

3-7-2003

## The Hilltop 3-7-2003

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CAMPUS

The Hilltop selects new Editor-in-Chief and Business Manager. A2

THE HILLTOP



The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

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Campus Safety Questioned After Shooting HUSA to Hold Peace Rally on Yard at 1 p.m.



Matthew Grace and Geary Johnson describe what happened when they were shot early Saturday morning.

By Lauren Bayne Anderson Editor-in-Chief

John Grace is angry. His son, Matthew Grace, a freshman business finance major at Howard, was shot five times Saturday morning after being asked by campus police to wait for a cab on Georgia Avenue rather than in his dorm lobby at Drew Hall.

Grace said he is dissatisfied with the treatment he has received from the University. "No one even said, 'I'm sorry,'" Grace said, noting that

he doesn't feel the University acted expediently in providing information on his son.

The Howard University Student Association agrees.

Today HUSA will hold a peace rally on the yard at 1 p.m.

However, since the incident, Howard has implemented a shuttle stop at Drew Hall, said they will install hot vending food service machines in Drew by today and has set up a contract with Yellow Cab for pickup at residence halls — meeting many of the demands of Grace.

Both Matthew Grace and

Howard University Criminal Offenses table with columns for 1999, 2000, 2001 and rows for Murder, Sex offenses, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Theft, Arson, Manslaughter.

Statistics Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Education.

Geary Johnson were shot last week in front of Howard China take-out while waiting for a cab to escort their female guests home to George Washington

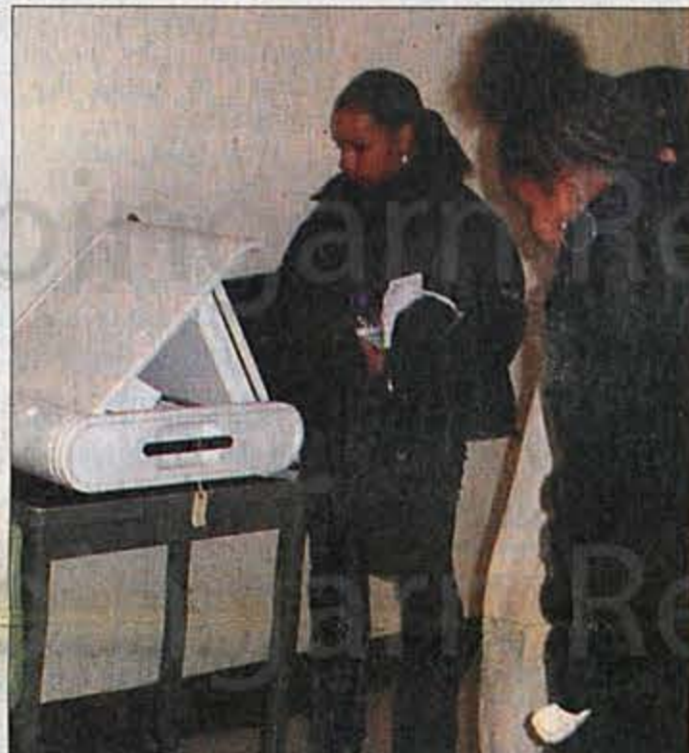
University. The pair said they were told

See SHOT page A3

ELECTIONS A FLOP

Grievances

- Cunningham widely unavailable
Many schools had only one poll open
Lines unorganized
Law School didn't have local elections
Number of polls opened hours late
Candidates campaign within 500 ft of polls
Polls left unattended at schools
School of Engineering and Dentistry booths were down from power shortage
Check and balances system not at its highest potential
Candidate Silas Cardwell left off ballot



Above Elections Chair, Corey Cunningham and voters in the School of Communications.

By Lauren Bayne Anderson, Stephanie Crouch and David Johns The Hilltop

Long lines, disorganization, and polls that opened late are a few of the problems that plagued elections Thursday. In addition, undergraduate trustee candidate Silas Cardwell

was left off the ballot in the School of Engineering, Computer Sciences and Architecture. The Howard University Student Association sealed the election results until all grievances are addressed.

An emergency general assembly meeting is scheduled for Monday. In the meantime

the general elections grievance committee will review the grievances. Students vying for positions within Howard University student government found themselves confused and scrambling to salvage what may be a practice day of elections.

"I really don't know what

to say," Silas Cardwell a candidate for undergraduate trustee said. "Are we really going to have another election? That would cost a ton of money and I don't know if we could do it just speaking logistically."

Ja'Ron Smith a candidate for HUSA president agreed.

See FLOP page B5

Howard Celebrates 136th Anniversary

By Janelle A. Williams Contributing Writer

Today Howard University will celebrate the 136th anniversary of its founding during an annual ceremony known as Charter Day, in Cramton Auditorium.

The university will suspend classes from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. so all students, faculty and staff can attend.

Charter Day also commemorates the signing of Howard's congressional charter, enacted on March 2, 1867 and approved by the university's seventh president, Andrew Johnson. This charter designated Howard as a "university for the education of youth in the liberal arts and sciences."

On Friday, attendants will have the opportunity to hear the words of the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, speaker at this year's ceremony, who two years ago was a Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient.

Cummings graduated from Howard in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in political science. Since then, he has established an exceptional career for himself and is seen by many as a public servant, a visionary, and



Congressman Elijah E. Cummings to speak today at the Charter Day ceremony.

a leader. Cummings, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa, has held many notable, political and social positions including: Chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, Speaker Pro Tem for the House of Delegates, (the first African American named to this position), Secretary of the Congressional Black Caucus and Co-Chair of the House

See HU page A6

General Assembly Addresses Elections Grievances Wed.



The General Assembly addressed grievances surrounding the Elections Chair, Corey Cunningham Wednesday.

By Ruth L. Tisdale Hilltop Staff Writer

On Mar. 5, the eve of the campus elections, the General Assembly held an emergency meeting to discuss the conduct of the General Elections Committee and the General Elections Committee Chair, Corey Cunningham.

During the General Assembly meeting, Howard University Student Association (HUSA) president Cornell Williamson read two complaints that had

been brought before the General Assembly. The first complaint concerned Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) Representative Candidate Shauntel Herbert.

Herbert was fined four hundred dollars for verbally disrespecting four members of the General Elections Committee when she asked a question out of turn at a Speak Out at Cook Hall.

"The fine for disrespecting one of the board members is a minimum of \$25 dollars and a maximum of \$100 dollars,"

Cunningham said. "Ms. Herbert was fined \$100 dollars for every altercation, which led to the four hundred dollar fine."

Members of the General Assembly disagreed with the Committee imposing a four hundred dollar fine on Herbert.

Darryl Lockett, UGSA representative for the School of Business, said that every altercation did not warrant a one hundred dollar fine.

"Every altercation was not as serious as the other," Lockett said. "If the General Elections

Committee was going to fine Ms. Herbert for four altercations, then the fines should have been at different prices."

The General Assembly eventually voted to only fine Herbert \$25 dollars for disrupting a Speak Out.

The other grievance that the General Assembly discussed was the termination of Nell Bradley, former public relations director for the General Elections

See GAM page A9

Students Walk Out for Peace

By Veronica Marché Miller Hilltop Staff Writer

Sophomore Marpessa Andrews anxiously looked at the clock atop Founders, waiting for the short hand to reach the 9.

"Is it 11:45 yet?" she asked, double-checking with a friend.

Wearing a tee shirt depicting the likeness of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara, freshman Peta Lindsay waited patiently under the flagpole on Howard's main yard. "Do you

want to chant?" she asked Andrews. "People like chanting."

Andrews tested the microphone attached to a bullhorn. "Howard University!" she called, as the volume was lowered on a radio playing Bob Marley. "It's 11:45 and we're here against the war in Iraq. I want to see every black face out here!"

She began a chant, "One, two, three, four, we don't want your racist war!"

"Five, six, seven, eight,"

answered a growing crowd. "Stop the violence, stop the hate!"

On Mar. 5 Howard University Student Association (HUSA), Amnesty International, and the ANSWER Coalition sponsored a walk-out at Howard University, protesting the war in Iraq.

Students were to walk out of class and gather at the flagpole at 11:45 a.m. This was just

See PEACE page A9



Students gathered on the yard Wednesday to express their opposition to the war with Iraq.

Inside

Do you dislike the new housing policy? Do something about it!

See Perspectives, page B7.



## Voices & Views

*Do you think the campus should be gated for safety?*



**Brian Jackson**  
Freshman  
Broadcast Journalism

"No, because we'd be shutting out the community and Howard stresses the idea of community to students."



**Mia Hampton**  
Freshman  
Broadcast Journalism

"Yes because most of the violence that has happened this year has been from people outside the student body."



**Saira Harris**  
Freshman  
Public Relations

"No, I think campus police should do their job!"



**Jeremy Simmons**  
Freshman  
Radio/TV/Film

"Yes. To keep the random homeless people, criminals and others who don't belong on this campus out."

## West Speaks at Howard

By Amber Mobley  
Nation & World Editor

"I came to this Chocolate City tonight to unsettle each and every one of you," said religion and philosophy professor Cornell West, to a packed Cramton Auditorium on Wednesday.

West, one of the world's most renowned black intellectuals, did just that as he brought a message of avoiding spiritual death by embracing social renewal and equality.

Maintaining "moral consistency," he said, is the cornerstone of, not merely surviving being black in America, but leaving a legacy of progress and truly walking with God.

West's forum was a part of Howard University's Religious Organization's Spiritual Renewal Week, yet West also made it a point to weave in political, socio-economic and race-based issues.

West mixed examples from the lives, issues and philosophies of intellectuals such as Socrates and Malcolm X with those of funkster George Clinton, jazz musician John Coltrane and late rapper Tupac Shakur, to bring his message.

"Socrates said that 'the unexamined life is not worth living,' and then Malcolm X went on to say that 'the examined life is painful,'" West said.

It was that examination of life, its meaning and the role of blacks in the big picture, that had the audience laughing, contemplating, clapping and "umph"ing for more than two hours.



Renowned scholar and author, Cornell West, spoke in Cramton Auditorium Wednesday night.

"This is a part of the Howard experience," said graduating senior Arabella Littlepage.

Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert was not in attendance and no reason was given for his absence, but Provost A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert sat in the audience with her daughter.

"I feel as though Cornell West has a lot of profound ideas and it's important for [my daughter] to be exposed to," Caldwell-Colbert said.

West said remaining morally consistent means justice, it means love and it constitutes not forgetting the pain of the common man.

"We get intoxicated with the

black bourgeois and it's hard to feel the funk."

Quite plainly, West reminded the largely Howard student-populated audience to leave a mark on society by aiding fellow blacks - regardless of class or education - by having the courage to speak the truth through love.

West also paralleled the U.S. fight against terrorism to white supremacy in America.

"You can't fight terrorism abroad and say a kind word about it at home and think you're morally consistent," he said.

"Anybody who tells the truth about white supremacy in

See WEST page A6

## Stolen Projectors Recovered

By David Johns  
Hilltop Staff Writer

The students responsible for the recent rash of robberies in the School of Business have been apprehended after a search warrant recovered two of the four smart liquid crystal display (LCD) projectors, taken less than a month ago.

On Jan. 30, the DC metropolitan police along with Howard University campus police executed three search warrants at a student's apartment. Three Howard University students have been identified and expelled in connection with the theft. The names of the students are not being released due to the ongoing investigation.

While officials are careful to release any information pertaining to the nature of the investigation and what led to the DC Metro police issuing and enforcing the warrants, wishing to protect the integrity of the case, Howard University Chief of Police Reginald L. Smith maintained that the students would be punished under the penalties of the law.

At press time Smith said, "three arrest warrants have

been served and two students have been charged with receiving stolen property. An outstanding warrant has been issued for the third student."

The School of Business Assistant Dean of Admissions Dean Sirjue maintains that the school will show no sympathy for students who wish to seal.

"It's amazing that the same students we teach would take from us," Sirjue said. "It is really unfair that it is one of our own kids that would want to deprive other students of use of this technology, especially in the school of Business. The technology is used to prepare students for success in the boardroom."

Smith shared the sentiments of Sirjue. "It's a sad day when students take it upon themselves to seal from Howard University and deprive other students. [At HU] we go to great lengths to equip students with the very best technology to enhance their learning experience. It is extremely sad that these students selfishly and knowingly intended to deprive [their] fellow students."

## Phase Two of the Housing Policy to Kick Off

By David Johns  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Office of Residence Life plans to present its campaign for the second phase of the new housing procedure - which will allow students to make room selections from the comforts of their own home.

The second phase of the new housing policy, following the submission of RSVP forms and payment of the housing deposit will allow students to select their rooms online after the Banner system calculates points.

Often, when new policies are introduced the attachment to the way things were is replaced by a sense of frustration, anxiety, and fear. This has been the case with the new hous-

ing policy and the introduction of the RSVP plans. However, despite a pervasive fear that students may be unfairly treated and left without housing, under the new plan, the office of residence life is confident that once the anxiety fades, students and the University, will be pleased with the new procedure.

The Room Selection Verification Plan, which requires students to submit letters of endorsement to verify community and campus involvement, results in an accumulation of points which will be calculated to determine the days that students will be able to select housing.

The next step under the new housing assessment plan connects the accumulation of points

and the use of Howard's Banner system to dormitory selection.

The banner system is Howard's central academic recording system. However, the system-which has been used in residence life since the fall of 1998, has functioned without implementing the various capabilities of the program but the Office of Residence Life plans to utilize modules in an attempt to make the housing process simple and effortless, on the part of students, while encouraging the university to continue to utilize current technology.

While many students are unfamiliar with the various steps of the new RSVP plan and question the end goal of the new

See POLICY page A6



Students will be able to apply for their choice in dorm over the internet.

## Josef Sawyer, Miyanda Jackson to Lead Hilltop Board Selects New Editor-in-Chief and Business Manager

By David Johns  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Many may not realize just what it takes to produce a student-run newspaper-let alone the nation's largest collegiate black newspaper-but recently elected Editor-in-Chief (EIC) Josef Sawyer, will soon experience just this.

The Hilltop Policy Board selected him along with Miyanda Jackson, the 2003-2004 Hilltop Business Manager, on Mar. 4. The board is comprised of administrators and students, who evaluated candidates that presented their interpretation of The Hilltop's past, present, and future.

Sawyer, the current Tuesday Managing Editor of The Hilltop, won the board's support over junior print jour-

nalism major, Derrick Nayo. Since his freshmen year, Sawyer has filled various positions for the paper including: Staff Writer, Online Editor and Campus Editor.

Jackson, the current assistant business manager, was selected unanimously after her opponent elected not to interview.

Sawyer has always loved English; however, the plan, not all left to his design, was to matriculate and become an engineer.

However, fate had an alternative plan for Sawyer.

"My future was set my senior year of high school," Sawyer said. "One day my mother brought home a booklet for a Howard University Multicultural Journalism Workshop. After thinking

about it, I applied."

Sawyer flourished in the summer program, earning the attention of then Dean of the Journalism Department, Barbara Hines, and program instructor Rochelle Tillery-Larkin, who offered him a journalism scholarship.

"I put my all into the program. I loved writing and the program allowed me to grow from the encouragement of teachers," Sawyer said. "I built a network of friends and faculty members who took an active interest in me as a student. It took a while but I made the decision to come with the goal of writing for The Hilltop in mind."

