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#### Recommended Citation

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**WEATHER**

**55**  
**38**  
Tomorrow: **48**  
**37**



# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

Established  
**1924**

VOLUME 91, NO. 55

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Thursday, November 15, 2007

**Thursday**  
**Notebook**

**BREAKING NEWS**

REP. KENDRICK MEEKS (D-FL) HAS POSTPONED A SCHEDULED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AT HOWARD AGAIN. REP. STEPHANIE TUBBS-JONES (D-OH) IS COMING INSTEAD.

**CAMPUS**

HOWARD OFFICIALS HOPE THAT STUDENTS WILL MAKE ONE OF THE BIGGEST FADS OF TODAY MORE THAN A FAD. FIND OUT WHAT IT IS INSIDE.

**NATION & WORLD**

MIKE GRAVEL IS EXCLUDED FROM TONIGHT'S DEBATE. VOTERS WILL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES AS PRIMARY ELECTIONS DRAW NEAR.

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## Black, White D.C. Students Discuss Race on Campus

*Students from Georgetown, Howard Come 'Face to Face'*

BY DEONTAY MORRIS  
Editorial Assistant

Carver Hall in conjunction with the Georgetown chapter of the NAACP, hosted "Face to Face, an Open Forum Confronting Race" on Wednesday evening.

The mediator of the event was Carver Hall resident assistant, sophomore Malik Washington.

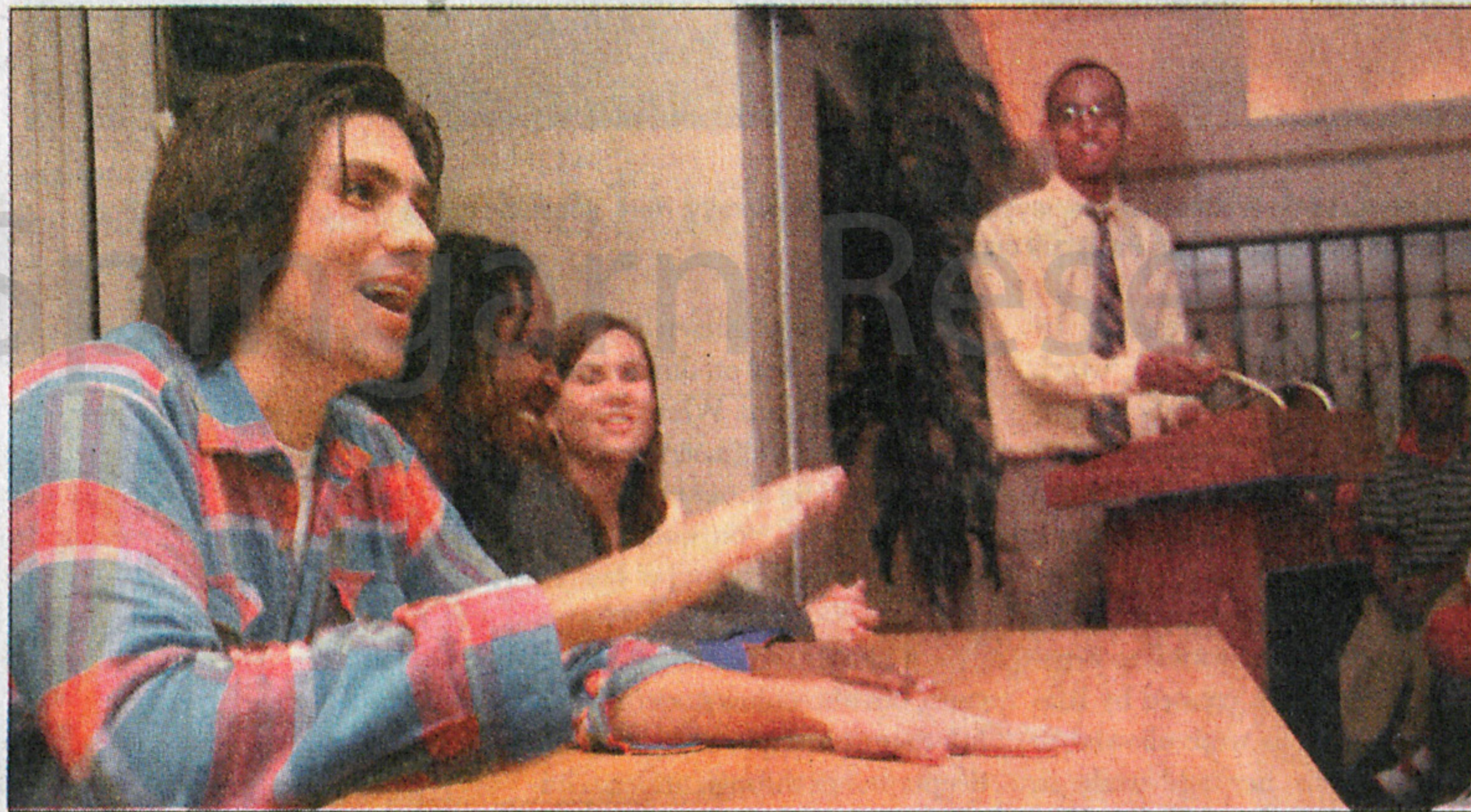
The panel consisted of three students—Ellie Gunderson,

president of the NAACP chapter at Georgetown; Amato Nocera, a junior Afro-American studies major, who is a white student attending Howard; and sophomore political science major Ryan Jeter.

No topic was left untouched. Panelists and audience members discussed the Jena "6", the Michael Vick case, the Duke-Lacrosse case, O.J. Simpson, interracial dating, gentrification and being convicted in the court of public opinion.

At the beginning, the mediator asked the panelists to discuss the scenario of people of opposites races walking down the street toward each other and thoughts in a person's mind.

"In general, people of color specifically have to prove that they are non-threatening when they are around white people,"



Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer  
Students from across the city gathered to discuss race relations last night during an open forum.

"Last year we had a joke in Carver that we only saw white people if they were walking their dogs or walking with their babies," Jeter said. "The segregation in D.C. is crazy."

An interesting point brought up was how you cannot force someone to learn about something that does not interest.

Gunderson said that the Rally held for the Jena "6" on Sept. 20 caused a lot of problems because it escalated racial tensions on the campus of Georgetown.

The audience for the forum was very interactive. It consisted

> See RACE, Page 3

Nocera said. "They are constantly faced with situations where white people just avoid them and that eventually affects their psyche. It's

strange that I never have to prove that I am not a threat."

Even though George Washington, Howard and Georgetown

are all in the Northwest quadrant of Washington D.C., they all seem light years apart in culture and community.



After a drop in the number of car bombings and sectarian murders, Baghdad has changed, now offering residents more security and a new sense of freedom.

## Baghdad Has Some Signs of Hope

BY LEILA FADEL  
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — Taking advantage of a dramatic drop in car bombings and sectarian murders, Baghdad residents are once again venturing out to local markets and restaurants after dark in many parts of the city. They're celebrating weddings and birthdays in public places and eating grilled carp on the Tigris River late into the night.

A local television station has begun a feature called "Baghdad Nights," showing the capital's residents shopping, eating and socializing after the sun has set — a sight that until recently was unheard of in most neighborhoods.

In Mansour, in central Baghdad, eight young brides, dripping in new gold given to them by their grooms, visited Tanya's hair salon this week. Just two months ago, the shop was lucky to get one bride a month. "Before there used to be no merrymaking for the bride," said Suad, a young hairdresser who would only give her first name

for safety reasons. "Now they are coming again."

As Baghdad has changed, even security barriers have had a makeover, incorporated, if that's possible, into the urban landscape. Over the past six months, artists have painted them with depictions of Iraqi life, ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and fantasy pictures of peaceful scenes.

But Baghdad residents are skeptical that their new freedom will last.

"It's in the hands of God now," said Umm Fatma, her roots covered in bleach at the hairdresser's. "We don't know the future."

McClatchy reporters who drove through Baghdad and telephoned residents across the capital discovered a city that's become calmer. The calm, however, is the result of a divided city.

Blast walls, decorated or not, still ring neighborhoods and markets. Military and police checkpoints checker the roads. In some

> See BAGHDAD, Page 7

## Broadway Walkout Shocks Bethune Annex Residents

BY ALEESA MANN  
Staff Writer

The mass amount of picketers outside the Broadway Theater was a surprise to the Howard students who had planned to see "The Color Purple" in New York last weekend.

The Bethune Annex hosted the trip, which took a sudden detour due to the current strike by members of Local One, a union in New York that represents Broadway stagehands. Students, who were excited to see the play starring Fantasia Barrino, visited Times Square and a local mall instead.

"I knew about a strike, but I didn't realize it had been moved to the production crew," said Isoke Stallworth, a freshman telecommunications major. "I thought it was just the writers, and I didn't think it was going to be a problem because the [play was] already written. We pulled up on the bus and everyone was excited. Then, we look outside and see all these people marching around with their picket signs...and there was a sign on the theater door saying 'your money would be refunded,'" Stallworth said.

In an unprecedented gesture, Local One, which has been organized for 121 years, is refusing to work. Stagehands argue that the League of American Theaters and Producers is threatening a 36 percent cut in their jobs and wages. Stagehands are also upset that the league has amassed a \$20 million dollar fund that will insulate them from the effects of the strike. Nevertheless, on Nov. 10, after several weeks of futile negotiations,

