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## WEATHER

 **68**  
45  
Tomorrow:  **65**  
31

# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

Established  
**1924**

VOLUME 91, NO. 75

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Tuesday  
Notebook

## BREAKING NEWS

ON A HIDDEN CAMERA, JORAN VAN DER SLOOT SAYS HE 'DIDN'T LOSE SLEEP' OVER HAVING DUMPED NATALEE HOLLOWAY'S BODY INTO THE OCEAN, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM.

## METRO

MUSEUM DIRECTOR SPEAKS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## NATION & WORLD

SUPER TUESDAY WILL BE THE DECIDER ON WHO WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN NOVEMBER. FIND OUT WHY IN NATION & WORLD.

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## Students Bring Super Tuesday to Howard

BY ALEESA MANN  
Staff Writer

The call to chapel this past Sunday jump started the "I Am a Vote Week," a week-long event hosted by the Howard University College Democrats, College Republicans and HUSA.

"I believe that the week is important because it brings a lot of political awareness to the campus," said Lauren Campbell, a junior broadcast journalism major and Fundraising Chair for the College Democrats. "We hope that with the week, students will come out and become more involved on a national level and on their state level because right now, our voices are pretty much not heard."

Super Tuesday will take place Howard University-style, as there will be a mock vote from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the lower level of Blackburn. Students can cast their votes in this campus-wide election to determine who students would like to see as the next president of the United States.

Afterwards, political enthusiasts will be able to socialize at an after-party. At 8 p.m. at Duffy's Irish Restaurant and Pub, students can watch the candidates' delegate count state-by-state.

"We're doing the mock Super Tuesday to give Howard students a sense of what it feels like to be involved in the Super Tuesday contest, [to show] your vote does count," said Devaughn Ward, a senior legal communications major and the

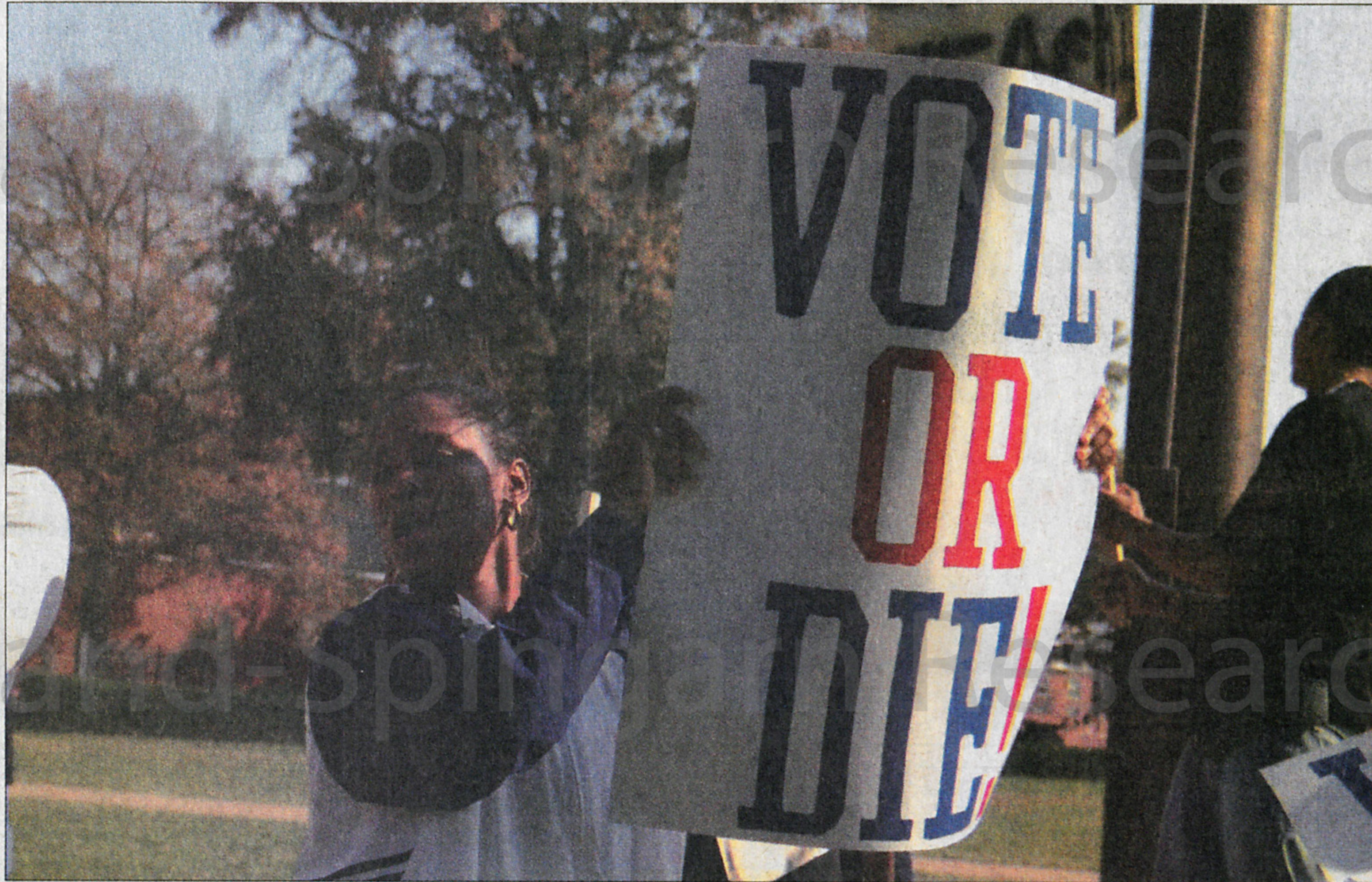


Photo Courtesy of www.google.com

"I am a Vote" week encourages Howard students to take part in the election process by registering to vote, and voting in the presidential elections.

president of the College Democrats. "A lot of students here won't be able to participate in their home state [voting process], so we just really wanted to create that feeling of what it means to participate and be engaged in civic participation," he said.

Wednesday, the College Democrats will host "A Night with the Congressional Black Caucus" (CBC) and anticipates the attendance of about 20 CBC members, including Rep. John Conyers and Rep. Maxine Waters. The event begins at

5 p.m. in the Rayburn House Office Building. There, a panel will discuss students' issues on matters from racial profiling to this year's election.

"[The] evening with the CBC is kind of reconnecting Howard and the Congressional Black Caucus because we felt that was key in showing students you can make a change, be involved in civic participation," Ward said. "It's not just a white male sport; there are African Americans who are making strides there today."

The College Democrats

are also hosting the showing of the movie "Sicko" by Michael Moore Thursday in the Cook Hall clubroom, and on Friday there will be a voter registration drive. The event provides students with an opportunity to register to vote and receive their absentee ballots.

"Basically, the purpose [of the week] is to get students at Howard excited about the upcoming elections and making them feel empowered and let them know about the choices that are available to them," Ward said. "Not even in just the

presidential election, but in state and local elections as well."

Students like Kaidi McMillan, a junior economics and political science double major, are eager to participate in the week and realize the importance of taking part in politics and the voting process.

"I am participating to be a part of the voting process," McMillan said. "I think it's important, especially among African Americans, that they need to be a part of the voting process."

## Library Exhibit Depicts America's Lynching History

BY TIYANA PARKER  
Contributing Writer

Many stories of black lynchings from the early 1900s to the present have been erased from American history as if they had never happened.

In reality, this is no mystery to African Americans, whites and families who have lost loved ones to this tragedy.

Buried below the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library at 901 G St. N.W., rests an exhibit that strives to bring lynching issues back to the forefront.

Jeanine Kamilah, an artist from Chicago, uses her knitting

skills to portray lynching in an unusual way.

At first glance, all visitors see are fabric, rope and a metal tube filled with nooses in a room full of quilts, but what you see is not always what you get.

A closer look reveals the stories behind the art, which includes hand-dyed pictures of lynchings.

Called "The Souvenir," the exhibit focuses not only on the effects of lynching on men, but also on black women in America.

"The Souvenir" was inspired by Kamilah's beliefs in the power to move people into activism through art.

Poorly advertised and hard to find, the exhibit room was mostly desolate in recent days.

Many people examined the exhibit while passing by, but never really discovered its significance until they were approached about it.

"You can clearly see the importance reflected through her work, but the lack of advertisement reflects directly how some still feel about this sensitive subject," Johanna Dobbs said. "It's amazing how fast you can walk past your own history and not realize it

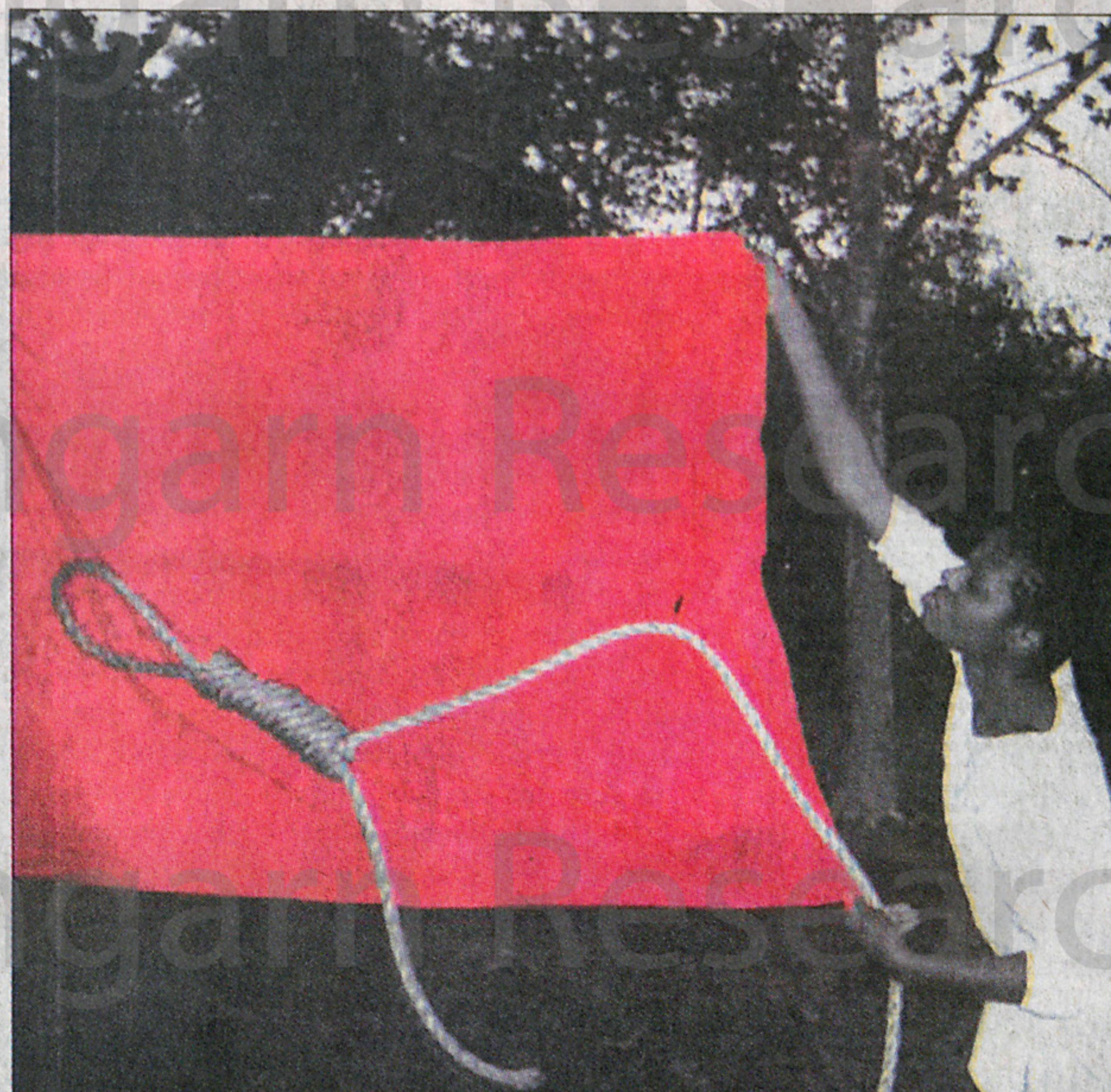
or even take the time to see what it's about."

