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**WEATHER**

 **84**  
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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 11

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007

Established  
**1924**

**Tuesday  
Notebook**

**BREAKING NEWS**

**THE BLACK STUDENT UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HELD A TOWN HALL MEETING MONDAY EVENING TO DISCUSS THE NOOSE FOUND ON A TREE ON CAMPUS. THEY WILL HOLD A RALLY AT MCKELDIN FIELD TODAY AT 6 P.M.**

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**METRO**

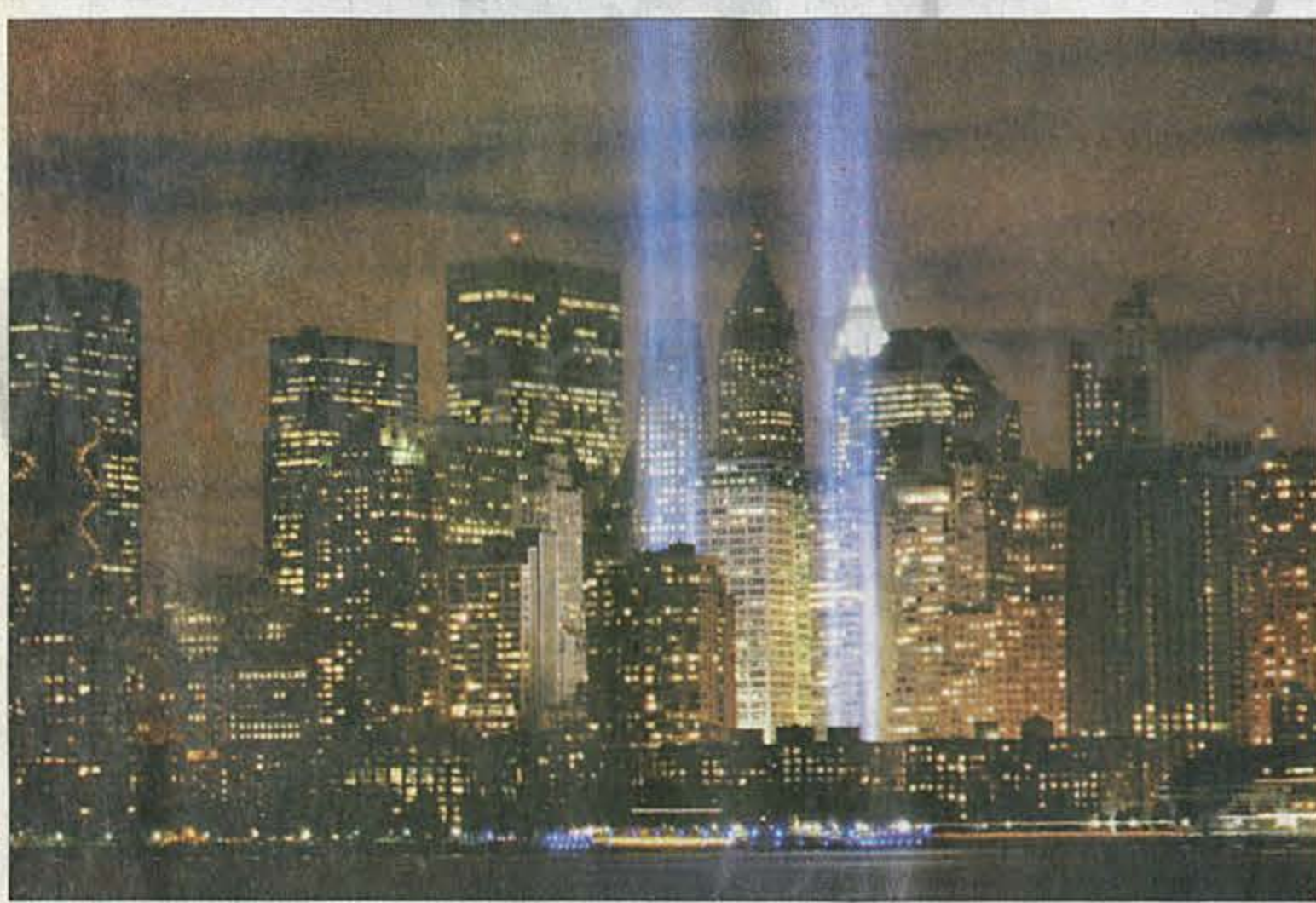
**ALCOHOL VENDORS CATCH HEAT, SUFFER SUSPENDED LICENSES AND FACE FINES FOR SELLING TO UNDERAGED MINORS NEAR CAMPUS.**

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**NATION & WORLD**

**THE MONEY-SAVVY ARE FEELING THE BRUNT AS BIRTH CONTROL PRICES HAVE MULTIPLIED NEARLY FIVE TIMES.**

PAGE 7



Denise Gquid - U.S. Air Force

Six years after the Sept. 11 catastrophe, cities across the nation will hold events to commemorate that day.

## Nation Remembers Sept. 11

BY AMANDA LOCKETT  
Assistant Business Manager

On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists flew two planes into the World Trade Center, but in the six years that have passed since then, the United States has turned its attention toward natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina or blatant racial incidents like that of Jena, La.

Six years after the terrorist attacks, the state of the nation has become a reflection of what has happened that sunny morning in New York City.

The increased security precautions and the constant announced threat of terrorism are all consequences of the attack. While this may be the case, some

believe the world may have forgotten about Sept. 11.

Nandi Murphy, a senior television production major, said, "The media has focused its attention elsewhere because Americans seem to have a short attention span."

When asked if she still cared about what happened on Sept. 11, Murphy said, "Of course I do, and I think everybody else does also. It's just not at the center of attention."

With today being the sixth anniversary of Sept. 11, many cities are hosting events to commemorate the attack on the twin towers and those who were greatly affected by the attack. Events of both local and national scale will be held in Washington,

D.C. surrounding this day.

Locally, Washington D.C. is hosting a 9/11 Art Exhibit and Opening Reception, which is being organized by Manju Shandler, who created an extensive installation titled "Gesture," to be exhibited at the Honfleur Gallery. The piece holds one brick-sized painting for every life lost at the World Trade Center.

In Virginia, there will be the sixth annual Police, Fire, Sheriff 9/11 Memorial 5k Run, the sixth annual "We Remember" Walk and the Freedom Walk. These events are targeted to remember the victims, families, survivors and heroes of Sept. 11.

> See 9/11, Page 7

## Commander Suggests Withdrawal

BY RENEE SCHOOF  
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

Gen. David Petraeus, the American commander in Iraq, told Congress on Monday that he has recommended the withdrawal of 30,000 U.S. forces from Iraq by mid-July.

That would still leave about 130,000 there, as many as when President Bush announced his "surge" in January, Petraeus said he could not yet say when the rest could be withdrawn. Polls show that some 60 percent of Americans want to set a timetable to bring the troops home.

Petraeus and Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, predicted that Iraq eventually would take over its own security and form a stable, democratic government, though, as Petraeus put it, "doing so will be neither quick nor easy."

"There are no switches to flip that will cause the politics to come magically together," Crocker said. "This is something Iraqis are going to have to work through," and it's impossible to say when they will, he added.

Their testimony of more than six hours - interrupted repeatedly by anti-war protesters who were hauled away by police - came as congressional Democrats prepare to push anew to force a speedier withdrawal from Iraq.

Leading Democrats rejected Petraeus' vision.

"Removing a brigade is nothing but a political whisper, and it is unacceptable to the American people and a majority of Congress," said Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which sponsored the hearing with the House Armed Services Committee.

But the two top U.S. officials in Iraq firmly rejected the Democrats' main ideas, as well as the suspicion that the White House coordinated their testimony.

"I wrote this testimony myself. It has not been cleared by, nor shared with, anyone in the Pentagon, the White House or Congress," Petraeus said, his authority enhanced

by the four stars on each shoulder of his uniform and the rows of military ribbons on his chest.

Petraeus opposed Democrats' suggestions of limiting the U.S. mission to anti-terrorism, training and protection of American assets as inadequate.

Crocker said he did not think the threat of withdrawal would make Iraqi politicians work together toward a political solution: "My view is that it would make them less inclined to compromise and not more," because they would be looking at "how they're going to survive and how they're going to get through the coming massive sectarian conflict," he said.

Petraeus said he submitted his recommendations two weeks ago and that his boss, Adm. William Fallon, the head of Central Command, and the joint service chiefs, the president's top military advisers, supported them.

If approved, he said, a Marine Expeditionary Unit of about 2,000 could leave Iraq later this

month and a brigade combat team numbering 3,500 to 4,000 would be sent home in mid-December. Two more Marine battalions would leave over the first seven months of 2008, bringing U.S. forces down to the pre-surge level they were in January - 15 brigade combat teams, or roughly 130,000 people.

Petraeus said more force reductions would be made later, but he added that he could not say yet how many or when because too much could happen unexpectedly in the meantime. He said he would make recommendations on further withdrawals in March.

Petraeus said U.S. troops could be withdrawn safely on his proposed schedule "without jeopardizing security gains we have fought so hard to achieve" because Iraqi security forces are making progress toward being able to take over. They've improved, he said, "albeit slowly and amid continuing concerns about sectarian tendencies of some elements in their ranks."



Chuck Kennedy/MCT

Gen. David Petraeus leads American troops currently fighting in Iraq. He announced that a troop withdrawal by July is feasible and that U.S. presence will just be oversight.



Justin Knight - Assist. Photo Editor

The recent popularity of "I Love D.C." T-shirts has prompted local clothing brands, such as DC Madness (pictured above), to adopt their own versions.

## "I Love D.C." Shirts a New Trend in District

BY WHITNEY WINGATE  
Contributing Writer

"I Love D.C." T-shirts are the newest trend in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. They come in all sizes, from those for toddlers to big and tall, and an array of colors, ranging from neon to tie-dye. Unlike the "I love NY" shirts, most of those who wear the D.C. shirts are not tourists, but residents of the D.C. metro area.

