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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 73

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

FRIDAY  
notebook

## BREAKING NEWS

### ACTRESS NICOLE KIDMAN HOSPITALIZED

ACCORDING TO CNN.COM, ACTRESS NICOLE KIDMAN WAS INJURED AND HOSPITALIZED DUE TO A CAR CRASH IN A JAGUAR. KIDMAN WAS IN THE PROCESS OF SHOOTING A NEW SCIENCE FICTION MOVIE, "THE INVASION."

## LIFE & STYLE

### DOES HU REMIND YOU OF HIGH SCHOOL?

SOME BEHAVIORS AND PRACTICES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LEFT BEHIND IN HIGH SCHOOL, YET SOME HAVE CARRIED THEM INTO THEIR COLLEGE CAREERS. FIND OUT MORE IN LIFE & STYLE.

PAGE 8



**FRI, 1/26:**  
SUNNY/ WIND  
HIGH: 30, LOW: 26

**SAT, 1/27:**  
MOSTLY  
SUNNY  
HIGH: 49, LOW: 33

# Cousin Jeff Launches My Nation Online at HU

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Move over Facebook and MySpace, there is a new Web site coming. But instead of focusing on an online social network, the new My Nation Online Web site concentrates on social action.

Formulated by political and social activist Jeff Johnson, or Cousin Jeff as he was known on BET's "Jeff Johnson Chronicles," the new site is geared toward engaging students of color and motivating them to spark a change.

"I thought it was important to create a vehicle to connect young activists from around the country. But most importantly I hope that young people who do good work and who want to do good work won't feel isolated, like they're doing it all by themselves," Johnson said.

"We don't recognize all the time that there are young people who would be involved if you let them know that there's something for them to

be involved in. It's not that they're not involved because they're apathetic. They're not involved because they don't know how. So the real strategy is engaging them with the truth, [to] understand that they have a vehicle and that it's just for them," he said.

To promote his new Web site, Johnson has planned a three-day college launch. The launch, which began on Jan. 25 at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, will then move to Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, on Jan. 26. The launch will finish at Howard Saturday, Jan. 27.

"Doing this at Howard is so important. Howard has in so many ways been this environment of where young people who have changed America have come from. And the question is, will it continue to be?" Johnson added, "Entrepreneurs only make money without changing the world. I believe the students that come out of Howard are the best and brightest. I hope we're able to make connections



Photo Courtesy of www.jeffnation.com

Jeff Johnson, best known as "Cousin Jeff" from BET, has launched a social networking site for students of color.

at Howard that go beyond simply just this large event, but really manifesting what this site is all about."

Though Johnson has high expectations for the tour, he also remains focused and pragmatic.

"I'm very realistic that social justice and social service doesn't bring out as many people as a Jay-Z concert. But at the end of the day, if we don't do it, who's going to do it? I guess if there was a challenge it would be to remain focused

on the fact that whoever comes out is supposed to be there, remain focused on what the mission is—change," Johnson said of his promotion.

Johnson's biggest challenge with the Web site will remain after the college launch.

"It's one thing to be able to create something, but [another] to make sure people log on and what they see [to] make sure it runs the way it needs to and has what it needs to have," he said.

Johnson wants the site to emulate the work of sites such as Moveon.org, which, through partnerships with companies, manifested ideas on the site to create a grassroots movement.

"We want to sponsor and direct campaigns, to drive those campaigns in partnership with other organizations so that people will be able to take a communication, a feeling that they're discussing online and really apply it at the grassroots level," Johnson said. "The goal, my hope would be when all is said and

done that this would create networks [and] inspire some young people to go from just caring about an issue to doing something about it."

In addition to creating a vehicle for youth to get involved, Johnson wants them to understand the variety of ways they can make a difference.

"There are so many young people that feel that they have to be the grassroots activist in order to make change," he said. "But there are judges, or doctors, or lawyers, people that use their influence or their money or their access to create change. My hope is that this generation understands that it doesn't matter what your profession is, that you've got the ability to make change where you are."

The college launch will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday and last until 10 p.m. The event will include a press conference, an address by Johnson, a commemorative display and entertainment. The program is open to all students.

## Official Transcripts Hard to Come By

BY TRAVER RIGGINS  
Hilltop Staff Writer

A single sheet of paper is the key to whether or not students land internships, jobs or a spot in their favorite graduate school. Student transcripts carry entire academic records from class grades to grade point averages.

Along with a degree, they are one of the essentials of forward movement. So when the line to obtain one reaches out of the administration building or the system for requesting one is down and leaves a student paralyzed, frustration and heartbreak are sure to ensue.

However, there are a few ways for students to avoid dismay in the process of obtaining transcripts.

Ernest Gaston, an office records assistant, suggests that students request their transcripts online through BisonWeb. The process is simple and automatic. Instead of the traditional process of students stopping by the administration building, students pay with a credit card after being checked for holds. Students are also able to specify where and when they want the transcript sent.

For a number of reasons, from lack of a credit card to urgency, many students need to visit the transcripts window in person to request their transcript.

They are required to fill out a small form and are then checked for holds. After clearance, they are sent to the cashier's office to pay the \$5 processing fee, return to the window and finish the request. The transcript is ready two days afterwards.



File Photo

Account holds make it difficult to retrieve transcripts.

