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# HILTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

#### **VOLUME 90, NO. 24**

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

#### WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

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#### BREAKING NEWS

#### HP TOP LAWYER STEPS DOWN

ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, HEWLETT PACKARD'S. CHIEF-IN-HOUSE LAWYER, ANN O. BASKINS, RESIGNED YESTER-DAY JUST BEFORE THE HEARING ON HP'S SPYING CASE BEGAN.

#### NATION & WORLD

SPACE STATIONS TO SPACE VACATIONS FIND OUT THE NEWEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SPACE FROM INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATIONS TO CIVILIAN SPACE TRAVEL PAGE 4



### **Dean Richardson to Deliver Convocation Keynote Speech**

#### BY ANYA L. ALEXANDER Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University's own Dr. Bernard L. Richardson, the fourth dean of the historic Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, will deliver the keynote address for the 139th Opening Convocation today.

"I am so proud and honored that my leader, my mentor, gets this chance to minister to the University and the Howard community," said Tyson Axson, sophomore broadcast major. "I know that it is going to be a life changing experience."

Axson has a very close working relationship with Richardson and with the Howard University Chapel Assistants, According to Axson, Richardson has been preparing for a very long time. "I know that the dean is going to be incredible." Richardson's ministry and spirituality has enabled him to serve as the liaison between the Howard University family and religious organizations on the local, national and international levels. He has founded and serves as the direc-

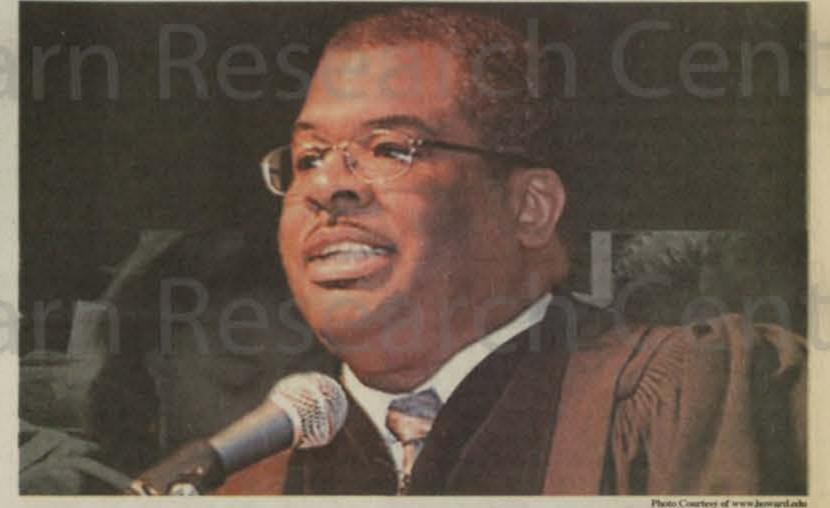
Ethical Spiritual and Dimensions of Leadership Initiative. Richardson has also initiated programs fostering interfaith discussions, religious charity and tolerance in the Washington D.C. area.

Along with being a tenured associate professor at Howard University's School of Divinity, Richardson has lectured and taught courses at colleges and universities such as Yale and Princeton Universities.

Some of his most notable achievements include the induction into Phi Delta Kappa National Education Honor Society, Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College and Perth

tor of the Howard University as well as a welcoming ceremony for first-year students, the Convocation ceremony continues to be a moment in Howard's history for reflection and acknowledgment of the University's achievements and goals.

> "Opening Convocation is a wonderful way to put the exclamation mark on the fact that Howard University is here, growing stronger, after nearly a century and a half," said President H. Patrick Swygert. "We are working more assiduously to remain true to our vision as a comprehensive research university, unique and irreplaceable, and fully committed to educating youth, African-Americans and other people of color in particular, for leadership and service to our nation and the global community." Freshman biology major Lauryn Scott looks forward to experiencing Convocation for the first time. Though she has heard Richardson speak before, Scott is puzzled about what the Convocation ceremony means. Like many first year students, Scott said that



Dean Dr. Bernard L. Richardson will deliver this year's Convocation keynote address. Richardson founded and serves as the director the Howard University Spiritual and Ethical Dimensions of Leadership Initiative. He has taught courses at Yale and Princeton Universities.

Amboy High School Hall of Fame.

The past three opening convocations of the University have included addresses by esteemed guest speakers the Honorable Harold E. Ford, Stan O'Neal and Trustee Earl G. Graves.

Known as the official opening of the academic year

she will be in attendance as a requirement for her business orientation class.

"No one explained it to us," Scott said.

But even with her limited knowledge, from what other students have told her about Convocation, Scott believes

that "this is a good idea to acknowledge and keep the morale of the University and its students."

> Senior nursing major Amina O'kosi remembers leaving from Convocation her freshman year with a sense of pride for her alma mater.

She believes that it is important for freshmen to go to Convocation to hear the guest speaker and get familiar with the University and the president.

"They should feel honored to be a part of such a historical university," O'kosi said.

### **GSAC Seeks Participation**

#### **BY TRAVER RIGGS** Hilltop Staff Writer

With one person in attendance at their meeting last night, the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) of the department of Education Administration and Policy focused their attention on increasing student turnout.

Part of the reason for low attendance was the weather. "There was a tornado watch until nine o'clock," said Wilson Bland, Ed.D. candidate in Education Administration and Policy and co-chair of GSAC.

"Not withstanding inclement weather, we were expecting about 10 to 20 attendees," said Lauchland Richards, GSAC chair and Ed.D.candidate in EAP.

GSAC's purpose is to serve as a liaison between the student body and the faculty. "We try to provide faculty and department chairs with feedback from students concerning issues, ideas for program development and things of that nature," Richards said.

Established March 8, 2002, GSAC has been working to provide members with professional development workshops, networking opportunities and guest speakers.

"We have a social event at the end of each semester to give members an opportunity to work with other students at other schools of like I'm inside those photos," Rogers education," Richards said. Richards emphasized the importance of meaningful workshops and having food at every meeting. "Most students are coming to the meeting

right after class so that's important," Richards said.

Philomena Imohe, Ed.D. an EAP candidate, was the sole student attendee of the meeting. She said she came because being involved in and understanding professional programs is important. "I wanted to see what it was all about, and how I can contribute to our environment." she said.

Richards plans on getting professors involved also. Bland suggested professors taking five minutes out of their class time to inform students of what GSAC is about and what it offers them. He also recommended suggestion boxes for students who are unable to attend the meetings.

"Not withstanding low turnout tonight was still a success," Richards said.

GSAC had a guest speaker in attendance. Denis Rogers, president of the Graduate School Student Council and Ph.D. candidate in political science spoke on the importance of networking, perseverance and the "Three Ps": personal, professional, and prophetic.

Rogers reminded the group to keep an archive of their personal lives so that they can be like the photos seen around Howard of memorable people doing big things.

"Everyday I feel more and more

### **GA Chair Disputes HUSA Executive Budget**

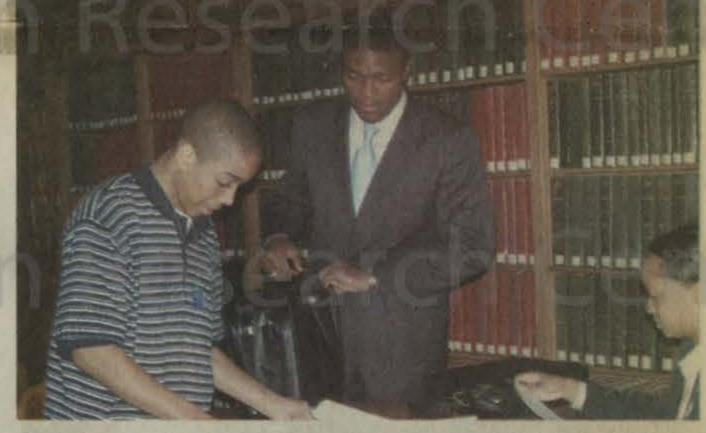
#### **BY SHANAE HARRIS** Campus Editor

Concerns arose regarding HUSA's proposed executive budget last night at a financial committee meeting that ultimately resulted in a committee decision to submit the budget to General Assembly as an approved budget proposal.

