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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 13

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

THURSDAY notebook

PAGEANT RESULTS

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES WINNERS

WILLIAM WHITE AND ALYSHA ENGLISH WERE CROWNED MR. AND MISS COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES YESTERDAY EVENING.

LIFE & STYLE

'VIVA, LAS VEGAS'

CHECK OUR PACKAGE FROM VEGAS, INCLUDING A COMMENTARY, GM'S YOUTH PUSH AND MORE IN LIFE & STYLE.

PAGE 8



THURS, 9/14:
RAIN
HIGH: 73, LOW: 64



FRI, 9/15:
PM SHOWERS
HIGH: 79, LOW: 66

Psi Chi Introduces Mentor-Mentee Program

BY BRITTANY HUDSON

Hilltop Staff Writer

On Wednesday evening, Psi Chi National Honor Society hosted a discussion forum in order to assist freshmen and sophomores inform about being psychology majors while enjoying their experience at Howard. The event included a panel discussion on "Things I Wish I Had Known", where upperclassmen psychology majors offered their advice about topics ranging from how to succeed academically to research.

"We want to people to know about Psi Chi and use us as a resource," explained Psi Chi President Amanda Clincy, Senior psychology major. "We want to share important things to know about being a psychology major, things many of us did not know when we started out."

The focus of the discussion was the psychology major mentor-mentee program, a new program devised this year by event chair Stephanie Hicks.

"I came up with the mentor-mentee program to give freshman the opportunity to be in touch with an upperclassmen psychology major for any questions they may have concerning things like teachers and classes," she said.

While in an intimate and welcoming setting, with a decent turnout of about twelve people, the upperclassmen shared their experiences and offered advice about classes, studying, extracurricular activities and future opportunities. The forum began

with the panel discussing how to succeed academically, where they emphasized going to class and utilizing time with professors. The panel also suggested utilizing study groups and to consider different places to study besides the undergraduate library, like the health science library or Hicks' personal favorite, Georgetown Mall.

"I know this may sound weird but I study at the Georgetown Mall," she said. "I like a little bit of noise when I study but it is quiet and pristine there."

The discussion continued with Psi Chi members offering their advice about how to graduate in four years and time management. The panel stressed to underclassmen the importance of getting divisional classes out of the way as soon as possible, knowing how to balance your priorities and avoiding any additional stress.

Panel members stressed the importance of research and gaining research experience prior to applying for graduate school.

"You have psychology majors who plan to go to grad school but have not had any research experience," Clincy said. "That hurts them when its time to apply to grad school because admissions are looking for people who have had the experience that is needed to successfully complete graduate study."

Underclassmen who attended the forum expressed their satisfaction with the discussion and are relieved that there are upperclassmen willing to assist them. Many came to the forum interested in

seeking out a mentor.

"I would like to hook up with a mentor since they have been through the whole process and offer advice about opportunities," said a sophomore psychology major Ameena Sweeting. "The mentors were helpful concerning internships and seemed trustworthy."

"This has been the best experience as far as mentoring," agreed a freshman psychology major Anesha Blakey. "Being a freshman, it seems like people are not willing to assist us wholeheartedly, but I'm looking forward to working with someone who cares."

Although the forum was directed to underclassmen, upperclassmen such as a junior psychology major Wardell Johnson reaped benefits from attending the event. "I came to seek knowledge about psychology resources and research; I think the mentor-mentee program will be good for the underclassmen."

For those who were unable to attend the event, Hicks encourages any interested seniors and juniors to apply as mentors and interested freshmen and sophomores to apply as mentees. To apply, send your name, classification, major, hometown, email and phone number to Stephanie Hicks at psichimentoring@gmail.com.

Any psychology major interested in becoming a part of Psi Chi National Honor Society should have 15 credit hours and a GPA of 3.5 in psychology courses with an overall cumulative GPA of 3.4.



Tyrone Clemmons - Contributing Photographer

Psi Chi members gather together with underclassmen to discuss the different aspects of being a successful student

Howard University Law School Graduates Dominate Elections

BY AYESHA RASCOE

Editor-in-Chief

The winners and losers in this week's local primary elections may come from diverse backgrounds, but several of the candidates share one common characteristic: they are Howard law school graduates.

Adrian Fenty, who won the District of Columbia Democratic mayoral primary; Isiah "Ike" Leggett, who won the Montgomery County Democratic chief executive primary; and Jack B. Johnson, who won the Prince George's County Democratic chief executive primary, are all products of Howard's School of Law. The person who Johnson defeated, Rushern L. Baker III, also went to Howard law school. Leggett, who graduated from the law school at the top of his class in 1974, is also currently a professor at the school.

Dean of the School of Law Kurt L. Schmoke said it is no accident that Howard law school graduates figured so prominently in Tuesday's elections.

"We try to continue a tradition of producing lawyers who are social engineers," Schmoke said.

He said the idea of lawyers as social engineers originated with Howard law school's former dean, Charles Hamilton Houston. Houston, famous for crusading against school segregation during the Civil Rights movement, said that lawyers can either be parasites on society or they can be social engineers, people that work to better their communities. Following Houston's creed Howard law school graduates, such as Thurgood Marshall, have strived to right legal injustices around the world.

"We've got a great tradition growing out of what Howard law students did dur-



File Photo

Jack B. Johnson, a Howard Law graduate, won the Prince Georges County chief executive Democratic primary.

ing the Civil Rights movement," Schmoke said. "We emphasize in all of our work that [our students] should build upon that tradition and not rest on it."

That is one reason why Schmoke said he is so pleased with the recent elections. The success of Howard alumni in the primary elections shows that Howard continues to produce leaders in the 21st century, Schmoke said.

He said that he hopes that if they are elected to their respective offices, that Fenty, Leggett, and Johnson will try to interact with Howard students during their terms.

Most importantly Schmoke said he wants the candidates "to take the spirit of Howard University and create programs that will improve the quality of life for people in their communities."

Jeremy Broussard, a third year Howard law student, said he believes the success of Howard graduates in these

local elections is indicative of the work Howard law school alumni are doing all over the country. He credited the law school's rigorous curriculum and abundance of professional opportunities with Howard's dominance in the elections. Part of the reason Broussard chose to go Howard to earn his law degree is because he said at the Howard law school there is no caste system and all students are encouraged to excel. He said the opportunity to develop personally, professionally, and academically is unique to the Howard law experience.