Sawyer's career with The

SEE HILLTOP Page A8



Josef Sawyer, editor-in-chief elect and Miyanda Jackson, next year's business manager, plan to bring the newspaper to new heights.



## Campus Safety Questioned After Shooting

SHOT from A1

to leave the lobby because they were being too loud and visitation in the dorm was over for the night.

The group of 12 moved into the courtyard but said they were told by campus police officers that they needed to leave Drew Hall property completely.

Campus Police Chief, Reginald Smith, failed to return a phone call place by The Hilltop for comment.

Todd Johnson [no relation], a freshman resident in Drew

who was a part of the group, said Campus Police continued to follow them and made them wait on Georgia Avenue.

"We had no choice but to leave," Todd said. "We were just trying to call a cab."

According to Metropolitan Police reports, while the group

**"I can't leave my son here if I'm not assured he is going to be safe,"**

**-- John Grace, father of Matthew Grace, who was shot five times on Saturday.**

"I was laying their on the ground, with my legs shot up and they were asking me for my ID," Grace said. "I told them I couldn't move my legs, but he told me to roll over and get my wallet from my back pocket."

Grace said he was unable to tell if the officer asking for ID was

scheduled.

But Grace said he was left dissatisfied with the meeting.

"I met with Swygert and I couldn't have been more unimpressed," Grace said. "Swygert told me there was an investigation being conducted into my son's shooting, but what kind of investigation are they doing if three days later they haven't even contacted my son or Geary [Johnson]," Grace said.

He said he felt like the University was unaffected and unable to provide concrete answers.

Swygert was unavailable for comment on this particular issue. However Dr. Franklin Chambers, Dean of Residence Life disagrees. He feels the university did an adequate job in contacting the family.

"Anytime you have an incident of this magnitude you want to make yourself available to address the individuals' concerns and offer some sort comfort," Chambers said "Most people want to have an opportunity to speak to someone and I believe that the university provided that opportunity."

In addition to Chambers statement, Swygert visited both students in Drew and told both that transportation and dining services would be provided to them. He also said that each student's professors and deans were contacted and made aware of the situation.

Matthew Grace was not available to make sure these events actually occurred.

However John Grace still refused to believe that the campus is safe, contrary to Swygert statement that it is.

"I can't leave my son here if I'm not assured he is going to be safe," Grace said.

From 1999-2001 there were 53 robberies, 56 cases of aggravated assault and 223 burglaries on Howard's campus, according to the Department of Education.

In comparison, during that same time period, there were three robberies, 14 cases of aggravated assault and 151 burglaries on the main campus of George Washington University — an open urban campus — also located in the District.

On Monday evening, a meeting was held by administrators to talk to Drew Hall residents and offer them counseling.

Grace said there should be an ATM installed in Drew, longer cafeteria hours to avoid students walking late at night to local restaurants and a shuttle stop at Drew.

University spokesperson J.J. Pryor said shuttle service to Drew started on Wednesday, and hot food service vending machines would be installed in Drew by



PHOTOS BY MAYA GILLIAM

**Karen Grace's son, Matthew, was shot Saturday.**

today, so students won't have to go to Georgia Avenue late at night.

The University also has a contract with Yellow Cob so students can call or reserve service. A direct dial system is also planned for implementation in dorm hall lobbies. This number will be posted in residence halls.

A larger security presence in Drew Hall and the surrounding areas is to be implemented and Metro Police has agreed to put more patrols in the area.

Pryor said the University will also install more ATM machines

See SHOT page B5



Matthew Grace.

was waiting for the cab, a dark green mini-van parked and a black male, approximately 20-25 years old, with shoulder-length dreadlocks and missing teeth got out of the van.

Grace said after robbing one of the girls, the man turned his attention on him.

"He yelled, 'I'm going to kill all of you [expletive]," Grace said. "I saw him reach for his gun."

Grace said the man backed up to get close to his minivan, opened the car door and started shooting. He then got into his car and drove off immediately.

Grace said he was hit by five bullets and grazed by another. Geary Johnson said he was hit twice.

"My friends thought I was dead," said Grace, who took all five shots in his legs. "I thought I was paralyzed."

Grace said campus and Metropolitan Police arrived within minutes, but refused to help him until he showed them his ID.

Metro police or campus.

Sergeant Joseph Gentile, of the Metro Police said he is not sure if the police officer on duty asked for Grace's ID, but said it's not unusual— even if the person is wounded.

"It's a trick you use to keep people from going into shock," Gentile said. "Keep the victim concentrated on himself."

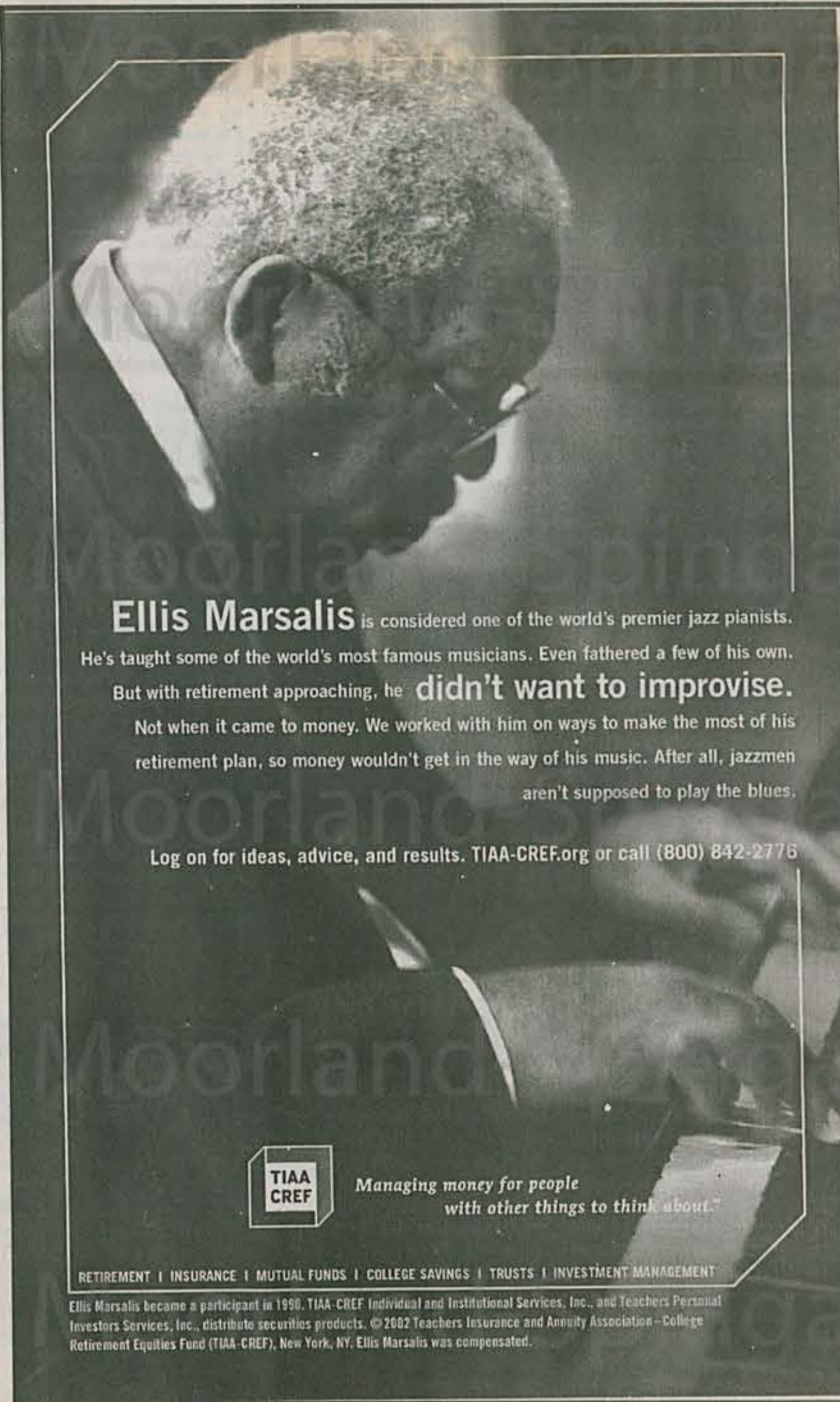
John Grace and his wife Karen flew in from California to be with their son.

When they got to D.C., the Graces said they tried to contact university officials a number of times but had no luck.

Grace said he placed several calls to university interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Raymond Archer concerning his son.

"I shouldn't have been contacting administrators, they should have been contacting me," Grace said.

A meeting with Howard President H. Patrick Swygert was



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## Mayors Nation-Wide in Need of Money Terrorism Security Measures Growing Too Costly for Cities

By Terez A. Paylor  
Hilltop Staff Writer

U.S. Cities want help and they want help now.

Shortly after the 2001 terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush promised at least \$3.5 billion in federal grants to state and local governments to improve their defense against another possible terrorist attack.

By January 2003, cities and states have yet to see a dime. The grants hadn't been approved by Congress and the cities were suffering.

According to reports, cities have already spent around \$2.6 billion of their own money since the terrorist attacks and urban areas in the U.S. lost 646,000 jobs last year.

Mayors of the cities in and around these urban areas expressed their concerns a month ago during the U.S. Conference of Mayors

(USCM).

The conference, which was held January 23, gave the mayors of over 300,000 cities a chance to collect their thoughts

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MAPS.COM

Mayors from all of the nation's major cities came to Washington DC to ask President Bush for funds to help their increased debt.

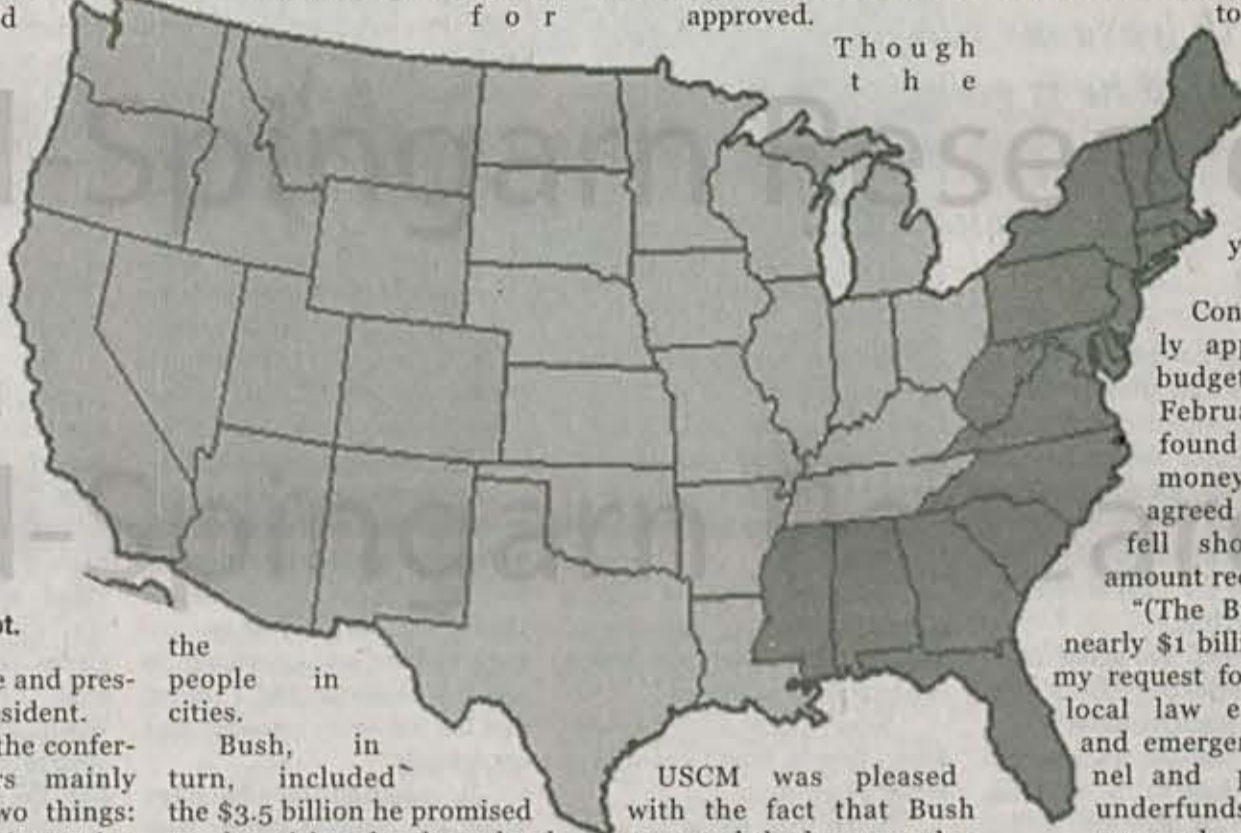
and opinions as a whole and present them to the President.

Coming out of the conference, the mayors mainly asked Bush for two things: federal assistance in paying salaries for policemen, firefighters and emergency work-

ers and a new economic plan that develops more jobs for

his fiscal year 2003 budget and sent it to Congress to be approved.

Though the



the people in cities.

Bush, in turn, included the \$3.5 billion he promised to the cities for homeland security investments also known as First Responders in

USCM was pleased with the fact that Bush requested the long overdue funding, they were not happy that the budget failed

to include general economic assistance for states and cities to help make up for the \$2.6 billion they've lost over the past year.

When Congress finally approved the budget in February, they found that the money they agreed to provide fell short of the amount requested.

"(The Budget) falls nearly \$1 billion short of my request for state and local law enforcement and emergency personnel and particularly underfunds terrorism preparedness for First Responders," said Bush. "I requested \$3.5 billion

for the First Responders Initiative. The bill, however, provides only \$1.3 billion for this purpose."

Meanwhile the bill provides \$2.2 billion for existing state and local grant programs, which are not directly related to higher-priority terrorism preparedness and prevention efforts.

"This is unsatisfactory, and my Administration will use every appropriate tool available to ensure that these funds are directed to the highest priority homeland security needs," said Bush.

The mayors were disappointed with the bill as well.

"Our police officers, our firefighters, our EMS workers, our residents and our businesses deserve more and the deserve better," said Thomas Menino, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

## More Black Families Choose Homeschooling Conditions of Public School at Root of the Cause

By Amie McLain  
Contributing Writer

Unlike most 16-year-old girls, Christi Owens is not in high school.

Monday through Friday, Christi is "in class" on her computer for four hours a day.

Her mother, Lynette Owens works for Advocate for Parents, a program in New Orleans system that aids parent-child relationships.

She took Christi out of public school last year because of the social environment and quality of teachers.

"A girl at her school gave Christi a knife...I don't want my daughter hanging around kids that bring knives to school. And, there were girls at that school that wanted to fight her," Owens said.

Owens and her husband enrolled Christi into the Alpha Omega Academy, a multimedia online schoolhouse located at [www.welcometoschool.com](http://www.welcometoschool.com), paying approximately \$1,000 a

year.

Their daughter participates in four core subjects; math, science, language arts, and history.

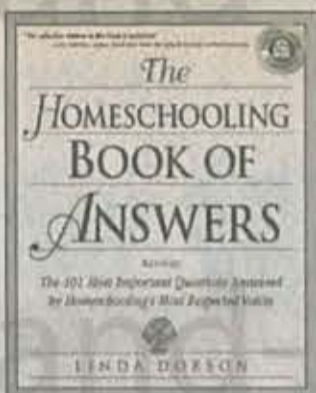


Photo courtesy of amazon.com  
**More black families hope to provide their children with a higher quality of education without public or private institutes.**

Like the Owenses, more and more families are choosing to homeschool their children, either teaching their children

themselves, or placing them in computer-based teaching programs.

