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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 40

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Established
1924

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

WEDNESDAY
Notebook

BREAKING NEWS

OVER 12,000 FIRE EVACUEES WERE FORCED TO TAKE REFUGE YESTERDAY AT QUALCOMM STADIUM IN SAN DIEGO, HOME TO THE SAN DIEGO CHARGERS, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

TOTAL MUSIC, A NEW DOWNLOADING SERVICE, WILL BRING COMPETITION FOR ITUNES, PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE FOR MUSIC PURCHASERS NATIONWIDE.

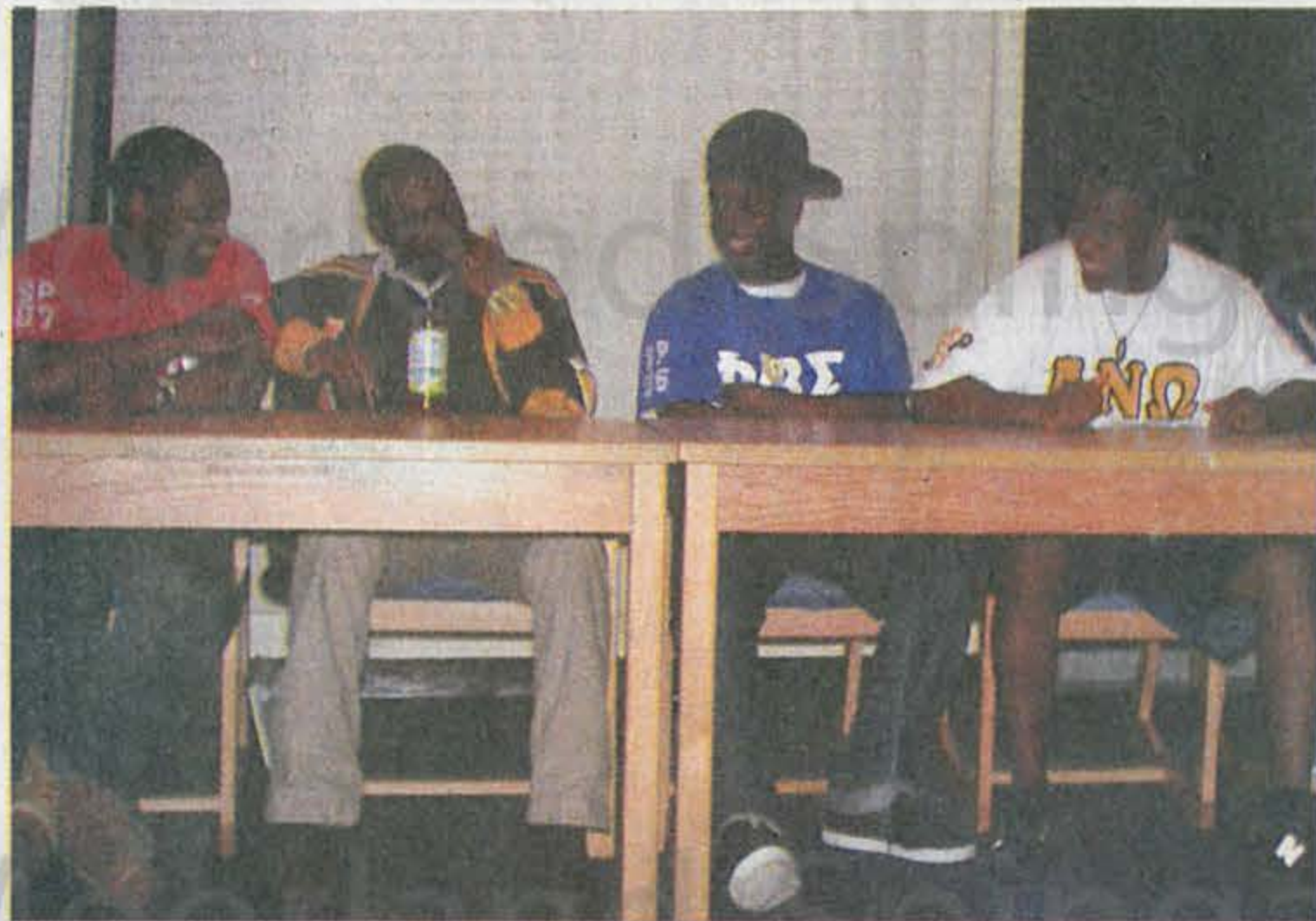
LIFE & STYLE

KNOWING YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT AS YOU APPROACH GRADUATION. WANT TO KNOW FIVE STEPS TO MAINTAINING A GOOD CREDIT SCORE?

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Greek Life Forum Leaves Students Well-Informed



Dereil Smith - Photo Editor

Members of various fraternities on campus answered questions in an open forum held Tuesday in Carver Hall.

BY DEONTAY MORRIS
Editorial Assistant

Male students were able to learn more about Howard Greek life during an open forum on Tuesday in Carver Hall.

Nicholas Gourdine coordinated the event where representatives from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. and Alpha Nu Omega Inc. were present. "I'm really glad that representatives from each organization were present so that everyone's views and opinions were expressed," said Seth Heavey, a freshman political

science major.

The members of the panel showed the utmost respect to all of the organizations present, squashing any beliefs that there are problems between the fraternities on campus.

"All that beef stuff is publicity for the shows on the Yard," said James Garris, a member of Alpha chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. "I knew DJ [Dennis Johnson, another panelist] before he was Sigma and he is still my friend today even though we are not in the same organization."

Another element added to the panel was a Howard student who is an ex-gang member. This sparked one of the more intricately discussed topics of the night: comparing a fraternity to a gang.

"We are not gangs. With that understood, we are not out here trying to fight each other," said Damien Robinson, president of the Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Robinson continued, "It is all fun and games. We love competition. I know the Sigmas won frat of the year two years in a row, and with knowing

that, it makes my organization be on its heels. That is friendly competition that is healthy for all us because at the end of the day, the community is benefiting."

Various aspects of Greek life were discussed. No leaf was left unturned. Panelists answered questions about stereotypes, branding, keeping friends after crossing, hazing and how to show interest in joining their organizations.

The common theme among all the panelists regarding joining their organizations was to make sure that particular student investigates the organization before attempting to show interest.

Similar to preparing for a job interview, there must be a certain amount of information known about that business before someone can be hired.

It was also noted that none of the fraternities on campus, in no way shape or form, condone hazing. Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. is the only fraternity in the Divine Nine, or the National Pan-Hellenic Council, to not have hazing allegations and charges brought against

them, said chapter president Gerard Parker.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. leads the nation with the most cases involving hazing, said Robinson. Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi spent the past several years off the Yard due to hazing allegations. They were not recognized as an official campus organization during that time. However, many believe it is worth noting that the definition of hazing is very broad.

Pledging is a word that has a negative connotation with most. However, Johnson believes pledging is exactly what he did.

"When you look at pledging in a literal sense, I have to say yes, that I did dedicate myself to my organization," he said. "But not pledging in the sense of removing me from who I am."

Students left informed and with all of their questions answered.

Freshman engineering major James Warren said, "To my surprise, every question presented was answered, even the ones about hazing."

Bottled Elixir vs. Tap Water

BY JULIE DEARDORFF
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

The beverage industry is touting a natural resource with potent healing powers, one that promises to boost the immune system, aid weight loss, ease sore muscles and even fight hangovers.

It's called water. But this isn't bland old tap water. It's flavored and "nutritionally enhanced" bottled water that has been jazzed up with everything from cucumber to mango and grapefruit extracts, infused with vitamins, minerals and electrolytes, and loaded with herbal supplements, antioxidants and oxygen.