"You are told from day one that you are here to serve," Broussard said.

He said watching the elections unfold has provided him with additional inspiration.

"It makes me realize that not only is [success] possible, but it's very likely," Broussard said.

Kerry to Visit Howard Today



Photo Courtesy of taxproof.typepad.com

Former presidential candidate John Kerry is scheduled to visit Howard University today. He will discuss his views on how to provide real security for all Americans. The event is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. It is open to all Howard students and will take place in the Blackburn Ballroom.

The Bookoo Aims to Help Students' Book Hustle

BY ANGELICA ADAMS
Contributing Writer

The first few weeks of the semester, book flyers are frequent as Howard students look to sell their old books to make money and others look for the best bargain on required texts.

Entrepreneur Patrick Jackson, a senior in computer sciences, has made this book bargain shopping a little easier for college students with www.thebookoo.com — a website for DC Metropolitan area college students to buy, sell and trade textbooks within their university network.

"I started [the bookoo], that is www.thebookoo.com, for students to be able to buy or trade their books for a fraction of the price," Jackson said.

Students can also buy, sell and trade apartments, automobiles, clothes, computers, electronics, roommates and shoes on the bookoo.

The website has been available to students for over two weeks now, and how do students feel about the new site?

"I would use [the bookoo] to buy my books," says Julian Johnson, a political science major. "I bought my art book off of Ebay for a dollar; therefore, [the bookoo] seems like a good place for me to buy my books."

The Bookoo, in essence, takes the flyers that cover the walls of buildings and lampposts on the Yard and puts them online. Some students find the flyers to be easier.

"Right when I walked out of my Freshman Composition class there was a flyer on the wall selling the book for the class for five dollars," said freshman Marcus Williams, an undecided major.

With the website being new to the scene, students are still using methods of getting their books that have been used before. Some have found Amazon.com and other online bookstores to be the best option.

Antonio Kizzie, a junior legal communications major said, "One of the best options is to buy books off Amazon.com because they are cheaper than buying the book at the original price."

Krystina White, a legal

communications sophomore, bought her books on Amazon.com for not only the cost, but the time it takes to receive shipping for all of her major courses.

"I received my books for three dollars in three days," she said with laughter because the retail price of her Intro to Communications book cost is \$70.

Still, buying books in the bookstore is the only option for some students. Tanaysha Deloach, a freshman psychology major, said she has a loan and scholarships that allow her a book voucher to cover the expense, but she said it is not as ideal as it seems.

"Those students who have cash up front have it a lot easier," she said. "Unlike those with vouchers, they can choose to buy a used book from another student for a lot cheaper than the used books at the bookstore."

Which ever way students obtain their books, it is important they do obtain them, said Professor Dr. Elaine Heath in the School of Communications.

"It is important for stu-



College students try to search for textbooks at the best prices. Recently, the bookoo.com, has brought flyers to students see all over campus to one central online spot.

dents to read and keep their textbooks," says Dr. Heath. "If you don't read, you cannot form opinions and dis-

cussions for the classroom. The future of a student relies on his or her critical thinking and a connection for life

as they go on to graduate school and beyond.

THE SPOTLIGHT

Employee: Laverne Freeman



BY ANYA L. ALEXANDER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Every so often, you run across people who can brighten your day with a warm smile or just a simple hello.

And for most Howard students who have visited the Office of Student Activities, they have experienced this pleasant feeling from the office secretary Laverne Freeman.

"There is nobody on this campus like her," said senior history major Kristen Taylor. "It is like she comes from a different world."

From Taylor's experience, Freeman has always been kind and genuine and has made it a point to help her with whatever she had a problem with, which is something that is valued among Howard students.

Kindness and patience is definitely Freeman's strong suits as she is kept busy responding to the needs and requests of students and faculty everyday.

Whether it is collect-

ing documentation, filing paperwork, giving directions or answering the phone, Laverne Freeman is known to get the job done with a smile and a pleasant attitude.

Though she describes herself as "just a Secretary", Freeman's service to Howard University for over 31 years in the Office of Student Activities has spoken to her belief of God's divine purpose for her life.

Shortly after Freeman accepted her position at Howard in 1975, she had another job opportunity at Voice for America, which would pay her more money.

"A burden in the hand is worth two in the bush," said Freeman as she confessed to having no regrets for staying at the Mecca. She feels that she was placed here for a reason and is proud to say that she is happy and pleased with God's will.

"Seeing students who are inspired to learn is what motivates me," she said. Freeman believes that if it were not for the students,

she would have no job or reason to be here.

"I love Mrs. Freeman," said Shewana Skinner, a second year law student. "She is a wonderful person to work with." Skinner is new to the office and serves as the Howard University Graduate Student Assembly financial advisor. She said her transition into the office was made smooth by the help of Freeman.

Working in any administrative office can be difficult at times, but as some students have mentioned, Freeman is consistently kind, warm, and welcoming.

"Attitudes have walked in the office because they were frustrated with one thing or another, but those students are guaranteed to walk out with a different attitude," Freeman said. "I don't have attitude, therefore I will give them a big hug if I have to."

Freeman said that her experience in the office has also helped her to grow as a person.

Fueled by her love of young people, outside of the office, Freeman is a Sunday school teacher at Friendship Baptist Church in Southwest, D.C. Just as she enjoys interacting with Howard students, Freeman finds pleasure in influencing the lives of children as she also takes much pride in being a great-grandmother.

At 4:00 a.m. she begins her day with a prayer and a call to her son and grandchildren to tell them "I love you" and "Be good in school."

Then she prepares to come to Howard University and upon her arrival, with that big smile and sweet voice she says, "Good morning, the Office of Student Activities...can I help you." And the day goes on... "I just love it."

Student: Matthew S. Manning

BY MELISSA L. TYLER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Matthew S. Manning is an example of a male Howard student on the path destined for greatness. Manning is an involved student with a love and passion for music that is working towards achieving the betterment of his people and community.

