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THE HILLTOP

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VOLUME 91, NO. 46

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Thursday, November 1, 2007

Thursday Notebook**BREAKING NEWS****SOUTHERN FLORIDA PREPARES FOR A POTENTIAL BRUSH WITH TROPICAL STORM NOEL, WHICH KILLED 48 PEOPLE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI, ACCORDING TO CNN.****CAMPUS****THE MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION HELD EID-AL-FITR, A CELEBRATION OF THE END OF RAMADAN ON WEDNESDAY.****NATION & WORLD****COLLEGE BOARD REPORTED STATISTICS SHOWING THAT TUITION RATES ARE GOING UP ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

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New FCC Policy Could Decrease Local Programming

BY ERICA MORRISON
Contributing Writer

Although the Cat in the Hat, a pink Statue of Liberty and a group of co-ed FCC cheerleaders were all in the audience, the hearing held at the Federal Commissions Building on Halloween morning was no joking matter.

Individuals gathered outside of the FCC building in Washington to protest the proposed deregulation of the ban on media ownership. Currently, the FCC does not allow the ownership of more than one media outlet within

the same market without a waiver from the FCC. Chairman Kevin Martin has recommended an ease on these limits which would allow big media companies to monopolize the industry. Many fear that the already limited local ownership and representation will be non-existent.

The rally was held in front of the FCC building on 12 Street in Southwest Washington and had a small turnout of about 60 people. Despite the turnout, many Americans are outraged by the proposal. D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Rev. Jesse

Jackson were present at the rally speaking to the crowd about localization of the media and minority ownership.

According to Industry Ears, a generation think tank dedicated to promoting justice in media, 75 percent of urban radio programming is syndicated. If the proposal is passed then there will be even less local programming on urban stations and all airwaves.

Junior audio production major Daniel Alston attended the hearing along with his classmates from Professor Reginald Miles' radio production class.

"The FCC needs to rethink and

consider the public's interest before they make decisions that will ultimately be detrimental to the community," he said.

Two of Howard University's communications professors got a chance to address the commissioners: John R. Arnold and Carolyn Byerly.

Byerly, an associate professor who conducts research on women and minority ownership as well as ethnic and minority news audiences, expressed her disagreement to the commission's plan.

"Our failed federal communications policy has enabled those with great wealth and power to buy and con-

trol more than 90 percent of our public airwaves."

Byerly also pointed out how the owners are predominantly white males and even those speaking on the panel on behalf of local owners and minorities were white males as well.

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin wants the agency to come to a decision on Dec. 18, 2007.

"Indeed along with competition and diversity, localism is one of the three goals underlined all of our media ownership rules," he said.

Boycott to Show the 'Power of the Race'

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY
Asst. Campus Editor

On Friday, universities and organizations across the country will celebrate National Black Out Day, a day on which people collectively choose various products or services to boycott.

Cedric Loiseau, vice-president of the Howard University Chapter of the NAACP said, "The Blackout basically is where we just support businesses in our community."

Loiseau said that the NAACP doesn't see where local businesses such as Subway are using the profits gained from Howard University students and local residents and putting them back into the community.

"We're [black people] a very materialistic race," Loiseau said. "Being that we're the number one consumers in the United States we should benefit the most."

The Howard chapter of the NAACP, as well as leaders of the organization such as Rev. Al Sharpton, are calling on black people to show big business the power of the race by not pur-

chasing anything from them.

Perhaps, the collective efforts of a race that, according to the NAACP, spends \$2 billion a day can make the businesses that it feeds recognize its interests.

Loiseau draws on the famous 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott that was led by civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks as an example.

For a listing of black owned businesses that NAACP wants you to support check out thehilltoponline.com

Without black patronage for an extended period of time, the economy of Montgomery, AL. was crippled and it was then that those at the forefront of the transportation company relented, removing all segregation laws in place for it.

President of the HU Chapter of the NAACP Peter Carr says, "In the spirit of Booker T. Washington, we're trying to get economic empower-

ment."

According to Carr, the day is about putting black money into black businesses. It is also about increasing awareness about where black people's money goes and how it is spent.

Once boycotting, Carr says that one's awareness about the shortage of black businesses will also be raised, especially when it comes to industries such as supermarkets and banks.

Black businesses help the community because this typically means that more black people will be employed, Carr said. He adds that there is "no real wealth in working for someone."

"We need to be more independent," he said. "We need something to call our own." In efforts of doing this, the chapter will be having an event on Nov. 5 in the Blackburn Center, titled "The Identity Crisis," which will focus on economic empowerment.

"I would hope that a lot of people would participate," Loiseau said. Unfortunately, the chapter did not have a lot of time to promote for the event but

> See **NAACP**, Page 3



Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer

A hit and run accident occurred on the corner of Georgia Avenue and Barry Place Wednesday.

Suspect Attempts to Flee Scene After Hitting Woman

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS
Sports Editor

A woman was hit by a car in a hit and run accident shortly after 2 p.m. on Wednesday at the intersection of Barry Place and Georgia Avenue.

The victim, a middle-aged woman whose name was not released, was thrown into the air upon being hit by a silver four-door Dodge with New York tags. She then fell to the ground where she laid on the cross walk in front of Subway as onlookers called 911.

"I was at the stop light in my truck across the street, I saw him pull over like he was gonna stop and help her, but he didn't," said sophomore transfer student, Damani Brown. "He just took off."

Brown gave the victim his sweatshirt to lay on as she awaited the ambulance to arrive. The victim laid conscience, but reportedly in extreme pain to the point that she could not move.

The ambulance came to the site and paramedics worked on her for an extended period, then took her to HUH. The car and the suspect were later taken into custody.

Witnesses say they could not only hear the thump of the car when it hit her, but also the woman's shriek of pain.

"I saw the car hit her on her side and then I heard her scream," said senior biology major Tyra Pendergrass. "She was right behind me crossing the street, and when I turned around I saw her on the ground and the car ahead."

According to eyewitnesses, the suspect driving the car was pulling out of the McDonald's parking lot on Georgia Avenue while the woman was simultaneously crossing the street.

"It was scary; that could have been me that got hit," Pendergrass said.

The witnesses say the woman still had the right-of-way according to the traffic signals. The driver was seemingly trying to pull out of the parking lot quickly to make the light before it turned red.

"I was in the McDonald's parking lot and I saw him speed out and hit her," said Kiri Spady, a graduate student in the School of Divinity.

After the suspect hit the woman,

> See **ACCIDENT**, Page 3

Trio Targets Misogyny in Music



Tyrone Clemens - Staff Photographer

A calvary of three came riding the "Blackman" mobile through campus on Wednesday with dollar bills to hand out and a specific mission in mind.

Deron Cloud, Demetrius Kinney and Glenn Brooks passed out a dollar bill and informational flyer to women passing by, promoting the "Bitch Manifesto," a YouTube video aimed at stopping the use of derogatory language toward women.

"It's time for black men to stand up and ensure that [black] women are no longer degraded like they have been in popular culture," Brooks said.

Cloud re-wrote and performed the video from a 16-year-old on-stage production called "The Boyfriend, Girlfriend Thang," which has been performed at different venues around Washington. Brooks said the trio plans to take their show on tour next year.

-Reporting by Drew Costley, Editor-in-Chief

Lethal Injections Examined as a Means of Capital Punishment

BY VANESSA ROZIER
Nation & World Editor

They can request anything they'd like, from fresh collard greens to shrimp cocktail to filet mignon, as their last meal. After being on death-watch, he or she is brought into an execution chamber, where in 37 states they will receive an anesthetic, a paralyzing drug and finally a toxic agent meant to interrupt essential heart functions until they experience cardiac arrest and take their last breath.

This is the process of the

most widely used means of capital punishment in the United States — lethal injection. The U.S. is among more than 70 countries that administer this procedure, but the U.S. Supreme Court is now debating whether that will remain true.

At the end of the business day on Tuesday, the Supreme Court granted Earl Wesley Berry a reprieve of his death sentence less than one hour before he was to be executed via lethal injection in Mississippi. Berry's life extension is the third since the Supreme Court decided to review the con-

stitutionality of Kentucky's lethal injection procedures in *Baze v. Rees*.

Ralph Baze, one of the plaintiffs convicted of double murder, argues that the lethal injection method is cruel and unusual punishment, which is forbidden by the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

"It's the most humane method that we have," said Michael Rushford, president of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation in California. "It's close to euthanasia."

His only strife with lethal

injections is that it takes skill and that if administered improperly, it can be seen as inhumane. To solve that, he suggests lethal gas.

Overall, the legal foundation is a proponent of the death penalty because deters murders and inevitably saves lives.

"The death penalty sends the message that this is what happens if you kill somebody," Rushford said as he explained how it influences people's decision to kill or not to kill.