Three years ago, blacks accounted for one percent of the 850,000 homeschooled students according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Since then, that number has grown to about five percent of the 1.7 million children homeschooled.

In a recent Washington Times article, Joyce Burnes, co-founder of the National Black Home Educators Resource Association said the reasons behind more blacks choosing homeschool varies from family to family, but most admit they are influenced by the failing public school system.

Owens was not only afraid for her daughter's physical safety, but also disappointed in the behavior of teachers.

"They are joking and cursing along with the kids, playing cards and gambling in classrooms," Owens said.

Howard University math

professor in the School of Education, Gerunda Hughes, can sympathize with parents who decide to home-school.

"Parents are the first teachers of their children and so for me it's a natural thing that parents would teach their children," Hughes said.

"Many of them feel they can do a better job."

R.C. Saravanabhavan, editor in chief of the Howard-sponsored quarterly publication, Journal of Negro Education (JNE), which investigates issues related to African Americans is slow to draw any

conclusions based on the recent statistics from the National Home Educators Research Institute.

"It is hard to make a comment without knowing if this increase is proportionate to increase in the general population or if this is unique to African American families. However, I believe that this is related to the growing distrust toward public schools," Saravanabhavan said.

However, Christi is not as happy as her mother.

"I like being able to get up whenever I want, but I'm a peo-

ple person and I like to be around people," Christi said.

Study assistance is often unavailable.

"If I don't understand an exercise with Alpha Omega and my parents aren't home, then I'm stuck," she said.

Christi wants to be a therapist when she grows up and hopes that her mother will enroll her into a private school next school year.

For more information on statistics involving homeschooled children, go to the National Center for Education Statistics at: [www.nces.ed.gov](http://www.nces.ed.gov).

## 'Styrofoam Versus Paper Debate'

All of the cafeterias and restaurants on Howard University's campus have been using Styrofoam products a lot lately.

The cups, plates and salad bowls in the cafeterias beg the question: Do people know about the effects of Styrofoam on the environment?

It is about time that we started reflecting on what happens to our Styrofoam waste.

Styrofoam, also known as polystyrene, falls under the category of a code number 6 plastic. Plastics are derived from petroleum: a non-renewable resource.

Polystyrene appears either in the foam form, such as Styrofoam, or as a hard plastic form, such as plastic cutlery, coat hangers, and CD cases. The Styrofoam form gets its texture from a blowing agent.

It is this blowing agent that made Styrofoam an environmental evil prior to 1988. Before 1988 the blowing agent was a gas containing chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs. The CFCs contained in the Styrofoam have deleterious effects on the ozone layer of our atmosphere.

However, in 1988, the advent of new blowing agents containing environmentally friendly gases conferred less of an environmental ill to this compound.

So without the threat of CFCs, with a less than 1% consumption of the non-renewable resource, petroleum, what is the incentive to switch to paper cups?

A Styrofoam cup gets used once and then the cup spends its entire life in a garbage heap.

Unlike a Styrofoam cup, a paper cup has

an afterlife: it can be used to make other useful products. Also as a minor bonus, paper comes from trees, and trees, unlike petroleum, are a renewable resource.

Lastly, and most importantly, paper is biodegradable. What this means is that paper can rot, but Styrofoam cannot.

Both paper and Styrofoam contain molecules made up of millions of atoms held tightly together. For either to rot, takes the action of small animals, fungi, or microbes in the soil. These organisms have the digestive juices and enzymes that can break down giant molecules found in plants, and therefore digesting paper, a byproduct of plants, comes naturally to them.

However, these organisms have yet to evolve the enzymes specific to breaking down the dissimilar giant molecules found in Styrofoam and other plastics.

There have been recent advances that boast of plastics that have parts of their giant molecules similar in structure to that of wood.

These plastics, unlike Styrofoam, will rot in the environment because they are biodegradable. Until the organisms in our soil evolve into Styrofoam eating beings, it is fair to say that the environmentally conscious person has reason enough to put out the extra money and go with paper cups.

Think about the millions of Styrofoam cups eternally lying dormant in parks, cities, and other places where we now see litter.

Then think about if it would have made a difference to the environment had these cups been paper instead.

## Pentagon Memorial Chosen



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

Those who died in the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon in Arlington, VA will be honored by a 2-acre memorial featuring 184 illuminated benches - one for each of the victims. Each bench will have the name of a victim engraved on it.

"THE MEMORIAL HAD TO BE LIKE NO OTHER MEMORIAL, BECAUSE SEPT. 11 WAS LIKE NO OTHER DAY."

- Julie Beckman, co-designer of a memorial that will feature 184 benches to honor each victim of the terrorist attack at the Pentagon.

## USA PATRIOT Act Taking Away Basic Rights *Powers of Controversial Anti-Terrorism Act to be Expanded*

By Leah Harris and Kristen M. Howard  
Hilltop Staff Reporters

Post Sept. 11 policy has brought many Americans face to face with new and often unfamiliar creases and crevices of the Bill of Rights.

The Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism, or USA PATRIOT Act, was passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the president in the almost record time of one month, has been instrumental in shocking citizens with the realization of how far the government will go "to protect" its citizens.

The most pertinent provisions and aspects of the act include:

- Relaxed restrictions on information sharing between U.S. law enforcement and intelligence officers about suspected terrorists.
- Making it illegal to knowingly harbor a terrorist.
- Authorizing "roving wiretaps," so that law enforcement officials can get court orders to wiretap any phone a suspected terrorist would use.
- Allowing the federal government to detain non-U.S. citizens suspected of terrorism for up to seven days without specific charges.
- Allowing law enforce-

ment officials greater subpoena power for e-mail records of terrorist suspects.

- Tripling the number of Border Patrol, Customs Service Inspectors and Immigration and Naturalization Service

Canada.

Over 1,200 people have already been seized, and an additional 5,000 interrogated. These prisoners, who the Bush administration admits are not terrorists, are still being held,

time period is meant to ensure that the bill will not be abused and the Senate approved this date 98 to 1.

However, Internet surveillance without a court mandate and home/office searches with-

tration has come up with the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003 (DSEA).

This new act drawn up by Attorney General John Ashcroft has not been officially released by the Department of Justice, but has already been dubbed 'Son of the Patriot Act' and 'Patriot Act II'. Reducing or eliminating judicial oversight dealing with surveillance, creating new death penalties for terrorists, authorizing secret arrests, creating a suspected terrorist DNA database and stripping Americans of citizenship for supporting certain political organizations are components of this proposed law.

Senate Judiciary Committee members have been asking for information about this bill for months and despite the extensive work that has obviously been put into it, committee members were told that no such bill was under works. Not even having been consulted with Congress, this new legislation is being kept under tight wraps.

Many feel the controversial bill is being saved until there is an actual war so less discussion about it will be necessary and the legislation will need to be enacted speedily.

Howard students are somewhat divided on the issue. Public Relations major, Blair Edwards says, "It sounds like the Red Scare all over again."

"I think it's a total invasion of privacy because why should our living privileges be ruined by what twenty men have done?" said Marketing major Shelby Edmond.

Now, this may all seem effective for the war on terrorism, but most of these provisions include a predicate statement about "suspected terrorist".

The definition of suspected terrorist is vague.

Any person of any color, creed, or religion could potentially be a terrorist suspect. That allows the government to use its broad reach to grab onto to anything or anyone they may feel is a threat of almost any kind.

Looking carefully at what the act stipulates, it allows the government to take many of these steps, such as wiretapping, without a warrant for this express purpose.

Before the Patriot Act, the laws were very strict on just how far the government was able to look into your personal correspondence.

It was necessary to have specific warrants to view any type of communication through phone or email. One would have to prove that specific evidence that applies to certain felonies would be found. Now, the game has changed.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CONSTITUTION.COM

Due to terrorism fears, Americans are now more vulnerable to abuses by the federal government. The US PATRIOT Act was enacted to allow federal agencies easy access to personal information.

inspectors at the northern border of the United States and provides \$100 million to improve technology and equipment on the U.S. border with

uncharged, due to racial and ethnic profiling.

Some of the bill's surveillance sections will expire in December 2005. The four-year

out giving notification are permanent policies, not included in the expiration period. In efforts to extend the patriot act even further, Bush's adminis-

## Back to Africa World Briefs *Covering the Motherland and Other Lands*

**It's Carnival Time!**  
RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - Rio de Janeiro's famed Carnival parade came to a close at dawn on Tuesday after tons of body glitter and 20 hours of samba dazzled millions of viewers in Brazil and beyond.

Under threat from drug gangs that terrorized Rio last week, the two-day competition between 14 samba schools took place under its heaviest security as 3,000 army troops were called in to back up 30,000 police safeguarding the city.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REUTERS

**The Queen of the Drums of samba school Unidos da Tijuca, Fabia Borges, dances in front of the band in Rio de Janeiro's Sambodrome on the second parade night of the season, March 3, 2003.**

general who would command a war in Iraq headed to Washington for meetings with

**Just Say No...Internationally!**  
COPENHAGEN, Denmark - International governments followed sports federations in supporting the approval of the first global anti-doping code.

The United States, Russia and Iran on Tuesday made it clear they would back the World Anti-Doping Agency's uniform code on the second day of a three-day summit on drugs in sports.

The 53-page code was to be put up for a vote Wednesday.

The results will be assessed before next year's Athens Olympics.

**Rape Victim, Age 9, Receives Abortion, Criticism**

MANAGUA, Nicaragua - A pregnant 9-year-old Nicaraguan girl received an abortion at a private clinic and was recovering well, a private organization said last Friday.

Nicaragua's Family Ministry had said it would seek to prosecute anyone who helped the family.

The girl's parents have said she was raped in Costa Rica, and authorities there have taken a suspect into custody.

**19 Dead in Bombing**  
MANILA, Philippines - A bomb planted inside a back-

pack ripped through an airport terminal in the southern Philippines on Tuesday, killing at least 19 people - including an American missionary - and



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSCARMEYER.COM

**Secretary of State Colin Powell reminisced about a hot dog with Vice-President of China last week.**

**What a Weenie**

BEIJING - First came Ping-Pong diplomacy. Now, get ready for hot dog diplomacy.

As Chinese Vice President Hu Jintao and Secretary of State Colin Powell exchanged pleasantries in Beijing's Great Hall of the People last week, the Chinese Communist Party leader warmly recalled Powell's offer to buy him a hot dog on the streets of his native New York.

Powell, who was born and raised in New York City's South Bronx, said he brought greetings from President Bush and formally offered his congratulations to Hu on becoming general secre-



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAWAHART.COM

**Dogs in Nigeria may no longer be forced to suffer from sexual frustration.**

tary of the Communist Party. "And I still leave open, sir, the offer of a hot dog in New York," Powell said, prompting laughter.

**Horndogs No More**

BERLIN - A German artist has applied for a license to open a brothel in Berlin for sexually frustrated dogs and says it will be the first of its kind anywhere.

Karl-Friedrich Lenze, 54, said he planned to charge dog owners \$27 per half hour of happiness.

"If dogs can't get what they want, they get cranky - just like people," Lenze told Reuters.

**64 Killed in Nigerian Clashes**

LAGOS, Nigeria - At least 63 people were shot or hacked to death in clashes between villagers in northeastern Nigeria.

Officials said nomadic herdsmen and farmers clashed several times in northeastern Gombe state and in neighboring Adamawa state. Police said they were investigating reports by villagers that armed Chadians triggered a bloodbath in Adamawa with an invasion of one of the most remote corners of Nigeria.

*World News Brief Sources: Associated Press and Reuters*



## What's News—

In Business and Finance

### Auto Sales Weaken, Production to Slow

U.S. auto makers will respond to sagging sales of new vehicles by producing fewer cars and light trucks, the first time the industry has acknowledged that consumer nervousness about a possible war with Iraq and high energy prices was hurting demand.

The implications for the economy could be widespread. The auto industry has been a key driver of the U.S. economy since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Auto sales account for a fifth of total U.S. retail sales. By keeping factories running and offering no-interest financing and other discounts to entice consumers, auto makers have helped keep the manufacturing sector from a more-painful slowdown despite sluggishness in other parts of the economy.

But now, General Motors Corp., the world's biggest auto maker, and Ford Motor Co., its top U.S. rival, say they plan to tap the brakes on production in the second quarter of this year amid concern that consumer demand has softened to the point that even big rebates won't clear bulging inventories. Overall, U.S. car and light-truck sales fell 6.9% in February to 1.2 million vehicles from a year earlier. GM was hit the hardest, with sales falling 19%, albeit from a strong performance a year earlier.

Auto officials also blamed the weak economy and icy weather conditions across many parts of the country for the February results, the slowest annualized rate of sales since October.

### Crossover Vehicles: The Stealth SUV

The auto industry has a plan to keep drivers buying SUVs: disguising them.

The Chrysler Pacifica, which hits showrooms this month, is the first of a new generation of family-size "crossover" models—vehicles that cut and paste various car, SUV and minivan features. The Pacifica has the front end of a car and the back end of a minivan.

To date, most of the smaller, more agile crossovers have been expensive imports, like the Lexus RX 300. But now Chrysler is aiming at mainstream soccer moms with its new Pacifica, which will sell for between \$36,000 and \$40,000. General Motors Corp. already offers a crossover vehicle, the Saturn Vue, and Ford Motor Co. is expected to release a crossover wagon next year.

Auto makers want to preserve the load-carrying capacity and appearance of a truck-based SUV, while easing the roughness of the ride and improving on the SUVs' poor gas mileage. Crossovers are manufactured like cars—with the floor, frame and upper body designed as a single unit. Typically, this leads to a lighter vehicle with better fuel efficiency and a lower center of gravity, which makes it less likely to roll over. Still, government testing hasn't been done yet on many of the new crossovers.

But the auto makers risk undermining their highly profitable SUV franchises if they overplay the advantages of crossovers. While sales of conventional SUVs still dominate in volume, crossover sales are growing much faster. They climbed 23% last year from 2001, according to Ward's Automotive Reports. Ward's expects crossovers to surpass minivans in sales this year.

### Google Plans to Sell Ads on Other Sites

Google Inc. is introducing a new advertising program that allows the popular provider of Web search technology to sell and deliver ads on other publishers' Web sites, broadening its business beyond just Web search.

The company licenses its search technology to other companies, including Yahoo Inc., to help their users search the Internet. Google also sells ads on its own Google Web site that are related to certain key

### Winners and Losers

Sales of some pickups and large SUVs fell in February, while smaller vehicles gained.

<b>Chevrolet Silverado</b> , Large pickup	▼-29.2%
<b>Ford Explorer</b> , SUV	▼-7.1%
<b>Honda Civic</b> , Compact car	▲+10.3%
<b>Ford Escape</b> , Crossover SUV	▲+28.4%
<b>Toyota Prius</b> , Gas-electric hybrid	▲+32.9%



Source: the companies

words and search queries.

Now Google is expected to announce a new, automated program for content-targeted ads. That means that an Internet user reading a Web page on astronomy might see a related, Google-delivered advertisement for telescopes on that page. The program makes Google, which has focused primarily on providing search technology, look more like an advertising company, similar to DoubleClick Inc., which sells and delivers ads on third-party customers' Web sites.