Erin Ferguson, General Assembly chairman, was the only person on the committee to disagree with the decision, stating that the budget, which was proposed using sums from last year's budget did not give an accurate account of the money that the organization now has.

"I don't see any figures in the budget, I only see what HUSA has proposed," Ferguson said. "We can do no consideration of funds without knowing how much money we are dealing with."

HUSA Vice-President Stephen Nichols disputed Ferguson's claims, stating that HUSA works with the information that they are given, and plans a budget do because this isn't our that reflects what they have calculated to be accurate. "We take an estimate of what is actually in the account," Nichols said, "and there is a lot more money in the account than in the past." Ferguson further disagreed with the proposed budget adding that because the budget is based on figures from past years, HUSA should include those past figures on their budget as well.



Samara Pearson - Contributing Photographer

Members of HUSA and the General Assembly's financial committee board met Thursday to discuss concerns over HUSA's 2006 executive budget.

access to all of this financial information," Nichols said.

Gaspar David Stinfil, HUSA's financial advisor, explained to Ferguson that although the budget is mirrored from last year's budget, "what you see in terms of operations is pretty accurate."

"As student government leaders, we have to consider the things that we

from a student's standpoint because that's all I see here that's important."

Other disputes of the executive budget included the amount of pay that the President and Vice-President of HUSA are now receiving; focusing on the question of whether HUSA had raised the amount for the positions from \$8,000 to \$9,000 since last year.

In the initial disagree-

Ferguson said that he still plans to submit his letter of opposition to the committee's agreement of the budget to the General Assembly.

Shar-Day Smith, Vice-President of the College of Arts and Sciences backed the committee's decision to propose HUSA's budget stating, "I think everyone in General Assembly will agree with this because in the past, budgets have been approved based on sheets just like [HUSA's current budget]."



Tytum Cleanus - Staff Planting apdar The Graduate Student Advisory Council met Thursday in Founder's Library.

said.

He also said to maintain professional connections and to let prophecy be what one visions for them self. Rogers's vision of teachers is

to influence students who go on to influence others, resulting in hundreds of years of influence.

"Teachers are ridiculously crucial." Rogers said. "I don't know anyone who can't say I have a teacher who turned it all around for me'," he said.

Also in attendance was GSAC Public Relations Specialist, Jaime Wyche, and Treasurer Verna Orr. both Ed.D. candidates in EAP.

"I will try and find last year's budget, but I won't make a promise that I'll find it. I do not have

money," Ferguson said. "I had to help a student out who wasn't validated because of this very money here that we are talking about."

From a student perspective, Melanie Phee, senior English major, disagreed with Ferguson's view on the issue.

"As a student, I don't really care how the money is allocated. I care about the programs. When money isn't given, and HUSA isn't doing anything, that's what I see," Phee said. "Maybe you should take a look at this

ment on the current pay, Nichols and Stinfil, along with HUSA President Jennifer Owens, left for a five-minute recess from the meeting and returned with an answer of \$8,000 in pay.

"It is suggested that the first four people [on HUSA's budget] make a total of \$30,000 in pay," Ferguson said, "We don't

have that kind of money." Nichols responded saving that, "the work is a lot of work. We are getting paid for what we do, and I know it is comparable

to what others are getting

paid."

8

Nichols's overall concern was that the financial committee stood behind HUSA's budget, saying that he felt they asked only for what they really needed.

"I don't know too many people that have had problems with Jennifer and I and our work ethic," Nichols said. "We want to know that we can go to General Assembly and say that the financial committee has approved what we are doing

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EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

## CAMPUS

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

## **Convocation Robes Worn for Distinction Purposes**

#### BY MELISSA TYLER Hilltop Writer

Academic regalia will be a large part of today's Open Convocation ceremony.

Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert, The Board of Trustees, keynote speakers, the HUSA president, the HUSO president, and honorees, will be on the Cramton Auditorium stage clothed in Howard's traditional academic robes.

"Howard has one of the most colorful convocation exercises," Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary Raymond Smith said.

Attendees of Convocation will have the opportunity to view Howard's academic regalia during the opening procession when the platform party and faculty enter the auditorium and throughout the traditional ceremony.

Senior theatre education major Erica McDowell has caught a glimpse of the apparel worn by Howard administrators during Convocation and graduation formal procedures, but like most students, is unaware of the regalia's historical purpose.

"I think the robes worn at convocation are to unify the faculty and administration,"

for education. During that time, robes were established to identify and acknowledge the important role of a scholar.

After Howard was founded and degree programs were established, the University sampled Harvard University's diploma concept and academic regalia, Smith explained. Harvard's custom of academic ceremonial dress was adopted from Oxford University.

Ceremonial dress worn at Howard's Opening Convocation consists of a robe, a hood, and a cap. The colors of the robes at Howard vary in color and design depending on the level of degree or position one has attained as well as the specific school or college that one has graduated from. The material and the design of the gown can also distinguish the position and level of a person. For example, the color of the chevrons, or stripes on the sleeves of a gown, and the tassels on the top of a cap of a graduate of Fine Arts is dark blue, which is different from the yellow that is on a science graduate's robe.

The style of the lapel that runs horizontally down the front of the robe, the cap and sleeve of a gown are key elements that denote the level of red, white and blue colors of the lapel of the president's that have came after Nabrit. degree or status an individual has. Bachelor degree recipients usually wear a square mortarboard cap, while master's and doctorate's recipients always wear a tam octagon shaped cap.

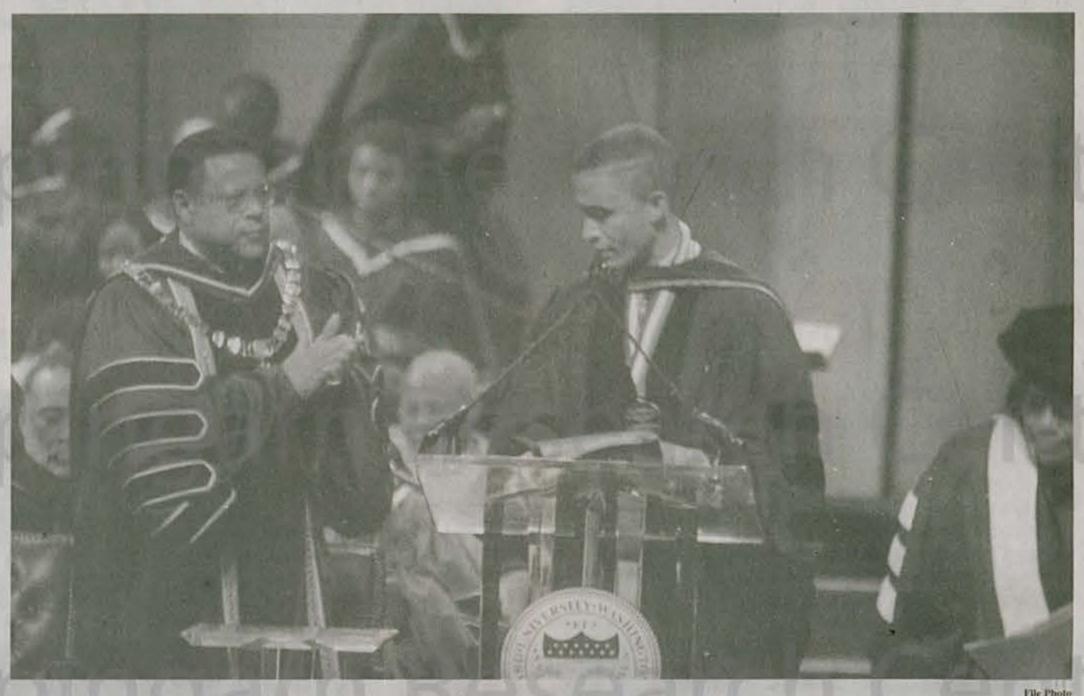
The robe that the president wears during formal academic ceremonies is the most prestigious robe. The basic the university are woven into the robe as well as gold thread, which signifies high distinction. The president also wears a tam with a gold tassel.

red and white, which is the highest amount. Unlike the

four blue chevrons outlined in to former Howard University President Nabrit from Trustee Herman B. Wells and bears usual plain black or blue lapel, the names of the presidents

In 1970, Howard changed the colors of the robes from traditional black to blue.