After understanding the creator of the exhibit, viewers can really see the method to her inspired pieces.

Leading many lectures, Kamilah strives to address issues of violence against women, racism, HIV/AIDS, sexism, classism, the black female body as an agency, religion and love.

She dedicates her work to the young aspiring artists of Wards 7 and 8 in the District who don't have much material access to express themselves the way she thinks they should be able to.

Changing the perspective of hanging blacks is represented visually in the exhibit, which also reflects how the artist feels about her culture as a woman of color.



File Photos

Lynching based on race was a large part of American history in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the artist Jeanine Kamilah depicts this history in "The Souvenir," at the MLK Library.

## Angela Davis Set to Visit HU

BY PHILLIP LUCAS  
Contributing Writer

Iconic activist Angela Davis will grace Howard's campus Wednesday. The event "Activism and Organization in Education" will start at precisely 7:14 p.m. in Cramton Auditorium and is sponsored by the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Alpha Chapter.

The event is free of charge, and contrary to what was printed in a Hilltop Monday, students do not have to wear business attire. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to get a seat since a large crowd is expected to fill the auditorium.

Brent Robinson, co-chairman of the event, said in a press release that the belief that political and civic activism among Howard students has declined is one of the reasons the event is taking place Wednesday night.

"This statement being considered, the aforementioned program is seemingly appropriate in motivating all those affiliated with Howard University to become more proactive in their use of education to find solutions to injustices that continue to plague minority communities," the senior classics major said in the press release.

The fraternity also hosted a lecture last March featuring Bobby Seale, the founder, chairman and national organizer of the Black Panther Party. Since Seale's appearance, plans have been in the works to have Davis speak to the campus community.

Davis' storied past creates a dynamic backdrop for the event. She was born in Birmingham Ala., as the daughter of two school teachers. She studied in New York and eventually left America to study in Europe.

While in Europe, Davis was also intrigued by communism and Karl Marx and felt that a communist or socialist system was the key to black liberation.

Later, as a radical, Davis became involved in the case of George Jackson, who was incarcerated for murdering a guard who killed three activists and was not charged with murder.

After an uprising at Jackson's prison occurred and a Superior Court judge was murdered, it was widely believed that Davis was somehow involved.

Consequently, she was placed on the FBI's Most Wanted list and fled the state of California.

According to the New York Times, she was only the third woman to ever be named on the Most Wanted list.

Davis fled to New York City, where she and David Rudolph Poindexter Jr. were arrested at a Howard Johnson Motel in Midtown Manhattan.

After spending two years in jail, Davis was released and continued to teach although according to Columbia's Social Justice Movements site, then governor of the state of California Ronald Reagan said Davis would never be allowed to teach in the state of

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## HBCU Grant Pushes for Spot Teaching

BY ANNIE WHITE  
Editorial Assistant

Tom Joyner, the nationally syndicated radio personality and philanthropist, partnered with the National Education Association to award Howard University's School of Education a \$100,000 grant, according to the press release issued by the two organizations.

In total, \$1.1 million will be distributed to historically black colleges and universities across the country to encourage teachers to teach in minority and hard-to-staff public schools in rural and urban districts, the press release stated.

Joyner said the initiative is an effort to assist teachers in the pursuit of gaining the skills they

need to prepare children fulfill their dreams and to produce college bound students.

"We're making a difference in these teachers' lives and the lives of the children they teach," Joyner said in the release.

Scholarship winners are required to commit at least three years of service in the areas they are placed. Candidates must be currently employed as a teacher in a K-12 public school or currently enrolled in an accredited school of education to be eligible for participation in the program. Scholarship applications are available at [www.blackamericaweb.com](http://www.blackamericaweb.com)

A similar commitment is required by Teach for America, an organization whose mission parallels one of the objectives of

the scholarship—to eliminate the educational inequity that exists along socioeconomic and racial lines, as stated by the organizations Web site.

They require students committed the two years immediately following graduation to teaching in the foundations targeted area, such as Baltimore, Atlanta, Chicago, New York City, and other metropolitan areas.

The Teach for America Web site reported statistics on children growing up in rural and urban areas in low-income communities. For instance, nine-year-old students growing up in low-income communities are already three grade levels behind their peers in high-income communities.

Half of them won't gradu-

ate from high school by the time they're 18. Those who do graduate will, on average, read and do math at the level of eighth graders in high-income communities, the Web site said. About 10 percent of those students will graduate from college.

These differences limit the opportunities of the 13 million children raised in impoverished households. According to the Web site, black and Hispanic children are three times as likely to grow up in low-income areas so minority students could be disproportionately affected.

In 2005, the Tom Joyner Foundation distributed \$700,000 to fund the scholarship program. Affording hundreds of minority teachers financial resources and technical support for workshops, coursework, materials, individual tutoring and examination fees to prepare them to pass state licensing examinations.

"As public schools in the U.S. become more ethnically diverse, the teacher population becomes less diverse," said Reg Weaver, president of the 3.2 million-member NEA, as stated in the press release.

"For minorities, one of the greatest barriers to earning a teaching license is the requirement to pass a state teacher licensure test," Weaver said. "Although more than 60 percent of the minority teachers in this country are prepared at HBCUs, until now, no national organizations have put a plan into action to deal with this issue. Fortunately, we now have the means to support minority teachers by providing them with much-needed resources and guidance."

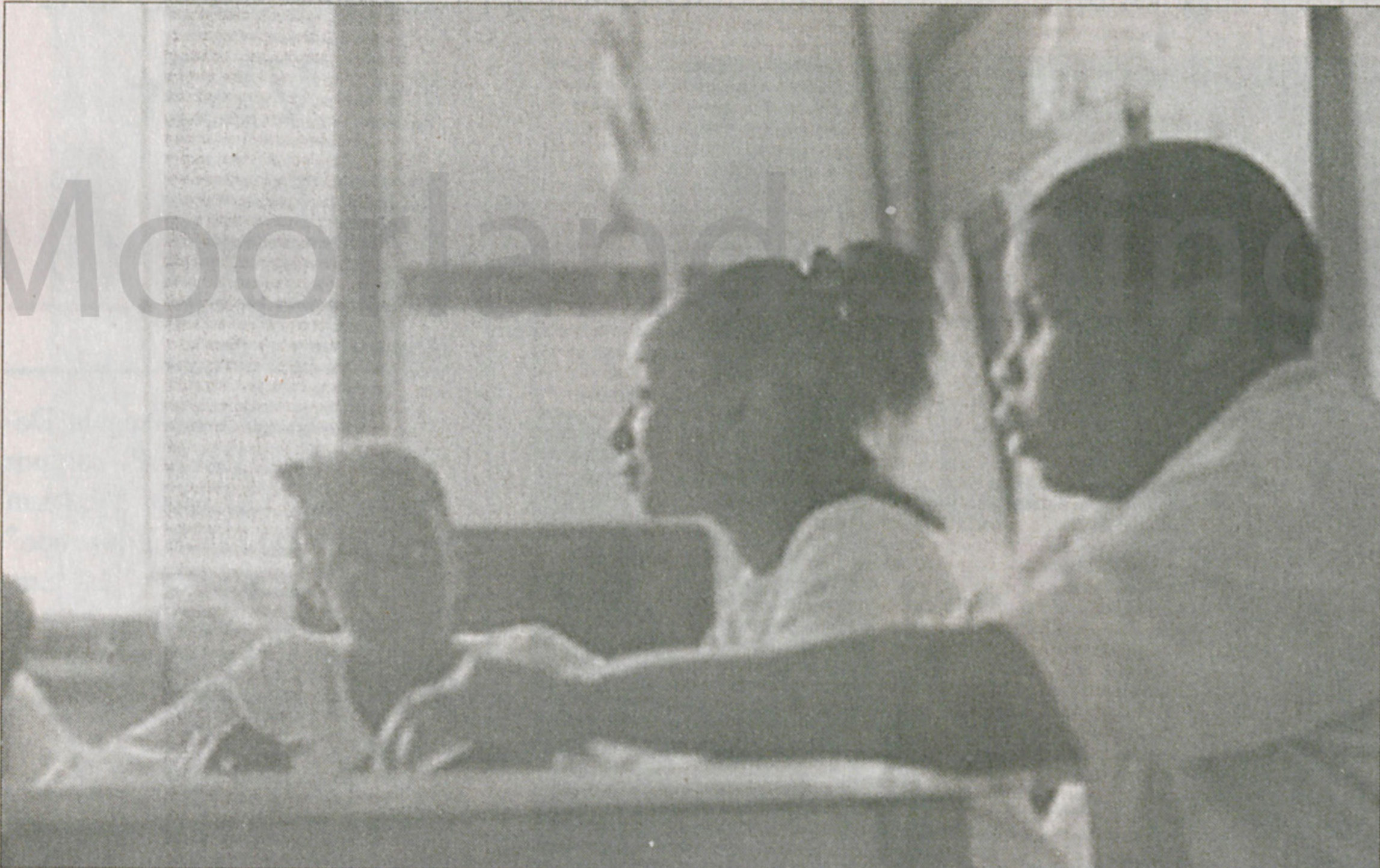


Photo Courtesy of Jupiterimages.com

The National Education Association and Tom Joyner partnered to fund HBCUs nationwide in an attempt to encourage minority teachers, and future educators, to relocate to urban and rural hard-to-staff areas.

### Hilltop Briefs

#### Students Have to Fork it Over to Lift a Fork

> The cost of a student table at the Charter Day Dinner will be \$1,500 for a table of ten. The Dinner is scheduled for March 8 at 6 p.m. at the Washington Hilton and Towers. Charter Day commemorates the founding of the university which is in its 141 year. This will be the 84th annual Charter Day Dinner.

#### Letter from the Registrar and Director of Records regarding Validation:

> The spring 2008 late registration and change of program period ended on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. The registration records of students who have not satisfied their financial obligation to the University have been purged from the system. The University will not re-instate students' course schedules unless there are extenuating circumstances that warrant consideration. At this point in the semester, registration requests will be considered in response to a memorandum from the appropriate academic Dean containing justification with supporting documentation of the circumstances. Extenuating circumstances are limited to the following:

- The student became ill or was injured during the late registration and change of program period preventing the student from completing their spring schedule and validation by the deadline date.
- The student's child, spouse or parent incurred a critical/catastrophic illness, injury or event.
- The student's registration or change of program request was initiated in a timely manner, but required additional review by a University official.
- There was an administrative oversight, which prevented the student's registration or change of program from being completed in a timely manner.

Written requests should be submitted to Mr. Tyrone Barksdale in the Office of the Provost immediately, but no later than Friday, February 29, 2008. Please include your name, HU identification number, home and mobile telephone number, as well as an e-mail and local address. Every effort will be made to respond to your request within 48 hours.

