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The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 79

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Monday, February 11, 2008

**Monday
Notebook****BREAKING NEWS****SEN. BARACK OBAMA SWEEPS WEEKEND CONTESTS IN NEBRASKA, LOUISIANA, WASHINGTON AND MAINE, ACCORDING TO MSNBC.****CAMPUS****WILLIAM DODD, 78, HOPES TO FINISH HIS DEGREE IN 2009. FIND OUT WHAT BROUGHT HIM BACK TO COLLEGE.****BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY****CONGRESS PASSES A \$150 BILLION STIMULUS PACKAGE IN THE FACE OF A POSSIBLE RECESSION. TAXPAYERS MAY GET \$600 TO \$1,200.**

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Stars Shine on Stage for Howard*Broadway Play Dedicates a Night to School of Communications, March 30 Sales to Benefit New Building Fund*BY OLIVIA EVERSON
Contributing Writer

The John H. Johnson School of Communications will find profits on Broadway next month. All proceeds from ticket sales of the March 30 show of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" will benefit the fund for the construction of a new building.

Howard alumna Debbie Allen is directing an award-winning cast of actors in the Tennessee Williams play.

The cast is led by Academy Award nominee Terrence Howard, Howard University alumna Phylicia Rashad and Tony Award winners Anika Noni Rose and James Earl Jones.

The play was originally written for and performed by a white cast, but the Broadhurst Theater production features a spin on the work with an all black cast.

The play is "a classic," said Sabrina Burris, coordinator for the event. "[It has] an original twist with an African-American cast

that faces struggle."

"I am thrilled to stand at the helm of this unique production as we navigate our way through Tennessee Williams' riveting and explosive American classic, 'Cat,' said to be his favorite of his many plays, achieves a timeless coherence with its characters as they wrestle with the universal struggles of life, love, money, sex and death," Allen told Playbill News, a Web site promoting theater, in 2007.

According to the official Web site of the production, "In 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,' a powerful Southern family gathers at a birthday celebration for patriarch Big Daddy (Jones), who does not know he is dying of cancer. In a scramble to secure their part of his estate, family members hide the truth about his diagnosis and Big Mama (Rashad). Front and center as tensions mount are alcoholic former football hero Brick (Howard) and his beautiful but sexually frustrated wife Maggie 'the Cat' (Rose); as their troubled relationship comes to a stormy and steamy

climax, a shockwave of secrets are finally revealed."

The play's first performance is Tuesday, and it runs until April, but the March 30 performance has been set aside just for the new building.

Dean of the School of Communications Jannette Dates said the new building will be directly across from the front entrance of the Bethune Annex in the parking lot on Bryant and 4th Streets.

"It will take most of the entire lot," Dates said.

The new building will satisfy the "need for centralized opportunities, for informal and formal interaction for students and faculty," Dates said.

The current School of Communications building has various corridors spreading students and faculty throughout the building. In addition, the building does not have a room that can hold a large capacity of people.

Dates is anticipating a "nice auditorium where a large number of students can gather. It's very ex-

citing," she said.

A four- to five-story building will serve as the new building for the School of Communications after its completion.

A hospital building established before the end of the Civil War for blacks seeking freedom currently houses the school.

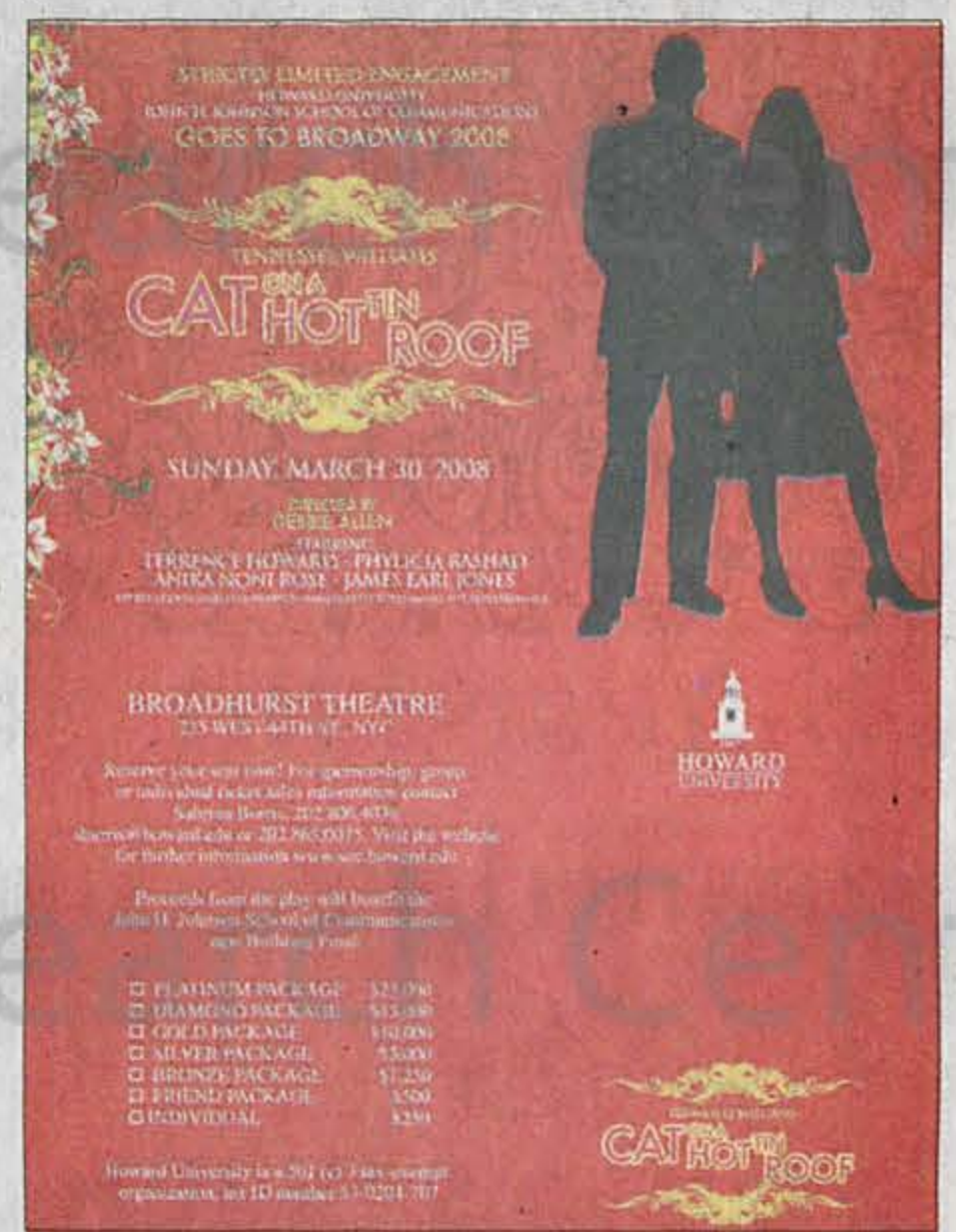
"[The] building has historical significance," Dates said. "It was the old Freedman's Hospital. It will be used for other purposes."

Dates, along with members from the Board of Trustees and the university cabinet, will attend the performance.

Students are welcome to attend the performance, Burris said. Tickets start at a flat rate of \$250 and can cost as much as \$25,000 for donor packages.

Only money from tickets purchased through Howard University will go toward the building fund.

To buy tickets for the event or for additional information, call Sabrina Burris at 202.806.0075.



Proceeds from the March 30 performance will go toward the fund for Howard University's new School of Communications building.

Obama, Clinton Gain Cash Influx After Super TuesdayBY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Staff Writer

With no definitive Democratic winner after the Super Tuesday contests, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) campaigns have received even more momentum, causing both presidential hopefuls to receive an influx of cash.

According to his campaign, Obama has raised \$7.5 million since Feb. 5, and currently donation pace may surpass \$30 million in the month of February.

The predictions for this month mirror last month's stunning fundraising of \$32 million. That allowed Obama to increase staff and extend advertisements to states beyond the Super Tuesday contests.

However, the large figure still has not greatly elevated Obama from his race against Clinton. The \$32 million raised in

January was the most ever raised in a month by a presidential candidate who still faces a primary race.

More than 350,000 donors have contributed to Obama's campaign so far.

Many believe the strength in Obama campaign fundraising is based on its recruitment and reliance on many small donors. The Obama campaign reports only 3 percent of donors gave the maximum \$2,300 donation for the primary.

After reports of fundraising concerns, Clinton has proven she is not to be forgotten in the pursuit of donations.

