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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 125

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

## Commencement 2006



### To the Howard Family:

As the Graduating Class of 2006 bids you "adien," we recognize that although many of us are leaving the Real HU in body, we will forever be a part of the spirit of Howard University. No matter how far we go or how successful we become, the spirit of Howard—your spirit—resides in us. Regardless of how we feel about HU or our time here, this fact will always remain: We are HOWARDITES and TRUE BLUE BISON!

Our hopes and dreams lie in the continuation of the Howard legacy and the cultivation of more and more

innovative alumni: doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers, entrepreneurs, moguls, leaders and friends. Our hopes and dreams remain with you. The torch is passed. Never allow negative feelings to quench the flame that is the spirit of this blessed institution. WE are the future and the future is NOW!

And most importantly, give back. Give your time. It has been said that time is money... but time is far more valuable because it is the one thing you can give that can never be regained.

To the rising seniors, do not hoard your wealth of wisdom. Help the underclassmen as they enter Howard, and

show them why we are the Real HU.

The wheels of time turn, but Howard will remain. We will never forget. We will never let go. We will never stop fighting. We must stand with our heads high and our fists poised, because there are those that do not wish for us to succeed. But we are HOWARDITES! We are BISON! We have journeyed through the MIRECA! We stand on the CAPSTONE! And we are walking, talking, shining examples that we have and will continue to overcome!

*In the spirit of the Real HU,  
The Graduating Class of 2006*

## Howard's 2006 Graduates Newest Distinguished Alumni

BY MELISSA L. TYLER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

While some students do not have definite plans for what they will be doing or want to do after graduation, many graduates are destined for great things. They have already secured employment, enrolled in for advanced degree programs or landed other unique opportunities.

"Quite a few of our seniors normally go on to graduate and professional schools," said Linda Jones, special assistant for Student Affairs and campus director for American Humanities in the College of Arts & Sciences. "Some students also work for Teach for America or go into the Peace Corps."

Many students waving goodbye to Howard University on May 13 have taken measures to obtain employment and other opportunities, carrying on the Howard legacy by excelling in their

endeavors.

Madeline Moffett, a legal communications major from Aurora, Ill., is the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to study and research at Yaounde University with Dr. Ngu in Yaounde, Cameroon. While in Africa, Moffett will look at public policy and observe its effects on the Cameroonians fighting against the HIV epidemic.

The Fulbright Scholarship is the U.S. government's program for international educational exchange that was signed into law by President Truman in 1946. The program chooses 200 scholars each year to travel to more than 140 countries to lecture and perform research.

Moffett has aspirations of taking a leadership role to better serve people of African descent and will do so by documenting her research on a web site, "The Bole."

[Washington] D.C. has many opportunities that students should take advantage of," Moffett said. Her advice

for soon-to-be exceptional seniors is to be led by your passion and stay involved.

Another communications student, Jason Hightower, is moving into movies. This film major from Houston is one of 15 finalists selected from a pool of about 330 applicants seeking to participate in a Directors Guild of America training program in New York.

Hightower will gain experience working on major films that might include the upcoming World Trade Center movie. After completing the two-year program, he will be put in the DGA union and ultimately direct and produce films.

"Everything you want is at Howard," Hightower said. "Howard provides the milk, wood, and hammer. Students have to decide what to build."

Joshua Butler, an accounting major from Mitchellville, Md., is continuing the Howard legacy by securing an auditor position with one of the top four accounting firms, KPMG, in

New York.

"I thank God, my family and the School of Business for my accomplishments," Butler said. He believes that other students can be outstanding seniors if they remain focused and live a balanced life.

Denise Rose, a theater technology major, is graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Fine Arts, and obtaining a position as a sound engineer for the Sofia Ballet Company in Tokyo.

Rose will also join her fellow roommate, Catherine Peoples, in June while working for the urban gospel trio, R.E.A.L. Peoples is employed as a hip-hop dancer, and Peoples is working on the musical group's management team.

Rose attributes her success to a common saying, "Something I always lived by was 'being to prepare in preparing for failure.'"

In addition to working with R.E.A.L. Peoples is working in her second professional show, "Caroline



Howard's class of 2006 graduates are pursuing various paths after graduation, including studying the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and producing motion pictures.

or Change," at the Studio Theatre.

Nubia Murray, the 2006 recipient of the Excellence in Community Service Award at the Bison Ball, has left her mark on the Howard University campus with her involvement in Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity, Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Bison Yearbook and the School of Business Honors Program.

"My advice to students is to give back to those who have given to you," Murray said. Murray, an international business major, is moving to New York and

planning to form nonprofit programs for athletes and entertainers with Harriette Cole Productions.

Howard University is sending its exceptional seniors off today to tackle their various endeavors as they carry forth the Howard legacy.

## GRADS SUCCEEDING DESPITE THE ODDS

BY ANYA ALEXANDER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

In light of the 2006 graduates of Howard, The Hilltop would like to highlight two exceptional students who have overcome obstacles and excelled academically.

Shana Besley, a senior biology major from New York City, is an exceptional student who developed cancer twice, undergoing three surgical operations within her first two years at Howard.

Besley was a full-time student, working two jobs and taking care of her sister and herself, during and after her surgeries. She said that her freshman year was the worst she felt about her situation as a 19-year-old with a serious medical condition.

Besley found a way through the adversity with the help of understanding professors and an encouraging mother.

"Despite her health and financial situation, she managed to keep on top of her academics and graduate on time with a 3.0 G.P.A.," said Teresa Bush, secretary in the College of Arts and Sciences, Office of the Dean. "We just took to one another and I saw a need," Bush said.

Besley felt accomplished by her ability to manage her life through her difficulties.

"That, in itself, was a major accomplishment for me because now I know the value of a dollar and that hard work truly pays off," said Besley. "I have had a great learning experience at Howard University."

In addition to her personal life, Besley was an active member of Circle K and the Health Professionals Society.

"I love volunteering and giving back to the community," she said. "I volunteer



David Hutchinson Photo Editor

Howard graduates often have to overcome numerous challenges and difficulties before they reach their graduation day.

my help to students in D.C. because I love helping and working with children."

Besley seeks to become a pediatrician. She plans to work for the National Institution of Health for a year and move on to medical school.

Jason Hightower is the only male graduating senior in the John H. Johnson

School of Communication Anzenberg Honors Program. Entering the program as a sophomore, Hightower's interest in radio, television and film has opened many doors for him over the years.

"My Howard experience was definitely a lot of fun," Hightower said. "I feel that Howard is a place that provides you with all of the tools—hammer, nail and wood; but, it is up to you what you will build with it."

Hightower has built on his passion and love for film as evidenced by his participation and membership in the Howard University film organization, Spotlight and his internship at Focus Features. He has also been a resident assistant at Drew Hall for three years.

One of his most notable accomplishments in his senior thesis, "The Father Figure," which focuses on how single black men raise their daughters.

"He did a wonderful piece on it; well-researched and showed great skill as an up and coming film producer," said Vincent Williams, Anzenberg Honors Program Coordinator. "Hightower explored an area that most people overlook."

Balancing his school work along with his passion for film production was a challenge; however, Hightower will be graduating Magnam Cum Laude and participate in the Directors Guide of America program.

Hightower said that he is thankful that Howard provided him with a window of opportunity to make his dreams come true.

CONGRESSMAN  
CUMMINGS  
DELIVERS  
COMMENCEMENT  
SPEECHBY ANYA ALEXANDER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard Alumni, Elijah E. Cummings, Congressman of the 1<sup>st</sup> District of the State of Maryland will deliver words of inspiration to the 2006 graduates at the 136<sup>th</sup> Howard University Commencement Convocation on Saturday.

Divika Koppikar, Cummings's press secretary, said that the graduates are truly in for a treat as Cummings will congratulate and motivate the students to be the best they can be.

"He will encourage students to serve as mentors for those students struggling to finish their

degrees," Koppikar said. He also plans to discuss issues dealing with the expectations of the job market and ways to be marketable in today's economy.

Cummings was born in Baltimore and graduated from Baltimore City College High School in 1969. He later attended Howard University, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1973. During his years at Howard, he took an active role in student government and became a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Because of Cummings's connection with Howard University, Dr. Charles Jarmann, Associate

See CUMMINGS, CAMPUS A4

ONLY @ HOWARD  
FINALS/GRADUATION...

"Only at Howard University will you find, during finals time, that it seems more like a club than any other place at UGL."

Antonio Bush, senior psychology major

"Only at Howard do people come to Commencement without knowing anyone who is graduating."

Melanie Chambliss, sophomore English major

"Only at Howard's graduation will you have nowhere to sit, nowhere to stand and be kicked out for not being seated."

Kirsten Freshwater, sophomore nursing major

"Only at Howard is there a greater likelihood of meeting administrative staff on the Yard during a [Greek] coming-out celebration as opposed to catching them in the office."

DeWayne Vanger, sophomore business management major

Compiled By Jouanna Spenn  
Hilltop Staff Writer



David Hutchinson Photo Editor

After facing cancer and numerous procedures during her college years, Shana Besley is will be receiving her Bachelors Degree in Biology with the class of 2006.

## SENIOR SPEAK:

What are you looking forward to after Graduation?

