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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 4

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

## WEDNESDAY NOTEBOOK

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### HU CALENDAR

AUG 24 - SEP 2  
Consortium Registration  
AUG 26 - SEP 2  
Penalty-Free Add/Drop Period  
SEPT 4  
Deadline for 100% Refund  
SEPT. 5  
Labor Day - No Class  
SEPT. 23  
Opening Convocation

### WEATHER

Today  
Thunderstorm  
High: 89  
Low: 72

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## HU Students Get Heated Over Staying Cool

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Air conditioning in residence halls across the Howard University campus is more common than not. With eight of the ten dormitories equipped with an air conditioning system, few students have reasons to complain.

"I love being in Meridian, it's a little further from campus than I would like but it beats being in the Quad suffering from a heat stroke," said sophomore Julliana Mendez.

Not everyone living in the Tubman Quadrangle feels this way since only two of the five halls, Truth and Crandall, have central air. "I lived in Baldwin my freshman year and I felt quite slighted that I didn't have air and my friends did because they stayed in Crandall," said senior accounting major, Tiffany Burtrell.

Junior legal communications major, Jennifer Mason, agrees, saying she felt misled.

"They tell you before you come that the Quad isn't air conditioned so I had my fans ready but then a couple days into fall semester I found out that two of the other halls did have air," said Mason.

There was no favoritism in the limited air condition-



Fashion Merchandising major Tasha N. Bates crosses the Yard on a sweltering, hot day. Like Bates, many students are getting creative in the attempts to avoid the heat.

ing, but rather an economical decision.

"Truth and Crandall went under renovation in the early 1990s and made the upgrade to central air conditioning. This design was sized to supply central air to three more units, meaning Wheatley, Frazier

and Baldwin halls received additional funding and piping. However, the university does include ceiling fans in all rooms that are not equipped with air conditioning and we do issue other fans to some students," said Assistant Maintenance Director, Charles Overhaul.

Drew Hall, a dorm for freshmen men, is the only other residence hall on campus that is not equipped with central air. "I like to call it Drew Hell, it's unbelievable how hot it is. It feels like the heat is on blast," said freshman political science major Gregory Binds.

"Most of the windows in Drew Hall are open which causes constant hot air coming into the building," said Residence Life Dean Charles Gibbs. Overhaul added that Drew Hall is a masonry building, meaning that it is made primarily with cement-like materials, and

will retain a certain amount of heat. Junior television production major, Antoine Anderson understands this completely, "I lived on the 'penthouse' (fifth) floor and it was the worst. Fans didn't help much except for blow hot air around and the windows did help a little at night, but that was about it."

To escape the sweltering temperature, students have to be creative in making ways to beat the heat. Quinn Dumas, sophomore chemistry major, used multiple fans to help cool down.

"I had a corner room in the Quad so it was easier for me to keep it cool. Putting large window fans up in both windows if you have two and placing another one in the center of the room facing the ceiling gives the effect of central air," said Dumas.

Other students, including Binds, have tried keeping the lights off during daylight hours to keep down the rising temperatures.

"I try not to be in my room most of the day but when I have to be I use the light from outside or the light from my laptop. Not having the lights running really does help. Now I know why my mom always made me turn off the lights when I left a room," said Binds.

## McDonald's Goes High Tech, Low Cal and Late Night

BY KENDRA TURNER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

For many, the dream of easing late-night hunger with a double cheeseburger and a side of McDonald's fries has come true. The world's largest fast food chain has recently encouraged more franchises to serve customers 24 hours a day. The extended hours

are just one small part of McDonald's marketing strategy to heighten its already flourishing sales.

McDonald's not only provides 24-hour service, but also offers wireless Internet access, plasma screen televisions and healthier menu choices.

Although McDonald's already has several late-

night and 24-hour franchises, including the location on Georgia Avenue, the push to extend hours at other sites stems from consumer demand, said Becky Gallagher, marketing supervisor of McDonald's Baltimore-Washington Region.

"People are looking for extended hours and we are

simply responding to that," Gallagher said. "There are a lot of people out from 12 to 5 a.m., and we want to be able to offer them food."

The McDonald's on Georgia Avenue has been open 24 hours for the past three years, and many Howard students have reaped the benefits.

Howard students pack the restaurant during the weekdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., said William Brown, a McDonald's swing manager and junior at Howard University. Students also flood McDonald's from noon to 2 p.m. on the weekends and late hours after returning from clubs.

"We have been up in sales, and I know [being open 24 hours] is a big part it," Brown said.

A McDonald's in Oakbrook, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, has already undergone transformation. The location has a high-tech kiosk where patrons can watch their favorite



McDonald's has added 24 hour service and other perks to keep customers happy.

See PLOYS, Campus A6

## Professor Recognized for Debate Academy

BY SHANAE HARRIS  
Asst. Campus Editor

John W. Davis, a Howard professor and director of forensics, was showcased in "Jet" magazine's August issue for his Debate Academy. The Debate Academy brings high school students from around the country together to participate in debates and other activities to enhance their debate skills.

The article pinpointed the Debate Academy's recent visit to Capitol Hill as well as the program's acclaimed success and effectiveness for the urban public high school students involved.

Davis said the Academy is "an 'academic boot camp' that gets students in shape for effective competition."

The program is directed through the University's own renowned debate team as well as Davis' hand-picked staff.

As the founder and director, Davis said he spends most of his time conceptualizing the curriculum program, selecting instructors and determining the schedule of events outside the curriculum, including this year's trip to Capitol Hill.

"The most important thing I do is raise money for the program," Davis said.

Last year, the Academy raised a total of \$120,000 for the participants in the program.

Also according to the *Jet* article, many of the students were awarded scholarships to participate in the program with funds from sponsors such as law firms, attorneys and singer/producer Missy Elliot.

See DEBATE, News A6

## Hurricane Devastation Hits Howard Students

BY RUSHONDRA JAMES  
Asst. Nation & World Editor

Hurricane Katrina, now responsible for at least 68 deaths, hit land in Louisiana around 6 a.m., central standard time Monday. Officials estimate that 750,000 people are without power.

Howard students from the areas hit by the hurricane were concerned about the safety of their loved ones.

"Hurricanes are common where I'm from, but this is the first time my family had to leave," Anya Alexander a junior Print Journalism major from Edgard, Louisiana.

A category 5 storm, as it travelled through the Gulf of Mexico, the storm

pounded New Orleans for eight hours causing flood damage, leaving 80 percent of the city underwater.

Senior Broadcast Journalism major and Louisiana native Alan Causey's family was also affected. "My family had to evacuate really quickly. They ended up staying with some family members in Houston, Texas. They are not sure when they will be able to go back but they do know that our house is completely under water," he said.

"Everyone who I know has been affected," Causey said. At least 80 percent of the city evacuated in the storm. An August 30 *New York Times* article identified at least 52,000 people to be in 240 shelters in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Texas.

"This is our Tsunami," is how mayor of Buloxi Mississippi, A. J. Holloway described the storm. Many of the 68 deaths happened in Mississippi and at least 1 million homes are without power.

As a result of the storm, some cellular phone towers, and telephone services were knocked out, including those phone numbers with the 504 area code. "I can't call any 504 area codes from my phone," said Causey. Sprint and Nextel told NBC5 that their long distance switch in New Orleans failed after the storm hit, resulting in the inability of long distance calls to be made into the area or out of the area. Getting in contact with family members has also been difficult for Senior, Psychology major Rashunda Stitt. "I haven't been able to call

anyone in any area code in Birmingham", Stitt said.

Katrina has now been downgraded to a tropical storm, but there are still millions of people who are without power. Gas prices are at an all time high with prices as much as \$71 a barrel. One CNN article said that oil and gas output is now at a stand still and many refineries are closed.

The worse has passed, but heavy rain is expected in Tennessee and the Ohio Valleys. Not able to check on family members at this time, both Causey and Alexander are both hoping for the best. "All I can do is pray for my family and everyone affected by the storm," she said.

# HUSA Jumpstarts For The New Year

BY SHAYNA RUDD  
Staff Writer

The Howard University Student Association is trying to work toward the Innovation platform set forth by their leaders, seniors Byron Stewart and April Hurley.

HUSA plans for this year to be one driven by purpose, vision, and commitment, which combined will help Howard University reach a new level.

Some of those plans are already in effect. HUSA helped with dorm move-ins, and there has been an interest meeting for the incoming freshmen to volunteer with HUSA, where about 30 freshmen were in attendance.

"We need as many volunteers as we can get," said Steven Nichols, HUSA Chief of Staff. "That is the spirit of HUSA. We want to give the freshmen the opportunity to get involved now, and be apart of the vision that we all share with Byron and April."

In addition to the new plans, HUSA will be bringing some old ones back, such as "First Fridays" in the Punchout. "First Fridays" are gatherings in the Punchout sponsored by HUSA, where students can showcase their talent or just hang out.

"We all really enjoyed "First



Members of the HUSA staff found that changes in the office have made them more efficient.

Friday's", and we see it as a way of getting the students involved - in addition to being visible as an organization to the student-body," said junior Ashley Smith a member of the HUSA staff "So we wanted to keep that around; if it ain't broke, then why fix it? We are just going to polish it up."

Students are noticing the changes since the new HUSA staff.

"Byron and April and the HUSA staff are doing great

things," said Lauren Jackson, a junior graphic design major. "They have already been very helpful to the Howard community."

Other students agree the staff is visible.

"From dorm move-ins to just extended warm welcomes, Byron and April are always there," said Ayahanna Gordan, junior nursing major.

The HUSA staff prepared the entire summer for the upcoming year. The staff consists of

different types of students, with different backgrounds, and different aspirations.

"HUSA is more than your average student government," said Lynda Lloyd, a junior political science major. "It is a reflection of Howard. Howard is a colorful university; its diversity is one of the things that make it so rich. Therefore, it is important that HUSA is a reflection of that."