Smith is looking to submit for approval an official



President H. Patrick Swygert, (left) and Congressman Harold Ford, Jr., (right) wear traditional academic robes during the

2005 Opening Convocation. Ceremonional academic dress has a rich history dating back to ancient Greece.

McDowell said.

According to Smith, the history of academic robes date back to ancient Greek civilization when highly respected philosophers such as Aristotle founded formal institutions

The president's robe has

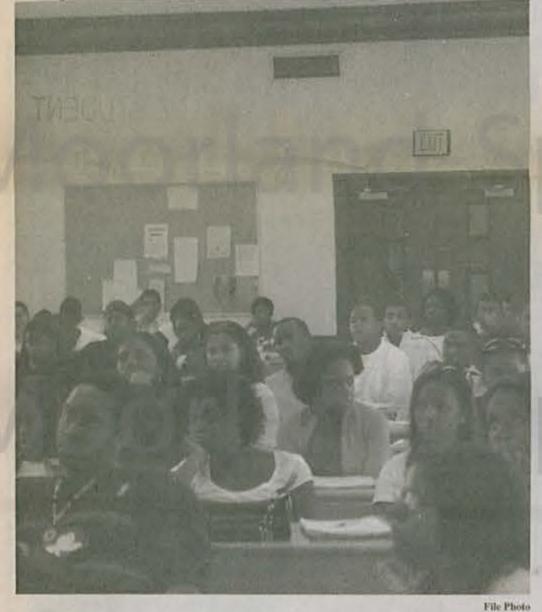
gown robe is specially embroidered.

A special addition to the gown is the gold Presidential Chain of Office that is worn around the neck. According to Smith, the chain was given

"Since founding, its Howard's formal academic regalia have changed due to social and political changes and the need to be more individual as a university," Smith said.

academic robe to identify Howard, similar to the crest that is on Harvard's gowns. In the future, as society evolves and changes, the university's academic regalia will as well.

### **Students Find Maintaining Attendance an Obstacle**



Howard students often find it difficult to keep up with class attendance. Many Howard professors take attendence seriously while some do not count it all.

#### BY COURTNEY PARKER Contributing Writer

On a campus like Howard University, a student can get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the social scene. With things constantly going on to distract students from their studies, going to class might not be at the top of everyone's list.

Unlike high school, where parents are there to wake students every morning and push them off to school, college is a time where students take responsibility for themselves. This means making the decision to get out of bed and going to class, or to skip class to sleep a few extra hours or sit out on the Yard with friends.

Many students have noticed their class attendance record drop since the structured schedules of high school.

Before I had to go, I had

no choice," said junior nursing major Nicole Durant. "Now, I don't have anybody telling me to go."

Unlike Howard's Law School, which fails a student for missing 25 percent of classes, there is no official policy from the University for undergraduate students regarding class attendance. It is left to the discretion of individual professors to enforce attendance rules.

The only advisement that some departments and schools within the University offer is that students try not to miss classes and if the absence is up.

Some professors take attendance daily and make the attendance record count toward students' final grade. Other professors keep no records of whether or not students come to class and do not include attendance in grades.

Students like junior exer-

cise physiology major Kellie just don't feel like attending Johnson are not plagued by teachers that are sticklers for attendance.

"Only two of my professors take attendance and the more classes you miss, the less points you earn as far as inclass participation," Johnson said.

Durant opposes the strict attendance policy given by someone professors on campus. "I think it's unfair that teachers allow attendance to affect grades. We're adults and we can make our own choices," Durant said.

Even with professors a must, work should be made counting student attendance toward the final grade, junior political science major Chaz Tramayne is not fazed by the rule.

> "I don't feel that much pressure to go to each and every class," Tramayne said.

Between the demands of classes, campus organization and jobs, students sometimes

class or don't have time to study.

Other students like Tramayne use the time to do more important things.

"I skip to do work for other classes," Tramayne said.

Long commutes to campus for some students is also a factor for some students who travel back and forth to class daily. The student's commute, either by driving or riding the metro, can be very time consuming and can cause tardiness or absence from class.

"Living off campus means I have to get up that much earlier to get to class on time," Durant said.

With the high costs for tuition, some students try to get their money's worth and attend class everyday.

"I have some loans," said junior public relations major Joy Young. "I go to class because I've got to graduate to pay them back."

So Much to Do, So Little Time... University Fashion Council

#### BY APRIL DEBOSE Hilltop Staff Writer

Do you think that you have the talent to become the next Marc Jacobs or Vera Wang but you just don't know how to get your foot into the door? Well the University Fashion Council is the organization for you.

Founded in November of 2000 the purpose of the University Fashion Council, or UFC, is to serve as a liaison between Howard University students and the fashion industry.

By providing workshops, each other. speaker presentations, and networking opportunities, the organization promotes information about careers and lifestyles in the fashion knit organization. industry.

"University Council gives us the opportunity to network with industry professionals, who gives us information, insight and even internships," said William White Jr., junior fashion merchandising major and UFC President.

White says that this year he wants to be more productive in being that liaison.

In addition to networking with industry professionals, White said that it is very important that the members of the organization spend a lot of time getting to know

This year, he hopes to have more mixers and meetings to focus on making the organization a more tightly

"One thing that sets us

Fashion apart is that we are here to tion. help each other out and our goal is to build each other up," sophomore fashion merchandising major and UFC member Chiara Cooper said.

> Capper agreed with White saying that, "members of the organization could be my co-workers one day, so networking is important."

> Cooper has been a member of the UFC for two years and joined because she wanted to learn firsthand how to get into the industry and wanted to see what other students in her major planned to do beyond graduation.

Cooper said that working with the fashion shows is one of her favorite things about being in the organiza-

. The UFC works together with the Homecoming committee to produce the Homecoming show, as well as host an annual spring fashion show.

This year, they are looking to have a student outside of the UFC to coordinate the show.

Senior public relations major Keirsten Alston-Murrain said that she really enjoys the shows produced by the UFC.

"I really appreciate the fact that they concentrate on showcasing the talents of students at Howard," Alston-Murrain said. She said that that she goes to the shows every year.

the UFC is a trip to New

York City to tour different magazine companies and fashion organizations such as the distributor for Charlotte Russe, H&M, and Forever 21.

"I remember last year before. when I heard about the trip to New York I was so excited for them," said alumnae and previous UFC member Sabrena Pringle.

Pringle, who is from New York City, said that this tour is an excellent opportunity for the students to network and show industry professionals what they have to offer.

"NYC plays a major role in fashion internationally, students in a great position A big annual event for to possibly further their careers," Pringle said.

With these annual events, open forums, and fashion showcases. White hopes that the UFC provides opportunities for members that they may not have had

"We just want to open doors that have been shut to us at [Howard] because we are not a fashion school," White said.

The University Fashion Council membership is open to everyone in the University. Meetings are held every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. in room 2009 of the Fine arts building. These interested in joining the organization or if you are interestand this trip puts Howard ed in coordinating this year's Spring Fashion show you can contact William White Jr. at willwhite\_jr@yahoo.com.

## Advertisements 3

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SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

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### NATION & WORLD 4

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

## **HU Instrumental in International Space Station**

#### **BY JAHNA RILEY** Contributing Writer

Once again, research at Howard University proves to be significant to the global community. Faculty, graduate and undergraduate students at the Howard Center fortheStudyofTerrestrialand Extraterrestrial Atmospheres have made significant contributions to the completion of the International Space Station.

Construction of the International Space Station began in 1998 with the help of 16 nations: the United States, Canada, Japan, Russia, Brazil, and 11 nations of the European Space Agency.

To many, however, the research being conducted on the International Space Station (ISS) seems to be of little relevance.

"Why are we spending so much time and money exploring space when there are problems on Earth that need to be addressed?

"The money spent on space exploration could be



Photo Courtesy of wikipedia.com

The International Space Station will soon be visible to 90 percent of the world. Some of the technology used on the ISS is a result of research completed at Howard.

used to improve conditions in the United States," says sophomore Elleni Solomon.

