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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 76

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

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BREAKING NEWS

EUROPEAN UNION-WIDE BAN ON SMOKING

THE EUROPEAN UNION BEGAN DISCUSSING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD BAN SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES THROUGHOUT ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, ACCORDING TO THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

NATION & WORLD

LIFE ON THE HILL, CAPITOL HILL

TURN TO NATION & WORLD TO READ ABOUT SOME STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES WORKING ON CAPITOL HILL, AND HOW A HILL INTERNSHIP CAN JUMPSTART YOUR CAREER.
PAGE 4



WED, 1/31:
MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH 35, LOW 26

THURS, 2/1:
SNOW SHOWERS
HIGH 39, LOW 33

School of Divinity Students Pursue Efforts For A New Dean

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University School of Divinity (HUSD) students remain unsatisfied after their November protest and unsuccessful attempts to reconcile several problems the school faces.

"To me it says a lot about how the university feels about the Divinity School to have a interim [dean] for over four years at the school," said Herman Griffin, the president of the HUSD Student Government Association.

The Administration has been on the quest for a dean for the Divinity School since 2003. After one failed search, they embarked on a new search in 2005 and have yet to secure one of the three eligible candidates for the permanent position.

In an address to students on Nov. 16, 2006, Provost Richard English, Ph.D., informed students that if the selection committee is unable to approve a candidate, they will re-launch the search. He currently insists that the search is not a failed one.

"We will continue the search during the spring 2007 semester with the goal of selecting a permanent dean at the earliest possible



Tyrene Cummings - Staff Photographer

Despite their November protest, Divinity students still have concerns.

date," English stated in a Jan. 24 memorandum to The Hilltop.

Students are anxious for their new permanent dean and have declared their school to be in a "state of crisis," an idea with which English does not agree, according to the memo.

A catalog of problems from bro-

ken elevators and poor parking lot lighting to the lack of a financial aid office and inadequate computer access plagued the school.

"There are programmatic, administrative and facilities strategic needs that we must address in collaboration with the School's administration, faculty and stu-

dents," English said in the memo.

Griffin said that since the November group meeting with English, the parking lot lights have been fixed, printers were fixed and operational for three days and a financial aid representative has been placed in the building once a week.

Even though he appreciates the efforts, Griffin said, "Nothing has really changed to the point where we're satisfied."

He added, "It seems to me that they are trying to appease us with little distractions. I don't know if they are able to answer the real questions and give us real answers."

The students' main cause is to have a permanent dean who will be committed specifically to the school and will be able to dedicate their time and energy solely to the concerns of the HUSD.

HUSD students believe that the administration does not have a genuine concern for their school.

A major concern for them has been establishing steady communication with the main campus, a feat they have struggled with. Griffin is still looking to speak with President H. Patrick Swygert after several failed attempts to schedule a meeting.

"President Swygert and I are always available to meet with students at their request and at a time that is mutually convenient," English said.

Griffin is in the process of planning a town meeting and another meeting with the provost and ensures that he and his peers will not rest their efforts until their goal is accomplished.

"We're not going to be quiet. We just know that we have to continue to show that this is a real concern and that's the key," Griffin said.

The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) has also been advocating for HUSD to the administration, regarding what HUSA vice president Stephen Nichols considers an "interesting situation."

"Both the president and the provost have assured that they are handling the situation with all good speed," Nichols said.

With the assistance of HUSA and a passionate student body, Griffin plans to move deliberately and assertively in efforts to come to a resolution.

He said, "Howard definitely pushes the idea that the squeaky wheel gets the oil, which is sad to see the condition some of the cars are in."

Studies Link Breast Cancer to Red Meat

BY JEANETTE HORDGE
Hilltop Staff Writer

Studies released suggest women who eat red meat have a higher risk of getting breast cancer.

The Nurses Health Study II at Harvard Medical School tested 90,000 women and found that the more red meat women in their 20s, 30s and 40s consumed, the greater their risk of developing breast cancer in the next 12 years fueled by hormones.

The Archives of Internal Medicine, which published the study last November, found women who consumed more than a half serving of red meat per day were more likely to develop breast cancer. After studying the correlation between the consumption of red meat and breast cancer, researchers concluded that higher red meat intake may be a risk factor for breast cancer among pre-menopausal women ages 26 to 46.

The results surprised students, including Misty Major, a freshman psychology major. "Red meat leading to a higher risk of breast cancer seems weird. I thought red meat would have protein, iron and other nutrients," she said. "I definitely didn't expect it to lead to breast cancer."

Other breast cancer agencies are not ready to jump on the red-meat-equals-breast-cancer bandwagon. According to the Real Age Breast Cancer Screening Center, "Women who eat large quantities of meat get breast cancer at the same rate as women who eat meat infrequently or women who are total vegetarians. However, it's the way meat is cooked that seems to have an effect on the risk of developing breast cancer."

Some researchers believe that women who regularly prefer well-done meat have a higher risk of breast cancer than women who generally prefer their meat cooked rare or medium. According to Real Age, "The one-third [of] women who prefer well-done meat develop breast cancer 20 to 25 percent more often than the average woman, and the two-thirds of women who prefer rare or medium cooking developed breast cancer 15 percent less often than the average."

Ariel Miller, a freshman psychology major, has a long family history of breast cancer. Her aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother all suffered from the disease. "Between the café and McDonalds, I eat red meat all the time.

But now that I know it can lead to breast cancer, I will definitely watch my intake," Miller said.

Clinical epidemiology studies show a higher incidence of breast cancer, among women who eat well-done meat. Laboratory tests provide evidence that high cooking temperatures and longer cooking times produce more heterocyclic amines (HCAs), which can cause cancers to appear in the breast cells. Therefore, almost any food can produce HCAs if cooked at a high temperature for a long time. However, according to Real Age, "Red meat poses a problem because of cooking conventions. Red meat is the most commonly overcooked food and, therefore, the most common source of HCAs."

Kaia Alderson, a freshman international business major, said, "I was raised mostly as a vegetarian. My family only

ate meat maybe once a month. And even while I am here at school, I prefer to eat chicken. However, if I had a kitchen in my dorm, I would definitely watch how I cooked my foods."

Using different cooking techniques can be the solution to the problem. Real Age suggests large cuts of meat be precooked at low temperatures in the microwave then drained, which will cause some of the HCAs to be released. The brown exterior can then be broiled quickly. Real Age also recommends avoiding using pan drippings to make gravy since they contain HCAs.

Hamburgers from fast food restaurants generally do not contain high levels of HCAs because the patties are thin, and quick cooking methods are used. Nevertheless, ordering rare or medium meat at a restaurant is the healthier choice.

Know The Facts

1. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women.

False. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women. However, breast cancer is a close second.

2. Breast cancer is more common among white women than African-American women.

True. White women are slightly more likely to develop breast cancer than are African-American women. But African Americans are more likely to die of this cancer because they are often diagnosed at a more advanced stage.

3. Men cannot get breast cancer.

False. Although breast cancer primarily affects women, about 1,500 male cases are expected to be diagnosed in 2007.

Graphic Courtesy of Jeremy Williams - Layout Designer
Source Compiled from: msnbc.msn.com



Photo courtesy of www.ah.gov.com

Somalian President Abdullahi Yusuf moves toward peace.

Somalia to Talk Peace

BY VANESSA ROZIER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Somalian President Abdullahi Yusuf took the first step toward a more stable and peaceful nation yesterday by consenting to a National Reconciliation Conference.

Somalia is a part of the Horn of Africa, sharing its borders with Ethiopia and Kenya, and has been unstable since 1991.

Somalia gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1960, and in 1991, warlords overthrew dictator Mohamed Siad Barre, leaving the nation unstable for years to come. That same year, the nation split into the northern Somaliland and the southern United Somali Congress, marking the beginning of a long-term civil war. The United Nations sent troops to help with the redevelopment of the conflicted country for three years.