He then said that in Cali-

> See **INJECTIONS**, Page 3

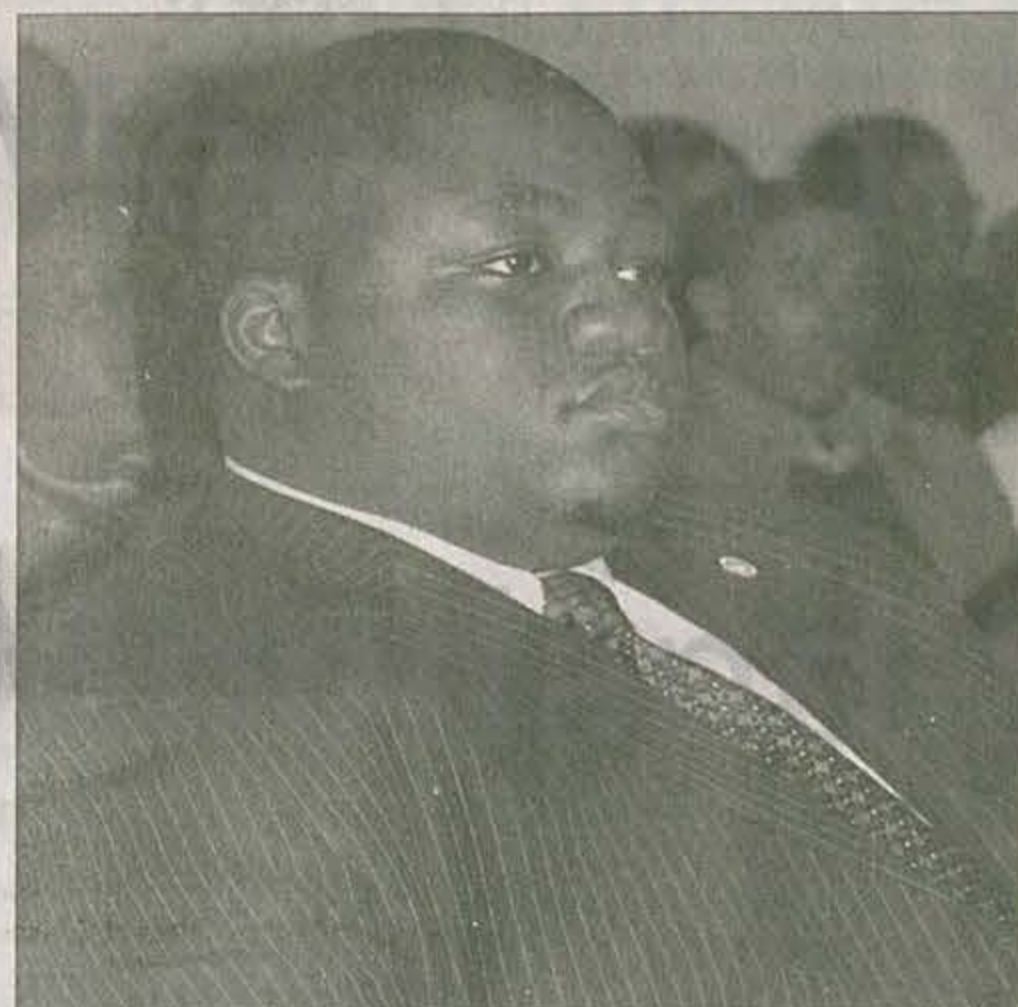


David Leeson - Dallas Morning News (KRT)

Lethal injection is a method of the death penalty that is used in 37 states and is the most commonly used means in the country.

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You Need To Know: COAS President Abimbola George



Derrell Smith - Photo Editor

COAS President Abimbola George leads by example and thinks outside the box.

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Staff Writer

After gaining his title as College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) Student Council Executive President in an intense run off, Abimbola George, commonly known as Abby, fulfills his position with enthusiasm.

"There was a high power involved; somebody wanted me here," George said.

The senior political science and sociology double major says that last spring during the elections, his campaign had to participate in a run-off since neither slate received the required 51% majority votes to win the election.

"The first time we received 49.1 percent of the vote and the other slate had 50.8 percent, so we had technically lost," George said. "If they had .2 percent more I'd be in a different position right now."

He credits hard work to gaining the necessary majority to claim the position.

This Oklahoma native, who now resides in Maryland, once called Nigeria home and lived there for five years with his aunt and brother. He returned to the United States in 2001 after his brother passed.

"My parents are a part of my life, but I grew up making a lot of decisions on my own," he said. "I am very comfortable making decisions, and I don't hesitate. I wasn't taught to be a leader. If you've got it, you've got it and if you don't, you don't."

George is no stranger to hard work and rising to a challenge. He said that even when serving as a staff member for the student council he was awarded for outstanding work. "I've been in a following role and that makes me a better leader," he said.

He said that it's the staff's responsibility to be available to all students. "We have an open door policy and any student can volunteer and sign up to be involved," George said.

With the goal of being accessible, George and his cabinet members plan to visit all the schools under the College of Arts and Sciences to collect any grievances for Grievance Day, scheduled for Nov. 8. "We want to go to students instead of having them find us," he said.

Many of the people staffed in student affairs see George as a hardworking individual, who is readily available to students.

"I was very pleased

when Abby George was elected based on how well he performed last year," said Linda Jones, special assistant for student affairs of COAS.

"The thing that stood out to me was that he pushed for corporate relationships with students in the College of Arts and Sciences," Jones said. "Last year, we had a Black Executive Exchange program and he asked a professor to move the class to a workshop."

Jones said that this shows George's leadership skills and ability to influence not only cabinet members but sometimes his professors, as well.

"He's made himself accessible to the freshmen and is always in the office," Jones said. "You have to lead by example, and he does."

Many students who George interacts with in the student council office consider him to be a role model and strong leader.

"In the office, Abby keeps a very light-hearted atmosphere and makes you want to come to work," said Cyndia Young, a sophomore administrative justice major and student council executive treasurer.

Young said that as a brand new staff member, George has helped her and made the transition easy.

"He doesn't mind lending a hand, and he makes himself readily available to anyone who needs help," Young said.

George said that his passion for coming to Howard is rooted in his desire to help others.

"I was originally a psychology major, but I want to help the world on a larger scale," he said. "And with politics you can't help a whole nation."

He said that after he graduates in May, he'd like to attend one of the nation's top ten law schools and then go into public policy.

"I think the people in politics are in a redundant cycle. Politics is missing thinkers and people who have no box of thinking," George said.

George said he is eager to seize opportunities that may come his way once he enters the political scene.

"There is so much now that a black man can do in America and I'm going to rise in American politics to my full potential," he said. "Failure is not fatal and success is not final. Be the best you can be and you'll reap the rewards in due time."

Eid-al-Fitr Marks End of Ramadan

BY ROYCE STRAHAN
Staff Writer

The Muslim Students Association (MSA) held their third annual event to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr at the Mecca. The event, which was held in the Blackburn Forum, featured Henna artists, calligraphers and guest speaker Imam Abdul Malik.

Eid-al-Fitr is a Muslim holiday celebrated to mark the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. Eid-al-Fitr marks the end of the month of fasting and lasts three days.

On the first day of Eid-al-Fitr, the typical Muslim family eats in the morning, which breaks the fast and then they attend a special congregational prayer at a mosque, church or stadium.

Usually, Muslim families give thanks to God for helping them get through the month of fasting.

"I think the significance of Eid-al-Fitr at the Mecca is basically to educate people about the Religious Fellowship Council and Muslim Students Association," said Mohammed Abubakar, junior computer science major. "I expect to see some calligraphy and some Henna designs."

Calligraphy and Henna designs are used as forms of religious art in the Islamic community that was used to provide a link between Islamic religion and the language.

Both calligraphy and Henna designs are used to show the history of Islam and pay tribute to the Islamic community.

Traditional foods eaten in the Islamic community such as fried rice, lo mein noodles and pad karrow chicken were also served at the event.

The program opened up with a prayer from the public relations director of MSA, Ali Malik and was followed by a welcoming address by Bukhari Jenkins, president of MSA.

Idris Ozoya, MSA vice-president, introduced Imam

Abdul Malik, the keynote speaker. Also in attendance to give the closing remarks was Dr. Bernard Richardson, dean of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.

Abdul Malik is a graduate of the department of Middle Eastern and Arabic studies at Binghamton University in Binghamton, N.Y.

His passion for knowledge led him to pursue an education at the University of Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

Abdul Malik has served as the director of the Islamic Cultural Center of Orlando, Fla. He has also served as the Khatib for the United Nations, while raising over \$10 million through his speaking and tireless will to serve the Islamic community.