The HUSA staff attended their yearly retreat during the second week of August. At the retreat, they decided on the "family theme for the year."

"I feel that this is the best theme for the staff," said Ashley Smith, "we have to work together in order to get lasting results. As a staff, we don't just want results that are going to last for a year, but results that will last in the years to come."

President Byron Stewart said he is anticipating the year.

"I know that God has great things in store for, not just HUSA, but all of us, and that in itself makes me excited," President Byron Stewart said. "We are ready to work hard not just for today, but for the future of this university."

## ONLY @

### HOWARD...

- "... would you get a high five for sleeping all day." - Allexthea Carter, sophomore psychology major
- "... will you see a Bat flying through Frazier" - Megan Lyman, junior marketing major
- "... do you see Allen Iverson a foot away at homecoming" - Joy Johnson, junior journalism major
- "... would you almost get run over for a free homecoming ticket." - John Miller, sophomore broadcast journalism major
- "... do you take showers in the broom closet," - Lakiesha Graves, sophomore health management major
- "... will you see skiing in the Valley on lunch trays" - Lindsey Benton, sophomore dance major
- "... would you see someone at the club, and in class with straight A's the next morning." - Sade Benjamin, sophomore radio production major
- "... do you have housing riots." - Ashley Wilbon, sophomore public relations major
- "... can you see rodents running across the Café." - Alesha Thomas, biology major

Compiled By Constance K. Howard  
Contributing Writer

# Sophomores Cope With Return Home; More Headaches Than Glee

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Sleeping-in on weekdays, staying out all night, daily trips to CVS and partying on a Thursday is what freshman year is all about for many Howard University students.

After being on their own for a year, they must go back home and face the transition of having a more structured life with their parents.

"It was a big adjustment not having a curfew or any other rules other than my own personal judgment; but the nightmare was having to go back home to rules that I hadn't been accustomed to dealing with for so long," said Whitney Threadcraft, a sophomore political science major.

Karen Levin Coburn, Associate Vice Chancellor for students and Dean of the Freshman Transition at Washington University, said that summer is

different from the time spent home during holidays.

"Even though students come home during breaks, it can be very different when they are home for an entire summer," said Coburn in an article written for the Washington University online news.

Some students agree that the disagreements with parents are due to the length of time spent at home.

"The summer months can be tough on both students and parents, it's the longest amount of time students are home during the year which makes more room for arguments and misunderstandings," said Raine Sanchez, a senior fashion major.

Some disagreements lead to an even more stressful situation.

"I fell out a couple of times with my mom and had to stay with a friend for a while," said Threadcraft. "I was comfortable there, but it was a strain on our

relationship."

Threadcraft is not the only student who dealt with this tough transition over the summer months. Catherine McPhaul, sophomore business management major, understands that it is tough for parents to understand that their child is growing up.

"I did enjoy being back home, but I didn't really appreciate having so many rules," said McPhaul. "Not being able to take my car when I wanted was a bit of a hassle for me, especially when it was never a problem before I came to Howard."

Coburn said there are different factors to consider when trying to understand why the transition is so difficult.

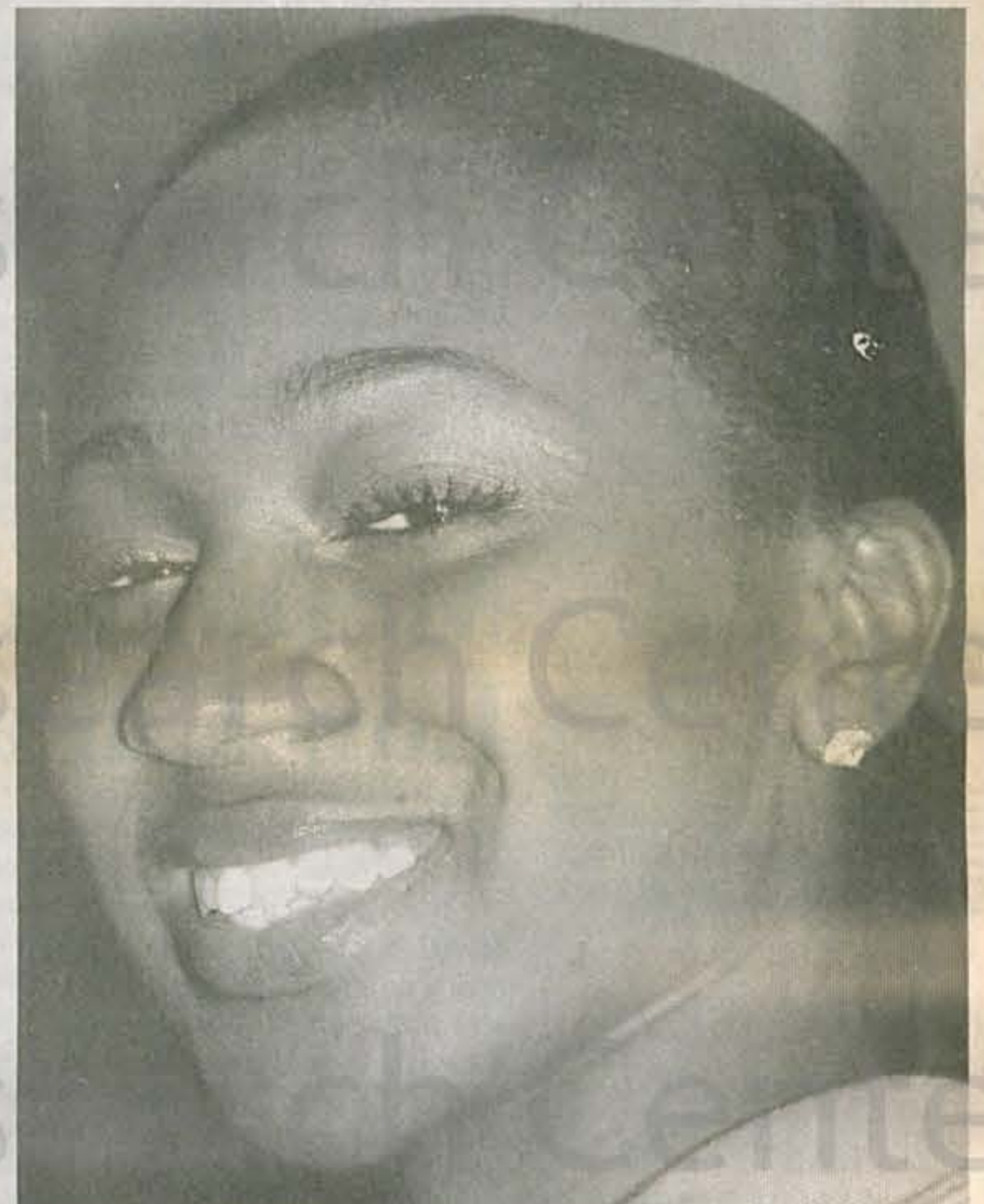
"There are so many different issues to consider...how many people are in your house? Are you the eldest of your siblings or are you the only child? Are you the same person you were before you let home? In most

cases people are not. All these things can make a difference in the type of situation you find yourself in when returning back to the nest," she said.

"I remember being excited about going home, because I just knew that it would be exactly like college, but without the class work and the stress of being broke," said Sanchez. "Within the first week I realized that I couldn't have been more wrong."

Sanchez recommends open communication and a certain frame of mind can minimize problems when returning home.

"If you are a freshman this year and you want to be able to go home and be stress-free, just be prepared and remember that home is home," said Sanchez. "You are not a college student at home, there you are your parents child."



Whitney Threadcraft and other sophomores across Howard experienced problems during their first summer back home.

## A Day in the Life of...

### a Transfer Student

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT  
Campus Editor

The aromas of curry circle. A rhythmic drum beats over the PA. An array of clientele enjoy their Jamaican feasts. A fair-skinned woman, clad in Afrocentric dress head-to-toe sits across from a man with a mocha complexion dressed in street clothes and sporting locks.

In walks a group of young ladies of various shades of brown, sparkling with silver belts and gold shoes

"I love this place," said sophomore speech communications major Lance Beal. "It's so great."

Beal, a Houston native, speaks of the diversity in "The

Negril" on Georgia Ave, where he lunches between classes. Washington, DC and the Howard University community are quite different than his last school, the University of Texas - San Antonio (UTSA), where the population of African-Americans is far less.

"There are no White people here," he said. "The White people have less of a reason to have an attitude. At San Antonio, if you don't like Black people, than they make it known. But if you go to Howard, you can't really not like Black people."

Beal woke up at 6:00 a.m. to get ready for his first day of classes. Living in Meridian Hill Hall, he had to catch the shuttle at 7:20 a.m. in order to make his

8:10 class on time.

"I love the shuttle and the Metro," he said. "Everyone disses them, but I think it's the best thing since sliced bread."

Classes present a completely different reaction than "The Negril."

"I'm really caught off guard that most of my professors are White," he said. "It's not necessarily a bad thing, but it just caught me off guard."

His final class of the day was Communications Law, his largest class. Professor John Davis, he said, is his least favorite teacher.

"He is aggravating," Beal said. "Class feels like a show. I'm just like 'Sit down and teach the class.' He's just up there with

his bow tie looking like Tucker Carlson. But I think he is going to be the most interesting."

Beal is certain that his Howard schedule will present far more challenges than UTSA.

"I'm going to learn so much here," he said. "I didn't learn anything at San Antonio. I'll be challenged, and that's exactly what I need."

Beal chats with his new fellow peers as he waits for classes, and even afterward.

"I think the people here are really nice," he said. "We're going to help each other out during the years, which is good."

Beal has settled into his new home quite well and has acquired some friends within Meridian.

"I love Lance," said LaKiesha Graves, freshman health management major said. "He just has a presence about him that makes us just want to be around him. He is just what the doctor ordered for us."

The city is no longer mysterious to Beal, as he took it upon himself to tour his new surroundings.