Due to excessive casualties, the United Nations withdrew its troops in 1995, but continued to send food and aid. Somalia's southwestern region declared itself autonomous in 2002, and in 2006 the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) took control of the nation and the Juba Valley Association seceded.

According to Jendayi Frazer, a U.S. diplomat for Africa, Ethiopian troops are beginning to withdraw, leaving a "power vacuum" for the ICU to potentially take advantage of. The United States will offer air-lift support to the African forces

who have stepped in to help secure Somalia.

The upcoming reconciliation talks will allow for a commitment from the United States, the African Union peacekeeping force and the European Union to support peace efforts. It will also determine if Somalia will receive monetary support - \$40 million from the United States and \$20 million from the European Union - and 8,000 troops from the African Union currently comprised of Uganda, Nigeria and Malawi.

According to CNN, President Yusuf said, "We would like to negotiate with all Somalis who would like peace, but we cannot negotiate with those who are intent on violence and terrorism."

The ill-intentioned persons to whom the President is referring are members of the Islamic Movement or Union of Islamic Courts - an organization that threatened to take control of Somalia and confined the interim government to one farming town. Islamic followers in Somalia refuse to attend the conference as long as troops from Ethiopia, their neighbors to the west, are present.

The United States views this Islamic group as the organization that supported the 1998 al-Qaida bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed more than 200 people. According to Fox News, Osama bin Laden claims Somalia as a battleground in his war on the West.

Students Dissatisfied With Student Health Center

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS MURRAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

Despite rumors and complaints that the Student Health Center is unreliable and possesses incompetent workers, the Health Center does offer students much medical assistance and is working to improve its customer service.

While the wait can often be long and stressful during certain times of the year and athletic physicals take precedence over the needs of others, the Health Center is one component that can be counted on.

In addition to treatment for most illnesses and injuries, the Health Center provides students with abstinence and contraception counseling and education, STD and HIV tests, flu shots, cervical screenings, tuberculosis screenings, emergency contraception and maternity testing.

The Health Center also administers immunizations, which the University prefers students have completed upon their arrival.

Referrals to the den-

tist and to the Howard University Hospital for services not provided by the Health Center are also available.

If a student is having an emergency, a call to the nurse will help decide whether or not they should seek immediate care.

If the Health Center is closed, a toll-free number will put students in direct contact with a nurse who can advise them on whatever health issues they are facing at the moment.

Despite the provisions provided, students do not seem satisfied with the service they receive at the Health Center.

Sophomore biology major Jenise Cameron said, "The service is fine, but I think the attitudes of some of the people can be better sometimes, and a person can be in there hours before being seen. But other than that, it is ok."

Echoing this sentiment, sophomore international business major Tiffany Cheatham said, "They have no sense of urgency, and they are not very knowledgeable

or professional."

Sophomore business administration major Annie White said the Health Center is "ghetto, just like everything else offered at HUH. Search for an alternative."

In response to student complaints, the director of the Student Health Center, Dr. Lynette Munday, claims that when students see the health care provider they are "usually satisfied."

However, Munday admits that the center has "fallen short in 'waiting times' before they see a provider or nurse."

Munday offered advice for dissatisfied students.

"Students are encouraged to make appointments for care," she said.

"This is the very best way to receive services in a timely manner. Students who walk in for care may experience lengthy wait times unless the care is deemed a medical emergency. Medical emergencies take priority over appointments and other types of walk-ins."

Munday added, "With all that said, we are working diligently to reduce appoint-

ment wait times."

If someone is dealing with a life-threatening medical emergency and is within several miles of campus they will most likely be taken to HUH.

According to Munday, "The Hospital Emergency Care Area should be used for life-threatening emergencies and for urgent care when the Student Health Center is closed."

Munday continued, "The problem could become life threatening if the student waits for the Student Health Center to open."

At HUH, students can receive treatments and services that are not within the means of the Health Center. However, an upgrade from the Health Center to the hospital typically means a price increase.

The Student Injury and Sickness Plan, provided by the University, will cover the costs that come with fulfilling students' medical needs. This third party insurance plan covers treatment for most illnesses and sickness, but the benefits have limitations.



The Student Health Center is working to improve customer service, shorten wait times and curb student complaints.

For example, injuries from air activities like skydiving and bungee jumping, acts of civil disobedience and car accidents for which a student is at fault are not covered by the insurance plan.

Eye exams and hearing exams are typically not covered by the student health insurance offered by the University. The University will also not cover any treat-

ment a student receives at a veteran's hospital or any hospital contracted or operated by the federal government.

After a student graduates from the University, health benefits expire. For December graduates, the cut off date is Jan. 1. For May graduates, the cut off date is July 31.

ETS Offers Online Assistance With Students' Essays

BY LENDORA WASHINGTON
Contributing Writer

College enrollment is steadily increasing, and consequently so are class sizes. Instructors have the option of using Blackboard as well as teachers' assistants to handle large amounts of assignments that need to be graded and returned to students.

However, students continue to be frustrated by the length of time it takes to receive feedback from instructors.

"My School of Communications orientation class had over 100 students in it," sophomore audio production major Princess Craig said. "To get any kind of feedback on our writing assignments we were instructed to pick up our essays weeks later. It was very ineffective because by that time, I had already repeated those mistakes on my following assignment."

Likewise, instructors can become frustrated with time consuming manual grading. However, instructors have no viable alternatives because an adequate number of writing assignments are neces-



The new Criterion program by ETS offers students the opportunity to plan and revise essays online, while also receiving feedback from professors in a timely manner.

sary for teaching purposes.

The solution may be found in the latest development from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Criterion by ETS has developed a new teacher's assistant that will benefit both students and instructors. The CriterionSM v7.1 is the new-

est version of the Criterion program that debuted earlier this month. Criterion assists students across the board, aiding students from grades K-12.

Criterion can be extremely instrumental in higher education. Similar to Blackboard, the instructor must establish

the course through the program online. The program allows the professor to give the student instant feedback and also facilitates communication between instructors and students.

"Criterion works as an assistant to an instructor," said Donna Hollenbach,

a product manager for Criterion.

Although the program greatly benefits the instructor, Criterion was designed with the student in mind.

"It is meant to be like a supplemental instructional program that helps students practice writing," Hollenbach said. "The new version of Criterion now covers the full spectrum of writing."

The program provides students with the means to plan, organize, write and submit their essays.

"Students really like it because of its format and ability to give feedback in a timely manner," Hollenbach said.

In addition to assisting in the preliminary steps of writing, such as brainstorming and outlining, the program provides a holistic score on writing abilities.

Criterion provides the student with a grade ranging from one to six. Submissions are evaluated for grammar, mechanics, length and any other criteria the respective instructor wants to evaluate.

"Once submitted, students immediately receive

a score based upon a rubric that has been established relative to 1,000 essays on a similar topic," Hollenbach said.

Along with the holistic score, the student also receives diagnostic feedback.

"The program lets the student know what errors were made and where the essay can be improved," Hollenbach said. "It provides a good basis for revision."

With an Internet connection, students can access the program anywhere at anytime. The guided instruction, timely response and easy accessibility intrigue students.

"The program sounds like it would be [a] great asset to instructors and students alike," freshman accounting major Talia Hawley said. "The instant gratification is the most appealing feature."

Many Howard University professors are interested in the program but lack knowledge about the new technology and its possible effectiveness.