"They're not laser-focused on search," said Danny Sullivan, editor of Search Engine Watch, a newsletter. "This makes them a media company, an advertising network."

### For Spring Break, Try a \$19 Cruise

Bargains on cruises are increasingly available as online travel companies step up efforts to encourage bookings online, and as the cruise industry—due to the threat of war—tries to fill its berths.

The cruise industry has traditionally maintained that booking a cruise is too complicated for travelers to handle without professional help. As a result, only 2.7% of cruises will be booked online this year, up from 1.3% two years ago.

Now, however, companies like Priceline.com, Travelocity.com and Icrui.se.com are moving aggressively to offer online bookings. Skyauction.com, which lets people bid for cruises in an auction format, is offering three-night Bahamas excursions for less than \$100. A company official says Skyauction bought these berths from Carnival for about \$50 apiece. In recent months, one lucky traveler got a 17-day cruise from Fort Lauderdale to Italy for \$19 plus taxes and fees, when there were few bidders.

For those willing to do their own research on ships, ports and cabin types, there's every reason to shop for deals online. But people uncertain about what type of ship or cabin suits them best, or who want guidance on itineraries, might want to stick with a travel agent.

### Odds & Ends

Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc., battling sliding sales and investigations into alleged insider stock trading by its founder, reported a \$2 million loss in its fiscal fourth quarter as it restructured its direct-sales business. ... Billionaire investor Warren Buffett, in an annual letter to shareholders in his holding company Berkshire Hathaway Inc., discloses that he isn't enamored of most common stocks today. "We will sit on the sidelines," he said in the letter, adding, "Occasionally successful investing requires inactivity."

By Jay Hershey

How to contact us:  
Campus Edition@wsj.com

### AT COLLEGEJOURNAL.COM

- Will world politics hinder a student's application to business school?
- An overview of starting salary data for the class of 2003.
- Part 3 of our senior job-search special report.

## Best Goof Goes to Studios

### Pirates Spin Out Copies Of DVDs Distributed For Oscar Balloting

By ANNA WILDE MATHEWS, BRUCE ORWALL and KATHY CHEN

One day last week, Yungsheng Century Audio and Visual Center in Beijing provided a textbook example of the growing piracy that movie companies dread. For 25 yuan, or about \$3, shoppers could buy a high-quality bootleg DVD of New Line Cinema's "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"—months before authorized copies are set to be issued anywhere in the world.

But the source of the pirated material was unexpected: New Line itself. In pursuit of Oscar nominations, the AOL Time Warner Inc. unit sent out thousands of pristine "Two Towers" DVDs to members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Some of those discs, however, fell into the wrong hands and became the digital blueprint for bootleggers who have copied the film and distributed it both online and in shops abroad.

So even as "Two Towers" plays in theaters around the world, perfect but illicit digital copies of the film are widely available. The DVD for sale in Beijing still carried the on-screen warning: "The presentation you are about to see is for Academy consideration only. It is the property of New Line Cinema and is not for sale or public exhibition."

### I Want My DVD

The situation represents the collision of two powerful forces in Hollywood: the race to stamp out piracy and the race to win Academy Awards. The movie studios say they are desperate to stop digital copying before it becomes as rampant as the theft that has plagued the music industry in recent years. Yet, this season at least, it appears that the bloodlust to win Oscars is proving stronger.

Despite the ease with which

DVDs can be illicitly copied and redistributed, most of the major studios this year sent out thousands of so-called Academy screeners in DVD format to the people who vote for Oscars. In years past, the vast majority of screeners were sent out on videotape, which is harder to copy and redistribute. But with the rapid rise of the DVD, most voters requested that their screeners come in that format, and the studios happily obliged.

That decision has now boomeranged, in the form of high-quality bootlegs of films such as "Chicago" and "Gangs of New York" from Miramax Films; DreamWorks SKG's "Catch Me if You Can"; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.'s "Die Another Day"; and a number of other films that were sent to voters on DVD, even as they were just being released in U.S. movie theaters.

The apparent triumph of Oscar fever over business sense is striking even to Hollywood insiders. "Let's face it," says movie producer Marc Abraham, "what other business would do this?"

Already, the DVD screeners have provided a case study in how sophisticated international pirates, armed with perfect digital duplicates and the Internet's instantaneous distribution, make it hard to contain any valuable entertainment property. The file-sharing phenomenon that has hammered the music business is now spreading online to movies, which are becoming more widely available and easier to download because of the proliferation of high-speed Internet connections.

The problem is that the Oscar screeners have generated a pirate product that is superior to typical bootlegs. Many films show up in pi-



For Your Consideration



DVDs distributed by studios to Oscar voters often fall into the hands of bootleggers and are illegally copied and resold; above, "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"

rated DVD form shortly after their release in U.S. theaters. Some are still low-quality reproductions that are made by having someone sneak into a theater with a digital camcorder and film the movie off the screen, then copying that onto DVDs. Those are riddled with problems such as audio tracks in which other moviegoers can be heard coughing or eating popcorn. Increasingly, pirates manage to get access to theater prints of a film, which create a cleaner bootleg that nonetheless has many imper-

fections. But the screeners have provided pirates with a simple, ready-made source for copies that are more or less the equivalent of what will later be released legitimately on DVD.

The Motion Picture Association of America says its investigators have confirmed that pirates are distributing DVDs of more than 20 movie titles that were derived from awards-consideration screener copies. Most of them are believed to be coming out of China, Malaysia or Thailand, where factories are likely pressing hundreds of thousands of copies of each film.

The DVD screeners "are a major source of pirate product," says Ken Jacobsen, the MPA's director of world-wide anti-piracy. "Somebody loans [the screener] to a friend to watch, and the friend unwittingly loans it to another friend, and eventually it gets to somebody who may be involved in piracy."

The problem is the direct result of an old dilemma for

the studios: getting Academy voters to honor their films when many of them have not seen them in theaters. To generate heat for Oscar contenders, most of the studios send screeners not just to the 5,800 members of the academy, but also to the press and at least some members of guilds representing writers, actors and other trades. Some studios are now sending more than 10,000 copies of each film, the vast majority in DVD format.

### Sacred Cow

Warren Lieberfarb, the recently departed head of Warner Home Video, says the issue is emblematic of how digitalization is going to force Hollywood "to rethink its customs and practices, as well as its business models." But Mr. Lieberfarb says the business types aren't always consulted at Oscar time: "Running the Academy campaign is one of the sacred cows of the movie industry. I would gamble that the video divisions were never consulted."

Refusing to send out DVD screeners would be the equivalent of saying "don't vote for us," says Terry Press, marketing chief of DreamWorks. Yet she is among those in Hollywood who would like to stop the practice of mailing movies to voters altogether: "This is the devil's bargain for sending out movies that you should see in a theater."

### The Nominees Are...

#### BEST PICTURE

"Chicago," "Gangs of New York," "The Hours," "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," "The Pianist."

#### BEST ACTOR

Adrien Brody, "The Pianist"; Nicolas Cage, "Adaptation"; Michael Caine, "The Quiet American"; Daniel Day-Lewis, "Gangs of New York"; Jack Nicholson, "About Schmidt"

#### BEST ACTRESS

Salma Hayek, "Frida"; Nicole Kidman, "The Hours"; Diane Lane, "Unfaithful"; Julianne Moore, "Far from Heaven"; Renee Zellweger, "Chicago."

#### BEST DIRECTOR

Rob Marshall, "Chicago"; Martin Scorsese, "Gangs of New York"; Stephen Daldry, "The Hours"; Roman Polanski, "The Pianist"; Pedro Almodovar, "Talk to Her."

## Uncle Sam Doesn't Want All of You

By KEMBA J. DUNHAM

Over the past 18 months, the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the State Department have been out in force at job fairs and college campuses.

But despite the record number of applications, most agencies haven't been hiring in record numbers—creating a bottleneck of candidates and many disappointed applicants. Of the record 32,239 people who took the State Department's Foreign-Service exam or applied there last fiscal year, only 470 were hired.

"We're getting the most spectacularly motivated people that we've ever had in our history," says Niels Marquardt, director of the department's diplomatic readiness task force. "We've enlarged the pool of people who are interested, so our standards are going up."

Some people who have applied for a federal law-enforcement or intelligence job say they had to run a gauntlet of tests and security clearances that dragged on for months—only to end up without a job offer. Some agencies respond to applications with an automated e-mail confirmation of receipt—and nothing afterward.

Even colleges where the agencies actively recruit have a hard time figuring out what kinds of candidates are getting hired. Don Kjelleren, associate director for recruiting at Middlebury College, in Vermont, says the FBI, the CIA, the NSA and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service have hired graduates of the school—but they won't say which students.

The agencies insist they have improved recruiting procedures. The FBI, CIA and NSA say they are using computer technology to sort through stacks of résumés to identify the most qualified applicants quickly. Jobs at all levels must be filled, such as computer scientists, engineers, paralegals, financial analysts, biologists, nurses and technical support staffers. But the qualification bar is high. The CIA's recruiting chief says successful candidates have "the highest level of integrity, conduct and judgment."

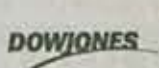
Among candidates who meet the rigorous requirements, the odds of getting hired are pretty good, some agencies say. For instance, the vast majority of the 80,000 people who applied to the NSA last year weren't hired, but of those with the requisite background roughly one in three received a job offer, the NSA says.

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## Josef Sawyer, Miyanda Jackson to Lead The Hilltop Next Year

HILLTOP from A2

Hilltop began with a perspective published on Valentines Day.

"I remember running down stairs and seeing my name in the paper and it was an adrenaline rush," Sawyer said.

What would follow laid the ground work for three years of learning virtually every aspect of the paper as then-EIC Jason Smith (2000-01) took Sawyer under his wing. He brought him to a Policy Board Meeting, encouraged him to continue his writing and consider planning to one day assume the position

of EIC.

Working toward the position of EIC took time and diligence.

"Originally Josef was not on my staff, but he was very persistent about working for the paper," recalls current EIC Lauren Bayne Anderson. "I received email after email over the summer from this 'Josef Sawyer' who wanted to work."

Anderson said she gave Sawyer a chance as the Online Editor.

Current Friday Managing Editor Aisha Chaney, fondly recalled her initial experience with Sawyer as helpful and memorable.

"He helped me with my very first story, last year's Howard vs. Hampton football game. I was so nervous because I had never written before, but he guided me through it and taught me all the little things," Chaney said. "I would go to him whenever I had a question or needed some help."

Anderson said she was impressed by Sawyer's work.

"What I liked about Josef was that he came in, did his job, but it didn't stop there," Anderson said. "Working for this paper requires you to give up your life and he did just that — he showed a lot of initiative and went above and beyond the call of duty."

Sawyer said he is ready to take on the responsibility of the newspaper.

"It's a big responsibility and I realize that, but it's a responsibility that I have been preparing for, for the past three years," Sawyer said.

Sawyer's vision for The Hilltop includes "searching for his legacy", which he says will include improving communication between student government and The Hilltop and story content.

"A lot of people think The Hilltop goes out of its way to trash or tarnish their reputation and that's not what we're about," Sawyer said. "I extend my hand to all student leaders and look forward to working with them."

Sawyer said he owes everything to the direction of his mother.

"I don't know where I



The current Hilltop staff congratulates Sawyer on becoming Editor-in-Chief for the 2003-2004 year. From left, Stephanie Crouch, campus editor, Aisha Chaney, Friday managing editor, Sawyer, David Johns, staff writer and Bernard Murray, Friday sports editor.



PHOTOS BY MAYA GILLIAM

Current Editor-in-Chief, Lauren Bayne Anderson and Editor-in-Chief elect, Josef Sawyer.

would be if my mother didn't bring home that summer booklet," Sawyer said. "I will never forget her saying make it what you want — this is what I made."

Jackson said she plans to improve the newspaper's revenue and efficiency by bringing in more local advertising and fostering friendly competition among the staff.

"I was very thankful once I found out the position was mine," Jackson said. "The skills I have developed working as assistant business manager coupled with the ability to directly contribute to Howard makes this position rewarding."

As business manager, Jackson is responsible for overseeing the business staff; handling payroll and producing the

ad revenue to maintain the newspaper and pay it's bills.

Producing ad revenue is extremely important for The Hilltop because the newspaper receives less than half of its total operating costs from student activities fees.

Anderson said she is happy with the selections, noting Sawyer and Jackson will work well together.

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OPENS IN THEATRES MARCH 14

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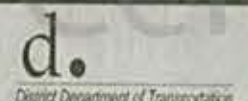
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## Students Walk Out of Class to Protest the War in Iraq

PEACE from A1

a part of a nationwide protest; on Mar. 5, people across the country walked out of class and off the job. The national moratorium was tagged with the slogan "No business as usual."

As students assembled, they were handed flyers entitled "5 Reasons We Are Against War." Some arrived ready to protest; others gathered out of curiosity.

"I know about the walk-out because they announced it in chapel on Sunday," said freshman Kalina Rogers. "I'm curious to see what people have to say."

Representatives from ANSWER, Amnesty, HUSA, and Uhuru all had a turn at the microphone, expressing their opinions as well as educating the uninformed about Bush's war plans.

Junior Goldie Patrick drew

an excited response from the crowd, who agreed with her passionate, thought-provoking speech.

"[Students] won't come out of class for a political protest, but we'll come out of class to see the all the fraternities and sororities," she said. "We need to get it together Howard."

Patrick also encouraged the student body to think for itself when presented with information from the government. "Don't believe the political propaganda handed to you, you're smarter than that."

Andrews reminded the crowd that no one is alone in this protest. "Foreign students are afraid that they will be deported for protesting," she said. "Remember, we are your brothers and sisters and we will stand here for you."

She instructed everyone to look at each other and say, "I am your keeper."

HUSA president Cornell Williamson took to the microphone, leading another chant: "What do we want? Peace! When do we want it? Now!" He thanked the students for gathering and rallying on such an important political issue.

Fonta Gilliam, co-chair of Amnesty International spoke on the need of African Americans to become more globally minded, and also addressed the issue of money being taken from educational institutions to fund the military.

"It doesn't stop here," she said, encouraging students to stay active by joining Amnesty and other similar organizations. Kadiri Barrolle of Uhuru reiterated the need to look at the war in a global context. "I know when I come here to Howard University," he said, "I'm speaking to the whole world."

Those who gathered were pleased and excited by the walk-

out. "I was glad to see so many Howard students out standing in solidarity and expressing their political beliefs," said former HUSA vice-president Alex Dixon.

Former HUSA president Stefanie Brown appreciated the event for the information it presented. "I think those who came out were well-informed and realized why we don't want this war," she said.

"You hear a lot of talk on campus," said sophomore political science major Aaron Nelson. "But this was the first visible event. I'm really happy to see such a large amount of support from the students."

At the conclusion of the walk-out, Lindsay thanked the crowd for their support and junior political science major Madelina Young led the black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The scene of black students



Students hold up posters in protest, to express their opposition to a war with Iraq.

standing and singing in unity was refreshing, almost euphoric. But beyond the raised right fists, the other students moved about the yard as if nothing was going on.

## General Assembly Addresses Elections Chair, Complaints

GAM from A1

Committee. Bradley stated she was wrongfully terminated and was not even informed of her termination by Cunningham like she should have been.

"I was working in the office on Wednesday [Feb. 26] and the vice chair told me that I would not be compensated for my work," Bradley said. "Corey [Cunningham] never came to me and said that I was fired, I had to find out from outside sources. I have done what I was supposed to do, so I don't understand why I was fired."