Sincerely,  
Carol McKinnon  
Registrar and Director of Records - Howard University

## Davis: Rights Activist to Visit Campus

continued from FRONT, DAVIS

California again.

In 1980 and 1984, Davis ran as a vice presidential candidate for the Communist Party, showing that although she had been active for years in radical civic and political activism, she would continue to advocate for the rights of the people.

Davis is now a professor at the University of Santa Cruz and San Francisco University. She is also the founder of the Critical Resistance organization, a grassroots effort to diminish the use of prisons and police in address-

ing society's issues with offices in Oakland, Calif.; Bronx, N.Y. and New Orleans.

As co-chair of the event, Robinson believes the message is necessary now because students of today can appear to be all talk and no action regarding the issues that affect them.

"The problem is students aren't reading and they're not understanding their own philosophies in some of the things that they are trying to gain," Robinson said. "Because of that, a lot of the activism that does happen fails miserably. And the reality is, we need to make sure we get

back to our roots."

He said the attempts of civic and political activism on campus do not happen enough, and that when they do, it is not for the right reasons.

"If we're going to be upset about something and we're going to make sure that we rise up together to fight against it, we A: need to make sure its something we all agree on. B: we need to make sure that we all understand the measures and how this protest is going to be done and make sure that it's done in that fashion," Robinson said.

Robinson said if students

were knowledgeable of issues and formed a united body of concerned young adults, the outcome could possibly be greater than that of the civil rights movement.

The goal of the event is to leave students inspired to stop taking what they are given by institutions, whether they be white- or black-based.

"We want them to walk away and no longer accept the fact of [saying] 'Oh well, it's Howard,'" Robinson said. "You know, not being able to say 'Well, that's just the way it is.'"

## FOLLOWING FOOTSTEPS

### Tracey Jordan



Photo Courtesy of Josef Korbel

Recent grad, Tracey Jordan, is learning about the broadcast field as a tape production assistant at FOX News Channel.

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER  
Staff Writer

As many of her peers are just beginning to adjust to the professional world, post-graduation, Tracey Jordan is quickly developing in the professional world.

Now the newly promoted tape production assistant at the FOX News Channel, Jordan credits her early success in the industry to the networking she did in college and her involvement in the company's Apprentice Program. She has been moved to Big Story with John Gibson and Heather Nauer.

The Apprentice Program was created four years ago by Chairman and CEO Roger Ailes, and is a highly selective year-long commitment that trains apprentices in various departments at FOX News.

The program that was developed to attract and develop minority employees assigns apprentices to a mentor to guide them on a daily basis. After graduation, all apprentices are offered full-time positions in their respective fields, which may range from technical production to on-air booking.

Jordan, a 2006 Howard University graduate with a degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in English, began her professional development with activities at Howard.

"I did everything from writing for *The Hilltop* to interning for WTTG, the local FOX network, WHBC and WHUR," Jordan said. "Having an insight on production from internships really helped me."

An early understanding of the importance of networking made Jordan seize opportunities to meet professionals and ask questions about the industry.

"My advice to anyone would be to network as much as you can," she said. "Join as many organizations as you can and apply to as many internships as possible."

Jessica Santostefano, a tape manager at FOX News and Jordan's mentor, explained that Jordan's early experience stood out.

"She had phenomenal experience with WTTG and they had nothing but positive, glowing things to say about her," Santostefano said. "We're looking for highly motivated individuals who can help up to gather and report news."

Santostefano explained that as media changes and is becoming more immediate, with internet convergence, employees must be bright and well-informed.

"Tracy is the type of intern and employee that is always looking to and willing to do more," she said.

However, immediately following graduation Jordan faced the panic that many face when she didn't instantly receive job offers.

She credits faithfully attending National Association of Black Journalists conferences every year, and her networking with stations like FOX News as her vehicles to the opportunities that were made available to her.

Jordan explained that now she is responsible for getting video and pictures on air for shows, as well as sourcing to get video and sometimes putting together live shots for reporters.

"It goes from sitting in an edit room to cutting tapes to putting things together," she said.

Jordan explained that because of her internships as a college student, she didn't have any real surprises once she entered the professional world.

"There aren't any surprises on my part, but I am learning a lot," she said. "Being at a cable station is different from being at a local one, but it still helped to prepare."

Santostefano explained that there are no typical days at cable networks like FOX News, as news is constantly developing and a slow day can quickly change with breaking news.

She said that she is learning a lot from the more experienced professionals in the business.

"The longer you've been in the business the better, the more you know and absorb overtime," she said. "Being young is part of the experience for me, and I'm just soaking it all up and learning. Just as everyone does in the beginning part of their career."

As a young black woman in the industry Jordan explained that there is a noticeable lack of minorities, but more so blacks. Still she does not see her gender or race as a roadblock.

Jordan said, "I encourage all Howard students, whether they be black students or women, to continue to push forward because it is possible and we can achieve anything."

She explained that she still has greater goals in mind for her career, as she hopes to one day become a reporter.

"I could see Tracey moving on air," Santostefano said. "She has already started working with our booking and phone interviews and is in honing reporting skills."

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## ANGELA DAVIS SPEAKS: Activism in Higher Education

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th 2008**

7:14pm @ Howard University - Cramton Auditorium

Sponsored By

General Assembly \* \* UGSA \* \* School of Business

Dean's Office of the College of Arts and Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences \* \* John H. Johnson School of Communications

HUSA

# CANDIDATES, VOTERS PREPARE

## SUPER TUESDAY IMPERATIVE TO POLITICAL SEASON

BY JADA SMITH  
Staff Writer

Today marks one of the single most important days in the November 2008 Presidential Elections. Super Tuesday occurs every presidential election year and refers to the day when the most states, 24, hold primary elections. More delegates are up for grabs on this day than during any other primary.

Usually, in order to garner the most support from the respective party and to secure the nomination, a candidate must do exceedingly well in the polls today.

Super Tuesday has a history of either making or breaking a potential candidate.

"Today is very, very significant. If this were a football game, this would be the third quarter," said Political Analyst Ron Jackson.

"The previous primaries have been in states that mostly comprised a limited range of voters. This time we get states that show more of a landscape of America and give us a good picture of what America is thinking. It will not be enough delegates to win the nomination, but it is a significant amount."

Even though the Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary get a lot of media attention, it is because they are the first primaries to be held. Many critics and analysts, like Jackson, claim that the two states are too small to accurately represent the political climate of the country's majority.

Because Super Tuesday includes such a large number of states from different regions of the United States, it serves as a proving ground for the two parties to see which of their candidates has the capability to be nationally elected, and who ultimately deserves the nomination.

Some students believe that today's primary elections will be a determining factor for the outcome of future primaries.

"Obama doesn't have to get more delegates in order to come out on top," said Daniel Gilmer, a senior biology major. "Even if he simply comes close to the number of delegates that Hilary Clinton gets, then that will still be a victory because Hilary Clinton has lead for so long and his campaign is doing better everyday. So if he can match Hilary Clinton today, then I'm sure that will lead to him seizing the majority of the delegates that remain throughout February and March."

Super Tuesday has the potential to turn an election in the opposite direction, which has happened in previous Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses.

A candidate's chances at the nomination can be revived after the elections held today. In 1992, former President Bill Clinton had not done well in earlier primaries, but emerged as a front runner after winning most of the Southern states in the 1992 Super Tuesday.

In most cases, a strong victory on Super Tuesday will secure a party nomination.

According to CNN.com, the democrats have 1,681 delegates at stake in 16 primaries and seven caucuses and the republicans have 1,020 delegates at stake in 15 primaries and six caucuses.

In order to get the nomination, a candidate has to be nominated by a majority of delegates attending the Democratic National Convention, which takes place in August. Out of the 4,049 delegates that the Democratic Party has, a candidate would only need 2,025, just about half to get the 2008 nomination. For republicans, out of 2,380 delegates, 1,191 delegate votes are needed.

Both parties have two types of delegates. For the democrats, it's pledged and super. For the republicans, their delegates are either pledged or unpledged. A pledged delegate is either elected or chosen on the state level with the understanding that they will support a particular candidate at the convention, even though they do not necessarily have to vote for that candidate.

Super delegates are democratic members of Congress, governors, national committee members or party leaders. These super delegates account for 796 of the total 4,049 delegates for the Democratic Party.

The pledged delegates in the Republican Party are similar to those in the Democratic, but the unpledged Republican delegates usually hold a high status within the party as a chair or national committee person. They are not required to commit to a specific candidate, but usually do.

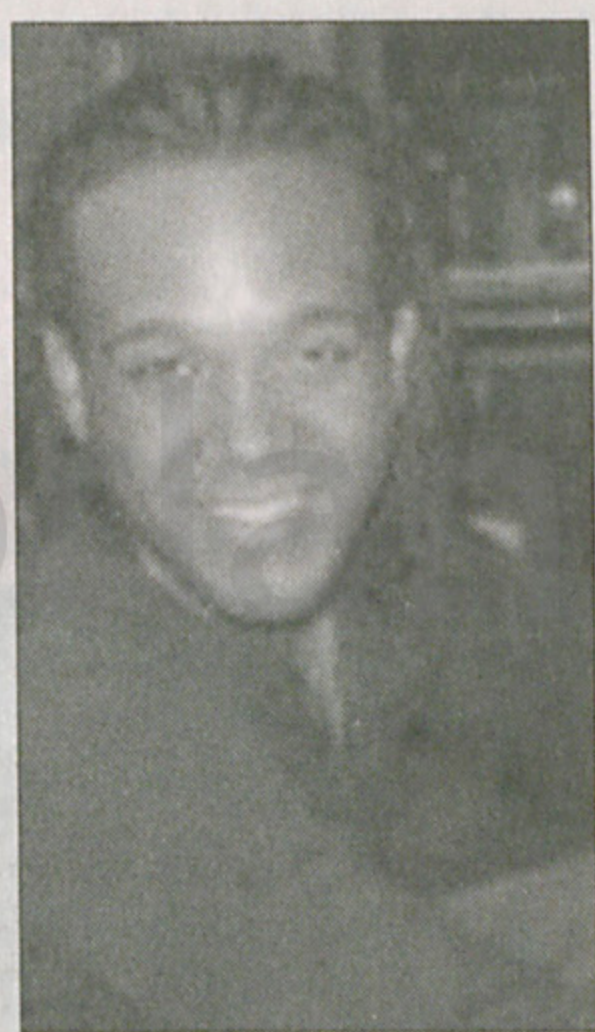
California, New York, and New Jersey are considered make or break states for this election; California especially, who holds the most delegates for both parties.

"Hillary is expected to take New Jersey and New York because she is a Senator there. Likewise, Obama is projected to take Illinois. California has been a stronghold for Clinton, but now some polls are saying it's dead even between the two," said Jackson. "So it's really up in the air."

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"I want to say I would vote for McCain because that's who my party will probably put forward and he has a better platform than Romney. However, I am gonna stand behind Obama. If you look at the history of our government, there's been either a Clinton or a Bush in office for the past 20 years. The government is in need of a great change that we've needed for the past 20 years. One of our big issues is foreign policy and I don't think anyone understands it like Obama does, considering his history. Obama has lived in some of those countries and he has a first hand knowledge about what's going on in them, he's the change that this county needs."