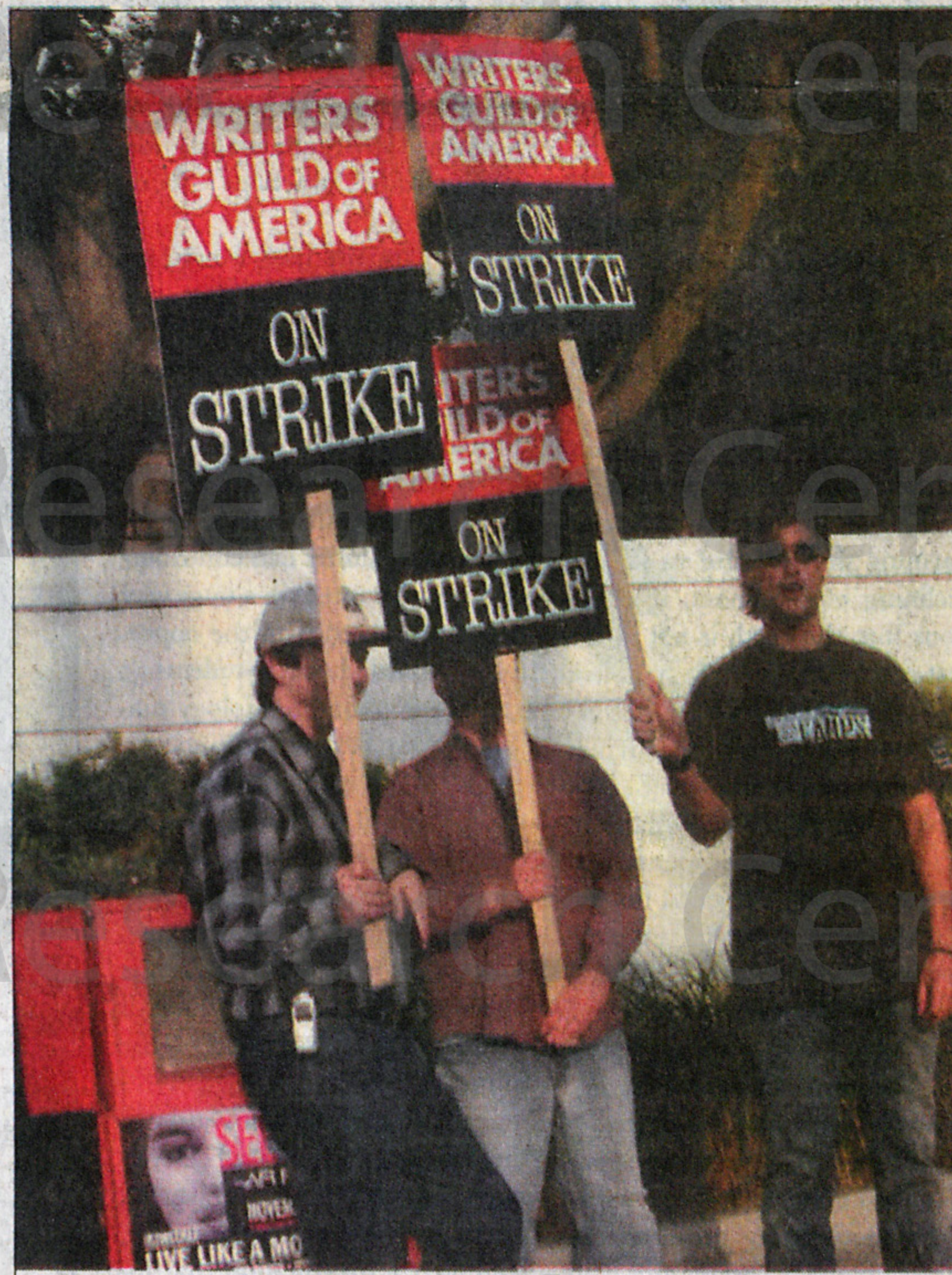


Photo Courtesy of www.hollywoodtoday.net  
Bethune Annex dormitory hosted a trip to New York to see "The Color Purple," only to find picketers outside the theater.

Local One went on strike.

"[The strike] is unfortunate, but this is a good example of what is happening in the country. They are all middle class Americans who work on Broadway. We don't get to work 52

weeks a year like other industries, but we're faced with the same issues as other people in other industries," said

> See BROADWAY, Page 7

## College's Response to Noose Incident Sparks Outrage in Minnesota

BY RANDY FURST  
Star Tribune - Minneapolis (MCT)

MINNEAPOLIS — Gabriel Keith said he had no understanding of the racist implications of a noose when he taped one to the ceiling of the newsroom at the campus newspaper at Minneapolis Community Technical College last month.

"I am definitely aware of it now," said Keith, who was fired as news editor and has become the center of a robust debate over cultural sensitivity at the campus where nearly half the 11,800-student population is minority and 30 percent are black.

Two student groups held a protest

rally last week to express outrage over the noose and plan more meetings Thursday. The school administration has organized a meeting with students over the noon hour.

Accusations are flying, both about the incident and the college's response. Some students find it hard to believe Keith, 26, didn't know what he was doing. They also say the college tried to hush it up and prevent the campus newspaper from reporting it. Administrators deny the accusations.

"We want to educate around cultural understanding," said Laura Fedrock, an interim associate vice president for academic and student affairs. "We need

to teach each other when something is offensive. ... We hope students will come to talk this out."

But Chris Smith, 22, who is black and a member of a student multicultural group, says the school should learn something about transparency. "I'm concerned that it took a whole month to find out about it. Why didn't the school tell us about it?"

"We are angry," said Lisa Dean, 31, president of Associates of Black Collegians, a student group. "If we do not nip it in the bud, it will spread and lot of students may not want to attend this college because of racism."

Keith said it wasn't racism, but

what he thought was a "joke" Oct. 10, when he came up with the idea of displaying a noose to encourage student reporters at the City College News to turn in their articles on time.

There were other suggestions, he said, including using a knife, but Keith settled on the noose. He asked a fellow student, also white, to make a noose, which he did, from a drawstring on Keith's sweater.

Two other students in the room, Sita Hinds, 30, the business manager for the paper, and Senah Yeboah-Sampong, 22, the online editor, both of whom are black, said they discouraged Keith from doing it.

"I said, 'It's not a good idea, don't hang up the noose, why not put something else up,'" Hinds said. But Keith climbed on a table and taped it to the ceiling with a note telling students to turn in their articles.

After a few uncomfortable minutes, in which Keith said Yeboah-Sampong told him, "If you don't take it down, I will," Keith took it down, threw it in the trash and left.

What happened next has provoked the larger complaints about insensitivity — both by Keith and the college.

When Margaret Campbell, 20,

> See NOOSE, Page 3

## HU Displays Dynamic Diversity

BY ALEESA MANN  
Staff Writer

"Multicultural Diversity at Howard University" was held last night in the Blackburn Digital Auditorium to demonstrate the various cultures on campus.

The event was hosted by the graduate school and the Office of Residence Life along with several other student organizations including the Howard University Student Association (HUSA), the Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and the School of Business Student Council.

The event is in its third-year, and each year a different medium is chosen to demonstrate the cultures of over 80 countries represented by the Howard student body. This year's medium was dance.

"I think that it's important at Howard to showcase diversity because many people do not think that Howard has diversity," said Dr. Anita Nahal, director of International Program for the graduate school. "It's [also important] to share, and by sharing diversity we learn about different cultures."

Nahal's passion and interest in bringing people together was one of the reasons she chose to help host the show. "If you use the space outside of the classroom as an avenue of projecting culture, then it allows us [the opportunity] to understand a different culture," she said.

Dances from West African, Latin American, Caribbean, Brazilian, Chinese, Indian and Pakistani cultures were performed. The West African dance performed was used in the celebration of harvest time, marriage and rights of passage.

The dancers moved spiritedly to drums that enlightened the clarity of the rhythm of the dances. The salsa, a fusion of informal dance styles, was chosen to represent the Latin American culture.



The showcase on Wednesday displayed Howard's rich diversity. Here, someone gets a type of temporary tattoo applied in accordance with Pakistani culture.

China was represented by a Chinese Dragon dance, which is performed to drive out evil spirits. Elements of Kung Fu were incorporated with the individual movements of people dressed as a dragon.

The Capoeira and Samba de Roda were performed to demonstrate traditions created by Brazilian slaves who were allowed to continue their heritage while in slavery, by playing drums. The dances implemented extensive groundwork and acrobatic movements.

The Bhangra dance was the last dance performed. It is a Punjabi dance performed primarily by men during weddings and New Year's celebrations.

For audience members, the show was intriguing and offered a deeper insight to different cultures.

"I thought it was interesting. I like how they brushed on different cultures," said Alanna White, a freshman chemical engineering major. "Everyone talks about how diverse Howard is, but you don't realize it. This kind of points it out for you."

The showcase not only educates, but also unites students offering them an opportunity to build deeper bonds through understanding. "[The event] allows the students that are here to understand that there is this diversity of individuals and the plethora of people at Howard," said Marc Lee, Assistant Dean of Residence Life.

"They need to have an understanding about the various cultures in terms of gaining a better understanding," Lee continued. "It opens them up to new ideas about the places they can go, and

opens people up to other types of cultures."

The event was also important because of Howard's reputation for fostering excellence in academics as well as cultural awareness. "I'm glad everyone got to come out and experience art forms from different cultures," said HUSA vice president Will Roberts.

"Howard university stands in the world of HBCUs as a leader in cultural diversity, but its really important that we nurture culture and diversity," he said.

He continued, "A lot of the cultural learning that takes place here takes place outside the classroom, and that is why it's important that we have events like this so that students can come and mingle, and immerse themselves in others cultures."

## The Holiday Season Is Approaching



### But Don't Forget to Come Out to Budget Meetings to Grab A Story

### Budget Meetings Are Mondays @7 P.M...

### ...even next week. So Pick Up A Story Before You Go Get the 'Itis' with Your Family

## Howard Officials Give the 'Green' light

BY MAKULA DUNBAR  
Contributing Writer

You may have recently seen the "Going Green" concept displayed on America's Next Top Model, but methods of improving the environment were implemented long ago.

Whether it is the smoky fumes coming from the tail pipes of cars or the effects of global warming that remind us of our declining environment, it is obvious that the earth is not in the best condition.

The term "Going Green" refers to doing various activities and practices that benefit the preservation of the environment.

For a college student "Going Green" may not be at the top of their to-do list, and despite the fact that students think conserving energy requires too much of their time. Director of Physical Facilities Energy Systems, Chander Bhan, said otherwise.

"Being Green is not a political position. It is a smart way to go about being pro-active in improving the air, water and land that we all need to live," he said.

"We all want to be productive, we all want jobs and a clean place to study, work and live so Howard students should naturally embrace Green initiatives because it's the right thing to do," he said.

Torian Black, a sophomore mechanical engineering major,

never considered himself to be a huge environmentalist, but involuntarily practices "being Green".