Banner, the online records system, causes hitches in this process, however.

"It goes down every day. Sometimes for a number of minutes, sometimes hours," Gaston said.

The system allows access to information regarding holds. If a student has any type of hold, they are not allowed a transcript.

"Not only is it slowing [students] up, but it slows our job up too," Gaston said.

Occasionally, in order to resolve the Banner conflict, the office will take a check or money order and hold the transcript request until the system is back up.

Michael Varner, a junior political science major, is applying for the Truman Scholarship. His deadline is Feb. 6 and he has been working on getting his transcript for almost two weeks. Some of the transfer student's credits were mixed up in the process of changing schools and he had to visit academic recording to have the problem rectified on his transcript.

"It would be better if it could be taken care of at the same spot," Varner said.

With the Banner system down when he tried to request his transcript for the second

time, Varner was frustrated, but understanding. He said he believes he has enough time to allow for the setback, but if he did not he would still have to maintain composure.

"I would be upset, but to be fair, I would be upset at both myself and the school," Varner said.

According to Gaston, some students can be disrespectful when they have tight deadlines and run into problems, but Varner said that students need to be accountable, too.

"If you're doing everything you're supposed to then you can come say 'hey, you guys need to tighten up your process,'" Varner said.

Another problem students can run into is their transcripts not arriving at their destinations.

"I had it [my transcript] sent directly to Towson, but they said they never got it," Ashley Webb, a Towson University graduate student and 2006 Howard alumna, said.

After several failed attempts, she had to take steps to obtain the transcript personally to hand deliver it.

"It was kind of a hassle. It's definitely something to stay on top of," she said.

## Citizens in Lebanon Riot

BY VANESSA ROZIER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

As of Thursday evening, citizens of Beirut, Lebanon were forbidden to leave their homes until 6:00 a.m. today.

The citywide curfew comes as a result of the intense riot that spread throughout the capitol city between pro-government Sunnis and Shiite Hezbollah supporters. The leaders of both factions agreed to announce that no person or vehicle were to be found on the street beginning at 8:30 p.m. Thursday.

Car windows were smashed then cars were set on fire on Beirut Arab University's campus based on the owner's religious affiliation. The arguments led to a citywide uprising.

A Hezbollah flag was being burned, symbolizing the deep hatred between government supporters and government opposition.

Soldiers, in attempt to bring order, hurled gunshots in the air while rioters responded by chucking sticks and rocks at them. The violence led to four deaths and 158 injuries, consisting of mainly soldiers.

According to The Daily Star, a Lebanese newspaper,

tensions between the two groups began in the campus cafeteria when one student, a Sunni, and another student, a Shiite, engaged in a heated debate over who was responsible for Tuesday's protest.

It then grew into a Sunni-Shiite confrontation beginning as a fist-fight, then clubs were used, and finally gunfire. The streets of Beirut have not experienced such unrest since its 15-year civil war which ended in 1990.

Hezbollah spokesman Hussein Rahal told CNN that he blames supporters of the government for igniting the clashes.

"Today's action was planned by them [pro-government forces] as a reaction against our general strike action," he said. "We will not react by violence. But we will pressure the government to punish those responsible for the killings."

On the other hand, Samir Frangiya, a member of the pro-government Sunni coalition said, "I hope that the memory of the Lebanese civil war was still strong enough in the memory of most to deter them from repeating the same mistake."

Since Dec. 1, Hezbollah

members have been doing all they could, including camping out in front of government buildings in their quest for new governmental elections and the removal of Prime Minister Fuad Saniora.

On Tuesday the first stage of the Shiite campaign to force the government to step down continued with a nation-wide general strike. Young men blocked the main roads, preventing people from going to work, in what was intended to be a peaceful demonstration. By the end of the day, however, three people were declared dead and 170 wounded.

In reference to yesterday's violent outburst, Prime Minister Saniora spoke to The Daily Star. "What are we doing? No one can help a country where its own people can't help themselves," he said. "We have to set an example for those people who came from all over and are watching Lebanon that we are trying to build a country, not a battlefield."

With the intense city-wide conditions, Education Minister Khaled Qabbani said that all schools and universities will be closed until further notice.



Photo Courtesy of www.news1.hbc.co.uk

Soldiers shot into the air and used sticks and stones to quell rioting students in Beirut.



## Web Site Provides Support for Pregnant Students

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY  
Hilltop Staff Writer

In nearly every academic building on campus, there are fliers that read in big, bold letters, "Pregnant?" followed by a Web site and a phone number.

The Web site featured on the fliers, iamnotforgotten.com, leads to pages of inspirational scripture and the personal story of the Web site's founder and owner, Brittany Aimee Clay, a Howard graduate student.

The Web site was started to address the growing number of women in college who are taking the leap into motherhood—intentionally.

In her thesis, submitted to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Wendi Story states that between 12 percent and 23 percent of women in college ages 18 to 22 experience an unplanned pregnancy at least once.

Ten traditional-aged college women who experienced an unplanned pregnancy while enrolled as full-time students at a university in the mid-Atlantic region participated in Story's study, which analyzed the effects that pregnancy has on female college students.

Howard University, like the college in Story's study, is in the

mid-Atlantic region. However, the results of the women in the study's pregnancies were different from many co-eds on Howard's campus—nine of the women had their pregnancies terminated and the remaining woman miscarried.

