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WEATHER

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Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 88

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Monday, February 25, 2008

Monday Notebook**BREAKING NEWS**

FORMER GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE RALPH NADER ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT AS AN INDEPENDENT, ACCORDING TO CNN.

SPORTS

THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS LOST TO THE MORGAN STATE BEARS IN MATCHUPS ON SATURDAY.

LIFE & STYLE

FIND OUT WHY HOWARD GRADUATE KISHA SHORTER GAVE UP A SIX-FIGURE SALARY TO WORK AT THE 9:30 CLUB.

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CBC to Discuss Youth, Evolution of Black Politics

BY ALEESA MANN
Staff Writer

Students will have the opportunity to present issues that affect their community to members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) today during a town hall meeting called "What's At Stake in '08" at 7:30 p.m. in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.

Keynote speakers for the meeting include Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.) and Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.).

"The meeting serves a dual purpose," said Keiana Barrett, communications director for the CBC. "It will help us honor Black History Month, in particular within the caucuses to allow members of the CBC to talk about the history of its founding in the early 1970s, what the nation's political cli-

mate was like in those days and how it has evolved. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke will also talk about the role of emerging young leaders in the CBC."

In the second half of the program, students from the economics and history departments and the College Democrats will talk with the CBC about the role of young people in today's world.

"We want to allow Howard students an opportunity to pose poignant questions to the CBC and get feedback," Barrett said. "Then we hope to have some time to open up the meeting to Q&A for students in the audience to further dialogue between CBC members and their leaders."

The town hall meeting is just one in a series of events the CBC is hosting in hopes of creating dialogue between young leaders and elected officials. The CBC has hosted other events, including a forum in which a few students were able to pose

their own questions to presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

"When the chair of the CBC [Carolyn] Kilpatrick led the caucus last year, one of her main charges was to engage young leaders," Barrett said. "Today's event is part of a series of events we have had with young people across the globe."

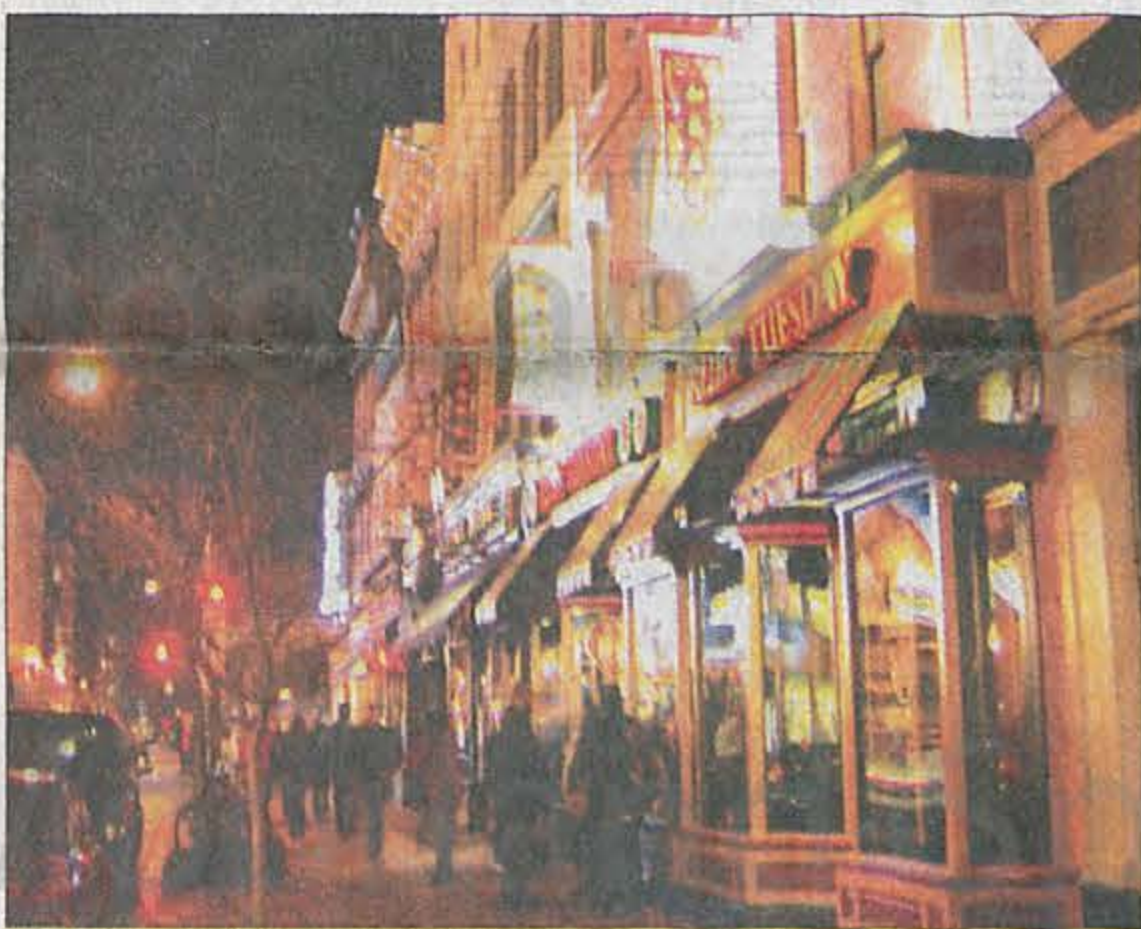
The town hall meeting will further the CBC's mission of providing leadership opportunities and promoting civic engagement for young people of color.

"We want them to have an enhanced awareness of the CBC and, in this moment in history, young people have a monumental opportunity to ensure that the America in which we live in will be more united and stronger and work towards building a more perfect union by having young leaders engaged in the process," Barrett said.

Barrett said hopes are that with a steady method of two-way communication, students and elected officials will no longer feel disconnected. The CBC was established with 13 members in 1969. The primary goal was to unite black congressional leaders and help them develop political influence and visibility as they addressed the legislative issues faced by blacks and minorities. Over the years, the organization has seen a growth in membership.

"The 110th Congress is unique for many reasons but, as it relates to the African-American community, in leadership we have the majority whip, the third ranking member in the House of Representatives, we have four full committee chairs, and we have 17 subcommittee chairs," Barrett said. "The CBC has pronounced power in today's government, and they want to be engaged with our young leaders."

Applicants Object to Ruby Tuesday Hiring Policy



Sophomore Grace Salvant was told she would have to remove her braids in order to work at Ruby Tuesday. A company official said it was a misunderstanding of the hiring policy.

BY PHILLIP LUCAS
Contributing Writer

For sophomore public relations major, Grace Salvant, it was business as usual when she walked into Ruby Tuesday on 7th Street in downtown Washington, D.C. As a freshman, Salvant worked at the restaurant from January

through March but left on good terms because of a heavy course load and demanding extracurricular activities.