Vernon Morris, Ph.D, associate professor of chemistry and deputy director of the CSTEA thinks differently.

"A great deal of science is conducted for the sake of building a database that will ultimately enable an improved quality of life," Morris said. "Another body of science is purely applied and contributes both to our understanding of physical processes as well as focused improvement of a specific aspect of health, industry, transportation, commerce, etc."

Three research centers at Howard University deal with NASA-related research: the Center for Energy Systems and Controls, the Center for the Study of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Atmospheres, and the NASA NSCORT Center for Excellence in Advanced Life Support.

The research conducted in these centers has contributed to and interacted directly with the International Space Station. Howard

University faculty, graduate and undergraduate students have worked on projects that contribute directly to the ISS.

"One of the sensor systems that we have developed for extremely high sensitivity measurements and 'nanosampling' is in use aboard the ISS," Morris said. "These devices are electronic noses that can detect particles and chemicals that even the human senses cannot detect."

One of the May 2006 graduates doctoral in Atmospheric Sciences, who was supported by CSTEA, worked at the NASA Johnson Space Center to integrate this technology into modules that could be integrated aboard the ISS.

With its 43,000 cubic feet of living and working space, the ISS is the largest manned object ever sent into space. When complete, the space station will serve as a training center for astronauts and possibly a destination for interested travelers.

## Next Vacation Hotspot: Space?

#### BY JAHNA RILEY **Contributing Writer**

When the 14th Expedition of the International Space Station returned, the crew brought home an explorer of a different kind. Spaceflight participant Anousheh Ansari came back along with the crew of the space shuttle Atlantis. Ansari is the world's first private female space explorer to realize the dream of space travel.

While most people dream of going to Fiji or South Africa on vacation, there are a few wealthy individuals who want to visit outer space, and thanks to companies like Space Adventures and Virgin Galactic, their dreams are being fulfilled.

Space Adventures, located in Vienna, Virginia, is the only company to take passengers to the International Space Station, and the only space flight company to make space orbit flights available today.

"Since our inception in 1998, Space Adventures has been committed to providing the opportunity for the public to experience the most unique travel destination - outer space," said Eric Anderson, president and CEO of Space Adventures.

Space Adventures has taken five clients to the International Space Station so far. Trips cost each space tourist "at least

\$100,000," according to press releases from Space Adventures. Virgin Galactic aims to make

space tourism accessible to more people by cutting down the training period time and the price of the spaceflight.

The company's mission statement says, "we will enable many thousands of people across the world to experience space for themselves and help to unlock the potential benefits that will come from safe and affordable manned space access."

With space coming closer to being a feasible travel option, it is only a matter of time until the average citizen will be able to travel there.

Some students are looking forward to the day when they will be able to travel to outer space. Junior business management major Marcus Coleman said, "I would [like to travel to space] but being the broke student I am, I would say I'd pay no more than \$10,000."

Other students would prefer to stay on Earth.

"I would be afraid that the spaceship will crash or explode or get lost in space. Plus, I like Earth very much," said sophomore accounting major Camille May.

Sophomore biology major Ashley Foster agrees. "I'll leave that for the experts," she said.

DESIGN FACTORY

Photo Courtesy of wildpedia.com

While modules like this are still years away from existence, this is just one of the many models of the spacecrafts planned for those who wish to tour space in the future.

For some students, cost is a major factor, "I can barely afford a vacation two states away, much less leaving the planet," said sophomore marketing major Darlene Chaney.

For those who do have the chance to travel away from Earth, the experience is like no other.

Mark Shuttleworth, who was the first South African in space, has established a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving education in South Africa. While at the International Space Station, Shuttleworth participated in scientific experiments that have made new space research

available to the African scientific community.

Though it will be awhile before tickets to space are available for purchase on Travelocity, the advances made in human space travel prove that space is no longer a distant frontier.

NASA's Troubled Travels

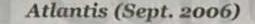
#### Apollo 13 (April 1970)

#### Challenger (Jan. 1986)

#### MarsPolarLander (Jan. 1999)

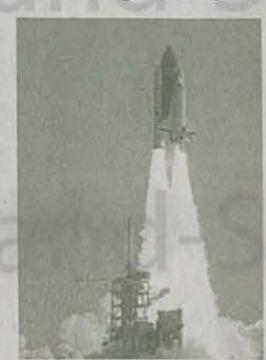
CONTOUR (Aug. 2002)

Columbia (Feb. 2003)

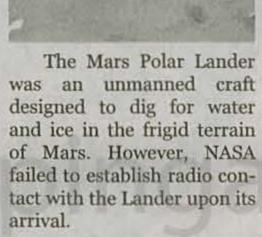




During flight, a malfunction caused an explosion in the second oxygen tank of the shuttle. The initial explosion caused a rupture in the valve of the first oxygen tank. This resulted in the crew losing most of its oxygen, electrical power and water. However, after emergency planning, the crew made a safe return to Earth.



The Space Shuttle challenger disintegrated 73 seconds after liftoff. The tragedy was later attributed to a failed O-Ring seal, which led to a flame leak that caused the shuttle to break apart because of the aerodynamic force. All on board were killed.



Launched in July of 2002, CONTOUR was intended to connect with at least two comets, and conduct investigation of the comet material. However, NASA lost contact with the CONTOUR by August 15, 2002. An investigation concluded that structural flaws in the CONTOUR led to its failure.

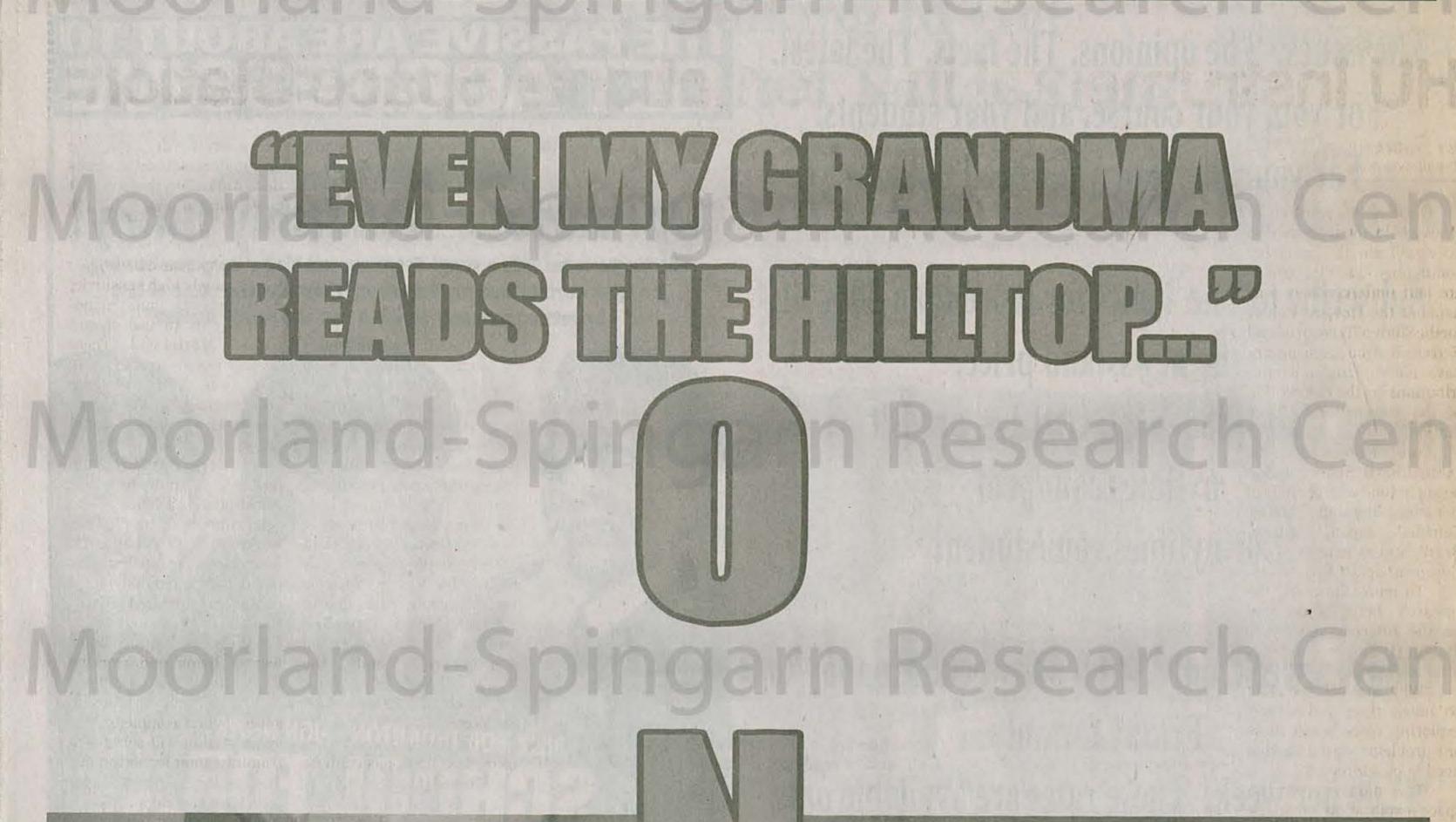
All seven members of the crew were killed as the Columbia disintegrated over Texas during its return to Earth. It was later discovered that Columbia had been damaged during lift-off when a large piece of foam broke off and damaged the Thermal Protection System.