When the Assembly asked Cunningham why Bradley was terminated, he said she didn't fulfill the things that she was hired to do.

"The public relations staff did the flyers and she [Bradley] did not help," Cunningham said. "Ms. Bradley was also compensated for the work that she did when she was hired."

The General Assembly decided that no action could be taken against the General Elections Committee with Bradley's grievance. The General Assembly did however, view the conduct and level of professionalism that

Cunningham and his staff conducted business.

Stephanie Brown, UGSA representative for the School of Business, wanted Cunningham to clarify the procedures that he used to hire his staff.

"There wasn't any set procedure that I used to hire the staff," Cunningham said. "There wasn't any advertisement for the positions, I just hired who I knew and people who were recommended."

Another main concern of the General Assembly was the Committees refusal to speak with candidates.

"As stated in the elections

guidelines, the campaign manager is the only person from the candidate's staff that can talk to the Elections Chair," Cunningham said. "These guidelines were approved by the General Assembly before the elections."

Another problem that the General Assembly had was the many Speak Outs that were canceled. Graduate Student Assembly Representative (GSA) for the School of Law Charles Coleman, said that the General Elections Committee staff should not be paid for things that they didn't do. Coleman told Cunningham that it was not fair

that he got paid for the Speak Out he missed.

"It is not fair that the committee gets paid for Speak Outs that were canceled," Coleman said. "Students should not have to pay people who aren't doing their job."

The lack of communication between the local elections chair and the general election committee was another topic discussed.

"Last week the School of Business scheduled a Speak Out at the same time as the HUSA and Undergraduate Trustee Speak Outs," Lockett said. "This lack of communication between the local

elections chair and the General Elections Committee is pitiful."

The General Assembly voted to have Cunningham write a letter of apology to Bradley for his unprofessionalism, and the General Assembly decided to vote on what action should be taken against the General Elections Committee at the Mar. 26 General Assembly meeting.

The General Assembly also discussed the revisions to the current Constitution as well as the Think Tank, which was held last month. Each of these items will be discussed further at the Mar. 26 General Assembly meeting.

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- 11 a.m. Layouts and Photos and Fonts: Oh My! A Discussion for the Inquiries
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## The Propaganda Might Be Televised

By Bernard Murray  
Sports Editor

The smell of war is in the air. So where does that leave the sporting world? Try: up the creek without a paddle.

If this war does happen, the U.S. attacking Iraq, that is, and if the networks, mainly CBS, decide to continue with complete coverage of events, the NCAA Tournament will be moved to another station.

All 64-plus games will not be broadcast on CBS, but one of its sister networks. CBS is owned by Viacom, and under their discretion, they can choose to televise the developments in the Middle East.

The president of CBS Sports, Sean McManus, said that in this time of crisis, war will take precedence over any sporting event. In such a case, Viacom, owner of several other television stations, has the right to shift the responsibility of broadcasting the NCAA Tournament to any network under its ownership including MTV, UPN, BET, TNN, VH1, CMT, Nickelodeon, Comedy Central and TV Land.

Only three of these stations, TNN, MTV and Nickelodeon have 81 percent availability throughout the country to cover the games.

I know what most are asking, why these stations and not ESPN, ESPN2 or FOX Sports? These stations may not broadcast the NCAA Tournament because of contractual difficulties. ESPN already hosts the Women's NCAA Tournament and is owned by Disney; it would be a conflict of interest. As for FOX Sports, they just don't have the licensing.

Don't worry, because the stations owned by CBS are every bit as capable of covering the games. Take TNN for example. They are the leaders when it comes to sport innovation. Michael Tollin and Mason Gorgon took basketball to new heights, literally. They glorified the art of dunking by adding eight trampolines, four at each basket, which would allow players to put on an acrobatic and amazing show of dunks in a game called Slamball. TNN is a perfect candidate for the NCAA Tournament.

How about Nickelodeon? I can see it now, Tommy Pickles and Chucky doing play-by-play commentary while Spongebob Squarepants works the game for sideline interviews.

Let's not forget MTV, honestly the best bet. Mixing basketball and hip-hop. DJ Scribble on the ones-and-twos and halftime shows by the best in the music industry.

I can't wait. Seriously, this proposal will merely replace current

See TV page B5

# When Silence is Too Loud

By Bernard Murray  
Sports Editor

Given the stage that athletes perform on, they are expected to maintain the status quo regardless of person beliefs. However, there are those who exploit the system and use their position to promote change.

Craig Hodges is a political activist who had a wicked jump shot. After the Bulls won their first championship in 1991, Hodges used the team's visit to the White House to make a statement.

Hodges went against the norm and wore a dashiki while his teammates were dressed in suits. He surprised people further when he handed President George H. W. Bush a letter citing and asking for rectifying measures of injustices against African Americans instead of presenting him with a number 14 jersey.

On the world's biggest sporting stage, the Olympics, there was one moment that will be etched in Olympic history forever: Tommie Smith and John Carlos' fists.

During the '68 Olympics in Mexico City, apartheid was happening in South Africa, the Vietnam War was in full swing and the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy sparked controversy and riots.

These events were more than enough to move them to protest.

With black-gloved fists in the air, Tommie Smith, right fist, and John Carlos, left fist, formed the arch of power and unity — a black scarf symbolizing black pride and shoeless black socks representing black poverty — they took a stand against a racist America.

These and other athletes who stood up against the system were met with opposition.

Ali was imprisoned for his refusal to serve in the Vietnam War; Smith and Carlos were suspended from the U.S. national team and banned from the Olympic Village for the remainder of the games; and Hodges still contested that it was his politics, not his game, that got

*"I respect anybody's right and their individual choice, but on the court, in a team situation, it puts focus on the person. I don't think the basketball court is the right place for protest. I wouldn't want my players to use the court as an agent for change. Find a different forum. There are formats for protest, The Hilltop, administration, or the congressperson. My players have different beliefs and rather than turning their back on the flag, I'd allow them to go in the locker room when the national anthem is played. It turns the game into a protest, making it a public spectacle."*

--Frankie Allen, Men's Basketball Head Coach

him blacklisted from the NBA.

This generation's political stand didn't come from a professional athlete or activist, rather Toni Smith, a senior point guard at Manhattanville College in Purchase, 30 miles out side of New York.

Since the start of the season, she has made it a routine to turn 90 degrees opposite her teammates and stand with her back to the flag.

It wasn't until her game against King Point last Feb. 24 that her protest gained national attention.

56-year-old Jerry Kiley, a Vietnam veteran, ran on the court with an American flag and confronted Smith saying that she had disgraced herself and the flag.

He was eventually escorted off the court by security.

Smith intentions were not to start a controversy, but now that her actions are publicized, she has decided to voice her opinion.

Smith recently released a 250-word statement explaining her intentions and her reasoning:

*For some time now, the inequalities that are embedded into the American system have bothered me. And they are becoming progressively worse and it is clear that the government's priorities are not on bettering the*

*quality of life for all of its people, but rather on expanding its own power, I cannot, in good conscience, salute the flag.*

Her freedom of speech is strikingly similar to that of a former NBA player.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf — Chris Jackson before he converted to Islam in '91 — also refused to stand and pay respect the American flag.

Abdul-Rauf was the star point guard for the Denver Nuggets and during the '95-'96 season his actions were at odds with NBA regulations requiring players to stand "in a dignified posture" during the national anthem.

Abdul-Rauf explained that the US flag was a symbol of oppression and tyranny and this country has a long history of both.

The NBA was unimpressed

Instead, they suspended him and fined him more than \$30,000.

He eventually compromised, standing for the national anthem while privately praying for suffering humanity.

Athletes are placed in the media spotlight and enforced to bite their tongues on political issues.

"In media and sports there are guidelines and we're forced to follow them," said Quadir Habeeb. "They don't want us to go against

the grain and when we do they try and make it seem bad. It's taking away freedom of action."

He's an African American Studies major from Buffalo and is one of the centers on the basketball team, but that's only his part-time job.

Habeeb, better known as Q, is a political poet. He's been featured throughout DC and will not be confined using every ounce of his free speech.

"African Americans should use their influence in America to better African American. Black athletes are being paid millions to remain in a slave state of mind," Q said. "These positions and we need to start taking actions and making moves to help us instead of being paid to be mainstream."

He has such strong issues on dealing with the black race partly because of his major.

However, it goes deeper than that.

Q is out spoken. His most political pieces, "Pray for Me," "Truth Journey" and "I Can't Breathe" speak about issues that probably won't be found in high school textbooks.

Q admitted he was deprived of Black History because his school taught American History without mentioning slavery.

If history has a tradition

of being written by the victors, books are biased toward the majority and teachers neglect to mention the importance of slavery, who and what will black children learn from?

"America was built off us. It's a fact that we built America," Q said. "If your not teaching me the truth about Black Wall Street, cops beating black kids, Bush taking our young blacks to war over some bull, how are you going to tell me I have to pledge the flag?"

Q's beliefs are similar to those of Smith, who has been criticized by fans and coaches for her actions this season.

At two away games, Smith was met with patriotic fans at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and Mount St. Mary's.

The home crowd at US Merchant Marine Academy was packed with fans that waved flags and chanted "U-S-A" and "Leave our country."

The student government at Mount St. Mary's College spent \$100 on little American flag for Smith's visit.

Q believes he has valid reasons for speaking out against this country.

"I am Muslim and I pray for what's going on in Iraq and the Muslims, but I am also African American; I am black first," Q said.

He feels doubly jaded over America, because of the US's oppression of both Muslims and African Americans and question Howard's thoughts of bringing Bush in for an honorary degree.

Due to this frustration, Q's feelings for not pledging the flag are strong.

He hates to see African Americans pledge to the flag. He says seeing them pledge is clearly saying they are ignorant to their history. He wonders how they can make a pledge to something that does not want or respect them. He believes that Howard students are conditioned to pledge the flag and are afraid to go against the grain.

"I stand up because when you're in Rome, do as the Romans do. I stand up, but I am not going to pledge or listen to it."

## Dynamic Duo of Petty, Kirk Leave Mark on HU

Soraya McDonald  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Jordan and Pippen. Shaq and Kobe. Kirk and Petty.

While they might not be men and might not play in the NBA, those factors do not diminish anything about the phenomenal partnership that bonds co-captains Asia Petty and Courtney Kirk, two seniors who play basketball for the Lady Bison.

As the only seniors on the team who have played together at Howard for four years, they are the backbone of the team; both women have averaged nearly 15 points per game this season.

Coaches and sports information directors selected Courtney Kirk, a 6'0 forward from Fairfield, Alabama, for the All-MEAC first team for 2002-2003 while the 5'8 guard Petty was named to the All-MEAC second team.

Kirk averages six rebounds per game and has led the team in scoring ten times this season, while Petty ranks second in scoring and has led the team seven times in scoring.

Both women love playing basketball.

Petty, a sociology major, hopes to play overseas after graduating, while Kirk, a radio-television-and-film major, aspires to play either in the WNBA or overseas.

Kirk made the decision to come to Howard in 1998 even though both she and her sister Collette were offered scholarships to attend other southern schools.

"When I first got here, it was a major transition for me because this is an elite black school. I went to an all-black public school where you had people coming in every day just to eat. It was overwhelming in a sense because it was something I wasn't used to. I

didn't know how to study when I got here."

Despite a transition that may have been overwhelming at first, Kirk soon became acclimated to being a student athlete at Howard.

Like Kirk, Petty had seriously considered other schools in her home state of California before making the decision to come to Howard.

She had even verbally committed to the UCLA before visiting the Mecca.

"I always wanted to go to a historically black college," said Petty, "My grandparents were always pushing me to do that, but I never really thought about it until I got here and I saw it. The vibe was so good and I just loved it."

Kirk sat out her junior year, the 2000-01 season and Coach Kathy Parsons' first year at Howard. That year, the women's basketball team not only won the title of MEAC

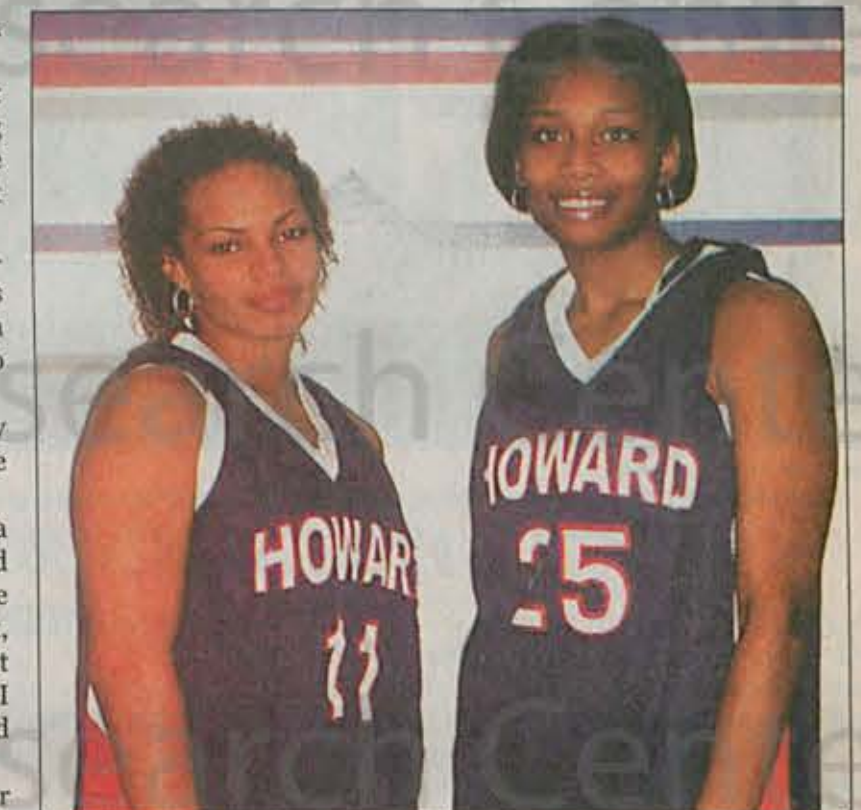


PHOTO BY AMINA HALL

Asia Petty and Courtney Kirk are a force to be reckoned with in the MEAC.

Champions, but also made an NCAA tournament appearance

See DUO page B5

# SPORTS

## Too Close: Delaware State and Howard



By Soraya McDonald  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Monday night the Delaware State Hornets defeated the Bison men's basketball team in a 56-59 conference decision at Burr Gymnasium. The Hornets (15-11 overall, 13-5 MEAC), led by junior guard Miles Davis and senior forward Andre Matthews, handed the Bison (11-15 overall, 9-8 MEAC) their second loss in the last seven games.

Critical to the Hornets' win was their heated physical defense, which effectively shut down most offensive contributions from senior guard and MEAC Player of the Year Ron Williamson. He who had only one point in the first half of the game.

"I thought our kids did an excellent job of making him [Williamson] work for the shots. . . we wanted to limit them to no more than 30 points a half," said Delaware State Head Coach Greg Jackson, who has uncovered the secret of defending Williamson. The senior was averaging 23 points a game prior to Monday night and scored more than 30 points in 6 out of 7 games this season.

The game started with both teams struggling to find a clear offensive rhythm; neither scored a field goal until nearly five minutes into the game when a lay-up from junior Bison forward Seye Aluko brought the score to 2-3.

Despite the fact that Williamson was 0-7 in the first half, the Bison had the lead at halftime, 21-24.