"Spending more time with my family."  
-Atso Aidoo, international business major

"Finally getting out into the real world and having my own place."  
-Danielle Saigues, accounting major

"Being grown and relaxing."  
-Akilah Swinton, psychology major

"Looking forward to the next stage of life and not having to deal with all the administrative tasks at Howard."  
-J.P. Howard, political science and philosophy major

"Starting my career and spending more time with family."  
-Ashley Coleman, psychology major

"Working on my music, pushing my label, Heavyweight Entertainment with B. Hines and M. Klean."  
-Miguel Graves, chemistry major

"Sleep, life in general and using the hustle I learned here, out there."  
-Kofi Ogunu, theatre arts and radio communication major

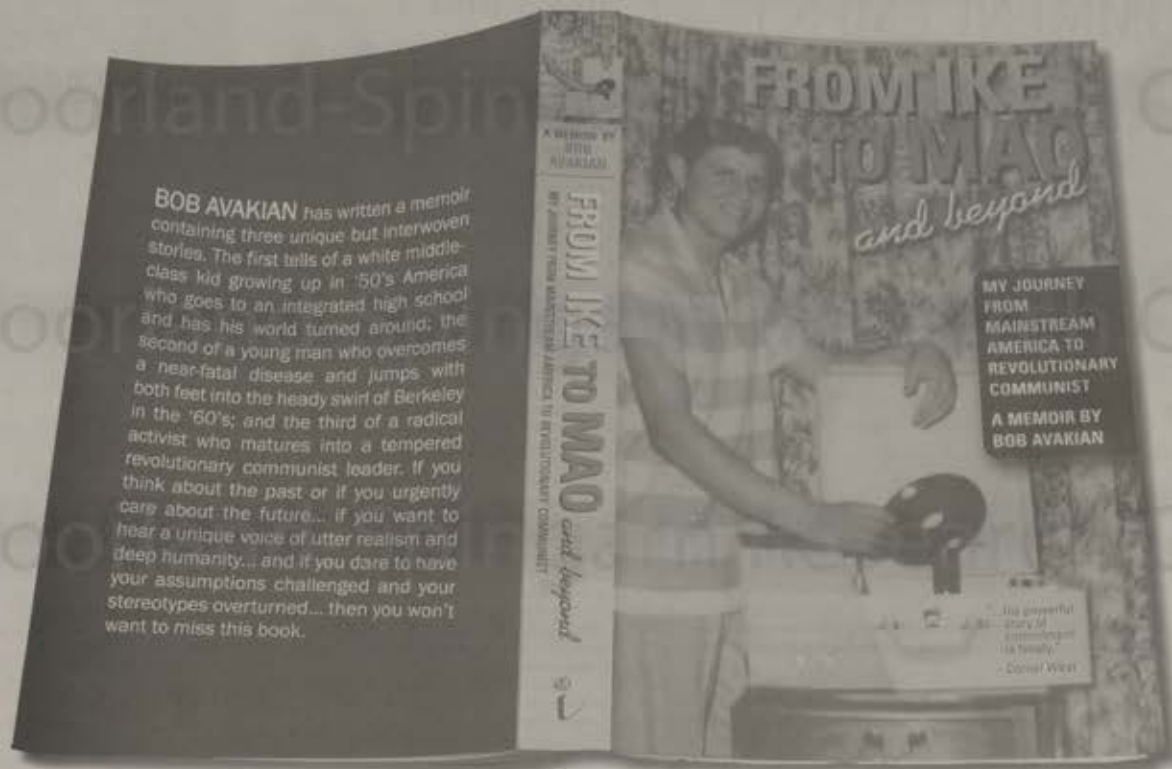
"Getting the hell away from Howard University!!!"  
-Rushmita Stitt, psychology major

"My vast alumni network and keeping in touch with Howard on a continuous basis."  
-Jimmy Prade, computer information systems major

"Getting a Job."  
-Lance Willoughby, acting major

Compiled by Matthew Cooper - Hilltop Staff Writer

# Get to Know "America's Most Radical Revolutionary Communist..."



## "Bob Avakian is a long distance runner

in the freedom struggle against imperialism, racism and capitalism. His voice and witness are indispensable in our efforts to enhance the wretched of the earth. And his powerful story of commitment is timely."

- Cornel West

"A truly interesting account of Bob Avakian's life, a humanizing portrait of someone who is often seen only as a hard-line revolutionary."

- Howard Zinn

"...students need to read this."

- Robert Keith Collins, Ph.D.

Hamasa: Center for African and Native American Research

"Bob Avakian brings candor and sometimes retrospective insight into what it means to grow up white and male in our patriarchal, capitalistic culture and still to emerge as a leader of the fight against social injustice. His memoir is fascinating and inspirational."

- Carol Downer

Co-founder, Feminist Women's Health Centers

"...screams out to the rap generation."

- Elemental Magazine

"I thought of storytelling, and the way that Native Americans talk about the importance and positive power of storytelling. What I see is a very powerful updating of storytelling of our times... Bob Avakian travels a journey from a certain yesterday to a possible tomorrow in *From Ike to Mao and Beyond*. This diary of hopes and journal of lessons narrates how some youth went from troubling days to challenging actions to sharing dreams. Bob Avakian imagines and knows he is not the only one and he is ready to share dreams, his and ours. His shared experiences, with unflinching candor and generous warmth, are his respects for those of strong heart and clear mind, those ready to do the work of getting to the other side of history."

- Juan Gomez-Quinones

Historian and writer, UCLA

## Other timely works by BOB AVAKIAN

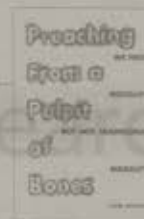
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# CUMMINGS SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT



Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1996. The congressman has spoken on campus before, at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.

CUMMINGS, from Campus A2

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, believes that students will be receptive of the guest speaker. "Representative Cummings has the kind of leadership that most Howard students can identify and associate with."

According to Jamison, the essential role of an effective guest speaker is to bring to students something they can identify with, want to emulate, and draw a connection to the course

of history of how the person achieved their success.

"A good guest speaker is fine, but students are more elated to be able to graduate and receive their degree and that far exceeds who the speaker is," Jamison said.

Cummings was elected to the United States House of Representatives in April 1996 in a special election for Maryland's 7th Congressional District following the resignation of Kweisi Mfume.

Throughout his political

career, Cummings has served on numerous boards and commissions in Maryland, like the Maryland House of Delegates for 16 years. He also served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 108th United States Congress.

Koppikar said that among Cummings' most notable accomplishments were the bridges he built between the Democratic and Republican parties as well as the ethnic caucuses with Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans.

# Seniors Gather for Final Memories and to Prepare for Graduation

BY MATTHEW COOPER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Graduation rehearsal was more than just a dress-up for the big ceremony on Saturday. For graduating seniors, it was one of the final opportunities for students to gather with their fellow classmates and friends, before they venture off into their careers and new lives.

"It's the last time we will all be together," said Tim Adams, an insurance graduate.

Students congregated into Cannon Auditorium to socialize with each other, joke with each other, and reflect on the good and bad memories during the graduation rehearsal.

The rehearsal was nothing much more than informing the graduates of the processes and policies of the graduation ceremony on Saturday. The main purpose was to inform the graduates face-to-face of the proper procedures and what to expect. The goal of the administration for the rehearsal is to avoid confusion and frustration during commencement.

"It just helps make the event much more memorable," said Tyrone Buckle, the special projects analyst in the office of the provost and the master of ceremonies during commencement.

"It's for the family and friends. It's a ceremony we want the students to be here for. We have perfected this and we make it better every year."

Some students found the information given at the rehearsal necessary and informative.

"It's really informative, and it's important we do this," said Jason Schwartz, a computer information systems graduate. "My family is really going to want a seat, and they don't want a lot of confusion."

The rehearsal, however, was not attended by everyone. Only about a third of Cannon Auditorium was filled, meaning most of the graduating class of over 3000 students was not in attendance. Many students felt as if the rehearsal was completely unnecessary.

"I'm starting to think I could have stayed home," said Irene Zhabosh, a Ph.D. mathematics graduate.

Jennifer Holmes, an audio production graduate, said, "We could have just read the packet, but some people



Despite muggy weather conditions, the senior class had a good time at the rehearsal.

couldn't get comfortable. It was a waste of time."

Buckle did not get discouraged by the low attendance. "We know we can't get everyone, but we appreciate the ones that did come."

The main emphasis at the graduation was exempt timing for Saturday's ceremony. This means graduates must wake at the crack of dawn to get to school by 7:30 a.m. to line up for the procession. In addition, the families must be seated no later than 8:30 a.m. in order to get a good seat, and view the procession.

The rehearsal was the final preparation for the rapidly approaching graduation ceremony, and emotions of excitement, anticipation, and stress filled the auditorium. Graduates bring a special meaning to the rehearsal.

"I'm very excited. Getting to this point is very difficult, and I have a young son. This is where I learned to be a mathematician," Zhabosh said.

"I'm excited about getting out of school, but the actual graduation, it might be more of a headache, with the parking and all," Adams said.

Holmes said, "I'm just ready for it to be over. I get people from out of town, and I have to write out an itinerary for the weekend, rent cars and make sure everything goes smoothly."

Buckle assures that graduation will be a worthwhile experience.

"When I graduated, we graduated on a dirt field in Greer stadium. It was 95 degrees and we had black robes on, but we had fun. It's always a great experience. It's the culmination of what we do."

The rehearsal was mostly an event for students to gather to reflect on the past, and look ahead to the future.

Holmes added, "I'm not going to miss group projects and finals, but I'm going to miss the college atmosphere, the parties and the people."

# Construction of Graduation Bleachers Cause Mixed Emotions

BY MATTHEW COOPER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Walking across the Yard is different when there are hundreds of bleachers at every end. To the graduating seniors, these bleachers represent the culmination of their four-year path.

To undergraduates, however, these bleachers are often viewed as a nuisance, an eyesore and a disruption. "The bleachers take away from the central look of the Yard," said Alessandra McVie, a freshman civil engineering major.

The bleachers are lined up weeks in advance in preparation for commencement exercises. However, some feel that the bleachers cause a slight inconvenience when walking to class, and have a devastating effect to some Greek backyards on campus.

The Phi Beta Sigma row and the Sigma Gamma Rho row are both completely obstructed by the bleachers.

"One of our most important symbols is being covered up during this

time of celebration with friends and family," said Jacob Smith-Joseph, the President of the Alpha Phi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

"We [planned] to have our chapter charter day celebration on April 10th, and we couldn't have it because of the bleachers."

Smith-Joseph also does not like the treatment that the construction workers have given to their row.

"The men who put up the bleachers tried to dig up our books, and that was totally disrespectful."

Janice Dowdy, a graduating senior and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Beta Chapter, is not worried or offended by the bleachers obstructing the Alpha plot.

"The bleachers symbolize graduation to me and I now know it is my time," Dowdy said.

"It doesn't cause a problem at all. We used to have parties on the bleachers my freshman year."

The bleachers blocking the Alpha Kappa Alpha plot do not affect the

AKA's much either.

"Though the bleachers on the Yard have obstructed us from staying on our plot, most of us are just so excited about the graduation that we don't mind much," said Derika Mitchell, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha chapter.

"We know that it is Howard's Yard, and considering the common, we definitely understand. We will still be staying in the Valley after graduation, as per our tradition for many years."

Some students said that the bleachers give a towering, dark feel to the open vast space that the Yard provides.