His speech was entitled "Total Liberation for the Stu-

dent." In his speech, he gave the students encouragement to pursue their goals while also remaining true to themselves and being different.

"If you're ever called an extremist, you should be proud. If you're being like everybody else, you're not being yourself. That's what a slave does," Abdul Malik said.

He continued, "A slave imitates the ways of its master because it has no knowledge of self. So on this journey to be successful, one must be willing to study. If you're not willing to study and pursue knowledge then by default you choose to be where you are. No one can make you free but you and no one can hold you back but yourself."

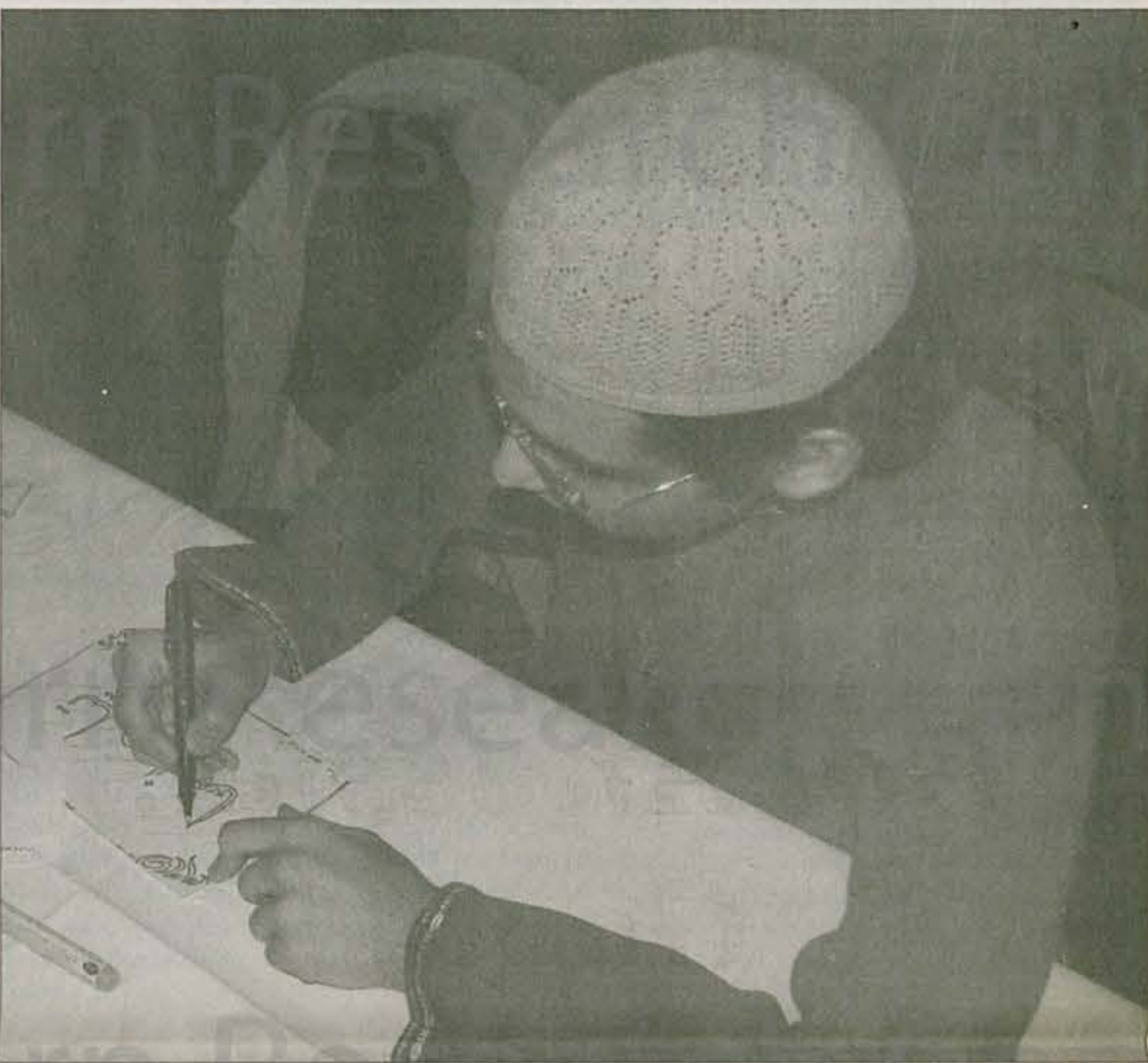
He encouraged students and others in attendance to find

their purpose in life because God has placed all of us on this earth for a reason.

"We have been created by the greatest of all," Abdul Malik said. "Have a declaration over your life and declare it to yourself and find your purpose. Give it your best shot."

Many of the people who were in attendance were pleased with the outcome of the event and received exactly what they expected from such a joyous occasion.

"I came to celebrate with brothers and sisters the end of Ramadan and to celebrate the accomplishment of finishing the fast," said Caleb Abraham, who was invited by a friend who attends Howard. "I wanted to partake in this energy and this atmosphere."



Derrell Smith - Photo Editor

Ali Malik created a calligraphy design at the end of last year's Ramadan celebration. The designs are a form of religious art.

Frightful Fun At Haunted Hilltop



Tyrone Clemons - Staff Photographer

As in previous years, "zombies" paraded around, danced and frightened the crowd in front of Cook Hall Wednesday, as a part of Howard's "Haunted Hilltop" Halloween celebration. The Haunted Hilltop, which also consists of a haunted house that was themed "The Life and Times of Michael Myers," is open to Howard students and members of the community. There was a separate room with milder frights set aside for younger visitors of the Haunted Hilltop, complete with treats.

Student Activities Hosts Mid-Autumn Gathering

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Hot chocolate and apple cider accompanied by festive cookies and cupcakes greeted students at the Student Activities Meet and Greet, held in Blackburn Suite 117, Wednesday afternoon.

Students were invited to visit the office from 3:30 p.m. until its close to become acquainted

with the staff and form relationships.

"We wanted to encourage students to drop in and feel like this is a welcome place," said Lennon Jackson, director of student activities.

Jackson explained that the meet and greet served as a collaborative effort with Student Activities and the International Student Services Offices.

Since there are many new staff members, including Jackson, the event welcomed all Howard students to visit the office and to get to know the people working there.

"The treats like the hot chocolate give students a warm fuzzy feeling, and it's a good thing to see that we're personable and fun," Jackson said.

This year marked the

first Student Activities meet and greet, and some hope for an even larger turn out in the future.

"It's important to meet the staff and see what programs are offered," said president of Howard University Student Association Marcus Ware. "A lot of students are around the offices a lot, but don't know the staff personally. This served as a way to meet people and build a personal

relationship."

The event was successful and brought many students to the office that do not regularly visit.

"The meet and greet brought attention to the office through word of mouth," said Niketa Miller, a junior management major who is involved with a work-study in Student Activities. "Free food will attract anyone,

But I hope this gets more students to come in and see how student activities works for them."

Miller explained that she saw around 40 to 45 students in and out of the suite and hopes that the event will be an even greater success in years to come.

"Hopefully we could move into a larger facility within Blackburn to accommodate more students," she said.

'Black List' to Draw Patrons to Black Businesses

Continued from FRONT, NAACP

did get the message out through Facebook. Loiseau said that at the local club Sankofa, which is located on Georgia Avenue, there will be spoken word, poetry and activities to commemorate the event on Friday from noon until 2 p.m.

"We're also getting together a blacklist of businesses that people should be patronizing," Loiseau said. Contrary to the traditional meaning of "blacklisting," this list will be comprised of black-owned businesses.

Loiseau said that small businesses are the backbone of the community. "I like to support my own at the end of the day," he said.

Even though the effects of a one-day boycott can have on businesses isn't tangible, Loiseau says an impact is made. "It can deliver a shock, if enough people participate," he says.

Suspect in Hit and Run Arrested at Scene

Continued from FRONT, ACCIDENT

Pendergrass and other observers say they saw the driver pull over in front of the Kabob and Rotisserie shop on Georgia Avenue, peering out the window to see the accident, but after a brief pause, sped up on Georgia Avenue.

Witnesses were able to get a look at the suspect, a Caucasian man, in his early to mid 20s. They were also able to take down his tags.

The Metropolitan Police stopped the car at the intersection of Columbia and 13th Street. The suspect was arrested at the scene. According to Sgt. Anthony Washington, there was no damage to the car.

"I am proud of the officers, they were right on the scene," said Sgt. Washington of the 3rd District of Metropolitan Police. "The officers had the car stopped before the

tag numbers were even called in."

Washington said the paramedics worked on her for about 30 minutes.

"It is likely her injuries were not too serious or they would have taken her immediately to MedStar, but you can usually gage how critical the condition is based on which hospital the ambulance takes them to."