It is unknown where the fad began. David Jackson, 19, believes the trend began when local rapper Tabi Bonney wore one of the T-shirts in his video, "Put Me In the Pocket."

"After that, people started wearing it," Jackson said.

With many local artists, such as J. Holiday and Raheem Devaughn, becoming nationally recognized, Chris Smith

thinks their influences "are putting D.C. on the map."

"They represent their city, and people follow the styles they set," he said. "Kids see a rapper and see someone they want to emulate."

Others, like Andre Dixon, 18, think residents of the District, just wear "I Love D.C." T-shirts because they want to represent for the city. "We have the best club scene, beautiful women, good colleges and a lot of job opportunities," Dixon said.

Not all agree with him, though. Jasmine Mason admits that she does not wear the shirts within the District because she believes it would be "contradictory" to take part in this trend without actively trying to help with the problems in the District, like the crime and murder rates.

"I would wear

one if I was out of town," Mason said. "I love D.C. for its originality in music, like Go-Go and because it's one of a kind."

Jeff Green, 21, believes it is a fad, not a socially conscious statement.

"Too many people are wearing them too quick," Green said. "It won't be in much longer."

Joe Tyson, a junior mechanical engineering major, plans to buy one of the shirts in the future.

"When I move to Houston after graduation, I want to show love for my city," he said.

Clothing stores like Boardwalk in Wheaton Plaza Mall sell the shirts for roughly \$16.99, according to a sales associate.

The shirts are sold in residential areas, as well as tourist spots like the National Mall and Georgetown.

## New Suicide Prevention Program Established to Help Students

BY AMARIS NOBLE  
Contributing Writer

Reading flyers about clubs and back-to-school parties was the last thing on junior Shannon Whitaker's mind after several

days of seeking override signatures to get into classes that were too full. However, one poster stood out from the rest.

"I noticed a poster about a suicide prevention program on my way into the dorm elevator,"

Whitaker said. "I only noticed it because I'm a psychology major and this program would benefit me. But if someone is in a rush, they can easily miss the flyer."

Unlike Whitaker, many students are in the dark about

Howard University's suicide prevention initiatives, which the department of Psychiatry and the University Counseling Service established in 2005.

"Suicide is a very relevant issue," said Dr. Donna Barnes,

director of the Suicide Prevention Action Group (SPAG) and a suicidologist in the Department of Psychiatry at the Howard University Hospital. "Most colleges average one suicide a year, and we established this program to

prevent Howard from getting to that point."

According to the American Foundation for Suicide

> See PREVENTION, Page 2



# HU Trains to Prevent Number Two College Killer

Continued from Front, Prevention

Prevention, nearly 10 percent of college undergraduates report having seriously considered suicide in the past year.

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death on college campuses. In 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported suicide as the third leading cause of death among individuals between 10 and 24 years old, which accounts for 4,599 fatalities.

"This program works to minimize violent behaviors, suicide attempts and any actions that might lead to suicide," Barnes said. SPAG works to prevent actions like that of the visiting female who made a fatal jump from an eighth-floor window of the Plaza Towers West on Memorial Day two years ago.

A 2006 report by The National Institutes of Health rated suicide as the third-leading cause of death among African-American people aged 15 to 19 years and fourth among those 20 to 29 years old.

Mental health professionals are concerned that talking about suicide is taboo within the black community. Barnes confirmed that the Howard community is not exempt from suicidal

incidents.

"Students look at thoughts of suicide as being crazy or a character flaw so they don't discuss it," Barnes said. "We cannot prevent what we don't know about, so it is important for people to talk openly and seek help."

Like high school shootings and bomb threats, many college-aged African Americans disassociate suicide from black realities. However, freshman history major Desmond Carswell deems suicide a color blind issue.

"To say that taking one's own life only happens in predominately white campuses is ignorant," Carswell said. "We experience stress like anyone else and suicide problems should not be overshadowed."

Sheree Jackson, a sophomore international business major, also noted the stress. "College life can be very stressful, especially freshman year," Jackson said. "Students might not have friends yet and are away from their family support system, which can be depressing."

Barnes has trained 25 instructors to train Howard faculty, staff and students to recognize red flags for suicide. Once certified, instructors are expected to dispense among the university's colleges and raise awareness about SPAG services via posters, flyers and word of mouth.

Students joining the sui-



Omoikhoje Ezezoobo, a biology and chemical engineering major, works with the suicide prevention program.

cide prevention program can expect a 90-minute to two hour lecture-style training session guided by an instructor or "gatekeeper." Role-play activities are also integrated into the trainings.

"Gatekeepers learn what

to do, how to question possible suicidal individuals and how to restore and get them proper help," Barnes said.

But not everyone at Howard sees a need for such an initiative. Darlene McClinton, a grad-

uate student pursuing a masters in fine arts, insists that the need for a suicide prevention service on Howard's campus is just not there.

"Administration could be spending time and energy on

something else," she said. "I don't think it's possible to catch suicidal signs, because those people aren't usually open about their feelings so the whole outreach tactic would be pointless."

One problem is that many students are unaware that SPAG exists. Barnes admits that many trainers fail to spread the word about SPAG services and to gather participants.

"Once gatekeepers become certified, they often lose momentum," Barnes said. "We try to place at least one instructor in each college and only about eight out of 25 trainers are active."

Whitaker suggests that this problem could easily be solved if students in majors like social work, education and psychiatry were made aware of SPAG, which many people are unaware of.

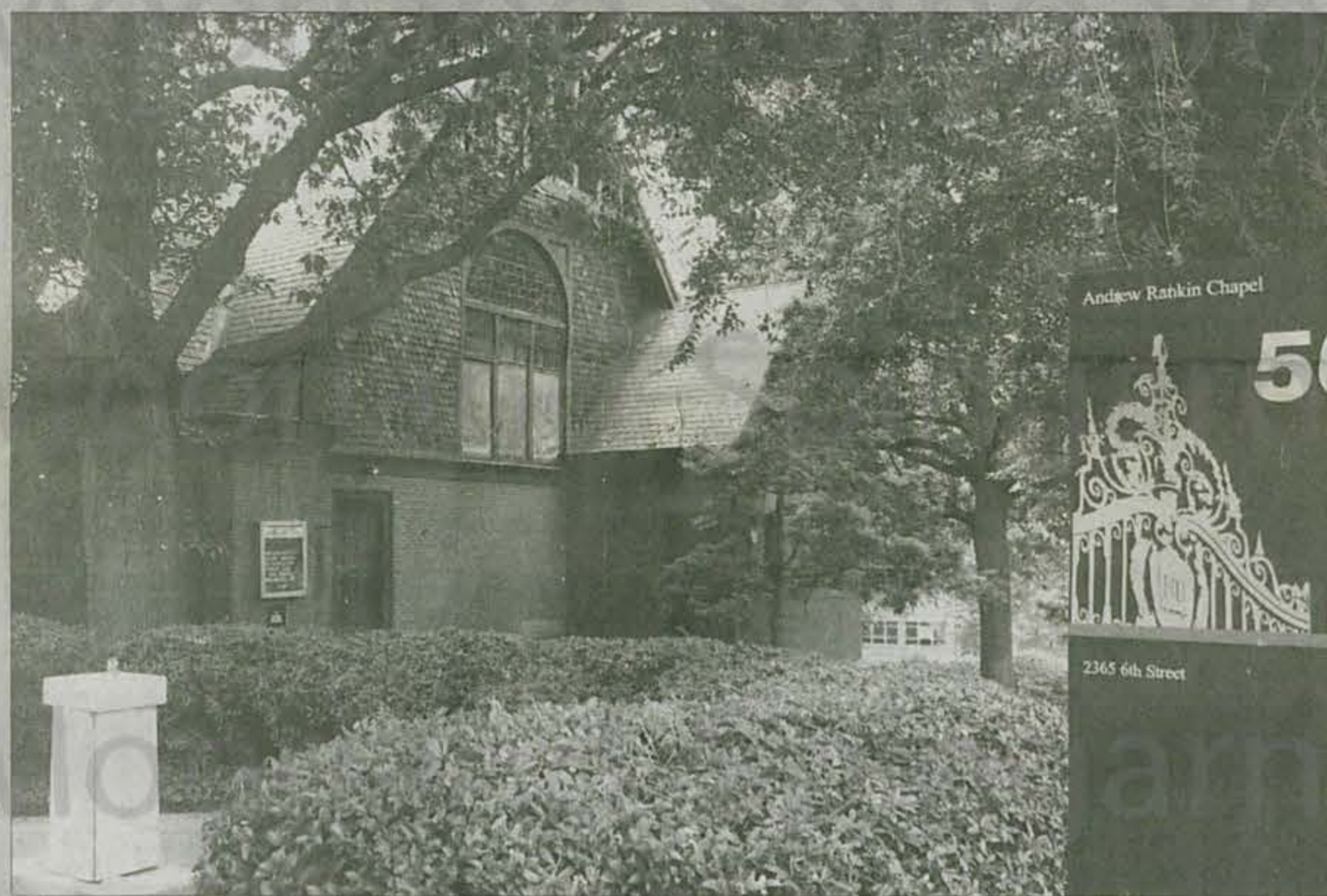
"There are people with majors who would benefit from becoming certified," she said. "I might look into it. It would be great for me to serve the community and gain exposure I can use."

The next 90-minute training will be held Sept. 26 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sessions are held at Howard's Mental Health Clinic at 530 College St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20059.

Hot lines are also available for those seeking immediate help at 1-800-273-TALK.

Samara Pearson - Staff Photographer



Oscar Merrida IV - Staff Photographer

The Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel hosts a panel discussion today at noon with the 9/11 events as a backdrop, but not the focus.