-Arnold "AJ" Foster, Junior Political Science Major, Republican voter



"I've always liked the Clintons, especially Bill, but I admire Hillary especially as a First Lady. She is very poised in handling herself. I also like how she's very educated, not that Obama's not, but she's very intelligent. She may have a stigma of being mean or not approachable, but to get where she's gotten you have to be assertive and not shy. With women, that can be confused as being rude."

- Erin Middlebrooks, Sophomore Marketing Major, Independent voter

### WHO ARE YOU SU...

# PREPARE FOR SUPER TUESDAY

## THE DELEGATE SYSTEM BREAK-DOWN

BY JADA SMITH  
Staff Writer

Contrary to popular thought, the political season has just begun. There are two Democrats and four Republicans vying for the chance to represent their parties in the general presidential election in November, and today makes all the difference.

For Democrats, 2,025 out of 4,049 delegates are up for grabs today as 22 states are holding primaries or caucuses to divvy them up between Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-NY, and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.

For Republicans, 1,191 out of a total of 2,380 delegates are up for grabs among Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and Rep. Ron Paul, R-Tex., are all campaigning for the majority of those delegates.

The total number of Super Tuesday delegates are broken down into categories: pledged

delegates and super delegates for the Democratic Party and pledged and unpledged delegates for the Republican Party.

Pledged delegates are elected or appointed at the state and local level, and are required to specify support for one candidate at the party convention.

In the Democratic Party, pledged delegates are elected or chosen with a shared interest in supporting a particular candidate at the national convention – even though they are not obligated to vote for that candidate.

Of the Democratic delegates, there are 796 super delegates – respected politicians who support whichever candidate they wish during the party convention – and 3,253 pledged delegates who are obligated to vote for either Clinton or Obama.

In the Republican Party, the majority of the delegates, 1,917, are pledged, while the remaining delegates are not. Unpledged delegates make up 463 of the total delegates and are not required to indicate a preference at the national convention.

Most unpledged delegates have a reputable standing within the party and

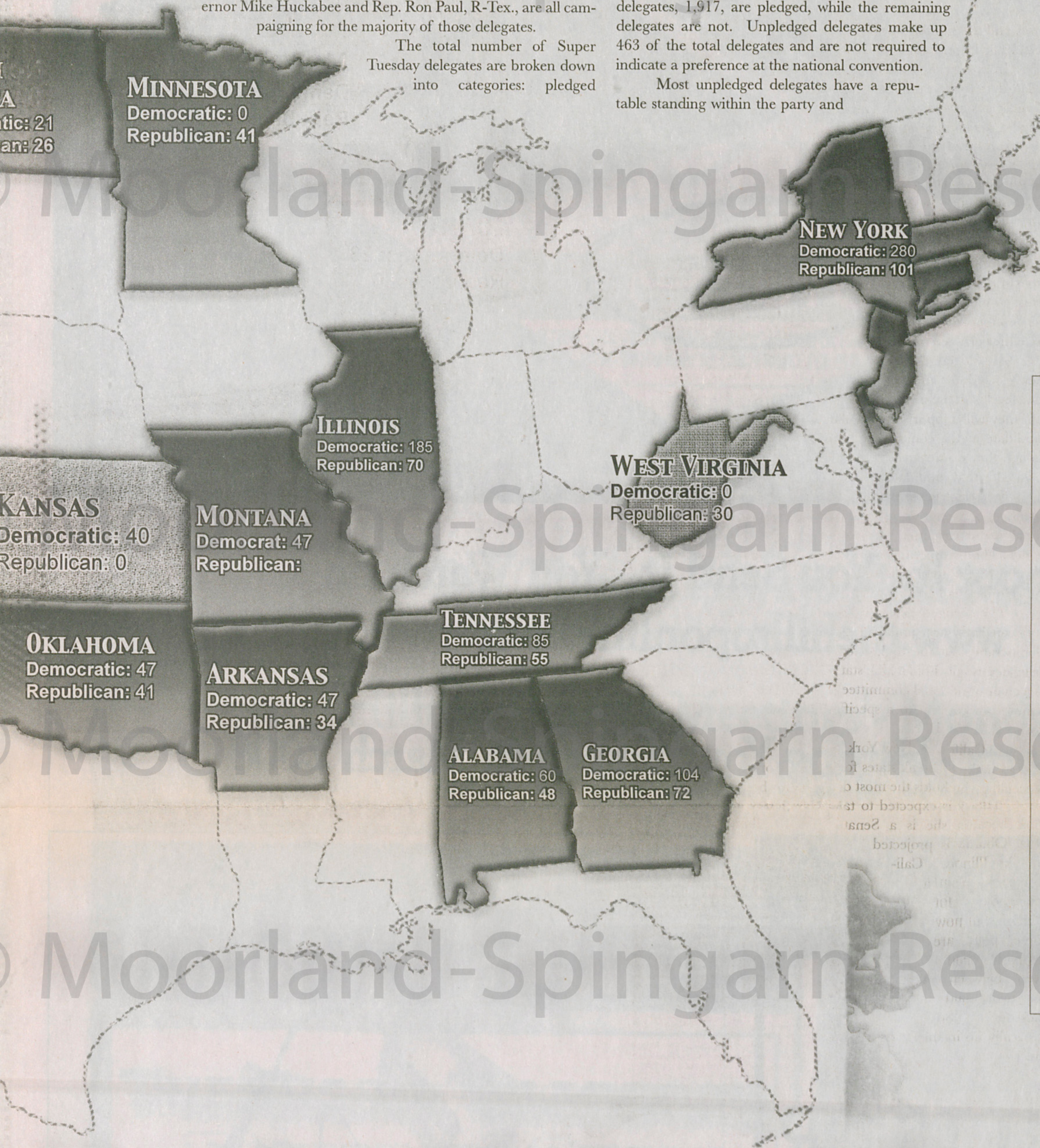
hold prominent positions. The Republican unpledged delegates and the Democratic super delegates serve similar roles; they are party members who hold a high status on the national level and have the ability to choose whomever they want as a vote for the candidacy.

The splitting up of delegates varies for each party. The Democrats honor a system of proportioned delegates, while the Republicans use a “winner-take-all” system.

For example, if Texas were to have 100 delegates at stake, and Candidate A wins 60 percent of the popular vote, that candidate gets 60 pledged delegates. If Candidate B wins 40 percent of the popular vote, then that candidate gets 40 pledged delegates.

A candidate does, however, have to earn at least 15 percent of the vote. If a candidate fails to reach this requirement, then all of their delegates will be forfeited.

There are no calculations to track super delegates and how many each candidate receives. For the Republicans, the “winner-take-all” system allows for candidates to either win a state or lose it.



### 2008 CANDIDATE LEADERBOARD FOR DELEGATES

CANDIDATE	DELEGATE #	PARTY
OBAMA	34	DEMOCRATS
CLINTON	21	
MCCAIN	89	REPUBLICANS
ROMNEY	27	
HUCKABEE	7	

### SUPPORTING TODAY?

“Just because you’re in a particular party doesn’t mean you should only support that party. You should support a candidate who shares the same views as you. People say that race doesn’t matter, but it does. He’s a black man so he has some idea about what black people go through. He would be the strongest presence to support us on the international scale. Barack’s the man, no one can deny that. I don’t support any of the republicans that are running for this presidential bid. Its time for a change.”

– Sonny Baxter, Junior International Business Major, Republican voter



“I am totally behind Obama. I read how he supports youth development and education, especially for African American children. More privileged children have the resources and have access to better schools and he stands for having that same education for all children.”

– Charisse Wilkins, Sophomore Biology Major, Democratic voter.



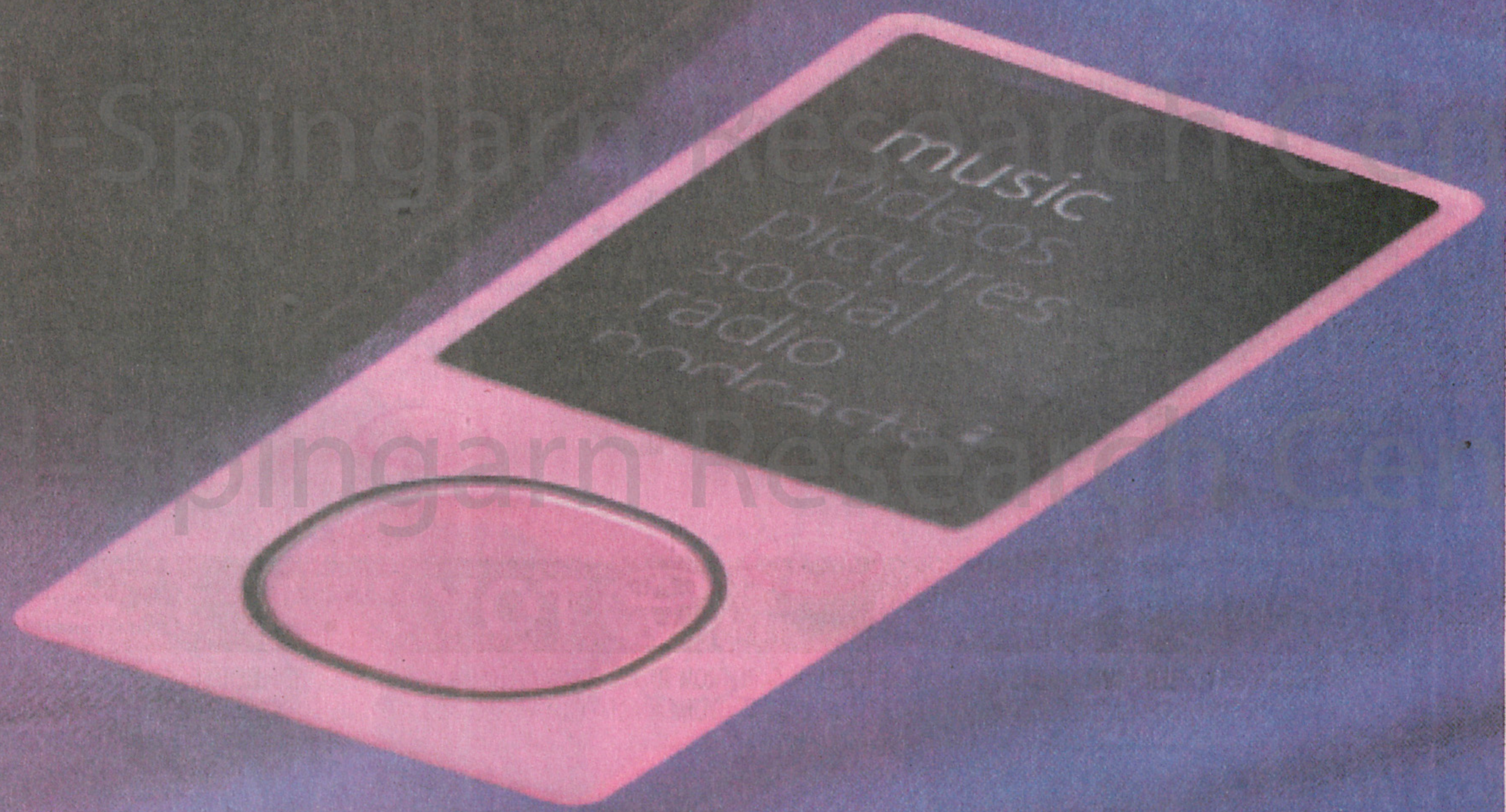
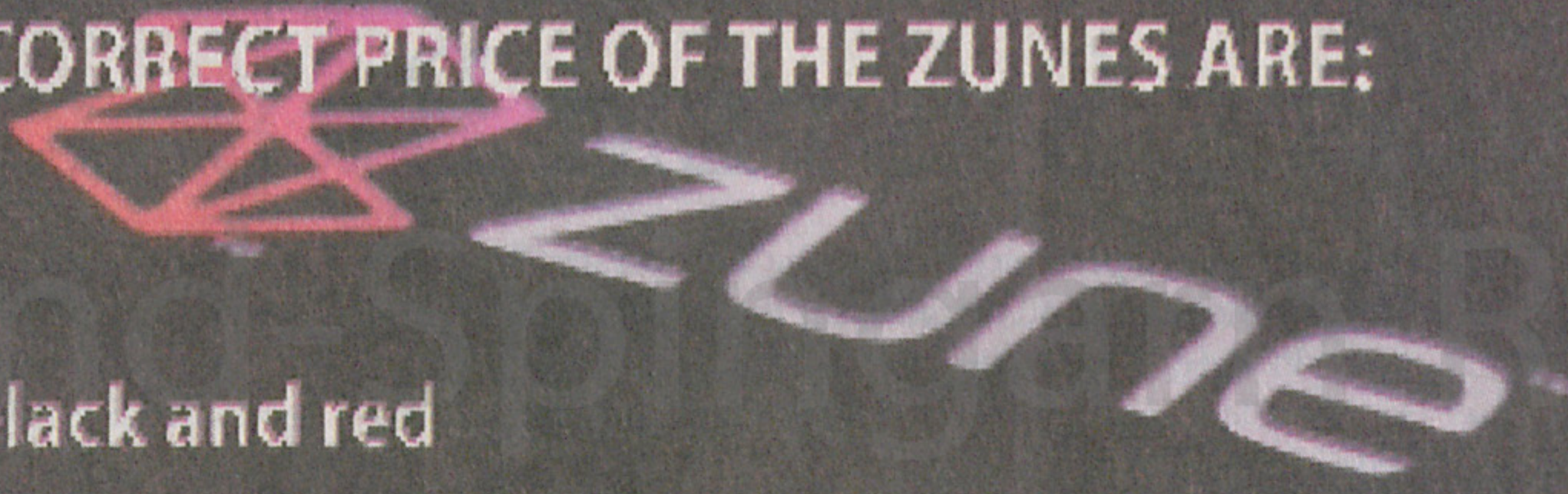
– Compiled by Jada Smith, Staff Writer