According to her campaign, Clinton has raised more than \$10 million from 100,000 donors since Feb. 5.

The fundraising boosts comes after reports that Clinton loaned her campaign \$5 million last month, as many donors were

unaware she faced any financial shortages.

The Clinton camp reports raising \$14 million in January, not including the senator's personal loan.

Despite reports that some of Clinton's senior staff members offered to give up pay for a month, her entire staff is receiving their full salaries, according to Campaign Chairman Terry McAuliffe. Her former campaign manager, Patti Solis Doyle, was replaced by Maggie Williams after experiencing three primary defeats and one caucus loss over the weekend.

More money has amounted to noticeably more advertisement for Clinton.

Since the \$10 million in additional funding, Clinton's campaign television advertisements began airing in Nebraska and Washington on Saturday, and in Maine on Sunday.



Presidential hopefuls Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have received millions in donations in the last few weeks.



Gabe Carmon - Contributing Photographer

Students for Barack Obama hopes to have hundreds of students canvassing Tuesday in the D.C. area.

Students, Local Residents Gear Up for Area PrimariesBY VANESSA ROZIER
Nation & World Editor

Washington, D.C. has been taken over by more than just the average number of political enthusiasts. With Tuesday's primary almost here, Washington, D.C. residents have been packing their calendars with volunteering events and ways to help their favorite candidate win.

This weekend, after seeing Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) win the majority of delegates from the three primaries and one caucus, his supporters flooded the sidewalks of Georgia Avenue holding "Honk for Obama" signs and wearing Obama shirts. Adams Morgan corners were occupied with residents passing out voting station reminders. In downtown Silver Spring, Md., a diverse crowd from older white women to younger black males sported Obama pins and stickers.

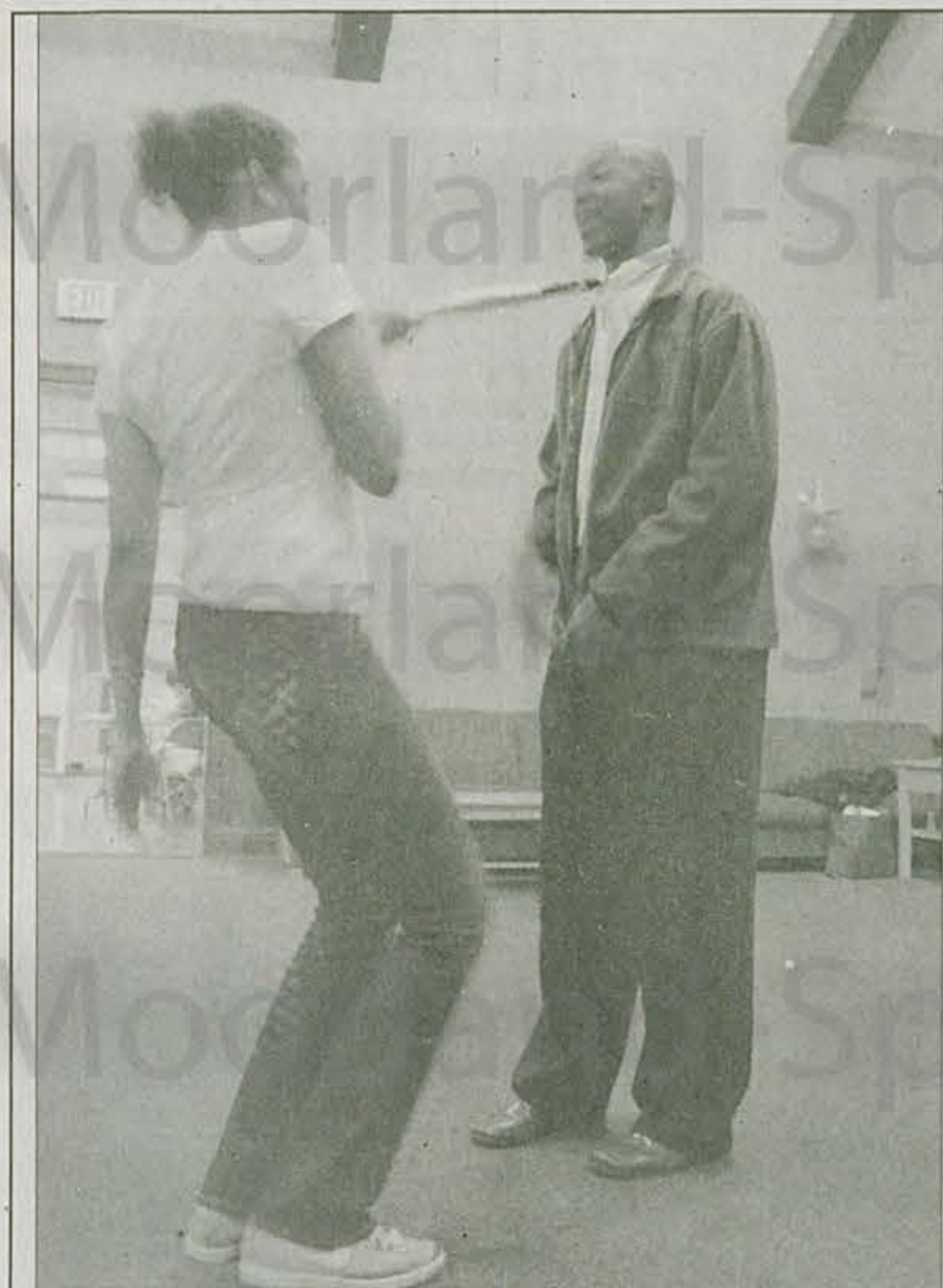
While Sen. Hillary Clinton's (D-N.Y.) campaign manager has stepped aside this past week-

end, Clinton fans in the District have continued garnering support and staying focused. Fans canvassed at Mt. Pleasant Park and in Woodbridge, Va. They traveled to Baltimore to hear former President Bill Clinton speak at a "Solutions for America" event and to Bowie, Md. to hear Hillary do the same.

Howard University students held a pizza party Sunday night for three hours to call the hundreds of students who expressed interest in volunteering for Obama support. Students are needed to rally in front of Cramton Auditorium Tuesday afternoon before canvassing throughout the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia area.

"We're trying to get ourselves motivated and motivate others," said Amal Marjani, a sophomore chemistry major and Students For Barack Obama co-chairperson. "All of our lives are intense, but it's so exciting to see people volunteering and that's very motivating. We can do this together."

Rappers Vie for Spot in MC Battle



Gabe Canyon - Contributing Photographer
Will Gant fends off advances from Dana Downs at the Lyrical Massacre auditions Friday in the Cook Hall lounge (left). Even the once-popular sexy tie pull is not enough to convince him. Students took the form of their rhymes as they battled for a spot to compete in the Lyrical Massacre freestyle battle on Feb. 22. Gant (right) auditions more formally in front of a panel of judges who will decide whether or not he advances and becomes eligible for a prize.

Chapel Recap

BY DIONNE L. VAUGHN
Contributing Writer

Chapel attendees were on their feet clapping, singing along and welcoming the Rev. Dr. John W. Kinney as he prepared to minister.

Kinney currently serves as dean for the School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Va. He has devoted himself to the pursuit of excellence in theological training and preparation and is known as a giant in theological education.

The School of Theology at Virginia Union University had benefited in more than just having him as a visionary leader. He has also developed a Doctor of Ministry Program, experienced proficient growth in the Master of Divinity Program and expanded the continuing education program to include national centers, which serve more than 9,000 lay and professional church leaders.

Kinney received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. and Virginia Union School of Theology in Richmond, Va., respectively. His Ph.D. was acquired in 1979 from Columbia University Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Kinney's sermon, "A Comeback Season," was adopted from his thoughts on the New York Giants' Super Bowl win last week. He read an article that said it was a comeback season and a comeback man, Giants quarterback Eli Manning, that resulted in the Giants win. He said we can have in our mind the outcome of the situation and in the last minute that can all change.

As Kinney entered his text, Judges 16:28-30, he told the story of Samson and Delilah. He focused on strength and knowing who gives us the power — God. He explained how Samson lied to Delilah in the beginning of their relationship when she asked him where his strength came from. Once he finally told

her that his strength came from his crown, she took what she knew was his power — his hair. In actuality, the hair was just the outward tangible symbol.

"When you surrender the symbol to someone other than God, you affect your outward ability," Kinney said.

