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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

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## BREAKING NEWS

### SENATE VOTES TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

THE SENATE VOTED YESTERDAY TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE FROM \$5.15 TO \$7.25. THE BILL WOULD ALSO PROVIDE \$8 BILLION IN TAX CUTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES, ACCORDING TO CNN.

## SPORTS

### BISON IN THE SUPER BOWL

TURN TO SPORTS TO SEE WHAT FORMER BISON FOOTBALL PLAYER GETS HIS BIG CHANCE, ALONG WITH OTHER SUPER BOWL TRIVIA AND HISTORY.

PAGE 4 & 5



FRI, 2/2:  
AM RAIN/ SNOW  
SHOWERS  
HIGH: 43, LOW: 28

SAT, 2/3:  
PARTLY  
CLOUDY  
HIGH: 40, LOW: 24

## Policy Board Discusses School of Divinity, Tuition



The HU Policy Board discussed a multitude of issues Thursday evening that will undoubtedly affect all Howard University students and organizations.

BY TRAVER RIGGINS  
Hilltop Staff Writer

A flourish of decisions were handed down at last night's three-hour HUSA policy Board meeting, including the ruling on how to handle the protests over the School of Divinity Dean.

The board unanimously decided to issue a resolution Friday to the university president and provost requiring the time line, rationale and plan of action for the decanal appointment. The resolution will give the administrators two weeks to respond and is acting on powers appropriated to them in Clause C of Section II under Article II in the HUSA constitution stating that the policy board has the power to require reports from the Howard administration concerning university-wide matters.

Howard University

Student Association (HUSA) Vice President Stephen Nichols presented the three-tier plan of actions he composed after reevaluating the HUSA platform with Jennifer Owens, HUSA president.

He announced that after a meeting with Sidney Evans, senior vice president chief financial officer and the Howard treasurer, the university plans to increase tuition seven to 15 percent over the next couple years.

"Even though we're raising tuition, students don't have direct access to that money," Nichols said.

One of his plans is to move some of the finances from inevitable tuition increase into the Student Activities account.

The additional money in the student activities account will go to more than 140 student organizations on campus. Nichols said he would like to

have funds for students who inquire about funds for their organizations and not being able to aid them.

He also introduced the "Proposition Campaign" that aims to amend parts of the HUSA constitution, which has not been changed since 2004. One of the main amendments he plans to make is securing payment for every representative of General Assembly.

"Leadership teams of UGSA and GSA make all the money right now," Nichols said.

He also outlined the "HUSA Initiatives Programs" as his vice presidential focus, which consists of a list of programs and policy changes he would like to make before the end of his term. It includes launching self-defense, student government historical preservation and HUSA trans-

See BOARD, Page 3

## Student Art Showcased in 76th Annual Exhibition

BY MERCIA  
WILLIAMS-MURRAY  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Cameras flashed as crowds gathered in Fine Arts' Gallery of Art to kick off the 76th Annual Student Art Exhibition.

This year's selected pieces consisted of everything from layout plans and acrylic paintings to graphic design pieces and sculpture. More basic forms, such as sketch to photography, were also exhibited.

Many of the pieces were created with a large variety of supplies, while others were constructed primarily with the use of colored markers.

According to Scott Baker, the gallery's assistant director, Scott, the process of putting together such a diverse show is not an easy task. Baker said he worked hard to create harmony between the artwork. The pieces encompassed a wide range of genres, themes and colors.

The show also recognized faculty members that had inspired students' works. Most students constructed their pieces under the guidance of

teachers and generated ideas for their work as a part of class assignments.

With so much creativity, originality, skill and talent, the show's judge, Teresia Bush, had her work cut out for her.

Bush is an assistant professor at Howard University who lectures on trends and ideas in Afro American art and art appreciation. She was selected to judge the works based on her expertise in the field.

According to her colleague, Starmanda Bullock, an art professor and coordinator of the design program, Bullock worked diligently to make her decisions.

"The show was great. The students worked very hard and we had a great faculty and they worked very, very hard with the students," Bullock said.

Junior graphic design major Ree-An Augustin placed second in the graphic design category. Of the many pieces she had on display, she said, "Actually, this is all stuff I did last semester."

In an assignment that required students to pro-

mote themselves to potential employers, Augustin utilized the design of an iPod box. She put several words to describe herself as well as information from her cover letters and resumes.

Augustin developed an innovative design for a cereal box to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Kellogg's, which she said came from looking at several designs.

Wendall George Brown, a graduate student working towards his masters in fine arts in painting, spent several years as an assistant to Faith Riggold, a prominent African-American artist in New York City.

Brown placed first in the graduate category and second in the experimental studies category for his painted quilts. The intricate designs of Brown's pieces demonstrated lifelike quality.

In the background of each quilt, Brown subtly knit lyrics to Negro spirituals. Brown

See ART, Page 3

## Graduate Students Learn to Write Dissertations



The Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) of the department of Education Administration and Policy held "Dissertation 101" Thursday night in the School of Education (SOE). Constance Ellison, Ph. D. and director a graduate studies in the School of Education, outlined the Howard University dissertation process and Dawn Williams, Ph.D., department of education and administrative policy professor, instructed attendees on how to properly write a dissertation.

## Afro Blue Ensemble Celebrates Black History Month

BY EBONI FARMER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

To commemorate the beginning of Black History Month, the music department presented a performance by the Afro-Blue Jazz Ensemble on Thursday. The ensemble, which is comprised of Howard students, performed in front of their fellow classmates in the Fine Arts building.

Dr. Raymond Jackson introduced the ensemble as a one-of-a-kind group that has raised the standards in Jazz music.

For those who are familiar with jazz, the style of Afro-Blue, is similar to such legends as The Manhattan Transfer, Take 6, Ross and Lambert Hendricks.

The director of Afro-Blue, professor of jazz voice

Connaitare Miller, put together her first ensemble of primarily music majors in 2002 and has continued to work with it ever since.

"Jazz music is part of the African-American culture. People around the world recognize it as that as well. Jazz music is very free and allows people to express themselves through improvising," Miller said.

Afro-Blue has traveled around the country and has made some connections along the way. The ensemble has performed at the Smithsonian Institution, Lincoln Theatre, the Library of Congress and internationally, including a performance at the Japanese embassy.

"We performed with Gerri Allen who is a big time Jazz



Afro-Blue will perform with Gerri Allen on February 13 in honor of a black heritage celebration.

artist in September at Rutgers and that helped to build a relationship with her. Afro-Blue was one of seven ensembles chosen to perform out of hundreds at the International Association for Jazz Education

in New York City and we performed with Gerri Allen there as well," Miller said.

The ensemble will be performing alongside Allen again on Tuesday, Feb. 13th at the Lincoln Congressional

Center for the Congressional Black Caucus's Fourth Annual Heritage Celebration.

In 2003, the ensemble was chosen as the "Best College Jazz" group in the country and was awarded "Vocal Jazz Choir Outstanding Performance" in 2004 by Downbeat Magazine, a widely published Jazz magazine.

"Being apart of Afro-Blue is probably the best experience that I have had at Howard thus far," senior business major Jessica Chamberliss said.

"As a freshman, I would go to their performances and I couldn't wait until I could be apart of something that is so amazing," she added.

The opening song, "I Have a Dream," was a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., written after his assassination and

featured a solo from vocalist Reggie Bowens.

Sophomore music education major Janice Smith said, "I loved the performance, especially 'I Have a Dream.' It is easy to tell that the students in Afro-Blue put a lot into what they do. To us music majors, music is our passion. We don't perform for monetary gain. We perform because it is what we really love to do."

Following the performance of "I Have a Dream," Kevin Owens led the ensemble with "It Never Entered My Mind."

Sophomore music therapy major Kenyan Reid said, "Their performance was great as a fellow musician I admire them. Jazz is such a beautiful form of music that can take you anywhere you want to go."



# Students Address Fine Arts Course Requirement

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY  
Hilltop Staff Writer

While everyone is not artistically inclined, everyone has some sort of creativity brewing inside, waiting to break out and be seen by the world.

At Howard, not everyone has a major within the fine arts department, but everyone who is in the School of Communications or the College of Arts and Sciences is required to take at least one elective course in fine arts in order to graduate.