## Chapel Panel One of Few Campus Events Commemorating Sept. 11

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY  
Asst. Campus Editor

Instead of having the regular commemoration service for Sept. 11, The Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel will hold a social activism and peace movement discussion panel today at noon.

However, chapel program manager Rev. Fay Acker said holding this panel on this infamous date is no coincidence. "It's almost kind of like a backdrop of this panel," she said.

Acker said that during the panel, there will be some discussion about the unrest that preceded Sept. 11 in terms of not accepting others and the consequences of that. Some of those consequences were the events of that day in 2001.

Now, Acker said, it is time to move forward and do what needs to be done to make change.

"We're looking at how we're going to interact with other people, how to make the world more peaceful," Acker said.

Joining today's discussion will be a slew of guests, including Ronald Hopson of the School of Divinity and psychology department as well as student participants and guests from other institutions.

Outside the walls of the chapel, there does not appear to be an overwhelming amount of attention being

paid to the sixth anniversary of Sept. 11. Not many flyers in buildings around campus announce some special event, prayer service or even a moment of silence. On Facebook, no events within the Howard network are dedicated to the date.

With officials, both state and national, being in the headlines for scandals and an ongoing conflict in the Middle East, there is so much on the minds of many Americans.

This raises the question of whether anyone still cares about Sept. 11.

Junior English major Laura Perez said there is a "National Hug Day," which has been thoroughly promoted on Facebook to commemorate the sixth anniversary of Sept. 11.

She said "I think it's been too long and I'm assuming that although some students were directly affected by 9/11, they are not the majority."

Howard University alumnus Messiah Ramkissoon said, "I think people still care. They are just more focused on the cause of the problem, becoming more alert to the smoke screens which have been instigated, especially with release of movies such as "Fahrenheit 9/11" and other recent findings."

While Ramkissoon said Sept. 11 cannot and will never be forgotten, there are other events that have taken precedence on Howard's campus since September 2001.

"I believe that the Jena '6"

has overtaken the spotlight," junior advertising major Dominic Cooper said. "People care, but it has been six years now. They just don't care as much and I also believe that black people blame it [9/11] on [President] Bush anyway."

Indeed, since Sept. 11, 2001, Howard University students have been busy assisting residents of New Orleans rebuild their lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina during Alternative Spring Break, raising funds for various causes and more recently, rallying and raising funds for the Jena Six.

"It feels more productive to fight for change than to just reflect on [the] painful events that are in the past," Perez said.

Sophomore psychology major Michael Leak said, "It has lost some of its importance because of the hurricane and the tsunami. Both of those natural disasters kinda took over for [Sept. 11] and [the hurricane and tsunami] had more to do with people of color."

As for theories about the United States' involvement in the terrorist attacks of that fateful day, Perez said, "That doesn't mean that we shouldn't remember the victims, but having these suspicions can complicate people's feelings towards the whole thing."

Leak said, "I think that it's like a death in the family, where after a certain number of years, you kinda just, not forget about it, [but] try not to think about it as much. I'm sure people still care because that was a big tragedy."

## Following Footsteps: Algenita Scott Davis

BY JADA SMITH  
Staff Writer

Algenita Scott Davis is the epitome of what most Howard University students strive to become. A 1971 School of Business alumna and 1974 Howard University School of Law alumna, she is contributing to the legacy of Howard. Even after retirement, she continues to do so.

Davis has achieved everything she has set out to do with thanks, in large part, to Howard University.

"I came to D.C. from one of the largest cities in the South, and Howard already had two blacks from the only four black high schools in Houston," said Davis, who is now the executive director of Houston Habitat for Humanity, the former president of the National Bar Association and the former senior vice president of Community Affairs for Chase Bank.

Davis said, "Houston Independent School District deliberately took 12 years after Brown vs. Board of Education to integrate the schools. They could have made as many laws as they wanted to, but if the people in charge wouldn't enforce them, then things will not change."

Her spirit of activism flourished once at Howard when she participated in the 1968 administration building takeover. "I still have the letter I wrote my mother from inside the A building during our protest," Davis said. "Kenneth Clark was a psychiatrist on the Brown vs. Board of Education case and he worked at Howard. He is the only reason the police did not storm in and take us out of the A building. He simply would not allow all these students to be harmed or killed for expressing our wants."

Aside from being politically aware, Davis was involved in many things on campus. She was a resident assistant in Bethune Hall, which helped her pay for law school. "I was an R.A. for the first Bethune Hall, where I lived for five years, but I also lived in Wheatley my first year and in Baldwin my second year. I was very active in residence life," she said.

Davis was also active in the Campus Pals, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Alpha Chapter and the Howard Gospel Choir.

"Being in the choir changed my life spiritually," Davis said. "It exposed me to a whole new part of life. We traveled by airplane and went places that I never imagined going. I brought my younger brother to Howard who also sang in the choir."

Davis recounts another phenomenon she had never experienced before. "When I grew up, I never saw blacks in major positions," she said. "When I got to Howard I saw blacks running things. This is really what gave me the courage and the confidence to go after what I wanted because once I got to Howard, I saw that it was possible. One thing Howard does is instill in its students that greatness is in them. You are expected to do great things."

Davis continued, "At this school you are taught by people that are running things. One of my professors in law school was the president of the National Bar [Association] at the time. You must know that being at Howard means that you are walking in the shoes of greatness."

She also stresses the importance of utilizing every networking opportunity the university has to offer. "I am never a stranger in any city," Davis said. "There is always a Howard connection everywhere I go, which has also helped me professionally. It helped me become president of the National Bar Association."

As for her personal life, Davis has started a family tradition of matriculating at Howard, with her younger brother, son and niece attending Howard at some point.

"Oh, there is no option in this family. It's either Howard or nowhere at all," she said.

Davis proves that hard work avails much success and is convinced that prosperity is the standard for every Howardite.

"My advice is to look beyond what you think your boundaries are," she said. "Think of yourself as the next trendsetter or inventor or the next whatever."

Davis added, "Howard let me know that what you see is not reality. It eradicated the naïve part of my life. It has its own way of teaching life's rough lessons, and I thank Howard for that."

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# Liquor Stores Penalized for Selling to Minors

BY MONICA JONES  
Staff Writer

Throughout Washington, D.C., there has been an increase in alcohol vendors being fined and suspended for alcohol violations.

Various liquor vendors near Howard University's campus have had their licenses suspended for selling alcohol to minors.

Petworth Liquors, located at 3210 Georgia Ave., NW, recently reopened last week after a seven-day license suspension.

Balbir Singh, one of the store's managers, said the suspension resulted when one of his new employees sold alcohol to an undercover minor sent in by the Metropolitan Police Department.

"Sometimes they don't look like minors," Singh said. "They come in here smooth-skinned and fresh faced, and you can't tell by just looking at them that they are underage and you should ask for ID."

In addition to losing revenue due to its seven-day suspension, Petworth Liquors was also fined \$3,500, despite the fact that they have not had any similar violations in the past three years.

"We have been at this location for three years without incident," Singh said. "Now within a month we have had two and with the same employee."

Stores usually lose their liquor licenses for selling alcoholic beverages to intoxicated or underage persons, conducting criminal or violent activity or selling prohibited hours, which generally begin at 10 p.m., depending on the type of license.

Cynthia Simms, Community Resource Officer at the Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), said that any noncompliance with the liquor laws in the District that has occurred more than once is all it takes for a store to lose its license. Only one block down from Petworth Liquors, Fanta Gaye, the owner of the Georgia Avenue Market located at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Kenyan, was also fined for selling alcohol to a minor.

"My employee did not know that it was a minor, and so we were fined for it," Gaye said.

But Gaye understands the seriousness of selling to a minor. As a father, he said he would not want his children to drink or smoke, so he would not intentionally sell cigarettes and alcohol to other peoples' kids.

"It was a mistake and now we are definitely more strict and card everybody," Gaye said.

The ABRA, located on 914 North Capitol Street, NE, is responsible for issuing licenses to qualified individuals. The licenses

allow them to serve or sell alcoholic beverages as long as they are in compliance with the law and regulations and taking appropriate enforcement action when a business violates the District of Columbia's alcoholic beverage law.

"We have an investigative unit that conducts regular license compliance checks three to four times randomly throughout the year," Simms said. "They do conduct undercover operations, in addition to routine checks to find out who is in violation of the laws."

Complaints from neighbors are also grounds for investigations and suspension of liquor licenses.

"We get complaints every day," Simms said. "They depend on the location and behavior of the vendor. But complaints are always frequent and constant."

Even though he said they are much more strict on carding customers after the two recent violations, Singh points out that despite the fines and regulations, if minors really want alcohol, there are ways for them to get around being carded.

"All they do is simply give the money to a person who is of age. The person then comes in here, buys it, brings it back out and gives it to them [minors]," he said.



Tyrone Clemons-Staff Photographer

Liquor stores face heavy fines and suspension of liquor licenses for failing to comply with Washington D.C.'s liquor laws. Two stores near Howard's campus were recently fined for selling alcohol to underage patrons.



## Long-Time Residents, Students Share View on Shaw-Howard Area

BY MONICA JONES  
Staff Writer

The historical Shaw district in Washington, D.C. is considered an influential cornerstone in the history of the African-American community. It was a pre-Harlem hub of African-American artistic and intellectual thought and production.

Today, the neighborhood is getting a much needed face-lift, but some fear that it might be at the expense of the deep-rooted past of blacks in the area.

The Shaw district produced the famous jazz musician Duke Ellington, suffered extensive damage in the 1968 race riots following Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination and rode

the wave of the crack epidemic that washed through the black community.

"Jesse Jackson used to live over there on T Street," said Thompson Summersville, 54. "His mother still lives there in fact. She often goes to this store around this corner here."