While the pregnancies of some women on Howard's campus may end similarly, others decide to keep their babies—for better or worse.

Shydia Young, a former Howard student, understands the struggles of being pregnant while being a student.

"You feel a certain type of way when you're pregnant. I was tired and lazy and didn't want to go to class," Young said. "You really, really have to be motivated."

On days when classes are in session, one may have a chance encounter with a pregnant student who appears to be bubbling over with happiness and anticipation.

According to Story's study, this is not an uncommon reaction.

Even though the majority of the women in the study decided to abort their pregnancies, all of the women conceived within the context of a committed relationship.

As Story remarks, "this runs counter to the stereotype that college women become pregnant [as] a result of careless one-night stands."

While the women who participated in Story's study believed they would be "stigmatized" or "socially marked" because of their pregnancies, many women on college campuses are proud of their pregnancies and share them with the world.

For the women who don't have the support of a loving partner, friends or family, there is another source of help and support.

A page on the Web site provides several signs and symptoms of pregnancy, as well as the brands and prices of home pregnancy tests sold at the CVS on Georgia Avenue.

There are links for prenatal care, support networks and information about the trimesters of pregnancy.

The Web site is called Nehemyah, a Hebrew word meaning, "the comfort of Yahweh." Nehemyah states that its mission is to provide "guidance, support and comfort for Howard University students who are or have been pregnant."

Nehemyah's vision is stated as seeing "college students make virtuous decisions concerning pregnancy and parenting, while continuing to pursue their education."

According to the site, Nehemyah was created when Clay experienced



Ismael Ahma - Staff Photographer

Web site for pregnant college students serves as a support group, assisting with housing options and prenatal care.

a frightening situation during her sophomore year of college.

"The guy I was sleeping with, we had a pregnancy scare," she said. "I was about five or six days late, [and I had] never been before. I was crying, wondering 'what am I going to do?'"

Clay sat in church thinking it would be great if there was a support network for pregnant college

students to help them find prenatal care, housing and other necessities.

Nehemyah is working on building a relationship with Howard. Programs about abstinence, STD awareness and pregnancy have already been held in several dorms on campus with the Web site promising more events to come.

## Jumpstart Program Helps At Risk Preschoolers

BY EBONI FARMER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

For Howard students who are willing to give their time to serve the community, the Jumpstart program is one way to do just that.

Founded at Yale University in 1993, Jumpstart has become a national organization fostered in 64 communities throughout 19 states.

The mission of Jumpstart is to help disadvantaged and at risk preschoolers gain the tools they need to succeed throughout their educational matriculation.

The children, who range from ages three to five, are placed one-on-one with determined college students, where they are taught to interact with other children and adult figures outside the household, as well as improve their literacy and leadership skills.

The Jumpstart program at Howard was initiated in 2002 and provides service to children from Monroe and Seaton Elementary schools and the Howard University Early Learning Program.



File Photo

Jumpstart has provided Howard students the opportunity to tutor preschoolers since 2002. Students teach on campus and at Monroe and Seaton Elementary schools.

"I did Jumpstart my freshman year and it was a great experience. I decided to do Jumpstart because community is very important and has helped mold me," junior telecommunications major Bridget Nelson said.

Nelson also noted that Jumpstart is a major time

commitment.

"It takes a very dedicated person to get involved with Jumpstart because it can conflict with your schedule," she said.

Sophomore music education major Melinda Johnson believes Jumpstart is both necessary and beneficial.

"I am currently doing Jumpstart and I absolutely love it. Just seeing my preschooler's eyes light up when I enter the room makes my entire day, and seeing her improve makes me very happy. It lets me know that I do have a purpose. My day is pretty much scheduled

around Jumpstart and classes. The benefits far outweigh the scheduling issues I may come across," she said.

She looks forward to seeing her work pay off later.

"Teaching these kids who have no idea what lies ahead of them is amazing. Maybe one day I'll see my Jumpstart preschooler in the future and she'll be a doctor or a Howard student," Johnson said.

Jumpstart associate manager Elda Auxilere said that "the population that we are impacting is preschoolers who come from low income households. We work to improve their social and literacy skills."

Auxilere sees the advantage Jumpstart gives the children.

"We also provide them with the resources that many classrooms cannot. When the kids are working one on one with the college students it is easier to identify what their weaknesses and strengths are," Auxilere added.

Auxilere said some of the benefits that college students reap include helping a child achieve success and a \$1,000

stipend they receive after 300 hours of service. The stipend goes toward students' education, and they can use Jumpstart as a work study.

Students who are interested in pursuing careers in the educational fields have the opportunity to become a Pearson Fellow through the Pearson Teacher Fellowship, which is sponsored by Pearson, a company that promotes early childhood education alongside Jumpstart.

Auxilere has seen students grow through Jumpstart and develop important relationships.

"Jumpstart is a national organization, so students are a part of a large network. There are many job opportunities and chances to move up in the ranks," she said.

"Each academic year Jumpstart hires students to work one on one with the preschoolers."

"There will be a Jumpstart open house on March 29 where students who are interested can come to learn more," Auxilere said.

## Campus Briefs



### FAMU Marching Band to Perform at Super Bowl XLI

Florida A&M's Marching 100 will perform with Prince at this year's Super Bowl. According to Chandler Wilson, a Florida A&M student, band president and Miami native, "it was Prince who invited us. He saw the band at the Grammys and wanted to know who the band was."