"On my day out, by myself because I like to be alone sometimes, I went to Chinatown and I just decided to walk. I walked to Union Station, and then I walked to Capitol and took some mental pictures there. I took in all the beauty, and that's when it hit me that I was really in DC."

The Metro was his transportation of that day, and, although

he enjoys the public transportation, Beal does not agree with the advice he was given not to bring his car.

"I'm not one to stay in one place," he said. "Up here, places are so close, and I want to be able to go see them when I want."

Ultimately, Beal has decided that he has made the right decision.

"Howard will be the school for me," Beal declares as he prepares to watch a game of spades between his new friends in his new home at his new school at Howard University.

Want to write for the **HILLTOP?**  
Come grab a story at the budget meeting on Tuesday @ 7:00 PM

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# Trinidad Celebration



Marlene Hawthorne-Ass. Photo Editor

Clico Shiv Shakti Dance Company and Mavis John performed at Trinidad's 43rd anniversary celebration. Vera Baney had artwork on display during the festivities.

## Patriots Turn Out to Celebrate 43 Years Of Independence.

BY SHALEEM THOMPSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Hundreds of Patriotic Trinidad and Tobago citizens flocked to the Hall of the Americas Organization of American States to celebrate their independence day away from home on Monday.

Though the celebrations were two days before their actual independence day, many of them wore red, white and black, their national colors, showing their pride of being an independent nation.

The ceremony opened with a welcome address by Ambassador, Marina Valere who urged everyone to improve, the country with their daily activities.

She then introduced and invited everyone to see the work of ceramic artist, Vera Baney, a Trinidadian who in 1982, was honored with the Hummingbird Gold Medal for Trinbagonians who have made great achievements.

While viewing the artwork many people discussed what Independence Day meant to them and how they felt being so far away from home on such a momentous occasion.

A contractor for the Embassy, Wayne Gayadeen felt that, "Independence is about freedom, especially because our ancestors came from different parts of the world and we were formerly under British rule so now we are showing the world that we can support ourselves and be prosperous."

Joanne Phillips Spencer, a teacher in Trinidad and Tobago said, "Celebrating Independence here is different because my husband is in the military and we normally attend the parade but this was nice and despite where I am independence to me is a movement away from dependence on first world countries and freedom from every aspect of life not just the government."

Jeanette Southerland, a consultant at Royal Bank, felt similarly saying, "Independence day is a celebration of freedom to make our own choices and to choose the destiny of our nation as a people so wherever I am in the world I always feel at home because you can always find a Trinbagonian."

For people like Earl Noel, a home improvement contrac-



Marlene Hawthorne-Ass. Photo Editor

**Ambassador Marlene Valere spoke out on Trinidad and Tobago's challenges and positive trends at the festival on Monday.**

tor, this day holds a lot more significance, "This day means so much to me since I remember the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1962 when the Union Jack was taken down and the Trinidad and Tobago flag was hoisted. This is so symbolic because we took our country to a different level giving us time to grow and mature as a nation."

Desmond Codrington the Financial attache of the Embassy also expressed a deep connection to this day saying,

"Because I live in the United States being Independent is a positive achievement and every time I see our flag or hear the national anthem it brings me back to home. Since I was around in 1962, it brings me great pride that we are a sovereign nation and making strides to be a part of the first world."

Throughout the night patrons enjoyed dances by the Clico Shiv Shakti Dance Company, the first East Indian dance group of Trinidad and Tobago.

Adorned in exquisite jewelry and costumes the company entertained the crowd with their distinctive dance moves. Mavis John, "The First Lady of Caribbean Jazz," the Pantasy Steel Ensemble and Michael Low Chew Tung keyboardist for Mavis and Theron Shaw, a guitarist, composer and arranger kept the crowd entertained throughout the night as well.

## A Reflection of Trinidad and Tobago As it Celebrates its 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

BY SHALEEM THOMPSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

"What use will you make of your independence? Whatever the challenge that faces you, from whatever quarter, place always first that national interest and the national cause. The strength of the Nation depends on the strength of its citizens."

These powerful words were part of a speech Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago delivered to the nation on their first day of independence from Great Britain on August 31, 1962.

Today Trinbagonians as a nation celebrate 43 years of taking charge of their own destiny, a time period that is hardly a blink of the eye.

Marina Valère, the Trinidad and Tobago ambassador believes that Trinidad and Tobago has made considerable progress over the years.

"The country's strategic location, well-educated workforce, sound fiscal policy, stable political climate and strict adherence to democratic principles continue to make it largely sought-after by investors. Last year was the country's twelfth consecutive year of economic growth at the rate of 14% in the energy sector and 9% for the economy."

While acknowledging that the nation is not without challenges and is still maturing and growing as an independent country she said, "In pursuit of national development and transformation, a meticulous blueprint has been set out for the country, strategically targeting our sector priorities, with a view to achieving developed country status by 2020."

"We continue to pursue this goal steadfastly as it guarantees ultimately the well-being of each and every citizen of our beloved country making us stronger for each other."

Debra Greaves, reporter for the Newsday in Trinidad and Tobago believes that the country's greatest challenge is, "controlling increasing crimes like murder, kidnapping and gang warfare."

Food prices, flooding and employment are some of the other challenges facing the

country."

Greaves sees a lot of positive trends in Trinidad and Tobago.

"The country's landscape and infrastructure continue to reflect prosperity as both foreign and local investors continue to place their confidence in Trinidad and Tobago's market," she said.

Radio producer and host of Caribiana at WPFW with Greaves on Trinbago's greatest challenge.

"Coping with the crime and one's sense of freedom with regards to the recent bombings at Port-of-Spain is a major problem."

He believes however that one of the positive trends is, "The great amount of young people that are good students all over the world making their nation proud."

Rosemary Mc Dowall, a self-employed psychotherapist sees, "the inadequate health care services and facilities," as Trinidad and Tobago's greatest challenge. She believes that Trinidad's advancement in technology is one of the most positive trends.

"We have become so advanced in technology that we are no longer a third-world nation with regards to that area."

Nyasha George, a junior Dance and Physics major points out that, "As Trinbagonians we have so much to be grateful for, we are blessed with an abundance of the world's most exploitable natural resource, with the world's most friendly and vibrant people and the world's most beautiful landscape."

"My only hope is that politicians do not continue to use race to upset the very fragile balance that exists between the many people that make up our land."

All over the world countries face both challenges and possess strengths, hopefully Trinidad and Tobago would continue to build on its strengths to meet and solve all its challenges.

## While You Were Out...

### Summer News Briefs

#### Nixon Deep Throat Identified

Thirty years ago, scandal struck the White House resulting in the resignation of President Richard Nixon. It all began with a burglary and an attempted tapping of phones in Democratic offices at the Watergate Hotel during his 1972 re-election campaign. It went on to include disclosures of the Nixon administration's spying

on and retaliating against a host of perceived enemies. But the most devastating disclosure was Nixon's own role in trying to cover up his administration's involvement. Former FBI deputy director W. Mark Felt stepped forward as Deep Throat, the secret Washington Post source who helped bring down President Nixon during the Watergate scandal.

#### Court Rules on Parenting Rights

On Monday, the California Supreme Court ruled that both a lesbian couple who raised a child born to either female should be considered the child's mothers' even after their relationship ends. Issuing decisions in three of the cases, the court ruled that the women, whose partners gave birth, also had parental rights and obligations. The cases involved a request for child support, a petition to establish parental rights and a

challenge to a lower court ruling issued before a child's birth that the child should have two women listed as parents on her birth certificate. Though courts in about half of the 50 states have allowed members of same-sex couples to adopt their partner's children, this decision considers the question of whether the law could require former members of such couples to assume parental rights and obligations.

#### Karl Rove and CIA Leak

President George W. Bush's senior advisor, chief political strategist, and Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of policy Karl Rove, allegedly revealed the identity of CIA employee Valerie Plame in retaliation of her husband's criticism of the Bush administration. "Newsweek" has reported that Matt Cooper, in an e-mail to his bureau chief at Time magazine, wrote that he had spoken to Rove on double super-secret background for about two minutes before he went

on vacation. In that conversation, Rove gave Cooper "big warning" that time should not "get too far out on Wilson." Cooper's e-mail indicates that Rove told Cooper that Wilson's trip had not been authorized by CIA Director George Tenet or Vice President Dick Cheney; rather, Rove claimed, "it was ...Wilson's wife, who apparently works at the agency on [WMD] issues who authorized the trip." Rove was wrong about the authorization.

#### Secretary Travels to Niger

United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan made a trip to Niger as more than 5 million people there face food shortages. This region as well as a large area of northwest Africa was struck by severe drought and locust invasion. The U.N. leader listened to villagers' pleas for help in the eastern city of Zinder, one of

the hardest hit areas in Niger. About 3.6 million people face severe food shortages in Niger. Annan questioned officials on the status of emergency distributions and plans for future aid to the nation. The U.N. says 1.6 million people in other Sahel countries — Mali, Burkina Faso and Mauritania — are also affected.

#### Evacuation of Gaza Strip

Tying up crucial deals on border security and the disposal of demolished settlers' homes, Israel forged ahead with the final phase of its landmark Gaza evacuation. The government also issued orders to seize Palestinian land to build a separation barrier that would in effect annex the West Bank's largest settlement to Jerusalem. In exchange for the Gaza pullout, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said that Israel expects to strengthen its hold on major West Bank settlement. Israel emptied the last of its 21 civilian settlements on Monday, but still has to fin-

ish destroying settler houses, dismantling military installations and pulling out troops. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said he expects the final phase to be complete around mid-September. He also confirmed Israel has reached an agreement to turn over control of the Gaza Strip to 750 Egyptian troops. The transfer of border supervision to the Egyptians is key to ending Israel's Gaza occupation. The agreement was held up by Israeli concerns that weapons and explosives would be smuggled across the border from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula into Gaza once its troops leave.