Upon returning, she took note of a pronounced and seemingly positive change in the character of the restaurant itself. She was aware that the company planned to upgrade restaurants, but left that day feeling as if the com-

pany planned to upgrade the people working in them as well.

Salvant spoke with the hiring manager and handed him her application. The manager reviewed it and told her the restaurant was aggressively seeking new hires. This sounded like good news to Salvant who plans on staying in Washington, D.C. this summer instead of returning to New York.

The manager told Salvant in order to be rehired to her former position, she would be required to take her braids out. He said it was company policy and that he himself had no problem with her braids, since he parted with his dreadlocks to keep his job.

She thought the manager could have possibly been referring to hair extensions and asked if she could braid or twist her own hair instead and was told no. When Salvant asked how soon she would be rehired if she took her braids out, she got the impression from the manager that the process would be done almost immediately.

Salvant was taken aback and was lost for words. She said after her encounter with the hiring manager, she became emotional, upset and cried on the way home.

Salvant called her mother in

> See RUBY TUESDAY, Page 2

And The Winner is...



Photo Courtesy of movies.beloblog.oscars

The 80th Annual Academy Awards aired on ABC last night following a season in which many awards programs were threatened due to the recent writers' strike.

The show was speckled with montages of Oscar ceremonies gone by, including a portion of the acceptance speech delivered by Halle Berry after receiving the award for Best Actress in 2001. Among the presenters were Jessica Alba, Katherine Heigl, Colin Ferrell and Jennifer Hudson. Some of the nominated musical selections were performed. "Raise It" from "August Rush," was performed by an all black ensemble by singer and actress Jamia Simone Nash and the Impact Repertory Theater of Harlem.

Without further ado, the winners are...

Best Actor in a Leading Role - **Daniel Day-Lewis** "There Will Be Blood"
Best Actor in a Supporting Role - **Javier Bardem** "No Country for Old Men"
Best Actress in a Leading Role - **Marion Cotillard** "La Vie En Rose"
Best Actress in a Supporting Role - **Tilda Swinton** "Michael Clayton"
Best Animated Feature Film - **"Ratatouille"**
Best Original Screen Play - **"Juno"** - Written by Diablo Cody
Best Motion Picture - **"No Country for Old Men"**

Compiled by Danielle Kwateng, Life & Style Editor

ELI Institute Celebrates National Entrepreneurship Week

BY BRITTANY HUTSON
Business & Technology Editor

This week, Howard University's Institute for Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Innovation (ELI) will partner with the National Foundation for the Teaching of Entrepreneurship as a co-leader representing Washington, D.C. to celebrate the second annual National Entrepreneurship Week.

The celebration will promote entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurs in all the networking, publicity, events, policy and support that will be offered during the week. It is in response to the U.S. House of Representatives Resolution 699, made in 2006, advocating an annual week in support of American entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship education.

"The ELI Institute and Howard are excited to be a part of Entrepreneurship Week and partnering with so many educators, institutes and organizations everywhere as we celebrate the spirit of National Entrepreneur-

ship Week," ELI Executive Director Johnetta Boseman Hardy said.

Some of ELI's partners for the week will consist of the National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education, the Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science and G.E. Peters Middle School. Student organizations that will be participating in entrepreneurship week include the Howard University Entrepreneurial Society (HUES); the California Student Club; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Alpha chapter; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Alpha chapter and the African Students Association. In addition, black marketplace students will partner with area high school students to discuss business development.

Hardy said, "During this week, we are hoping to motivate and inspire students in the spirit of entrepreneurship. We want our students to learn how they can make a difference and add value to what they are doing and plan to do."

She added, "We hope that

everyone will come out and join us in this phenomenal celebration."

The celebration will kick

off today at 10 a.m. with the first event hosted by the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour Bus — the first ever national collegiate en-

trepreneur tour — at the School of Business auditorium.

Sheena Lindahl, co-founder of Extreme Entrepreneurship Education and one of Business Week's top 25 entrepreneurs under 25, said, "We are really excited about visiting Howard on the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour. Our goal is to really inspire students with the stories of what people have accomplished at a young age."

Founded in the fall of 2006, the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour Bus travels to college campuses across the country to bring top young entrepreneurs to inspire students about learning how to start and run their own businesses.

Lindahl said, "We're trying to get the message out that students should start taking action on their dreams now while they're in college, even though it seems they may have a lot going on. [College] is one of the best times you can take risks in life."

Senior television production major and HUES President Andrea Talley expressed her



Photo Courtesy of Eldridge Allen

Black marketplace students will discuss business development at area high schools as a part of the second annual National Entrepreneurship Week.



Salvant has over 500 signatures in her petition against Ruby Tuesday's policy on hair styles. She has taken her issue to campus and national organizations.

Bison Gets to the Root of Restaurant Policy

continued from FRONT, RUBY

Brooklyn, N.Y., who suggested she call the corporate office based in Maryville, Tenn., for clarification of the seemingly unfair policy.

Salvant said she called Ruby Tuesday corporate headquarters on Feb. 11.

"I spoke with one man, his name is Michael LaCasse, and I told him that as an African-American woman, I'm highly offended," Salvant said.

According to Salvant, LaCasse told her it was not a "race thing" and that the company was simply trying to reorganize its image.

"This policy is a little out of order," Salvant said. "It's out of pocket." She added that LaCasse then told her that someone would be in touch. No one called her back.

Two days later, Salvant called the corporate office back. "And he pretty much told on himself," Salvant said. "He was like, 'Oh, I apologize for not getting back in touch with you. I contacted the general manager of the restaurant that you applied at, and he said everything was handled appropriately.' And I'm thinking in my head, maybe you didn't hear me. It wasn't the appropriateness of the situation. It was the policy itself. The appropriateness of the policy itself, it's ridiculous."

She asked if a written copy of the company policy was available but was told the policy is only available to employees and she could not receive it.

Unaware of the written content of the policy and the specific hairstyles that were mentioned in it, Salvant wondered, "If the policy is not about race, what is it about?"

She said if the company is aiming for a more upscale look and seeks to exclude workers with ethnic hairstyles, the underlying message is crystal clear.

In an interview with *The Hilltop*, Senior Vice President of Ruby Tuesday Richard Johnson said the policy was reviewed and has never been used to exclude people with multiple braids from being hired.

"It's simply that some managers interpreted the policy incorrectly," Johnson said.

"There's really never been a policy that prohibited the wearing of multiple braids. It was simply a misinterpretation of existing policy."

He continued, saying "extreme" styles, such as dreadlocks, are still considered to be a viola-

tion of the company dress code. "We have lots of other kinds of restrictions like that," Johnson said. "For example, only one earring, no other body piercings that are visible, no visible tattoos. There are a number of different kinds of restrictions about different aspects of appearance, and that's one of them."

