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WEATHER

 **86**
68
Tomorrow:
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Established
1924

Tuesday Notebook

BREAKING NEWS

CANDIDATES SPAR OVER LOBBYING TACTICS
HILLARY CLINTON AND JOHN EDWARDS IN DEBATE OVER CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HEALTH CARE GROUPS.

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

CAMPUS

FRESHMEN HELP CONTINUES AFTER WEEK
CAMPUS PALS AREN'T STOPPING AT ORIENTATION THIS YEAR. LOOK INSIDE TO SEE WHAT IS IN STORE.

PAGE 2

LIFE & STYLE

MIXTAPES NO LONGER JUST UNDERGROUND
UNIVERSAL RELEASES THEIR SECOND OFFICIAL MIXTAPE "DOSE #2," FEATURING HOWARD STUDENT KEITH MONROE.

PAGE 10

Biology Building Closed for Renovations

BY EBONI FARMER
Deputy Campus Editor

When sophomore pre-dentistry major Henry Gordon walked to E.E. Just Hall Monday, he was surprised to see that he would not be allowed in the biology building for his first day of classes.

"It's frustrating when you pay for classes that you can't get into and weren't told about the situation before hand," Gordon said. "It would have

been more convenient if we would have gotten an e-mail or something."

Sheila Douglas was another student who felt misinformed by the university.

"I really don't know what's going on," Douglas said. "I came here and was told that my classes were cancelled. I don't see why we couldn't have known about this days ago because the school should know what's going on with its building."

The building, which is going through renovations, is not slated to open its doors to students until Sept. 12.

The building has been selected to improve the infrastructure, according to a letter released by the Office of Physical Facilities Management and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Some of the renovations include updating the air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems, as well as installing a new fire suppression system and

a fire alarm system.

Over the summer students were faced with a similar predicament when they were told they would no longer be able to take classes in Just Hall because of asbestos removal.

"It was the second week into the first summer session," said Simi Elegba, sophomore electrical engineering major. "Signs were posted on the doors telling us that our classes were being relocated because asbestos was in the building."

Elegba said her classes were moved to another academic building and it was not a big hassle for her.

Students were informed of their alternate classroom assignments as they attempted to enter the building Monday. Classes that were originally scheduled for Just Hall have been moved to rooms one through six of Miner Hall on 6th Street. Students can look on Bison Web to see where their classes have been relocated.

Two Years Later, Rebuilding Inches Along in New Orleans



Hurricane Katrina victims in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward are still rebuilding their homes and lives two years after the storm.

BY: NATALIE POMPILIO
The Philadelphia Inquirer (MCT)

His storm survival story is chilling: As the floodwaters unleashed by Hurricane Katrina swirled and rose around his Lower Ninth Ward home, Robert Green, his three granddaughters, his mother and two other family members clung to their roof as it floated for blocks. His mother, already

ailing, died on that roof. His 3-year-old granddaughter fell from it and disappeared under the water.

Green, 52, went to Nashville afterwards, staying there for months. He could have stayed there forever. He chose to come back. He is trying to rebuild his house, his tax business and his neighborhood.

"It's really important to me to have what was," said Green, sitting in

the tiny FEMA trailer parked where his home once stood. His trailer, and the neighboring one housing his 62-year-old mentally handicapped cousin, are among a handful of inhabited dwellings amidst the overgrown weeds, empty lots and remaining rubble of lives past. That's fine, he said.

> See **KATRINA**, Page 3



D.C. firefighters responded to a "slight haze" from the tunnels of the U Street metro station.

Smoke Halts Metro

BY MORGAN LYNCH &
CHRISTINA BURTON
Hilltop Staff

Around 7:30 Monday evening, emergency vehicles responded to smoke at the U Street/African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo Station.

According to D.C. Fire Chief Dennis L. Ruben, smoke from a burning insulator on the yellow line prompted a slight haze coming from the tunnels as it arrived at the station. Traffic was halted to pedestrians and vehicles on U Street and redirected to neighboring areas for safety reasons. The yellow line was stopped temporarily.

Delores Anderson, who was a rider on the yellow line, claims that it has been happening all weekend.

"I'm sick of this. I don't know how I'm going to get home," Anderson said. "It was overall a peaceful evacu-

ation. We were getting off work. They told us to get off. We got off."

According to an official, he says this is the second time this has happened at the U Street station.

Allegedly, it is suspected to be an electrical problem that happens from time to time.

Another woman, Corisa Davis, 26, was riding with her two-year-old. She said she was going to walk home.

Fire officials claim that the trains in the tunnel have to be shut down, but certain sections can be shut down and not necessarily the whole system.

Firefighters ventilated the tunnels in about 30 minutes and the caution tape is to be up until the station is safe for passengers to return.

"We will be working close with [the] Metro Center to work on this," Ruben said.

Attorney General Announces Resignation

BY VANESSA ROZIER
Nation & World Editor

After months of investigations, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced his resignation, becoming the sixteenth person to do so at that level under President George W. Bush's administration.

For the past several months, a judicial committee has been investigating the firing of eight United States attorneys as well as wiretapping without warrants and lying about doing so during April interrogations. Gonzales denied knowledge of any of the previously stated actions, repeatedly saying, "I do not recall."

Republicans and Democrats support of Gonzales' resignation, as his presence in the administration has provided controversy and what President Bush called a distraction to the Justice Department.

ment.

"It's sad that we live in a time when a talented and honorable person like Alberto Gonzales is impeded from doing important work because his good name was dragged through the mud for political reasons," Bush said while reluctantly accepting Gonzales' resignation in a press conference Monday morning.

Exactly two weeks prior to Gonzales' announcement, Karl Rove, the White House Chief of Staff, announced his resignation. It will be effective Aug. 31.

It seems like White House officials are dropping like flies, but Kurt Schmoke, the dean of the Howard University School of Law said this is not out of the ordinary. "What's unusual is that people have been calling for his resignation for so long," he said.

"Gonzales and Rumsfeld had become targets of controversy,



Yesterday, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales became the latest senior White House official to resign this year.

but normally there is a significant amount of controversy during the second term," Schmoke said.

Explaining the politics behind the recent flood of resignations, Schmoke said, "They'll be

in a better position to get a new job," he said.

Schmoke also said it

seems as though the administration is "clearing the deck" for the Democrats running in 2008. It would reduce the controversy Republicans could face during the election. He guesses that the next Attorney General will be someone with little controversy, such as a senator or former congressman.

President Bush announced that once Gonzales officially leaves office on Sept. 17, Solicitor General Paul Clement will serve as Acting Attorney General until the Senate confirms a nominee.

Gonzales was confirmed in February 2005 with a close 60-36 vote. The 36 "no" votes, all of which were from Democrats, were the second most any attorney general nominee has received. John Ashcroft received 42.

"It's sad because he's the first person of color in that office," Schmoke said.

Campus Pals Stay Involved

Pals Keep New Students in Mind, Plan Book

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Hosting many social events, informational programs and entertaining skits, the Campus Pals play an unforgettable role in most freshmen's first week at Howard.

"Campus Pals are a good tool to make you feel welcomed at Howard, more so than the staff and administration," freshman fashion merchandising major Venita Hobson said. "It's nice to see them around campus and not be intimidated to ask a question, because you know they are here to help."

The Campus Pals are highly visible in the beginning of the school year and serve as a useful tool to help freshmen become acclimated to the university.

"It's just good that they are people closer to our age," said Vanessa Hobson, a freshman television production major. "They make you feel comfortable and welcome here."

Tabia Alexander is the vice president of Campus Pals. "Campus Pals is an organization that's really about being there for the freshman," she said. "We're all students too, so we've gone through the same things and are still growing. We have something to share."

But some students complain that after the first few weeks of fall semester, the Pal presence begins to wane. This year, Pals say they are doing something to change that.

Alexander plans to lead the organization in the

creation of "Making it at the Mecca: Words of Wisdom From Those Who Have Come Before," a magazine-style read that will be available for next year's incoming students.