#### Christian Broadcaster Calls for Assassination of Chavez

Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson made headlines when he said that the United States should assassinate the president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez. "If he thinks we're trying to assassinate him, I think that we really ought to go ahead and do it," Robertson said on his "700 Club" television program. "It's a whole lot cheaper than starting a war. And I don't think any oil shipments will stop."

José Vicente, Venezuela's

Vice-President, denounced Robertson's statement. "This is a huge hypocrisy to maintain an antiterrorist line," Rangel said, "and at the same time have such terrorist statements as these made by Christian preacher Pat Robertson coming from the same country." Chávez has made no comment on the statements, but has accused United States of trying to assassinate him in the past.



Marlene Hawthorne-Staff Photographer

ATMs are appearing at Metro stations all over D.C. including this one at Tenley Town.

## Fast Cash Comes to the Metro

BY STACY A. ANDERSON  
Business & Technology Editor

Chevy Chase Bank ATMs are now located at various Metro rail stations in the Washington area, after a successful partnership between the bank and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

The partnership came after the WMATA had to consider ways to "raise revenue without raising passenger fare," said Cathy Asato, spokesperson for WMATA. Officials considered many proposals, but the plan from Chevy Chase, based in Bethesda, Md., beat out all others.

The first ATM was placed in the Bethesda Metro rail station on June 7. By mid-September, 23 stations will have one to three ATMs, depending on traffic volume, said Nellie Williams, an ATM settlement officer for Chevy Chase.

"Metro stations with ATMs were determined by ridership where it would be most visible to patrons and of interest to use," said Williams. Metro Center, where four lines intersect, will have three ATMs.

Asato said WMATA also considered physical space in the fare card machine area and if there was sufficient space to run wiring for power.

Some Howard students considered the pros and cons.

"I don't think it's safe," said senior international business major Nubia Murray. "They already have credit and debit card options when purchasing a fare card." As for stations near shopping areas like Metro Center and

Pentagon City, "there are ATMs in the mall, so what's the point?"

"It's convenient," said junior nursing major Andrea Harris. "But it might not be safe, since there are always crazy people in the Metro. Then again, so many people are walking back and forth."

Williams said there have been no safety or criminal incidents to date and Metro police are always in the area.

"Just as any bank machine, there are security cameras," said Asato. "It's no different than going to an ATM on the street corner."

The overall response this summer has been positive, Williams said. "People are happy to see them there." She added that many Metro commuters who do not bank with Chevy Chase use the ATMs at a rate of 50 percent, for example, at the South Capitol Street station.

Williams said that customers could also buy stamps at the ATMs.

Metro expects to earn an estimated \$1 million from the project. Revenue will help pay for bomb-resistant trash cans to place on the platforms to cut back on litter. The revenue will also help to maintain the remote monitoring system that lists the wait times for trains.

There are no plans to install an ATM at the Shaw/Howard Metro rail station, but Metro and bank officials will continue to expand if the project is successful. ATMs on the green line are at the Columbia Heights, Branch Avenue, Fort Totten and Greenbelt stations.

## The New Gigapet: Neopets

BY KENDRA TURNER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

If you find yourself longing for the company of a pet in your dorm, Neopets Inc. has the remedy. Howard students cannot have animals in their rooms, but pet companionship is still possible—virtually at least—through the popular pet web site, Neopets.com.

This past June, media giant MTV Networks, a unit of Viacom International, reportedly acquired Neopets, Inc., the operators of the virtual pet site, for a whopping \$160 million. MTV Networks, which also runs the youth oriented channel Nickelodeon and its web site Nick.com, said the decision to buy the web site was meant to increase its online appeal to younger audiences.

Initially created in 1999, for bored college students, the Neopets web site soon achieved mass appeal and has become increasingly trendy among children and young adults.

According to Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, "As of July 2005, Neopets reported over 100 million accounts and more than 143 million pets. Also, as of May 2005, a Neopets-affiliated video game producer cited about 35 million unique users, 11 million unique IP addresses per month, and 4 billion web page views per month."

This widespread popularity may be due in large part to the constant changes made to the web site. New items, games and plots are introduced almost daily. The site is available in 10 different languages and also features message boards and

contests. Users can write news stories for The Neopian Times, make friends through NeoMail, and submit poetry and artwork for the web site.

Neopets.com closely mirrors the creation of handheld virtual pet games Gigapets and Tamagotchis, fads of the late nineties. Unlike handheld pets, Neopets never die or starve to death.

Neopets.com allows users to establish a free account where they can customize their own computer critter; however, only four critters per account are permitted. The site warns, "[The pets] will begin to get very demanding. If you are just starting out, it may be best for you to just choose one."

The web site features over 50 critters, which include the monkey-like and fun loving Mynzi, the tiger-like fruit fiend Kougra, and the shy but incredibly furry JubJub.

The user also selects pet's name, color, gender and personality, which will determine how the pet interacts with other critters in the fairly-tale land of Neopia. The pet can greet others critters very friendly, cautiously, run away, insult them or attack them.

Neopians must care for their Neopet as they would a real pet by feeding it. Users can also read books to their pets or have them battle others critters. Neopians accumulate points to purchase items to care for their pets by playing games. The users may purchase goods from the site's main shops or user-owned shops. User-owned shops are another way for Neopians to generate points. Simply creating a Neopet earns a user 50 points.

Herb Scannell, Vice Chairman of MTV Networks and President of Nickelodeon Networks is confident about the purchase of Neopets, Inc.

"Neopets, like our brands at MTV Networks, is a tremendously successful creative-driven company that is focused on serving its target audience with great content," said Scannell, in a press release announcing the acquisition on Neopets. He added, "The combination of Neopets and Nick.com gives us a one-two punch leadership position in the online entertainment space among kids and young adults. The hidden value of Neopets is the fact that over 60 percent of its audience is over age 13, which aligns with the audiences of many of our MTV Network brands."

When asked about her experience as a Neopian, Ashton Fizer, a freshman political science major said, "It was fun while it lasted." Fizer had a virtual pet when she was in the fifth and sixth grade. Even though she got lazy with her pet, she said that caring for a Neopet is definitely something fun to do if you have frequent access to a computer and plenty of leisure time.

Sophomore Ayanna Redwood-Crawford has never had a Neopet, but related it to the experience she had with her Gigapet. "Its better than kids having imaginary friends. But it seems like it would get boring after a while."

(Since the web site launched in 1999, there have been over 99 million account users world wide, according ... Eleven million accounts are currently active.)

## Ring Tone Downloads Reaches High

BY STACY ANDERSON  
Business and Technology Editor

While sitting in the confinements of a classroom during these few remaining summer days, a student is bound to hear their favorite song or top ten hit, like Bow Wow's "Like You" or Gwen Stefani's "Holla Back Girl"—not blaring from the Yard as they look out the window, but instead from another student's cell phone.

The ring tone industry has become a pressing trend in pop culture and the cellular phone accessory industry. According to BMI, cell phone users will spend an estimated \$500 million on ring tones, said Maigread Eichten, vice president of Verisign Communication Services Marketing.

Verisign Inc. is the owner of the popular cell phone content provider, Jamster. Jamster alone provides 50,000 music selections, 30,000 graphics, 2,000 games and 250 alerts, which includes breaking news. The ring tone industry made \$245 million last year and \$68 million in 2003.

A recent survey proved that 9.7 percent of cell phone users downloaded a ring tone in the month of July, equaling about 17.55 million people, said Jamie Minney, spokeswoman for M:Metrics, a mobile market-measuring firm.

Minney added, "The age group 18 to 24 has the highest propensity to download ring tones, especially students with jobs. They are the top consumers of mobile content."

According to a benchmark index, this age group is almost twice as likely to download music than the average ring tone subscriber, said Minney.

Students have several options to obtain ring tones varying from free web sites to paying a fee to their cell phone carrier. Ring tones also serve for personalization reasons.



Emmanuel Lacey-Staff Photographer

Popular music ring tone downloads are becoming more popular with Howard University students.

"If I don't want to talk to someone, my phone will say 'don't answer,'" said freshman Jessica Morris. She pays a monthly fee to her cell phone carrier, T-Mobile, to enjoy the sounds of Mariah Carey's "Shake it off" and Pretty Ricky's "Grind with Me."

Certain ring tones also alert students when a special someone calls. Freshman marketing major, Medina Mercer's cell phone plays Marvin Gaye's "Let's get it On" when her boyfriend calls. Mercer said she also pays her cell phone provider Cingular \$1.99 per song, since she "likes to switch it up every month."

Sophomore Joe Fulton gets his ring tones from 3gfree.com at no charge since he is a Verizon customer. "I got 'Hood Hop' for my boys and Bobby Valentino's 'Slow Down' for the ladies," said Fulton.

Some students don't find ring tones necessary.

"O no—I'm too grown for that," said senior public relations major Sefanit Befekadu. "I don't have extra money for that." She uses the generic ring tones that came with her phone through Verizon.

Freshman Chris Buckner agreed with Befekadu. "I don't like to pay for them." Instead, he records music and phrases he likes with his phone, text messages it to himself and then saves it as a ring tone.

His phone currently features a clip from the movie "CB4" and songs from Howard's band. "I'd rather pay two cents for a text message than \$2 for a ring tone," Buckner said. "After all I am on a student's budget."

Regardless of the status on Howard's campus, the ring tone industry will continue to expand in technology and personalization.

"Research has shown it's a common tool and a way to express themselves, their personality, the way they are and what they like to be," said Eichten of Verisign.

She said the future of the cell phone is broader than ring tones. "You can purchase a Coke out a vending machine or a pay a bill [while using your phone]," said Eichten. "It's leading to m-commerce, which is the ability to purchase services on the phone."