According to Salvant, the misinterpretation of the policy is not isolated to the downtown Washington, D.C. restaurant. Salvant spoke to a friend and learned that managers at the Nanuet, N.Y. Ruby Tuesday have recently implemented a misinterpreted version of the policy, asking workers to take out braids if they want to keep their jobs. *The Hilltop* contacted the restaurant, but a manager refused to comment on the issue.

According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Web site, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act says that any enforced job requirement that is uniformly applied to all workers must be important for job performance or business needs.

If not, the requirement may be found unlawful if it is seen to disproportionately ex-

clude workers from any specific racial or color group. In addition, the EEOC states that among other things, race-linked attributes, including but not limited to hair texture, cannot be used as criteria in which equal employment op-

portunity may be denied of any applicant. The District of Columbia Office of Human Rights Web site states that it is an unlawful and discriminatory practice to consider personal appearance as a criterion in which employment may be denied of an applicant.

"I've never relaxed my hair. I've never permed my hair. I've never treated my hair. Ninety percent of the time throughout the year I am wearing braids, especially in the summertime because it's hot and my hair is going to sweat out," Salvant said, adding that dance activities and personal comfort factor into her decision to keep her hair braided.

Johnson said, "It's alright for servers to wear braids provided they are well kept and clean like we would say about any hairstyle."

Ruby Tuesday does consider itself an equal opportunity employer, despite policies on appearance that exclude the wearing of dreadlocks by employees.

"If anything, you should be asking people to braid their hair before they set foot in your restaurant, before they try to serve people," Salvant said. "Because it's out of the way, it's out-

of your face. You're not touching it because it's not falling down. I honestly feel like it would be better for people to braid their hair in a restaurant setting."

Later, she took matters into her own hands by publishing a note on Facebook and forming a petition against the restaurant comprised of Howard University students, faculty and staff. She has gathered more than 500 signatures after explaining her situation.

"I'm passionate about this," Salvant said. "It fuels me because I know one of the main things I've learned here at Howard is don't ever let them try to play you. If you're on top of your stuff, nobody can play you. If you are professional and you do what you do, nobody can tell you anything."

Salvant has also spoken with representatives from the National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP and Howard University Student Association (HUSA) President Marcus Ware.

As of now, she has gained support of the NAACP as well as the support of HUSA student government leaders.

Salvant, who contributes to *The Hilltop*, has also contacted representatives from BET and was told they would look into assigning someone to cover the story.

Johnson said the company does not plan to take action against managers who have misinterpreted the policy and made hiring decisions based on misinterpretation of the policy.

"I would hope that the company's reputation isn't negatively affected," Johnson said. "We're glad to be able to clarify this particular policy. We're appreciative that people ask questions about it. I hope that it is an issue that is resolved."

Salvant works primarily to support herself because her mother is a single parent working to finance her two daughters' college education. As of now, Salvant is a student assistant in Meridian Hill Hall dormitory.

Although she made more money at Ruby Tuesday, Salvant said she will not seek employment at the restaurant again.

Chapel Recap

BY JESSICA MCCORVEY
Contributing Writer

Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel was taken over by the sermon of the Rev. Michael Louis Pfleger, Ph.D., who exploded a bomb of words into the crowd.

His sermon made people squirm in their chairs and left some members of the congregation with the feeling that to be comfortable was no longer an option.

Before Pfleger's sermon began, Cramton Auditorium was serenaded by the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel Choir and the Howard Gospel Choir and saw the spiritual dance of the Rankin Chapel Liturgical Dance Ministry.

The audience sang along to the slow baritone of the song "Ain't Got Time to Die," and was mesmerized by the vibrant red and black colors of the liturgical dance ensemble.

The reading from the scriptures included Exodus 17: 1-7 from the Old Testament and John 4: 5-14 from the New Testament.

Pfleger's sermon began with the words, "Even you. We worship you!"

"True leadership is about charity and not arrogance," Pfleger said, giving praises to Dean of the Chapel the Rev. Bernard Richardson.

His sermon was based on the thought that the American people have accepted the injustice of life and have forgotten how to fight. In Isaiah 6:6, God asks "Who shall I send?" and Isaiah answers with "Here I am."

Pfleger said he is sounding the alarm that there is a spiritual meltdown happening all over the world.

He asked the congregation how it can be normal that the government can fix space ships and space stations but cannot figure out how to fix levees in New Orleans, or how the world can focus on Roger Clemens and steroids but ignore the fact that a child dies from poverty every three seconds.

He then went on to preach about the rap industry and how rappers are slaves to corporate America.

"Rappers claim they are free, but they are slaves to a white-owned Sony and a white-owned BET," Pfleger said as the audience cheered in response to his words.

Pfleger's sermon went on to address issues in America ranging from politics to poverty to Britney Spears.

"Faith is not just to endure, but to fight with," he said at the end of his sermon. "It's time to remix the movement."

Pfleger is an ordained priest who received his bachelor's degree in theology from Loyola University, his master's of Divinity from the University of St. Mary of the Lake and his doctorate in divinity from North Park Theological Seminary.