"When they first went up, I saw rusty, saggy rods on top of the bleachers, and I was like, 'What the hell?'" said Leon Allen, a freshman finance major.

In the words of Leon Allen speaking, a construction worker moved her out of the way while he continued to paint the seats in a dark green coating.



In preparation for graduation, students are forced to find routes through bleachers and construction workers that are building the bleachers on the Yard to get to class.

The bleachers, to many, symbolize a beginning to an end, as graduating seniors take their final exams for their undergraduate career.

The bleachers also represent to

seniors that their time is almost up, and it brings up many emotions of excitement and anticipation.

"The excitement is building for seniors because they accomplished

something so phenomenal," said graduating senior political science major Adrian Smith. "The bleachers make me more anxious than nervous and excited."

# A Day in the Life of...

BY JOUANNA SPANN  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Many graduating seniors find themselves not knowing what is ahead for them, and some even find their future approaching them faster than the moment it takes to walk across the stage for a degree. But for nursing major Brittany Clay, her experience has been completely opposite.

"Graduating is not as stressful to me as it is for other seniors, because I will be back here next fall for a master's degree in elementary education so that I can teach Kindergarten," Clay said.

Reflecting on her years at Howard,

Clay said that attending Howard has been a great experience, and it has opened doors that otherwise would have been shut if she had attended some other college or university.

"Howard has made me more politically aware, and I am also more aware of black history," she said.

Clay said that when she was an incoming freshman, she was not aware of the diversity and variety among black people, and that "Howard makes you realize [the existence of] different cultures."

Clay said she was always different from what some consider "black," with her love for smooth ballads and crooning pop over rap music, but soon realized this as a positive thing when she came to Howard.

Some students find themselves diverting from their originally intended plan when first arriving to Howard.

"From when I was a freshman, up until now, I definitely can say that I have changed and matured, especially in my walk with God. Now, I spend time doing ministry work," Clay said.

As a part of her ministerial work, Clay is helping to start a new ministry called Nebemiah, the purpose will be to help pregnant students on Howard's campus, and eventually other college and university campuses.

According to Clay, the program will teach women how to tell their parents, teachers and significant

others that they are pregnant, all from a Christian-based perspective. Eventually, the program will help with pregnant women with other pregnancy issues, like eating healthy at the Café.

Besides working on her project, Clay's other favorite organization on campus is a Christian-based organization called DEFACTO.

"It has helped me grow the most," Clay said.

Clay said that of all the events that happen on campus every year, the Thanksgiving dinner that the café puts on, was the most memorable.

"I just loved the soup, and they always had pie, and hum and turkey," Clay said.

Brittany Clay's undergradu-

ate experience is coming to an end, but not without some much needed advice for her fellow undergraduates.

"Make sure that you meet with your advisor, get everything in writing and make multiple copies of everything," she said.

"Lastly, don't procrastinate. The seniors, this is one of the last opportunities to get your life together before you enter the real world. Know that it is not too late to break bad habits from the first three years."

Clay's advice stresses that it is important for seniors to take their Howard experience and add it on to new endeavors ahead. For those that are graduating in future years, Clay said, "Don't live the life college is just only experience."

# a Graduating Senior



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## FINAL EXAM

1. WHICH ONE OF THESE IS NOT A KEVIN SMITH MOVIE:
- (A) "CLERKS" (C) "DOGMA"  
(B) "CHASING AMY" (D) "TITANIC"
2. DANTE AND RANDAL, THE LEAD CHARACTERS IN "CLERKS" ARE:
- (A) LAWYERS (C) BEAUTICIANS  
(B) PHARMACISTS (D) CLERKS
3. JAY & SILENT BOB HAD A CAMEO IN WHAT MOVIE:
- (A) "CITIZEN KANE" (C) "BRAVEHEART"  
(B) "HOODWINKED" (D) "SCREAM 3"

4. KEVIN SMITH SOLD WHAT TO HELP FINANCE "CLERKS":
- (A) HIS MOTHER (C) HIS HEART  
(B) HIS DOG (D) HIS COMIC BOOKS
5. WHAT ACTOR HAS NOT APPEARED IN A KEVIN SMITH MOVIE:
- (A) BEN AFFLECK (C) JASON LEE  
(B) MATT DAMON (D) "DAME" JUDI DENCH
6. "CLERKS 2" IS THE SEQUEL TO:
- (A) "AIR BUD" (C) "TRANSAMERICA"  
(B) "E.T." (D) "CLERKS"

## Common Comes to Maryland for Art Festival

BY JANELLE JOLLEY  
Metro Staff Writer

The University of Maryland (UMD) held its 23rd annual Art Attack festival on El Cinc de Mayo with recording artist Common as the headliner.

Prior to the festival, Common, a junior criminology major at University of Maryland, had never attended any of the Art Attack events, but had plans to go to the concert this year to see one of his favorite artists perform live.

"I am looking forward to seeing Common this year," Savage said. "I like his last album, but I've never seen him perform live. The 'Be' album was one of the 'realist' albums of the year."

Student Entertainment Events (SEED) sponsored the annual festival, and this year's festival was the cornerstone of Maryland's yearlong celebration of its 150th anniversary, according to Jeff Rhodes, program coordinator for the Arts and Learning Center.

The festival began with Art Attack day events on the McKeldin Mall. Although classes were officially still in session, many UMD Terps flocked to the day's events. The events included henna tattoos, gladiator jousts, a 28 foot rock climbing wall, chalking competition

and ice sculptures.

Traditionally, the festival has focused on a wide range of student art, but as the festival has grown, the events have as well. This year, SEE tried to bring back the element of student artwork with a student art display on the mall and a tent showing short films produced by students.

There was also a performance stage available before the concert during the day events. Students performed mostly spoken word pieces and musical numbers throughout the day.

The day's events for the festival featured about 15 to 20 vendors selling jewelry, bags, t-shirts and various crafts. These reasonably priced imported fair trade items fit a college student's budget.

The event's vendors were allowed to keep all of the profits from their sales because SEE only collects money from sponsors, whose contribution levels can range from \$2,500 to \$25,000, and concert ticket sales.

The concert began in the early evening at Byrd Stadium, UMD's football stadium. Tickets for UMD students were free, while tickets for the general public were \$10.

Previous headlining acts have included rock groups

Guster, Creed and the Gin Blossoms. Past performers have also included the Black Eyed Peas, Outkast and Wyclef Jean.

Since Common is such a popular artist, and the student body had access to free tickets, SEE was prepared to accommodate a capacity crowd of 12,000, although the typical range for the festival's concert attendees is 9,000 to 11,000.

Although vendors and sponsors were given ample notice about the day's events, Savage feels that the festival was not well-publicized on campus.

"I knew [the festival] was going to happen this year, because it happens every year, but I didn't know when, and I didn't know who was going to perform at the concert until [Wednesday]."

Savage said he had a feeling that this festival was approaching, so he looked online to see who was performing and went to the Stamp Student Union to pick up his free tickets. Only then did he see flyers for the event.

Savage didn't seem too bothered by the short notice, just content that he would be able to see Common.

"I'm glad I found out when I did, because it's not often you get to see one of your favorite artists perform for free."

## Spring Season Blossoms Business in the District

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

As the end of the 2005-2006 school year steadily approaches, seniors find themselves one step closer to graduation.

"I had four wonderful years at Howard University, but it's so sweet that I graduated and succeeded," said graduating senior political science major Alexis Logan.

However, graduating seniors aren't the only ones who welcome the end of the school year. Many businesses in the D.C. area profit from its closing as well.

"I'll be getting my hair done, my nails done—the whole shebang," Logan said.

Logan is one of many female graduating seniors who will flock to local hair salons and nail shops to get ready for their graduation.

"Of course I receive extra business during graduation time," Shelton Williams of Shelton Hair Salon on Georgia Avenue said.

But other hair salons disagree.

Hairstylists at Alexis' Gentle Touches on Georgia Avenue said their biggest increase is at the beginning of the school year and during Homecoming.

In addition to beauty needs, with Howard University's commencement ceremony on May 13, and American University's commencement on the following day, families with students at both universities need a place to stay.

While the Henley Park Hotel has not seen a significant increase in business, The Holiday Inn Silver Spring has.

"We get business from a lot of the local universities," said director of sales and marketing Sue Willis.

The Holiday Inn Silver Spring's rates actually go up around graduation.

Although they receive business from people eager to see loved ones graduate, Willis also states that there are "several weekends that are equally as busy as graduation weekend."

Graduation is not the only factor at the end of the year that

affects businesses. Storage companies receive business from continuing students.

"I couldn't see myself bringing all my stuff back home with me every year," said freshman print journalism major Vanessa Rozier.

The 5x5 storage unit is the most popular size for college students.

"It gets crazy. They sell like hot cakes," said an employee at U-Store on New York Ave.

To ease the financial burden of the college students, many storage companies offer student discounts.

Student customers at U-Store can either receive a 20% discount or the Dollar Special that allows students to pay \$10 for the month of May before being charged the regular price for June, July and August.

R-Street Self Storage also has student discount rates. They offer students the first two months of storage at half price.

The end of the school year is a busy time for both businesses and college students. For graduating seniors, it also signifies the end of their undergraduate college years at Howard University.

"[Graduating] is a bittersweet feeling," Logan said. "I'm going to be very emotional on May 13 on the upper quadrangle."

"I had four wonderful years at Howard University, but it's so sweet that I graduated and succeeded."

—Alexis Logan, '06

## Profile: City Year Washington, D.C.

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

City Year is a non-profit community service corporation operating under the Americorps umbrella. It has 15 chapters nationally and one in South Africa. Members are committed to the program for one year and are allowed up to two years of participation.

The City Year Washington D.C. chapter's 55 corps members have been working hard to better the metro D.C. area. This year, their goal was to serve more than 100,000 hours of service, work with more than 7,800 children, and involve more than 1,000 adults in volunteer community renovation projects. To reach this goal, City Year divides its members up into teams.

"We are a team-based program and we have five different teams," said development associate Audra Clark. "Each team addresses a different need in the area."

One of the teams deals with HIV prevention. Corps members work on a nine-week program geared towards high school students. Because of the program, 98 percent of high school stu-

dents say they now have a better understanding of HIV/AIDS.

The substance abuse team works on an eight-week curriculum for fourth to seventh graders. It boasts that 98 percent of the middle schoolers they worked with now understand the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol, and 88 percent can now say "no."

