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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 75

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

TUESDAY
notebook

BREAKING NEWS

NEW MISS AMERICA CROWNED

LAUREN NELSON, MISS OKLAHOMA, WAS CROWNED THE NEW MISS AMERICA AT LAST NIGHT'S PAGEANT. NELSON WAS CROWNED BY MISS AMERICA 2006 JENNIFER BERRY, ALSO OF

METRO

TRENDY HOTELS TAKE OVER THE AREA

KIMPTON HOTELS ARE TAKING OVER THE METRO AREA WITH THEIR LINE OF TRENDY, HOTELS. FIND OUT MORE IN METRO. **PAGE 10**

TUES, 1/30:
SCATTERED
FLURRIES
HIGH: 41, LOW: 25

WED, 1/31:
SUNNY
HIGH: 36, LOW: 28

UGSA Chairwoman Involved in Ballot Controversy

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Potential candidates for elected offices spent Sunday night camped out in front of Blackburn overnight in below freezing weather to ensure primary slots on their ballots.

Some think that voters are more inclined to vote for candidates whose names appear at the top of the ballot.

"This is more of a tradition than an advantage," Abimbola George, a junior political science and sociology major said. For years, students have gathered early to turn in their applications at 10 a.m.

A roadblock was placed in the students' path when an "Emergency Legislative Action" notice was posted by Tamia McClain, Undergraduate Student Association chairwoman and sophomore international business major, telling students to return home due to "inclement weather and the unpredictable environment" concerning students' health and safety. The notice also stated that candidate names would be listed in alphabetical order instead of first come first serve basis.

"I did what I felt I needed to do in

the best interest of the students and their safety," McClain said.

Students, however, feel that the potential candidate for School of Business executive president, was acting in her own interests.

While McClain assures that this is not the case, Chad William-Bey, senior political science and economics major, felt that McClain was upset that she was not first in line and retaliated with the notice.

McClain's notice however, is invalid and according to General Elections commissioner, Allen Haynes, a senior political science major, it was a direct contradiction to the election guidelines. The election will continue to follow the guidelines, which states that the names will be placed on the ballot in the order in which the applications were received.

"That was not exactly within her power to do with her position. As far as executive orders, that's more the domain of HUSA," Haynes said.

According to Jennifer Owens, HUSA president and senior legal communications major, executive decisions are to be made by the executive branch, which is comprised



Dereck Smith - Senior Photo Editor

A group of students waited outside in below freezing weather Sunday night to ensure a top listing for the upcoming student election ballots.

of herself and HUSA vice president Stephen Nichols.

"The bottom line is that in the morning, all I got was a missed call and an e-mail which stated that she [McClain] made an executive decision for everyone to go home," Owens said, "But she was not authorized to do so," she added.

"I know her to be a well intentioned person. She made an error of judgment," Haynes said.

Regardless of McClain's intentions, the notice caused undue confusion among students and according to Owens, HUSA will be accepting grievances regarding the situation if necessary.

Despite the notice, the prospective candidates remained waiting outside risking their health and safety.

Joy Lindsay, a sophomore finance major, said she and others came out early not to use their spots on the ballot as a crutch for indecisive students to default on, but to show the general body they are willing to come out to everything early and give their prospective positions their all.

Stephan Franklin, a freshman mechanical engineering major, was the first person at the doors at 12:20 a.m. with freshman pre-pharmacy major Jarvis Seegars.

Others followed later and by 4 a.m. more 10 applicants had congregated in the cold.

"I feel that this is a premonition of things to come," said Shayla Johnson, a sophomore international business major.

"It's going to be very competitive, but exciting nonetheless," she said.

Nadia Pinto, a junior finance major, trusts that Howard students will still gather information on their candidates to make informed decisions, but views battling hypothermia as a way to put herself in the forefront of the election game.

Student Newspaper Halted

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

On Jan. 15, Darryl Smith, editor-in-chief of the Gramblinite, Grambling State University's (GSU) student newspaper, entered the office and was greeted by a voice mail ordering the suspension of the publication for the remainder of the month from the office of the provost.

The university claims that the Gramblinite is repeatedly responsible for an excessive amount of mechanical errors and needed a period of reprieve.

"I think that ultimately the university wants to control the message the students are distributing in the school newspaper," said Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC).

Smith contacted SPLC immediately after receiving the mandate to not publish. Legal adviser, Adam Goldstein, informed him that the university's actions violated first amendment rights.

Sentiments were that the suspension was not only due to mechanical errors, but more serious issues concerning content.

"We write a lot of editorials about the administration and they're not happy with some of the things that we say in the editorials," Smith said.

Smith said that many of the pieces the paper publishes are single sided editorials, but only because administration refuses to dialogue with the Gramblinite, leaving them with no choice but to run one side of the stories.

Despite the order, students published the Gramblinite that Thursday, sticking to their weekly schedule. Met with resentment from the administration, Provost Robert Dixon and Anita Flemming-Rife, the Mass Communications department chair, students opted not to publish another



Photo courtesy of www.geocities.com

issue.

"We came under the impression that if we came out with another paper our advisors would lose their jobs," Smith said.

By this time, the news had leaked to the mainstream.

"After the press got wind of our suspension and how illegal it was, the administration pretty much cracked under pressure," Smith said.

The suspension was lifted after administration compiled a new set of guidelines for the Gramblinite to abide by.

"Such a mandate alters the mission of student media, which is to allow the students the opportunity to make editorial decisions," said Valerie D. White, Black College Communication Associate (BCCA) chair, in a letter to the GSU president addressing concerns with violated rights and ill-action.

The guidelines, compiled without Gramblinite input, state that the entire paper is to be reviewed by the faculty adviser before it is allowed to print. They also claim the Gramblinite as an entity of the Mass Communication department.

"Ultimately, I think it bodes to censorship because if they were to get an adviser for the administration, stories against the administration would not run," Smith said.

Smith agrees that the Gramblinite contains errors that the entire staff needs to

address, but also feels that with limited resources, such as the lack of a copy editing class, the staff may not be well enough prepared to handle them.

Goodman suggests that in order to avoid a lawsuit, the university could offer more courses to train students to put out a higher quality publication instead of illegally shutting it down.

"They could certainly create more mechanisms for training for student editors. They could put students in a position where there are more learning opportunities, more criteria relating to their skills before they're selected to be staff members of the publication," Goodman said.

GSU plans to have more classes available for the fall semester of 2007.

The National Association of Black Journalists, the Society of Professional Journalists, BCCA and the SPLC have all shown support for the students' cause and are willing to help if a law suit ensues.

"If student editors of the Gramblinite chose to legally confront this, they would have a very strong court case against the university," Goodman said.

Smith is unsure if the Gramblinite will run on the scheduled publication date due to the restraints of the new guidelines. Smith continues to work with the organizations and the GSU administration on the subject.

Jeff Johnson Gives Statement for Postponing Promotional Tour

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG
Hilltop Staff Writer

Concerned with the disappointed students at Howard University, Jeff Johnson wanted to make the reasons for the tour postponement clear.

"For me, it's important to let the Howard students know we have a level of commitment to the university. The problem was there were just some things we didn't work out with the university," he said.

University officials familiar with Johnson's request could not be reached for comment at press time.

Johnson maintains that the reason he was not able to end his college launch at Howard was because of administrative issues and concerns that were not in order.

"I don't want the students to think that something that was an administration issue to equate to the blatant disregard for the students or our desire to have the event at Howard. Howard

has always been an institution that meant a great deal to me that's why we selected Howard as one of places to do it."

Before Johnson's scheduled appearance at Howard, he traveled to Ohio State University and Georgia State for the launch.

Both schools had a large response from students with standing room only.

"Having the problem that we did at Howard in many ways put a damper on the launch for me, despite the success that we had," Johnson said. "The student participation and feedback that we'd gotten [at other schools] is still somewhat marred by what we're dealing with [at Howard]."

The original intent of the launch was to have the students from the three selected schools as the beta test for the Web site before its official launch in October.

Johnson's staff is in conversation with the University to secure an ideal time to reschedule the event. He is also looking into "piggy backing" with other students

at Howard responsible for other events that will take place within the next month.

"[We're] not going to do another site until we have this event we attempted to do at Howard. That's the priority of us," Johnson said.

"I want to personally apologize to students of the university who were disappointed. I want it to be totally clear that I care about what the students at Howard think."

To show his dedication to the students, Johnson has also set up an email specifically created for Howard students to be able to email him their concerns, issues and comments.

"I want to make myself available to contact me directly. [I'm] open to hearing anything students are saying," Johnson said.

"My personal commitment remains. Hopefully we will be [able] to solidify a firm date within the next two weeks for the rescheduling."

To reach Johnson at his e-mail exclusively for Howard students, contact him at howard@truthispower.net.

