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# THE HILLTOP



The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 106

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

## FRIDAY notebook

### WEATHER

FRI, 3/24:  
PM SHOWERS  
HIGH: 52, LOW: 40



SAT, 3/25:  
SHOWERS  
HIGH: 55, LOW: 37



SUN, 3/26:  
RAIN/SNOW  
SHOWERS  
HIGH: 48, LOW: 37



### BREAKING NEWS

#### CRUISE SHIP FIRE

A FIRE BROKE OUT ON A CRUISE SHIP HEADED TO JAMAICA. ONE PERSON DIED FROM A HEART ATTACK, TWO PEOPLE SUFFERED SMOKE INHALATION AND NINE HAD OTHER MILD COMPLICATIONS. ACCORDING TO CNN.COM.

### CAMPUS

#### PROFESSOR WOES HIT STUDENTS

TURN TO CAMPUS TO SEE HOW TO DEAL WITH TEACHERS FROM THE DARK SIDE.  
PAGE 2



### NATION & WORLD

#### NEW ORLEANS LOOKS FOR NEW MAYOR

FIND OUT WHO THE PROSPECTS ARE INSIDE.  
PAGE 5

### LIFE & STYLE

#### REALITY BATTLES

SEE HOW STUDENTS FEEL ABOUT REALITY SHOWS WITH LIL' KIM AND FLAVOR FLAV.  
PAGE 8



### HU CALENDAR

MARCH 20-31  
GENERAL REGISTRATION  
FOR FALL 2006

APRIL 8  
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW  
FROM A COURSE  
LAST DAY TO COMPLETE A  
TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM  
THE UNIVERSITY

INDEX  
CAMPUS  
NATION & WORLD  
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LIFE & STYLE  
SPORTS



## Declaration Voices Student Frustrations

BY SHANAE HARRIS

Asst. Campus Editor

A group of Howard students have written their own 'Declaration of Student Frustration' in an effort to begin a movement that hopes to change the many frustrations students have with the university.

The movement was sparked after sophomore legal communications major Courtney Phelps had an unsuccessful meeting Friday, March 10 with President H. Patrick Swygert to voice the concerns of the students.

"I went in to discuss the frustrations that so many students have with the university, very seriously, and all my concerns fell upon deaf ears. I didn't go in there to argue or to debate. I went in there to create change on faith, hoping that I would have gotten a better response," Phelps said. "Swygert's response was, 'if we treat you guys so bad, then why do you stay here?'

The Declaration itself direct-

ly reflects the personal concerns of the students that about 50 helped draft stating, "We hold these truths to be self evident that all tuition and fee paying Students of Howard University have certain inalienable rights as Students of the Institution, that but for them would not exist, that among these are respectful treatment, and acknowledgement, and action taken towards their concerns when brought to the Administration of the institution."

The document states various concerns of students including questions about where funding goes in the university and problems with research and media facilities, underfunded and overcrowded classrooms, holds placed on student accounts without adequate time, living conditions in residence halls and unsanitary dining areas, to name a few.

"It is a powerful draft that mirrors the Declaration of

Independence that has great support from students," Phelps said.

According to the movement staff, the Declaration is the first step in the movement as a document to blatantly express the numerous frustrations of the student body and get the administration to take them seriously.

The staff intends to create final draft of the document, having students and faculty sign and voice their concerns on the Yard to the entire campus, which they plan to do today.

"Students are beginning to talk more of our cause and are slowly emerging from passive roles," Max Rouzier, freshman staff member for the movement said to students in a mass message. "Now you can look around and recognize that there are many others besides you in frustration and not just students."

The staff is inviting all students to take part in the movement by taking a greater role in

the cause, offering more information, providing testimonies of bad experiences and helping with ideas and planning meetings.

"People completely agree with the words of the Declaration. This is not just a Courtney Phelps or Max Rouzier thing. This is a Howard University thing and we want everyone to get involved," Phelps said.

Phelps is not wrong when he says that many are backing the movement.

"When I read the actual Declaration my first thought was, 'what better way to put it.' I think that students have been waiting a long time for a movement and document like this to come out because there are so many problems that we have at the school," said Janice Young, freshman fashion merchandising major and supporter of the movement.

The staff's main goal right now is to get the message out and

get as many students involved as possible as they move on to larger steps.

"Like the Hilltop editorial said, 'the students need to rise up' and we really hope to get the ball rolling in this effort," Phelps said. "We're going to show Howard University that our generation is not lazy or apathetic by starting in our own back yard."

For a full text of the 'Declaration of Student Frustration'  
Turn to Page 3.

## Students Say Courtesy in A-Building has Increased

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE  
Staff Writer

The Howard Administration Building is a place every student needs to visit at some point during the academic year, but for some students in past years, visits to the "A-building" have not always represented their happiest moments on campus.

"I remember vividly going to the financial aid office my freshman year and getting so much attitude thrown my way. I was new to campus and I figured it was just the heat that made people so upset," said Brittany Larsen, a junior public relations major.

Almost one year ago, the Howard University Student Association and other students made requests for the improvement of customer service throughout the Administration Building.

"Based on HUSA recommendations over a year ago under the leadership of then-HUSA president Conrad Woody, cross training was conducted with staff as well as within the department," said Steven Johnson, director of financial aid and student employment. "Also, all staff members are listed on the web site including email addresses and telephone numbers. Since the implementation of these recommendations, calls from students expressing concerns have been reduced and no further requests have been made from the current

HUSA leadership."

Myra Dooms, a sophomore dance major, said she has never experienced anything out of ordinary customer service from anyone in the "A-building" in the two years she has been on campus. "I hear about it all the time, people tell me stories about how rude some staff is and it's interesting because I've never seen anyone step out of line when talking to students. Whatever they did to correct the problem students felt they had, it definitely worked," Dooms said.

Dr. Frank Chambers, the vice provost of student affairs, explained the actions taken to remedy the ongoing issue.