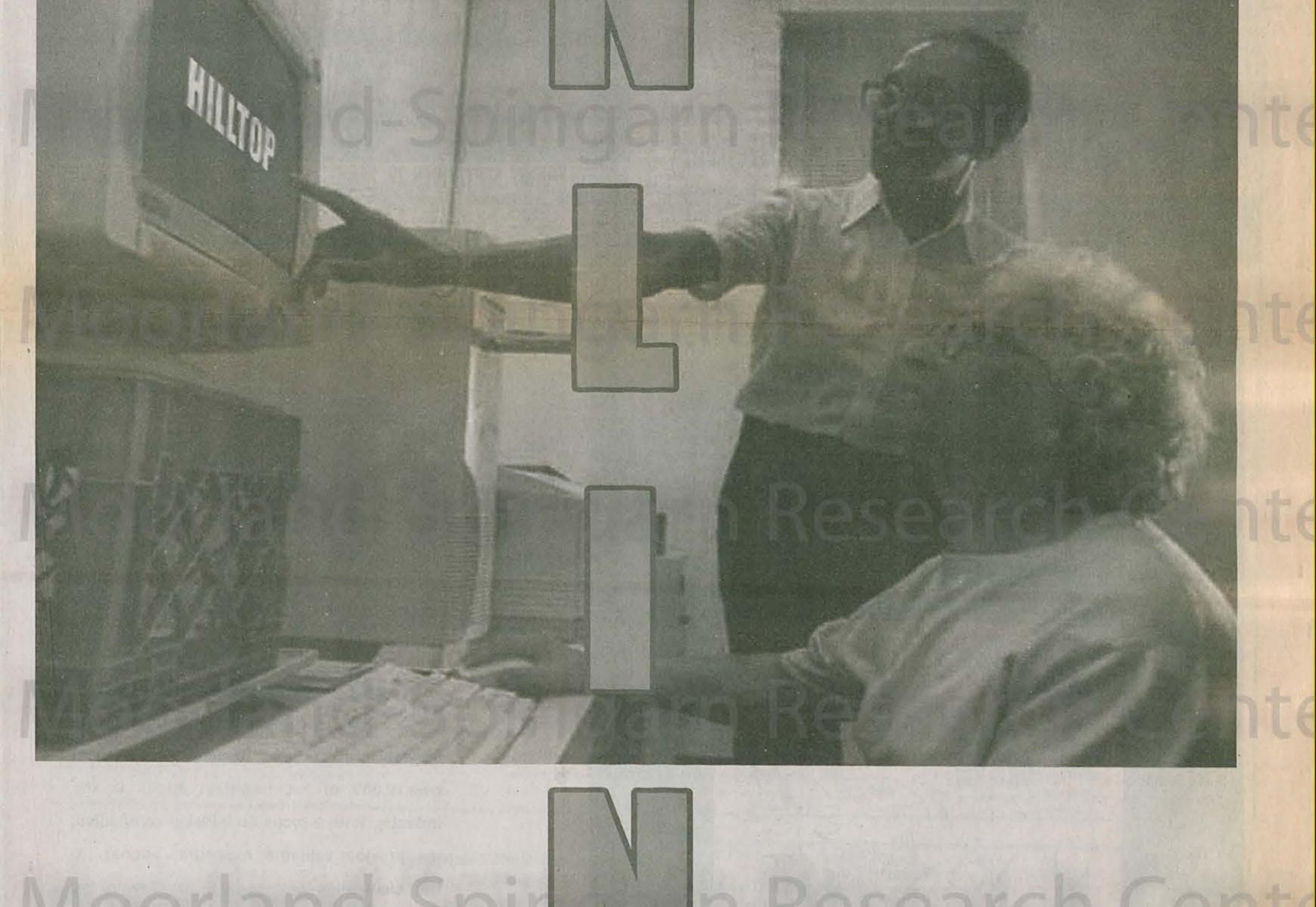
Though deemed a successful mission by NASA officials, during the mission, crew members were concerned that pieces of the space shuttle had fallen off during takeoff.

-Compiled by Amber English, Nation and World Editor

## ADVERTISMENT | 5

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006





## Mooriand-Spirp n Research Cent

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## 61 Advertisement

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

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## SPORTS 7

## **Bison Football Team Looking to Get Back on Track Against Fort Valley State**

#### BY ELLIOTT JONES Sports Editor

The Howard Bison football team will face the Fort Valley State University Wildcats tomorrow in their fourth game of the season, but in some ways, the game serves as a new beginning for Howard.

After starting off the season with three straight losses to some of its most challenging opponents this year, any hopes of turning their year around begin with tomorrow's game at Greene Stadium at 1 p.m.

The Wildcats will also present Howard with a significant change of pace, considering the Bison played a nationally-ranked Rutgers team from the Big East conference one week ago.

- On the other hand, Fort Valley State comes from the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and competes in the NCAA's Division II.

While the level of competition will not be as overwhelming as last week's, the Wildcats come into the contest with a record of (2-3). including victories over Clark Atlanta and Morehouse. Still, the Bison will look to learn from the mistakes of their previous games and come out with their first win of the season.

week's game against Rutgers 7 in the second half of games ing the trio with 143 passing of our season isn't as tough taught Howard many valuable lessons which the team upcoming game.

(against Rutgers), they scored a touchdown. When we did what we were supposed to do and were where we were supposed to be, it was a lot more positive," Lockett said. "We need to take that back to the film room and learn from those mistakes and improve on them."

One area Howard will look to improve upon is its running game. The team was held to 48 yards rushing last week on 31 attempts, giving them an average of just 1.5

yards per carry for the game. Fort Valley State is very strong in its rush defense, allowing just four rushing touchdowns through five games this year.

The Wildcats are also effective at rushing the quarterback, sacking opposing passers 17 times so far this season.

Howard hopes to neutralize the Wildcat defense with quarterback Will Blanden, who leads the team in rushplaying five difing with most of his yards ferent players coming on designed run plays out of the shotgun formation. Blanden has started at quarterback in two of the Bison's three games this year. Howard will also look for improvement from its own defense. The Bison have surrendered 12 rushing touchdowns in just three games man and have been outscored 79-Brooks

this season.

To reverse these early hopes to apply to their next season trends, Howard will look to defensive leaders "When we messed up Lockett (19 solo tackles, 18 assisted), cornerback Geoff Pope (10 solo tackles, one interception) and defensive back Thomas Claiborn (11 assists, two interceptions, one fumble recovery).

Despite the struggles, the

Bison defense has been able to cause turnovers, earning three in its last two contests.

Conversely, Fort Valley State has a negative four plus-minus turnover ratio, a stat Howard will look to exploit. One common characteristic among both teams is instability at the quarterback position. Howard regularly rotates three different quarterbacks, yards and one touchdown.