The literacy team works with grades K-12th graders.

The Community Improvement team involves traditional school and park clean up, doing revitalizing landscape projects once a month. About 100 volunteers get involved with the projects.

The last team on which Corps members can choose to work is the Young Heroes. It is a miniature version of City Year for middle school students.

"We've just been having a good year on all fronts," Clark said.

While City Year has completed many projects this year, one that Clark mentioned in particular was the indoor project at Ballou Senior High, where volunteers painted 13 murals

throughout the school.

"Corps members are really proud of MLK day. [There were] nearly 300 [people] volunteering. Everybody loves the murals so much that nobody has graffiti over them," Clark said.

Ballou Senior High School had negative media attention in the past couple of years, but the media came out to the project and gave the school positive attention," she said.

Shari Hunt, the operations manager, is a two-year alum of City Year.

Hunt, who has always found an interest in community service, first got involved with City Year after graduating from Georgetown University with a business degree.

"I saw it on the website and I knew this was what I wanted to do," she said.

She continued working with the organization because "she enjoyed working with kids, especially pre-school age and seeing their faces when they learn something new."

Even after she graduated from the City Year program, Hunt came back to work as a

full-time staff member.

"There was something about City Year that I missed," she said. "You get a feeling of familiarity, like you're at home."

City Year has an application process similar to that of a college. Interested applicants must be between the ages of 17-24 and complete an interview process. Though they strive to incorporate D.C. residents as part of the team, City Year takes people from all areas of the country. Members come from all racial, educational and economic backgrounds.

"The good thing about City Year is the diversity," Clark said. "You get people just out of high school and people who just graduated from college who are taking a year off to give back to the community."

All members receive \$200 per week, free health care, metro passes and free childcare services, if necessary. Once a member graduates from City Year, they also receive a \$4,725 scholarship to help with educational expenses. Interested persons can apply online.



City Year, located on 918 U Street, stands as a center for community improvement for Washington D.C. City Year members can be recognized by the red jackets bearing the logo.

## Businesses on U Street Cope with Changes

BY JANELLE JOLLEY  
Metro Staff Writer

For more than 50 years, small local businesses owners and consumers have characterized U Street as "historic," but many wonder if that legacy will start to change because of the increased gentrification in the District.

In Ward 1, where the U Street corridor is located, more than 7 million square feet of commercial and residential space has come under construction in the past four years causing an increase in property values.

Unlike private residences, commercial properties are not protected by a cap on tax increases in the District. Also, the city's commercial tax is much higher than the residential tax. Commercial property is taxed at a rate of \$1.85 per \$100 of assessed value, while residential property is taxed at a rate of \$0.96 per \$100 of assessed value.

According to Scott Fomeroy, the development officer for the Mid-City

Business Association, many businesses have been somewhat shielded from a run-up in values by ten-year leases.

Many small businesses are concerned about what will happen when their leases are up and their property is re-assessed. The fear is that rents will get so high that small businesses will be forced out and replaced by corporate businesses like the Starbucks on 13th and U Street, which can afford to pay rent in an area with a rising property value.

Businesses like Ben's Chili Bowl and Lee's Flower and Card Shop, which have been staples on U Street for decades, will have to see if their businesses can thrive as they brace themselves for sharp property tax increases.

Next year, Ben's Chili Bowl's property taxes are to increase 150% from \$8,108.75 to \$20,350, as assessments are to go from \$438,310 to \$1.1 million, according to the owners. It will have to sell 3,000 more chili dogs just to cover the additional taxes. Although it is hard to believe, this hefty increase

for Ben's is only after owners appealed an earlier assessment that would have increased taxes by 234%.

Like-wise, the assessments for Lee's Flower and Card Shop are to rise to \$400,000 in the next year, which will amount to \$7,400 more dollars in property taxes.

Ben's Chili Bowl and Lee's Flower and Card Shop are among many independent shops that are being confronted with frightening new economic responsibilities as the prosperity in the Northwest increases.

"It's happening all over the city under the radar because these properties have been so undervalued," said Stanley Jackson, deputy mayor for planning and economic development.

Linda Welch, owner of Dogs by Day and Pet Essentials near the U Street corridor, said she might be looking at the end of her successful business.

Welch first signed her lease in 1999, and her share of the property taxes was \$5,200 a year. Next year it will be more than \$30,000.

However, when her lease expires in three years, she expects that her rent, which includes property taxes, will go up even more dramatically.

"Either something changes, or we have to leave," Welch said.

Luckily, there is some glimmer of hope for some of the longstanding small businesses in the District.

Business owners met with council members in October to lobby for relief. Rick Lee, owner of Lee's Flower and Card Shop, along with other business owners, said the new, affluent clientele have boosted sales somewhat, but the additional revenue still has not increased profits because of the spike in taxes.

Councilman Jim Graham of Ward 1, and Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp are responding to the pleas for relief and introduced a small business tax that would allow arts or retail businesses to receive a 50 percent property tax rebate if the business is located in a historic district, has been in existence for 20 years or more, has \$5 million or less in annual gross receipts, and

has a property tax assessment that has increased 100 percent or more in the last 3 years.

In many ways, the fate of U Street depends upon this legislation.

"How we deal with this question will say what kind of city we are," said Lawrence Guyot, a longtime civil rights activist. "We simply cannot let mathematics make the decision."

Many business owners who have been on U Street through good and bad times feel that the city owes them a tax break.

"All those people were there when there was the homeless outside, pumps and prostitutes and drugs," said Jeremy Kittrell, an owner of the New Vegas Lounge. "But now it's like, what do you get for going through that? Where is the allegiance?"

The future of U Street, a symbol of the District's homegrown history, will hang in the balance until the vote for the new tax bill, while frustrated business owners and the community at large wait to see what will happen next in the District.

# Pump Prices Alarm New Graduates

BY SHARELL FERGUSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

"Gas is just too expensive!" This is the cry of many Howard students, who have been affected by expensive gas prices over the past few months.

Congressional Republicans have refused a plan that would have utilized a tax increase on oil companies and other businesses to offer \$100 rebate checks for millions of motorists, according to [chinaews.com](http://chinaews.com).

Economics Assistant Professor, J. Carlton Augustine explained how the increase in gas prices affects graduating seniors in numerous ways.

"The price of petroleum feeds into other prices because everyone uses petroleum," said Augustine, and as a result, this generates inflationary pressure. Graduates would then have to pay higher prices for gas, oil and even to purchase a vehicle. "This has a ripple effect," he said, "the cost for purchasing a car and consumer loans will increase."

Additionally, Augustine said that the \$100 rebate checks would not have made a major difference for motorists.

"It would have been a drop in the bucket," he said.

Augustine explained that higher inflation would cause the government to raise interest rates, which would increase credit card interest rate pay-



Motorists are once again paying more at the pump. These increased gas prices are making some graduates consider their future residences and availability of public transportation.

ments for graduating seniors. "Less profits for businesses lead to higher interest rates all around," Augustine said.

Furthermore, Augustine said that because of inflation, companies may decrease employment opportunities that would have been previously available to graduates seeking employment.

Augustine said that the trends of gas increasing would not make any major decrease

as long as there is interest and tension in major oil producing countries such as Iran.

However, with gas prices are climbing steadily, Augustine said that graduates could save money by walking, utilizing public transportation if available—and using energy efficient vehicles including the hybrid car that runs on energy and fuel.

Andrea Smith, a senior accounting major, will be employed in Washington, D.C. at Price Waterhouse Coopers, LLP.

"One of the reasons I selected this location is the transportation system."

Smith currently owns a Mercury Mountaineer (SUV) and said that she spends approximately \$60 to fill it up as often as twice a week.

"Living in D.C., you really don't need a car because of the metro system," Smith said.

Patricia Agava, a senior political science major said, "I plan to live in the city where there is ample public transportation. With any car I plan to buy in the future, I will make sure that it's not an SUV because that will be expensive to fill."

Agava also said that when she starts a family, she would ensure that they all conserve

energy by walking and using the public transportation system often.

On the other hand, senior Lauren Chisolm, an international business major, and senior biology major Lashontae Trainor agreed that gas prices would mainly affect them, if the price in public transportation increases.

"It's a rule of thumb, I can't live in a city that doesn't have a developed public transit system, Chicago has me spoked," Chisolm said.

Trainor explained, "The increase in gas prices will not have a direct effect on me because I don't have a car and I'll be using the metro to travel." However, she said that she understands that indirectly, all petroleum products will increase in price.

Adehola Ogunbiya, a senior finance major said gas is a necessity consumers cannot escape purchasing. "Gas is an essential commodity, and I think those in charge are taking advantage. In order not to feel the utmost effect, I've decided to plan my trips." Ogunbiya said that he will be residing in the metro area and driving a Honda Accord, "which is not much of a gas guzzler."



## Student Loans: A Life Sentence

BY SHARELL FERGUSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Having a college education is known not only to improve a person's aptitude, but to also boost an up-and-coming professional's earning power. Ready to take over the world, a majority of graduates, however, face months, and maybe years, of enormous loan payments.

According to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, about two-thirds of all students use loans to pay for their college education. For public schools the average debt is \$15,000, while it is \$24,000 for private institutions.

"Loans help to fulfill dreams of going to school," said Lucia L. Hassell, computer information systems graduate. She added that the Howard experience, knowledge, people you meet, and life lessons are invaluable.

"I know if it wasn't for my \$15,000 loan and my parents' \$21,000 loan, I would not be here."

But college loans can also severely affect a graduate.

"Loans put graduates at a disadvantage economically," said accounting professor Henry Byrnes.

"If you get a salary of \$50,000 upon graduation, but you have student loans a portion of your salary is already dedicated to loan repayment and not retirement savings or home ownership. It hinders your ability to accumulate funds for other purposes."

He said that loans are beneficial but should only be used as a last resort and that students should work instead.

Hassell, however, said that working while going to school could have adverse effects.

"Most students with loans get outside jobs for financial support during the semester and this could adversely affect students' academic performance while balancing financing school and maintaining good grades," she said.

Upon graduation, many students face debt from credit card bills to education loans.

Breeta Charles, a graduating senior and public relations major said that after graduation, she would be greeted by "serious" loan payments.

"It is really unfortunate. I don't have the luxury of saving because of this huge loan I have to pay off," she said.