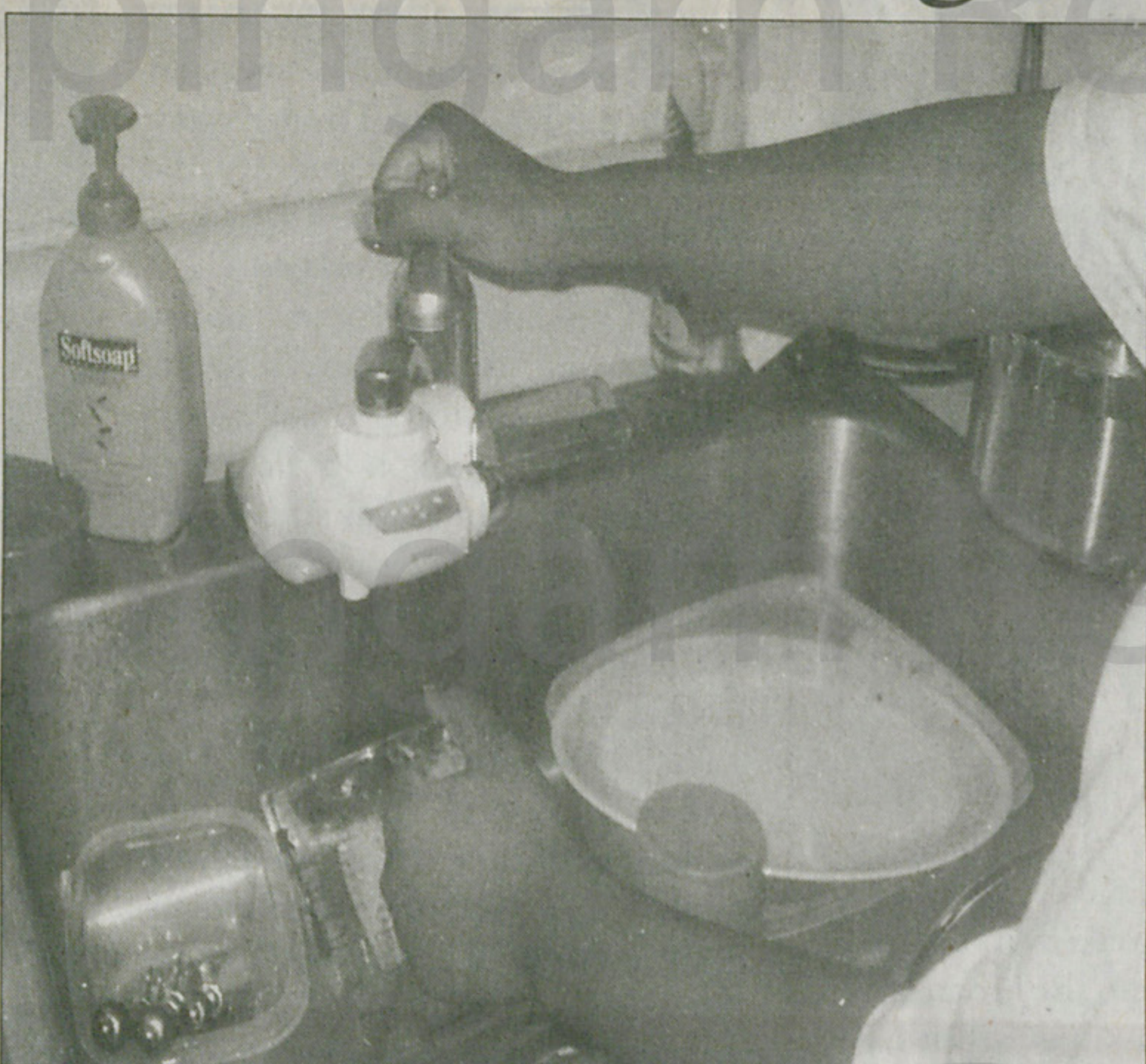
"I usually turn everything off when I'm not in the room and keep things on low as opposed to high. I don't throw away grocery bags, I use them as trash bags and I turn off the light in the shower when I'm done," he said.

Getting into the habit of doing small things can contribute to the environment in a huge way, but if presented with the opportunity would Howard students go green? Sophomore biology major Brittany Bryant thinks so.

"If we explain what good can come out of 'Going Green', then people would participate," she said. "I would participate because it's all for a good cause. I wouldn't voluntarily leave the lights on because everything is paid for. That doesn't make sense to me."

Esme Bhan, who works in the Department of Staff Development with Howard University Physical Facilities Management, compiled a presentation that includes several things that students on and off campus can do to improve the state of the environment.

Among them is recycling properly, using solar and wind energy, utilizing organic products, conserving water and buying energy saving products that are marked with an energy star



Physical Facilities Management officials and Charles Gibbs, Dean of Residence Life, encourage students to cut costs and save energy on campus.

logo.

"Every institution in America consumes too much energy, including Howard University," Bhan said. "Over consumption is not the problem, however we have a mission to accomplish at Howard and we need energy to accomplish that mission."

Energy for the entire university is purchased in bulk, generated throughout the campus then utilized by the students. This is where the option of conserving energy comes in.

Bhan, who is responsible for purchasing the energy for Howard, suggests that if students

took on the initiative to conserve energy then costs would lower substantially.

"Not doing so creates negatives that we all want to avoid like unclear air, lack of energy resources, lack of funds for the things we want to do because we are paying too much for energy and a host of other ailments," Bhan said.

Charles Gibbs, dean of Residence Life said, "I certainly think HU students would embrace 'Going Green'. It's an opportunity to be more efficient in the use of products and services we use on campus."

## Airline Gets Students In the Air With Free Tickets

BY ANNIE WHITE  
Editorial Assistant

Last night, Blackburn Café was Jet Blue Airways port of call as the company partnered with WHBC to host Blue Day.

On Blue Day, students had the opportunity to win two round-trip ticket vouchers for up to \$700, and may travel anywhere Jet Blue flies.

The reservation must be booked and redeemed within the next twelve months or the promotional offer will expire.

Gabrielle Ward, Jet Blues brand ambassador said, "We have been on campus giving out vouchers since the beginning of the semester. We had thirty in total to give out. We gave out some earlier in the semester and we are giving out ten tonight."

According to jetblue.com, Jet Blue has been in operation since 2000. Additionally, every seat comes equipped with 36 channels of free live TV and 100 channels of Satellite XM radio, free snacks, and ample legroom.

"We are trying to raise

awareness about Jet Blue and our destinations in order to promote the airline [to students]," Ward said. "[Howard students] need to know we are a low cost air carrier with appealing features."

Tiffany Johnson, the freshman musical theater major from Chicago, said she spends approximately \$200 on a plane ticket to Chicago. But after winning tonight, she said, "As a college student on budget this is very convenient and it is great that Jet Blue is doing this."

"I may use this ticket to go

home for the holidays or to book a spring break trip, whichever is more economical," Johnson said.

Shantel Broughton, another Chicago resident and contest winner, said, "I'm using mine to go to Miami, Florida for spring break."

She spoke of filling out the application minutes before having her name called. "I didn't know I was going to really win. But, I'm happy that I did," she said.

Aaron Marcus, a junior psychology major said, "Although, I live in Indiana I am going to use my voucher and take my mom on

a nice vacation."

Leonard Mohammad, a senior public relations major said, "I am happy I won. But, I wish my friends would have won too so we could go somewhere together."

Mohammad continued, "I'm going to use this as a vacation because I live in Baltimore and don't have to fly home. I may go to California or Aruba."

In addition to Aruba and California, Jet Blue flies to 50 destinations, including New York City, Chicago, Boston, Cancun, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic,

Nassau and the Bahamas.

As the raffle drew to an end, Brian "Fat Boy" Young, an audio production major and employee of WHBC said, "A lot of people entered the raffle. But, we're not only raffling off the tickets, we're also having eating contests and dance contests so people can win tickets."

Just then, the DJ put on the Chicago juke slide and attendees made their way to the center of the Blackburn Café. Students danced in an effort to win a voucher, but all ten tickets had been distributed for the night.

## Iraqis Find 'Rays of Hope' in Some Baghdad Neighborhoods

Continued from FRONT, BAGHDAD

mixed-sectarian neighborhoods, such as Saidiyah, in south Baghdad, and Salam, in central Baghdad, Sunni and Shiite Muslims are still fighting over turf. Other neighborhoods have become segregated into Shiite and Sunni zones. In some mixed neighborhoods in southwest Baghdad, reconciliation efforts have brought tense cease-fires between Shiites and Sunnis huddling on their sides of the neighborhoods.

Yet in some places there's a restoration of civility. In north Baghdad, in the mixed al Qabira neighborhood, Islam Mohammed ran through the streets on a recent night searching for his lost dog. The Sunni man ran from his Sunni enclave into the Shiite sector chasing after his German shepherd at midnight. Shiite residents offered to help, and by 1 a.m. Mohammed had scooped up his dog and returned home.

"Two months ago I would never have even thought of going after the dog there, not even in daylight," Mohammed said. "It is very sad that surrounding neighborhoods have become one sect. I hope it will not become a prerequisite for having peace in our lives."

On Sunday, "Baghdad Nights" filmed in Karrada, which had long been among the safer neighborhoods in the capital. Families held their children as they perused the aisles of the Warda grocery store or ate colorful scoops of ice cream at al Faqma ice cream parlor. The background music was "Salamat," an Iraqi song about peace.

But the Sunni enclaves of Adhamiyah, Ameriyah and Ghazaliyah never show up on "Baghdad Nights."

Statistics tell some of the story. In December 2006, two months before the start of the U.S.-Iraqi plan to restore security to Baghdad, 1,030 dead bodies were found throughout the capital, victims of sectarian cleansing. Last month, that number fell to 174, a still-frightening figure but only a fraction of the previous year's. Car bombings dropped from 38 to 20.

In December 2006, 361 people were killed in Baghdad, and in January, 438 were, according to a McClatchy count. In October, 143 were killed. Some attribute the lower numbers to the completion of sectarian cleansing and the segregation of sects in much of the capital.

The number of the displaced, however, has tripled since January, according to the Red Crescent humanitarian organization, and about two-thirds of the victims are children. Most Iraqis who have returned to their homes from abroad have done so because they were penniless, unable to work or deported from their countries of refuge.

One U.S. military official credits the positive changes around the capital to a series of factors: a six-month cease-fire by the Mahdi Army, a Shiite militia blamed for much of the sectarian killing; blast walls that segregate neighborhoods and protect markets; the U.S. troop surge; a Sunni volunteer movement; and less opportunity for sectarian cleansing with neighborhoods divided or already cleansed.

"Realistically, given everything that has happened in the past two years, I suspect that we will have segregated neighborhoods for a time to let civil society build," said a senior military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak. "While we would all prefer an integrated society, a peaceful segregated one is better than a violent integrated one."

There are small rays of hope in the unlikely of places. In Ameriyah, once a bastion for Islamist extremists who assaulted civilians across the country, Abu Qassim walked to his sister's for a birthday party on Monday. A few months ago that would've been impossible. The garbage that blanketed the streets of this once-upscale neighborhood is gone, and at 6:30 p.m. Abu Qassim sat with his brother and sister, drank a Pepsi and swayed to music before they sang, "Sana halwa ya jameel," (a beautiful year, oh beautiful) and cut the chocolate cake.