At 0-3, there is no question that Howard will be hungry to get back into the win column. In fact, the Bison have lost seven games in a row dating back to last year.

Despite the team's slow start this season, Claiborn put the teams struggles into perspective.

'We're o-3, but the rest



### SCOREBOARD

SCORES

None

as our first three games,"

Claiborn said. "We played the

number one team in black

college football (Hampton)

and we played Rutgers out of

the Big East, so from here on

out, if we make less mistakes,

we have a chance to have a

positive season."

WEEKEND'S GAMES

Friday

Volleyball vs. Fairleigh Dickinson @ UMES Tournament 2 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Providence @ UMES Tournament 6 p.m.

Women's Tennis @ Wolfpack Invitational Fri.-Sun.

Saturday

Football vs. Fort Valley St. @ Greene Stadium 1 p.m.

Volleyball vs. St. Francis (Pa.) @ UMES Tournament 3 p.m.

Cross Country @ George Mason Invitational

"We need to fix our mistakes," said senior linebacker Timothy Lockett.

According to Lockett, last

at the position in the Rutgers game alone. Similarly, Fort Valley State has played three different quarterbacks, with redshirt fresh-Marcus

lead-

Quarterback Will Blanden takes aim at the Florida A&M defense. Blanden leads the Bison in passing yards and rushing yards.

Sunday

Women's Soccer vs. NJIT @ Greene Stadium 2:30 p.m.

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

#### BY ELLIOTT JONES Sports Editor

San Diego Chargers vs. Baltimore Ravens -Sun. @ 1 p.m., CBS

I'm sure that after this week's latest explosive installment in the soap opera that is T.O.'s life, the ratings for Dallas's game this weekend will be through the roof.

That is except for one problem: the game has them facing the Tennessee Titans and is sure to be a dud.

A far more tantalizing matchup sees the San Diego Chargers traveling to the East Coast to take on the Baltimore Ravens in a meeting of two unbeaten teams.

The Chargers are coming off a bye week and are led by star running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who has 202 rushing yards and three touchdowns in two games.

Ray Lewis is healthy again and has the Ravens defense looking like it did during its Super Bowl winning season of 2000.

Plus, the addition of quarterback Steve McNair has added consistency to Baltimore's offense - at least for now.

Much of the Ravens' success this year will depend on McNair's health. But for the time being, Baltimore is steadily emerging as one of the AFC'S premier teams.

As for Tomlinson, you cannot stop him; you can only hope to contain him. But Chargers quarterback Phillip Rivers is inexperienced and has never faced a defense of Baltimore's caliber.

My Pick: Though this game features two of the AFC's up-and-coming teams, I give the Ravens a slight advantage as the home team in this one.

Ravens by six.



#### **BY CARYN GRANT** Sports Editor

Purdue vs. Notre Dame - Saturday @ 2:30 p.m., NBC

Having spent last summer in South Bend, Ind., I understand how serious this game is for folks in the Hoosier State.

The Fighting Irish won last year's meeting, 49-28, when receiver Jeff Samardzija caught seven passes for 153 yards and two touchdowns.

This year, the nationally ranked Irish jumped to No. 2 after a 41-17 season opener win over Penn State.

Since then, they've looked less impressive, losing to Michigan and barely coming out with a come-from-behind win over Michigan State last

The Boilermakers, although they are yet to face a ranked opponent, come into the match-up with an undefeated 4-0 record.

week.

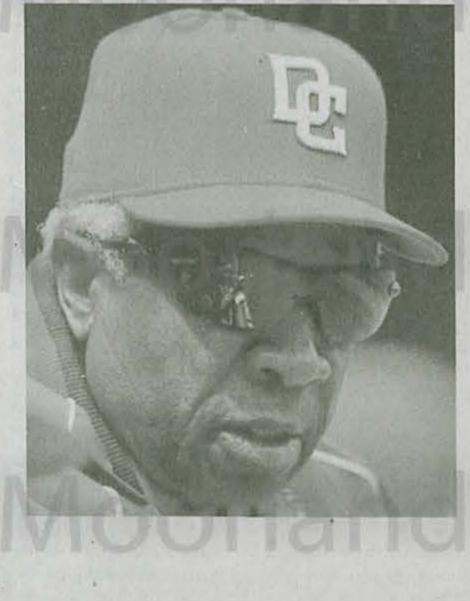
Notre Dame leads the all-time series, 50-25-2.

My pick: Although the Irish have looked sluggish in the first few weeks of the season, plagued by turnovers and penalties, look for quarterback Brady Quinn to lead the home team as they come out and play a big game against their in-state competitor.

Notre Dame by 9.



Nationals Reportedly Not Asking Robinson Back to



#### Manage Team

The Washington Post has reported that the Washington Nationals are not planning to ask manager Frank Robinson back next season.

Robinson met with team president Stan Kasten and general manager Jim Bowden on Thursday to discuss his future with the team. He is near the end of a one-year contract.

Robinson told reporters Thursday before the Nationals played the New York Mets that "we agreed to make an announcement later on... In the very near future."

Robinson is in the Hall of Fame as a player for the Cinncinati Reds and Baltimore Orioles, and has managed 16 seasons for four teams.

He has been with the Nationals organization since 2002 when they were still the Montreal Expos.

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## 8 LIFE & STYLE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

## Web Dating: Falling In Love Online

#### BY DANIELLE KWATENG Hilltop Staff Writer

When the word 'love' is googled, over 2 billion responses come up in .06 seconds. One would think 'love' would be easy to find in everyday life, but for many an alternative method is needed for the aged-old desire. Match.com, eHarmony, and AmericanSingles.com are a few of the newest ways adults of all ages can find relationships.

Once a password and username are created, a series of questions are asked including profile appearance, interests, and desired qualities in the in the opposite sex. The site then electronically matches members with similar profiles. Similar to Facebook.com, users can send messages to people they are interested in. It's usually free to create a profile and to search for other members. but sending and receiving messages requires a monthly fee.

Remela Khiyar, a senior health education major, has some reservations about online dating services.

"The concerns I have with them would be that you never know who you're really talking to on the other end of the computer. I think online dating services are positive, especially for people that are too shy to approach the opposite sex. But as long as you're cautious. I'm sure they're harmless." Khiyar said.

to be "the #1 site for love," has been up and operating since 1995. They claim to have safely match hundreds of couples. Liz Entwistle, the public relations consultant for Match. com, suggested that anyone with questions should check out their corporate website iac.com. A Match.com press release says that 12 percent of engaged and married couples meet online. They also claim that 60,000 people register everyday.

Joneis Thomas, Ph.D., a lecturer in the Department of Psychology, thinks that students should know what they want before looking for love.

"The best way to have a good relationship is to first decide on the kind of person you want. It's also important to eliminate that [which is]



draining you to make space for someone who can add to and enhance your life," Thomas said.

Thomas also thinks it takes effort on the part of both individuals to keep a relationship going.

"It certainly does take commitment and action to add people to your life. In the best of worlds we try to find people who will care, challenge us to be our best," Thomas added.

Candace Brown, a junior pre-physical therapy major, thinks there are two major reasons why people use dating services.

"Lonely people use dating services to find some companionship that they feel they may not be able to find otherwise. A lot of times, they

may feel as if they've exhausted their options or that they want something new because when they stay in their comfort zone, they end up with the same type and often the wrong, kind of people," Brown said. "Some people may have very fulfilling dating lives and just want to try something new."

"I think a lot of those dating services exploit the loneliness, desperateness of people and use the need or desire for companionship as a way to get money," Brown added. "They basically make people pay to fall in love."

Ashley Murphy, a sophomore advertising major has different opinions of dating services.

"I think dating services are positive. As long as both parties are honest, then there is nothing wrong with it. Murphysaid."Buteventhough dating services are popular, I don't think that our age group typically uses them. I think that they are usually used by an older crowd." Many males on campus do not seem interested in online companionship.

"The kind of people who use online dating services are lonely people, often rejected I think," said Tyrone Jack, a 2006 graduate art major said.

"People might not be as great

as you think they will be, like

their looks or personality.