Known as "functional beverages," thirst quenchers such as VitaminWater are especially popular with consumers ages 18 to 34 looking for a boost. The waters don't just hydrate; they claim to "protect your skin from the inside out,"

"revive your soul," "improve your mood" and "increase energy and alertness."

Whether fortified water can deliver on all those promises is still up for debate. Critics say there's no science to show enhanced water has more health benefits than less expensive tap water, while environmental organizations, religious groups and even restaurateurs argue that all bottled water — enhanced or not — is a wasteful and insupportable use of fossil fuels because of the costs associated with its manufacture and transportation.

From a nutritional standpoint, experts maintain that it's better to get nutrients through whole foods. They also point out that taking extra vitamins doesn't necessarily make you healthier.

Consumers, meanwhile, might be surprised to learn that many of these beverages aren't technically "bottled water" at all because, like soft drinks, they have added sweeteners and often calories. Water can be called "bottled water" only if it contains no added ingredients, except for antimicrobial agents or fluoride, according to the Food and Drug Administration's definition.

But Americans, always eager to try quick and convenient health remedies, are drinking up fortified waters anyway.

From 2004 through 2006, sales for enhanced waters and sports drinks grew by 73 percent, to \$1.2 billion, according to the market-

research firm Mintel International Group.

"The enhanced waters are at the intersection of several growth trends in the beverage business," said John Sicher, editor and publisher of Beverage Digest. "Consumers are gravitating toward lighter, lower-calorie beverages, there's growing interest in functional beverages beyond taste and refreshment, and they're playing off the growth of bottled water."

In 2006, per capita consumption of bottled water in the United States was 27.6 gallons per person, a 9.5 percent increase from the previous year, according to the International Bottled Water Association. In 1976, Americans drank just 1.6 gallons per person.

Today, Coca-Cola and PepsiCo dominate the enhanced-water market, which Glaceau created in 1996.

In May, Coke snatched up Glaceau for \$4 billion; in addition to Glaceau's VitaminWater, SmartWater and FruitWater, Coke's brands include Dasani Plus. PepsiCo's offerings of enhanced-water beverage include Aquafina Alive Wellness Water, SoBe Life Water and Gatorade's Propel Fitness water.

VitaminWater and Propel are two of the most popular products in the category, according to Sicher. Although both have added sweeteners, they don't contain high-fructose corn syrup and thus enjoy a healthy reputation.

Even though industry associations and trade groups claim that high-fructose corn syrup is not to blame for the obesity epidemic, more products are being labeled HFCS-free to appeal to health-conscious consumers, according to the market-research firm Data-monitor.

"As a nutritionist, I may

> See **WATER**, Page 3



Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer

President H. Patrick Swygert welcomes U.K. Foreign Minister, the Right Honorable David Milliband (left) to Howard's campus Tuesday at the Ralph Bunche International Affairs Center.

Foreign Minister is Welcomed

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Students were given the opportunity to engage in a dialogue about United States' global leadership and the role the United Kingdom plays on an international level with U.K. Foreign Minister David Milliband in the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center on Tuesday.

Howard University president H. Patrick Swygert introduced the 42-year-old Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom saying, "Howard University is a place committed to the leadership of the global community. Your coming, and the ambassador coming, helps make that vision a reality."

Miliband explained that America is a powerful country and with that power comes the responsibility to be concerned with what is happening throughout the world.

"Decisions America makes about whether or how they engage in with the outside world define the

decisions of the rest of the world," Miliband said.

Miliband explained that Americans should look at concerns like terrorism, climate changes and economy with a broad scope and consider how they affect the entire globe.

"I have a strong belief that diplomacy is not just about what the government talks to other governments about," Miliband said.

He explained that it is important for everybody to engage in this discourse after posing the question, "How do students of your generation feel about America's relationships with the outside world?"

"I would like to see a more sincere effort to address the issues in third world countries. It is a massive that is being swept under the rug," said Gary Johnson, a senior history major.

Miliband explained that by bringing democracy into developing countries, citizens are being given maximum power over their lives.

"We've got to decide if people want to have that maximum," he said. "It takes time to get experi-

ence, but you've got to grow rights from the bottom up. You can't create it from the top up."

Students were welcomed to ask questions on international issues. Their questions touched on various topics including, climate change, predominantly Muslim countries entering the European Union and the century-long divide between the global north and the global south.

One student questioned whether Miliband has plans of becoming the next British Prime Minister. Miliband deflected the question by responding, "I am happy with my current position."

Some audience members who were dual citizens raised the concern of the contradictions governments' may have in fighting environment issues.

"Every country needs to take on a responsibility in climate change," Miliband said. "But it's still a matter of whether or not America becomes a global leader."

Some students expressed that, often, more powerful gov-

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Jessica Kourkounis - Fort Worth Star-Telegram (MCT)

Flavored water is becoming increasingly popular.

The British Are Coming! UK Foreign Minister Talks it Up in Bunche Center



Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer

Howard students, like Masake Kane, were attentive and asked insightful questions during the dialogue with British Foreign Minister William Miliband.

continued from FRONT, MINISTER

Some students expressed that often, more powerful governments are taking strides necessary for change and improvement of developing countries, but these attempts do not consider the greater issues.

The issue of nuclear weapons was raised and what makes one country able to decide who should and should not have nuclear weapons.

"It is not for one country to make decisions about nuclear

weapons," Miliband said, "but it should be considered as an international issue. The proliferation of nuclear weapons makes a bigger problem."

Some raised the question of how issues can be considered with so many national identities to consider.

"National identity is still an important factor, but what's changing is exclusive identity," Miliband said.

He explained that exclusive identity could be religious identity, racial identity or locator identity.

"We live with multiple identities. Sharing institutions is a way to break down the differences. We are 99 percent the same, and only one percent different," Miliband said.

Masake Kane, a senior economics major, described the Miliband as "dynamic."

"Still there are so many contradictions, and people won't achieve self-determinations by complying with the agenda of others. We must be on equal grounds in negotiations," Kane said.

Many appreciate Miliband taking time to engage in a

dialogue with Howard students.

"He had honest responses to the questions asked," said Harold Scott, the deputy director of the Bunche Center. "He was interested in hearing what the students had to say and that's something rare."

"This was an exhilarating experience for students. If he came for no other reason than curiosity, he discovered the global mixture of students here at Howard," said Barron Harvey, dean of the School of Business. "We were delighted to have him."

Potential 'Food Fight' at Put It On Blast Forum

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Students who have issues with food services and Blackburn cafeteria may express their views to representatives from Sodexo at the "Put it On Blast" forum hosted by the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) in Blackburn at 7 p.m.

"We're doing the forum on campus services, focusing on issues with the café and issues [with] Sodexo," said HUSA

Vice President Will Roberts.

Sodexo is the international catering company contracted by the university to provide dining services to the campus.

"Some students have issues with Sodexo and concerns in light of recent events," Roberts said.

Earlier this month, the entire Blackburn Center temporarily closed its doors to students to address the reported pest control issues in the facilities that are maintained by the university.

Students are invited to pose questions and raise issues at the "Put it On Blast" forum, creating an outlet to discuss issues with Sodexo. Students are also encouraged to bring possible solutions to their concerns.

"Sodexo is receptive and actively trying to participate in the program, and they want to hear what students' concerns are," said Jessica Bailey, HUSA deputy director of student advocacy.