Campus Briefs



Kappas Sentenced to Two Years in Jail for Hazing Pledge

Two members of Florida A&M University's Alpha Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. were sentenced to two years in jail. They were charged with third-degree felony hazing for severely beating a pledge on Dec. 15, 2006. Jason Harris, 25, and Michael Morton, 23, will be fined \$5,000 and will attend a four-hour hazing class. Three other fraternity members, Brian Bowman, 23, Marcus Hughes, 21, and Cory Gray, 23, were charged but were released on a mistrial. However, they will be on trial again March 12. The case is the first to challenge a new Florida law regarding hazing passed in July 2005.



Sports Journalism Program Introduced at Morehouse College

Morehouse has become the home of a new journalism and sports program courtesy of filmmaker Spike Lee. As a 1979 Morehouse graduate and member of the board of trustees, Lee donated \$721,000 to create the program with the English department. The first classes are underway with 20 students already enrolled. Lee said his desire to create the program at his alma mater came from "a deep passion to have African Americans in the decision-making process in sports."



Arrest Made in the Murder of NCCU Student

An arrest has been made in the Jan. 4 shooting death of North Carolina Central University graduate student Denita M. Smith, 25. Shannon Elizabeth Crawley, 27, of Greensboro, N.C., was arrested by members of the Durham Police Homicide Unit on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. According to a statement from a police spokesman, Smith's death was not random but, "personal and planned." Smith is remembered as an "outstanding and promising young student" who loved NCCU and "lived life to the fullest."



Civil Rights Organizer Joins School That Once Banned Him

Charles M. Sherrod, a civil rights organizer who in 1961 was banned from the campus of Georgia's Albany State College, is returning to what is now Albany State University as a professor, teaching the Introduction to the African Diaspora and United States and Georgia Government courses. As a field secretary, Sherrod led the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's (SNCC) efforts in the early 1960s. Sherrod said that he has always had a passion to teach and wanted to teach at Albany State for the last 25 years.

Sources:
www.blackcollegewire.org
Compiled by:
Simone Pringle
Copy Editor

LIFT EVERY VOICE

When: February 20, 2007

Where: Blackburn Center Auditorium

Who: 6-8 Pre-Screened Contestants

Prizes for Participants!!!!!!

Applications can be picked-up in the Student Activities and are due Feb 5th.

The Hilltop

Survey Says...

Reading

The Hilltop while
sitting on the Yard
will increase
your sex appeal by
43.76 percent.*

CALL FOR PAPERS

College of Arts and Sciences

SYMPOSIUM ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

IN

FINE ARTS, HUMANITIES, NATURAL SCIENCES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

April 17 & 18, 2007

The Armour J. Blackburn University Center 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

SUBMIT ABSTRACTS TO

<http://WWW.coas.howard.edu/research/submit>

Abstracts for proposed research (work in progress) must be received by January 30, 2007.

Abstracts for completed projects must be received by March 9, 2007.

For guidelines and details, please visit
<http://www.coas.howard.edu/research>

You may also call Dr. Barbara Griffin at 202-806-6700
Prizes to be Awarded

Howard To The Hill: A Real-Life Political Experience

BY ASHLEY MASON-GREENE
Contributing Writer

In Washington, D.C., the hotbed of politics, there are many opportunities for college students to get a taste of life on "the hill."

Whether one aspires to have a career in politics or not, having an internship at a government organization is a lucrative opportunity.

Internships in Washington, D.C. can provide students with great career and life skills, networking opportunities and sometimes a little money on the side.

Many Howard students have taken advantage of being in Washington, D.C.

Jerrell Blakeley, a sophomore history and sociology double major, simply said that it is "not what you know, but who you know that counts."

Blakeley said, "I got selected for my internship through a networking relationship. I met the secretary of Housing and Urban Development in high school, cultivated a relationship over a period of years and when he saw my potential, he offered me an internship."

Blakeley added, "Studies have suggested that an overwhelming majority of jobs have been awarded due to previous relationships that have been built, and therefore it's



Howard students take advantage of living in the District by pursuing government internships. For some students, it can be a career springboard.

important to build strong networking and social interaction skills."

Others, like junior legal communications and foreign language double major Antonio Kizzie, had to search a little harder.

Kizzie said, "I got my internship just by sitting down one day at my computer and looking for them. Google was a great help. [I] sent a resume, cover letter, writing samples and did phone interviews."

Internships offer invaluable experience as well as lessons that can be used for a lifetime.

Along with the inner workings of

government and politics, a student can learn firsthand professionalism, professional courtesy and how to network.

Kizzie said he learned how to follow his passion. "Always search for information and never take 'no' for an answer," he said.

Working for the government has its advantages and disadvantages. But for the most part, students enjoy their time spent learning the trade.

"I like seeing how government works and seeing where the proverbial rubber meets the road," Blakeley

said. "I also enjoy my work environment and the people I work with. I wouldn't really say I have any dislikes because being there is such a great honor, and the sense of public service at my job is inspiring."

Of course, there are the long hours, large workloads and balancing it all with school as well.

Kizzie agrees.

"I think the best thing about my internship was the people I worked with. They were very chill and down to earth but also professionals," he said. "When I had lunch with the Assistant Attorney General, Head Administrator for the Department of Justice and Head of Technology, I expected them to be really haughty and into their positions. But, they are all people with families, interests and lives outside the government and were very approachable."

Kizzie said time constraints made his job stressful at times.

"I didn't dislike too much about it. Just sometimes deadlines can be a pain, but the work always gets done," he said.

Interning with the government can provide future opportunities for a college student.

"Once you're in, it is easy to pass from one branch to the other and find your interests," Kizzie said.

Internships in Washington, D.C. are numerous. Students interested in finding one can try searching the Internet, visiting a career advisor or talking to someone who is already working with the government.

If You Want to Work on Capitol Hill:

- 1) Try Contacting the Office of your Representative or Senator
- 2) Contact some of the Congressional Caucuses.
- 3) Join the Howard University Political Science Society.
- 4) Contact Partisan Organizations on Campus.

Presidential Race 2008: Is It Too Soon To Begin?

BY TERSEA BELL
Contributing Writer

With all the competition for the primary election, candidates are beginning their campaigns earlier and earlier each election season.

"Politics is a game, and visibility is the key," political science professor Jonathan Ogbanna said. "The earlier the candidates present themselves, they establish a relationship with the people to gain more of an advantage."

Sen. Hillary Clinton has already announced her decision to seek the Democratic nomination and already has major competition with other frontrunners on the political scene. When considering Sen. Barack Obama's exploratory campaign, the idea to begin a presidential race now seems justified.

Co-author of "The New Campaign Finance Sourcebook," Thomas E. Mann said, "No candidate is willing to give another a timing advantage. Once one candidate announces his

candidacy, the others feel obliged to follow."

Mann said, "No president or vice president in either party is seeking the nomination. This encourages more candidates to run and to begin early."

Norman J. Ornstein, co-author of "The Broken Branch: How Congress is Failing America and How to Get it Back on Track," said the main reason many candidates are starting their campaigns early is because of money.

"If you don't start early, at least one year in advance, you are going to be behind in the race," Mann said. "This forces candidates to raise enough early money to finance their campaigns in this rapid succession of events. In addition, the public financing system has collapsed and most serious candidates believe they need the entire year to raise money."

Mann added that the presidential race begins very early because the primary and caucus calendar is increasingly front-loaded,

with many states moving earlier in the year. As the cost goes up, the budget and time increases.

"Candidates should have at least \$50 million in their bank account to hold up for the competition," Ornstein said. "Therefore, it is best for a candidate to begin early and continue to announce their strategy to improve political issues to gain the popular vote."

Ogbanna said, "Primaries are meant for candidates to showcase themselves."

He added, "In order for candidates to gain the popular vote, most need policy ideas to distinguish themselves from other politicians."

Ogbanna said when a candidate announces their position to run early, there are certain advantages, such as allowing themselves to win the primary election and become the nominee for either the Democratic or Republican Party.