"So many people come into college blind and need guidance to college life," Alexander said. "I felt that it'd be useful to create a survival guide to college life and reach out to the whole Howard community."

She continued, "Making it at the Mecca" will be a spin-off from the orientation week that the Pals host. The book will be a compilation of quotes, ranging from academics, campus life, relation-

ships, a letter to parents and a faculty section."

Alexander said the survival guide will be something all members of the Howard community can enjoy. In addition to the creative aspect of the guide, which will include many quotes of advice, it will also have advertisements from local restaurants and businesses.

"I'm really excited about the survival guide 'Making it at the Mecca' and I don't want to give too much away, but we have a lot of good ideas," Alexander said.

She said there is a lot of hard work and dedication involved with being a Campus

Pal. Its membership is composed of a diverse group of students, representing many organizations, who all have something unique to contribute to the works of the group.

"I feel that there is sometimes a lack of respect from the administration for the Pals," Alexander said. "And I believe that 'Making it at the Mecca' will show what Pals really are about and that they do care."

Alexander said "Making it at the Mecca" will serve as an outlet for the Campus Pals' voice throughout the school year outside of their three Pal weeks during the course of the school year.



Tabia Alexander, left, is organizing 'Making it at the Mecca' with her fellow Campus Pals Brittany Foster and Bianca Holman, right. The Pals will have the book out later this year.

Saimara Pearson - Staff Photographer

Civil Rights Lawyer Dies at 100

School of Law to Recognize Oliver W. Hill

BY EBONI FARMER
Deputy Campus Editor

After 100 years of life, Oliver W. Hill left behind a legacy of leadership and determination.

When describing Hill, dean of the School of Law, Kurt L. Schmoke uses the words brilliant, creative, and social engineer.

Schmoke believes that as a Howard alum, Hill's career in civil rights law demonstrates that during his time, Howard was the leading center for social justice in the United States.

"He and his colleagues set standards of excellence for many generations of young lawyers," Schmoke said. "He was a positive and forceful advocate who never gave up his belief that this country could be changed for the better through the rule of law."

Hill was born in Richmond, Va. in 1907, but was raised in Washington, D.C.

If you were to follow his footsteps they would take you into the lecture hall of former Howard professor and civil rights attorney Charles Hamilton Houston, where the late Hill first met his good friend Thurgood Marshall.

In an interview with the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Hill recalled some from his years at

Howard in 1931 and went on to study law at the university. Hill graduated second in his class, right behind Marshall.

In 1940, Hill won his first civil rights case with the help of a team of lawyers that included Marshall.

The case called for equal pay for black and white teachers (*Alston v. School*

ward County—a case that became part of *Brown v. Board of Education*).

The case would make history and become one of his biggest accomplishments as a civil rights attorney.

Hill not only helped break racial barriers in the public school system, but within the government, as well.

In 1949, Hill served one term as the first black member of the Richmond, Virginia city council. Hill used his appointment to the Committee on Government Compliance by United States President Harry Truman to help black contractors gain equal access to employment, according to the African American Registry.

Hill's death on Aug. 5 spurred nation wide attention. As a civil rights lawyer Hill has imprinted his footsteps into history.

On Sept. 7 at noon, the Howard University School of Law will host a memorial service in his honor.

"He was a positive and forceful advocate who never gave up his belief that this country could be changed for the better through the rule of law."

Kurt L. Schmoke
Dean of the School of Law

Howard. When Hill recognized his calling he decided he would become a lawyer and challenge the ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which claimed separate, but equal was constitutional.

Hill graduated from

Board of Norfolk, Virginia). Hill also led a case that brought equal public transportation to schoolchildren in Virginia, according to the NAACP.

Hill took on Davis v. School Board of Prince Ed-

University Downs Painted Wall Near the Annex, Makes New Plans

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Campus Editor

The painted plywood wall surrounding the open area near the Annex was disassembled Monday, and to some students, so was a part of their university.

"I like the murals that were there, they displayed a piece of Howard's history," said Marta Bell, a junior psychology major. "I will miss them, because they are something I had gotten used to seeing and I feel like they represented Howard."

The wall wasn't intended to be permanent. It was erected once the old Bethune Residence Hall was torn down. But students were invited to take advantage of the blank canvas to mask the unappealing plain plywood, said Franklin Chambers, vice provost of Student Affairs in an email.

"The Greek organizations were

the first to respond to our open request, and decided to paint their shields on the 'wall,'" Chambers stated. "Following their murals, others requested and were granted space to express themselves."

Even though they were a venue for student expression, some students see why the walls would be taken down.

"The murals that were there were nice, but when it was very windy they would move which could be dangerous," said Annex resident Aja Harvey, a junior biology major. "If they plan on replacing them, that would be something nice to look at instead of what's there."

The university has revised plans for the rubble-filled space with something to take the walls place.

"The site is now being prepared for a small park of sorts," Chambers stated, "and a more permanent fencing is being installed surrounding the perimeter."

Chambers recognizes students' interest in beautifying the area and ex-

pressing themselves and looks to allow them to do so with this new structure.

"I'm happy to know that the students enjoyed the artwork," Chambers said. "And we will now take this opportunity for this generation of students to be able to express themselves as well... We look forward to the next chapter in the Bethune Hall project."

Students can submit suggestions of how to use the new fencing to themselves and their organizations to the Office of the Vice Provost of Student Affairs.

"I feel like if they are replacing them with something worthwhile then the change may be beneficial," said Sharday Shelby, a junior philosophy major. "But I am still disappointed to see them gone, because I feel like they are a big part of Howard's flavor. They represent many of the organizations in school in such a big way."

Additional reporting by Shivonne Foster



Photo Courtesy of Nadia Pinto

Nadia Pinto is a student leader who serves on the Howard University Board of Trustees as the 2007-2008 school year undergraduate trustee.

Nadia Pinto's Top Ten Howard University Tips

Dear Freshmen,

You have just experienced your first week at the Mecca. From the moment your boxes, suitcases and plastic bins were swept into the large orange carts and up to your dorm room by energetic yet sweaty upperclassmen, your life at the Mecca began.

Now that you are more familiar with the campus and fellow freshmen, it is time to open your eyes to the amazing challenges that await you. By picking up *The Hilltop* you have started off on the right foot. I have been given the opportunity to share with you a few tips to keep in the back of your mind as you embark upon your journey at the Mecca.

1. Stay steadfast in your beliefs. It is easy to get sidetracked in a new world with great freedom, so promise yourself that you will continue to tend to your faith as you did at home. Find a close group of friends who share your beliefs and can help you through your demanding times.

2. Do not procrastinate and utilize your resources. You will find yourself surrounded by highly motivated individuals who love to be on top. Reach out to upperclassmen for guidance. Your situation may not be as unique as you believe.

3. Call your family regularly. I have five siblings plus my mom and dad who are literally scattered across the globe, yet I manage to call regularly. Friends and family from home are your backbone; they were the ones who helped you reach the Mecca. Keep in touch—you do not want Mom and Dad to think you only call for money or care packages.

4. Plan your collegiate schedule in advance. Set clear goals and take classes that align with your intended profession. Howard has several opportunities for research, fellowships and internships that will support you in becoming a success.

5. Attend your classes and make the grade! You are here to further your education and career. When it comes to your coursework put all else aside and focus. If you are having trouble in your classes, reach out to senior students in your major. Howard's tutoring services and your professors for extra help.

6. Embrace the diversity of Howard. Study abroad, take African dance, or travel to the varied homes of your fellow Bison. Make friends and experience the various cultures that have converged in the D.C. area.

7. Establish long-lasting relationships with our Howard community, including your professors and advisors. The Howard family is ready and willing to support you.

8. Take care of your HEALTH! Drink ample water, eat fruits and vegetables, exercise and SLEEP. You just might be able to avoid the dreaded "Freshmen Fifteen."

9. Get involved with student organizations and the global community. If you see something you want to change, take charge, challenge the norm and remember to give back!

10. Most importantly have fun! Challenge yourself academically, but remember these four years (give or take) are going to be the BEST years of your life! Live every moment to the fullest, and take advantage of the culture in the metro area. Enjoy the Mecca, your new home.