"Over the summer last year, meetings were held to address concerns expressed by students regarding customer service in the [Administration Building]," Chambers said.

According to Chambers, the main concern among the students was being properly greeted by certain staff members upon arriving at some areas, as well as knowing the names of workers they interact with in the building.

In response to the complaints, several of the offices created a standard greeting for staff members and began to require workers to wear name tags.

Chambers said, "The request for name badges was facilitated, so that students could commend as well as report staff



In response to student complaints and an initiative by HUSA, some offices in the Administration implemented standard greetings for staff members and began to require workers to wear name tags.

members for doing an outstanding job, as well as report deficiencies.

Jacob Hobbs, a senior radio, television and film major, said he understands all too well what the problems have been between the administration staff and students, but agreed with Dooms that a turnaround has occurred in the Administration Building.

"I can remember when I dreaded hav-

ing to go there for anything outside of a smoothie. It was just more than I wanted to deal with; the attitudes of someone who is supposed to be there to assist me," Hobbs said. "Now though, it's completely different. I can make a payment and get a smile too or ask a question and get a straight forward answer, no attitude."

# Professors Difficult, Not With Apologies About Behavior

BY AKEYLA BROWN

*Hilltop Staff Writer*

The transition from high school to college is not an easy one and after dealing with registration, student accounts and Residence Life, getting the teacher from hell doesn't make this acclimation more trying.

Students like Jamelle Dunbar, a Junior Theatre Arts major, say that teachers have to be punishing their students on purpose. With their "impossible assignments that must be completed within 48 hours or less" and tests that cover eight or nine chapters that are 100 pages long," said Dunbar. "I really do think that there are some teachers who really do go out of their way to give students a hard time."

Megan Elam, a Sophomore Biology major, agrees and says that she is tired of the tedious and overwhelming work that teachers assign.

"Something that is really annoying is that teachers give busy work," Elam said. "It is dumb because we are in college now, I have more important things to do."

Gretchen Battle, a sophomore physical therapy major agrees.

"I think some teachers like to have a hostile environment to help them compensate for the fact that they are unable to teach."

Dunbar says that they do it because they can get away with it. "They do it because they can. And it happens every-

where."

Dunbar says that to insure improvement, student and administrators should pay more attention to those student evaluation forms. "I think that everyone should take the evaluation sheets more seriously, holistically, if students and administrators hope for a more humane environment."

Battle disagrees and said that attempting to eliminate the existence of teachers from hell is futile. "There is no way to avoid the teachers from hell. They may make our lives a living hell, but they are the classes that make for the best conversations."

English Professor William Harrell who did not make the top ten list of "teachers from hell" does not deny that those not-so-easy to get along with teachers do in fact exist. "I have had a Teacher from hell in graduate school," Harrell said. "When you have those it does make you wonder why those teachers chose that profession, why they seem to have a hard time remembering when they were students."

The English professor reflected upon his collegiate experience and said. "I was stereotyped by one of a professor of mine, who because I had a southern accent assumed that I wasn't smart. As I could really tell that there are probably some teachers at Howard that are less than helpful and accomodating."

The North Carolina native said the best way to avoid being a "teacher from hell" is to always remain empathetic.



Howard students complain that some professors are unnecessarily difficult and hard to get along with during class. English professor William Harrell said professors must be empathetic to students to avoid bad reputations.

"To avoid being a teacher from hell, teachers must have a realistic notion of student needs."

However he suggests that student

take these run ins as opportunities to prepare for the future. "In some disciplines like business or engineering for example, when you run into people like

teachers from hell you are to treat it like a life lesson, because sometimes those experiences mirror those that students will have in the future."

## So Much to Do, So Little Time:

### Suicide Prevention Action Group

BY DIAZ ELLERBEE

*Contributing Writer*

Coming to college is a wonderful experience, but can also be the break down for some students. Dealing with out of control roommates, hectic schedules, and overbearing teachers can be very overwhelming, forcing students to go through a period of depression which then leads to suicidal thoughts.

In fact, according to the National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide (NOPCAS), more people die in the United States from suicide than from homicide (.7 per 100,000 population) due to the lack of awareness. Suicide is also the eighth leading cause of death in the U.S. and is the third leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24.

Suicide Prevention Action Group (SPAG) is a newly founded organization on campus established by the Department of Psychiatry and the University Counseling Center. The main objective is to promote suicidal behavioral awareness among students, faculty, and staff by providing training and improving existing strategies of education and outreach to students such as

symposiums, training modules, and the development of communication materials.

Donna Barnes, the program director for SPAG who also teaches Suicide Risk Management to medical students, said she decided to start the group so more students and faculty would be aware of the signs of suicide especially here on campus.

"I wanted students to be aware of their options. If they are feeling suicidal or if they need someone to talk to then there are people that can help them without being judgmental," she said.

Students who are having problems on campus or need to talk to someone can visit the Mental Health Clinic/Department of Psychiatry located on College Street or the University Counseling Center located on 15th Street and Bryant in the CB Powell Building.

"I am positive that suicide does occur on campus, but in the Black community, I don't think suicide is that prevalent," said LaTasha Crutcher, a sophomore administration of justice major.

Other students are aware of suicide on campus, but not aware that suicide is increasing among the black community.

"I am aware that a very few number of su-

## NOPCAS

The National Association for People of Color Against Suicide (NOPCAS) says more Americans die from suicide than homicide, being the 8th leading cause of death.

cide attempts do occur on campus, but among the African American community, homicide is more dominant," said Dominique Curtis, a freshman advertising major.

The National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide states that the rate of Black suicide for teens 15-19 times than died from 3.6 per 100,000 to 8.1 per 100,000 from 1980-1995. The NOPCAS statistics show that 5.7 per 100,000 African American deaths are certified as suicide, a rate of 5 each day.