The band recently performed at the 2006 Grammys with Kanye West and Jamie Foxx.

Florida's interim president, Castell V. Bryant, had some doubts about the band being allowed to perform, but according to Wilson, alumni stepped in and convinced the president to allow the trip. This year will be the band's third halftime performance at the Super Bowl.



### Dillard Students Asked to Return Federal Funds

Hurricane Katrina devastated thousands of people when it struck the Gulf Coast in August 2005. Dillard University students, in the process of trying to rebuild their lives and continue their education, are now being asked to give back federally issued money used to replace destroyed belongings in their dorms.

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) spokeswoman Rachel Rodi, "students who lived in a dormitory owned or managed by the school will not qualify for housing assistance because dormitories are not considered a primary residence."

She said that students needed to first try to obtain reimbursement from the school's insurance company, National Student Services, Inc. Freddie Hill, Dillard's vice president of Campus Life, said FEMA has been demanding payment since July 2006.



### National Black College Alliance Hosts HBCU Tour

"Black College or Die," a campaign started by George Greenidge Jr. and the National Black College Alliance (NBCA), is taking 25 to 30 disadvantaged Boston area high school students and letting them tour HBCUs.

"The idea is to use urban youth culture to send positive messages. We can tell them about making the right choices, but it's our goal to put as many [of] the opportunities in front of them so that they can make the right decisions for their own career path," NBCA's executive director Greenidge said. NBCA started in 2000.

Sources:  
www.blackcollegewire.org

Compiled by:  
Simone Pringle  
Copy Editor



# ONLINE

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The Terrifying New Thriller From the Producers of  
"THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE" **THE**

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"THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE"

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## UBS On-Campus Events and Resume Drop Deadlines

Student Lounge – 6–7pm  
UBS Operations 101 – 1.30.07  
Investment Bank 101 – 1.31.07

Resume Drop:  
Office of Chief Operating Officer 1.23.07

Fixed Income 1.30.07

Investment Banking Division 1.31.07

Operations, Credit Risk 2.1.07

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# Opportunity

Wealth Management	Global Asset Management	Investment Bank
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## You & Us





## New York Plans City Condom

BY AMBER ENGLISH  
Nation and World Editor

In an effort to increase safer sex practices, and lower citywide rates of STD's and AIDS, New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration proposes an official city condom.

"Brands work, and people use branded items more than they use nonbranded items," New York City Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden said in a press release.

One proposed idea is packaging with a subway theme, with maps on the wrapper.

The city started distributing free condoms in 2002, after Frieden took the job as the city's health commissioner.

Since the program began, the city has distributed nearly 1.5 million condoms monthly, and 18 million each year.

Residents are allowed to pick up free condoms in bars, restaurants, nail salons, strip clubs, and area health clinics.

Why has the city decided to take such a step? Because in New York City, AIDS is the third leading cause of death among residents under 65, according



Derrell Smith - Senior Photo Editor

Would you be more willing to use these if the packaging featured your hometown? New York City officials think so. They propose packaging featuring the city subway.

to the New York City health department.

Though individuals are not allowed to order the condoms, any organization or business may order unlimited free condoms from the city.

Washington D.C. started a similar program in 2003, to the dismay of some city officials that did not believe the program would work effectively.

Though there is no way to directly link the success of the program with current rates of STD's in the city, according to a report released the rates of Syphilis

in Washington D.C. have been on the rise continuously since 2000.

Sophomore biology major Shana Green is part of the Live Now campaign to combat AIDS, and recognizes the reasoning behind New York City officials' latest plan.

"I think it may increase awareness," Green said. "It may attract people, but they still might not use the condoms."

Other Howard University students have mixed feelings on how successful this program will be.

"Honestly, regardless of what the city does it will be the decision of the individual as to whether or not they will practice safe sex," said Vanessa Lee, junior public relations major.

However, some students still applaud the efforts of New York City officials.

"I feel that it is a very smart idea that the city is trying to help in the prevention of STD's," said junior television production major John Davis IV.

The design for the New York city condom has yet to be approved. Officials have no time line on the project.

## By the Numbers: HIV Statistics from Across the Country

### In New York:

- \* 1 in 70 New Yorkers
- \* 1 in 40 African Americans.
- \* 1 in 25 men living in Manhattan.
- \* 1 in 12 black men age 40-49 years.
- \* 1 in 10 men who have sex with men.
- \* 1 in 8 injection drug users.

Courtesy of: NYC Department of Health

### In Washington D.C.: Of HIV Patients....

- \* African-American: 82%
- \* Latino: 3%
- \* White: 14%
- \* Other: 1%

Courtesy of: Whitman-Walker Clinic

### Nationally:

#### Of HIV Patients....

- \* African-American: 49%
- \* Hispanic: 18%
- \* White: 31%
- \* Asian/Pacific Islander: 1%
- \* American Indian: >1%

## "We've Got Issues..." Blacks in the White House

"We've Got Issues..." will appear in The Hilltop every other Friday. Produced in part by Project Voice, "We've Got Issues..." will look at a particular topic that is pertinent in our community. It will also present the basic facts and the perspectives of the conservative and liberal wings. Then it's your turn: after reading both perspectives, tell us what YOU think.