Howard University is your place to grow from an adolescent into someone who is ready to take on the world. You will not leave here the same, so be prepared to fall in love with your new family and have the best collegiate experience the world has to offer.

Love,

Nadia Pinto
Your Undergraduate Trustee



Saimara Pearson - Staff Photographer

The painted plywood wall, once visible from 4th St., was torn down by the university on Monday. There are plans for a park and more permanent fence students can decorate.

Residents Return, Recover After Hurricane Katrina

Continued from FRONT

"It may seem like it's lonely, but sometimes I get tired of the company coming by," he said. "I'm not afraid to be down here. I'm home."

Two years have passed since Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, making a mockery of the human engineering designed to keep the city of New Orleans safe. Rebuilding has been slow — even now, visitors who see the devastated city for the first time say that it seems as if nothing has changed.

But there has been progress: Where once entire blocks were empty, new construction and trailers dot the landscape like random teeth in a gummy grin. Blocks of destroyed homes have been razed.

Each day, more businesses are reopening. A recent drive through devastated Lakeview found new restaurants, retail stores and services devoted, fittingly, to home remodeling and repair.

Still, it is a difficult place to live. Devastated blocks are constant, depressing reminders of the storm. The city's leadership struggles to rebuild its infrastructure. Residents have to travel further to find a grocery store, dry cleaner, or gas station.

And rebuilding is hampered by bureaucracy, both private industry and government. Those trying to come back have harrowing tales of complex paperwork, multitudes of phone calls, hours waiting in lines to get the permits or money needed to rebuild. Then there's the struggle to find qualified builders, plumbers, roofers, electricians.

It can be a nightmare, most agree. Green estimates he devotes at least 10 hours a day meshed in this web, both for himself and to help neighbors. He says he isn't frustrated or depressed. "Frustrated is not going to do any good," he said. "For me, this is home."

And no, he doesn't mind that when he looks out his back window, blocks of houses have been replaced by weeds so tall that they reach his head.

"It's green," he said. "You should have seen it after the storm, when it was brown and flat. Green means it's going to grow."

Not everyone is willing to put in the effort, emotional and physical, that's needed to live in New Orleans 2007.

Fred Valdez moved to the city from Austin, Texas, for work reasons five months ago. He was supposed to stay until December. He's ready to leave now.

"I'll be surprised if I last another month," said Valdez, 38, who rents a house in Lakeview, a neighborhood near Lake Pontchartrain and the breached 17th Street Canal. "It's very depressing to be down here."

He ticks off a list of complaints: Crime is a constant fear. Grocery prices are higher than usual. Rental property is hard to come by and rents are high. Roads are pock-marked and hard to negotiate.

"It's what I expected after a major hurricane. It's not what I expected two years after a major hurricane," he said.

And the populace, Valdez believes, is just



Photo Courtesy of: www.nctcampus.com

Evidence of Hurricane Katrina's wrath lay throughout New Orleans two years after the storm. Rebuilding is hampered and residents struggle to restart their lives.

as damaged as the infrastructure. "I think Katrina really took a toll on them, and they're really emotionally distressed, and a lot of these people don't even know it."

As Valdez sees it, the city has little to offer residents. "Yeah, you can drink and go through a drive-through and get a beer and take it to go, but there's nothing else in the city that attracts," he said.

Lakeview resident Mike Hennessey, a New Orleans lifer, has a completely different take on things. He's rebuilding his house and constructing a rental property next door. Things have moved slowly, he said; he's the only one he knows who has received a grant from the Road Home, a program to help residents rebuild, but some of that was to be expected.

"It was a helluva event," Hennessey, 49, said of the storm. "We realize it's a long-term deal. It's not going to happen overnight. It's only two years and we're talking five, 10, 15 years. It's frustrating, but you know it's going to take time."

He points to various properties around his. "There's people living over here, there are the guys on the corner, somebody's building a new house over there, that's progress."

He suspects that most of America has for-

gotten about the devastation. In part, he can understand that. A lot is going on in the world, headlines are fleeting, televised shots of the New Orleans Superdome seem to imply that all is normal in the Big Easy.

"It really takes away from the suffering of people down here," he said. "And people are really suffering."

In the days, weeks and months after Katrina, houses became message boards, with words and numbers scrawled in paint on their walls so residents and rescuers could communicate with each other.

Searchers marked almost every house with a large X, filling its four quadrants with numbers and letters to indicate when they'd searched the dwelling and if anyone had died inside. They left messages — "Two cats dead inside" and "Dog under house" — for those who would come after them.

Displaced homeowners marred their once-pristine outer walls with names and phone numbers so friends could find them as they scattered across the country in the storm's aftermath.

Many of those sloppily painted messages remain, signs of how much the city has suffered, signs of how much work still needs to be done.

On Forstall Street in the Lower Ninth Ward, a blue and black cry for help mars a salmon-colored cinderblock house: "Asking for donation to rebuild ... Please help," along with a phone number. The message has been there at least a year.

A few blocks away, three blue words are painted on the back of a yellow-brick house: "This was HOME."

But there are other, newer signs in the mix. Many are reminiscent of real estate "For Sale" signs, stuck in yards on spindly metal legs or posted in windows. They are signs of defiance or determination, usually varying by neighborhood:

"Hold the Corps Accountable!" is one common refrain.

"Broadmoor Lives," proclaims a banner in that Uptown neighborhood.

"We're Back!" reads a sign in Lakeview.

And the one message that is seen throughout the city: "We are rebuilding. We are New Orleans. We are coming home."

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National Archives Celebrates Little Rock Nine

BY RACHEL HUGGINS
Metro Editor

Fifty years have passed since nine black students marched into the all white Central High School to desegregate the city's public schools. But the courageous efforts of these students haven't went unrecognized over the years. To mark the 50th anniversary of the "Little Rock Nine," the National Archives hosted a free lecture and screening of a clip from the Newseum's documentary film, "The Press and the Civil Rights Movement" on August 23, 2007 at 6:30p.m.

The discussion was led by the film's producer, Frank Bond, who feared people would forget the historic milestone," he said. "I wanted to remind people that the local press was most important at the time because there was no internet or television."

Civil rights journalists Dorothy Gilliam and Gene Roberts sat on the panel and traced the role of the media during the civil rights era and the segregated press between black and white journalists.

"This was one of the most important milestones in civil rights history," said Roberts, a journalism professor at the University of Maryland. "America saw racial conflict brought into their home at the dinner table."

The role of the media and strong segregation that existed between black and white journalists remained a heavy topic throughout the discussion. With a handful of blacks working for main-

stream newspapers in the 1950's, Gilliam recalled the strength and tenacity of the black press, as she referred to them as a tremendous group of black reporters that fought relentlessly to cover the movement's struggles. The majority of coverage shown in "The Press and the Civil Rights Movement" highlighted the brutal beating of African American reporter Alex Wilson. Wilson, a reporter for the *Tri State Defender* in Memphis, Tenn. was beaten by a mob of white protestors while he covered the Little Rock Nine entering Central High School in the fall of 1957.

"I would've liked to see more film coverage and more reactions from the Little Rock Nine students," said Patricia Reid, a visitor from California who attended the event.

Gilliam also told the audience that the televised beating of her editor, Wilson, inspired the young reporter to cover the events in Little Rock herself.

Southwest Washington resident Edythe Challenger believes Gilliam, the first black female reporter for the *Washington Post*, has a significant story to tell about the integral role of the black press during the movement and is waiting for her to release a book, said Challenger, during the book signing for Roberts' new book, "The Racial Beat," which followed the discussion.

Challenger also expressed her concern about a few of Roberts' comments. "Roberts gave more credit to white America than I thought was deserved and diminished the role of the black



Civil Rights journalists Gene Roberts and Dorothy Gilliam shared their experiences covering the Little Rock Nine in Arkansas. The integration of Central High School was the first time that the struggle for equal rights was broadcasted on national television.

press, while the white press was elevated," she said.

