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WEATHER

 **79**
59
Tomorrow:  **78**
56

Established
1924



THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 5

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Friday, August 31, 2007

Friday Notebook

BREAKING NEWS

NEW ADVANCEMENT FOR GAY COUPLES
IOWA COURT RULES SAME-SEX COUPLES CAN MARRY, ACCORDING TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT.
WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

UNFILTERED
BEING A RETURNING STUDENT HAS ITS PERKS, BUT IS THE THRILL OF HU REALLY GONE AFTER THE FIRST YEAR?

SPORTS

BISON COMPETE FOR TITLE
MEN'S SOCCER KICK OFF THEIR SEASON TONIGHT AT THE DISTRICT CUP TOURNAMENT.

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PAGE 8

HU Lacks Bike Racks

BY CHRISTINA BURTON
Staff Writer

The lack of bike racks on campus and near residence halls has spurred one student to ask the Office of Student Life and Activities and the Office of Residence Life for more bike racks around and on campus.

Senior biology major Daniel Gilmer began by talking to top university officials, but for the past week, he said he's decided to "spearhead the development of a petition."

"I probably won't launch the effort until next week," Gilmer said. "I'm going to begin a petition as a way of connecting with the people as well as those in power."

Gilmer plans to draft a detailed proposal, acquire 1,000 signatures on a petition and submit both to the proper administrators. So far he has spoken with Tonya Guillory, dean of Student Life and Activities and Dean Gibbs of Residence Life about his endeavors.

"I want racks at 20 locations on campus," Gilmer said.

The scarcity of bike racks on the main campus and the growing student biker population sparked Gilmer's interest because bike riding is his only means

of transportation. Mobility, exercise and the inexpensive-ness of biking are Gilmer's main reasons for choosing the biking lifestyle.

"I want to be

healthy," Gilmer added.

"I got a bike in order to be mobile and free in the city; exercise without putting stress on my knees, get places quicker and cheaper

and because I really enjoy riding."

Gilmer had knee surgery in 2004.

> See **BIKES**, Page 2



Samara Pearson - Staff Photographer

This bicycle rack outside the Blackburn Center is one of few on campus. The scarcity of bike racks is an issue for many students who use bikes as their means of transportation.

HUSA Annual Budget Approved

BY CHRISTINA BURTON
Staff Writer

The Howard University Student Association's (HUSA) budget, presented by Financial Committee chair Vikrant Arya, was approved by the General Assembly at their meeting Thursday night.

The budget was then discussed and questions about the amounts and types of stipends calculated were asked. Both the president of HUSA, Marcus Ware, and vice president, Will Roberts, took \$500 pay cuts with regards to how much the entire assembly would need during the year.

"If students knew that student leaders were paid as much as they get paid, sometimes up to \$13,000, they would understand how much we [have] to work," Ware said.

The General Assembly approved the budget unanimously.

"This was the first time I have ever seen our budget passed unanimously," Ware said.

HUSA operates using General Assembly funding, but did not ask for all of the General Assembly's money this year as they did last year. According to Roberts, provisions were made for \$28,000 to remain for general student programming.

"That's kind of significant because we haven't done that since I've been here," Roberts said.

Roberts said HUSA will be "fiscally responsible and work together" with Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) this year, a change from years past when there was not a united front.

Ware presented the assembly with the Jena Six rally date and time, which was set for Sept. 5 in Cramton Auditorium. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Amnesty International and HUSA

are all working together with plans to raise \$20,000 during the rally. Ware said they will also have a radio-a-thon, a fundraising event that raised more than \$100,000 for Katrina support.

Ware also announced that a volunteer meeting will be held Monday in the Blackburn Ballroom at 7 p.m. for students interested in participating in raising awareness about the Jena Six.

"They [prosecutors] pulled the okie-doke on the first one," Ware said of Mychal Bell, the first of the Jena Six to be tried. "They will not get by again." Bell will be sentenced later this month.

Paris Jackson, the elections committee chair, proposed an online voting referendum for special elections to the assembly. The assembly voted to send the voting on the proposal to the elections committee.

According to Victoria Kirby,

chairwoman of the General Assembly, Bison Web is "incapable" of a referendum.

In old business, the UGSA-sponsored luau and Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) barbecue was noted by the chairpersons, as well as Cafe UGSA, an event held on Thursday for freshmen to get to know the inner workings of UGSA and how to get involved.

Kirby also introduced the proxy system to the General Assembly, a method for representatives to choose who would replace them if they needed to be absent from an assembly meeting.

General Assembly meetings are held every first and third Wednesday at 7 p.m.

More information on HUSA, go to their Web site at <http://www.husaonline.org>



Christina Burton - Staff Writer

Students observe as the General Assembly discusses the budget for HUSA, Howard University's involvement with the Jena Six and proposed voting referendums.



Joe Jaszewski-McClatchy

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Id., maintains that pleading guilty for his June arrest was a mistake.

GOP Calls For Craig to Resign

BY ERIKA BOLSTAD
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

Sen. Larry Craig's hold on his job grew increasingly tenuous Wednesday as he lost the confidence of fellow Republicans, from President Bush to his colleagues in the Senate.

The three-term Idaho senator saw his clout and political support diminish by the hour, as some colleagues called on him to step down and Senate leaders stripped him of his senior role on several key committees.

The growing controversy weakens his influence as a senator and calls into question how long he can fend off the growing clamor to resign.

Two of Craig's Senate colleagues, John McCain of Arizona and Norm Coleman of Minnesota, called on Craig to resign, saying their fellow Republican's guilty plea to charge that he solicited sex from an undercover police officer makes him unfit to serve as a U.S. senator.

"I think he should resign . . . my opinion is that when you plead guilty to a crime, then you shouldn't serve," McCain told CNN. "And that is not a moral stand. That is not a holier-than-thou. It is just a factual situation."

Coleman echoed that, calling Craig's arrest and guilty plea "conduct unbecoming [of] a senator."

And in the most stinging rebuke of Craig's actions since news broke Monday about his conviction for lewd behavior in an airport bathroom in Minneapolis, a Bush administration spokesman said the White House was "disappointed" in the senator's behavior.

"It's been referred to the Senate Ethics Committee, so they will have to address it," White House spokesman Alex Conant said. "We hope that it will be resolved quickly because that will be in the best interest of the Senate and the people of Idaho."

Republicans increasingly have distanced themselves from the Idaho senator since a Capitol Hill newspaper reported Monday that Craig had pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct charges in connection with the undercover investigation.

McCain is running for president, Coleman faces a tough re-election challenge and Republicans nationwide are worried about how voters will react to yet another GOP-connected scandal.

Many said they're bothered by how Craig kept the matter a secret from friends, family or Senate leaders for so long. Craig handled his plea negotiations over the phone or by mail, and never appeared in court on the misdemeanor charge.

Republicans began to turn on Craig as early as Monday, when Massachusetts Republican Mitt Romney dropped him as the Senate co-chair of his presidential campaign. Romney said Craig "disappointed the American people."

Matters got worse on Tuesday when Senate leaders called for an ethics investigation for Craig's actions just as he was about to begin a news conference in Idaho. The news under-

mined Craig's claims during his press conference that he hadn't acted inappropriately in the airport restroom, and that he was the subject of a newspaper "witch hunt" investigating his sexual orientation.

By late Wednesday, Craig had been asked to give up his leadership spots on Senate committees. McCain, Coleman and Rep. Peter Hoekstra, R-Mich., called on him to give up his Senate post, as did the leaders of conservative political movements both inside and outside Idaho.

Craig's scandal adds him to a growing roster of ethical and corruption problems facing Republicans, beginning last summer with revelations about former Florida Rep.

Mark Foley's inappropriate contact with House pages, and continuing to the FBI raid this summer on the Alaska home of Republican Sen. Ted Stevens.

GOP leaders worry that while the problems might be isolated to three or four individuals, the perception taints the entire party.

"There's the potential for a cumulative effect, and that's going back to last fall to the previous scandals," president of the conservative Family Research Council Tony Perkins said.