Sitting on his front stoop on Elm Street, Summersville said he has lived in the area all his life, and that, like all other neighborhoods, it has had its good times and its bad times. Besides the new people living there, he said, it hasn't changed much.

Olvester Huggee, 32, was born around the corner at the Howard University Hospital in 1974, before it was bought by the University, and agreed with Summersville that the neighborhood

has not changed that drastically.

"You know there are always the bad times that usually involve police, but other than that, the neighborhood stays pretty quiet," Huggee said.

For students who most likely come from other places, safety is a top priority when considering the Shaw district.

Tanesha Terry, a senior television production major and resident assistant in Slowe Hall, said that she has been blessed because she has not seen any robberies or shootings during her years living on campus, although she knows people who have.

"My experience with the area has been very good," Terry said. "As a freshman in the Annex, I only had to walk up the hill to campus. Everywhere else, I make sure that I am very aware of my surroundings."

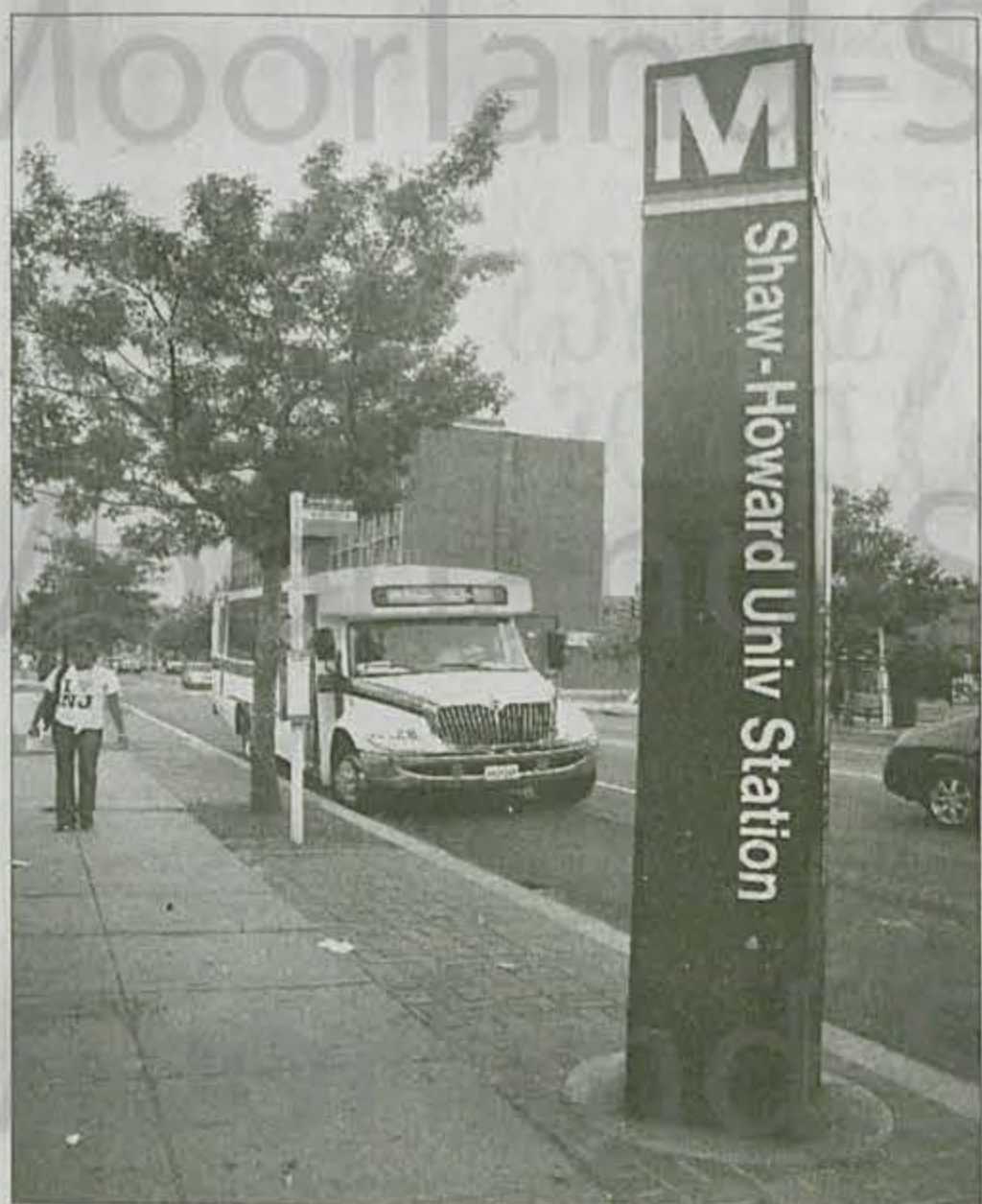
Junior biology major Desiree Funderbunk lived off campus on Adams Street this past year and said there were positive and negative aspects of living in the neighborhood.

"The neighborhood itself was pretty nice and safe," Funderbunk said. "There was a detective across the street who kept an eye out on things."

Funderbunk said that the only negative part of living in the neighborhood was the lack of shuttle service.

The only way to make sure that the importance of the Shaw district in black history is not lost, is for residents and Howard students to educate themselves on its history.

Various informational tours of the area, such as the self-guided City Within a City: Greater U Street Heritage Trail, can be organized at [www.culturaltourismdc.org](http://www.culturaltourismdc.org).



Oscar Merrida IV-Staff Photographer

Shaw-Howard Area serves as a historic community staple over the years.

## Black Nail Specialist Brings New Look to Florida Ave.



Chaneé Harris-Staff Photographer

Nail technician Joy Williams is one of the few blacks in her field. She was taught how to do nails by a previous employer and has worked near Howard University at Heavenly Salon & Spa for three years.

BY RACHEL HUGGINS  
Metro Editor

When women are tired of speedy yet inefficient nail service, they stroll into Heavenly Salon & Spa on Florida Avenue and ask for Joy Williams, a Jamaican-American nail specialist.

Among various nail shops in the area, Williams is one of the few black nail technicians in her field. She strives to provide quality service to each customer.

"A lot of nail salons just care about making a dollar," she said. "It's about the person in front of you — not just washing their feet, putting polish on them and sending them through the door."

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Williams began her career 18 years ago in Washington, D.C.

She enjoys her practice, which encompasses her two interests: meeting new people and offering quality service.

She also values her culture's strong work ethic. "We [Jamaicans] take a lot of care and pride in our jobs," Williams said.

Instead of rushing through clients, Williams is very detail oriented and wants clients

to relax when they are being pampered. She also carefully observes their individual needs and addresses any problems she may see.

"If someone has a nail fungus or really needs to see a specialist or doctor, I won't do their nails," said Williams, a resident of Suitland, Md. "I would refer them to a doctor or professional specialist."

Williams also finds that the majority of nail salons are run like assembly lines and value money rather than engaging with customers.

She believes that negligent sanitary practices are followed as well.

"If you don't come, someone else will, so they feel that they really don't need to clean the bowl your feet is in," Williams said.

Dana Davis, the owner of Heavenly Salon & Spa, met Williams two years ago and pinpoints the challenges that she faces as a black businesswoman.

"Her prices aren't as cheap as the other salons in the area, which are ran by Asians," said Davis, a hair stylist at the salon. "When they are working on you, they are just trying to get to the next client. We [African Americans] should put our money back into the black community and take a chance in order to receive better service."

Two weeks ago, freshman biology major Jasmine Cobb spotted Williams' name in a Howard orientation book and is now a frequent customer.

"I needed a fill and the location was very close by," she said.

Cobb added, "Joy is also a perfectionist. The first time I came to her she told me that it may take her a little longer, but it's going to look great when it's done. She is really nice and always does a great job on my nails."

In addition to her nail service, Williams also specializes in pedicures and body care. "She gives great massages," Davis said.

Williams' daughter, Hanisa Lopes, followed her mother's profession and works as a nail specialist at Wanda's Hair Studio on Seventh Avenue in Northwest Washington, D.C.

"My entire family has always loved beauty," Lopes said. "I developed an interest at a young age and received most of my training at a cosmetology school in Jamaica."