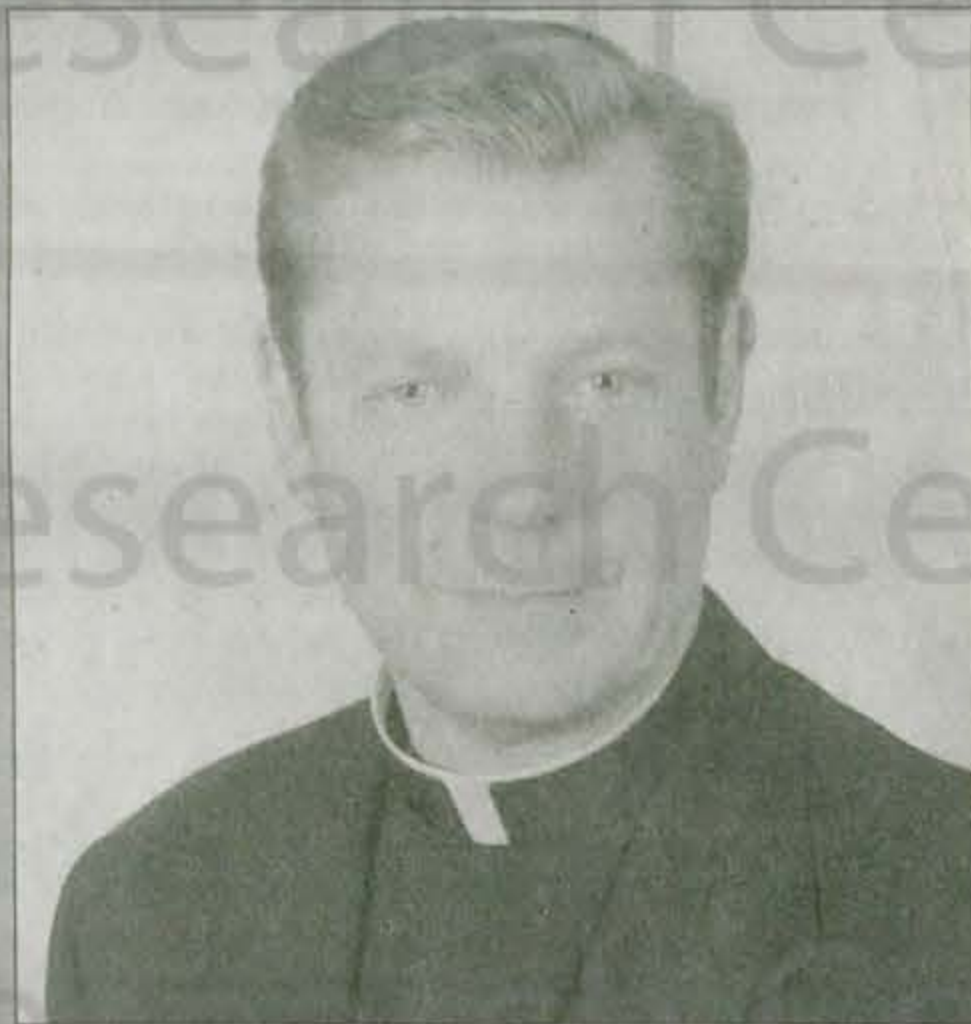
At the age of 31, in 1981, he became the youngest full pastor when he was appointed pastor of Saint Sabina Church. He has lived and ministered in the African-American community in Chicago since 1968.

Pfleger has been acknowledged for his stance against alcohol, tobacco, drugs and racism in *People*, *Time*, *Ebony*, *Newsweek* and *Jet* magazines, as well as the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post*.

He has also been on "60 Minutes," the BBC in Great Britain, "Larry King Live" and "Nightline."

He has received many honors throughout his career, one of which was the honor of being selected by Coretta Scott King to be the keynote speaker for the national the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative service on Jan. 20, 2003.

Pfleger is the proud adoptive parent of Lamar and Beronti and the foster father of Jarvis Franklin, who was killed in gang crossfire on May 30, 1998.



The Rev. Michael Pfleger, Ph.D spoke about topics ranging from poverty to politics, pulling from both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

ASB Benefit Concert Raises \$300 for Third Trip to New Orleans

BY JAMISHA PURDY
Contributing Writer

Hurricane Katrina-ravaged areas of New Orleans will receive another year of aid from Howard University students on its annual Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip. But before applicants board the bus on March 15, more funds need to be raised.

A night filled with musical selections from the Howard University Community Choir, liturgical dance by the Rankin Chapel Liturgical Dance Ministry and spoken word by various artists put the ASB committee one step closer to its goal.

Friday's Second Annual Benefit Concert raised about \$300, but concert coordinator

Naa Kooshie Mills said the concert was not just for monetary gain.

"It was for publicity and just to get the word out about ASB and what we're trying to do," said Mills, a freshman political science major.

Gabrielle Ward, a senior international business major and ASB fundraising chair, agreed with Mills. Ward said the event was to "welcome the Howard University community, students and faculty into Alternative Spring Break's efforts to raise funds."

The committee has adopted other ways to get funds for the mid-March trip that include sponsorship letters to companies and local churches. ASB participants also received sponsorship letters

to send to family and friends.

The estimated cost for each student, about \$500, includes transportation, meals and housing and is funded completely by the ASB planning committees' fundraising efforts.

This is Howard's third year traveling to New Orleans and students are ready to, as host Teneasha Pierson put it, "finish unfinished business."

"We're going back this year because we have work to do," Pierson, a senior marketing major, told the audience.

The trip will be a four-day effort where students will work on different post-Katrina rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. This year, ASB has become a popular Spring Break choice among stu-

dents. Since the first ASB trip to New Orleans, the number of applicants has doubled.

"So far there are 798 applicants, including the law school students and other graduate students," said Gerald Ashby, ASB coordinator.

Ashby said there is no maximum capacity for the trip and that the committee will try to assist everyone who has an interest in going in every way possible.

"We're trying to accommodate everyone, so everyone needs to say a prayer that we can take everybody," said Ashby, a junior political science major. "That's our hope."

During the concert, the audience was reminded of the purpose of ASB 2008 with Simone

Hall's poem, titled, "Truth and Lies." Hall's poem highlighted the truths of post-hurricane Katrina efforts.

"They said 'the truth shall set you free,'" said Hall, a sophomore history major. "But truth be told, that day the truth came through the levees."

Hall said the poem was hard to write, but that she found inspiration in a peaceful moment.

"I was having writer's block but I just calmed, went to quiet place and God lead the words," Hall said.

Ty Axson, a junior broadcast journalism major, closed the concert by giving his testimonial of previous ASB trips. As the 2007 co-coordinator, Axson knows firsthand the benefits of going to New

Orleans.

"One of the best things about the trip is that it helped me realize the things that I can do," he said. "I realize that I'm not able to rebuild every house but one house at a time, one brick at a time, one rail at a time. Those are the things that make a difference."

Alternative Spring Break 2008

It will cost about \$500 per person to travel to New Orleans. Nearly 800 students have applied thus far.



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Turnovers, Missed Free Throws Lead to Lady Bison Defeat

BY ED HILL
Special to The Hilltop

Shalane Price and Tamara Rogers combined for 25 second half points to help Morgan State pull away to a 70-57 win over Howard University in a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) women's game at Hill Field House Saturday.

The Lady Bison appeared to be in good shape, trailing by four at the half. The Lady Bears then used a 6-0 run to open a 32-22 lead. Howard (3-22 overall, 2-10 in the MEAC) aided the Morgan State cause with turnovers that allowed easy transition baskets.

The Lady Bears (17-9 overall, 9-4 in the MEAC) were able to maintain a 10-12 point cushion through the early part of the second half until Howard made a push and cut the margin to six on three different occasions.

But each time, the Lady Bison missed out on the opportunity to get closer with untimely mistakes. Their miscues contributed to 18 of the Lady Bears' second half points.

Howard stepped up its full-court pressure late, but Morgan State was able to put the game away at the free throw, where it converted 20 of 24 in the second half, including 10 of its last 12 points from the charity stripe in the last three minutes.

The Lady Bison added to

their woes by having one of their poorest performances of the season from the free throw line, missing their first 9 and finishing 3 of 11 for the game.