Relating the biblical story to today's life, he said, "When people don't honor you or your God, the first thing they do is blind you. Then they use you. When you can't see your strength is gone and something else [not God] takes the center of your consent, you will have a bad tilt. You can be revolving around the right sun and miss the fullness of your blessing because you have a bad tilt."

He offered methods to obtain and keep power. He said the first one is to pray to the God who gives the power in the first place.

"I know we're at Howard, but I hope we never get so educated and too high and mighty to pray," Kinney said as the crowd cheered in agreement.

He said the second step is to understand that God remembers who we are and we don't have to remind him. When asking for forgiveness, he said, do so in celebrating the fact we are forgiven, not living in the memory of asking.

Lastly, he said, "You can't make a comeback when your victory kills folk."

People cannot think about walking in blessing if they are still trying to get even. It is when people try to get revenge that they give power to the person against whom they seek vengeance, and they begin defining us. Kinney said to work to get past trials, not even with them, because we have a comeback in view.

He ended by saying people want others to be weak so they can stay in power, but those who want to make a comeback speak to the one who gave the power, God, and seek not to get even and the tilt will be back on track.

78-Year-Old Student Works Toward Earning College Degree

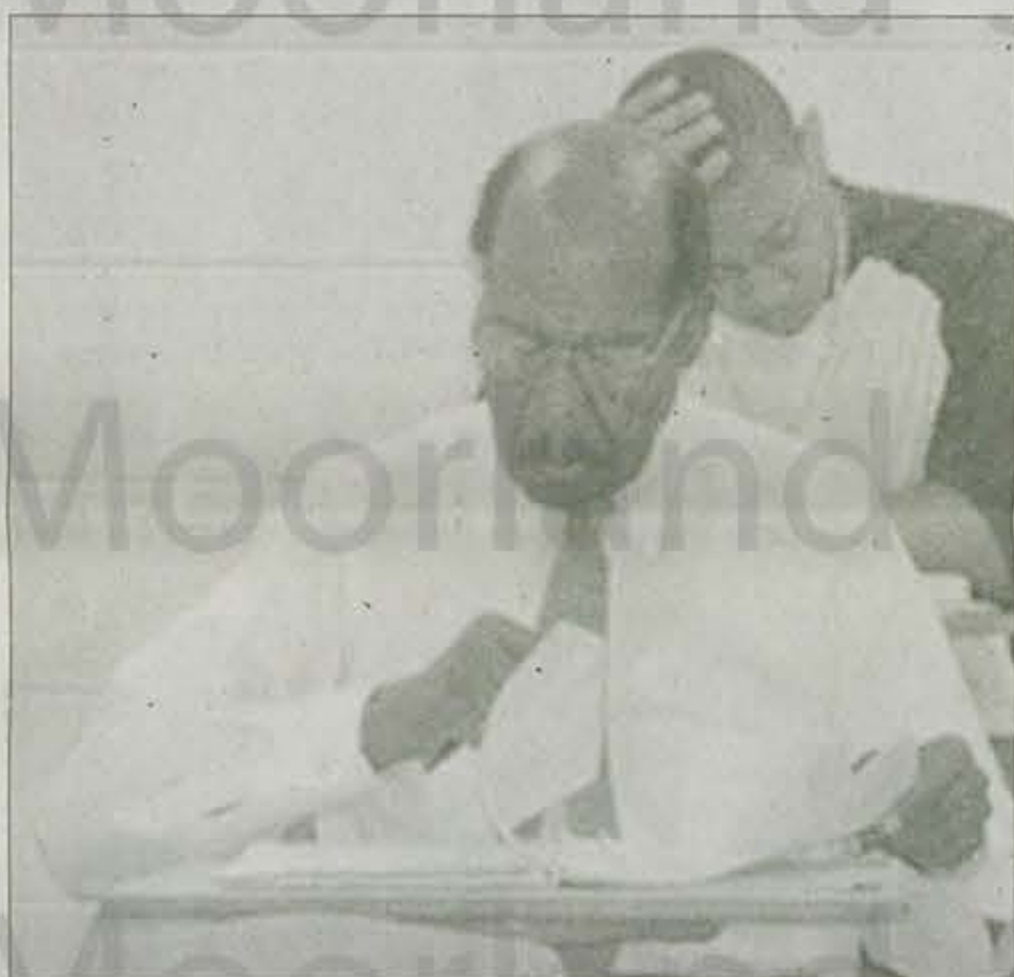


Photo courtesy of blackcollegewire.com
At 78, William Dodd is set to become one of Winston-Salem State University's oldest graduates. He is a junior elementary education major.

BY SHARROD PATTERSON
Black College Wire

In the fall of 2004, Charles William Dodd entered his first year of college at Winston-Salem State University. With him he carried his textbooks, a smile and years of experience — 75 years, to be exact.

Dodd was one of the oldest freshmen ever to enroll at WSSU, and he is on track to become one of its oldest graduates. Dodd is now a 78-year-old junior. He is an elementary education major and expects to graduate in spring 2009.

"The shortage of male teachers at the elementary school

level is what made me choose this major," he said. "Children should see more male images in school."

Dodd's connection to WSSU began long before he ever thought about attending the university.

Dodd was raised in Steelton, Pa., by his aunt Margaret H. Hunter and uncle William M. Dodd. Hunter attended Slater Normal School in the early 1920s.

"She attended when they still had log cabins," Dodd said jokingly. "My uncle was from nearby Stokes County and him and my aunt met here at WSSU."

Hunter played a special role in her nephew's life.

"Her influence was inevitable with her being a teacher," Dodd said. "She instilled in me the need to help. When I was in elementary school, it was more of a balance of male and female teachers, but now the shortage of male teachers is becoming a problem."

Dodd has been teaching Sunday school since he arrived in Winston-Salem in 2004, which has given him a chance to hone his skills.

"I tell the children to be humble no matter what people

may say or do to you, just be humble because it is all because of God," Dodd said.

Dodd said he neither expects nor receives any special treatment from his fellow students or professors.

"I mix and mingle, and I am not looked at as an oddity," he said. "Everyone is very courteous to me." He does command respect, however, and students always refer to him as "Mr. Dodd."

Ever since his freshman year, he has been striving to become the best student he could be, he said.

"I want to increase my writing skills, just become better at putting my thoughts on paper," Dodd said.

Dodd has picked up a few things while attending WSSU.

"I have learned that the computer is a great innovation and without knowledge of it, you will fall behind," he said.

Dodd said he has also learned a lot about the younger generation from his time around them.

"I have noticed that the students here are very aware of what's going on and have a good grasp on what they want to be," he said.



Alexthos L. Carter - Photo Editor
The Rev. Dr. John W. Kinney delivered a sermon about making a "comeback" in life. He said to focus on God, not on seeking revenge.

Candidates Ready to Campaign for Spots

HUSA

Caldwell, Christopher D. (P), Jones, Kimberly B. (VP)
George, Abimbola O. (P), Bright Tiffany (VP)
Owen, Nicholas (P), Moore, Kellen (VP)
Woods, Darrion M. (P), Thompson, Stefan (VP)

Undergraduate Trustee

Allen, Leea
Axson, Tylon
Dike, Sade J.
Hightower, Eyie M.
Kirby, Victoria
Lindsay, Joy
Williams, Edward

Graduate Trustee

Cheers, Imani
Cheng, Howard
Drake, Shea A.
Mukendi, Muteba
Perry, Danielle K.

College of Arts and Sciences

Anozie, Nnamdi (P), Hampton, Imoni (VP)
Smart, Bryan M. (P), Williams, Ashley P. (VP)

School of Business

Simmons, Calvin E. (P)
Smith, Asia M. (P)
Jones, Korene E. (VP)
Sherman, Travis (VP)

CEACS

Adike, Lucky (P)
Bumfield, Shanika (P)
Sadiq, Odubayo (P)
Baker, Brodrick (VP)
Spence, Kyle A. (VP)

School of Communications

Jones, Andrew B. (P), Owen, Lauren (VP)

School of Education

Blount, Keisha N. (P)
Islam, Abdul-Qadir D. (P)
Diljohn, Jenelle (VP)
Payne, Essence L. (VP)

CPNAHS

Ryan, Anissa L. (P)
Varner, Melissa (P)
Chappell, Brienna (VP)
Hamilton, Ashlee (VP)
Jones, Ashley C. (VP)

College of Dentistry

Reid, Armando (P)

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Cathey, Shameka N. (P)
Freeman, Christa (VP)
Khoapa, Sechaba (VP)

Graduate School of Business

Konadu, Edmund A. (P)
Desdunes, Sasha (VP)

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Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson reunite on the screen in 'Fool's Gold,' a romantic comedy centered around their quest to find the Queen's Dowry.