In order to promote awareness, especially here at Howard University, SPAG held a sym-

sium yesterday in Blackburn. It included guest speakers who are nationally known for their work in suicide research, a performance by WOMWORKS Productions at noon, and an artist panel. Guest speakers include Les Franklin, who is the founder of Shaka Foundation Inc & The Suicide Prevention Purple Ribbon Program and also lost two sons to suicide. Alex Crosby is an alumnus of Howard University College of Medicine and the Federal Office of the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers of Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga.

# The COTTON CLUB

3.31.06

The Galleria



design by illeyedigital.com

# THE DECLARATION OF STUDENT FRUSTRATION

*The Following is the Declaration of Student Frustration, penned by "The Movement," a group of students who wanted to unite the student body under a list of grievances and goals.*

*It was written by Courtney Lamont Phelps.*

When in pursuit of a post secondary education, it may become necessary for the Students to inform the Administration and Governance of the Educational Institution to which they attend that they have a great number of grievances and frustrations with that institution, they must declare why they are frustrated.

We hold these truths to be self evident that all tuition and fee paying Students of Howard University have certain inalienable rights as Students of the Institution, that but for them would not exist, that among these are respectful treatment, and acknowledgement, and action taken towards their concerns when brought to the Administration of the Institution.

That to secure these rights, Administrations are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. - That when Students feel as if the Administration instituted is in disposal of their concerns, and do not regard Students as adults and their issues important, it is the right of the Students to make their issues known thru any other desirable avenues.

History indeed will show that when Howard Students have serious concerns, they will find ways to be heard. The frustrations that Students have are serious and must be acknowledged.

All the achievements, accomplishments, and successes of the Institution to date - while we applaud, congratulate, and have celebrated such, in no way, shape or form diminishes or eradicates our concerns and issues. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world:

for the constant loss and mishandling of paperwork in Administrative offices of the Institution that provide Student services

for placing holds on student accounts, without adequate time to pay the fees associated with such holds

for lack of accommodations for commuting students attending classes during the course of the academic day, when such accommodations

existed in the past

for lack of a student center with sufficient space to house student organizations, student activities, student government organizations, etc.

for over paid administrators and underpaid faculty members

for gross instances of failure to communicate and miscommunication between Students and Administration of the Institution on all levels

for lack of access to advisors during the course of matriculation, except until senior year

for a consistently malfunctioning Blackboard system, thus preventing Students access to course work, instruction, and supplemental materials essential to the successful completion of classes

for inadequate research facilities for both students and faculty, at large

for the lack of direct input into classroom curriculum

for under-sized and over-crowded classrooms

for numerous flooding in residence halls, caused in some cases by no fault of students

for mold and allergens in residence halls that endanger students' health

for 3,000 beds to accommodate 11,000 Students, thus the inability to guarantee housing to students beyond freshman year

for visitation policies and restrictions that do not regard the maturity of students, by and large

for furniture that has outlived its lifespan in residence halls, classrooms, practice rooms, computer labs and libraries, etc.

for inoperable elevators across campus (and especially in residence halls), thus restricting access to students with disabilities and preventing the smooth transition of moving in and out of the residence halls

for causing Students to go weeks without the basic amenities for the sanitary use of restrooms across the campus (i.e. lack of soap, paper towels,

etc.)

for non-working smoke detectors in residence halls and other campus facilities

for fire alarm systems that do not connect to the local fire department and potentially endanger the lives of Students

for lack of sufficient numbers of campus police officers, no real feeling of safety, or security on the campus

for inoperative and outdated security equipment across campus (blue light system, cameras, security access doors, etc.)

for the antiquated equipment in media centers across the campus

for imposing technology fees, without providing adequate technology and/or support for such

for broken computers, printers and other electronic equipment in classrooms and learning facilities that require them

for smart rooms that lack the essential and working equipment to be consider such

for broken desks, chairs, and seats in classroom and auditoriums across the campus

for inconvenient and unaccommodating operation hours in cafeterias on the main campus that do not regard Student's varying and lengthy study schedules

for unsanitary dining facilities, and workers who disregard sanitation guidelines

for failing to financially support and advocate for the African American educational elite from low-income backgrounds that attend the Institution in the same manner that majority institutions with whom the Institution competes do

for bureaucratic processes that prevent satisfactory Student services

and for all other issues which have not been declared or brought forth at publication of this Declaration.

In every stage of these issues We have peti-



tioned for redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated and unfulfilled promises. An Administration, whose character is thus marked by every act ignoring its Students is unfit to govern the future leaders of America and the Global Community.

Nor have We been regarded in attention from administrative offices. We have met with them from time to time of attempts by Students to seek resolution of such problems. We have reminded them of the circumstances that We face as Students, of our standing as responsible adults, and essentially custodians of the University, to no avail, which after constant attempts would inevitably dispose of the willingness by Students to continue such communications in the same manner.

We, therefore, the Students of Howard University, Assembled by a common bond of concern, appealing to the Administration and Governance of this Educational Institution, with the integrity of our intentions, do, in the true spirit of Howard, and by Authority vested in us as Students, solemnly publish and declare our frustration with the handling of our grievances, critiques, and issues regarding our treatment as Students and consumers, our facilities and quality of education.

THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

*"it's black and white"*

*Bison*

Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006

7 p.m.

J.W. Marriot

1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

*Ball*

Tickets on Sale March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006

at the Cramton Box Office

General Admission \$37.50

Table (10) \$350

## Inside the Mind of a Molester

BY GENAE MILLS

Contributing Writer

Former middle school teacher; Debra LaFave, is now a registered sex offender and serving three years of house arrest and seven years of probation in Hillsborough County, a plea deal made after being convicted of the statutory rape of a 14-year-old boy in 2004.

LaFave was charged with performing a sexual act in front of the victim's cousin, having sex with the boy in school and performing a sexual act with him in her home. LaFave, age 27, said in a press conference she will continue therapy for bipolar disorder.

Statistically, 1-in-5 girls is sexually abused and 1-in-5 to 1-in-7 boys is sexually abused before reaching adulthood.