Perkins said he feared many voters would turn from Republicans, instead picking of Democratic candidates with squeaky-clean images and reputations.

"There's an expectation that leaders, especially those that espouse family values, will live by those," he said. "Voters don't expect perfection, but they want integrity."

Craig's spokesman, Dan Whiting, said the senator had no comment Wednesday. Craig has spoken several times with Senate Republican leaders, including on Wednesday when they told him he would have to give up his committee leadership posts.

Craig's performance Tuesday at a press conference in Idaho, where he blamed his guilty plea on a newspaper "witch hunt," only angered Republicans more.

His press conference Tuesday in Boise was "absurd," Patrick Sammon, the president of the Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's largest gay and lesbian GOP group.

Sammon called on Craig to step down, saying that he, too, feared voters "perceive that these ethical problems are problems for the Republicans."

"This shows such an utter and complete lack of judgment," Sammon said. "I'm not sure that the people of Idaho want someone in Washington with judgment that's this bad."

It's up to Idaho voters to decide whether Craig should stay in office. If he chooses to run for re-election, said Hoekstra, the third lawmaker to call for Craig's resignation and the first member of the House of Representatives.

"However, he also represents the Republican Party," Hoekstra said. "This is unacceptable for a leader in the U.S. Congress and the Republican Party to engage in this type of activity."

HUH Studies Depression in African Americans

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY
Asst. Campus Editor

African Americans are the most underrepresented group in studies about depression, and researchers at the Howard University Hospital (HUH) Psychiatry Department are working to fill this void.

Senior print journalism major Pharoh Martin said, "The subject is important because depression is rampant among blacks, especially those that are disadvantaged."

People of all ages, backgrounds, colors and creeds suffer from depression, which the American Psychiatric Association (APA) has labelled a serious mental illness. Unlike sadness or "feeling blue," depression can last months or years.

Just as most illnesses have a set of symptoms, depression can lead to insomnia, oversleeping, loss of energy, restlessness and irritability.

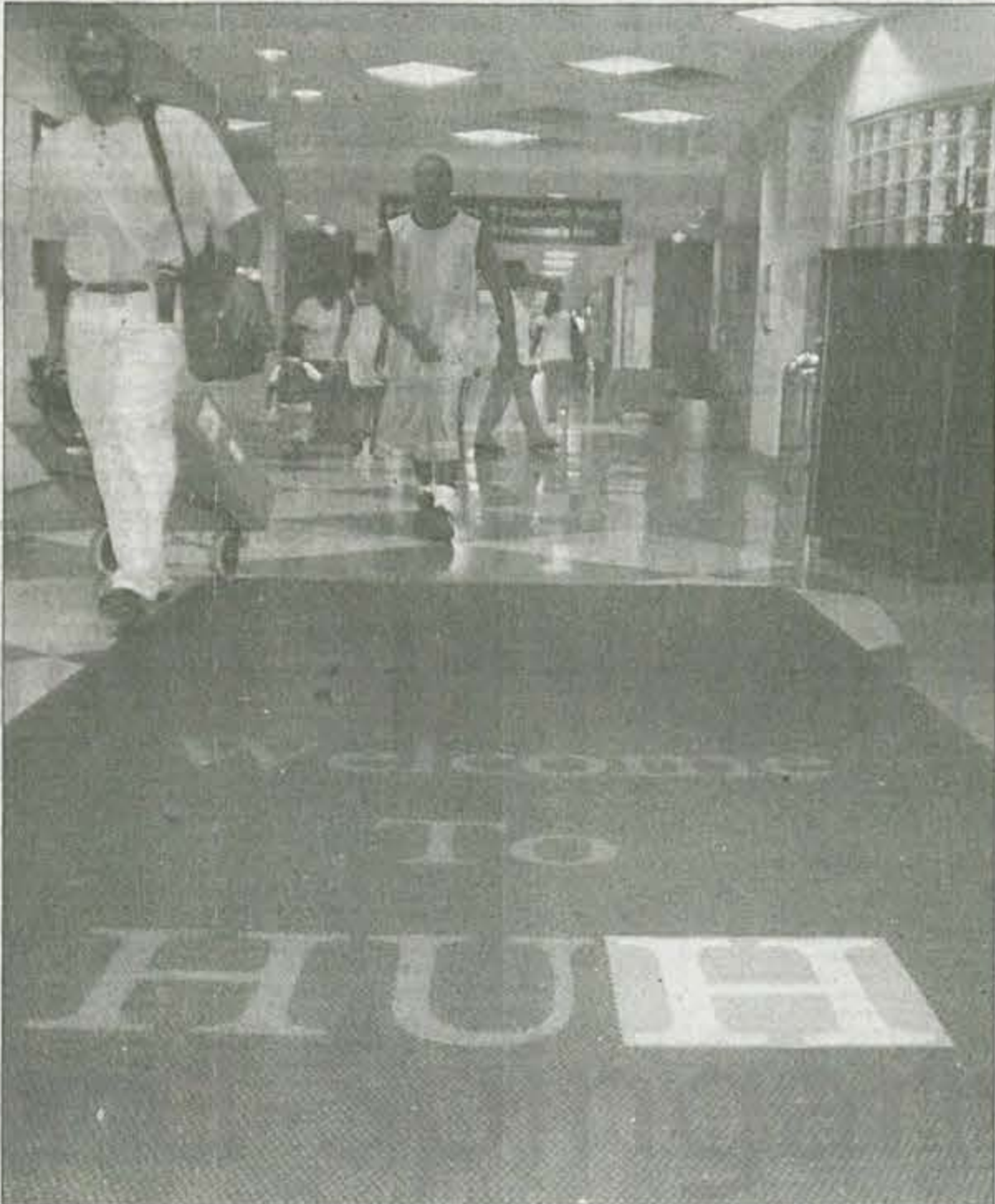
Even more serious are changes in appetite that result in weight gain or loss, feelings of worthlessness or guilt, difficulty concentrating and making decisions and thoughts of death or suicide.

The APA says factors such as a chemical imbalance in the brain, personality traits such as low self-esteem, environmental factors such as neglect or abuse and genetics can all lead to depression.

The latter is the focus of HUH's study, and its results will be used to better assess the medical needs of those afflicted with depression due to a family history of the illness.

However, psychiatry department chairman Dr. William Lawson said, "We don't know the risk genes."

Lawson said the research



Justin Knight - Asst. Photo Editor

HUH will study depression among African Americans in a \$1 million project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Some students are eligible to participate.

done in this study will identify the genes associated with depression in African Americans and also help the Department of Psychiatry develop treatments—an endeavor he says they are committed to.

HUH's psychiatry department will be working with 10 other institutions with a \$1 million budget provided by the National Institute of Mental Health.

"This will tell us what is causing depression, which is the main contributor to suicide," Law-

son said.

The researchers ask that participants, who will be compensated for their time, be at least 18 years old, have experienced depression more than once with the first onset occurring before the age of 30.

The participants cannot have a history of bi-polar disorder in their immediate family.

"It's a good idea on both fronts," Martin said. "Students get a little money, I'm assuming, for

participating, and the researchers get good data for their research. Since they are not trying to find a cure for depression and only looking at the correlation, that means they shouldn't be injecting you with [anything]."

Both undergraduate and graduate students may be eligible for the study because while the APA states that depression can occur at any time, its onset is usually in the late teens or early 20s.

Just as there are more women than men attending Howard, the APA also said that twice as many women are affected by depression.

Junior print journalism major Jazelle Hunte says after seeing a flyer for the study, she began contemplating participating in the study herself.

"I find many African Americans our parent's age and older tend to brush off depression or underestimate it," she said.

Lawson said a major study looking at the effects of medication on depression shows that "medications don't work as well for African Americans."

Because of this, Lawson said the study is of particular significance to the Howard community.

"The important thing is that if you know someone who meets [the] criteria, give us a call," he said.

Senior occupational therapy major Jai Harris said, "I believe we as a culture should stay on top of our mental health, especially if it can be beneficial to our well being and success."