Senior guard Asha San-tee led Howard with 17, junior center Tamaya Daniels recorded a double-double of 12 points-11 rebounds and senior guard Shan-non Carlisle contributed 10 be-

fore fouling out.

Price and Rogers each finished with 18 while Corin Adams and Brittany Dodson tallied 11 apiece for Morgan State.

NEXT UP: Howard returns to the Charm City to take on Coppin State on Monday at 5:30 p.m. while the Lady Bears host the Lady Pirates of Hampton on Monday at 5:30 p.m.



Tamaya Daniels, No. 31, put up a double-double of 12 points and 11 rebounds in Saturday's game against Morgan State.

MEAC Leader Morgan State Defeats Howard

BY ED HILL
Special to The Hilltop

Howard University staged a furious second-half rally but fell just short in a 64-59 loss to Morgan State University in a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) men's basketball game at Hill Fieldhouse Saturday.

The Bison (5-22 overall, 2-10 in the MEAC) appeared all but done when the Bears took a seemingly insurmountable 59-34 lead at the 9:39 mark of the second half.

Morgan State (17-9 overall, 11-2 in the MEAC) combined some stifling defense and a sizzling fast break to keep Howard on its heels.

The Bison woke up and rode the scoring of junior guard Eugene Myatt and junior forward Randy Hampton to reel off a 20-3 run and cut the deficit to 62-54 with 1:34 left on the clock. The run featured a rare four-point play by Myatt.

Following a Morgan State timeout, Jerrell Green was fouled and made one of two free throws. Sophomore guard Curtis White then canned a three-pointer to get within 6 at 63-57 with only 17 seconds remaining.

Morgan's Reggie Holmes was fouled at the other end, but he missed both attempts and the Bison quickly got a layup from Hampton to cut the deficit to 63-59 with 7 ticks left on the clock.

Jamar Smith was fouled and made one of two to close out the scoring and stifle the Bison's attempted comeback.

The second half was one of Howard's better efforts during the current seven-game slide.

The Bison overcame a dismal first half shooting performance (25 percent) to shoot 44 percent in the final stanza, including 50 percent from three-point land and 74 percent from the charity stripe.

Myatt, who missed 8 of

his first 10 shots, hit 5 of 6 in the second half for a game-high 20 points. Hampton added 16 points, 10 coming after intermission.

The Bears, who are now alone in first place in the MEAC after Norfolk State's loss to Coppin State, got a team-high 17 from Marquise Kately, 12 from Smith and 10 from Holmes off the bench.

Boubacar Coly, one of the top rebounders and shot blockers in the nation, grabbed 14 caroms and was credited with 4 blocks.

On a down note, the Bears missed 20 of their 32 free throw attempts, including 14 misses in the second half.

NEXT UP: Howard returns to the Charm City to take on the streaking Eagles of Coppin State on Monday at 7:30 p.m. while the Bears can move closer to the regular season title if they defeat the Pirates of Hampton University at home on Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Scoreboard

Women's Basketball	Men's Basketball
02/23/08	02/23/08
Howard - 57	Howard - 59
Morgan State - 70	Morgan State - 64

Upcoming Games

2/25/08	Also on 3/1/08
Women's Basketball	Softball Tournament
Howard	College of Charleston
Coppin State	Charleston, S.C.
Baltimore 6 p.m.	
Men's Basketball	3/2/08
Howard	Women's Lacrosse
Coppin State	Howard
Baltimore 8 p.m.	Niagara
	Home @ 1 p.m.
3/1/08	
Women's Basketball	
Howard	
North Carolina A&T	
Home @ 2 p.m.	
Men's Basketball	
Howard	
North Carolina A&T	
Home @ 4 p.m.	

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

FEBRUARY 25, 1964

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WITH A TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT IN
SEVEN ROUNDS FOR THE HEAVYWEIGHT
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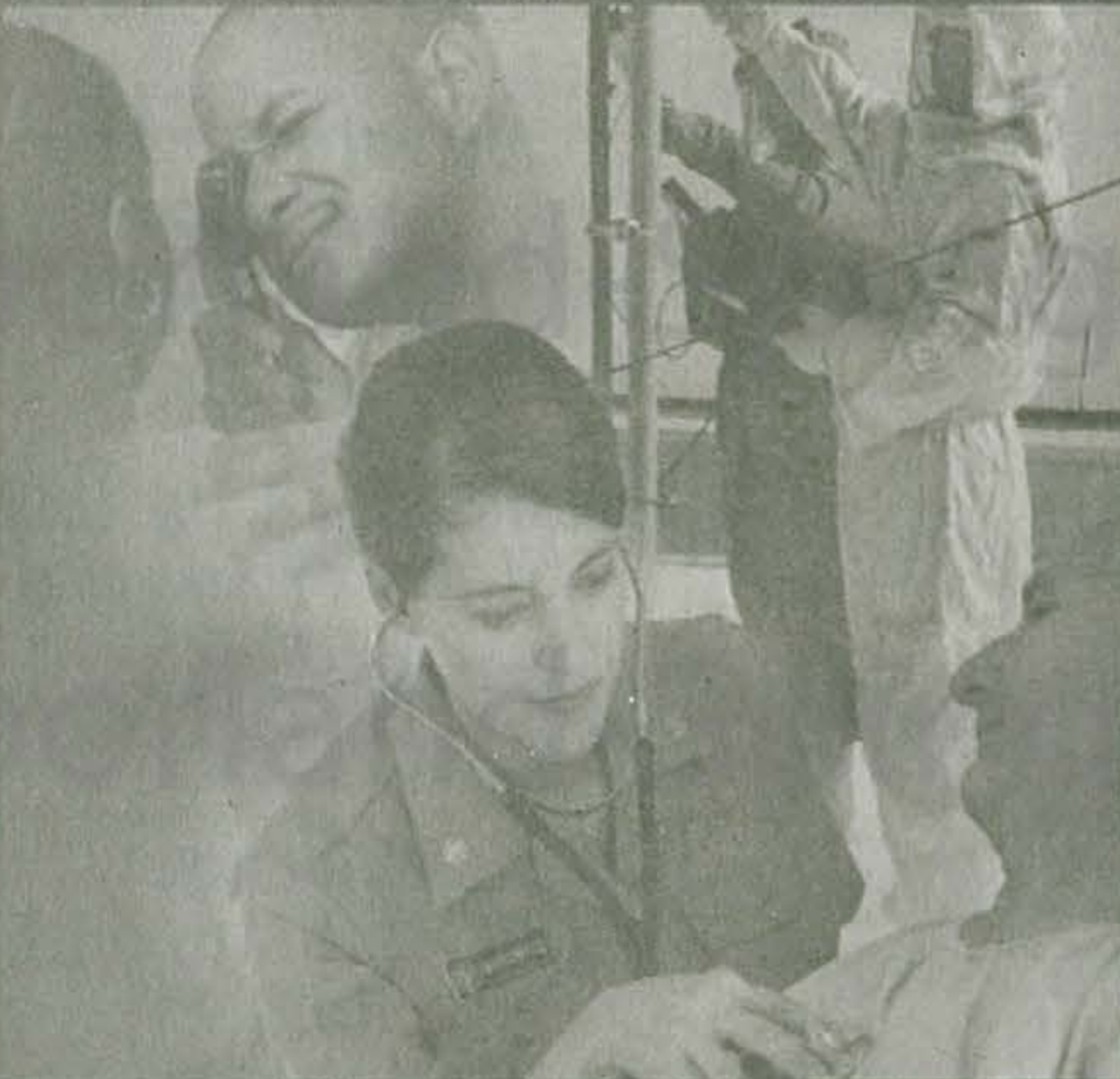
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"What's Happening In The Residence Halls" February 25- March 2, 2008