Women make up two percent of all sexual assault suspects in the U.S., according to the Department of Justice.

In Gainesville, Ga., 37-year-old Lynette Clark was charged with child molestation when she married a 12-year-old boy.

Eight years ago, Leontineau, 34-year-old Mary Kay Letourneau sexually molested 12-year-old Vili Fualaau. After Letourneau's seven-and-a-half-year sentence ended, she was reunited with her two daughters, who were fathered by Fualaau.

There are also the ongoing investigations of Catholic priests who are under fire for an exorbitant rush of molestation cases.

Within the D.C. 20001 zip code there are no registered sex offenders.

"That makes me feel nervous," said junior physician assistant major Diana Clay.

Psychologists have not been able to pin point exactly what makes an adult sexually abuse a child. What is known is that there are clusters of characteristics shared by known offenders and events from childhood seem to be contributing factors.

It is important to understand that these characteristics alone do not irreducibly determine that a person is a pedophile.

"Men who abuse children — defining a child as someone who is prepubescent — then we find some feelings of inadequacy, inferiority, social introversion, difficulty managing intimacy, difficulty managing conflict," said psychologist Bradford Brodbeck, PhD.

"Also, difficulty managing anger, probably highly developed fantasy life, there is also a couple of characteristics when human sexuality if it's concerned of an emotional experience, you're pedophile is going to feel at some level that they don't have sufficient power in a peer relationship, and they feel more powerful with children," said Brodbeck.

Brodbeck works specifically with priests and nuns on a number of psychological issues, including sexual misconduct.

"Celibacy is not the cause of child molestation, within religions, homosexuality is not the cause of childhood

molestation. The causes are already present in the offender before they reach adulthood," said Brodbeck.

"There may be some event in adult hood that disrupts their equilibrium, so conditions are created for a predatory state."

Most molesters have committed the acts before their late teens, according to the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect.

In spite of legislation and other state laws barring the ownership and use of child porn, some critics proclaim that society actually tolerates pedophilia. Beauty pageants for children have come under scrutiny since the Ramsey murder case in 1997. These shows appear to exploit the bodies of children, displaying children as young as four with lipstick, false eyelashes and high heel shoes. Some critics believe that with advanced technology and the Internet, sexual predators are being handed abundant resources and opportunities to commit crimes.

"In a lot of ways, I do believe the Internet can help molesters because no one really knows off the internet who they are talking to," junior biology major Nakia Pickett.

There is a distinction between predators who abduct and assault and predators who take time to groom their victims. Sexual predators live relatively normal lives before they are caught. They are usually married, most have children and hold decent jobs. Victims of sexual molestation are usually molested by someone they know, a close relative, an after school coach or even a neighbor.

Even though by law therapy and counseling is mandatory for sexual



Photo © Courtesy of the Commonwealth

Debra LaFave pleaded guilty to charges of sexual battery of a 14-year-old and received house arrest and probation. Psychologists are still attempting to understand the causes behind pedophilia.

offenders, statistics show that there are many online search engines that can be used to locate sex offenders in the local area, including FBI.gov.

## Literacy Level Drops in College Students Nationwide

BY TAMARA KELLEY

Contributing Writer

and number long passages, compared to 40 percent in 1992.

Fifteen percent of graduates scored at the basic level, meaning that they can read simple prose. Thirty percent of graduates scored below basic, meaning that they could not perform simple skills, like locating visible information in short texts.

While literacy rates have declined across the board, the decline is disproportionately high among Hispanics, while there have been gains among Asians and blacks. In 2003, 44 percent of Hispanics scored below basic on the assessment compared to 35 percent in the previous study.

The amount of blacks scoring below basic on the test declined to 24 percent from 30 percent over the last 14 years, while the amount of blacks scoring proficiently rose from 29 percent to 33 percent.

Howard professors have found the literacy trend reflected in their classes.

"They taught at high schools,



While many students enjoy reading, only 31 percent nationwide scored proficiently in the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 40 percent scored proficiently 10 years ago.

for the military, at community colleges, for GED programs and at four-year institutions like the College of William and Mary and Hawaii Pacific University," said

students who need help.

Doris Winter, a professor of English for the past 17 years, believes students need more practice analyzing texts to improve literacy.

"While the freshman English program at Howard requires reading, we use it as a prompt for writing themes that are focused on our essay. The class doesn't really require close reading because there isn't enough time to go line by line to analyze a text. However, our students need to do that because they haven't been trained in close reading."

A lack of skill development in high school produces unprepared college freshmen. Teachers let students leave the classroom without the literacy skills they need, like comprehension, analysis, grammar, and writing, and instead push students to perform on standardized tests.

"When teachers are pressured to meet a certain bar, the test is taught, but skills aren't learned. Education at the sec-

## Race for New Orleans Mayor Continues

BY SHAHEEM THOMPSON

AP Wire Photo

As the time draws near for a new Mayor of New Orleans to be elected, Mayor Ray Nagin's chances at serving another term are uncertain.

A recent poll conducted by CNN/USA Today and Gallup indicated that over half of those polled dissatisfied of the way Nagin responded to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Only 19 percent said they would definitely vote for Nagin again.

The poll indicates that Nagin may still be suffering from remarks made during a Martin Luther King, Jr. parade where he commented that New Orleans would be a "chocolaté" city once more. Nagin also commented that the hurricane was a sign of God's anger toward the United States and black communities.

Thirty-one percent of the white population thought that his remarks were offensive and six percent said that they will definitely not vote for Nagin in the April 2nd election. This loss of support may effect Nagin's chances of winning since the vote from the white population played a major role in his last victory.

His support from the black community on the other hand seems to be growing. According to the poll, 31 percent of blacks said that they would definitely vote for him.

With only 3 weeks of campaigning left, Nagin's two top competitors are Ron Forman, the chief executive of Audubon



Photo Courtesy of AP Wire Photo  
Mayor Ray Nagin is facing a challenge to win the upcoming election.