'Gold' Has a Few Flaws, Needs Polishing

BY SIMONE PRINGLE
Contributing Writer

Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey's on-screen chemistry is still as good as gold in their new romantic comedy. Debuting just in time for Valentine's Day, "Fool's Gold" is the perfect movie for the season.

Reunited after 2003's "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" for their second movie together, Hudson and McConaughey play a divorcing couple with a shared love for treasure hunting.

What brought them together is now a test to see if it's enough to rekindle the spark. As divorce settlements are finalized at the start of the movie, McConaughey's character Ben "Finn" Finnegan, spends the rest of the film trying to convince Hudson's "Tess" that there is more between them than a love of finding all that glitters under the sea, includ-

ing the Queen's Dowry.

Finding the Queen's Dowry, an estimated \$500 million worth of priceless Spanish gold and gems that was lost at sea in the 1700s, is their shared dream, left unfinished after eight years of marriage.

In comes Tess' boss, billionaire and yacht owner Nigel Honeycutt, played by actor Donald Sutherland. Seizing a golden opportunity, Finn rescues the hat of Nigel's daughter, Gemma, a Paris Hilton-like socialite, which gives him his way in.

From there, the four team up to find the Queen's Dowry, looking at old documents and rehashing old research.

From there, the movie carries on involving a rapper turned entrepreneur and a money-hungry mentor.

Audiences will enjoy the beautiful scene of Key West, Fla., which is a nice break from the gloom of the winter season.

The movie's music puts audiences there in a way that just seeing the islands does not.

Along with the beautiful scenery of Australia and good music accompanying the scenes, viewers can get a laugh out of almost every character. Many of Hudson and McConaughey's funny lines from the trailer are used, as well as many new punch lines.

Gemma, who plays a perfect "dumb blonde" trapped in a brunette's body, gives audiences quite a few laughs. Side characters played by actors Malcolm Jamal-Warner and Brian Hooks are humorous as Bigg Bunny's henchmen, who are constantly failing numerous attempts to kill Finn.

But just as all that glitters is not gold, the movie does have a few nicks and scrapes.

The beginning starts off very slow, leaving audiences wondering when the plot is going to tie together and thicken.

In an attempt to make up for this, once the plot does thicken, it shoots by at lightning-fast speed. Audiences might have a little trouble understanding what clues mean and how research connects.

Part of the problem surrounding Finn and Tess' excitement about finding the treasure is that they often use nautical, diving and treasure hunting terms, which should have been defined for the audience.

One scene in particular, where Tess and Finn are explaining to Nigel and Gemma what the Queen's Dowry is, proves to be quite confusing and hard to follow. Several scenes of this complexity follow, which makes this movie a candidate for a second viewing.

All in all, "Fool's Gold" is a gem worth its weight, with a few flaws.

Grade: B-

Taste of Howard: Nothing Like a Meal by Granny

BY JAMES GARRIS
Contributing Writer

Clifton Ballard II, a sophomore business management major from Chicago, thinks Washington, D.C. is missing something.

Since he has arrived at Howard, Ballard has noticed that the area lacks many of the entrees he is accustomed to eating and that it is very hard to find a delicious, healthy meal.

"After a while, you'll get tired of eating Ho Chi and McDonald's," Ballard said. "I need to eat something real, something with nutrition."

He constantly finds himself craving a home cooked meal and daydreaming at the thought of meals prepared by his mother and grandmother. From talking with his peers on campus, Ballard has realized that he is not alone. So in this week's "Taste of Howard," we will take a trip to King Drive in Southside Chicago.

"My Grandmother Rose Thompkins, better known as

'Granny Rose,' was raised in Chicago," Ballard said. "She has created a recipe for baked Cornish hens that has been passed down for generations and I feel that it is appropriate for me to share this recipe with the student body."

Cornish hen is easier to prepare than some think. The best part is that hen can be served with many side dishes, making it a very versatile meal.

The key to making baked Cornish hens is to marinate them for a day, before cooking, so that the flavor is dispersed throughout the hen. It is also important to watch them closely while they're cooking and baste often to assure that the hen is not dry when done.

For those who are health conscious, baked Cornish hens are a fairly healthy meal when compared to other traditional ways of cooking poultry, because they are baked instead of fried. Margarine can be used in place of butter to reduce calories and sugar-free marmalade can also be used.



After he grew tired of fast food, Clifton Ballard II called on his grandma for a new recipe. He says the key to preparation is to marinate them overnight.

GRANNY ROSE'S BAKED CORNISH HENS

8 Cornish hens
Salt & pepper
8 medium onions
3/4 c. butter
1/4 c. Kitchen Bouquet
1 (8 oz.) bottle orange marmalade

Clean and dry hens. Season inside and out with salt and pepper and refrigerate overnight. When ready to bake, insert a whole onion in the cavity of each hen and place in an open roasting pan, leaving space between them.

In a saucepan, place butter, Kitchen Bouquet and orange marmalade. Heat until butter is melted and mixture is blended. Spoon this over the hens and bake at 350 degrees until hens are tender, about 1 1/2 hours, basting often. If sauce cooks down before hens are done, add a little hot water to the pan to assure having sauce left to accompany the hens. If hens appear to be getting dry during baking, place foil loosely over pan to retard browning.

GRAMMY WINNERS

Rap Solo Performance: "Stronger," Kanye West

Rap Performance by a Duo or Group: "Southside," Common featuring Kanye West

Rap Song: "Good Life," Aldrin Davis, Mike Dean, Faheem Najm & Kanye West, songwriters (J. Ingram & Q. Jones, songwriters) (Kanye West featuring T-Pain)

R&B Song: "No One," Dirty Harry, Kerry Brothers & Alicia Keys, songwriters (Alicia Keys)

R&B Album: "Funk This," Chaka Khan

Contemporary R&B Album: "Because of You," Ne-Yo

Male R&B Vocal Performance: "Future Baby Mama," Prince

Female R&B Vocal Performance: "No One," Alicia Keys

R&B Performance by a Duo/Group With Vocals: "Disrespectful," Chaka Khan featuring Mary J. Blige

Best New Artist: Amy Winehouse

Song of the Year: "Rehab," Amy Winehouse

Best Rap Album: "Graduation," Kanye West

Record of the Year: "Rehab," Amy Winehouse

Album of the Year: "River: The Joni Letters," Herbie Hancock

For a complete listing, visit grammy.com

DRIVEN:
James Shields

BY LAURA PEREZ
Contributing Writer

Crouched over his sketchpad, a look of pure concentration subdues James Shields' usually outgoing demeanor.

"I use drawing to focus," Shields said. "Even in class, if I draw while I listen, it helps me to focus better."

Shields' drawings have done more than just help him focus in school. The senior marketing major has turned his favorite pastime into a business venture, becoming a graphic designer and co-founder of DayDreamer Clothing Company.

Born and raised in Stockton, Calif., Shields' interest in art began at an early age.

"I've been drawing since I was four," he said. "I didn't take it seriously until I got to high school, but I've always loved it."

Once at Howard, he began to put as much time into his art as to his studies. Being surrounded with other creative people helped him to develop his skills.

"I didn't do any graphic art until I came to Howard," Shields said. "First I got help from friends and online tutorials. Then I took a design for advertising class junior year. All of these things fueled my desire and increased my understanding."

In November 2006, Shields founded his company with friend and classmate Reggie Sarpong, a Howard alumnus. By March 2007, the two had copyrighted their company name and logo and released their first shirt.

Their first T-shirt design, entitled "Stop Cooning," featured the image of a

minstrel wearing a gold dollar sign chain with the title "Stop It" in large letters. The back of the shirt lists the dictionary definitions of "coon" as well as a short history on American minstrelsy.

"The images of black people in the media, particularly pop culture, are upsetting to me," Shields said. "The shirt uses the word's historical definition, which is black people portraying the ignorant images that whites thought were appropriate for blacks."

The reactions to the T-shirts have been mostly positive. Shields believes the shirts are an effective way to start a dialogue about the media's portrayals of African Americans.

"When I wear the shirt, people come up and ask me what it means. Those are opportunities for enlightening discussions," Shields said. "When people wear the shirt, they're able to pass the message along."

In addition to the "Stop Cooning" T-shirt, DayDreamer Clothing Company has designed two Malcolm X T-shirts, which were released around homecoming. The design duo plans to release a new line in April.

Until then, Shields is staying busy doing graphic design work independently.

