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The Hilltop 8-17-1996

Hilltop Staff

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University renovations enhance campus

By Patricia Hardin
Hilltop Staff Writer

Take a walk down the brick path to the Armour J. Blackburn student center after the sun goes down, you will come to a picturesque scene—a reflecting pool where soft blue and white rays from underwater lights mix with the flow from three rising fountain heads.

And if you decide to take a stroll across "The Yard," to view the campus, you will eventually come to a large cobblestone circle where all the paths meet in perfect unity.

But if those spots on campus do not seem appealing, you may find respite on the steps of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, where the new landscape is alive with multicolored flowers and shrubbery.

None of these sites were present last spring. But because of a $7 million renovation project the University is undertaking, upperclassmen will be pleasantly surprised at the new scenery and the Class of 2000's new home away from home.

"These improvements are a part of President H. Patrick Swygert's vision for a better Howard," said Harold Bardonille, the new director of Physical Facilities Management. "It's a celebration of success. We intend to be what you see—a world class university."

Bardonille, who was hired by Vice President of Academic Affairs Harry G. Robinson for his ability to get the job done, said "The Yard" is not the only focus of the improvements, but students can expect an entire campus of revitalization.

"All of the changes are on things that have been neglected or deferred or not paid attention to," Bardonille said. "We're paying attention to these things now.

Among the improvements, students can expect an upgrade of all academic buildings. To date, most of the windows in the Chemistry, Fine Arts, Nursing and Communications buildings have been replaced. Major painting, roof replacements and masonry work have also been underway in most of the educational facilities.

To enhance the landscape of the main campus, an irrigation system has been installed. Although the system is in place, it will not be complete until the end of August.

In addition, Physical Facilities Management and the Biology department are planning a project that will create an atrium on campus for the Howard community to enjoy.

Monumental changes have been made in university housing, which has been a major source student complaints for decades. In the Harriet Tubman Quadrangle, the freshman women's dormitory, ceiling fans have been added to most of the rooms and lounges, providing relief from the heat of the non-air-conditioned buildings.

Also, an improved lighting system and new carpeting has been added to replace the old dilapidated fixtures and worn carpeting of yesteryear.

"I hope the students appreciate the changes we've made to the dorms," said Gelencia Dennis, a project manager and Howard alumna who is currently overseeing the uplifting of the interior of several buildings on campus.

As a former resident of "The Quad," Dennis said the new, improved "Quad" is a vast improvement from when she lived there.

"It looks good," she said. "A lot went in to securing the safety of the students, such as restoring concrete sidewalks and replacing steps."

But Dennis acknowledged that everything is not perfect and will not be for a while.

"Everything takes time. I mean with some of these buildings we started at sub-level zero," Dennis said.

Project Manager Paul Gathungu, who is an alumnus of Howard, attributes much of the success of the revitalization project to President Swygert.

"Former presidents were here and nothing was done," Gathungu said.

Nur Gray, a senior international business major agreed. "[Swygert] lived up to his word. He had all these promises and he fulfilled them. He gets serious props.

For those who wonder when all the renovations will end, Bardonille says they will not.

"Renovations will be an ongoing process," he said. "We are always going to make sure facilities are top notch."

University hosts welcoming ceremony for Class of 2000

Howard University President H. Swygert will host a welcoming ceremony for the "Class of 2000," the incoming class of freshmen enrolling at the university in a gathering Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. on the upper quadrangle in front of Douglas Hall on the University's main campus.

Prior to the ceremony the freshmen will assemble in Greene Stadium for the taking of a class picture. The stadium is also located on the main campus at Sixth and Fairmont streets, N.W.

President Swygert and Howard University Student Association President Vincent Jacques will welcome the new students and their parents, and during the ceremony each member of the class will receive a specially designed Howard University lapel pin. University faculty, staff, administrators and returning students will pin the new entrants.

The "Class of 2000" will number about 1,392 students, which is 313 more than last year, and they will have an average SAT score of 939, a significant increase over last year's 900 average.

The class will also include an increased number of National Achievement Scholars—96 compared to last year's 44, which will probably make Howard the number one institution in the country in attracting the much sought-after National Achievement Scholars.