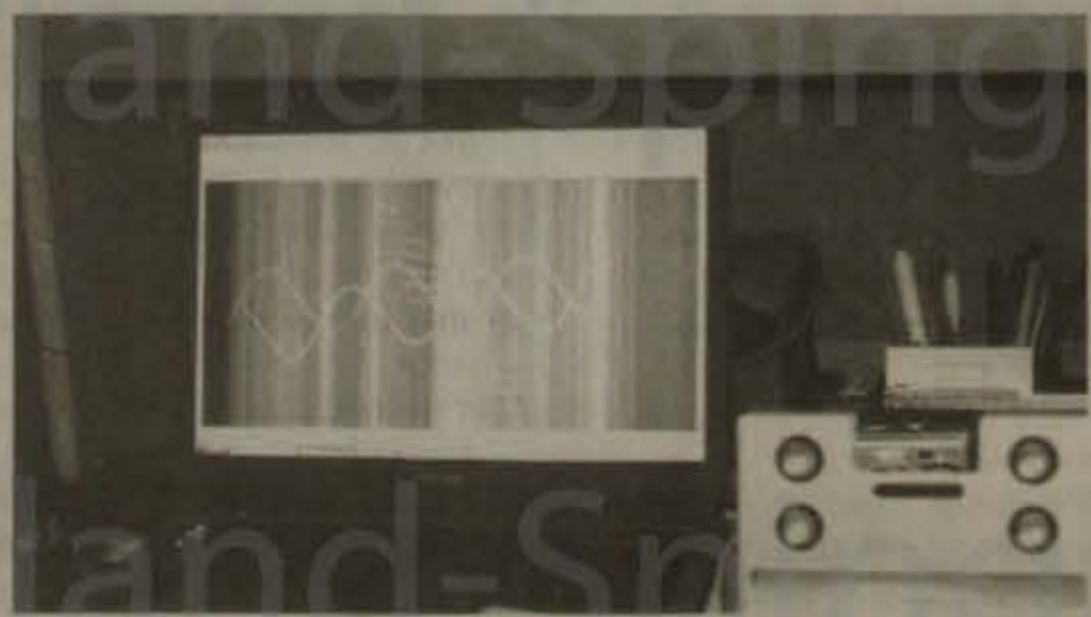
## Resident Life: How I'm Living in My Space

BY DEBBIE ORIGHO  
Contributing Writer

"Target!" exclaimed Shayla Coleman, a sophomore international business major from Chicago, when referring to the best place to shop in the D.C. area and to get cool, yet inexpensive gifts to spice up your room. Shayla resides in the Bethune Annex and her goal is to keep her room modern and contemporary, but above all, "Hot!"

With colorful thumb tacks in the shape of an "S" attached to a medium cork board hanging on the door, the first idea that comes to mind on how Coelman's room might appear inside is simple, neat and well-groomed with a hint of color. Below the board is a sign that reads, "Warning this area has been declared a Federal Disaster Zone," causing one to proceed with caution.

Inside, Coleman has a "wall of fame" made out of 67 CD cover booklets arranged into a huge collage plastered on one side of the room and a sizzling red bed set below with a matching plush pillow. Technology is a must in her home away from home, which is equipped with a TV, dual video tape and DVD system, a new Toshiba Pentium 4 Laptop complete with an HP printer and contemporary radio and



Nicole Reed-Staff Photographer

Shayla Coleman, a sophomore international business major, said that she decorated her room in the Bethune Annex with items from Target.

CD player. Coleman even has a hand-made snack bar for friends and visitors.

Coleman said she used her instincts to decorate her room. "I didn't set a budget, I just walked around looking for deals," she said. Deals that any college student can afford since most of the items in her room were mostly purchased from Target. There are two Target locations in the area—Prince Georges Plaza off the green Metro line and Wheaton Plaza off the red Metro line.

Coleman advised students to take advantage of discounts, especially on electronics and other college related appliances. Coleman saved bucks by using her employee discount

over the summer when she worked at Best Buy.

Coleman also advised to buy products that are versatile. "Definitely, before going shopping, see what you already have and then look for another purpose for it other than what they are normally used for," she said. "Visualize things and make a different use for it."

Out of all of the fancy, yet affordable accessories that Coleman used to decorate her room, the one item that holds the most value is one she received for free. Coleman's most prized possession is her silver prom memory box. The box holds her a family heirloom passed down from her great-great grandmother.

## Professor Founds Debate Academy

DEBATE, from A1

"We're working on providing transportation for the participants as well, given that so many come from various parts of the country," Davis said. This past year, the total number of participants reached 50 from states such as Illinois, New York, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, and California.

Davis hopes to push toward 75 participants next year.

Students interested in joining the Debate Academy can apply online. Requirements to participate in the program include being an urban public high school student, having good grades, involvement in commu-

nity service activities, and letters of recommendation.

"It's not all about the GPA though," Davis said. "Some of the most brilliant minds don't know what to do with them."

Davis says that the responses he receives from the participating students is the best part of the Academy for him.

"Debate is the oldest academic activity on campus," Davis said, "No other HBCU has a program like this."

Part of Davis' motivation for starting the Debate Academy was to create a recruitment system for the top African-American high school students to come to Howard University and enter into the debate program.

"When students participate in debate, they learn to study issues in depth and from perspectives, a skill I use everyday in the Senate," Sen. Barack Obama told *Jet*.

Kevin Quail II, student assistant director of the program, agreed that debate can help the participants in life.

"I think the program is a wonderful opportunity for high school students interested in debate because it really gives them a step ahead when they go into what they want to do," he said.

Davis affirms that "the program has had a really great impact on these students' lives and their futures."

## McDonald's Aims for More Customers

PLOYS, from A1

shows on plasma screen televisions and print digital photos, while finishing off their Big Macs.

The fast-food chain has also changed the décor at its McCafes, which are equipped with fireplaces and offer cheesecake and lattes. Students can visit one of the few McCafes in the country at Udvar Hazy Center in the National Air and Space Museum in the Smithsonian on the National Mall.

Alterations are also in store for the Georgia Avenue location. "We're in the process of working on sketches to remodel the entire restaurant," said owner Craig Welburn. "The main rea-

son is to make it nicer and up to date for customers."

Welburn said Howard students can expect to see the upgrade begin within the next six months. "Believe me, it will be updated to reflect a nice restaurant," he said. "It will certainly be geared toward the college environment."

According to a July article in the Washington Post, McDonald's had also considered hiring Sean "Diddy" Combs and Tommy Hilfiger to create new uniforms for employees. "There are no plans for McDonald's to change its uniforms in the near future," Gallagher said, noting that the idea had since been abandoned.

On it menu, McDonald's

has added low-carb and other healthier options. "Whether you're looking for breakfast, a snack, lunch or dinner, we have something for all appetites," Gallagher said.

Christina Spalding, a junior nursing major at Howard, has taken advantage of the healthier choices at the McDonald's on Georgia Avenue, where she recently ordered a premium salad.

Sophomore accounting major DeJha Wright said McDonald's fits her needs as a college student because it's close to campus and cheap. "When there isn't anything to eat, a double cheeseburger for a dollar sounds good."

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# EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 4

AUGUST 31, 2005

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## Are We Prepared for Emergencies?

Most students have not been heavily monitoring the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina, but maybe since Louisiana is so many miles away. Few people paid close attention to the broadcasts showing the flooding and extensive damage the hurricane has caused. Students from Louisiana and neighboring states have been calling home frequently and expressing concern for their family and homes. The humidity in the air and the little bit of rainfall we've gotten isn't enough to make us think twice about Katrina, but maybe we shouldn't get too comfortable.

Though hurricanes are not a real threat to the District, we need to keep our emergency preparedness game plan together.

Natural disasters are often unexpected and sometimes unusual. What would Howard students do if there was an earthquake or a tsunami? In the blink of an eye we could be in the same shoes as Xavier University students are right

The first step is to be aware. This means keeping up with the news and the weather channel to know about the local alerts. The second step is to listen. It is easy to take alerts lightly until you see physical signs or until you are forced to evacuate. If

you hear something is going to happen then you need to listen to the experts or you may regret it. The third step is to be organized and prepared. This means having emergency contacts, first-aid supplies, and a set of batteries for your flashlight. You may be smirking, but there is nothing corny about your safety. It is warm outside now, but snowstorms and inclement weather are around the corner so let's make sure we have all the bases covered.

Washington, D.C. is an obvious terrorism target and we could easily face other obstacles. There is nothing wrong with making sure we are safe. At The Hilltop, we have some suggestions that can we can all benefit from.

### Our View:

*Howard students must be cautious about the possibilities of natural disasters too.*

## Credit Cards Are the Devil

MICHAEL ARCENEUX

When I left for a college, a friend of mine sat me down, looked deep into my eyes, and gave me some heartfelt advice: "Don't you come back here broker than you already are!" Four years later, I'm knee deep in student loans and have credit cards out the wazoo. While there was no way to avoid taking out additional educational loans, I certainly could have learned to spend my money wiser.

I won't say credit cards are the enemy per se. That simply is not realistic. One must establish credit somehow, and when choosing your spending habits wisely, what better way to build your credit than with credit cards? On the other hand, credit cards aren't exactly like your best friend. Think of them more as a trifling relative. Sure, you love them (mainly because you have to), but that does not mean you have to see them frequently. Try that approach with

credit cards.

Soon you will be bombarded with brochures, emails, and maybe the occasional phone call from credit card companies hoping to lure you into the fold. Be afraid. Be very afraid. Should you enter the world of credit, try doing a little research. Compare interest rates. Avoid store issued credit cards, as they don't help you build your credit in the least. Try applying for credit cards specifically geared towards students.

Don't spend your money on frivolous items. Don't buy that third iPod. You can watch *Boomerang* on HBO - it comes on almost daily. Do you really need that shirt in that many colors? Let them pay their own bond. The last one was a joke, but you get the idea. The bare essentials: Books (for my friends without book vouchers), food (Chinese food isn't going to pay for itself), and the occasional trip to the mall (you can't look busted at the club). Just try not to splurge and ask

yourself the tough questions, for instance, "Do you really need that McFlurry?" It's just going to melt by the time you hike back to your dorm anyway.