"Since the release of our first shirt, I've been able to get a lot more work," he said. "I design logos, flyers, brochures and visual identities for companies."

The future looks bright for this Howard entrepreneur, who graduates in May.

"After I graduate, I plan on moving to New York and becoming a retail buyer," Shields said. "And I will of course continue with DayDream."

Congress Passes \$150 Billion Stimulus Package

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Editorial Assistant

Hints of recession have prompted the government to introduce a stimulus plan in order to put more money back into the economy.

Congress passed the \$150 billion stimulus package Thursday after a 380-34 House vote. President Bush is expected to sign this legislation quickly.

The stimulus plan will give tax rebates to individuals who filed taxes for 2007 and earned at least \$3,000. Approximately \$1,200 will be given to households, plus \$300 additionally per child.

The rebates will be allocated to individuals with incomes lower than \$75,000, who will receive almost \$600, and families with incomes lower than \$150,000.

"I feel as though this is a good plan to get the economy back on track," sophomore psychology major Steffon Peters said. "I know I can benefit from the money to help pay off some debt for Howard."

Additionally, the provisions to the bill will prevent undocumented immigrants from receiving tax rebates. Business investment taxes would be cut by \$44 billion for one year, as well. The rebates will be distributed tentatively in May based off of taxpayer's tax returns.

"This is a crucial part of our job's agenda for America," Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said in a statement. "It will help get our economy back on track and help

families who are struggling with the high cost of energy, housing, health care and groceries. Because of our actions, more than 100 million families, seniors and veterans in America will receive recovery rebates."

Despite these economic issues, many problems still surround the sub-prime mortgage crisis. To address this issue, the stimulus plan will increase the limit on Federal Housing Administration loans to almost \$729,750.

The increase will allow mortgage holders to refinance their loans into federally insured loans. The plan will also attempt to increase the availability of mortgages across the country.

"We will continue fighting to help those who have lost their jobs in the Bush economy," Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said in a press release. "[We will] help small businesses suffering in a looming recession, help American families pay their heating bills as energy prices rise and help American families avoid foreclosure amid a national housing crisis."

The bill is still under some scrutiny, though, while Democrats have pushed for a proposal to increase unemployment benefits, which include raising food stamp payments.

Furthermore, though the tax rebates will benefit many families and help stimulate the economy, students may have a hard time profiting from it. Those who work on campus or who do not work at

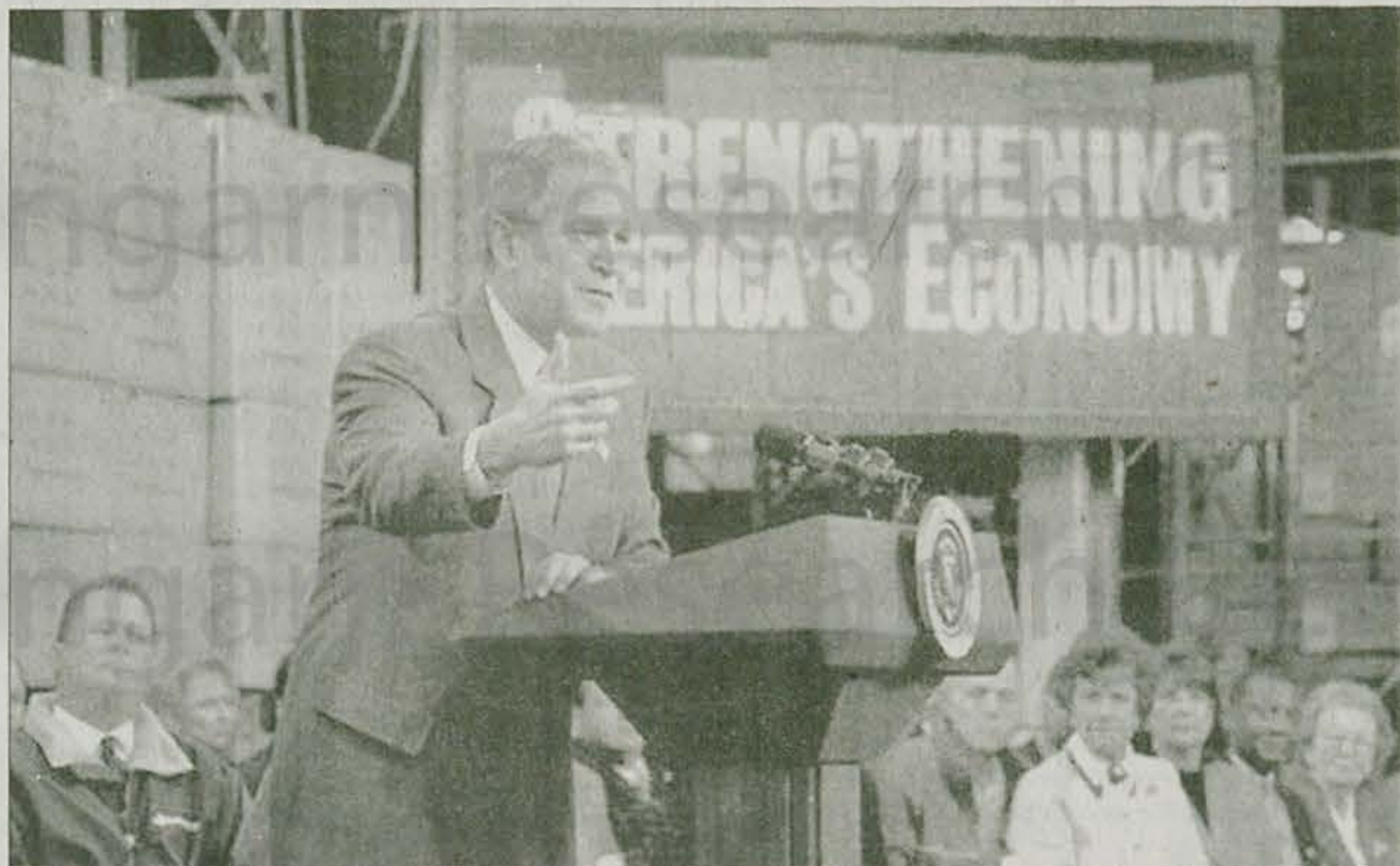


Photo Courtesy of whitehouse.gov

Congress passed a \$150 billion stimulus package in order to assist the public in the midst of a weakened economy. Tax rebates will be allotted to people who filed taxes for 2007 and whose income is within a specific range. President Bush is expected to sign the legislation quickly.

all have accumulated an income less than \$3,000, making them ineligible to receive the rebate. However, the rebate will hopefully put an end to a dreaded recession.

"I believe that [the stimulus plan]

is potentially a good way to solve a huge problem," Julius Jenkins, a senior psychology and Spanish double major. Julius Jenkins, said one of the many students on campus who may be ineligible for the rebate.

"However, I question whether these efforts will truly yield a sufficient turnaround for our economy. And should I benefit from the rebate anyway if I'm not technically a part of the work force?"

You Should Know...

Public Believes U.S. is in Recession

- According to the Associated Press, 61 percent of the public believes the economy is now suffering through its first recession since 2001. President Bush countered with his statement that the United States is not in a recession, although he acknowledged that "the signs are troubling enough." The Federal Reserve has been on a rate-cutting campaign since September in the hopes that "the lower rates will induce people to buy more and revive the economy."

Yahoo Says 'No' to Microsoft Deal

- The Wall Street Journal reports that Yahoo! Plans to reject Microsoft's \$44.6 billion offer. Yahoo! has determined that Microsoft's \$31 per share offer is "massively" undervalued and is unlikely to accept any offer below \$40 per share. Yahoo! further believes that Microsoft is attempting to take advantage of the company's "recent weakness in share price" in order to "steal" the company."

Writers Guild of America Strike Close to Resolution

- On Sunday, the Writers Guild of America moved toward a resolution for its three-month strike. Meetings are scheduled to be held Tuesday in New York and Los Angeles to allow writers to determine if a "speedy end" will be possible. The Associated Press reports that "the tentative contract secures writers a share of the digital-media market," as well as "compensation for Internet-delivered TV shows and movies."

Timbaland and Verizon Wireless collaborate on 'Mobile Album'

- Hip-hop producer Timbaland and Verizon Wireless have announced a deal where they will collaborate on making the first "mobile album," which will be available to subscribers of Verizon's mobile entertainment service, V Cast. Timbaland will produce one song per month with a different artist while touring the United States on the Verizon Mobile Recording Studio Bus.

Virtual Internships Give Students More Flexibility

BY TATENDA GUMBO
Contributing Writer

Internships are essential to the professional growth of students since they allow students to gain practical experience in an occupation.