Bailey said the dialogue produced will allow Sodexo to

present a solution to issues raised as well as provide an estimate of how soon the action may take place.

Many students are eager to voice their concerns and learn about how they may be solved.

"As a business, Sodexo should have an obligation and duty to perform with a level of professionalism," said Nicole Triplett, a junior finance major. "That entails them working with professionalism to make sure they adhere to certain standards to service Howard appropriately."

Life @ The Mecca

Erica Robinson

BY TENI-OLA OGUNJOBI
Contributing Writer

"Howard is in my blood. God led me to this place and I would not change it for the world." This is how Erica Ashley Robinson explains her link to Howard University.

Robinson's journey toward success reached the Mecca last fall when she arrived as a freshman. Her determination, willpower and desire to write motivated her into her second year of college. With one year under her belt, she is still running with full speed towards her goals until she reaches her apex.

Robinson is a broadcast journalism major and Spanish minor. She is from Hampton, Va. She has two siblings: her twin brother Eric, who attends Hampton University, and a half sister.

As a second generation Bison, Robinson is an offspring of two Howard alumni. Her mother attended as an undergraduate and also received a medical degree from Howard.

Her father graduated from the university's dental school. Her first aunt is also a Howard alumnus, so Robinson is following behind a rich legacy that she is confident that she will carry on.

Robinson found interest in writing at a young age. She always enjoyed communicating both verbally and through writing, so she started out with short stories and poems. She said her writing was about silly things like how smelly her brother's shoes were or her little crushes in class.

"She has a passion for writing and has been writing since grade school," said her roommate Erica Davis.

She then moved up to writing more creative stories and improved as time progressed. In high school, she took her love for writing poetry and wrote her first crush a poem. After recognizing that writing was what she loved doing, she joined her school's newspaper staff to hone and polish her skills as a writer.

"Journalism is the best field for her since she has always aspired to be a journalist," her mother Joy Robinson said.

Throughout her years in high school, she was able to attend several journalism programs at Hampton University and the University of Maryland-College Park. This influenced her decision to major in broadcast journalism.

"I realized that this is something I really enjoyed and I was good at it," Robinson said.

After figuring out a major, Robinson was ready to start the college selection process, but before that she had to pass a test.

The stability of her family's household was tested when her parents separated and later divorced after 23 years of marriage.

During this time period, Robinson was thrown off track and she began a battle of the HU's — having to pick between Hampton University to be close to home or go to Howard.

"Something in my heart was telling me Howard," Robinson said.

When it all came down to making her final college choice, Robinson decided Howard was the best school for her because of Howard's journalism program.

She also liked the location in Washington, D.C., loved the diversity in her peers and the entire Howard community and the fact that her best friend, who is now her roommate, was attending Howard as well.

Although her preferred field of study was not related to science field like her parents, she still received the support and encouragement needed to chase her dreams.

"Robinson was never interested or motivated to pursue science fields and I believe people should pursue their dreams," her mother said.

"Howard was the best place for my major and since both my parents went here I thought it was meant to be, and it was," said Robinson.

"She has made a lot of change for the better since she has been at Howard," said Davis. Her family and friends have noticed that her maturity is level higher, she has become more outgoing, goal-oriented, independent, responsible, courageous, proactive and more money conscious.

Robinson has been involved in school clubs and organizations since her freshman year.

She has worked for Howard's daily newspaper, *The Hilltop*, and its radio station, WHUT. She is a National Collegiate Scholar and a member of the Bible study new breed.

As a staff writer for *The Hilltop*, Robinson filled rather big shoes as one of the few freshman staff writers and the only freshman in the sports section in the spring of 2007.

"She was a little soft spoken, but was always willing to give her best effort regardless of what we asked her to do," said Robinson's sports editor for *The Hilltop*, Caryn Grant.

Aside from her love for journalism and her school involvement, Robinson puts a lot of her passion into her minor, Spanish.

"I love the language and the culture," she adds.

In addition to honing her Spanish skills, she was able to multi-task mixing her talents to be a well-rounded person.

"She is a good writer, public speaker and musician, and much more. All the ways she expresses herself is unique talent that she has," said her twin brother Eric Robinson.

With a great support system including family, friends and her mentors, she has set high standards for herself to achieve great things.

She aspires to study abroad in Spain, be a reporter for CNN and one day host her own talk show. Robinson also hopes to publish a book of poems one day.

"My parents expect me to do my best and accomplish great things so I strive for that," Robinson said.

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Demands for 'Functional Beverages' Exceed Those for Tap

Continued from FRONT,
WATER

not support [functional water], but as a public-health servant, I do," said Roger Clemens, the public-health specialist for the Institute of Food Technologists. "Our goal is to provide the best possible nutrition for 300 million people in the country. In this case, it may be it takes us looking at fortified water to do that."

The premise behind functional water is that the public is chronically dehydrated and short on nutrients.

And because it's often hard to change a person's behavior, food companies are changing

the food they're eating or drinking.

But is it necessary? Although the bottled-water association recommends drinking eight glasses a day of eight ounces each, the Institute of Medicine says "the vast majority of healthy people adequately meet their daily hydration by letting their thirst be their guide."

"Most people need to drink two quarts of water a day," said Marion Nestle, a professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health at New York University who thinks "liquid gold" when she sees bottled water. "But these quarts do not have to come from

water itself; they can also come from anything with water in it."

Although artificially vitamin-enriched food and drinks may sound beneficial, they're not the same as foods with naturally occurring vitamins and nutrients, wrote Renee Loux in "The Balanced Plate" (Rodale, \$22.95). In many cases, the body can't do much with the added nutrient because it can't absorb it.

Then there's the question of whether we really even need more B vitamins, electrolytes (sodium, chloride and potassium) or folic acid.

Endurance athletes who have lost electrolytes through sweat may benefit from electro-

lyte-enhanced drinks, for example, but for most people, the drinks simply offer extra calories.

According to government dietary guidelines, specific populations — those over 50 and women of childbearing age — are the ones who should worry about increasing levels of vitamin B-12, folic acid, iron and vitamins E and D. The rest of Americans should work on reducing calories, saturated and trans fats, cholesterol, added sugars and salt.

"There's not a single drink out there — from Enviga to SmartWater — that has any proof of impact," said nutrition

professor Barry Popkin, who directs the Interdisciplinary Center for Obesity at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Just because [a nutrient] is in the product doesn't necessarily mean it will impact you or get in your body. There are all sorts of false labels promising health benefits.

"The American public is told they're deficient in something when they're not," Popkin added. "And what they're providing is not going to benefit. All they're doing is selling sugar in another form, adding calories, feeding the obesity epidemic and calling it 'healthy.'"

Still, it's a smart idea to

hydrate. And if enhanced waters help people consume less calorie-laden soda, there's a place for them in a diet, said registered dietitian Roberta Duyff, author of "The American Dietetic Association's 'Complete Food and Nutrition Guide'" (Wiley, \$24.95).

But there's still no substitute for a good diet and nothing better than plain water, Duyff said.

"Throw in a lemon or lime slice and enjoy the extra flavor that way," she said. "Eating right, getting enough rest and reducing stress are the wisest things to do. Don't expect a beverage to do it for you."

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Oil Industry's Profits Hurt by Rising Oil Prices

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Staff Writer

As gas prices surge to record highs, drivers are not alone in feeling the negative effects. The consequences of such high prices for oil are hurting the oil industry as well.

According to analysts, major companies such as Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips experienced a drop in revenue of approximately 8.8 percent to \$17.7 billion by the end of the quarter ending on Sept. 30, in comparison to the \$19.4 billion gained last year.