Howard University is the only comprehensive research university in the country that has a predominantly Black student body. It is a private institution with about 11,000 students enrolled in programs that encompass approximately 167 areas of academic concentration leading to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, as well as professional degrees in law, medicine and dentistry.

The university is ranked as a Level I research institution by the Carnegie Foundation, one of only 88 such institutions in the country to be so designated.

Howard University is ranked first among all American colleges and universities in producing degrees conferred on African Americans.
Get a Head Start on Your Research

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Schedule of Classes

September 3, 4, 5 - 6 One-Hour Sessions
12:00 noon-1:00 pm or 3:00 pm-4:00 pm
in the Digital Instruction Lab, Founders 116

Searching Sterling, the University Libraries online catalog. Basic HANDS-ON training. This seminar is designed for novice Sterling users who would like to locate books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and non-print media in the libraries. Search the Wilson periodical indexes to find articles, or search the ERIC files for education material. Also, learn the fundamentals of searching general CD-ROMs such as Newsbank, PROQUEST and SIRS. Hands-on practice time is included and participants are encouraged to bring their search topics to work on during the session.

September 10, 11, 12 - 6 One-Hour Sessions
12:00 noon-1:00 pm or 3:00 pm-4:00 pm
in the Digital Instruction Lab, Founders 116

Searching the Web for Topical Info. Free demonstrations showing the wide range of information available online via the vast global network of computer databases known as the Internet. Your tour on the information superhighway will show you how to locate grant and scholarship information, and find articles and data about African-Americans, the Black Diaspora, welfare reform, and other topics. Terminals will be available for hands-on searching.

Space is limited. Sign up at the Reference Desk, The Founders Library; call (202) 806-7252; or send e-mail to: zeigler.clclc.howard.edu.

Specify Sessions Desired (✓)

Searching Sterling, Basic HANDS-ON training:
Tuesday, September 3, Noon  __  3pm  __.
Wednesday, September 4, Noon  __  3pm  __.
Thursday, September 5, Noon  __  3pm  __.

Searching the Web for Topical Information:
Tuesday, September 10, Noon  __  3pm  __.
Wednesday, September 11, Noon  __  3pm  __.
Thursday, September 12, Noon  __  3pm  __.

Visit http://www.founders.howard.edu
Welcome!
Class of 2000, Transfer Students, Returning Students.

NOW YOU CAN take full advantage of the Information Age. This year, we've made information seeking fundamentally easier. Full-text services, online via Internet, are now accessible at connected workstations in Founders, the branch libraries, as well as in campus offices and dorms. They allow you to view, print, and download complete articles on the spot, from thousands of journals through EBSCOhost, SearchBank, Project Muse, as well as articles from Britannica Online. More full-text databases will be added soon.

While on the "Net," explore such multi-bibliographic sources as FirstSearch; or connect and universities in the U.S. and Canada via L.C. Z39.50 Gateway.

Also, try full-text CD-ROM databases like African American Poetry, and Newbank. The branch libraries also provide access to the Internet and the CD-ROM and online databases that pertain to their academic areas. For example, in the Business Library you'll find the Dow Jones News Retrieval. The Social Work Library has access to AgeLine. At the Divinity Library you can access PC Study Bible and Religion Index.

The Libraries system is constantly adding new electronic databases. Coming soon will be Web access-campus-wide to ERIC, MILA Bibliography, PAIS, PsycLit, and Sociofile—all of which are currently available on CD-ROM in Founders.

The Media Center in the Undergraduate Library is now furnished with state-of-the-are multimedia workstations—Micron 166MHz Millennia-Plus with Iomega Jaz drive (bring your own 1GB disc). The Students Computer Room in UGL is being expanded to include 18 fully connected workstations. A digital library instruction room will open in September. We're definitely in the Information Age. But please DO think environmentally: Save paper. Bring along a diskette for downloading.