But scheduling an internship around coursework and a part-time job can prove to be a hassle. Students are readily connected with the World Wide Web and are technologically savvy. Virtual internships allow for flexibility in terms of the student's lifestyle and for expansion in work experience.

"As a telecommunications management major, a virtual internship would be a new experience," sophomore Acecia Thomas-Baker said. "Most things are technological, and it's beneficial as technology advances and this would be very convenient [for students]."

Virtual internships welcome students in a range of fields. Media companies have found a strong gateway for virtual internships and provide opportunities for writ-

ers, journalists, researchers, net marketers and graphic designers. Students who major in computer sciences can also find these internships to be an option.

In virtual internships, interns communicate and collaborate via an online workspace or e-mails. The location of the intern has no bounds because students telecommute. Students are also able to avoid the cost of travel or living expenses.

"If I wanted to get a job in another state but I could not accommodate housing, I still would be able to do the internship," Thomas-Baker said.

According to the College Journal, considering a virtual internship takes much thought. Students should outline the goals of a virtual internship before accepting it. Some jobs are more suited to telecommuting than others.

A job that requires collaboration with several members of a team might not work as well when removed from an office setting. The lack of in-office interaction makes this option less desirable for students looking to gain experience

in the workplace.

"I would take a more traditional internship because of my major," said Faith Alexander, a sophomore sociology major. "In the field of sociology, human interaction is needed, and a traditional internship would be better suited."

Students who take on virtual internships should be motivated to work alone. The experience also can help students decide whether they would like to work on their own full time. For some students, interacting with others makes internships more fulfilling.

"I would probably not take a virtual internship because I want to have more interaction with people and I cannot do that over the computer," Alexander said.

Many companies recruit students for virtual internships, despite some cons. Students picking a virtual internship should consider how these internships will help them in their careers. With technology evolving, students in all fields might find themselves able to engage in a virtual internship and take advantage of telecommuting.

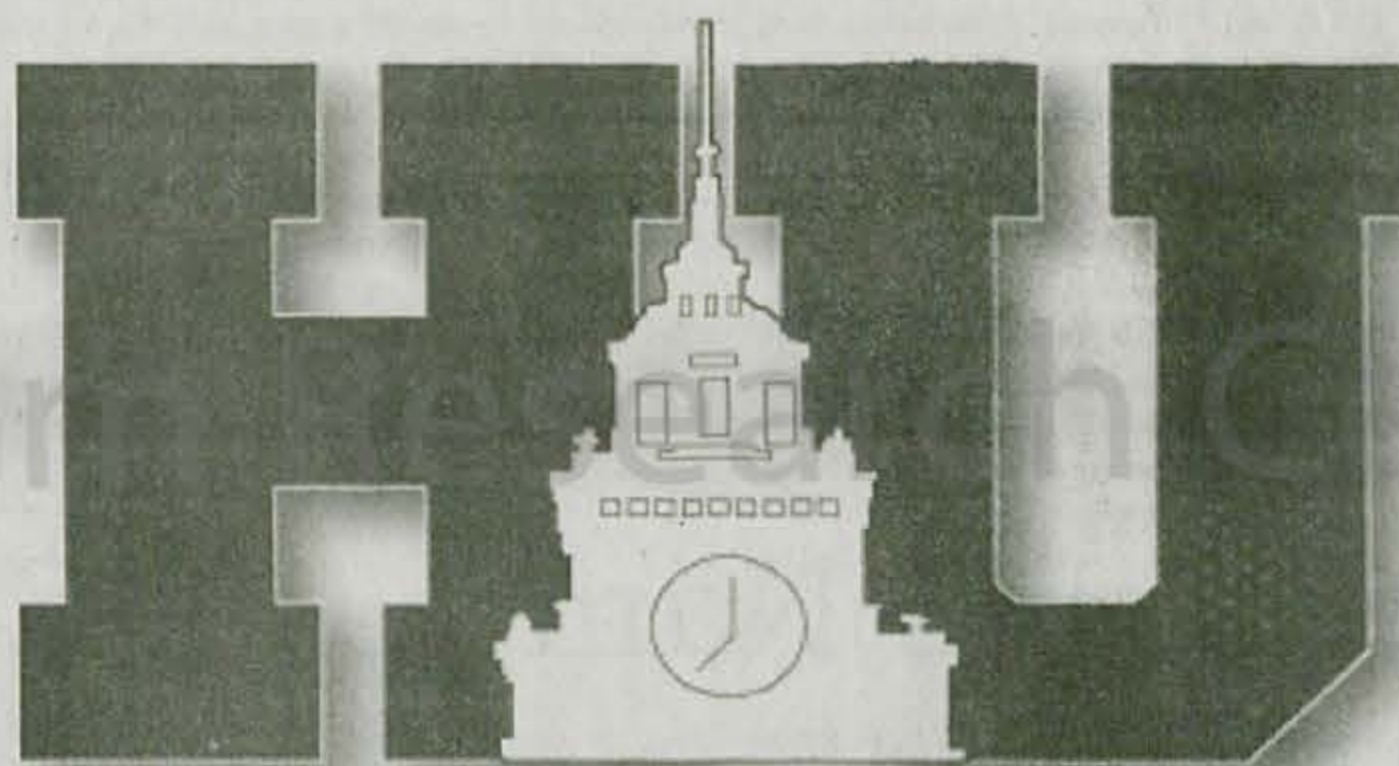


File Photo

Virtual internships give students more flexibility in their lifestyle, allowing them to avoid travel and living expenses.

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NOW HIRING FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR!



Applications are available & are due back in the Office of Student Activities* on February 15, 2008 by 2pm.

*The Office of Student Activities is located in the Blackburn Center Suite 117.

Landria 'Speedi' Buckley Hurdles Way to Top of MEAC

BY OLIVIA EVERSON
Contributing Writer

"My best friend from home just though it was cuter with an 'I' instead of a 'Y,'" Landria Buckley said of her nickname, "Speedi."

"Everyone [on the track team] got nicknames," she said. "It describes my athleticism."

Buckley's track career jumped off in seventh grade. Now she is jumping over 33-inch hurdles in the 60 meters and ranks third in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

"I had a talent," Buckley said, recalling racing the boys in her neighborhood while her brother bet on her to win money.

Her mother, Priscilla Jordan, said, "I knew she had talent in elementary school. She used to do field day and would beat everyone." However, at the time, Jordan did not realize her daughter's true potential. She thought Buckley just enjoyed running.

Buckley's motivation stems from her supportive mother, who she calls the "definition of a track mom." Her mother supported her from the beginning, driving her all across the United States from New Orleans to California.

"I knew everyone's time and drove around everywhere," Jordan said. "I pushed her. This is something she wanted to do. I backed her 110 percent."

Buckley's father supported her as well, saying things like "You can beat

these girls. They're no better than you."

Ironically, Buckley's mother didn't want her to run hurdles at first.

"I thought she was clumsy," Jordan chuckled. She was worried her daughter would get injured, too. Jordan said Buckley and her coach used "sneaky tactics" to keep her from knowing that Buckley was participating in hurdles.

Jordan recalled being at a meet when they called runners for the 100-meter hurdles.

She saw her daughter go to the blocks and began to say, "No, no, no." She thought it was a mix-up, but Buckley won the race.

"Her passion is hurdles," Jordan said.

Buckley's success has taken her to four personal records (PR). In her main event, 60 meter hurdles, Buckley's PR is 8.48 seconds. It is 54.9 seconds in the indoor 4x4, 24.8 seconds in the 200 meters and 13.55 seconds in the 100 meter hurdles.

In addition, she still holds four records at Romulus High school in Michigan.

"Her ritual before a race consists of warming up lightly and playing around with teammates. However, once she is on the blocks, it's time to be serious."

"[I] focus in on everything [I] need to work on in a race," she said. "The things you work on at practice."

Buckley still gets nervous before races. There is "a sea of hurdles," she said.

"I pray that nothing bad happens

and kiss the sky hoping for protection," she said. Hurdles are a demanding event. If fatigue or nerves take over, injuries or a hard fall could result.

Buckley commented on Marion Jones' use of steroids, saying, "The track world is very demanding. If you don't win, you don't get money. It's one of the most demanding sports." However, she believes Jones could have been successful without steroid use.

Buckley looks up to Allyson Felix, who is a sprinter. Felix won a silver medal at the 2004 Olympics in Athens in the 200 meters. "She's so fast off natural talent," Buckley said.