The disproportionate value between the refiners' cost for oil and the profits they bring in from what is produced from the oil has caused the declining profit margins.

"Actually, gas [prices] are going down back home," junior TV production major Tiara Brown said. "From what I see, it's cheap. But if it does rise, I don't see how it hurts [oil companies]."

Although gas prices have noticeably decreased in recent months due to what many dub the end of the summer driving season, the price for crude oil has risen. Since August, the price of oil has jumped more than 20 percent to almost \$90 per barrel, while gas prices have diminished slightly to an average of \$2.76 per gallon nationwide.

Because of crude oil's growing demand globally, as well as its decrease in inventory, gas prices may subsequently rise in order to catch up and provide an even median, or the price for oil

will have to drop.

Thanks to the mounting supply of ethanol, which is mixed with gas at various filling stations, gas prices have remained stable. The production of ethanol increased last year by approximately 34 percent, amounting to 13.1 million barrels produced per month. No recent information by the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration (EIA) has surfaced for this year's production.

Additionally, the volume of imported refined gasoline has also increased to roughly 1.3 million barrels a day, higher than that of previous years. Though there seems to be a substantial supply of refined gas and gas prices seem to be on the decline nationally, certain areas still see prices at close to \$4 per gallon, especially in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

"[Gas prices] suck," senior TV production major Jenae Smith said. "It's burning a hole in my pockets."

To many students, other than the usual complications that come with owning a car on campus, the price of gas proves to be a serious concern.

"It's expensive traveling back and forth between work and school," Smith said. "It is becoming more of an issue, especially for people who can't afford it."

Chevron and ConocoPhillips are two of the many companies that both produce and refine oil, and have noted that their refining profits will stagger due to high crude oil prices. Even the nation's largest independent oil

refiner, Valero Energy Corp., has warned of a decrease in profits in its most recent statement.

The companies have yet to comment on what their future plans to rake in more profits entail. However, if recent events cause some refiners to sit out of the market, the drop in gasoline supplies will lead to a steep increase in pump prices. Many analysts and oil trading advisors, such as Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates, have predicted these occurrences.

"At some point, there's going to have to be a situation where refiners who are down for maintenance will look at the margins and say, 'Hey, let's stay down,'" Ritterbusch told MSNBC.

But investors continue to invest in oil stocks when the prices for oil rise. It is unknown what the future will bring for major oil companies, but if the price of oil continues to rise, everyone will be affected. Major oil industries may not hold onto their funds forever in order to remain stable with high oil prices.

Crude Oil Spot Prices (Dollars/Barrel)

1996	\$22.12
1997	\$20.61
1998	\$14.42
1999	\$19.34
2000	\$30.38
2001	\$25.98
2002	\$26.18
2003	\$31.08
2004	\$41.51
2005	\$56.64
2006	\$66.05
Oct. 16, 2007	\$87.58



Above: Chuck Kennedy - KRT (MCT). Below: Bob Larson - Contra Costa Times (MCT)

Oil pumps across the country, like the one pictured above in Utah, have been busy trying to keep up with the growing demand for crude oil. Despite increased demand, the oil industry has not benefited from the high price of oil. Companies like the Chevron Refinery in Richmond, Calif., (below) are seeing a loss in profits due to the high prices.



NASA Handout - MCT

The two identical Mars exploration rovers, Spirit and Opportunity (above), are bigger, carry more scientific instruments and can travel much farther than the little Pathfinder that explored a tiny patch of Mars in 1997.

NASA Grants Spirit, Opportunity Extended Stay on the Red Planet

BY MORGAN LYNCH
Staff Writer

NASA announced last week that it will extend the activities of the Mars exploration rovers Spirit and Opportunity for the fifth time.

The rovers may continue their mission through 2009, barring any mechanical or operational failures to the machines.

Alan Stern, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, said in a press release, "These rovers are tough. They faced dusty winds, power starvation and other challenges — and survived. Now they are back to doing ground-breaking field work on Mars. These spacecrafts are amazing."

NASA launched the twin exploration rovers Spirit and Opportunity in 2003, and they both properly landed successfully in January major David Lynch said. "But I didn't know it had survived anything of this magnitude."

The plan was for the project to last for only three months. However, Spirit and Opportunity have withstood the planet's environment to enable their continuing operations into 2009 if they hold up.

The rovers' time on Mars has been far from easygoing because of the impact of the dust storms of unprecedented strength.

The dust from the rovers

blanketed the rovers as well as the planet's atmosphere, blocking 99 percent of the sunlight needed to power the rovers.

Solar power is particularly vital to the machines as it provides heat to keep the internal parts of the rovers from freezing since the temperatures on Mars can drop as low as -220 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter while summers are around 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

To keep the rovers functioning and to sustain the project, controllers in NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), based in Pasadena, Calif., authorized the rovers to be nearly completely shut down, which meant the machines could not take photos and had to cancel daily radio transmissions to Earth.

"I knew that the rover was on Mars, and that it was taking pictures," freshman accounting major David Lynch said. "But I didn't know it had survived anything of this magnitude."

Although the atmosphere continues to be a little dusty, it has begun to clear since about early August.

"We are extremely happy to be able to further the exploration of Mars," Stern said. "The rovers are amazing machines, and they continue to produce amazing scientific results, operating far beyond their design life."

The mission has been con-

sidered successful because scientists have been able to gather evidence that water existed at some point on the red planet.

Scientists are now maneuvering Opportunity into a large impact crater called Victoria, named after one of Magellan's ships that first circumnavigated the globe. It is located on the Meridiani Planum area of Mars.

The original plan was to go only 10 feet into the crater for examination because scientists were afraid the rover would not be able to climb out since the crater's walls are so steep.

However, scientists have taken a risk, and the rover has successfully made it six meters, or 20 feet, into the crater.

"We want to maintain a safe egress route out of the crater for Opportunity, and by completing the back-up drive over the sand ripple at the rim, we have confirmed that we have one," said John Callas, the Mars rover project manager at JPL, in a press release from NASA.

It took Opportunity almost 21 months to reach Victoria, and it will take nearly another year to fully analyze Victoria for the information Opportunity is pursuing.

"Technology is taking a big step forward in the right direction, and they're being aggressive in their researching," Lynch said.

PRODUCT BUZZZZ

Total Music Service Likely to Bring Competition for iTunes

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Staff Writer

While many recording companies are making strong efforts to end illegal downloading by punishing their listeners, Universal has devised a way to both protect their rights and work with the public.

Competing against major music distributor iTunes, Universal CEO Doug Morris has announced an initiative to partner with other record companies to launch a music subscription service. The service will be known to the public as Total Music.

Along with Universal, Sony BMG Entertainment and Warner Music Group, potential partners in the venture, would together control approximately 75 percent of music sold in the United States if the initiative pans out. Universal would work with other manufacturers to carry the service, similar to Microsoft's Zune media player, Sony's PlayStation and various wireless carriers.

Currently, iTunes is responsible for 70 percent of downloads in the country. With such high intake, along with the mass popularity of the iPod, it seems as though Apple is taking complete control of the music world. Despite fixed pricing at 99 cents per song, iTunes' customer numbers exceed well over a million downloads.



Tyrone Clemens - Staff Photographer

For \$5 a month, students with music phones like the Nokia 5300 could access an unlimited number of songs through Universal's Total Music service.

iTunes' dominance is one of the main reasons Morris has taken action to create Total Music. It is reported that the music executive refused to renew another two-year contract with Apple, which would continue the fixed sale of Universal music through the iTunes store.