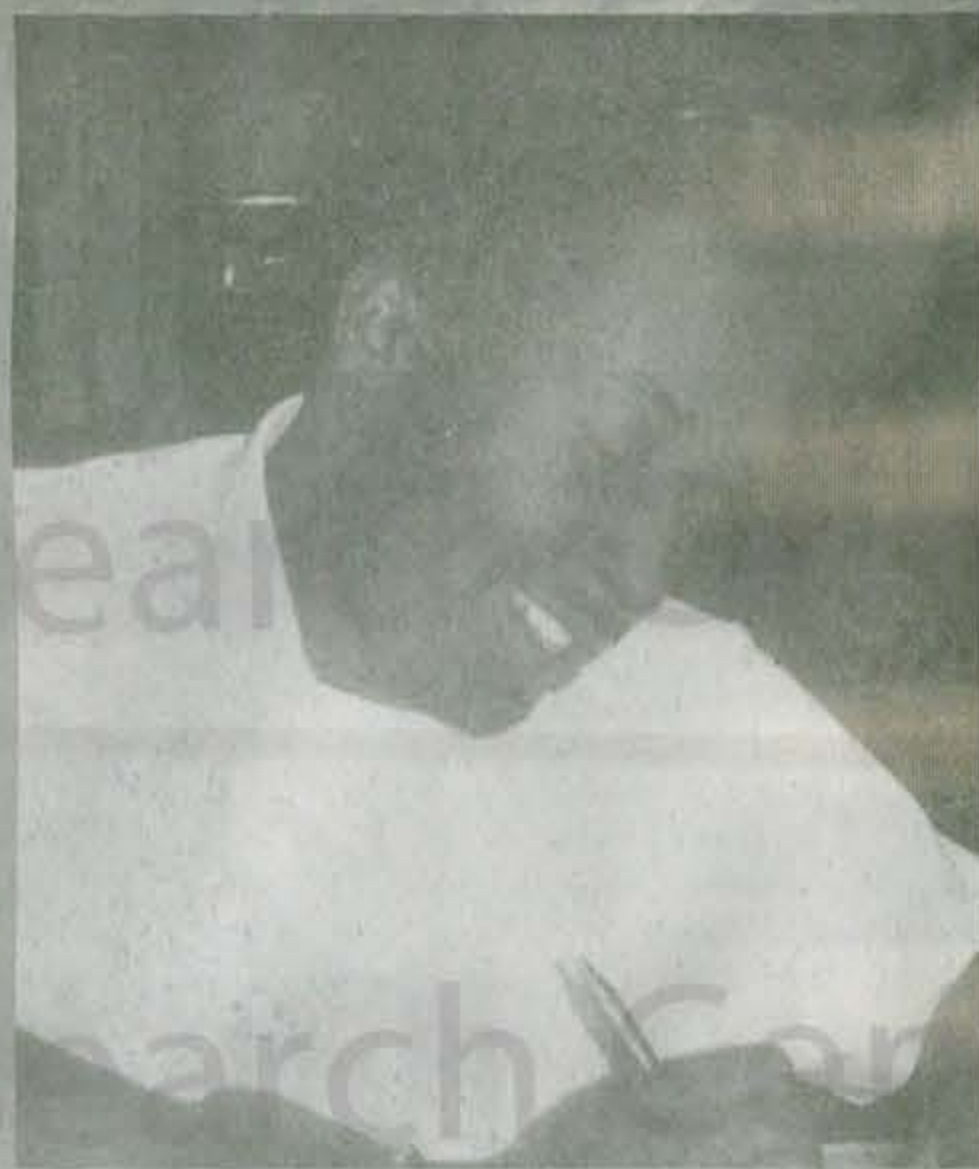
Manning, a junior political science major and economic minor, is all about entrepreneurship. He is on the right track to achieving his goals of owning his own law firm or investment banking firm by working with fellow entrepreneurs at Howard through UGBK Design.

UGBK Design is the company that recently provided graphic designing for Undergraduate Trustee Jabari Smith and Phi Sigma Pi rush flyers. The company, composed of Howard entrepreneurs like Manning, also designed websites for the School of Business, College of Arts and Sciences and School of Communications. Manning solicits new business, while maintaining a strong relationship between old clients.

Manning also is a member of a band entitled AB & The Souljourners, which is comprised of six people who, all at some point, attended Howard. Manning, who joined the group in November 2005, plays the lead keyboard and rhythm guitar for the band. The band is known for producing a soul and funk sound, but also plays a little bit of R&B.

"The easiest way for me to articulate and show how I feel inside is through music," Manning said.

Manning has had a passion for music since age four, when he first learned to play the piano. As he grew older he continued to master instruments includ-



ing the recorder, trumpet, guitar and bass. Manning hopes to soon learn how to play woodwind instruments like the clarinet and flute.

Rehearsing with the band four to five days out of the week does not steer Manning away from being involved in other activities and organizations that provide him with opportunities to learn and grow. He is actively involved with the Howard University Student Association through the student organization department.

Manning is also a member of Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity since the spring academic semester. Manning enjoys that he can provide music for a lot of Howard events through the organization. The organization also host several open mic sessions and talent showcases in the D.C. and Howard community.

"To me, music is the most natural form of expression," Manning said.

The fraternity's mission to foster growth and change the society through music especially American

music coincides with Mannings' objectives and goals. Manning is glad that he is able to share his love for music through his fraternity and band without having to be in the Howard Showtime Marching band, which would put a restraint on his involvement with the fraternity, his band and HUSA.

Post graduation, Manning plans to attend law school, where he hopes to receive his JD and MBA. Aside from starting his own business, Manning has additional goals of serving as an elective official and eventually becoming President of the United States of America.

The advice that Manning wished someone would have given him prior to attending Howard is that the possibilities are endless while in college.

"We have the ability to be adults, while being college students, meaning we have room to continuously grow as humans and professionally," he said.

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Degrees of Separation in the Area

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG
Hilltop Staff Writer

It has been said that from the outside looking in, you can't understand the Howard experience; and from the inside looking out, you can't explain it.

It may certainly be hard to understand why girls can be seen walking uphill in six-inch stilettos in the winter, or why the library is called Club UGL, but people from the District of Columbia metro area have formed their own opinions of the students.