Visit the University Libraries' Homepage at http://www.founders.howard.edu

ADOPT-A-SHELF

The University Libraries cordially invites new and returning students to join our team of library volunteers. We would like you to "adopt" one or more book cases in the stacks for regular shelf-reading—about one hour of your time every other week. In May, you will be recognized at a reception during which you will be awarded a special Certificate of Recognition and a Howard University pin. Most of all, your years at Howard will be personally marked by a heightened sense of community involvement. Please call Mrs. Clara Guyton, Coordinator of Access Service, at (202) 806-5064 for an appointment, or send e-mail to:

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2251 Sherman Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Call Dichelle Turner, Officer Manager, for details at 202.806.6866
Welcome to your new community!

The freshman class is cordially welcomed to the LeDroit Park neighborhood of Washington, D.C. which Howard University is located. Let me give you some history about your new home.

This area was once an outlying suburb of the City of Washington, the boundary of which was Florida Avenue (formerly known as Boundary Street). Upon the resignation of his term as a trustee of the University, Amzi L. Barber, purchased some 40 acres of University lands, hired the prominent architect, James McGill to design a development for the area, and named it after his father-in-law, LeDroit Langdon (a successful real estate broker).

LeDroit Park was intended to be a secluded, exclusively white neighborhood with a rural atmosphere which accommodated genteel neighbors who desired easy access to the city. It was marketed to merchants, professional persons and government workers, and was originally closed in by a wood and iron fence where it interfaced with the public, and was separated from the University and a settlement of black citizens named “Howard Town” by a high board wall at the rear.

Over time, the development was inhabited by professors, military brass, Congressmen, businessmen and bureaucrats. However, as the 19th century drew to a close, the push to integrated the community heightened, and the first black resident moved in the area in 1883, to be followed thereafter by other blacks and Howard University professors. The fences and walls came down and the LeDroit Park area spread to include the area north of V Street, N.W. and the University’s campus.

By now, the neighborhood became known as “College town,” and continued to attract scholars, artists, lawyers and others. Among the neighborhood’s well-known residents were: the poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar; Nobel Prize winner Ralph Bunche; Senator Ed Brooke of Massachusetts; the first elected black mayor of Washington, Walter Washington; and educator/suffragette Mary Church Terrell. To date, the neighborhood continues to attract prominent blacks. It is the home of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, among others.

You have come to a historic African-American Institution, located in a historic neighborhood of Washington, D.C. and your respect of its residents, businesses, churches and environment is welcomed. LeDroit Park is located in Ward 1 of the District of Columbia, right in the geographical center of the city. The council member for the ward is Frank Smith.

Each ward is divided into sub-areas whose residents elect representatives called Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. These representatives inform council members about problems with trash pickup, concerns about local development, establishments seeking renewal of alcohol beverage control permits, requests for zoning relief; adequacy of police protection; neighborhood nuisances, etc. The University’s central campus spans several ANC areas: ANC 1B04, 1B05, 1B06. Only two of these areas’ commission seats are filled, and the seated Commissioners are Lawrence Guyot, ANC 1B04 and Seretha Pearsall, ANC 1B05.

The University is located within the boundaries of the LeDroit Park Civic Association, whose President, Anita Rice, is an employee of the University, and whose daughter, Danielle is a student at Howard. It is also primary located within Metropolitan Police Department’s Third District.

Students are encouraged to be active in the community. Work with the youth in the schools surrounding the campus, including: the K.S. Lewis Elementary School at 4th and Bryant Streets, N.W.; the Banneker High School, at Georgia Avenue and Euclid Streets, N.W.; Cardoza High School, at 13th and Fairmont Streets, N.W. and Garnet Patterson Middle School, at 10th and Vermont Avenue, N.W. Participate in the “clean-up” efforts sponsored by the University and neighborhood groups. Volunteer in the local food and clothes distribution center, Mother Dear’s, located at 5th and Florida Avenue, at Georgia and “V;” Florida Baptist Church at Florida Avenue and Bohrer Street, N.W.; Highway Christian Church at 5th and “W” Streets, N.W.; Sons and Daughters A.M.E. Zion at 4th and Elm Streets, N.W.; and United House of Prayer for All People in the 1700 block of 7th Street, N.W.

As you become better acquainted with the city, you will branch out and explore other areas, and find different opportunities for outreach and worship, but until then, this neighborhood is a rich and vital place to study and live, and we welcome your participation in the life of this community.