Morris believed Apple held him back in terms of marketing flexibility, but he will not completely break away from Apple. Universal could not afford the intense loss of profits from a complete separation. Therefore, the executive will continue to offer Universal's musical roster to Apple under a lighter contract. Morris subsequently introduced the intriguing new business plan.

Through Total Music, Morris would get hardware makers or cell phone carriers to distribute songs to the public through their devices for roughly \$5 per month. With the monthly fee, subscribers would be able to essentially download all the music they want.

Though the subscription fee would go solely to record companies, it would benefit the hardware manufacturers as well. The plan would not only provide customers with an infinite amount of music for an inexpensive fixed price, but also allow hardware makers of mp3 players and mobile devices to compete more efficiently with the iPod and iPhone.

"That might be great," freshman pre-pharmacy major Olao Omtosho said about the service. "It gives the artist more revenue. Most people don't download [albums] anymore anyway, so this is a good way for record companies and artists to regain [lost profits]."

AT&T is one of the mobile carriers packaging Universal ringtones and music videos on their devices, and is expected to sell downloaded tracks as well. Morris is also in talks with Best Buy, Wal-Mart and Google to sell music through downloads compatible with any device — not just the iPod.

The music will have no copyright protection either. Implementing these plans will hopefully cut down on acts of piracy.

Some are skeptical of the service's potential and the likelihood of the price remaining so low at \$5.

"Five dollars isn't enough to compensate for the amount of music downloaded," sophomore computer engineering major Stefan Peters said. "They would either have to raise the price or enforce a limit."

Morris has not commented on his hopes for Total Music.

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THE HILLTOP

Environmentalists Shift from Bottled Water to Tapped Resources

BY KATHERINE YUNG
Detroit Free Press (MCT)

DETROIT — This summer, the city council in Ann Arbor, Mich., took a stand against bottled water, passing a resolution urging the promotion of the city's tap water.

At its annual art fair in July, the city sold 500 reusable water bottles for \$4 apiece. The containers sold out within hours.

"We are trying to cut down on plastic water bottles," Mayor John Hieftje said. "We want to tell people there's no

need to buy bottled water."

What's happening in Ann Arbor shows just how much perceptions of bottled water have changed.

Long regarded as a healthy and chic alternative to sugar-filled sodas, bottled water has come under attack by environmentalists and others, who portray it as a source of pollution and a symbol of corporate greed.

But whether the backlash will affect bottled-water sales remains uncertain.

So far, Americans have not forsaken their love for bot-

tled water. And some experts believe the campaign against it will fail.

"It will probably have minimal to no impact on sales," said John Sicher, editor and publisher of Beverage Digest, an industry newsletter. "Americans love bottled water. It's healthy and convenient."

Gary Hemphill, managing director of Beverage Marketing Corp., a New York research and consulting firm, said, "It's hard for one to see that it would have a long-term impact."

Sales of bottled water are up 11 percent in the year ending Sept. 8, the latest figures from ACNielsen North America show. Americans drank 28.3 gallons of bottled water per capita last year, compared with 18.8 in 2001, Beverage Marketing found.

Environmentalists warn that bottled water's popularity comes at a great cost. It takes lots of energy to produce and transport the bottles, many of which end up in landfills.

Most of the bottles contain an oil-derived plastic called polyethylene terephthalate, or PET.

The Container Recycling Institute estimates that 18 million barrels of crude oil were used to replace the two million tons of PET bottles that were wasted instead of recycled in 2005.

Opponents claim that using these resources to line the pockets of large corporations isn't necessary.

Most cities offer tap water that's just as good and safe as bottled water and costs far less.

This summer, anti-bottled water efforts sprang up in San Francisco, New York and other cities. A Beverly Hills, Calif., restaurant proudly announced it would serve only tap water, sparking similar efforts by others.

Ann Arbor is promoting its tap water to residents by running ads.

It has also filled thousands of bottles with its own water for distribution at city events.

To allay consumers' concerns, the three companies that dominate the bottled water industry, Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo and Nestle, are trying to step up their environmental efforts.

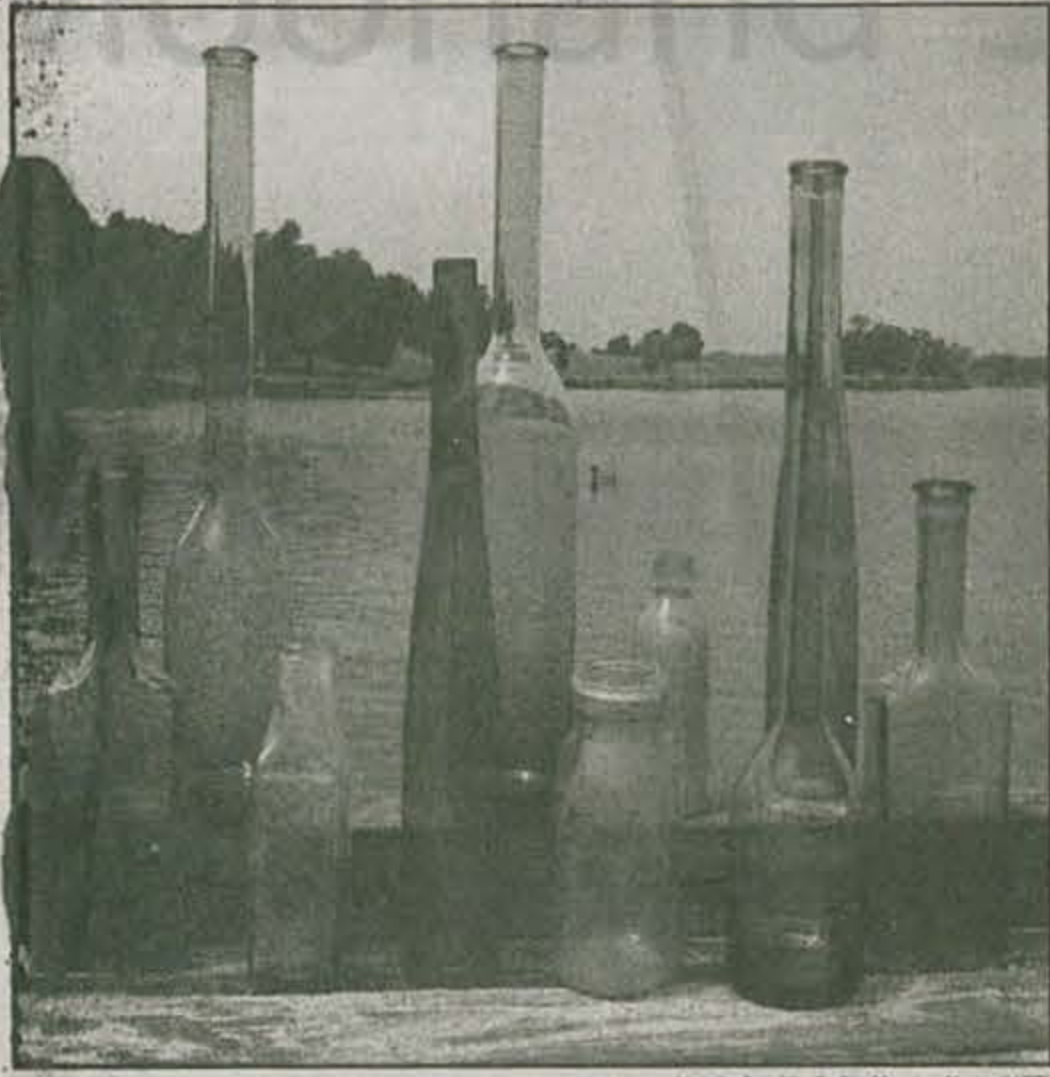
Coca-Cola, which sells the Dasani and Glaceau brands, aims to recycle or reuse 100 percent of its PET bottles.