Just seven months ago Abu Qassim had been kidnapped in this same west Baghdad neighborhood; he was luckily released. Now as he walks home at night, the roads are quiet, due to a six-month-long vehicle-ban, and the local market is open until 11 p.m. But no Shiites have returned, and they still shudder at the thought of entering Ameriyah.

"It has changed," he said of his enclosed neighborhood patrolled by Americans, the Iraqi army and a neighborhood watch group. "There were dead bodies in the streets every day before."

## News Editor Says He Was Unaware of Noose Incidents

Continued from FRONT, NOOSE

who is white, and editor of the paper, learned of the incident she fired Keith. But the newspaper's adviser, Ben Lathrop, thought Keith should be suspended, not fired, pending an investigation.

At a meeting with Campbell, Hinds and Yeboah-Sampong, Keith apologized.

"I feel my actions were unprofessional so it was totally warranted that they kicked me off the newspaper," Keith said in an interview. But Keith, an Iraqi war veteran, insists he is not a racist. He said when he taped it to the ceiling, he was unaware of recent incidents, such as the nooses white high school students hung from a tree in Jena, La., after black students asked to sit there.

"I heard about something to do with a noose, but I didn't even think of it," he said. "I don't watch the news."

Still, Hinds and Yeboah-Sampong filed complaints. The college investigated and found

"the incident was not intended to target an individual or group of individuals based on race," says Fedock.

Yeboah-Sampong questions that conclusion. "That symbol especially until not very long ago, was used to do terrible things to a lot of black people," he said.

While Fedock said the students could appeal to the college president, Campbell said an independent body needs to hear the complaints. She suggested creating a campus ombudsman.

Some students are upset they first learned about it, not from the college, but in City Pages, a Minneapolis-area publication. Campbell alleges Dianna Cusick, college legal affairs director, urged her to postpone an article until after the newspaper got liability insurance.

Fedock said Cusick did not tell Campbell not to publish. And while the college supports the adviser's recommendation that Keith be suspended, it has not overturned his firing.

As the story continues to unfold, City College News goes to press next week.

## Students Talk Racism at Carver

Continued from FRONT, RACE

of Howard students and various students from Georgetown.

"I enjoyed the forum, I wish it could've had a higher turnout," said Jummy Obayanju, a freshman print journalism major. "We all subconsciously think about race, and this was an opportunity to clear your mind."

Although all of the issues discussed are very serious and have intricate problems, some people feel that the solution to most of them are simple.

"My parents instilled in me never to judge a book by its cover," said Steven Thompson, a freshman business management major. "Also you should treat people how you want to be treated, that would solve a large amount of our problems."



Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer

Although the turnout was small, students had a chance to talk openly about race at the forum on Wednesday.

Be a part of the  
**Daily Student Voice of Howard University**  
and apply for:

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- Layout Designers (2)
- Graphics Designer
- Staff Writer (Campus, Sports)
- Editorial Assistant
- Staff Photographer
- Photography Assistant



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# Veteran Hair Care Expert Heals Black Hair with Hands

BY ROBYN FRANKS  
Contributing Writer

Instead of looking for money to hustle a way to make money, Barry Fletcher found his expertise in the art of hair care at a young age.

"I get enjoyment in helping people feel good about themselves, assisting with their self image, self-esteem and vanity," Fletcher said.

Upon graduating from Crossland High School, in Temple Hills, Md. Fletcher enrolled at the Robert Louis Studio of Hair Concepts. Since his family could not afford to send him to college, he decided to earn a cosmetology license and study trichology, the study of hair treatment. Although Fletcher was trained mostly in black hair care, he learned to work with European hair textures as well.

"Black women are obsessed with silky European straight hair," he said. "[They] will do almost anything to get it and keep it that way. Too often, this results in damaged hair and scalp," said Fletcher, a Mitchellville, Md. native.

In 1982 Fletcher began to win competitions during his tenure at Fingertips Salon, in Silver Spring, Md. Within

Fletcher's first year in the business he was participating in international competitions.

In 1985 Fletcher competed in New York Beauty Classic in London. He won a Rolls Royce, which he would later sell and use the proceeds to publish "Why Are Black Women Losing Their Hair."

Fletcher also became the first black person to attain a position on the USA Hair Olympic Team style a black model. Coach Randy Rick however did not approve of black models, because he said black hair did not bleach as well.

"I wanted to show he versatility of black hair," Fletcher said. "But because of the racism I wasn't able to express my true talent and culture."

After winning several competitions, Fletcher began to attain a celebrity-based clientele. Some of his most well-known clients are Tina Turner, Maya Braxton, Donnie Simpson, Toni Braxton, Chaka Kahn, Eartha Kitt, Halle Berry and super model Iman.

"Without a doubt if you want the best you want Barry Fletcher," said renowned radio host Donnie Simpson.

Simpson has been a client of Barry Fletcher for twenty years. "I go to Barry because he's



Barry Fletcher has sustained a 25-year career in black hair care. With his salon and hair competition successes he continues with new ventures to steadily improve on his hair care style and technique.

the best. I love his cuts and as a person he has a lot of character and he believes in giving back to his community," Simpson said.

Located in Mitchellville, Md, Fletcher's hair salon

attracts many members of the community.

Women and men come to find a remedy to their individual hair problems and Fletcher is sensitive to their concerns.

"I see them in their vulnerable state of badly damaged hair, no make-up on, and with their wigs taken off," Fletcher said.

Simpson also told *The*

*Hilltop* that the two of them have been known to brake out an iPod and play air guitar in the shop.

"It's not like I'm going to get my hair done," he said. "It's like I'm going to hangout."

Fletcher has been in the hair business for 25 years and is constantly trying to expand his business.

Currently he is working on a retail line for hair remedies, Barry Fletcher Products, Inc which he wants to sell in stores such as CVS Pharmacy, Wal-Mart and Rite Aid.

"It takes hard work, honesty and integrity," Fletcher said. "I always stand behind my word and work as hard as any of my employees that I have...it's great to have something you work on from the ground up."

Fletcher also uses his hair salon as a way to keep in touch with the surrounding community, where he is able to engage with his clients and understand the issues that they deal with.

"The salon, especially for the black community is the next best meeting place to the church," he said. "I keep my hands on the pulse of the community whether it be frustrations, gossip, or struggles. Knowing what people go through builds trust."

## Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro Two Stops Away from HU Campus

BY L. PAIGE FENN  
Contributing Writer

Students are looking for a quick get-a-way from the daily pressures of being a college student.

Even though students are familiar with Chinatown in Washington D.C, most are not completely aware of all of the activities and enjoyable eateries that the quick metro stop to Gallery Place-Chinatown has to offer.

When most students visit Chinatown, they go to see a movie, take a quick shopping trip to Urban Outfitters or grab a burrito from Chipotle.

A lot of students find themselves not partaking in the everyday opportunities of our nation's capital, but literally one stop away, there is the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the International Spy Museum or the Goethe-Institut.

The Goethe-Institut is an institute of the Federal Republic of Germany that is a center of education for those simply interested in certain aspects of the culture to those interested in learning the German language.

Located off 812 Seventh St., the center offers films, book sessions and background tutorials of the German culture.

Another cultural center is the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The National Portrait Gallery serves as a guide into the history of America, by offering a look into the culture and biography of many American heroes and icons.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is the largest collection of art with 41,000 pieces. These pieces of art of some of the world's greatest artists date back three centuries.

Junior Robert Cabbage said that "all of us have the opportunity to see things that have changed our world and ultimately made us who we are today. Instead of just going to bars and clubs, we should visit these places and pay tribute to the people who made America what it is today."

Austins Grill, is a restaurant located on 750 E St. The restaurant serves as a fun and relaxed atmosphere for crowds of every type. Manager Brent Guathney recalled that he will sometimes see politicians enjoy Austins' happy hour.

The restaurant is decorated with bright lights and signs all over that appear to mock the obnoxious yet entertaining style of Texas.

Their slogan, "Be kind,

tell the truth, eat good food" has won over some students at Howard like Melissa Baldwin, a Texas native.

"The family atmosphere, the service is amazing from all of the staff, and I love when they have special nights and a live band," she said. "The queso is my favorite too!"

Another up and coming eatery is Bar Louie that gives the same type of message "Eat. Drink. Be Happy" with a different style.

The urban chic bar and restaurant is designed with "nightlife laid-artwork and signature hand-laoid artwork."

Bar Louie is a perfect stop before attending a movie, going bowling with an older crowd or just an appetizer before a Washington Wizards game.

Junior Shayla Johnson recently discovered Bar Louie while waiting for a movie with friends but sees it as a place to go once and a while.

"I like the environment, and the food selection is unique but a little pricey," Johnson said. "I think it's a great place for a first date or a dinner with friends."

College is not only a place of school and fun, it is a place of growth and knowledge.

## High Cases of Domestic Violence Found in Southeast Washington

MONICA JONES  
Staff Writer

The D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a resource for the thousands of adults and children experiencing domestic violence in the District each year and the local organizations that serve them. The coalition offers support and services for today and education, advocacy and leadership to shape a violence-free future for families in the District of Columbia.