When I told my mother I got a credit card, she asked, "What job do you have?" I quickly answered "None", and she replied, "I hope you know my job isn't paying your bill." She then assured me that if I ever reached into her purse to find some monthly minimum payment money, I would pull back a nub. Right about now, I wish I did have that nub: It would make pulling those credit cards from my wallet all the more difficult.

As I enter my senior year at Howard University, I look back on all of my purchases and ask myself what in the world was I thinking and why didn't anyone warn me? Let me make it plan for you: Credit card debt can make you sob at night - rebuke it. Consider yourself warned.

## Words From the EIC...

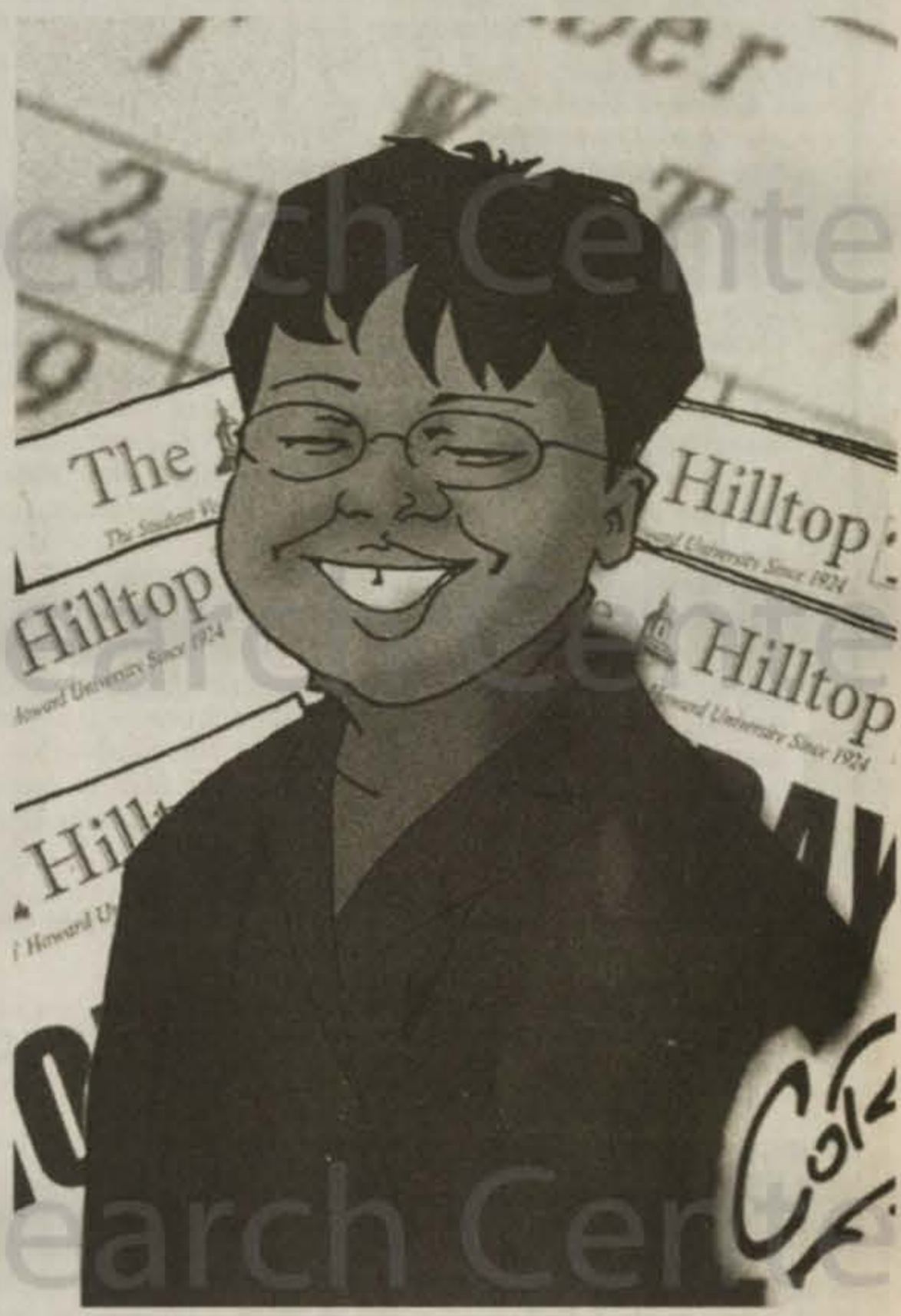
On a daily basis I am confronted with the question, "How do you do the whole daily thing?" and everyday I tell people, "I don't know." The Lord miraculously sent me the answer yesterday.

You see, when Howard students are busy studying or catching up on the Mecca social scene, there is a select group of individuals who give up their time and sleep and study time to produce The Hilltop.

Whether rain, sleet, snow or holiday, these H Psi Phi soldiers come to work with a purpose of producing an award-winning publication.

On Tuesday night, when The Hilltop was in jeopardy of not being produced because we didn't have internet access, this mighty staff of valor came together to make sure that the Howard population was informed on Wednesday. As I sat ready to lose my mind because I wondered how we were going to produce a paper with no internet, the staff took the reins and pulled out the paper you hold in your hands.

A special thanks to Jana Homes, who wasn't even scheduled to work, but came in anyway to help make sure that the paper came out, J.J. Pryor, who stayed on the phone with me during dinner to help me work through the internet crisis, Professor Lamb, the world's best adviser, Franklin Chambers, Charles Moore and last but not



least Larry Freelow and the West Towers staff.

To my staff, I wondered how I was ever going to find a staff who could be better than last year's staff, and I know now

with the hard work and dedication that I have already seen, this year will go down in the record books as one of the greatest of all time.

## THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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click it to us.

The Hilltop wants to read what you have to say. Submit a 500 word perspective to [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com).

Now in its 81st year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

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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.



How To:

# HAVE FUN IN THE CHOCOLATE CITY

BY YASMINE PARRISH  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Fun in the Chocolate City is always just a few blocks away. Washington has myriad entertainment options, from free museums and the Saturday morning kickball leagues on the National Mall to a diverse nightlife.

Many Howardites have mastered the art of having fun, and in some cases "free" fun, in the D.C. area. "My favorite spot in D.C. is Inde Bleu" said Trúc Mihn Vo, a sophomore fashion merchandising major. "It's a nice way to escape from the melancholy environment of D.C. into a completely different life."

Inde Bleu is a restaurant, bar and lounge that caters to a diverse group of the "grown and sexy" — the cream of the new nightlife crop. "It's about attitude," Mihn Vo said. "It's about truly living." And this upscale lounge also offers a mixture of traditional French and exotic Indian treats.

Another good choice is the

Hookah Bar in Georgetown, suggests sophomore design major Michael Craighead. Hookah, a flavored tobacco filtered with steam, is the main attraction of the bar.

"But even if smoking is not your thing, it's a restaurant, too," Craighead said. "Plus, the food is pretty good, and the atmosphere is very chill. The Hookah bar is a cool place to go with friends to relax, talk and tell jokes."

While Craighead's favorite Hookah Bar is in Georgetown, there's a closer location in Adams Morgan. One round of Hookah fun is about \$7 to \$10 for a group of four.

Many Howard students also frequent the National Mall. At 10 a.m. on any given Saturday, adult kickball leagues take the childhood sport to a whole new level. The Mall is also a great place to fly kites or play Frisbee. The possibilities at one of D.C.'s most recognizable landmarks are endless. The Mall is also surrounded by lots of monuments



Emmanuel Lartey—Staff Photographer

There are many exciting things to do in Washington D.C. such as visiting the Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial or the National Mall.

and free museums highlighting everything from African art to natural history.

Attending college in the nation's capital, which has some of the best entertainment

in America, there's no reason to fall into the mall, dinner and movies trap. Try taking a

walk with a group of friends and see what new thrills are right around the corner.

Review

## West's 'Late Registration' a Solid Sophomore Offering

BY MICHAEL ARCENAUX  
Hilltop Staff Writer

If there's one thing we can all agree on about Kanye West, it's that the charismatic rapper-producer knows how to draw attention to himself.

Whether he's boasting about his style, fuming over critical reaction to his debut album or becoming the first major rap artist to condemn the homophobia pervading hip-hop, West is a one-man, publicity-garnering tour de force.

Last year West delivered *The College Dropout*, an album crafted around wit, self-indulgence and tales of coping with success and fame. None of the above is foreign to hip-hop (or any genre of music for that

matter), but the self-described "Louis Vuitton Don" certainly was. Bursting onto the scene with a wardrobe reminiscent of Boyz II Men's "MotownPhilly" and without a criminal record, West is arguably the first emcee to successfully rise from suburbia, which made him all the more interesting.

He was fearless while challenging the materialism consuming a generation, and acknowledging his own deep-seated insecurities.

Critics praised the album, though not enough to West's liking, as evidenced by the tantrum he threw at the 2004 American Music Awards when Gretchen Wilson defeated him in the Best New Artist category.

West also criticized any



publication that did not hail *The College Dropout* as a bonafide classic and swore to come back stronger and prove that he's as every bit as good as he claims to be.

Three Grammys and three platinum plaques later, West returns with his sophomore effort, *Late Registration*. While

West could have easily duplicated the formula of his first album, he instead chose to go left field. Assisting him is producer Jon Brion, known mostly for his work on *When the Pawn...*, the grossly underrated second album from the troubled chanteuse Fiona Apple.

The end result is a darker, organic and largely epic sound. West does offer some degree of sociopolitical commentary, taking jabs at Ronald Reagan in "Crack Music," and attempting to educate the masses on the horrors of the mining industry on "Diamonds From Sierra Leone (Remix)."

There is no song akin to "Jesus Walks," though emotion is conveyed through "Bring Me Down" and the most sentimental

track on the album, "Hey Mama," which honors his mother for her many sacrifices.