### Issue:

There has been tremendous speculation on the radio, in newspapers and magazines and in communities across the country regarding Senator Barack Obama's (D-Ill.) decision to enter the primary race to be our next president.

Some believe after taking the time out to research and evaluate Senator Obama's credentials and the current political environment, it is only fitting that the Senator enters the democratic primary for presidency.

However, others question his expertise and preparedness. Does he have enough experience to take the role of head-of-state? Does he have the connections to even get him into the office? Finally, others pose the inevitable question: is the nation ready for a black president? All these questions lead us to the ultimate question...

### Question:

## Does Barack Obama Have the Presidential Persona?

### No, Look at His Skin:

In a seemingly new era of progressive politics, Americans appear eager and ready to rattle the traditions of political power. This is particularly visible through the victory of Nancy Pelosi, the first female Speaker of the House. Pelosi's triumph has many considering the possibility of America's first non-traditional president of the United States.

There is no doubt that Barack Obama is the ideal candidate for president. He has the intellect, relative youth, and savvy to create great momentum among progressives. Nonetheless, the color of his skin will be the unconscious factor that some Americans will consider when Obama is placed side by side against his opponents.

In a society that still debates the necessity of voting rights, that justifies racial inequality, or gerrymandering, it is highly unlikely that a black man will hold the highest office in the land.

-Nyron Crawford

### Yes, He Has What it Takes:

The opposing side immediately approaches whether or not senator Obama should run from a racial perspective and feels that if he decides to run in the primary he will suffer the same fate historically as the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African American to run a bid for presidency of the United States in 1972, and Reverend Al Sharpton in the 2004 election.

A key factor that distinguishes Obama's opportunity from his predecessors is the shift of political ideology of primary voters. With partisanship plaguing his political counterparts, Sen. Obama's moderate yet challenging democratic idealism continues to invigorate not only the liberal base, but some conservatives as well, be they black, brown, or white. This can give him an upper hand in establishing a larger, more diverse base of voters than his potential primary opponents.

More importantly, Obama has effectively reached across partisan lines to pass legislation of importance to African Americans in his district as a state senator. He has also exemplified tenacity through his actions as a United States Senator on both national and foreign affairs issues.

-Marcus Coleman



Photo courtesy of www.house.gov

\*These opinions are not the those of The Hilltop. Project Voice is a student organization dedicated to increasing political awareness on the Howard University campus. For more information on Project Voice, and to give us YOUR opinion, e-mail us at ProjectVoiceHU@gmail.com.



# Women's Basketball Struggles to Make it Happen

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Along with the unusual game schedule that the women's basketball team has encountered this season, they have also faced a number of tough losses on their scoreboard.

The Lady Bison basketball team has a season record thus far of only 1-16. At this point last year the team had a record of 7-9, although the team has played more games this season, they have not received nearly as many wins.

The team's first win came last Saturday against Bethune-Cookman, however they were not able to follow that win with another when they played against the FAMU squad the following Monday.

The team has consistently made strong plays against their opponents game-after-game, however pulling together the chemistry of all of their capabilities has had the women's basketball team coming up short.

"We are just having trouble using everything we have with our plays and working with it all together on the court," said senior forward Melloni Benson.

The team has made it clear to their fans that they do not lack in

athletic ability when the team tied and took the lead several times when they played against FAMU, who currently holds the no. 1 seat in the MEAC. Howard is now no. 6.

Last season, the ladies finished their season 15-14. With 15 wins from last season and having only lost four seniors, the team was looking like a great season was ahead, however it has so far not shown to be true.

To bring their number of wins back in a positive direction the Lady Bison are working on their teamwork and communication efforts.

"It is going to take more teamwork, effective play, and for them to be able to seal the deal," said Cathy Parson, head coach of the women's basketball team.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams have had unusual scheduling this season that includes back to back home games and long periods away on the road. However, this has not had as tough of an effect on the men's team who currently has a season record of 8-11.

Because of the long stretch of home games for the Lady Bison, they will be able to use their home court advantage as a tool to get some more winning games before they go back on the road. The team will not have



Photo Courtesy of All Pro Photo  
**Shannon Carlisle's 14.9 points per game hasn't been enough for the Lady Bison. They are 1-16.**

another away game until Feb. 17. The ladies got their confidence back up after the win against

Bethune-Cookman so they are hoping that they can build on that and work hard to more wins.

"I think any time you get a win, you want to build on it," said junior guard, Christina Aden. "Now we have something to build on."

The athletic department has been making strong efforts to increase the winning potential of all of the athletic teams at Howard. Athletic director, Dwight Datcher has been voicing his stance on excellence for the athletic teams as far as keeping them up to speed with what the rest of the university is doing.

"Wherever the university is, that is where the athletic department should be," said Datcher.

The women's basketball team

## SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

### SCORES

None

### WEEKEND GAMES

Friday

Track @ Penn State  
Open  
4 p.m.

Saturday

Women's Basketball v.  
Coppin State  
2 p.m.

Men's Basketball v.  
Coppin State  
4 p.m.

will shoot for their second win as they face their opponent, Coppin State, Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Burr gymnasium.