By entering the race early, there are also drawbacks a candidate may face



Information about presidential candidates, polls and other campaign information is widespread on the Web although the next election is still more than a year away.

when becoming part of the media. "The public domain starts to criticize the candidates, leading to public scrutiny and negative reactions on whether the candidate should be elected for the

job," Ogbanna said.

Although Ogbanna sees the potential pitfalls of entering the presidential race early, he ultimately views it as a good political move.

"Overall, beginning ear-

lier causes more stability for the candidate and allows more public appeal," he said.

Blacks Gaining Prominence in Political Arena

BY VANESSA ROZIER
Hilltop Staff Writer

There are currently 43 African-American members of Congress, two without voting rights and only one, Barack Obama, in the Senate. The black presence in politics is increasing, but the increase is not translating to more equality in the nation.

The first black governor of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick, was elected in 2006. In addition, the United States has seen two consecutive African-American secretaries of state. However, this does not necessarily mean race is less of an issue on Capitol Hill.

"The racial issue is still there, but it's most certainly reduced," said David Bositis, a senior research associate at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Northwest Washington, D.C.

"We were always able to run, but now we're beginning to win," said Maudine Cooper, the president and CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League. "[Black politicians] are rising to the occasion. It is long

overdue."

Although Carol Moseley Braun, Shirley Chisholm and Jesse Jackson came before him, Obama is seen as the first legitimate potential black president of the United States. The question of whether America is ready for a black president has been the center of conversation and inquiry nationwide.

"It's important that black people are pushing a qualified black candidate," senior psychology major Antonio Bush said. "[Obama] is eligible to be in the White House."

Although the 45-year-old Illinois senator is waiting until Feb. 10 to formally announce his intention to run for president, he has already formed an exploratory committee for the 2008 presidential race.



Some wonder if the recent wins of black politicians is evidence of increased political equality in the United States.

Sophomore broadcast journalism major Christopher Randall said, "It would be a milestone to have an African-American president."

Some believe Obama should sit this election out because he is

young and still has time to run for president.

The political science department chair, Dr. Lorenzo Morris, said, "I wouldn't rule him out eight years from now. He'll only be 53 years old. He can wait."

Others think that African Americans have gotten where they are with the help of others.

"This is pushed primarily by whites," Louis Wright, an assistant political science professor, said. "It could be to get attention off of other Democratic candidates. Republicans see [black politicians] as a way of distracting the public from other

viable Democratic candidates like [John] Edwards."

Daryl B. Harris, a political science professor, said, "Some of these people are out for themselves, posi-

tioning themselves to advance their own political careers."

There is no guarantee that an elected or appointed black politician will make black issues their primary concern.

"The question is not limited to more black faces in high places," Harris said. "The deeper question is whether or not they can be effective in generating more benefits for black people."

Harris added, "In both black and white communities, Obama has become one of the most accepted and respected politicians, but since Reconstruction, there have only been five black senators."

Some students have an optimistic outlook regarding blacks in politics.

"We're making a lot of progress," junior fashion merchandising major Wanakee Cook said. "We can pull together the power and resources to get ourselves through because we've been left out for too long."

Average Income Increase for College Grads

BY IMANI JOSEY
Business and Technology Editor

College graduates are seeing an income increase in recent years. According to new census information, adults with a bachelor's degree average more than \$20,000 a year than those who have only attained a high school diploma or GED.

The data is from the 2005 Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement, which was conducted from February through April 2005 at about 100,000 addresses. The survey found that adults 18 and older with a bachelor's degree earned an average of \$51,554 in 2004, compared to \$28,645 for those with only a high school diploma.

The survey also suggested that high school students should seriously consider an extra four years of higher learning, if larger bank accounts are of importance to them.

"That's why I came to college. I know what the job market is like if you don't have a college degree. I watched my brothers and sister struggle without it. That's why I was really determined to get here," said Ebony Dawson, a sophomore undecided major.

According to the census, those with advanced degrees earned more on average than those with high school and or college degrees. Those with masters degrees and doctorates took home an average of \$78,093 a year.

"I'm going for my MBA after I graduate. My parents were telling me that it isn't necessarily enough just to have a college degree anymore. You have to do more," said Elaine Simms, a freshman finance major.

Adrian Pickette, a freshman psychology major, agrees. "The importance of education is so strong. I can't even explain it. If

it's available for you to get as much education as possible, just take it, all your opportunities. It seems like the more education you have, the more you have to offer and by having something to offer is the only way you're going to be able to make a place for yourself in our society."

Men, on average, had lower high school graduation rates than women with a documented 84.9 percent compared to 85.4 percent. But a greater proportion of men held bachelor's degrees: 28.9 percent versus 26.5 percent of women.

The District of Columbia had the highest proportion of people with a bachelor's degree at 47 percent, followed by Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland and New Jersey. The states with the highest proportions of high school diplomas were Utah, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire and Alaska,



File Photo

College graduates are likely to make \$20,000 more income than those who do not obtain higher education. D.C. has the highest number of residents with a bachelors degree.

each having around 92 percent. Whites had the highest proportion of high school degrees, 90 percent, followed by Asians, 88 percent, blacks, 81 percent, and Hispanics, 59 percent.

Adrian Pickette sees the survey not just as information, but as a personal wake-up call. "As a Black man here at Howard, the education thing really hits hard. Socially, we might like the ratio of males

to females, but really it's got to change. Looking in a classroom with 20 females and four males has to change. I'm getting this education for everybody. [It's not] just for me. It's for everybody."

Big Biz @ HU: Whimsicard Supplies Alternative Image

BY STACY A. ANDERSON
Copy Chief

Corporate lawyer Tonya Rutherford grew tired of seeing cocktail napkins with blonde-hair, blue-eyed ladies sipping cosmos as she shopped for party supplies. But this frustration would soon fuel her own vision.

After hearing about last year's Radio One Bridal Extravaganza for vendors to sell their party favor creations in Upper Marlboro, Md., Rutherford said to herself, "what better time than now."

The Augusta, Ga. native created Whimsicard, LLC, which offers invitations, beverage napkins, thank-you cards, souvenir magnets, wine bags and other items showing images of people of color. Supplies can be used for different occasions like bridal showers, spa parties, weddings and baby showers.

Rutherford said Whimsicard portrays blacks in an unconventional way.

"A lot of times, we are seen as very, very serious people—which is fine—but we are so much more than that," she said. "We are fun-spirited and whimsical too. We see ourselves in a light-hearted, fun way."

Rutherford said people often look at a card and try

to pick out themselves, a task Whimsicard has made slightly easier for the growing black minority in America.

"We want to be representative of who we are in our great variety, shades, height and size. We don't all come in a size two. We vary and we want to embrace it all."

Whimsicard has created more than five characters of assorted hues and dimensions. One collection titled, "Girls Night Out," depicts women of color sporting various hairstyles like the flip, an Afro, cornrows and a natural, cropped cut.

"It's reflective of a sister, and there's nothing else like this out there," Rutherford said.

Robert Hogans Jr., a web programmer and Howard alumnus, is the other principal owner of Whimsicard. Hogans, who graduated from the school of fine arts in 1995, puts the tools he learned at the Mecca to good use.

"Everything I learned in design I use for order, color, balance, for trying to be creative yet relaying an effective or witty message and giving some type of emotion," he said.

Hogans suggested artists try to evoke one of two feelings from their audience: "It moved me or I hated it. Never just be

nice," he said.

Hogans also explained how Whimsicard contrasted from other big name card companies with the unforgettable imprints on their backs.

"[They] have some black designers, but that is not their focus. We do what is hip and cool, what our demographic is looking for, from black to light brown," he said. "We are reflective of all brown people, period. We show every ethnicity, cheekbone [structures], lips, dimples. We give people that option."

Rutherford officially launched Whimsicard last September at a dealer booth during Howard's Homecoming.