Explaining why students are required to take a fine art elective at least once while at Howard, School of Communications academic advisor Bernadette Williams said, "You want to be well-rounded. It's as simple as that."

Williams said that in the professional world, those who are able to converse about a variety of subjects and have a sense of culture are favored and looked upon in a positive light.

She adds that at some schools, students take courses that pertain solely to their majors, but what makes Howard's program so unique is that students will be knowledgeable in fields other than their major.

While knowledge is power and one

can never have enough useful information, the fine arts requirement may not be complimentary to everyone's majors.

While some students find this elective useful and others do not, most people enjoy getting in touch with their creative side.

"I took Blacks in the Arts as an elective. As a physician assistant major I don't feel that it had any impact towards my major, but learning about the history of African-American art never hurt anybody," senior Danielle King said.

Joseph Gray, a senior print journalism major, agreed with King saying, "I took Modern Art History with Professor [Raymond] Dobard. It was a good course. We just looked at a lot of different paintings from various eras and there were no tests, just a couple of research papers and I would say it contributed some to my major because it involved a lot of research, because that is a topic I was not at all familiar with."

Others, however, like Anthony Woodburne, a senior communication and culture major, may have enjoyed the courses, but acknowledged that they simply took them to fulfill a graduation requirement.

"I took Introduction to Theatre. It was really fun. I enjoyed the class as well

as the teacher. Her name was Denise Hart. She was a great professor. However, the class really did nothing for my major. I just took the class because it was an elective requirement," Woodburne said.

Not all students outside of the fine arts department aimed to just fulfill the requirement.

Whitney Teal, a senior print journalism major, did dual enrollment in high school, so she never took a fine arts course at Howard. She did have an Introduction to Theatre class as a part of the program.

She said, "I did like the class. I think it developed my public speaking skills and my ability to get up in front of a crowd."

By senior year, all students in the School of Communications and in the College of Arts and Sciences will have completed their fine arts elective in order to graduate. After graduation, the courses they take may tie into their major in some way.

Williams said, "The more you know, the more you can sell yourself."

A businessman at a classical music concert will be thankful for the Introduction to Music class he took at Howard University when he can distinguish between a cello and a violin.



File Photo

All students in both the School of Communications and the College of Arts and Sciences must take a fine arts course.

## Study Center Aids Students

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

To Angela Mills, the thought of taking regular classes with 18 and 20 year old students was intimidating. She had not been to school in 29 years and was an employee at Howard University. But she knew that somehow, with her determination and much sacrifice, she would finish her undergraduate studies.

Mills found her way through the Center for Academic Reinforcement (CAR). She considers it her second chance.

"A lot of people don't know the CAR program," she said. "Going through the CAR program really prepares you to get started."

As part of the School of Education, the CAR program offers free mini-courses to help improve and enhance academic skills.

"[The program is] offered to everyone on campus, even staff and faculty," said Dr. Valarie Lawson, the director of the center.

Mills began her studies by taking classes in the CAR. She took remedial courses in English, grammar, mathematics, critical thinking, test-taking and time management.

From there she took two classes a semester while still maintaining a full-time job and earned her undergraduate degree in fashion merchandising in the summer of 2006.

She is now in the graduate program at Howard studying African Studies.

"I am a firm believer that being educated is the single best way for one person to change the world," she said.

This semester the CAR program is offering two sessions. The three topics for the sessions

are "The Effective Use of Parts of Speech," "Recognizing and Correcting Sentence Errors" and "Critical Thinking."

According to Lawson, the classes fill up depending on the time they are scheduled.

"Prime time is 11 a.m. for classes," she said. "We try to have them when it's not prime time. One session offered on Saturday fills up very quickly. Courses offered in evening around four fill up quickly as well."

Professor Sharon Fletcher will teach the class on critical thinking. Through it students will learn what critical thinking is and how to apply it to success in college and in life.

"[Critical thinking] goes hand in hand with problem solving," she said. "It's a skill people take for granted."

Delvin Champagne, a graduate student in health education, plans to take the course on correcting sentence errors on Saturdays.

"I haven't had a formal English class in a long time," he said. Champagne graduated from in 2002 and has not had any classes since he began his graduate work in 2007.

"[It's] just a class to help where I'm going [and] to maintain the proper uses of grammar."

By taking these classes, Lawson expects students to increase their success rate in the classes in which they are currently enrolled.



File Photo

The Center for Academic Reinforcement, serving as part of the School of Education, helps students improve skills.

## Black History Profile: Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

As the bomb blasted through his house on Christmas Day in 1956, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth was reassured that he was fighting for the right cause.

His house was destroyed that night, but Shuttlesworth and his family all escaped untouched. He led a rally the next day.

The father of three daughters and one son, Patricia, Ruby, Carolyn and Fred Jr., he was an activist and a minister during the civil rights struggles in Birmingham, Ala. Shuttlesworth is regarded as one of the "big three" of the movement, along with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph Abernathy.

King described him as "the most courageous civil rights fighter in the South."

Shuttlesworth was born on March 8, 1922 in Mugler, Ala. After graduating from Selma University in 1951 and Alabama State College in 1952, he became the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham.

While in Birmingham, he organized sit-ins, bus boycotts and helped to encourage African Americans to apply for civil



Photo courtesy of www.purdue.edu

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth is considered one of the "big three" in the Civil Rights Movement.

service jobs.

All of his service and activism earned him much spite and hate from the racist white community. Shuttlesworth's house was targeted several times for bombed attacks and he received countless threats.

A year later, he was beaten brutally by a white mob with whips and chains as he attempted to help integrate an all-white public school.

In 1957, Shuttlesworth joined King, Abernathy and Bayard Rustin to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which assisted local organizations that helped blacks in the struggle for equality.

Shuttlesworth was one of the key figures in planning the march from Selma

to Montgomery in 1965. He also helped the Congress on Racial Equality to organize their "freedom rides."

In 1966, Shuttlesworth went on to become pastor of Greater New Light Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was through his work here that he became the director of the Shuttlesworth Housing Foundation in 1988. In this position he aided more than 460 low income families in owning homes.

Shuttlesworth served as the pastor of Greater New Light until 2006.

Today he continues to speak nationally on civil rights issues. He was a featured speaker at the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel in December.

## So Much to Do, So Little Time...

## Gentlemen of Drew Social Club

BY CHRISTINA COLEMAN  
Contributing Writer

In 1982, three Howard University freshmen decided to take a stand against the violence that plagued the Gresham Street area where the freshman dormitory, Charles Drew Hall, stands.

They ambitiously started the largest all-male organization on Howard University's campus, The Gentlemen of Drew Social Club (GODSC), to help rebuild the community they lived in and instill a sense of purpose in the young males who joined.

Today, GODSC is still living out those goals and continues to be a support system for freshmen who feel displaced within the Howard community.

The president, senior

double major Calvin Hadley, describes how freshmen can sometimes feel lonely and on the outskirts because "they can't join Greek life or other Howard organizations because of their classification."

"GODSC gave me a sense of family. I established a bond that will always be there," he said.

Freshman pre-pharmacy major Jarvis Seegars, who is also the new edition's president, credits networking as his reason for joining the social club.

"I wanted to find networking opportunities and I can actually use what I learn from this organization at Howard," Seegars said.

"Plus, I definitely already feel the brotherhood and I love my brothers," he added.

"It's no longer like, 'you're

the freshman.' We're all in it together," Seegars said.

William Brown, a sophomore finance major and treasurer of the organization said that the social club is a stepping stone for a successful college career.

"You'd be surprised how many people in high places are in the club," Brown said.

"We bring in people who are natural born leaders and put them in a mind set and environment where they can blossom. I definitely looked up to all the members before me."

Brown, who says that GODSC provides a solid foundation for freshmen just starting their HU experience, credits the club for its wide range of services and members.

"People join for many different reasons and everyone

gets something different from their experience. It's not limiting. Our members definitely run the gamut," he said.

Besides the social aspects of the club, GODSC works relentlessly in the community to help better not only the area, but the black community.

"The brotherhood is definitely the nucleus," Hadley said, "but everything we gain stems out to the community."

GODSC conducts annual spring clean-up efforts for Howard University and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The next clean-up will be next Saturday as a part of the organization's annual "Black Love Week" and Black History Month.