There has been no further information on the condition of the victim, nor the punishment for the suspect.

Campus Police were also on the at the accident site.

After the alleged driver was arrested, police held him in custody in the backseat of a police car in the McDonald's parking lot, where the crime scene was still taped off. The strip of Georgia Avenue from Bryant Street to Howard Place remained blockaded from traffic for approximately an hour and a half.



Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer
The Metropolitan Police stopped the suspect in the hit and run accident at Columbia and 13th Streets. He was arrested at the scene.

Death Penalty Inconsistent Across Racial Lines, Regional Borders

Continued from FRONT, INJECTIONS

ifornia, a murderer on death row hired an outside murderer to kill a 23-year-old girl. And in Connecticut, a murderer serving a life sentence in jail strangled an incarcerated priest. "What will he get another life sentence?" Rushford said.

His argument in favor of capital punishment is that, without such a punishment, innocent lives will continue to be lost. "Death penalty opponents put

lives at risk," he said.

Those who disagree with the practice, like the spokesperson for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty David Elliot, say that it makes mistakes.

"It is biased is several different ways," Elliot said. "People who kill white victims are more likely to get the death penalty than people who kill black victims. What message does that send? That white lives are more valued than others?"

He said that on top of being

racially biased, the death penalty is also geographically biased, enforced more in certain places, and class biased as those with better lawyers get the death sentence less frequently.

"It is a system complete with blunders," Elliot said.

The American Bar Association declared itself neutral on the constitutionality of the death penalty, but released a report on Monday saying that Indiana, Georgia, Ohio, Alabama and Tennessee should temporarily stop all

executions until their procedures can be further studied. The findings in the report were in sync with Elliot's claim that the death penalty has "significant racial disparities."

Joshua Senavoe, Howard University's Student Bar Association president, cannot solidly predict which way the Supreme Court will rule. "I'm not sure. It's hard to tell," he said. "I know that a number of students were a little taken aback with the affirmative action cases. That makes everyone pause when

it comes to a case like this because there are so many factors."

Senavoe is looking to Justice Kennedy as the deciding factor as he has the swing vote. "He has become the most prominent swing vote," he said. "It might end up being him deciding one way of the other."

Regardless of speculation, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments for *Baze v. Rees* in the beginning of 2008 and make its decision in the spring.

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Now in its 84th 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 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.

Magnetic Locks Used in District School Security Plan

BY MONICA JONES
Staff Writer

In an effort to increase security in district public schools, Mayor Adrian Fenty has passed a plan that will introduce magnetic locks on doors to various D.C. schools, which he hopes will decrease truancy and increase security system measures.

Fenty, along with other members of his administration, announced his plan for increased school safety in the D.C. area on October 22.

"It is critical that we abide by the law, while still ensuring that our students can learn in a safe environment," Fenty said in a press release.

Fenty also expressed concern for curbing violence in high schools, which has been occurring in the area for the past years.

On Feb. 2, 2004 at approximately 10:30 a.m., Ballou High School student, James Richardson was fatally shot by another student, Thomas Boykin, who had snuck into a side door at

Ballou High School in southeast D.C.

The incident prompted the School Perimeter Task Force to compose the Ballou High School Safety Plan, which is a plan that Mayor Adrian Fenty has taken recommendations from in order to improve security and safety at schools across the District.

The increased security plan includes the installation of delayed-egress hardware that would keep the doors automatically locked during school hours, with a security mechanism that would allow a 15-second delayed exit from the inside and alert school personnel when doors are opened, according to a D.C. government press release. The doors would also automatically release in the event of a fire alarm.

After examining the measures needed to improve school building security, the D.C. Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM) decided that locking mechanisms, identity card readers, digital



Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer

Cardozo High School is one of the nine high schools in D.C. that will feature magnetic locks. These locks will be used to heighten security.

cameras and monitoring systems would be needed in addition to automatic doors.

"All schools need to be

welcoming, secure environments," said Allen Y. Lew, Executive Director of OPEFM.

"That has not always

been the case. We are correcting the issue in a way that keeps intruders out and provides a more secure environment," he continued.

The nine high schools chosen to undergo the changes of the perimeter plan are Ballou, Anacostia, Coolidge, Cardozo, Roosevelt, Wilson, Spingarn and Dunbar High; as well as Johnson Junior High School.

The cost of the plan will include \$5 million to replace the doors at the nine schools.

Naysreesay Bing, a 14-year-old sophomore at Cardozo High School, told *The Hilltop* that automatic doors would be a good idea for her school because, despite the metal detectors located at the doors of her school, she doesn't feel safe.

"I don't feel safe because it is so easy to sneak stuff in," Bing said, citing the example of cell phones which are banned items at the school, but are snuck in by students regardless of school regulations. "I would feel a lot safer with the automatic doors."

Bing said that the new doors would be ideal tools in stopping kids from skipping classes, but was worried about what would happen if the people chosen to be in charge of the doors were unable to press the button in the event of an unseen emergency.

"They [the doors] would be good because a lot of kids skip class and just leave the school when they want to, and some people who have already graduated can just come in to the school whenever they want to," she added.

New security solutions for Ballou are being developed as a pilot program. However if the magnetic locks are approved, they will become implemented at the other eight schools.

According to a government new release, the security system is flexible and can be changed according to the special needs of the other D.C. schools, enabling it to be installed over the next few months.

Latin Restuarant Receives Criticism from Neighbors

BY CRYSTAL CRANMORE
Staff Writer

Yesterday, many Columbia Heights residents near the Latino restaurant, Acuario took their complaints to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board hearing, after repeated efforts to resolve their differences failed.

The restaurant, located in Columbia Heights, has received criticism from nearby residents about its alleged ill-conduct. The protestors took advantage of the yearly liquor license renewal period that began on April 20 to go before the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) board to make its complaints.

While Acuario is known for its tasty Latin food, nearby homeowners are complaining about the noise from the restaurant, illegal construction in the back of the premises, immoral conduct by some of the customers and trash on The Columbia Pristine condominium property.

"I have eaten there before and they have great food," said Adam Aaronson, one of the protesting owners of The Columbia Pristine condos. "But then I noticed a lot of intoxicated people stumbling out of the restaurant and urinating in public on nearby buildings."

Aaronson said they brought their complaints to the attention of store owners, Victor Giron and his wife, Mary Martinez. According to Aaronson, Giron and Martinez were uncooperative and as a result, the protestors took their complaints to the police.

Giron said the protests are racially motivated. "I believe racism is a possible reason because they do not like Spanish people in this place," Giron said. "Ever since I opened the business, there have been complaints, mainly from white people."

But the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) is also protesting the restaurant's trash and noise, according to ANC commissioner Don Gonzalez, a Latino who sees the issue as being more cultural than racial.

Jeff Zeeman, a resident of The Columbia Pristine, believes race is not an issue.

"The idea of race being a factor is 100 percent false. There are other Latin businesses in the area that no one complains about because they are responsible neighbors," he said. "All we are asking is that Acuario not serve intoxicated people and be more responsible."

The association and the ANC have proposed an agreement calling for reduction in hours of operation, lower noise and better trash removal. It also demands modification of the restaurant's license to sell liquor and food and calls for better commu-



Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer

Eliasar Berrios, employee at Acuario Restaurant and Bar, takes a break from business inside the restaurant. Acuario is located on 11th and Park.

nity outreach.

Restaurant owners have not signed the agreement. Giron said the main reason he did not sign the agreement was the change in hours of operation.

Acuario is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 1 a.m. on Sundays.

"The association is asking the restaurant to close at 12 a.m. when they still have business. If the store is not hurting the community, why cut the hours?" said Gonzalez.

He continued, "Acuario is trying to create a new agreement that looks into the community's concerns, but it will be more realistic."

Gonzalez said his interest is in the community. "They are not hurting the peace. We need small businesses and we need to protect them because they are good for the community," he said.

Although Gonzalez is part of the protesting group, he be-

lieves the condo association is being too demanding. He said he will ensure that an agreement is made between both parties and plans to address the issues of noise level and trash, but anything beyond that, he will fight against.

"There is a very slim chance that Acuario will be shut down," he said. "They have no records of violence. In fact, a lot of police officers eat there. I do not think it is fair for their hours to be cut back. As long as they are not disrupting the community by breaking laws, they should be allowed to cater to their clientele."

According to Gonzalez, about 50 signatures have been collected from people in support of the restaurant. There are more people that support the restaurant than those who are protesting.

At a status hearing on Wednesday, the ABC board recommended mediation after Acuario owners refused to sign the agreement. The Columbia Pristine Condo Association and Acuario will meet next Friday with a mediator from the ABC board.



Mayor Fenty Appoints First Public Ombudsman for D.C.