Significant inside contribu-

tions from Mario Grove (16 points, 5 rebounds), and Seye Aluko (11 points, 8 rebounds), teamed with intense man-to-man defense, kept the Bison in the ball game.

"This is two straight games that Mario's played really well for us, both offensively and defensively. I think Mario's doing really well now because of Louis Ford, who is really a true point guard and that helps his game a lot," said Head Basketball Coach Frankie Allen.

Despite scoring only one point in the first half, Williamson, who had to be assisted off the floor by athletic trainers twice after being knocked about by Hornet defenders, still came out as the leading scorer with 17 points.

The 6'1" senior from Columbus, Ohio quieted jeers of "overrated" from noisy Hornet fans by dropping one of his signature three-pointers with 34 seconds left in the game. The basket brought the Bison within two, 54-56. Yet, three points made from the foul line would seal the Hornets' fate as the Bison struggled frantically to score while the clock ran down.

The last successful Bison shot was a lay-up from Aluko in a second half that featured five ties and nine lead changes.

"They're a real tough team to defend because they've got a good inside game with [Aaron] Matthews, and they've got some pretty good shooters, so you try to keep them off balance and try to pressure them some," said Allen, commenting on his defensive strategy against Delaware.

The contest was the last



FILE PHOTOS

Seniors -- Ron Williamson, Kyle Williams, Mario Grove and Donald Clark (not pictured) -- recognized at the last home game of their collegiate career against Delaware State.

home game of the season and senior night for five graduating athletes: Donald Clark, Brannon Terry, Mario Grove, Kyle Williams and Ron Williamson. The loss was a crucial one for the Bison, who were in a four-way tie with Florida A&M, Norfolk State

and Coppin State for the number four seed.

The Bison can clinch either sixth or seventh place in the MEAC Tournament, while Delaware has clinched the third-place spot.

## Howard University School of Law

Invites you to its **Spring 2003 Open House**  
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## Porn Again: When Sexy Becomes Just Sex

By Jamillah Hodge  
Contributing Writer

Back in the 1960s and 1970s, a woman revealing her belly button on television was considered obscene and offensive. Since then, it has become obvious that those censors have either passed away or moved on to other careers, because in rapper Jay-Z's latest video "Excuse Me Miss," the lead

girl is wearing a dress that is, well, barely a dress.

Even before Jay-Z's video, the definition as to

The definition varies from person to person and television station to television station.

### What Pornography Is and What It Isn't

According to [www.standtrue.com](http://www.standtrue.com), an anti-porn site, "Pornography is far more than just entertainment, it's a celebration of casual sex in a realm of a fantasy world. This fantasy world is very dangerous though because it sets up false guidelines for sex."

"The guidelines that pornography has set are all based on scientific inaccuracies about human nature and response," the site continues. "The new guidelines for sexual fulfillment according to porn are sex anywhere, anytime, with anybody, is a good thing."

The official rules for filming pornography were set forth by President Bush:

One: Producers and directors are no longer to shoot any material that depicts a female model that appears to be suffering "unhappiness or pain."

Two: Food can no longer be used as a sexual object (such as carrots, cucumbers, and bananas)

Three: Blindfolds cannot be used.

Four: No wax-dripping.

Five: Sex in coffins is forbidden.

Six: Urinating on cam-

era, except for if it is in a natural setting such as a field or a roadside is prohibited.

Seven: No male/male penetration.

Eight: Bisexual encounters are out.

Nine: No fisting (putting your fist inside of a person), "menstruation topics," or spitting or saliva passed mouth to mouth.

Ten: No adult-age incest (includes a college male being seduced by a middle-aged woman)

Twelve: No black men, white women themes.

And a prohibition on the until-now obligatory facial "money shot," in which a male performer ejaculates on the face of the female performer. But it's fine to allow the male model to ejaculate on the female model as long as the "shot is not nasty."

Since none of these rules have been broken on national television or premium cable shows such as "Family Business," a reality show airing on Showtime that follows the life of a family who's in the porn business, those who call basic nudity porn are mistaken.

### Porn and More Porn

According to statistics, 25,000 video outlets across the nation stock adult material. More than 10,000 new adult-video titles are released each year; last



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO!MOVIES.COM  
Phillip Seymour Hoffman (above) starred in the movie, 'Boogie Nights,' a mainstream film about the porn industry.

year, there were 711 million rentals of hard-core sex films. Porn is a \$10 billion industry — \$4 billion of that in explicit video sales, which have links to corporate parents like General Motors and AT&T.

These facts show how the culture of pornography is slowly blending with everyday pop culture. Today, it's unlikely that a young teenage boy can see a hint of nudity even in a Sears catalog. These images can be seen anywhere from

TV to the schools.

For example, the Abercrombie and Fitch magazine featured a same-sex kiss between two girls.

Clearly, porn is a part of American culture, as hard as it is for some people to believe this statement. They tried to be firm with the guidelines, but with such a broad definition, the porn industry and its depiction on network television will only grow. Soon, there will be a lot more than belly buttons on television.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASIACARRERA.COM  
Porn star Asia Carrera (above) bases her stage name off of Hollywood actress Tia Carrera, a common practice in the porn industry.

## Fraternities and Sororities, Black and White

By Shaunice Alston  
Hilltop Staff Writer

By presenting sorority and fraternity life on national television, MTV has attempted to break down the barriers sepa-

on white campuses. The differences range from what it means to be a member to the traditions they honor.

Brandon Bickerstaff, President of Alpha Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity,

and Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. — and the five fraternities — Omega Psi Phi, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc., Iota Phi Theta, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc.

The difference with fraternity life depends on stipulations set forth by the school and national committees that oversee each organization. One difference between HBCUs such as Howard University and those chapters on other campuses would be the guidelines the school imposes.

Howard, like most HBCUs, is only allowed one intake process in the spring semester, whereas fraternities on white campuses are allowed to hold intake in the fall, spring and summer semesters.

"With Greek letter organizations on black campuses, unity is not as strong," Bickerstaff said. "On white campuses, chapters are a lot

smaller because there are numerous intake opportunities throughout the year."

Television shows like MTV's allow viewers the opportunity to see how an intake process functions and the advantages gained. The membership intake programs/processes (MIPs) can have their advantages and disadvantages. One advantage for fraternities on white campuses is multiple intake programs. This gives fraternities the opportunity for individuals to qualify more than once, generates more interest and revenue for the organization through application fees, dues, etc.

Bickerstaff suggested that one disadvantage to multiple MIPs is that the purpose to serve mankind structurally becomes impossible because people get too wrapped up in getting members and not on their organization's purpose.

Some organizations even choose to accept freshman, a practice black Greeks frown upon.

"Freshmen may not be mentally prepared to deal with

the pressure associated with an intake process or the day-to-day operation of the organization," Bickerstaff said.

Another difference between Greek organizations on black and white campuses is the sense of longevity. On black campuses, fraternities embrace their history. Once they enter the organization it's

ternities socialize.

"White [people] who join organizations do it just because it's something to do while in school," Bickerstaff said. He says this is why many white fraternities don't spread their organization out to graduate schools.

Howard mandates that all MIPs be completed before



FILE PHOTO  
The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, one of the "divine" nine black fraternities and sororities, at last year's step show.

rating those within these organizations and those on the outside.

But for those on the inside of these so-called "secret" organizations, there is a fine line between what is seen and what is not — what is said and what is implied.

Fraternities and sororities operate at different levels on black campuses than they do

Inc., feels as far as percentages are concerned, his organization probably has the highest percentage of non-black membership. His comparison is made against the eight other black fraternities and sororities in the Divine Nine, a term used to describe the four sororities — Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MTV.COM  
The brothers of Sigma Chi Omega (above) are airing their "pledge" process on MTV's latest reality series on Fraternity Life.

a part of life.

"I'm a Sigma 'til I die, even after I die," he said. "Blacks, no matter whether it's on a black or white campus, pledge their lives to the ideals of the fraternity."

On white campuses, fra-

Spring Break. Nationwide, no matter what campus, the intake process must be completed 90 days after the first official interest meeting.

The hazing and pledging

See FRAT page B5

# LIFE & STYLE

## Three Designers Dress to Success

By Crystal D. Tate  
Contributing Writer

With so many fashion designers on the market, from unknowns to celebrities, distinguishing between those who manufacture garments for the notoriety and those who have a true love for fashion has become a task.

But for designers Shawn Webb, Demont Peekaso, and Dave Hucks, it's easy to see they are designing clothes for the love of the game. The three men are aficionados of fashionable attire. They have come up with fashion labels that are slowly emerging from under the radar.

With the innovative Oatsha Company & Marques Marquez created by Shawn Webb, the creative Ghetto Hills originated by Dave Hucks and the artistic designs of Demont Peekaso merged together, these men are headed down the right road in the fashion world.

They have wowed many with their fashions and will continue. From Webb's apparel being fea-

tured on the front page of The Washington Post, Peekaso's styles being rocked by Ja Rule, and popular stores making deals to sell Hucks' attire, the fashions are obviously hot.

Webb believes he inspired himself to wear and produce different clothing. His individual inspiration shows through his technique of taking pictures and placing real portraits on the urban apparel he produces. The screened images go on both mens and womens clothing, and can be put on socks, pants and shirts.

What began as a hobby with Peekaso led to a positive response from others and ended with his designs becoming a reality. Peekaso uses his imaginative drawing talents to paint and draw images, including celebrity faces, on jeans, shirts, hats and purses.

Hucks, initially started a production company, GhettoHills Productions, which eventually evolved into a clothing company. Since then he has created

three lines under GhettoHills: an urban line, a casual line and a children's line.

The love of designing proved to be the main reason the men ventured into the field with one another. Through collaborating with one another, Webb says, "We have it all. What one doesn't have, another does."

All three men agree that God inspires them. Since Hucks is also a deacon, it's hard for them not to have religious influences and positive energy surrounding them.

Peekaso also likes to send out a message in his clothing.

"People can look at my work and come up with their own ideas," he says.

Webb derives concepts from everyday life and Hucks admits to acquire notions from other fashion designers. Webb labels his garments as having an "all around flavor" and they all concur that their clothes are geared towards all people.

When asked to title their clothing, Peekaso

responds, "It is hard to give it a name because there are no limitations to it. It's life, art, expressions, feelings, it's a gallery for the mind."

When discussing the positive and negative aspects of the business, Hucks asserts, "Although there's sometimes a struggle, you have to go through the struggle to get a prize."

Webb, Peekaso and Hucks feel the smiles and appreciation of customers, meeting great people and the opportunity to pursue their dreams definitely outweigh the up and down feelings, the reality of not knowing what's going to happen next, and the strong competition.

The three men see clothing as the "vehicle to do things worldwide," it makes everything worth it, even the negativity. And they feel their ventures have been successful and they have always worked well with one another because of the unity they have.

Their hopes for the future consist of expanding



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GHETTOHILLSPRODUCTIONS  
Rappers Nas and Cam'ron, and Montgomery County Police Chief, Charles Moore, have all recognized the fashion designs of Webb, Peekaso and Hucks.

as fashion designers and moguls Sean Combs and Russell Simmons. They also want to encourage teenagers to become entrepreneurs and uplift the African American race.

If they continue with the attitudes of making

every article of clothing like it is the last, and designing for the love and longevity, not the money, their future aspirations are sure to come true.

## Book Review: "Time Out"

Shaunice Alston  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Just because there are already exceptional African American male writers in the literary world, doesn't mean we can't use one more. If you enjoy authors such as Omar Tyree and Nathan McCall, then the up and coming artist, Geavonnie Frazier's book "Time Out" should definitely be next on the reading list.

Frazier, a Detroit native, has a talent for creating an intellectual break place through his penmanship. The youngest of 10 children, Frazier dedicates some of the proceeds of his book to the fight against breast cancer, in memory of his sister who passed in December 2001. Frazier has definitely produced a book that people will relate to on more than one level. "Time Out" leaves the reader searching for more. It is well developed with a plot of intrigue and interest that grabs the reader's attention and doesn't give away an unforeseen ending.

"Time Out" is a honest depiction of life through a male perspective, a male who is inevitably brought to his knees by a woman—a modern Jezebel, lifted up and transfixed by the word of God, only to be set

up in a paralyzing ending.

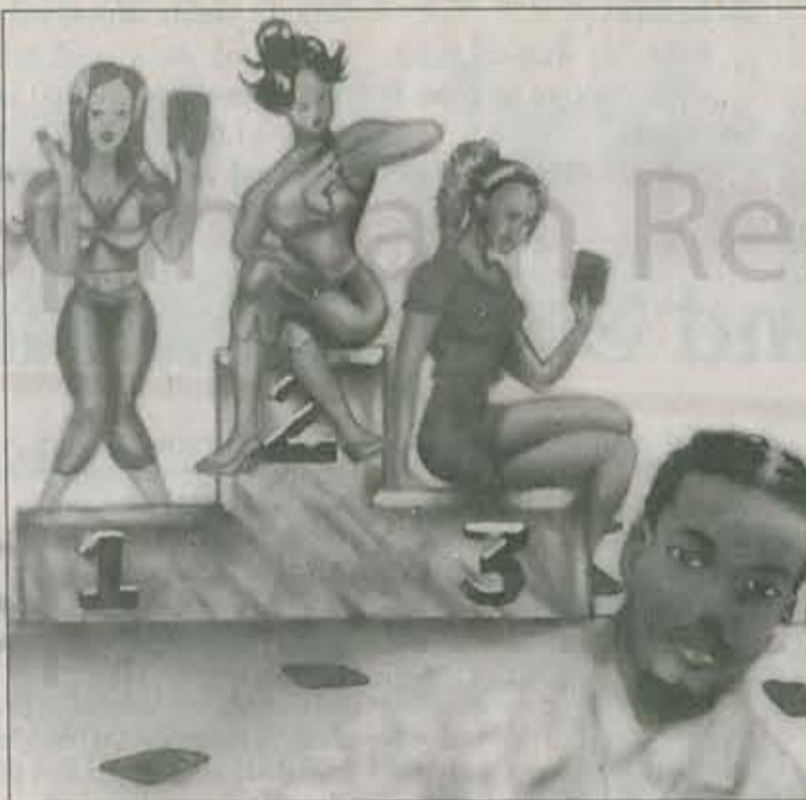
The setup surrounds Daunte, the major character, who lives out his days as a modern day playboy. A playboy who thrives on women, sex and camaraderie with his best friend Antonio a.k.a. 'Pretty Tony.'

While Dante sets aside his playboy mentality to create a healthy relationship, Tony continues on the road to destruction.

Together Dante and Tony experience the hardships of life on different levels. No one will ever suspect that such camaraderie among friends will turn this story, written with such compassion and literary genius, upside down.

In a world constantly reasserting what love is, who hurts the most in a failing relationship, or how fatal life becomes when a condom is not used, Geavonnie allows readers a chance to follow up on the questions of life.

Every relationship has a foundation that can be built upon or broken down by events in a person's life. "Time Out" also focuses on the mentality of women—once they believe—or are continually fed images of their mate finding love, sex, or lust anywhere but with them. Trust fades and consequences become fatal ...



Time Out, the new book by first-time author Geavonnie Frazier, is a book steeped in the tradition of authors like Omar Tyree and E. Lynn Harris.

especially in "Time Out."

The fluidity of "Time Out" is cut short by words, there are only 107 pages and 19 chapters. However, Frazier brings a new format of writing to the table. He successfully intertwines poems from his fourth-coming poetry book "Book of Styles."