It hopes to reach the 30 percent level by 2010, up from 10 percent today.

Nestle, which sells the Ice Mountain brand, spent two years engineering the bottle it now puts on store shelves. The new version uses 30 percent less plastic.

"Water is a fundamental human right," said Deborah Lapidus, a national organizer for Corporate Accountability International, a Boston-based watchdog group.

"Companies are trying to get us to think that the only place to get clean, safe water is from a bottle," Lapidus said.



Natalie Caudill - Dallas Morning News (MCT)

Long regarded as a healthy and chic alternative to sugar-filled sodas, bottled water has come under attack by environmentalists and others.

Cities with the Best Quality Water

Portland, Oregon

San Jose, California

Buffalo, New York

Columbus, Ohio

San Francisco, California

Denver, Colorado

San Diego, California

Sacramento, California

Las Vegas, Nevada

Salt Lake City, Utah

Riverside, California

Courtesy of the Readers Digest

Five Steps to Maintaining a Good Credit Score

BY RONALD TOLSON JR.
Contributing Writer

You know your GPA. Chances are you might even know what the score of Howard's football games was last week, but do you know what a credit score is?

While you probably realize that your credit score is an important number, you may not know exactly what it means or says about your financial status.

Your credit score is not only important because it gives you access to gain more credit but if you've ever applied for a school loan, rented an apartment, tried to buy a car, bought a cell phone or even plan to have a career that involved handling a lot of money, there's a good chance your credit score was pulled.

Lenders want to calculate the risk they will take by lending money to you.

Bukky Ojeifo, a freshman business management major, said, "Many people my age don't realize how important and how often your credit score is used."

A credit score is a numerical summary based on a statistical analysis of an individual's credit history from information gathered from previous, as well as current, companies that have loaned them money.

This score illustrates a person's credit worthiness—how well the individual paid their debts in a timely manner. This in turn tells lenders the likelihood of an individual becoming delinquent on a loan or credit obligation in the future.

"I always make sure that even if I can't pay my entire credit balance off, I try to at least pay the minimum balance off so I won't get a negative flag on my credit history," said Joshua Corchado, a sophomore radio, television, film major.

Your credit score is important because just like a high SAT test score can help a student get accepted into more colleges, a high credit score can help you get approved by more lenders.

Credit scores typically range between 300 to 750, with a perfect score being 850. The average person scores somewhere between the low 700's according to the Fair Isaac Corporation. FICO considers a good score to be between 720 or higher. It takes approximately 12 to 18 months to establish credit.

According to the Fair Isaac Corporation, there are five factors they use to calculate an individual's credit score.

The most important and largest part of your credit score is your payment history, which accounts for 35 percent. This is due to that fact that the first thing any lender wants to know is whether you have paid your

past loans and credit accounts on time.

Your payment history also consists of public records and collection items. These include reports of instances of bankruptcies, suits, judgments, liens, wage attachments and collect items. Such events are considered quite serious.

The next factor considered in the calculation is the accounts an individual owns, which consists of 30 percent. Owing money on different credit accounts or on loans does not mean you're a high risk borrower with a low score.

However, if you owe a significant deal of money on many accounts it tends to indicate that a person is overextended and has a higher likelihood of making some payments late or not at all.

The third factor is the length of an individual's credit history, which is 15 percent. In general, a longer credit history

will increase your score. There is also a secret that many people don't know about establishing their length of credit: When you've paid off your credit balance you should never close your account. You should keep it open because the longer you keep it activated, the longer it appears you are in good standing with your credit card company.

Inem Ekpo, a senior pre-physical therapy major said, "I learned this secret to having good credit early on in high school. Even though I paid my MasterCard off and haven't made many purchases with it in almost a year I still keep it activated to establish my length of credit."

The fourth factor is any new credit an individual has acquired, which consists of 10 percent.

Even though having several credit cards and other forms of credit accounts can

be potential ways to achieve a higher credit score, opening several credit accounts in a short period of time can be seen as someone who is overextended.

The fifth and final factor is the different types of credit in use, which consists of 10 percent. The factors takes into consideration the mixture of credit an individual has. These accounts included but are limited to credit cards, retail accounts, installment loans, finance company accounts, and mortgage loans.

Tiffany Stone, a former employee of VISA had some advice for students trying to track their credit. "A high or low credit score really affects your financial status, so make sure that you keep track of your credit score by staying up to date with your credit report and to always pay your monthly statements on time, even if it just the minimum balance."

Hispanics Play Against Stereotypical Images on Television, Film

BY ERICA ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

There are an estimated 38.8 million Hispanics in America according to *USA Today*, making them the largest minority yet their presence in the media is barely known.

Many feel that the roles Latinos play are all typecast, which include roles as gang members, drug dealers or even the hot headed male roles such as Ricky Ricardo in the popular show "I Love Lucy."

"When I think of male Hispanics, I think of gangs," said junior and nursing major Aimee Macatagay.

Telenovelas or Spanish soap operas originated in Latin America also emphasize some of the false stereotypes of Hispanics.

These melodramatic shows rapture the attention of their audiences due to over-dramatization. The women are often portrayed low social level and always have drama with men.

Junior Spanish major Carlos Trotman used to watch the Spanish soap opera "Rebelde."

"'Rebelde' focused on life of students that went to a prep school," he said.

Trotman described telenovelas as being very dramatic and very sexual and does not think the quality of acting is very good.

Stereotypical images show women in many television shows as maids, hospital workers or the inane characters carrying on in Spanish when upset. These images cause many Americans to make

generalizations of Hispanics, consequently forcing many Hispanics to assimilate in the American culture and identify less with their Latin culture. And even in telenovelas, the women are often not given serious roles.

"They are always women sobbing. It is almost as if there are no serious women. You don't see a strong number of [female] presidents of countries or Senate," said Dr. James Davis, a professor and chair in the department of modern languages.

Some actors on popular TV shows such as "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and "The Steve Harvey Show" illustrate examples of Hispanics that have assimilated so much in the American culture, that they are not even seen as Hispanic.

Alfonzo Ribeiro, also known as "Carlton," is the son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, yet in the show Carlton is a young black boy that associates with the wealthy white kids at his school. Another example is the late Merlin Santana, popularly known as Romeo Santana from the "Steve Harvey Show."

Santana was a Dominican actor who fell into a black high school student role. Hispanics that dominate the media are closer to the American standard with blonde hair and blue eyes keeping the Afro-Hispanics out of the media's focus.

"Features of the European is valued more than African features," Davis said. "We are always comparing things to the Anglo-American culture."

Despite what many think, just like African-

Americans, Hispanics come in all shades of brown although one shade is depicted mainly via media and that is of olive complexion with more white looking features such as the famous actress Eva Longoria.

In Davis's opinion, the portrayal of Hispanics is both negative and positive.

"For the most part it is more balanced and more positive," he said. He referred to the "George Lopez Show."

"They don't force the family to speak with a Spanish accent that is not understandable. The mother is a very modern lady. There are more efforts to emphasize Hispanic values," Davis said.

Professor Edith Jackson thinks that the Latin Academy Awards is a great way to acknowledge positive Hispanic actors on television, but she also feels that the accomplishments of Hispanics still remain in the back burner and would like to see their contributions on television.