Jeanne and Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu. Other candidates include former City Councilwoman Peggy Wilson, Rep. Tom Watson, Former State Rep. Lee Waters, businessman Rob Cowing and Clerk of Criminal Court Kimberly Butler.

Political science professor John Davis believes that Nagin may win again. "Sadly Nagin may be re-elected because there is not a single person that people can get [else] behind. There are so many candidates which will split the vote. As much baggage as Nagin has, he is running on the

post-Katrina plan which many people like and are endorsing and none of his competitors have come up with a viable post-Katrina plan," said Davis.

On the contrary, Senior Broadcast Journalism major Alan Causey from New Orleans believes that despite Nagin's familiarity, citizens will still choose another mayor. "I think that despite the fact that people know Nagin, a lot of them would rather choose someone else. I don't know who I am voting for as yet but it is hard to decide. There are so many people running with different ideas but I have my absentee ballot," said Causey.

Many are concerned about the predominantly black displaced voters not being able to cast their ballots.

Several civil rights leaders and organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) have scheduled a rally on April 1 to protest the upcoming elections. They feel that elections should be postponed until all the residents are able to vote.

Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau was quoted on BlackAmericaWeb.com, saying, "One hundred thousand people have been displaced and disenfranchised and because of a natural disaster, the system does not provide an opportunity for Americans to vote."

Local officials have stated that displaced voters would be allowed to vote absentee by mail in any Louisiana parish or wherever they are.

**COTTON CLUB**  
*A Night on The Red Carpet 2006*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST**  
9PM UNTIL

**COCKTAIL ATTIRE /**  
HARLEM RENAISSANCE CHIC

1000 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

# U.N.C.O.V.E.R.

Understand. Navigate. Create. Organize. Validate. Embrace. Reinvent.

Howard University Students:  
\$5 Until March 10  
Late registration \$10.  
Register in the Career  
Placement Office  
John H. Johnson School of  
Communications.

Outside Universities:  
\$15 Until March 10  
Late registration \$20.  
contact uncover.06@gmail.com  
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## U.N.C.O.V.E.R.

**March 24-25, 2006**

3rd Annual Magazine Conference  
Howard University  
Blackburn Center

With Special Keynote Speaker



**Angela Burt-Murray**  
Editor-in-Chief of  
**ESSENCE Magazine**

With representatives from: Unleashed, National  
Geographic, ESPN, Heart&Soul, The Coup,  
Essence, XXL, DC Style, and more!



Sponsored by the  
John H. Johnson School of Communications  
and the Department of Journalism

### Conference Schedule

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2006

2:00PM-4:00PM - REGISTRATION (ROOM 142) \*ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND  
5:30PM-7:00PM - RECEPTION/REGISTRATION/ORGANIZE SESSION IN GALLERY  
LOUNGE @ BLACKBURN

7:00PM-UNTIL - ROARING 20'S RUNWAY FASHION SHOW IN BLACKBURN  
BALLROOM

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006

8:00AM-9:30AM - ARRIVAL OF PANELISTS; CHECK-IN AND SET-UP  
9:15AM-9:45AM - REGISTRATION UPSTAIRS OUTSIDE OF BALLROOM  
9:45AM-10:00AM - OPENING SESSION IN BLACKBURN, WEST BALLROOM  
\*\*10:15AM-11:15AM - NAVIGATE: "GETTING IN WHERE YOU FIT IN"  
WEST BALLROOM

GARY HOENIG, ESPN

CREATE: "BEHIND THE LINES" (DIGITAL AUDITORIUM)  
JODI COBB - PHOTOGRAPHY, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
GREGORY ATKINS - LAY OUT DESIGN, THE MAGAZINE GROUP  
SANDY VASCEANNIE - PUBLISHER & CEO, PR/ADVERTISING, JEWEL  
KEITH REED - FREELANCE  
11:25AM-12:25PM - (SESSIONS SWITCH)  
12:35PM-1:10PM - VALIDATE AND EMBRACE: (WEST BALLROOM)  
1:15PM-2:45PM - LUNCH; UNDERSTAND: (EAST BALLROOM)  
---KEYNOTE SPEAKER---  
ANGELA BURT-MURRAY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ESSENCE MAGAZINE  
3:00PM-4:00PM - REINVENT: "SETTING THE STANDARD" (WEST BALLROOM)  
RON SAMUEL - UNLEASHED MAGAZINE  
TIA WILLIAMS - AUTHOR  
WAYETU MOORE - THE COUP MAGAZINE  
4:00PM-5:00PM - CLOSING SESSION & BOOK SIGNING  
ANGELA BURT-MURRAY  
TIA WILLIAMS

# COTTON CLUB

J.H.J SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT COUNCIL  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TALENTED TENTH

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Submit no later than 5pm  
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# EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 106

MARCH 24, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



## The Hilltop Salutes Our Own

Many people say Howard University is a family. Everyone assumes the kindly role and connects to one another as though we all grew up together. We keep in touch. We struggle together, grow together and celebrate together as one Howard community. The Hilltop is the same way. We work long hours together in the office. There are little inside jokes we have with each other no one else could understand. As most of us graduate and move onto the professional arena we celebrate each other's career moves.

John Cummings is doing his thing at Vibe. Countless other Hilltoppers have gone on to major papers and magazines upon graduation. This editorial is dedicated to Cory Thomas, our very own "mystery man" cartoonist for his impressive strides.

For a long time students flipped to the Editorials and Perspectives page just to

see what the cartoon would be. No matter how dull the editorial might have been, Thomas' cartoon made it daring. He went there when others wouldn't and his humor reflected in his work. The Editorials and Perspectives editor had the unique opportunity to see what the cartoon would be.

Washington Post could easily be viewed as a dream for a cartoonist. Thomas' work will be appearing in one of the highest esteemed papers in the country. Top execs, lawyers, doctors and educators read that paper religiously. After sifting through

the heavy duty reading, most of them probably flip to the comic for a bit of relief.