"Hampton and Howard

are on the same level where they're seen as African Americans that are better than others: bourgeois," District resident L. Robinson said.

"But it's not like someone from Norfolk couldn't achieve as much as someone from Howard."

Local performers also have condemning judgments of Howard students.

"It seems like they have their own groups and there's not much interaction with others outside the group. It's more like a clique," Music artist and

poet Shea Butterfly said.

Many times the negativity felt by people from around the area is manifested in acts of crime.

"I've heard that locals get tired of Howard students thinking they can roam around like they own the place and not think that they'll get robbed or something will happen to them, like D.C. is safe," junior history major Jarreau Moulden said.

But not all District residents have a negative view of Howard students.

Andrea Cooper Brown,

who lives just a few streets away from Meridian, has no problem with students from Howard.

"[They're] good students, hard workers; I think they're great," she said.

"They just pass through. Some of them speak, some don't."

Shirley Short interacts with Howard students everyday as she checks student IDs in the East Towers.

"On the East, it's nice people...I have fun with them," she said.

Howard students come

from all walks of life, all sides of the country and from different parts of the world. While some may give off airs of superiority, others can be the nicest people that you could meet.

Miscommunications, negative situations or acts of violence can be avoided with simple precautionary rules. Howard students must always remember to be aware of their surroundings and learn to respect people from around the District.

Metro Monitor



Photo Courtesy of www.metroweekly.com

Fenty Triumphs

Adrian Fenty won the Democratic primary Tuesday, beating Linda Cropp by 26,000 votes. He will most likely go on to become the District's youngest mayor in November. The new energy he is expected to bring to the city has been compared to former Mayor Marion Barry's first term in 1978.

Lawsuit Dismissed

A Prince William County judge dismissed a lawsuit from a 31-year-old Virginia man who wanted to block public disclosure of his incestual relationship with his sister 13 years ago. The judge is requiring that he submit his information to Virginia's sex offender registry, although he is a non-violent offender who has complied with the terms of his original sentence.



Photo Courtesy of www.maroon.uchicago.edu

Mfume Defeated In Primary

Tuesday former NAACP president Kwesi Mfume, lost the Democratic nomination for Maryland senate to Benjamin Cardin. As of 9 a.m. Wednesday morning, 93.3 percent of precincts reported that Cardin had 45.8 percent of the vote and Mfume with 37.7 percent. Cardin will go on to face Lt. Gov. Michael Steele in November.

Buses Collided

Two buses, the S1 and S2, collided on 16th street early Wednesday morning, causing at least 10 people to be hospitalized. The collision occurred when a car allegedly ran a red light at 16th and Irving streets in Northwest around 6:45 a.m. The first bus had to slam on the brakes and the second bus couldn't stop in time.

Passenger Taken Into Custody

An unruly airline passenger was subdued and taken into custody Tuesday night on a flight from Los Angeles destined for Dulles International Airport. Authorities say the incident is not terrorism related.

Compiled By Janelle Jolley,
Metro Editor

Housing Market Stabilized And Thriving

BY JASMIN MELVIN
Contributing Writer

When coming to the District of Columbia, one expects to see museums, monuments and historic sites. But Valerie Hunter, a freshman print journalism major, found herself seeing a lot of construction as well.

New housing developments, peppered throughout the district, are popping up at an accelerated rate to keep up with buyer demand.

Howard students do not have to travel far to see evidence of such activity, as a new condominium was recently built behind Howard Plaza Towers, and construction on yet another housing development wages on directly across the street from the new unit.

Home building reached a 40-year high in 2005 as building permits were issued for the construction of 2,860 new housing units. With 1,327 building permits issued in the first three months of 2006 alone, there seems to be no plan in sight to slow down construction efforts.

The recent boom in development was prompted, in part, by high demand. In past years, the housing market in Washington, D.C. took

off.

Ed Wood, an associate broker with City Houses Real Estate, recollected houses being sold less than a week after going on the market. Wood has eight years of experience in the real estate industry and explained that such quick turnarounds are "really a much more unusual situation."

Although the market is active this year, it has stabilized from the skyrocketing path it took in past years. Houses are generally staying on the market for one to two months, according to Wood, which is more in tune with the normal market.

The dramatic increase in housing units has created a housing market in the district with more sellers than buyers.

"Now, buyers are more in the driver's seat," Wood said. "There's generally only one offer on a property and the sellers are more willing to make a deal that's more attractive to the buyer."

Wood noted that buyers are once again asking for home inspections before taking a property, "whereas buyers were willing to take property in 'as is' condition in previous years."

Despite the perks the

market now has in place for buyers, some future homeowners are still skeptical of investing in property in the district.

"Staying here over the summer made me reconsider the possibility of living in D.C. after graduation," said junior Alexis Taylor. "However, upon picking up a few real estate guides, I was kind of shocked at how much condos cost and as a TV production major, I know that my salary is probably not going to be super high right out of college."

Despite the high prices associated with home ownership in the district, many young professionals are opting to settle down in the area, as Wood has seen.

"Most of my clients are younger, say in their 20s to maybe mid-30s," he said.

Jerome Woods, a junior film major said, "I would consider buying a house in D.C. because the housing market has a lot of potential right now. Property value in the area is likely to increase dramatically within the next five to ten years."

Jay Feldman, a manager with Coldwell Banker Residential, advised college students interested in future home ownership to protect



Photo courtesy of Jessica Detiege

Above, one of the many houses for sale in the LeDroit Park area near Carver and Slowe Halls.

their credit rating.

"Credit rating is more valuable than a person's reputation...So you have to protect it because that's going to help you get the best affordable loan when it's time to buy something."

Feldman added that young first time home buyers should "buy more home than you can afford right now." He explained, "You'll grow into the payments, and you'll probably be more satisfied with what you have."

Malcolm Carter, a part-

ner with Long & Foster Realtors, said the most important thing for college students to do to get on the path to future home ownership is to save money.

"The next thing they need to do is talk to a lender and find out what capacity they have to borrow and what loan packages might be appropriate for them," Carter said.

He also advised prospective buyers to "spend a little time learning the market by going to open houses and reading newspaper listings."

