or police.

"At Howard, no police have ever stopped me or anything. It may be that there too surprised or maybe they don't care that much," Dunnivant said.



Dunnivant, who has skated for more than ten years, rolls up in preparation to practice a flip trick. A growing number of Howard students are getting around campus on skateboards.

Campus police are not instructed to prevent skateboarders from skating around campus.

"Aside from telling kids not to skate in the street, I haven't been instructed one way or

another regarding them [skateboarders]," said Officer David Williams, a member of Howard's campus police force.