You should also know that Howard University is located only minutes away from Embassy Row, and many other cultural and historic institutions. Howard University takes pride in it's large international representation. As an international University, Howard has students from around the world. Over 100 countries are represented and our faculty and staff are culturally diverse as well. Included in our community relations mission is extensive outreach to our international family members as well as to the surrounding metropolitan communities. We invite you to become involved in these efforts as well.

The Howard University Community Association Office, located at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Girard Street, will be opening in the fall of this year. The office will assist in the coordination of student volunteer efforts, and generally provide information to the public about the many community programs and services offered by the University. This office will be the focus of University/community planning and development activities, and will provide meeting and working space for those involved in community issues.

Please stop by and visit the office when it opens.

Maybelle Taylor Bennett
Assistant for Community Relations and Planning
Dear Class of 2000,

Welcome to Howard University! We are excited that you have chosen the "Mecca" as your new home!

The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) is the governing body for all student organizations on campus. Its main purpose is to act as the voice for the student body, provide input into the decision making process, and to maintain effective communication concerning student interests. This year, HUSA will sponsor a variety of community outreach programs, political forums, cultural events, and social activities.

As a new student at Howard University you have now become a part of the world's largest and most comprehensive African-American University. You will walk down the halls and sit in the very same classrooms of prestigious alumni such as Thurgood Marshall, Phylicia Rashad, Andrew Young, and Toni Morrison. Howard University is filled with an infinite number of opportunities, but it is up to you to take advantage of everything that this rich institution has to offer. As a new student at Howard you are faced with an inherited challenge; a challenge to continue our legacy of academic excellence, powerful leadership, and undying service. You have worked hard to reach this point in your academic career, and now the future of the "Mecca" is in your hands.

We encourage you to enjoy yourself, and maintain a balance between your academics and extra-curricular activities. HUSA is here to assist you in any way possible, and we look forward to meeting each of you.

Sincerely,

A. J. Blackburn

Vincent C. Jacques II
President

Jania M. Richardson
Vice President
SAFETY AD

ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

- Secure and lock your doors at all times.
- Always call the University Police Department at 806-1100 to report all crimes and any suspicious activity.
- Familiarize yourself with your surroundings and stay on well lit paths and walkways. Always carry some personal identification.
- Employ the use of campus safety services. The Howard University Student Escort Service (806-4624) and the shuttle bus are there for your use.
- Certify safety and security principles.
- Avoid carrying large sums of money. Carry only the amount necessary for your purchases.
- Leaving a confrontation or altercation is no disgrace. Report situations that could possibly lead to bodily harm to the Campus Police Department.
- Earning the names of your roommates, hallmates and suitemates will increase security by decreasing unlawful traffic.

CRIME PREVENTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 5</td>
<td>COOK HALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 10</td>
<td>DREW HALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 12</td>
<td>QUADRANGLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 17</td>
<td>BETHUNE HALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 19</td>
<td>BETHUNE ANNEX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 24</td>
<td>SLOWE HALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 26</td>
<td>MERIDIAN HILL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 1</td>
<td>HOWARD PLAZA TOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 21</td>
<td>Crime Prevention Seminar - Blackburn Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 22</td>
<td>K-9 Unit - 1:00 PM Main Yard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 23</td>
<td>Safety Awareness (CID, MPD, DCFD) Blackburn Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 24</td>
<td>RAD Demonstration Blackburn Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 25</td>
<td>Crime Prevention Seminar - Blackburn Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPONSORED BY THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
# 1996 Howard University Volleyball Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>30-31</td>
<td>Davidson Tournament (Charleston So, Furman, Davidson, Howard)</td>
<td>Away TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>U.S.M.A. Tournament (Seton Hall, St. Peter's, Northeastern, Howard)</td>
<td>Away TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>UMES</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>VCU Tournament</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Hampton University</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Delaware State</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Towson State</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Loyola College</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Coppin State</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Howard Classic (Hampton, Morgan St., Robert Morris, Howard)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hampton University</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>American University</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>8PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>U.S. Naval Academy</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Delaware State</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>UMES</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Morgan State</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Coppin State</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>MEAC Championship (Tallahassee, Florida)</td>
<td>Away TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make sure you check out the Lady Spikers as they defend their MEAC title!!