Tonya Vidal Kinlow, 46, has been chosen by Mayor Fenty to "be the city's face of customer service for education," Fenty said in a press release by his office. Vidal, a former D.C. school board member, is the last appointed member of Fenty's education reform team. The ombudsman position is a vital component to Fenty's public school takeover. Fenty also promised district parents that the ombudsman would be assigned to address their complaints.

Bridge Plan for Academic Validation in Maryland Implements Alternative Tests for Graduation

The Maryland State Board of Education recently approved a plan which will allow students who struggle with the state's standardized tests to complete projects as a substitute method of obtaining their high school diplomas. Proposed by Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick, students who have consistently failed either algebra or English high school assessments will be allowed to complete a project, which will be designed by local schools systems, and still be able to graduate.

82 Schools Gather to Win Money from Washington Wizards' star, Gilbert Arenas

1,200 students, teachers and principals from 240 schools across the Washington, D.C. region gathered at the Verizon Center in an effort to win cash from Washington Wizards basketball star, Gilbert Arenas. For the 41 home games the Wizard's have, Arenas has pledged to donate \$100 for each point he scores to a D.C. school in the area. Almost \$3,000 is given away to 82 different schools, since Abe Pollin, Washington Wizards owner matches the payout for the 41 away games.

Oil Rags in Northwest Washington Injure Four Firefighters

On Monday, October 29, a Capitol Hill row house caught fire and four firefighters had to speed through a wall of flames in order to get out of the house. On Monday, rags were ignited with linseed oil and caught fire instantly. Sgt. Michael LaCore, 37, remains in critical condition after suffering second and third degree burns. Firefighter Charlie Shyab, 30, was also badly injured and suffered second and third degree burns as well. Firefighters Douglass Donnelly, 27, and Kenneth Humphries, 23, faced less critical injuries and were released from the hospital on October 30.

Prince George's County Must Cut Roughly \$48 Billion from Budget

County Executive Jack B. Johnson (D) recently said that Prince George's County faces budget shortfalls due to revenue from taxes and the sloping real estate market in the area. In a closed meeting last week, Johnson said he has presented the County Council with a list of cuts he believes should be decreased from the \$2.6 billion budget. In addition, he said that government agencies have proposed \$11 million in cuts and spending on building projects will be limited as well.

Homicides Increase, Other Violent Acts Lower in Prince George's County

According to crime statistics disclosed by Police Chief Melvin C. High, homicides have spiked by 15 percent in Prince George's County. Meanwhile, rapes in the county have decreased around six percent, carjackings dropped about 32 percent and armed robberies at commercial locations have fallen to 24 percent.

Compiled by Rachel Huggins
Source: TheWashingtonPost.com

Have an interest in community affairs?

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Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer

The owner of Acuario chats with customers during the lunch hour rush. The restaurant has received criticism from residents about noise violations.



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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



Photo of Monique Adigun by Greg Mooney, courtesy of the Alliance Theatre

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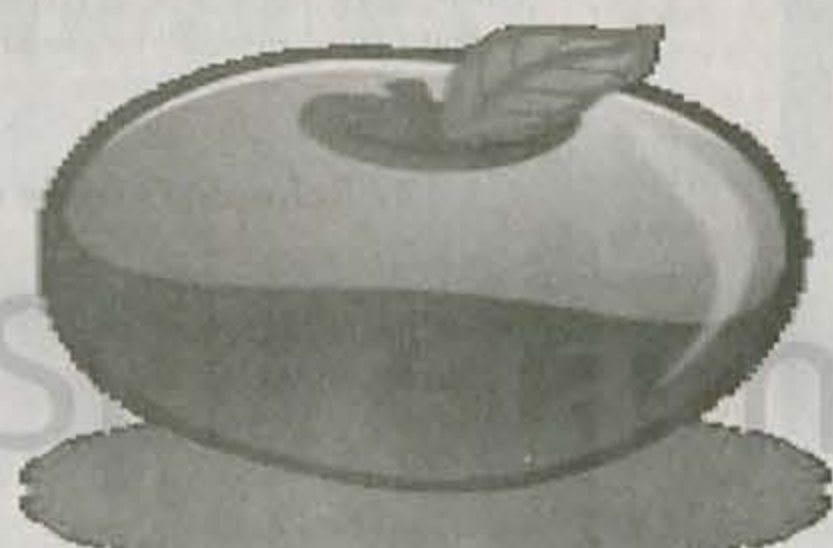
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Pick up an application from the Student Activities office (Blackburn, Suite 117).

Bush Warns of WWII Threat

BY ALEESA MANN
Staff Writer

During a press conference on Oct. 17, President George W. Bush threatened that if Iran does not give up its nuclear activities, it may lead to a World War III.

"I believe they [Iran] want to have the capacity, the knowledge, in order to make a nuclear weapon, and I know it's in the world's interest to prevent them from doing so," Bush said. "I believe that if Iran had a nuclear weapon, it would be a dangerous threat to world peace."

Bush said, "We got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel. So I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

Controversy arose as Russian president Vladimir Putin and Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad are making plans to complete the construction of Iran's first atomic plant.

Iran claims it is developing the plant to generate power and will not budge from its construction of the facility. Putin has also refrained from taking any stance against Iran, despite Bush's accusations.

Bush's accusations have riled discourse among the political parties, who question the intent of his statements.

"Certainly, no one wants nuclear proliferation in countries hostile to the U.S., but this smacks of just more scare tactics from a desperate administration floundering around for support of its policies," said David Paulson, communications director of the Maryland Democratic Party.

Paulson continued, "We went through a cold war, theoretically. That threat was always hanging over our head, but that was with a world super power, the USSR, and Iran just doesn't rise to that level."

It has been inferred that Bush was simply making a



Olivier Douliery - Abaca Press (MCT), left, Chuck Kennedy - MCT, right
President Bush, right, warns Iranian president Ahmadinejad, left, of a third World War if nuclear programs continue in the Middle East.

"rhetorical point," and not any serious allegations against Iran.

"I am not sure what Bush was referencing," Paulson said. "What he was saying was a threat of a nuclear war against Iran. What people are more afraid of are nuclear weapons providing a strategic advantage to an enemy of our allies in the Middle East."

Many believe it is only a matter of time before the actual intent of Bush's comments is realized.

Paul D. Craney, spokesman for the D.C. Republican Committee, said, "Iran's nuclear program and alleged backing of terrorism represent perhaps the single greatest challenge to U.S. national security, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said. Those are bold statements that shouldn't be taken lightly from one of America's top officials."

Craney continued, "The whole world is closely looking to Iran to see what their next move is and President Bush's statement asserting that a possible World War III scenario could stem from Iran obtaining nuclear weapons is what we're all thinking. D.C. residents should be asking the Mayor's office what steps are being taken to keep us safe from terrorist attacks."

Some students at Howard take Bush's threat of WWII seriously but doubt any real action will result from it.

"President Bush is

most likely not concerned with Iran because they don't have anything we want, like oil, so he's not going to start a war," sophomore telecommunications major Kevin Hunter said. "We don't have enough soldiers. I don't think anyone would get behind him on a WWII until the president of Iran starts to fire off bombs, which I don't think he will because what are his reasons for doing that?"

In an attempt to curb nuclear activities in Iran, Rice and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson announced sanctions the United States will put in place against the three largest banks in Iran, which are allegedly involved in funding terrorism.

The sanctions will deter international banks from engaging in financial transactions with the Iranian government.

"Military spending is a very large cost of any organization that takes them on, whether it be the government or private business," said Michael Varner, president and chair of the College Republicans at Howard.

Varner continued, "If you want to stop the proliferation or development of nuclear weapons, then freezing money or controlling the flow of money is vital to that, and to a larger degree of terrorism, it's extremely important."

Tuition Increase Hits Home

BY KRISTEN M. PRICE
Contributing Writer

Almeta Oliver never imagined she would be going from a full-time college student studying communications to a full-time worker in only a matter of months.

The energetic 20-year-old woman from Southfield, Mich. is now working at a daycare center in Riverside, Calif. Oliver recently moved from the Detroit suburb after tuition at her former school, Wayne State University, increased almost \$3,000 after a year.

"It's so much you have to worry about," Oliver said with a hint of frustration in her voice. "A lot of students who go to school are hassling out here to get money [for college]."

Like many students across the United States, Oliver was directly affected by the increase of college tuition. Based on a press release released early last week by the College Board, costs for attending two-year and four-year public institutions have shown an increase for the 2007-2008 school year.

In the press release, College Board President Gaston Caperton said that the College Board provides data on the costs of college tuition and financial aid in order to help families and students be able to afford higher education.