"I believe HU students should participate because we may learn something from it that could potentially help a friend, a loved one or even a stranger."



FRESHMEN

Why did you choose to come to the Mecca?



"Because of the learning experience you get and the good preparation for law school."

Arkeytta Johnson - Administrative Justice

"I've always wanted to come here for its reputation. It just seemed like the right place for me."

Sabrina Morrett - Undecided



"I was born at Howard University Hospital. I want to become a doctor."

Jamal Hagler - Biology



"My brother inspired me to go to an HBCU so I will succeed."

Rhonda Harris - Political Science

HUASA Looks to Attract All Students

BY EBONI FARMER
Deputy Campus Editor

Howard University's African Student Association (HUASA) is not just for students hailing from Africa or the Caribbean. It is for all students, said junior finance major and HUASA member Derin Kehinde.

"It's for Americans, it's for Caribbean students and everyone else. In the end, we are all from Africa. We're like one big family," Kehinde said.

Kehinde was in the Blackburn Center serving as a representative for the HUASA membership drive. In order to be an official member of HUASA, students must pay a \$10 membership fee.

In addition to hosting a membership drive, the organization is also selling HUASA shirts for \$10. Jewelry crafted by students and even some bought in Nigeria is be-

ing sold, ranging in price from \$5 to \$15. The HUASA booth will remain in the Blackburn Center until tomorrow.

HUASA, an acclaimed student organization on campus, will be hosting a pageant this fall and a fashion show in the spring as well as a variety of other events throughout the academic year. Tomorrow at 5 p.m. in the Blackburn recreation center, HUASA will host a game night where students can mingle. The event will feature music and free food. A mentor program designed for freshmen will also be launched at the event.

Members will also get the chance to participate in a book drive in which free textbooks will be given to those in need.

Junior psychology major Bosede Jegede joined the club because of the networking opportunities as well as the chance to get to

know people who share similar experiences.

"It's made my college experience and transition a lot easier because I get to network and build relationship with people that I can relate to," Jegede said.

Jegede also recommended joining HUASA because there are other chapters on campuses across the country.

"We're all over the country, so you get a chance to network with people from different schools," Jegede said.

HUASA President Tony Izugboe reiterated that the organization is for everyone. Izugboe said he hopes students will join because HUASA is all about making an impact in the community.

The organization hopes to raise \$5,000 by March to help fund materials for school and drinking water in Nigeria, Ghana and Sen-

egal. They will also be tutoring students in the District.

Freshman accounting major Ramat Sangare, who is from Ethiopia, said she would be interested in joining the club.

"It is tough when you're coming from a completely different country and you don't know anyone," Sangare said. "I think joining the club will allow me to transition and feel more comfortable in my new environment."

Shante Harvey, a sophomore political science major, said although she is not directly from Africa, she understands her ties to the continent, and would look into what HUASA has to offer as an organization.

"I think it's important to expose myself to the African culture more than just studying African history," Harvey said. "Maybe I will join ASA because of that."

Student Petitions for More Bike Parking

Continued from FRONT, BIKES

Dean Gibbs supports Gilmer's idea and says bike rack has been purchased for Carver Hall already by request from the community director.

"I think the bike rack proposal that we look forward to receiving is a great idea," said Gibbs. "Certainly bike racks can provide that safety. Students must keep in mind that they're responsible for locking and securing their bikes."

Gibbs adds that biking eliminates car purchases making it cleaner for travel and less expensive. As far as the bike racks being put on campus, Gibbs says that Residence Life can only be concerned about the residence halls.

One bike rack sits between Locke and the Blackburn Center and another near Burr, leaving students little parking to tie up their two-wheelers.

During the day the bike racks are put to use on the main campus, but at night, students lock their bikes up against street signs, street poles and fences near their residences.

Junior speech and applied communications major Victoria Kirby uses her bike as her primary

mode of transportation to and from school. Kirby says that Gilmer's petition is a great idea.

"I would definitely sign the petition," said Kirby. "Blackburn is one of the only official bike racks on campus. Cyclists have to turn fences, handrails and hand-capped signs into parking spaces."

Kirby lives off campus, but has evening meetings on campus.

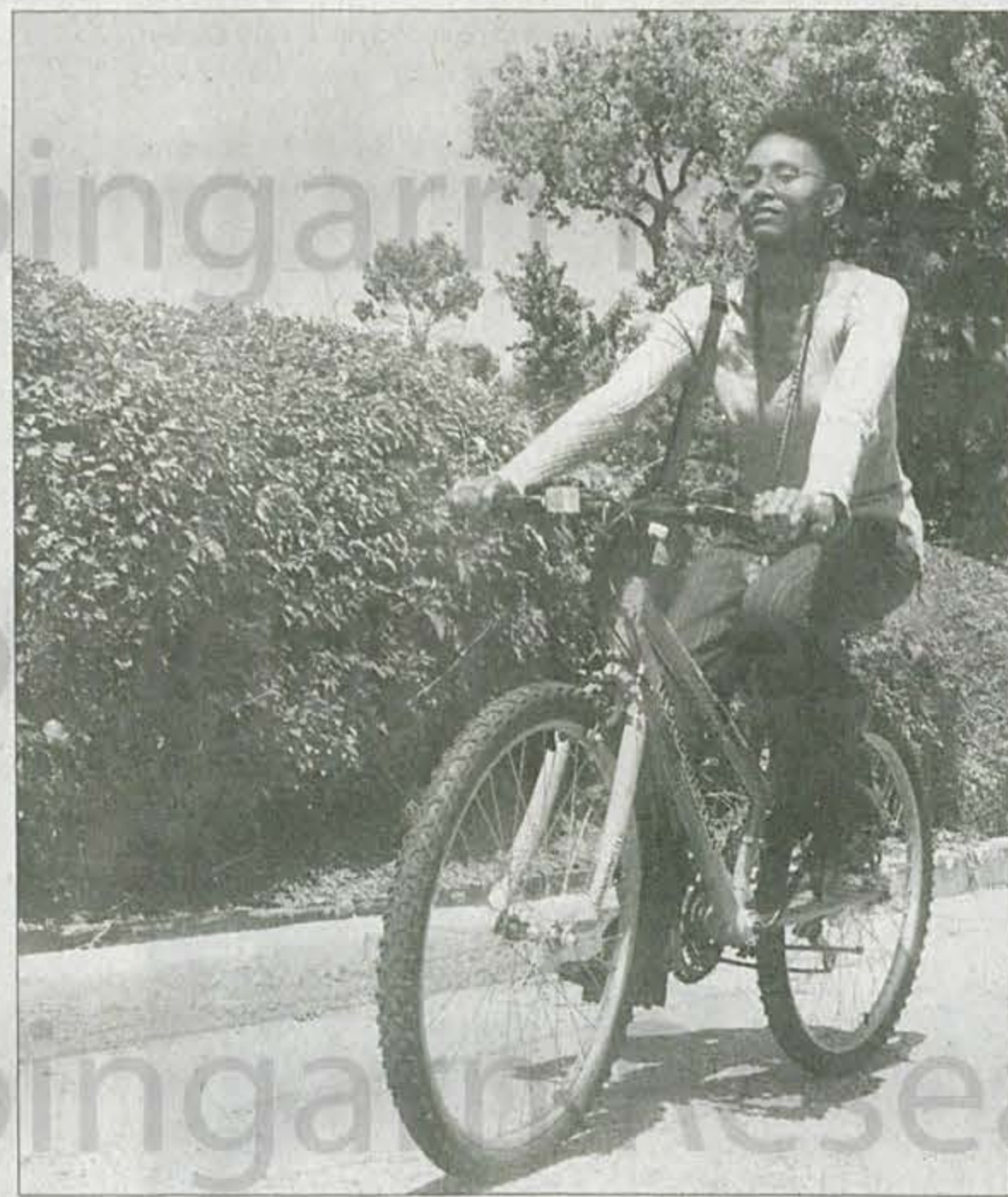
"It's really inconvenient to just have bikes stacked up all over the place and I don't feel comfortable leaving my bike stacked up down an alley or something...our neighborhood isn't the safest," said Jessica Dye, junior art history and Spanish major.