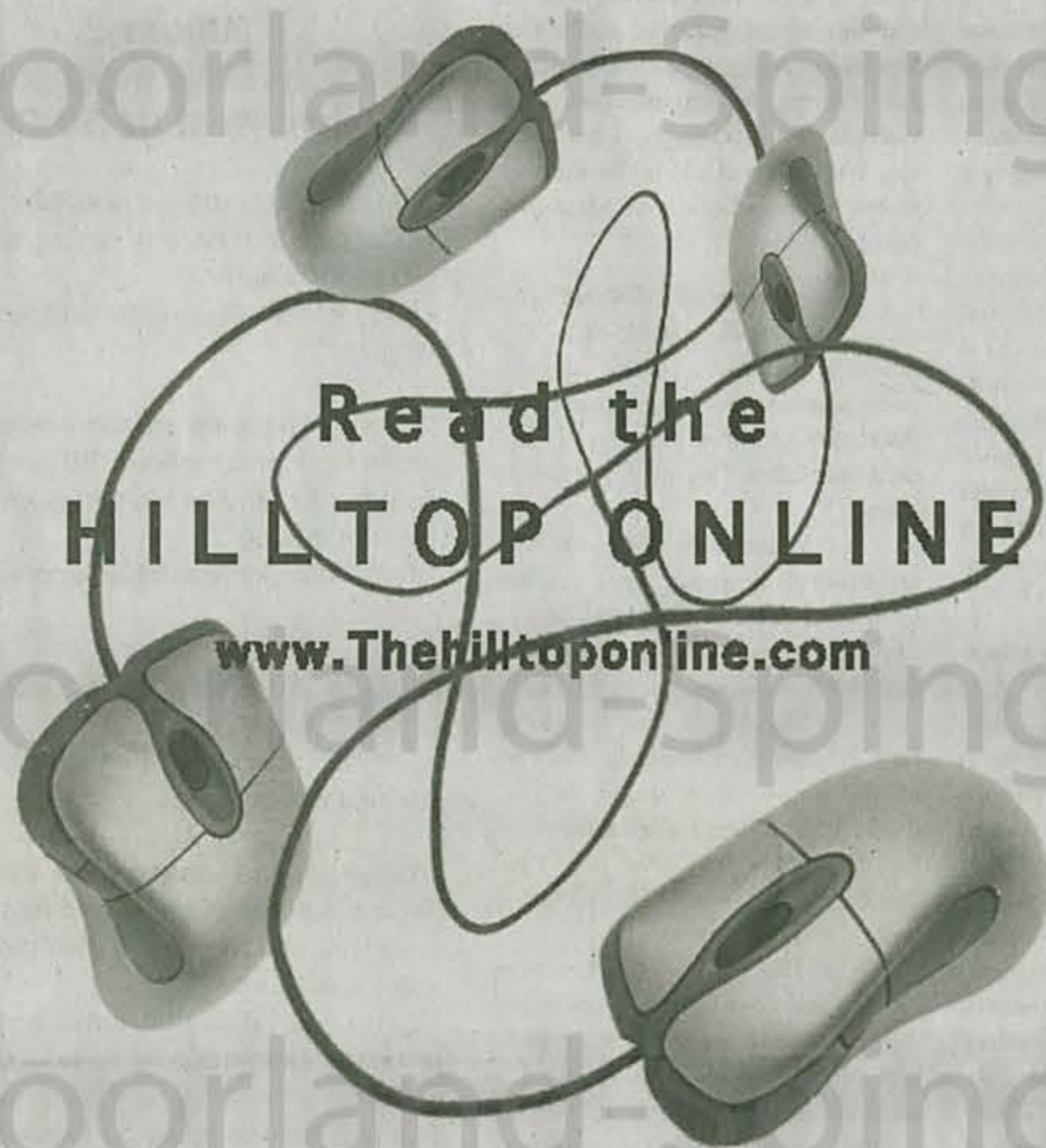
While Lopes and Williams enjoy their profession, both wish to see more African Americans manicurists and wish that the black community will start to support African-American businesses.

"African Americans need to pull together," Davis said.



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**Confessions of an L&S Editor**

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
Life & Style Editor

Dear Howard,

Six years ago today, the country was dramatically impacted in a way that none of us can properly verbalize. Families were torn apart by the senseless murders of thousands in what we now call 9/11. This country and the world will never be the same and we all should consider how blessed we are to live in a place where tragedies like 9/11 aren't a regular occurrence.

But today's top story focuses on a lighter subject—the “beef” between Chicago rapper Kanye West and New York native 50 Cent. And Imma be honest, I'm not the biggest connoisseur of rap music, stars, etc. I know what I need to know and I keep it movin'. But this debate between Kanye and 50 seems to be nothing more than a battle of egos.

Both individuals are incredibly talented, but have a unique level of confidence. We all know Kanye is cocky. He's made it more than clear that he thinks he's the most “exciting” and unique artist out there, which he may very well be. He's posed as Jesus, cancelled appearances and even slapped President Bush in the face with his blunt comments on national TV.

So we know he's cocky. And usually that annoys me, but for some reason Kanye is exempt from the line of self-infused rappers that think they're the greatest gifts to the world. But the difference is that Kanye knows he's too much and admits it. Hence, “Can't Tell Me Nothing.” He's what I like to call “extra,” but that's okay because he makes hits with a message. And whatever that message is, it's always clear and somewhat true.

And another thing I give Kanye is his knowledge of his field. He is actually an intellectual. Kanye knows vast amounts of information about the culture of hip-hop and other subjects. In an interview with New York radio station Hot 97, he mentioned a rack of people that influenced his sound and the technical aspects of authentic hip-hop. And despite him being overzealous, specifically in his outbursts, he does speak on socially relevant topics that many people know nothing about.

Example: “Diamonds Are Forever.” He knew his demographics when making that song, which was ingenious to me. There is an ironic paradigm between what we value in this country and what it costs others in another.

So I ain't mad at Ye'.

But 50, on the other hand, is on an entirely different level of cockiness. He really, truly, seems to believe there is no better rapper than him. And although one good investment basically set him up for life, I don't think it should give him the license to walk around like a walking commercial. I was honestly appalled at his actions at the BET Awards. He basically sang one hook of his song, told people to drink Vitamin Water and dropped the mic.

Granted, some of his songs do have strong messages and explain a sect of society that is often misunderstood and ignored. But I would love to see him talk about global issues instead of speaking on “roller coasters” and parties.

Basically, it comes down to this: neither of these men are out to change the world. They don't claim to be role models and are usually unapologetic for their actions. But when it comes down to sales, whoever sells more is irrelevant; what matters is quality, not quantity. And whoever understands that principle more will always come out on top.

- Dani K.

**The Best Week In Hip Hop  
Kanye West vs. 50 Cent**



Photo Courtesy of www.amazon.com  
Kanye West has avoided defaming 50 Cent in the name of record sales, although reporters and weejays around the world have tried to get the Chicago-rapper to comment.

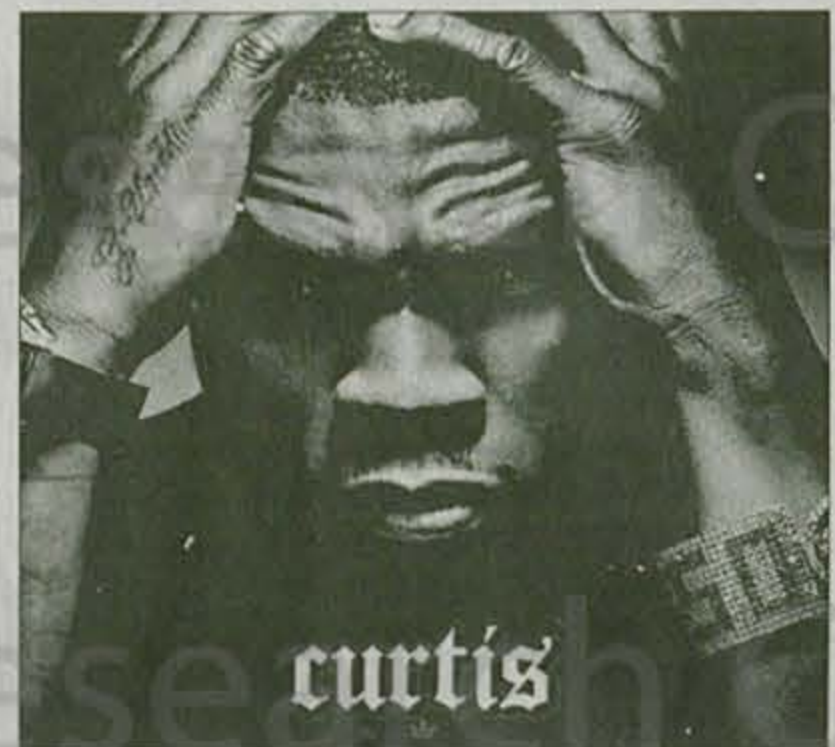


Photo Courtesy of www.amazon.com  
50 Cent began the beef, saying that he would retire from solo-recording if West outsells him. Since then, 50 has added fuel to the fire with his comments about West's music.

BY WHITNEY WINGATE  
Contributing Writer

According to MTV news, 50 Cent has less than cordial remarks to make about the likelihood of Kanye West's “Graduation” outselling his own upcoming album, “Curtis” and suggests that Kanye is not his equal. Freshman psychology major Jeron Smart agrees with 50. “[Curtis] is more upbeat and lively. 50 is much more gangster, more hip-hop than Kanye,” Smart said.

He suspects that “Curtis” will take the lead in sales.

“Look at it statistically. Kanye has never sold more than one million in his first week. 50 has never sold under one million in his first week,” Smart added.

Other Howardites like Fega Akporotu, freshman biology major, are Kanye supporters and feel that he represents “real hip-hop.”

“Kanye is more versatile. He speaks about life,” Akporotu said. “50 is a commercial gangster rapper and unoriginal. When you think of the average rapper, the stereotypical hip-hop rapper, you think of 50.”

Joe Tyson, junior mechanical engineering major, predicts that 50's album will sell more “by far.” Tyson admitted, however, that “Kanye is a better rapper.”

“[Kanye] appeals more to girls and more conscious audiences. He's like a mainstream Talib Kweli or Mos Def. They aren't even in the

same genre,” Tyson said.

That fact is made all the more clear on the “Billboard Top 100” pop charts, where Kanye's six-week-old single “Stronger” is perched in the second seat. This would seem like victory in the war of dominance over potential sales, but the hip-hop charts suggest otherwise.

50 Cent has an overwhelming lead at the eleventh spot with his hit single, “I Get Money.” The success of this song is promising, as it has been on the charts for only nine weeks. This is in contrast to Kanye's fifteen-week-old song “Can't Tell Me Nothin',” which currently occupies the No. 25 spot. It is quite unclear at this point who will be the champion of this competition.

**Review of “Graduation”**

“Graduation” plays smoothly with a mix of sounds. A healthy portion of the beats used for this album were samples from several different genres of 80s classics from Michael Jackson's “PYT,” to Steely Dan's “Kid Charlemagne.” Maintaining the 80s theme, “Graduation” includes retro quips, synthesizers, scratches and cuts with just a pinch of contemporary kick - namely the bass.

The spirit of this album, as the name would suggest, is one of accomplishment, maturity and grandeur. Versatility in content and style is apparent from the playful track “Drunk and Hot Girls,” to a more intimate dedication in “Big Brother.”