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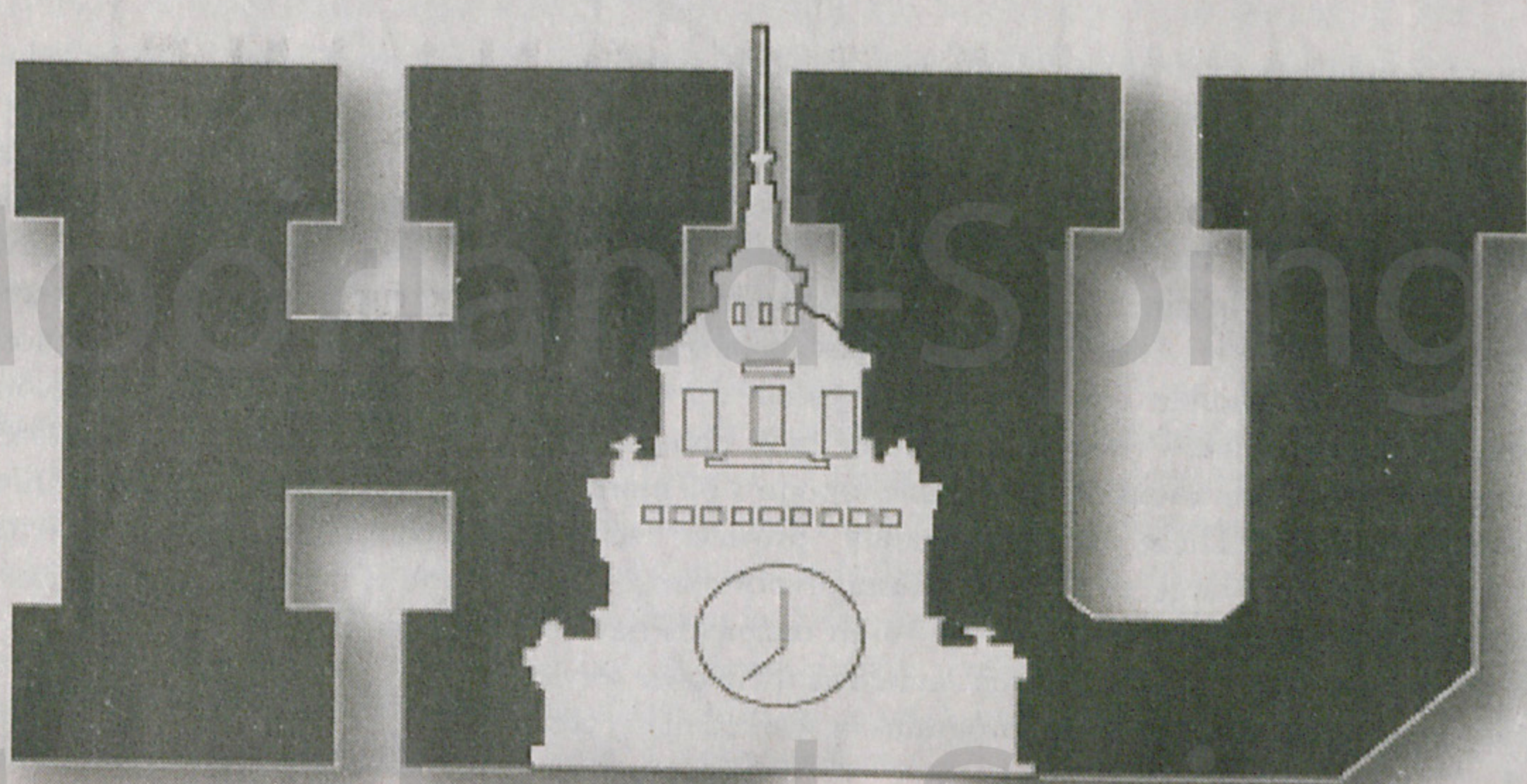
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# Museum Director Touts Significance of Black History

BY BRITTANY FITZPATRICK  
Contributing Writer

## A Way To Remember

Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, stood under a dim spotlight to deliver his keynote address in the Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium of the National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Looking into the audience, he began to speak passionately about the relevance of Black History Month.

"Unless we articulate why Black History Month is so important, many future generations will miss the story," Bunch said. "My fear is the lack of historical literacy among African Americans."

Bunch began his address with an anecdote about Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of 14-year-old Emmett Till, who was brutally murdered on Aug. 28, 1955 in Money, Miss.

Bunch told of a conversation he had with Till-Mobley shortly before she died.

According to Bunch, as he talked with her about her son, she said she felt her job was to help people remember Emmett and the poison of racism and to realize the possibility of change.

He described Carter G. Woodson, the creator of Black History Week in 1926 — the harbinger of Black History Month — as the greatest contributor to remembering.

Bunch said Woodson wanted to build on the interest created by the Harlem Renaissance and to prove the importance of blacks in the development of America.

"Black History Month was intended to be a vehicle for racial transforma-

tion," Bunch said. "Now, many are beginning to wonder, is it still important? Is it just a time to hold programs about influential black people? How needed is this month?"

Bunch answered these questions by stating that Woodson's theory on black history as a "beacon of change" is still relevant today.

## A Reason To Remember

Bunch cited four pivotal events in African-American history. The first was the story of slavery, which he described as being at one point "the most dominant force of American life."

He said African Americans should "understand, accept, and not be embarrassed by their slave past."

He quoted William Prescott, a former slave who, when asked what he thought people would remember most about slaves, said, "They will remember that we were sold, but not that we were strong. They will remember that we were bought, but not that we were bold."

Bunch said one of the reasons the African-American experience still has strong meaning is because there is too much danger in forgetting.

"You can learn more about a country by what it chooses to forget," he said.

Another event in African-American history that Bunch does not want to be forgotten is the Great Migration, a period when a large number of African Americans migrated from the rural South to the urban North.

"African Americans needed to escape the racist South and had the courage to seek out better jobs and a better life in the North," he said.

Bunch believes Americans, especially African Americans, should honor this courage and pay homage to the

people who made it possible for African Americans to thrive economically today.

According to PBS, the Great Migration created the first large, urban black communities in the North.

The North saw its black population rise about 20 percent between 1910 and 1930. Cities such as Chicago, Detroit, New York and Cleveland saw some of the biggest increases.

"The third pivotal event," Bunch said, "which people often overlook, is the integration of the armed forces. This is one of the most important events of the 20th century in terms of bringing people together."

Bunch referenced the Tuskegee Army, who surmounted segregation and racial prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II.

"They proved conclusively that African Americans could fly and maintain sophisticated combat aircraft," he said. "The Tuskegee Army's achievements made full integration of the U.S. military a possibility."

Reaching the conclusion of his address, Bunch cited the fourth pivotal event in African-American history in a more light-hearted manner.

"The final event that I would like to mention is Motown. My staff thought that I would say Sam Cooke," he said as he laughed with the audience, "but Motown as a whole gave white America an introduction to the black experience through artists like The Temptations, The Supremes, and too many other great artists to name."

## Keeping The Memories Alive

As Bunch ended his speech, he relaxed his posture, leaning his left arm on the oak wood podium.