Buckley is driven and has passion for track and field. "I hope to place in the Olympics at least by 2012," she said. "This year go to trials."

Jordan said her daughter has an "I know what I want. I'm gonna get it" attitude. Buckley is very competitive and is often times hard on herself. "Her personality is a diamond," Jordan said. "She wants to shine. She wants to be polished. She really wants to go to the Olympics."

Buckley received the MVP award for women's track and field last year as a freshman. In addition, she placed second in the MEAC conference last year.

Buckley will compete in the MEAC championships Feb. 15 and 16 at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover, Md. The events kick off Friday at 9 a.m.

"Last year I didn't do too well," Buckley said. "This year I hope to at least place if not win."

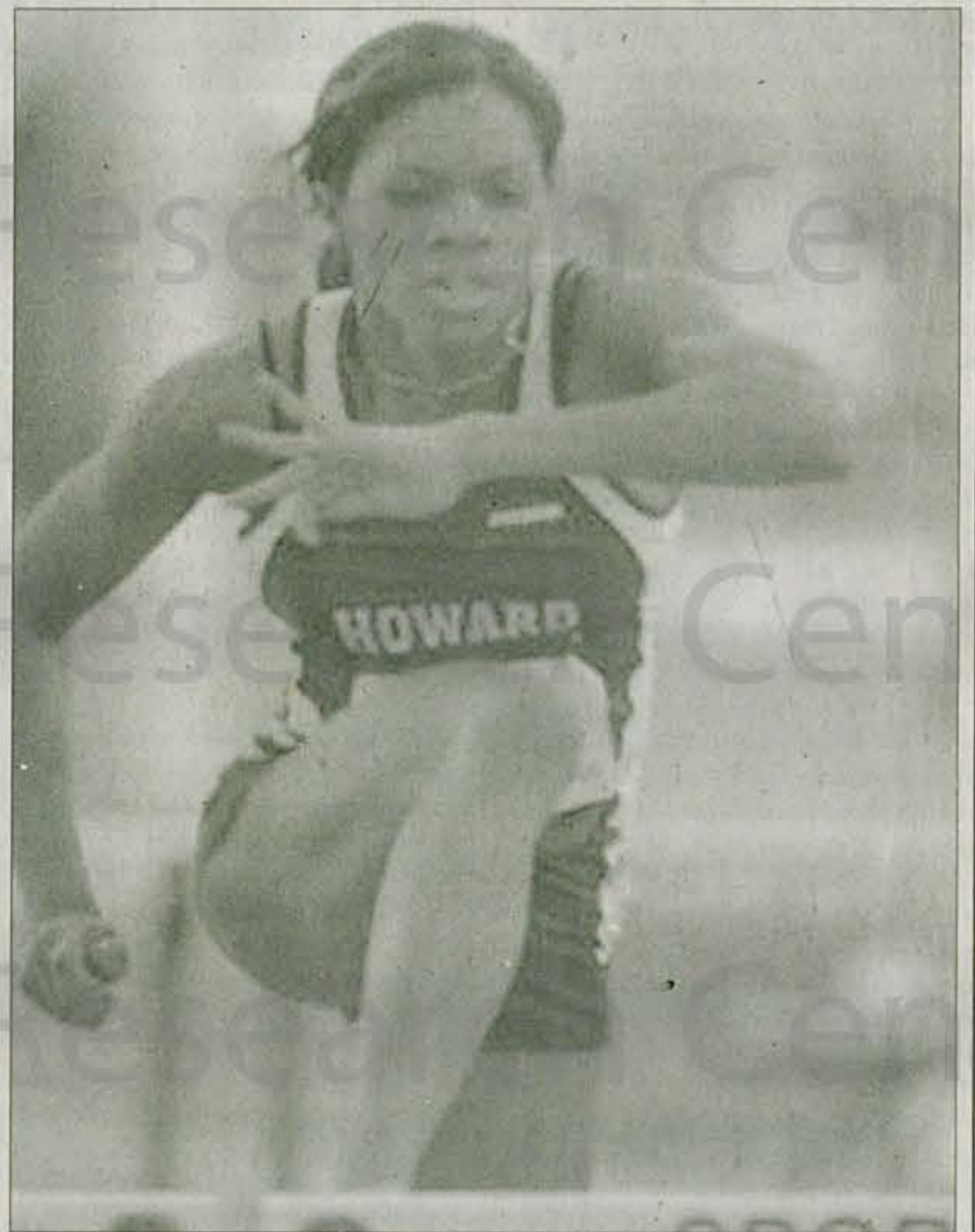


Photo Courtesy of All Pro Photo

Landria 'Speedi' Buckley is currently ranked third in the MEAC conference for the 60-meter hurdles and hopes to place in the championship this weekend.



Photo Courtesy of All Pro Photo

Curtis White helped the Bison stay close to the Hawks. He put up four three-pointers in the final minutes.

Bison Lose Third Straight

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. — Marc Davis scored 14 of his game-high 20 points in the second half, including seven in the last two minutes, to lift Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to a 59-56 win over Howard University in a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference game at the William P. Hytche Center Saturday.

The Bison (5-18 overall, 2-7 in the MEAC) appeared to be in good shape at the beginning of the game when they took a 25-14 lead.

But the Hawks closed with a 10-0 run during the last 3:28 of the second half to trail only 25-24 at intermission. The start of the second half turned into a seesaw battle with neither team

being able to take control. Davis and Ed Tyson then combined to score key points that helped the Hawks (3-21 overall, 1-8 in the MEAC) take their biggest lead at 48-39 with 3:05 remaining.

Howard rallied behind Eugene Myatt, Curtis White and Anthony Thomas to stay within striking distance. Davis made sure his team would not squander the opportunity as he converted on eight of nine from the free-throw line in the second half.

Myatt, who was shackled with foul trouble, led the Bison with 16, 10 coming in the second half. White tallied 12 of his season-high 15, all on three-point baskets in the final 20 minutes.

Thomas, a freshman for-

ward, started in place of injured Randy Hampton and had with 6 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists.

Tyson, the MEAC's leading scorer at over 19 points per game, contributed 18 for UMES, which won its first conference game of the season and snapped a 12-game losing streak.

Howard will try to snap its three-game skid when it travels to Dover, Del. to take on the Hornets of Delaware State at 7:30 p.m. on Monday while the Hawks will try to extend their streak to two games as they host Hampton University.

-Courtesy of Sports Information



Photo Courtesy of All Pro Photo

Howard's women's basketball team lost to University of Maryland Eastern Shore Saturday. MEAC play continues today in Dover, Del.

Lady Bison Fall to Hawks

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. — Zykia Brown scored a career-high 19 points and Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) survived 66 points by the Bison in the second half as the Hawks defeated Howard 105-87 in MEAC action on Saturday in the Hytche Center.

Howard (2-19, 2-7 MEAC) outscored UMES 66-51 in the second period and made a game out of it after cutting a 41-point Hawk lead down to 24 during a three-minute span, forcing a UMES timeout at 7:44.

Three consecutive three-pointers by the Hawks pushed the lead to 31 at 6:31. Howard outscored UMES 22-9 over the final six minutes and outscored the Hawks' bench 44-11 in the second stanza.

Brown scored 16 of her 19 in the second period. Shannon Carlisle added 19, while Asha Santee and Lonice Kenley chipped in 17 and 13, respectively.

Maryland Eastern Shore got a game-high 24 points from Tiffany Reid. April McBride finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds and Kristi Veltkamp chipped in 16 points and nine boards. Freshmen Josephine McLane and Casey Morton added 16 and 12, respectively.

Howard continues MEAC play today with a matchup against the Hornets of Delaware State in Dover, Del.

- Courtesy of Sports Information

Redskins Name Jim Zorn as New Head Coach

BY DEONTAY MORRIS
Editorial Assistant

The Washington Redskins have ended their month-long search to replace former head coach Joe Gibbs. On Saturday, the Redskins named Jim Zorn the new head coach.

"Jim's track record and reputation as a player, great teacher and as a coach makes us confident that they will translate to success for the Redskins," Redskins owner Dan Snyder said.

After coming out of retirement in 2004, expectations for Gibbs were extremely high because of all the success he had in the past. In his four years as head coach, the Redskins made the playoffs twice. On Jan. 8, Gibbs resigned as head coach after a playoff loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

"Joe Gibbs was an alright coach,"

freshman broadcast journalism major Rodney Hawkins said. "However, he had four years to win the Super Bowl, and the Redskins never really came close."