“Graduation” breaks the mold of the modern hip-hop sound with its innovative mixing and all-star line up of featured artists from hip-hop's self proclaimed prince, Lil' Wayne, to English rock band Coldplay's top crooner, Chris Martin. With content alone, he manages to embrace audiences of all musical persuasions.

**Review of “Curtis”**

“Curtis,” 50 Cent's third album is reminiscent of his last, with guest appearances from hip-hop producers Dr. Dre and Timbaland, Eminem and fellow G-Unit rapper, Tony Yayo.

What may not have been anticipated, however, were features from veteran R&B songstress Mary J. Blige, pop idol Justin Timberlake and new R&B sensation Robin Thicke.

Many different producers have offered their expertise to create an up tempo urban sound for each track. This album has excellent malleability. Even the “slow jams” like “Ayo Technology” can be enjoyed in a party atmosphere.

This new album has mass appeal and contains what could one day be considered “classic” twenty-first century hip-hop material. The sound is more animated, with a healthy portion of what may become club hits, like his second release “I Get Money.” The lyrics and style are quite familiar and comfortable for the enduring 50 fans.

**Who Will Sell More Albums?**

**Kanye West or 50 Cent?**

“50 Cent. 50 is more marketable to both whites and blacks, and whites tend to buy more albums.”

- Gary Freeman, junior management major

“Kanye. His topics are more relatable and more conscientious. 50 is very commercial and all his songs are about the same thing.”

- Amani Clarke, freshman accounting major

“50 Cent. 50's audience is a little larger and he's more generic.”

- Cierra Ross, junior mechanical engineering major

“Kanye. It's the vitamin water vs. the sure nuff sunshades. Kanye has more longevity and the VMA's also gave him more exposure.”

- Lawrence Elliott Ball, junior business administration major

“Kanye. No one takes 50 seriously.”

- Christian Irish, senior marking major

Compiled by Alnisha Minter-Harris



**Get a Kick Out of Martial Arts? Try Tai Chi**

BY SIMONE PRINGLE  
Staff Writer

Everyone has seen actors like Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee defeat their opponents in the movies with smooth moves and fast reflexes. But all martial arts are not just about fast kicking and punching.

Tai Chi is a slow, internal Chinese martial art form, which emphasizes meditation and complete concentration. It is practiced today with the goal of promoting health and prolonging one's life.

Tai Chi is based on the yin and yang symbol. The martial arts style is normally practiced by individuals assembled into large groups posing in slow motion. Each time Tai Chi is practiced, the poses must be done the same way because each pose is a stepping stone to a more advanced pose.

Although she had never heard of the martial arts form, junior audio production major Tiffany Howe said, “I would be interested in trying Tai Chi. Right now, I do a mixture of floor exercises, ab workouts, a little yoga and Pilates and every once in a while, I swim or run.”

Students often look for ways to relax and unwind. After a while, Howe also began to look for that in her workout.

Howe added, “I started [Billy Blanks' cardio based workout] Tae-Bo, but then I wanted to try something fun and relaxing so I switched to yoga and Pilates. Tai Chi sounds relaxing, so why not?”

Once an effective workout method is found, many times it can be hard to stray away from it. Tai Chi has been shown to have medical benefits, but its primary benefit is the focus on meditation and its ability to relieve stress.

Head instructor of the Tai Chi Ch'uan Study Center of the Washington, D.C. metro area, Warren Conner, has been teaching Tai Chi for 34 years. He said, “Most forms of exercise are primarily physical, whereas Tai Chi is primarily mental. The emphasis starts out physical, but it becomes mental. You want to keep your mind and your body working together.”

Sophomore business management major Ashley White tried several things and currently does not work out, but she would also be interested in trying Tai Chi.

White added, “I've never heard of it, but I tried Tae-Bo with my roommate last year, and I didn't like it. I tried Pilates, and I didn't like that either, so maybe Tai Chi will be a good choice. If I could find a Tai center in D.C. that gave student discounts, then I'd try it.”

While the center does not offer student discounts, Conner said the center has an alternative solution.

“We do offer free beginner sessions every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in McLean Central Park in McLean, Va. Once you complete a beginner's session, if you want to stick with the program, you should register for our fall term, which begins Sept. 16, and is a flat rate of \$219 for a one hour class, per week, for 12 weeks,” Conner said.

Many students like their workout to fit neatly in their busy schedules.

“Ideally, it should be practiced every morning as part of a daily routine, like brushing your teeth,” Conner said. “If you're a guitarist, you get up in the morning and tune your guitar. People should tune their bodies everyday too. It's very practical and realistic.”

Conner also emphasized the convenience of the martial art.

He added, “That's one of the great things about Tai Chi; you don't need anything else besides yourself. Special clothing is not required. You can practice with a group or by yourself, indoors or out.”

While some workouts pose a

problem for people with physical limitations, Conner says Tai Chi is accommodating.

“Anyone who can stand up and take a few steps can practice Tai Chi,” Conner said. “The sooner you start, the better off you are. I have students who start in their 70s and they participate pretty well. Young people have plenty of options, but as you get older, the exercising options get fewer and when that happens, Tai Chi is one your options.”

The closest Tai Chi class is at the Chevy Chase Athletic Club in Chevy Chase, Md., on Wisconsin Avenue and is Metro accessible by the Friendship Heights Metro stop on the red line.



Tai Chi is a martial art that focuses largely on meditation and can be practiced individually or in large groups.



## Rise in Birth Control Prices Affects Pregnancy Prevention

BY ASHA HORNE  
Contributing Writer

College campus health centers have been a resource for budget-conscious students seeking birth control. Even without insurance, students can purchase a year's supply of pills from the school clinic for about \$7 per pack.

Because of agreements made with pharmaceutical companies, most campus clinics were able to distribute brand name prescription contraceptives, ranging from pills to the patch to monthly vaginal devices like NuvaRing, for no more than a couple of dollars.

However, times have changed and prices for contraceptives have doubled and in some cases tripled. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which went into effect in January 2007, was designed to alter how drug makers calculate Medicaid related rebates. The ramifications of that act did not stop there. Ultimately, it made it expensive for companies to offer schools major discounts on birth control. Now, the range for prescription prices in campus clinics have increased from \$3 to \$10 to \$30 to \$50 a month.

The cost increase is a "tremendous problem for students because not every student has a platinum card," said Franchesca Thompson, a junior public relations major. "It is really unfortunate for students who may need birth control but cannot afford it."

Some women have switched to generic birth control pills, and consider them a comparable alternative. But Sydney Wabara, a CVS pharmacist, said that

students who opt for generic pills "will still pay twice the amount of the previous rate."

At schools such as Catholic, Trinity and George Washington University, women could see the prices increase several hundred dollars per year. But Howard University Student Health Center (HUSHC) Director Lynette Munday said that because HUSHC offers prescriptions but does not fill them, this change does not directly affect Howard students.

"Students at Howard who are affected by this price upsurge, however, are students with no insurance coverage and graduate students who have aged out of a family plan," Munday said. For these students, low costs are crucial.

There are students who pay for their prescription birth control out-of-pocket because they do not want to involve their parents' insurance for privacy reason. Others do not want to deal with the hassle that comes with getting and maintaining health insurance, which can require co-payments that may be more expensive than their current birth control prices.

Still, insurance companies negotiate lower rates with pharmaceutical companies, and a student without coverage pays a higher rate for the same drug than a student purchasing with insurance. This leads to a need for lower prices offered to students.

Prescription birth control, which includes the pill, the patch and NuvaRing, are 99.7 percent effective, according to Planned Parenthood. A 2006 survey conducted by the American College



Above, Howard students visit the CVS pharmacy. The Howard University Student Health Center does not offer prescription drugs, including increasingly expensive birth control.

Health Association (ACHA) found that 39 percent of undergraduate women use oral contraceptives.

But without the convenience of free or cheap birth control on campus, many health providers fear that female students might just get turned off by prescription birth control methods altogether, substituting preventive measures for

Plan B, known as the morning after pill.

"Skipping out on or changing to a method that is not as comfortable due to high costs can lead to more unwanted student pregnancies," said Dr. Nancy Japer of Planned Parenthood.

"I think there are some female students who will just try to wing it and see how it goes. They'll say 'Well, I go to

school here, my boyfriend is in another city and I only see him once or twice a month and I won't use anything,' rather than pay for something that they cannot afford. That's absolutely dangerous," she said.

Pharmaceutical companies are already seeing an increase in Plan B sales, although they are unsure of a connection to the rising price of prescription birth control. A CVS pharmacy representative reported that their Plan B sales have doubled compared to sales in 2006.

Health officials say they discourage using Plan B as a regular form of contraception because, although there have been no reports of physical risk to doing so, students will be missing out on the menstrual cycle regulation and the required annual exams that come along with a regular oral contraceptive prescription.

"The increase in cost for contraception has definitely had an impact on sales to the point where we are going to have to raise our fees to compensate for the loss of revenue," CVS pharmacist Sydney Wabara said, "which means prices will go up on everything for everybody."

For students who cannot afford to pay for birth control, authorities recommend abstinence or regular use of condoms. "High fees act as a barrier to obtaining care, which is classically understood in campus health services," Japer said.

She added, "But the cost of an unplanned pregnancy is much more costly."



Thousands congregated at the National Mall to celebrate the Black Family Reunion. Family-oriented activities promoting the advancement of health, relationships and good lifestyles in the African-American community were present at the annual event held by the National Council of Negro Women.

## Family Reunion Unites Blacks Nationally

BY ASHA HORNE  
Contributing Writer

Dressed in colorful hats, sandals, cotton shirts and shorts, hundreds of thousands of people gathered this weekend at the National Mall to enjoy the sounds of live music and the taste of great food at the 21st annual Black Family Reunion.

The reunion is nationally recognized as the largest and most significant family event.