# 1996 Howard University Bison Football Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hampton (GWUL Classic)</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>RFK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Virginia State</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Florida A &amp; M</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Bethune-Cookman</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Morehouse</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>North Carolina A&amp;T</td>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Norfolk State</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>South Carolina State</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Morgan State</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Delaware State</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GO Bison!!

Have a great season
# SPORTS II

## 1996 Howard University Women's Soccer Schedule

### August
- 31: Youngstown State University Away 2PM

### September
- 7: Randolph-Macon College Home 1PM
- 9: Liberty University Home 3PM
- 11: Westchester University Away 4:30PM
- 15: American University Home 2PM
- 17: Mount St. Mary's College Away 4PM

### October
- 7: Hood College Home 7PM
- 11: Virginia Commonwealth Univ. Home 7PM
- 14: Georgetown University Home 7PM
- 19: Marymount College Away 4PM
- 25: Bowie State University Home 5:30PM
- 29: University of Richmond Home 7PM

### November
- 2: University of Buffalo Away 10AM
- 3: Niagara University Away 1PM

## 1996 Howard University Men's Soccer Schedule

### August
- 31: Iona (MSM Tournament) Away 4PM

### September
- 1: Mount. St. Mary's College Away 2PM
- 7: Marshall University Away 1PM
- 11: UMBC Away 7PM
- 14: Radford Univ./Pfeiffer Tourn. Away 1PM
- 15: Pfeiffer College Away 3PM
- 19: Navy Away 7PM

### October
- 1: UMES Home 1PM
- 4: Oneonta State* Away 4PM
- 6: University of Buffalo* Away 6PM
- 9: William & Mary Away 7:30PM
- 13: Central Connecticut State* Away 2PM
- 16: George Mason University Away 3PM
- 23: Virginia Commonwealth Univ. Home 7:30PM
- 25: University of Buffalo* Home 7:30PM
- 27: Oneonta State* Home 1PM

### November
- 2: Central Connecticut State* Home 7:30PM
- 9-10: Mid-Continent Conference/MCC Championship Away TBA

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Come out and support Howard’s men’s and women’s soccer teams!!
ABOUT THE HILLTOP

The HILLTOP has been serving the Howard University community since 1924. It’s won numerous awards and boasts its reputation as the nation’s largest Black collegiate newspaper. Staffed and produced entirely by students, the paper offers a variety of campus, local, national, and international news, as well as a blend of sports and creative features.

***

Read throughout the world, the HILLTOP is published every Friday of the academic year. It’s free to all students and available at various locations at the Main campus, West campus, and the Divinity school.

***

The HILLTOP welcomes feedback from its readers and is always looking for reporters, photographers, artists, and of course, advertisers. Call us at 202.806.6866 or e-mail us at hilltop@cldc.howard.edu

***

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***

Come visit us.
The distinguished student

One of the time honored tradition in America is the trip to college. When room and pays pack all your belongings into that old brown station wagon and drive you up to that dormitory, it represents your first steps into adulthood. At the average college you finally have your freedom, and the ability to make many of your own decisions. At Howard, though, that freedom is augmented by a greater responsibility.

Despite the reports to the contrary, Howard is and has always been one of the nation's premier institutions, and the premier Black institution of higher education. Howard's list of alumni is as long as it is distinguished. Thus beyond the personal responsibility of being an independent adult, the Howard freshman has a larger collective responsibility to uphold the rich legacy of his/her University.

There are those who will meander through Howard for four years never fully appreciating the Howard experience. Then there are those who will shoot through those four years consistently making waves, stamping their name on the entity of distinguished students and alumnae. All incoming freshman must strive to be the second kind of student

The tradition of the distinguished Howard student involves several things, first among them is an academic excellence. This may sound like an old cliché, but the fact of the matter is, this is the best way to live up to the Howard legacy is to pull a 4.0 every semester. This must be primary, because without he grades everything else becomes irrelevant.