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Sometimes It Be's Like That

*The Unfortunate
Truths of
Interpersonal
Relationships*



BY AMBER ENGLISH
Nation & World Editor

Maybe I should just start out by applauding the men here, you know, preemptively smooth some feathers. The real men. The honest men. The men who practice simple acts of chivalry. Keep doing you.

...And then there are the boys. Boys are fickle. Boys are greedy. Boys lie, and triflin' boys get caught up in them. Boys even like to talk about what it is to be a 'good man'. Unfortunately that's all they do: talk.

Do boys just not understand? Or is it just more convenient to be a boy?

I'd like to give them the benefit of the doubt in certain situations. Perhaps they don't know how to deal with the hoards of men accosting the young lady they're walking with. I suppose it could be a tricky situation, one never knows who has a gun these days.

Other times, I simply cannot in good conscience offer any iota of benefit. No, you don't need an example here. Those situations where one is left with nothing to do but sigh, and utter, "Just like a..."

But anyway, let's go with the lack of understanding argument. If that's the case, why don't these boys just say so? That's what real men do. Admitting the problem is always the first step. Wait, I forgot, boys have fragile egos. Acknowledging error is so out of the question. Well in that case, there are strong men all around, so stop, look, listen, then emulate.

By now I bet you're thinking A) she just put all her business in the paper B) she's one bitter black woman...or C) some combination of the two. I'll have you know that the answer is in fact, D) None of the above. After three years here, it's time to call 'em like I see 'em.

But I'm all about presenting problems AND solutions...

Here's my charge to the ladies: it's time to make them do right. Give the boys an ultimatum: shape up...or shape up. Keep in mind, actions speak louder than words. Hate to say it, but you can't ask to be treated like a lady while displaying behaviors that scream otherwise.

Maybe it's your best friend, or maybe it's just an acquaintance from class; either way if the opportunity to politely say "step your game up" presents itself...by all means, take it. Help the boy out, perhaps he just doesn't know. Same advice goes to all the men out there. Be your brother's keeper.

I, for one, would greatly appreciate it.

I honestly thought that by this point, they'd be ready to shed the boyish ways. I stand corrected. Being a man must be difficult, unappealing, or something else that makes the boys resist that collegiate growth. Oh well. Sometimes it be's like that.

Did I hit too close to home? Or maybe you agree. Either way, feel free to tell me how you feel by sending an e-mail to SIBLT2006@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Chillin' With The Hilltop



Bryan Jones - Asst. Photo Editor

Lobby Monitor Natalya Brodick, a senior administration of justice major, enjoys a copy of *The Hilltop* while checking students' I.D.s at the front desk of The Howard Plaza Towers.

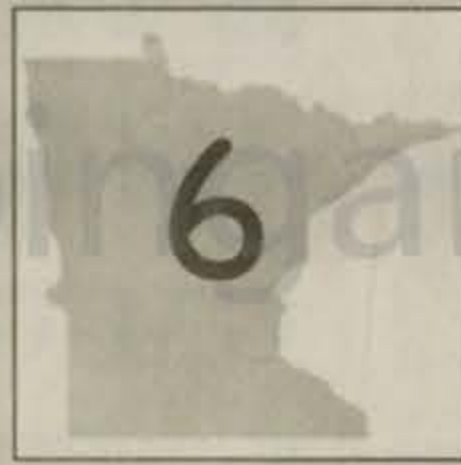
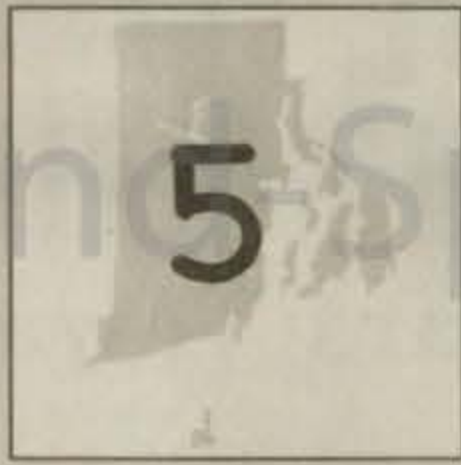
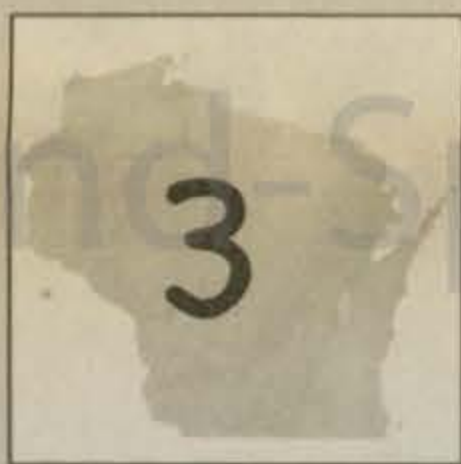
THE HILLTOPIC VAULT

*We at The Hilltop have long enjoyed looking back at the archived issues in the office. Here, we've decided to let you all peek into the past:
January 24, 1986.*

TO MINNIE AND THE PLAYGIRL QUEEN: LOOKS LIKE YOU ALL ARE GETTING OLDER, SO FORGET THE BMW AND THE PAISLEY PARK. HOW ABOUT A WHOPPER JUNIOR W/ CHEESE AND A PIECE OF CURRY CHICKEN INSTEAD!?!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
LOVE, NIECY, RAPID EYE MOVEMENT, AND OF COURSE, LA GRANDE DIVA!
(JAN. 24, 1986)

Test Yourself

Knowledge is power, so we at The Hilltop decided to test your knowledge. We'll be posing questions and providing you with activities to sharpen your skills or build your knowledge.



Answers: 1) New Hampshire 2) Vermont
3) Wisconsin 4) New York
5) Rhode Island 6) Minnesota

Overheard @ The Mecca

Title
The Hilltop Office

A: There are no labels on these states. How are people supposed to know which is which?
B: What?!? You don't know your states? That's Maine...
A: That's New York.
C: That's definitely New York.
B: But she said "States."
C: New York is a state.
A: Oh... I'm just gonna walk away, now.