According to the board, in-state costs at four-year public colleges and universities increased 6.6 percent from last year, or about \$381, making the total amount of tuition averaging out to \$13,589. At private four-year institutions, tuition increased an average of \$1,404 or 6.3 percent.

Undergraduate Trustee Nadia Pinto said the rise in tuition not only affects her directly, but also her colleagues.

"Some of my friends have to find other ways to pay for school," Pinto said, mentioning that a few have had to pick up jobs to pay for expenses. The senior finance major also said although she has a full ride to Howard, she pays to live in a dorm.

Right before she began her junior year, Oliver discovered that tuition at her school went up

to around \$24,000 and that her Federal Pell Grant award and subsidized loans would only partially cover her expenses.

"Even staying on campus was about \$6,000," Oliver said.

The College Board said in its report that almost 60 percent of Pell Grant recipients did not depend on their parents for finances during the 2006-2007 academic school year. Still, Oliver believes there are not enough programs available for college students who can depend on their parents with school costs.

"Some students have parents who have a lot of money but aren't helping their children," Oliver said. "If they keep going on up on tuition, it's going to be hard to get students to go to college." Oliver said she believes that a lot of people in her same situation will be forced to start off at community colleges.

"People are going to start out working or sitting at home because it's so expensive," Oliver said. "Maybe there wouldn't be such a high dropout rate if the money was available."

According to the report released by the College Board, about three quarters of undergraduate students who were considered full-time received about \$97.1 billion in financial aid for 2006-2007. The press release also said that federal loans and grants

made up the largest sources of financial aid received by college students.

Pinto encourages her colleagues to apply for scholarships instead of depending on federal loans to pay for school.

"[Students] really have to realize that it's possible for tuition to increase," Pinto said. "I would encourage students to support the university and apply for scholarships offered at Howard." Pinto also said that students should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Oliver is now living with her father, stepmother and stepbrother until she begins school next fall. She plans to attend the University of California-Riverside where she will study interdisciplinary studies. To save money, Oliver will not live on-campus right away.

"I would tell an incoming freshman to look at a lot of scholarships because I didn't really look into it," Oliver said. "I thought I was good with my partial scholarship." She also wants high school students to do well to have better chances of earning academic scholarships. As for college students in a situation similar to Oliver's, she believes they should not feel bad at all.

"It's not where you are, but where you're going," Oliver said optimistically. "Keep your head up and stay positive."



File Photo
Students in the Administration building wait for financial aid assistance, as tuition prices continue to rise each year.

Most Unaware of, Indifferent to Annual United Nations Day

BY SIMONE BERRY
Contributing Writer

On Dec. 25, thoughts of Santa Claus and images of sugar plum fairies dance through many people's heads. On Feb. 14, chocolate sales skyrocket and flowers are scarce.

When the last week of October rolls around, ghosts, ghouls and goblins consume the minds of many, with promoting peace, advancing justice and international security falling to the background.

Every year, the United Nations (U.N.) and member countries celebrate United Nations Day. The holiday was es-

tablished in 1947 to commemorate the United Nations and its accomplishments. In each of the 193 member states that make up the United Nations, celebrations occur falling on its official founding date.

While the United Nations has been credited for solving various problems that arise in the world, many Americans, Howard University students included, are unaware of the day.

"I haven't heard of United Nations Day," sophomore public relations major Taylor Smith said. "I can assume that it's a day that celebrates the U.N. somehow, but personally I'm not really sure."

After the founding of the United Nations in 1945, a U.S.-sponsored resolution declared Oct. 24 United Nations Day.

Every year since then, the United Nations has hosted meetings and discussions and had exhibits to display their achievements and promote their goals.

On Oct. 21, a large United Nations Day celebration took place in Oakland, Calif. The city's 40th annual celebration featured music, speakers and displayed the flags of the 193 members.

Washington, D.C. celebrated United Nations Day for an entire week centered around the theme "What if? The United Na-

tions and You Make it Happen!" George Washington University hosted a variety of panels.

Some of the discussion topics were: "What if the Urban Poor Had Full Access to Health Services Delivery?" "What if Youth Have a Voice in the Decision Making: A Global Perspective" and "Developing New Solutions for Old Problems."

On of the more popular events of the United Nations celebration was "U.N. & Hip-Hop: Bridging the Gap." Fashion Fights Poverty held its annual fashion show, which has been dubbed "D.C.'s fashion event of the year."

Fashion Fights Poverty,

Aids for Artisans, the Fair Trade Federation and the United Nations Associated held a discussion panel called "Can Fashion Fight Poverty?"

Environmental sustainability, equitable employment and fair trade were the three main topics that representatives from the fashion industry, corporate world and nonprofit organizations discussed.

Many world leaders also participated in celebrating United Nations Day. President Bush gave a proclamation on Oct. 23, which highlighted the goals of the United Nations and encouraged all 50 states and Puerto Rico to appropriately recognize United



Nicholas Khayat - ABACA Press (KRT)
The 192 members of the United Nations celebrate UN Day annually.

Nations Day.

Adrian Fenty, mayor of Washington, D.C., was another political figure who honored United Nations Day. Fenty visited Marie Reed Community Learning Center to show support for the United Nations.

WE'VE GOT ISSUES ...

Step Your Asset Game Up...

In American society, it is far from rare to mistakenly measure one's worth by counting the number of figures that make up their income.

It would be no surprise, of course, if the man or woman who made six figures were revered, and subsequently deemed a success.

The question, however, is not how much one makes, but rather what do they own? Consider, for example, that in 2005, black households had the lowest median income among all racial groups (\$30,858). This issue is compounded by the fact that only 42.7 percent of African Americans own their home, just 4 percent own stocks or bonds, yet, more than any other racial group, 9 percent own their own vehicles — the fastest depreciating material item.

The issue of the wealth gap is simple: African Americans do not own physical or financial assets, which include education.

It is often noted that there is a strong correlation between education and wealth, yet the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* cites that African Americans only account for 11.7 percent of those in four-year educational institutions, with only 9.5 percent pursuing graduate studies. This combination has dire consequences on black ownership.

The accumulation of wealth, in this instance, seems to have less to do with race itself, and more to do with black enterprise and decision making — decisions to own. This, in part, will lessen the ever-widening gap between African Americans and whites, allowing interest accrue and equity to be earned, all in addition to income.

-Nyron Crawford
Project Voice,

ISSUE: The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies cited that "In 2000, the median net worth of African-American households was \$7,500, less than one tenth of the net worth of \$79,400 for non-Hispanic white households. In comparison, the median net worth of Hispanic households was \$9,750."

QUESTION:
What contributes to the wealth gap?

Let's Help Ourselves...

The largest part of the accumulation of wealth intra-communally is the visibility of that community's entrepreneurship. If you look at government-sponsored small business programs, the majority of those programs are tailored toward the rapidly expanding Hispanic population. In a 2002 survey, between 1997 and 2002, the revenues of the 1.2 million black-owned businesses increased by 25 percent to \$88 billion, while the number of black-owned businesses rose by 45 percent. Sounds like progress, right? Wrong!

Examining the same span for both Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and Hispanic Americans, the numbers weigh out differently. Hispanic Americans had an increase in the number of businesses by 31 percent to 1.6 million and an increase in revenue by 19 percent to \$222 billion. Even more impressive, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans had an increase in the number of businesses by 24 percent to 1.1 million and an increase in revenue by 8 percent to \$326 billion. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, Hispanic Americans and black-owned businesses all have close to the same amount of businesses, but the amount of revenues generated differ so greatly.

Let's look behind the numbers. According to Dr. Roderick Harrison, one of the most effective ways to bridge the disparity between blacks and other minorities is to push more toward math and science, both of which are currently lead by whites and Asians. Most highly accredited and educated blacks are in fields which don't pay. According to professor Claudette Bennett, referencing American education, "we'll pay you to entertain us, but not to educate us." Blacks rarely patronize black-owned businesses, leaving their money in the hands of another color individual. How prudent is that?

-DeMario Greene
Project Voice, member

"We've Got Issues" will appear in The Hilltop every other Thursday. Produced in part by Project Voice, "We've Got Issues" addresses an issue that affects the community and, in most cases, is not discussed enough. Backed by factual content, both a liberal and conservative analysis will be applied to each issue. After reading the responses, it is then your turn to decide for yourself where you stand.

*These opinions are not those of The Hilltop. Project Voice is a student organization dedicated to increasing political awareness on the Howard University campus. To request more information, or to give input, e-mail ProjectVoiceHU@gmail.com.

Former Trustee Making Moves in Japan

BY CHARL STAPLES
Contributing Writer

Jabari Smith, former Undergraduate Trustee and alumnus of Howard University, is one of over 5,000 participants in the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET) representing 54 countries from around the world.

The program offers university graduates the opportunity to serve in local government organizations as well as primary, junior high and senior high schools teaching English to Japanese students.