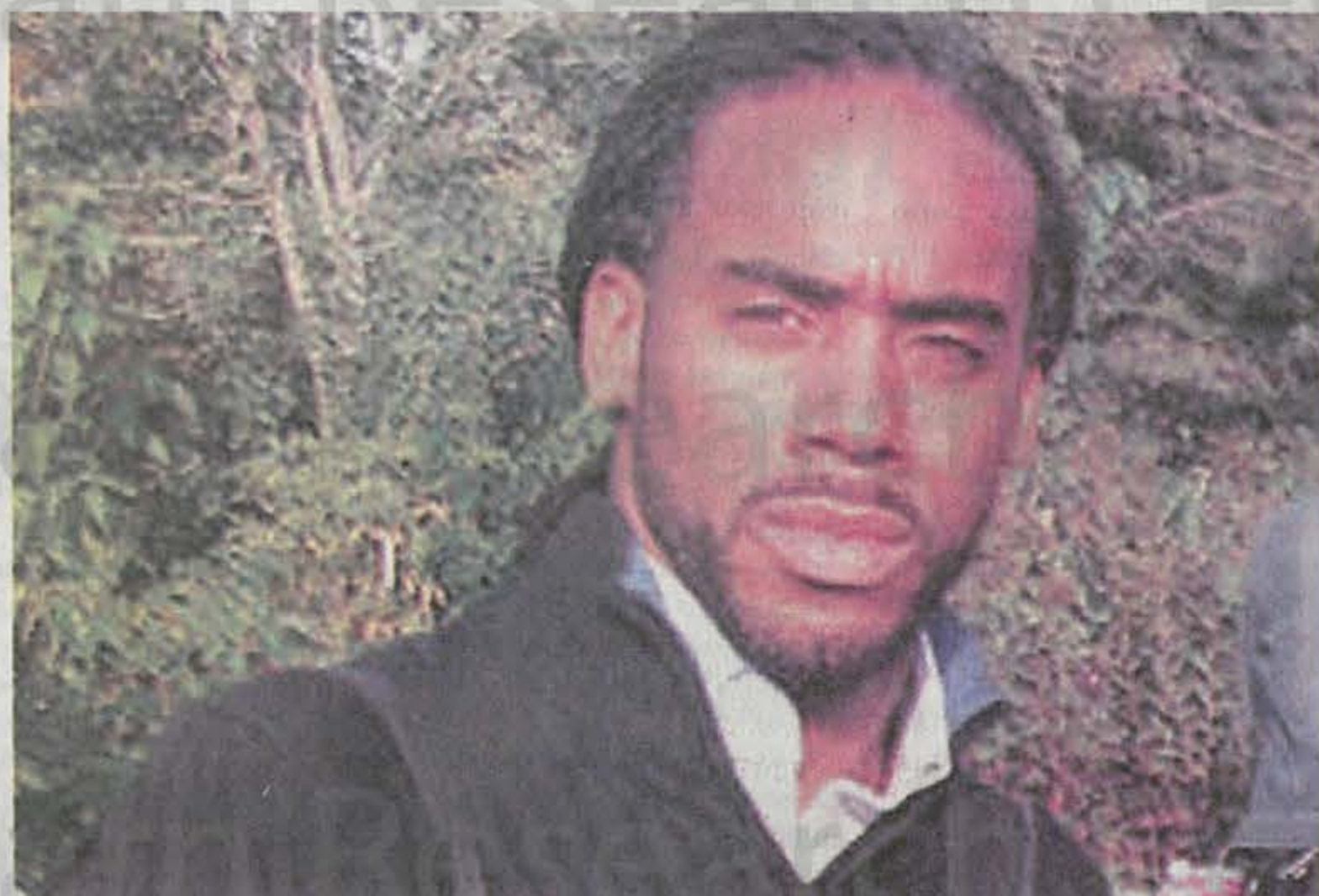


Photo courtesy of www.dashawntaylor.com

Jeff Johnson has made a public apology for postponing his visit to Howard's campus. He has set up a special e-mail for students to send their comments and concerns.

Q&A With Brenda Thomas

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG
Hilltop Staff Writer

To promote her new book, "Every Woman's Got A Secret," which was released on Jan. 9, author Brenda L. Thomas is going on tour. Thomas held a book signing at the Howard University Bookstore last Friday to start off her promotional tour.

Thomas, author of three other novels on the Essence Bestselling list, is a native of Philadelphia. After enduring an abusive relationship for 15 years with her now ex-husband, Thomas moved to Wheaton, Md. where she began her writing career. *The Hilltop* has an inclusive interview with the author.

The Hilltop: Why did you come out to Howard University's Bookstore for your tour?

Brenda Thomas: To promote my new book, "Every Woman's Got A Secret."

TH: Why did you choose Howard to promote your book?

BT: I guess I still have affection for this area [since I lived in Maryland].

TH: Where else are you traveling to for your tour?

BT: I'm going to bookstores in Newark, [N.J.] and

Atlanta. I'm supposed to go to Clark Atlanta [University] and Houston.

TH: What is your book about?

BT: It's loosely based on the movie "Single White Female." It's about a television VJ named Caroline Y. Isaacs, who hires an intern [Mari] who turns out to be more competitive than helpful.

When Caroline takes her show called "The Top of the Charts" on a summer road trip, Mari begins to pick away at Caroline's life. She steals her entire identity, taking over her friends, family, her show and her man, but there is a reason behind Mari's plan to take over Caroline's life. This is the ultimate story of competition between women.

TH: What are your expectations for the book?

BT: This is going to be on the N.Y. Times Bestseller List. My other books were on the Essence Best Seller list top five.

TH: What other books have you written?

BT: My first book is "Threesome: Where Seduction, Power and Basketball Collide," which I self-published. It came out November 2001. Then I wrote "Fourplay: The Dance of Sensuality" and "The Velvet Rope."

TH: Of all your books, which one is your favorite?

BT: I always believe my latest novel is my best written book because you keep improving your writing skills. But my baby [my first novel] is still my favorite.

TH: What are your expectations for sales today?

BT: I may not be getting many sales because these are college students who have no money, but I get to interact with the students. It's not always about the sales at the moment, but the residual sales and the flow of information.

TH: What are your future plans?

BT: I'm working on a sequel to my novel "The Velvet Rope," and I also plan to write my memoirs to be titled "Toxic."

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Yes, I would like to give my Web site address, which is <http://www.phillywriter.com> so people can read more about me and my books.

TH: Why do you like to write?

BT: [I like] knowing that you created a story, a thought from nothing. It still amazes me that I can be so creative, and other people enjoy it.

TH: When did you first decide to start writing?

BT: I always wanted to write, even as a little girl...For 10 years I couldn't write because I had an abusive husband. He



Brenda Thomas visited Howard's Bookstore to promote the release of "Every Woman's Got A Secret."

wouldn't let me. He said he would kill me [if I wrote].

TH: What are your future plans?

BT: I'm working on a sequel to my novel "The Velvet Rope," and I also plan to write my memoirs to be titled "Toxic."

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The D.C. Rape Crisis Center Gives Tips On Staying Safe

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

The D.C. Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC) is holding an informational meeting for their Young Adult Working Group Project Wednesday, Jan. 31 at the DCRCC at 7 p.m.

"The purpose of the working group is to mobilize college and university students and other young adults ages 18-25 to seek ways to end sexual violence by organizing and working together," said Joseph Vess, community organizing assistant.

The group is a part of the center's larger community organizing project which aims to accomplish the same goals as the working group throughout the D.C. community.

Students from all corners of the community are participating in the project.

Prianca Mehta, a senior criminal justice major at George Washington University, is an intern at the center. She encourages everyone to participate in the important project which demands particular attention from the university community.

With a recent history of sexual assault and sexual predators on campus, students are pushing each other to get involved in the project.

Michael Leak, a freshman psychology major, thinks that one does not need to be a victim of sexual assault in order to be an advocate for the cause.

"People don't be doing nothing. They just stay in their rooms and don't want

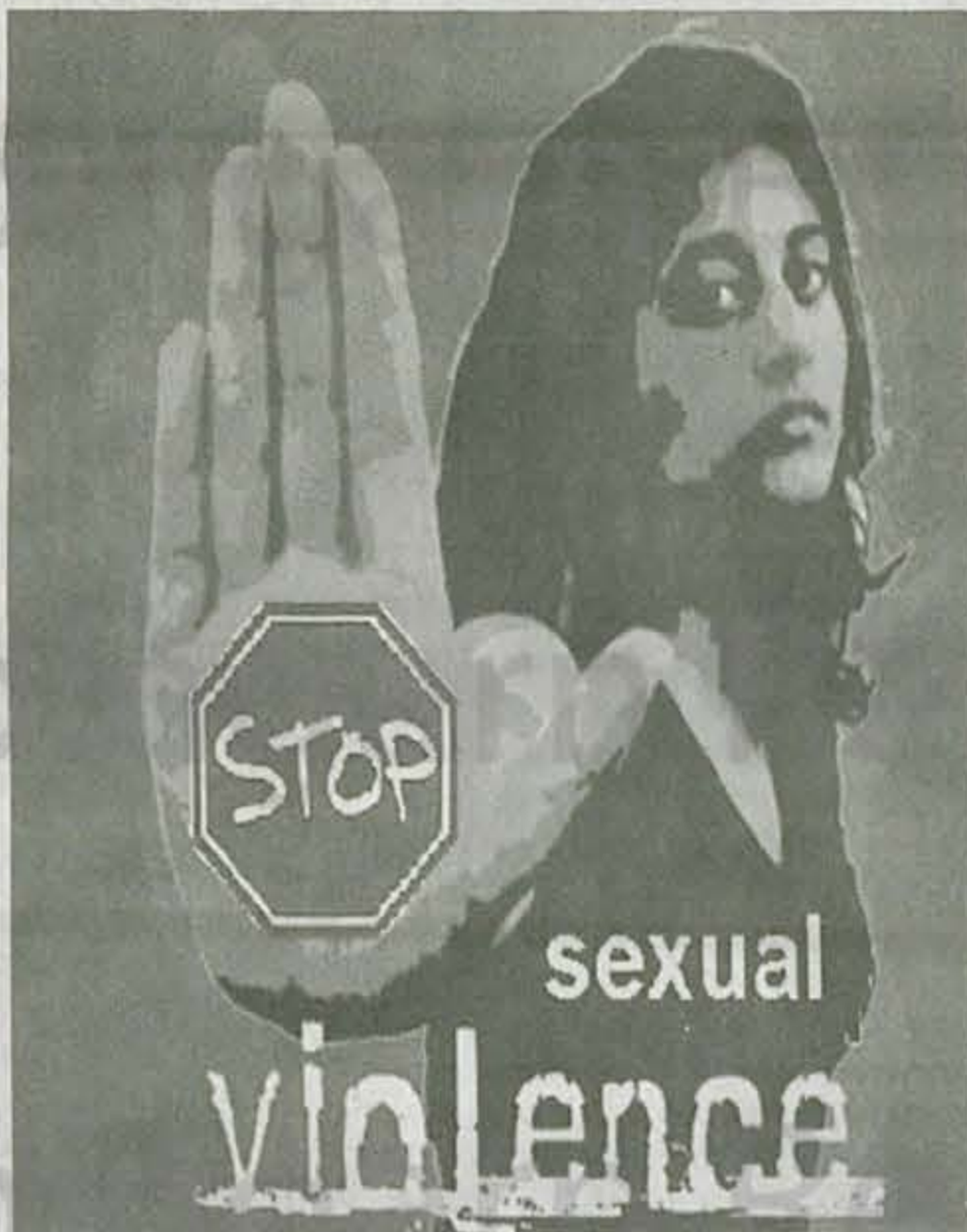
to get out. Probably watching CSI or something," Leak said. He said the meeting is a good way to diversify a Wednesday night for a good cause.