That is a massive look for Cory Thomas. We are excited like the proud mama in the stands of our Hilltop graduate. He will now have the opportunity to be another voice for people of color among a pretty homogeneous staff at the Post. We wish Thomas the best of luck with his comic and we know he will do damage. Lookout world, Cory Thomas is taking over!

Visit Planetcory.com and support your alum!

### Our View:

*The Hilltop is extremely proud of our former cartoonist for his comic strip debut in the Washington Post.*

Finally to talk to Thomas every week. Maiya Norton, Editorials and Perspectives Editor talked to Thomas every week and didn't see him until the end of the year. Rarely was he in the office and many people couldn't point him out of a crowd. Private but involved, many Hilltoppers built a relationship with him by seeing his work.

Landing a comic strip in the

### Answers

- 1 The glitz word
- 2 Northern Piss
- 3 Easy does
- 4 New G. Stiles
- 5 Clinton Kraus
- 6 Only rated
- 7 Helium's column
- 8 MG's column
- 9 Out the wits
- 10 Dick Smith org.
- 11 Dashed off
- 12 Return of loves
- 13 — 100
- 14 Dick Smith cont.
- 15 Ann McLean's competitor
- 16 Chapter seven
- 17 Phoenix's wood
- 18 Shelia's C
- 19 Wiggle, a wire
- 20 Tug Jettison
- 21 Peacock's color
- 22 Paul's column
- 23 Buddy's bookends
- 24 Sheer hellfire
- 25 Observe
- 26 I'm not a spic
- 27 Super's case
- 28 Youth's test
- 29 Steppin's past
- 30 Mouthy's entry
- 31 Circular issued in 1958
- 32 Po's status
- 33 Well established
- 34 Return of loves
- 35 Dashed off
- 36 Phoenix's wood
- 37 Phoenix's wood
- 38 Tidbit's eye
- 39 It's wet
- 40 — 100
- 41 Holly entry
- 42 College attire's photo
- 43 Chet's music
- 44 Dick's test
- 45 Story last
- 46 Arctic River
- 47 Blood sport
- 48 Crook's entry
- 49 President's
- 50 Newspaper's CTV
- 51 Speed King
- 52 Dr. Jones

### Downs

- 1 Bazaar's response
- 2 Skin study
- 3 Vibe's December issue
- 4 South American entry
- 5 Vibe's entry
- 6 Not so yesterday
- 7 — 100
- 8 Broad front
- 9 Writing, obnoxious, me
- 10 Heavy Vibe's search
- 11 Tidbit's —
- 12 Vibe's org
- 13 Acne Bitter's Chat
- 14 ICU part
- 15 On the border
- 16 Rock-a-bye H
- 17 EC's in Radio
- 18 Tidbit's crocky
- 19 Good the day
- 20 Chet's
- 21 Another's R&B
- 22 — 100
- 23 Discouraged
- 24 Tearing off the blues
- 25 Rock's comment
- 26 Plus to test
- 27 Plus to test
- 28 Plus to test
- 29 Land o' the sun

## The New Generation of Negro Poets

Kesley Mays

It's been a long time since the Jazz Age of the 1920s and Negro Poets are something new and different from what they were by some years ago.

These days our poets and verbal artist are constantly on the chopping block. Many Negro Poets feel that many of them are up there for good cause and have no pity for them. The expression of the black life and experience has been exploited to the utmost degree. It is depressingly obvious the damage they are doing to themselves and the world smiles at the idea that they are what they had always thought.

At this time the identity of all Negro's are subject to criticism and a strong war of words and ideas. Self doubt and the obsession of being too black or too white is a problem among even the most "defined" people of the black race who have any status or sway. The idea that as black artists they are supposed to epitomize black culture and push it to forward movement is a self fulfilling experiment.

Being too proper and imitating white people's "art" is seen as a perfect picture to paint, but to others just being black and showing the true heart of the

black "experience" in all it's forms shades, times, and colors is the only purpose of a true Negro artist. But when does it go too far? Is it when profanity becomes every other word when describing black life? Or is it when black life is simplified to only sex, drugs and killing one another for profit?

Hughes criticizes Negro artist of his time but his problem was for those who were ashamed to give the real black life a face and say this is who I am. This is me and we are beautiful no matter what you think. Hughes point was not to paint Negroes as children but as self-loving free spirits who are in love with what makes them a culturally rich people that can be proud of who they are. Hughes was trying to show that you can be proud of who you are because it is beautiful and we are of our own making and what they have built in culture, life, and in self is what is to be expressed. Not tragically mashed into molds of white people who do not have the culture that we as Negro's do.

Anything less than the true grit of black life seems to be the shame and pride of the Negro artist to Hughes. Langston Hughes's essay presents a problem to the Negro nation as a whole in deciding what is the true black identity of the Negro's in the society.

These days the Negro artist's identity is clad with glutinous greedy people defined and controlled by money, fame, violence, sex and drugs. This depiction is disgusting and takes them far, far away from where they should be as a people and pulls them straight into what they hate the world to see them as. Many of them have fallen away from real life just to make a dollar and those whose lives really do depict these terrible

But some doubt this new depiction was what he had in mind for the Negro artist. They themselves have built a culture that they would not be proud to pass on to their children with pride.

## THE HILLTOP

*The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper*

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Deputy Managing  
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*Note: In its third year, The Hilltop is published biweekly through Friday by Howard University students. With a circulation of more than 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.*

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

*The Hilltop editorial office is located at 2225 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 and telephone office can be reached via email at [hilltop@hilltoponline.com](mailto:hilltop@hilltoponline.com) and by phone at (202) 554-2754. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at [hilltopbus@hilltoponline.com](mailto:hilltopbus@hilltoponline.com).*

*The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters to the editor and grammatical errors and any inappropriate language or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.*

# What The ... ?!

A Look at entertainment news that makes you think... "What The ... ?!"