Academic excellence not only opens the Howard student to programs on campus, but it also allows him/her a gateway into the world after Howard, which as an alumnae, they will continue to bring glory to Howard's name.

The second thing that makes the Howard distinguished student is being active on campus and in the greater community. Organizations are everywhere on Howard's campus. Some of them are sincere some of them aren't. It is imperative that the Howard freshmen decide immediately that they will be a force in University affairs. The easiest way of doing this is to join a group that reflects the interest of the student. But this is not always the best way. If a student sees a need on the campus not being met, he/she should not hesitate to create an group to meet those needs. All of Howard's established organizations had a beginning.

In addition to activism on campus, the distinguished Howard student must be active in the community. He/she must realize that Howard exist primarily to service the Black community. The purpose of higher education is to train people to help those who have not been as fortunate. That training cannot be achieved simply through books; it requires hands on interaction. Again, several organizations facilitate community service projects like big brother/big sister, tutorial at neighborhood schools, and other projects. The link between Howard and the community is vital to the survival of both institutions.

Finally the Howard student must take advantage of the facilities that are available to them. People come to Howard do their four years and never see places like the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, the Career Placement Center, and the Howard University Museum.

It is critical that the Howard freshman take advantage of all facilities that the average student may not even know about. Such things will give the Howard freshman the edge if he/she wants it.

Interested in sharing your views with the Howard community? To bring your perspective to the HILLTOP contact Ta-Nehisi Coates

The distinguished student

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Pitfalls you need to look out for

When the Howard freshman first walks into basement of the Blackburn Center, an assortment of places will greet them. Merchants selling all kinds of things occupy the basement area, and the innocent eyes of freshman become easy targets. Most of these people are harmless, but there is one table that should be avoided at all costs, the notorious credit card table.

Attracting customers with free candy, shirts, and hats the credit card salesmen prey on unwary freshman who are out to express their freedom in the most flagrant of ways. Freshmen fill out forms for cards, and go on wild shopping sprees, intoxicated by the promise of "buy now, pay later." The end result most often is credit history marred at an early age, and constant phone-calls from rude collection agencies.

A bad credit history will prevent you from being able to rent an apartment, from buying a car, or any other assortment of things. Yet every year Howard students taken in by the dozen, as a result of this thinly veiled con-game.

But the credit card scams are just the tip of the iceberg. Each year all sorts of unscrupulous individuals descend on the University like vultures taking advantage of the ignorance and the youth of freshmen.

One of the other financial pitfalls that often snare students and their credit history is the infamous health club. In this age of calorie cutting, and fat burning many students are anxious to find a way to become Demi Moore, or Arnold Schwarzenegger. The health club presents itself as an easy way to achieve such heights.

However many of the places make you sign a long term contract that requires regular monthly payments. Many freshman don't even have regular jobs, most have never managed bills of any kind, thus they almost always find themselves falling behind in payments. Either that or they lose interest, and decide to stop paying. But again this only leads to heated words with collection agents, and a credit history scrawled in red.

Freshman must avoid these financial traps in order to secure a healthy financial future. These agencies prey on the economic innocence naive of students. Freshmen, especially, should avoid them at all costs. Nothing good can come of them.

THE HILLTOP Welcome your letters and comments

The Hilltop welcomes your views on any public issue. Faculty, administrators, staff, students and alumni are encouraged to share their original ideas and opinions. We publish only material addressed to us. We routinely edit letters for space and correct errors of style, spelling and punctuation. Letters as well as commentaries must be typed and signed, complete with full address and telephone number. The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page of THE HILLTOP are solely the views of the Editorial Board, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Howard University, its administration, THE HILLTOP Board or the students.

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ORIENTATION

HOWARD UNIVERSITY invites The Class of 2000 To Immortalize Your First Week To Capture Your Orientation Experience on Video

Submit a short proposal describing your first week at Howard University.

The three best proposals will become 5 - 10 minute video productions, making you and your friends instant stars.

Here's your opportunity to win fun prizes and to appear on WHMM's Evening Exchange.

Pick up "Video Guidelines" in the Office of Enrollment Management "A" Building Room 105

August 17, 1999