The project will provide leadership training and provide resources for students to network with other colleges and universities to organize their own solutions to sexual assault and violence.

DCRCC is also planning events for national Sexual Assault Awareness month in April. Plans for a community action fair and concert, self-defense courses, a poetry slam, a film series and a symposium are all in the works.

Howard students will be treated to a special appearance by author Lori Robinson. Robinson will discuss her book, "I Will Survive: The African-American Guide to Healing from Sexual Assault and Abuse," with students during a book signing forum.

Vess encourages all interested students



The D.C. Rape Crisis Center attempts to help college students address the sensitive issue of sexual assault.

to attend the meeting tomorrow. Students may contact him at 202-232-0789 ext. 6025 or e-mail jvess@dcrc.org for more information or to RSVP for the meeting.

Weems Teaches Faith for Workplace

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

After being the speaker at chapel on Sunday, the Rev. Renita J. Weems, Ph.D., followed up with a lesson about going where God would have wanted one to go in.

Weems spoke from Jeremiah 29:11.

"For I know the plans that I have for you," the scripture reads.

She quoted Pulitzer-Prize winning writer Frederick Buechner saying, "Vocation is where the world's greatest need and a person's greatest joy meets."

Eagerly awaiting the wis-

dom that would emerge from these sayings was a room full of women of all ages dressed in business casual attire in the Blackburn Reading Lounge. Sprinkled in the crowd were a few men and some Howard students.

Weems says that all people are called to do something and discovering what that something is becomes the major task of life.

Even while delivering her message, Weems leaves her audience in stitches, regaling them with stories about family, colleagues and total strangers.

Weems says, "Life is not linear. It is jagged. It's falling and getting back up again. Most of us bumble and stum-

ble into our calling."

As an example, Weems presents the scenario of the Hebrews escape from Egypt. She says that there was a shorter way to the Promised Land, but God took them the long way around because if God leads you the easy way, you won't appreciate it when you get there.

Vocation takes place when four questions—"What am I good at, what do I love doing, what is God saying to me and what does the world need?"—come together.

Weems says that God speaks to people, but sometimes it is through their own voices. She adds that once God shows a person where he

wants him or her to be, He moves onto the next person.

Being discouraged because things are not as "romantic" as one thought, is not necessarily a sign to give up or go off the current path.

Weems warns the audience not to confuse their jobs with their vocation.

She says, "Sometimes you gotta keep your job in order to do your work."

Everyone cannot combine their career with their vocation. Living in a capitalistic society, people have to make money, even if it is not off of their calling.

Another problem people have, Weems says, is confusing success with having their

What's In A Name?

A Look at the Namesakes of Howard University



Lucy D. Slowe Hall

BY DREW DURAND
Contributing Writer

Howard University's campus is known for having many buildings and structures named after some of the most prominent African Americans in history. Among them is the coeducational dormitory Lucy D. Slowe Hall, a building first built for widowed women during World War II.

The building is located just off campus at the corner of U and 3rd streets, NW. The building's namesake is the educator, scholar and originator, Lucy Diggs Slowe.

Slowe was born in 1885 in Berryville, Va. She is the daughter of Henry Slowe, a hotel proprietor, and Fannie Porter Slowe. She lost her parents at a very young age and was forced to move to Baltimore with her paternal aunt.

While living in Baltimore, Slowe attended the Baltimore Colored High School. After graduating in 1904, she attended Howard University, becoming the first student from her high school to receive a college scholarship.

As a student at Howard University, Slowe was very active around campus. She was the president of the Women's Tennis Club, a member of the University Choir and the secretary and vice-president of the Alpha Phi Literary Society.

As president of the Women's Tennis Club, Slowe became the first African-American woman to win the single's tournament at the American Tennis Association national tournament. Slowe also is one of the founding members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the first collegiate Greek society for African-American women. After graduating from Howard University in 1908, she went on to receive a master's degree from Columbia University in 1915.

Slowe continued her legacy by pursuing a career in education. She became a teacher at Armstrong Manuel Training School, a local colored high school in the Washington, D.C. area. She also became the prin-

ciple of Shaw Junior High, the city's first black junior high school, in 1919. After her tenure as principle, Slowe found her way back to Howard University in 1922, becoming the first Dean of Women at the University.

While serving as Dean of Women, Slowe made sure that her students received the best opportunities available.

Slowe helped systematize the National Association of College Women in 1924. She served as the first president of the organization. Slowe designed the society to help promote education amongst black women in college, to encourage women to become part of the faculty and to endorse scholarships for students.

Slowe also founded the Association of Advisors to Women in Colored Schools. Even though she did a lot for the advancement of young black women, Slowe understood the necessity for interracial involvement so she became involved with the Race Relations Group of North American Home Missions of the National Student Council.

Making sure she gave back whenever possible, Slowe gave lectures at Columbia University from time to time. Through all of her accomplishments, Slowe still found time to teach Composition of English at Howard. Slowe was recognized for her outstanding life and legacy at the 70th convention of the National Association of Women Deans.

Slowe died on Oct. 21, 1937, from an unknown illness.

Many made sure that Slowe's legacy did not go without recognition. Two buildings were named after Slowe, Lucy D. Slowe Elementary School and Lucy D. Slowe Residence Hall, both of which are in Washington, D.C.

The residence hall began as a home for African-American women who worked for the U.S. government during World War II, but now it has a place on Howard University's historic campus.

"names in lights." She says that success is not measured by how many awards, how much money or how much prestige one has. Weems says that success from within comes from having a balanced life.

Success has a shadowy side. Weems says the truth is that the energy and time required to keep careers and success going can often be taxing on the mind, body and spirit.

She adds, "You can be where God called you to be, do what God called you to do and be miserable." According to Weems, being successful does not mean you do not have a personal life. Everything should be balanced.

Weems says that her stepmother told her when she was much younger that if one wants to be successful, all they must do is find a need and fill it.



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Venue: Student Lounge

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What's happening in the Residence Hall?

"Hall Happenings"

January 29, 2007-February 3, 2007

Monday, January 29, 2007

"African Connection" School Supply and Eye Glasses Drive for Africa, Donations made in All Residence Hall Lobbies (Sponsored by Mays Hall)

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

"African Connection" School Supply and Eye Glasses Drive for Africa, Donations made in All Residence Hall Lobbies (Sponsored by Mays Hall)

"Research, Internship and Service Information Session", Meridian Hill Hall, Reading Room, Time, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

"African Connection" School Supply and Eye Glasses Drive for Africa, Donations made in All Residence Hall Lobbies (Sponsored by Mays Hall)

"Quaranic Study", Carver Hall, Lounge, 8:00 PM

"Soul Food Wednesday", Carver Hall, Lounge 9:00 PM



BLACK HISTORY MONTH BEGINS



Thursday, February 1, 2007

"African Connection" School Supply and Eye Glasses Drive for Africa, Donations made in All Residence Hall Lobbies (Sponsored by Mays Hall)

"R.A Appreciation", Cook Hall, 8pm

(Come Out and Slam Cook Hall RA's with Pies)

"Community Speaks: Dean's Night Out", Mays Hall, Community Room, 7:00 PM

Friday, February 2, 2007

"African Connection" School Supply and Eye Glasses Drive for Africa, Donations made in All Residence Hall Lobbies (Sponsored by Mays Hall)

Saturday, February 3, 2007

"African Connection" School Supply and Eye Glasses COLLECTION, Donations collected from All Residence Hall Lobbies (Sponsored by Mays Hall)

"Give Kids a Smile Day", Carver Hall, Community Service, 8:30 AM



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Hip-Hop Caucus Takes Stand At March

BY FAWN STONE
Contributing Writer

The Hip-Hop Caucus made its mark and took a stance last Saturday with the Make Hip-Hop Not War Campaign.

Thousands of protesters and leaders, such as the Rev. Jesse Jackson, filled the National Mall in the nation's capital to speak out against the war in Iraq.

According to hiphopcaucus.org, the goal of the campaign is to convince "the President to withdraw our troops, end this war and commit our country to help rebuild Iraq."

Students like sophomore biology major Aarika Ancelard joined the march. "I decided to join the march against the war in Iraq because in class we always talk about how wrong it is to send the U.S. troops to Iraq. So when I heard about the Hip-Hop Caucus, I felt like if I didn't participate, I would be a hypocrite," Ancelard said.