# Professional Athlete Salaries a Continuous Matter of Debate

BY SEAN WOOLFORD  
Contributing Writer

With attendance records being broken every year in all sports and owners' pockets getting fatter, athletes with multimillion-dollar contracts are smiling on pay day. The question is, are they getting paid too much?

"Athletes do not make too much

money," said Gary Miles, who has been deputy sports editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer for five years. "The owners have enough money and it's the market that they play in. They [players] deserve what they get based on the economics."

In the 2004-05 season, the NBA's New York Knicks was worth an estimated \$543 million under the current deal for the arena and without

deduction for debt. The team made an estimated \$181 million that year. NBA teams averaged a worth of \$326 million and made revenue of \$106 million.

Cheryl Clark, a junior biology major at North Carolina Central University, believes that athletes should not be paid high salaries.

"I don't know why athletes get paid so much," Clark said. "I understand that the sports industry makes a lot of money, but how could you pay someone that amount of money when people like teachers make next to nothing?"

Average salaries in all sports are at all-time highs. The league with the highest average salary is the National Basketball Association. Players in the NBA average a little more than \$4 million with the highest-paid player being Shaquille O'Neal, who made \$20 million in the 2005-2006 season. The minimum salary, as of the 2005-06 season, was \$398,762 for rookies and a little more than \$1.1 million for veterans with 10 plus years of experience, according to the NBA.

The most expensive contract in sports history was in Major League Baseball (MLB). Alex Rodriguez, who plays for the New York Yankees, signed a 10-year \$252 million contract in the winter of 2000, according to Associated Press. The next highest-paid player is his teammate in New York, Derek Jeter, who also

makes more \$20 million a year.

"I never would have thought that someone would ever sign a contract like that over such a long time," Matt Madison, a sophomore mathematics major at The University of South Carolina said. "I mean [Michael] Jordan made \$15 to \$18 million contracts in his later years, but they were one-year contracts."

Unlike the other three major North American leagues for football, basketball and hockey, the MLB has no salary cap on the amount of money it can spend on players.

While some people don't believe that players overall are overpaid, others believe that certain individuals make too much.

"A-Rod is overpaid," Madison said of Rodriguez. "He does not produce in the playoffs when it matters most, unlike Jeter who does and is worth every single penny."

Clark does not understand why teachers, who basically have the future of the country in their hands, make so little and athletes, who entertain the public for such a short period of time, make so much.

"It's crazy that the people who teach our future congressmen and doctors make such a little amount of money," Clark said. "I just wish there was a way for teachers to get paid more."

While baseball players make an average of \$2.9 million, the aver-

age pay for teachers in the United States was \$46,597 during the 2003-04 school year. Salaries in South Carolina, which has some of the lowest paid teachers in the country, averaged \$41,162, which ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in the country in the 2003-04 school year, according to the American Federation of Teachers.

"I don't mind that athletes get paid so much," said Franklin Davis, a history teacher at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, S.C. "I enjoy what I do and don't do it for the money, even though it wouldn't hurt to make more."

The only sport that has a leash on its players' salaries is the National Football League. The other three leagues offer guaranteed contracts, which means that whatever the amount is when a player signs his contract is the amount he gets. In the NFL, the only thing guaranteed is the signing bonus, which helps teams if a player is injured or is not performing.

"I agree with the way the NFL conducts their contracts," Madison said. "If your players are not producing, you can cut them and not worry about the whole salary. The only thing I would change is a better system for players once they retire."

The one definite when it comes to athletes' salaries is that they will get a lot bigger way before they get smaller.



Photo Courtesy of www.epochtimes.com  
**New York Yankee Alex Rodriguez signed a 10-year \$252 million contract in 2000, making him the highest paid contract athlete in history.**

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

BY CARYN GRANT  
Sports Editor

**Boston College vs. Duke - Sun. @ 5:30 p.m., CSN**

When these two teams squared off last season the stakes were high. Duke and Boston College battled for the ACC Championship title. The Blue Devils were victorious, as they edged past the Eagles, 78-76.

Duke (17-3 overall, 4-2 conference) is ranked No. 10 in both the AP and coaches polls and is coming off four-game winning streak, including a close win over No. 17 ranked Clemson Thursday night. BC sits atop the ACC with a 6-1 conference record (14-5 overall), their one loss coming against No. 12 ranked

Maryland.

The Eagles come into this match-up following an exciting buzzer beater win over Florida State Tuesday. Senior guard Sean Marshall hit a three-pointer over two defenders as time expired, giving the Eagles win.

This will be a test for BC, as they face ranked teams in six of their 11 remaining games of the regular season.

Senior forward Jared Dudley has been a huge factor in the Eagles' success, averaging 18.9 points and 8.8 rebounds per game. Duke has enjoyed more balanced scoring, being led by junior guard DeMarcus Nelson with 14.5 points.



Photo Courtesy of www.umasshoops.com

**My Pick:**

Boston College may not be ranked nationally, but look out for them to make some noise in this game against Duke. Marshall and his teammates are still pumped from Tuesday's win. BC has something to prove. Eagles by six.

BY ELLIOTT JONES  
Sports Editor

**Washington Wizards vs. Detroit Pistons - Fri. @ 7 p.m., CSN/ESPN**

If you have been watching any NBA basketball so far this season, you know that Gilbert Arenas is on a mission. Washington's 6-foot-4 inch guard is having a career year, averaging 29.7 points per game, and was just named a starter for the Eastern Conference for this year's NBA All-Star Game.