"I think it would encourage more people to buy bicycles," added Dye, who lives off campus as well.

"Bicycling is a safer alternative to walking late at night so when I moved off campus I bought a bike," Kirby said.

Gilmer says he will draft the proposal and petition by the end of today.

He plans to submit both by the end of September. He urges students to join his Facebook group, Students For Bike Racks on Campus.



Samera Pearson - Staff Photographer

Victoria Kirby, pictured above, uses her bicycle to get to and from campus on a daily basis. She supports having more bike racks on campus to protect her vehicle instead of having to lock it to signs and poles like many of her classmates.

**Can You
Write?

Good.

Were
looking for
staff writers**

**Get An
Application!
Blackburn
Suite 117**

**STUDENT PARKING REGISTRATION FOR AY 2007-
2008
SEPTEMBER 4, 2007**



September 4, 2007

First Come/ First Serve

**Open to all students
(Except Freshman and Law Students)**

**Apply Online
9 AM until all permits are sold**

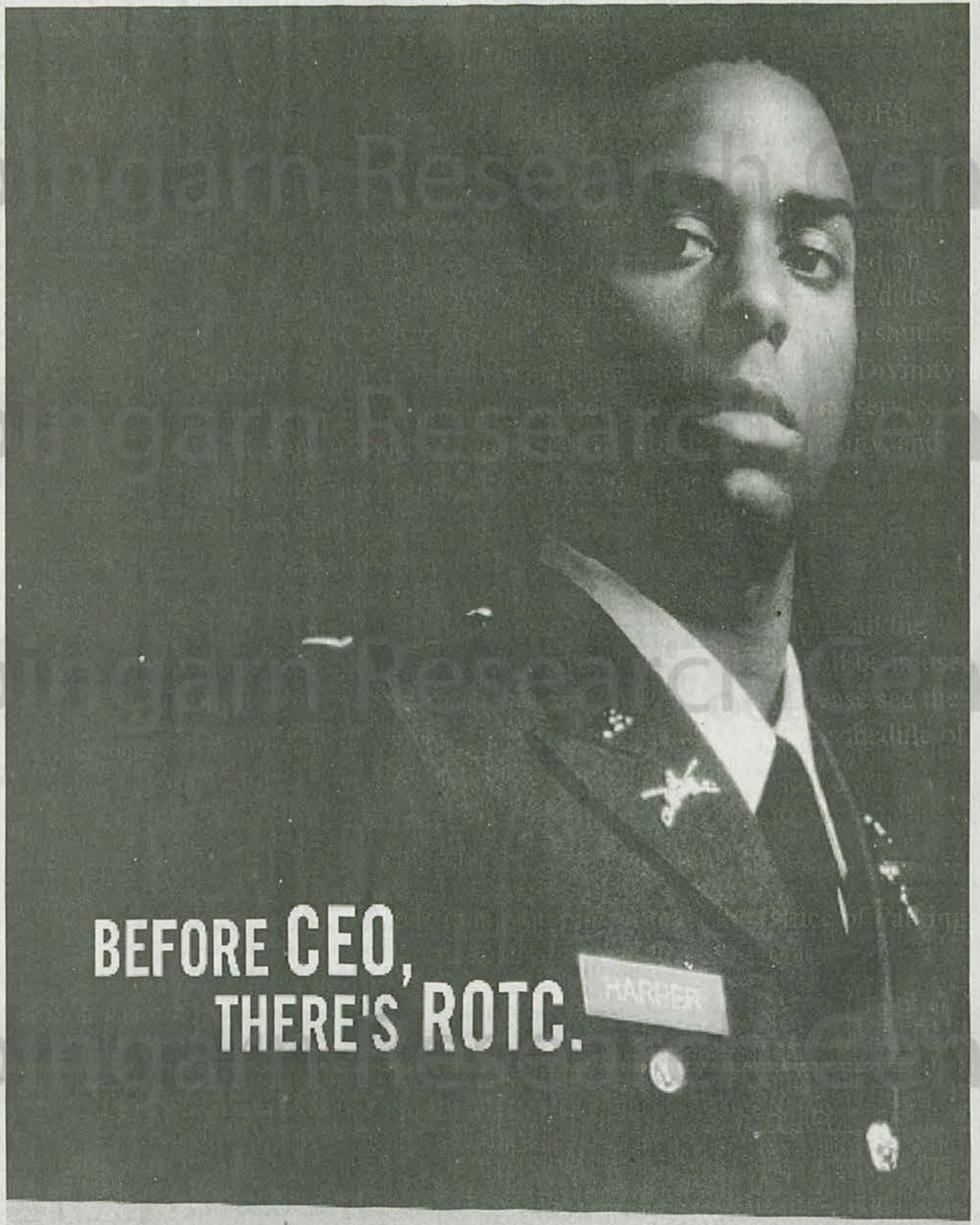
Register online: www.howard.edu/bisonweb

The Office of Parking & Shuttle Operations strongly encourages all students to read the rules and regulations form that is signed during vehicle registration.

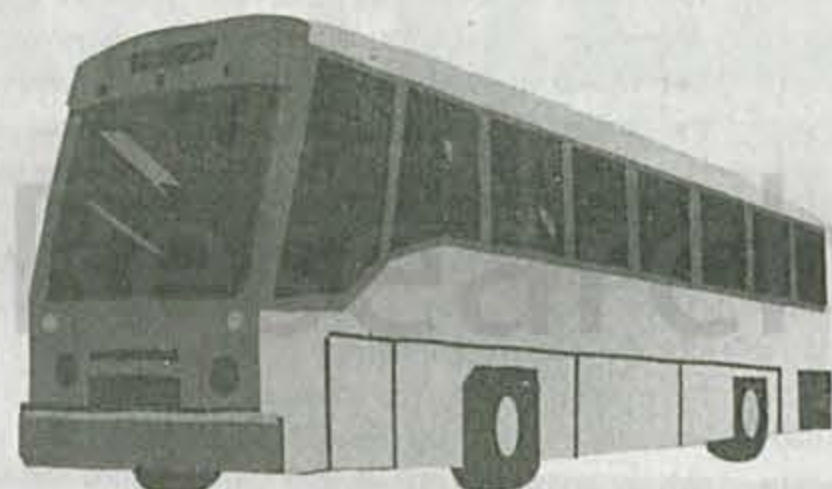
Eligibility

Students in good standing with no outstanding citations or overdue balances
Registered for Fall 2007 – 2008