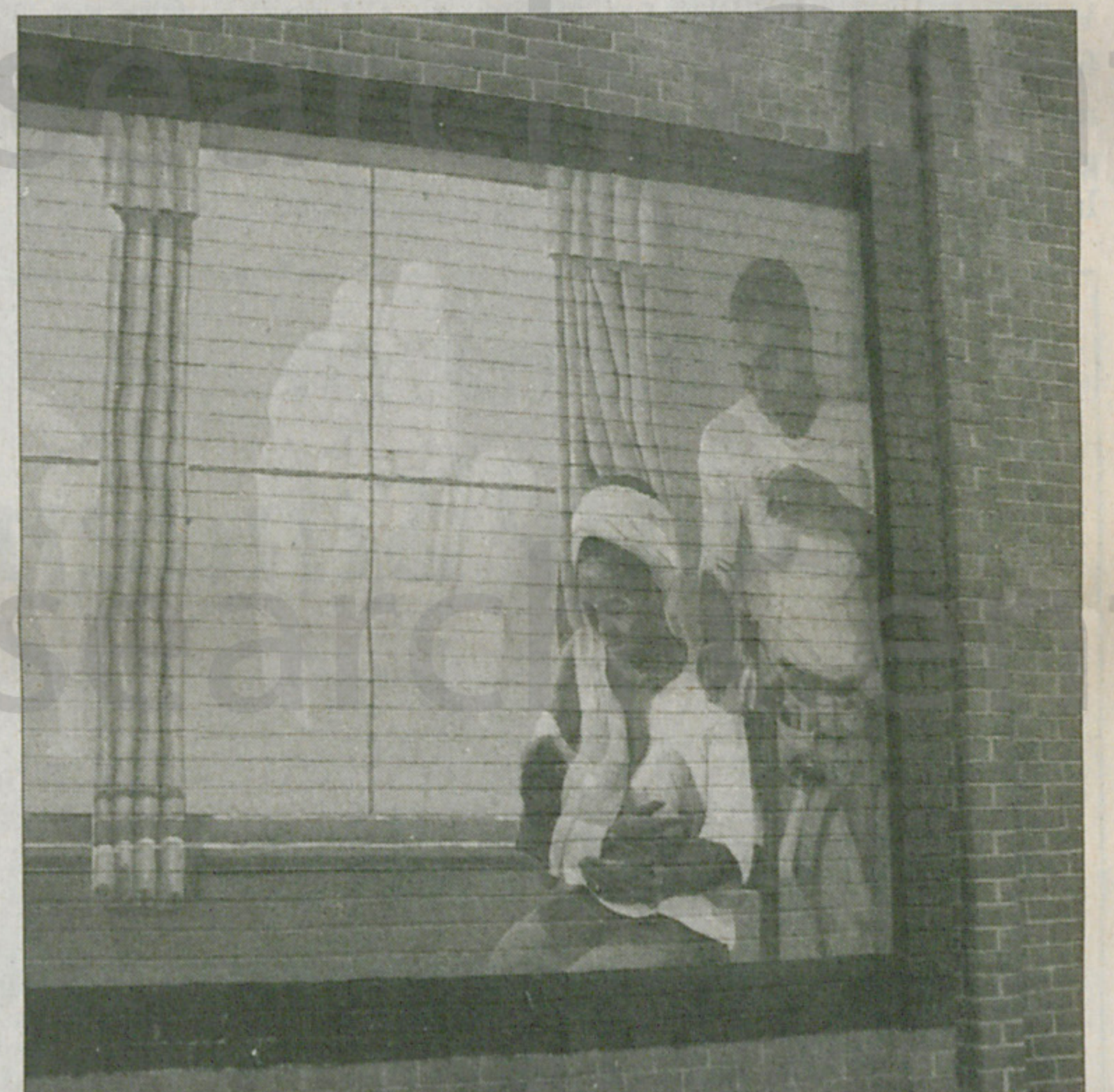
Information gathered from 2004 to 2006 by The Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC), revealed that of the 2,556 helped by DVIC, the clients who indicated residency in ward 8 accounted for 43 percent of the cases, while Wards 1, 3, 6 and some locations outside of D.C. made up a combined 6 percent.

According to the Domestic Violence Intake Center's 2004 to 2006 statistics, 4,948 domestic violence victims were served at the two DVIC locations in the year 2005.

The high numbers are only those incidents that are reported and do not necessarily mean that Ward 8 in Southeast D.C. has a higher rate of domestic violence than the other wards, pointed out Rema Pina, director of development and communication for D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV).

"Wards one, two and three might not be reporting as frequently," Pina said. "Everyone experiences domestic violence at the same rate regardless of income, race and religion. Also, they may be escaping and using their own resources rather than using the Police Department."

In 2005, the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) received one call every 19 minutes for domestic-related crime making a total



This mural in Anacostia suggests the idea of family unity, yet Southeast D.C. faces disproportionate cases of domestic violence.

27,401 calls, including 11,053 calls to report domestic violence crimes and 16,348 calls to report family dispute crimes.

Also according to the police department there has been an increase in the number of domestic violence calls of 22 percent in the past three years; from 9,045 calls in 2002 to 11,053 calls in 2005.

While there is not any one "most common" reason for domestic violence one common theme is found in all domestic disputes across the board, holding absolute power over another individual.

"The media likes to use the term 'great guys who all of a sudden snap,' Pina said. "But there is no such thing. There is an underlying pattern of controlling behavior, coercion and manipulation that escalates and leads to physical abuse."

"Domestic violence can not be attributed to an outside force such as drugs and alcohol."

Steps are being taken by special interest organizations across the nation in order to significantly curb the rising incidents of domestic violence in the United States.

On Oct. 4, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH), with support from the United States Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), unveiled the Decade for Change Report an outline that would greatly reduce the cases of domestic violence in the next 10 years.

"Despite significant efforts over the past decade to address the problem of domestic violence in our country, 33 million American women continue to experience abuse every year," Sheryl Cates, NDVH chief executive officer said in a press release. "As a society, we can and need to do more to stop the cycle of violence before it starts."



Gallery Place-Chinatown remains the pulse of downtown D.C. offering various restaurants and museums.

Interested in writing?  
Write for Metro.  
Grab a story at the next budget meeting.



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



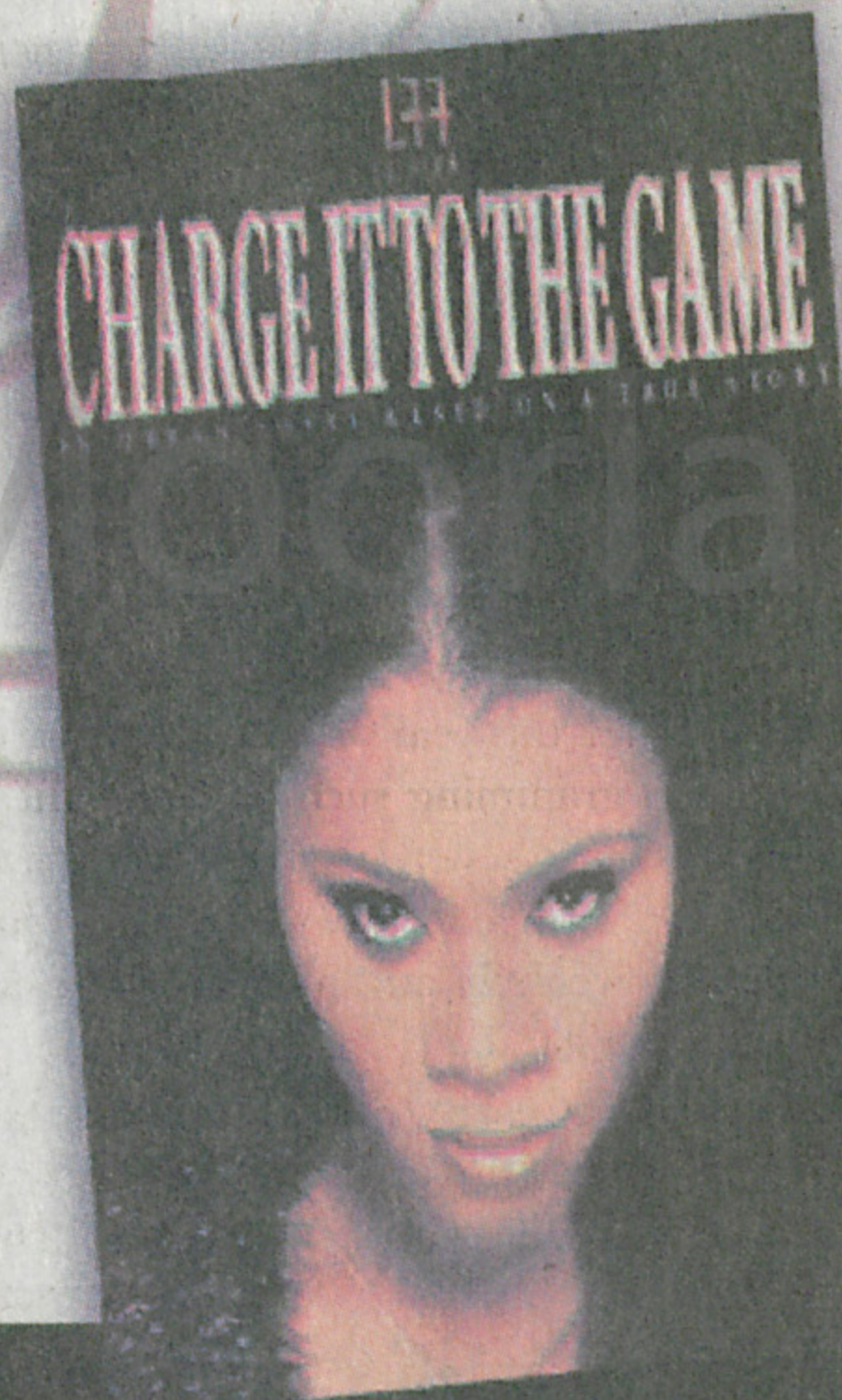
When we lose a historic place, we lose a part of who we are. To learn how you can help protect places in your community, visit [NationalTrust.org](http://NationalTrust.org) or call 1-800-315-NTHP. History is in our hands.



The Office of Dean for Student Life & Activities  
Presents

# 31 Flavors of a WOMAN

Featuring Michelle Fletcher  
Author of "Charge it to the Game"



Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**6:00 PM**

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## The Issues: Democratic Debate Airs

Seven of the eight politicians vying for the democratic candidacy will take a trip to Las Vegas for their 16th debate this year. Here is a taste of what they stand for.

	Iraq Withdrawal	Health care	Taxes	Prison System
 Joe Biden	Bring the troops home without leaving chaos behind	The CARE plan would cover all children and encourage prevention	Eliminate the tax cut just for people in the top 1%	Wants to create a diversion program to keep drug offenders out of the jail system
 Hillary Clinton	Phased redeployment and new intensive diplomatic initiative	Her American Health Choices Plan would cover everyone	Tax relief for middle-class families, a refundable child tax credit	Mandatory minimums for some crimes is okay; Program for non-violent offenders
 Chris Dodd	Has set a firm deadline for withdrawal tied to funding	Passed the Family and Medical Leave Act to help people to take care of their loved ones	Make taxes fair, but pro-growth	Opposes mandatory minimums and wants to balance crack and powder cocaine laws
 John Edwards	Iraqis need to solve their own problems and wants to withdraw 40,000 troops	Wants universal coverage by lowering prices and expanding Medicaid and SCHIP	Proposes three new tax breaks to help strengthen the middle class	Help those who are convicted for the first time with drug counseling, job counseling and education
 Mike Gravel	Calls for the immediate and orderly withdrawal of all U.S. troops within 130 days	Wants a universal voucher health care system paid for by a retail sales tax	Wipe out income tax, its regressive	People should become law makers to empower themselves
 Dennis Kucinich	Plans on withdrawing troops immediately	Plans for a universal, single payer, not-for-profit health care system	Repeals tax cuts to the wealthy and retains child tax credit expansion	Wants to end mandatory minimums and the death penalty
 Barack Obama	Calls for a new constitutional convention in Iraq	His Plan for a Healthy America would lower health care costs	Expanding the Earned Tax Credit and increasing minimum wage	Wants a fair justice system with no wrongful convictions
 Bill Richardson	Plans to withdraw all troops in six months	Wants health care coverage for all Americans	Replace Bush tax cuts with cuts for the middle class	Calls for equal justice under the law

- Compiled by Jada Smith, Staff Writer



Theater-goers have been greeted with picket signs and closed doors as stagehands on Broadway continue to protest, cancelling many shows.