"You don't see us giving contribution of Hispanics across the board in sciences and in art. They are not portrayed in the multiple ways they exist. I go to Hispanic theatres to see the accurate depiction of Hispanics like the Gala theatre and El teatro de Laluna," she said.

Despite America's attempt to eliminate Hispanic stereotypes in the media, they are very visible in many television shows not only the United States, but also in other Spanish-speaking countries across the world.



Constance Marie, who plays the wife on "The George Lopez Show" is a positive example of modern day Latina women.

Volleyball Unable to Win Last Home Game

BY MATTHEW COOPER
Deputy Sports Editor

Playing her last game at Burr Gymnasium, senior Morgan Maxwell wanted to leave Bison fans with a victory to enjoy.

Unfortunately, she couldn't provide that, as the Lady Bison dropped the volleyball match 3-1 to the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore Lady Hawks Tuesday night.

Maxwell, the lone senior on the team, left all her energy on the floor as she attempted the unsuccessful victory. At the conclusion of the games, an emotional Maxwell sat underneath the net, tears dripping down her cheek onto the hardwood, realizing the tank is almost empty on the bus driving her volleyball career.

"This is it, that's four years," said a teary-eyed and disappointed Maxwell, who had 9 kills, 11 digs and 4 assists on the night. "It hurts a lot. I wanted to come out and play hard for my family. My teammates are like a sisterhood."

The Lady Hawks of UMES were no cake walk for the Lady Bison to overcome. Beating the Bison 3-0 earlier in the season, the Lady Hawks tallied their 18th straight victory of

the season and lead the MEAC with a 20-3 overall record and 9-0 conference record.

Howard has struggled all season, and currently has a 5-22 overall record and 4-5 conference record.

UMES nearly knocked Howard out of the gym the first two games. The strong frontline of the Lady Hawks controlled the game, especially 6-foot-3-inch sophomore outside hitter and middle blocker Whitney Johnson. She had 11 kills and 10 digs.

The Lady Hawks made it look easy against the Lady Bison, winning the first two games by a score of 30-20 and 30-29, respectively.

Bison Head Coach Orlando Larracuente, hoping to light a fire under their seat, yelled at the team. Unfortunately, that did not prove to be the winning method.

It worked in the third game of the volleyball match, as the Bison came alive and raced to an early 7-2 lead, hitting the Lady Hawks by surprise.

They were able to force ball handling error against UMES, and junior outside hitters Elyssa Lee and Janel James provided their team with a much needed spark with their play.

Lee had 12 kills and 7 digs,

while James had 14 kills and 10 digs. Although the Hawks made a slight run toward the end, the Lady Bison pulled out the third game 30-27.

"We slacked off in the first two games," Lee said. "Then our team started to realize we didn't want to lose this game."

The Lady Bison went into the fourth game with much needed confidence. Despite UMES pulling out to an 11-5 to lead, Howard was able to quickly close the gap to 12-11.

The Lady Hawks continually expanded the lead because of great play by junior setter Christina Estebane, who had 15 kills, 44 assists and 10 digs, and freshman middle blocker Samantha Chukwura, who had 10 kills. UMES went home with a 30-23 win.

"We slacked off in the beginning, and we didn't have enough at the end," Lee said. "We have to take coaching better, and play as a team."

Freshmen Gazelle d'Artois and Nicole Brown also contributed for the Bison, tallying 36 assists and 21 digs, respectively.

The Lady Bison will play their next games this weekend when they travel to Newark, N.J. to compete in the Highlander Invitational.



Oscar Merrida IV - Staff Photographer

The Lady Bison volleyball team played their last game in Burr Gymnasium for the season. For senior Morgan Maxwell, it was an emotional last game of her college career.



Oscar Merrida IV - Staff Photographer

The Bison men's soccer team struggled after a win in their last match up. Junior midfielder Guilherme Fonseca helped the Bison run the field. However, the team was not able to get a single goal in the game.

Men's Soccer Falls to UMBC After Big Win

BY Z'KERA SIMS
Staff Writer

After winning such an emotional Atlantic Soccer Conference (ASC) game against the Panthers of Adelphi University on Sunday, the Howard Bison men's soccer team suffered a devastating loss Tuesday against the Retrievers of the University of Maryland Baltimore County at home in Greene Stadium.

The Bison now fall to 3-4-5 and 1-0-1 in the ASC, while the Retrievers of UMBC advance to 8-4-3 for the season.

UMBC held the Bison to 3 shot attempts for the first half while the Retrievers had 6, one of which resulted in a goal.

In contrast, the Bison had 6 shot attempts in the second half, none of which resulted in a score.

The Retrievers also had 6 shot attempts for the second half, 3 of which resulted in goals. The Bison did, however, manage to outshoot the Retrievers 3-2 in corner kicks.

"You never know sometimes," Head Coach Joseph Okoh. "We missed a few key early opportunities, which would have given us the game."

The Bison committed 7 fouls while the Retrievers had 2.

At goalie for the Bison

was Victor Thomas, who ended the night with 4 saves, 3 for the first half and 1 for the second. Steve King, goalie for the Retrievers, ended the night with 3 saves, 1 in the first half and 2 in the second.

Early on, the Bison did not capitalize on some key scoring opportunities that would have perhaps ended the game in their favor.

At the 29:14 mark of the game, coming off a foul from the Retrievers, the Bison's Lamar Hyde missed a penalty kick.

Subsequently, freshman midfielder Sean Rothe of UMBC scored in minute 31 of regulation, giving the Retrievers a 1-0 score over the Bison.

Jamil Devers, freshman midfielder for the Bison, tried to answer back on offense as he attempted to tie the game with a goal. The goal was blocked by goalkeeper Steve King.

The first half of regulation ended with the Retrievers up one.

"We were on a game high from our last big [conference] game that we won," Devers said as he weighed in on the team's loss. "We were not as focused as we needed to be. We should have been more serious and settled down earlier."

As the second half began,

the Bison still had a chance to end victorious. The Retrievers, on the other hand, capitalized on another scoring opportunity. Just four minutes into the second half, at the 49:06 minute of the game, junior forward Kevin Gnatiko for UMBC scored unassisted, making the score 2-0 Retrievers.

After multiple shot attempts, the Bison were unable to connect for a score.

The next score came from the Retrievers, when, in the 66th minute of the second half, freshman forward for the Retrievers BJ Quigley scored from the Bison's left side assisted by King.

With less than 25 minutes left in regulation, the Bison's chance for a win seemed grim.

The Retrievers confirmed their win when sophomore midfielder Matthew Ward scored unassisted at the 73:19 minute of the second half.

The game ended with one last failed attempt by Lamar Hyde in the 89th minute to put the Bison on the scoreboard.

Okoh said, "We have a big conference game on Saturday. They have some time to rest, so they will bounce back and play more focused and energized for Saturday's big game."

Men's Soccer Receives First Division I Ranking in a Decade

The Howard men's soccer team earned its first ranking in a Division I poll in nearly a decade, entering the NSCAA/Adidas North Atlantic Regional poll at No. 10 on Tuesday.

Howard is 3-3-5 and 1-0-1 in the Atlantic Soccer Conference (ASC). The Bison have not lost a game in nearly six weeks, its last setback coming against Temple on Sept. 9. Howard has picked up many superlatives this season, defeating perennial powerhouse James Madison on Sept. 27 and battling Mount St. Mary's, Drexel, VMI and Navy to a tie.