Monday, February 25, 2008

Project Runway: What's Hot & What's Not
Interview Tips
7pm, Harriet Tubman Quadrangle
Truth Lounge

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Speed Rating
Question RA's One on One
7pm, Harriet Tubman Quadrangle
Truth Lounge

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

True Life: I'm A Community Director
Q&A Session with CD's
7pm, Harriet Tubman Quadrangle
Truth Lounge

Thursday, February 28, 2008

"Black History: The Path of the Negro in the District of Columbia", Cook Hall, 7:00 PM

"American History X",
Howard Plaza Towers, 7:00 PM

Survivor: Real Life Scenarios
7pm, Harriet Tubman Quadrangle
Truth Lounge

Friday, February 29, 2008

"Rep Your Region Fashion Show",
Cook Hall, 7:00 PM

RA's In The City
Mix & Mingle
7pm, Harriet Tubman Quadrangle
Truth Lounge

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School of Divinity (2nd Fl. Student Lounge), 7 pm

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Howard Alumna Steps Back from Six-Figure Salary

BY SHAMIRA MUHAMMAD
Contributing Writer

If the definition of “making it” in America involves acquiring a lot of money and driving a new car every year, Kisha Shorter has a while to go.

Though she now works with popular artists such as Lupe Fiasco and Lady Sovereign, she went from making six figures to only \$7 an hour.

No, she wasn’t fired. Shorter made this decision for herself.

A former Catholic school girl and Howard student, Shorter went through college and on to the work world attempting to engage herself in the world of entertainment.

She worked with competitive marketing companies in the music industry and was successful in her field. She was also a mother.

However, right after Sept. 11, she discovered that she was not in a place that made her truly happy.

“I wasn’t all into the competitiveness,” she said. “I mean, the money was great, but after this time, I figured that you don’t have enough time to do what you love.”

So she wrote down all the live venues that she enjoys, and the 9:30 Club, a live club close to Howard University Hospital, was at the top of the list.

The 9:30 Club caters to lovers of independent music and covers artists as different and distinct as Ghostface Killah and Good Charlotte.

Shorter’s background was a huge factor in her choice. She grew up in Montgomery County, an extremely diverse area in Maryland. It was there that she was introduced to all types of artists by her classmates, including Run DMC, alternative rock and of course, rap.

“Biggie vs. Tupac? Tupac. I’m more into the struggle than

the bling-bling,” she said. “Jay-Z, of course. But I love, love the Black Crows! Some people call me a hippie.”

It still seems like a small miracle to some to be able to work in an environment where you have daily encounters with artists like these. However, Shorter took enormous risks and made sacrifices to be able to do what she wanted.

Dropping her demanding job, she went even more to the extreme by starting at the 9:30 Club as security, steadily working her way into marketing. When asked why, Shorter said she wanted to work in a more intimate setting and get away from the “corporate B.S.”

“Anywhere I went from that point I was going to have to start over again,” she said. “I might as well start with something I wanted to do, in a place where I wanted to work. So I did that, and I worked my \$7-an-hour security

job like it was a six-figure job, and it was like 30 days before I got my promotion.”

Tanisha Mercado, a senior anthropology major, agreed that it was important to take risks like these.

“Yeah, I would leave a high-paying job in a second,” Mercado said. “You can’t buy happiness right? So does the money really matter in the grander scheme of life? Probably not.”

Shorter has had her share of backlash, too, because of her decisions. Her mother, for example, a Howard University employee, worries about the stability of the club.

“I’m constantly hearing from my mom, ‘You have a degree in marketing. Why are you working in a club?’” Shorter said. “She doesn’t get it.”

Shorter wanted to let those interested in being successful in any endeavor know that the sky is the limit.

She said it just takes risk and courage.

“Don’t be afraid to contact the Rolling Stones of the world, MTVs of the world and be like ‘Look, hey! Can I get, like, five minutes? I think you’re the [coolest]! I wanna be like you when I grow up!’ People love that! They love ego trips! The music business is all about ego,” she said. “There is no money in the music industry. It’s all about ego.”

Plus, she said, “Let them take you to lunch. Get a free meal, and you’ll probably get great advice and some contacts. Be nice to everybody. That’s how I got to where I am in a year.”

Shorter believes redemption is a possibility, even if mistakes are made.

She said if you do mess up, “Own it. Don’t make excuses. In the future, ask, ‘How would you have done it differently?’ But don’t cry. Don’t ever let anybody see you cry.”



The 9:30 Club features artists from musical genres ranging from hip-hop to rock. Kisha Shorter, who grew up in Montgomery County, Md., became well versed in a wide array of music and now works in marketing for the club.

File Photo

9:30 Club Artist Lineup

Puddle of Mud
Feb. 25

**Sia with Har Mar
Superstar**
March 7

**Presidents of the United
States of America**
March 25

**Lifeshouse
with Matt Nathanson**
April 4

**Saul Williams
with Four-Piece Band**
April 7

Jason Miles and DJ Logic
April 8

Lamont Marcus Brands His Name on Campus

Audio Production Major Works With Other Howard Artists to Produce ‘Mekka Music’ due in April

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Life & Style Editor

Just when people thought it was too tough to make it in a business where nothing ever seems to be a sure thing, an up and coming music producer emerges from the cracks of Howard’s pavement.

With intentions to put a fresh face on the industry, Lamont Marcus has already made major moves to put him in the position to excel to greater

heights in his career.

This sophomore audio production major and South New Jersey native expressed a serious interest in music production as a freshman in high school, but his actual pursuit did not begin until his freshman year at Howard.

“The ball didn’t start rolling in my career until I got to Howard,” Marcus said.