"Far too often, people view African

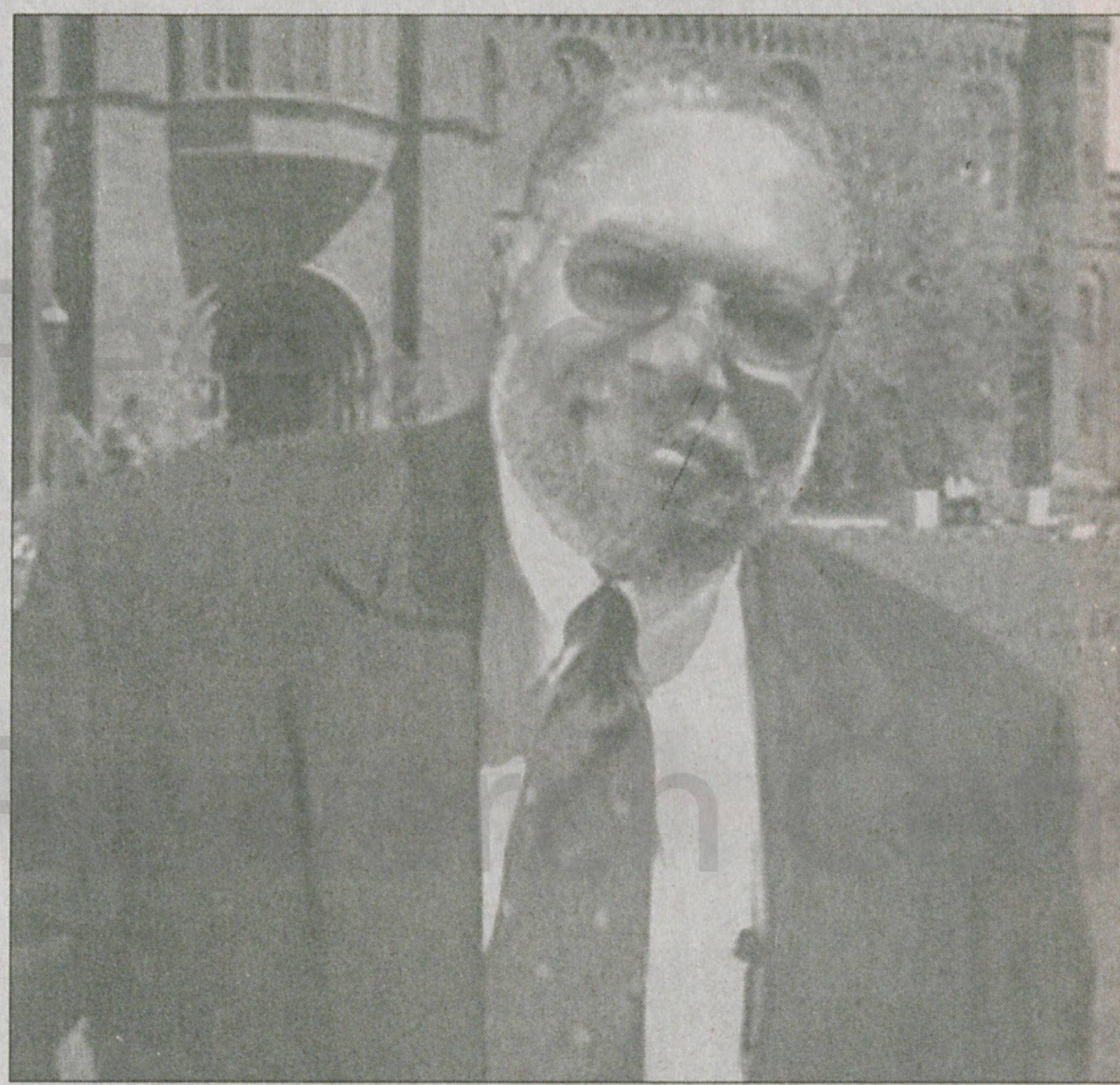


Photo Courtesy of www.americanuniversity.edu  
Lonnie G. Bunch III, the founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (above), spoke about the relevance of African-American history for all Americans and the importance of observing Black History Month.

-American culture as interesting, but exotic, as ancestry to American history," he said. "But it is still relevant. It is American history. When we study and understand race relations, we understand America."

He continued, "Black history has the power to illuminate all of the dark corners of the American experience. The African-American experience is a wonderfully unforgiving mirror of American ideals and promise. It allows us to see our commonalities."

Tom and Cathy Klein are frequent visitors of the Smithsonian, and were in

the audience during Bunch's keynote address.

Cathy Klein said she was impressed with the session. She believed that Bunch brought up some great points.

Tom Klein reflected on the speech, saying, "As people of European descent, some people feel that Black History Month is not relevant to them. But I think that he brought up a great point when he said that black history and American history are interrelated. It's relevant to all of us."

# D.C. Libraries Use Story Time to Foster a Love of Reading

BY ASHA POLLARD  
Contributing Writer

The soft giggles and whispers of children met the faint sound of turning pages at the Petworth Neighborhood Library one weekday morning.

The back corner of the library was filled with children sitting Indian style, heads upright and eyes wide as librarian Julie Kulikowski read aloud the story of "Pippi Longstockings."

The scene is typical during the time period allotted for children's story hour.

Kulikowski, known to the kids as Miss Julie, oversees the story time activities.

"We do not just read books during story time," she said. "The children also dance, sing songs and tell stories of their own sometimes."

Story time at Petworth is offered to kids ranging from pre-school to fourth grade, with two sessions available at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Parents in the community seem to appreciate the hour of quiet and relaxation.

"I love being able to give [my



File Photo  
Libraries across the city offer story time for children. The sessions include reading, singing and craft making. They are meant to foster a love of reading early on in children.

child] to someone else for an hour," parent Karen Jackson said jokingly. "It allows the kids to wind down and relax during the late morning when they are most hyper."

Her daughter, Gina Jackson, also believes story hour is beneficial. "I like

the books Miss Julie reads to us," the six-year-old said. "I learn a new story and song every day and I met my best friend here."

The Petworth community is taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity to expose kids to reading.

"The numbers continue to grow every month," Kulikowski said. "The children enjoy it so much. I remember just last month when I could not come in to work and the kids could not have story hour, they were so sad about missing it."

Keishala Grant, an eight-year-old student and proud member of story hour, recalled the day Miss Julie did not come in to work.

"That day was so boring because my mommy made me sit and read books by myself," Grant said. "I like reading with everybody when Miss Julie is here. That's always fun."

Story time is not just offered to the Washington, D.C. community at the Petworth Neighborhood Library.

The Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library, located on Georgia Avenue NW, also provides the neighborhood children with story time. Anina Ertel, who heads story hour at Shepherd Park, explained the significance of this tradition.

"It gets kids excited about reading at a young age," Ertel said. "Toddlers have the chance to become accustomed to the whole idea of books;

turning pages, looking at words, and things like that. It develops their pre-literacy skills."

The kids at Shepherd Park Library are, too, very involved in story time. They sat wide eyed and attentive as Ertel read their favorite stories aloud.

"It's like a field trip for them," Ertel said. "They get so into the stories, you can see it in their faces. It's a great learning experience. If [the libraries] continue holding story hour, the kids will have that positive memory of reading and hopefully that will be carried out into adulthood."

Shepherd Park's story hour consists of reading, songs, crafts, instruments and films for kids ages three to five.

The variety of fun activities reinforces that positive memory of libraries and reading.

Lalanie Kilman, mother of five-year-old Jessica Kilman, said, "I want my daughter to enjoy reading. A lot of teens and even some adults do not read, and I cannot let my daughter fall into that same category."

# Community Service Award Honors District Volunteers

BY ASHA POLLARD  
Editorial Assistant

The Mayor's Community Service Award provides an avenue for the acknowledgement of humanitarian efforts around the District.

Serve D.C., a community service-based organization, in conjunction with the D.C. Commission on National and Community Service, hosts The Mayor's Community Service

Award each month.

The award serves as a national program recognizing outstanding community service volunteers.

According to Dy Brown, the communications director for Serve D.C. and Howard University graduate, the awards are given out each month to one adult and one youth 24 years old or younger.

Including a signed certificate by the mayor and a congratulatory letter, the award

also provides a sense of achievement and gratification for its recipients.

"A large banquet is held annually each May in conjunction with the D.C. Conference On Service," Brown said. "Friends and family of the recipients, as well as participants of the Service Conference community, are in attendance to honor all of the winners. The mayor is there also."

The formal banquet includes award categories for gov-

ernment employees, non-profit organizations, corporations and several others.

A fairly new award ceremony, The Mayor's Community Service Award, began five years ago.

"It is an incredible ceremony; long overdue," said Joanne Kenneth, who attended last year's awards. "There are major executives of large corporations honored sometimes, and other times, there are just regular people like me and you

honored. It's really amazing."

Brown, who has worked on The Mayor's Community Service Award for the past two years, said, "Serve D.C. looks for truly outstanding volunteerism that goes above and beyond the regular call of duty."

Some have donated considerable amounts of money to community projects, schools, and housing renovations.

Youth recipients have often launched their own service programs or worked many com-

munity services hours as volunteers.

Millicent Williams, executive director for Serve D.C., said, "This award ceremony gives the community an opportunity to show their contributions. It provides a sense of accomplishment and allows outsiders of that community to see their accomplishments, too. It is the type of award every community should have."

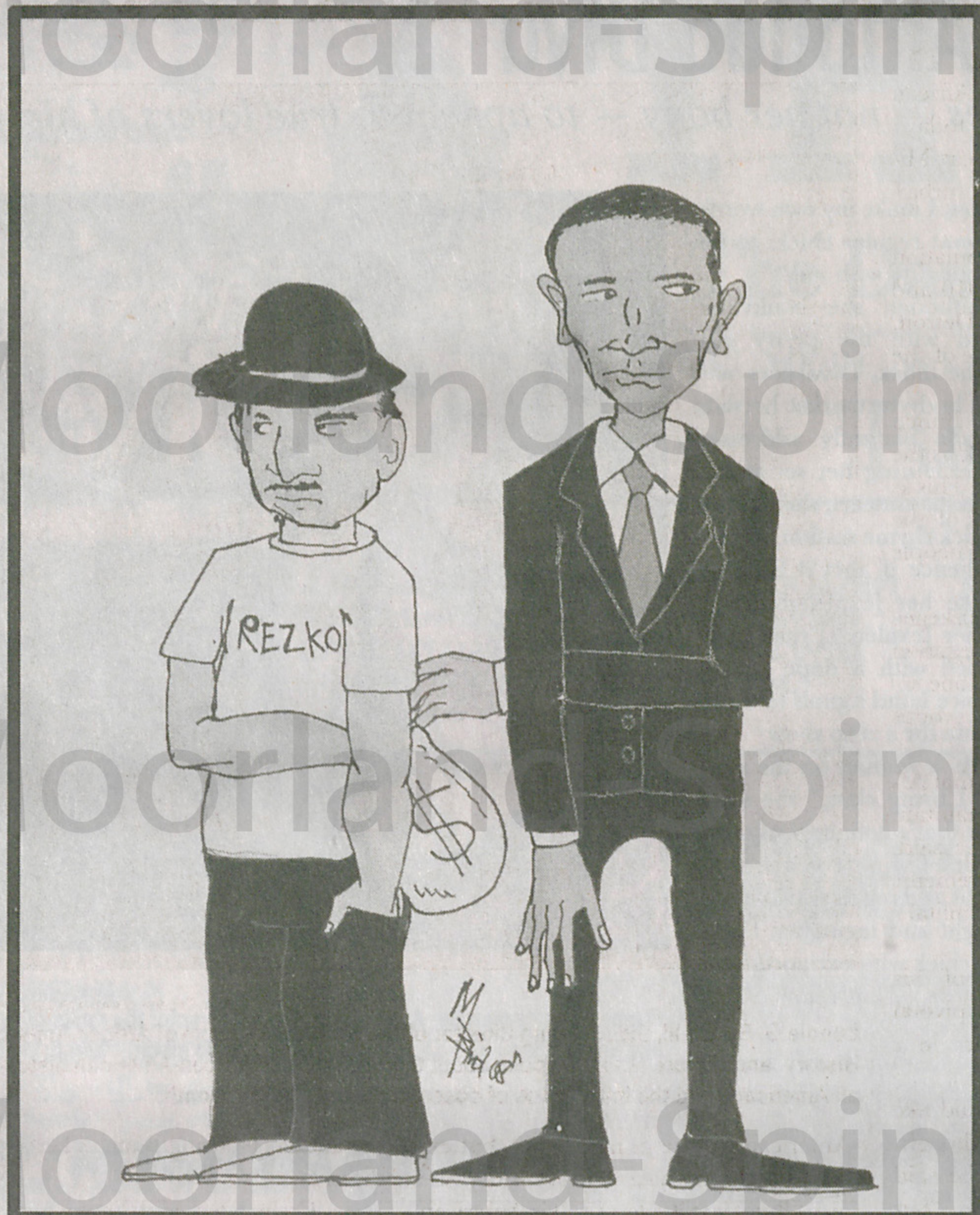
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**Directions:**

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

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



Marcus Bird

## Obama and his Slumlord

During the heated South Carolina debates, Sen. Hillary Clinton outed Sen. Barack Obama for his involvement with Chicago "slumlord" Antoin Rezko. Rezko, who serves as a landlord for a government-subsidized apartment on Chicago's Southside, has donated thousands of dollars to Obama's campaign, while his apartments suffer from dilapidated facilities and sub-par living conditions.