Parking and Shuttle Operations Clifford Smith, Director (202) 806-2000



**BEFORE CEO,
THERE'S ROTC.**

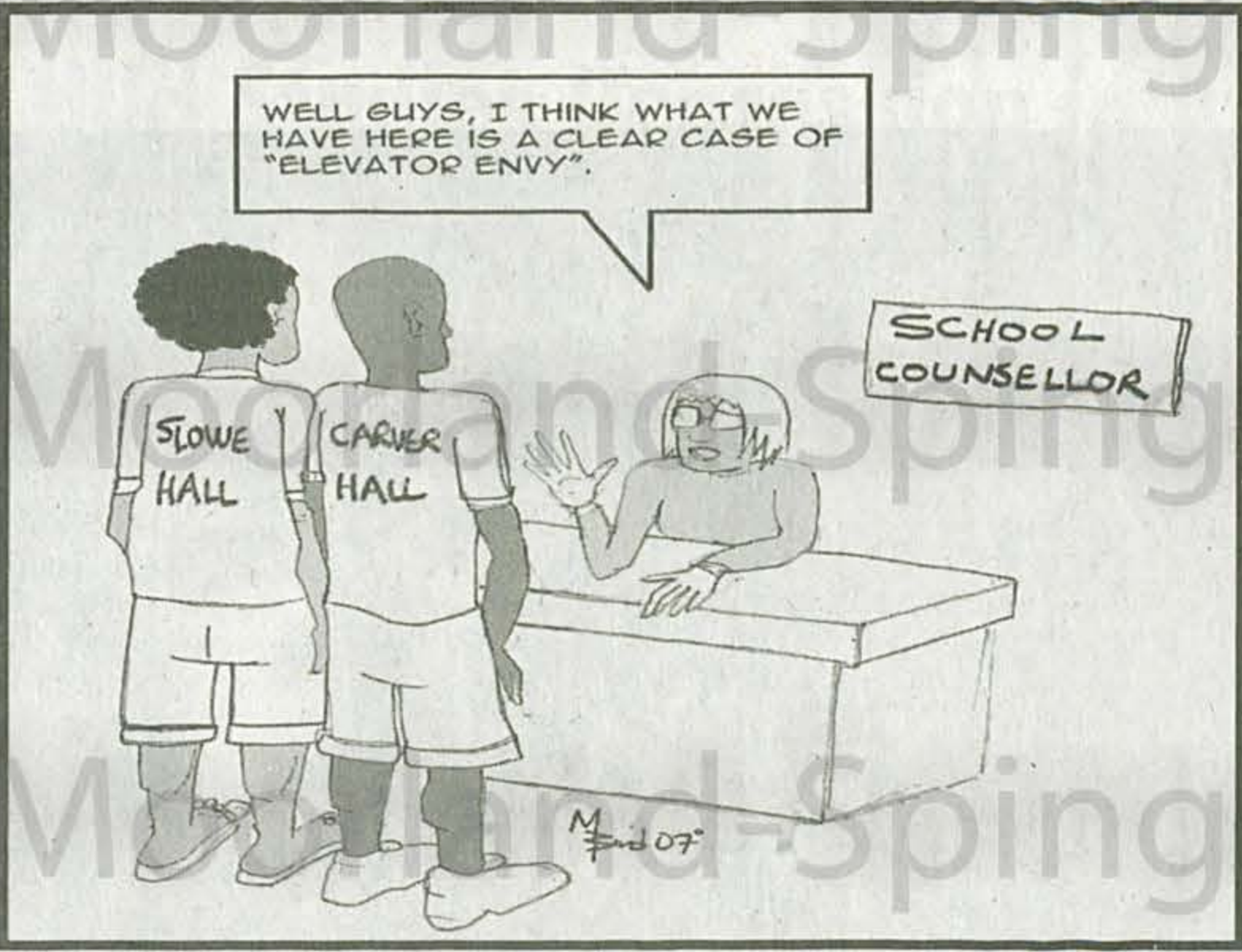


SHUTTLE ROUTE CHANGES

Effective August, 27, 2007, the shuttle routes will change from the service you have received in previous years. Based on usage and necessity we have shifted the routes and schedules to provide more high usage areas. Rather than the seven shuttle routes (Campus, Slowe/Carver, Metro, Meridian, Law, Divinity and Weekend) that you have been accustomed to, the service will now reflect five routes; North, South, Law, Divinity, and Weekend.

The Service Locations are still the same. Therefore, all the former stops you previously may have utilized will still be in use, but the service and frequency may have changed. Please see the Parking Office website for a complete and up to date schedule of shuttle routes, times and changes.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Office of Parking and Shuttle Operations at 202-806-2000.



Cartoon by Marcus Bird

Validation, Housing Sources of Too Many Problems

In this first week of official classes, many Howard students have come to appreciate the various upgrades happening across campus. From a revamped shuttle service to updated inventory in the Blackburn convenience store, changes for the better across campus are noted and so far being enjoyed.

On top of validation and hustling for limited housing, in the midst of all the campus upgrades, students living in Slowe and Carver Halls as well as their parents griped over lugging refrigerators and trunks full of clothes up the stairs with no elevators in either dorm and no sign of them ever being available. Hopefully, that will be a once in a lifetime experience for the students who dealt with that problem so early on. Well, at least they got housing, right?

Despite all of the changes to the university as far as convenience and practicality, certain problems on campus appear to remain uniquely "Howard," such as the perennial housing issues any student with a deficit of RSVP points may have already found themselves facing.

That issue unfortunately extends to the freshman class that, on a yearly basis, can be admitted but cannot be accommodated because of the cold hard fact that Howard University doesn't have enough housing for its students. But there are ways around that problem, as many students have already come to find out through some independent research and all is well with a little compromise.

An issue many Howard students faced before even getting on campus for the fall semester was financial validation prior to moving into their dorms, if they

were lucky enough to get one in the first place.

A letter was sent during the summer warning that any student who was not validated by Aug. 15 would be unable to move into their dorm. Panic crept in on many students who tried to set things straight prior to arriving in Washington, D.C.

Many students arrived at Howard a few weeks ago still seeking validation and wondering what to do about their housing situation. Upon checking into dorms, students were handed a

Still, leaving a message was wishful thinking as the mailboxes were constantly full and calling back would yield the same result. This left the lines of communication cut until face-to-face interaction was possible. Many students took that as a "better than nothing" alternative, although any business allowing phones to ring off the hook and leaving the voicemail box full is unprofessional. Howard is, among many things, a business—with a struggling customer service department.

It would have made much more sense to confront the problems students had with getting validated during the summer, before returning students and parents arrived and were told that only freshmen would be seen for the first few days.

The validation situation makes it appear as if the students of Howard University are the least important or appreciated aspect of the school. Employees of the university acting as if any student with a question is skating on their last nerve also leaves many students feeling as if they are expendable.

Arriving in Washington, D.C. without being sure if one can even move into their own dorm is not a good way to start the school year. The shuttle and convenience store upgrades are great, but Howard needs to be upgraded at the administrative level if students are truly the ones being served. For many of Howard's problems, students shrug it off and say "That's Howard" with a smile. Just because Howard's been that way doesn't mean that it needs to continue being that way.

Our View:
Howard needs to learn a lesson in professionalism.

sheet of paper and told the deadline had been pushed back to Aug. 24, the day following upperclassmen move in. Following that, students were told that early September would mark the deadline for validation.

All the confusion, unnecessary stress for students, parents and community directors facing inboxes chock full of sob stories about validation could have been avoided if one thing was done: someone should have simply answered the phones during the weeks leading up to freshman move in day.

Students reunited all over campus after moving in and shared horror stories about trying to get in touch with the student accounts office and other departments only to be repeatedly told by the answering machine to leave a message or try the call later.

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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



Cartoon by Marcus Bird

Michael Vick: Villain to Victim

Almost nothing sparks public debate quite like a scandalous court case. One of the latest available for people to sink their teeth into has been the Michael Vick underground dog fighting case in which Vick recently plead guilty.

The media has had a field day, and the dust has yet to settle on the issue. But one thing is for certain—Vick's name and reputation has been shot down and will most likely be tainted for life.

Despite that, some black fans still rally and come to the football star's defense. It can't be because they think Vick is innocent, because he clearly isn't.

It seems as if black fans have discounted the fact that Vick is guilty of heinous crimes toward animals and use racial ties as the determining factor for their continued loyalty.

Being black should not outweigh being right or wrong. Fans who support Vick, even after the guilty plea, should reevaluate what counts for more when it comes to a person's respectability.

The response by black fans to Vick's case is eerily similar to that of the O.J. Simpson trial in the 1990s, except Vick's crimes are less severe, depending on who you ask.

Despite evidence

stacked sky high in Simpson's opposition, fans maintained that he was innocent and were elated when Simpson was found not guilty. Some still hold that belief, even after his hypothetical admission of guilt with the book "If I Did It," which was bought out by the Goldman family.

The only thing more disturbing than the book actually being published is the fact that money is being made off of a double murder more than a decade after it occurred. In that

case, a possible criminal beat the legal system. In this case, Vick wasn't so fortunate. Admittedly, it is sad that yet another black man has been beaten by the justice system. However, Vick is no victim of oppression or unjust treatment, so using race as a point to rally on doesn't make much sense. Despite all the fans, money, endorsements and athletic talent, Vick let himself fall prey to the consequences of his own bad judgment, not the perils of racism. Personal responsibility is what this case came down to, not race.