"Howard's Homecoming was a great opportunity to touch our market," she said. "Being at Howard really set things off for us."

Rutherford hopes to partner with other black-owned business, such as bookstores and expand beyond Washington, D.C.

Reaching outside markets has already been possible on a small scale with the company's Web site, www.partystuff-forus.com.

"With e-commerce, there are no walls. You can service people in Los Angeles to Detroit," Rutherford said. Future plans include expanding the current line, customizing items and printing invitations for clients. She would also like to create a line of party supplies for children and new designs for other events such as graduations.

Amber Grant, a junior fashion merchandising major, said, "It's good to see black entrepreneurs stepping up to an avenue that is very popular. It's interesting to see broad images of black women."

Whimsicard will be participating in Radio One's annual bridal show at Martin's Crosswinds on Sunday, Feb. 18 2007 in Greenbelt, Md.



Photo Courtesy of Whimsicard

Whimsicard makes party supplies with images of blacks and people of color including invitations and beverage napkins.

You Might Want to Know

Few Rush Out to Buy New Windows Vista

Microsoft's long delayed Vista operating system recently hit retail shelves, though only a few have rushed out to purchase it, according to sales records.

Though consumers could finally get their hands on the long-delayed Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Vista, stores saw only a trickle of early shoppers. Retailers around the world held special midnight events Monday or opened

early Tuesday morning, as the Vista operating system and Office 2007 business software went on sale in 70 countries. Some stores, including a Best Buy in midtown Manhattan, brought in extra employees to handle pent-up demand for Vista. However, these stores reported very few shoppers took advantage of the early morning shopping option.

McDonald's takes wraps off snack options
McDonald's expanded its

chicken snack wrap into a line with the launch of a honey mustard variety and the option of having the chicken strip grilled instead of fried. The new versions, which recently hit U.S. stores, follow an original ranch-flavored product introduced in August. That wrap replaced a spicy chicken sandwich that failed.

-News Courtesy of The Chicago Sun-Times, Yahoo Finance

Orlando's
dynamic
young
LAW
SCHOOL

announces the verdict:

The American Bar Association Council
of the Section of Legal Education

has granted full accreditation

to Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law
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What you do with the benefits of this increase is your business, but we recommend you take it inside.

Is Dance An Art or Sport? Vizion Weighs In

BY VICTORIA MARIE REESE
Contributing Writer

Some wonder whether dance is considered a sport or an art form. Members of the Vizion Performance Team at Howard believe it is more of an art expression than a sport. However, an international organization is lobbying to make competitive ballroom dancing an Olympic demonstration sport.

Vizion does not do ballroom dancing, but its hip-hop performances are just as challenging and technical.

"I don't feel it is a sport, but I do feel that we work just as hard as they do," said Cierra Ross, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and Vizion member. "I think people get confused with the separation. We are athletes because we train and condition as they do, but our venues are different."

Vizion member and sophomore film production major, Joshua Gilmore agrees. "Dance is not a sport. It's an art form."

The Vizion Performance Team

has captivated audiences since 2001. Vizion is a diverse group of dancers who combine different variations of dance to create their unique, energetic and precise hip-hop choreography.

The group's work has been described as innovative and has competitive aspects, just like sports activities. Its members are said to be multi-talented and electrifying. They all must be in good physical shape.

The Dancesport 2000 international organization, is lobbying for the Olympic Organizing Committee to accept competitive ballroom dancing as an Olympic demonstration sport.

Dancesport 2000 said that athleticism and art go hand-in-hand when entertainment is involved. The group added that dance is somehow incorporated at most sport events. Rhythmic gymnastics and ice dancing are recognized as Olympic competitive sports.

Some believe that the link between dance and sports may be the cause of the dispute.

"It may be the physical activity



The Vizion Performance Team dances at Homecoming, sporting events and various competitions. They also do community service projects.

that ties them together," said Traaee Farmer-Boston, a sophomore public relations major and Vizion member.

Some critics urge people to clear up the dance and sport confusion. The effort to break down the barriers between the two disciplines may establish a common goal to classify dance as both an art and a sport.

Vizion members work vigorously during practice and train as hard as other Howard athletes. Vizion has been invited to numerous competitions and performs at events on other campuses, including the University of Maryland and Morgan State University.

Vizion can be found performing at numerous events in the Washington, D.C. area under the direction of executive director Kelly Watson and artistic director Samara Atkins. Unlike other dance groups on Howard's campus, such as the Bisonettes and the Ooh La La Dancers, Vizion is a fairly new organization. Not only does Vizion give jaw-dropping performances, but the members also incorporate their abilities into giving back to the community.

"We do outreach and community service events too," Gilmore said. "We go to middle schools to teach dance workshops. We don't come to [the

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

None

UPCOMING GAMES

Track @ Black College Classic (Landover, Md.)
Saturday

Women's Basketball v. South Carolina State
Saturday - 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball v. South Carolina State
Saturday - 4 p.m.

Swimming @ HBCU Championships
Saturday @ Burr

schools to] practice. We care about working with the community."

Since 2003, Vizion has established the Vizionaires Workshop Program and the Vizionaires Literacy Program, which provides hip-hop dance instruction and encourages high school and middle school students in the local community to become more involved in reading.

"I don't feel (dance) is a sport, but I do feel that we work just as hard as they do."

- Cierra Ross, '09

One-on-One with... Softball Coach and Athletic Academic Advisor Tonja Braxton

BY ERICA ROBINSON
Hilltop Staff Writer

Playing softball in the large sand lots of Tappahannock, Va., head softball coach and academic advisor Tonja Braxton developed a passion for sports at a young age.

"I was one of two girls, including one of my cousins," Braxton said. "We played in these sandlot teams with the guys."

Her family history includes an aunt that played in the Negro leagues. With softball in her blood, she has continued to love the sport.

However, Braxton said she was a "late bloomer in the sport." In high school she was a cheerleader and participated in gymnastics. She did not play organized softball until college.

When she finished her undergraduate degree, Braxton served as assistant coach at her alma mater, Bowie State University. In the fall of 2002, she became the coach of the woman's softball team at Howard University.

Her greatest transition was going from a Division II school to a Division I school.

"Nobody played that didn't love the game," she said. "When your primary motivation is financial, you have a different approach."

It was a very different experience for her since more students were able to receive scholarships, whereas Bowie only offered two athletic scholarships a year.

After her first year of coaching, Braxton expressed to the athletic director that she needed to be closer to her team.

"With players from different parts of the country, it is hard to be a life-line when you are only with them two hours a day," Braxton said.

The NCAA mandated services for the athletes and the athletic director asked if she wanted to become an academic advisor.

Academic advising was a new profession for Braxton. However, she believes that advising is similar to coaching because it carries some of the same responsibilities.

As an academic advisor, Braxton coordinates early registration, runs

study hall, sets up tutoring services, conducts class checks and monitors progress towards graduation.

"They are students first and athletes second," Braxton said.

With dual responsibilities, balancing both jobs can be quite a task.

"You have to be really organized," Braxton said. "It requires ultimate multitasking skills."

Since there is an open door policy, there is always much traffic in the office so it can be really difficult for Braxton to give anything her undivided attention.

"It's a lot of late nights and weekends. Sick days are just an opportunity to catch up. You gotta be flexible," Braxton said.

She always has two or more projects running at once. Some days are easier than others.

Compared to the non-athletic academic program, Braxton said that

the athletic academic program is more systematic for athletes. When non-athletes do not excel academically that's it. However, when athletes do not excel academically, they are ineligible to play.

Braxton is not sure what the future will hold as far as coaching or advising.

"It would take an awful lot for me to give up coaching. [But] I can't say I'll be head coach for the rest of my life," she said.