Meeting someone in person

has much more advantages

when it comes to finding

someone you click with."

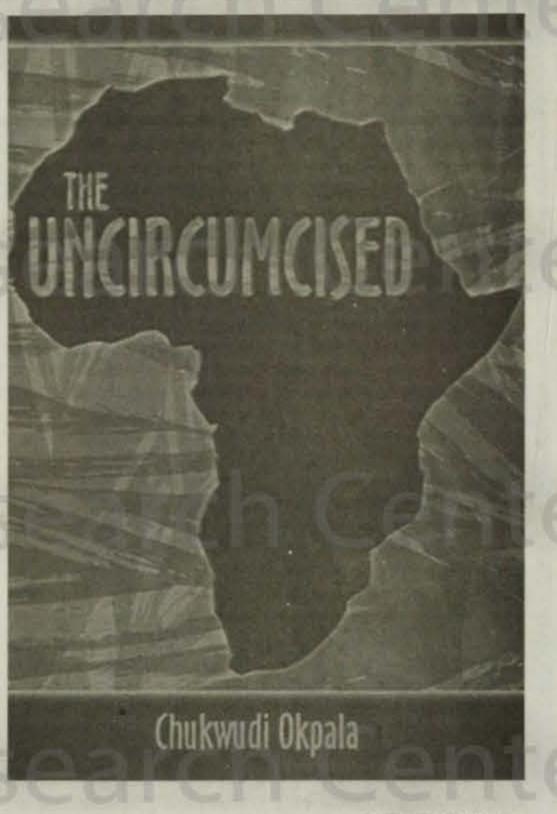


Photo courtesy of Dr. J. Chukwudi

Howard English professor, Dr. J. Chukwudi Okpala, releases his own book entitled, "The Uncircumcised."

### **Professor Releases** 'The Uncircumcised'

Match.com, which claims



The popularity of sites like eHarmony.com and Match. com continues as more people look to the net for love.

## **Fighting Fungi...Battling Bacteria**

#### BY SIMONE STEPHENSON Contributing Writer

Dirt and grim is quite obvious, like mold in a micro-fridge to roaches from last semester. But have you ever thought about the things that you don't see? Like the microscopic bacteria and fungi, that lurk literally around every corner?

Although almost any public display is bound to have a substantial bacteria count, it may be some of the least expected items that have the highest counts.

According to TheBostonChannel. com, everyday locations such as ATM buttons, the inside door handle of a women's public rest room, and a park bench (located right next to a trash can) all registered relatively low on the bacteria count scale. An item is considered to have a low bacteria count if it accumulates between 1 and 10 bacterium per square inch.

According to the same report, a seemingly clean table at a shopping mall food court, and an elevator button had an incredibly high bacteria count...200 bacteria per inch on the table, and 300 bacteria on the elevator button.

But what about common items here at Howard that may hold bacteria?

When interviewed, seven out of 20 students questioned always washed their hands before they eat a meal. Likewise, none of those same 20 students think twice about washing their hands before an activity like biting their fingernails or touching their face.

"Sometimes, when you're on the go...and you really don't have time to go to a rest room and wash your hands, you just do without," said junior marketing major Makeia Carriere. "It's just not something you really think about.

"I mean, I'm more worried about getting a pimple on my cheek from the transfer of bacteria, than getting sick," Carriere added.

Not only can the bacteria cause pimples and other blemishes when you touch your face, but they can also transfer viruses such as the common cold, or even influenza.

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, the influenza virus can be spread from contact with a sneeze or a cough from an infected person, or from touching something that houses traces of the flu virus, then

touching your mouth or nose.

We have all heard of or seen various antibacterial solutions, most notably Purel or various Bath and Body Works versions. However, if one takes notice to the warning label on the bottle something along the lines of:

"If ingested, contact a poison control center immediately".

These products essentially eliminate bacteria from the hand surface, yet still make the hands inadequate for touching or using to consume food.

"One must notice that these gels do not remove all the dirt on our skin," said molecular biologist Desmond Ang.

"In a research [study] done by associate professor, Barbara Almanza, at Purdue University [she] showed that these antibacterial gels do not significantly reduce the number of bacteria on the hand, but potentially increase the number of bacteria on the hand," Ang said.

According to Dr. Susan Rogers, of the Cook County Board of Health in Chicago, this germy situation hasn't always been so.

"Infections that used to be relatively easy to treat aren't as easy anymore," Rogers said. "More and more bacteria are becoming resistant to the antibiotics that are out there."

"They're becoming resistant because everyone wants an antibiotic...for every sore throat. People have used them so much that the bacteria have over time developed a resistance," Rogers said.

In previous years, the spread of bacteria was much less of a concern as it is nowadays. "Doctors used to perform operations without protecting themselves and the patients. People didn't even use gowns or gloves in surgeries. It seems really bizarre...like how could they not have known that? But now, we are more aware of the germs and bacteria around, especially since they can be even more potentially hazardous to the common persons health than before," Rogers said. To avoid the spread of bacteria, it may seem simple and repetitive, but wash your hands. Antibacterial gels and lotions are no substitute for good old soap and water. This means, the average person may use the ATM machine, come into contact with money, touch door handles, and a number of other things, followed by touching food that enters the mouth. Washing your hands is a simple, quick, and easy way to slow down the spread and ingestion of bacteria from person to person.

#### BY DANIELLE KWATENG Hilltop Staff Writer

One of Howard's own. Dr. J. Chukwudi will be launching his new novel "The Uncircumcised," today. Okpala, a native of Nigeria, is an English and philosophy teacher. Besides being a professor, Okpala considers himself a theorist and has written in several scholarly journals on African and Black British literature. Okpala hopes to reach a wider audience with his new publication.

Okpala's third novel is centered around a couple who is torn between preserving their African culture and adopting new ways of life. The female protagonist, Anne, rejects the cultural norm of circumcision, which forces her to forge new sensibilities that are against to her native manners and beliefs.

Hilltop staff writer Danielle Kwateng sat down to get the cutting truth behind "The Uncircumcised."

#### Hilltop: Where did the basis or inspiration for the novel come from?

Okpala: [The] narrative for me is an imaginative appreciation or enhancement of reality. In that sense, I would say that my desire to manage reality is my inspiration, that is, to manage reality in order to raise questions about traditions--old and new. What is the purpose of tradition? Should a person who does not understand a tradition be constrained by that tradition? Can tradition migrate? If so, could it be sustained in the target audience?

traditions. I am inviting readers to see whether [circumcision] should actually be seen as a taboo. I would like to say here that the discussion of circumeision in the story is really a response--an anxiety--to Alice Walker's Possessing the Secret of Joy. I leave it to the reader to determine what I have done.

#### H: Who is the target audience for this novel?

O: I did not think of the audience. I was rather concerned with the tradition I was following. There is today what critics have chosen to call the immigrant novel or cosmopolitan novel.

This genre, as I have done in Uncircumcised, engages history, memory, home, homelessness, and new ethnicities-groups of people that really do not believe that they belong to their parents' homeland and for whom their parent's homeland is available only through travel. We see this group of people all over the world, and they are often classified as second-generation immigrants.

There is another group: first-generation immigrants, they migrated to the West when they were younger and they have lived their, or still are [living their] formative years in the West. They are all border-crossers who manage their existence between "home" and "homelessness." Yet "homelessness" itself is, for them, a form of 'home' because it hides all excesses and transcends the restrictions of native cultural conventions. Should I say then that these groups are my



Atrice Williams - Staff Photographer Hand sanitizers are just one way students combat the onslaught of germs.

new environment?

The Uncircumcised answers those questions by looking at Africans (Nigerians) in the Diaspora and at their search for modernity; a search that has destroyed their sense of memory, possibly turning it into a useless faculty and a source of fatigue.

#### H: What does circumcision represent in African culture, why is it taboo?

O: This question presupposes that my narrative is an anthropology. In as much as a reader may draw anthropological conclusions from what I have said, I refuse to see my work as such. I have used circumcision as a narrative device to implicate the impasse between old and new

H: What do you think students should get out of this book?