Vick's black fans were

probably more likely to wait until the entire story unfolded before unofficially convicting him as guilty, before a judge or the media had the chance to. However, now that Vick has plead guilty, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that dog fighting is an act of animal cruelty that Vick took part in.

Some argue that the court's decision makes it appear as if the lives of dogs are more valuable than those of humans. When animals are killed for entertainment purposes, their murderers don't value the lives of those animals at all. Maybe it's retribution.

Recently, Sen. Larry Craig, R-Id., plead guilty to disorderly conduct charges for soliciting sex from another man in a public restroom. White republicans don't appear to be rallying in support of their senator. In fact, some are calling for his immediate resignation.

When the world found out the serial snipers in 2001 were both black men, no one took offense and stood up to protest their arrest on any racial basis, so why should Vick continue to receive support from the black community after his guilty plea? There are plenty of racially motivated cases and causes for black people to be united on in America, but this is not one of them.

Do you want to write for
The Hilltop?

Come to our
budget meeting
TUESDAY
@ 7P.M.
WEST TOWERS
(PLAZA LEVEL)

Words From The Editor

When I rose on August 27th, I had a lot more weighing on my mind than whether or not I could get an override. Will they like the new look?

It wasn't about my Adidas kicks, though, and definitely not about my "fuzzy" hair, as one Howard employee told me this summer.

The first official edition of *The Hilltop* was coming out and I wondered, did any-one even notice?

Sitting through classes I saw students getting their first daily dose of the student voice of Howard University.

Articles about the Jena Six injustice and measures the university is taking in reaction to the events at V-Tech got the major play, reflecting the activism and progressivism of both the student body and administration.

And my staff received compliments from everyone, Dr. Chambers to this lady Ms. Holmes who lives down the street from me on Lamont Street.

The Hilltop had the Howard community buzzing again and everyone on the staff had a hand in it. I was so pleased with the outcome of the first issue.

The next day, almost everything came crashing down, literally. Our server computer crashed and temporarily took the entire archive of *The Hilltop's* past two years. We couldn't access the old stories and photos or the new work the staff had done in preparation for the first week.

Since, Monday, that proud first day of school for me and my staff, we have worked without the help of the server. Editors had to re-edit stories, photographers had to retake photos, our graphics people had to go back to the drawing board and some writers had to re-write whole stories.

And since Tuesday the office, like much of the dorms, has had faulty internet service. But we still tackled tough topics like the Michael Vick case and the race implications and the lack of a lacrosse coach for the women's lacrosse team.

We reported breaking stories about the Metro's recent problems as well as providing multiple service stories for the entire community like: featuring Nadia Pinto's pointers, a story about the Campus Pals' new efforts for freshmen and the upgrades that the university is getting.

And this was all accomplished with the help of jump drives, private computers

and the I-Lab

The staff still kept what I came to know as the spirit of Zora Neale Hurston, when I was in my first year with *The Hilltop*. There was Ruth Tisdale, who was daring enough to make *The Hilltop* a daily paper, Kevin Harris and Arion Jamerson, who pushed the newspaper through some of its darkest hours during its birth as a daily and countless others who set an example of tireless work even in the face of major obstacles.

Their energy and talent did not wane in the face of major adversity, during what was new to every single section editor except one. The quality and content did not wane either.

Their fresh ideas have already sparked a new love for journalism in me, and now their resilience and persistence has given me a new strength in this business. Thank you all for that.

They don't do this for me, though, they do it for you – the community.

I hope that their work has given you a new love for the newspaper.

Peace,

Drew Costley

What do you think of the new and improved Hilltop?

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Submit letters to the editor at www.thehilltoponline.com to publish in next week's Friday extended Editorials and Perspectives section.

UNFILTERED



Musings from the E&P Editor

By Phillip Lucas
Editorials And Perspectives Editor

With every year comes more responsibility, whether you want it or not. Last year it was copy editing for *The Hilltop*, this year it's section editing and it's proving to be an uphill battle all the way. Add that to the demands of six classes and fitting my entire routine around the campus shuttle schedule and I could just about go insane. One week down and so many more left to go. It already feels like a month or so has passed and Howard so far has been an out of body experience.

Despite being broken down into a million pieces this week and wondering if I'll ever be able to get myself together, I still feel that being a sophomore is the greatest thing since... being a freshman. Gone are the days of mandatory study hall sessions in the unfairly hot Drew Hall lounge because our ability to function as college students was still "developing."

Nothing compares to the moment when someone asks you for your classification and you catch yourself about to vehemently spit out 'freshman' out of habit, then you grin as you hear yourself verbally affirm your status upgrade.

Looking back on it all, freshman year had a few shining moments, though it was probably one of the more mentally and emotionally challenging years that I hope to ever experience. Everything was a "growing experience" when it didn't go right for me, and there was enough growth for me to share with the entire freshman class it seemed.

Coming to Howard from Seattle, as isolated as you can get, and never being able to visit beforehand—just being thrown into it all at once—made school more of an adventure than it already was supposed to be.

The culture shock, black people—all day, every day, being more responsible and deal-

ing with some very adult situations independently used to be a scary new responsibility that turned to reality when the curtain closed on freshman year.

Coming back and realizing that everything isn't brand new this time, except maybe the dorm situation, is a sobering reality that I and other sophomores probably weren't really ready for. The thrill isn't gone so to speak, just a little less intense.

Almost everything is happening for the second, third or fourth time as continuing students all become seasoned professionals at life as Howard students.

When the occasional surprises and pitfalls of life as a Howard student suddenly don't hit you as hard as they used to it's bittersweet because you've grown, but life starts to become a routine of class, work and bits and pieces of a social life in between (for a Hilltopper at least).

You'll know you've grown as a Howardite when you walk across the Yard and reunite with old friends when you would have easily been able to breeze across the entire campus uninterrupted just a year ago. Embrace growth in age and maturity, but enjoy whatever point you find yourself at now because it only gets more serious with every upgrade.

But maybe being a sophomore isn't going to be so great after all, after all, everything has happened before. When I think about it, being a freshman is when everything is new, junior year is when students get themselves together for their last time around the H.U. block. Being a senior means you're done—unless you find yourself on that five or six year plan. What is sophomore year other than filler between two other more significant years?

Is sophomore year of college just educational purgatory? I'm pretty sure the answers will end up revealing themselves over the course of this year.

Before I depress the entire H.U. community with the sorrows of a sophomore, I'll try to stay positive and remind everyone, and myself, that there is always something to look forward to, as long as your actually looking.

Being a Howard student can be a great experience, regardless of what's new or old.

Sorry to start the year off on a somewhat sour note. But, on a brighter note it is the first Friday of the school year and Labor Day weekend at that. Even if it does rain like it did last year, three days off in any weather is worth it for many of us.

And in little more than a week it will be time for the Howard-Hampton football game where school spirit brings out the best in some and the worst in others, but leaving both sides knowing who the real H.U. truly is. Making memories during that game as a freshman is a once in a lifetime experience, but doing so as a returning student makes the game mean that much more.

They Truly Are Our Amigos

By Christina M. Wright

A man yells, "Anuguaaaa!" Roosters crow. Dogs bark. The sun peeps through the clouds, and the city of Guanajuato, Mexico begins to stir.

This is my new home away from home for the next three months. And, in the five days I have been here, I've noticed something very important. Despite the fact that even the locals only drink purified water, the unrealistically small streets and almost nonexistent sidewalks, the citizens of Guanajuato are much like the citizens of America.

Is it important that Americans learn the realities of Mexican culture? Of course it is.

According to the U.S. Embassy, there are more than 27 million Hispanics in America. The Census Bureau projects that, by 2010, Hispanics will rise to the minority majority, topping even Blacks by almost two percent.

As Howardites, students learn everyday about Black history, and how their ancestors were seen as an incompetent people designed only for labor.