The Wizards' record is currently 24-17, which trails the Eastern Conference lead by a half a game. Which team do they trail? The 24-16 Detroit Pistons.

The Pistons are quietly having yet another solid season and have been flying high since the homecoming of former University of Michigan star Chris Webber. Webber (who was also a former Wizard/Bullet, for the record), scored 19 points in his fourth game for Detroit, which fit in nicely

with Richard Hamilton's 22 and Rasheed Wallace's 20 in a 103-92 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats Wednesday night.

In fact, the Pistons are 3-1 since acquiring Webber, with two of those wins coming against Western Conference opponents.

Meanwhile, the Wizards faced the Phoenix Suns in a rematch of the 144-139 Washington win that ended the Suns' 15-game winning streak. Arenas had 54 points in the December meeting, but his 31 weren't enough to prevent Phoenix's 127-105 beatdown in the rematch, also this past Wednesday.

With these two teams battling for the number one spot in the East, tonight's contest could have lasting effects for the rest of the season. Detroit, champions in 2004 and runners-up in 2005, have proven that they can go all the way in recent years. The Wizards, on the other hand, are unproven despite their clear potential.

**My pick:**

Despite Washington's 7-13 record on the road, I believe they will travel to Motown and pull out the win. Inspired by Wednesday's loss to Phoenix, the Wizards will re-assert their claim as a threat to represent the East in the NBA Finals, which would be a first for Washington since 1979.

Wizards by four.



Photo Courtesy of www.cubsquad.com





# Entertainment Report Card



## Anderson Shines Bright on "Sunshine at Midnight"

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Back in the summer of 2001, Sunshine Anderson had all the independent women humming her single, "Heard it All Before." After a five-year journey, she is now back on the scene with her new album "Sunshine at Midnight."

For Anderson, the past few years have been a long and trying struggle to get her voice heard.

"I hung dark curtains at my windows, because I needed to block everything out. It was a difficult period, but I got through it," she said on her Web site. Her second album is a testament of her growth.

Anderson was born and raised in Charlotte, N.C. This proud southerner was discovered in the lunch line

of North Carolina Central University, where she was a student. While humming a tune, another student heard her sultry voice and hooked her up with a producer named Mike City. Through him, she began working with the CEO of Soul Life.

This was during the time when neo-soul artists were really getting recognized and Anderson quickly emerged on the scene with artists like Musiq Soulchild, Jill Scott and India.Arie. Her album sold more than 750,000 copies and was number two on Billboard's R&B charts.

When Anderson switched from Soul Life to Atlantic Records, the label merged with Warner Brothers Records and she was told to wait a year to release her sophomore album. Instead, Anderson left to pursue her dreams elsewhere. After

years of going from label to label, Anderson finally got a deal with Music World Music. Anderson is candid about those rough years and wants to encourage women in the music industry to stay persistent.

Her newest CD, which was released Tuesday, is a mixture of jazzy soul songs and high tempo club hits. The producers on "Sunshine at Midnight" include Raphael Saadiq, Warren Campbell and Dr. Dre. The album differs from Anderson's first in that it shows a range of her talent and emotions. Most of the lyrics and themes of the album are catered to older women who have been in difficult relationships or who are tired of waiting around for "Mr. Right."

Like her first hit, "Heard it All Before," her current single, "Something I Wanna

Give You," is about getting rid of a no good man. After her first hit, many accused Anderson of being too hard on men, but she said the sentiment came from being in and observing so many failed relationships. But Anderson is not all about man bashing. She does pay homage to good men in her song "Good Love."

Although she admits that this album is not as personal as she wanted it to be, Anderson hopes to fill a void in the R&B community.

On her Web site Anderson writes, "Not to take anything away from the artists who are doing their thing right now, but I can definitely hear that there's something missing, especially in the R&B arena. I'm glad to be back, because I want to be the one to fill that void."

Grade: B+



Photo Courtesy of www.Amazon.com

"Sunshine at Midnight" is now in stores everywhere.

## And The Oscar Goes To... Academy Award Nominations



Photo Courtesy of www.thephoenix.com

### Performance by an actor in a leading role

Leonardo DiCaprio in "Blood Diamond"  
Ryan Gosling in "Half Nelson"  
Peter O'Toole in "Venus"  
Will Smith in "The Pursuit of Happyness"  
Forest Whitaker in "The Last King of Scotland"



Photo courtesy of www.amazon.com

### Performance by an actress in a supporting role

Adriana Barraza in "Babel"  
Cate Blanchett in "Notes on a Scandal"  
Abigail Breslin in "Little Miss Sunshine"  
Jennifer Hudson in "Dreamgirls"  
Rinko Kikuchi in "Babel"



Photo Courtesy of www.darkhorizons.com

### Performance by an actor in a supporting role

Alan Arkin in "Little Miss Sunshine"  
Jackie Earle Haley in "Little Children"  
Djimon Hounsou in "Blood Diamond"  
Eddie Murphy in "Dreamgirls"  
Mark Wahlberg in "The Departed"

### Performance by an actress in a leading role

Penélope Cruz in "Volver"  
Judi Dench in "Notes on a Scandal"  
Helen Mirren in "The Queen"  
Meryl Streep in "The Devil Wears Prada"  
Kate Winslet in "Little Children"