The week also includes a forum titled "The Invisible Howard Man," which will discuss the absentee black male,

female promiscuity, double standards and other problems plaguing the black community.

"It's important to talk about these things because the black male has such a bad rep," Brown said. "We want to wake Howard students up."

Also featured in the upcoming week are programs such as "Cater 2 You," in which the members serve the ladies in the cafeteria, "Rent-A-Gent," which is an auction, and the passing out of carnations on Valentine's Day.

"We want to show that male chivalry is not dead. Plus the black male is so under-represented and we want to dismiss these myths," Hadley said.

The goal of the week, which will be in the middle of Black History Month, is to pro-

mote black love and the black family as well as "pay homage to the people that paved the way," according to Brown.

The GODSC also usher weekly at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel and visit elementary schools monthly to read to the children.

"It's all about being a black man at HU and inspiring some thought within the community," Brown said. "We're here to establish an understanding, make a life long bond, and to be more prosperous in our future careers."

First time freshmen and transfer students are eligible for GODSC membership.



## Students Showcase Art Work Throughout March

ART, Page A1

said that his work examines quilting technique and spirituality and how they both offer protection.

His third piece was a sculpture that he said represents the transition from Africa to America and how the culture survived the transition.

Junior graphic design major Shukura Burrell came in second place in the ceramics category. Burrell created everything in her piece from scratch. Her pieces included a clay and wooden frame spray painted in gold that held removable ceramic pieces.

Burrell also displayed one

of her class assignments in the exhibition. For one of her classes focused on West African calligraphy, Burrell created a painting as her final project. Craving for "something different, something funky," Burrell created a painting full of color, calligraphy and hieroglyphics.

Linda Williams-Dean, a graphic design and photography student at Howard said, "I love it. So far so good. I like a lot of the paintings. I'm falling in love with the acrylic paintings and photography."

The exhibition will continue indefinitely through March. Admission is free and spectators may view the exhibition between 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## HUSA Policy Board Discusses Student Issues

BOARD, from Page 1

sition programs, as well as securing a common ground with administration and investigating campus services for students.

The board decided to allow the General Elections Commission to maintain jurisdiction over the emergency legal action notification that was posted concerning candidacy applications.

No action will be taken by the policy board concerning the situation until and if a grievance is filed, according to Interim Chair Adrienne Smith.

Howard University School of Dentistry President Richard Lecky raised concerns that while the College of Medicine is open 24 hours, students must evacuate the dentistry building by 10 p.m., which interferes with studying and the compilation reports, among other issues. He also stated there are parts of the building that students lose access to after 5:30 p.m. and claims that this is the case because the university is unwilling to provide security for the building beyond these hours.

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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.



## Indianapolis Colts

Elliott Jones, Sports Editor



Nothing against the Chicago Bears, but this is simply the year in which Peyton Manning will lead the Indianapolis Colts to victory in the Super Bowl. It's as if the script has already been written and all that is left is for the two teams to act it out.

Ever since the Colts made Manning the number one overall pick in the 1998 NFL Draft, there were visions of him lifting the Lombardi Trophy and returning the franchise to its glorious past. After all, it had been 28 long years since the Colts franchise last appeared in the Super Bowl following the 1970 season, when Johnny Unitas was its quarterback and the team still played in Baltimore.

Critics and cynics pointed out that while Manning starred at the University of Tennessee, he was never able to win the big one, losing all four years to bitter rivals Florida, although they did win three of four bowl games with Manning at the helm.

Their criticism seemed just when Manning and the Colts failed to convert a high-flying offense and regular season dominance into Super Bowl glory through his first seven NFL seasons. Even the arrival of head coach Tony Dungy, who seemed similarly snake-bitten in his failed attempts to lead the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to the Super Bowl, could not take Indy past the threshold that is the AFC Championship Game.

Now fast-forward to 2006. Indianapolis, who struggled more in the regular season than in the past, eased past Kansas City and Baltimore in the postseason to set up yet another meeting with the New England Patriots, who dashed their championship dreams in 2003 and 2004.

The Colts' come-from-behind, 38-34 victory was reminiscent of the Boston Red Sox's improbable comeback to defeat their arch-nemesis, the New York Yankees. Okay, maybe it wasn't quite three-games-to-none, nor had the team's last championship come 86 years ago. But it was obvious that once they overcame the Yankees, the St. Louis Cardinals were no match to stop the Red Sox from winning the World Series.

The Colts will follow the same basic story line on their way to victory in Super Bowl XLI. The emotional release from finally beating New England will carry over, and no team, particularly Chicago, can stop their momentum now.

Bears fans continue to refer to the adage that "defense wins championships," drawing comparisons between its Brian Urlacher-led, ball-hawking D and the 2000 Baltimore Ravens version that easily trounced the New York Giants 34-7 in Super Bowl XXXV.

Those who believe this year's Bears defense is "great" are misled. In actuality, the Bears just have a "very good" defense. Injuries to safety Mike Brown and defensive tackle Tommie Harris limit the unit's potential to create turnovers.

Don't get me wrong, Chicago has still been formidable on D — only against NFC opponents. How they will match up with Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne, Dallas Clark and the rest of the Colts offensive arsenal remains to be seen.

My pick: My belief is that the match-up clearly favors the Colts. Following last year's Pittsburgh Steelers' blueprint, the Colts will go from the Wild Card to world champions.

Colts by 12.

# SUPER

## Bears' Smith, Colts' Dungy Make History

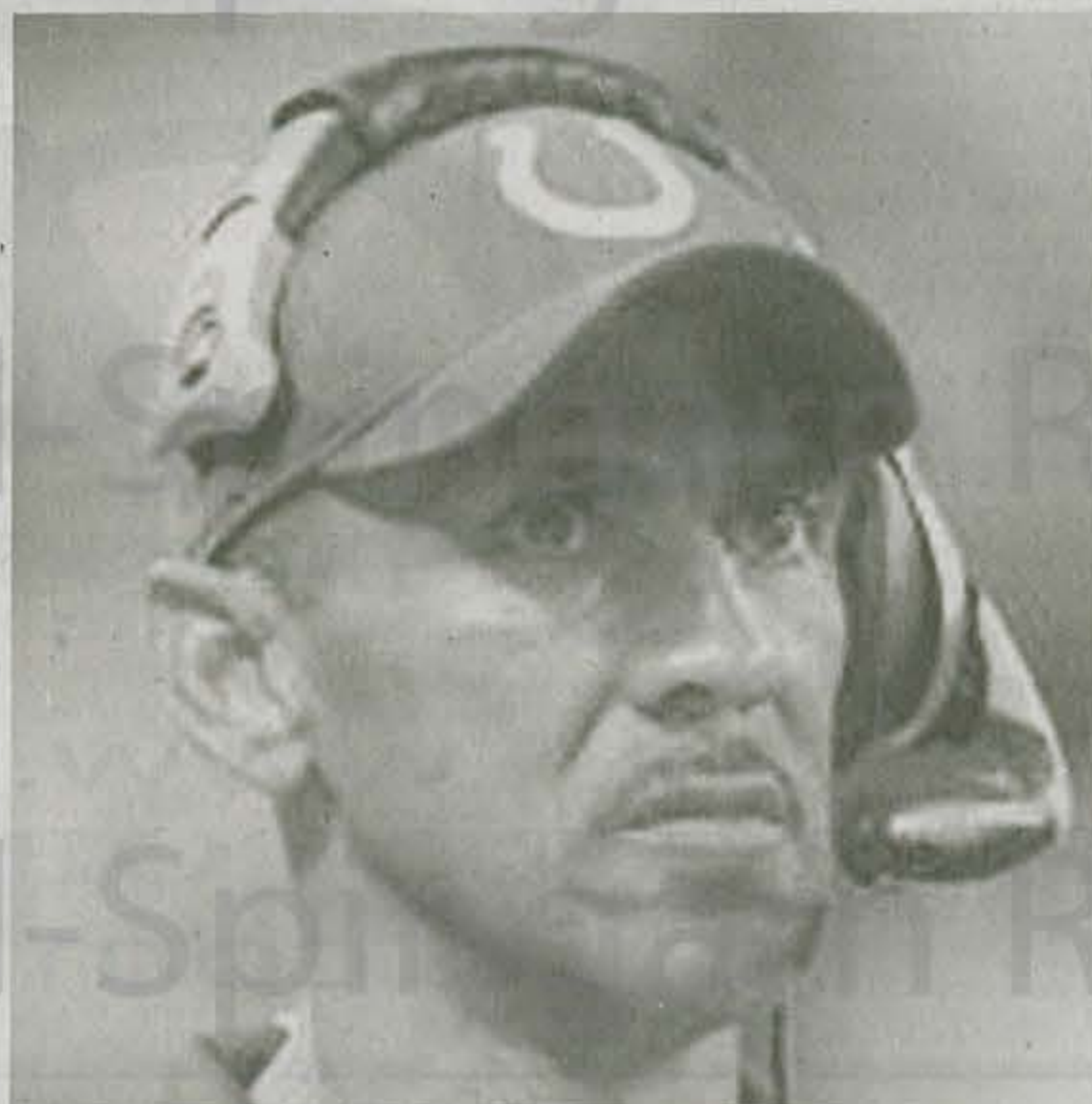


Photo courtesy of www.msncb.com

BY SEAN WOOLFORD  
Contributing Writer

Leadership, confidence, organization and competence are just some of the qualities for a successful head coach. For many years, general managers and owners believed blacks did not possess these traits.