Smith, along with others in his prefecture, is an assistant language teacher (ALT), a job that consists of team-teaching with Japanese English teachers in up to five classes per day. Smith also teaches an adult English conversational course.

On top of teaching numerous amounts of students on a daily basis, Smith is still a student himself.

"I actually came to Japan with literally no Japanese language skills whatsoever, but as a result of a Japanese class that I'm enrolled in once a week and with the help of my students, my Japanese has improved tremendously," Smith said.

Smith is stationed in a town called Fujikai-Machi, a suburb of Hirosaki City, of about 16,000 residents. He often receives media attention because of his rareness and his membership in the Jet Programme.

"I'm the only foreigner in my town and the first black person to ever live here, so my presence has definitely caused quite a stir around town, of course in a positive way," Smith said. "I actually get local celebrity treatment and was even featured in the town's newspaper."

Additionally, among the group of 140 Jet Programme participants in Smith's region, he is the only black person. Smith receives plenty attention from residents, asking for photos as a souvenir of their meeting.

"I receive 'oh, my God is he real?' stares everywhere I go. It isn't uncommon for groups of Japanese women, specifically, to ask me for 'American-style hugs' and pictures, as well as just being all around enthusiastic about meeting their first black foreigner," Smith said. "I take all the attention in stride and don't take offense to the stares. After all, how else can anyone react when they are seeing someone or something out of the ordinary for the first time?"

Despite being the only African American in the city, Smith is not entirely alone.

Outside of work, he spends a lot of time traveling with many of his JET friends, who he met via the JETS of African descent support group, which serves as a network, support group and family unit for all JETS of African descent, assisting them with the culture shock that comes along with being a true minority in Japanese society.

Aside from allowing American college graduates to aid Japanese students in learning the English language and other aspects of American culture, the JET Programme also provides the opportunity to travel all over Japan and other parts of Asia.

"Within my first two months, I've traveled to Tokyo, Chiba, Akita and Hiroshima in Japan, and for the Christmas and New Year's holidays I will be traveling to Thailand and Cambodia with Howard alum, Ajea Washington, who is teaching English in South Korea," Smith said. "I have trips

to Okinawa and Australia planned for the spring, as well.

When Smith isn't teaching and "Jet-setting," he dedicates his time to a community service organization called Everest of Apples. Everest of Apples' mission is to promote educational internationalization beyond Japan into more impoverished Asian countries.

In the near future, after completion of the JET Programme, Smith plans on writing a memoir and self-help novel to assist anyone experiencing self-doubt and anxiety about their future and self-worth, with the guidance they need to actualize their greatest potential.

Smith also encourages present Howard students to consider the JET Programme and all of the opportunities it has to offer.

"I want to walk away from my commitment to JET knowing that I not only provided the



Photo Courtesy of Jabari Smith

Former Undergraduate Trustee Jabari Smith is a participant in the JET Programme in Japan. He teaches English to Japanese students and is a member of the JET Support Group.

Japanese with a first-hand, positive, non-stereotypical view of black foreigners, but that I also motivated and encouraged many of my peers, colleagues, in the U.S. to step outside of their comfort zones to experience the beauty of another country and culture without fearing that their lives at home won't be the same when they return," Smith said.

Smart Fitzjerrell Dresses Good Humor With Unconventional Style

BY DESIREE CANGE
Contributing Writer

Several years ago Mary Kathryn Wells, a graduate from Emory University, found herself working a dead-end job in New York City. Wells knew that wasn't the career she wanted, but it wasn't until a visit back home in Arkansas that she discovered her calling.

In 2004, Mary Kathryn Wells sat in her grandparents' home in Arkansas learning how to sew. Mary Kathryn Wells had found her calling, in fashion. Wells continued experimenting with mixing different colors and patterns as a hobby.

"People began coming up to me asking me where I bought my outfit from," Wells said.

"People in New York City, where I was living, and back home in Arkansas were all approaching, so I decided to give it a try."

Almost four years later, Mary Kathryn Wells launched a women's clothing couture line called Smart Fitzjerrell. Smart Fitzjerrell has hit the streets of New York City catering to women from ages 18 to 40.

"I want it to expand in high-end boutiques across the country," Wells said.

As designer and founder of Smart Fitzjerrell, Wells incorporated her small town style with the versatile styles of New York City. Smart Fitzjerrell clothes are created slightly traditional in style but are completed with unique "punk" overtones, as well as lively fun colors and unusual patterns. For example, one of the graphic patterns presented in the collection explore the porcelain paintings of the 70's.

Mary Kathryn Wells had other inspirations for Smart Fitzjerrell.

Styles from the past inspired her, as well. Wells said music inspired many of this fall pieces. Music icons such as Debbie Harry, Diana Ross and Loretta Lynn added to many of the style inspiration.

Smart Fitzjerrell fall 2007 collection is made up of delightful, fitted dresses that compliment the body by providing a slim fit. The collection contains a selection of dresses and shirts for

young fashionable women. It allows the Smart Fitzjerrell customer to be sophisticated chic with great hints of youth. Who is the typical Smart Fitzjerrell customer? "She is a woman who is confident and very stylish, she wants to be different, not trendy and she want to stand out from the ordinary," Wells said.

Although not yet pronounced to the world, Smart Fitzjerrell isn't a cheap collection. The average prices for a dress from Smart Fitzjerrell range about \$310. The clothes are priced based on the fabrics used in the clothing. These fabrics consist of wool, silk and velvet. Each piece of clothing created in the Smart Fitzjerrell boutique is skillfully hand crafted. This is why the Smart Fitzjerrell customer receives a good buy when shopping there.

Although Smart Fitzjerrell is located in New York City, the collection is still available online at SmartFitzjerrell.com.

"I found one out of three of my Homecoming dresses from Smart Fitzjerrell. Every one was like ooh girl that's cute where did you get it from, but I was scared because I wanted to keep it my little secret," said Janet Robinson, a political science major from New York City.

"If you really want to do something – as cliché as it sounds you can do it," Wells said. "Wells said that Howard students know that if you have a desire it's important to go after it."

I would have never thought for a second I would be designing. I mean it's remarkable what can be done."

If you're looking for a vintage look that the next girl doesn't have on, Smart Fitzjerrell is the place to shop.

The fall collection has new styles that have a lot to offer. This is Smart Fitzjerrell second collection and it already has made an impact on fashionistas across the country.

In just a few years from now this fashion label may be bigger than today's Lanvin, Dolce & Gabbana or Prada.



Photo Courtesy of Smart Fitzjerrell

The secretary pencil skirt is one of the pieces from Smart Fitzjerrell's Fall/Winter Collection. The collection features warm colors and plaid.

Coming Soon to a Theater Near You...

BY STEPHEN BECKER
Dallas Morning News (MCT)

Opening Nov. 2:

AMERICAN GANGSTER: Russell Crowe and Denzel Washington go toe-to-toe on opposite sides of the law. Enough said.

BEE MOVIE: Jerry Seinfeld wrote and stars in this animated tale of a bee who wants more from life than making honey.

MARTIAN CHILD: John Cusack adopts a boy who claims to be from Mars.

WRISTCUTTERS: Dreamy film is set in an after-life holding area for people who have committed suicide.

Saggy Pants Mark Gap in Generation

BY PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER STAFF
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The spirit sags. So do pants all over the country.

For more than two decades now, people generally younger than, oh, 45, have been wearing baggy pants. It's said to be an outgrowth of prison chic. Prison, where you can't wear belts. Prison, where baggy clothes help hide weapons. Down sag the pants, revealing a vibrant garden of flowered, striped, checked and blinding-white boxers for public inspection. Along with expanses of skin most people don't show.

From ancient Rome to downtown 2007, kids like to imitate thugs. No wonder, then, that prison chic met Bohemia, fed into gangsta culture, hip-hop, and Skateboard Nation, and around the world, Louisville to Lhasa, Oregon to Ouagadougou, Eau Claire to Ulan Bator.

Like hip-hop itself, this fashion is years old and rather played out. But town councils all over are arising as one, shocked, crying "civic image" and "moral decay," seeking to shove through laws, lest saggy pants drag down us all.

In Trenton, N.J., Councilwoman Annette Lartigue has proposed fines or community service for sagsters. Councilman Lincoln Green of Pleasantville has proposed much the same. In Georgia, Atlanta Councilman C.T. Martin wants lax pantaloons yanked under city indecency ordinances. Shreveport, La., will fine you unless you do the Tighen Up. So will Delcambre, La., as much as \$500 or six months in jail. Dallas is mulling a ban. Debate is rampant. "Turpitude!" cry supporters (get it?). "Free speech! Racism!" cry opponents.