One attendant, Charles Hicks appreciated the commemoration of the "Little Rock Nine" but felt that the speakers didn't address the media's role in de-

stroying the Black Panther Party, a point he brought up during the question and answer segment.

Howard alum Juliet Beverly told *The Hilltop* that she was most touched by the commemoration of the Little

Rock Nine, although she's attended several programs hosted by the National Archives. "As a member of the press myself I was touched, it's important that we have to take in account the history before us," said Beverly, who graduated in 2006.



BY RACHEL HUGGINS
Metro Editor

Before Harlem revitalized black culture in the 1920's, a small corridor in northwest Washington pioneered African American accomplishments in art, literature and entertainment. Known as the "Black Broadway," U Street's historic roots trace deep into the core of the nation's capitol.

African American writer Alain Locke lived on the 1300 block of R Street for 13 years. Langston Hughes once lived in the YMCA on 12th Street and Duke Ellington grew up on T Street and performed his first professional gig at True Reformers Hall. This is also the same ground where Bill Cosby dined at Ben's Chili Bowl after performing comedy skits at The Caverns (now known as Bohemian Caverns) in the late 1950's.

But the rich African American legacy didn't begin in the 1920's, its origins date back to the Civil War.

In the summer of 1862, 4,200 runaways moved into the area. Serving as the nation's 16th president, Abraham Lincoln was captivated by one runaway named Mary Dines. Referred to as "Aunt Mary" by Lincoln, she invited him to one church service. He became so fascinated with the emotional experience of black worship that he continued his attendance while drafting the Emancipation Proclamation.

Between 1866 to 1910, the neighborhood reached its pinnacle of affluence amongst African Americans.

Within close proximity, a prestigious institute for higher education named Howard University attracted intelligent and promising blacks. Together the area epitomized the cultural center for African American life.

Coined "The Grandfather of the Chitlin' Circuit," Howard Theater opened in 1910 on T Street. Nearly 20 years before New York's Apollo Theater showcased black entertainment, Howard Theatre lured crowds of classy and sophisticated patrons that enjoyed black



Jessica DeTogo - Staff Photographer

The U street corridor has been the home to several long-lasting historical memories. It has stood throughout the trials of race relations.

stars. Duke Ellington, James Brown and Pearl Bailey were regular performers. Famed for its cabaret shows and big bands, this theatre remained a community staple until the 1980's.

"Every Motown act came through there," said Hari Jones, assistant director at the African-American Civil War Museum, as he recalls his grandfather's frequent trips to the neighborhood as a child. "Growing up I heard so much about U Street's history, I couldn't wait to walk down the streets myself."

But April 4, 1968 was crippling to the African American entrepreneurs. This remorseful day was Martin Luther King's assassination. After the public received the horrid news, Stokely Carmichael warned black business owners on U Street to leave their enterprises. Businesses were soon torched and underwent devastating attacks.

Over the next five days \$24 million worth of damages occurred and 400

businesses were burned; Ben's Chili Bowl remained one of the untouched and is preserved 49 years later.

During the 1970's and 80's, the strip lost a substantial part of its acclaim from the 1950's.

Its reputation suddenly transformed into a blighted and undesirable community.

"Don't go there unless you're looking for illegal vices" Jones was warned when he first moved to the District in 1970.

In 2007, U Street is now in a "revitalization period," Jones said. The streets are safer, but no longer paramount African American culture. Now streams of African and European descendants own restaurants and nightclubs on the historic streets.

But the legacy built by black intellectuals isn't forgotten. Ben's Chili Bowl remains nestled in its same location and the African American Civil War Museum showcases black achievement daily.

BY JEROME LOYD
Editorial Assistant

For many students, delicious home-cooked meals have come to a halt since the fall semester has begun. However, several local eateries offer options that may just be close enough for comfort.

Ben's Chili Bowl is a landmark in DC that has stood for almost fifty years satisfying many chili cravings.

After renovating an old pool hall with \$5,000, Ben and Virginia Ali opened Ben's Chili Bowl at 1213 U Street on Aug. 22, 1958.

Called the U Street corridor, it was once known as "Black Broadway," with dignitaries such as Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. could be spotted eating or just hanging out at the "Chili Bowl."

The assassination of Dr. King in 1968 resulted in riots carried out across the country with Washington D.C. being one of the worst impacted regions. During this time, the U street corridor closed down.

However, due to the leadership of Stokely Carmichael, Ben's Chili Bowl remained open. Carmichael worked with

the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and obtained authority to let Ben's stay open for activists, firefighters and public servants trying to restore order. After the riots, the U Street corridor went through a period of economic decline due to the closing of businesses and drug infiltration into the neighborhood.

In spite of its down times, Bill Cosby and a host of others helped Ben's celebrate its 45th anniversary in 2003.

The restaurant also received the prestigious Gallo of Sonoma America's Classics Restaurant Award, Ben and Virginia were inducted into the D.C. hall of fame, and the alley adjacent to Ben's Chili Bowl was named Ben Ali Way.

Today the historic landmark operates in pretty much the same way as it did in 1958. Veggie chili & veggie burgers have been added to the menu, the number of tables has increased in the restaurant, and they now host private parties for groups in their Cosmopolitan Room.

So Howardites, while you're away from home-cooked chili, Ben's Chili Bowl hopes to meet the high standards of your tummy.

Ben's Chili Bowl Serves Up Food, History on U Street

OTHER GREAT AREA EATERIES:

Deciding where to eat in Washington D.C. can be a daunting task - there are just so many choices: fast food, dine-in restaurants, delivery, home-cooking or eating in the café. The following restaurants are some ideas about where you could go to get some "cats" and what to expect from these varying establishments.

The Islander is located on 1201 U St. NW and is a five to ten minute walk from the Howard Plaza Towers. The Islander specializes in dishes native to the Caribbean Islands of Trinidad and Tobago such as oxtail, mango wings, plantains and chana or chickpea roti.

They also have live jazz on the weekends and where students can enjoy a plate of shrimp creole in a dimly lit, solemn atmosphere.

Next we travel to the Spanish restaurant **Alero** which is not far from The Islander. Alero is located on 1301 U St., where you won't miss the unique design of the restaurant upon arrival.

Their food menus are reasonably priced, for example at lunch you can buy a nacho platter for \$6.50 and for dinner you can have "aguacate relleno" for \$7.25 which is a shrimp-filled avocado appetizer. They have tortilla soups, caesar salads, and to complete your dining experience they offer dessert in the form of cheesecake, ice cream or flan.

Florida Ave Grill is another restaurant within walking distance of The Howard Plaza Towers. Located at 1100 Florida Ave., this establishment opened in 1944 and essentially operates today as it did back then.

After walking into the restaurant you will notice a plethora of celebrity pictures attached to the wall from Congress men and women to TV personalities. They serve soul food items such as chitterlings and collard greens, and their prices are affordable with most selections being priced below \$10.

An alternative to the aforementioned restaurants is the **Soul Vegetarian Café** located at 2606 Georgia Ave.; almost directly across the street from the Howard University School of Business. Barbeque tofu, vegan pizza and soy milk shakes are just a preamble of what the SVG offers. They have student specials such as a student lunch platter for \$5.50 and a student dinner plate for \$6.50 with a student ID.

Some of these restaurants may peak your curiosity and all are in proximity and are reasonably priced. Trying something new might be a great experience, and you'll get a little hint of the variety that the District has to offer. Washington D.C. is here for your enjoyment so experience as much of it as you can and have fun. If they ask, tell them the Hilltop sent you.



Jessica DeTogo - Staff Photographer

Students can dine at Ben's Chili Bowl where several celebrities and historical figures have satisfied their appetites.

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Season's First Hurricane Wakes Up FEMA Recovery

BY BRANDON HAMILTON
Editorial Assistant

Nearly 2,000 people lost their lives in the wake of Hurricane Katrina three days after the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) had been notified of its potential dangers. Perhaps that is why some Texas residents, threatened by the prospect of Hurricane Dean, did not wait for federal coordination efforts to save them.