While it was not true that black coaches did not have those qualities, they were not able to break the stereotype until this year when there will not only be the first ever black head coach in the Super Bowl, but also the first to win one.

Tony Dungy, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, and Lovie Smith, head coach of the Chicago Bears, have not only the pressure of the cities, players and fans of their respective teams, but also the pressure of an entire race, knowing that they will now be the standard for minority coaches in the NFL.

"It's a great feeling to have not just one but two blacks in the Super Bowl coaching," Michael Adams, sophomore business major and football player at Howard University, said. "Hopefully it will help change the slave mentality in the NFL."

Fritz Pollard became the first black NFL coach in 1921. Since the NFL merger in 1970, Art Shell was the first in 1989 and the first to lead his team to a conference championship game in 1990. It has taken 86 years since Pollard was first introduced to the league to get a minority in the Super Bowl.

"There are many reasons why it has taken so long," Richard Dorcous, a graduate student and former Howard football player, said. "For instance, it was not until the last couple of years that [the] NFL enforced a policy that made it possible for minority people to at least get an interview."

Dorcous said people did not trust that blacks had the qualities to be in

## AFC Dominates in Recent Super Bowls

BY SEAN WOOLFORD  
Contributing Writer

As the Super Bowl approaches, AFC domination has been consistent since the turn of the century. The AFC has won the last three Super Bowls, and seven of the last nine overall. These figures do not favor fans in the Chicago Bears' corner.

With teams from the AFC winning five of the seven Super

Bowls since the new millennium, some question why and how this has occurred. The NFC won 21 of 40 Super Bowls, including a 13-game winning streak from 1985 to 1997. But ever since the Denver Broncos won its two in a row to end the 1990s, it seems as if the tides have turned against the NFC.

Some people say it is the players while others name the coaches as the reason behind the lack of competition given by the NFC. Others blame the people who hire the both of them.

"GMs [general managers] should be the blame for the NFC being as bad as they are," said Justin Faust, a senior defensive lineman for Howard's football team. "GMs have done a better job of drafting players and seem to always have better coaching."

Faust and others believe that one position in particular can make a big difference on the field. The position, in which the AFC has a distinct advantage, is quarterback.

"When you just look

at the pro bowl [the NFL all-star game], the level of talent at the quarterback position is lopsided," Faust said. "Tom Brady didn't even get picked for the AFC roster and could start for the NFC. You know it's bad when you have to pick a quarterback who only started eight games," Faust said of Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo.

The quarterbacks on the AFC roster are Peyton Manning, Carson Palmer and Phillip Rivers, who, other than Rivers, are consistent all-pro caliber quarterbacks. Drew Brees, Tony Romo and Marc Bulger are the quarterbacks on the NFC roster. None of them were first round draft picks, but Brees leads the league in yards and touchdown passes and was in the AFC last year.

NFL analyst Ron Jaworski, who works for ESPN, has a similar opinion when it comes to the quarterback position.

"When looking for an answer for the AFC's dominance, look no further than the quarterback position," Jaworski said while on a recent telecast of Sunday NFL Countdown. "The best quarterbacks are in the AFC, and that results in wins."

The top dog of the NFL,

the New England Patriots, have won three of the last five Super Bowls. While many believe they should have been in this Super Bowl after giving up an 18-point lead in the second half, they lost to a great Indianapolis Colts team.

Many people did not even have a clue who the favorite was in the NFC to get to the Super Bowl at the halfway mark of the season. As far as most people were concerned, it was a toss-up in the NFC and the real Super Bowl was the AFC championship.

"The real Super Bowl was between the Colts and the Pats," Faust said. "The game may be good, but I don't believe there is a chance that the Bears will beat the Colts."

Some believe that the NFC has a chance to be competitive in the future. There is a lot of young talent that some believe will blossom very soon.

Richard Dorcous, a graduate student in the School of Divinity and a former Howard football player, said, "Since the NFC has such great young talent like Reggie Bush, Roy Williams [and] Steven Jackson, the future looks bright for the league."



Photo Courtesy of www.4etok.net

## Commercials Draw More Than Just Sports Fans to the

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS  
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Super Bowl is television's biggest day where millions gather around their TV sets to watch the broadcasted extravaganza.

However, there have always been three types of Super Bowl watchers: avid football fans, those who watch only one football game a year (the Super Bowl being that game) and the "I'm just watching for the commercials" viewers.

"I usually watch for the commercials," advertising professor Cheriss Mays said. "But this year I do actually plan on watching the game, because both teams have all black head coaches."

With the Super Bowl giving commercials their biggest audience, advertisers have shelled out about \$85 thousand per second of broadcast time in recent years. These advertisers are depending heavily on the commercial-watching crowd.

"I primarily watch the commercials and the half-time show," sophomore advertising major Grace Wei said. "I always want to see what creative angle the advertisers are going to use."

In the past, advertisers have reached out to the football fan as well as the commercial watcher in a number of creative ads. Many can remember the infamous Budweiser bullfrog campaign that started with a Super Bowl commercial or even the more recent P. Diddy

Pespi truck ads.

There are a number of anticipated commercials to run this year that flex advertisers' creative muscles.

Perhaps one of the most built up ads for this Super Bowl is the Peyton Manning Apple iPhone ads, which tie in a little bit for the interested commercial consumer as well as the sports fan.

"I have heard a lot of buzz about these Peyton Manning commercials so as an advertising student, I am probably most anxious to [see] them," junior advertising major Ayana Patton said.

The campaign has hyped the big Super Bowl ad in a series of mini-episodes. The commercials have been widely searched



Kansas City wide receiver Curtis McCClinton becomes the first black player to catch a touchdown pass. Later in the same game Elijah Pitts becomes the first black player to rush for a touchdown.



At Halftime, Ella Fitzgerald became the first black singer to take the stage in the salute to Louis Armstrong.

A  
GUIDE  
TO  
THE  
BLACK  
SUPERBOWL



# BOWL XLII

## y as First Black Coaches in Super Bowl

leadership roles, which is why there are so few black coaches in those positions now.

"There was the idea that minorities shouldn't be playing football," Dorceus said. "Then it moved to their not [being] competent enough to play certain positions such as quarterback, center and middle linebacker, let alone coach."

A lack of talent is not the reason for black coaches not making it to the Super Bowl. There are many coaches who have had the talent but just not the extra something to get them over the edge.

"Tony Dungy and Dennis Green had teams that should have been to the Super Bowl before," Adams said. "Dungy should have been there back in 2000 with the Bucs and Green had a great team with the Vikings in 1999 when they lost to the Falcons."

The result of the Super Bowl can have many significant effects for different people.

"I don't know if having a black man win the Super Bowl will make GMs [general managers] go out and say that they need to hire the first black man they can to fill the job, but it should have them at least consider more and more minorities for those leadership positions," Adams said.

Dorceus believes minorities will have different career goals rather than being athletes.

"I think it will result in minority people, especially African Americans, to choose new career goals and it will establish higher standards in their achievements," Dorceus said.

Sunday's Super Bowl could open doors for minorities regarding different leadership positions in sports. Many more black coaches, like new Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin, are being hired every day. With the success of Dungy and Smith, hopefully blacks will be put in the position to succeed not only on the field, but also on the sidelines.