Guru Kalu, the program's director for the Hip-Hop Caucus said, "The Hip-

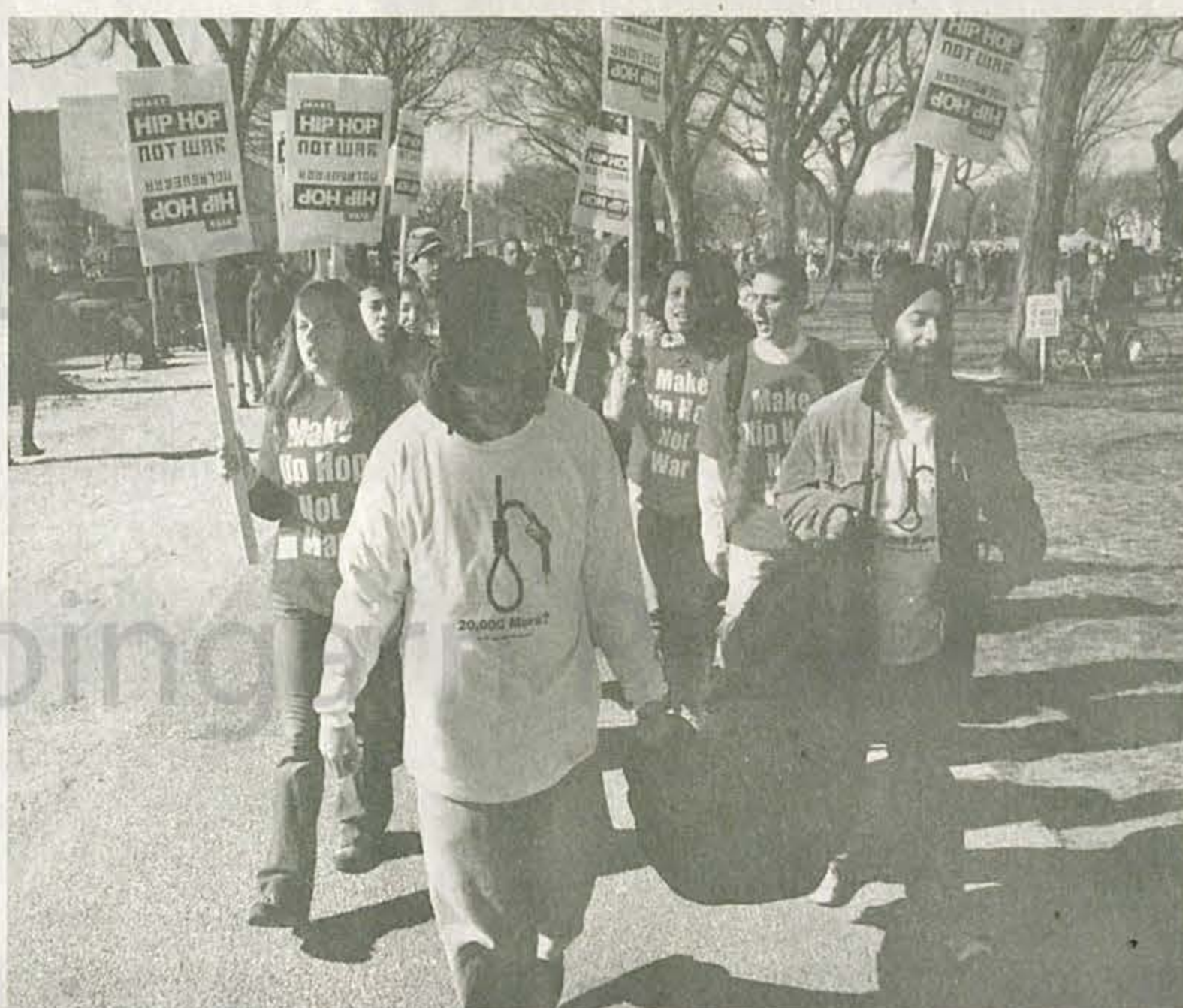
Hop Caucus is a nonprofit civil rights organization created to become a voice for the hip-hop generation and culture. When I say hip-hop generation, I mean the dream generation. A generation of people, black, white, brown and yellow, who are all builders of culture that advocated peace."

He continued, "So we are using arts, entertainment and media to first attract those who wouldn't normally be interested in politics, and then educate our communities about the political process and how to get involved and make a difference."

The purpose of the Make Hip-Hop Not War Campaign is to get more people of color, college students and young people involved in the anti-war movement.

"It is time for hip-hop to break the silence. Our generation is fighting and dying in Iraq, and our generation must lead the campaign to bring our troops home," according to hiphopcaucus.org.

The rally was a success in getting Americans out to



Although the objective of the Hip-Hop Caucus is to inform college students of color about political issues, the campaign did not attract as many people as hoped.

voice their opinion on the war in Iraq. There were thousands of protestors,

however, most of them were white. The outcome of the march was another example

of how crucial it is to get the message out to minorities. Ancelard continued,

"The Hip-Hop Caucus was not as effective as it could have been because the presence of minorities at the march was not evident, but everywhere you looked, you could find white protesters."

Since the war has started, 3,067 U.S. soldiers have died and up to 650,000 Iraqi soldiers have died. In addition, \$360 billion has been spent on the war in Iraq. The United States is losing thousands of lives because of the war in Iraq each year on top of the hundreds of billions of dollars that are going to the war instead of other domestic programs that the country is desperately in need of.

The Rev. Lennox Yearwood, the director of the Hip-Hop Caucus, said, "We cannot continue to have segregated movements. The peace movement can't all be white. The immigration can't be all brown and the poor people's movement can't all be black. The hip-hop culture is one that brings all of us together. We all need to work together in humanity."

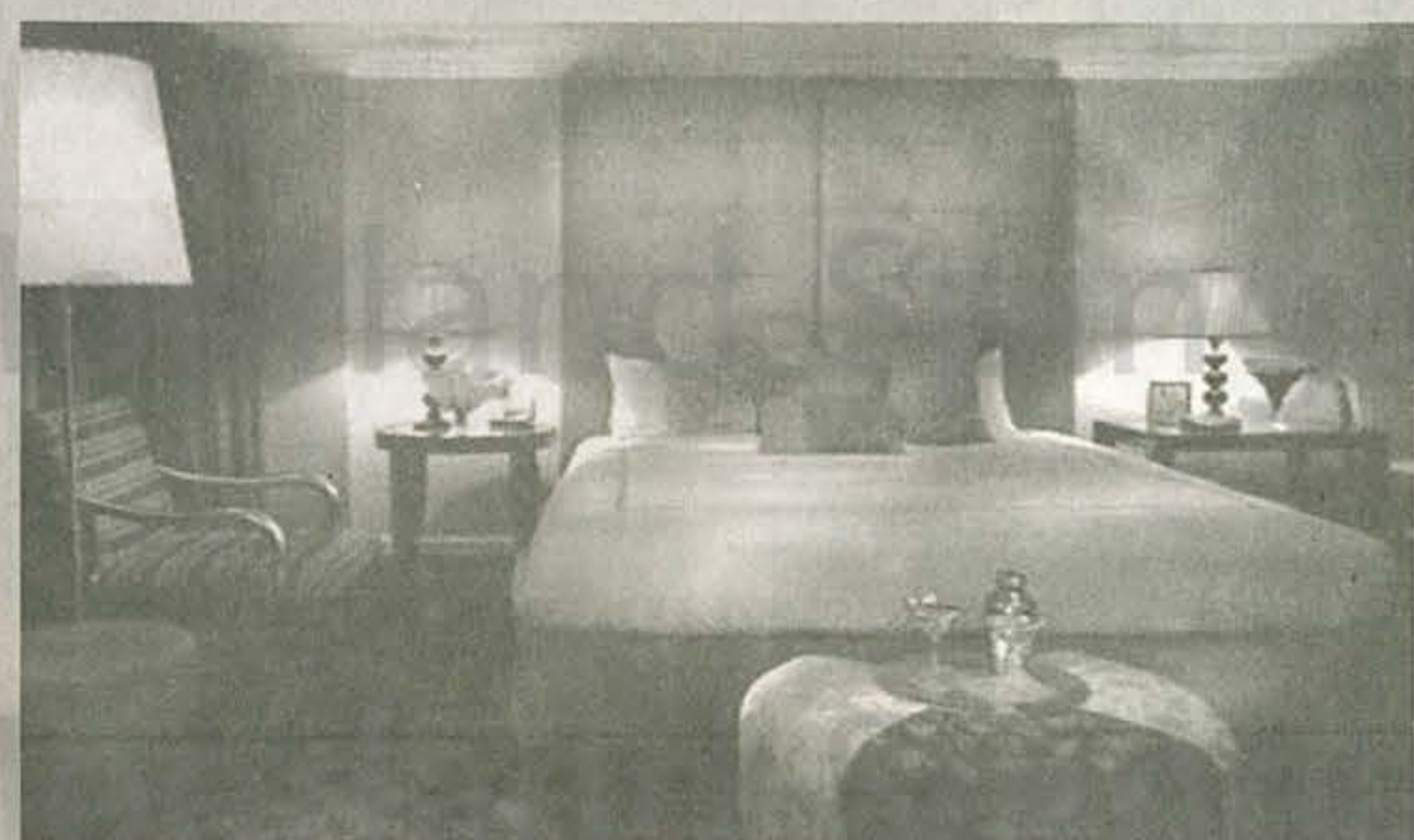


Photo courtesy of www.hotelus.com

Hotel Rouge (above), in Dupont Circle, attracts customers with a unique theme.