## Prince's Makeover: Home Edition

Prince has done some redecorating, but the problem is that is won't be honest. The home is owned by NBA player Carlos Boozer who rents the \$11.9 million West Hollywood abode to Prince for \$70,000 a month.

Prince has added his own personal touch by painting purple stripes outside of the house, adding purple monogram carpet in the master bedroom, and painting "3121," the symbol for his new album, on the exterior of the mansion.



## COUNTDOWN TO LOCKDOWN

Flavor of Love ... black people do just about anything to get the goal.

—Margaret Simon '08

Countdown to Lockdown because it shows how lightly African Americans take prison.

—Brittney Richardson '08



Lil' Kim's Countdown to Lockdown chronicles her last weeks before her incarceration.

## Head 2 Head

Which show is more of a set-back?

Countdown to Lockdown because it's silly ... we're watching Lil' Kim getting ready to go to jail.

—Natasha Boier '08

Countdown to Lockdown ... I would be embarrassed even for people to know I was going to jail, and sure as hell would be if someone's broadcasting the days I go through before I get locked up!

—Natalie Ward '08

Countdown to Lockdown because it's silly ... we're watching Lil' Kim getting ready to go to jail.

—Natasha Boier '08

Countdown to Lockdown ... I would be embarrassed even for people to know I was going to jail, and sure as hell would be if someone's broadcasting the days I go through before I get locked up!

—Natalie Ward '08

## FLAVOR OF LOVE



Viewers found out "what time it was" watching women compete for Flav's affections.

## REMEMBER MY NAME...



## Nicole Mitchell

BY SHA JOHNSON  
*Contributing Writer*

Soulful, melodic, and smooth are just a few adjectives that describe the music style of independent singer-songwriter Nicole Mitchell. Although originally from Michigan, Nicole currently resides in Chicago, a city that is definitely on the map after producing talented artists like R. Kelly, Kanye West, and Sevyn Streeter.

However, Mitchell's sound is like no other. She has managed to blend R&B, soul, jazz, funk and Hip Hop all into her debut CD titled "Many Moods." The CD was released independently in 2004 and with only self-promotion and word of mouth, it has sold over 2,000 copies. It features tracks like "Everything I Miss At Home," a classic remake of the original song by Cherelle, and "Life Goes On," an up tempo song about moving on in life and relationships.

Mitchell's talents are not just limited to singing and songwriting; her background includes a variety of successful stage plays such as "Dreamgirls," "Berries," "Once on This Island" and the role of Shesai in Disney's hit Broadway musical "The Lion King."

*(She has also performed*

overseas in Europe and opened for R&B singer Avant, vocalist Michelle Branch and Monique of "The Parkers."

She credits her passion for music to a variety of performers.

"The soundtrack of my life ranges from Sly and the Family Stone, Prince, John Coltrane, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, Annie Lennox, RUN-DMC, Stevie Wonder, Sting, Bob Marley and so on and so on," Mitchell said.

Even with all the success she has had, it is nothing compared to what lies ahead.

Nicole Mitchell is a talented musician that is abruptly kicking down doors in the music industry.

Her next concert is March 29th at the Park West in Chicago, and has already confirmed attendance by record label representatives from Warner Music Group, Atlantic Records, Urban Hustle, Hidden Beach and Sweet Soul Entertainment.

"Many Moods" has such an eclectic sound it is sure to catch the ear of any music fan.

For more information or to purchase a copy of the CD "Many Moods," check out [www.mitchmUSIC.com](http://www.mitchmUSIC.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Nats' Soriano Finally Agrees to Play Outfield Position

BY DANYELLE HADAWAY  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Alfonso Soriano agreed to "play the field" Wednesday with his wife's permission.

Soriano refused Monday to play left field for a Washington Nationals' Spring Training game against the Dodgers at Space Coast Stadium because he has played second baseman for his five seasons in the Major Leagues.

On Tuesday, he told MLB.com, "I'm going to think about it. I'm going to talk it over with my wife and agent, [Diego Benta]."

For the Nationals' Spring Training game against the Cardinals and after the Nationals had threatened to ask Major League Baseball to put him on the disqualified list, Soriano had a change of heart and made a commitment to manager Frank Robinson that he would play left field for the upcoming season.

"My wife said move forward and try to do the best that I can in left field," Soriano told the MLB.com.

"I have no choice," he added, since his back was against the wall before he even had a chance to play outfield. If placed on the disqualified list, Soriano would not be able to play, earn his \$10 million salary, or become a free agent at the end of the season.

"I love the game. I hope I stay healthy and I hope they play me there every day because I love the game," Soriano told the MLB.com.

"How hard is it to be a person with diamonds in your ear lobes and designer shades?" said freshman economics major Matthew K. Edwards when referring to the picture on ESPN.com showing Soriano after his decision.

Edwards said Soriano's decision was not hard to make. "It's not like you save lives, you just play baseball. So get your \$10 million and play the outfield," Edwards said.

Freshman Benjamin Lewis said, "Though sort of prima donna-ish, I can understand his frustration. Once a person plays infield, particularly a crucial position like 2nd base, playing a less crucial position like left field can be sort of insulting."

Lewis later added, "Ultimately, what it boils down to is being in the game, and for Soriano, getting his money."

"It's a relief for everybody. It really is," said Robinson about Soriano deciding to play outfield. "We get the distractions away from here, and we can focus on baseball now and getting this ball club tuned up and ready to go for opening day."

Soriano's mouth spread point onto the fans of D.C., according to freshman history major Michael Benjamin said. Benjamin also said he hoped that the Nationals traded Soriano because Soriano will be booted by D.C. fans when he steps to the plate during the season.

Despite Soriano's current commitment to play left field, general manager Jim Bowen told the Associated Press that he would still explore the option of trading Soriano if it would be in the Nationals' advantage.

"My preference would be to keep him, [we're] a much better team with him," Bowen said. "But I'll never close the door—ever—on an opportunity to make everybody happy."