She would like to work under a strong head coach because as a head coach, everything rests on her shoulders.

As for advising, she is unsure. The difference is coaching is her love, and advising is something she likes.

"The next job may be a long way from home," Braxton said. "It's just a 'wait and see' kind of thing."



Tonja Braxton currently serves as head softball coach and academic advisor for the athletic department. She's in her fifth year as coach.

The Sports
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Looking for Staff
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All Interested
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and Writing
Samples to
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TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On Jan. 31, 1914, boxer Joe Walcott was born.

On Jan. 31, 1919, baseball player Jackie Robinson was born.

On Jan. 31, 1931, baseball player Ernie Banks was born.

New Site on the Block: UTClique.com

BY KAMIRRIA HARRIS
Contributing Writer

The new teen Web site UTClique.com is the latest competition for Facebook, MySpace and other online social networking sites geared toward teens and young adults.

UTClique.com, also referred to as Urban Teen Clique, is a Web site whose primary members are between the ages of 14 and 27. Based in Suwanee, Ga., PLGK Media, the creator of Urban Teen Clique, offers a total of three new Web sites intended for use by teens, including TeensforJC.com for Christian teens and TRANSCENDMAG.com for African American teens.

According to PLGK

Media's Web site, Urban Teen Clique is a place where teens can, "get crunk with friends, make new friends, sound off on other opinions, dish the dirt on their school, 'hood or town, give props to their city or just relax in the UTClique digital cyber clique."

A phrase one will run into when first logging onto UTClique's Web site is, "Meet friends. Express yourself." Visitors are then prompted to enter their login user name and password.

The registration process for new users is self-explanatory and relatively quick. New registrants are required to follow the simple steps of filling out the necessary information such as their user name, password and e-mail address, among other

information. Entering one's ethnicity or school is optional. Upon completion of this information, users have the option of choosing what type of membership to sign up for. The basic membership is free. However, premium membership is offered at \$8 for six months and \$12 for one year. In choosing premium memberships, members gain exclusive access to free music, discounts to Urb-T, PLGK Media events and Urb-T merchandise.

More than 1,000 teens are registered members of UTClique.com and the numbers are slowly increasing.

UTClique.com has similar features as other Web sites of its kind, such as the opportunity to create blogs, upload photos and receive

comments or messages. In addition, members can rate other members on a scale from one to 10. The highest rated members are displayed according to their ranking. UTClique gives users an opportunity to locate past friends, stay in touch with current ones and possibly meet future acquaintances.

"I would be willing to join this site," freshman computer engineering major Jodi Ann McFarland said.

McFarland has an account with both MySpace and Facebook because they help keep her connected with friends in her hometown. Rather than making phone calls, McFarland said she finds it easier and quicker to send messages or post comments on her friends' walls.

College students, however, often debate whether the interactive social sites are needed and reliable.

"The majority of the information that people provide are based on lies," sophomore theatre major Peggens Altidor said. "They lie about their age to their appearance and everything in between."

Altidor gives an example of when his 11-year-old brother logged onto MySpace posing as a 19-year-old male.

Bishetta Merritt, who holds a doctorate in philosophy and is an associate professor in the radio, television and film department, stressed how the Internet can become dangerous if not handled properly.

"Technology [among teenagers] is wonderful as long as it's in a positive way," she said. "When it exploits people, events and ideas, I don't like it."



Photo courtesy of utclicque.com

Urban Teen Clique.com is a new Web site catering to young people ages 14 to 27. UTClique is a new rival site for the popular networks MySpace and Facebook.

'It's Cold Outside': Dating in the Winter

BY QYANA AGINA
Contributing Writer

The winter months can be dull, gloomy and depressing for those whose dating activities are limited by the cold weather. The days of relaxing on the "booty wall" for hours and whispering sweet nothings in one another's ear or walking on the Yard and not having to worry about getting frostbite are distant memories.

"In the cold weather people aren't trying to hang out or trying to dress to impress. They're dressing to bundle up and keep warm," freshman pre-physical therapy major Nkosazana Barton said.

"People are on the go so they're not as willing to stand outside and talk to someone that they might be interested in," Barton said.

According to psychology Professor Jules Harrell, the reduction in sunlight puts people in a less active state of mind, making it more likely for people to withdraw from one another.

Harrell noted this withdrawal is one of the reasons behind seasonal affective disorder, which occurs during the winter season and causes depression and a decline in activity.

"The cold is less forgiving than the warm weather, meaning that activity in the winter will be limited because of discomfort unless you really structure your [dating activities]," Harrell said.

Despite the temperature, some students still find ways to enjoy the company of their significant other, whether by enjoying the warmth indoors or having fun while enduring the cold weather outdoors.

When Washington, D.C.'s frigid weather took over, freshman psychology



Photo courtesy of icelife.com

Many couples must alter their date plans once cold weather sets in. Options such as the beach and picnics are replaced by movie nights and other indoor activities.

major Jamica Jenkins realized that although the climate limited the activities that she and her long-time boyfriend could participate in, it did not mean that they could not find other ways to spend time with each other.

"We had a snowball fight the other day," Jenkins said. "We usually order in and watch movies in order to avoid the cold. Lately, we've been spending a lot of time together studying."

Jenkins' boyfriend, freshman biology major Anthony Padilla, believes that the winter season is a good time for a guy to show his romantic side.

"It would be nice for the guy to make a romantic dinner for his girl, or instead

of one person cooking for the other, you and your guy can cook together, which can make it more fun," Padilla said.

Freshman pharmacy major Janay Trott says the winter season gives her and her boyfriend a chance to get close and build a better relationship.

"We like to go to dinner a lot or just stay at home, watch movies and eat popcorn," Trott said.

"The winter season is romantic because it sets the mood to be intimate by cuddling and having intimate conversation," she said.

Although the wet and chilly weather can put a damper on a person's dating life, there are always alterna-

tive ways to spend time with that special someone without having to be concerned about the temperature.

Freshman psychology major Ashley Smith enjoys the simple things and good conversation.

"You don't have to do anything special," she said. "I enjoy sitting in the car and drinking coffee in front of the Quad [with my date] and just talking."