The more light-hearted tracks include "Drive Slow," which features a guest appearance from the Houston-bred rapper Paul Wall.

The hypnotic track is a tribute to car culture. West chops and screws the last 32 seconds of the song to create an even more poignant sound.

"Gold Digger," which samples Ray Charles and features Jamie Foxx, breathes new life into the trite subject of greedy groupies. Other gems include "We Major," which includes a cameo from Nas and "Touch the Sky."

Though the production on the album is top notch, and West

ups the ante lyrically, the album is not flawless. As an emcee, West leaves a lot to be desired. His delivery is lackluster and as long as he demands that the public recognize his talent as a rapper, it can be counted against him.

However, if West continues to push forward, ignore boundaries and take his listeners and all of hip-hop out of their comfort zone as he does on *Late Registration*, he may be afforded a little more leeway.

As for his detractors, in a genre full of superficiality and the same tired tales of thug lore (often largely exaggerated or flat out fabricated), beggars can't always be choosers.

## New Botox Treatment Eliminates Sweating

BY MICHAEL ARCENAUX  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Doctors have found a new way to utilize botulinum A neurotoxin, commonly referred to as Botox, besides smoothing old wrinkles: Combating excessive sweating.

Severe underarm sweating is a medical condition referred to as axillary hyperhidrosis. It involves an overactive nervous system sending too much stimulation to the sweat glands, causing patients to sweat up to four times more than average in order to maintain a normal body temperature. This causes additional perspiration in the face, palms, feet, and most notably, the underarms. There are nearly eight million people in the country who suffer from this condition.

Because those living with axillary hyperhidrosis have to contend with the possibility of their excessive perspiration leading to soaked clothing, wet palms, and other difficulties, every aspect of their life — from their choice of clothing, to career options, to the professional and personal relationships they create — is affected. Many suffering from the condition see their social and work activities impeded. Others are met with complete social ostracism.

Previous treatment methods include over-the-counter antiperspirants, oral medications, and surgery. Non-surgical methods are limited in their effectiveness. With surgery comes the possibility of infec-

tion, in addition to a lower success rate. Botox injections offer a new, less evasive, and more effective way of eradicating the problems associated with axillary hyperhidrosis.

In a three year study conducted by the American Academy of Dermatology, results showed that Botox injections can safely reduce underarm sweat for up to two years.

Researches examined 193 people who choose to participate in a one-year clinical trial of Botox for axillary hyperhidrosis. They were given the option to continue treatment every eight weeks if symptoms persisted in a follow-up study.

In that study, researchers found Botox continued to be effective with repeated treatment. After the first treatment, 82 percent had up to a 75 percent reduction in the amount of sweat their body produced four weeks after the injection. Four weeks after treatments two and three, 79 percent experienced the same degree of relief. Overall, researches discovered that 94 percent of the patients studied required only four or fewer Botox injections to control their symptoms during the two-year study.

Karen Stredman, a physician's assistant for Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery Associates, which performs the procedure for those living in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, describes the procedure itself as straight-forward and low-risk. "We've had a number of patients. Simple, takes

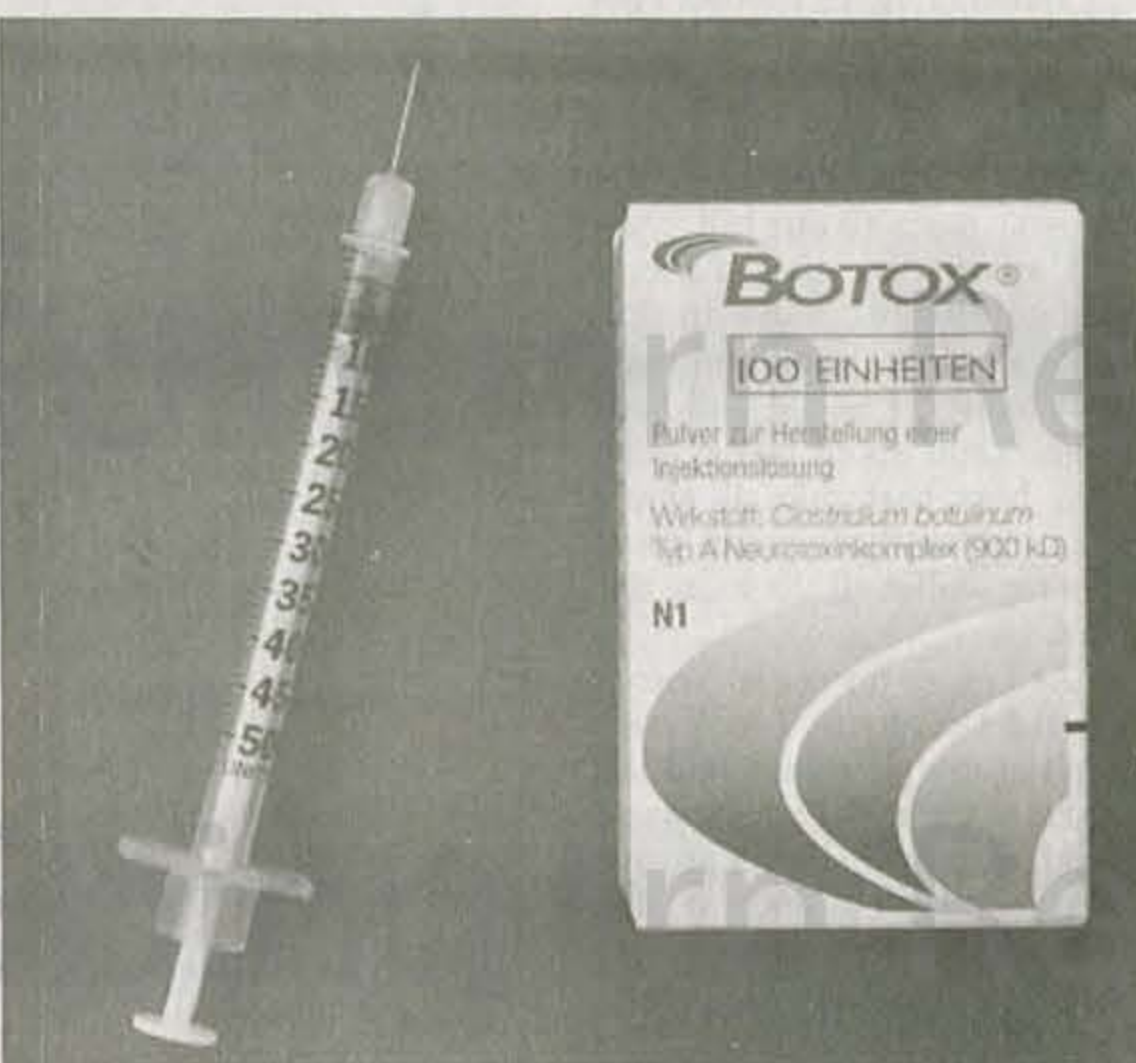


PHOTO COURTESY WWW.BOTOX.COM

Excessive sweating, or axillary hyperhidrosis, can be combated with botox injections into overactive sweat glands.

ten minutes, and it's essentially painless," Stredman said. Stredman added that most patients seem to be very pleased with the results.

Each person receiving treatment gets approximately 12 to 14 injections per armpit. There may be some minor discomfort, though the needles are so tiny most patients aren't bothered.

Due to this form of treatment requiring multiple injections, it is more expensive than the procedure used to combat wrinkles. A spokesman from Alase Skin Aesthetics, another site to receive treatment, says the costs can range anywhere

from \$800-1000 dollars without insurance.

For those with insurance plans that won't cover the procedure, the International Hyperhidrosis Society has a section on their website entitled "Insurance and Reimbursement," where those with the condition can learn how to submit appeals for coverage. The site also offers a support system on how to cope with the condition, information on finding a physician to insert the Botox injections, as well as links to other web resources.

## HEALTH BRIEFS

### New Diabetes Drug Wins Approval

Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. of Tokyo has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for its new diabetes drug and will begin selling it in October, the company said Tuesday.

The new product, Actoplus Met, is a single tablet that combines two existing diabetes drugs, Actos and Metformin, and will be sold in the United States by Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America Inc., the Associated Press reported.

Actos is used to improve insulin resistance, and Metformin is used to control the level of glucose produced by the liver. The new drug means that type 2 diabetes patients no longer need to take two tablets for the same treatment, said Matsutaka Matsumoto, of Takeda Pharmaceutical Co.

### World's Oldest Person Dies at 115

The world's oldest person died peacefully in her sleep Tuesday at age 115, according to the director of the home for the elderly where she lived in the Netherlands.

Known as "Henny" van Andel-Schipper, she lived in Hooegeveen since World War II, and moved to the elderly home when she was 106. Born in 1890, she celebrated her 115th birthday on June 29 and was recognized as "oldest per-

son" by the "Guinness Book of World Records" last year.

She advised others who wanted a long life to "keep breathing" and eat pickled herring, a favorite Dutch snack, AP reported.

Guinness spokesman Sam Knights said the oldest authenticated person now is Elizabeth Bolden, 115, of Memphis, Tenn., born Aug. 15, 1890. The oldest man is Emiliano Mercado del Toro, 114, of Puerto Rico.

### FDA Delays Decision on 'Morning-After' Pill

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has delayed for 60 days its long-awaited decision on whether to allow over-the-counter sales of the Plan B contraceptive pill, the Associated Press reported Friday.

Plan B, often called the "morning-after" pill, can lower the risk of pregnancy by up to 89 percent if taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex.

In delaying its decision, the FDA said it was comfortable allowing over-the-counter sales to adults 18 and older, but wanted more time to decide how to keep it out of the hands of young teenagers, the AP said.

Plan B maker Barr Pharmaceuticals criticized the delay, saying scientific evidence supported non-prescription sales, the wire service said.