“I got my start this past summer when I went to Los Angeles and met with a big time producer, Kashif who

has worked with the likes of Whitney Houston and Janet Jackson.”

The meeting with the producer led to an invitation to a music camp in which he was put in charge of a group in order to produce a song in one week.

“I was challenged to get kids that were not interested in music to record a quality song,” he said.

During his music camp challenge, Marcus truly grasped the concept of music production and understood the art of directing.

“That experience helped me elevate from just beat-making to taking a production from start to finish; finding a concept, performing the song and getting a final product that was

cluding senior audio production major Mario Loving.

“He helped broaden my scope musically and taught me how to incorporate that into my own music.”

“The ball didn’t start rolling in my career until I got to Howard.”

- Lamont Marcus



Photo Courtesy of Lamont Marcus

Marcus found his love for music during his freshman year in high school. He began to pursue his dream once he arrived at Howard.

satisfactory,” Marcus said.

After his learning lesson, he confidently entered his sophomore year as he focused on getting his name out and putting his hands on various projects to demonstrate his talent.

New artist and Howard alumna, Esh Da Hitmaker was the first to give Marcus the opportunity to produce. This started a buzz around campus.

“Esh Da Hitmaker gave me a chance and opened the door for me to get noticed,” Marcus said.

Thereafter, Marcus began to work with other Howard affiliated artists and eventually scored a single on “The Breakfast” mixtape of Deontre Blayz, a new artist and senior audio production major.

As one of his more recent accomplishments, the record “My Girl” signified his first official record.

“It was my first record that got distribution with my name attached,” Marcus said.

Along his way to success, he was fortunate to meet people he considered knowledgeable in the field, in-

Marcus said.

As for his future plans, Marcus wants to own a production company that houses producers and songwriters.

In addition, he would like to use his success in music to do something geared toward youth.

His upcoming projects include an R&B compilation album he is working on with sophomore acting major Naiqui MacCabroad.

They hope to release the album by the end of the semester.

He is also working with campus disc jockey, DJ Anonymous, on another compilation album, “Mekka Music,” due out in April.

Marcus continues to enhance his skills and constantly work with artists such as Rachel Robinson, Deontre Blayz, Esh and Profit.

Although the road to success has been difficult, Marcus said, “You got to love doing this because it’s a constant struggle and in order to have longevity and be successful you have got to be in it for the right reasons.”

Come get a story! Budget meeting tonight at 7 p.m.
in the P-level of the West Towers.

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		



Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

Superdelegate Status Unfair

In this race for the presidency — more specifically, the Democratic nomination — there have been a few discrepancies that have surfaced regarding the fairness of the election.

The re-seating of delegates in Michigan and Florida, and now the issue of superdelegates.

Superdelegates include, but are not limited to, members of Congress, elected officials and other political figures.

The 2008 Democratic National Committee has approximately 800 superdelegates.

There are 3,253 pledged delegates, which will add up to a total of more than 4,000. A candidate needs the majority of the delegates' votes to win the nomination.

The superdelegates will account for about 20 percent of the vote.

Pledged delegates, which make up the other 80 percent of

the vote, are required to vote for their respective candidates.

They are chosen based on their endorsed candidate's voting numbers. In comparison, the superdelegates are unpledged and only chosen because of their political status.

In essence, if 50 percent of Texan Democrats are voting for Barack Obama, approximately 50

It gives the voting public the illusion that they have sole voting power, but they do not.

In case the public doesn't vote the way superdelegates want them to, superdelegates will still have control of the nomination.

Similar to the electoral college, superdelegates are not usually chosen based on their preferences during the presidential race, and they do not have to vote in favor of the votes.

Delegates who are chosen in primaries and caucuses do not have to vote according to the voter, but party rules require that the distribution of power is equal.

This will be a close race for the Democratic nomination, so every vote counts.

America does not want to be slighted based on a poorly executed system, which was instituted to diminish the power of the voting public.

Our View:
Superdelegates disenfranchise voters.

percent of the pledged delegates in Texas will be Obama supporters.

Thus, the superdelegates will have a lot of sway with how the election will occur.

However, the presence and power of superdelegates in this election is undemocratic.

Perspective

Unfair and Unbalanced

On Feb. 21 while reading that day's edition of *The Hilltop*, I thought for a second I was reading the *Washington Post* or *New York Times* based on how biased the editorial "Tavis, Who Do You Think You Are?" was written by *The Hilltop*.

Ultimately, this article attacked Mr. Smiley for not allowing Michelle Obama to be a part of his "State of the Black Union" to address the issues essential to black Americans.

The editorial states that of the four presidential hopefuls, Hillary Clinton was the only one to accept the invitation.

Obama cannot make it because he will be campaigning in Texas, and of course *The Hilltop* felt that Smiley should be understanding (had it been Clinton, this would've meant that she doesn't care about black people).

This would appear to me that Mr. Smiley intended to have only actual candidates instead of surrogates, and quite frankly that is his right.

If it had been the other way around, with Obama accepting the invitation, and Bill Clinton wanting to participate instead of Mrs. Clinton, there would've been a total backlash, and would've been seen as Bill Clinton's attempt to cozy back up to African Americans.

Perhaps I missed it, but I haven't seen any coverage from *The Hilltop* of Michelle Obama's statement that "for the first time in my adult life, I am proud of my country" (spoken like a true first lady, right *Hilltop*, your own words as a matter of fact).

Isn't this the same woman

who grew up in a comfortable family life in Chicago, attended an Ivy League institute, became a successful attorney, and now the wife of a presidential candidate? Seems like this nation has been working in the favor of someone, and of course she recanted the statement the next day. Once again, had that been Hillary Clinton who made the statement and recanted, it would've been pandering.

I am not a Republican, nor a conservative, but I at least expect to get both sides of the story from the newspaper, regardless of the "target audience."

I respected an article written in the Wednesday, Feb. 20 edition of *The Hilltop* by Jada Smith, an attempt to actually bring forth the issue of "Political Inequality" on this campus, in a factual, well written manner.

For those of you who think of Howard as "the Mecca," you should definitely look for it online. In the article, Ms. Smith mentions how Michael Varner, the president of the Howard University College Republicans, "is attacked for his political affiliation on this campus on a daily basis."

Furthermore, Ms. Smith writes, "...Another young Republican that I tried to contact for my story told me that he could not be quoted in *The Hilltop* anymore because the last time he was quoted having Republican views, he was shunned by other students and attacked for his political ideals."

How can we call our campus "the Mecca" and this hotbed for political activism when the only person whose views are

respected is some guy with an Afro, matted facial hair, and his fist in the air?

The funny thing is that a lot of the students on this campus do not attempt to inform themselves on the issues.