Some students took other routes to finance college education. Waniakhi Waniakhi, a graduate with a film production and photography concentration said he has been fortunate to arrange his schedule to work and pay his tuition annually.

Research indicates that a large percentage of students prefer to return home rather than live daily struggling from paycheck to paycheck. While many students expect to live independently, purchase a new car, property or even marry and start families, student loans may defer this for years.



The rise in gas prices will eventually have a ripple effect on the whole economy, analysts say. The increasing cost of petroleum can even affect the price of a new car.

# Keys to Success: Tips for 2006 Grads

BY TIANA ALLEN  
Contributing Writer

Graduation is here, but there are still a few lessons and issues to keep in mind. For some, a job has been secured, while others are still considering offers. Housing is a must for everyone. So while you celebrate with your family and start mentally designing your new house or apartment, consider a few tips for navigation through life after Howard.

## Get in the Market:

Good news class of 2006: "This is one of the best job markets the country has seen in the last four years," said Kim Wells, Director of Howard's Career Services Office. With the unemployment rate at about 4.7 percent, grads will enter an optimistic market.

If you are still unemployed, prepare yourself for an aggressive search that can reach as far west as California or Washington state. According to Monster.com, top spots for '06 grads include San Francisco and San Jose for Internet/eCommerce, Seattle for engineering and computer information systems and Boston as a hot spot for health care and rehabilitation services.

If you still haven't secured a job, the Career Services Office is

available for personal employment preparation sessions. Below are Wells' tips for all majors:

## 1. Strategize

"Get past the embarrassment of not being employed and refocus, retask and aggressively go after opportunities," Wells said. Identifying your mission and goals will guide you in seeking a position if you are still unemployed and still in seeking promotions once you are employed.

## 2. Expand Your Search

Offline "Monster.com is a tool, a mere resource to aid your search. Remember, people hire people and if you can convince that person you belong there, you might get hired."

## 3. Network

Don't forget to use the professional arms of the organizations you had student memberships with, forge business relationships and network regularly.

## Manage Your Finances:

Don't panic if you have thousands in student loan debt; savings is still possible. Personal financial planner, Joyce Bloch, encourages graduates to know



Though some have yet to secure a job, 2006 graduates are entering one of the best job markets in the last four years.

the state of their affairs to tackle debt.

## 1. Know How Much You Owe

"Set a budget. Identify your fixed costs such as housing, car insurance, and variables such as food and entertainment," Bloch said.

## 2. Plan Your Retirement

"401K is the best but if you have short term goals such as buying a condo or car then you need savings outside of the 401K," Bloch said.

## 3. Save Monthly For

## Emergencies

"Arrange to have a small amount transferred from your direct deposit each month to a money market account," Bloch said. Start as small as \$25 a month and increase the amount as your income grows.

## 4. Consolidate Your Loans

Check with your lender if consolidation will save you money and lock in a low interest rate. If you have government issued loans, interest rates are expected to increase as of July 1. Go to <http://www.lanscoconsol>

[education.ed.gov/](http://education.ed.gov/) for more information on consolidation.

## Rent or Own? You Decide

The housing market is slowing down and it's a perfect time for those who don't want to rent. "Prices have stabilized and are more favorable to buyers," said Susan Weine, a Realtor with Long and Foster Realtors.

## Heintz's Tips Before You Buy:

1. Get pre-approved. "Pre-approval from a lender will identify a shopping figure." This step ensures that you are shopping within your budget.

## 2. Broaden your horizons:

"Familiarize yourself with areas outside of the parts of the city you are interested in." Broader searches identify options that can save you money.

## 3. Hire the right help:

"Choose a lender who will be with you the entire process and a Realtor who knows the market you are interested in."

## 4. Interest-only or fixed?

"This is not currently a flipper's market. Interest-only is best for those who plan to sell quickly." If you can't afford an escalating mortgage, consider a

fixed option instead.

## Issues You Can't Ignore

### Immigration

According to the Urban Institute, almost 12 million immigrants are undocumented. If you are a graduating international student, make sure your future employer has filed all of the proper documents to extend your Visa.

### Renewal of the Voting Rights Act

On May 2, the Congress presented "The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006" which includes protections against voting discrimination, provides language assistance and allows the Department of Justice to observe elections.

### Mid-term Elections

Several congressional seats are up for election this fall and positioning has begun for politicians to secure their office. Democrats and Republicans have opportunities to gain seats that will swing the majority their way. Check with your state's election board for information on absentee ballots if you will not be in town to cast your vote.



# Congrats, Grads!!



## Bison Strive to Maintain Mates After Graduation

BY NICHOLE ALABI  
Contributing Writer

For many in the class of 2006, graduation means starting life anew with 9-to-5s, graduate school or calls from Sallie Mae wondering when they want to begin consolidating four years of loans.

While saying goodbye to this historic campus, graduates have a few lion aids to tie up: selling books to undergrads who have no idea that they won't be used next semester, moving out of apartments, having one last hurrah in the Punchout or working out the direction of their love lives if they have been involved in on-campus romances.

Love post matriculation is a definite possibility for a number of Howard graduates who are in committed relationships. As Howard's favorite couple move on in their lives, many are choosing to do it together.

Rachel E. Cooper, a graduating legal communications major, plans to turn her college romance into something much longer.

Cooper and Julius Johnson, a graduating finance major, met freshman year and have been together throughout their time in college.

"We had been together only six months after freshman year when he went back to Georgia and I went back to Pittsburgh," Cooper said. "We visited, and we talked on the phone."

The couple discussed what would happen if they moved to different cities after graduation from Howard. As luck would have it, Johnson found a job in Chicago and Cooper found one shortly thereafter.



Graduation often ends college relationships, but some strive to make it work after they leave their alma mater.

Even if they hadn't found career opportunities in the same city, Cooper believes that the distance would not have been an issue in their relationship, especially after what they describe as four great years.

For some students, however, it will not be too hard to say goodbyes to Howard's dating scene. Some men frequented house parties, where entire nights had been devoted to giving phone numbers to Howard's prettiest women without receiving a phone call from any of them.

On the other hand, it wasn't unusual for a woman to be out and about, suddenly spotting their young male companion on the Yard with someone

else as he actively took advantage of Howard's favorable female-to-male ratio. Students on the losing end of these situations might find it difficult to turn their dreams of a post-graduate twosome into reality. Instead, they will fly solo as they pound the pavement looking for employment, head off to graduate schools or take time off for personal reflection.

While "goodbye" was not the answer for Cooper after having had the pleasure of romantic interludes between classes, jobs and organizational responsibilities, she cautions others to think carefully before moving on, and especially away, together.

"Make sure that the person is a per-

son you want to be with," Cooper said. "It's not a fly-by-night decision. Don't follow a guy or a girl somewhere...I have a job in Chicago. I can't see myself just living off Julius."

Others have chosen to simplify things by staying in a familiar place. Brandi Coleman, a graduating electrical engineering major, and her partner have been together for two years and are choosing to stay in the metropolitan area.

Her partner plans to attend graduate school or work at a law firm, while Coleman has a job in Alexandria, Va.

"Our relationship did have significance in the decision to live and work in D.C.," Coleman said.

Even though they are staying in a familiar place, they will have different schedules and will be on different tracks. However, they have a plan to combat possible issues involved with going in different directions.

"We're looking into getting a place together so we will have time outside our [busy] days to come home to each other and spend evenings and weekends together," Coleman explained.

Students wondering whether it's really possible to maintain their relationships after graduation can look at some Howard alumni for proof. Tameka Byrd and Chequan Lewis of the Class of 2005, for example, have been going strong for three years now. The couple, who met in Economics I in the fall of 2003, now live in Atlanta where they are pursuing their career goals.

"We both wanted to come here before we got together," Byrd says. "He needed a job first. He came here in July."

Byrd went home for the summer, moved to Atlanta in August and got a job in September.

"Communication is key," Byrd advised couples who plan to move on together after graduation. "I don't think people realize that you are going on to another stage in life; it's starting all over again...A relationship is work; it's like another job."

But it's a job worth pursuing, Cooper believes. "We love each other and want to start a life with each other," she said of her relationship with Johnson.

"Love is what comes, but love is not the only thing," she added. "It's about compromise and trust."

## Pomp and Circumstance To Parties and Clubs

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
College Staff Writer

The college experience at Howard is priceless to many students. Now that graduates have had time to sit back and reminisce about their college years, it may seem like the only thing left to do is...party!

Most of the events being held in honor of the graduates are at clubs or restaurants that cater to an adult crowd. The most popular clubs are 21 and over and have special discounts for Howard students. Many local clubs have been hosting events throughout graduation week, beginning on Wednesday.

For students who want to know what's going on, Byron Stewart, 2005-06 HUSA president and a graduating senior, has one suggestion. Stewart recommends talking to "Angie Ange, the hype girl."

Angie Brown, known as "Angie Ange," the WHBC disc jockey, has hosted some of the biggest parties for Howard students around the metropolitan area.

She reported that a lot of seniors made plans to go to Club 1223 on Wednesday for a pre-graduation celebration.

"It's a club that has the tightest happy hour on Wednesdays," Brown said. "All 21 and up know about it."

Angie Ange also predicts that the party being held at Pearl, tonight, will be lively and has plans to attend. Other hot spots mentioned were Love, HaO, The Avenue, Fur and Platinum.

The flyers that are always seen around campus help with club's promotion.

Senior psychology major JP Howard said when it comes to promotion, "TGI Fridays and Chili's, which are known for having good selections."



After the commencement ceremonies take place, many graduates plan on going out to celebrate at restaurants and clubs.

keeps the crowd up."

At the same time, lots of graduates have family coming to Washington, and they prefer alternatives to clubs for their families. For students looking for something outside of the club scene, there are alternatives.

"I was married by my senior year, so we had a cook-out at our apartment with family and friends," said Howard 2005 graduate Devin Williams.

Though all students may not be able to engage in anything as "homey" as a backyard cookout, some are creating their own options.

Many Howard students take their families to TGI Fridays and Chili's, which are known for having good selections.

"My family and I are going to dinner in the area. Probably, at The Outback Steak House,"

said senior psychology major Kory L. Jordan.

Howard students often go to chain restaurants, because they know what to expect. Some local restaurants are smaller and cannot hold large parties for the families of graduates. But it saves funds to look around. There are some unique and fun local spots to take the family.

There's always the new, trendy place to go to, too. "I'll be spending some quality time with my family," Jordan said. "But after that, I'll be having a major graduation celebration at home."