Two days after Gibbs' resignation, the head coach search began. The search involved many big name candidates, such as Jim Fassel, former head coach of the New York Giants and offensive coordinator for the Baltimore Ravens; former Detroit Lions head coach Steve Mariucci and Ron Meeks, defensive coordinator for the Indianapolis Colts.

This will be the first head coaching job for Zorn. This offseason he was originally hired as offensive coordinator for the Redskins to replace Al Saunders. Two weeks later, he received another promotion and became head coach.

Before the Redskins hired Zorn, he was the quarterbacks coach for the Seattle Seahawks for seven years. He also held the same position for the Detroit Li-

ons. Zorn held jobs in the college coaching ranks for Boise State, Utah State and Minnesota.

Zorn went against Snyder's track record on coaching hires. His last three coaching hires were high profile coaches. However, none of those coaches have been able to lead the Redskins to the Super Bowl.

Zorn is given credit for developing Seattle Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck into the Pro Bowl player he is today. Many Redskins fans are hoping he can do the same for Jason Campbell. He is also expected to revamp the Redskins offense, which vastly underachieved this season.

"I'm just glad the coaching search is finally over," freshman sports management major Daryl Kemp said. "Hopefully, the new coach will help bring the Redskins the Super Bowl championship."

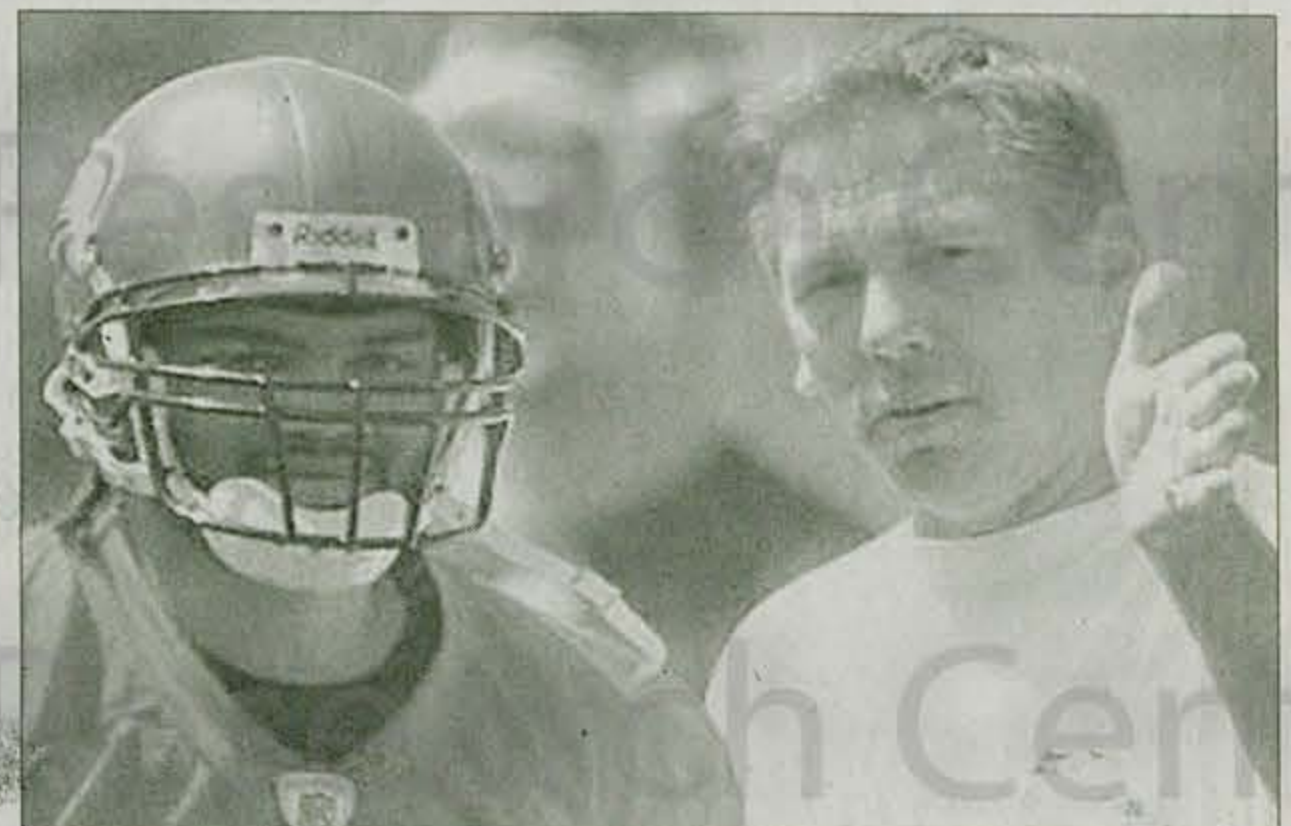


Photo Courtesy of seahawks.com

Jim Zorn, the former quarterback coach of the Seattle Seahawks, has been named head coach of the Washington Redskins. He replaces Joe Gibbs who retired early this year.



Photo Courtesy of hip-hop popculture.com

Red Carpet Fashion Off Key

Rapper Nas and his wife Kelis took to the red carpet last night at the 2008 Grammy Awards show in what is sure to be one of the most controversial and politically incorrect fashion statements this year — and possibly ever.

Nas wore a shirt with the word “n*gg*r” screen printed across the front, while Kelis wore a coat with the same word printed across the back in a reflective gold material for the whole world to see.

There is a line between shock value and gratuitous obscenity, and both artists may have crossed that line last night without realizing it.

Hip-hop fans most likely know that Nas’ upcoming album is set to be titled “Nigger” and was originally scheduled to be released on Dec. 11. The album was then pushed back amid rumors of resistance by L.A. Reid of Def Jam Records and was set to be released in February — just in time for Black History Month celebrations across the country.

Nas told MTV that by choosing that specific word for his next album, he is taking power away from the derogatory term since, in his opinion, racism is at its peak now.

The problem is, not everyone watching the Grammys last night would call themselves

hip-hop fans. Not everyone knows the context in which Nas and Kelis were making those bold and obscene fashion statements.

What Nas and Kelis did last night, and what Nas plans to do by titling his next album in such a derogatory manner, is an individual artistic statement but can be seen as a cheap or tactless one because of his approach and blatant lack of concern for those who addressed the same issues concerning the N-word in

less uncomfortable. But at the same time, some may believe Nas and Kelis’ choice of clothing last night was nothing more than a cheap plug for an album that is still yet to be released.

It may be true that Nas is attempting to make a point in taking the N-word and forcing it into mainstream media, not only with the name of his upcoming album, but by showing up on a red carpet wearing the word across his chest. However, his method of drawing attention to the word and the issues that are still paired with it leaves room for interpretation. And leaving room for interpretation leaves even more room for misunderstanding by blacks and whites

Our View:
Nas’ attempt at social commentary was in bad taste.

previous years.

No, the NAACP’s attempt in symbolically burying the word for good was not the best way of addressing the issues concerning the N-word itself. However, parading the word down the red carpet at the Grammys was an equally bad decision and could prove to do even less to actually address any of the issues the word’s use continues to stir up.

Of course, Nas’ fans could argue that the two were making a point artistically by forcing people to see the word and hear what they had to say about it, thus making the situation a little

alike.

Leaving room for misunderstanding is something Nas should have avoided in the first place knowing that the red carpet is not a place where social issues are usually hashed out.

Either way, Nas has gotten the attention of the media and hip-hop fans. Unfortunately, he has also gained the attention of hip-hop foes. Now the question is, with all the attention Nas has gained for plans on his next album and for his choice of fashion last night, what does he plan to do with it to make it all worth it? Only time will tell.

Daily Sudoku

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

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

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?
Come to our next budget meeting
MONDAY @ 7P.M.
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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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Email Joy Lindsay at joylindsay@gmail.com
Include name, classification, and t-shirt size.
"Discover the *Truth* with Joy Lindsay as your future Undergraduate Trustee"

This Week in HUSA:
February 11, 2008 One Block at a Time Volunteer Meeting in Douglass 116 @ 6:00pm
February 12, 2008 Seminar with DC Housing Finance Agency @ 7pm
February 16, 2008 One Block at a Time Community Service @ 9:30am

Congratulations Phi Sigma Pi AT Chapter & Endowment Fund, Inc.
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The Children's Defense Fund Youth Initiative
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The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. invite you to join us for our

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Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 7:00pm in the Blackburn Digital Auditorium

Golden Key Valentines Day Fundraiser Feb 8, 11 - 14 @ 10am - 4pm in Lower Blackburn
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