The same people who want to get on Bob Johnson for his remarks on Obama are the same ones watching his BET on a regular basis (yeah, I know it belongs to big bad Viacom, but he is only as blind as he who will not see; I do not necessarily agree with Mr. Johnson's opinion, by the way).

So I hope that in the future, *The Hilltop* will at least try to be the voice for those underrepresented and refrain from choosing the candidates and issues best suited for the student body, and will also devote coverage to other aspects of the campus that aren't always so liberal, Democratic and Christian (I am a proud Christian).

A prime example would be the coverage of the Jan. 31 panel program "Both Sides of the Black Story" in which the article failed to capture both sides of the story.

This time focusing on the one conservative panelist, and failing to interview the actual chairman or moderators of the program. I am a Democrat, but I am seeking more balance from my campus, and its newspaper.

- Steven Page
Radio-TV-Film Major
Challenger of the Status Quo

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?
Come to our next budget meeting
MONDAY @ 7 P.M.
WEST TOWERS (PLAZA LEVEL)

THE HILLTOP
The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 84th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

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

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

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"What Do You Mean I'm talking black?: Is "talking black" a speech impediment?"

Come find out this Wednesday February 27, 2008 from 5-8pm in the Blackburn Digital Auditorium REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!

Hosts: NSSLHA-Howard Univier-sity Chapter & J.H.J. School Of Communications Student Council

Apartment for rent in Mt. Rainer, MD.

Apt. has central air, heat, and security system. Seeking a quiet nonsmoking. Female. Apt. is study environment, no drugs or parties. 15 minutes from Howard, bus line and metro is walking distance. Just remodeled kitchen and painted apartment. A six month lease is required. \$750 a month and a \$450 security deposit. All utilities included. Contact Eddie at 3013358734

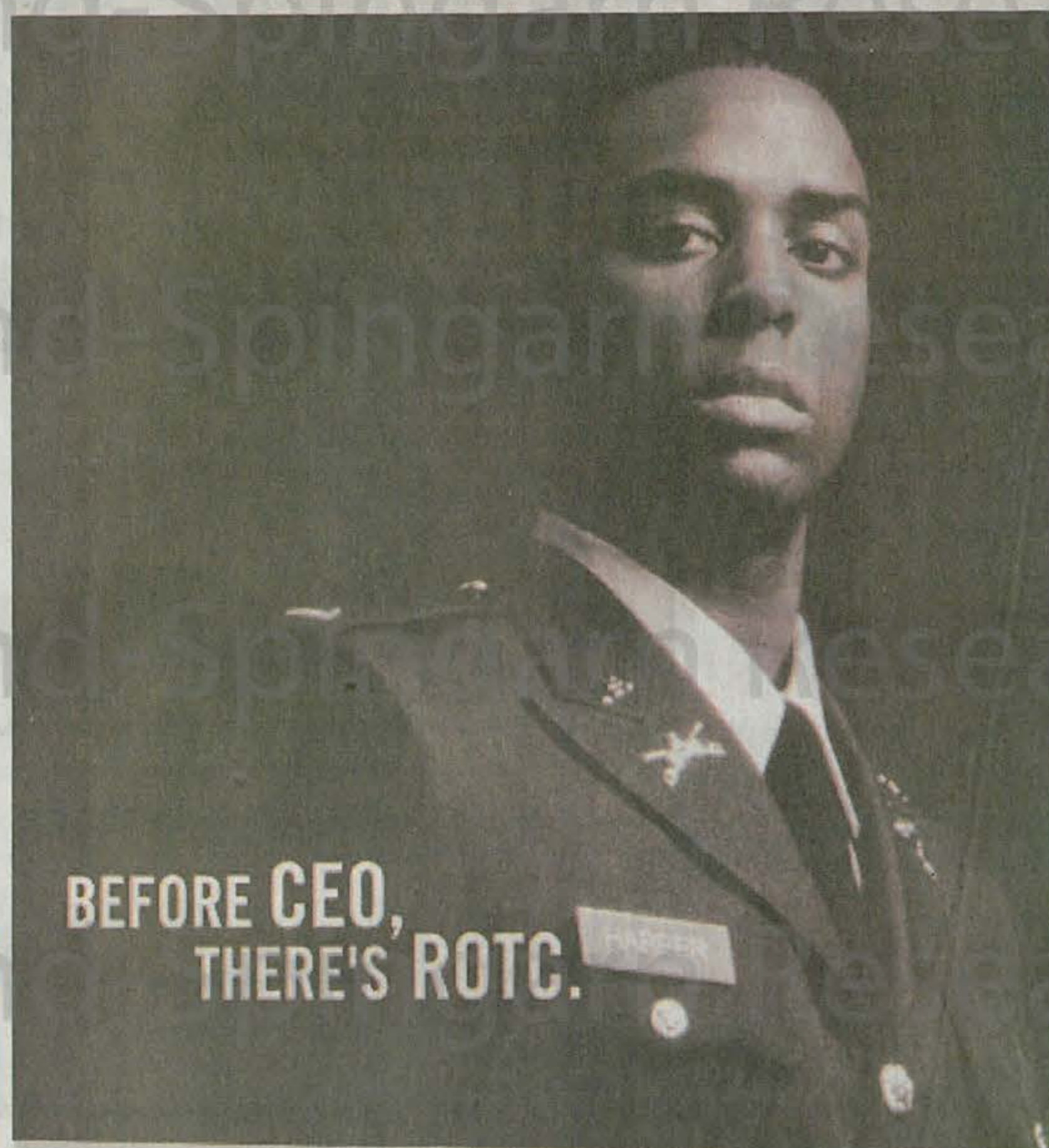
Miss Howard University & the Women's Basketball Team present

Fitness Week 2008 with Bally Total Fitness in Burr Gym.

Tuesday-2/26 Cardio Kickboxing 7:30PM

Wednesday-2/27 Stretching with Yoga 7:30PM

Thursday-2/28 Hip Hop Dance Aerobics 7:30PM



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The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated present:

UPLIFTING LADIES
A Week of Empowerment for the Black Woman

Encourage
Monday, February 25, 2008

An encouraging lesson on the history of the black woman
Browsing Room - Founders Library
7:08 PM
Casual Attire

Educate
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Learn about the growth of the contemporary black woman and how she can use diversity to her advantage as she climbs the corporate ladder
School of Business Auditorium
7:08 PM
Business Attire

Decide
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

As more women become career oriented, has the housewife become obsolete?
Browsing Room - Founders Library
7:08 PM
Business Casual Attire

Empower
Thursday, February 28, 2008

An interactive discussion about African-American women in politics
School of Architecture Auditorium
7:08 PM
Business Attire

Unify
Friday, February 29, 2008

Working together with our brothers to build a stronger community
School of Architecture Auditorium
7:08 PM
Casual Attire

All are welcomed to attend!