Edwards said he believes that Nationals would trade Soriano and that he trusts Bowen would make the right decision. "They have the wizard of trades in Bowen," Edwards said. "He might bring equal talent via young prospects, or a middle-aged vet. I put my full on trust that Bowen will do the right thing for the Nats."

Latoya Thomas, a senior psychology major, said it is up to Soriano on whether he stays with the Nationals. "Unless he has an impressive season with the Nationals, I do think they will trade him and he will get a reputation as an unmanageable/un-coachable player."

Nationals' catcher and Soriano's teammate with the Yankees in 2002 and the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic, Alberto Castillo told MLB.com that he had a role in helping Soriano make his decision.

"Other clubs will look at him as a second baseman or an outfielder," Castillo said of Soriano when he becomes a free agent after this season.

During his first time in the outfield since his 2001 exhibition season with the Yankees, Soriano, using teammate George Lombard outfielder's glove, made a double play catching Albert Pujols' fly ball and throwing it to second base to double off David Eckstein.

Soriano has only 11 days left to prepare for his outfield position for Opening Day, but if second baseman Jose Vidro is hurt and misses a few games, Soriano would be passed up by infielder Damion Jackson



Photo Courtesy of www.sportsillustrated.com  
Nationals' outfielder Alfonso Soriano, who has been an all-star selection for the past four years, agreed to play in the outfield after previously refusing to do so.

as the backup second baseman, according to Robinson.

Robinson told MLB.com that he does not want Soriano switching back and forth between the outfield and second base.

## Don't Blink, Or You Might Miss...

BY CARYN GRANT  
Sports Editor

No. 1 Connecticut @ No. 5 Washington - Tonight @ 8:37 p.m. on CBS

Huskies vs. Huskies PT 2! Just eight years ago, Richard Hamilton hit a fade away jumper to push UConn past Washington in a 75-74 win in the seventh round of the NCAA tournament. Jim Calhoun's Huskies would go on to lose the next game to Wisconsin and the UNC Tar Heels.

However, Coach Calhoun believes that Connecticut's 1998 win over Washington is what led his Huskies to their first NCAA title the following year and to their consistent tournament play ever since.

Led by Pac-10 player of

the year Brandon Roy's 24.5 points per game, fifth seeded Washington comes into this game riding a win over fourth seeded Illinois.

Connecticut leads the nation in blocked shots, rebounding, and shooting percentage defense. But the tournament is about more than numbers. Look for an all out battle at the Verizon Center.

**My Pick:** Although they have struggled early on, this young team has the talent to overcome and win big games. I have Connecticut going all the way in this year's tourney and I expect Marcus Williams to lead his team over Washington. UConn by 7.



BY DREW COSTLEY  
Sports Editor

No. 11 George Mason v. No. 7 Wichita State-Tonight @ 7:27 p.m. on CBS

This isn't Duke v. North Carolina or any huge rivalry. These two teams, however, are playing some of the best basketball out of all the teams in the NCAA tournament. Both teams are fresh off of upsets of top seeded teams and both are good at opposing things. Wichita St. has been scoring in the 80s so far in the tournament and no opponent of Mason's has scored over 65 points against them.

Look for the match up between forward/center Jai Lewis of Mason and Paul Lewis, who was named MVC player of the year. Lewis has been

wreaking havoc in the paint and it should be interesting to see if anyone can stop him. But don't believe me, the proof is in the pudding; their match up earlier this season was decided by three points.

**My Pick:** This game may be one of the best games of the tournament, with both teams playing close in their last game. But I have to go with the Patriots. Besides the fact that Patriot fans and alumni alike could peg rocks at my house in Arlington from the campus, paint play has been a deciding factor in many of these games this year, and Lewis for Mason has been one of the best big men out of the field of 64. Not to mention Mason's home court advantage. Mason by 5.



**WANT TO WRITE FOR THE SPORTS SECTION? COME GRAB A STORY AT THE BUDGET MEETING NEXT TUESDAY AT 7 P.M. ON THE P-LEVEL OF THE WEST TOWERS!**

## Bonds to Sue Over 'Shadows'



San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds has decided to sue the writers of a book alleging that he took performance-enhancing drugs for five years.

Bonds' lawyer, Michael Rains, sent a letter to agents of both writers, Lance Williams and Mark, informing him of Bonds' plans to sue them for the right to seize the profits from the book. The title of the book is "A Game of Shadows".

Bonds is also planning to sue the book's publisher, Gotham Books, along with the San Francisco Chronicle and Sports Illustrated for publishing clips of the book earlier this month.

## 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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**POWER AND PURPOSE 2006 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006 IN THE CARNEGIE BUILDING FROM 9:00AM-4:30PM. VISIT WWW.BEODCITIES.COM/LEADERSHIPINSTITUTE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The Third Annual Cover to Cover Magazine Conference is here!

Come U.N.COVER the magazine industry and hear Esse's editor-in-chief, Angela Burr Murray.

All stills are welcome to register.

See you in the Blackburn Gallery Lounge at 5:30pm!

Turn to Page 5 for the complete conference schedule.

To SWD's Justin and Celeste: Just thinking of you guys and the great times we've had over the last decade. I'm still going to come eat my ice cream cake if there's any left!! Love ya, Kate

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HUSA Staff Applications are due TODAY! Applications are due Friday, March 24th no later than 5:00pm.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MICHELLE**  
I KNOW YOUR BIRTHDAY WAS YESTERDAY BUT THE HILLTOP WOULDN'T PRINT THIS UNTIL TODAY FROM J.B.

The Roaring 20's Fashion Show is tonite!

Not only will it be fabulous... but it's free!

Come get inspired for the Cotton Club, which is only a week away! Tickets on sale now in Cramton.

The Hilltop is always looking for a few good writers. Come to the budget meeting on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. in the West Towers. Happy Anniversary Mr. Owl!!!

Love,  
Your Prince of Zi

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