Some students, however, engage in multiple activities.

Rachonda Pitt, a senior psychology major, said, "You can find us anywhere...TGI Fridays, Chili's happy hour, Monday through Friday from five to seven, HaO, Love, Platinum."

## 10 Things the Class of 2006 Saw for the Demise Of

1. Parties on Campus
2. Water in the Blackburn Fountain
3. The Horizontal ID Cards
4. Validation Stickers
5. Late Night Breakfast (Nothing's been said for sure, but what are the odds?)
6. The Old Punchout
7. Biweekly Hilltops
8. The Ubiquity Tree
9. A Countless String of Restaurants in the Building by to Subway
10. Dream, Heaven, Up, 2K9 (and the renamed Kili's Kafe) and Club U

## Up to the Minute The Cap and Gown



Forget that dress in the Glaxo window; the most coveted outfit for the month of May is the classic cap and gown. This marker of achievement announces to the whole world that the wearer has survived four, five or six years of long lines, violation rules and hard-to-please professors to make it to this moment. Anyone who has survived seminars, happy hour and finale absolutely deserves to wear this classic combo. It is the one piece of anything that it doesn't matter how you wear it, as long as you are wearing it on graduation day, May 15.

# Unpaid Interns: They Work Hard for NO Money

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

The life of an intern can be stressful. Many find themselves constantly running around doing errands and sucking up to their co-workers for networking opportunities. In the end, the experience may only pay off in terms of experience, because not all internships are paid.

This summer, many Howard University students are taking tough internships, without any compensation. The job fields include legal positions, secretarial work, apprentices and office staff, among others.

Regardless of the job, these students will be required to work hard without the money. But all may not be lost for these students, because the experience may be worth more than any monetary amount.

"My internship is working for Judge Frank Byrd in the 300th District Court in Houston, Texas," said Brandi Mizrahlund, a freshman legal communications major, who feels the opportunity is worth the lack of fiscal security.

"I plan on going to law school to become an attorney, and working for a judge is one of the best things I can possibly put on my resume. I will also meet many important people in the field in Houston, where I plan to practice law," Mizrahlund said.

Martinique Gullory has two unpaid internships this summer: one with Jesse Jackson Jr. in his D.C. office and the other



at Freddie's Gallery. The sophomore management major doesn't think students need to have a steady income if they have an unpaid internship.

"I don't think students need to have a steady income for an unpaid internship as long as their internship is giving them a job or something for transportation, because that definitely has an impact on the pocket," Gullory said.

Jasmine Sparkman, a freshman speech pathology major, had negative sentiments about an unpaid internship at first.

"Well I did mind at first, but then I realized I needed the experience," Sparkman said. Her internship, with SPS Inc. Incy Cohen Medicine Group, a children's speech pathology clinic, is well-tailored to her major and may make her a more marketable applicant to other programs.

Sparkman does recognize that though the experience will be valuable, times will be hectic.

"I plan on getting a job as

well, so I'm going to be real busy this summer," Sparkman said. Students always have the

option of getting a supplementary job, but should be weary of over-extending themselves.

The work can be overwhelming, and it's important that stu-

dents continue to have professional behavior to maximize the position's potential.

"The point of hav-

ing an internship is to network and build your career resume before it really gets started," said ICMA Client Services Director Morris Mann.

The opportunity to have internships are a dime a dozen, students work all year to track down and apply for jobs that will allow them to gain knowledge in their field of expertise.

The point of an internship is to gain a strong understanding on what your future job requires, but that doesn't mean students have to suffer at the same time.

In addition to getting other jobs and spending wisely, students should also look for other ways to keep their pockets lined.

JF Howard, a senior psychology major, added, "I did two internships that were unpaid by the office, but I did receive pay from the program I was in at the time when I was doing them."

## Tips for Unpaid Interns

For small apartments, bright colors make rooms look bigger and more welcoming.

For furnishing on a budget, Craigslist stores have a lot to offer and add nostalgia to homes. Most students borrow their favorite furniture from their parents' homes or buy pieces that are multi-functional.

If you enjoy high-end fashion, getting similar looking pieces and putting them together can look just as good.

Avoid eating out at restaurants too often. Instead try to stock up on favorite foods from grocery stores to save cash.

If possible, try to look for another source of income, like working at a department store on weekends, braiding hair, or cutting tans; anything that can help ease your expenses without spreading yourself too thin.

Try cutting costs by steering clear of professional beauty salons and instead styling your own hair and nails.

## HU's Hines Makes 'Love Music'

BY LENZY BETTERS  
Contributing Writer

At any point while walking through Howard's campus you can hear the lyrics, "Girl, I'm about to overdose on your love. You're the perfect drug." Blaring from a car, ringing on a cell or being sung with an iPod in hand.

Brandon Hines is no newcomer to local fame. In 2002, as a senior at University of Detroit Jesuit Catholic High School, Hines kicked his singing career into high gear with an appearance on *American Idol*, making it all the way to Hollywood but was not advanced to the next round because he was only 17-years-old.

Not discouraged, Hines joined R&B group Vibe as a high school senior. By his freshman year at Howard University, Hines' talent as lead vocalist garnered them the attention of Universal Motown Records. Hines turned down a deal at Universal Motown because his parents thought it was more advantageous for him to continue his education and get another deal in the future.

While attending Howard,

Hines became aware of the talents of HeavyWeight Entertainment, which is headed by Miguel Graves and Steve Owens, who have produced such artists as M. Klean and Jinne and their cult hit album "2 Throes." "I was introduced to Miguel through a friend. Instantly, we connected musically. With my vocal ability and his talent as an engineer and producer, we were a perfect fit," Hines said.

Hines' debut album is truly a labor of love and appropriately titled "Love Music: Falling In and Falling Out." Consisting of 19 original tracks, "Love Music" is a product of engineer/producer Miguel Graves, Hines' younger brother and producer Chris Hines, producer Mario Loving, songwriter Nyemba Coleman, who all collaborated to produce an album truly ready for radio.

"What attracted me to HeavyWeight Entertainment is that it operates like a big name music label. From in-house producers, engineers and song writers, we were able to create a product in a studio in the [Howard Plaza] West Towers that rivals the

quality of any CD in stores."

HeavyWeight Entertainment, at its current pace, is poised to infiltrate the music industry.

Working on much less than the budget of a multi-million dollar music label, HeavyWeight Entertainment took a grassroots approach to the promotion of the album. HeavyWeight got together a street team to canvas the Yard with a CD player and headphones to test their first completed single "Overdose" on the HU population.

Once more tracks were produced, along with the help of campus favorite DJ Presentations playing tracks at campus events and DC Clubs, the sounds of Brandon Hines crooning became a mainstay in HU culture.

"It was crazy. It seemed like over night I couldn't go anywhere without hearing Brandon. It was on A&R, [students'] iPods, and even set as ring tones," said Leslie Robinson, a junior legal communications major.

After much hype, hundreds of downloads and multiple performances, the stage is set for Hines' success.



HU student Brandon Hines sets to take the music biz by storm with 'Love Music.'

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# Former Bison Have NFL Dreams, Bethea Heads to Colts



Bison standout Antoine Bethea will head to the NFL next season as a newly drafted member of the Indianapolis Colts.

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS  
Hilltop Staff Writer

The last weekend in April is a time of excitement and anticipation for NFL prospects at schools around the country. Howard football players, Antoine Bethea, Jesse Hayes, Willie Shine and Michael Brown were all in the pool of NFL hopefuls in this year's draft.

In the sixth round of the draft, Bethea was selected to play for the Indianapolis Colts. This marks the second year in a row that a football player from Howard has been drafted to the NFL. Last year, Ron Bartell, Jr. was drafted and now plays cornerback for the St. Louis Rams. The players were notified of their eligibility almost a year before the actual draft, but as the weeks drew closer to knowing whether the NFL was in their future, nerves were high.

"I am feeling really excited, nervous, and anxious right now," said Bethea previous to the draft.

Bethea was a safety for Howard and has been a three-time all American as well as a

three-time all conference player. He also was one of only four players to be selected to the Sheridan Broadcasting Network Black College All-American for three years in a row.

Both Hayes and Brown have also been key assets to the Howard football team in their four years.

"They demonstrate good leadership and they work hard," said Ray Petty, head coach of the Howard football team. "They work hard on the field."

Official NFL training camp usually begins about a week after the draft is over, but Bethea, as well as the other two players attended training camps earlier in the year to better prepare themselves for their potential careers.

Not only were the players themselves excited about their eligibility to be in the league but their teammates were as well.

"I have had the opportunity to play defense with both Bethea and Hayes; they are just all-around athletes with good work ethic," said Joseph Claiborne, a sophomore safety. "I think what will separate Bethea from

the other draft picks is his all-around knowledge of football on and off the field."

Although he is a fan of the San Francisco 49ers, Bethea had no preference of teams he would like to play for.

Prior to the draft, Bethea had already thought out his goals in a future NFL career.

"I hope that the league will allow me to play as long as possible and be financially stable," Bethea said. "I would like to one day be my own boss."

When preparing to go to the NFL, players often look to mentors or coaches for advice

on how to deal with the pressures of the draft, the business, as well as the game of football itself. Bethea worked with his position coach, Ron Bolton, who played in the NFL for 11 years.

"He teaches me in the ins and outs and the dos and don'ts" Bethea said.

Along with the promising future of going to the NFL is the sentiment of leaving Howard.

"I will miss my friends and the whole experience at Howard," Bethea said. "I also wish Jesse and Mike the best."

"I think what will separate Bethea from the other draft picks is his all-around knowledge of football on an off the field."

— Joseph Claiborne '08

## New Athletic Director Plans to Head Program in New Direction

BY JULIANNE HANCKEL  
Hilltop Staff Writer

On January 23, 2006, Dwight Datcher became the new Athletic Director for Howard University. With only three months of working with the students, staff, and faculty at Howard, Datcher has begun to plan some significant improvements to the athletic

facilities.

He has produced many winning student-athletes, but, according to Datcher, winning is not what comes first; it is the base of the student-athlete that comes before the rest. Involving himself in the academics, athletics and personal sides of every athlete is what comes as fun to Datcher. He said he believes that one

should be drawn into learning and working with the student-athlete to produce more than a winning record. Datcher said he thinks that the new program is moving towards the right direction.