Cornel vs. Kanye
The School of Communication

Guy: I've interviewed a lot of people. Jesse Jackson, Ben Cardin... what's that guy at Harvard named?
Girl: uhhh Cornel West?
Guy: yeah, I was gonna say Kanye
Girl 2: same thing

Check out more at Overheardatthemecca.blogspot.com and submit to Overhearatthemecca@gmail.com

Six Degrees of Separation

*Can you figure out a path that connects these two individuals with 6 stops along the way?
Send in the sets you come up with and share your ideas.*



Michael Jackson

=> => => => => =>



Pee Wee Herman

Please send any responses to *Meccanisms*, including 'Sometimes It Be's Like That' topics, things you've overheard @ The Mecca, things to test ourselves on or 'Six Degrees of Separation' sets to hilltopjana@gmail.com

Vroom, Vroom!



Photo Courtesy of General Motors

XM Satellite Radio's Hot Import Nights, Nightshift brought out all kinds of car enthusiasts. Some displayed their machines (above). Others, like Andy Williamson, founder of C-16 Autostyle, displayed their minds (below).



Photo Courtesy of General Motors

The Drive, an automotive performance park, goes by the motto "Take the Wheel. Feel The Rush." They offer customers the chance to test drive vehicles, like the Chevrolet HHR (above) or the Hummer H3 (below).



Car Customization Revs Up With Growing Popularity

BY JANA HOMES
Managing Editor

Have you ever seen a Chevy with the butterfly doors?

Maybe not, but chances are you've seen a car with a little more than stock parts under its hood.

Car customization is among the most rapidly growing American consumer trends. According to statistics released by General Motors, 75 percent of GM and non-GM owners have reported that they have purchased non-factory accessories or plan to. Manufacturers have taken notice and now offer models with more compatible accessories, or market options.

"This market is so gigantic that this doesn't even scratch the surface," said Andy Williamson, of "Nightshift," the XM Satellite Radio's Hot Import Nights (HIN) custom car, which was held on Saturday, Sept. 9 in Las Vegas.

Williamson is the founder of C-16 Autostyle, a magazine that caters to car enthusiasts. After selling his publication, he still maintains his status as one of the driving forces behind the ever shifting face of the automotive industry.

"If you look around, you see the eclectic people and

get a glimpse of the diversity of the people involved," Williamson said, highlighting the range of people interested in the customization market.

The industry, termed the 'tuner market' after the individuals who personally tune up their vehicles, has spawned various off-shots in other areas. In addition to C-16 Autostyle, there are other publications. King, another magazine that caters to young people, developed Rides, which will celebrate its third anniversary this year. These lesser known publications, and others like Max Power and Super Street, join more established names like Motor Trend and Autoweek.

The media isn't the only group attempting to capitalize on the auto market. The logos of customization houses, like West Coast Choppers, can be seen on t-shirts and jeans, as well as bimmers.

"It's not something they do on the side. This is the lifestyle," said Williamson, in explanation of the blooming related auto companies. "It's what they live. It's what they breathe. It reflects in the clothes they wear. It reflects in the websites they go to."

Those involved in the tuner market are faithful to enhancing their vehicles, as each update makes updates to other parts of the vehicle necessary.

Those who choose to participate don't seem to mind much. Some are happy to do it and enjoy the responses customizing elicits.

"I just like to show it off for shows like this. Just take it out and show it around," said car owner Mike Cisneros, of Las Vegas, who was present at the Nightshift event. His 2003 Jaguar S Type is decked out with Lamborghini style butterfly doors, Gucci print upholstery from the console to the trunk, where it swaddles a Dell television monitor. Cisneros reports this as his favorite feature of the car, because of the reactions he gets when he pops the trunk and the monitor pops up.

"I like the 20-inch plasma because when everyone sees it, they're like 'Whoa! What the heck?'" Cisneros said.

But not everyone sees the point of making additions to the stock features that they pay for in the sticker price.

"The purpose of my car is to get me from here to there, and I don't see it as a symbol of my status," said senior psychology and mathematics major Katie Chipungu.

Other factors contribute to Chipungu's no frills attitude about her transportation. The car customization industry may be a costly one, with consumers paying the price of quality.

"When it's all said and done, people can spend \$50,000 to \$100,000 easy," Williamson said.

GM reported that, of the GM and non-GM customers surveyed, people spent an average of \$1,050 per vehicle for their accessories and plan to spend more on the next.

Chipungu, like many students, has to keep an eye on her money and doesn't feel that the add-ons to her car would be worth it.

"I'm in college. I don't have a job. That stuff is expensive. And I need food. I don't have money to do that stuff to my car," Chipungu said.

But regardless of what some think, the tuner market is expanding and doesn't show any signs of slowing down.



Photo Courtesy of General Motors

General Motors hosted its first College Journalist Event on Saturday, Sept. 9, in Las Vegas. The Howard University Hilltop was among the publications invited.

GM Gears Towards Youth

BY JANA HOMES
Managing Editor

Commentary

The youth market has long been looked at as a sales paradise. They have fewer fiscal trappings than adulthood, and some companies are taking notice.

Among them is General Motors, which has developed a few vehicles to appeal to their sensibilities. In addition to these cars, they recently sponsored their first College Journalist Event, which I attended this past weekend.

Las Vegas was the site of the gathering, with two unbeatable events in the area. The first portion of the trip was conducted at "The Drive," and automotive performance park. The attraction, which will only be open until November and has not yet confirmed opening at any other location, was laid out with two courses for visitors test-driving enjoyment.

Each driver was supervised by a guide with the staff being comprised of professionals from various fields. Most of the staff was made up of professional drivers, including a supervisor who raced Porches. There was a performance course, with more than a few flashy cars to whip around in, and an off-road course with a number of luxury beasts to test

the terrain with.

While the Pontiac Solstice and the Cadillac STS were fun to zip around in, the highlight of the park was the off-road course and the Hummer products. Picture a foot high curb, followed by pavement that seems racked by an earthquake, a cavern wall, and a small mountain. Now, picture attempting to drive over it in a car.

At one point, the instructor actually said, "Don't be alarmed if you can't see the road. That's why we put the cacti there."

The car was at such an extreme angle, that had the window been down, I could have reached out and touched the pavement beside the mound.