To further enhance the reader in Frazier's writing style, a portion of "Book of Styles" is added at the end of "Time Out." Poems, which sparked Frazier's interest in writing the novel are published in the poetry section.

Frazier notes a couple of the poems are directly related to the story. The poems are very lyrical, heart-felt, and interesting. After reading the biography of Frazier, a genuine understanding of him as well as his writing will be acquired.

With his new format of writing and outstanding penmanship, Geavonnie has definitely allowed a sensational book to breakthrough. The stylistic approach that he takes revives and further enhances the literary genre Frazier is coming into.

## Raw Music, Educated Minds

By Jarrell Green  
Contributing Writer

This one is definitely for hip-hop.

Raw Dialect is a hip-hop group filled with the heart and soul of hip-hop. To experience one of their shows is somewhat spiritual. With every song performed and every lyric spit, the audience is blessed with the sanctification of hip-hop at its purist.

The six impressive musicians all bring something special to the table, which allows them to create a unique style and sound. What makes Raw Dialect so impressive is that they're not just hip-hop artists but they are students of hip-hop. The group has studied and followed hip-hop music since its early days of Sugar Hill.

The group was formed in 1996. Three of the group members, 1200, Rainman, and Tone Rome grew up together. Danjah, T-Rock, and Sweets met Tone during their undergraduate studies at Tuskegee University in Alabama.

Their newly acquired musician/engineer/producer abuses the SP-1200 beat machine. When all seven members are working as one, you receive an endless flow of originality.

The group is signed to an up-and-coming record label called Raw Sounds. Raw

Sounds is run and operated by Tone Rome and Howard graduate student Aaron Polly. Polly, 28, a native of Northern Virginia, completed his undergraduate studies at Hampton University. He majored in business management and was involved with the Army ROTC.

With his career choices laid out for him, Polly decided on something he enjoyed doing rather than the predictable route of working a nine to five.

"I wanted to get back to having fun," Polly says, who thought he was lacking that in the Army.

Polly says what separates them from other labels is the diversity of artists. The company is looking for interns to address the business side of the music industry as well as new passionate artists. While Polly runs his record company, he is also enrolled in Howard's graduate program of Education Administration and is interning in the Howard administration building. Polly is an artist on the label who goes by the name of RBI.

Tone is the driving force behind the label. He is responsible for booking and promoting the label and its artists. So just as Polly, Tone wears more than one hat in the company.

Go to [www.rawdialect.com](http://www.rawdialect.com) for more info

## General Elections A Flop

FLOP from A1

The polls in the School of Divinity were scheduled to open at 3 p.m. but didn't open until 5 p.m.

Smith feared that since many of the evening classes ended at seven—the same time the polls closed—many would not be able to vote.

"It's really disorganized and unfair," Smith said. "I have been running around all day and people have been complaining about not being able to vote."

However the election committee credits a plethora of events to Thursday's confusion.

"Late admissions to the slate caused holes to be inadequately prepared and there was a lack of volunteers to work the poles," said Meredith Moore, public relations director of general elections. "So half of the staff members were manning the polls while the other half were handling grievances."

Elections Chair Corey Cunningham was unreachable by

Hilltop reporters Thursday.

Students also shared the sentiments of those running for positions.

"I knew it was disorganized when my name wasn't on the list that they had," exchange student Ishaminah Banks said of the registers used at the polls to identify voters. "It looked like they just made up the committee yesterday, I got to Blackburn at eleven and they were still setting stuff up."

Banks said since voters were asked to sign in before they vote—and then told to wait online—there was confusion.

The purpose of the check-ins are to make sure students aren't voting more than once.

"People were voting without checking in and the people were just mentally trying to keep track of who voted," Banks said.

Some students who went to vote were discouraged by the long lines, and left without voting. Most schools only had one polling station.

"The school of Business—the second largest school on campus—has one machine and the lines are ridiculous," Smith said. "What's more shady is that people wait in line, sign their name, get in the room and then have to go to class—but when they returned to vote they couldn't because they've already signed their name."

Jacque Purvis, a candidate for undergraduate trustee said he thinks this year's elections were worse than last year's—an election that was plagued with problems. In 2002-03, it took four elections to select a HUSA president and vice president.

"I would vote again but if there were six or seven re-vote's like there were last year I would become disinterested," Junior Computer Science major, Kevin Wilson said.

But some students had no complaints about the voting process. "I was one of three people when I arrived [at the School of Communication]," junior film

major, Kalena Smith said. "The guy set the machine and I voted."

Charles Coleman, a candidate for graduate trustee said that if at all possible there should not be another general elections.

Coleman is a student at the School of Law, where the polls opened an hour late. Coleman said he doesn't think opening the polls late warrants the final results to be thrown out.

Instead he said each school should be evaluated and the results of the schools found to be fair should be kept.

"The last thing I'm in favor of is doing the whole thing over," Coleman said. "History has shown that when you try to do wide spread elections twice, turnout is significantly lower."

Dan Blakemore, a candidate for HUSA seemed unaffected by the ensuing drama.

"Right now things are going pretty well," he said. But his running mate, Faith Wall's opinion was a bit different.

"It's a hot mess," Walls said while campaigning at the School of Divinity close to the close of polls. "But we are just working on getting the last votes we can right now."

HUSA President, Cornell Williamson said the votes have been sealed and results will not be calculated until the grievances are resolved.

Thursday night a HUSA policy board meeting was held where the elections grievances were discussed.

The board recommended that the general assembly establish permanent guidelines to govern the elections chair and hold the elections committee accountable.

They also suggested the elections chair make weekly reports so HUSA and the general assembly are aware of what's going on. The outcome of the grievances, will determine the next step toward elections.

The committee could vote to accept the ballots from individual schools they determine to have been fair and only hold new elections in the schools found to be faulty.

Or the committee could decide to completely re-do the general



Elections Chair, Corey Cunningham.

election—every school and college would have to hold elections again.

Smith is disappointed that the candidates have worked so hard in vain.

"What's worse than the disorganization is that we all put so much into preparing for this one day," Smith said. "People have flyers and set up tents and [the elections committee] was apathetic and disorganized."

## Campus Safety Questioned After Shooting

SHOT from A3

in residence halls.

HUSA President, Cornell Williamson said he is not satisfied with the university's initial reaction to the incident.

"The father had no idea what was going on and had to book the appointments and try to find out what's going on himself. It should be vice versa," Williamson said. "It should not be up to the victim to get their situation handled. In my opinion, he is victimized twice."

Pryor said he has no comment about the University's speed of response because she doesn't know about it.

Williamson said the rally on the yard today will be a rally for peace, noting the recent fights at the LaTex (Louisiana and Texas Club) party along with the shooting.

Grace said the campus should be gated to ensure students safety.

The issue of gating the cam-

pus is one that Howard students have wrestled with for years.

"The gate is absolutely necessary," Grace said. "You can't avoid jealousy but why deal with it on a day to day basis?"

However, some do not agree. Jarvis Houston, Ward 1 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and Howard student said gating the campus is a bad idea.

"There are so many things we do for the community, it would shut them out," Houston said. "We are already centralized here on campus mentally, putting up gates would centralize us physically as well."

Marybeth Gasman, an assistant professor at Georgia State University, who teaches a class on college campuses and the relationships with the surrounding community, agrees.

Gasman said incidents like the recent shooting are unfortunate but not uncommon. The reasons stem from resentment of college students for socio-economic issues facing the communities.

"Gating the college won't solve the problem it just puts up a gate and makes people feel alienated," Gasman said. "It puts up a physical boundary between the haves and the have-nots and that's scary."

Gasman said the solution is to forge relationships with the community and help improve it.

She said community service projects Howard does should be better publicized so the community knows everything that Howard does for them.

Gasman said it's good for the University to "spruce up" the neighborhood, but to make the community feel like they are part of the process. She suggested holding meetings off campus in a neutral place where community members, students and university officials can collectively come up with solutions.

However, Gasman said there should be a fine line between improving the community and encouraging gentrification.

"It's hard to maintain that socio-economic equilibrium,"

Gasman said.

But not everyone sees a problem with the state of the communities surrounding black colleges.

"I've heard older African Americans say that they are glad that sometimes communities around historically black colleges are in need because it's important to see that not everyone is as privileged as them to go to college," Gasman said.

Grace said it's important to hold administration accountable for student's safety.

"If you want to stay here, make the university work for you," Grace said.

Matthews' mother said she fears for the safety of all Howard students, not only her son.

"It was a breath of fresh air to know my son was amongst so many intelligent black students," she said. "What scares me the most is that some of them won't live through this."

Campus Editor Stephanie Crouch contributed to this article.



John Grace, Matthew's father.

## The Propaganda Might Be Televised

TV from B1

scheduling of the selected station and air every game CBS is unable to air with the CBS commentators.

I truly believe this war isn't important enough to interrupt other networks programming. The war against Iraq is more of a struggle for power and control than it is about ending potential terrorist threats.

But that's a whole different discussion.

For now, I say the propaganda will be televised and any measures to keep the people of this country blinded, excuse me, informed, right black at'cha.

Being a college student, my days depend on the Powerpuff Girls and Samurai Jack; and who can forget the late nights of Adult Swim and Tom & Jerry?

As long as they don't touch my Cartoon Network, we're straight.

## Dynamic Duo of Petty, Kirk Leave Mark on HU

DUO from B1

as well with only eight players.

As an athlete who has experienced all of the emotions, trials, and tribulations that comes with participating in an NCAA tournament, as well as a conference tournament, Petty had a message for the younger players on the team in last year's bid to the big dance.

"All you can really express to people is how happy you were, how much of a victory

that you felt it was coming from a HBCU. The MEAC is one of the smallest conferences in the United States. Even though we lost, it wasn't about winning or losing; we got there, and that was national recognition," said Petty.

Sitting out was difficult for Kirk because in the previous two years, the Lady Bison had been picked to finish first in the conference, but came short.

The following year Kirk was eligible to play, and both she and Petty made significant

contributions to a team that would become conference champions again.

"Asia's really special to me because she's a hard worker and a go-getter. I look up to her because she has that work ethic. I love her; that's my girl. She's one of the best players I've ever seen play the game; she can shoot, she can do it all, and she's so determined. Once she has it in her mind that she wants something she goes out and gets it, and that encourages me," Kirk said.

Being at Howard for four years, both Petty and Kirk understand that they have a special duty in leading the team.

Petty commented that the rest of the team watches the way she and Kirk are able to work through conflicts, when they do have them. They handle their problems in a mature and non-confrontational manner. By doing so, they lead by example. The rest of the team models their behavior after Petty and Kirk.

When asked what partner-

ship they thought they were similar to in professional sports, Kobe and Shaq, Venus and Serena, etc, both women gave the same response; neither of them were sure that they really compared to anyone.

"Coach always tells us to be like Pippen and Jordan, because of their leadership. But I don't think we're really like anybody," Petty said. "We're one of a kind."

## Frats and Sororities, Black and White

FRAT from B3

policies are also very specific and detailed. Fraternities are not to condone or allow either ones existence. Pledging has been outlawed since 1990. Since then, debates about hazing and pledging have been at the forefront of many discussions.

The only thing nationals mandate is that individuals follow through with an MIP, which should include educa-

tional sessions, tests, fees and membership. Some chapters, however, will still pledge their prospects, a tradition that dates back to African Kemet times.

There is a difference between hazing and pledging. Unknown to nationals, some chapters still do pledge. Pledging should be considered as learning how to deal with obstacles of everyday life without laying a finger on someone. If anyone actively choos-

es to pledge, it should be known that nothing comes without consequence.

Lawrence C. Ross, author of "The Divine Nine: The History of African-American Fraternities and Sororities," has traveled far and near to help people, especially students acknowledge the identity that black fraternities and sororities have on campuses both black and white.

In an article written in Tech Talk Online, Ross

expressed a few important sentiments, two of them being the pledge process and hazing.

"The continuation of hazing within recent years believes it will kill at least one black fraternity or sorority in the next 10 years," Ross said. "The process is not about pledges, but it is about the members. You attract what you deserve."

Bickerstaff says, "You can pledge and never be touched...as long as you learn

about brotherhood, the chapter, what the organization was founded for, and the founders intentions. Hazing is just senseless—brutal beating for no gain or advantage with no purpose."

The way MTV portrays fraternity and sorority life may be exactly how viewers see it; however, the process each individual undertakes varies according to the campus and the atmosphere of the organization.

Hilltop budget meetings-- Tuesday's, 7pm, West Towers! Come get involved!



# EDITORIALS

## THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

LAUREN BAYNE ANDERSON, Editor-in-Chief

JOSEF SAWYER,  
Managing Editor

AISHA CHANEY,  
Managing Editor

CASSAUNDR A CUMBESS, Editorial & Perspectives Editor

### Standing up for Gay Students

Though the Campus Police here at Howard may often get a bad wrap from the student body because of their inadequacies, there are times when they seem to be doing their job. Such an instance is the new appointment of two Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) student liaisons.

Last semester, Howard University saw first hand the violence that can be committed towards homosexuals. A sophomore student was allegedly beat by members of the Showtime Marching Band simply for being gay.

The Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Organization of Students at Howard (BLAGOSAH) has put pressure on Campus Police to do something about the violence towards these students on campus. Now, there are trained officers that will serve as liaisons for

these students. We believe this is a great implementation on behalf of the

liaisons, students will be able to have someone on their side and to feel protected.

Though we believe it is good that the Campus Police has taken this action as a means to put prevent hate crimes, we believe that it is ultimately up to each individual student to practice tolerance and acceptance. It is never okay to act violently against someone because that person is of a different sexual orientation, or for any other differences a person may have from you.

We are all adults now, and more importantly adults who are pursuing higher education. Violence against gays on our campus or elsewhere is a result of ignorance. It is up to us to make sure that Howard University students are never participants in the ignorant behavior that comes from hate.

#### Our View:

*We believe the implementation of liaison officers for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students will help stop hate crimes against these students.*

Campus Police. All students at Howard should feel safe in our academic environment. It is outrageous to think that students are walking around feeling threatened because they know that there have been occurrences of hate crimes on campus.

With these two trained



### More Flyers, More Votes?

In light of recent reports on campaign spending for elections here at Howard, we feel it is necessary to address this issue. While some people are spending an excess of four thousand dollars on campaigns, others are working with four hundred dollar budgets. The fact of the matter is that there is an uncomfortable gap between the financial resources of candidates.

So far, the disproportion between candidates' campaign budgets has not caused any major problems. Nevertheless, we should not wait until it does.

Candidates raise money in various different ways, including receiving donations and coming out-of-pocket. They use this money for flyers, hand bills, posters, personal grooming, and any fines they have incurred.

So our concern is this: If a candidate is able to raise funds

that drastically exceed those of another candidate, is this person more likely to win the election? This of course seems unfair since we know that not everyone has

#### Our View:

*There should be a campaign finance reform instituted in order to assure fairness in campaign spending.*

the capability to raise thousands of dollars in donations. And what about those who definitely cannot contribute from their own personal money because they are struggling just to maintain the minimum of living everyday?

Think about who you voted for yesterday. Was your vote based on whose name sounded

most familiar from the flyers and hand bills you saw or received, or was it based on your knowledge of that candidate's intentions for that office? Hopefully, a bombardment of images telling you to vote for a certain person was not your basis for the vote.