"Every place has its own culture and way of doing things, you can not change that over night," he said.

With programs, policy and procedure brings monetary funding which "we just do not have at the moment," said Datcher, and that the little things are being taken care of first. He plans on painting the chipped walls in Burr Gym and is looking at ways to prioritize the space in the locker rooms.

The students appear to be welcoming the new changes by sharing their ideas, conversa-

tions and e-mail with Datcher.

Junior lacrosse player Dominique Browner thinks that Datcher is "highly qualified for the position." Browner remembers Datcher saying that "image is perception" and that "by changing the image of Howard Athletics that the perception of sponsors, athletes, and faculty will improve."

Burr serves as a home to the health classes, intramural sports, alumni and athletes, so Datcher must keep those departments in mind when he makes changes to Burr because those changes will affect everyone.

He is taking a good look at Burr and how it can be improved.

"For the students, this will be a long process. Though we

will see a change in behavior in the way we run Burr and the different teams," he said.

The school year starts in August, so Datcher said it is hard to make some immediate improvements in the three summer months, but he has been consulting with the Student Advisory Council (SAC) about policies, housing and cash meals to try and start a bigger role in athletics.

Football Coach Rayford Petty has had a number of conversations with Datcher and said he believes that "[Datcher] is trying to look out for the general well-being of the team. He is trying to put into play the ideas and efforts we have discussed." Petty said Datcher is looking to upgrade Greene Stadium as a whole, not just

for the football team, but also for track, Army ROTC, and other teams that use Greene for their workouts.

Petty also stated, "It is always nice to have more of what you need [equipment] because it enables you to better instruct and develop the student-athlete."

Datcher does have some big plans for the future in athletics here at Howard, though he did put himself on a 3-year plan for improving Burr and Greene Stadium.

"Hopefully, by the '08-09 school year we hope to have some big things. Renovations will be in the millions marks, but I want and need to bring a change to the facilities," Datcher said.

"Every place has its own culture and way of doing things, you can not change that over night."

— Dwight Datcher

## Bison Football Announce Challenging 2006 Schedule

BY ELLIOTT JONES  
Sports Editor

The Howard University football team announced their 2006 schedule, kicking off the season against rival Hampton and featuring a Homecoming match-up against Morgan State.

The Bison open at home on Sept. 16 against Florida A&M, then travel to play Rutgers in a game against Division I-A competition, making for a daunting opening month of the season.

Howard's Sept. 9 season-

opener at Hampton sets the Bison up against the MEAC champions of the past two seasons, as well as a team Howard has not beat in its last nine tries. Both players and students look forward to this game dubbed "The Battle of the Real HU," but head coach Ray Petty views it as an early-season indicator of the team's success.

Hampton and FAMU are two of the best programs in the MEAC. Along with the Rutgers game, our September schedule is very challenging," Petty said. Howard's game against Rutgers will mark the first time since 2003 that the Bison will face a Division I-A opponent. In that game, Howard was overwhelmed by Akron, and current Cleveland Browns quarterback, Charlie Frye, 65-7.

However, Petty pointed out some of the benefits of playing against a higher level of competition.

"We're going to use it as a measuring stick, it will be great for our kids to play a team of their caliber, in such a quality venue. It will be a challenge for us, especially since this team was just in a bowl game," Petty said.

Howard's other non-conference opponents include Savannah State and Winston-

Salem State, facing both of them on the road.

The Bison will face Morgan State on Oct. 14 for the Homecoming game. Howard will play Delaware State in the final game of the regular season at Greene Stadium for Senior Day.

The team also announced MVPs for last season, with Keon Coleman earning the honor on offense and standout safety Antoine Bethea winning the award on defense.

Coleman, a senior from Washington, D.C., led the team in rushing in 2005 with 823 yards, 3 touchdowns and a 5.5 yards-per-carry average. Bethea, a sixth-round draft choice of the Indianapolis Colts in 2006, was a Black College All-American for three consecutive years. The Newport News, Va., native recorded 40 solo tackles, 34 assisted tackles and a career-high 5 interceptions in 2005.

Rounding out the MVP selections were Richard Dorcous (Best Offensive Lineman), Edwin Piner (Best Defensive Lineman), and Lawrence Hellams (Best Special Teams Player). Three of the five team MVPs are returning in 2006.



The Bison football team look to have a tough season as they face many of their rivals on the road. They will face Hampton University in their season opener on September 9 at Hampton.

### Howard University 2006 Football Schedule

September  
9 at Hampton\*  
16 vs. FLORIDA A&M\*  
23 at Rutgers  
30 at Savannah State

October  
7 at Winston-Salem State\*  
14 vs. MORGAN STATE\* (Homecoming)  
21 at NC A&T\*  
28 vs. NORFOLK STATE\*

November  
4 at North Carolina State\*  
11 at Bethune-Cookman\*  
18 vs. DELAWARE STATE\* (Senior Day)

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# Graduating Seniors: A Look at Entrepreneurs

BY BRITTANY HUTSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Many graduating seniors hungrily aspire to move up the ranks and become successful in their careers, while others desire to take control of their careers and create their own businesses.

Senior entrepreneurs Kelley Williams, Augustus Ford and Tommy Taylor Jr. are examples of students who have taken control of their careers early on to create the businesses of their dreams.

Marketing major Kelley Williams is the co-founder of K&L Hit Productions, an event planning company that offers services to organizations, individuals and businesses. K&L Hit Productions was founded during the summer of 2005 in Chicago.

K&L Hit Productions specializes in conferences, seminars, meetings, fairs and parties. In addition, Williams and her business partner are developing a project called The Evanston Black Summit.

"This is what you would call

our baby," Williams said. "The summit is based on the idea that 'Strong Families Breed Strong Communities.' Therefore, the summit will be designed to take each family member and describe their role within the family."

Business administration graduate student, Tommy Taylor Jr. is the founder of The Tommy Taylor Show, an original comedy and variety show that includes a blend of sketches, live in-the-streets action, stand-up comedy, and celebrity interviews.

"With The Tommy Taylor Show, we wanted to produce high quality shows for the Washington metropolitan area," Taylor said. Thus far, the show has been a success for him, since it has recently nominated for a best show award by the DCTV Cable Station. Following graduation, Taylor plans to continue with the business.

"I want to pitch the show to major networks like BET, TV One, MTV and Comedy Central," he said. "I also plan to continue acting and performing stand-up."

Marketing major Augustus Ford, a.k.a. the "Shea Butter Boy," founded Clear-Shea in late August 2002 and has been serving the Howard University community and the Washington D.C. area over the past few years. His products are also available online at [www.Clear-Shea.com](http://www.Clear-Shea.com).

"Our goal at Clear-Shea is to provide the highest quality, hard to find, natural and cleansing Shea-Butter products in the most convenient and affordable way," Ford said. Clear-Shea specializes in products such as Nubian Heritage Shea-Butter soaps, lotions, body washes and body butters.

Ford said he has post graduation plans.

"I plan to grow the business to be a major competitor to Mary Kay, Avon and Warm Spirit," Ford said. "I plan to operate the business for the rest of my life, or to the point where I sell it or pass it down to my children."

For students who aspire to become entrepreneurs, Lisa Horton, associate director of ELI Institute, advised them to "seek faculty/staff members who possess

exceptional knowledge in their area of interest for consulting/mentoring or references."

Horton also advised entrepreneur students to "first seek out companies they are already engaged in business with" post graduation. Additionally, Horton said, "It is important that students quietly observe the business practices of their host companies and think of ways to innovate and improve their own companies."

For students who aspire to be entrepreneurs, these newly established business owners offered their words of advice.

"Begin to dream about what you want, then seek the help of the SBA, successful business owners, and websites like [www.SCORE.org](http://www.SCORE.org). Take a few courses in business and read books outside of school. Begin each day by praying and asking God for strength..." Ford said.

Williams also had optimistic views.

"Always remind yourself that anything is possible regardless of whatever you do. If you are considering being an entre-



Augustus Ford, founder of Clear-Shea, is one of the many graduating seniors who has already experienced success.

preneur, make sure you have entrepreneurial spirit within you because sometimes you might have to take on the role of five different employees at once."

Taylor suggested for students to stay focused on school-

work while pursuing dreams. "Get a good education because it will give you priceless skills, but then follow your dreams. Put God first in your life and follow his direction."



Mexican immigration remains a heated issue as workers have staged protests across major U.S. cities.

## Implications of Immigration

BY BRITTANY HUTSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Throughout the country cities have been flooded with Mexican flags and chants of "¡Si se puede!"

Approximately 1.1 million illegal immigrants have been united to rally, protest, and demand that Congress grant legalization to 12 million illegal immigrants.

Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, and New York were the major cities rallied by thousands of immigrants. Protestors intend to persuade Congress to abandon a bill passed last year that would incriminate illegal immigrants and increase security at the U.S.-Mexican border.

Area director of American Friends Service Committee, Peta Ikambana, explained that while not in support of the rally, he and the committee understand the rights that illegal immigrants are fighting for.

"Immigrants come illegally because there is no sufficient system allowing them to come legally. Obtaining a visa can take from two to five years," he said. "Those who choose to cross the border are thinking in terms of survival; they cannot wait five years to feed their families."

Hispanic immigrants boycotted their jobs to rally in cities across the country earlier this month. The initial purpose of the rally was to shut down the country, an idea that was organized several months ago by a small group of grass-roots immigration advocates. Miniature protests began originally in March.

However, during the protest the streets were filled with peace and solidarity as people of other ethnicities joined in support of the immigrants' cause.

The protest entitled "A Day without Immigrants," resulted in a few businesses around the country shutting down for the day, but employers were notified in advance by their workers of the pending boycott.

Major meat industries like Tyson Food Inc., Perdue Farms Inc., Cargill Inc., and Swift & Co. Construction took a hit. In California, the sectors that were hit the hardest were agriculture and ports.

Ikambana said, "Immigrants can be a positive contribution to the country economically and politically. They are active members when they are allowed to be a part of the system."

In opposition, Leah Durant, legal analyst for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, said illegal immigration is having a negative effect upon the economy. "We are seeing an undercutting in wages, particularly among the African-American community."

In reference to the black community, the issue of immigration has become controversial. According to Durant, a result of the massive influx of immigrants has been increased competition for employment with other minorities.

There is currently a stalled bill, favored by President Bush, which would provide illegal immigrants with a path toward citizenship through a guest worker program.