O: I want to be specific here; a critical understanding of the complexities of identity. The necessity to celebrate the "other." Although some may see what they would rather consider prurient in the story, what is at stake is rather the condition that supports such prurience. Students should then engage the condition, what makes it possible? Who benefits from that condition? Can the condition be changed?

Okpala's book will be on display today at 7 p.m. in the Sheraton College Park Hotel. Admission is free and hors d' ocuvres will be served.

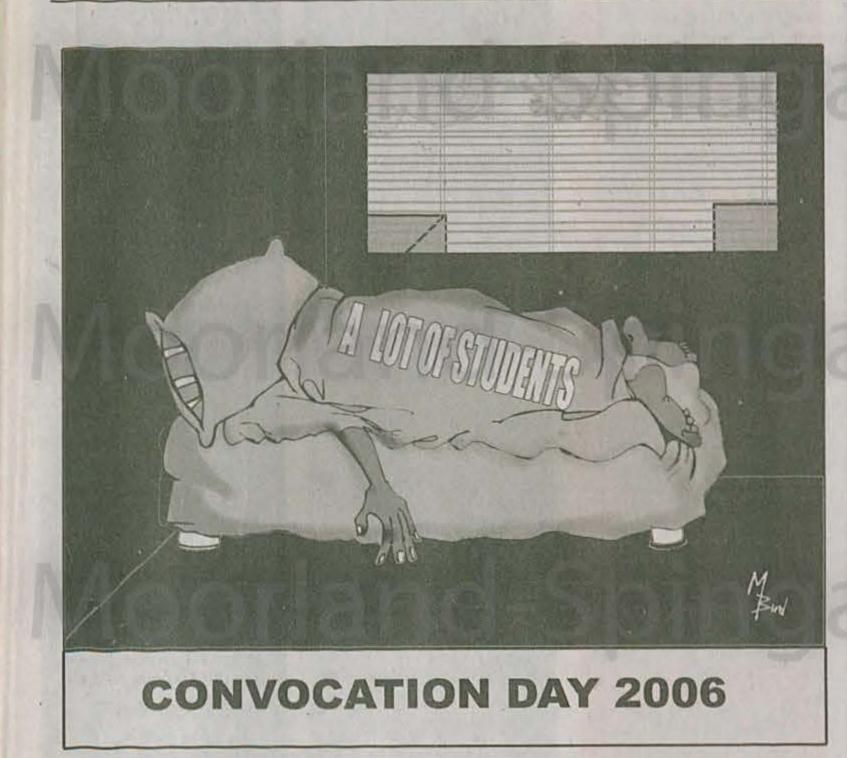
The Hilltop

EDITORIALS & Perspectives

**VOLUME 90, NO. 24** 

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2006** 

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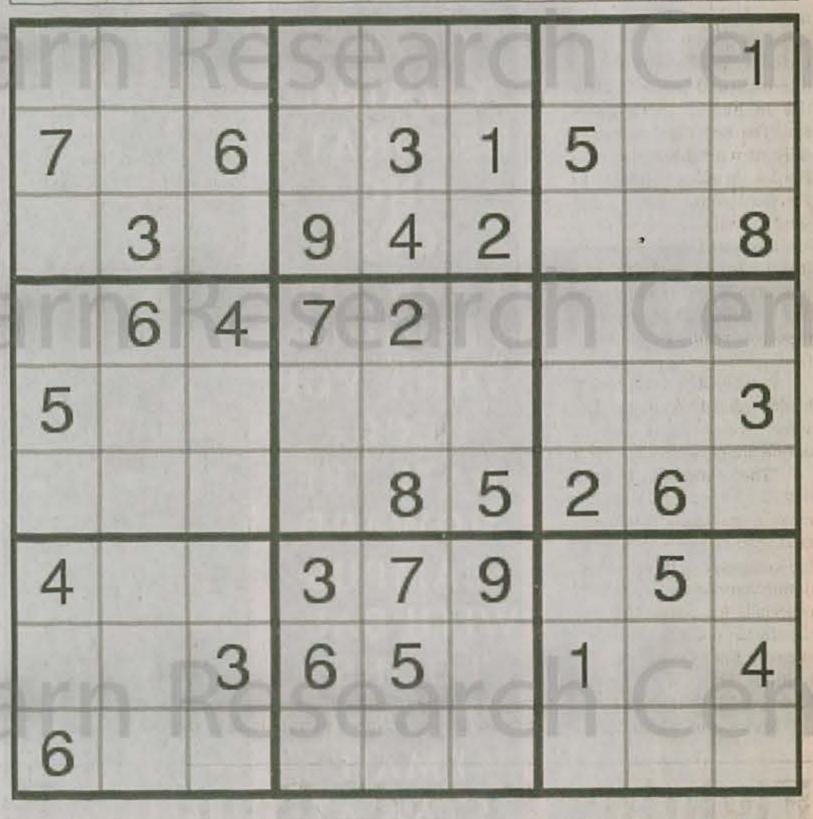


Today recognizes the Johnson presented the School programs with pride. 139th time that Howard of Communications with \$4 University has opened its million and the school was have such an accomplished classrooms to the best and officially named in his honor as Earl G. Graves spoke. Though we understand nationalities. Convocation students can hear the beloved dean of the chapel and morning, and unfortunately today's speaker Dr. Bernard not enough students will be L. Richardson on any Sunday,

... Pride in the fact that we

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

Daily SuDoku



brightest in the black community.

Opening will begin at 11:00 a.m. this there.

This event has always served as the celebration of a new school year and has welcomed the newest Howard students to the fold.

With the town and some of Howard's biggest supporters on campus, it is pertinent that we as students reinforce the fact that we are worth the trouble.

We at The Hilltop are guilty too, and realize how tempting a free Friday morning is, but Opening Convocation is important to the Howard tradition and we, as students, should respect that.

In the past, we have had pioneers from every field come to speak, with last year's speaker being U.S. Representative Harold Ford.

Two years before, a legendary moment in history took place as the late John H.

**Our View:** Students should allow Convocation to remind them why they came to Howard and not use it as a day off.

Howard Board of Trustees in there is nothing like seeing every aspect of the Howard experience represented at Convocation.

> For many of us, the most fun and memorable part of any major Howard event is singing the Alma Mater.

In true Howard tradition, you know this university has added its own flair.

Just as Hampton students looked at us in confusion when we raised our fist for 'black power' during the singing of our National Black Anthem 'Lift Every Voice and Sing,' the Bison have managed to add a little funk to the Alma Mater.

Even if you don't know all the words, we all wave our faculty who represent as many disciplines as they do

... Pride in the fact that we have a Board of Trustees and an administration that continues to accomplish goals it has

set in our Strategic Framework for Action II, after already completing the first.

...Pride in the fact that the Mecca continues to advance in national rankings, while

many of our brother and sister HBCUs falter.

So don't hit the snooze and experience button, Opening Convocation for all it can be because you only get four (that is if you have taken our advice to keep the books first).

To the Howard Board of Trustees, we welcome you back to campus (read: Please Don't Raise Tuition.)

But the most important people at Convocation are the little ones in their Howard sweatshirts who represent the future of this place. Don't let them down. Don't let yourself down.

The Hilltop iting

#### Do you want to write for THE HILLTOP? Come to our budget meeting Monday 0 p . m .

## THEHILTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Sesoo Igbazua Business & Technology Editor

Laura Aderotoye **Business Manager** 

**Ashley Marshall** Asst. Business Manager

### Wednesday @ 6:00

### The Hilltop Office, P-Level, West Tower

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Why Come?

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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.

**Tiffani Bell** 

**Online** Editor

Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to The Hilltop Business office.

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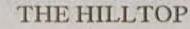
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Now in its 83rd year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.



## 10 HILLTOPICS

2006 SEPTEMBER

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FRI., OCT. 6: BOWLING WITH THE BROTHERS; MEET ON THE

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THE IMPACT MOVEMENT PRESENTS POINT OF IMPACT TONIGHT BLACKBURN FORUM

7:30PM

YARD AT 7:14P.M. SAT., OCT. 7: COMMUNITY SERVICE: GLEN ARDEN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, MEET ON THE YARD AT 9:14AM. BEWARE THE HILLTOP

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