The Texas Emergency Management Division leapt into action, seasoned from the lessons of Katrina and Rita. Its plan was simple: allow for evacuation. Approximately 1,300 buses were dispatched to the threatened areas surrounding San Antonio, with another 1,600 placed on standby. Residents were encouraged to stock up on fuel while Texas Gov. Rick Perry established seven command stations to better manage regional efforts. No fewer than 25,000 people—all of whom were alerted nearly a week before the hurricane landed—were involved in the mobilization effort, according to The Houston Chronicle.

To date, there have been 13 people killed by Hurricane Dean. None of them were Texans.

"We don't need the federal government's permission to take care of Texans," Jack Colley, the head of the Texas Emergency Management Division, told The Houston Chronicle.

Nevertheless, the effort was not without federal assistance. President Bush declared a state of emergency in Texas on Aug. 17, four days before Hurricane Dean made landfall. The move enabled the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate the efforts of 10,000 National Guardsmen, as many as 1,300 Disaster Services Red Cross personnel and a 17-person urban search and rescue outfit among others.

This assistance, according to FEMA head R. David

Paulison, is evident of the federal government's new responsiveness. "Katrina was a wake-up call for all of us in emergency management and also for the federal government," Paulison said. "We know we have to play together as a team, we know we have to respond as the federal government, not as individual agencies."

Hurricane Dean, the first Atlantic hurricane this season, hit Jamaica as a Category 4 storm, displacing about 300,000 people, according to Jamaican authorities. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced in early August that it maintained its predictions for an above-average hurricane season this year.

In May, NOAA estimated an above-normal season by 75 percent, but three months later, that number has risen to 85 percent. The average season carries 11 hurricanes, while NOAA pre-

dicts between 13 to 16 hurricanes this year.

According to FEMA, 700 bodies were recovered from flooded areas in New Orleans two years ago. Some survivors and evacuees reported seeing dead bodies lying in city streets and floating in still-flooded sections, especially in the eastern portion of the city.

Now, under Title V of the Stafford Act, the President can streamline disaster aid by using money allocated to the Disaster Relief Fund. Congress allocates a set amount to this fund annually and, in light of previous hurricane-related disasters, last year's contribution totaled approximately \$2 billion. When the President declares a state of emergency, the aid takes the form of temporary housing, grants for immediate needs of families, the repair of public infrastructure, emergency communications sys-

tems and the like.

Despite the federal government's preparedness, disaster relief is largely in the control of states. In a press conference prior to Hurricane Dean's landfall, White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe outlined the state's obligations. In addition to declaring a state of emergency, a state must demonstrate that federal assistance is necessary to adequately respond to disasters.

The success of Texas' preparations may lay in its initiative. Governor Perry requested a declaration of a state of emergency four days before the hurricane could do any damage. Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco, in contrast, placed a request just two days before Katrina struck New Orleans.

"Did we learn something?" Colley said. "You bet we did."



Power lines were damaged and the only road to Norman Manley International Airport was under several feet of water and sand, Aug. 20 in Kingston, Jamaica. Sightseers gathered on Palisadoes Road to witness Dean's devastation first-hand. Hurricane Dean's eye grazed the island of Jamaica when it moved 23 miles off the southern shore.

Photo Courtesy of Carl Joseph Harris/MCT



Photo Courtesy of David Eulst/Kansas City Star/MCT

President George W. Bush addresses the VFW 108th National Convention at the Kansas City Convention Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

BUSH MAY JOIN FAILED PRESIDENTS CLUB

BY WILLIAM DOUGLAS
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

If Harry S. Truman did it, why can't George W. Bush?

Truman came back from the political abyss—his public approval rating sank as low as 22 percent thanks in large part to America's entry into the Korean War and his handling of labor disputes at home—to become regarded by historians as one of the nation's top 10 presidents.

Lately, some Bush administration officials and White House associates have predicted that President Bush—mired in an unpopular war in Iraq and saddled with the low Nixon-level approval ratings—will get the Truman treatment by historians after he leaves office in January 2009.

"I think when the history is written that, in fact, it will reflect credit upon this president and his administration," Vice President Dick Cheney told CNN's Larry King last month.

Will history really give Bush the Truman bounce?

Several historians doubt it, noting that no other president other than the former haberdasher from Independence, Mo., has received such a 180-degree revision to the benefit of his legacy.

"I don't think any president has had as significant a re-evaluation as Truman," said Columbia University historian Alan Brinkley. "Dwight Eisenhower has risen in historical evaluation quite a lot, but not to the same degree. [James] Polk was once ranked much higher than he now usually is. I suspect [Ronald] Reagan will fluctuate a good deal over time."

Bush, Brinkley said, "does not seem to me to have many achievements that would earn him a high ranking—again, unless the Iraq war turns out unexpectedly to be successful in the long term."

Historians tend to rank presidents as "great," "near great," "above average," "average," "below average" or "failure." George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt routinely top most presidential surveys conducted every few years by historians and other experts.

Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt usually rank just below the top three. Truman, who produced the Marshall Plan to rebuild war-damaged Europe and the Truman doctrine to protect free peoples from falling under communism and who decided to desegregate America's military, consistently appears on most lists.

Fading in and out of the top 10 list are James Monroe, James Madison, Andrew Jackson, Woodrow Wilson, Eisenhower, Reagan and John F. Kennedy.

There's almost no argument among scholars about

failed presidents, with Warren G. Harding, Franklin Pierce, Andrew Johnson and James Buchanan firmly ensconced at the bottom of the list.

Bush currently is in the middle of the pack of presidents in the most recent rankings. A 2005 survey conducted by the Wall Street Journal and the Federalist Society had Bush ranked 19 among America's 43 presidents and a 2002 ranking by the Siena College's Research Institute listed him at 23rd.

But with 17 months left in his presidency, some historians already have predicted that Bush is destined for the failed presidents' club largely because of the Iraq war, his handling of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath and his inability to get legacy-building Social Security and immigration changes through Congress.

Robert Dallek, a Boston University history professor and the author of the book "Nixon and Kissinger: Partners in Power," said it's too soon to call Bush a failure, but he added that the historical evidence is stacking up against the president.

"You bounce back if the person behind you is worse," said Dallek. "Ronald Reagan had Jimmy Carter. Hard to imagine that there will be a series of presidents who will make Bush look better."

Bush may not mount a Truman-like comeback, some presidential scholars say, but he may be able to inch his way up a spot or two in the rankings the way a few troubled presidents have.

Lyndon Johnson left the White House publicly and physically beaten down by his unpopular escalation of the Vietnam War. But time has helped Johnson's place in history as scholarly reviews and several books have highlighted his domestic accomplishments, which included pushing civil rights legislation through Congress, the creation of the Great Society programs and his attempt to declare war on poverty.

"The comparisons between Bush and Johnson, the parallels in foreign policy are stunning," said Robert Caro, a Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of the Johnson presidency. "But domestically, there's no comparison at all. If you're trying to assess presidents, you need something to assess. Lyndon Johnson had a long list of accomplishments. In Johnson's case, no matter how you rank him with Vietnam, there are successes. With Bush, unless there's a good outcome in Iraq, there's nothing to buttress him."

Bush, for his part, is taking the long view of history. He told a small group of historians during an Oval Office meeting last year that it's going to take decades for the political dust to settle from his eight years in the White House before his stewardship can be assessed accurately.

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Government Targets Minority Engineers

BY VANESSA ROZIER
Nation & World Editor

Engineering is an industry in which minorities are underrepresented, and Congress wants to do something about it.

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are compromising on their respective College Cost Reduction Acts, both of which grant money to science, technology, engineering and math programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The House of Representatives' draft states that funds are to be used in "disciplines in which minorities and low-income students are underrepresented."

One Howard University student knows that companies are going after black engineering majors on campus, but also acknowledges that minorities are steering themselves away from the industry.

"Companies are coming to Howard looking for us," Brandon Montgomery said. "But it starts with the drive of the students themselves." Montgomery, a junior electronic engineering major, serves on the executive board of the Howard chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

During his summer internship at General Motors, he was able to count five to seven new hires at the company's executive team who were Howard graduates. Part of the reason Montgomery came to Howard was its strong engineering program—proven successful at Fortune 500 companies such as GM.