Photo courtesy of www.graphicsjournal.com

## Chicago Bears

Caryn Grant, Sports Editor



The Chicago Bears are the underdog in this Super Bowl match-up. Their conference, the NFC, has played that role the last few Super Bowls. And Lovie Smith and Co. have dealt with the nation's doubt of their ability to perform when necessary throughout the season.

The result of this game rests on the shoulders of Rex Grossman, the Bears' quarterback, whom has been the target of much of criticism throughout the season.

On paper Grossman is no match for Indianapolis' Peyton Manning, but no one is asking him to be. Grossman came through with a decent game in the NFC title game against the New Orleans Saints (11-26 passing for 144 yards, 1 touchdown and no interceptions), and that is exactly what is needed on Sunday for the Bears to be victorious.

Despite the story line of whether Grossman will come to play in the big game, the Bears defense has been their bread and butter all season. Headed by middle linebacker Brian Urlacher, cornerback Nathan Vasher and defensive end Mark Anderson, they have allowed 294.1 yards per game and finished the season ranked fifth overall.

On offense, running back Thomas Jones has been a force to be reckoned with, rushing for 1210 yards and six touchdowns.

No matter how much experience and talent Manning has over Grossman, Manning's injured thumb may lessen the gap between the two field generals in the big game, although he and the Colts will swear up and down that he is fine. The slightest injury to his thumb can alter the way he throws the ball. That is only an addition to Manning's history of choking in the big game.

Then there is the age-old tale of a team having too much confidence. The past two weeks have been full of sports commentators counting this as an automatic win for the Colts.

Their third-ranked offense, headed by Manning is supposed to completely obliterate the Bears, but need I remind you that no matter how cliché, it is defense, folks, that wins games.

However, no matter how spectacularly the Colts orchestrated their second half comeback against the New England Patriots in the AFC title game, they were half of a miracle away from not making it to Sunday's game. Contrarily, the Bears convincingly strolled their way past the Saints into the Super Bowl.

And if for no other reason, nature tells us that in a clash between a bear and a horse, nine times out of ten, a bear will be victorious.

Nonetheless, I wish our former Bison Antoine Bethea the best, and hope to see a good game.

My Pick: Manning struggled to win the big game in Florida during his years at the University of Tennessee. That trend will continue through Sunday's game. The Bears may need the saving grace of Robbie Gould's foot once again before they can raise the Vince Lombardi trophy, get ready to Super Bowl shuffle people.

Bears by four.

## Question & Answer with Antoine Bethea

top caught up with former football player and start-up Colts defensive back Bethea for a quick interview about his season in the NFL and why he wants to play in Super Bowl

**top:** You're just a few days from the big game in your mind. What is your mind set on?

**Bethea:** I'm just set in on getting ready and getting out there, get ready to get out there and play football.

**top:** When you were drafted to the Colts, did you expect to make an impact on the team and be a rookie?

**Bethea:** I really. Planning to come out and the coaches asked me to do it when my number was 17. I wanted to make the best of it. I was your transition like Indianapolis?

**top:** Different. D.C. is the fast city. Slower. Something that I'm accustomed to and I'm used to it.

**top:** What has been your biggest challenge in the season?

**Bethea:** The time spent. In college, I had a hour or two meet-

ing and two hour practice. Now you come in at 8 and don't leave until 4, so the time spent preparing is really different.

**TH:** Your biggest lesson?

**AB:** Keep pushing. Keep working hard. When people were doubting us, especially the defense, we kept working and kept pushing and we got it working now.

**TH:** Is life in the NFL what you expected it to be?

**AB:** It's lovely. It's what I wanted to do. I love it and wouldn't change it for nothing.

**TH:** What was going through your head when you made that interception against the Ravens, in the game that sent you guys to the Conference title game?

**AB:** I had a headache. You know, running in to [Colts linebacker] Cato [June], so I had a headache. It was a big point in the game, but at the time I had a headache and was just trying to get rid of that.

**TH:** What has been the difference in the Colts defense in the postseason?

**AB:** We were missing some tackles in the regular season. But now we have a lot of people running to the ball. And playing better football all together.

**TH:** Having a former Bison player in the Super Bowl as a rookie could be a big thing for the Howard football

program. Have you thought about the amount of impact this may have on recruiting here?

**AB:** Yeah, I thought about [it]. I hope it brings a lot of good players. But with the situation now, the coaches we had when I was there aren't there anymore. So if they bring in some good people, it depends on how the new coaches face the situation.

**TH:** Do you still keep in contact with some of your Bison teammates and coaches? How much support have they shown you during this season?

**AB:** I talked to a number of my teammates and the coaches throughout the season. They're basically like my second family. They've been showing a lot of support. Teammates call me and I talk to coach Bolton about twice a week and (coach) Petty. They've been really supportive.

**TH:** What, if anything, do you miss about Howard and college life?

**AB:** I miss everything about Howard. The city, D.C., being able to play with my friends. I think

about all the times I wish I could go back to, like my freshman year. I miss Howard.

**TH:** Do you feel that Howard University or even Howard football prepared you for this stage in your life? How so?

**AB:** It has. Coach Petty and coach Bolton did a good job instilling into the football team what it takes to be a football player. And not having a large weight room and not very good facilities is very humbling. It really taught me to keep your eyes on the prize and keep working to live up to your childhood dream.

-- Interview By Caryn Grant, Sports Editor



Photo Courtesy of www.colts.com

## Tube on Super Bowl Sunday

As such as Youtube and Peyton Manning commercial spoilers have even been

many try to look at the commercials. Collectively, many are aware of the hype. Each year the standard for more creative and original

that now that I am an advertising executive, I look more closely at the creative side. "The Apple commercials are always great."

As in the past impressed its viewers with creative advertising strategies, so as we are expecting nothing but a booming advertiser.

Perhaps the company's biggest commercial impact was for Super Bowl XVIII in 1984 when they aired a 60 second commercial introducing the first Macintosh with a "Big Brother" theme. The commercial created a big buzz and is used as a teaching tool even today.

"I use Super Bowl ads as a teaching tool in my creative advertising classes," Mays said.

Advertisers have used Super Bowl ads throughout the history of the game to flex their dollars and creative concepts to attract millions of viewers. This year, along with the millions of viewers nationwide, Howard students are expected to join in the commercial-watching frenzy as well.



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Harris, whose father was black and mother was white, was the first player of African descent to win the MVP award. Harris also rushed for a record 158 yards.

Doug Williams becomes the first black quarterback to play in -- and win -- a Super Bowl. Williams also becomes the first black quarterback to win the MVP award.