After the media discovered Obama's involvement with Rezko, Obama defended himself by saying that he did not know about Rezko's "slumlord" reputation, although the two had been friends for 17 years. Recently, in an attempt to distance himself from Rezko, Obama donated \$85,000 of Rezko's donations to charity.

Some may argue that the use of the money is more important than the source of the money. Ethical soundness won't necessarily help the people benefited from the charities, as money does. Thus, the money was used properly. Others believe that the moral integrity of the source should be

in question, and Obama should take responsibility for his actions. By donating the money, he was trying to rectify the situation by transferring the attention toward something more positive.

However, is Obama's trans-

action makes him seem dishonest to the common people to whom Obama is campaigning. The fact that they have been friends and that he accepted money from Rezko suggests that Obama was willing to look past Rezko's indiscretions in exchange for money.

Either way, Obama should have stuck with his original decision. Accepting the money and then giving it away shows inconsistency and may even suggest a lack of judgment on Obama's part. A politician who wavers under media scrutiny suggests that he goes back on his word.

If Obama decided he made a mistake, he should have just said that he made a mistake and had a lapse in judgment with regards to the people he associated with. American citizens would have been receptive to an apology from an already beloved Obama.

But by making a public donation in the amount he was given, the gesture seemed like it was "for show" and perhaps even insincere, and that's just bad politics.

**Our View:**  
*Whether Obama decided to accept the money or to not accept the money, he should have stuck with his original decision.*

ference of attention just a ploy to keep his name clear? Of course it is, which only adds to the shadiness of the situation. Obama only donated the money after he was publicly criticized for his involvement with Rezko. It is not probable that Obama had no idea of Rezko's reputation, especially since Rezko's apartments are only a mile from Obama's home.

This incident doesn't mean that Obama will be a bad president, but his affiliation with Rezko

## Perspective

### Take Advantage of the Abroad Experience

Howard students are from all over the world, but not every student is from all over the world. Therefore, more students should take advantage of the study abroad experience. I studied abroad in Mexico last semester. The only bad part is that I will now graduate a year late. But, I would say up front that this experience is invaluable for a number of reasons.

The number one advantage of having studied abroad is learning Spanish. The reality is that Hispanics are now the minority majority, and we need to be able to communicate with these people. Although English is the primary language in the United States, it is not productive for Americans to ignore the fact that there are people in this country who speak another language. And, with Spanish being the second leading language, these skills will help me to speak with a

broader spectrum of Americans. Spanish also is becoming the second leading language in the world. Learning a different language could greatly benefit any Howard student, because you would be able to communicate with more people. But, that is only one portion of being able to interact with people from other nations.

The other aspect is being able to understand those people. My grandfather is from Mexico, and I thought I knew a lot about the Mexican culture until I went to Mexico. I now understand a lot about the Hispanics in America because of my experience abroad. I understand why so many come here to work. I understand why their neighborhoods are so close-knit. I understand why college is not such a high priority on their list. These understandings make it easier for me to interact with [the] Hispanic community.

Although you may not choose to go to Mexico, the point remains: get out of the United States of America. It is so important that, as leaders of the global community, Howard students be able to effectively interact with people from around the world. The only way to get that experience is to spend time in another country, living amongst those people. This is domestic exchange week, and the deadline for submitting applications for study abroad programs is in March. Howard has its faults, but one of these is not the Study Abroad staff. The study abroad office is completely helpful and useful.

Don't be bogged down in whether you will graduate late, or that all of the credits you will earn abroad won't coincide with your graduation scheme. It's worth it. Trust me.

-Christina Wright

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?  
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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.

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Confessions of an L&S Editor

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
Life & Style Editor

Dear Howard,

Yay! It's finally our month. I've always thought it was hilarious that out of the 365 days of being black, there's one designated month to acknowledge our presence. But that's cool. I've gotten over the anomaly of that a long time ago...around the same time I found out Columbus was really a lost idiot.

But anyway, it's our month. So what are you gonna do?

Many of us just plan to stay black and live our lives. And that works. But I have a little challenge for you. But of course, I have to give you some background on this challenge, to not seem like I'm on some random tangent (if it seems like it, stop reading immediately).

Before break, I spent a lot of my free time in Moorland Spingarn (yes...I'm a closet nerd), which holds the largest collection of African and African-Americans archives in the world. I was looking at old *Hilltops* and just interesting pieces of black history that I've always wondered about.

Sidebar: Reportedly, they have old angry letters between our founder, Ms. Zora Neale Hurston, and my favorite writer, Langston Hughes. They had an ongoing beef back in the day, which is ridiculously awesome to see in print.

Anyway, I was looking at these old *Hilltops* and an overwhelming feeling took over me. As I flipped through the different pages of the past, I realized that I'm a part of Howard's history like these other writers are.

There were interviews with N.W.A. before they were America's biggest nightmare, lists of the hottest records (the big vinyl kind), and stories about Howard's crazy administration (well not everything has changed).

But you get the point. The stories were old, but they gave me insight as to what this campus was like before I was even born! It spoke for a generation on the brink of change and it spoke to the legacy of those who were a part of this change.

The bulb went off as I realized my legacy was being a part of this paper.

So my challenge for you this Black History Month is to figure out what your legacy is going to be and start making history.

About a week ago, Dr. Cornel West talked about the "Santification" of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and how society is trying to make our leaders seem like jolly fantastical beings who brought treats for everyone. But contrary to that belief, Dr. King was a menace to society. He brought a change so big that even some black folks didn't like him.

Only through his legacy do we know and understand this.

The point is this: We're only at Howard for a short time. Why not do something that solidifies a positive legacy for generations to come?

I need us to think big on this. I don't mean create a name for yourself, because anyone can do something crazy on the Yard and create a name. I want us to do something big or even small, to create a legacy of change for generations to come.

If someone else hadn't done that for us, where would we be today?

- Dani K.

Driven: Amanda Diva

No-nonsense lyricist uses her mind and rhymes — not her body — to appeal to true lovers of hip-hop.

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
Life & Style Editor

Respect is what she demands. And if she doesn't get it, there are going to be problems. It's not as if she's asking for too much, but as a woman, she knows she has to work harder. Her name and her word are all she has, so maintaining this respect is important. Some may say she has an attitude, but what do you expect? Her last name is "Diva."

"I don't think anyone is speaking for us anymore," Amanda Diva said. "I think the game has gotten so much about image — how you look and who looks like this at what time. I wanna be able to wear what the [expletive] I want at whatever time, but still be known as 'oh that's Amanda' and that's that."

Even though she was born in Los Angeles and spent time in Florida, Amanda Seales, 26, has the mentality and attitude of a New Yorker. Even during the interview, she didn't mind shushing others talking in the room or making lighthearted jokes.

Currently opening for Lupe Fiasco's "The Cool" tour, Diva has gotten more exposure for her many talents.

"Lupe is family so...you know whatever," she said. "But I really have been surprised that the reception of the audiences has been so good to me and [they] really like what I do, so that's been the best part. It bugs me out to be here now and have people be like, 'Yo you're my favorite MC.' And I'm like 'really...interesting.'"

Truly a quadruple threat, this young lady sings, does poetry, acts and has a master's degree from Columbia University. And she's not meek about any of her skills. To the contrary, she's very proud of what she's accomplished.

"I mean my favorite is definitely making music," Diva said. "I would say the easiest is

the hosting thing, just because I've never really been afraid of the camera. I'm a bit of a ham (chuckle)! But the music definitely means the most to me and definitely has the most reach."

On stage is no different. Although she opened up the show (which she didn't seem too happy about that night), she brought an upbeat spirit and confidence to the stage. Formerly the interim member for Floetry, her face is recognizable to many, but her name to a few. As the audience looked perplexed as to who this girl was, she quickly let them know she was a talented lady.

Once again demanding that respect.

"I think that I bring back that feel good music that we've been missing a lot of," Diva said. "The same feeling that you get from artists like Kanye and Lu, I think that's...I wanna be in that new generation of Erykah Badu and Mos [Def] and Common. I wanna be part of the new school generation of those cats. Those are legends for me. Just like Cane and Rakim were legends for them."

In an industry run by males, it's difficult for women to hold their own spot without being sexualized, especially for female rappers. There are so many Lil Kims, Foxy Browns and Trinns that it's hard to find women who don't embellish their sexuality to make a statement.

"That's just me, you understand," Diva said. "I think that's what makes it so easy to do, because I'm not doing this as an image thing. Like...I'm wearing kicks right now, and I will wear stilettos tonight, if we go out to the club. That's just me. I have a numerous amount of fitteds [caps], but I also have numerous amounts of shoes from Nine West."

She added, "I've got my little bit of eye shadow on and that's it. I'm not really doing no big set of some fantastical-ness.

You know, I make my own words and I want regular chicks to be able to identify with me."

Although she could be confused with the pretty girl down the block, Diva does not use her body to market herself, which she blatantly addresses on stage. During her set at the Lupe Fiasco concert, she paused for a quick rhyme session, asking the audience if they'd like her to "shake her [expletive]" and "push her [expletive] out." She responded with a dope rhyme and choice hand signals to those who came for a strip show.

"As a woman on the mic, I think I bring class," she said. "I think that's definitely missing and I think I bring a certain level of insight and regularity. When I say insight and regularity, I'm a regular chick with extraordinary things to say. That's how I look at it."