He thinks the reason minorities are underrepresented in engineering fields is not because they will not be hired, but because there is little to no encouragement to enter the field. "A lot

of minority students aren't looking into that direction," he said. "They're looking to be known."

"Back home, if you're not in science, you're not that smart," junior electronic engineering major Uzoma Nwagba said. Nwagba is from Nigeria and

least resistance," he said. "From elementary school to college, students usually find a reason to drop math and physics, saying, 'It's hard, I'll take the lowest level, if at all.'"

English-speaking Caribbean and African students,

"BACK HOME, IF YOU'RE NOT A SCIENTIST, YOU'RE NOT THAT SMART"

-UZOMA NWAGBA

is the student council president for the College of Architecture, Engineering and Computer Sciences (CAECS).

He says that in the United States, the encouragement is toward liberal arts and entertainment. "My society wanted me to be a scientist," he said.

CAECS Student Council Vice President Iverson Bell said, "When expectations are low, then encouragement is not there. Then the incentive to help is not there."

Bell, a junior electronic engineering major, hypothesized that globally, America will be taken out of the chain of production. India specializes in labor, China in manufacturing and Africa has natural resources. From there, he said, "It is essential that we include black people in that chain."

Dr. Lerrol Noel, the chair of the civil engineering department, said engineering simply is not encouraged in the United States as it is overseas. He estimates that 70 percent to 80 percent of engineering students at Howard are international students.

"In the United States, students take the pathway of

however, do not have that choice. "STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] programs are important to those students," he said. "They put a lot of energy behind the tough areas."

Noel says the international students he interacts with have not been taught that the

concepts of math and science are hard. He says their cultures steer them toward those subjects, rather than to something easier.

Noel suggests that the funding being discussed on a federal level be allocated to American residents. "They don't have the financials or the support," he said of those born in the United States who challenge themselves to seek out post-secondary work in STEM fields.

Nwagba said he would like to see a change in the mentality that people of color cannot excel. He recommends the potential federal money go toward a support system for students and faculty.

"I'd want to see an improvement of the infrastructure to make an atmosphere more conducive to learning," Nwagba said. "Second, I'd like it to support the people."



Jessica DeTogo - Staff Photographer

Robert Wesley, a mechanical engineering major, studies to enter into one of the many industries with little minority representation.

BLACKS AND WHITES DIVIDED ON VICK

BY Z'KERA SIMS
Staff Writer

Throughout the history of hip hop culture, dogs, particularly pit bulls, have been known as aggressive signs of power by rappers such as DMX.

In lieu of Atlanta Falcons star quarterback Michael Vick's recent guilty plea of conspiracy to facilitate, participate and the funding of the underground sport of dog fighting, his situation sheds light on the bigger issue of dog fighting being called a "black matter." Howard students have weighed in on how his race is affecting the trial's progression and the case being less about dog fighting and more about race.

"In general, I think white people care more about animals," said Jordan Faust, freshman and member of the Howard University football team. "I really don't think it's that big of a deal."

Many question the adverse media attention Vick's case is receiving. Some have questioned whether the attention is for the weight of his crime or the color of his skin.

There are no color specifications surrounding the illegality of dog fighting. What some consider and even participate in as sport, the United States government considers a crime. Dog fighting is illegal in all 50 states and a misdemeanor in Idaho and Wyoming.

The remarks of radio personality Don Imus last spring about the Rutgers women's basketball team propelled the issue of race and the media to the fore-

front.

Many believe that dog fighting is a byproduct of the hip hop generation and comes as a result of the domineering violent nature of its culture. Since the history of hip hop started in the African American community, it is deemed a "black thing."

However, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) states in their historical research that dog fighting began long before the hip hop generation. Dog fighting emerged head strong after the Civil War in the 1860's, and hip hop is nothing more than an addition to an enterprise that is more than a century and a half old.

Vick's media crucifixion can be attributed to the involvement of the radical, predominantly white organization PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals-referring to Vick and his co-defendants as "urban."

Some Howard students feel that although Vick's actions were wrong, he is being publicly persecuted for similar acts of cruelty that go on regularly in many sports.

"They just used him to boost their own organization," said sophomore Zachery Scott. "I wish they would investigate horse racing, a predominantly white sport, and what happens to the horses when they don't perform well."

PETA's latest advertisement in protest of the Michael Vick case features a white baby doll adorned in a white artificially blood stained animal costume, lying on its belly the caption under

the picture reads, "Would you wish this on your child?" inferring that the life of a human is equivalent to the life of an animal.

"Anyone who could force a dog to fight to the death should be kept away from all vulnerable forms of life, like children and animals," said PETA Vice President Bruce Friedrich.

One Howard student found PETA's advertisement appalling.

"I don't like the fact that dog fighting is being used by the media and PETA to ruin the life of a black man," said Calvin Simmons, sophomore finance major. "The life of an animal should never be placed above that of a human."

While some Howard students along with much of the black community feel Vick is being targeted based on his race, there are still those that agree that Vick played a role in animal cruelty and should therefore be punished.

"Anyone who saw the pictures of those mangled dogs on the news would agree that what Vick did was heartless to innocent animals," said Kristin Rodney, a senior fashion merchandising major. "It's not a matter of black and white, it is a matter of knowing what is right and wrong."

It has been questioned why there has been such sympathy for Vick from the black community. While many blacks stand firm that it was in fact animal cruelty, whether Vick is black or not, some still stand by the Falcons quarterback.



Photo Courtesy of www.usatoday.com

There has been a racial divide after the results of Michael Vick's plea on his involvements with dog fighting.

U.S. OPEN HONORS LATE TENNIS LEGEND



Althea Gibson, a legendary African American tennis player was honored Monday night at the start of the U.S. Open.

BY MATTHEW COOPER
Deputy Sports Editor

Before Venus and Serena Williams started a craze across tennis courts, and even before Arthur Ashe dominated the tennis world, Althea Gibson was the trailblazer for black tennis players.

On Monday night, the opening night of the U.S. Open at Arthur Ashe Stadium in Queens, N.Y., she was commemorated for her achievements as she was inducted into U.S. Open Court of Champions, falling on the 50th anniversary of her becoming the first black tennis player to win

the U.S. Nationals, now known as the U.S. Open. Gibson is the first African American to be inducted into the Court of Champions, seated next to tennis greats such as Billie Jean King and John McEnroe.

"Althea Gibson's talent, dignity and unrelenting desire to achieve made her a great champion," said Jane Brown Grimes, President and Chairman of the United States Tennis Association board in a press release. "She made tennis a better place, by opening doors and opening minds. She is finally receiving the recognition she so richly deserves."

Gibson, who passed away in 2003, was honored in

the opening night ceremony of the U.S. Open titled "Breaking Barriers," which included other African American women that achieved notable first feats for African American women, including Aretha Franklin, who performed her classic "Respect," at the ceremony, singer Yolanda Adams, astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison, famed actress Phylicia Rashad, former WNBA star Cynthia Cooper and former Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

A graduate of Florida A & M University in 1953, Gibson quickly rose to prominence in the amateur tennis world, in the days before professional women's tennis.

She took a strong hold of women's tennis much like Jackie Robinson in major league baseball and Tiger Woods in the Professional Golf Association.

During her career in the 1950's, she won 56 singles and doubles titles, including winning the singles title at the 1956 French Open, the singles title at the 1957 and 1958 U.S. Open and the singles title at the 1957 and 1958 Wimbledon. She also won three straight doubles titles at the 1956, 1957 and 1958 Wimbledon.

Gibson retired from amateur tennis in 1958, and later toured with the Harlem Globetrotters playing exhibition tennis before games.

She joined the Ladies Professional Golf Association in 1964 and left in 1971 to return to tennis.

She retired from athletic competition in 1975, serving as the New Jersey state commissioner of athletics.