Photo courtesy of www.dreamgirls.com



Photo courtesy of www.estadiao.com

### Original screenplay

"Babel"  
Written by Guillermo Arriaga  
"Letters from Iwo Jima"  
Screenplay by Iris Yamashita  
Story by Iris Yamashita & Paul Haggis  
"Little Miss Sunshine"  
Written by Michael Arndt  
"Pan's Labyrinth"  
Written by Guillermo del Toro  
"The Queen"  
Written by Peter Morgan

-- Compiled by Joshua Thomas,  
Deputy Managing Editor  
-- Courtesy of the Academy of  
Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



File Photo

Although times such as First Friday on the Yard can be enjoyable, attending college is a maturity process that many students may or may not be ready for.

## Some Ask: Are Freshmen Truly Ready for College?

BY STEPHEN CHESLEY  
Contributing Writer

Every fall, high school graduates all over the country and the world pack up their things and head off to college in what will be the beginning of the rest of their lives.

The class of 2010 has just finished their first semester at The Mecca and are already on their way to completing their second. The Howard community, professors and students of all classifications are discussing the capabilities of the class of 2010, just as they have done with every freshman class in the past.

It is during this discussion that the age-old question arises: are they ready for college? For that matter, are any freshmen ready for college? Many wonder if new students are mature enough to handle this new experience. Some also ponder if students will be able to adjust to Howard University, or will see it simply as Howard High School.

Freshman political science major Gabrielle Martinez said, "Only half of us were ready to come to college. The other half only came because they liked what they saw in 'Drumline.'"

This may in fact be true. College is often idolized in

the media, when in fact, it is not for everyone. In addition, those for whom are ready for college do not always apply at a time in life when they are ready for the experience.

As freshmen at Howard or any other school for that matter, they have done their part to gain entrance into the university of their choice. Students have completed the applications, written essays and received scholarships, but going to college is about more than that.

College is an experience that goes beyond academics. It is essentially, a time to grow up. After 18 years of adult supervision, an immense freedom is thrust upon countless young people barely old enough to vote.

Being in college takes a great deal of maturity, will power and acknowledgement of responsibility. There is no one there to tell students to study, go to class or participate in clubs and organizations.

"I personally feel prepared for the freedom of college because I have learned how to manage my time, but because parties are so accessible here. I think a lot of people in my class are not [prepared] because many of them still party on Thursday when they have class Friday morning," freshman biology

major Kelli Outlaw said.

College is based on self-determination, and when it comes to levels of maturity, no two students are the same.

Dr. Jules P. Harrell, the acting chairman of Howard's department of psychology, offered her perspective on students' readiness for college.

"Students are so variable because of their different experiences. Some people are ready and some aren't. When you enter college, your social field has changed, authority figures, peer groups," he said. "Now, you are amongst people from all over the world. You may have been the smartest person in your class, but here, there [are] many others with that exact same title. It is a challenge to the basic structure that you've dealt with in the past."

While the path of this year's freshman class has yet to be determined and no one will ever really know if they are ready for the road ahead, it is good to know that people such as Harrell still have faith.

"I think this year's class is a really bright and talented one. I believe they will greatly benefit from the Howard experience," he said.





## Public Figures Mess Themselves Up With "Foot-In-Mouth Syndrome"

Little over a week ago, Virginia state delegate Frank D. Hargrove (D-Va.), made comments comparing an apology by the state of Virginia for slavery to asking Hebrews to apologize for killing Jesus Christ.

He said that African-Americans should just "get over it."

Hargrove has no place in asking African-Americans to "get over" more than 400 years of slavery, which still has psychological effects on African-Americans today.

But that is beside the point, Hargrove's comments sound very outdated in a nation in which a national apology has been issued for slavery by former president Bill Clinton. An apology is a past due for Virginia, which is

the first place where African-American slaves were used in colonial America.

And Hargrove has already attempted to make up for his statements by proposing that Virginia join in on national

senator George Allen was caught on tape referring to someone as "Macaca," a term seen as derogatory to those of Indian descent. Former South Carolina senator, Strom Thurmond, was quoted saying the n-word in a 1948 speech. Even our current President, George W. Bush, regularly misuses and mispronounces words.

But that is no excuse for yet another insensitive comment in the 21st century. This was openly racial insensitivity towards African-Americans only weeks before Black History Month.

World leaders on all levels need to take responsibility and use caution in what they say publicly.

### Our View:

**Although "foot in mouth syndrome" is moderately common, world leaders need to be more responsible for what they say publicly.**

Juneteenth celebrations. His actions can be chalked up to "foot in mouth syndrome."

Hargrove is not the only politician to immediately regret an offensive statement that they made. It was only last year when former Virginia

## Daily Sudoku

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

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

Do you want to write for THE HILLTOP?

Come to our budget meeting

**Monday @ 7 p.m.**

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The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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



**NO JUSTICE  
NO PEACE**

**MY  
BOURBON  
CHICKEN IS  
COLD**

**PLAY THE  
GAME OR  
GET PLAYED**

**COME  
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STORY FOR  
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AT  
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MONDAY  
AT  
7 PM  
IN THE  
THE HILLTOP  
OFFICE IN  
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WEST TOWERS**