Clearly, some lawmakers feel they have nothing better to do. Clearly, they just can't stand it any more. Clearly, it's silly.

It's also ironic. This, friends, is payback.

Today's town boards are peopled by many former children of the 1960s. They irritated, outraged and countercultured their own parents to a mama-nomore, and probably never thought (once they cut their hair, went to business school, and made a mint) it could happen to them.

It did. Such is the perpetual cycle: "This is a human brain ... this is a human brain on the drug called youth." Saggy pants with skivvies out ... lower back exposed but not all the way ... it's the classic kid's game of play-chicken-with-the-boundaries.

Deal. To be sure, Saggy-pants chic is old-timey and ugly. It may be a sign that somebody's parents have failed – but not always. It reinforces prejudices across races, generations and classes. And that nether-garment parade down the sidewalk – it's few people's favorite thing.

Real indecent exposure is something to punish. It threatens, invades privacy, can traumatize and disgust. It's morally wrong. The state has a legitimate interest in stopping it. But saggy pants don't rise to that level.

True, towns have the right to enact the laws they wish, within the Constitution. Apparel laws, however, are not constitutional unless there's a clear indecency issue. Surely, to criminalize slack slacks is to drag down the indecency line. That's the humor of it. Kids are testing that line – without crossing it, because most kids don't actually want to be bad. They want the look. (Laws won't get kids to stop wearing baggy pants. Only the news that it's so last year. Only kids decide that.)

Ugly is not actionable. Slovenly is not vicious. Irritating is not immoral. Still, towns all over want to issue tickets and fines. Pants Law Mania. Not only are these efforts moral policing of the most boring, least effective kind; they're also small-time, petty, misplaced – and not all that American. Drop 'em.

Do you know the latest in fashion, health and other life & style related news?
Bring your story ideas to our next budget meeting on Monday at 7 p.m.



No one looks back fondly
on the time they spent in a parking garage.



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Bison Turn Around Season, Step-Up Defense

BY SHARON TAYLOR
Contributing Writer

Coming from Delaware State and following Howard's defense last year, the Howard Bison football team has been getting on the defensive.

"Last year, there was a lot of zone blitzing," Creamer said. "This year, we are doing more man blitzing."

While the Bison have played in many close call games (FAMU, North Carolina A&T), many fans agree there is something different about the Bison defense.

The Bison football team turned around from a 0-3 start to beat Norfolk State, which was undefeated in the MEAC this season.

"As quick as you can gain, the quicker you can lose it," said senior Rudy Hardie, All-MEAC defensive lineman. That's why you have to be humble in the game of football."

"We stopped giving up big plays over 30 yards, learned how to play effective defense and refuse to give up despite the current situation," Defense Coach Andre Creamer said in response to the Bison's sudden defensive turnaround. "Howard's defense is one of the better defenses in the MEAC conference. These young men have heart."

Junior linebacker Kyle Denning said, "One of the main things that have improved is the communication between

the players on the field."

The saying "there is no I in team" stands out for the Bison defense. Realizing their weaknesses and helping them to become strengths has been the main focus of the team and coaches this year.

They hope that will help them win more games this year and in the years to come.

"Everyone has always known and understood their job, but Coach Creamer is putting every player to the test," said Hardie, captain of the Bison. "Yes, something has changed, but to me it is nothing dramatic. We are the same team from last year. We just are fixing the mistakes that brought us down."

Hardie continued, "When it comes down to the close call games we have played in and lost, we lost because we gave up big plays, and we haven't been able to master ways to win. The difference between Howard and Hampton is Hampton knows how to make plays and make things happen. It's not they are better than Howard or any other team. They just are good at finding ways to win when in a nail-biting game."

Hardie commended the football team's offense and defense, saying just as he steps on the field and gives 150 percent effort, everyone else does the same.

While everyone keeps asking what is different about the team, Hardie said his response is that nothing is different.

"We are the same team that gets

praised when we win and dogged when we lose," he said.

Commenting on the Bison's recent upset victory against Norfolk State, Norfolk offensive fullback Broderick Henry said, "We lost because Howard had a better game and played a good defensive game. We didn't block number 99 — Rudy Hardie. If people are saying Howard's defense has changed, then it must be true."

Henry continued, "I am one person that does agree that the Bison defense has changed, and it is because they have Rudy Hardie as their leader."

Senior defensive end Alfred Sutton also commented, saying he agrees that this is the season for the Bison to come up and come out of being known as a losing team.

"Everyone is playing as a team and no one is playing to build their own stats," Sutton said. "Don't get me wrong, the coaches from last year were good at their job, but the coaches this year have taught us how to be more aggressive and physical."

Sutton also said that mentally, the fact that the team has become more aggressive and physical makes them stronger and helps to motivate them as the game continues.

The Bison hope to continue their game-winning turnaround as they take on South Carolina State on Saturday afternoon in Greene Stadium at 1 p.m.



Rickey Jackson (above) has 20.5 tackles and 1 interception this year.

Men's Basketball Gears Up for First Philly Tournament

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS
Sports Editor

As the Bison men's basketball season quickly approaches, the team is preparing for their first non-conference tournament of the season, The Philly Hoop Group Classic.

The new Thanksgiving weekend basketball tournament was recently announced and includes Howard and other Eastern University teams.

The other teams included in the tournament are Loyola College, Robert Morris University, Drexel University, Navy, Seton Hall University, University of Pennsylvania and University of Virginia.

"I think we are in a good state and ready for the tournament," said junior shooting guard for the Bison Eugene Myatt.

The Hoop Group, which is holding the tournament, is a full-service basketball organization

that specializes in player development, operations and instructional programs.

Championing itself as one of the largest basketball instruction organizations in the world, The Hoop Group has 15 separate entities that encompass more than 28,000 student athletes and 3,000 high school, collegiate, AAU and youth league coaches.

The group also has an extensive list of alumni who have all made names for themselves in the world of basketball, including Moses Malone, Julius "Dr. J." Erving, Vince Carter, Kobe Bryant, Bob Knight, Chuck Daly, Billy Donovan and many more.

With Head Coach Gill Jackson being a former coach at the University of Pennsylvania and Myatt, a Philadelphia native, the tournament should be an interesting one for the team that hits close to home.

"Of course I am excited," Myatt said. "It is my hometown.

It is always good to play in front of friends and family."

Also recently announced are the game times for the championship round of the tournament on Friday, Nov. 23 and Saturday, Nov. 24.

The tournament will have two games featured during sessions held in both the afternoon and evening of both days. Saturday's schedule will be based on Friday's game results. Both games are scheduled to be televised on Comcast network's CN8.

Howard students can get tickets now for the tournament. The cost is \$25 per session and tickets are available through The Palestra Box Office, by calling (215) 898-6151 or online at <http://www.thephillyclassic.com/>.

The Bison will kick off the basketball season with an inner-squad scrimmage Saturday and an exhibition game against Bowie on Sunday.

Sports Quiz

Soccer Season Wrap-Up

- 1.) Which two local teams did men's soccer play against at the beginning of their season for the D.C. Cup?
- 2.) For how many seasons has head coach Erinn Garner been coaching the women's soccer team?
- 3.) Who is the head coach of the men's soccer team?
- 4.) Who did the men's team play for senior day?
- 5.) What is the women's soccer team's 2007 season record?

-Compiled by Winnie Clark-Jenkins, Sports Editor

Answers for the Sports Quiz are on the lower right side of the page.

Women's Soccer Falls to Navy in Last Season Game



Oscar Merida IV - Staff Photographer

The Navy women's soccer team defeated Howard 8-1 in the Bison's final regular season game Tuesday night in Annapolis, Md. The loss drops Howard's record to 2-15, while the Midshipmen improve to 10-4-4.

Freshman forward Rachael Lee scored the goal for Howard at 68:38 on an assist from freshman midfielder Briana Gamble. Navy outshot the Bison 36-8, with 18 of the Mids' shots coming on goal compared to four by Howard.

Navy drew seven corner kicks to Howard's two while the Lady Bison were whistled for 10 fouls and the Midshipmen's were called for two. Lady Bison junior keeper Jessamyn Perkins stopped 10 shots in the loss.

Howard will now wait for the seeding of the United Soccer Conference (USC) Tournament. The tourney will tip off next Wednesday, Nov. 7 on the campus of Utah Valley State College in Orem, Utah.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

NOVEMBER 1, 1990

SANDRA MILLER AWARDED \$100 FOR MIKE TYSON FONDLING HER BREASTS.

SCOREBOARD

No Games Wednesday

UPCOMING GAMES

11/1 Volleyball @ Delaware State 7 p.m.

Answers to Sports Quiz:

1. George Mason University and George Washington University; 2. Two seasons; 3. Joseph Okoh; 4. New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT); 5. (2-15)