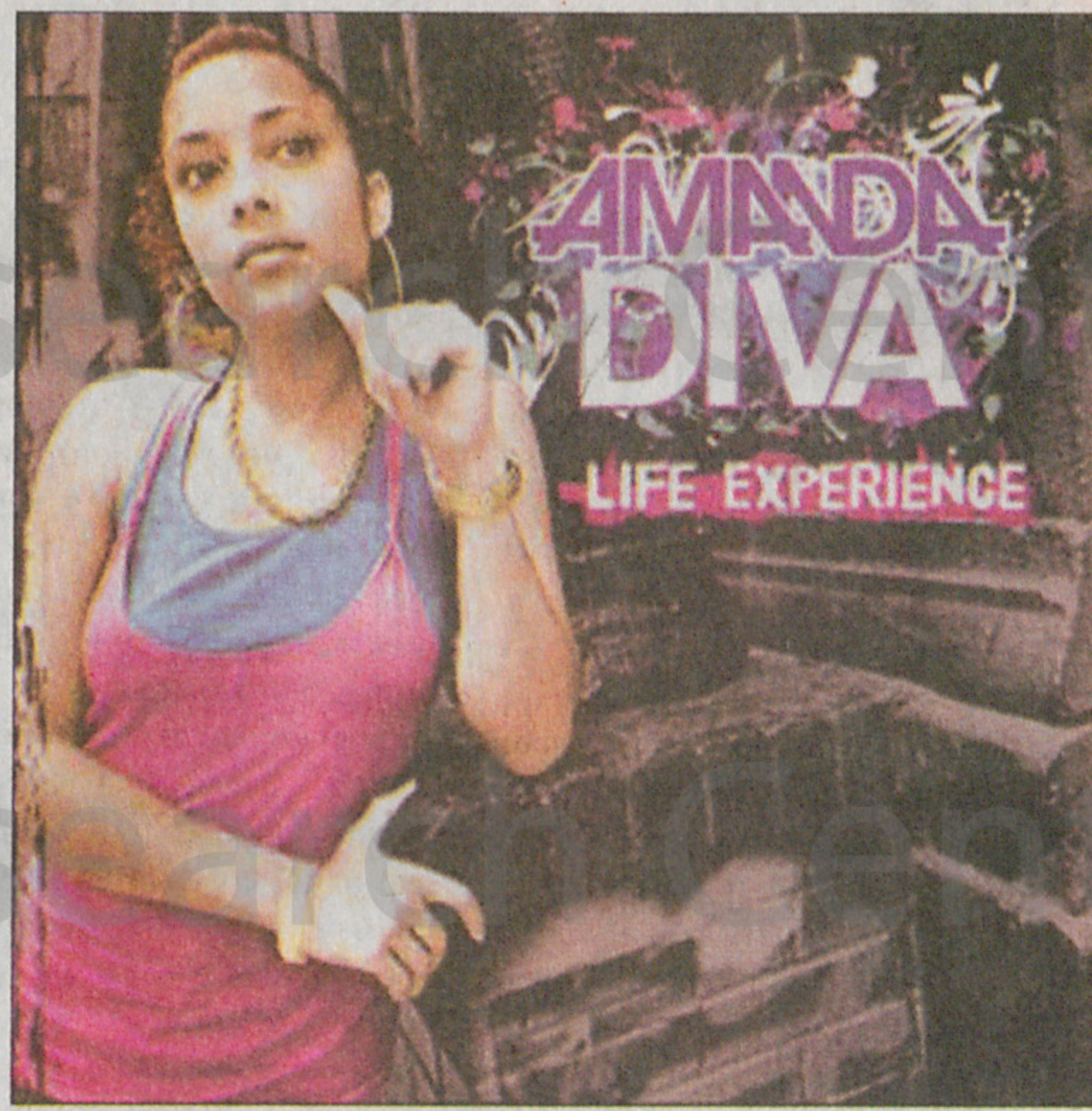
In the midst of preparing for the show, "The Diva" seemed to be handling someone else's job, and the incompetence annoyed her. Maybe it was because she's not a big enough star. Or maybe it was because she's a woman.

Either way, by the end of this year they'll know better — if she makes it in one piece.

"My goal for the year is to not have an aneurism," Diva said jokingly. "My goal for the year is to not have a [expletive] cranial aneurism, Danielle. Especially in the frontal lobe, because then I wouldn't be able to talk. If it happens in the cerebral cortex, I might be able to work it out."

She continued, "No, for real, my goal for the year is...I just want by the end of the year for folks to be aware of me as a presence. And are looking and checking for me. Of course, it's a long road. It's a marathon not a sprint, but I want to have my foot up the [expletive] of music."

Diva's album, "Life Experience," is in stores now, and fans can check out [www.amandadiva.com](http://www.amandadiva.com) for tour dates.

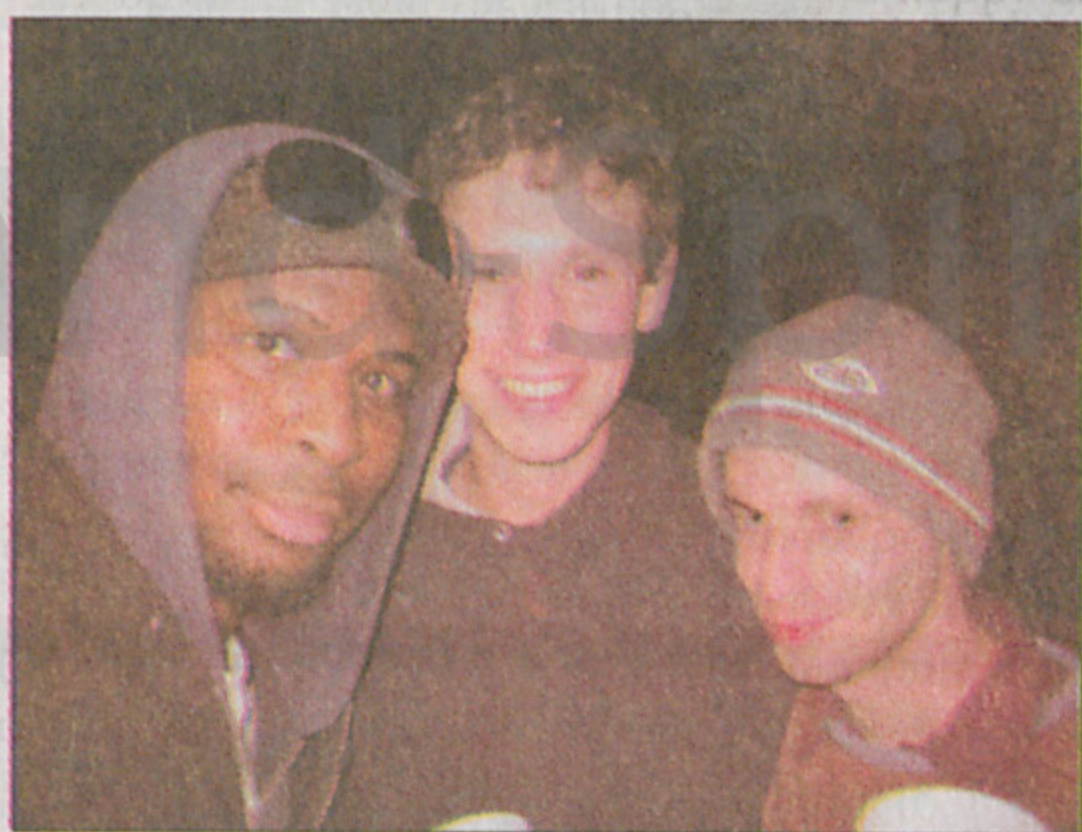


Former Floetry member Amanda Diva looks to enter the ranks of artists like Erykah Badu and Kanye West with her solo album, "Life Experience."

Five Fun Facts About Amanda Diva

1. If you were a Nickelodeon fan back in the day, you may recognize her from the 1994 sitcom "My Brother and Me." She played older sister Melanie's talkative friend Deonne Wilbur. The show was cancelled after only one season, reportedly due to disagreements between producers and the writers.
2. She was in Floetry for a hot second last year, replacing Natalie Stewart as the "floacist." It was never quite reported why Diva and Marsha Ambrosius parted ways, but Ambrosius has since worked on her solo venture.
3. She is the first lady of the Atlanta-based DJ group Aphilliates and has released three mixtapes.
4. She was on "Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam" twice and has written a compilation of her poetry entitled "Young Skin, Wise Mind, Old Soul."
5. She's half Grenadian

Cure for Hip-Hop's Problem: Panacea



The eclectic group Panacea includes (from left to right) Jason Moore, Patrick Fritz and Aaron Gause.

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
Life & Style Editor

Call it "the cure" or call it unique, but don't dare say it's been done before.

"I think people are ready," said Jason Moore, head MC of Panacea said. "I think people are a lot more open than what these labels give them credit for."

There is no genre this Virginia-based group can be put in. Somehow they fuse rap with jazz, rock and classical music to form something beautifully distinct.

It's as if they threw a bunch of random ingredients together and came up with a great dish. Truly one of a kind.

Panacea, which stemmed from the group Restoring Poetry in Music (RPM), started in 2001. Moore and his cousin, Marlon Vann, started the group, which now consists of producer Kyle Murdock, guitarist Patrick Fritz (P-Fritz) and pianist Aaron Gause.

Accused of selling out to the mainstream market, hip-hop has been under a critical lens for a while now. Panacea is confident that they're not selling out or even selling in.

They do what feels right for a simple purpose...the music. And what Moore (aka Raw Poetic) of Panacea has, is faith — faith that music listeners can handle his group's sound.

"I think the labels are afraid to take a chance," Moore said. "Labels are in trouble right now because of all the illegal downloading going on. So they're trying to come up with the most popiest thing they can come out with, and in the process they're going to overlook a lot of groups that are giving unique original music. So I think a lot of labels are gonna be kicking themselves in the [expletive] in a few years when someone actually takes a chance on something like this."

Moore, whose parents were in the Black Panther Party, credits the group's vast musical taste for their one of a kind sound.

"We come from a lot of different influences," Moore said. "I come from a

hip-hop background...my uncle's a jazz musician. I listen to a lot of rock music also. I've been listening to a lot of Radiohead, Led Zeppelin. I love Hendrix and The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, The Strokes, The Black Keys. These guys [Fritz and Gause] are classical musician here."

Murdock, who is a Howard graduate, believes the school had a lot to do with their establishment as a group.

"Panacea started at Howard with two other guys who were at Howard as well," he said. "Howard had a big part in going out. One, that's where I met everybody. And two, it has an encouraging hip-hop scene. A lot of this stuff that I'm doing now probably wouldn't have happened if I went to some other school."

Each member has his own creative role in the music and adds something unique to each piece. The guys were very candid about their fresh outlook on hip-hop, their loyal fan base and their indifferent attitude toward the mainstream.

"We've had a lot of success in the past with somebody coming up with an idea like a beat, but maybe an incomplete beat and then just bringing that to the table and then us bringing that home and running with it," Gause said.

Fritz agreed with the composition method, saying, "Every song is a little bit different. Some songs start off as an idea that Marlon had, like a beat, and then we'll write and play on top of that. Other ones are stuff that I'll come up with. Every tune is different."

He added, "We're now starting to explore more with organic writing. Jason's writing tunes and I'm actually writing guitar parts to what he's saying. I have real specific ideas of what I want certain things to sounds like, especially in terms of drum beats and especially what I'm doing on guitar. And then how the song is gonna be structured and after that then Aaron wrote a part that was real good for certain tunes. So it's kinda just trying to figure out what works."

As they were all mild-mannered and very chill sitting in the living room of their Virginia basement, the men

seemed to have a common love and passion for authentic music.

Moore, who classifies the group as progressive hip-hop, thinks the overall industry will have to find a niche to give it more originality.

"I think in the future, if you're gonna compete with the main bands out there, then you're gonna have to learn how to play everything," he said. "You're not gonna be able to just stick to one genre. I think were trying to get a jump start on that right now."

Fritz was very candid about the burden of being a true musician.

"Our band is mostly made of musicians," he said. "We all are musicians, and being a musician today is kind of a dead end job if you're gonna be a working musician. You don't make a lot of money, and you have to struggle to get gigs and a lot of times you're playing other peoples' stuff, so I cherish the fact that we're still together and can still play and make a little bit of money. But we're playing exactly what we want to play. There's no compromise."

So can we ever expect the musicians to be rocking gold chains, popping bottles and snapping their fingers?

Verdict: Probably not.

"Instead of going mainstream, I'd rather something like that come to us," Moore said. "I don't want to have to ever sacrifice what we do to please an audience that we're not even trying to reach out to. If people catch on, then that's cool. I don't think we all need to be famous. We all just want to be able to make a living off of it. I'd rather have hit albums than hit singles."

Fritz wholeheartedly agreed, saying, "The thing that's important to me is not to look back and say 'Oh yeah we had a poppy single and made some money'. It's more important to say I can play the albums we made years ago and say 'Yeah I was a part of that. Because no one else is doing that.'"

He continued, "It's not marketable the way that things are marketable these days...so for us to stay together and keep making music, it's about the integrity of the music."



To create their unique sound, Panacea combines rap with jazz, rock and other musical genres.



Head MC Jason Moore credits Howard University's hip-hop scene as a big part of the group's formation.

Photos courtesy of Jason Moore