Trendy Boutique Hotel Line Becomes a Hot Spot

BY MONICA JONES
Contributing Writer

Gone are the days when all people wanted was a bed, a TV and maybe a Bible on the night stand as necessities for an overnight stay in a hotel.

Now people are requiring their short-term accommodations come with themes and a distinct atmosphere to match their specific moods and tastes. This need is being both alternately fueled and met with hotel lines like the Kimpton Hotels.

Kimpton Hotels are a line of boutique hotels originally based in San Francisco. The word "boutique" refers to a distinct style of European hotels that are small and intimate, featuring between 100 and 149 rooms with themes and stories.

Inspired by these types of hotels while traveling in Europe in the early 1980s, Bill Kimpton decided to bring the idea to the United States. The boutique hotels replace the impersonal service one is accustomed to receiving when renting rooms in the United States. Kimpton calls his business a "Lifestyle Hotel Company." Every hotel has a story.

For instance, when walking into the Dupont Circle's Palomar Hotel for the first time, one is instantly struck with the feeling of never having been in any

place like it before. In the retro-chic atmosphere of the main lobby, there are various people in business suits holding meetings on laptops and Blackberries, while the sounds of upbeat retro music blend with their indiscernible chatter.

Dark marble floors and geometric designs add to the business-like feel of the hotel while the optical paintings on the wall reinforce the Palomar's theme of "Art and Motion."

Melissa Kaszubski, the manager on duty, believes that the Kimpton Hotels attract a diverse clientele from all over the country and the world, from businessmen and women to leisure travelers.

Kaszubski said, "The [guests] are receptive to what Kimpton has to offer because it is a break from the mold. We get a lot of positive feedback from guests, who in turn become loyal to Kimpton hotels."

Laura Cilano, from the sales marketing department, said that most of the business for Kimpton comes from word-of-mouth from satisfied clients. The personal advertising works so well that the hotel chain does not set aside money from its budget for official advertising.

The satisfaction guests experience plays a major role in Kimpton's Wildly Important Goals program, called WIGS. The program's purpose, according

to Cilano, is "to inspire loyalty and love in our guests [and] in our employees, and to use the loyalty to create positive returns."

Billie Holiday, a senior public relations major, has been employed at the Palomar since July of 2006.

"It's a really nice place to work where we get to meet a lot of people in a relaxed environment." She added that they even get their fair share of celebrities, such as Phylicia Rashad, Chaka Khan, Lil' Wayne and Colin Powell, to name a few.

On the opposite side of DuPont Circle, Topaz Hotel is nestled in the business district.

The theme for Topaz is "Wellness and Relaxation." The atmosphere upon entering Topaz is different from the Palomar's, but no less effective. Gone are the laptops and Blackberries, that are replaced by a more than helpful front desk agent, as well as a restaurant and bar off to the right that offers a variety of organic and dietary options.

Dr. Judy Lombardi and Dr. Carol Schreter were in town to attend the Peace and Justice March on Jan. 27. Lombardi came across the Topaz a few years ago while attending another peace march. Schreter said, "I like to avoid the ritzy, fast, big lobby glass look, in preference of a more home-like place."

D.C. Population Moving from Chocolate to Milky

BY MONICA JONES
Contributing Writer

Going about daily living as college students at an HBCU in the nation's capital can sometimes make it easy for those to forget about their white counterparts. But in recent years, it has become increasingly difficult not to notice that the chocolate or heavily black population in "Chocolate City" has become a little milkier in tone and texture.

According to the 2000 U.S. Bureau of the Census Population Estimate Program (PEP), there were a total of 572,059 residents living in Washington, D.C., compared to the estimated total of 550,521 in 2005, showing a 3.8 percent drop in residency over five years. Out of the total residents in the 2005 census, 60 percent were black, 30 percent were white and 7.9 percent were of Hispanic or Latino origin.

While both whites and Hispanics/Latinos have seen increases in population from 2000 to 2005, blacks in the District saw a decrease from 60 to 57 percent during that same time period.

Nyanda Jackson, a freshman informational sys-

tems major and Washington, D.C. native, said there has been a significant increase in the amount of whites in the District.

"They are much more noticeable in the Northwest area, and now you can even see them in Southeast, especially since they are trying to move out all the black people," Jackson said.

Mechanical engineering graduate student Femi Ogunlade has lived in Washington, D.C. for less than a year, but recalls discussions with colleagues about the increase in the number of whites in the area and the resonating effects it is having on the city. Some changes include an increase in housing and property values that have pushed many blacks out of certain areas of the city.

In 2005, the total estimated number of housing units was 277,775 with the home ownership rate for the same year estimated at 42.5 percent, an increase from the 2000 census report of 40.8 percent. Alternately, the renter occupancy has decreased from 59.2 percent in 2000 to an estimated 57.5 percent in 2005.

Ogunlade believes the

moving of blacks out of certain areas to make room for whites will lead to an increase in segregation. He described segregation as "not being necessarily safe and leading to an increase in conflict."

But on the positive side, he said, "There will be a significant increase in general safety in D.C. if more white people come because of the increase in middle class."

Darius Cabell, a 21-year-old life-long Washington, D.C. resident, said he has noticed the increase in whites and their acquisition of property around the city and believes that it is both positive and negative.

"D.C. needs change in the school systems and the streets," Cabell said. "But it is negative because for the change to happen people are getting moved out of their homes."

Jackson agreed that the change will likely bring improvements to the District. But, she saw the negative aspects of the change as well. "This means nicer places to shop and be, but it is not good how they are increasing mortgages and rents just to move the blacks out to accomplish these improvements," she said.



Photo courtesy of www.gothamist.com

Since the 2000 census, the black population in D.C. has decreased by 3.8 percent while the percent of whites and Latinos is up by 3.3 and 0.7 percent, respectively.

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MSU Bears' Topple Bison, 66-53, at Burr

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

Everything went in favor of the Morgan State Bears Monday night, as they dominated the Bison men's basketball team, 66-53 at Burr Gymnasium.

The Bison (7-14 overall, 3-6 in the MEAC) led by one point early in the game, but the Bears' (8-11, 6-3) intensity and non-stop offense never allowed the home team to get close enough to take control of the game again.

"They just out-played us," Bison head coach Gil Jackson said after the game. "We ran into a team that was playing well with good players that was better than us."

The loss marked the Bison's third straight loss during their seven-game home stand and extended the Bears' win-streak to four games.

"We're starting to come together," Morgan State head coach Todd Bozeman said of his team that started the season with an 0-6 record. The players are "starting to get confidence within themselves."

Bozeman said the first half was the Bears' best defensive 20 minutes so far this season.

The swarming defense held the Bison to just 19 percent shooting before the half, allowing the Bears to jump out to a 37-17 lead going into the locker room.

"We couldn't match that intensity in the first half," Jackson said.

The Bears were relentless on the glass, grabbing 11 offensive rebounds in the first half and out-rebounding the Bison 39-28 for the game.

Howard tried to do some things differently in the second half, shooting 45.8 percent.

The Bison outscored the Bears



Ismael Ahmad- Staff Photographer

Senior forward Darryl Hudson, who led all scorers with 20 points, scored in double figures for the 29th time in his past 31 games. 12 points were in the last 20 minutes.

36-29 in the second half, led by senior forward Darryl Hudson, scoring 12 of his game-high 20 points in the final 20 minutes, but the first half deficit was too large.

"I don't think the guys were expecting a game like this," Jackson said.

Senior guard Will Gant said that he was not surprised by the way the Bears came out at the start of the game because of their 93-59 win over the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore on Saturday.

The trouble is from "us not capitalizing," Gant said.

The Bison were able to force nine Bears turnovers, but committed 14 of their own and eight in the second half as they tried to claw their way back into the game.

"We need to execute our offense," Hudson said of Howard's offensive struggles. "Everybody needs to contribute."

"We needed to have the young players make some plays," Jackson added. "Our older players got impatient and they started forcing some things. If we had only one assist in the first half, we're in trouble."

The Bison received some offensive contribution from Gant, who finished with 12 points in route to topping the 1,000 career points mark with 4:22 remaining.

Senior forward Jason Trotter added nine points, but no other Bison were a large factor offensively, hurting Howard's comeback attempt.

Bozeman said he stressed the importance of not letting the Bison back into the game to his team.

"Even up 20, we tried hard not to let them get a momentum going," he said.

The Bison cut the deficit to a dozen points half way through the second half, but Bears' senior guard Joseph McLean and junior forward Boubacar Coly re-entered the game to help Morgan draw the lead back out to 21 points.

Seniors forward Ronald Timus and McLean led Morgan State with 15 and 14 points, respectively.

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

Women's Basketball

Morgan State	67
Howard	74

Men's Basketball

Morgan State	66
Howard	53

TODAY'S GAMES

None

The Bears pounded the ball inside, driving to the hole and connecting for alley-oops throughout the game.

The Bison are a young team and Morgan has a senior-junior team, Jackson said. "That's what experience will do."

Everyone that was at this game would probably agree that, "we need to be a little tougher," Jackson said.

The Bison played for the tenth-straight game without the contributions of sophomore forward Eugene Myatt. The absence of Myatt and his team-high 16.6 points per game was apparent offensively in the loss.

The Bison hope to regroup before Saturday's game against South Carolina State.

Lady Bison Notch Second Win of the Season, 74-67

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Lady Bison recorded their second win of the season last night, defeating the Lady Bears of Morgan State by a score of 74-67. For Howard (2-17 overall, 2-7 in the MEAC), the win was the team's second in the last four games. Meanwhile, Morgan State dropped to 10-8 overall, 5-4 in the MEAC.