"It is a tremendous accomplishment for us to get recognized in this manner," Head Coach Joseph Okoh said. "I am happy for the fans that have been so patient with us as we try to rebuild the program. Having only played three games at home this year, it's a tremendous credit to the players who have really worked hard and have battled through some tough situations. I have asked so much of them this season and they accepted the challenges each time. This was one of our short term goals. We are not going to lose focus. However, we still have several goals which we are striving to accomplish this year."

The Bison return to action tonight when they host UMBC in a non-conference matchup at 7 p.m.

-Courtesy of Howard Sports Information

SCOREBOARD

Men's Soccer 10/23

HU 0
UMBC 4

Volleyball 10/23

HU 1
UMES 3

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Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

Republican Hopes to Fix New Orleans

We've all been hearing about Bobby Jindal—the new governor-elect of Louisiana.

What is unique about Governor-elect Jindal, is that he is the first Indian-American governor in the history of this country, as well as the current youngest governor.

The fact that Jindal is a Republican though, has some speculating as to the progress that will be made in the upcoming term—set to begin in January—regarding Hurricane Katrina.

Jindal won the election with approximately 53 percent of the vote in Louisiana, which satisfies the “50 percent plus one” percentage needed to avoid a run-off election in November.

However, Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, the previous governor who happened to be a Democrat, along with Ray Nagin, the democratic mayor of New Orleans did not seem satisfy demands and needs of the many displaced and affected people.

To much of their fault or not, the New Orleans people

and the people of Louisiana as a whole are obviously ready for something to change.

Babineaux-Blanco did not run for re-election following criticisms, possibly regarding her response to Katrina victims.

Can a governor such as Jindal, who publicly criticized New Orleans residents, as well as the government and FEMA for their responses to Katrina, aid the victims still living in this whirlwind?

“And this is to say nothing of the \$2,000 debit cards handed out to some who claimed to be victims, but instead used the assistance to buy Louis Vuitton handbags, spend evenings at strip clubs or purchase Dom Perignon champagne,” criticized the governor-elect in a 2006 letter as Congressman, entitled “Waste in the Eye of the Storm.”

In the end, it probably doesn't matter if you are a Democrat or a Republican.

Some people—regardless of party—just want to help people, while others just don't.

Our View:

You cannot judge a book by its cover, and the same goes for our politicians.

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Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

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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.

Genuinely Jolley

The Ombudsman Speaks...

This is a first. On Tuesday someone spoke ill of the wrong publication, and provoked me to write a special edition of my Friday column.

The beginning of Mr. Elam's submission led me to believe that he thinks The Hilltop is supposed to be in blind support of “a show that [he] worked hard for.” It would make no difference whether he or Zora Neale Hurston herself put together that shoddy comedy show. It would've still been graded with the same scrutiny because it was sub par at best.

Then he laughed at the fact that people expected to see Katt Williams for \$15. Oh, but how quickly we forget that last year we got to see Steve Harvey for only \$10! So yes, Mr. Elam, that was a reasonable expectation, seeing as how Katt Williams will actually be at Cramton on Nov. 9 for \$11.

Our gripe wasn't that we didn't get to see a “so called A-list celebrity,” because past comedy shows have still been funny with comedians that aren't necessarily famous. And just for the record, the show would've gotten a much lower grade than what was printed, but one staffer brought the grade average up because she enjoyed the show. Had it been left up to me the show would've received a Y-, as in Y did you think a comedy show minus good comedians was a good idea?

Then he questioned our grading system. If that's what you wanted to know, why didn't you just ask? Let me break it down for all of our readers. After Homecoming is over, our staff discusses the events and grades them. A staff member may only vote on an event if he/she actually attended it. We grade events based on our personal perceptions and opinions. Refer to the disclaimer in our masthead.

According to Mr. Elam, The Hilltop consists of, “a group of people who can't even use a simple spell check before stories go out.” I find it fascinating that he chose to attempt to undermine the validity of our grading system by citing the misspellings in the paper. What does one have to do with the other? Not to mention that he's living in a proverbial glass house throwing stones as seen by his inability to grasp basic subject-verb agreement (revisit sentences two and three in paragraph three) in his perspective.

Contrary to what he might think, The Hilltop wasn't out to personally attack any of the planners on the HUHSC or Homecoming events. We just call it how we see it. The Hilltop is not a PR machine for him or anyone else, and occasionally feelings will get hurt and egos will be bruised, but such is life, and this too shall pass.

And just as we, The Hilltop staff, wouldn't expect acclaim or praises for merely putting words on paper everyday, you can't expect that you would receive them either for merely making sure a production happens. Would you have expected a good grade if you had arranged for four kindergartners to get on stage and tell knock-knock jokes, just because you worked hard on it? I think not.

On a final note, how ironic is it that you criticize us for trying to be the ultimate authority to discern what is and isn't considered good to the student body, when you took advantage of our publication's reach to try and refute what was said.

And if you're serious about the proposal at the end of your perspective, I'm all for it. We can switch, you all can produce a DAILY newspaper from January until Homecoming and we will be responsible for putting on this one production that we have nine months to plan for. Be careful what you wish for Mr. Elam.

Anywho, this has been fun, and actually turned out to be way more entertaining than the comedy show. LOL!

CLASSIFIEDS

The Hilltop prints Hilltopics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for each additional word. ALL CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE PAID FOR AND SUBMITTED SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE.

\$5 LATE FEE FOR ALL CLASSIFIED ADS NOT SUBMITTED SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE.

Payment acceptable Cashier's check or money order. Any questions please contact

The Hilltop Business Office (202) 806-4749 or by e-mail www.hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

The National Society of Pershing Angels

sorority, Inc.

presents

Fall 2007

Interest

Meeting. If

you are

interested in

learning how

to drill or love

to drill come

on

Wednesday

October 24,

2007 at 8pm

in douglass hall.

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STUDENT COUNCIL

PRESENTS SELF DETERMINATION WEEK

FOCUS: MIND BODY AND SOUL

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24TH: FOOD FOR THE SOUL

THURSDAY OCTOBER 25TH BATTLE OF THE SEXES: KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

FRIDAY OCTOBER 26TH: GANE MIGHT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27TH: RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY

BOOKER!

MAY ALL YOUR WISHES COME TRUE!

Newly improved house to share on Capitol Hill.

Rent is \$650 a month.

Contact Ray Fowler at 202-607-3232

Near Union Station

Red cross GB meeting

October 25th

Where:

Architecture

Auditorium

Time

7:00pm

National Council of Negro Women and Gentlemen

of Drew Presents...

True Life: I am a Black Man

October 29, 2007 at 6:30

School of Business Auditorium

BISON YEARBOOK PHOTO

SECRETARY INTEREST MEETING

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2007 7:00 PM

BLACKBURN SUITE G-06

Come join the

National Council of Negro Women

at Adam's Morgan Maggie Moo's

for Ice Cream on

Thursday, October 25th from 5pm to 8pm

Circle K General Body Meeting

Today at 7 pm in Douglass

Hall Room 116

Remember to bring a bag of Halloween candy.

The American Marketing Association Presents:

"Up Close and Professional"

HUAMA Week Continues!

Wednesday,

October 24th, 2007, Target Corporation Presentation

Hosted by

HUAMA Blackburn Reading Room Lounge 5:00pm-7:00pm

Thursday,

October 25th 2007, Off The Court: Working For the NBA

Speaker: Cathy Jerome,

Sponsorship Manager School of Business Room 217 7:00-8:00pm

All majors welcome!

For more information,

contact us: huama0708@gmail.com