Real Love Found: 'Hunger' Review

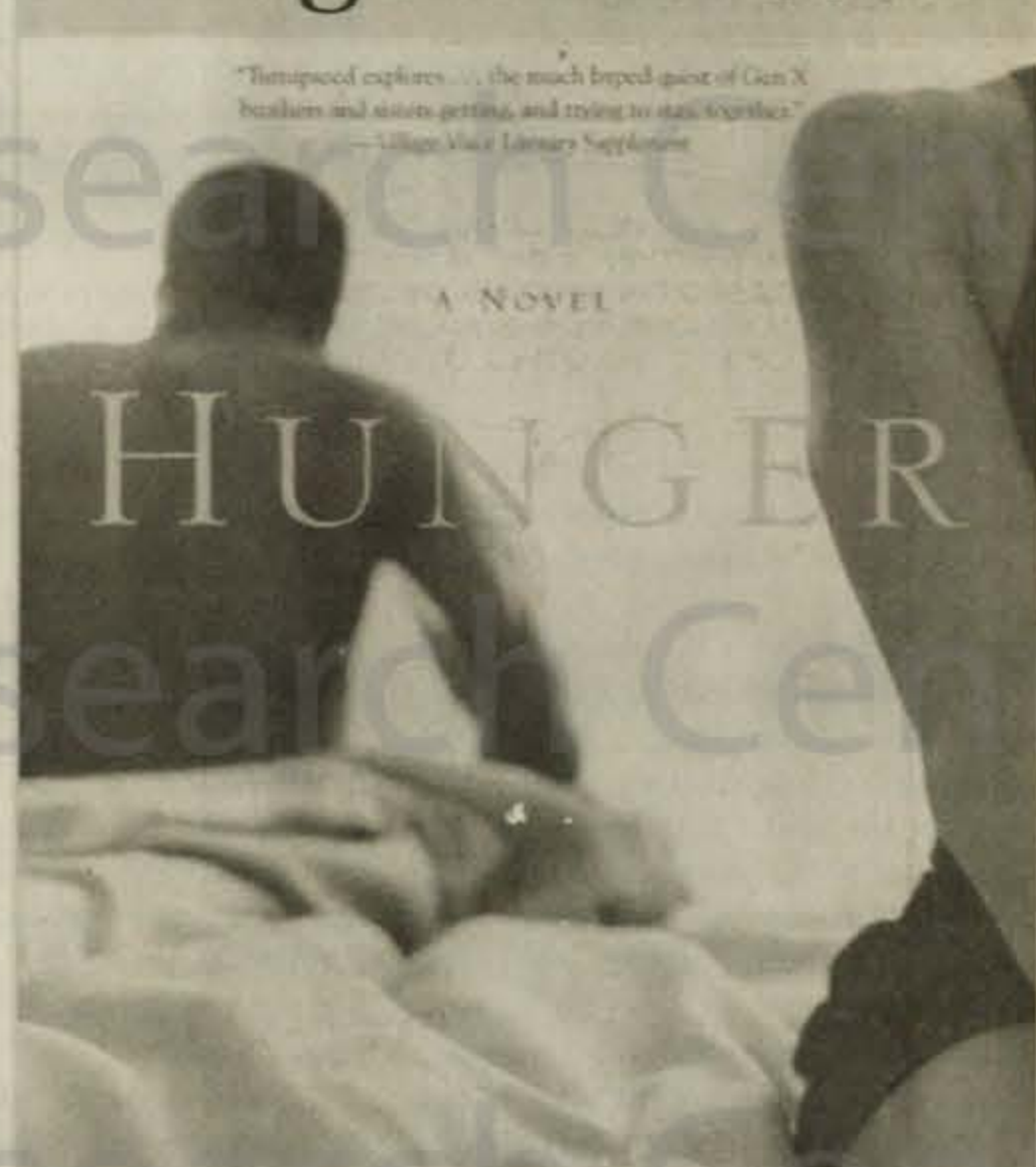


Photo courtesy of www.harperscollins.com

Erica Simone Turnipseed's book "Hunger" is available.

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE
Life and Style Editor

Do opposites really attract? In Erica Simone Turnipseed's 2003 debut "A Love Noire," the very unlikely pair Noire and Innocent seemed to prove that there is some truth to the old theory.

Noire Demain is a socially conscious, Afro-donning diva and freethinking doctoral candidate. When she meets Innocent Pokou, a double degree carrying, wealthy investment banker from Cote d'Ivoire, they soon realize that underneath the clothing, social groups and personal tastes, they are very much the same.

The two continue their love story through ups, downs and cultural differences, only to drift apart because of stubbornness. Innocent is lost and Noire has no choice but to fill her time with school and any other willing man.

In "Hunger," Turnipseed's sophomore effort and a recommended read by the Essence Magazine Book Club, some of the same characters are revisited. She writes vividly to place them in the world of the reader, drawing from current events such as the devastation of Sept. 11 and the Christmas Eve coup in Cote d'Ivoire.

Innocent is no longer the successful banker he set out to be when he came to America. After a trip to Cote d'Ivoire, he finds that he has a lot more business to handle in his home country than he thought.

Noire is back in New York City after spending a year in Haiti doing predoctoral research. The single 30-something is left broke and drained.

Noire and Innocent bump into each other on the streets of New York, and in

an instant all the memories, love and comfort come flooding back.

However, Innocent's main man is present and neither of them is bold enough to speak or act on their urges. Noire's best friend Arike gives birth to a boy whom she names Purpose. The child's name speaks to the reader again later on in the book.

Innocent is torn between two worlds. The first is the U.S., where he has created a life for himself and where Noire, the love of his life, lives. The second is Cote d'Ivoire which he feels indebted to and where he has left a woman who is pregnant with his child.

The rest of the book takes the reader through a whirlwind of love and loss. It asks how much it takes to get over a heartache and return to the one you love when they are one and the same.

Turnipseed has captured the essence of both real love and lust. "Hunger" is smart, thought provoking and entertaining while looking into the issues of class, color and cross-cultural differences between Africans and African Americans.

Turnipseed's writing has matured along with her characters. The best part of the book is the feelings of both main characters, Noire and Innocent, are represented equally. Each of their perspectives are thought out carefully and given the same amount of time and respect. "Hunger" is a must read for both men and women.

Brooklyn-born Turnipseed attended Yale as an anthropology major. Turnipseed is currently working on her novel "My name is Zanzibar."

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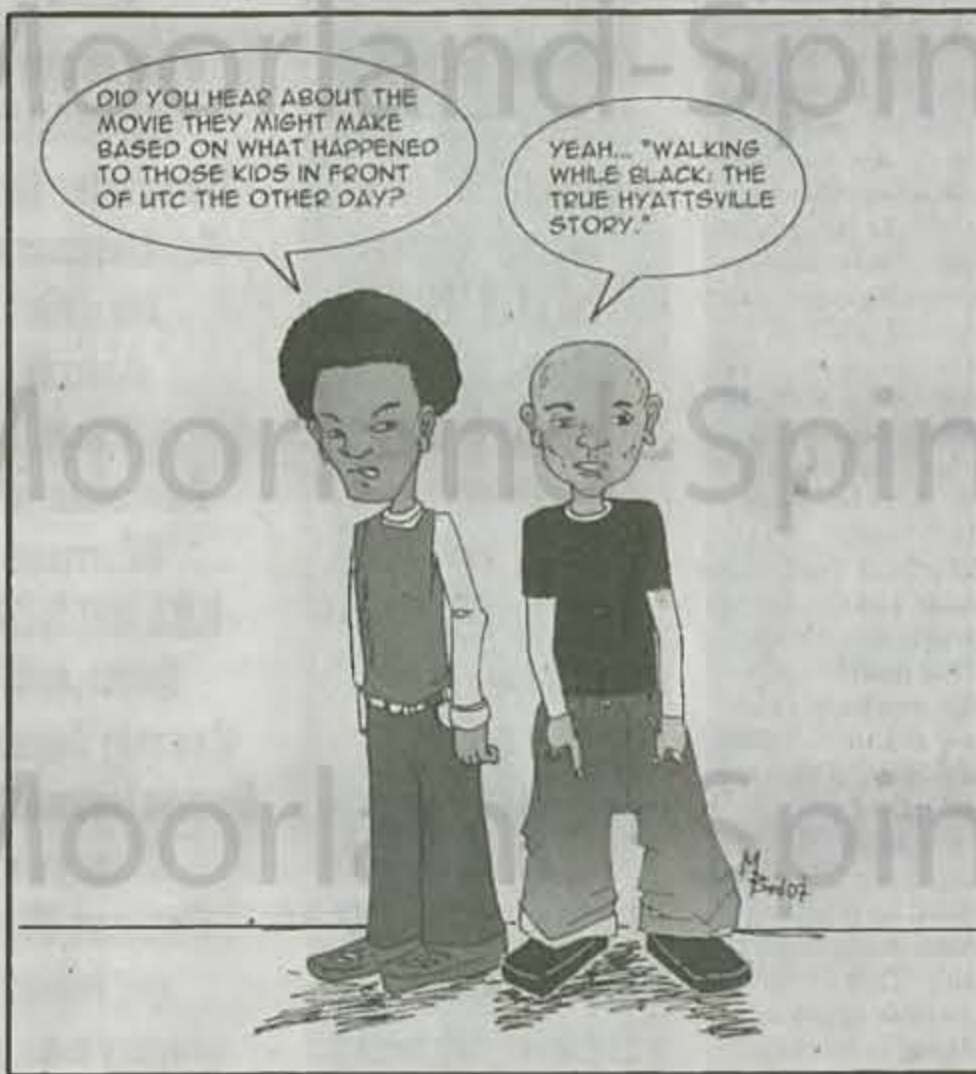
EDITORIALS

Perspectives

VOLUME 90, NO. 76

JANUARY 31, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



“...Can’t We All Just Get Along?”