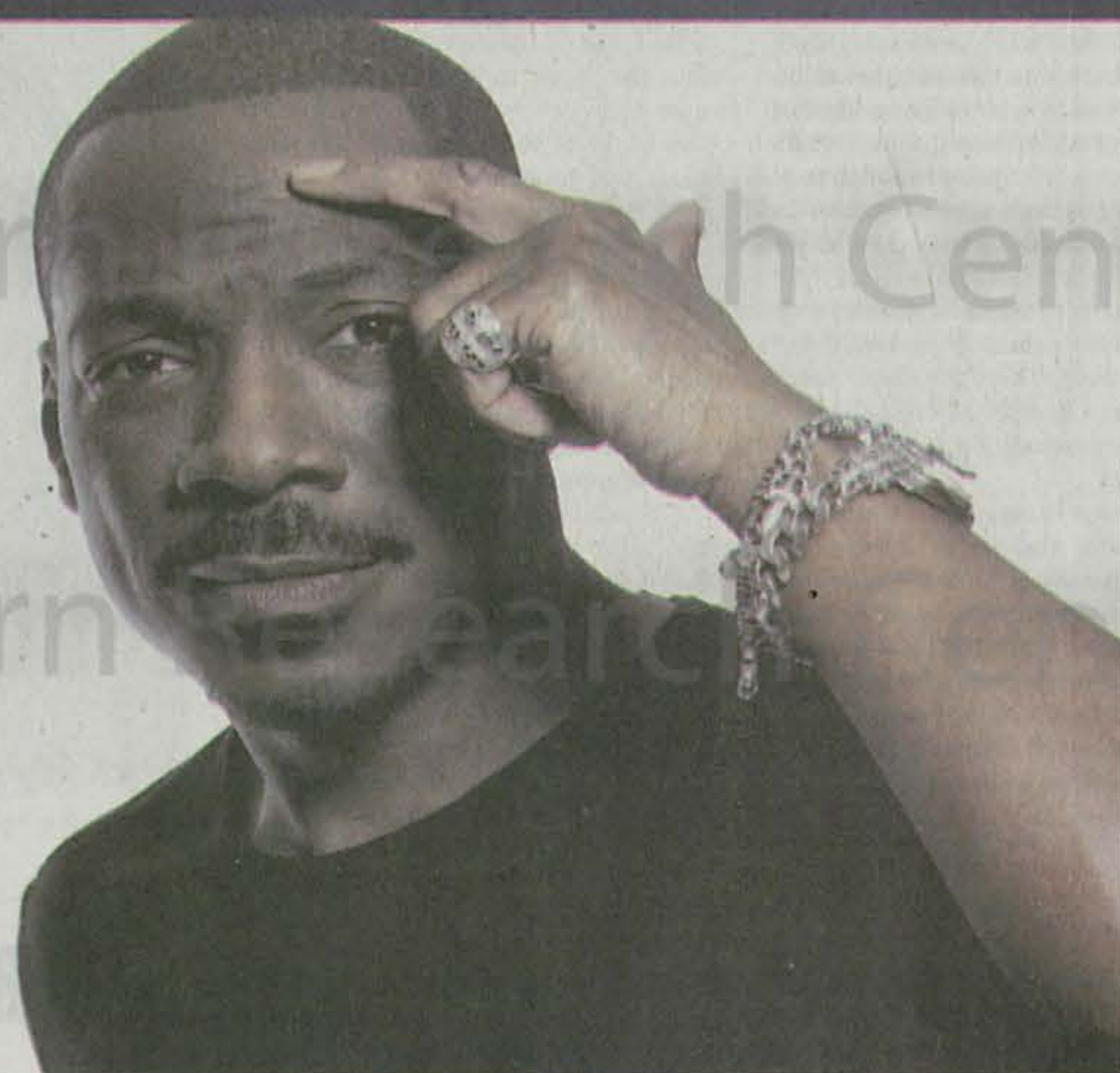
Greg Gumbel becomes the first African American to do play-by-play for the Super Bowl and the first man to host the pre-game show and do play-by-play.

Photos: Courtesy of www.nfl-legends.com, espn.go.com, memory.loc.gov, www.sportsillustrated.com, www.sportsline.com  
Graphic Courtesy of: Jeremy Williams - Layout Designer





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## Nation & World Briefs

### Humans "Very Likely" Cause Global Warming

A report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's leading climate scientists say global warming is "very likely" caused by humans.

"The observed widespread warming of the atmosphere and ocean, together with ice-mass loss, support the conclusion that it is extremely unlikely that global climate change of the past 50 years can be explained without external forcing, and very likely that is not due to known natural causes alone," the 20-page report said.

The report also states the problem is not one that can be fixed for centuries, "even if greenhouse gas concentrations were to be stabilized."



'Super Tonio' Born Over 14 Pounds

A baby boy was born weighing 14.5 pounds and 22 inches in length to Teresa Alejandra Cruz, 23, and Luis Vasconcelos, 38. Antonio Vasconcelos, born Jan. 29 by Caesarean section, has attracted a number of people to the hospital in Cancun.

"We haven't found any abnormality in the child; there are some signs of high blood sugar, and a slight blood infection, but that is being controlled so that the child can get on his normal life in a few more days," Narciso Perez Bravo, the hospital's director, said Wednesday.

According to CNN.com, a baby was born in January 2005 in El Salvador weighing in at 16 pounds, 11 ounces. And the Guinness World Records says the heaviest baby born to a healthy mother was a boy weighing 22 pounds, 8 ounces in Aversa, Italy in 1955. Cruz admits to even having a baby girl seven years ago that weighed 11.46 pounds.

### Anti-AIDS Gel Studies Halted in Africa and India

Studies of an anti-AIDS vaginal gel in Africa and India have been halted after researchers' early results suggested the gel might raise the risk of HIV infection rather than lowering it.

The World Health Organization said it was "a disappointing and unexpected setback" to the discovery of another way to protect women from the risk of HIV through sex.

According to CNN.com, women and girls represent more than half of new infections with the AIDS virus in Africa.

"I cannot think of any biological basis for these findings, and I hope that further analysis of all the data may shed further light on this important question," said a statement by USAIDS's research chief, Jeff Spieler.



# CBC Plans Aids for Katrina Victims

BY VANESSA ROZIER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Shores of the United States only 17 months ago. With the majority of redevelopment ahead, it appears as though some are beginning to forget. That is everyone except for the Congressional Black Caucus.

The CBC is acting and doing what the federal government has yet to successfully execute. They asked the first female speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, to form a committee that would, more urgently, rebuild New Orleans.

Last week's State of the Union Address touched upon many pressing issues, mainly foreign, ranging from Social Security to al Qaeda to Iraq. Missing in the transcripts, however, was the current condition in New Orleans, also known as the Crescent City. Although much needed attention must be given to the War in Iraq, who will address the pressing needs of US citizens?

"The Bush administration has turned its back on our fellow Americans, the victims of the greatest disaster on American soil in our generation," CBC Chairman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, a

Michigan Democrat, wrote in a letter to Pelosi. "How can we talk about reconstruction abroad when we cannot help our fellow Americans at home?"

The CBC serves as an unbiased, policy-oriented organization that, according to the Web site, "educates future leaders and promotes collaboration among legislators, business leaders, minority-focused organizational leaders and organized labor to effect positive and sustainable change in the African American community."

In essence, the CBC exists to enhance the political influence of African Americans.

The Katrina devastation revealed where the federal government's true priorities now lie. That being said, African Americans should not expect much more assistance, unless they receive this assistance from their own people.

According to the White House, the federal government has provided \$110 billion to the Gulf Coast region, which consists of five states dealing with three storms.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has spent \$25 billion of the \$42 billion given to them to help in rebuilding efforts, according to federal records. It has been esti-



Photo courtesy of www.magicparks.com

The CBC attempts to fill the void that the federal government has left by creating a committee to assist in funds and reconstruction for the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

mated that New Orleans still needs about \$900 million in reconstruction money to fix the city.

Sophomore film production major Valetta Burgess said, "When I was there six or seven months after the hurricane hit, it looked like a bomb went off."

Burgess was one of many Howard University students who volunteered their time during Spring Break in 2006

to assist in the hurricane relief efforts. "I don't remember seeing adults out of college, except for people who were serving food and the few chaperones who came with the students," she said.

Alternative Spring Break co-chair Gerald Ashby said, "The grass roots organizations have done the most work outside of students. Other university students,

small church groups and grass roots organizations from other states and AmeriCorps troops were there working, but that was it."

It is evident that much of the help the Katrina victims will be receiving will be coming in the form of hands-on assistance from non-profit organizations and now the Congressional Black Caucus.

## Preview For Senator Obama Event

BY SIMONE STEPHENSON  
Contributing Writer

Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) will be holding an informal event at George Mason University today where several thousand students are expected to rally in support of the senator and potential presidential candidate.