And when we approached the mountain, I thought surely I would meet my maker. But the H3 and the H2 pick-up both took the mountain like a molehill. The experience mimicked that of an amusement parkgoer on a roller coaster. No ground... just sky. And a whole 'lotta uncertainty.

Once we came to a stop at the top, I thought the terror was over. The whole "What goes up must come down" idea didn't occur to me until we approached the downward incline. The trip down was so much more nerve-wracking and so much more amazing. The degree of that angle felt like

it was approaching 90 mph. The view of all sky from the windshield was replaced by the concrete that I felt certain I was about to slam into at any moment.

But we made it down and back to the lot. And as skeptical as I was before hopping in, I was equally convinced after hopping out. And while there's no real need for these capabilities in an urban setting, it sure would be reassuring to know they're there. Who knows when an entire forest could be the obstacle standing between you and the nearest Starbucks.

Of course, Hummer isn't the only brand under the major sales umbrella. GM has a whole host of other vehicles.

There newest additions are impressive to those who use their car for transportation or recreation. The Chevy HHR is a minivan morphed into a sedan. It's like a updated station wagon with its huge trunk space, but normal seating area. It can move your dorm room furnishings or your surfboard (should you be into that and have somewhere to actually surf).

And for those who don't like the bulky look, the Ave has been labeled the it car for "youthful refinement." It's as streamlined and spiffy as their Cobalt, which is breaking and making records in the drag racing world.



Photo Courtesy of General Motors

Custom car shows, like XM Satellite's Nightshift, are a popular way for people to trade customization secrets.

EDITORIALS & Perspectives

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'Survivor' Playing The Race Card

'Survivor's new season that kicks off tonight will be like no other as teams are split-up by race. Though the separation of contenders by their ethnic background is disturbing upon first glance, the 13th season of the show has solved one problem: more diversity on a show that needed it badly.

In our current society where political correctness is key, a show that separates contestants solely by race does not fit. But in reality we subconsciously root for the game show contestant who usually has the most in common with us and for many of us that boils down to race.

Admit it. We all hope the black person on 'Fear Factor' takes the money - and cross our fingers there is no water involved.

So 'Survivor's new race season confronts those feelings many of us harbor anyway and addresses the fact that there are some fundamental differences in races - but there

are even more commonalities making the teams even and the contest anybody's game.

The separation by races is only the way the game begins and as players advance and are eliminated the races slowly merge.

Though the division is

Our View:

Though the new 'Survivor' treads a very thin line, they have increased diversity on the show tremendously.

great for increasing the number of minorities on the show, it could also lead to unnecessary tension and we hope the race divisions won't lead to racial slurs being used in the already tense competition.

Many critics also argue that using race begins a slippery slope of acceptable social groups leaving some asking what's next: Jews vs. Christian? pro-life vs. pro choice?

We at the Hilltop don't think will get that bad, but

realize that we must all pay attention to the ways society places us all into categories.

Using race as a divider is not a new concept. Donald Trump thought of splitting up contenders on 'The Apprentice' by race but after protest backed away from the idea, which we were glad to hear. We hope other shows don't look to race as a way to exploit racial tensions, but are glad to see the conversations that have sprung from 'Survivor's new twist.

From boxing to politics, Black people have always looked to black contenders to not only represent themselves, but the race.

And until we have greater inclusion in mainstream entertainment, those in the public eye need to realize they have a lot of people depending on them. We hope the black team kicks butt tonight!

Perspective: Setting the Record Straight

Alright, I've been at Howard for three weeks now and I'm already starting to see a trend develop that quite frankly is pissing me off.

This is the bad reputation of Drew Hall. I, myself, am a fourth floor resident of Drew and an entering freshman (of course). From what I've established so far, our reputation was shot down before we even had a chance to prove ourselves.

My closest female friend refuses to even come near Drew for fear of being called a "Drew Rat." Even after convincing her that anybody who even halfway thinks of her as a "Drew Rat" isn't worth being cool with anyway, she still won't come near the building.

This is ridiculous. Everywhere I go I hear of girls going to visit Carver, and to be honest, they are worse than us. This reputation needs to stop immediately.

Ladies, if you can't find a good man at Drew, where can you find one? Most of the males here were in the top 10 percent of their class in high school.

They are already doing better than most people their age by simply being in college right now. They know for the most part what they're doing with their lives. What more can you ask for?

I've been told by many females that I'm the "exception of Drew" and that still isn't good enough. I don't want any of my

brothers to have a bad name. Just because there's a few idiots in the building doesn't make everyone tainted.

Just the other day in our mandatory meeting, one of our RA's told us that some dude threw crackers out the top floor window at some females in the courtyard and screamed out, "Feed the Drew Rats!" About 99 percent of the dudes in that room were ready to toss the dude who did it out that same window if we ever found out who it was.

Drew is full of good men. Some of you ladies have already realized that. To the rest of you close-minded people, grow the hell up...

Jarett Payne, class of 2010

Daily SuDoku

Directons: Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

3		5		8		6	2	
			3	2	1		4	9
5	2	9	8			4		
		7			3	1	9	2
2	5		4	6	9			
	6	4		7		2		5

Do you want to write for the HILLTOP?

Come to our budget meeting

Tuesday @ 7 p.m.

(postponed because of Labor Day)

THE HILLTOP

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Zirin, Thomas Host Forum on Sports and Social Justice

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

Politics and sports joined forces last night as Busboys and Poets, the local restaurant and bookstore located at 2021 14th St., NW, hosted "What's My Name, Fool? : Sports and Resistance in the U.S."

The forum on sports and social justice was named after the book by author Dave Zirin, who was a featured speaker at the event.

Zirin was joined by Washington Wizards center and poet Etan Thomas on the

stage.

"A lot of times, sports are used as a bulldozer for some of the worst values and ideas in this country," Zirin said.

Zirin recalled an Atlanta Braves game he once attended in which 30 people were inducted into the Marines on the field prior to the game, as President Bush and Condoleezza Rice looked on and waved from the owners box. He used this as an example of using sports to push a political agenda.

"We need to take sports back," he said.

Zirin discussed his book

and the history of athletes as political figures in America.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, the former Denver Nuggets point guard that remained in the locker room during the pre-game playing of the National Anthem, and Muhammad Ali, whose face graces the book's cover, were mentioned as having been persecuted for their beliefs and voicing their opinions to the public.