The Lady Bison were able to overcome injuries to junior forward Christina Aden and senior forward Melloni Benson on their way to victory. Benson was able to return at the end of the second half to assist in the win, but Aden was sidelined for the rest of the contest.

"You always feel a negative vibe when a player goes

down," Lady Bison head coach Cathy Parson said.

This was the second win so far this season for the Lady Bison, their previous win was two weeks ago against Bethune-Cookman. Howard lead from the opening tip-off and never trailed at any point of the game.

The first half ended with a 16-point lead for the Lady Bison, after an 8-0 run pushed the score to 45-29.

"Coming into the game, I was not feeling well, but I wanted a win," said junior guard, Shannon Carlisle. "I wanted a win against a creditable team."

Carlisle led the team with a game high of 19 points, followed by senior forward Courtney Smiley who scored 15 points and junior guard

Asha Santee who finished with 13 points.

"Our style of play is defense. If we keep it up the whole game, we are guaranteed the win," Santee said. "We were able to keep it up for the win."

Parson also noted the defense's efforts during the game, especially that of Santee, as she got 15 rebounds during the game.

"With Morgan being such a large team, it was good to show we could beat a big team," said Parson. "Santee really stepped it up big tonight."

Santee struggled during the warm-up, even noting that she only made two shots during the warm-up, however she was confident that a win was more than possible for the team.

"I walked up to the game telling my teammates I was smelling a win," said Santee. "Any team can be beat at any moment, that could have been Lakers out there, but we came to win."

Although the team was confident for most of the game, especially with their significant lead, Morgan State was able to close the gap toward the end of the game. The gap was narrowed to as much as six points in the last two minutes. However, the Lady Bison were able to hold on for the win down the stretch.

"Usually I get frantic in those kind of situations, but I was able to keep my head," Carlisle said.

The Lady Bison will take on South Carolina State in the next home game, once again in hopes of achieving another consecutive win.

The Bison will play the South Carolina State Bulldogs in Burr Gymnasium this Saturday at 2 p.m.



Ismael Ahmad- Staff Photographer

Junior guard Shannon Carlisle led the Lady Bison on offense with 19 points, which was above her season average of 14.6.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On Jan. 30, 1971, UCLA began an 88-game winning streak, one which would not be broken until a loss three years later in 1974.

Barbaro Euthanized After Struggle to Fix Broken Leg



Photo courtesy of sports.yahoo.com

2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro was put to sleep yesterday morning after an unsuccessful surgery to fix the horse's leg, news services reported. Barbaro's death came eight months after he suffered the initial injury during the Preakness Stakes.

The latest operation performed on the horse was the 24th surgery attempt to repair his right hind leg.

"I really didn't think it was appropriate to continue treatment because the probability of getting better was so poor," Dr. Dean Richardson, the chief of surgery at the New Bolton Center, told reporters Monday. After performing the latest surgery on Sunday, Jan. 28, Barbaro was put to sleep at approximately 10:30 a.m. Monday, news services said.

Barbaro won all six of his professional races on dirt tracks prior to his injury at Pimlico. For his career, Barbaro won a total of \$2,302,200 in prize earnings.



He Said

Male grooming has recently seen a rise in notoriety as retailers have capitalized on the new trend. This topic is often overlooked and often seen as taboo for men due to the notion that grooming is feminine.

With the rising acceptance of the term metrosexual and its accompanying lifestyle, there has been a call for specialized products and services to cater to the trend.

Traditionally, grooming for a man would include getting a fresh hair cut, well-shaped facial hair, trimmed and clean fingernails and appropriate skin care. You know, the basics of what is necessary to keep up a clean appearance.

Now, the gender has expanded way past the norms of tradition.

In researching this particular topic, I came across some products I would have never thought of and definitely did not expect to see. The less extreme side of the spectrum offers products

such as scalp razors and new shaving systems for better skin care.

But then, there were the more surprising products such as grape seed clay masks and scented scrotum talc. All of these products are courtesy of MenEssentials.com which claims to be, "the Internet's first male grooming site and the premiere online destination for men of style and substance."

Innovations like these force me to wonder if the line has been crossed. Since when do men need a fully stocked online store just to cater to their grooming needs? Taking care of one's skin and being concerned about one's appearance is only natural, yet when that desire leads to peppermint facial care products designed for men, there is an issue.

It does not stop there either. H&M has taken it further by stocking its shelves with mascara for men, according to an article in the Northampton Chronicle.

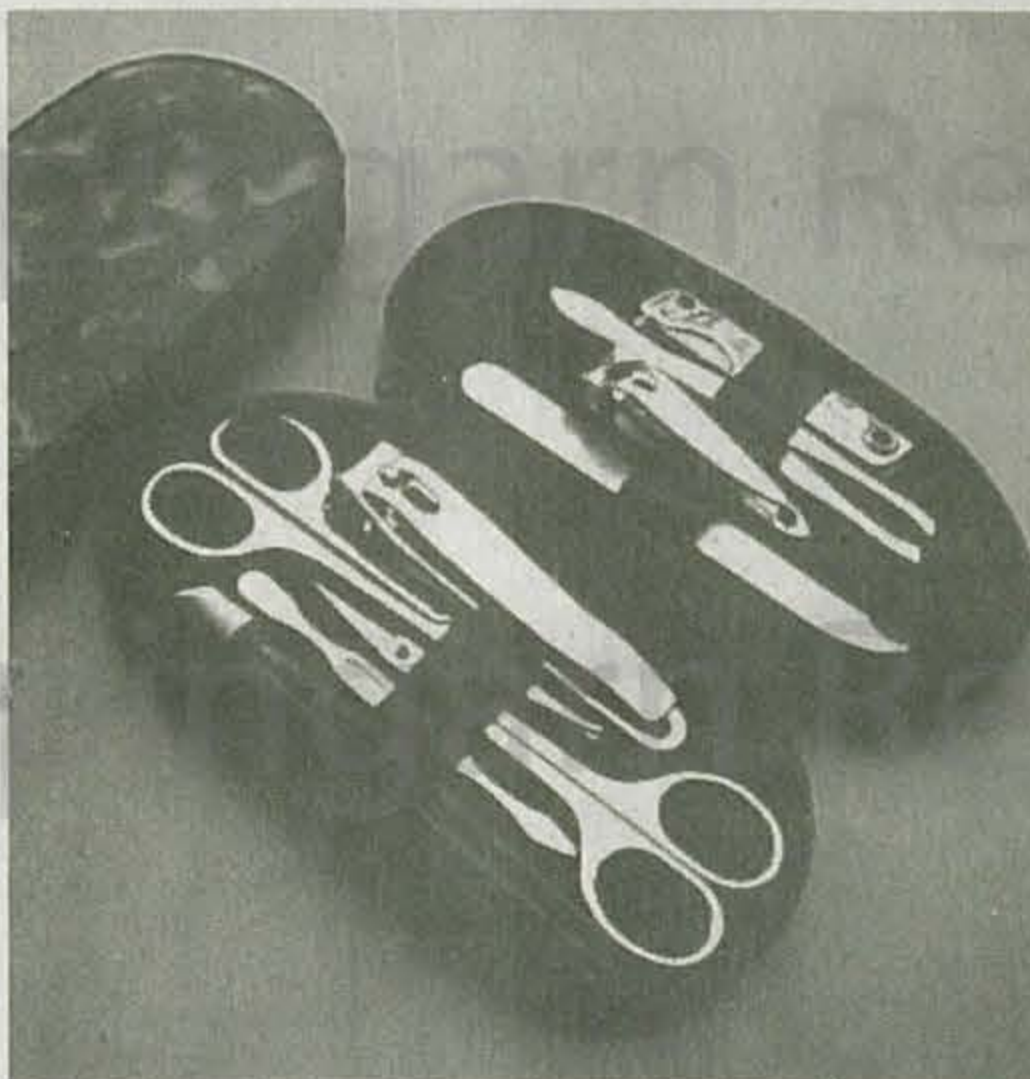


Photo courtesy www.yinfan.com

A red light should go off when grooming products enter the cosmetic market.

Grooming is fine and should be encouraged, but cosmetics are for women and solely for women.

"Beauty's only skin deep." "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

There are countless clichés, adages and sayings about the true nature of beauty that all imply that its

She Said



nature is temporal, transitive and not to be placed above other qualities.

And as much as we would all like to believe that these things are true, there is little evidence to support the idea. In fact, one study published by Langlois, Kalakanis, Rubenstein, Larson, Hallam and Smoot in the Psychological Bulletin in May 2000 provides evidence to the contrary.

The study titled, "Maxims or Myths of Beauty? A Meta-Analytic and Theoretical Review," analyzed results from various studies and found that judgements of attractiveness are consistent. The article also found that attractive people are judged and treated more positively than their unattractive counterparts.

Though these results generalize across genders, it seems to take just a bit more work to achieve the standard of "beauty" for women than it does for men.

At my last manicure, I noticed a lone male in the salon, highlighting the typical absence of the gender. Despite current increases in the frequency and type of grooming that men engage in, women probably still have the heavier plight.

"Beauty hurts," is another adage, but it is usually used in reference to women, who are called upon to go through various procedures to conform to the standard of beauty.

We do have the choice to refuse conformity, but as research shows, we run the risk of poor treatment by doing so.

I'm all for the weekly cuticle clip, brow "snatching" and grueling hair ordeals, complete with chemicals, scolding dryers and intensely hot styling tools.

But nobody should be made to feel poorly about themselves for not enduring the uneven distribution of pain.