## Writers Strike Continues

Continued from FRONT, STRIKE

Maria Somma, spokesperson for the Actor's Equity Association (AEA), a labor union that represents more than 4,600 stage actors and stage managers across the country. The AEA has joined Local One and is supporting the strike.

Currently, 28 plays have been affected by the strike. There are eight plays that are still in production.

"We are encouraging people to see these other shows [which include] 'Young Frankenstein,' 'The Spelling Bee' and 'Mary Poppins.' There is also all of off-Broadway which is not affected, and so audience members are going to see some of these shows," Somma said.

According to Somma, the cast and crew have attempted to accommodate some disappointed audience members.

Picketers, including everyone from actors and hair and make-up to ushers and box office workers, gathered outside the theater during what would be their show time in order to protest.

"I feel, and I know, that people on the picket lines feel this is something we have to do because if it doesn't affect us now it will affect us in our negotiations in the future. For me and for other people it is something we feel have to do because we want to do it. And it's getting cold and we're still out there," Somma said. "It's hard to say how long it will run but all of the unions are committed to [supporting] Local One. How long is it going to take? We don't know."

The dispute between Local One and the League mirrors the conflict between the Writer's Guild of America (WGA) and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP). The WGA is asking that they receive residuals for the distribution of their content through new forms of digital media, including online TV shows and DVDs. The AMPTP argues that writers should not be paid for online content and the profit from DVD sales should go solely to production because of the rising costs of producing a film.

"Writers in television and motion pictures don't own

the copyrights to their work," said Michael Winship, president of the Writer's Guild of America East, laying out the union's argument. "The studios and network own that. In exchange, we get residuals. These residuals are what keeps us going between jobs and keep this a middle-class union."

In 1988 writers held a walk-out that lasted 22 weeks and caused a \$500 million loss. The implications of a prolonged strike in this day and age are especially threatening considering Los Angeles, alone, earns \$30 billion a year, \$80 million a day from the industry.

It seems as if reality TV will be able to withstand the pressures of this year's strike. For other programming such as late-night talk shows, which do not perform well in repeats and are not produced weeks in advance, it may be detrimental.

"I miss it already," said "Letterman" writer Jeremy Weiner, who started with the show as an intern in 1998, and was later a job as staff writer. Sometimes we have to look hard for stuff," Weiner and his writing colleague Scheft said they have no idea how long the strike will last. But there's one thing, Scheft said, the writers know they can count on Dave.

Letterman is a writer, a 30-year member of the Writer's Guild. "He's very supportive of us," Scheft said.

He said he understands that Letterman has responsibilities that go beyond the show's writers, responsibilities to the audience and the rest of the "Late Show" crew.

"There could be no greater ally than David Letterman on the air without writers all pissed off," Scheft said. "Believe me, he'd be a very powerful spokesman for this cause."

Students also realize the strike will interrupt some of their favorite shows. "Jay Leno is like the king of late night talk shows, so why not give him the money he deserves?" asked Chibuzo Ibeabuchi, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major. "I think they should give [the writers] the money."

"Instead of watching Leno I'm going to be watching *Chelsea Lately* on E! Network. I don't think [her show] will be affected, but I could be wrong."

-Additional reporting by Ellis Henican, *Newsday* (MCT)

## Candidates Face Off in Sin City Without Former Senator

BY VANESSA ROZIER  
Nation & World Editor

The latest democratic candidate debate of the year will be held tonight in Las Vegas. The debate will be aired at 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Cable News Network (CNN), and will include seven of the eight candidates.

Mike Gravel, the former

senator from Alaska, will be excluded from this debate. According to Associated Press reports, Gravel didn't meet the fundraising requirement set by CNN.

All eight candidates were charged with raising at least \$1 million to be invited to the debate and, by September, Gravel raised about \$240,000.



Politicians will be saying more than "Viva Las Vegas" tonight at CNN's Democratic debate.

## We've Got Issues...

This is my third year at Howard. Maybe slower than most, I have come to realize the rarity of real education. If you look around this campus, it appears as though the overwhelming majority of students are here just to make a grade, so they can receive a diploma as a certification of a particular level of educational understanding and ability.

However, in many discussions with both professors and business professionals, there seems to be a disconnect between the level of education that the majority of black applicants have on paper and what those same applicants, who in large part were hired, are able to bring to the workplace.

The educational elements that aren't pushed enough, in many HBCUs, are critical analysis, along with oral and written proficiency. So what does all this say? It says that we aren't producing students who can give effective analysis, which is the decomposition of data, into terms that suggest policy or give insight.

Beyond that, if the data is able to be analyzed, when asked to interpret analysis either verbally or on paper, it becomes grossly incoherent and jumbled. We, as a community, do not read and write well enough.

Because of, and some might say in spite of, my D.C. public school education, I received an excellent education and am able to communicate my ideas relatively effectively; but I know many people who came through the same system who cannot. The onus is not just on teachers to teach but also on learners to learn. Education calls for the bringing forth of that which is already within cooperatively. Until we can bring out all that is within us, we are not fully educated, no matter what level you may currently be on.

-DeMario Greene, Project Voice Contributor

These opinions are not those of The Hilltop. 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.

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

**Issue:** Since the 2006 elections, members of educational committees have been striving to restructure the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 to become more effective. Representatives from organizations and academic institutions have testified to Congress regarding whether the holistic effectiveness of American Education is the primary responsibility of the students and school systems, or of federal legislation.

**Question:** Who is failing in education?

Behind: Public High School Graduation Rates" estimates that only 59 percent of African-American females and 48 percent of African-American males, earned their high school diplomas in the year of 2003. This means there were 41 percent of African-American females and 52 percent of African-American males without a diploma under the current education system.

The Hispanic student population suffers a similar disparity with 42 percent and 51 percent of females and males, respectively, without a high school diploma. Many of the students come from what are considered "low-performing schools" but everything else considered most schools are low performing because of the socio-economic conditions that contribute to the schools ability to educate its students. The Government Accountability Office found in a report that when they "adjusted per-pupil expenditures to account for the extra resources students facing poverty, disabilities and limited English proficiency might need, inner city schools almost always spent less per pupil than suburban schools."

Most students facing poverty in the inner city are either African American and Hispanic. Regardless of student responsibility as long as the funding system continues to give some areas a competitive advantage over others all students will not truly be able to say they had an equal opportunity in education.

-Marcus T. Coleman, Director of Operations

Though my counterpart makes a valid argument not to be understated (the responsibility of the student to maximize their educational experiences), it is only a portion of the larger debate taking place in the halls of Congress regarding the effectiveness of current classroom curriculum.

Keeping the responsibility of the student in the proper context, a student will only be as good as the system that cultivates them. According to a study conducted by Jay P. Greene in 2006 entitled "Leaving Boys



# Selling Out Makes Buying Black Difficult

BY CHARI STAPLES  
Contributing Writer

Bob Johnson was criticized and called a sell out when he sold BET to Viacom, but others are also selling their businesses. Jay-Z sold Rocawear to Iconix and the Simmons sold the Phat collections to Kellwood Company. They call it having an exit strategy, but many in the black community view it as selling out.

While the business community is lauding the purchases of these companies as landmark events, many blacks see very little to cheer about. For them, the BET, Rocawear and Phat Farm sale means that a white company with mega money can still buy whatever it wants.

Since the owner of BET is no longer Bob Johnson, critics say the unique African-American perspective is absent.

George Curry, former editor in chief of BET's defunct Emerge magazine said, "You can have all the well meaning people at Viacom that you can collect, yet they do not and cannot have what is a unique black perspective. BET as we know it, is dead."

The sale of black-owned companies makes matters difficult for people

who want to buy black product. Many people feel that a future filled with thriving black-owned businesses doesn't look promising.

Rachelle Barnett, senior business administration major echoes that sentiment.

"There seems to be a budding trend of business owners selling their businesses for quick monetary gain and ignoring the effects that the decision may cause," Barnett said. "If the trend continues, black businesses won't last long, and the future looks bleak."

Some feel that Bob Johnson, Sean "Jay-Z" Carter, the Simmons family and others who have sold their businesses, have made compelling acquisitions from both a strategic and financial view.

Marcus Wall, of H.J. Russell & Company, agrees with the decision to sell one's company in order to expand.

"The deal with Russell Simmons' Phat Collections was monumental for hip-hop brands," Wall said. "Historically, Seventh Avenue garment makers like Kellwood ignored hip-hop brands and the fact that the Phat Collections will be exposed to different markets is great and the business will definitely grow; the same applies to Jay-Z's sell to Iconix."

Others aren't as pleased with the sale of major black-owned businesses. Some feel that the graveyard of black ownership is getting full and that these business owners are sellouts.

"My family has always believed in recycling black dollars," Cunningham said. "The sale of black-owned businesses is becoming more and more rampant, and we now have to wonder what happens to our black dollars if we spend them with advertisers on BET for example, because the only way this deal makes sense is if a lot of black dollars leave our community and go straight to Viacom."

Cunningham said, "Regardless of how much money these businesses might acquire by selling them, they are contributing to the trend of black media firms succumbing to white takeover," said Ashley Cunningham, junior international business major.

The sell of these companies have negative connotations because the statistics of black ownership illustrate the lack thereof.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau News, in 2005 out of the 24 million businesses in America, blacks own one million of those businesses.

Moving forward, the black community needs to take more responsibility

in supporting black entrepreneurs. In black communities, several businesses are started every day and usually fail within the early stages for the aforementioned reasons.

Instead of labeling successful blacks as sellouts, education and encouragement in the community can create a similar business model.



Dana Romanoff - Charlotte Observer (MCT)  
Bob Johnson introduces a new player on his NBA team, the Charlotte Bobcats. The Bobcats were a part of his exit strategy when he sold BET for \$3 billion to Viacom.

## Students Acknowledge Importance of Pioneers in Black Media

BY JC DURRAH  
Staff Writer

In today's society, it is not uncommon for one to see newspapers, magazines and novels written by African Americans.

In the 21st century, we have numerous outlets that deliver news from the perspective of the black community and can voice the opinions and concerns that they have regarding local and world issues.