The "Yes We Can!" event, which is sponsored by the Barack Obama Presidential Exploratory Committee in conjunction with Students for Barack Obama organization and the George Mason University College Democrats, will be held at 4440 University Drive in Fairfax, Va. Students who choose to drive are asked to park in Lot K, and students traveling by Metro can take the Orange Line to the Vienna stop, where they can find event shuttles providing transportation to and from the venue continuously from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Doors open for the event at 11:30 a.m. and the senator will be delivering a short speech at 1 p.m. in order to allow as much time as possible to meet

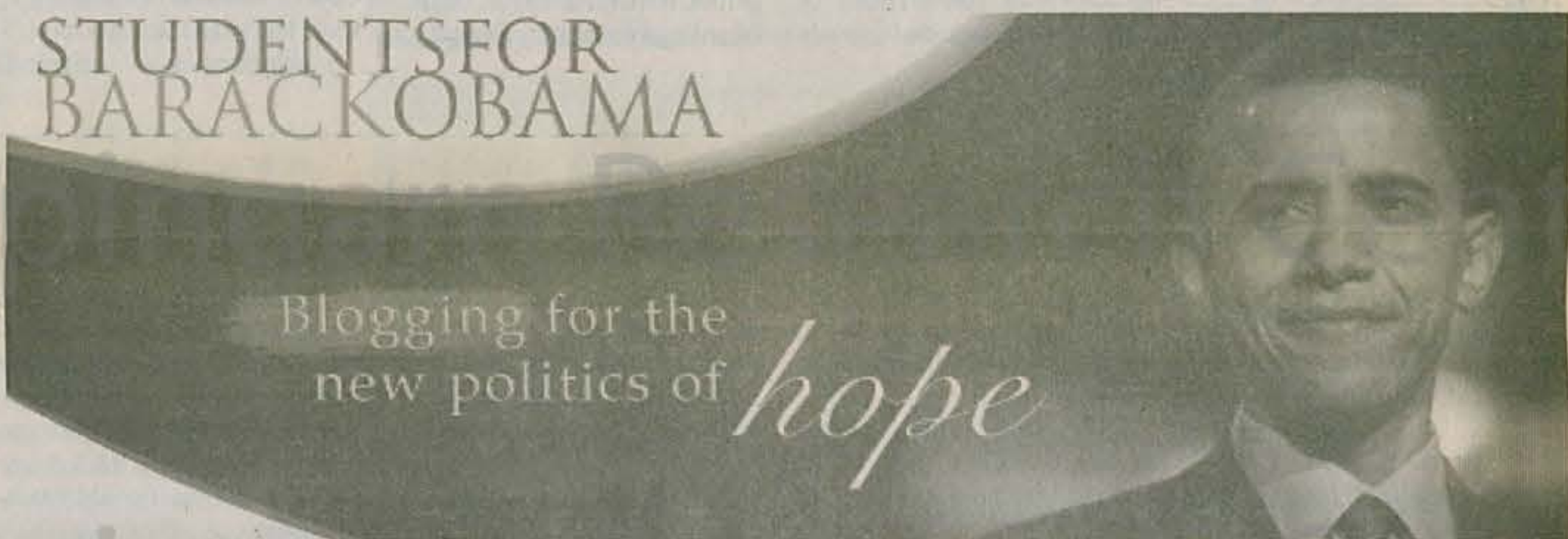


Photo courtesy of www.studentsforbarack.com

Students will rally in support for Senator Barack Obama today between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at George Mason University.

students and attendees before he has to leave to catch a flight out of the District.

The event will be an informal way for students to show their support for the junior senator and potential presidential candidate, as well as speak with and share personal views with him.

"For months now, students have been convening online and through other media. And now we're extremely excited

to provide the opportunity for students to actually be able to personally convey their points of view. As well as support for the senator," said Meredith Segal, the executive director of Students for Barack Obama organization.

Students are allowed to dress casually and wear paraphernalia representing their school. Rachael Allen-Stephens, a junior political science major, has been asked to

deliver a short introduction for the senator, along with several other students from surrounding schools.

"I'm very honored that I was asked to deliver words towards the senator. I was told to speak honestly, about how I feel about him, and what his impact has been on me, as well as my community," Allen-Stephens said.

According to Segal, some students have expressed inter-

est and are planning to travel from as far as 12 hours away to attend the event.

"Since the very beginning of this movement, we've been very astounded by the amount of dedication that students have provided," she said. "And students traveling from so far away is one more indication of the enthusiasm that the senator has sparked within students from across the country."

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## Underage Drinking Still Glamorized by the Media; Student Debate Over Legal Drinking Age Continues

BY MELANIE CHAMBLISS  
Contributing Writer

Amidst her usual media frenzy, Hollywood hot girl Lindsay Lohan recently checked herself into the Wonderland Center in Los Angeles for reported alcohol abuse treatment. Lohan is 20 years old, one year shy of the legal age limit for alcohol consumption. She released a statement last month saying that she had been attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for more than a year.

Lohan achieved her star status from typically family-oriented films such as "The Parent Trap," "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls."

However, Lohan has also become a tabloid favorite for her active social life. Lohan's rehab visit has drawn attention to the national issue of underage alcohol abuse. Her story has left many people wondering about the extent of underage drinking.

Approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die each year as a result of underage drinking, including motor vehicle crashes, alcohol poisoning, suicides and drownings. The cause of this alarming rate of fatalities is only speculative.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), research shows characteristics such as risk-

taking, hereditary factors, environmental influence as well as personality traits all play a role in the presence or absence of alcohol abuse. There is little that can be done to influence hereditary factors that may cause a predisposed inclination to alcoholism and risk-taking is found to be partially caused by incomplete brain development in adolescence. However, according to NIAAA, environmental influence can be altered and therefore serves as a factor that deserves to be scrutinized.

Alexis Taylor, a junior television production major, said that alcohol commercials, "promote fame, parties, girls and guys interacting in a club atmosphere."

Taylor continued, "People do what they want to do, but people see those images and don't see drinking as something that's habit-forming like tobacco."

Many non-profit organizations are beginning to realize the appeal of these flashy commercials and have proposed various initiatives and programs to combat the surge in the popularity of drinking.

NIAAA has published findings that alcohol abuse interventions fall into the categories of either environmental levels that reduce the community level of tolerance for alcohol or individual level to impact

perceptions about the substance.

Some environmental forms of intervention include increasing the price of alcohol, enacting zero-tolerance laws and enacting the enforcement of these legislations. Methods of individual intervention can be school or family-based prevention programs. Schools can offer classes that address the social pressure to drink and teach tactics for resistance. Families can also set strict boundaries concerning alcohol to impose limitations on people under the age of 21.

Fanta Taye, who works the evening shift at Georgia Avenue Market, adamantly opposes underage drinking. When trying to prevent underage customers from buying alcohol, he said, "They come in here, and we ask them for their ID cards."

When he discovers that the individuals are not 21, he says that the customers have mixed reactions.

"Sometimes they get mad and yell at you. Other times they are happy, it changes," he said.

Taye, a father of three, is not only against underage drinking but also believes that the legal age for smoking is too low.

Joy Young, a junior public relations major, thinks of college drinking almost as



File Photo

Organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Alcoholics Anonymous try to curb underage drinking. Actress Lindsey Lohan is the latest celebrity to seek treatment.

a rite of passage.

"It seems like a coming-of-age thing. I think people drink because they think everyone is doing it."

Whether people drink or not entirely depends on the person though. The law can only do but so much to prevent underage drinking," she said. "I don't think it will stop even if the laws are stronger. Overseas the drinking age is lower, and other countries don't seem to have the problems we have."

Sophomore criminal

justice major Jordan Frasier, mirrors Young's perspective on the effectiveness of underage drinking programs on college campuses.

He said, "Programs like [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] are good programs, but they aren't doing too much to address the need. They don't really show how there is a good way to drink, or if there is such thing." Frasier said, "There are programs that show how to have safe sex because people are going to have sex, but with alcohol

abuse it is different. It is all or nothing."

Some suggest that underage alcoholism is simply an extension of a larger national addiction to this substance. If so, addressing how alcohol can be enjoyed and abused once students are over the age of 21 may help to curve the popular frenzy that has underage youth enamored with the image of fun, social drinking instead of realizing the danger of reckless alcohol consumption.

## Tyler Perry Does It Again with "What's Done In The Dark"

BY APRIL CHEREE DEBOSE  
Contributing Writer

The metro Washington area just got a taste of Tyler Perry's "What's Done in the Dark" stage play last week at Warner Theatre. This triple threat, who is known for writing, producing and directing his plays, does it again in this hilarious, message-filled play. In 30 degree weather, Tyler Perry fans filled the theater in anticipation of the raved show.

After passing through the crowds into the lobby, one could see the vendors ready to sell T-shirts, programs, plays, movies and even soundtracks from movies that Tyler Perry created. The play, which made its first debut in September, is the ninth for Perry.

Just like his previous plays, it is a mixture of music, comedy and real-life drama. The play takes place in a hos-

pital emergency room and is revolving around the life issues of two nurses.

The first nurse, played by actress Julie Dickens, is trapped in a relationship of infidelity with a co-worker. Dickens's character, Kerry, is the head nurse and the assistant to the chief of staff at Mercy Hospital.