Venus Williams acknowledges that both her and her sister Serena's success is owed to Gibson for paving the way for their success and dominance.

"Althea Gibson is a true pioneer and trailblazer," said Venus Williams in a press release. "She broke through racial barriers in tennis in pre-civil rights times and I will always be grateful to her for having the strength and

the courage to triumph in extreme adversity."

"Her accomplishments set the stage for my success, and through players like me, Serena, and many others to come, her legacy will live on," said Venus, the first black woman after Althea Gibson to win Wimbledon.

Serena, who was the first black woman to win the U.S. Open after Gibson, said during the ceremony, "If it wasn't for her, who knows if the doors would still be closed for people like me."

Serena and Venus Williams will compete after the Breaking Barriers ceremony against Angelique Kerber and Kira Nady, respectively.

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Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com



Information Makes a World of Difference

One of the most compelling aspects of any social or political movement is the amount of people passionate enough to stand up and act out for their chosen cause. The “bandwagon,” an essential part of any movement.

Howard students are simultaneously characterized as being apathetic as well as conscious advocates for issues affecting various communities, depending on who you ask.

Many returning students can recall the December 2006 rally to the Capitol Building regarding diversity initiatives in the Seattle and Louisville, Ky. school districts. “White Only” and “Colored Only” signs littered campus, and dorms symbolizing the effect the eradication of race-based tiebreakers for high school enrollment would create. Students’ worries regarding various courses fell second to the protest, showing their commitment to the cause despite the ramifications of stepping out of line and missing class.

However, many students attended the march under the impression that it was for affirmative action, which is a system that affects diversity issues in the workplace, and not the racial tiebreakers that were used to “unconstitutionally” diversify the classroom.

Although they sound similar because of the effects they have on otherwise homogeneous settings, the two systems are completely separate.

Though students’ intentions were good and student leaders did what they could for the rally, the basis of many students participating in the rally was unclear. Some students may have been uninformed, and student leaders were kept busy drawing as big a crowd as they could instead of informing the protesters of the specifics of the rally.

Our View:
Leaders as well as protesters need to be informed and ready to follow through for their

An additional issue concerning Howard students and social advocacy is consistency and intrinsic motivation, or the will to see a cause to the bitter end.

This summer while the Democratic presidential candidates were on Howard’s campus for a debate regarding issues in the African-American community, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 to strike down the tiebreakers in the school districts, to the dismay of many.

The decision had the opposite effect of everything the protestors worked, walked and shouted for. Why was there no march to the Capitol Building after the decision was made? Why were the same student leaders who were exceedingly vocal leading up to the protest silenced after the ruling? Surely, graduating from Howard does not mean one is removed from issues facing the African-American community and can afford to display indifference. What better time than at a debate centered on black issues in America could Howard students have voiced their opinion on the Supreme Court ruling? In that case, even if protesters were informed after the initial rally, the initiative on the part of leaders and protesters after the ruling was apparently not there.

In some cases, information can make all the difference. For example, in the cases of the Jena Six, informed protesters from Howard can do a great deal to the justice system by displaying that young people know what is going on there and that they disapprove of it. However, it would take legislative action to make a difference in the court’s rulings. In Michigan, however, informed voters could have done their part to preserve affirmative action by fighting Proposition 2, the measure intended to end the use of the policy in that state. All of the power was in their hands. However, voters may not have sought the information beforehand and voted against it.

Without informed leaders and protesters, no protest or rally can truly come into fruition. Without leaders and protesters ready to

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6		9	7	3	
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Now in its 84th 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 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.

Perspective

High School Violence Stemmed from Provocation

My name is Jonathan Peterson, Executive Editor of R.A.W. [Realist Advice Wire] Magazine or rawmagonline.com and a former Howard University student. First, I would like to say that I am always pleased to read the work of other Howard Students and appreciate the work of The Hilltop staff.

The “Jena Six” are symbolic of the undeniable truth that as a Black person in America, you will never be viewed as or treated equally regardless of where you are located in America.

It is unfortunate that the Jena High School administration did not have the presence of mind to be proactive about the apparent racial tension amongst their students.

Even as an adult, it has become increasingly hard to simply “turn the other cheek” or “respond in kind” to the numerous social and racial injustices inflicted on black America.

Therefore, I am certain that the teens involved had been provoked to a point where they felt they had to respond in a violent manner.

Although I do not condone their act, I understand their frustration and confusion. If I were still in high school, I probably would have responded in the same manner.

At the same time, I am certain if the situation were reversed and these were white teens, [the administration] simply would have written the incident off as teens being teens using poor judgment but initially attempted second-degree murder – to second-degree assault – is threatening to further ruin the future of the six students involved. Because when you are black in America, the mere accusation of criminal acts can smear your character, creating even more obstacles on top of the fact you were born black in America.

I will pray for these students and show my support for their swift release and for all charges all charges dropped against them.

If there are individuals to be held responsible for what transpired at Jena High School, it would be the parents of those three white students who hung nooses from the “white tree,” the school board, superintendent, [and] Jena High School administration for not taking a firm zero tolerance stance on acts of racism.

I commend the black students of Jena High School for making a stand for justice, and to the “Jena Six,” hold your heads high, never be ashamed for standing for yourselves or not allowing someone to attempt to demean you through racial slurs.

Take from this situation that as hard as it is to not physically harm another person, no matter how out of line they are, that is their trap, especially the trap for black Americans.

Our strongest defense against the injustices we face as black Americans are our words, continual protest and shaming the rest of America into guilt.

We must always be smarter than our opposition.

Peace,
Jonathan Peterson

Got an issue?
Submit a perspective
at www.thehilltoponline.com

Look for the “letter to the editor” link, vent your frustrations or share wise words with our readers.



Confessions of an L&S Editor

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Life & Style Editor

Dear Howard,

Welcome back! Another year is here and another class of fresh-faced Bison have arrived to make their mark. As a freshman there were so many things I would have loved to know before making some egregious mistakes.

I can't say there's a top 10 list of things to know, because they all differ in importance based on what you're interested in, but they're all vital to making it through this experience we call Howard.

The first piece of advice is stay on top of your grades. Administrators were always telling us to keep the grades up and "get your groceries," and it's the truth.

National data from the U.S. Census Bureau revealed in 2000 that one in three Americans drop out of college. So look to your left and to your right. It only gets HARDER from here. Freshmen classes are usually the easiest to pass, so get the high GPA while you can.

Along with getting goods grades, GO TO CLASS! For real, you pay for them so go. Even on those days after a test or midterm when you don't think the professor will be teaching anything, still go. I've had many a class where I didn't go and found out the professor gave extra credit that day for attending class.

Be humble. I know you can't wait to go back home glowing about your big school on the Hill, but keep it humble. Remember how you got to where you are and respect it.

Please. Please. Please. Don't expect to find your soul mate at Howard. The ratio isn't as crazy as everyone thinks (it's actually three to two), but dating is, nonetheless, not any easier.

Your soul mate may very well be here, but it's college and your main focus should be figuring out who you are and having fun. If it's meant to be, it will happen eventually.

Pick a major you are really passionate about. Trust me, after changing majors three times I know what it's like to be confused. But I also know it's a waste to spend thousands of dollars on a degree you hate. Figure out what you love to do (don't forget your hobbies) and choose a concentration that fits that.

Don't over extend yourself. Pick a few clubs and organizations you want to be a part of, join those and dedicate your time to them. It's always better to be really good at a few things, than okay in a whole bunch of things.

Surround yourself with drama free friends. This isn't high school and nobody has time to manage your issues. It just makes the whole experience here better to not have to deal with craziness. And good friends will make the experience better. This only last four years, but trust me it goes so fast. Read The Hilltop, because it's the greatest newspaper in the world! We're proud to be the first collegiate black publication to go daily.

No really, even if you just look at the Hilltopics, because everyone uses them to stay informed about events on campus.

Lastly, think over and outside of the box. Don't limit yourself in any way. Take in this whole experience and become the best "you" possible. By staying on the Dean's List or traveling to other countries, don't sell yourself short. HU is a lifetime experience, where you have the ability to do almost anything.