But, without pioneers such as Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells, things that are possible for blacks in this day and age would be limited.

"The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords," a documentary that chronicles blacks' progression in journalism, shows students how far blacks have come as a people in an industry that initially refused to recognize their existence.

The movie offers commentary from current black journalists and some of the pioneers from the early black press days.

It follows the struggle journalism forefathers fought to make it possible for outlets like *The Hilltop* exist.

"Soldiers Without Swords" states that in the past, blacks did not exist in the press and that they were invisible unless they were charged with committing crimes.

But over the span of 150 years after the Civil War, the development of the black press allowed black newspapers to become the strongest institutions in stabilized communities that employed thousands and gave a voice to people who were considered nonexistent.

The start of the first black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, began in New York in 1827.

Three blacks fed up with the vilification of the black race in the press decided to pull their money together and start the paper in lower Manhattan, N.Y.

It was the first newspaper published by blacks in the United States. *Freedom's Journal* paved the way for nearly 25 other black newspapers that were published before the Civil War's end.

The most influential of

the bunch was *The North Star* in 1847 headed by abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The movie goes on to recognize Ida B. Wells, editor of *The Free Speech*, who according to the movie, paved the way for many radical activists in black journalism. As a woman, she was an inspiration to many, given her esteemed position in a male-dominated industry.

Sophomore print journalism major Nikole Pegues said that it is hard to find journalists like Wells these days, who don't fear stepping on the toes of people with power.

"I wish that black journalism could revert to the way it was when it first started," she said. "It was blatant and fearless

she said. Sophomore print journalism major Shandriya Lewis cites *Freedom's Journal* as inspiration to her career.

"Freedom's Journal has really been a powerful mechanism for the advancement of African Americans. I really respect that paper for being the premier source of black voice," she said.

Department of Journalism chair Phillip Dixon said that Howard's journalism students are bright enough to understand mechanics, but it is because of "Soldiers Without Swords" being shown to every writing class this semester that students are beginning to understand why it is important to be successful in the journalism field.

"We as a department decided that instead of focusing so heavily on mechanics, we will show this movie in hopes that it will make it clear to students why it so important to be accurate, have good work ethic and why journalism is so important," he said.

Dixon also mentioned that even though blacks have come as far as they have, there is still much work to be done.

He recalled Charles Tisdale, a black journalist whose headquarters were firebombed twice by Klan members because of his bold writings in 1982 and 1998.

"This situation shows that even in the present day, blacks are still catching trouble for writing freely," Dixon said. "We still have a long way to go."

Although blacks still have a long way to go in this industry, it is important to have knowledge of all the people that came before us so the next generation of black journalists and communicators may continuously be encouraged to keep the legacy alive and show the world that black voices are just as important as any other race.

The struggle that the original pioneers of the black press faced isn't over.

without the tendency of sugar-coating things that are written," she said.

Pegues also cites pioneers like Wells and Douglass as people who made it possible for students to even study journalism at all. "Somebody had to be first. It's because of them that I can pursue a career in journalism."

Senior broadcast journalism major Natasha Carter also credits papers like *The North Star* for the existence of today's black press.

"From *The North Star* to today's current papers, we witness that black issues are able to be brought to the forefront,"



Photo Courtesy of PBS  
The early black press represented a new sense of freedom.



File Photo  
Today, it serves as an information source for the community.

## Jabari 'Sneek' Johnson Gets Up Close, Personal With America's Hot Celebrities



Photo Courtesy of Jabari Johnson  
Jabari "Sneek" Johnson interviews celebrities like Letoya Luckett as a correspondent for HipHopGameTV.

BY TIWANA BEVERLEY  
Contributing Writer

Interviewing celebrities. Free Clothes. Traveling and attending award shows is the lifestyle of dreams.

While many Howard students are in search of internships and jobs to make ends meet, junior advertising major Jabari Johnson already has that area covered. He has been on his grind since freshman year because of his hard work and determination.

Johnson is a correspondent for HipHopGameTV.com. He got his start in the business after sending in footage of his work. From there he went on to interview local artists.

He got his big break when he was given the opportunity to interview Yung Joc and Young Dro following a concert.

Although many consider his job to be fun and glamorous, by no means is it just fun and games. Often Johnson has to put in long nights and weekends to cover stories.

"Managers will call me while I'm in class," he said. "So a lot of time I have to step out to answer phone calls which can become an inconvenience. Also many times travel will have to come out of my own pocket."

Even though the job requires a large time commitment, Johnson seems to be handling it pretty well. He said the perks truly help make up for it.

"Sponsors like to see their clothing being worn on TV," he said. "It helps them get their name out there, while at the same time earns me free merchandise. I've gotten clothing from brands such as LRG, Parish and Geno Green."

Also, while working within the industry, he

gets exposed to dozens of entertainers and artists. The contacts and friends he has made are priceless.

"Artists really look out for me," Johnson said. Johnson himself was actually an aspiring rap artist at one time. He went by the name of "Sneek Peek."

Although he doesn't rap any longer he still keeps a part of the name with him Jabari "Sneek" Johnson.

"I was actually considering dropping the name because I don't want to be limited to just hip-hop. That name suited me better when I desired to rap, but now I love to listen to music versus rapping it."

As correspondent he has interviewed dozens of celebrities.

But he recognizes Moses, CEO of Ink Slingers Clothing to be the most important.

"Moses taught me that presentation is everything," Johnson said. "You cannot half do anything. Your work is a direct representation of you. So I follow that with my work now."

Currently Jabari is helping with the production of an upcoming documentary entitled, "Rest is Beats."

"Be on the lookout for it in the summer of 2008," he said.

In the movie, producers talk about their musical influences. They pay homage to those who have passed by helping to bridge the musical gap.

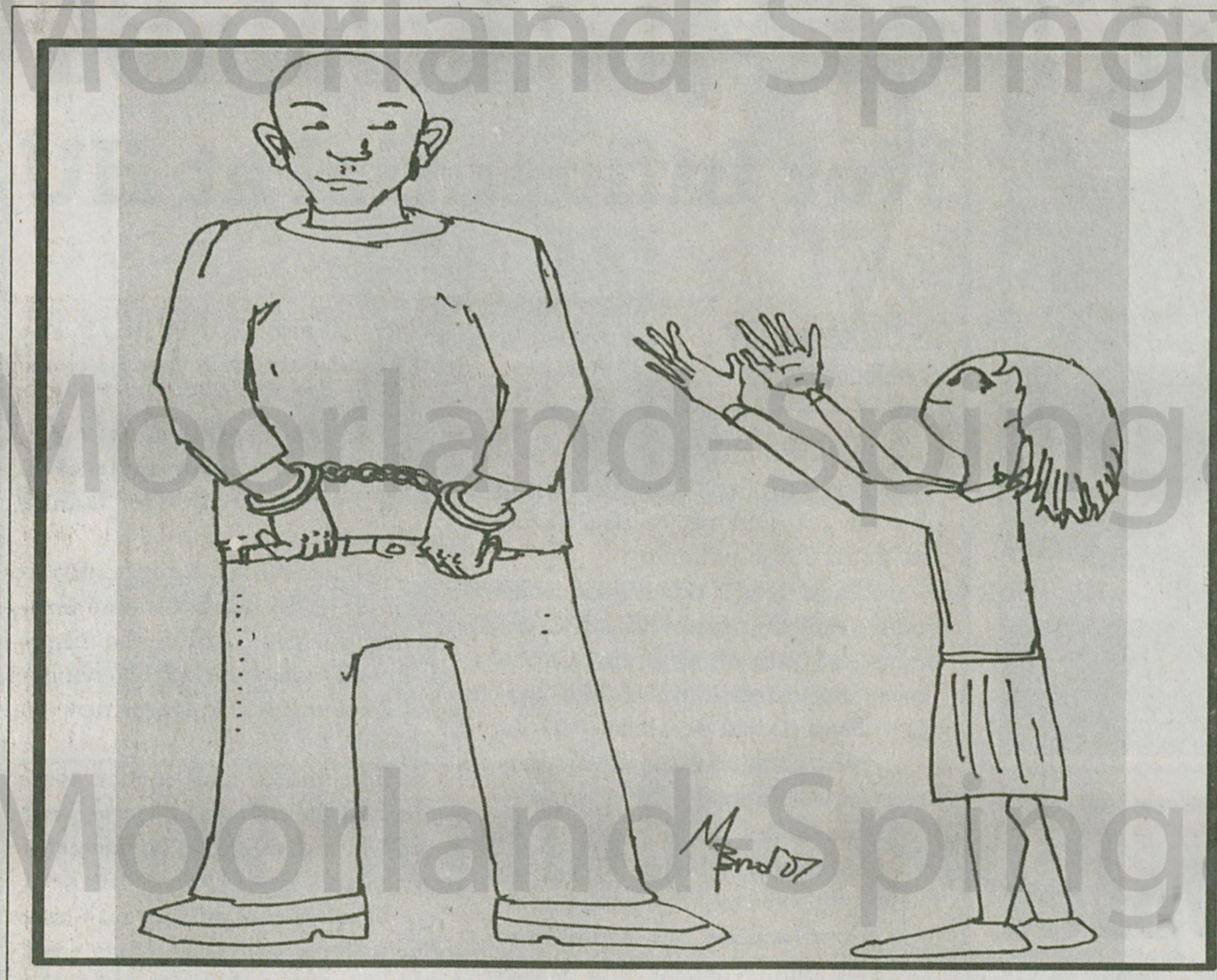
As well, in the future Johnson has aspirations to produce, act and host a television show. With the charisma and mind set he already possesses, he hopes to conquer big things in the future.

Johnson said, "Be hungry. Work so hard to the point where no one is working harder than you."

The semester is coming to a close.

Fulfill those requirements.

Write for Life & Style.



Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

## Gangster's Daughter Gives Love

Nobody knows the story better than 34-year-old Francine Lucas-Sinclair.

Lucas-Sinclair is the daughter of the now well-known drug lord Frank Lucas.

Her story has been in hiding for the past 30 years, but with the recent release of "American Gangster," she found this to be the perfect time to begin her journey to help others like her.

Yellow Brick Roads is a program created by Lucas-Sinclair to provide support to children of incarcerated parents.

The program was begun with little research, however Lucas-Sinclair did not need much outside her own experience.

The life of Francine Lucas-Sinclair was a glamorous one, leading up to a memorable morning in 1975.

When police charged into their Atlanta home, her mother and her father were both arrested and arrested once again some time later after their release.

The unstable upbringing she knew growing up was her rea-

son for starting the Yellow Brick Roads organization.