Well, think about the classic image of a Mexican. In many cases, the woman is domestic; she cooks, cleans and irons. The man... his image is worse. He's standing in the hot corner in the sun waiting for a White man in a pick-up truck seeking a number of Mexicans to fix his roof. And, they're dumb and illegal. They don't belong. They're bringing more troubles to the country.

Most Americans think of Mexico as a poor country with no similarities to the well-fortuned United States of America—even with a monstrous war debt. But, the mornings in Guanajuato help dispute that. The sounds of the hustle and bustle are different, but the general notion is exactly the same.

Sure, I can't deny the fact that my host mom here in Mexico loves to cook for her family, and she sends me off with a lunch everyday. But, she also teaches psychology classes. And, just as in America, her daughter—one of three—is 28, but still lives with her parents, who help raise her two little girls.

They speak a different language, but they're much like American families. I've heard an argument or two downstairs. I've seen the little girl whine to do something her mom said no to. And, although Catholic, church is not always a must-do on Sundays.

My job this semester will be to address these stereotypes and hopefully shed the ones that are so demeaning and incorrect.

The more Americans believe the tall tales that they grew up with, the longer the country will be in turmoil. The Hispanic population is way too impressive to ignore. If Americans can learn a little about where more than 50 percent of this Hispanic culture comes from—Mexico—there could be less friction between the two leading minorities that inevitably represent a large population of the entire country.

Christina M. Wright, a former campus editor of *The Hilltop* is spending the fall in Guanajuato, Mexico. If you have any comments for her she can be reached at cwright-hilltop@gmail.com.

Do you want to write for *The Hilltop*? Come out to our weekly budget meeting, which has changed to this Tuesday @ 7 p.m. due to Labor Day. Improve your skills by attending our writing workshops Wednesday @ 6 p.m.

THE HILLTOP

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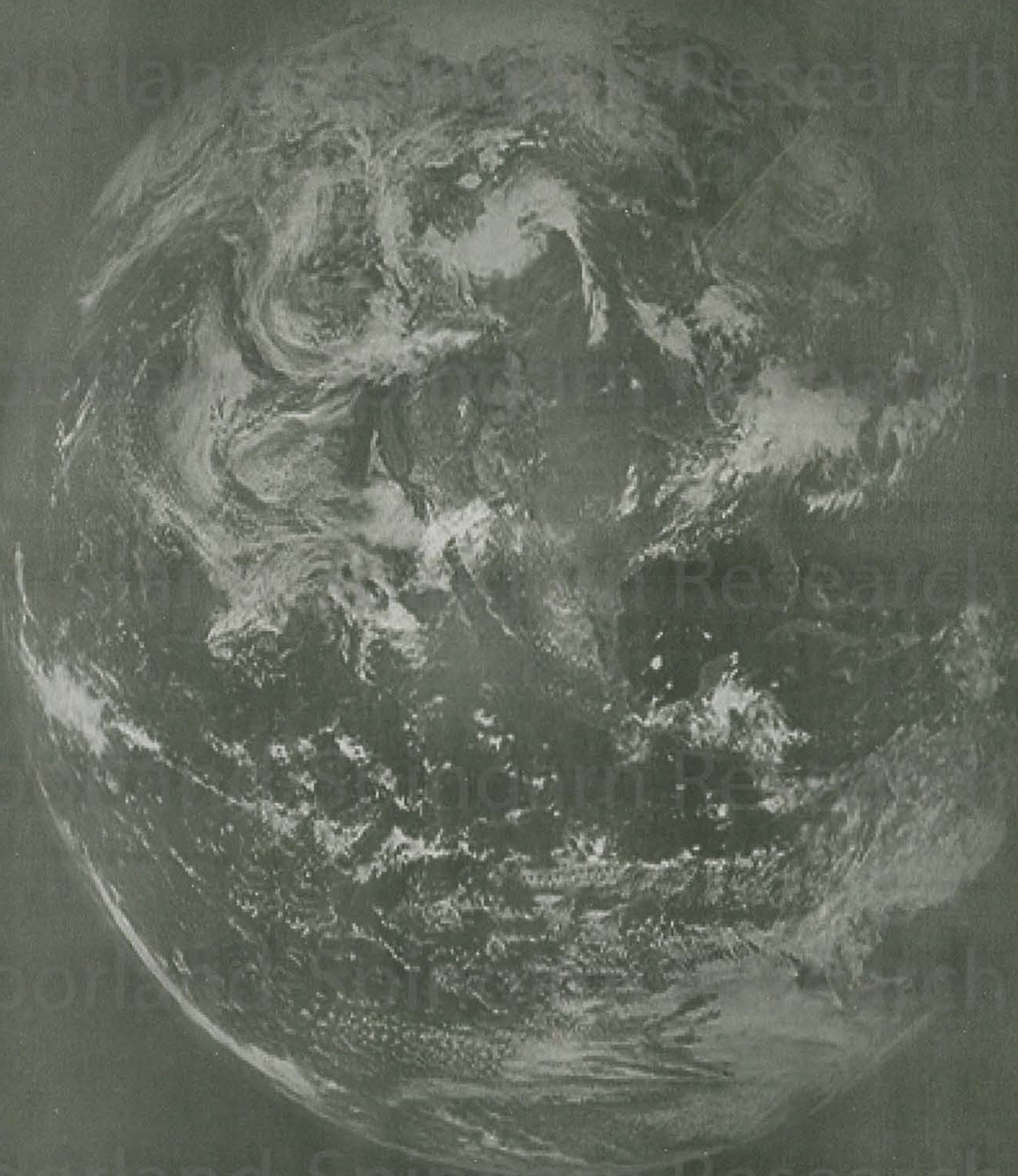
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Now in its 84th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

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.

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Bison Soccer Team Prepares For D.C. Cup

BY Z'KERA SIMS
Staff Writer

As the 2007-2008 school year begins, the Howard University men's soccer team gears up for a new season. The season opener kicks off today at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Each year, one school in the Washington, D.C. area hosts a two day non-conference tournament in which local college men's soccer teams compete to claim the rights of the D.C. Cup.

Howard will kick off the tournament tonight at 7 p.m. against George Mason and will play again on Sunday against George Washington at 1 p.m.

Players say the games are grueling, both mentally and physically, but they secure great bragging rights if they are victorious.

After falling to Division I rivals like George Mason and Georgetown University in the preceding D.C. Cup tournaments, the Bison optimistically take a different approach toward training.

"As a team, we have high expectations this year," said Emile Innocent, one of the team's three captains. "[Coach Joseph Okoh] has made good changes. He's a player's coach. We have been training really hard, and I expect nothing less than the best."

This game will be the debut for Okoh, the Bison's new head coach.

Okoh came to Howard from Division II school Shepherd University in West Virginia where he holds the record as the coach with the most wins of all time.

Okoh brings experience and knowledge of the game to Howard. He will have his first chance to show his skills this Friday as a Bison.

"The guys and I are excited about the first game," Okoh said. "This is a chance to showcase all the work done in the preseason. With good organization and discipline on the field, we are going to have a great game on Friday."

As the Bison gear up for the D.C. Cup, they will face their long time rivals, the George Washington Colonials. Last year in the final leg of the tournament, the Colonials beat the Bison in a grim 2-0 victory.

With little time left in the first half, the Bison had an opportunity to score for a tie, but the Colonials' goal keeper blocked their shots. Reflecting on last year's tournament, the team is focusing on improving their skills.

"We are our biggest opponent," said Michael Okoh, one of the team captains and the son of coach Okoh. "It all depends on how we play."

Coach Okoh agrees.

"We are definitely our biggest opposition," he said. "As a team, we have to understand and believe in the talent we have and execute with perfection. It won't matter who we play if we do that."

Optimism runs high in the men's soccer locker room. The D.C. Cup will prove to be a fresh start for the team.

Regardless of the outcome of the tournament, coach Okoh will remain positive.

"We take pride in what it means to put on a Howard University soccer uniform. We are part of a great tradition here at Howard University. We are building this soccer program from the ground up and taking Howard back to its glory years," he said.