You're finally here, so take it in and use your experience to change the world!
- Dani K.

If you have any extra advice for incoming freshmen or are just excited about the new school year, let me know at dani_kwateng@yahoo.com.

Universal Releases Legal Mixtape

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Life & Style Editor

Before mainstream listeners heard Let's Get It: Thug Motivation 101, Jeezy was already an underground legend in the streets. When Lil' Wayne had something to say about the government's actions in the wake of Hurricane Katrina he made a series of LPs called New Orleans Nightmare. And when 50 Cent was shot nine times and dropped from Columbia Records, he used mixtapes to reignite his career.

It's a known fact in the hip hop industry that getting your name out there takes more than handing out a few demos. These days mixtapes are seen as the faster, cheaper and easier way to get your music heard. But after the recent crack down from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) the illegal sales of mixtapes has gone down.

The biggest blow to the hustle came earlier this year when DJ Drama and Don Cannon, two major players in the mixtape world, were brought down by the federal government on racketeering charges.

The issue with mixtapes is that labels view them as piracy and selling unlicensed music is illegal. According to the RIAA their "goal with all these anti-piracy efforts is to protect the ability of the recording industry to invest in new bands and new music and, in the digital space, to give legal online services a chance to flourish."

In an attempt to help artists continue to put out music and protect record companies

from piracy, Universal Music Enterprises is now in the business of legal mixtape distribution.

"It's a learning process; we've stepped out and taken a leadership position," said Mike Davis, vice president of UME. The illegal mixtapes were not fair to artists, writers or retailers that didn't want to do business under the guise that illegal tapes provided."

The first project Universal put together is entitled "Lethal Squad Mixtapes: Dose #1," which came out July 13. This mixtape is different from any other, because instead of purchasing it on the streets or off a mixtape site, one can walk in any Borders or even Target and purchase it.

"I think it's definitely a good direction for hip hop," DJ Bear Herron said. "[We had] 110% creative control. We picked the songs, the drops, the way we organized the songs. It was on us. We did everything on our own [Universal] just put it out."

He along with DJ (Hot Boy) Quick Silva worked on both Doses. "The one thing is with mixtapes, a lot of them are sold in the hood. Everybody doesn't have a hood store that they can go to. So if it's on a national distribution level, you still have a raw mixtape...the same as the one you can get in the hood...but if you can buy it at Best Buy or whatever, what's the difference? It's still good music and the price is still a mixtape price (ranging \$5-\$7)," he said.

Keith Monroe, a senior finance major is also featured



File Photo of Joseph Pineda

DJ Bear Herron and DJ Quicksilva were able to flex their musical skills and creativity on a recent mixtape released by Universal Music Enterprises.

on the mixtape under his alias KeiPH. Monroe has been a lyricist since his middle school days and released his first solo project "Big Man On Campus" around Homecoming last year. Now he's working with UME to get his music out to the mass audiences.

"I came to Howard started making a few songs, people were digging it...so things started to pick up. I met up with my man from Def Jam, he heard my music and liked it. The mixtape was up in the air, so he passed my music on to them. They asked for my hottest 16's and I went in the studio that night. They liked it and put me

on," he said.

Despite all the controversy Universal has sold 3,800 units of "Lethal Squad Mixtapes: Dose #1" and anticipates, by word of mouth, that sales will increase.

And Monroe is optimistic about UME's initiative. "The thing is...with mixtapes, that's how you get your music out. If they've never heard of you, they're not gonna give you no love, unless there's some type of demand for you. That's why mixtapes are so big. Once you get a name for yourself, underground, that's when people start to notice you. I'm still trying to get my buzz up. As far

as I can tell I think we're about to start making moves", he replied.

And Herron agrees. "It's giving more exposure to the DJ and the artist we're spinning. Hip hop isn't just for the hood. That's where it started, but it's going to continue to grow and grow. It's like a rapper saying I don't wanna get a deal. I just wanna be on the block on the corner all day. So now that the dj has a deal, it's corny. Naw! Why do we have to be on the corner pushing all the mixtapes. Why can't we be the stars out there?"



If You like It Hot, Try Bikram Yoga

BY SIMONE PRINGLE
Staff Writer

Despite America's ongoing obesity crisis, exercise regimens are becoming more popular and complex. Unconventional work outs such as Pilates and belly dancing have integrated into the exercise world.

Yoga however, is changing and adapting to the times. Many yoga fanatics have opted to try Bikram or "hot yoga."

Developed by the founder of the international Yoga College of India, Yogiraj Bikram Choudhury, Bikram yoga are 26 posture and position exercises. Each position is done twice in 95 to 100 degree heat for 90 minutes.

Elizabeth Glover, director of the Bikram Yoga Center at Capitol Hill says

that Bikram yoga has benefits that ordinary workouts like running or weight lifting do not.

She said, "What makes Bikram yoga special is that you stretch and strengthen your muscles at the same time. You also compress internal organs, which releases toxins from the body, which are then released when you sweat. The room is heated to about 100 degrees so you're going to sweat a lot. Every pose targets a certain part of body. A thousand calories can be burned in one session."

Sophomore broadcast journalism major Ashley Johnson agrees with Glover.

"All second semester last year I went to Bikram yoga classes and I lost about 10 to 15 pounds. I would do it again any day, it really tones and sculpts

your body. I had a great experience doing it for so long. It forced me to consume more water and to become stronger and more flexible," she said.

Glover also said that Bikram yoga can be practiced by a variety of people.

"Bikram yoga has been medically proven to prevent illness and treat ailments such as high blood pressure, arthritis, allergies, and diabetes. Many practicing diabetics can cease insulin treatments if Bikram yoga is practiced frequently," Glover said.

Glover also has some advice for those who may have started and feel frustrated.

"I've been practicing Bikram yoga for five and half years and I'm not bored. You can do [Bikram yoga] for a lifetime and still progress because you body

evolves over time," Glover said.

Sophomore sports therapy and chemistry double major Chris Alexander said, "I've never done it but I might consider [doing Bikram yoga] later in life when I've settled down and [my life] has slowed down a bit."

The Bikram Yoga Center at Capitol Hill has student rates to attract the surrounding colleges and universities' students. Students can pay \$12 for an individual session or \$100 for a month of unlimited sessions. Glover recommends that interested students do an introduction week of unlimited yoga for \$20.

There are several yoga centers in the District located on Connecticut Avenue in Dupont Circle, H Street by Capitol Hill and Wisconsin Avenue in Tenleytown.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES



In **How To Pull An Allnighter** (Lulu, \$14.95), William Hope tells you everything you need to know about how to stay up all or most of the night with less strain and better results. Which doses of coffee best maintain late-night mental efficiency? How can you use room temperature to improve late-night mental efficiency? How does iron counteract late-night drowsiness and sleep deprivation? Hope answers all of these questions and more in addition to providing the scientific research. Do not wait until the last minute, read this book immediately to find out what really works and how to get more out of pulling an allnighter.



In **Do You! 12 Laws to Access the Power in You to Achieve Happiness and Success** (Gotham Books, \$25), Russell Simmons provides insight into his beliefs and rituals while at the same time laying the blueprint for success. Do You! is a book not only for individuals looking to mimic Simmons' professional success, but also for those in the midst of pursuing their dreams. The laws in the book are founded in the belief that success ultimately comes from knowing who you are and having a connection with your higher self. If you are looking for a quick read on how to build up their bank accounts, this book isn't for you.



In **Game Over: The Rise and Transformation of a Harlem Hustler** (Simon & Schuster, \$13.50), Azie Faison, the New York street legend that was portrayed by Wood Harris (Ace) in the classic urban street film Paid In Full offers a cautionary tale about life in the fast lane during the 80s and early 90s. Faison talks about every thing from making \$100,000 a week as a ninth grade dropout selling cocaine to being shot nine times and left for dead. He has since turned his life around, with his new hustle of empowering the streets so people don't travel down the same destructive paths.

Compiled By
Sabita Holley, Deputy Life & Style Editor