"I only have to think of how many kids are crying them of them have the feeling of being half dead and half alive, how many of them have to make up stories about their parents to tell people," said Lucas-Sinclair on

**Our View:**  
*No matter your upbringing, there's no excuse not to help.*

the Yellow Brick Road Web site. "Most professionals can only imagine, but I really know."

It is expected that by the year 2058 there will be more people in this country incarcerated than there will be not incarcerated.

The scary part is that with the rate of population growth, more and more children placed in foster homes and on the streets will have to fend for themselves in their parents' absence.

Initiatives such as this one

developed to support these "parent-less" children will become more and more important as the years progress, especially as we get closer to the 2058 statistic.

It is highly admirable for someone who came from such a disturbing and unstable childhood to want to reach out and help others.

It completely disregards the notion that children who are brought up in these environments will always stay in them.

Lucas-Sinclair is now married with children, and obviously has no desire to raise her children the way she was raised.

As a child, she never realized that her Prada mink coat and \$10,000 FAO Swartz train set were bought with drug money.

As a child you don't care. All you see is the toys.

As an adult, she has taken the responsibility to teach children that down isn't the way to go in these situations. You can always go up.

## Daily Sudoku

### Directions:

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

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

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# THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 84th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 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.

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The men's soccer team had a lot of ups and downs this season, but seems to have made some overall improvements with the new head coach.

## Men's Soccer Season Ends in Upset

BY Z'KERA SIMS  
Staff Writer

Despite their best efforts, the Howard Bison men's soccer team ended the regular season at 3-8-5 and 1-3-1 in the Atlantic Soccer Conference (ASC). Although there was significant improvement from last year's season ending record of 3-13-1 and 0-5 in the ASC, there has been a dramatic decrease in Bison victories in the last leg of the season, ending any hope of a chance to win the conference championship.

"We just wanted a chance to get in the conference tournament," said Head Coach Joseph Okoh. "We had three key opportunities; if we would've won any of those games, we would be hosting the tournament right now."

With new Coach Joseph Okoh leading the pack, the Howard Bison men's soccer program was rebuilt from the ground up at the end of the 2006 season. Okoh authoritatively enforced the importance of discipline both on and off the field. Their workout regimen was rigid and intense. The players were held to standards that were sometimes ostensibly unattainable. However, the hard work of the players and coaching staff paid off with the team's success early on.

About halfway through the regular season, the Bison sat at 3-4-5 and 1-0-1 in the ASC but were making strides toward improvement. They pulled off a big upset against James Madison University in a 3-2 victory in overtime. Sophomore forward Lamar Hyde led the ASC in goals.

Most notably, for the first time in nearly a decade, the Bison earned their first ranking in a Division I poll. They entered the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/Adidas North Atlantic Regional Poll at No. 10.

"The entire season has just had a different vibe," said Emile Innocent, senior forward and team captain for the Bison. "The entire team pulled for each other from the beginning of the season to the end. This was just a bad time to have a losing spree."

Okoh continued, "We dominated all of those games. We just couldn't seem to find the back of the net. We just got hit with a bad break."

Coming off the high of defeating conference rival Adelphi University in a 2-1 emotional victory, the season took a turn in their very next match up as the Bison fell to UMBC 0-4 in Greene Stadium.

Subsequently, the Bison lost all five of their remaining games — three of

which were conference match-ups against New Jersey Institute of Technology, Florida Atlantic University and Longwood University.

"I am proud of how the players played," said Okoh as he weighed in on the season. "Sometimes that is just the break you get, you can dominate the entire game and still not win and that's the beauty of soccer."

Okoh continued, "Sometimes you just need the breaks to go your way. [In the Longwood game] we dominated the entire game. One goal separated us from the win; they got a penalty kick early on in the game."

Although the Bison ended their regular season with five straight losses, they have come to realize that success is not an overnight feat, it is a journey.

With only four seniors leaving and the rest of the team primarily comprised of young talent, the Bison have their off season to tune into the Okoh's skills to come back with a vengeance next season.

"Next year, we are going to build up our wins," Okoh said. "We are building on the program and we will continue to grow. We want to thank the fans for all the support. They have been extremely supportive at home."

## The Sport of Fashion Not Influential at HU

BY DERRY SANDY  
Contributing Writer

With effortless grace, they perform feats the average mortal can only envy, a dunk off the free throw line and a 100-mph serve.

Their lean bodies grace billboards and magazines in advertisements for everything from Canon Power shot cameras (Maria Sharapova) to Pepsi (David Beckham).

Most are admired and many are even worshipped — they are professional athletes.

Successful athletes wield tremendous power to sway public opinion. Their actions are scrutinized, televised, immortalized and sometimes demonized. Because they are in the public eye, many of them are established as trend setters.

In May 2003, the Capstone was voted second most fashionable university just behind New York University.

A look around campus will prove that students at Howard are greatly confident and comfortable in their choices of fashion.

But more importantly, who influences the unique style that the students at the Mecca adopt? Do professional athletes influence fashion choices?

Lydia John, a junior performing arts and musical theatre major — and generally fashionable young woman — gave her input on the subject matter.

"Not at all, society may be affected by their actions sometimes, but when it comes to dress, my style is mainly influenced by performing artists," John said.

John was unable to recall any female athletes who may have influenced her choice of dress.

Maybe their lack of influence over what students wear stems from

the fact that most of the time, athletes in the media are garbed in the clothing of their profession.

When they are not on the court, course, pitch or track, many athletes choose to dress down rather than to dress up.

In fact, the inadequacy of athletes in the NBA had become so obvious that on Nov. 1, 2005, the league was forced to institute a dress code for all athletes engaged in league or team business.

The move came under some criticism from various corners. Some actually went as far as to label the move racist.

"Professional athletes may have influenced my style when I was a kid, but grown men make their own choices," he said.

Junior accounting major Ope Oladapo stated that her fashion influence is mainly European. Oladapo restated that athletes do not affect her style choices.

"Not in the least, I would not wear what they wear," Oladapo said. "My fashion influence is mainly European, maybe some celebrities, but generally I wear what looks good."

Junior finance major Hasani Seale stated that affordability, comfort and older family members help to shape his wardrobe choices.

It has become apparent that the days of throwback jerseys for men and jersey dresses and Air Force Ones are no longer a staple in the closets of HU students.

When it comes to fashion, Howard students appear to be anything but a group that "cuts and pastes" its fashion choices. Fiercely independent, the Capstone crew makes its fashion choices based on personal experience, a bit of thrift, a dash of common sense and a heap of style.

## Transfer Transition Profile: Brittany Stephens

BY JAMES JACKSON  
Contributing Writer

Brittany Stephens was faced with one of the most important decisions of her life in her senior year at Montbello High School in Denver, Colo.

Her hard work on the track since her sophomore year finally paid off. Stephens was offered three full track scholarships from University of Colorado, University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University.

"I chose Colorado State because out of my final three choices, it was the most appealing," Stephens said. "My mother really liked the idea of keeping me one hour away from home and she thought I would get the best education there."

Unaware of the lack of diversity, Stephens was totally caught off guard when she entered Colorado State University.

Out of the 25,000 students that made up the population of Colorado State University, 500 of them were African American — including faculty and staff.

"I was thrown into an environment that was virtually all white, and this was foreign to me coming from a high school that was 50 percent Mexican and 50 percent African American," Stephens said.

He continued, "Sometimes I had

to put up with ignorant comments and remarks from the white students. I never felt comfortable at CSU, and I could never relate to anyone. So as a result, I often isolated myself."

Another obstacle at Colorado State was a flawed coaching staff that applied large amounts of pressure and cared more about the success of the team than the education of their athletes.

"The coaches put a lot of pressure on us to perform, and they always made sure to let us know that if we didn't then they wouldn't hesitate to take our scholarships," Stephens said.

"School work came second to these coaches; they knew that we had work but it just seemed like they really didn't care."

Stephens suffered from severe shin splints putting her out of commission for the indoor season. Her coaches never encouraged her or even communicated with her throughout her entire injury period.

Due to her determination, Stephens was able to return during outdoor season and compete in three meets.

During these meets Stephens excelled in the 400 meter dash and received praise from her coaches.

There was no outlet for Stephens to vent her frustration due to the poor location of the university and the lack of nightlife.

"I was used to being in the city

of Denver, and now I was stuck in the country with no social events and one very bad club," Stephens said.

With the negatives completely overshadowing the positives, Stephens decided Colorado State was not the school for her.

Stephens decided to drop the Rams and become a Bison, making Howard University her new home.

"I chose Howard because I have family that lives in the area as well as family that attends Howard," Stephens said.

She continued, "I knew I wanted to attend an HBCU and Howard is number one, so it was a pretty easy decision."

Coming into Howard as a second semester freshman with a concentration in advertising, Stephens has witnessed improvements both on and off the track.

Since arriving at Howard, Stephens has been happy to run for a coaching staff that cares for the well being of their athletes both physically and academically.

Stephens also appreciates that the coaches here at Howard want their athletes to succeed but don't constitute a do-or-die attitude about performance.

Stephens credits her academic success thus far to Howard's working environment.

"At my last school there would be around 300 students in each class,

so to professors I was just another face," Stephens said. "But here at Howard, I learn better in these smaller classes in which the professors interact and get to know students personally."

Now adjusted, Stephens is glad that she made the decision to leave Colorado State and transfer to Howard.

"I'm glad I chose to come to Howard because here, I can maximize my potential on the track and in the classroom," she said.

She continued, "What I lacked socially in Colorado I have made up for at Howard, making a lot of great friends."

Stephens is not the only person glad she chose to transfer to Howard.

Her new teammates are thrilled as well as they spoke about her character both on and off the track.

"Brittany is a great friend who is always there for me when I need her and keeps me together and on task like an older sister," said freshman biology major Tamilla Myles.

"Brittany is a great contribution to our team with her great speed she is an important addition to our sprinting core," said Azalia King, a freshman psychology major.

Readily awaiting the season, Stephens' goal is to shave two seconds off her time in the 400-meter dash as she helps the Bison run away with the MEAC championship.

**Don't be a bench warmer!**

**Come write for the Hilltop!**

**Budget meetings are Monday nights at 7 p.m. in the Hilltop office.**

**See you there!**

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

NOVEMBER 15, 1940

ARTHUR DORRINGTON BECAME THE FIRST BLACK TO SIGN TO A HOCKEY TEAM, THE ATLANTIC CITY SEAGULLS.

## SCOREBOARD

Women's Basketball	HU 50	Navy	71
Men's Basketball	HU 53	Virginia	92

## UPCOMING GAMES