—Courtesy of Health Day and Yahoo Health

# Lady Bison Look for Defense in Season Home Opener

BY CARYN GRANT  
Asst. Sports Editor

"Mine!...Here!...Over!" are the screams heard between the squeaks of sneakers and the sound of a ball being volleyed as the Lady Bison finish their final practice before the start of the season.

The ladies are preparing to open their season against Georgetown tonight at 7:00 p.m. in Burr Gymnasium. This is the first time that the team has hosted a season opener in the last five years, and Coach Linda Spencer is excited about the change and hopes that the home court will serve as an advantage for the Bison.

"It's so different (to open at home), because normally we're on the road by now," she said. "Psychologically it's great to be home. It's exciting for the returning players because of the difference, and the new people will be excited because it's their first game."

Spencer said that the team has done nothing special to prepare for Georgetown's Lady Hoyas and expects for the team to learn a lot from this contest. "We haven't watched any game tape or tried to emulate them," said Spencer. "We are going on what we need to do."

"We have a different style team this year," said Spencer, who praised her two assistant coaches for getting tough with the girls this year. "I'm really excited about the defense, and through our defense, our offense will come."

Because the team is so different this year, Coach Spencer finds it difficult to pinpoint who will be a stand-out player this season. However, she does see some bright spots in her freshmen.

She also looks for veteran Kimberly Dexter to step up, and expects big things from Yanne Givens, who is the only senior on this year's roster. Shannon Grant, who Spencer referred to as her "quarterback", is the only setter on the team and is expected to play a leadership role in that position.

"BISON!" they chant in unison as practice comes to a close. They look to carry that same unity out on the court tonight.

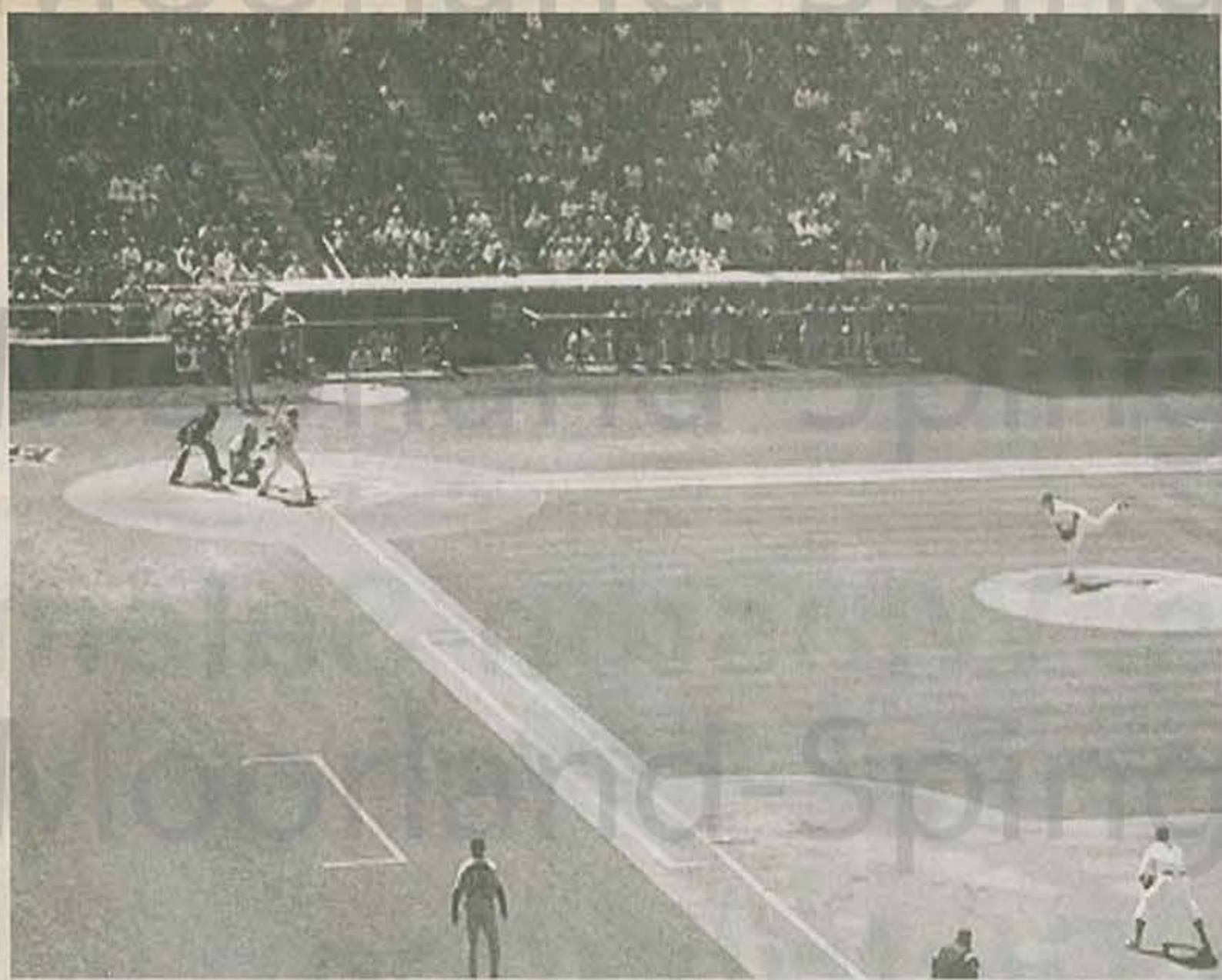
However, the team has been preparing during the off-season. They have been practicing together for about two weeks, and conditioned and worked out over the summer with a strength and conditioning coach.

This season, they look to build on what they have and place strong emphasis on defense.



Junior Taylor Mason is one of the returning starters who is expected to have a big impact on the Lady Bison Volleyball team.

## HU Students Can Enjoy Washington Nationals Games at a Low Price



With the Washington Nationals' inaugural season coming to an end, college students can still enjoy the remaining Nationals home games at an affordable price. Every Wednesday night is college night, where students can bring their college ID's to the RFK Stadium box office to receive an outfield upper reserved seat for only \$5.00. The Nationals have two Wednesday home games remaining as they play the Florida Marlins on September 7th and the San Francisco Giants on September 21. The Nationals are currently 67-63, putting them in fifth place in the National League East division.

## Steroid Use Still an Issue Among Young Athletes

BY DREW COSTLEY  
Deputy Sports Editor

In April of 2005, Jason Scukanec, a former football player at Brigham Young University, told the Portland Tribune of widespread use of steroids throughout his career at both BYU and during his short stint in the NFL. He was also cited as saying that there is more likely widespread use all over the board in college sports.

Earlier this year, the California Interscholastic Federation held a conference in which it was predicted that anywhere from 20,000 to 30,000 high school athletes in the state of California have used steroids.

So why the recent boost in use of performance "boosters"? Howard's women's lacrosse goalie, Shatarah Ramirez, believes that it starts with the example set by professional athletes.

"It looks bad on a [professional athlete] when [they use steroids] because whether or not they like it, they are role models for a younger bunch of athletes," said Ramirez.

There have been noted instances in the past nine months of high profile athletes using performance-enhancing drugs.

The controversy was ignited when the New York Yankees' Jason Giambi's confessed

to using illegal steroids in December 2004 and continued with the discovery of Baltimore Orioles' Rafael Palmeiro's use earlier this summer. Just recently, rumored usage of steroids by seven time Tour de France winner, Lance Armstrong, professional athletes have given aspiring athletes limited choices in picking role models.

Junior computer engineering major and Bison free safety, Carl Alleyne, does not think that professional athletes should be held responsible.

Alleyne stated, "It's up to [the athletes]. It really doesn't matter to me because it's their own bodies. It doesn't really hurt the game. Even though young athletes emulate professional athletes, it should be the parents that should be held responsible."

Many professional athletes have been linked to major performance-enhancing drug distributor BALCO, exposing the accessibility of these drugs.

But Congress, with the support of President George W. Bush, has begun to fight back against the use of performance enhancing drugs, specifically anabolic steroids.

In October of 2004, Congress passed the Anabolic Steroids Control Act, which made the distribution and use of anabolic steroids illegal. The NCAA followed suit, announc-

ing a ban of designer anabolic steroids, mainly tetrahydrogestrinone (THG). This anabolic steroid was undetectable until late 2004.

Ramirez thinks that athletes will benefit from the ban of undetectable performance enhancers.

"The bottom line is if athletes think they won't get caught using enhancers or think they can handle enhancers, it will eventually catch up to them in some form or another," said Ramirez.

Head football coach, Rayford Petty, claimed the football team does not condone usage of steroids in any form and said the football team, instead, advocates having a healthy diet along with regular weight training.

Petty believes that the use of steroids is not only a violation of fair play among teams, but can also be very devastating to a young person's well being, "If a young athlete takes steroids at a young age it will effect their organs and their organs will deteriorate at a young age."

Whatever issue anyone has with illegal steroid use, it still remains one of the most controversial issues in sports.

While the NCAA randomly conducts drug testing at Howard during the school year, Howard's sports administration requires that players be tested once or twice per year at random.



Palmeiro, who was named as a steroids user in Jose Canseco's book titled Juiced, lied front of Congress about his steroids use. When discovered by the MLB as a steroids user, he claimed not to have known he was taking them.



## NFL Briefs

- Atlanta Falcon's wide receiver, Peerless Price, was released by the team yesterday. The former number one receiver was cut after sustaining a concussion during the preseason.

- The Denver Broncos released running back, Maurice Clarett. Clarett has been inac-

tive in football for two years, after leading the Ohio State Buckeyes to a national championship. Clarett also did not play in any preseason games for the Broncos.

Compiled by Drew Costley  
Deputy Sports Editor



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## CLASSIFIEDS

The Hilltop prints Hilltopics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The first 20 words are \$6 and .25 for each additional word.

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## Mighty Bison vs. Winston-Salem

football game this Saturday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1pm

### Student Ticket Distribution

Lower Level of Blackburn University Center

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