Recently an altercation outside of the University Towers Center in Hyattsville, Md. ended with the arrests of five students and accusations of police brutality.

The news stirred the Howard community which later stretched to the metropolitan area and even hit national news as part of package on police brutality.

Students have corroborated that inappropriate force did take place in the incident.

We at *The Hilltop* believe that if this is in fact true then due action should be taken.

As a student body we have been active on several issues but none of which have affected us so directly and immediately.

Our View:

The alleged actions of the police are inexcusable, yet we as students should conduct ourselves as the leaders of tomorrow that we claim to be.

In regards to those involved in the disorderly parties, we charge you to be more responsible with the privileges afforded to you.

The backlash of this event resulted in the ban of all parties at the apartment complex.

Had the parties been under control and officially registered, unfortunate incidents like this may not have occurred.

We are in no way excusing their actions, but we often point the finger without looking at the entire picture.

That being said, let us not be content with the action or lack thereof that has already been taken. Also, let us keep our hands clean so as to allow the blame to fall fully where it belongs and not on the victims.

Perspective: Tufts University

As a former student, I've always respected the fact that Howard students have no problem getting involved and speaking up against injustice once they hear about it.

That is the main reason for this letter. Recently I received an e-mail from one of my fellow law school classmates who happens to be an alumni of Tufts University.

Recently, a very racist poem appeared in their student-run campus newspaper, and it is causing a big stir on the campus with a very, very minority African-American population.

It even made their local CBS news. Here is a copy of the poem that was published in the "Primary Source" 7 days ago, Dec. 5.

"O Come All Ye Black Folk
Boisterous yet Desirable
O come ye, O come ye to our University
Come and we will admit you,
Born in to oppression;
O come let us accept them,
O come let us accept them,
O come let us accept them,

O come let us accept them,
Fifty-two black freshman.

O Sing, gospel choirs,
We will accept your children,

No matter what your grades are, F's, D's, or G's,

Give them all privileged status; We will welcome all.

O come let us accept them,

O come let us accept them,

O come let us accept them,

Fifty-two black freshman.

All come! Blacks, we need you,

Born into the ghetto.

O Jesus! We need you now to fill our racial quotas.

Descendants of Africa, with brown skin arriving;

O come let us accept them,

O come let us accept them,

O come let us accept them,

Fifty-two black freshman."

This poem is more than outrageous and the students there are calling out for help.

The administration has done nothing for the simple fact that they claim the paper has First Amendment protection. The students apparently are protesting the University's Affirmative Action policy.

We as a people cannot let this pass. We must voice our concerns. My fellow law students and I have gotten our student administration to speak up and to send letters and calls to the University, and I am hoping that the alma mater that I have been so proud of in the past with the rallies and the marches will speak up on the matter as well.

The news clip can be found at: <http://cbs4boston.com/video/?id=26791@wbz.dayport.com>

And to voice your concerns, call or e-mail Tufts' President Bacow at: (617) 627-3300, or bacow@tufts.edu.

*- Sincerely,
Sheena Lewis
Class of '06*

Daily SuDoku

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

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

Do you want to write for THE HILLTOP?

Come to our budget meeting

Monday @ 7 p.m.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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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 Web site at www.thehilltoponline.com.

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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.

Correction: 1/30 Edition

The Hilltop apologizes for a mistake in yesterday's article titled "UGSA Chairwoman Involved in Ballot Controversy."

The story incorrectly states that Tamia McClain is Undergraduate Student Association Chairwoman. She is actually UGSA representative for the School of Business and Chairwoman of the General Assembly. Again we apologize for the mistake.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Hilltop prints Hilltopics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for each additional word.

ALL CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE PAID FOR AND SUBMITTED SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE. \$3 LATE FEE FOR ALL CLASSIFIED ADS NOT SUBMITTED SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE.

Payment acceptable by cash or check. Any questions please contact The Hilltop Business Office (202) 806-4749 or by e-mail hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

MARCH 16-19TH 2007

BLACK COLLEGE SPRING BREAK CRUISE FROM MIAMI 2 THE BAHAMAS ALL YOU CAN EAT MEALS LEADERSHIP & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SEMINARS. WWW.MAAT-ENTER.COM/CRUISE

HUSA PRESENTS CONTINUING THE DREAM: A MONUMENTAL OCCASION. WE ARE INVITING EVERYONE TO JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 9, 2007 AT 6PM FOR OUR AUCTION. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD THE MLK BUILD A DREAM MONUMENT. AUCTION WILL BE IN THE BLACKBURN BALLROOM AND IS COCKTAIL STYLE. FOR FURTHER INFO, STOP BY HUSA OFFICE.

YOU LIKE B/C I TRY!!!! M.D.B

TWO WEEKS

THE LADIES OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY INC. AND THE MEMBERS OF SIGMA TAU DELTA INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A WEEKLONG BOOK DRIVE, JAN. 29TH - FEB. 2ND BOOKS WILL BE DONATED TO EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL. TO DROP-OFF ANY BOOKS OR TO HAVE THEM PICKED-UP PLEASE EMAIL BOOK.DRIVE07@GMAIL.COM

AND COUNTING

HAVE YOUR OWN BUSINESS? COME AND SELL YOUR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES AT BLACK MARKETPLACE.

BLACK MARKETPLACE WILL BE HELD IN THE BLACKBURN CENTER ON FEBRUARY 2ND FROM 12:00P.M. - 4:00P.M.

IT'S FREE AND EASY - TO SIGN UP CONTACT THE ELI OFFICE AT 202-806-1712

DON'T FORGET TO PLACE YOUR HILLTOPIC!!

NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

Calling All Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Men... Give us 30 minutes of your time and you could be a Scholarship winner! Presenting King of the Ivy Pageant Interest Meeting Monday 1/29 and Wed. 1/30 at 6:00pm Sponsored by the Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

I MISS MY BABY

UGSA PRESENTS..... THE OMOWE JOURNAL 2007 "THE REVIVAL OF THE SOUL" BE A PART OF THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY LEGACY ALL CREATIVE AND INSPIRING ARTISTS POETS PHOTOGRAPHERS WRITERS ARE NEEDED!!! QUESTIONS? CONTACT JANIKA @ OMOWEJOURNAL2007 @AOL.COM CREATIVE WORK AND PROFILE SHEET WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL JANUARY 31ST IN UGSA OFFICE SUITE 108 BLACKBURN. A SAMPLE OMOWE JOURNAL FROM PAST YEARS AVAILABLE IN THE UGSA OFFICE. WWW.HUUGSA.COM

Department of Residence Life IMPORTANT RSVP ANNOUNCEMENT Housing Information for 2007-2008

DID YOU KNOW?

You can pay your RSVP Deposit ONLINE!

Students seeking housing for the 2007-2008 academic year are required to participate in RSVP.

Students who are validated for Spring 2007 will be able to make their Advanced Rent Payment on BISONWEB through February 2, 2007.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All students with housing assignments for the 2007-2008 academic year MUST be validated prior to moving into the residence halls.

(Keys will NOT be issued to non-validated students.)

NOTE: Your \$200 deposit does not guarantee you housing.

Continuing students who are recipients of the Presidential, Laureate, Capstone, Founders, Upward Bound and Hartford Scholarships do not have to submit a RSVP deposit, but must make an online selection.