From the Minds of Joshua Thomas & Jana Homes

HOUSEBROKEN



Word Search

N B E L E G D E L W O N K I E V E N E N
E O N O T H N O I T I U T N I I P O S O
C A I D O G M A M I N D S E T R C I I I
N A V C N O I S S E R P M I O N R T M T
A N S O I G G O F W H T C F A P E I R O
R O T S W P Y N O E H T E R O U D S U N
U I H E U A S A I E C S N S E R O O S E
S T A E P M L U O D S N T E N D H P R N
S C D C R O P R S I N U E O M Y E U N G
A U Y N E L E T O G L A I D P E T N N Y
C D T A S M L N I A N S T O I C G I C T
O E N T U S H E T O A I T S E F K D H E
N D I P M A S I P U N H L J R N N E U L
C H A E P F O E S S E O N E I E O O F J
L T T C T N W R U S O O H H E R D A C A
U I R C I T E Y I G C G T O Y F U N S S
S A E A O P E S E A D M I S S I O N U S
I F C P N R E X P E C T A T I O N O V E
O C O N V I C T I O N E C N A I L E R N
N E T R U S T N O I T A N I V I D R B T

Find the following:

Acceptance	Conviction	Hypothesis	Profession
Admission	Credence	Impression	Reliance
Assent	Credo	Intuition	Surmise
Assumption	Deduction	Judgement	Suspicion
Assurance	Divination	Knowledge	Theorem
Avowal	Dogma	Mindset	Theory
Certainty	Expectation	Notion	Thinking
Conclusion	Faith	Persuasion	Trust
Confidence	Feeling	Position	Understanding
Conjecture	Gospel	Postulation	
	Guess	Presumption	

Puzzle courtesy of www.free-online-word-search-puzzles.com

Overheard @ The Mecca

Round the Way Girl
Overheard in the iLab

Camera Girl: Ohhh that was a good one, girl. But be more Marilyn Monroe [girl shifts pose and cocks head to side.]

Guy: Naw, that's more Baltimore, Maryland. Not Marilyn Monroe.

Baby Barack Speaks
Overheard in the Poconos

Howard Enlightened Guy: [movie "Head of State" on with Chris Rock as President] Man, this movie made me want to go into politics. I'm serious.

The Luxury of Driving
Overheard in the Howard Plaza Towers East

Girl 1: Wow, I wonder if that's how people feel about me since I don't have a car.

Girl 2: Girl, that's how I feel about my boyfriend. He don't have no license.

Girl 1 & Girl 3: [in unison] He don't have no Lexus?!

Girl 3: What other cars don't count? It's ok if he owns another car, you know that right?

Girl 1: I didn't say that!

Girl 3: Oh.

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

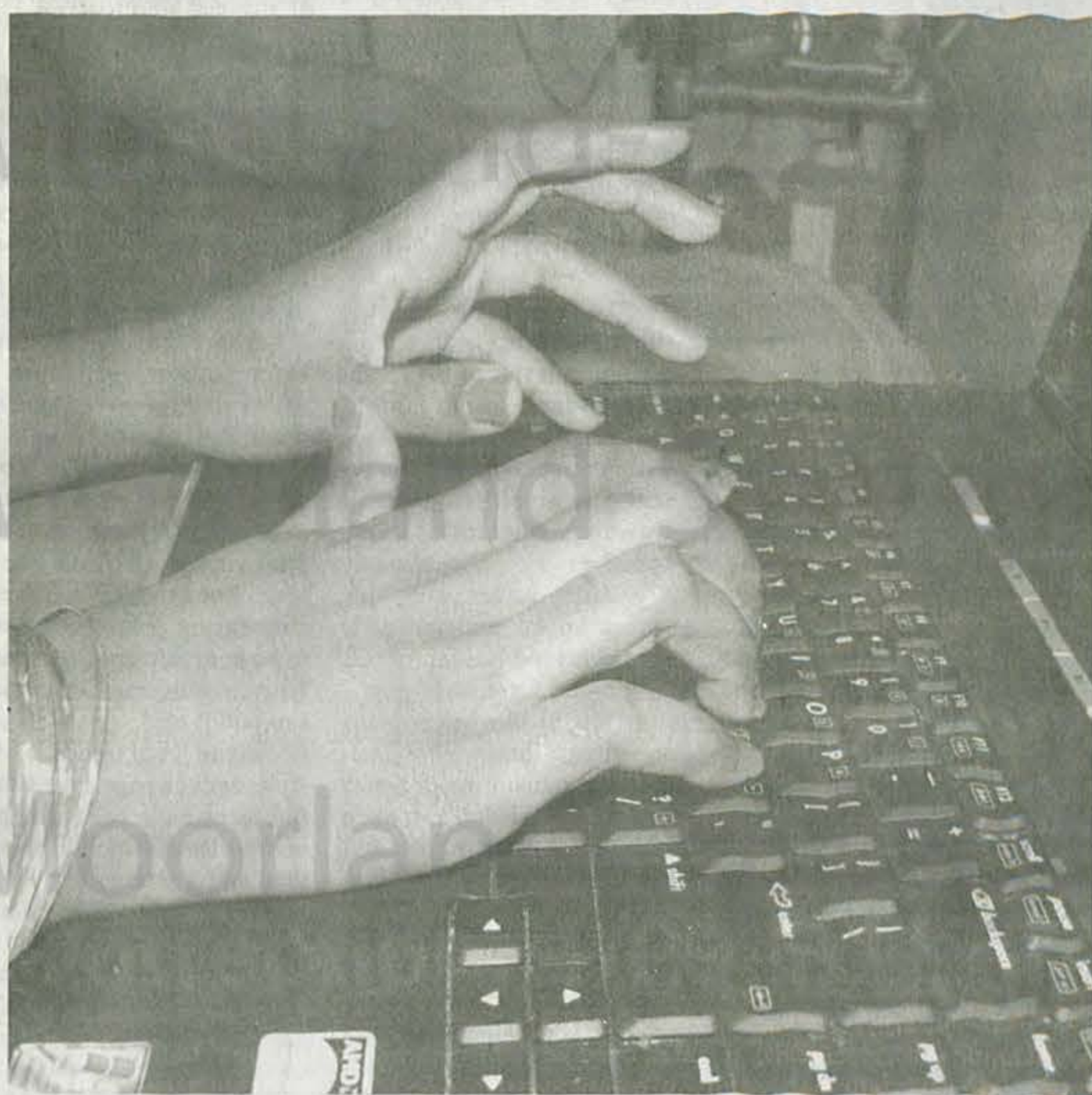
Please send any responses to Meccanisms; 'He Said . . . She Said' topics, things you've Overheard @ The Mecca or any other contributions to meccanisms@gmail.com

EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 90, NO. 75

JANUARY 30, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



Slow Typist = Disability?

University of Michigan Law student, Adrian Zachariasewycz, has filed a lawsuit against the law school alleging that the school's grading system discriminates against people like him who have poor typing skills, according to a Wall Street Journal blog.

Zachariasewycz is seeking monetary damages of an unspecified amount.

The University of Michigan Law School later revealed that law students are given the option whether they want to take examinations by hand or opt to type on a laptop or typewriter.

It seems to us that this is just a case of someone who was performing poorly and chose to put the blame else-

where rather than accept his failing marks.

We also believe that it is reprehensible for

Our View:
Students should take responsibility for their own inadequacies and should not play the blame game when things don't work out.

Zachariasewycz to call his inability to type a disability. It is an insult to those who live everyday with real disabilities and do not make excuses for themselves.

If it becomes a handicap to be a poor typist what will be next? Will people be able to park in the handicap spots

who only have a stutter or a lazy eye?

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that universities must accommodate students with disabilities and also requires students with disabilities to make their disability known early.

Given the guidelines, Zachariasewycz should have notified his professors at the beginning of the semester if he truly believed his poor typing skills would qualify as a disability.

The fact that he made no one aware of his alleged handicap shows that this was something fabricated after the fact.

Our stance is that the blame for Zachariasewycz's

Perspective: Education

"...To educate is to emancipate." - Eric Williams

Wow! So simple an answer! Slavery has been over for a while; however, the slavery mentality was never abolished.

The question since has been: how do we rid ourselves of this self-loathing mind set; these chains of hopelessness, depression, and doubt that plague the African American mind? The simplest answer, education, has been staring us in the face for over a century and a half!

This education is not just any type of education. It's not street education, or music education, or even college education, for that matter. It is historical education.

The greatest part of this education is that IT IS FREE;

no danger, no self-degradation, and no tuition fees. Looking into our past can free our minds for the future.

Our minds would no longer be slaves to hopelessness if we could just see the many ways that we've been delivered! Hopelessness of the mind should have been abolished in 1865 when the 13th Amendment was passed, freeing all slaves!

Not enough? In that case, the chains of depression should have been broken in 1868 and 1870 when the 14th and 15th Amendments were ratified, granting citizenship and the right to vote to black freed slaves.

Not satisfied? The doubtful mentality should have been done away with when, at long last, someone stood up to encourage a multitude of

people to stand against oppression.

Yes indeed, I speak of Martin Luther King, Jr.; a man who could erase mere doubt with the power of his words and his compassion!

Still unsatisfied? Well then I encourage, better yet, I CHALLENGE you (the reader) to read and educate yourself on our great history. The information that I've provided here only scratches the surface of Black History.

This is the information that everyone learns in public school while growing up. The greatest part of this education that I've spoken of is that IT IS FREE; no danger, no self-degradation, and no tuition fees. Education abounds; all we must do is seek it.

- Jamil Wansley

Daily Sudoku

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

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

Do you want to write for THE HILLTOP?
Come to our budget meeting

Monday @ 7 p.m.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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

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

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

Correction: 1/29 Edition

The Hilltop apologizes for a mistake in yesterday's article titled "Grad Student Calls for 'Semester of Abstinence.'"