"We need to celebrate our heritage, unify our community through education and take action against all of the economic, health and employment issues that plague our community," Dorothy Height said at the festival. Height is the chairwoman of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).

The NCNW started the reunion in 1986 as an idea to celebrate the traditional values and strengths of the African-American family.

According to Height, one of the biggest issues that the African-American community suffers from is that the presence of the black family is no longer felt.

"I was tired of hearing about what was wrong with the black family, so I came up with an idea to show everyone what was right with the black family," Height said as she addressed the audience at the festival.

Coinciding with the program agenda for the event, several African-American businesses and organizations were highlighted at the reunion.

One of the biggest pavilions at the reunion was the health screening and informational. According to some of the nation's leading health agencies and advocacy groups, African Americans are at a higher risk of suffering from chronic illnesses and diseases like HIV/AIDS and diabetes. There is also a higher need for bone marrow for African-American patients. Among many organizations, the National Marrow Donor Program

was present at the festival.

The organization collected samples and completed forms to add new members to its registry. In addition, on-site screenings for HIV/AIDS were administered and literature about maintaining healthy living and practicing safe sex was distributed. The Black Family Reunion was a time for a positive, culturally-based event that would celebrate the enduring strength and traditional values of the African-American family.

The festival encourages uplifting the African-American community and brings together the young and old.

"I am real excited to be here today," said Porcha Williams, 17. "I think that this festival is great for our community because it allows us the opportunity to dance, eat and have fun, but also it's an educational event. I think more groups and organizations should do positive things like this for the African-American community so that we can build ourselves back up again."

## World Trade Center Anniversary Felt Around the World

Continued from Front, 9/11

Basmattie Bishundat, whose son was a victim of the Sept. 11 attacks, has worked with the "We Remember" walk and the freedom walk for the past six years. According to Bishundat, the government started these walks for families of victims, and they are working to make it easier for those who have experienced loss.

"Losing my son was extremely hard, but by working with others, these walks have made life much more manageable," Bishundat said.

Bishundat added, "This tragic day is something that the country is constantly thinking about."

There are a great deal of events taking place around the country, including walks, forums, concerts, projects and even marathon motorcycle rides.

The above-mentioned events will last until Sept. 14 with speakers ranging from three former veterans and officers, Webster Tarpley, the author of "9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in USA" and David Lindorff, author of "The Case for Impeachment."

These rallies and programs go further than just commemorating the events of Sept. 11. They also place blame on the U.S. government. The cause is more than remembering. It is also a fight for peace and justice,

qualities that they believe the U.S. government lacks.

The awareness has even spread to the international arena. Countries such as Israel, England and Japan are hosting memorial services, concerts and tributes to the victims of the attacks.

Reflecting on the numerous memorial services that come around just once a year, Denesha Thompson said, "I don't believe that our country will ever forget about the unfortunate acts that took place that day."

Thompson is a junior political science major, and said that this memory should last throughout the year.

"I do believe that it is becoming a bit like Christmas," she said. "This is to say that when the time comes around, you dedicate yourself to that day, even that week, but once it's over, it's like you're on to something else until next year. It shouldn't be like this, but it is."

Regardless of America's feelings toward Sept. 11, the United States is making sure that through the numerous programs and events, those who were affected are honored.

And in the words of Billy Graham, "words simply cannot express the horror, the shock and the revulsion we all feel over what took place in this nation on Tuesday morning, Sept. 11 will go down in our history as a day to remember."

## The War on Terror in Review: 2002 to Present

In a press conference on Monday, Petraeus said the main military gains from Bush's surge of 30,000 troops have been a decrease in the number of "security incidents" in Iraq in eight of the past 12 weeks, a decline in sectarian violence in Baghdad and across Iraq, among others.



April 2003 - Baghdad surrenders to the Coalition forces, ending the three week war.



Jan. 2007 - The third deadliest day for U.S. troops in Iraq, with at least 25 U.S. soldiers killed.

Sept. 2002 - President George W. Bush addresses the U.N. and challenges its members to confront the "grave and gathering danger" of Iraq or stand aside as the United States and likeminded nations act.



Jan. 2005 - Iraq holds free elections with minimal insurgent violence, though few Sunnis participate.

Photos courtesy of www.google.com, www.google.com and www.google.com

- Compiled by Brandon Hamilton, Editorial Assistant



# McNary Prepares for Summer Olympics in Beijing

BY JOSHUA THOMAS  
Managing Editor

Millions around the world wait four long years in anticipation to watch the Summer Olympic Games. Then there are some who desire to be more than just spectators. Senior international business major Lauren McNary has that desire.

McNary has taken leave from Howard for the year to train for the 2008 Summer Games. The native of Clear Water, Fla. has dreamt of this opportunity since childhood.

"When we watched the opening ceremonies with all the athletes representing their nations, I thought 'I want to be that,'" said McNary of her memories of gathering around the television with her family to watch the tournament of champions.

Although McNary found her home in track and field, she began her athletic career in basketball. McNary began playing basketball in middle school, but the sport soon lost its appeal.

Year round hoops and team drama brought McNary to a point where "basketball just wasn't fun anymore." That gave her the opportunity to look elsewhere. In her junior year of high school, "track came along and I was good at it," McNary said.

Her parents recognized her athletic prowess early on.

"Based upon how she would compete at the top of her age group, we knew she had the talent to go places," said McNary's mother, Myra McNary.

Her accomplishments speak volumes as well. In her first season of track, McNary placed eighth in the women's

400-meter run in the state championships.

Her skill would only improve as she went on to grab fourth place the next year. That performance, in her senior year, would also mark her personal best with a 400-meter time of 54.6 seconds.

That time of 54.6 seconds, along with a letter to Head Coach Michael Merritt, earned McNary her scholarship and landed her at the Mecca.

Since McNary has been under the wing of Merritt, she has evolved from a natural talent to a disciplined Olympic hopeful. While at Howard, she has been named to the 2006 NCAA Division 1 All-East Regional team and won the Outdoor MEAC championship in the 400-meter run with a time of 52.91 seconds, according to Howard University Sports Information.

Fortunately for McNary, her time of 52.91 is not far off from the times necessary to qualify for the Olympics. The A standard, which guarantees her a spot, is 51.45 seconds and the B standard, which would gain her entry as long as there is still room in the field, is 52.60 seconds.

If McNary qualifies, it would not be her first time representing the United States. Her outstanding performance in the 2005 MEAC championships earned her the chance to compete for and clinch a spot on the U.S. Junior National Team.

"That has been the highlight of running for me so far," McNary said of the race that earned her the place on the Junior National Team to compete in the Junior Pan-American Games. "It's such an honor to run for the United States."

However, that dream was not fully realized. McNary encountered adversity

in the preliminaries of the Pan-Am Games.

"It was kind of like a freak accident," McNary said. "I was on the curve, about to hit the back straightaway when my leg tightened on me. I tore my leg up finishing the race."

Although McNary still qualified for the finals, she had severely strained her hamstring and could not run.

"That was a scary time," Myra McNary said. "It wasn't life-threatening, but not knowing what was going on was scary."

But that tragic experience also served as a catalyst for McNary. "That's when I knew I wanted to run at the next level," she said.

Progressing to the next level meant more intense training and a sabbatical from Howard. The decision to take a break was not an easy one to reach and took McNary a month to come to.

"It was hard to step away because people depend on you," McNary said, "especially from my coach, my team, my friends [and] my line sisters."

