

Students attend job fair

They hop a bus for Washington road trip to Howard University

Oct. 22, 1998 in Washington, D.C., Howard University's School of Communications was busy hosting its 1998 Communications Job Fair. Over 700 pre-scheduled applicants arrived with plenty of resumes and other materials to aid them in the process of selling themselves.

WSSU Mass Communications Club members arrived early Thursday morning in a bus of 31 students.

The bus was scheduled to leave at 12 midnight from the RJ Reynolds buildings and arrive at 5 a.m. at the Days Inn, in Alexandria Va.

Students dressed in sweat-pants, tee-shirts, and headrags carrying pillows and blankets, made a swift transformation from a bum like appearances to one of profession decked in business suits and carrying portfolios.

When they first walked in the Arour J. Blackburn Center, there were hundreds of young African-Americans -all filled with hopes of landing an entry-level positions in their respective areas of concentrations.

The fair was presented on two days. Day one was dedicated to pre-scheduled interviews. The students sent their resumes in September and received responses from the 66 companies that were represented. Rasheed Oluwa, junior Mass Comm. major was prescheduled with six companies.

"Out of the six, I was most impressed with Oakland County Times in Michigan. I was offered a paid internship there." said Oluwa.

"The interviews went over well. I felt like the interviewers were not intimidating, I came prepared and I knew what I was going to say, he added."

Besides from the six interviews, Oluwa also attended one that was not pre-scheduled, which was with ESPN.

"I was not not intimidated because I knew what to expect." said Sharonda Wilcox.

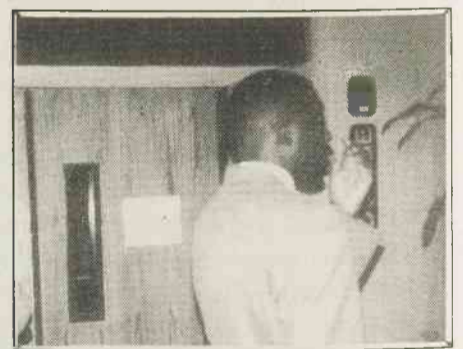
"I feel that I was more comfortable with my interview than I was last year."

On the second day only a small portion of the student attended the fair; the others went to the Newseum in Arlington, Va., and then the whole group went to BET.

DeOnslow Cole went on the trip both last year as well as this year's.

"More people went than last year and I thought that was bad in the sense that it was harder to bond with all the people on the trip. I also thought it was good that I got a chance to speak to people who I normally wouldn't speak to."

Overall the trip was a success.



Photos by Sharonda Wilcox

DeOnslow Cole (top) playfully looks at a newspaper with his new found friend, a statue at the Chevy Chase Building in Arlington, Va.

Pebbles Merrills (bottom left) Interviews with a prospective graduate school.

James Hamlin (top right) prepares for his next interview inside the auditorium at Howard University, "This could be the one!"

Nakita Young, Chakira Massey and Shamika Smith (bottom right from left) enjoy a break from interviews to sit and chat and discuss their interview strategies.