Zirin also spoke of sports figures that were able to use their fame as a platform for speaking out.

"It shows the power of sports and what they can do," he said.

Again, Ali was used as an example. Zirin said that Ali's status as an international sports figure may have made him more powerful and more of a political threat than Kwame Ture.

He then commended current athletes that follow in the tradition of Ali and Abdul-Rauf.

Thomas took the stage as an example of those current athletes that speak out politically.

"There's a lot of athletes doing positive things, but that's not what the media is talking about," Thomas said.

Thomas mentioned journalist William Rhoden and his new book titled, "Forty Million Dollar Slaves: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of the Black Athlete."

"What Bill Rhoden said in his book is that today's athlete



Photo by Jessica Delige - Staff Photographer
Washington Wizard Etan Thomas performs a poem from his book, "More Than an Athlete."

is lost," Thomas said.

Thomas voiced his disagreement with that idea and invited those that were interested to attend a debate that will be held between Rhoden and Thomas on September 25 at Georgetown University.

Thomas ended the session by pointing out the need to show young people that they must use the game and not let it use them.

"You can use sports to get a free education," he said, noting that college players are often encouraged to take easier classes and focus on their respective sport.

"The revolution is now mental," he said. "Once you change the mentality of people, then you start gaining in different avenues."

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

Men's Soccer

Howard 0
James Madison 5

TODAY'S GAMES

None



Photo by Jessica Delige - Staff Photographer
Author Dave Zirin discusses his book, left, in a sports and social justice forum held at Busboys and Poets last night.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On Sept. 14, 1994, Major League Baseball owners unanimously voted to cancel the remainder of the season.

Don't Sleep On...

Fantasy Football Draftees that May Get Overlooked

The NFL season has begun and that means John Madden's videogame franchise is pouring in the cash, and other sports junkies track stats playing fantasy football. This insanely popular staple in fantasy gaming has catapulted to tremendous heights due to the internet, with its up-to-date info available via phone, watch, etc. Fantasy points are based on how well the players you picked perform. The gamer with the most points accumulated by a team in the league at the end of the season is the winner.

When you're drafting players remember: sleeper picks may throw off other competitors. Superstars can have off weeks. Here's a brief breakdown of shocker and no-brainer picks.

QUARTERBACK	WIDE RECEIVER/ TIGHT END	RUNNING BACK	DEFENSE
NFC Obvious Picks: Matt Hasselbeck (SEA) Jake Delhomme (CAR) Donovan McNabb (PHI)	NFC Obvious Picks: Steve Smith (CAR) Santana Moss (WAS) Terrell Owens (DAL)	NFC Obvious Picks: Shaun Alexander (SEA) Tiki Barber (NYG) Carnell "Cadillac" Williams (TAM)	NFC Obvious Pick: Chicago Bears
NFC Sleepers: <p>Marc Bulger (STL) - Bulger has the second highest passing rating in the NFC. This upset pick may upset teams all the way to the playoffs!</p> <p>Mark Brunell (WAS) - Ok, he's old, but he's also commanding arguably one the toughest receiver corps this year with Brandon Lloyd, Randle El, Santana Moss, and Cooley.</p> <p>Kurt Warner (ARZ) - Any minute, this one time MVP will be benched for first round pick Mat Leinart. This old dog has new tricks with Edgerrin James rounding out the backfield.</p> <p>Eli Manning (NYG) - Baby Manning shows signs of promise; could be break out year for NFC east champs.</p>	NFC Sleepers: <p>Torry Holt (STL) - Tied for 2nd in reception yards in the NFC.</p> <p>Plaxico Burress (NYG) - This hard to cover Giant is downs receiver by definition.</p> <p>Terry Glenn (DAL) - While T.O. is getting double teamed, don't be surprised if Glenn fairs better numbers wise sans TD.</p>	NFC Sleepers: <p>Steven Jackson (STL) - Another great young player has the chance to take the reigns from Marshall Faulk as the starter.</p> <p>Clinton Portis (WAS) - His quiet 1000 yard seasons get the job done.</p> <p>Warrick Dunn (ATL) - The other running back besides Mike Vick is pretty good.</p>	NFC Sleeper: <p>Tampa Bay Buccaneers- Average the lowest yards per game against opponent's offense.</p>
AFC Obvious Picks: Ben Roethlisberger (PIT) Peyton Manning (IND) Carson Palmer (CIN) Tom Brady (NWE)	AFC Obvious Picks: Chad Johnson (CIN) Marvin Harrison (IND) TE Antonio Gates (SDG)	AFC Obvious Picks: LaDainian Tomlinson (SD) Tatum Bell (DEN) Rusty Smith (CIN)	AFC Obvious Pick: Pittsburgh Steelers
AFC Sleepers: <p>Byron Leftwich (JAX) - He gets better each year. He had an 89 passing rating last year and led the AFC with the least interceptions.</p> <p>Steve McNair (BAL) - He's healthy and has a new team. I mean, a real team with a running game, defense, and offense line.</p> <p>Trent Green (KC) - Trent's stats are not far from Carson Palmer's. Trent's team just sucks.</p>	AFC Sleepers: <p>Randy Moss (OAK) - He's a sleeper because he can't throw to himself. This multiple Pro Bowler has a new QB this year again.</p> <p>Hines Ward (PIT) - He's never really beefed up with stats, but he is the reigning Super Bowl MVP</p> <p>Reggie Wayne (IND) - Peyton Manning's second option still manages to snag thousand yard receptions, probably because the other gets double team.</p>	AFC Sleepers: <p>Willie Parker (PIT) - The speedy back, who had 1200 yards last season, will definitely relieve Ben what's-his-name's throwing arm.</p> <p>Jamal Lewis (BAL) - With the addition of Steve McNair revitalizing the offense, Lewis should definitely benefit with a new pass game.</p> <p>Larry Johnson (KAN) - No big name endorsements, just had the highest yard total in the AFC.</p>	AFC Sleeper: <p>New England- With the addition of future hall of famer Junior Seau, if this bunch stays healthy don't be surprised if they go to the Super Bowl and win!</p>

By Brian Trotter, Contributing Writer