From a political standpoint, Durant believes that "there will be a falloff" as a result of the boycott.

"Americans feel that it is unfair for illegal immigrants to demand rights that even we may not be able to get," she said.

One can only guess how this will eventually play out.

## To Buy Or To Rent, That Is The Question

BY SESOO M. IGBAZUA  
Business & Technology Editor

The question of homeownership is big on the minds of Howard University students, especially with seniors graduating and entering "the real world."

After consulting with a variety of parties, the consensus seems to be in favor of buying as opposed to renting. This might represent a shift in the status quo since it is contrary

to previous statistics on homeownership.

As of 2005, Blacks/African-Americans had a homeownership percentage of about 43.2 percent compared to 75.8 percent for non-Hispanic Whites, 60 percent for Asian/Pacific Islanders and 49.5 percent for Hispanics.

Although home ownership percentages have been on a steady rise since the mid-nineties, the distribution has pretty much stayed static with African-Americans and Latinos maintaining the lowest percentages.

Dean Sirjue, the assistant dean for administration of Howard University School of Business is wholeheartedly for buying homes.

"Renting is like throwing money out the window. It is always better to buy," Sirjue said. "Students should really work towards building wealth through homeownership."

He also suggests that students take advantage of first-time buyer advantages offered by certain state and local governments.

According to some students, the problem with hom-

ownership arises from lack of information and resources. Many students desire home ownership but are oblivious to the opportunities.

Fortunately, there are



several opportunities like HomeFree USA. HomeFree USA is a Washington D.C. based non-profit homeownership and financial empowerment organization aimed at assisting women, minorities, and low-to-moderate income individuals and families with homeownership and personal finance.

Marcia Griffin, president of HomeFree USA, believes finding the right information about home ownership is easier than people think, especially for

graduating students.

"The advantages of homeownership should make it a priority for any student upon graduation," Griffin said. "Home owners get tax deductions and build equity to help finance other investments."

She also suggests that "the earlier you buy, the better off you are." Griffin advised students to get their credit reports checked and improved to at least a score of 620. Students should also get pre-approval from a lender before they look for homes. HomeFree USA offers free classes on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and more information is available on their website, [www.homefree-usa.org](http://www.homefree-usa.org).

For graduating senior finance major Nil Shilpi Quaynor, his mind is already made up.

"I'm buying a house with a few friends because New York City rent is extremely high and we couldn't ignore the opportunity to build equity and take advantage of the tax deductions," Quaynor said.



to previous statistics on home ownership.

According to the U.S. census bureau, as of 2005 a total of 68.9 percent of Americans owned homes. Statistics show, however, that race and ethnic-

## Napster Announces New Treats For Listeners

BY BRITTANY HUTSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Napster's revamped music website now allows limited free, on-demand access to more than a million songs.

Music fans are allowed to listen to any of the accessible songs five times each before they are required to buy a copy at 99 cents or subscribe to Napster's premium service for \$9.95 a month.

Fans will also have the choice of paying \$14.95 for tracks to be transferred onto a separate device, such as an MP3 player.

In addition, Napster will add two new services: Napsterlinks and Napsterlive.

Napsterlinks will allow users to attach song links to e-mails, instant message, blogs and websites.

Napsterlive will be a user-generated feature, which will include personal stories, photos, and other items contributed by listeners. Music history and material from music writers will also be offered through Napsterlive.

The newly revamped Napster, which will have a web-

"Why would I use Napster when I can get all of my music for free?"

- Ashley Ford, 09

based music platform, will require any downloading, and will be accessible with internet browser and Napster software. Explored and Napster will be replaced with fields limited to name, password and e-mail address. No credit card or other personal information is required.

For music downloading, Napster will split advertising revenue with them based on the number of times one of their artists' songs is played.

The new Napster was founded in 1999 by Shantanu Fanning, was the first online music-sharing service.

For music downloading, Napster will split advertising revenue with them based on the number of times one of their artists' songs is played.

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downloading services such as Limewire and Ares.

"I like Limewire because it's free and didn't cost me anything. It has always had the songs that I would look for," said Brandon Wilson, freshman systems computer science major. "I would consider using Napster. It is the biggest song browser that I know of and paying 99 cent for a song does not sound too bad to me. But I would not subscribe to it monthly."

Currently in the U.S. music downloading industry, Apple's iTunes is dominating 70% of the market, with Napster following behind, according to the NPD group.

With Napster currently being revamped, some students consider using it, while others contend that they would rather stick with downloading music for free.

"I would not use Napster because paying for music that is being shared seems ridiculous to me," Chail said.

Freshman biology major Ashley Ford agreed. "Why would I use Napster when I can get all of my music for free?"

# EDITORIALS & Perspectives

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C. TATE

## Breathe, Now Take Over the World

Graduation is much more than the opportunity for the newest recipients of a Howard degree to be able to officially buy a Howard Alumni license plate or other paraphernalia reserved for those who actually complete their program of study (Sorry, Diddy).

Today, the Class of 2006 closes a major chapter of their lives, and is finally forced to leave the 'real world.'

We at the Hilltop salute those who have reached this important milestone in your life. Now go out and make the Mecca proud!

If it's the Punch Out, the Booty Wall, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center or even the Yard, that draws thousands from across the world to attend this University. It is the rich legacy of this institution. And now, it is time for the Class of 2006 to no longer spot the history of Howard, but to make their own.

Yes, the pressure is on, but we don't expect graduates to reach the height of their success by sundown. Take your time. Relax on your parents' couch. But don't get too comfortable or take too long to let the world know you have arrived. We can imagine it gets frustrating for

we proudly toot the horn of our Hilltop staff graduates today who are going on to top papers, magazines, design schools and even claiming the title of a Fulbright scholar (Go Maxine!).

But to those who don't have it all figured out, we are just as proud, as today really is the first day of the rest of your life.

Today, the highest number of advanced degrees earned by people of color in the world will be celebrated on this campus, and that is something worth recognizing. To the Class of 2006, it is not goodbye, but just a 'see you later' as you will surely be at Homecoming, be invited back to speak and hopefully will be a supporter of the Campaign for Howard. So, enjoy this special time of your life. Party hard at Love tonight. Begin to make your own Howard history.

### Our View:

*Graduates, you don't need to have your whole life mapped out, but the time has arrived for you to start.*

everyone to keep asking that same question: "What are you going to do now?" But after four years of being surrounded by the best black America has to offer, we hope you have begun to think of an answer.

We are proud of the many students who know exactly what they are doing — some having secured post-graduation employment back in the fall, and

thing worth recognizing. To the Class of 2006, it is not goodbye, but just a 'see you later' as you will surely be at Homecoming, be invited back to speak and hopefully will be a supporter of the Campaign for Howard. So, enjoy this special time of your life. Party hard at Love tonight. Begin to make your own Howard history.

## Rally to Save Dafur

By Imani M. Cheers

Can I ask you a few questions? Did you know that in the largest country in Africa an estimated 400,000 innocent people have been slaughtered since February 2003? Over 2 million people displaced from their homeland? Daily, women and young girls are being violently raped, sexually assaulted and tortured? Did you know that these acts are being committed by a government-sponsored militia that is systematically destroying a group of people based on their ethnic and cultural identities? Have you ever heard of Dafur?

On Sunday, April 30, 2006, I was one of an estimated 50,000 people who rallied on the Washington Mall to show my support for the innocent civilians of Dafur in the Save Dafur Rally.

As a volunteer with the organizing committee, I was able to meet and talk with various supporters from all over the country. Families, youth groups, sororities, delegations from churches, synagogues and mosques came in constant droves.

I was thrilled to see the young and old faces that had traveled from all over the country also believe that the genocide needs to end. But

what I didn't see were the black and brown faces that feel as passionate about the crisis in Dafur as other people.

Now yes, I realize that race or ethnicity shouldn't matter when it comes to issues such as genocide but as I returned from New Orleans on an alternative spring break trip, it seems that the people who care enough to physically and financially sacrifice are not the people who are being helped. In laymen's terms, why don't black people actively mobilize and support issues affecting other black people?

In a brief survey of my African-American friends, family, colleagues and associates only 2 out of 5 even knew where Dafur was! And those were barely aware of the current genocide.

Is it selective ignorance? Why didn't I see any black church groups or Girl Scout troops? Most of my college age friends used homework and studying for finals as an excuse, but these were the same people who were at the club the night before until 4 a.m.

Courtland Milloy of the Washington Post was heavily criticized by Howard University students for remarks concerning the lack of activism on campus. Hundreds of people lined up outside of

Cramton Auditorium to see the Residence Life step show, barely 50 came to the Save Dafur Rally.

Where are the activists? Where is the generation that was born of Civil Rights Activists and Black Panthers? What happened to the activism in the 1980s that rallied around the "Free South Africa" campaign to end Apartheid?

Where is the mass mobilization of black people to put pressure on U.S. and South African government to release Nelson Mandela from prison? What cause will you take to the streets and participate in mass demonstration?

What issue in the world are you so passionate about that you will dedicate yourself to advocacy? Is genocide one of these concerns?

People of the African Diaspora are experiencing heinous crimes against humanity every day, at what point are you going to care? At some point we as black people are going to unite and use our creativity, perseverance, determination and ingenuity to successfully help one another.

I just pray... and in the words of Bob Marley, "How good and pleasant it would be, before God and man, to see the unification of all Africans."

Hopefully, I will live to see that day.

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The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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New in its 89th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 1,200, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed in the Editorial and Perspectives Pages are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

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

The Hilltop editorial office is located at 2222 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at [thehilltop@comcast.net](mailto:thehilltop@comcast.net) and by phone at (202) 995-6344. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at [thehilltopbusiness@comcast.net](mailto:thehilltopbusiness@comcast.net) and by phone at (202) 995-6344.

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Congrats to Terba, Naressa, Ravina and Amy XOXO, STAI

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Josh Congrats on the new position. You'll do great!!



**Commencement: A beginning or start.** Like many of my peers, this day scared me because I wasn't quite sure I was ready. However, this is only because I mistook the meaning of the word commencement. It is in fact a beginning, not an end. Thus, I am so grateful to reach this beginning, giving honor to God, the Clark family, the Gray family, and the Harnish family for their continued support. When asked my freshman year what happened in my life that brought me to Howard, I replied that my life started when I got here. I love you all!

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