The Howard soccer program has struggled in recent years, coming off a disappointing 3-13-1 season in 2006.

The squad hopes for the continued emergence of sophomore Joel Senior, who was awarded rookie of the year in the Atlantic Soccer Conference and earned All-First team honors for the conference.

Senior was second in the team in scoring and led the team in shots on goals.

He had 2 goals and 6 points last season.



Senior Goal keeper Chris Taylor will help lead the Bison at the D.C. Soccer Cup this weekend at George Mason University. With new head coach Joseph Okoh, the Bison hope to improve their record from the 2006 season.

New Head Trainer at HU

BY MATTHEW COOPER
Deputy Sports Editor

For the past year, Howard University athletic teams have played without a head athletic trainer. Student trainers did most of the work in the training room, and athletes were often left with no one to assist with rehabilitation and recovery from injuries.

That pressing issue is no longer a problem. Carlos Parry, 24, accepted the position of head athletic trainer at Howard earlier this summer.

Parry said his hiring surprised many athletes initially. "When I first came in, they came in and said 'they said you were white,'" said Parry, who is black. His age shocked many who are accustomed to older head athletic trainers. "The basketball coaches thought I was a student."

Parry is light on experience, but heavy on knowledge in his field. He graduated from California University of Pennsylvania in 2004, a year ahead of schedule. He also holds a master's degree in exercise science. Parry was the assistant athletic trainer at Georgetown Prep High School in Bethesda, Md., where he trained 23 fresh-

men, junior varsity and varsity teams. He ascended the ranks quickly by becoming the head athletic trainer for a Division I college program.

In high school, Parry wanted to be a neurosurgeon. He became an athletic trainer because of his love for sports.

Parry's greatest challenge at Howard is correcting the poor attitudes many athletes and coaches have developed to treating injuries.

"I tell everyone to take care of your body," he said. "Players are playing on injuries when they shouldn't. They have to get rid of the tough guy mentality. They have the 'suck it up and walk it off' mentality. It's better to sit out two days rather than keep playing on an injury and hurt yourself and hurt the team."

The athletic department struggled last season without a head trainer, and in November 2006, the student trainers went on strike because of lack of compensation and support from the administration.

"When there is no athletic trainer, the coaches will tell the players to suck it up. It's fun working with him," said Michael Merrick, a physical therapist with the athletic department.

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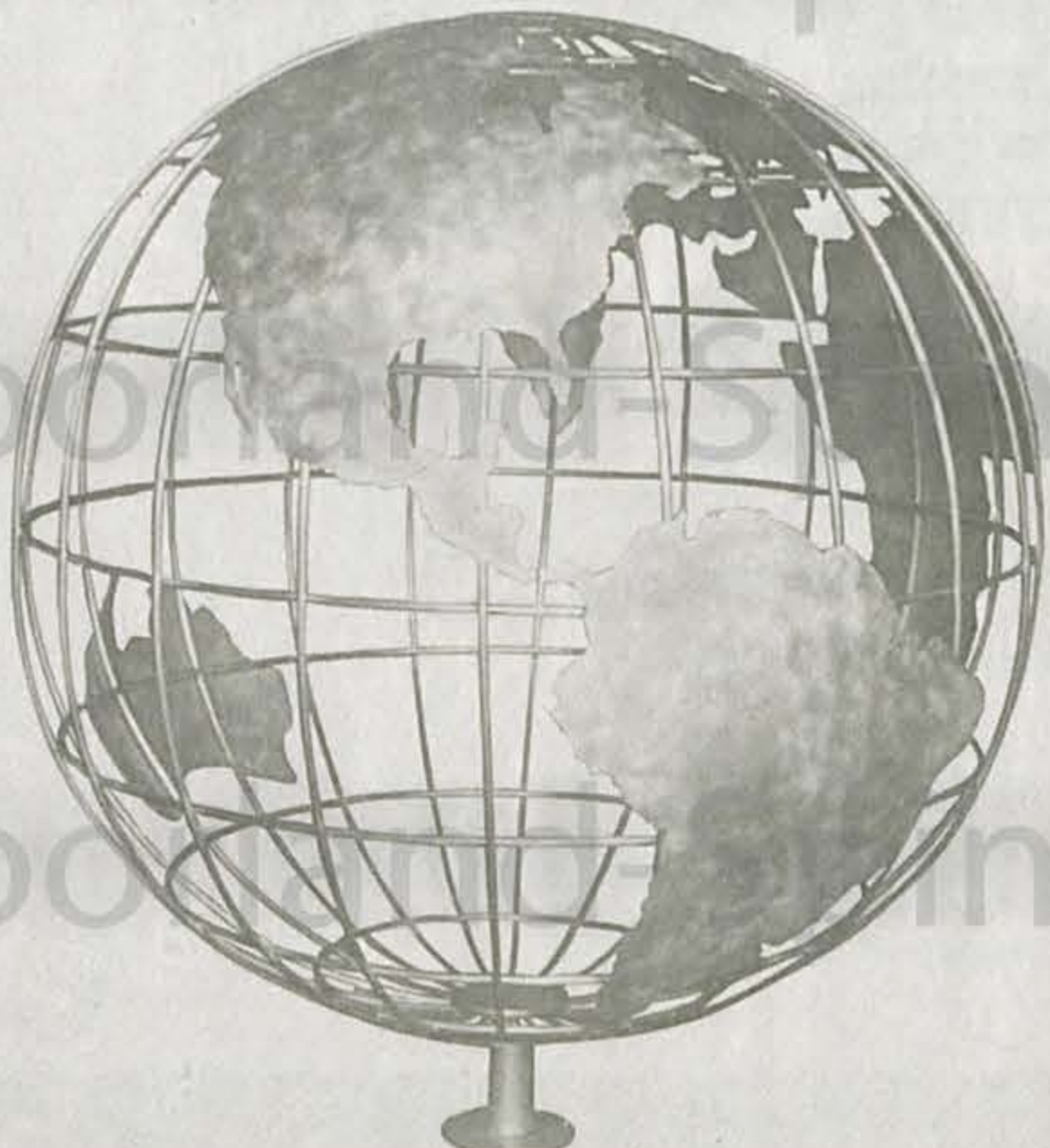
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AROUND THE WORLD OF COLLEGE SPORTS



DUKE LACROSSE RAPE CASE CONTINUES

Disgraced former prosecutor Mike Nifong pleaded not guilty Thursday to criminal contempt charges stemming from his failure to turn over complete DNA testing results during the now-discredited Duke lacrosse rape case. If found in contempt, Nifong could face up to 30 days in jail and a fine of up to \$500. As Durham County, N.C. District Attorney, Nifong led the investigation into a woman's allegations that she was raped at a 2006 lacrosse team party where she was hired as an exotic dancer. He won indictments against three lacrosse players, but eventually recused himself from the case. State prosecutors dropped all remaining charges, saying the players

were innocent victims of a "tragic rush to accuse."

FORMER OHIO STATE PRESIDENT BASHES GAME-DAY BEHAVIOR

A former Ohio State University president who cracked down on game-day behavior during her tenure at the school lambasted Buckeyes fans in a recent job interview, saying they looked for any excuse to riot. "When you win a game, you riot. When you lose a game, you riot. When spring comes, you riot. African-American Heritage Festival weekend, you riot," Karen Holbrook said last week during a videotaped interview for the president's job at Florida Gulf Coast University.

BASEBALL PLAYERS SUSPENDED FOR BARTERING EQUIPMENT

The NCAA has suspended three Nebraska baseball players for trading bats for store credit at a sporting goods store. The Nebraska athletic department announced Friday that outfielder Andy Gerch will be suspended for the first 12 games of 2008, while catcher Jeff Lanning and utilityman Craig Corriston will miss the first six games of the season under the NCAA's suspensions. Infielder Jeff Tezak, the team's leading hitter, also received vouchers from the Scheels store but was not suspended because they were worth less than \$100, the athletic department said.

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