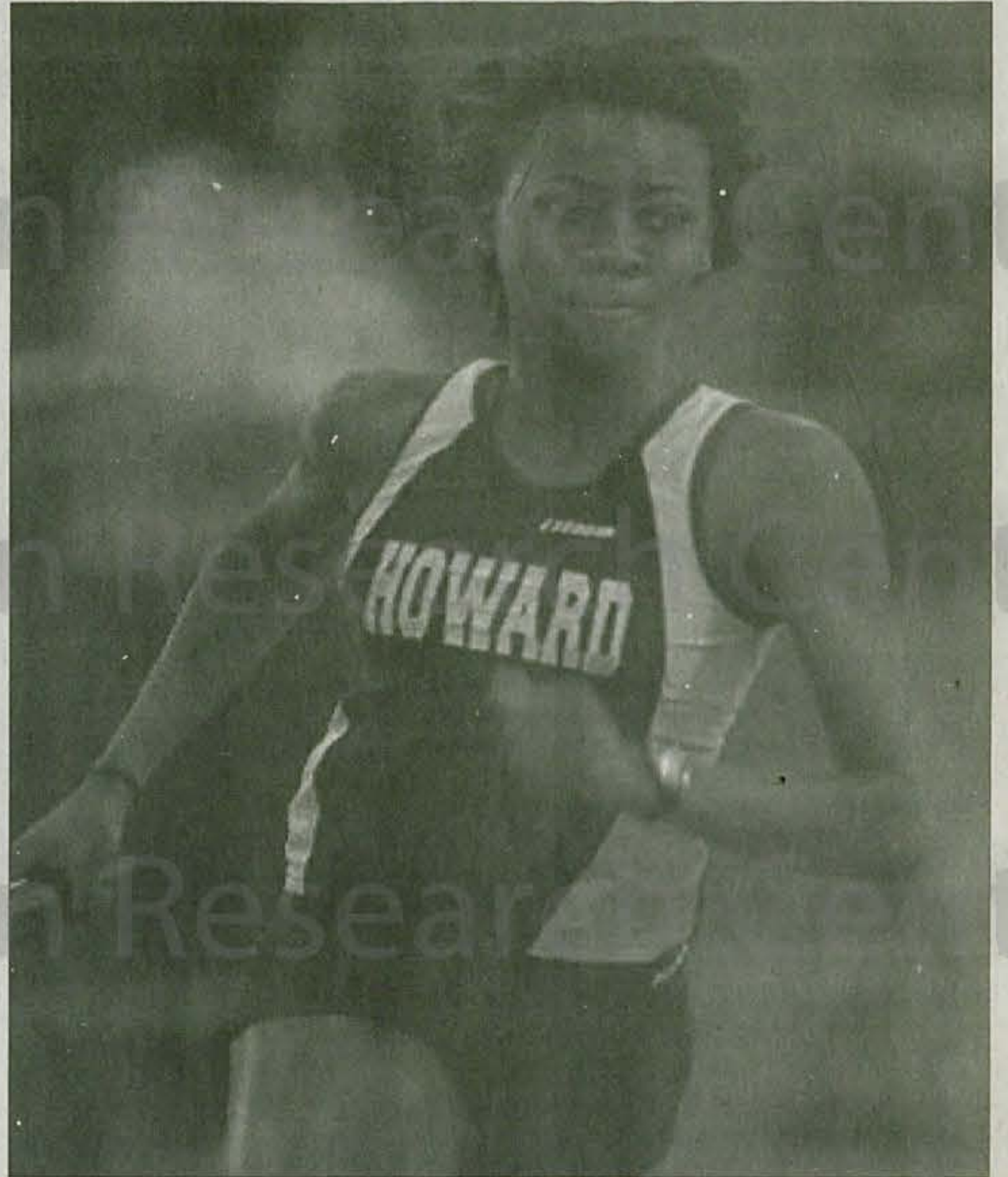


Photo Courtesy of: Lauren McNary

Lauren McNary, a senior international business major, has decided to take a leave from the university to pursue Olympic Gold at the 2008 summer games in Beijing.

## SCOREBOARD

NO GAMES PLAYED  
MONDAY

### UPCOMING GAMES

NO GAMES TONIGHT

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 11, 1983

FRANCO HARRIS BECOMES THE  
THIRD NFL PLAYER TO RUSH FOR  
11,000 YARDS.

# Virginia Tech Students Look to Sports for Healing

BY STEPHEN KNOX  
Contributing Writer

April 16, 2007, is a day that will live in infamy. That may sound cliché, but there is no better way to describe what took place in Blacksburg, Va.

Now, in the fall of 2007, another school year has started and Virginia Tech is using athletics to try to restore some of the campus's old traditions.

Historically, Virginia Tech football has been a major event, but the Sept. 1 opening game, a 17-7 win against East Carolina, meant a little more.

As Alvin Svitzer, a sophomore student from Virginia Tech, said, "It is a community event for all Hokies to get together and be proud."

The game was a time for the whole school to gather together after a tragedy and share a passion all Hokies possess—football.

Sophomore Alana Mallory said, "When you say football, it creates instant excitement on campus. I think of a sea of orange and maroon."

The emotions ran deep at Virginia Tech that Saturday afternoon. Mallory said this game day was unlike the others she remembered.

Svitzer agreed, saying, "It was different, euphoric, as if a sense of life had come to the campus. The student body is definitely closer now than ever before. It's sad that it took a tragedy for this to happen."

The emotion also struck a Howard student who happened to be at Virginia Tech that weekend.

Sophomore Erica Lee, a resident of Richmond, Va., said, "It felt a bit eerie, but people seemed to be in good spir-



Photo Courtesy of: www.virginiatechjersey.com

After the shootings that occurred at Virginia Tech last spring, the university has been using sports like football, and their large fan base, to help return to a state of normalcy. The football team's season opener was Sept. 1 against East Carolina University.

its, which was encouraging."

She continued, "I was definitely moved. It wasn't just the campus that was affected, it was all the towns and the people that surround and support the school. That school is a big part of the area and

our state as a whole, so what affects them affects us all in Virginia."

The scene in the stadium was like nothing Svitzer had ever seen.

The stadium is always full of excitement, but when the number nine

ranked Hokies took the field, the intensity was like never before.

"We always jump up and down before the game starts, but that day I heard the field rumble," Svitzer said.

After everything that took place

in April, the scene just before kick-off showed that nothing could take the student body's love for Saturday football.

"It was great, it just being Saturday and football is back," Svitzer said about the game. Emotions ran high among spectators and even the football team.

It was evident from overthrown passes and poorly executed plays early on that players were just as shaken by everything that was taking place.

While the university is returning to a state of normalcy, some things, mainly dorm lockdown policies, will change. Svitzer said the dorms used to be locked after 10 p.m., but that they are now on a 24-hour lockdown policy.

No one is allowed in without proper identification and all visitors have to be retrieved by a resident.

There is also a major increase in campus police presence, which is happening at schools around the country, including Howard.

As a whole, the school is trying to improve the conditions that existed before the massacre.

"It's going to take a while for the school to get back to normal, but it will happen," Svitzer said.

The football team has struggled since the Sept. 1 game, losing in a 48-7 blowout to number two ranked LSU.

Mallory, Svitzer and Lee agreed that sports have the power to entertain, but also unite people.

"Sports is something that can bring the world together for a common interest," Svitzer said.

For all involved on that first football Saturday, it was a day to forget the drama and do something that all Hokies love.





Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

## Competitive Sales a Diversion On 9/11 Anniversary

Today is significant in America because it is, of course, the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C. and the failed attempt that ended in western Pennsylvania in 2001.

The anniversary still understandably brings up emotions and heated debate regarding the state of American security.

It also brings up the notion that America, as a nation, is not invincible and can still fall prey to expected or unforeseen attacks.

However, today has an additional meaning for hip-hop fans because 50 Cent and Kanye West are both releasing their much-anticipated albums "Curtis" and "Graduation," which seems to draw attention away from the attacks six years ago.

The two rappers are in a duel to see who can sell the most records in the first week, and have come to a startling agreement in the name of competition.

50 Cent said if "Graduation" outsold "Curtis," he would no longer perform solo. He added that he would continue to write music and work with other artists

but would never produce another solo album if his sales lag in the next week.

The music moguls hyped up their ploy to outsell each other after DeJamu/Universal Records announced it would move the release of "Graduation" up from Sept. 18 to Sept. 11 and Interscope Records decided to push 50's "Curtis" back to Sept. 11 from the Sept. 4.

**Our View:**  
*The release of the two albums show a regained sense of normalcy.*

The fact that the media, as well as the artists themselves, have played up the face-off, despite the fact that Sept. 11 will always be remembered as a tragic day in American history, shows that hip-hop fans in America finally seem to be healing from what happened on this day six years ago.

The albums being released as competition today also shows that the issues brought up concerning 9/11 are not as raw

and hard-hitting as they would have been just years ago.

While the events of Sept. 11, 2001 were heinous and left negative impressions on the way we live today, it is important that Americans are not trapped into reliving the tragic details of that day every time they find themselves faced with the anniversary.

Although every American should respect, remember and hopefully learn something from the attacks, it is important that we regain some sense of normalcy as time goes on. The competitive album release today appears to help hip-hop fans do just that.

After the attacks, Americans seemed to have united under the pride of what the country was supposed to stand for with underlying fears of additional terrorist activity.

Kanye West and 50 Cent releasing CDs today through a competitive spirit is a novel and unexpected sign of progress that shows Americans may have come to terms with the tragedy and are prepared to move on.

## Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

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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

*Diversity Should Be Discussed, Not Avoided*

I am a part-time student at University of Maryland. This hate crime makes me want to vomit.

I do not feel that this "noose" is a tribute to the Jena "6." I think it is a cowardly message from someone who has a problem with the visibility and strength of the African-American community on campus.

I am sure that any African-American student would have experienced "less racism" at Howard than at Maryland, and with Howard's excellent academics and sense of history and community, it should be near the top of any high school senior's college list.

But that doesn't solve the problem of racism for the rest of us. What about people like me who want to attend a school with vibrant diversity and seek to eliminate racism yet happen to have white skin?

The problem at many schools, Maryland included, is that while people of different races may be in the same classes and work at the same job, a lot of social activity is still divided by race. This is not necessarily bad—people should choose their friends and activities freely. But too many people fail to leave their "comfort zone."

In that atmosphere, it is easy for resentment to grow. When there is a "history" or "heritage" month for every ethnicity or racial

group except yours, and when the University actively promotes "diversity" through course requirements and outside the classroom, as a white person you can easily feel excluded.

As an example, in an education course we were looking for "classroom books" that we would have available for students to read. Showcasing diversity was one of the goals. Yet, every time I suggested using one of my personal childhood favorites, I was discouraged. I had never suggested books with overt or covert racism. I had chosen books that were fun to read and had a worthy message. Yet, because they happened to have white characters, they were not good choices.

I felt this was wrong, and said so. One African-American supervising teacher told me that I "didn't understand," particularly given the large number of children of color I would be teaching.

Over and over again, I got the message that as a white person, my motives were automatically suspect if I chose to teach in my local school system in Prince George's County. An African-American teacher might have the luxury to choose a good book that happened to have white characters, but I would not.

Fortunately I did not take this absurdity personally, just as my parents did not worry about being the "token whites" in

their new P.G. County development. Now, nearly a decade later, my parents' neighborhood is literally a rainbow. My father did not let the accident of race keep him from being active in the home owner's association.

As for myself, I continue to insist that "diversity" includes everyone. We don't need a "white history month" (the textbooks have that covered), but I can still be proud of my heritage. I can admire the fact that my grandpa only finished eighth grade but sent his three kids to college on a limited income.

The real meaning of diversity is a subject that needs to be discussed rather than avoided. Just like choosing books for a classroom, it involves keeping the best from your own heritage and life experiences and continually adding from the best of others. Diversity should not mean discarding everything from my past.

Otherwise, all you get is "us" vs. "them," and we can't tolerate that. We probably won't find the person who hung that noose. What I and other University of Maryland students can do is make it clear that we do not tolerate hate, we certainly don't tolerate hate crimes, and we are not afraid to discuss racism, bring it out in the open and eradicate it.

Jenny Peckenpaugh  
University of Maryland



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