This is not to say that campaigning is wrong. It is in fact necessary. After all, it is important for candidates to make their names and faces familiar to the public. However, this is a perk that is reflective of how big

a budget a particular candidate had. It is by no means an indication of that candidate's potential as a student government leader.

The excessive amounts of money that are spent on campaign funding are something that should be checked by the General Assembly in order to ensure fairness in future elections.

### Political Activism at HU

When the Mecca of black academia has a rally against an unnecessary war, against the abolishment of affirmative action, and against racism in general, one would expect its entire constituency to take part. Sadly, this was not the case on Wednesday on the Yard.

Many Howard University student organizations, including Amnesty International and Ubiquity, Inc., came together in a well-organized, motivational protest against the "War on Terrorism" and other current issues of politics that are affecting us, such as the possible end of affirmative action. The rally followed a collective walk-out of students from their respective classes at 11:45 a.m.

The rally was infused with chants advocating peace, heartfelt speeches by student leaders, and the singing of the Black National Anthem. When a Howard student asked his peers in an eloquently delivered poem, "Why should I pledge allegiance

to the flag?" it was confirmed that this campus has not lost the spirit of black pride and activism that it has given vestige to for so many decades.

Despite the fact that this walk-out and rally was a success for those who took part, one could not help but notice the

#### Our View:

*The walk-out held on Wednesday for the anti-war protest was a success, but more students should have participated.*

small number in attendance. While many organizations took part, along with student leaders (HUSA president Cornell Williamson and Undergraduate Trustee Jaha Howard were in attendance), there were still many who did not participate in this momentous event.

Of the more than ten thousand students at this school, not to mention the faculty, there were little more than three hundred participants in the walk-out. As was stated earlier, the rally was not unsuccessful. However, it could have been so much more powerful if ten thousand members of the Howard community were united on the Yard for a common cause.

Perhaps many students did not comprehend the importance of this event. Not only was it a valuable and necessary occurrence because of the state of our people, our country and our world, but it was so because it was a means to show what Howard students are capable of. It showed that we are conscious and dynamic, and consequently, we will not sit back complacently in the face of injustice.

## THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 78th year, The Hilltop is published every Tuesday and Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Howard University, its administration, individual Board members or the student body.

The opinions expressed on the Perspectives Page are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com).

The Hilltop is located at 2251 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at [TheHilltop@hotmail.com](mailto:TheHilltop@hotmail.com), by phone at (202)806-6866 and by fax at (202)806-4758.

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.

# PERSPECTIVES

## Our Credibility is Key

Posters, Flyers - \$1,200.00  
 Suites - \$500.00  
 Haircuts - \$200.00  
 Porn Swaps Food - \$700.00  
 \$4,500  
 FUNDS

Ja'Ron Smith said the gap between the itemized expenses and the total of \$4,500 was made up in "other expenses" including a possible run-off election.

Recently The Hilltop ran an editorial that urged sources to remain true to what they tell the newspaper.

We discussed sources who tell The Hilltop one thing and attempt to "take it back" when they see it in print, by saying they were "misquoted."

The problem is not just the appearance that we are sloppy and cannot get facts straight, it discourages others from speaking with us for fear that they too will be "misquoted."

At the Speak Out on Tuesday evening, a question was asked about Ja'Ron Smith and Tarshima Williams' campaign budget, which Smith told The Hilltop totaled \$4,500.

Tarshima Williams, Smith's running mate stood up and told the audience that The Hilltop was "lying."

The second year law student

went so far as to state that since The Hilltop was allegedly incorrect and therefore "slandering" and irresponsible, the newspaper was leaving itself open to be sued.

This is a classic example of what The Hilltop editorial explained.

As journalists, our credibility is all we have-- and we take it very seriously.

Which is why we felt it necessary to set the record straight once and for all.

Above, is a copy of the piece of paper Smith wrote down the pair's budget information on. It is in his handwriting and clearly displays the amount printed in The Hilltop-- \$4,500.

Lesson learned?

The next time someone says they were misquoted in The Hilltop, please take it with a grain of salt.

## HUSA: More Than Just a Job

Stefanie Brown

Student government, and the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) in particular, has had a long history of proactive, reactive and inactive student leaders.

I believe that a person's placement into one or more of these categories is based on how well prepared they are before they assume office. No matter how long you have worked in student government, how many students or administrators you know, or how many leadership positions you have held, nothing can truly prepare you for the road that lies ahead. Therefore, it is my sincere desire to inform the next HUSA leaders, anyone interested in running for these positions in the future, and the entire student body as to exactly what being a HUSA leader entails.

First, you must understand that globally, Howard is considered the premier historically black college or university of the world. As a result, HUSA is not just another student government association.

HUSA is expected to represent our own students as well as students of color everywhere. If students in Cuba decided to protest an issue, you can be sure that a newspaper reporter will be calling your phone to find out how you think Howard students feel about the issue.

This leads me to HUSA fact #2: As the HUSA leadership, you are on call 24 hours a day for an entire year. Everyone will know



the confines of the times.

HUSA fact #4: Always remember that HUSA is an association of students and student organizations. HUSA cannot effectively work on behalf of the students if they do not receive direction, feedback, and support from the students. One of the biggest lessons I have learned is that you can not expect to have a good relationship with your constituents if you only host two town hall meetings a year. Attend student organizations' meetings, pass out HUSA update cards during the basketball games, recruit students who know nothing about HUSA to be volunteers, allowing a greater variety of students to be involved in campus activities.

Establishing a system of two-way communication between the students and HUSA will greatly increase the association's level of efficiency.

HUSA fact #5: Maintain a collaborative relationship with the administration. Although you may or may not believe it, the administration is here to help the students receive a supreme education and experience here at Howard. Therefore, in order to get things accomplished, you must have allies on your side to help further your agenda. I remember when Alex (the best darn VP in the whole world) and I found out that the students who lived in the hotel were not being fed at the beginning of last school year. We arranged a meeting with President Swygert, informed him about the problem and at that

very moment he proceeded to work with Residence Life to set up a meal plan at the hotels for the students. Now, had we not had that type of relationship with the president, he wouldn't have known what was going on with the students and the problem would have persisted for who knows how long.

HUSA fact #6: You MUST have a staff that is dedicated to Howard, dedicated to HUSA and dedicated to your vision. This is perhaps the most important fact because without a group of people who are qualified and willing to carry out your vision or platform, nothing will be accomplished. Remember that success is never yours alone; someone helped you along the way.

I am so grateful to the Hilltop for giving me this opportunity to share my experiences with the future leaders of the Howard University Student Association. To serve another person is the most honorable, rewarding, and selfless act a person can perform. This is why a person who is called to serve, by God, has a deep and serious responsibility to the people they serve. Throughout my time here at Howard I have strived to fulfill this responsibility and I pray that the future leaders at Howard will strive for excellence as well.

Stefanie Brown was the 2001-2002 HUSA president and is a senior business management major from Bedford Heights, OH.

## For Whom the Bell Tolls

David Johns

Often, we as Black Americans, are forced to look within our own community in an attempt to find solace from the often abrasive and heinous inequalities that plague the 'real world.'

Recent occurrences at Howard University -- among a multitude of societal changes, which affect the ideologies of our culture -- have prompted many student's, including myself, to question whether or not Howard University, once touted as the Mecca for Black development, both intellectually and socially, acts in the best interest of its student's.

I should note that Howard University is not alone; most universities attempt to act in the best interests of its student's. However, bureaucratic procedures and lack of adequate correspondence between administration and student's often results in some institutions doing a better job of addressing the concerns of student's than others.

The newly implemented Room Selection Verification Plan (RSVP) is one recent example of the 'unfair' and questionable practices of the university. Aside from being implemented without a published explanation for the policy or a logically organized structure, a surface analysis of the policy identifies the unfairness of a system that is supposed to create equality.

A student, who is employed full time, possibly in another state, cannot be equated to a student who is involved with a campus or community organization. However, based upon the point distribution of the RSVP policy, these student's are deemed to be identical and accordingly, equally responsible for maintaining the demands of a 'typical student,' which in this case boils down to maintaining a high grade point average.

Despite the obvious flaws

with this analogy, a simple one being the absurdity with which one would compare the demands of a 15-40 hour work week with the weekly or bi-monthly meetings of an on campus club or a letter of endorsement from a club official/friend, the GPA accounts for 40 percent of a student's total points and fails to account for the variations in curriculum demands and the dynamics of student's schedules.

Furthermore, the underlying class structure that results in a caste system is appalling and fundamentally out of place at a HBCU. Compared to the social class organization of American society, this system replicates class divisions in which those with privilege (easily translated into money) are afforded advantages over those without.

In college, student's who benefit from the privilege of being at school without having to cope with the stress of financing their education are free to involve themselves in countless campus and community organizations.

This is not to say that student's don't artfully balance the strains of working, maintaining high GPA's, and actively being involved both on and off campus; rather it is to highlight the difficulty faced by worrying about how you can pay your bill before classes are purged, rather than studying for an exam or completing a paper.

Face it, Howard is distinct. Vestiges and reminders of the race-governed society in which we all live are apparent in the establishment and necessity of Howard University. While providing us with an education and "preparing leaders for the global community," the establishment and continued success of a predominately black institution, such as Howard, highlights the conscious attempts to minimize the unsympathetic

and disproportionate practices of the 'real world.' Attempting to redress some of the socioeconomic disadvantages that translate into being black, this family atmosphere is what brings hundreds of student's to Howard annually.

With this understood, one has to question the logic of purging student's from classes and preventing them from acquiring housing when unable to meet financial deadlines or successfully navigate the paper chase of university administration. Coming from a predominantly white institution, I have never before been privy to such seemingly harsh practices. While one can site the preparedness of replicating the 'real world,' these policies and practice's should to be mitigated and resolved to make things 'fair' to all parties involved.

Please understand that this is not a manifesto through which I seek to advocate for the removal of deadlines or policies nor is it an outcry for change within the infrastructure of the university. Rather, it is an attempt to encourage student's to study and question their institution.

After hearing countless complaints, and feeling personally frustrated with placing the practices of ourselves within the larger scope of the 'real world,' I am attempting to vent with the hope that someone will be compelled to ask questions, demand to see policies that are conveniently quoted but never distributed, and work to make Howard that which it proclaims itself to be -- The Mecca.

David Johns is a junior studying to pursue a joint JB and English PhD. He can be reached at blaquerhyme@yahoo.com.

## The Hilltop is on Your Side!

If you are against the new housing RSVP policy, here is your chance to get your letter read by members of the Board of Trustees. Tear out this letter and drop it off at The Hilltop office located on the Plaza level of the West Towers. Or mail letters to 2251 Sherman Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001, Attn: The Hilltop, or submit online at [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com). Letters will be personally submitted to the Board of Trustees.

To the Howard University Board of Trustees:

I am a Howard University student and I believe the newly implemented housing policies are unfair and unjustly implemented.

The Howard University Student Association has attempted to work with Interim Dean, Franklin Chambers and Residence Life on certain issues concerning housing, but alas the students' concerns have not been taken seriously and numerous policies have been implemented with little regard for the interest of students.

I believe all freshmen and sophomores should be guaranteed housing. Howard University attracts students from across the nation and the appeal of the university extends internationally. It is unreasonable and absurd for underclassmen to be forced to find off campus housing while adjusting to university life and the rigors of academe at Howard.

Additionally, the residents of the West Towers should have 24 hour visitation privileges reinstated. There have been no major incidents that would justify the continued abandonment of this privilege.

Moreover, Residence Life has imposed a new RSVP policy that awards selection privilege to students with higher GPAs and student involvement. I believe the policy creates a caste system. It has also been poorly organized and planned, as demonstrated by the equal point distribution for full-time employment and participation in student organizations.

As a student at Howard University, I demand that the aforementioned policies are revoked.

Furthermore a committee should be established to oversee the implementation of Residence Life policies and insure that student voices are heard and the interests of students are protected with future policies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_

# HILLTOPICS

## All HILLTOPICS

are due, paid in full, the Tuesday and Friday before publication date. Announcements by campus organizations for meetings, seminars or nonprofit are charged \$5 for the first 20 words and \$1 for every additional five words. Individuals advertising for the purpose of announcing a service, buying or selling are charged as local companies with a rate of \$10 for first 20 words and \$2 for every 5 words thereafter. Personal ads are \$2 for the first 10 words and \$1 for every additional 5 words.

### Announcements

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Present "Black Men Appreciation" @ 7:08pm Wednesday, March 12, 2003 Blackburn Center Restaurant



The Ancient and Noble Order of the Shemsu-Heru The followers of Heru a Kemetic (Egyptian) based Fraternity

Have YOU always wondered why there was not an Egyptian Fraternity on campus?

Well, wonder no more!

The Ancient and Noble Shemsu-Heru have come to Open up the Eye in Howard's Capstone.

For all that are interested, come to The Forum in Blackburn Next Tuesday March 11th beginning at 7:00 pm, to participate in The Ancient and Noble Order of the Shemsu-Heru's inaugural

### INTEREST MEETING

Are Campus police doing their Job? Voice your opinion in the studio Audience for Capstone Connection Also come check out the talented ladies of F. R. E. S. H. March 8th, 10:30 am at WHUT-TV Question? Call 806-3216 or email [capstoneconnect@aol.com](mailto:capstoneconnect@aol.com)

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## HILLTOPICS

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### Personals

CONGRATULATIONS! To my Managing Editor Josef...

Welcome to the EIC club!!! This year will take you further than you ever could have imagined...

You'd better learn your history by NABJ-- don't let the old heads haze you up!

We are all so proud of you!

-- The current EIC (you haven't gotten rid of me yet :-)

Happy Be-lated Stephanie!

Happy birthday Shani!

Congrats Miyanda!

Congratulations Josef!!! BM 02'-03

Congratulations Miyanda!!! It seems like yesterday I was in your same position...excited about improvements for next year... (I can't stop talking about myself) Anyway....enjoy your time right now, you deserve it... NikeBello Business Manager 2002-2003

Keonta & Tifah, See ya'll in Miami! It's about to be the Jump-Off! SSSSS

### William,

You still "Doing it Way Big!". I'm sorry that you got in the argument but don't let anyone keep you down? Because your smile has always existed from the inside and I love that about you! Just stay "Beautiful" and things will "Jump Off" in the end. I LOVE YOU!

### J-LO

PS You can call me on my Cell anytime!

Hidden Pleasures at the Frat House 66 V Street...March 8th 2003 @ 8 p.m. till WE say it's over... Presented by the Notorious Nupes of HU...Invite Only

### Help Wanted

Tutor Counselors are needed for a six-week Summer residential program (June 22 to August 1, 2003) Juniors, Seniors, Graduate students with proficiency in one or more of the following areas should apply: Mathematics, Science, engineering, Computer, Science, English or Spanish. Applicants must have a 2.33 or better GPA. \$1700.00 plus room and board included Applications are available: Howard University TRIO Programs Undergraduate Library Room L-41 (202) 806-5132 Application Deadline is March 28, 2003

With G-d's Name, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer

The American Society of Muslims will hold thier Annual Mid-Altantic Distributors Business Conference on March 22, 2003 in the Blackburn Center from 10:00am-6:00pm Workshop & Fashion Show Cost \$20.00 / students \$10:00



Free public address by Imam W. Deen Mohammed entitled: "Securing Our Share of this Material World-Fulfilling Our Economic Obligations" Tickets sold in Cramton Auditorium All are invited to participate

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