The caption states that Carl Miller can be seen at center in the photographer,

when he can be seen at left.

We also apologize for an error in yesterday's article titled "Sutherland Program Prepares Minorities for Law School." The article stated that the Sutherland Program offers discounted LSAT and

GRE tests. It should have stated that The Center for Preprofessional Education in the College of Arts & Sciences offers the tests at a discounted rate.

Again, we apologize for the mistakes.

Confessions of an L&S Editor



BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Life & Style Editor

Dear Howard,

Ciara gave me a great challenge a few days ago: To carry out her duties as the new Monday and Tuesday Life and Style Editor. At first, I was ecstatic at the opportunity. Lord knows I wanted the "title" since I first read The Hilltop daily newspaper in high school. But as I got deeper into the ins and outs of my job, I had an epiphany.

The epiphany was, Life and Style editor has always been a "title" to me. A glamorous, exciting title where I'd just assign stories, design my layout and talk to celebrities. But trust me, it's so much more.

Working for The Hilltop is a full time, 24/7 responsibility. People from all over the world read our 87-year-old publication and have high expectations of us. So, my emotions went from excited to scared to hopeful.

I racked my brain for days on names for my column. At one point I was going to call it, "Untitled" and just let it be. Then it dawned on me, as one of my co-workers told me it would, and I came up with, "Confessions."

Now, don't take this in a Karrine Steffans way, because me and her are like day and night. And it's not in an Usher, recanting all my sins way. It's basically my confessions of trying to survive the experience known as Howard University.

I set it up as a diary, for a couple of reasons. The first is because, as a child I had tons of diaries, but my attention span caused the demise of all of them. Also I think a diary is the most personal form of writing. So this will be a composition of all the thoughts and opinions that run through my head.

I've always felt a great connection between my Howard family, and felt completely comfortable sharing my thoughts with you all. I want to express the ideas of my fellow Howardites thoughts as well. I think it's fair to assume we all want our thoughts and ideas taken seriously; hopefully we all can rise to the occasion.

So, every week I'll talk about something in the world, on campus, or just in my mind that intrigues me enough to talk about. It may be random or planned, but whatever it is, it'll be real. And let me apologize in advance, because I know how opinionated I am and how opinionated you guys are, and we're bound to bang heads at some point. But remember I love you all!

- Dani K.

If interested in group discussions or ideas for "Confessions" contact me at dani_kwateng@yahoo.com

Every Monday night, peer group discussions are at the Artmosphere Cafe to talk about the topic of the previous week.

Fitted Clothes Common in Men's Fashion

BY MONICA HARRIS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Many male artists in hip-hop and their supporters have been vehemently rocking ultra grande pants throughout the past 20-plus years.

For this, they have been both praised and criticized, but the look had a tight grip on the menswear industry, until these men were good and ready for a change.

This seemingly everlasting trend first showed its face when hip-hop made its debut in the early 1980's and the two have been going hand in hand, that is, until recently.

According to fashion merchandising professor Aba Kwawu, these days the super-baggy look is being seen as a big fashion no-no.

"That look is definitely out. Men have been making a transition in their clothing choices for the past few years," Kwawu said. "Some of the more thuggish guys are not completely ready to graduate to this look however."

In light of this, some may get the notion that men are not as receptive to the latest styles as their female counterparts.



Photos courtesy of www.usjv.com

Current men's fashions now include more fitted jeans and slacks instead of the former trend of baggier jeans.

Women's clothing seems to get updated with each season every year. When asked about this Kwawu said, "It's not that men don't catch on to what's out there as quickly as women, it's really because the men's wear industry is much slower to change," he said. "They don't have as drastic of a change each year but I

think that is changing. Men are becoming more aware of style trends and women expect them to be."

In their annual back-to-school fashion special of fall 2006, "Good Morning America" featured a fashion show with teenagers showing off the "it" styles for the season. When it was time for

the male segment, the hosts of the daily wake-up show gleefully announced that the six times larger size then necessary look was officially a thing of the past.

As with most trends, Howard students are, for the most part, ahead of the game in the fashion world. Many men of the Mecca are generally in the know, when it comes to what's in and what's out.

"I started wearing the slimmer fitting jeans in the spring semester of my freshman year (2004-2005)," William White a junior fashion merchandising major said. "It gives you a more grown-up, adult look," White added.

Most styles are only taken so far and naturally not everyone is a fan of this clean-cut, fitted style.

"I still like baggy jeans, on guys," junior hospital-ity management major Jenay Peters said. "I don't want to see the size of their butts and I don't want to see how skinny a guy is."

Others appreciate this breath of fresh air in fashion after more than two decades of monotony, but explore the style in moderation.

"Extra-baggy jeans have been out. I like wearing the jeans that are more tight around the ankles to show off my sneakers," said sophomore art/ graphic design major Dametreas Vincent.

The slim-fit pant look is sweeping through men's wear stores everywhere with a wide variety of style tweaks to boot. When Express sales associate Yartumo Gborkorquellie was asked about the sales rate of slim fit jeans, he replied, "They are popular, but not extra popular right now. It seems that many college students like them though."

Gborkorquellie continued, "We also have some male skinny jeans that the punk rocker style guys like to wear. But I think if men wear slim fitting jeans they need to be conscious of their body type, because not everyone can pull it off."

Like a lot of trends in life, styles will change over time. But jeans have been a staple of American fashion for more than half a century.

When asked if she foresees jeans ever going out of style altogether, Kwawu said "No. They never will. Ever."



Entertainment Report Card

Elizabeth Withers, Broadway to Billboard

BY JEANETTE HORDGE
Hilltop Staff Writer

"It Can Happen To Anyone," is the title of Elisabeth Withers' newest album released in stores today.

Withers was a Tony Award nominee for her soulful performance as Shug Avery in Oprah Winfrey's Broadway production of Alice Walker's novel, "The Color Purple."

This sparked the beginning for the Joliet, Ill. native's career, as a vibrant singer/performer with fans anxious for her album to hit stores.

As a product of Blue Note Records, Withers' debut solo album will exhibit her distinctive voice and style appealing to mature audiences.

"My music is a reflection of my life," Withers said. "Through my work, I want people to know that with a strong self-love, work ethic and fearlessness, anything is possible."

This NYU graduate will capture the hearts and souls of her fans with her album's R&B, pop, gospel, old school groove and rock mixture.

The title of the album is no coincidence to Withers' impressive career. Each song on her album has a distinct message behind its catchy beats and hooks.

The seductive and sexy, "Be With You" is captivating in its smooth and descriptive yet subtle lyrics. Keeping it sophisticated, "Simple Things" reflects the deep feelings of love and its ability to evoke emotions that sometimes make people re-evalu-

ate their own decisions. Yet, Withers reminds her female fans that it is always good have some "me" time, with her up beat song titled "Get Your Shoes On."

The distinctive voice and beats of Withers' "The World Ain't Ready," exhibits the infectious reggae dancehall rhythm and encourages females to be themselves regardless of social standards.

Evidently, Withers offered an array of styles and content with her songs but if compared to other artists, her style would most resemble Jill Scott.

When taking a look at the beautiful and young Withers, her confidence glows. Being raised in a middle class, Midwestern household, where her mother excelled as a mathematical engineer and her father was a political power broker, Withers' artistic talents came as a surprise. Yet since the age of five, Withers sang along to her parents' record collection.

What began as mere entertainment to her family has become the opportunity of a lifetime. With family support Withers was bound for success.

During her teen years, she began performing at talent shows and other social engagements. In 1993 her performances and experience eventually led to her receiving a scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston.

After four years, Withers continued to follow her dream, which led her to surmount New York. After

graduating from NYU in 2000, Withers had been noticed by the esteemed producer and songwriter Tony Moran who worked with Patti Labelle, Whitney Houston and the late Luther Vandross.

As Elisabeth Withers began to develop her reputation as a musical artist, she was recruited by Moran to co-write the dance club classic, "Rising" in 2002.

This song reached the top five on billboard charts and led to another hit song, "Emotions." After receiving a phone call from Nick Ashford, Withers found herself auditioning for "The Color Purple." After landing the part, many record labels were attracted to Withers' talent. As a result she decided that Blue Note Records would be her home.

"I've never been afraid to try anything. I guess that's why I've had a chance to try so many different things," Withers said.

As for her new release, Withers said, "I hope people will listen to the songs on the album and come away with the feeling that I have, which is why I called the album 'It Can Happen To Anyone.' For that is truly what I believe."

Although it isn't a clubbing or party CD, its mellow yet catchy beats and songs are just right for studying, riding in the car or relaxing. Withers' lyrical content allows her audience to relate, reminisce and re-evaluate past experiences.

Grade: A



Photo courtesy of www.broadwayworld.com

Elisabeth Withers, known for her appearance in the Broadway production of "The Color Purple," releases her album today.

Department of Residence Life
IMPORTANT RSVP ANNOUNCEMENT
Housing Information for 2007-2008

DID YOU KNOW?
You can pay your RSVP Deposit ONLINE!

Students seeking housing for the 2007-2008 academic year are required to participate in RSVP.

Students who are validated for Spring 2007 will be able to make their Advanced Rent Payment on BISONWEB through February 2, 2007.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
All students with housing assignments for the 2007-2008 academic year MUST be validated prior to moving into the residence halls.

(Keys will NOT be issued to non-validated students.)

NOTE: Your \$200 deposit does not guarantee you housing.

Continuing students who are recipients of the Presidential, Laureate, Capstone, Founders, Upward Bound and Hartford Scholarships do not have to submit a RSVP deposit, but must make an online selection.