Not only is she the assistant, but she is also having a secret affair with a physician until his wife shows up at the hospital to give birth to their child. Unexpectedly, she is forced to deal with major issues, including morality and trust.

Like many of Perry's other plays, he focuses on the strength of black women and the sacred responsibility they hold to their children. Brenda, the nurse played by singer/actress Chandra Currelley, works overtime to try to take care of herself and her son, Calvin. She spends a lot of time

at work trying to get Calvin's deadbeat father to help her financially, but her attempts are futile.

Currelley, former lead singer for the popular 1980's group The S.O.S. Band, has a tremendous range of vocals and astounds the audience with her singing talents. She also beautifully portrays a struggling mother who is trying to carry the burden of being her son's mother and father-figure.

Although there is a lot of drama, Perry doesn't leave his most colorful and comical character out. Mr. Brown, played by actor David Mann, visited the hospital regularly even though he is in perfect health.

His extra tight, outdated and brightly colored wardrobe along with his white, ashy knees and his lazy speech take the play from being very funny to downright hilarious.

Like in most theater plays, the songs give the story line deeper meaning. The majority of ballads in this play are popular gospel and R&B songs that the audience could easily identify.

The actors sing with profound emotions that give the audience a chance to connect with the characters. Overall, the play left its spectators well entertained and satisfied. Besides the fact that the speakers were set up in the front right and left corners of the stage, causing blind spots for people sitting in those areas, the play was incredible.

For those who are interested in seeing "What's Done In The Dark," the play will be touring 20 additional cities. More information can be found on Perry's Web site, [www.tylerperry.com](http://www.tylerperry.com). Perry will also be releasing his third film, "Daddy's Little Girls," on Feb. 14.



File Photo

Director and producer Tyler Perry's play, "What's Done in the Dark," is being performed nationwide.

## TOP TEN VALENTINES DAY GIFTS

Most women are easy...to buy gifts for. They want flowers, chocolates, spa packages, expensive jewelry (hint, hint). But what do men want? But what do men want? These are 10 gift suggestions for your favorite guy(s).

1. Watches
2. Cufflinks
3. Cologne
4. Homemade Dinner
5. Coupon Book
6. Game/ Concert Tickets
7. Spa Package
8. Shoes
9. Money Clip
10. YOU!!!!!!





# EDITORIALS *& Perspectives*

VOLUME 90, NO. 77

FEBRUARY 2, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

OKAY PEOPLE! BRAINSTORMING TIME! TWO BLACK COACHES IN THE NFL! WE NEED ADS TO REFLECT THIS CHANGE! WE CAN'T OF COURSE, SHOW ANYTHING LIKE A BLACK OWNER OF AN NFL TEAM, OR ANYTHING THAT DEALS WITH MORE BLACK COACHES IN OTHER SPORTS! LET'S DO SOMETHING 'HOT' WITH LOTS OF WOMEN SHAKING IT! LET'S GET A RAPPER OR TWO 'SPITTING THAT FIRE' AND WEARING LOTS OF ICE!

YES GUNTHER... ICE ARE DIAMONDS.



## Super Black Super Bowl Sunday

Two weekends ago, Lovie Smith and Tony Dungy both signed their names into the history books by becoming the first and second African-American head coaches to lead their teams to the Super Bowl. But history and even the current state of affairs of African-American leadership in professional sports and college sports is far from equal.

It has almost been 20 years since Doug Williams became the first African-American quarterback to both start and win a Super Bowl with the Washington Redskins in 1988's Super Bowl XXII. The year after that, Art Shell became the first African-American head coach in the NFL in the modern era and the first to be hired as a coach since Fritz Pollard was hired in the first form of the league (AFPA) in 1921. Since Shell's hiring in 1989, there have been only eight African-American head coaches hired in the NFL.

So, for Smith and Dungy, it is huge that they have led their

teams to the most valuable sporting event in the world, according to Forbes Magazine. And Mike Tomlin, Pittsburgh Steelers head coach, became the eighth African-American head coach to work in the league in two years the next day, showing the immediate effects of Smith and Dungy's

### Our View:

*We are proud of Smith and Dungy, but we would like to see the rest the black community catch up.*

success.

But a 2002 report by Johnnie Cochran Jr. and labor law attorney Cyrus Mehri compiled data showing that 70 percent of the NFL's players were African American, but only 28 percent of assistant coaches and six percent head coaches were African American. And although out of that came the Rooney Rule, which forced teams to interview at least one minority candidate when looking for a head coach, many coaches are only interviewed

to appease the league's rule.

A similar rule exists in the NCAA, but even more minority candidates are interviewed only to appease the league's rule and then passed up for a White candidate. This is a direct result of a perpetual old boy network in a league and sport rich with tradition.

With the successes of Smith and Dungy and other African American head coaches in all of professional sports, the number is sure to increase in the future because winning is colorless in both professional and college sports.

But this will all mean very little, if their is still sparse representation in the ownership of professional sports teams. Their is currently only one majority owner of a professional sports team, the Charlotte Bobcats. We applaud Bob Johnson's efforts, but more ownership must take place to exacerbate the breaking up of the old boy network that gets a lot of these African-American head coaches passed up.

## Perspective: Black Coaches in The Super Bowl

As we approach Sunday and people gather around to witness the first time ever in National Football League (NFL) history two Black coaches lead their teams into the biggest game of the NFL season let us remember an oft forgotten pioneer, Fritz Pollard.

Pollard was the first Black coach in NFL history. Pollard served as a player/coach for the Akron Pros in 1921. He later went on to organize and coach the Chicago Blackhawks, an all-Black team that played

white teams in the Chicago area and teams from the west coast.

In March of 2003 the NFL created an organization called the Fritz Pollard Alliance. This organization works to promote diversity in the NFL with regards to coaching positions, front office staff, and scouting personnel.

Now because of their hard work there are six Black coaches, a bevy of Black scouts and Ozzie Newsome was named the General Manager of the

Baltimore Ravens. He is the first Black to hold that position in NFL history.

So as we prepare to celebrate the occasion of a Black coach winning the Super Bowl, let us remember the man who paved the way for these coaches to be where they are today. Because it is just as the motto of the Fritz Pollard Alliance says. We drink from wells we did not dig.

- Ray Baker, Sports Anchor for Howard Today

## Perspective: Antoine Bethea in Super Bowl and Hilltop Ignores The Story

I am writing to express my dismay at the lack of media coverage regarding former Howard Bison Antoine Bethea playing in the February 4th Super Bowl (#41, Indianapolis Colts).

Howard University athletic coverage by the majority media in DC is routinely anemic, but the lack of coverage by *The Hilltop* is both puzzling and troubling. My former student Soraya McDonald articulates this disconnect better, saying:

"I published quite a few stories about Bethea's prowess and potential when I was sports editor of *The Hilltop*, so I developed a rapport with him. At the time, a lot of folks thought I had a crush on him or something for dedicating so much space, but I was just on top of the story.

I wish I could go back now and say, 'Told you so!' It's disappointing that everyone's been ignoring this story, I agree.

*The Hilltop* basically fell asleep at the wheel with this one. The Post had a great series written by Mark Maske on Ron Bartell the year before he went pro because he was (and maybe still is) the highest-drafted player out of Howard.

I saw him this year when the Chiefs played the Rams. There wasn't so much as a peep about him from *The Hilltop*, even after the Post stories ran. I wasn't working for *The Hilltop* anymore, but I was seething that they let themselves get beat so badly.

I was telling a friend of mine that I hope Bethea has a good, good, agent, because he actually has been a differ-

ence-maker for the defense, and the Colts got him at a bargain-basement price because he came from Howard.

He doesn't play like a sixth-round draft pick. After this season, the front office should be smart enough to renegotiate his contract and keep him. First year in the League and the kid intercepts Tom Brady."

signed Soraya McDonald, Howard University, c/o 2006

Soraya McDonald was a sportswriter for *The Hilltop* from 2002-2003, and sports editor from 2003-2004 before (she) left to work for the Washington Post. She now works as a sportswriter for the Colorado Springs Gazette.

- Jeffrey Fearing, Ph.D.

## Daily Sudoku

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

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Come to our budget meeting

Monday @ 7 p.m.

## THE HILLTOP

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

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

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



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